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# Giving Blood for Brandtly Blood Drive: Family gives thanks for community support

Brandtly's story showcases just one of the needs for blood donors

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Imagine you're having just a regular night at home with your family and you are casually rubbing your four-year-old child's back /side area before bedtime when you notice a lump. At first, you try not to think much about it. He's a little boy, maybe it's related to some easily remedied cause. Still, there's an anxious little niggling at the back of your parent mind and it won't go away. What if it's something more serious? You don't even dare to think the word cancer. That's the kind of thing that happens to other people, other families, other children. Not to yours.

So you go to bed and carry on, but plan to take your child to the doctor to have it checked out the next day, just to be sure.

That's precisely what happened to Hailey Clark on Nov. 8, 2021, just six days after her son, Brandtly, turned four years old.

"We were laying on the couch. And I was rubbing his back and side before bed," Hailey said. "That's

when I felt the lump. And as I was kind of pushing around it, he said it was hurting. But it didn't hurt if I didn't touch it. You were unable to see it with the naked eye."

He had been sick the week before, so she thought perhaps it was related and tried not to make too much of it, but she did take him in to have it checked out the very next day.

In the days that followed, Matthew and Hailey Clark's world became a whirlwind as they took their son, Brandtly, to the Emergency Room and he underwent tests. Then they received the devastating news, based on a cat scan of the area, that doctors believed their little boy had cancer and he needed surgery. The exact kind of cancer? Nephroblastoma, a solid cancerous tumor of the kidney more commonly called a Wilms Tumor, named after the German surgeon who first described it, mostly commonly found in children. "Wilms Tumor is the fourth most common type of childhood cancer and the most common type of kidney cancer in

children" according to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. "About 500 new cases of Wilms Tumor are found each year in the United States, affecting about 1 in every 10,000 children."

"The next week they did surgery to remove his left kidney and the tumor (that was inside) and that's when it was confirmed that it was Wilms' Tumor by Children's Hospital in Milwaukee," Hailey said. [Officially Children's Wisconsin-Milwaukee Campus]

"We were there for a total of nine days," Hailey said. "Our surgeon, Dr. Jack Schneider, really gave us the most sense of calmness during that time. Our emotions were overflowing but with not knowing how the next day would even go, it kept us on edge. But Milwaukee Children's Hospital was outstanding!"

When removed, Brandtly's kidney was about three times the size of a normal kidney for a child his age, Hailey said.

"He started chemo and radiation right away," she said. "He did one day a week for four weeks. Then



Brandtly stands beneath a sign erected in his honor by community members asking for prayers on his behalf. Photo courtesy of the Clark family.

one day a week, every other week, for twelve weeks. Then one day every three weeks for nine weeks." After treatments, Brandtly

was sick for two to three days with nausea, fatigue, and no appetite. Then after about five days, he started feeling back to normal.

Then the cycle started all over again. That was from

See **BRANDTLY** page 3

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## City of Merrill hires new Finance Director

Emily Ley began her new role January 2

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

As part of its succession planning in preparation for the retirement of City of Merrill Finance Director Kathy Unertl, the City of Merrill began looking for qualified candidates they could hire to come on board and work alongside and with Unertl prior to her retirement.

City Administrator Rod Akey said they didn't anticipate finding qualified candidates as quickly as they did since they didn't really begin recruiting in earnest until after budget season. "But we were lucky," Akey said.



Emily Ley

Emily Ley was hired as the City's new Finance Director and started work for the City on Jan. 2, 2024.

"We're really impressed with her," Akey said. He said she is a really good communicator, and the City placed a high value on that as a key requirement for this role. "Communication, communication, communication," he said.

Ley was previously employed as Assistant Finance Director for the City of Wausau and prior to that worked as Finance Director for the City of Plover and

See **LEY** page 2

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## Fire destroys machine shed in Town of Pine River

On the morning of Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, at 2:20 a.m., the Pine River Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at a farm on County Rd. P. Initial dispatch reports indicated a machine shed was fully engulfed in flames.

Upon arrival, crews found the building, which was used to store farm implements, fully engulfed with the sidewalls

starting to collapse. Although there were no additional structures that were threatened by the fire, firefighters were made aware of a gasoline storage container and LP cylinder that were near the burning building.

Crews from Pine River, Hewitt, and Texas extinguished

See **FIRE** page 4

**The Merrill Area Dining Guide will now be in the Profile Magazine and inserted into the paper.**  
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# Community ArtShare Exhibit: The Beauty of Fabric

The Beauty of Fabric: Wall Quilts and Vintage Ties is the title of the first 2024 Beyond Books: Community ArtShare exhibit at the T.B. Scott Free Library in Merrill. The exhibit is now up and runs through the end of February. Stop in at the library to view the exhibit which is the work of Peter and Dian Ritter of Merrill.

Peter and Dian are both Wisconsin natives, having grown up in Merrill and Stevens Point, respectively. They met in college and graduated with BS degrees in Art Education and received Masters degrees from MSU. They taught in Wausau and Wisconsin Rapids before heading overseas to international schools in seven different countries for over 34 years. Currently, they reside near Council Grounds State Park where they garden, enjoy wildlife, participate in historical reenactments, and attend as many summer concerts as possible.

Dian first enjoyed colors and textures of fabric and sewing in fourth grade when she joined 4-H and entered clothing at the County Fair. She started making quilted wall art 15 years ago and has had a new piece in the works ever since. Some were made as gifts, while others were sold in exhibitions. Smaller and simpler works were completed in two days, while others took two months. Currently, she has around 30 wall pieces stacked in a back room.

While in high school, Peter started collecting ties from yard sales, estate sales, and second-hand shops. He now has over 100 ties, most of which are from the 1940's. As an Art educator, he wore one of his vintage ties every day in the classroom. After retiring, the ties have been layered in display on a stair railing in their home.

Come and see some of Dian's beautiful and unique quilted works of art and Peter's tie collection at the T.B. Scott Free Library exhibit before the end of February.



Dian uses textiles and fabric as her media to create works of art like this depiction of an old truck. Submitted photos.



Some of Dian's works of art in textiles depict a scene like this path in the woods.



A peek at some of the ties in Peter's collection.

More photos online [merrillfotonews.com](http://merrillfotonews.com)



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## PEOPLE FOR PINE CREST

Save the Date!

People for Pine Crest Town Hall Meeting  
Saturday, January 27, 10 am - 12 pm  
Merrill Enrichment Center  
303 North Sales Street, Merrill, WI

Please join us for a non-partisan public event to update the community on where Pine Crest is today financially (you may be surprised) and the sale by the Lincoln County Board.

This is your opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas if Pine Crest should remain a County-owned skilled nursing home facility.

Consider sending your questions in advance to:  
[people4pinecrest@gmail.com](mailto:people4pinecrest@gmail.com)

This panel type discussion will be moderated by a representative from the:



## LEY from page 1

Finance Director/Village Treasurer for the Village of Kronenwetter. She has a B.S. degree in Economics from UW-Eau Claire, a M.A. degree from the University of Iowa, and a Masters of Public Administration degree from UW-Madison's La Follette School of Public Affairs.

With 10 years of experience in municipal finance and a record of successful financial management along with experience modernizing and streamlining financial policies, strong technical skills in data analysis, and a focus on long-term planning, she has already stepped into her new role.

"I strive to provide quality stewardship of City resources, timely and accurate financial information, and excellent customer service," Ley said.

Ley will be responsible for managing City finances, preparing budgets, conducting financial analysis, financial planning and reporting, managing tax increment financing, and debt management, and communicating the City's financial information to City officials and the public.

On a personal note, "I grew up in Tomahawk, live in Wausau, and enjoy hiking, biking, backpacking, DIY home improvement projects, and walking my dog," Ley said. Quirky little personal tidbit? "I'm learning to make sourdough bread," she added.

"I'm looking forward to exploring Merrill, learning more about the community, and helping the City achieve our goals," Ley said.

Unertl is projected to retire around mid-July of this year, that date is subject to change.

## St. John Lutheran School Preschool/PreK/Kindergarten OPEN HOUSE

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For more information, please contact the school office at 715-536-7264 or email [schooloffice@stjohnmerrill.org](mailto:schooloffice@stjohnmerrill.org)

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# Merrill couple receives 2024 WMSPA Life Member Award

At the Wisconsin Maple Producers Association (WMSPA) Winter Institute and Maple Vendor Trade Show in Marshfield on Jan. 6, 2024, Ray and Pam Melander of Leafy Grove Maple in Merrill were presented with the WMSPA Honorary Life Member Award.

The Honorary Life Member Award is given to a member who has been an essential part of the WMSPA and the maple industry for many years. Honorary Life Members are/or have been active members of the WMSPA, active meaning more than just attending meetings. In 2013, Ray and Pam Melander were honored with the WMSPA Producers of the Year Award. Pam served as the WMSPA Secretary for many years, and Ray served as Executive Director and now serves as a Director. In 2022, Ray and Pam hosted the WMSPA Annual First Tree Tapping event at Leafy Grove Maple.

According to the group's guidelines, an honorary life member shall be recognized by the effort he/she has shown in the WMSPA, such as yearly paid membership, being an officer or delegate, working at the state fair in the WMSPA booth, being on committees, participating in activities of the WMSPA, attending the National Convention, and other activities that may come along within the association. A member has to be 65 or older. The Honorary Life Member Award is given to both Mr. and Mrs. Qualifying member per committee decision.

Pam and Ray Melander began their involvement with the maple syrup industry about 20 years ago when their spark for a new hobby was fanned into a flame by many other maple producers. That grew into a lifelong appreciation and excitement for the maple industry.



Ray and Pam Melander receive the WMSPA Honorary Life Member Award. Submitted photo.

Leafy Grove Maple was established in 1997, with the purchase of a 40-acre property in central Wisconsin, Ray and Pam Melander grew a sugar bush from 200 maple trees tapped their first year in spring 1998 to more than 1,350 trees tapped in 2023. Initially sap was collected with plastic buckets from a local bakery and involved many labor-intensive hours of collecting and emptying buckets from the trees for both of them along with their school-aged daughter, Holly.

Today they harvest sap from 1,350 trees, all on a custom-built vacuum system similar to a dairy vacuum pump and milk pipeline receiver system. And Ray and Pam now enjoy sharing the experience with their grandchildren.

Ray and Pam Melander have been involved with the WMSPA ever since they started making maple syrup and have continued to make new connections within the industry to learn all they could all these years. Gaining knowledge increased their desire to manage the woods to accommodate healthy trees and to increase their number of taps. From building a road system within the woods to installing a gravity-flow system, their operation continued to expand, allowing them to sell their sap to other area syrup producers.

Like most maple syrup operations that started small and then grew, Ray and Pam also started out cooking sap into syrup in an open pan over a wood fire. Today they process the sap into syrup in their newly-built sugar house using a 2'x6' oil-fired evaporator and then bottle the syrup in the bottling room. Ray and Pam then sell their pure Wisconsin maple syrup locally.

## BRANDTLY from page 1

Nov. 29, 2021, until May 31, 2022. It was a long six months for the family.

But the treatment proved successful. "He had a scan June 2022 which declared him cancer free," Hailey said. "We celebrated with cake and ice cream."

Then the family planned a trip to the beach, and that was made possible through the generosity of Make-A-Wish Foundation in February 2023, she said.

Follow up was for Brandtly to have scans every three months for the next three years. They started that protocol and "We celebrated EVERY three months when we got clear scans," Hailey said.

### Relapse

Then, earlier this year, "On his one-year scan, June 12, 2023, they found a spot on his right lung," she said. A July 7 biopsy confirmed it was a relapse of Wilms. While Wilms relapse is not uncommon and tends to occur within two years after the primary diagnosis, and while the most common site for metastatic spread of Wilms Tumor is in the lungs, it was nonetheless devastating for Brandtly's parents to hear their son's cancer, once in remission, was now back.

"Hearing your child has cancer is the worst feeling," Hailey said. "but hearing it twice is even worse. You feel like everything you did the first time was pointless. Having to tell your five-year-old he has to do it again was the one of the worst feelings I've ever had."

"When he asked, 'Why did it come back?' it was something our hearts just couldn't handle," she said. "But you don't have a choice but to move forward. It's each day at a time; you really can't think or plan ahead."

"His diagnosis (both times) has favorable histology," Hailey said. "He was stage four the first time, and a relapse is an automatic stage four diagnosis again."

"There isn't a standard protocol for a relapse of Wilms," she said, "The Tumor Board (many doctors from Marshfield and Milwaukee discuss cases and brainstorm with each other on every case) suggested we enter a clinical trial for the relapse of Wilms."

The clinical trial is every 21 days, with two different regimens, Hailey explained. Regimen one is three days of chemo (seven hour treatments) followed with 12-16 hours of hydration and a medication called mesna because one chemo is extremely hard on the bladder. Regimen two is five days of chemo (only takes about an hour) and each day of treatment he is given steroids. He also has six different options for nausea medications that they rotate for about four to seven days after treatment. This is 10 cycles.

They usually do a CBC (complete blood count) before he leaves the hospital after getting treatment.

They started the clinical trial July 24, 2023, and the plan is to finish Feb. 5, 2024. "After the Last chemo, between 24-72 hours, he has to receive a filgrastim shot

(bone marrow stimulant)," she said.

While going through all of this treatment, Brandtly needs weekly blood draws "to check his numbers to make sure his counts are going up," Hailey said. "We get those done in Merrill."

She said they usually get the results within 30 minutes, but if his blood counts are down, Brandtly then needs to receive blood or platelet transfusions. "Blood transfusion depends on his hemoglobin level, which needs to be 7.5 or below. And his platelets below 20," she said. "He could have one or the other or need both."

If Brandtly needs a blood transfusion, that takes three hours, or a platelet transfusion, that takes an hour. Over the course of treatment, he has needed several of both. "This can only be done in Marshfield," she said. "So away we go to spend the day there, and then usually need another blood check within a couple days."

On a fun side note, "We always have to stop at Chip's Hamburgers on the way home," Hailey said. "It's his favorite."

### Community support

"Our daily lives are like a tornado," Hailey said. "A fever can spike at any point. If this happens, we have to head straight to Marshfield, we need a blood draw to check for infection, and antibiotics with a two-day minimum stay. Our bags are always packed. We've had a few runs to the hospital in the middle of the night."

"Just like the first time, our family and friends really stepped up to the plate to help with our now three-and-a-half-year-old, Rhea," she said. "It's definitely hard being away, but I know she is in good hands when I'm gone. Matt visits as often as possible (hospital rooms aren't quite comfy for many people to sleep)."

"We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love we are receiving from families around the community," Hailey said. "It just makes us speechless sometimes to think how many care about our family."

"This is truly an amazing feeling. We just can't thank people enough!" she said. "Our church, St. John Lutheran, has also been an amazing support for our family."

In addition to help with practical things, child care, and prayers, community support has come in other ways, too.

"Our friends, family, and community have really blessed Brandtly (and Rhea) with lots of gifts and activities for us to do," Hailey said. "It's so wonderful to be able to grab a new activity or game."

"We were always very active and enjoyed having friends and family over on weekends for playdates," she said. Cancer changed all that. "Now we don't make any plans until we have blood CBC results back. If his numbers are too low to fight off germs, then we stay home and do family activities."

Regardless, they tend not to do anything around lots of people or large groups now. "Because even if his numbers are good, that means he is getting ready for his next round of treatment," Hailey said. "And we don't want him sick while he's getting treatment. Then his numbers will go back down and he won't be able to fight off any



Brandtly receives a blood transfusion in the hospital. Photo courtesy of the Clark family.

germs."

The new "routine" has also affected Brandtly's personality. Now six years old, he would normally be in school, but he can't be due to treatments and the need to keep him well enough to continue with those treatments. They can't afford for him to get a virus or get sick with his already compromised immune system.

"He's definitely become a little bit more shy and not too fond of talking with new people," Hailey said. "He doesn't like to be far from Mom and Dad."

"He's nervous to go back to school, but definitely misses all of his friends."

### Giving Blood for Brandtly Blood Drive

As a way to thank the community for their support, Matt and Hailey Clark wanted to do something, but they didn't quite know what. Then it hit them: a blood drive. Soon Brandtly will be finished with his treatments and hopefully won't need more blood or platelet transfusions. But other kids like him and people with other medical conditions still will.

"The other day we stopped by the Menards Center to visit Grandpa Doug [Brandt] while he was giving platelets,"

Hailey said. "It was interesting to see how the procedure works. And Brandtly was surprised how that process worked."

"I explained to him that when he gets these transfusions, they are from generous people who take time out of their day to donate their blood and platelets to help people like him. He was definitely trying to wrap his head around the whole concept. I'm glad he got to see that."

Organizing a blood drive in honor of Brandtly and everyone who was so supportive to him and his family was something the family could do to pay it forward.

The Giving Blood for Brandtly Blood Drive will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, from 1-6 p.m. at the Merrill Fire Department, 110 Pier St. in Merrill. Appointments are requested to be a priority donor. Donors can call 877.232.4376 or go to [bit.ly/brandtlyfeb6](https://bit.ly/brandtlyfeb6) to schedule their appointment. Walk-in donors will also be welcome.

The need for blood is great for the many patients like Brandtly. The Clark family is hopeful their friends, family, church members, and others in the community will turn out in great numbers to donate blood.

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# OBITUARIES



**Anthony A. Van De Hei**, born April 18, 1958 in Green Bay, WI. Passed away on January 3, 2024 at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau WI from Small Cell lung cancer.

He was a beloved son, spouse, father and grandfather.

Tony was a master mechanic; He had multiple certificates and degrees. He loved the outdoors, fishing, computer, hanging out with his kids and grand kids and just family and friends in general.

He is survived by his mother, Helen Diels, spouse Kelly Delchambre, children; son Eric (Lisa) Van De Hei, Daughter April (Kyle) Schmidt; Matt (Tracy) Van De Hei, JJ (Leah) Van De Hei, Mike (Kelly) Van De Hei, Jerry (Lisa) Van De Hei, Eugene (Ann) Van De Hei, and 7 grandchildren.

Family and friends are welcome to join us in a celebration of life at S & S Bar, 418, Grand Ave, Merrill, WI 54452 on February 3, 2024 from 1PM to 5PM.

Special thanks to Aspirus Hospice Care team and the Cancer Center of Wausau.



**Linda L. Koob**, age 74, of Merrill, WI, passed away on Friday, January 5, 2024, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. Linda was born in Merrill, WI, on August 28, 1949, to the late Bernard O. and Helen M. (Krueger) Winkelman.

Linda was a graduate of the Merrill High School. She held various jobs while moving throughout the United States. She returned to the area working at Aqua Finance in Wausau and Walmart in Merrill. She was a faithful

member of the Tomahawk Community Seventh-day Adventist Church. Linda enjoyed passing her time knitting and crocheting. With a caring heart, she donated hundreds of hats to area schools and hospitals for patients and newborns. She made many memories spending time with her friends and church family.

Survivors include her son, Peter (Glorivik) Koob; her daughter, Kelly Krivanek; her brother, Larry (Debra) Winkelman; and her sisters, Sally (Leonard) Smith, Carol Caylor, Paulina Osness, and Joanne Powers. Linda is further survived by her grandchildren, Kyle, Kyla, and McKenzie. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bernard and Helen; her brother, Benny Winkelman; and her brothers-in-law, Daniel Caylor and Steve Osness.

Memorial services for Linda Koob were held at Tomahawk Community Seventh-day Adventist Church. Rev. Eric Anderson officiated. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Linda's obituary and leave online condolences at generationsfuneral.com.



**John M. Klobucnik**, age 82, of Irma, WI, passed away on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at the Aspirus Hospice House in Wausau. He was born on November 20, 1941 to the late Joseph and Margaret (Uko) Klobucnik in Chicago, IL. John attended and graduated from high school, and went on to further his education at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, majoring in math. He met Kathleen Galusha, and the two lovingly exchanged marriage vows on October 10,

1964 in Clinton, Iowa, a union lasting nearly 60 years. She survives.

John worked as a computer programmer, and retired from Wisconsin Electric in Milwaukee after 20 years. He taught math for a short period in Chicago. John was a collector of model trains, and had quite the collection! He also enjoyed deer hunting and fishing with his boys. In his younger years, he was a Boy Scout leader and a hockey coach. John is remembered as a funny man that enjoyed a good joke or two! He will be sadly missed, but always in the hearts of his family and friends.

John is survived by his wife: Kathy Klobucnik, sons: James "Jim" (Kari), Marc (Christina) and Brian (Ann), grandchildren: Devin, Arianna, Derek, Anthony, Cody and Kayla, and brother: Joseph (Arlene). He was preceded in death by his parents and sister: Mary Kaye.

Per family request, no formal services will be held for John. Family would like to thank the staff of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services, as well as the staff at the Aspirus Hospice House, for all of their care and comfort shown to John and his family during his final days.

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](http://www.waidfuneral.com).



**Caroline Flanigan (Seetan)**

My aunt, Caroline Flanigan (Seetan), RN, BSN passed away at the age of 79 years young. She passed peacefully at the skilled nursing facility that she was being cared for, in Racine WI. Her recent ailments compounded the underlying diagnosis of leukemia. She was tired and ready to depart this world to be with her family, friends and pets that have already passed over.

In addition to me, Jill Seetan (Kelly Kaetterhenry), she was survived by my brother Rob Seetan (Mickie Pearsal), our children Dylan Van Camp, Devyn Van Camp, Ethyn Van Camp and the "sister-cousins" Tehya Van Camp and Pieper Seetan, and her sister-in-law Charlene Seetan. We can't forget my dogher Ella and Robs dog Rudy, who auntie loved getting visits from. In addition to her many friends, that are just too many to list, two have played a significant part in her life. Her lifelong friend and penpal from Ireland, Arthur Blake, and her "partner in crime" Audrey Miller. Finally, is her cat Frosty, who I will happily care for as my aunt would want me to.

Aunt Carol was preceded in death by too many of her loved ones. Those most closely connected are her parents, Robert (Bob) & Lillian (Lil) Seetan, her brother Robert (Butch) Seetan, her long time partner John Phillips and her previous husband and friend, Jim Flanigan. Lastly, but no less important to her, were her most recent and devoted companions, her cats Quincy and Anna.

My aunt was a nurse all her life and achieved many awards and recognitions. She loved caring for her patients and cared for them as if they were a part of her family. She held many roles during her career, but always gave the care she expected to be given to her or her family and friends.

We will be having a mass at St. John's the Baptist Catholic Church, in Bloomville, at 12:00pm on January 27th with a gathering at Bubba's Pub in Merrill after, until 4:00pm. Friends of her, and her family, are welcome to stop by. Condolences may be sent to [frostycatsmom@gmail.com](mailto:frostycatsmom@gmail.com)



**Rexford "Rex" G. Buehler**, age 84, of Merrill, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at Bell Tower Residence Assisted Living.

Rex was born on May 20, 1939 to the late George and Dorothy (Szwingley) Buehler in Medford, WI. He attended and graduated from Medford High School. Rex went on to serve his country in the United States Army until his honorable discharge in 1963. He had earned his Marksman Commendation and the Good Conduct Medal.

Rex met the love of his life, Lee LaVonne Boushley, and the two lovingly exchanged marriage vows on March 25, 1988 in Merrill. She survives.

Rex worked as an auto body repairman for 41 years, and was the owner of Taylor Body Shop, Inc. in Merrill. He sold the shop and retired in 2004. In his younger years, Rex enjoyed spending time tinkering with vehicles, fishing and heading to the shack to go deer hunting, as well as helping with trap shooting. He enjoyed the outdoors, and being in the woods. Rex is remembered as a generous, honest and helpful man with a kind and gentle soul. He was a loving husband and father and he cherished time with his family and friends. Rex was a member at St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill. He will be missed dearly, but will never be forgotten.

Rex is survived by his wife: Lee Buehler, son: Bryan (Jolene) Buehler, step-daughters: Meredith (John) Heldt and Miranda (Kevin) Voss, step-son: Micah Michalski, 11 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, sister-in-law: Elsie Buehler and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, grandson: Jordan Buehler, 5 brothers and 3 sisters.

A private service will be held at Waid Funeral Home. Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at [www.waidfuneral.com](http://www.waidfuneral.com).

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill.

**William "Bill" Martin Heckmann**,



age 84, passed away on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at Rib Lake Health Service & under the care of Hope Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. He was born in Merrill, WI, Lincoln County on March 26, 1939. He was the son of the late Martin and Gladys (Richmond) Heckmann.

He graduated from Merrill Senior High School and then enlisted in the Army National Guard, Company A, 32nd infantry, Red Arrow Division and served a tour of active duty at Fort Lewis, Washington, during the Berlin Crisis 1961 to 1962. He was then honorably discharged.

On October 22, 1966, William married Judith Pregler at St. John's Catholic Church in Antigo, WI.

William was a lifelong member at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill, WI, where he was an usher, belonged to the church bowling team and attended Bible classes.

William worked at various places over the years, including North Central Leasing in Wausau, WI, Northern Specialty, Quality Wood Products and Wire Products Manufacturing, all of Merrill, WI. He was an outdoors person, he liked to relax by going fishing, making firewood and hunting. He enjoyed sitting by the kitchen window watching the birds and squirrels at his many bird feeders. Deer would also pass through the backyard.

William enjoyed spending time with his family and grandchildren. He would also spend many hours working on his hobby railroad layout. He liked to travel to different towns to attend railroad shows, getting ideas on how to make the layouts bigger and buy various trains and accessories. He also enjoyed square dancing and was a former member of the Lincoln Squares square dance club.

William will be dearly missed, but never forgotten.

William is survived by his wife: Judy Heckmann, son: David Heckmann, daughter: Kathleen (Tim) David, grandchildren: Faith David (Adam Jones) and Miranda David (Donovan McCann), brother-in-laws: Ronald Fischer and Dan, Richard and Steve Pregler, sister-in-laws: Christina (Gordon) Wurtinger, Betty (Douglas) Hitt, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister: Joanne (Ronald) Fischer, half-brothers: Howard, Wesley, Lawrence, Herbert (Lillian), Carl (Ann) and Harold Prosser and half-sister: Ethel (Frank) Mientke.

The funeral service for William will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Pastor Scott Gustafson will officiate. The visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill, and again on Thursday, January 25, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service, at the church. Burial at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery will immediately follow the service. Military honors will be performed at the cemetery.

The service will be live streamed and available for viewing on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. It can be found under his obituary on the funeral home website. It will then be posted as a recording for future viewing.

In lieu of flowers, family asks that memorials be given in William's name to Trinity Lutheran church, school, or daycare center, or a charity of your choice.

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](http://www.waidfuneral.com).

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## FIRE from page 1

the blaze. Firefighters and their equipment were hampered in the effort by arctic temperatures, with a temperature of -6 degrees recorded.

Approximately 30,000 gallons of water were used to extinguish the fire.

The building and its contents are considered a total loss.

Further assistance on the scene was provided by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin Public Service, and the Lincoln County Highway Department.

Pine River Firefighters are grateful to Greg Metz for his quick response with the town truck, providing them with a safe environment to work on the road, at the fire scene, and at the nearby fill site.



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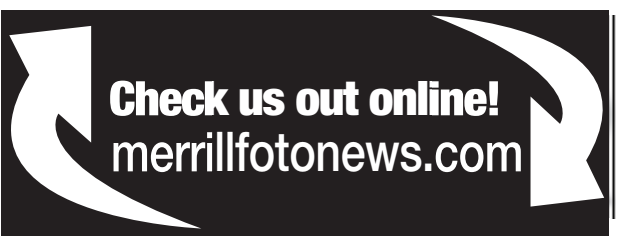
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters to the Editor, a chance for members of the community to comment on issues of concern to them.

TO THE EDITOR:

WHO WILL YOU VOTE FOR?

Consider this question seriously. Will you vote for a person of strong moral character who values honesty with a drive to preserve the integrity of The Constitution?

Personally, I would never vote for a candidate that carries baggage containing charges or insurrection, tax fraud, sexual assault, misuse of donors' funds, pays "hush money," was sued for defamation of character, denies facts and science, outright lies to supporters, and other undesirable human traits.

I will vote for Democracy not Dictatorship.

Remember that YOUR VOTE is YOUR VOICE. If you choose not to exercise this right of freedom, you really should not complain after the fact.

Respectfully, -Dian H. Ritter Merrill, Wis.

TO THE EDITOR:

Re: In regards to the Lincoln County Housing Authority (LCHA) and Villa Apartments in Gleason

First, a no-smoking policy is infringing on the rights of smokers. Lincoln County Housing Authority (LCHA) cannot discriminate against someone who is a smoker or someone with a disability in the renting process.

HUD does not say you cannot be a smoker and live on their property; people do have rights. Smokers do have obligations as to where they smoke (in the Villa the rule is 25 ft. from the building). Out of the 16 apartments, 4 apartments are smokers. Not chronic!

Second, there are building codes that state the amount of insulation that needs to be in between apartments. LCHA has been and is doing everything they can in a very tough situation.

Third, we (all signed below) follow the rules by LCHA and are all very happy living here. The Villa is a great family. There are other living options out there that LCHA does not manage.

- Randal Anderson, Tammy Duranceau, Jean Thom, Duane Gano, Sharon krueger, Margie Lange, Kelly Schielke, Peter Pelconter, Ranay Nicklaus Gleason, Wis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

\*Letters must be 250 words or less. (There will be no exceptions to this. Any letter longer than 250 words will not be printed.)

\*The writer must include their full name, complete address, and a phone number where he/she can be easily reached for verification. Phone numbers and street addresses will not be published, but will be used for verification purposes, if necessary.

\*Letters may be edited for style, grammar, and length. Form letters or those we determine to be libelous or slanderous will not be accepted. Any letter deemed derogatory, inflammatory, or involving vulgar language will not be published.

\*Letters will be published on a "first come, first served" basis. Any letters which we are unable to publish in the printed newspaper may be run online at www.merrillfotonews.com and/or may be printed in the paper at a later date.

\*In fairness to all, and due to space constraints, there is a limit of two letters per year from an individual writer. Additional letters may be submitted to our Paid Letters to the Editor column and will require payment in full prior to publication at the same rate as Political Letters to the Editor (see policy below).

POLITICAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

All letters submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum, or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words in length.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Paradigm Shift For A Day

Dear Reader,

Going off the grid for a day can provide a balance between productivity and self-regeneration. It offers a chance to disconnect, focus on non-digital activities, and foster mindfulness.



PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher

Taking a day off the grid allows you to break the constant digital connectivity, reducing stress and promoting mental well-being. It creates space for activities like reading, outdoor pursuits, or face-to-face interactions, fostering a sense of presence and relaxation.

Productivity may decrease in traditional terms, yet the mental recharge gained often leads to increased overall effectiveness in the long run.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700 Legals 7700

Annual Meeting Calvary Trinity Perpetual Care Cemetery Association, Inc. 6:30 PM - Monday, 2/5/2024 Calvary Lutheran Church N365 Cain Creek Road Merrill, WI Published January 25, 2024 WNAXLP

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: 01/09/2024 /S/HON. GALEN BAYNE-ALLISON CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, BR I STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 24-CV-04

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF Kaylee Elizabeth Snyder By (Petitioner) Jessica Francis Snyder By (Co-Petitioner) Brian Edward Cooke NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Honorable Galen Bayne-Allison Place: Lincoln County Courthouse-Br 1 Merrill, WI 54452 Date: 02/28/2024 Time: 8:45 AM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin. Published: 1/18/24, 1/25/24 & 2/1/24 WNAXLP

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: 01/09/2024 /S/HON. GALEN BAYNE-ALLISON CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, BR I STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 24-CV-05

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF Jessica Francis Snyder By (Petitioner) Jessica Francis Snyder NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Honorable Galen Bayne-Allison Place: Lincoln County Courthouse-Br 1 Merrill, WI 54452

CITY OF MERRILL ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Street/Utility Construction Project

The City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, will receive bids for a street and utility project. This project is located on O'Day Street between Martin Street and Riverside Park. Bids will be accepted until 2 pm, March 20, 2024.

Published January 25 and February 1, 2024 WNAXLP

MAPS residents to vote on facilities referendum School Board supports placing question on April 2024 ballot

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, the Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) Board of Education (BOE) approved presenting school district residents with a facilities improvement plan to make the best use of the district's best facilities.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Merrill Area Common Public School District, Lincoln and Langlade Counties, Wisconsin that there shall be issued pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$16,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school facility improvement project consisting of: renovations, site, and playground improvements at the Jefferson School building to accommodate the relocation of certain district programming; renovations at the High School and construction of a maintenance and operations building at the High School site; demolition of the current Northern Achievement Center; storage building, district office, and maintenance building; district-wide capital maintenance, infrastructure, and site improvements; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures, and equipment.

MAPS has developed a plan to address the most pressing facilities issues and better utilize the district's educational spaces. To address the challenges facing the district—funding, aging facilities, utilization, declining enrollment—a base plan was developed that would close

four buildings and seek to sell the Pine River School for Young Learners (PRSYL) property. PRSYL, Bridges Virtual Academy (BVA), and the Northern Achievement Center (NAC) programming would move into the Jefferson Elementary building, following key updates and renovations to Jefferson. This move, which essentially takes four aging and outdated buildings offline, will provide operational efficiencies for the district moving forward.

Throughout the planning process, MAPS and the BOE actively sought staff and stakeholder input through district-hosted community focus groups and a community-wide survey in Fall 2023. The valuable feedback provided by over 1,500 district residents assisted in the final decision-making leading to the resolution at the January board meeting.

MAPS, in continued efforts to make the best use of their best buildings, has made it a priority to develop a plan to improve facilities and update the existing aging buildings and grounds.

District residents will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum question that requests permission for the District to borrow funds (issue debt) in an amount not-to-exceed \$16 million to address the facility challenges facing the district.

For additional information, please visit the District's website at mapsedu.org. Questions can be directed to Shannon Murray, Superintendent, 715.536.4581 or email shannon.murray@mapsedu.org.

Local figure skaters heading to Badger State Games

A number of local figure skaters from the Merrill Ice Reflections Figure Skating Club will be competing in the Badger State Games Jan. 26-29, 2024. If you attend the events, area skaters would appreciate your support.

NOTICE OF SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE CITY OF MERRILL

The City of Merrill will be repairing and replacing sidewalks and curb and gutter at various locations throughout the City in 2024 in accordance with the Concrete Inspection Program. Any questions, contact the Building/Zoning Department at 715-536-4880.

Published January 25, 2024 WNAXLP

BUSINESS PROFILE A Community Update on 2023 You are the community's future! What would you like all of the community to know about your business? How long have you been a part of the community's success? What's in your plans for the future? What makes your company a good place to work? Would you like to recognize your employees' contributions to your success? Share your success and plans with the people of the area. Contact the Merrill Foto News office to be a part of the Business Profile. MERRILL Foto News (715) 536-7121



## Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Jan. 25 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.  
 Jan. 25 - MACA Presents: Empire Trio: Hooray for Hollywood concert  
 Jan. 27 - Merrill School Forest Family Fun Day  
 Jan. 27 - Gleason Community Club Winter Ice Oval Races in Gleason  
 Jan. 27 - Merrill Ice Drags Week 1 of Racing  
 Jan. 31 - Trivia Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.  
 Feb. 1 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.  
 Feb. 1 - BINGO at St. Francis

For more information, go to: [merrillchamber.org/events](http://merrillchamber.org/events) or contact the event sponsor.



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 Mondays All Seats \$5.00

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 SATURDAY & SUNDAY:  
 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM  
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY:  
 7:00PM ONLY

**THE BOYS IN THE BOAT**  
 "PG13" (2HR 3MIN)  
 FRIDAY: 7:00PM  
 SATURDAY & SUNDAY:  
 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM  
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY:  
 7:00PM ONLY

**ANYONE BUT YOU**  
 "R" (1HR 43MIN)  
 FRIDAY: 7:00PM  
 SATURDAY & SUNDAY:  
 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM  
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**Friday**  
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**WEEKLY BRIEFING - JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup>**

THURSDAY - RIBS  
 FRIDAY FISH FRY - BLUEGILL  
 SATURDAY - PRIME RIB  
 SUNDAY - BROASTED CHICKEN  
 MONDAY - SPAGHETTI

**BINGO 4PM STARTING SUNDAY, FEB. 4TH!**

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**DINNER SPECIALS JAN./FEB.**  
**TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
 JAN. 30<sup>TH</sup> - COUNTRY FRIED STEAK  
 FEB. 6<sup>TH</sup> - LIVER & ONIONS  
 Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**  
 JAN. 26<sup>TH</sup> - BLUEGILLS  
 FEB. 2<sup>ND</sup> - COCONUT SHRIMP  
 Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM  
 CLIP-N-SAVE

**CARRYOUT AVAILABLE**  
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 • LUNCH AVAILABLE:  
 TUES. & FRI. 11am-2pm  
 WED. & THURS. 11am-8pm  
 Specials • Fish Fries • Homemade Soup  
 • DINNER MENU: TUES. 4-8pm & FRI. 4-8pm  
 • SATURDAY: Bar Open at 3pm  
 • SUNDAY: Bar Open From 11am-7pm

Visit our Website! [584.localfoewi.com](http://584.localfoewi.com)  
 HAPPY HOUR: TUESDAY-THURSDAY • 3-6PM

What's Happening at  
**St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store**  
 1004 E. Main Street, Merrill, WI

**\*\*Acts of Kindness Program -**  
 Bring in a donation of pet food to the thrift store in the month of February.  
 You will receive a  
**"Pass it On Acts of Kindness" card.**  
 All pet donations will go to the Lincoln Co. Humane Society.

**\*\*Nifty Thrifty Sale - 50% off everything in the store!**  
 Friday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> - 10 AM to 5 PM.

**\*\*In need of bridal, formal and prom dress donations.**  
 Thank you!  
 Store Hours: Mon. thru Sat. 10 AM to 5 PM

# Northwoods Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance to host Underdown snowshoe adventure

The Northwoods Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance will host a guided snowshoe hike in the Underdown area of the Lincoln County Forest on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, starting at 10 a.m. Participants should plan to meet at the Underdown Recreation Area parking lot on Copper Lake Rd.

"Come and enjoy the wonderful landscape created by the Great Wisconsin Glacier about ten thousand years ago," organizers invite. "A UW geology and geophysics professor described the Underdown as a 'world class hummocky feature' of glacial topography. In simpler terms, the area has swamps, lakes, bogs, and hills abundantly."



Peaceful snow-covered terrain beckons snowshoers to come out for an adventure. Submitted photo.

See SNOWSHOE page 7

# Merrill School Forest Family Fun Day is Saturday

Explore the school forest indoors and out

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
 EDITOR

The Merrill School Forest will be open to the public for a free Family Fun Day this Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Billed as "a chance for families to enjoy the great outdoors and try different winter activities," the event will feature two scheduled presentations as well as cross country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, and human foosball. The first presentation will be a live historic logging demonstration with Steve Lee

and his horses in the lower parking lot from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The second will be Wildlife Ecology and Management in Wisconsin using live animals inside the lodge from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Christian W. Cold, Wildlife Technician/Educator with the Bureau of Wildlife Management, Wisconsin DNR, will be the presenter.

Visitors can also tour the Animal Museum, the Wisconsin Logging History Museum (including outdoor features), and the Cordwood Education Center. There will be a campfire outside, perfect for roasting some marshmallows, and lunch and snacks in the main lodge from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is absolutely free including free equipment rentals and free food.

Bring the family for a day of fun.

The Merrill School Forest is located 10 miles north of Merrill on Hwy. 107 across from Camp New Wood County Park. As parking is limited at the school forest property, overflow parking will be at the park. If using GPS, the Google approved GPS address to help get you there is: N4740 State Hwy. 107, Merrill.

Cell phones rarely work at the property, so plan for an exciting, adventurous day "off the grid."

Note: The event, sponsored by Merrill Area Public Schools and the Friends of the Merrill School Forest, is subject to change or cancellation in the event of harsh weather or if there is a lack of snow. Check the Merrill School Forest Facebook page for any updates.

# 2024 Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Scholarship applications now being accepted

MADISON - The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation will award more than \$20,000 in scholarships to outstanding Wisconsin 4-H members and alumni pursuing higher education in 2024. To be considered for financial support, applications are now being accepted and must be received by the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation via email by Wednesday, March 1, 2024, at 5 p.m.

Wisconsin 4-H Foundation scholarships are awarded to students based on demonstrated

personal growth through 4-H, development and leadership in 4-H, academic performance, and future educational goals.

To be eligible for Wisconsin 4-H Foundation scholarships, students must have been a Wisconsin 4-H member for at least three years; should have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and be enrolled or planning to enroll at a university, college, or technical school during the 2024-2025 academic school year. Scholarship winners from previous years are not eligible to receive a

second 4-H Foundation scholarship.

The application is a one-page cover letter and a one-page resumé, both of which give the 4-H youth a chance to share their 4-H achievements, as well as their future plans. Applicants are asked to treat this process as if applying for a job.

Cover letters and résumés must be submitted as one PDF document and emailed to [scholarships@Wis4HFoundation.org](mailto:scholarships@Wis4HFoundation.org).

For complete instructions and detailed information about what to include in and how to

prepare the application documents, 4-H youth can visit [Wis4HFoundation.org/scholarships](http://Wis4HFoundation.org/scholarships).

A panel of experienced youth educators will screen the applications and select finalists. Applications chosen as finalists will be ranked by a second panel comprised of 4-H and youth development experts. The 4-H Foundation will assign available scholarships to the top-ranking applications based on scholarship criteria.

Applicants who are awarded scholarships will be notified by postal letter and email in May.

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This is an optional tax refund-related loan from Pathward®, N.A.; it is not your tax refund. Loans are offered in amounts of \$250, \$500, \$750, \$1,250 or \$3,500. Approval and loan amount based on expected refund amount, eligibility criteria, and underwriting. If approved, funds will be disbursed as directed to a prepaid card or checking account at Pathward. The loan amount will be deducted from your tax refund, reducing the refund amount paid directly to you. Tax returns may be e-filed without applying for this loan. Fees for other optional products or product features may apply. Limited time offer at participating locations. HRB Maine License No. FRA2, OBT#13096-BR. ©2023 HRB Tax Group, Inc.



### SNOWSHOE from page 6

"The trail is well marked and packed," they said. "Hikers can chose between distances of one to four hours depending on your ability, experience, and endurance. The trail is 'moderately difficult.'"


Plan to bring your own snowshoes, drink, and weather appropriate clothing.

Hot cider, hot chocolate, cookies, and a blazing fire will await hikers after their adventure. There is no charge for this event, however, any donations to the chapter will be

**MERRILL FOTO NEWS**

## Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is **Matthew Quednow**  
 Son of **Amy and Warren Yeskis**  
 Matthew is in 4th grade at Washington Elementary School. He was nominated by Talena Bliven.




**What is your favorite subject in school? Why?**  
 My favorite subject is math because it is kinda easy and kinda hard at times. I like division.

**What is your favorite part of school? Why?**  
 My favorite part of school is drop everything and read. I like reading Goosebumps books.

**What would you like to do/become someday? Why?**  
 I want to become a cook someday.

Matthew is a great student to have in class. He gets along well with others and is always willing to lend a helping hand to his classmates or teachers. Matthew is incredibly respectful and is a great team player. Matthew has a love of reading and loves talking about the books he is reading.  
 ~ Talena Bliven

Student of the Week Sponsored by:



**1401 W. Taylor St.,  
Merrill  
(715) 536-5400**

gratefully accepted.  
 For more information, contact Ruby Jaecks at 715.551.1118 or brjaecks@outlook.com.  
 To reach the Underdown Recreation Area parking lot:  
 From Merrill: Take Hwy. 51 to K north of Merrill. K right to H. H right to Copper Lake Rd. Right on Copper Lake Rd. to Underdown parking lot.  
 From Tomahawk: Take Hwy. 51 South to Cty. Rd. J at Irma. Left on J to H. Right on H to Copper Lake Rd. Left on Copper Lake Rd. to Underdown parking lot.  
 From Rhinelander: Take Hwy. 17 South to Highway J at

### Pet of the Week



Hello, I'm **Simba**. I'm a quiet cat who likes to sleep the days away in a sunny window, play with my toys or lay on a lap. I get along well with other cats and dogs. I have a slight fear of strangers but can warm up quickly if given the time and patience to do so. My adoption fee includes my neuter, up to date vaccinations and microchip! Come meet me today!

SPONSORED BY **Rog & Mar**

### Nifty '50 Fords

Visit all the adoptable animals at Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-4PM; Sun 12-2PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us on the web at [www.furypets.com](http://www.furypets.com).

Bloomville. Go right on J to Copper Lake Rd. Turn left on Copper Lake Rd. to Underdown parking lot. Follow the Ice Age Trail signs.



## Foster Grandparents

Share Today. Shape Tomorrow.

Looking for Volunteers to make a difference in a youth's life!

If you enjoy offering:

- One-to-One Guidance and Companionship to youth ages 14-17 in a Supervised Setting
- Are you interested in tutoring, mentoring and/or healthy social interaction?
- Building mutually beneficial friendships

If you are age 55 or older, meet income criteria, and able to volunteer a minimum of 5 hours a week or 260 hours per year. **Then YOU are exactly what we are looking for!** For your generous donation of time and talents. We provide, Free Lunches, mileage reimbursement, income eligibility stipend, and additional incentives.

**AmeriCorps Seniors** If Interested Call Jim at 715-536-8386 ext. 1220 or email at: [James.Larkin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:James.Larkin@wisconsin.gov)

## WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!



### Merrill Area Public Schools 2024 - 2025 Kindergarten

Parents/Guardians:  
 Merrill Area Public Schools recently mailed a letter and postcard to the parents and/or guardians of Kindergartners for the 2024-2025 school year asking if their child will be attending public, private or another school setting. To be eligible for kindergarten, your child must be 5 on or before September 1, 2024.

If you did not receive a mailing from Merrill Area Public Schools, please contact Sarah Fuchs at 715-536-4581, Ext. 10007 or [sarah.fuchs@mapsedu.org](mailto:sarah.fuchs@mapsedu.org) and she will include your child in the census and put on our kindergarten roster. Thank you.

## Merrill Area Dining Guide



Now Inserted into over 14,600 papers!

The dining Guide will now be in the Merrill Profile magazine and inserted into all 14,616 papers. The Foto News is mailed to all addresses in the Merrill area!

To advertise in this publication, contact the Merrill office at (715) 536-7121

MERRILL Foto News

**MERRILL Foto News**

## 2024 Valentine Coloring Contest

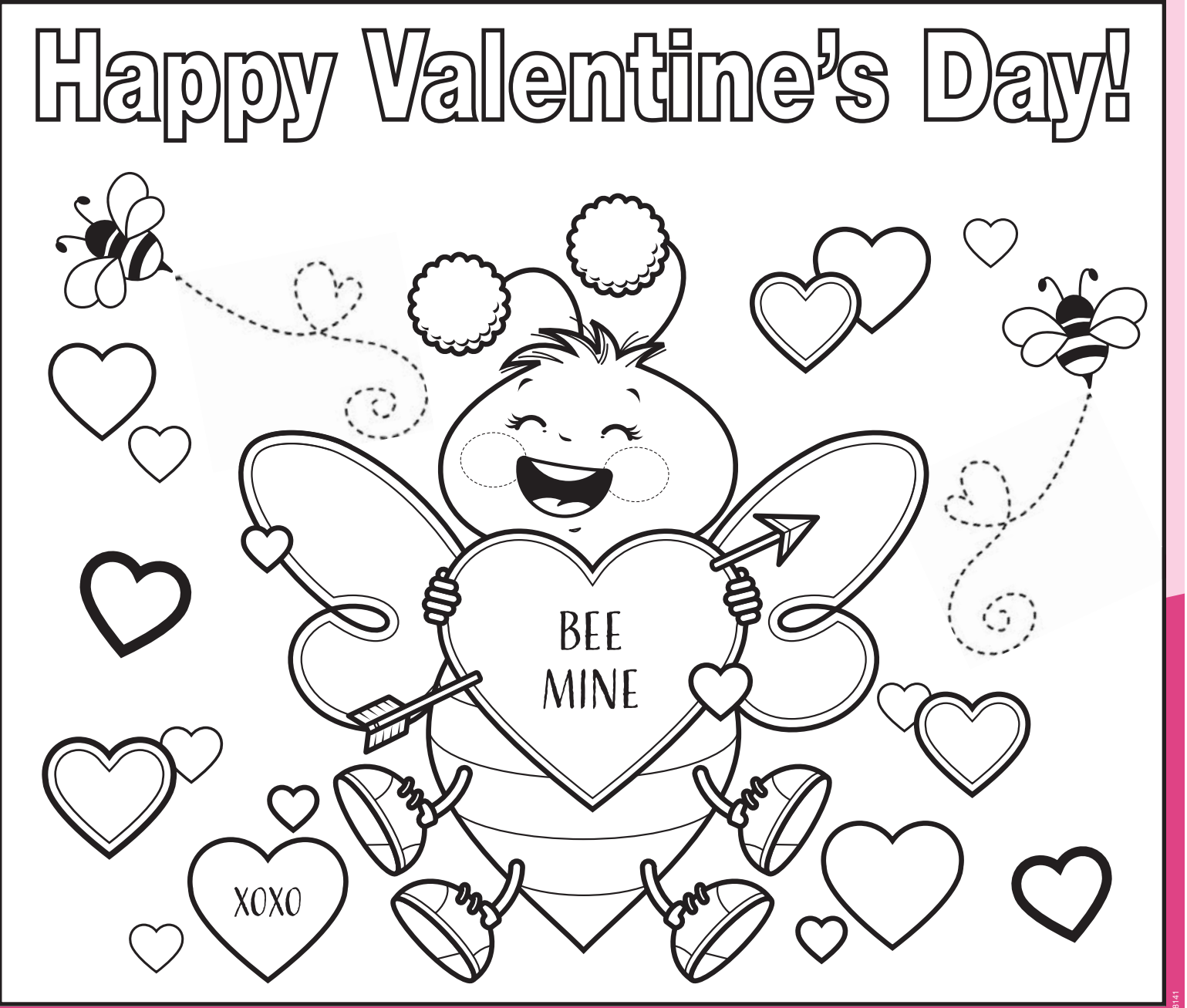
Please drop off or mail in to:

Merrill Foto News  
 2011 E. Main St.  
 Merrill, WI 54452

**Deadline:**  
 February 23, 2024

One winner per age group  
 Ages:  
 1-4 | 5-7 | 8-10

Each winner receives a gift basket!  
 Prizes sponsored by the Foto News



NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Coloring Contest sponsored by:




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**MERRILL Foto News CLASSIFIEDS** Deadline: Monday at 11:30 a.m. Phone: 715-536-7121 Fax: 715-539-3686

# EMPLOYMENT



## Lake States®

### ELECTRO-MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN

Lake States Yeast, subsidiary of Lallemand, is currently seeking an Electro Mechanical Technician at our production facility in Rhinelander, WI.

**Job Purpose-** This position completes electrical and mechanical tasks on equipment including troubleshooting, repairs, preventative maintenance, and installation of new equipment. The position is first shift Monday-Friday with occasional call ins and overtime as needed.

Preferred candidates will have both electrical and mechanical backgrounds with the following attributes or skills:

- 2 Year Electro-Mechanical degree preferred or equivalent experience.
- 3+ years of experience
- Millwright
- Welding and/or fabrication experience a plus
- Pneumatic controls experience desired
- Experience in a food plant a plus
- Good communication skills – written, verbal and interpersonal
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- PLC troubleshooting experience is a plus
- Ability to wire up to 480 volt systems for Industrial machinery
- Experience with VFDs and soft starts desired
- Ability to work safely at all times

Benefits include:

- Wage of \$33.95/hour after 90 days
- 401(k) matching
- Dental insurance
- Flexible spending account
- Multiple Health insurance options including high deductible
- Health savings account
- Life insurance
- Paid time off
- Vision insurance

Please send resumes to [nrudis@lallemand.com](mailto:nrudis@lallemand.com)

346364



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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 first shift hours. \$20 per hour.

Excellent benefits package, relaxed and safe working environment.

Apply online at [www.kolbewindows.com/careers](http://www.kolbewindows.com/careers).

EOE

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**Announcements 7005**

The land needs to hear prayers and decrees for protection of the waterways and dams of your local area, state, nation and the world. This is to include water supplies and water treatment plants.

**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)**

**Antiques and Collectibles 7214**

\*FLEA MARKET\* SATURDAYS through March. SHAWANO COMMUNITY HALL 115 East Division St Zurko 715-526-9769

**Computers and Electronics 7216**

**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)**

**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.

**Lawn and Garden 7250**

**New & Used Lawn & Garden Equipment** Servicing all brands. Full service small engine repair. Snowblowers, 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**

**CASH FOR GUNS**

Antique or Modern Rifles • Pistols • Shotguns **HIGHEST PRICES PAID**

Also Buying: Scopes • Ammo • Knives Shooting & Hunting Accessories

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**GUN SHOW JAN 26, 27 & 28th. WAUSAU/ROTHSCHILD, Central WI Conf & Expo Ctr 10101 Market St. Rothschild 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com**

**GUN SHOW TOMAH, WI** Fairgrounds, Jan. 26, 27 & 28th; Fri 3-8:30pm, Sat 9-5pm, Sun 9-3pm **Info 563-608-4401 Marv Kraus**

**Miscellaneous Merchandise 7266**

**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**

**Cats 7270**

**LOST CAT:** Named Fred. 10/10/2023 from Ninth Street in Merrill. Older, large, orange and very shy. 715-921-6566 or 715-218-7664 or Humane Society 715-536-3459.

**Dogs 7272**

**ACA COCKER SPANIEL PUPS** Shots, vet check, Microchip, F-\$800, M-\$750 **715-669-7413**

**BOSTON RAT TERRIER PUPS** Shots/Wormed/Vetckd Can Dlvtr \$400 **715-255-2661 (#269146)**

**COCKAPOOS \$500 & POO-SHON PUPS \$400** Born 11/25/23 Variety Colors Cute&Cuddly **715-758-6759**

**F1-B TRI-COLOR BERNEDOODLE PUPPIES** shots/dews/wormed/vet checked. Great family Pets! \$300 **715-721-5375 (WCAN)**

**KING CHARLES CAVALIER PUPS** 4-M, 1-F Vet/shots Ready Now \$600 **OBO 715-701-2066**

**MINI COCK-A-POOS** Hypo-allergenic, Non-shed, shots/vet F-\$600, M-\$500; **PUREBRED REG COCKER SPANIEL PUPPIES 715-758-2433**

**POMERANIAN PUPPIES** Born 11-26-23 Had first shots & dewormed **715-669-3026**

**POMERANIANS APRI CERTIFIED PEDIGREES** Show prospects, Friendly Vet chk, Health Guar. \$900 **715-654-5149**

**PUREBRED BOXER PUPS** Flashy Brindle & Fawn Shots **UTD Ready Now! \$400 715-701-1473**

**PUREBRED GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS** Shots/Wormed, Vet Ckd M-\$300, F-\$350 cash only **715-267-6370 No Sunday Calls**



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**SHIH'TZU PUPPIES:** \$400 females, \$300 males, healthy, exc. temperament, dew claws removed, wormed, parents on site. Manawa, no text. **920-470-2121.**

**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



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**To Apply:**

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- Apply in person at 1400 W. Taylor Street (employment office – SW corner)
- Or Email your resume to [gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com](mailto:gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com)

**We are an equal opportunity employer.**

342225



## Lincoln County Highway Department Fabricator/Welder

Applications are now being accepted to fill a Fabricator/Welder position-CDL Drivers. Starting wage is \$24.85 – 25.51 per hour depending upon qualifications.

Regular scheduled work week is Monday through Thursday 6:30 am to 4:30 pm with overtime opportunities. Job description, duties, responsibilities, and applications are listed on the Lincoln County web page at [www.co.lincoln.wi.us](http://www.co.lincoln.wi.us) (career opportunities) or applications can be picked up at the Lincoln County Service Center at 801 N. Sales Street (upper level) Merrill, WI. John Hanz, Highway Commissioner, may be reached at 715-539-2554 if you need additional information or have questions.

345986



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**Vacation For Rent 7421**  
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**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)**

**Trucks 7546**  
**2002 GMC Sierra Diesel,** Allison trans, 46,000 actual miles 8-10 ft Blizzard plow \$17,500 runs great 715-218-7402 rusty.

**Satellites and Antennas 7324**  
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**Vehicles Wanted 7554**  
**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)**

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The Merrill Lions Club donated \$3,000 to the Merrill Fire Department to purchase a thermal imaging camera (TIC). Pictured L to R: Lions member Jack Kasper presents the check to Firefighter/paramedic Josh Grovogel.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Fire Department.

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**AUCTIONS**

**Recreational Property**  
**L-9145: 116+/- ACRES OF LAND ON US HWY 39/51 BETWEEN MERRILL & TOMAHAWK.** Land consists of 15 acres cleared, with the balance rolling wooded land, with a creek running through the corner of the property. Building is a 71'x81' pole shed with heated utility room, with drilled well & septic. Would make an excellent homestead, business opportunity, or recreational land. **Price Reduced from \$540,000.00 to \$479,000.00! SELLER IS WILLING TO LOOK AT ALL OFFERS!!**  
 Contact **NOLAN SALES LLC**  
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 Visit [www.nolansales.com](http://www.nolansales.com) or call for details

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# REPORTS

## MERRILL FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS

**FOR WEEK ENDING JAN. 21, 2024**

Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1
Carbon monoxide incident	1
Dispatched and cancelled en route(EMS)	1
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	39
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1
Total This Week:	43

**Total Incidents/Calls for 2024: 152**

## MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**01-15-24**  
At 4:27 p.m. a caller reported her 18-year-old son was "out of control" and breaking things in the house after she purchased the wrong kind of chewing tobacco for him. The son was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct.

**01-16-24**  
At 4:57 a.m. a caller reported someone broke several windows on her vehicle. Investigation is ongoing.

At 7:38 a.m. a caller reported his juvenile son's whereabouts were unknown since the previous morning. The son was found locked in his bedroom.

At 10:43 a.m. an officer investigated a fight that took place between two juvenile males at school. The males were cited for disorderly conduct.

**01-17-24**  
At 6:35 p.m. an officer responded to a business for a report of a shoplifting complaint. The suspect had left the store prior to the officer arriving. The suspect was identified and charges will be referred.

**01-18-24**  
At 12:13 a.m. officers were dispatched to a local tavern for a report of a male subject present in the bar that was in violation of numerous open bonds. The male subject was located and taken into custody on charges of nine counts of bail jumping.

At 12:11 p.m. officers responded

to a local convenience store for an intentional gas drive-off. The investigation is ongoing.

**01-19-24**  
At 10:58 a.m. an officer was dispatched to T.B. Scott Library for an intoxicated pedestrian. The subject was taken into custody on a probation hold and cited for possession of marijuana.

At 3:44 p.m. an officer responded to the Merrill High School parking lot for a report of a pickup truck doing burnouts. The driver was located and was cited for disorderly conduct of a motor vehicle.

**01-20-24**  
At 6:20 p.m. an officer was dispatched to the Wal Mart parking lot in regards to a hit and run. The suspect was later identified and was cited for hit and run unattended vehicle.

**01-21-24**  
At 6:34 p.m. officers responded to a residence on N. Genesee St. for a domestic disturbance. One elderly male party was arrested and charged with domestic disorderly conduct.

At 8:49 p.m. officers responded to a residence on E. Main St. for a domestic disturbance. An officer spoke with both parties involved. A male party was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct.

# Merrill community comes together for The Chiropractic Wellness Center's "Helping Hands" Food Drive

The Chiropractic Wellness Center in Merrill held their annual "Helping Hands" food drive, which collects both non-perishable food items and monetary donations for those who may need a little help during the holiday season. "We had our annual Food Drive again in November at the Clinic, and it was a huge success!" said Dr. Katherine Gress of the Chiropractic Wellness Center.



Dr. Katherine Gress of The Chiropractic Wellness Center (on left) with Sister Celine Gossel of the Holy Cross Sisters and Co-manager of The Community Food Pantry of Merrill, Inc. **Submitted photo.**

The November 2023 annual drive collected 298 pounds of food and \$435 which was all delivered to the Merrill Community Food Pantry.

While The Chiropractic Wellness Center has been holding the food drive for nearly two decades, Gress said she is still blown away each year by how the community comes together to help, "I am beyond grateful for all the generosity," she said. "Our patients are wonderful, and the response to our food drive was incredible. I think our patients even had fun seeing the grocery carts in our office get filled. It means so much to know that we are all making a difference in our community, and helping those in need."

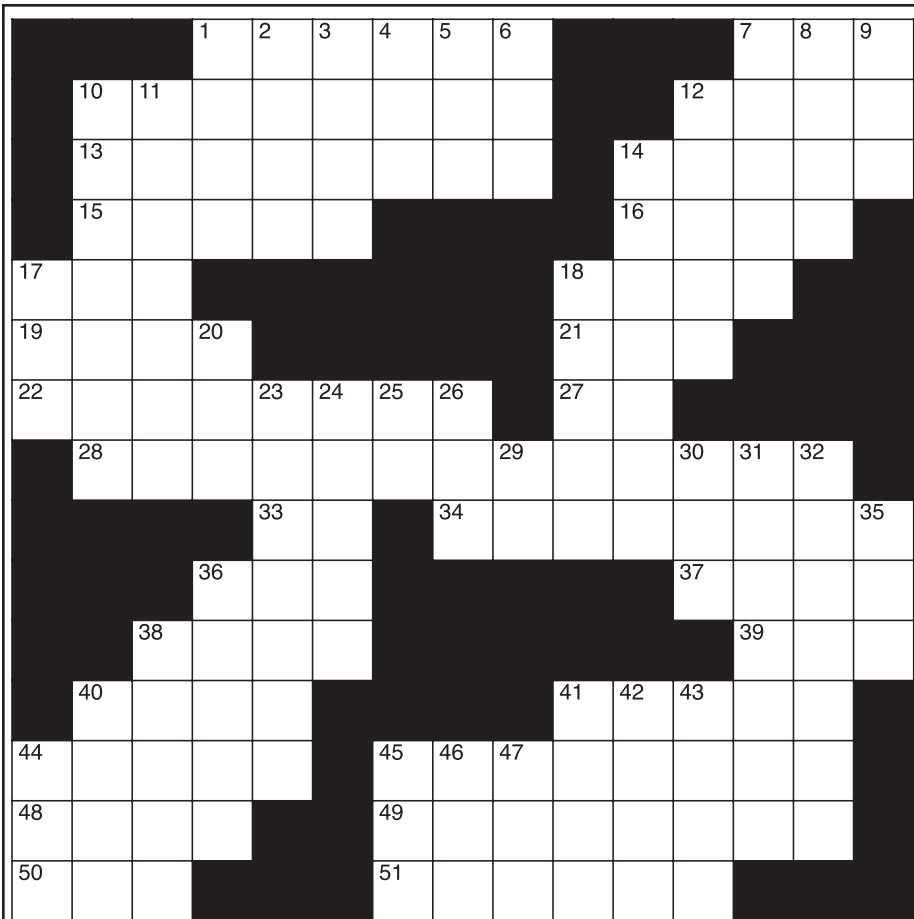
To have a little fun and encourage donations, the office held a friendly competition between "The

Doctors" and "The Staff." Clients who visited the office on S. Center Ave., and wished to donate, could pick if they wanted their donation to go to either side by placing their food items into the appropriately labeled and creatively decorated shopping cart.

"Of course, a huge thanks to everyone who donated, but I also want to thank Golden Harvest for lending

us the use of their grocery carts to fill in our office," Gress said.

This year, "The Staff" came out on top, with each winning team member receiving a paid day of vacation. Clients who donated were also eligible for specials and had the chance to win things such as clinic cash, essential oils, and a Golden Harvest Market Gift Card.



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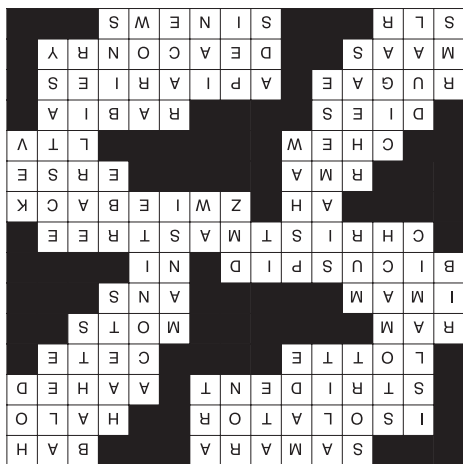
### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Winged nut
- 7. \_\_ Humbug!
- 10. One who sets apart
- 12. Circle above a saint's head
- 13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh
- 14. Expressed pleasure
- 15. Feminine given name
- 16. Company of badgers
- 17. Popular Dodge pickup truck
- 18. Witty sayings
- 19. Leader
- 21. Autonomic nervous system
- 22. Premolar
- 27. Atomic #28
- 28. Holiday decorative item
- 33. Exclamation of surprise
- 34. Rusk or cracker
- 36. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- 38. Eat
- 39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.)
- 40. Ceases to exist
- 41. Male Arabic name
- 44. Series of ridges on an organ wall
- 45. Places where bees are kept
- 48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin

- 49. Church office
- 50. Single lens reflex
- 51. Pieces of fibrous tissue

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Classify
- 2. Dismounted
- 3. Produced
- 4. Consumed
- 5. Director Howard
- 6. The products of human creativity
- 7. Thai monetary units
- 8. Away from wind
- 9. Builder's trough
- 10. Relating to Islam
- 11. It can sometimes ache
- 12. Small quantities (Scot.)
- 14. Poisonous plant
- 17. Laugh at
- 18. Vogul
- 20. C. European river
- 23. Type of cat
- 24. Exclamation of disgust
- 25. Stephen King novel
- 26. Without armies
- 29. Expression of sympathy
- 30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 31. Previously
- 32. Illegal drug
- 35. Kiloelectronvolt
- 36. Large, flightless birds
- 38. For smoking
- 40. Binary
- 41. Competition
- 42. Mark resembling an arrow
- 43. Containers
- 44. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 45. Commercials
- 46. I.M. \_\_, architect
- 47. 007's creator



337330

# MAPS accepts December donations

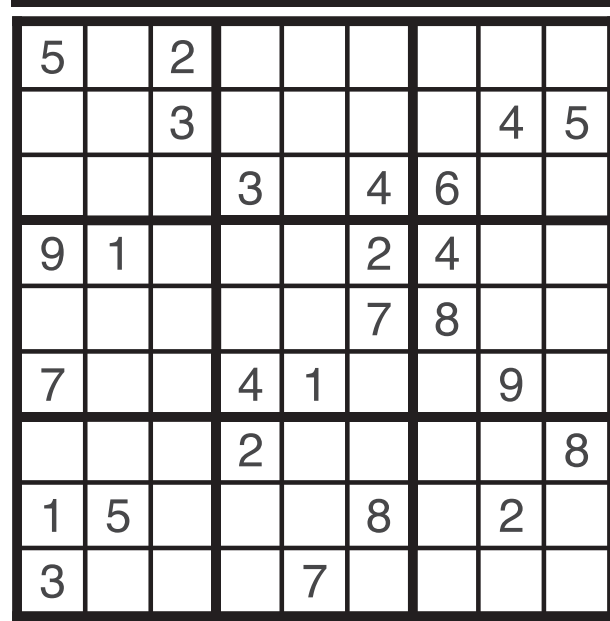
The following donations were approved and/or accepted at the December 2023 Merrill Area Public

Schools (MAPS) Board of Directors meeting: A monetary donation from The ARC of Lincoln

County valued at \$14,000 to create an account to assist students with special needs in the District; a donation of funds from Eric and Laura Lee valued at \$2,500 for the Nels P. Evjue School Forest to use as needed; monetary donation from Anthony and Becky Dallman valued at \$223 for the Merrill High School Nest; a check from Mari Suzuki valued at \$100 for child enrichment in memory of Joan Kobielus; Halloween costumes from Walmart valued at \$100 for students at Kate Goodrich who needed a costume on Halloween; funds from Bo & Michelle Bennish valued at \$150 for student needs at Pine River School for Young Learners; funds from Gleason Community Club valued at \$500 for student needs at Pine River School for Young Learners; jackets from an anonymous donor valued at \$400 for students in need at Pine River School for Young Learners; cash from XI Alpha Nu valued at \$50 for the Merrill High School Nest; a check from the Class of 1956 valued at \$250 for the Merrill High School; kinder mats from DeLaurie Davis valued at \$80 for student use at Kate Goodrich Elementary School; snacks from Chloe Morris and Bryn

See MAPS page 11

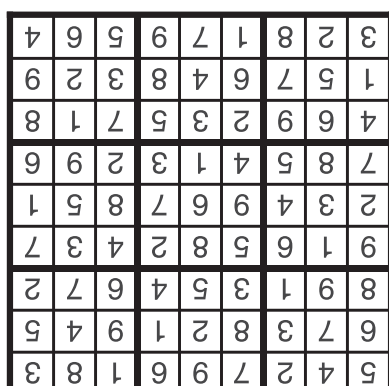
### SUDOKU



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Level: Intermediate

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



337339





The Merrill Varsity Wrestling team is Bluejay proud after a win at Whitnall, sporting their Team Todd t-shirts. Photo courtesy of Merrill Wrestling Program.

## Merrill Varsity Wrestlers fall to Everest but win against Whitnall

### DC Everest dual

The Merrill Varsity Wrestling Team traveled to DC Everest (DCE) for a conference dual on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024. It was another tough week for the wrestlers, as Everest took the win with a significantly higher score.

Winning matches against DCE were Noah Klug, Dusty Schmirler, Jayden Graap, and Brady Norton. "Noah wrestled a solid match. He was in control and kept pressure on his opponent the entire match," Head Varsity Wrestling Coach Brian Suchocki said. "Dusty, Jayden, and Brady all pinned their opponents. Dusty went out after his opponent and took care of business. Jayden was aggressive. I like how he is wrestling now. He continues to improve. Brady had a dominate performance. It's fun to watch Brady being aggressive and getting after his opponent."

### Individual results:

- 106 - Dustin Schmirler (Merrill) over Danika Spets (DCE) Fall 2:40
- 113 - Caleb Jaeger (DCE) over Allison Hunter (Merrill) Tech. Fall 15-0
- 120 - Jayden Graap (Merrill) over Kris Kurth (DCE) Fall 1:22
- 126 - Easton Cooper (DCE) over Remington Skic (Merrill) Tech. Fall 18-3
- 132 - Tyler Modjewski (DCE) over Brett Suchocki (Merrill) 7-6
- 138 - Brady Norton (Merrill) over Blake Williams (DCE) Fall 3:55
- 150 - Carson Kempf (DCE) over Callum Wheeler (Merrill) Major 13-4
- 157 - Blake Bangtson (DCE) over Preston Schuelke (Merrill) Fall 1:42
- 165 - Gavin Madson (DCE) over Hunter Opper (Merrill) 8-6
- 175 - Niko Kleinschmidt (DCE) over Austin Depies (Merrill) 14-8
- 215 - Noah Klug (Merrill) over James DeBuhr (DCE) Major 9-1
- 285 - Oscar Latendresse (DCE) over Mikal Plautz (Merrill) Major 11-1

### Box Score

Merrill 22 @ DC Everest 45

### Whitnall/Greendale dual

Merrill traveled to Whitnall High School for a dual against Whitnall/Greendale on Jan. 20 and brought home a win.

"This was a great team win for us," Suchocki said. "The wrestlers competed well all day. It was good for us after a couple tough conference duals the past two weeks."

"Dusty Schmirler, Remington Skic, Brett Suchocki, Hunter Opper, Austin Depies, and Noah Klug all went 5-0," he said. "Dusty had a great day. He dominated his opponents and continues to improve each and every week. Dusty's confidence continues to grow."

"Remington also dominated throughout the tournament," Suchocki said. "As a Freshman, Remington is very skilled, but more impressive, he is always composed. His focus and determination to improve are evident. Remington's best wrestling is still out in front of him."

"Brett won an overtime match," he said. "Those tight matches will be helpful going into the end of the season."

"Hunter is really coming on. His technique has really improved. I'm very proud of how he is wrestling right now," Suchocki said. "He will continue to grow."

"Austin got everything going for us in the final dual against Whitnall. Austin wrestled really well all day. He is learning to be a little more patient and under control," he said. "Noah has really put together a lot of solid matches in a row. Noah looks good moving into the end of the season." Wrestlers going 4-1:

Jayden Graap, Brady Norton, and Carson Brooks.

"Jayden looked sharp," Suchocki said. "Brady had some exciting matches and came extremely close to winning all five matches."

"It was nice to get Carson back in the line-up. Carson knocked off some rust and really helped our line-up," he said.

### Individual results:

- 175 - Austin Depies (Merrill) over Dylan Flink (Whitnall/Greendale) Fall 0:16
- 190 - Carson Brooks (Merrill) over Ali Hammad (Whitnall/Greendale) Fall 1:20
- 215 - Noah Klug (Merrill) over Deacon Ward (Whitnall/Greendale) Maj 10-0
- 285 - Mikal Plautz (Merrill) over Hayden Halwas (Whitnall/Greendale) Fall 1:06
- 106 - Dustin Schmirler (Merrill) over Cole Lofy (Whitnall/Greendale) Fall 5:04
- 113 - Noah Lofy (Whitnall/Greendale) over Unknown (Unattached) For
- 120 - Jayden Graap (Merrill) over Damien Thomas (Whitnall/Greendale) Dec 5-4
- 126 - Remington Skic (Merrill) over Peyton Skrubellos (Whitnall/Greendale) Maj 16-7
- 132 - Noah Koss (Whitnall/Greendale) over Unknown (Unattached) For
- 138 - Brett Suchocki (Merrill) over Riley Guenther (Whitnall/Greendale) Dec 13-7
- 144 - Brady Norton (Merrill) over Aidan Maloney (Whitnall/Greendale) Fall 2:59
- 150 - Dane Gemig (Whitnall/Greendale) over Yandel Carrillo Vidal (Merrill) Fall 0:55
- 157 - Tommy Teixeira (Whitnall/Greendale) over Preston Schuelke (Merrill) Fall 1:44
- 165 - Hunter Opper (Merrill) over Kobe Davis (Whitnall/Greendale) Fall 0:57

### Box Score

Merrill 50 @ Whitnall/Greendale 24

## Merrill Varsity Girls defeated by conference rival Marshfield

BY RICK ARGALL  
MMC STAFF

Merrill returned to conference play on Friday night, Jan. 19, 2024, hosting Marshfield at the Merrill High School Field House. The Lady Jays entered the contest with a Wisconsin Valley Conference record of 1-3 while the first place Lady Tigers were atop the conference with a 5-0 mark.

The first half tipped off and both teams remained scoreless until Marshfield broke the ice with a free throw with 15:49 remaining in the half. That lead grew to 8-0 before Freshman Grace Reimann (4 pts, 2 FG) put Merrill on the scoreboard at the 13:04 mark of the half. Mia Ott (14 pts, 2 FG, 1 3pt, 7 FT) scored to pull the Lady Jays closer 10-4 with 11:55 remaining in the half. Marshfield built their lead to 12-4 before Maddie Ott (7pts, 2 FG, 1 3pt) hit a key basket that closed the gap to 8 points at 14-6. Another basket by #5 Grace Reimann kept Merrill close, but



Grace Reimann attempts a free throw for Merrill.

Rick Argall photos.



#14 Mia Ott looks to bring the ball up the court.

More photos online  
[merrillfotonews.com](http://merrillfotonews.com)

See  
**BASKETBALL**  
page 12

## Merrill Basketball HOF Night rescheduled to this Saturday

This Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, is Merrill Basketball Hall Of Fame (HOF) Night. Originally scheduled for Jan. 13, the games and HOF Night were canceled due to inclement winter weather. Of note, one other change is that only Varsity games will be played on this new date and the game times have changed.

The Merrill Girls Varsity Basketball Team will play at 5 p.m. at Merrill High School (MHS) and

the Merrill Boys Varsity Basketball Team will play at 6:30 p.m. at MHS.

Merrill Basketball HOF inductees will be recognized at halftime of the Boys Varsity game, with four new inductees entering the HOF this year:

- Player - Melissa Yuska
- Player - Rory Osness
- Coach - Tom Andreska
- Friend of the Program / Lifetime Achievement - Kate Knott

A social will be held at Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes after the Boys Varsity game concludes.

"Please come out and support all of these inductees and watch a day filled with basketball and come to the social at Les and Jims after the games," Merrill Boys Basketball Varsity Coach Troy Pieper said. "It will be a great day."

### MAPS from page 10

Griebel valued at \$50 for providing snacks to students at Kate Goodrich Elementary School; funds from Kristi Krombolz valued at \$50 for student needs at PRSYL in honor of John Wagner; and the following donations of funds from Eric & Laura Lee to be used as needed: Washington Elementary School, \$1,000; Kate Goodrich Elementary School, \$1,000; and, Pine River School For Young Learners, \$1,000.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**Grace Reimann**, a Freshman at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Grace began playing basketball in fourth grade and played on a traveling team, then played for Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), and started this year for JV for a few games while also playing Varsity, and now she starts for the Merrill Varsity Girls Basketball Team as a shooting guard. Grace also started playing volleyball in seventh grade at PRMS and this fall played on the Merrill Varsity Girls Volleyball Team. She plays Club Volleyball for Medford Storm year round, and she is considering coaching a Junior Jays Volleyball Team this spring.

At school, geometry is her favorite class. When she isn't playing sports, Grace enjoys visiting different cities with her family and hanging out with her friends, watching movies or going out to eat or shopping.

The daughter of Marla and Ray Reimann of Merrill, Grace has a 3.5 GPA and said she plans to go to college and would like to play a sport at the college level, but she hasn't yet decided which sport is her favorite. She is still undecided on her career path.



Grace Reimann

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Tarissa at the Friendship House Family Restaurant in Merrill organized a fundraiser bake sale for the animals of the Lincoln County Humane Society and created an adorable donation box for customers to donate while they were at Friendship House. Tarissa and all of her helpers raised \$1,200 for LCHS! The shelter staff wants to thank Tarissa L., Jose M., and everyone at Friendship House who helped. **Submitted photo.**

# 2024 Public Access Lands Atlas now available

**FOR THE MERRILL FOTO NEWS**  
**WISCONSIN** - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, announced that the 2024 Public Access Lands Atlas is now available for purchase.  
 "From state natural areas to state trails, lakeshores to rivers, Wisconsin has a wealth of public lands for everyone to enjoy," DNR said.  
 Updated every two years, the Public Access Lands Atlas can be purchased from

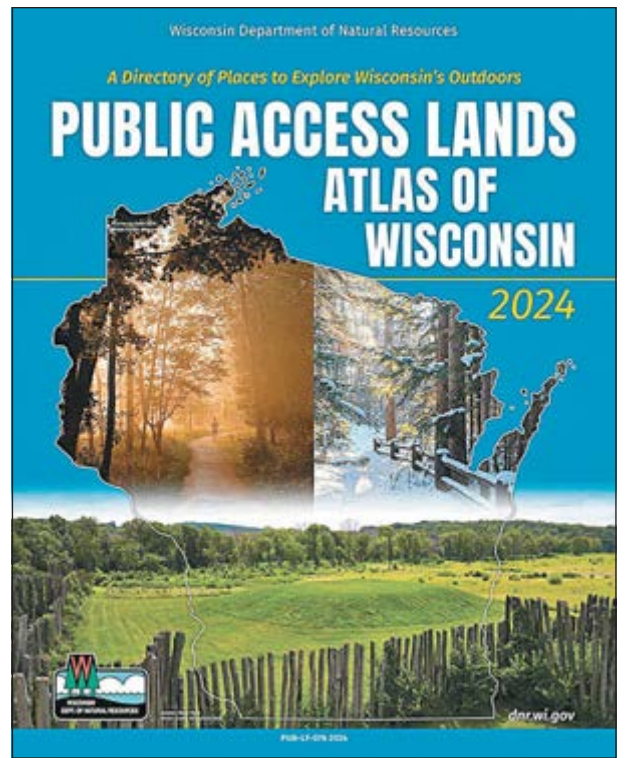
the University of Wisconsin Bookstore (uwbookstore.com/merchlist?ID=15893) for \$104.95.

The atlas contains 441 maps covering statewide public lands, roads and waterways.

"These maps make it easy to locate a state park, county forest, or lake for a hike, hunting, or fishing outing," DNR stated.

Atlas information and maps can also be accessed by:

- DVD (\$5.95)
- Individual county booklets (\$29.95)
- Public Access Land online mapping application (free)
- Downloadable county PDF maps (free)



Visit the DNR's Public Access Lands webpage (dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fl/RealEstate/PAL) to learn more, download maps, or launch the online mapping application.

## 2024 WINTER MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

Fri. Jan. 26	Wausau East (JV & JV2)	Home	4:30 pm
Fri. Jan. 26	Wausau East (Varsity)	Home	6:00 pm

### Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV, JV2 & JV3)

Thurs. Jan. 25	Wausau East (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Thurs. Jan. 25	Wausau East (Varsity)	Home	8:00 pm
Tues. Jan. 30	Antigo (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Tues. Jan. 30	Antigo (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm

### Girls Wrestling (Varsity)

Thur. Jan. 25	Marshfield (Varsity)	Away	6:30 pm
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### Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. Jan. 25	Marshfield (Varsity)	Away	6:30 pm
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### Boys Ice Hockey (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. Jan. 25	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. Feb. 1	Wausau West (JV)	Marathon	5:00 pm
Thurs. Feb. 1	Wausau West (Varsity)	Marathon	7:00 pm

### Girls Ice Hockey (Varsity)

Tues. Jan. 30	Marshfield (Varsity)	Ice Hawk	7:00 pm
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The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



PROTECTING THE GREATER GOOD



## EMU Bluejacks Varsity Hockey scores a win against Rhinelander in OT

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

East Merrill Newman United (EMU) Bluejacks Varsity Hockey Team were on the ice playing against the Rhinelander Hodags in a non-conference game on Jan. 20, 2024, at the Merrill Area Recreation Center (MARC) rink and scored an exciting 6-5 Bluejacks win in overtime.

Bluejacks #19 Kanin Jahnke got the first score on the board with an assist from #8 Connor McCorkle at just 2:28 minutes into the first period to take an early lead, but the Hodags evened it up with a score of their own at 9:64, and that was pretty much a wrap for the first period. The teams were tied at the buzzer 1-1.

In the second period, the Bluejacks again took the lead, this time putting two in the net in fairly rapid succession, at 6:08

minutes and 6:55 minutes respectively. #17 Zach Pagel scored the first with an assist from both #15 Jackson Pierce and McCorkle, and Jahnke made the second goal unassisted.

The Hodags again fired back, landing two of their own at 7:39 and 9:33, and that ended the second period with another tie, this time 3-3.

Going into a third period, EMU again took the lead, with Pagel scoring an unassisted goal at 9:13, but Rhinelander came back with two goals, one at 10:08 and the next at 11:28 to first even it up and then put them in the lead. The Bluejacks weren't having that and Pagel quickly fired another one into the net unassisted to score a goal of their own at 11:38, again tying things up, now 5-5 at the buzzer.

And that put this exciting game into overtime. As

in each of the three prior periods, the Bluejacks were first to land one in the net, and it was Pagel with an assist from #25 Liam Zdroik that landed them the win. Final score: 6-5 for a Bluejacks win.

"The boys put in a great effort and it payed off," said Assistant EMU Bluejacks Coach Greg Glovinski. "Zach and Kanin both stepped up for us at the right time. It was awesome to be apart of a great team win."

Key game stats: Zach Pagel (4 goals), Kanin Jahnke (2 goals), and Chase Klebenow (Goalie) first Varsity win in net. Klebenow made 24 saves in the game.

### Box Score

Rhinelander 5 @ East Merrill Newman United 6

## BASKETBALL from page 11

Marshfield closed out the half on a 9-2 run as both teams headed to the locker room for halftime with Marshfield leading 25-10.

Maddie Ott opened the scoring in the second half with a long 3-pointer to tighten things up at 25-13. After trading baskets, #15 Ava Detert (6 pts, 2 FG, 2 FT) scored 2 consecutive hoops to pull Merrill to within 30-19. Marshfield started to pull away midway through the second half before #24 Brenna Jirovec (5 pts, 1 FG, 1 3pt) and #12 Sophie Wendorf (6 pts, 2 3pt) hit clutch 3 point baskets prompting Marshfield to call timeout while leading 42-28. The Lady Tigers started to pull away again late in the game and built a 54-33 lead with 4:59 remaining. Mia Ott hit a 3-pointer and added some free throws for the Lady Jays down the stretch, but the clock wound down and the final score ended 64-44 for a Marshfield victory.

Merrill was led by Mia Ott (14 pts), Maddie Ott (7 pts), Sophie Wendorf (6 pts), and Ava Detert (6 pts).

### Box Score

Marshfield 64 @ Merrill 44

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