

DON'T EXACTLY LOVE YOUR HOME? I CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT!

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

Kevin J. Blake
(715) 204-0084
www.KevinBlake.firstweber.com

FIRSTWEBER REALTOR
The human side of real estate.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MERRILL, WI
PERMIT NO. 35

POSTAL CUSTOMER
ECRWSS

MMC
MULTIMEDIA CHANNELS
LOCAL MEDIA BETTER RESULTS



Miss Sallie Kamps and her third grade class at Trinity Merrill Lutheran School are shown with Walter Mootz and Jeff Burns, President, both representing Weinbrenner Shoe Company. Submitted photo.

St. John's collects more than 700 boxes for Operation Christmas Child



Student volunteers at St. John Lutheran Church and School help carry boxes of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes bound for children in impoverished countries. Submitted photo.

Trinity students donate to Hannah's Socks

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

At Trinity Merrill Lutheran School, third grade teacher, Miss Sallie Kamps, and her students decided that instead of doing a Christmas gift exchange, they would collect socks and make a donation to an organization called Hannah's Socks. Hannah's Socks is located in Ohio and started when a four-year-old girl helping her mother in a soup kitchen on Thanksgiving Day in 2004 noticed a homeless man whose toes were showing through his worn shoes. He didn't have any socks, and she asked her mom if she could give him hers. The rest, as they say, is history. Hannah and her family went shopping for socks to distribute to the homeless shelters in the area. In so doing, Hannah's parents, Doris and Vic Turner, learned new socks and undergarments are two of the most needed items at shelters.

They created a non-profit to help. Hannah's Socks, named after the little girl with the big heart for those in need, was

created with the goal of addressing that problem. The first year they collected and donated 100 pairs of socks in the Toledo, Ohio, area.

Today, nearly 20 years later, Hannah's Socks provides more than 55,000 pairs of socks to shelters, the homeless, victims of domestic violence, and underprivileged children annually, restoring dignity, one pair of socks at a time.

Miss Kamps sent a letter home with her students telling parents about the organization and the plan in December. "Share, care, and give a pair," she encouraged in her letter.

Weinbrenner Shoe Company "caught wind of it," School Principal Scott Johnson said. As a result, Weinbrenner Shoe Company decided to partner with the Trinity third graders and donated 600 pairs of socks to the cause and made a presentation of the socks to the third graders on Dec. 22, 2023.

Trinity's third grade class collected another 60 pairs of socks, as well, and then paid to ship all 660 pairs of socks to the organization in January.

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

St. John Lutheran Church and School on E. Third St. was a designated drop-off point for anyone who wanted to pack a box for Operation Christmas Child this past holiday season. Shoeboxes, packed with small gifts, toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children were collected during the third week of November. Those shoeboxes then get shipped to a Samaritan's Purse processing center where they are inspected and prepared for international shipment to their final destinations by more than 105,000 volunteers.

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. "The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations," their website reads.

The project originated in summer 1993 when Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham got a call from a man in England asking if he'd be willing to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in Eastern Europe. Though he agreed, he forgot about it until late November of that year when he got a call back and then contacted a friend, the late Pastor Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church of

Charlotte, N. Carolina, to see if he could help. He agreed and enlisted the help of his congregation and within weeks the church's hallways were lined with 11,000 shoeboxes packed with gifts and letters for the children. Additional support also came in from Canada, and that Christmas, 28,000 shoebox gifts were delivered to children in the Balkans.

In the years that followed, the program has grown to include the support of churches and individuals nationwide in the United States. Christmas Child shoebox gifts are also collected and received from around the world including countries like Australia, Austria, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, Samaritan's Purse said.

Since its inception in 1993, 220+ million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift, delivering joy and a tangible expression of God's love, all made possible by caring individuals who pack those shoeboxes from all around the world. Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are distributed in Africa, South America, Europe, Asia, and beyond - in countries from Ukraine and Uganda to Haiti and Guatemala, Bolivia and Botswana to Panama and Papua New Guinea. As a fun sidenote, individuals can use the "Follow Your Box" feature on the website to see what country their shoebox

See ST. JOHN'S page 10

ALTER TRADING CORPORATION

125TH ANNIVERSARY

ALTER

1898-2023

+3¢

Alum Cans over regular price thru 2/29/24

Mon - Fri 7:30 AM - 3:45 PM
2900 SHERMAN WAUSAU, WI (715) 298-9330

IF YOU DON'T GET A PAPER AT YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS EVERY WEEK...

Please contact your Local Post Master or speak with your mail carrier

Direct mailed by zip code to over 14,500 homes every Thursday!

MERRILL Foto News

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1956

Sierra Pacific donates to Little Lakes Memories for hunts

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The SPI Foundation of Sierra Pacific Windows recently made a \$5,000 donation to Little Lakes Memories for the specific purpose of providing hunting opportunities for disabled individuals.

Little Lakes Memories, Inc. is a non-profit organization providing lodging, recreation, and hunting and fishing opportunities for physically challenged individuals. The organization was founded in 2013 by Dick Busha, current President of the organization. Little Lakes Memories also provides similar opportunities for veterans and children. And families are welcomed to be a part of the experience.

Stanley Nowak held a banquet back in 2011 to raise money for a friend's son who had a disability and, as a result, never had the opportunity to hunt and get a buck "because he wasn't able to go out in the woods like we could," Nowak said. "He had a difficult time walking."

After successfully making a hunt for his friend's son possible, Nowak was hooked. The next year he decided to try to do something similar for a veteran.

In 2013, he met up with Busha and learned about the



Sierra Pacific recently made a \$5,000 donation to Little Lakes Memories. Shown, L to R: Phleet Greear of Sierra Pacific, Stanley Nowak with Little Lakes Memories, and Brian Ball of Sierra Pacific. Submitted photo

See DONATION page 2

DONATION from page 1

Little Lakes Memories organization he was creating to do something very similar, and that's when he decided to join with Busha in his efforts.

Today Nowak is the Vice President of Little Lakes Memories, Inc. and Busha is the President.

"It is so rewarding to see the smile on their faces and the joy it gives them," Nowak said of seeing the reactions of the disabled individuals, veterans, and children who get

to experience what Little Lakes Memories can provide. "And with Little Lakes Memories, they get to stay in the lodge, too, and 10-12 family members can be there for the weekend to experience the hunt with them," he said. "Two levels are wheelchair accessible."

Nowak said he and Little Lakes Memories are deeply appreciative of the donation from Sierra Pacific that will be used to provide more hunts. "It was a very generous donation; they are good people," he said.

WisDOT announces weight limits for North Central Region state highways

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) North Central Region announced the seasonal posting of weight limits on area state highways. The weight restrictions are six tons for a single axle and 10 tons any two axles less than eight-feet apart. The maximum gross weight is 24 tons.

Class II Road Restrictions began statewide Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at 12:01 a.m. Posted Road restrictions began Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, at 12:01 a.m. (except WIS 54 and WIS 173 in Wood County). Affected roads in the North Central Region include:

- WIS 52, Langlade County, from WIS 55 to North Langlade County line.
- WIS 52, Forest County, from South Forest County line to Smith Road.
- WIS 107, Marathon County, from Marathon County A to the Lincoln County line.
- WIS 107, Lincoln County, from Marathon County line to WIS 64.
- WIS 107, Lincoln County, from Matthew's Road to Lincoln County S.

- WIS 55, Forest County, from Argonne Street to the Michigan State line.
- WIS 122, Iron County, from WIS 77 to Michigan State line.
- WIS 169, Iron County, from Ashland County Line to US 2.

Seasonal weight restrictions (springtime posted roads) are placed on specific highways during the spring thaw period. The restrictions are added to prevent damage to the pavement structure. In the event of unpredicted cold weather, the postings in each county may be delayed as conditions require and will become effective at the discretion of the State Highway Engineer.

This effectively ends the WisDOT frozen road declaration for the entire state as of 12:01 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3. Class II road restrictions are being enacted for Zones 1 through 5.

WisDOT and county highway personnel monitor temperature forecasts, along with frost tubes - liquid-filled devices under pavement - to help determine when roads are adequately frozen to accommodate heavier loads or thawed to lift declarations.

Class II roads include about 1,400 miles of state highways susceptible to damage from heavy trucks during the spring thaw period as frost leaves the ground. More information regarding frozen road declarations, Class II roadways, and roadway postings can be found on WisDOT's website under "Weight Restriction Programs." County highways, town roads, city and village streets may also be posted or limited to legal load limits or less. Decisions to place or lift weight restrictions on those roads are up to local units of government.

More information on overweight permits can be found on the WisDOT website by searching under "oversize overweight permits." Haulers with specific questions can contact WisDOT's Oversize/Overweight Permits Unit at 608.266.7320. A recorded message with general information on road restrictions is available by calling 608.266.8417.

For more information regarding traffic impacts and improvement projects in Wisconsin's north central region:

- Weight Restriction Programs: wisconsin.gov/Pages/dmv/com-drvehs/mtr-car-trkr/ssnl-wt-rsrtcns/default.aspx
- Twitter: @WisDOTnorthcent
- www.511wi.gov

Take Home the BACON!
John F. Martin
Hickory Smoked Bacon
It comes presticed in 1 lb. vacuum sealed packs. Perfect for freezing!
Only **\$4²⁹** lb. Buy a case and save!
\$50 12-1 lb. packs (**\$4¹⁷** lb.)

DELI SPECIALS	FLAX SEED
Sharp Cheddar \$4⁹⁹ lb.	Golden \$3⁶⁹ lb.
Hard Salami \$5⁹⁹ lb.	Golden Milled \$3⁵⁹ lb.
Black Oil Sunflower Seeds Only \$19⁹⁵ 50lbs.	Brown \$3²⁹ lb.
	Brown Milled \$2⁷⁹ lb.

WINTER HOURS: WED. & SAT. 8AM-5PM. MON., THURS., & FRI. 8AM - 5:30PM
Located in Gleason. All prices subject to change. While supplies last.
PRAIRIE PINES
715-873-4840
STOP IN AND ENJOY OUR FRIENDLY, AGREEABLE SERVICE!

Strawberry Shortbread Cookie Dough \$14⁰⁹ 20ct.	Sabatino's Chicken & Apple Chicken Sausages \$7⁹⁹ Buy 1 get 1 50% off	Wisconsin Cheese Bread Dough \$2⁹⁹ 2ct.
Kaiser Roll Dough \$2⁹⁹ 12ct.	Sweet Yeast Roll Dough \$2⁹⁹ 12ct.	Lil Smokies \$2⁰⁰ per pack or 2 for \$3⁰⁰

U Bake 225758 Rib Mountain Dr. • Wausau
715-355-4462
Hours: Monday-Friday 9a-7p, Saturday 9a-5p, Sunday 11a-4p

Let Your Valentine Know How Much You Love Them!

Run an ad in the Foto News on 8th or 15th showing your love to that someone special!

1x2 \$15.00 **1x3 \$25.00** **2x2 \$30.00**

More sizes available (Additional \$10 for color)

Call **715-536-7121**
FotoNewsAds@mmlocal.com
or stop by our office at 2011 E. Main St., Merrill

Merrill Girls' City League Softball Registration

Wednesday, February 14th & Thursday, February 15th
5:00 - 7:00 PM at
702 S. Center Ave.
M.Y.S.A. Facility
ALL GIRLS WELCOME
Ages 5-14*
*Girls Born 2009 - 2018

For more information, call Erin K. at (763) 229-6127

Red Barn Meats

8am-5pm Mon.-Fri., Sat. by Appt.
N5314 Co. Rd. X, Gleason, WI 54435
715-493-2340
redbarnmeats@upwardmail.com

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR CUSTOM PROCESSING OF BEEF OR PORK PROFESSIONAL MEAT CUTTING

SEND AN EMAIL TO REQUEST A CUT SHEET

MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is **Madilynn Schneider**
Daughter of **Andrew and Mikalea Schneider**
Madilynn is in 2nd Grade at St. John Lutheran School. She was nominated by Mrs. Kohnhorst.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
Math is my favorite subject in school. I just think it's fun.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
Art class is my favorite part of school because I like painting and drawing.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
When I grow up I want to be a teacher, because it looks fun!

Madilynn has been really working hard and her effort is outstanding!
~ Mrs. Kohnhorst

Student of the Week Sponsored by:
INTERFLEX GROUP
1401 W. Taylor St., Merrill
(715) 536-5400

No interest. No loan fees. No kidding.

You could get up to **\$3,500** within minutes of filing with a **Refund Advance loan** at **H&R Block**.

Offer available: **Jan. 2 - Feb. 29**

Visit us at
2411 E MAIN ST STE 102
MERRILL, WI 54452 | 715-536-2188

hrblock.com **H&R BLOCK**

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.

Find us on **Facebook**
www.facebook.com/
Merrill Foto News



Front row, L to R: Konnor Beyer, Dorothy Johnson, Emily Gibson, Silvia Carreto, Jeff Radloff, Jamie Peel, and Kurt Perra. Back row, L to R: John Van Lieshout, Reinie Lenz, Corey Dornbrack, Denni Radloff, Ryan Schwartzman, and Dustin Peterson.

Photo courtesy of Associated Bank.

Love the Littles Diaper Drive being held during Valentine's season

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Diaper Closet supports the Merrill community by providing diapers and wipes to families who might need a little extra support. They are asking area residents to help support the littles in our community this Valentine's season by participating in the Love the Littles Diaper Drive. Donations of new diapers, wipes, or a monetary donation will go to support Our Saviour's Diaper Closet. The Diaper Closet is especially in need of large size diapers and pull-ups.

"Diapers are a large expense for families. We want to provide this service to those who might need a little help in a confidential, non-judgmental setting," said Brenda Mueller, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Diaper Closet Coordinator.

The Diaper Drive will run from Feb. 10 through Feb. 25, and multiple locations throughout Merrill are accepting the donations. New diapers and wipes may be dropped off normal business hours at:

- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (300 Logan St.)
- Riverside Athletic Club (500 S. Center Ave.)
- St. Francis Catholic Church (1708 E. 10th St.)
- T.B. Scott Free Library (106 1st St.)
- The Chiropractic Wellness Center (109 S. Center St.)
- Trinity Lutheran Church (107 N. State St.)

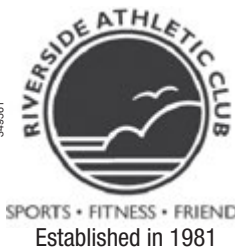
Monetary donations can be mailed to: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 300 Logan St. in Merrill. Be sure to indicate the donation is for the Diaper Closet.

Our Saviour's Diaper Closet is open to the community on the second Tuesday of the month from 3-5 p.m. and the fourth Saturday of the month from 9-11 a.m. There are no income requirements. A variety of diaper sizes and pull-ups are available, including adults, at no cost. One package of diapers or pull-ups per visit; maximum 12 visits per year.

SHAKE THE DICE TO SEE WHAT YOU PAY!



Gavin Wroblewski



Established in 1981

Here's what Gavin has to say about our club:

"I started my fitness journey in January 2023 and fit into my clothes again."

Facebook 536-2481 www.riversideathletic.com

Merrill Associated Bank wins Veterans Day decorating contest again, donates to American Legion

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Associated Bank in Merrill was one of six branches, of the company's 200 branches, to win the Associated Bank Veterans Day Decorating Contest. Volunteers from the VFW, VFW Women's Auxiliary, and American Legion came in to help employees decorate the Merrill branch and then photos of the display were submitted to the corporate office for judging by the executive leadership team. The Veterans Day display, honoring and thanking American Veterans, was on display the entire month of November.

"I'm not sure how, but out of all the branches in the company, we were one of the six winners," Emily Gibson,

Associated Bank Merrill Branch Manager said, "chosen a second year in a row." Out of all the displays they do, she said this is their favorite to do and they love the community involvement.

The winning branches receive a \$250 donation for their area's American Legion, and in early January 2024, Associated Bank Merrill branch employees gathered with representatives from the agencies who had helped decorate the bank to present the \$250 check to Merrill's American Legion Post 46.

Gibson said this year's display was really special and included a contribution from an Associated Bank customer "who brought her late husband's honor flight coat and photo for display" and the infamous

poppy gown Gibson described as "just stunning!" as well as many other components representing Veterans from the different branches of the military and their service.

Gibson said all those who helped decorate and the employees at the branch were really excited to have won a second year in a row, and she said their Veterans Day display has attracted attention from beyond their bank's customer base. "It was so fun this year having non-customers come in just to see it," she said. Many also called in afterward to see if the Merrill branch had won.

"[It] still gives me goosebumps just knowing the community backing and that's what it's about in our community," Gibson said. And just one more reason "why I love Merrill."

Corporate Central appoints Mindak as Board Chair

On Jan. 31, 2024, Corporate Central announced that Val Mindak was appointed as Board Chair effective Jan. 17. Mindak has been President/CEO of Park City Credit Union based in Merrill for over 14 years.

Mindak brings a wealth of experience, having served on the Board for more than six years and contributing significantly to the growth and success of the corporate credit union. Now, with more than \$5 billion in assets under management, Corporate Central serves credit unions and their members nationwide. Mindak will play a crucial role as Board Chair in leading the Board and guiding the strategic direction of Corporate Central.

In addition to the appointment of Mindak, Corporate Central announced the new Executive Committee of the Board is comprised of the following dedicated professionals with diverse backgrounds and extensive expertise in the financial industry:

- Chair, Val Mindak, Park City Credit Union
- Vice Chair, Sue Johnson, Fort Community
- Secretary, Steve Koenen, Altra Federal Credit Union
- Treasurer, Chris Allen, Fox Communities Credit Union

Together, they will work collaboratively to ensure Corporate Central continues to provide exceptional financial services and value to its members.



Val Mindak.

"We are confident that under Val's leadership, Corporate Central will continue to thrive and achieve new milestones," said Chris Felton, President/CEO of Corporate Central. "Our Executive Committee, and Board members, bring a depth of knowledge and a commitment to excellence that will contribute significantly to the success of our credit union."

"I am thrilled and honored to assume the position of Board Chair," Mindak said. "Collaborating with the outstanding members of the Executive Committee, and the team of amazing Directors, we are dedicated to advancing Corporate Central's mission, ensuring unparalleled financial solutions, and nurturing the financial well-being of members."

Corporate Central remains dedicated to its mission of nurturing the financial wellness of members by promoting outstanding service, sustaining financial strength, ensuring trust, safeguarding security, delivering innovation, and leveraging technology.

Corporate Central Credit Union is a federally insured financial cooperative built on the values of commitment to service, fiscal responsibility, and respect for the individual. Visit corpccu.com to learn more or follow them on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube.

IncredibleBank Foundation donates \$75,000 to Children's Imaginarium

Donation supports hands-on experiences in STEM for children and families

WAUSAU – IncredibleBank Foundation recently donated \$75,000 to Children's Imaginarium to support their mission to "inspire discovery and imagination through hands-on exploration and educational experiences through play."

The Children's Imaginarium, located at 195 N. Second St. in Wausau, held a grand opening on Dec. 6, 2023.

"The Children's Imaginarium offers hands-on learning experiences in STEM, providing kids with skills that will benefit both them and their communities in the future," said Todd Nicklaus, IncredibleBank Foundation board member and owner of IncredibleBank.

The Children's Imaginarium offers opportunities for play where families can

See STEM page 6

MERRILL Foto News

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Patrick J. Wood
Publisher
publisher@mmclocal.com | Tina L. Scott
Editor
tscott@mmclocal.com | Heidi Schult
Front Office Manager/CSR |
| Tim Schreiber
General Manager
tschreiber@mmclocal.com | Dinah Schneider
Sales Consultant
dschneider@mmclocal.com | Heidi Griebel
Customer Service Representative |
| Rick Argall
Circulation Manager | Jennifer Gartmann
Sales Consultant
jgartmann@mmclocal.com | |
| Sue Schroeder
Graphic Designer | | |

THE FOTO NEWS (ISSN 0191-8958) is published weekly by Multi Media Channels LLC, N2919 County Road QO, Waupaca WI 54981. Subscription price by mail: \$100 per year; domestic U.S. Mail only, nonrefundable but transferable. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE FOTO NEWS, 921 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452.
© Copyright Multi Media Channels LLC 2024. All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication or any of its contents may be reproduced, copied, modified, or adapted without the prior written consent of Multi Media Channels LLC.

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mailing Address:
Foto News
2011 E. Main Street
Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-7121
Fax: (715) 539-3686

Ad & News Deadlines:
Display Advertising:
12:30 p.m. Monday
Classified Advertising:
11:30 a.m. Monday

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



OBITUARIES



Leah D. Krause, 47, of Merrill, passed away Sunday, January 28, 2024, at University Hospital in Madison.

Leah was born September 15, 1976, in Wausau, daughter of the late Richard 'Dick' and Diane (Abraham) Danielewicz. She is survived by her husband Jason Krause. They were married on September 29th 2012. Leah graduated from D.C. Everest High School with the Class of 1995. She furthered her education at UW-Stout and graduated with a bachelor's degree in graphic design in 1999. Leah began her career with Rettler Corp in Stevens Point and in 2000, she accepted a position with Eastbay/Foot Locker in Wausau as a graphic designer, where she worked for over twenty years. During 2016 and 2017, she also worked at U Paint in Wausau. In August of 2022, Leah accepted a position with BSN Sports as a digital designer. During her career, Leah continued taking graphic and web design classes at N.T.C. in Wausau.

Leah enjoyed art and was so creative with gift ideas and projects. She enjoyed crossword and sudoku puzzles and playing scrabble and other word and board games. Leah loved hanging out with her family and adventuring with the kids. She also enjoyed going out with her many friends.

Leah loved watching her daughters figure skate. She took an active role in the Mosinee Figure Skating club and designed their ice show program and shirts. She was very proud of her stepdaughter, Kaitlyn, and of all of her accomplishments, and watching Elise grow. Leah was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill.

Survivors include her husband, Jason Krause of Merrill; daughters, Kaitlyn and Elise, both at home; sisters, Carrie Danielewicz (Ross Strupp) of Neenah, Julie (Josh) Schoenfuss of Ringle, and Nancy (Jonathon) Wendorf of Marathon; mother-in-law, Cathy Krause of Merrill; brother-in-law, Shawn (Kristie) Krause of Wausau; great grandmother-in-law, Dorothy Krause of Merrill; several nieces and nephews; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Leah was preceded in death by her parents, Richard 'Dick' and Diane Danielewicz; brother, Chad Danielewicz; father-in-law, Duane Krause; aunt, Debra Danielewicz; uncle and aunt, Warren and Rosemary Abraham; uncles, Greg Danielewicz and Dennis Danielewicz; cousin, Nicole Danielewicz; paternal grandparents, Zigmund and Manetta Danielewicz; and maternal grandparents, Erwin and Bernice Abraham.

A memorial service for Leah will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 107 N. State Street, Merrill. The Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. Visitation will be from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. on Friday, February 16, 2024, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, 903 E. 3rd Street, Merrill, and again after 9:00 A.M. Saturday at the church. The Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill, is assisting with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com.



Fred Will, 95, of Merrill, embraced his Savior on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, leaving this earthly home.

Fred was born on April 29, 1928 in Irma, WI, the son of Godfrey and Anna (Schenzel) Will. He moved to Merrill at the age of 18 to work on the Pope Dairy Farm. As grace would have it, he fell in love with the farmers daughter. Fred and Cora (Pope) were married on June 4, 1953. Fred and Cora purchased the farm soon thereafter and successfully farmed for many years. He then went to tech school for welding and brought his welding skills to a few manufacturers in Merrill, before landing and retiring from what he considered to be his "dream job" at the DNR in Tomahawk, WI. Fred built a number of prototype firebreak implements there, for which he was quite proud; some of the equipment plans he made and produced are being replicated to this day.

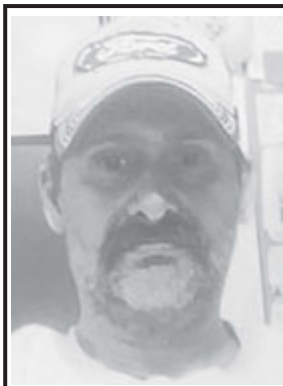
Fred was a thoughtful and fun-loving person. He enjoyed music, rides on his UTV and chatting about anything and everything. He liked watching the Brewers and Packers. Fred's love for hunting was unmatched and made evident by the 10-point buck he shot with a bow at the age of 94! He had a joke, saying, or song for every situation and a very special way of making others feel loved. Fred was also skilled in restoring antique cars and tractors, and loved working on his various woodworking projects. Fred had a strong and genuine faith in God and was a grace-loving man. He is remembered as a strong, intelligent and capable person that was a joy to be around. Fred was a member at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ. He is certainly gone too soon and will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Fred leaves behind many nephews and nieces, which include a special niece: Laurie (Mark) Stilwell and their sons: Christopher and Daniel (Angie), as well as 2 special nephews: Dave (Roxie) Johnson and Jim (Sally) Will, along with a sister-in-law: Jean Will and many other extended family members and good friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife: Cora, and infant sister: Edola and infant brother: Alvin, sisters: Laura (Alfred) Johnson, Dorothy (Leonard) Mayville, Viola (Stanley) King, Adeline Huey and Lauretta (Maurice) Tiffany, brothers: Albert (Anna) Will, Raymond (Gladys) Will and Roland Will, and most recently, his sweetheart: Phyllis Frederick.

The funeral service for Fred will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Waid Funeral Home. Rev. Mike Southcombe and Mark Stilwell will officiate. The visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Waid Funeral Home, and again on Thursday, February 8, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the funeral home. Burial at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery will immediately follow the service.

The service will be recorded for those unable to attend in person, and will be available for viewing under his obituary on the funeral home website.

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.



Charles "Chuck" E. Becker, age 52, of Tomahawk, WI, passed away on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, under the care of his family and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. Chuck was born in Eau Claire, WI, on March 19, 1971, to James and Brenda (Grandy) Becker.

Chuck attended high school in Medford, WI. After high school, he entered the workforce holding various jobs throughout his life. He was a small-engine mechanic for many years and later worked as a detailer. Chuck enjoyed spending time outdoors, especially fishing.

Survivors include his mother, Brenda Becker; and his children, MaKayla Becker (Ryan), Megan Becker, Dakota Houpt, and Piper Brett. He was preceded in death by his father, James Becker; his grandparents; and his former wife, Melissa.

A celebration of life gathering will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 11:00 AM, at Generations Funeral Home. Rev. Larry Mathein will officiate. The family will receive friends for visitation from 10:00 AM until the time of services at 11:00 AM. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Charles' obituary and leave online condolences at generationsfuneral.com.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

On Lying

Dear Reader,

In a world saturated with lies, the consequences stretch beyond immediate distrust. Lies erode credibility and integrity, turning trust into a fragile commodity.

The story of the boy who cried wolf serves as a timeless reminder that repeated deceit tarnishes one's reputation, leaving them isolated and unheard when the truth finally emerges. As adults, our responsibility to model honesty for children is paramount; failing to do so risks perpetuating a cycle of dishonesty that can harm relationships and society as a whole.



PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher
Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.

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. **PLEASE NOTE: Our Letter to the Editor Policy has been updated (please read below) as of Feb. 5, 2024.**

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you to the citizens of Merrill and surrounding communities! You have once again shown your generosity and concern for those in need. In 2023, you donated a total of 99,739 items that were sold in the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store here in Merrill. All of the profits from these sales were used to support the Outreach Program which provides emergency assistance to those in need in our community when no other help was available.

This included \$19,413 for short term housing (when other resources were filled), \$55,946 for rental payments to prevent eviction and homelessness, \$28,715 for utilities to prevent disconnection of heat/electricity, and \$44,040 for other miscellaneous emergencies. Without the store profits and generous donations, 376 households in our community would have faced extremely difficult situations.

We also wish to thank the 20,476 Thrift Store customers who purchased the items which were donated. The store (and our efforts to help others) would not be successful without your patronage. We hope you will continue to shop with us and enjoy the sales and promotions planned for the coming year.

If you have not donated items to the store, we hope you will consider helping us to help others. All donations are tax deductible. If you have not shopped with us, we invite you to come in and see the variety of items we have for sale at greatly discounted prices.

Thanks again for all your support!

- Thomas Mueller, St. Vincent de Paul Conference Member

TO THE EDITOR:

Random Act of Kindness day is Feb. 17, 2024, and it is a day to celebrate kindness and the whole pay-it-forward mentality. The movement of Random Acts of Kindness inspires people every day. Not only do the acts of kindness bring joy to the receiver, but they spread positive reactions to the giver too! You may not always see the results of your kindness, but every bit of positive energy you contribute to the world, makes it a better place for all of us. Please practice kindness every day.

- Jan Leschke, Rhinelander, Wis.

Michael "Mike" John Howland

age 63, of Merrill, passed away on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was born on July 24, 1960 to the late John and Leila (Krueger) Howland in Merrill, WI. Mike attended and graduated from Merrill High School, before going to work for Ace Hardware in Merrill for many years. He then opened his own tax business in Merrill, and retired from that in 2020. Mike enjoyed watching the Packers and going to his cottage in Tomahawk and traveling to Arizona.

Mike is survived by his sisters: Lori (Dan) Johnson of Irma, WI and Lisa Mussell of Merrill and nephews: Tyler Lesieur, Phillip Mussell, Jesse (Suzette) Harmon and Joshua (Leah) Harmon. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A private prayer service will be held for Mike. 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.



Florence R. Tesch, passed away January 25, 2024. She was born February 6, 1939 in Lincoln County, Wisconsin.

She grew up in Gleason until moving to Aurora, IL. Survived by: Dorothy (Sosnovske) Bethel (sister), Daughters: Sue Ellen (Tesch) DeBolt, Karen (Danny) Kindelberger and Amy Tesch; Grandchildren: Daniel M. (Mackenzie) Kindelberger, Adam L. Chunn, Dalton M. Kindelberger, Alyssa R. DeBolt, Alex C. DeBolt, Sierra

Tesch-Moore, Serena Tesch-Moore, Great-Grandchildren: Rowan Kindelberger, Gretchen Kindelberger, Deklyn Kindelberger and Lexi Kindelberger; numerous brother and sister-in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and a few dear friends. Preceded in death by: Hilbert D Tesch (husband), Dorothy (Henderson) Sosnovske (mother), Louis Sosnovske (father), Helen (Sosnovske) Lange (sister), Richard Sosnovske (brother) and Chris DeBolt (son-in-law). Florence worked for Mercy Center Hospital for 32 years doing payroll. In retirement, she enjoyed taking trips to the casino, reading, baking for her grandchildren and watching her favorite game shows and crime tv. Celebration of life and burial to be planned June 29th in Wisconsin.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY 27, 2024

Girl, Nova Nicole, born to Rachel Hand and Derek Hand of Tomahawk.

JANUARY 31, 2024

Boy, Lincoln Christopher Hanson, born to Sierra Bacher and Eric Hanson of Merrill.

Remember, and be remembered with a granite memorial from
TOMAHAWK MONUMENT CO.
Specialists in Pre-Needs Planning
FROM SELECTION TO DESIGN TO SETTING,
ALL OF OUR WORK IS PROUDLY DONE IN - HOUSE
20 N. 2nd St., Tomahawk, WI • 715-453-6523
Visit us at: www.tomahawkmonument.com
Email us at: contactus@tomahawkmonument.com

WAID
Funeral Home & Cremation Service
Locally owned and Operated
301 Eagle Drive, Merrill, WI • 715-536-4646
Since 1888, we have continued to improve upon our services and facilities to better serve our Merrill area community.
WWW.WAIDFUNERAL.COM
Email: info@waidfuneral.com

Taylor & Stine
Funeral Home and Cremation Services
Leah D. Reist, Director
McKenna K. Meunier, Director
903 E. Third St. • Merrill, WI
715-536-6244
www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

PAID 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.

TO THE EDITOR:

The continued and uninterrupted operation of Pine Crest as a skilled nursing facility has been, and continues to be, the priority of your County Board. Previous efforts to change financial outcomes at the facility were not successful. Subsequently, an AD HOC Committee was formed to review Pine Crest's history and determine how our goal of maintaining a skilled nursing facility in Merrill might be achieved.

The AD HOC Committee spent a year researching this issue, looking at successes, failures, and options. All meetings were open to the public and an extensive report of their findings was provided to tax payers. Meeting details and the report can be found on the Lincoln County website.

After careful review of the findings, the Board contacted a broker to determine if there was a market for a skilled nursing facility, as selling Pine Crest to a private party with industry expertise is one of our options.

Another option was offered, a referendum to raise taxes in order to keep the facility County owned. In my opinion, a failed referendum would be disastrous for Pine Crest residents and staff. Nonetheless, these two choices emerged, were publicly debated, and voted on. The decision was made to seek a private buyer.

A brief history follows. In 2017, the Board borrowed \$10 million to build a rehabilitation center to capture new revenue. It didn't work and we still owe over \$8 million. Next, the County Board contracted the management of care to NCHC. That didn't work either; last year tax payers had to reimburse NCHC \$1.1 million to cover operating deficits. Three years ago, the County Board gave up 40 bed licenses, out of the 160 owned, stating in Committee we (meaning Pine Crest) will never be that full again.

I asked the County Board to address this very difficult issue, and they have worked hard over the last two years, examining options and developing a plan to keep a high-quality skilled nursing facility in Merrill while ensuring tax payers are also regarded during the process. They have represented the people of Lincoln County

in a professional and respectful manner throughout.

This is an emotional issue for many in our community. I am not sure what option the Board will choose, but I do know that someone will have to pay for the continued operation of Pine Crest and doing nothing is not an option. Together, we will continue to seek solutions to this and all the obstacles we face. It is our privilege to serve you.

- Donald R. Friske

Chairman, Lincoln County Board of Supervisors

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you to everyone attending the Townhall Meeting of the People for Pine Crest. A special thank you for all the presenters and volunteers. Moderator, Dorothy Sky, announced the ground rules to an audience of approximately 175.

Dora Gorski explained the purpose of the People for Pine Crest.

Tim Meehan, former Director of Pine Crest, provided the history and necessity of services for those in need.

Personal testimonials were provided by Dora Gorski, Marge Roggenbuck, and Arlene Meyer, resident of Pine Crest.

Dr. Barbara Crapster-Pregont described the differences she had observed while working for for-profit and county owned nursing homes during the past 20 years.

Tim Moe told of similar differences, noting better care is provided by county owned facilities.

Mike Southcombe explained the differences of care, costs and profit margins which affect patient care. Irene Mehlos and Renea Frederick spoke about the lack of reasons to sell Pine Crest because it is making money and served by dedicated caring staff in a five star facility.

Prior to this Townhall Meeting, the People for Pine Crest attended Board and Committee Meetings to ask for a Townhall Meeting and Resolutions among other suggestions but were denied, thus we proceeded on our own.

The next meeting of the People for Pine Crest is Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, 5:30 p.m. at St. Stephens meeting room.

County Board meeting 6 p.m. at the Service Center on Feb. 19.

We encourage the County Board to STOP THE SALE.

Respectfully submitted,
- Gene Bebel and Judy Woller
Merrill, Wis.

The cost for Paid Letters to the Editor is \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words, plus \$10.00 per additional 50 words, and must be prepaid prior to printing.

LEGAL NOTICES

<p>Legals 7700</p> <p>BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: February 1, 2024 <u>Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer</u> Probate Registrar</p> <p>STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Monica N. Talbot Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration) Case No. 2024-IN-05</p> <p>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth October 1, 1928, and date of death December 22, 2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1500 O'Day Street, Merrill, WI 54452. 3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office, before Becky Byer, Probate Registrar, on March 7, 2024 at 9:30a.m. <p>You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 10, 2024. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office. 6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown. <p>If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0342 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation. Please check with person named below for exact time and date. Michael V. Geisler 204 Cottage Street Merrill, WI 54452 Published February 8, 15 & 22, 2024 WNAXLP</p>	<p>Legals 7700</p> <p>715-432-6768 Published February 8, 15 & 22, 2024 WNAXLP</p> <p>CITY OF MERRILL MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE OF BID</p> <p>The City of Merrill Maintenance Department will accept bids for the following equipment at the Merrill City Clerk's Office, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452, until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday February 29th, 2024. Bid specifications may be obtained from the Maintenance Director at (715)-722-1127 or can be found on the City of Merrill website http://www.ci.merrill.wi.us.</p> <p>One: 1 Ton Regular Cab Truck</p> <p>The City of Merrill reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid they deem advantageous to the City of Merrill.</p> <p>Nick Wszalek City of Merrill Maintenance Director Published February 8 & 15, 2024 WNAXLP</p> <p>DATE SIGNED: January 15, 2024 <u>Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer</u> Probate Registrar</p> <p>STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DORIS R. SMITH Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2024-IN-01</p> <p>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth April 22, 1940 and date of death December 24, 2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1500 O'Day Street, Merrill, WI 54452. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 26, 2024. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office. <p>Craig J. Nienow N5041 County Road JJ Irma, WI 54442 Telephone: 715-536-7185 Bar Number 01015178 Published 1/25/24, 2/1/24 & 2/8/24 WNAXLP</p> <p>DATE SIGNED: January 18, 2024 <u>Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer</u> Probate Registrar</p> <p>STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2024-IN-02</p> <p>IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GERALD W. HENRICHS</p> <p>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth August 16, 1935 and date of death December 13, 2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 800 Superior Street, Merrill, WI 54452. 	<p>Legals 7700</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 26, 2024. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office. <p>Craig J. Nienow N5041 County Road JJ Irma, WI 54442 Telephone 715-536-7185 Bar Number 01015178 Published 1/25/24, 2/1/24 & 2/8/24 WNAXLP</p> <p>DATE SIGNED: January 31, 2024 <u>Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer</u> Probate Registrar</p> <p>STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HARRIET H. TORKELSON Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2024-IN-04</p> <p>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth December 20, 1920 and date of death January 3, 2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1500 O'Day Street, Merrill, WI 54452. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 10, 2024. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office. <p>Craig J. Nienow N5041 County Road JJ Irma, WI 54442 715-536-7185 Bar Number 01015178 Published February 8, 15 & 22, 2024 WNAXLP</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF TRUST ADMINISTRATION STATE OF WISCONSIN, County of Lincoln, in the matter of the Norma J. Hanson Revocable Trust dated March 27, 2017 and amended April 28, 2020 (the "Trust"):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Norma J. Hanson, with date of birth February 15, 1935 and date of death January 22, 2024 was domiciled in Lincoln County, Wisconsin. 2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent, Norma J. Hanson, is June 8, 2024. 3. All claims must include detailed documentation and must be submitted to the Trustee of the Trust at the following address: 902 Rock Ridge Court, Apt. 4, Merrill, WI 54452. Date: January 31, 2024 Norma J. Hanson Revocable Trust dated March 27, 2017 and amended April 28, 2020. By: /s/ Thomas J. Young Thomas J. Young, Trustee Craig J. Nienow, Attorney Published February 8, 15 & 22, 2024 WNAXLP
---	--	--

Weight limits on portion of Lincoln County Rd. E

Lincoln County Highway Commissioner, John Hanz, announced weight limits went into effect at 12:00 p.m. on Feb. 6, 2024, for the gravel portion of Cty. Rd. E.

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 must be signed and the name, city, and state will be printed.
- Letters may be edited for style, grammar, and length.
- We retain complete discretion to determine whether a letter is printed. The First Amendment right to free speech protects speech from government control; it does not give people the right to have their views published in a privately-owned newspaper, or anywhere else for that matter.
- We will not accept letters that make controversial or unsubstantiated claims. This is because we are liable for any false claims we publish, regardless of the source of the claim. 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. We reserve all rights to reject material submitted to this publication.

- 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:

- Letters to the editor on political issues, with or without a candidate endorsement, including those 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 plus \$10.00 per additional 100 words.
- All political letters must be prepaid prior to printing.
- Letters to the Editor will not be accepted from candidates running for election or representatives of an organization endorsing their own referendum, as these are clearly advertisements and not opinion letters; those submissions will be referred to our Advertising Department to be run as paid ads.



Eliza Rogers

"She is always a bright spot in my classroom."
Eliza is the daughter of Elizabeth Hancock of Merrill.

PRMS January Youth Optimist

Eliza Rogers, an eighth grader at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), is the January Youth Optimist of the Month.

"Eliza is always prepared for class," wrote Mrs. Kelly Carter in her nomination. "She helps other students with their work and is always a nice person."

At school, Eliza is a member of the Pep Band, the Marching Band, and Forensics Club. She is also active in the community, volunteering at the Haunted Sawmill. Eliza enjoys writing and considers her writing talents one of her greatest strengths. She also focuses on being helpful and said she is always willing to ask questions or ask for help. These are traits that will contribute to her long-term success throughout her life.

"She is usually pretty optimistic and is open to others' input," Mrs. Carter said.

MHS January Youth Optimist

Maddy Ott, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), is the January Youth Optimist of the Month.

"I wish the world had more Maddy Otts because if it did, the world would be a better place," Ms. Kasie Holt said in her nomination of Maddy. "Maddy has such a fun-loving attitude that can bring sunshine to anyone's day. She works hard to find the best in everyone and every situation."

"I have spent a lot of time with Maddy, and I cannot think of a time that Maddy wasn't giving it all she had to better those around her," she said. "She constantly puts other's needs before her own, is always making sure everybody is included, and always tries to find the good in the hardest of situations. Maddy is everything that is represented in the Optimist Creed."



Maddy Ott

At school, Maddy has been involved in Junior Optimist Club, National Honor Society, Varsity High School Basketball (Tough As Nails Award, Captain, Varsity letter), Varsity High School Volleyball (Best Passer, Best Server, Honorable Mention, Captain, Varsity Letter), and LEAD. She has also been active in the MHS Graduation Ceremony.

Outside of school, Maddy has been active volunteering for the St. Francis Snack Shack, Make A Difference Day, St. Johns Cookie Walk, Junior Jays, and Kate's Trunk or Treat.

The daughter of Becky and Bob Ott, after graduation Maddy plans to attend college and graduate with a degree in business. Then she wants to attend a Wisconsin school to become an esthetician.



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.

Sponsored by:



(715) 551-8016
Gail Abegglen

CONGRATULATIONS!

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING?
List your garage/rummage sale or items for sale in the classifieds.
Merrill Foto News
715-536-7121

TOWN OF MERRILL
W4594 PROGRESS AVE., MERRILL, WI 54452

REQUEST FOR BID

Town of Merrill is requesting a bid for "Reconstruction of Airport Road" to include gravel, Pulverizing, Hot Mix Asphalt Paving (HMA) and shouldering. The project is approximately 1.23 miles long. Bidding documents and special provisions are available from Town of Merrill.

This is a WisDOT LRIP TRID project
Project will be completed by October 1, 2024
Completed bids should be submitted to:
Town of Merrill
W4594 Progress Ave.
Merrill, Wisconsin 54452
Any questions should be directed to Mike Hass, Chairman at 715-218-7821 or email: Clerk-treasurer@townofmerrillwi.gov
Bids will be open at Town of Merrill Town Board Meeting: March 11, 2024.
Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
Published February 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2024
WNAXLP

The Eagles Club
1205 N Lake St. • Merrill, WI 54452
Open to the Public • (715) 536-7471
NO FOOD SERVED: Sat., Sun., Mon.-Only Special Events

DINNER SPECIALS FEB.
TUESDAY NIGHTS
FEB. 13TH - CHICKEN CORDON BLEU
FEB. 20TH - HAM & SCALLOPED POTATOES
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

FRIDAY NIGHTS
FEB. 9TH - LAKE PERCH
FEB. 16TH - CATFISH
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
CLIP-N-SAVE

CARRYOUT AVAILABLE
• MONDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
• 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
HAPPY HOUR: TUESDAY-THURSDAY • 3-6PM

WEEKLY BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 8TH - 12TH

THURSDAY - SMASH BURGERS
FRIDAY FISH FRY - BLUEGILL
SATURDAY - RIBS
SUNDAY - BROASTED CHICKEN
MONDAY - HAM & NOODLES

BINGO 4PM SUNDAY, FEB. 18TH

Conference Room & Hall Rental Available
Open at 4pm Mon. & Thurs. • Open at Noon Fri.
Open at 11am Sat. & Sun. • Closed Tues. & Wed.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PUB 1638
601 Johnson St., Merrill • 715-536-5708
NOW HIRING! P/T - KITCHEN
★★★★ WE SELL FLAGS! ★★★★★

Reserve Today For Valentines Day
Wednesday, February 14th

Featuring Prime Rib, Fish Fries, Salad Bar, & Champagne
(Serving 5-8 pm, Dine-In Only)

Kathy & Gal's
CLUB 64
Call Now To Reserve
Limited Menu Available

2405 W. Main St. • Merrill • 715-536-3847

Winter Craft & Vendor Sale

Saturday, Feb. 10th
9am to 3pm

Two Convenient Merrill Locations
Different Crafters & Vendors at Each Location!

Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes
1208 N Center Ave

Eagle's Club
1205 Lake St

CHEERS TO 6 YEARS HOTEL ANNIVERSARY

ONE DAY ONLY
\$60.00 + TAX

FEB 12

Help us celebrate 6 years of hospitality and receive \$25 Rewards Play each, two mini champagne bottles and two all-you-can-eat breakfast vouchers for the following morning.

VALENTINE Getaway

ROOM RATE PLUS \$75 ADD-ON

Enjoy your stay in one of our Standard Premium Guest Rooms which all showcase luxurious comfort, Elegance and style. Book your getaway and receive the following:

- \$50 Rewards Play each
- Dinner for two at River's Edge
- mini champagne bottles
- Valentine cookies in your room

FEB 14

HO-CHUNK GAMING WITTENBERG HOTEL

BOOK YOUR STAY TODAY!
866.910.0150
EXT 23133



If you would like to be included in Steppin' Out please call 715-536-7121

Plautz's Pub LLC.

310 E. 2nd St., Merrill
715-536-4611

SERVING FOOD DAILY TILL 8PM

HOURS
MON. - FRI. Noon - Close
SAT. 11am - Close
SUN. 11am - Close

FEB. BOOZE OF THE MONTH
ALL CRUZANS
\$5.00 - 16 oz. Pint

SATURDAY FEB. 10TH
VALENTINE'S BINGO
Open 11am, Starts 1pm
CASH PRIZES, SNACKS, DRINK SPECIALS, DOUBLE ACTION
PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT \$800+ CHANCE TO WIN SWEETHEARTS BASKET

SUNDAY FEB. 11TH
BIG GAME PARTY
Starting at 5:30pm until the end of the game
\$35 per person (must prepay by Feb. 4th)
INCLUDES **AYCE & DRINK BEER & MIXERS**
\$50 after Feb. 4th

SATURDAY FEB. 17TH
MEAT RAFFLE
1:00pm

COSMO Theatre
Main St. • Merrill
KIDS • \$5.00
SENIORS • \$5.00
ADULTS • \$8.00

MOVIES AND SHOWTIMES
2/9/24 TO 2/13/24
Mondays All Seats \$5.00

ARGYLLE
"PG13" (2HR 19MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
MONDAY & TUESDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

TURNING RED
"PG" (1HR 40MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00PM
MONDAY & TUESDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

BEEKEEPER
"R" (1HR 45MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
MONDAY & TUESDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

www.cosmomovies.com
715-536-4473

RED GRANITE BAR AND GRILL
EST. 1983
FOR A GOOD OLD TIME

11420 S. County Rd. K, Merrill WI
715-536-9391
Sun. 7am-2am, Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-2am, Fri. 11:30am-2:30am, Sat. 7am-2:30am,
Dine-in • Takeout
NO Delivery

Saturday & Sunday
Breakfast 7am-11am
Mimosas & Bloody Mary's

Mondays
\$5 Burger & Home Fries

Sunday & Tuesday
Roasted Chicken
12 Noon-8pm

Friday
Fish Fry 12 Noon-8:45pm

Red Granite Bar & Grill
Order Online - Check wait times or just stop in!
Find us on f

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

- Feb. 8 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.
 - Feb. 9 - Fish Fries begin at St. Francis Xavier
 - Feb. 10 - Ice Drags - CANCELED
 - Feb. 10 - Gleason Community Club Ice Oval Races
 - Feb. 10 - Les & Jim's Craft & Vendor Sales
 - Feb. 10 - Merrill Ice Reflections Figure Skating Club Annual Show at MARC
 - Feb. 10 - Doris Lovrine Memorial Sled Dog Race in Gleason - CANCELED
 - Feb. 11 - Merrill Ice Reflections Figure Skating Club Annual Show at MARC
 - Feb. 11 - Doris Lovrine Memorial Sled Dog Race in Gleason - CANCELED
 - Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday
 - Feb. 14 - Love Songs Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Co.
 - Feb. 15 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.
 - Feb. 16 - Fish Fry at St. Francis Xavier
 - Feb. 17 - Ice Drags - CANCELED
- For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/ events or contact the event sponsor.



The Wisconsin Valley Vet Service held a Christmas Wishlist donation drive where their clients could pick different items off their Christmas tree to donate to the Lincoln County Humane Society. Pictured: April and her dog Mylah (LCHS alumni) with Brin from the shelter. Submitted photo.

Sauerkraut Dinner

Please join us at
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
W2604 County Road P, Merrill, WI

Sunday, February 11th
Serving 10:30 am - 1 pm

Adults: \$10 • Age 6-12: \$5
Under 6: Free

St. Francis Xavier
1708 East Tenth Street, Merrill

FRIDAY LENTEN FISH FRIES
4:30-7:00 P.M.
Free Milk or Coffee w/ dine in order

Starting the Friday before Ash
Wednesday : February 9, 16, 23
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024
(Not Serving Good Friday)

Deep Fried Pollock • Baked Cod
Deep Fried Shrimp
NEW Pizza Dippers
Homemade Desserts:
Pies • Cheesecakes • Bars

Fish Fry Includes: Choice of Baked Potato or French Fries, and comes with Cole Slaw and Rye Bread

Great Meal Value!

SUBSTITUTE CHEESE CURDS FOR BAKED POTATO OR FRENCH FRIES
For an additional charge

Carryouts (Door #3) & Deliveries
Call: 715-536-2803
Call to place your order after 1:00 p.m.

Deliveries available in City of Merrill

STEM from page 3

connect and learn together. With spaces like a wind-powered play exhibit, a construction area, and farm to fork market and farm areas, families will learn about the world around them and apply that learning to real life.

"We're proud to be a part of the creation of such an amazing space right here in Wausau, Wisconsin," Nicklaus said. "The IncredibleBank Foundation is dedicated to supporting causes that create a stronger future for children and families, so we are excited to be a part of the creation of this great space."

For more information about the Children's Imaginarium, to become a member, or to make a donation, visit childrensimaginarium.com.

IncredibleBank, headquartered in Wausau, was recognized as one of America's Most Innovative Banks by the Independent Community Bankers of America in 2019. They have deposit and lending customers in all 50 states. Learn more at incrediblebank.com.

MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

Almost Famous is an essential friendship film

BY JALEN MAKI

Almost Famous, Cameron Crowe's 2000 comedy-drama about a teenage music journalist hitting the road with an up-and-coming rock band to pen a piece for *Rolling Stone* in the early 1970s, hits every beat you'd want it to hit.

First and foremost, the soundtrack is completely stacked, and the film is simply loaded with top-notch needle drops. From Simon and Garfunkel to Stevie Wonder, Neil Young to David Bowie, Steely Dan to Cat Stevens, every song not only perfectly sets the tone for the scene it's featured in, but also acts as a time machine, further immersing the viewer in the movie's setting.

The film is also a truly wonderful coming-of-age story – maybe my favorite ever. William, the aforementioned teen writer (played by Patrick Fugit), is caught somewhere in the middle of childhood and adulthood, trying to figure out who he is and where he belongs in the world. By simple chance, the United States itself is also experiencing a crisis of identity, moving from the patriotic optimism of the 1950s and early 1960s into an era of war, economic uncertainty, and cultural revolution.

Throughout the tour with Stillwater, the fictional rock group at the center of his *Rolling Stone* piece, William gets a crash course on life from people who could not have it less figured out – which, in the long run, might be the best way to learn. Or, at least, the most fun way.

Early in the film, William meets Penny Lane (Kate Hudson), who, she says, is “not a groupie,” but a “band aid.”

“We're here because of the music,” Penny tells William during their first encounter.

Although Penny isn't much older than William, she takes him under her wing, acting as a sort of guide for William as he learns the ins and outs of hitting the road with rock and rollers. The two become friends, and William's feelings towards Penny evolve over the course of the movie.

Most viewers focus the bulk of their attention on William, and correctly so – the film really is about him. But, as someone who has seen this movie many times, I've found myself drawn to something else: the turbulence within the band – or, more so, their friendships.

I've been in bands since I was 12 years old, and from day one, I played with one of my best friends. We were buddies before starting the band – playing Little League baseball together, swimming in his parents' pool, riding our bikes around the little Northwoods town he lived in – but music is what bonded us from the start.

If you spend enough summer afternoons in a garage with someone, sitting on an old couch with acoustic guitars in hand or staring over a drum set at them as you try (and try and try and try) to learn a song together, an unspoken connection develops. Your friendship influences the music. It's like your musical DNA permeates the song, and it develops into something else – still the same song, but now, in its own little way, it becomes yours. In turn, the music soaks deeper into your friendship, and this cyclical process happens again and again and again.

Being in a band with friends is an absolute blast, but it can

be difficult at times. Disagreements are a given in a creative setting, and when you throw personal relationships into the mix, tensions can boil over. I've found that you're bound to get the angriest at those you truly care about, and the people who are fondest of you are also the most likely to smack you in the head and call you a moron. Although it might not feel like it in the moment, that frustration comes from a place of love.

To me, the inter-band dynamic is the most fascinating aspect of *Almost Famous*. In real time, William watches Stillwater as they navigate the paths to artistic fulfillment and internal discovery. Egos collide, and creative and personal frictions build. William sees the band's dreams on the cusp of realization, only to see them nearly slip through their fingers before the grip is regained at what seems to be the very last moment.

This has been said about a lot of bands over the years, and the same rings true about Stillwater: the guys are truly pals. They love each other, a point that's probably driven home the hardest when they're at each other's throats.

My favorite scene in the movie takes place on the tour bus. The band's in the throes of their young adult rockstar drama, the band aids are firmly in the grasp of the post-party hangover, and William's unsure of his place both on and off the bus. Just when it seems like the wind might be permanently out of everyone's sails, Elton John's absolutely unassailable 1971 classic “Tiny Dancer” starts playing over the bus speakers. A few mumbles and hums turn into a rollicking sing-along, and everyone – the band, the girls, and William



– are reminded of why they're there in the first place: the music.

Something I specifically love about the scene is the discernible wave of relief that washes over everyone and the subsequent collective realization that the magic is still there. What brought them together never faded. It can't. It wouldn't, even if they wanted it to. Once you strip away the superficial – the stages, the lights, the parties, the magazine reviews, the public perception – all that's left is you, your friends, and your passion for music. It's what matters the most, and although it's sometimes easy to forget, it's even easier to remember again.

Oh, and by the way, my friend and I are still in a band together.

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

Pet of the Week

This cute boy is **Bob**. He came to us as a stray and was very sick when he came in. After some meds, good food and love, this boy has truly blossomed! He would be great in a home that's a little more laid back. **Bob** is very likely a Manx which CAN potentially have some problems. We have noticed that he does very well on sensitive stomach food. He can get a bit of an upset stomach otherwise but does not seem to have any other issues. This loving boy wants nothing more than a lap to curl up in all day!

SPONSORED BY **Foto News**
2011 E. Main St. 345481

Visit the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: MON. - SAT. 12-4 PM & SUN. 12-2 PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us on the web at www.furypets.com.

To all you true blooded San Francisco Fans!

GO 49ers!!!

I thought of you today but that is nothing new I thought about you yesterday and days before that too. I think of you in silence, I often speak your name All I have are memories and your picture in a frame

Your memory is a keepsake from which I'll never part. God has you in His arms. I have you in my heart

GREGORY JAEGER
January 17, 1950 – February 10, 2022
Sadly Missed and Forever Loved.
You are my Sunshine
Love – Jean Marie

In Loving Memory of

Terry Mueller 4/19/60 - 1/19/23. you are forever loved and missed

Love You Always
Gina, Tyler and Tara

PICK YOUR SERVICE: GIVE YOUR CAR SOME LOVE!

Take **\$15.00 off** Regular Price
Expires 3-31-24
Must present this coupon at time of service.

- Tune-Up
- Coolant Flush
- Fuel Injection Service
- Transmission Service
- Axle Fluid

EXPRESSLANE
MOPAR FAST OIL CHANGES & MORE

Visit our web site at www.bricknersparkcity.net

Brickners Park City, Inc.
LOCATED 1/2 MILE WEST OF HWY. 51-64 INTERCHANGE
3000 E. MAIN STREET, MERRILL
Phone: 715-536-2833 Toll free: 800-499-JEEP (5337)

Jeep CHRYSLER DODGE RAM BUSINESS LINK

CLOVERDALE COUNTRY STORE

STORE HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 6:30 pm • Sat. 8:30 am - 4 pm • Closed Sunday
2 miles South of Curtiss on Hwy. E 715-223-4797
We accept: SNAP/EBT Cards

Salami Hard Sliced - Frozen 5 oz. ONLY 69¢	Pork Butts Bone-In - Fresh 8 lbs. ONLY \$1.69 a lb	Pumpkin Pie Pre-Baked, Frozen 24 oz. ONLY \$1.49
Pork Pulled PIT Smoked, Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.99 a lb	Sour Cream Reduced Fat 16 oz. ONLY 99¢	Fruit Blend Frozen Strawberry, Peach, Pineapple, Grape 4 lbs. ONLY \$6.99

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30-6:30 • SATURDAY 8:30-4:00

Pork Patties Uncooked - Bacon-Cheddar Frozen 24 oz. ONLY \$3.99	Cottage Cheese 4% Fat - Large Curd 16 oz. ONLY 89¢	Pretzel Crisp Cheddar 14 oz. ONLY \$1.29
Pork Sausage Links Fully Cooked Frozen 9.6 oz. ONLY 99¢	Orange Juice No Pulp 89 oz. ONLY \$2.69	Cherrios Cereal Gluten Free 18 oz. ONLY \$2.99
Bacon Frozen Applewood Smoked 12 oz. ONLY \$1.89	Colby Jack Cheese Horns 6 lbs. ONLY \$2.99 a lb	Rice Crisp Cereal 3 lbs. ONLY \$1.69 a lb
Bratwurst Smoked - Beef Frozen 12 oz. ONLY \$1.69	Cheddar Cheese 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.99 a lb	Mayo Cholesterol Free 30 oz. ONLY \$1.39
Bologna Thick Sliced Frozen 12 oz. ONLY 69¢	Cheese Shredded Cheddar-Swiss-Provolone 5 lbs. ONLY \$7.99	Orange Juice 100% Juice 24-12 oz. ONLY \$9.99
Roast Beef Frozen Thin Sliced 7 oz. ONLY 99¢	Muenster Cheese 6 lbs. ONLY \$2.49 a lb	Chicken Breast Oven Roasted Fully Cooked - Frozen 6 lbs. ONLY \$1.19 a lb
Bratwurst Fully Cooked - Stadium Frozen 14 oz. ONLY \$1.99	String Cheese Mozzarella 20 oz. ONLY \$2.89	Bacon Ends & Pieces Maple - Bulk - Frozen 30 lbs. ONLY \$28.99
Pepperoni Pizza Crispy Pan - Frozen 26 oz. ONLY \$3.49	Beef Patties Angus 6 ct - Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$3.99	Turkey Breast Fully Cooked - Spicy Frozen 9 lbs. ONLY 89¢ a lb
Pizza Thin Crust Cheese 4 ct - Frozen 52 oz. ONLY \$4.99	Waffles Frozen Original - Gluten Free 9 oz. ONLY \$1.29	
	Baked Beans Slow Simmered 27.5 oz. ONLY 99¢	

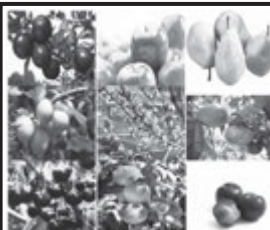
In-store ONLY. We reserve the right to limit quantities.

MERRILL Foto News CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline: Monday at 11:30 a.m.
Phone: 715-536-7121
Fax: 715-539-3686

Announcements 7005
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)

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

Spring Fruit and Nut Tree Sales: <https://bernardes-bees-and-trees.square.site/> Spring is almost here. Order your trees now while supplies last. Pick up in Birnamwood last weekend in April. 30 varieties of fruit trees: apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, nectarines, pawpaw, mulberry. 14 variety of nut trees: Chestnut, oaks, black walnut, butternut, hickory, hazelnut 715.551.8230

Guns 7264
BADGER MILITARY COLLECTIBLES & MILITARY FIREARMS SHOW FEB 9 & 10 (One of the largest World War II German & US Sniper Rifle Collections will be for sale at the show!) WAUKESHA EXPO 1000 Northview Rd. 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com (WCAN)

Wanted to Buy 7268
STONEWARE WANTED
Collector paying \$1000+/- for Red Wing salt glazed or advertising crocks, jugs, churns & water coolers. (612)685-6762
Want to buy
Remington 760/7600, Thompson Center Contender and Encore guns and barrels.
Call Ron: 715-298-0760

Dogs 7272
MINI COCK-A-POOS Hypo-allergenic, Non-shed, shots/vet F-\$600, M-\$500; PUREBRED REG COCKER SPANIEL PUPPIES 715-758-2433

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)

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

MARSHFIELD GUN SHOW Feb. 9 & 10, Marshfield Eagles Club, 1104 S. Oak Ave. Fri 3-8pm, Sat. 9-4pm. BUY-SELL-TRADE-BROWSE Adm \$5. WE PAY CASH FOR GUNS For more info B.J. Keating 608-548-4867 (WCAN)

Dogs 7272
ACA COCKER SPANIEL PUPS Shots, vet check, Microchip, M-\$600 Call 715-669-7413

MINI GOLDENDOODLE & Medium Red AKC POODLES \$550 Cute! 715-409-0533

POMERANIANS APRI CERTIFIED PEDIGREES Show prospects, Friendly Vet chk, Health Guar. \$850 715-654-5149

PUREBRED BEAGLE PUPPIES shots/wormed, \$350 Ready Now 715-680-0140 or 715-257-9316

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

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

ACA REG Cavalier KC Span. F-5 Yr \$200; ACA Reg Yorkie F-6 yr. \$175 715-965-4060

AKC German Shepherd Pups 2-Males \$500 OBO shots call 715-304-1097

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS Shots Vet chkd, Can Deliv \$700 715-255-2661 #269146

American Eskimo/Shelti Cross Pups Fluffy/Friendly Dewormed \$80 715-223-4780

AUSSIE PUPS Great Colors, Vet/Shots 7 yrs. experience \$200-\$400 715-250-2793

Australian Shepherd Puppies 6mos old, Black & White, \$150. Call 715-446-3650

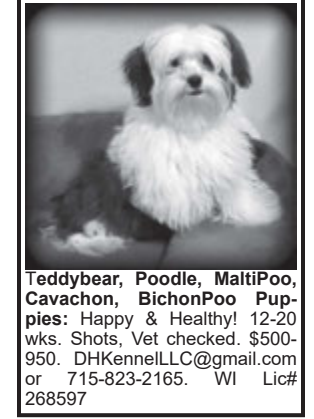
BLACK LAB & POODLE STUD DOGS: Two Great Males Available for your puppy needs. Both AKC Registered. Healthy! Duke(blk lab) is a great retriever with an excellent pedigree. Loves activities! Romio (stndrd poodle) Great listener, genetically tested, loves people and has thrown nice litters of Doodle Puppies! Please call or text for more information. 7156304342

FRIENDLY FARM PUPS 3/4 Blue Heeler 1/4 Border Collie DOB 10-31-23 \$50 each 715-754-2688

German Shepherd Pups \$600; Dachshund Pups \$800; Poodle Mix Pups \$300 Call/Text 715-316-2617

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

Lab Pups 3-Choc 4-Yellow Shots dewormed DOB:12/10/23 \$400 Call 715-379-7861



Teddybear, Poodle, Maltipoo, Cavachon, BichonPoo Puppies: Happy & Healthy! 12-20 wks. Shots, Vet checked. \$500-950. DHKenneLLC@gmail.com or 715-823-2165. WI Lic# 268597

ADVERTISE Call 715-536-7121 TODAY!

EMPLOYMENT

We are looking for professional, friendly, and reliable Member Service Representatives (Tellers) and Call Center Staff
EXCITED TO ADVANCE THEIR CAREER!




www.parkcitycu.org
Scan Here or apply in-person for same-day interviews.

Outdoors 7262

New Mexico Elk Hunts, private land, rifle and bow hunts. Call for dates, availability, prices. 575-779-4409

Trophy Bison/Buffalo Hunts, free ranging Bison, bulls 5-10 yr. old, up to 2400 lbs. Call for avil. Dates/prices 575-779-4409

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/MerrillFotoNews

Wanted to Buy 7268

GUN CLIPS: rifle, pistol & shotgun. Also gun barrels; older S&W & Colt handgun boxes; and very old ammunition.
Call Ron: 715-298-0760

MMMC
MULTI MEDIA CHANNELS
LOCAL MEDIA • BETTER RESULTS

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

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

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

EMAIL MIKE HOLLIHAN AT MHOLLIHAN@MMCLocal.COM

We are Hiring!

JOIN OUR TEAM

SIERRA PACIFIC WINDOWS

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

4 10-Hour Days

- Both shifts available
- Possible OT on Friday
- Attendance BONUS (Up to additional \$1.50/hr)
- Retirement & Life Insurance
- Paid Holidays and Vacations
- Excellent Low Cost Benefits (Health, Dental, Vision)

Individual: \$88/Month
Spouse: +\$140/Month
Child: +\$63/Month

APPLY IN-PERSON
1815 Water Street • 605 N. Ohio Street
Questions? Call: 715-722-1884

Visit us online at spi.careers!

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

KOLBE
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.

EOE

Agriculture Services 7292

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

Apartments for Rent 7400

For Rent: 1 bedroom upper, NO smoking, NO pets. First month, last month, security deposit. \$500/mo. 715-536-9022. Leave a message.

Vacation For Rent 7421

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

Motorcycles 7502

BUYING SALVAGE MOTORCYCLES-ATVs-WATERCRAFT 920-850-9299 Local Dealer Free Pickup!

Trucks 7546

PARK CITY CREDIT UNION - MERRILL
2014 RAM 1500
QUAD CAB EXPRESS 4WD
5.7L V8
MILEAGE: 198339
VIN# 1C6RR7FT0ES266662
MINIMUM BID \$6,200.00
OR BEST OFFER
Please contact Trish @ 715-536-8351 Ext. 4233

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)

GET YOUR DEDUCTION AHEAD OF THE YEAR-END! Donate Your Car, Truck or SUV to assist the blind & visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup & secure a generous year-end tax credit. Call HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND today at 844-374-3067 (WCAN)

Insurance 7308

DENTAL INSURANCE. From Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Don't Wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 855-807-9516 www.dental50plus.com/wicomunity #6258 (WCAN)

REPORTS

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

WRAP UP FOR THE PERIOD OF:

01/29/2024-02/04/2024

Over the week the Lincoln County 911 Center received five 911 nuisance calls/hang ups. The Lincoln County Deputies conducted 91 traffic stops with 4 resulting in OWI arrest. Within the county this week, there were four car vs. animal collisions.

On 02/01/2024 at approximately 7:00 a.m. the Lincoln County 911 Center received a call of a two-vehicle crash in the area of CTH K and CTH Q in the Township of Scott. Upon arrival, deputies

found that a passenger car was traveling S/B on CTH Q being operated by a 43-year-old woman from Merrill. The second vehicle, a Baumgart garbage truck, being operated by a 55-year-old male, also from Merrill, was E/B on CTH Q approaching the intersection of CTH K. The brakes on the garbage truck failed and the driver was not able to stop for a stop sign. The garbage truck then continued into the intersection and struck the S/B vehicle. One of the drivers was transported to the hospital for minor injuries while the other refused transport. Both vehicles were removed from the scene and DNR Hotline was contacted due to diesel fuel that had been spilled on the road. The Sheriff's

Office was assisted by Merrill Fire and EMS.

On 02/01/2024 at approximately 8:10 a.m. Lincoln County 911 Center received a call of a vehicle with its back tire on fire. This was in the area of County Rd. K and Olivotti Lake Rd. in the Township of Merrill. Lincoln County Deputies, Merrill Fire Department, and Merrill EMS responded to the scene. Tomahawk EMS was asked to stage in the area for mutual aid. Deputies made contact with the driver, a 37-year-old female from Merrill. The driver did not sustain any injuries, and the vehicle fire was extinguished. The vehicle was removed and the scene was cleared.

On 02/03/2024 at approximately 40 minutes after midnight, in the area of County Rd. M and Elm Grove Rd. in the Township of Cornish, a Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy conducted a routine traffic stop for a vehicle going 81 MPH in a 55 MPH zone. The Lincoln County Deputy made contact with the driver, a 39-year-old male from Merrill. The driver showed signs of impairment and the deputy conducted field sobriety tests, and as a result of those tests, the driver was cited for OWI first offense and speed. The driver was released to a responsible party.

On 02/03/2024 at approximately 5:50 p.m. in the area of Sheldon

Rd. and US Hwy. 8, in the Township of Bradley, a Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy conducted a routine traffic stop of a UTV for operating on a road closed to ATVs and UTVs. The Lincoln County Deputy made contact with the driver, a 31-year-old male from Rib Lake, and his passenger, a 23-year-old female from Cornell. The driver showed signs of impairment and admitted to consuming alcoholic beverages. The deputy conducted field sobriety tests, and as a result of those tests, the driver was arrested for OWI UTV related and cited for OWI, PAC, and no seatbelt on passenger. Warnings were also given for operating on a closed road as well as no ATV safety certificate. UTV was left on scene and tagged for 24 hours.

On 02/03/2024 at approximately 7 p.m. in the area of Cain Creek Rd. and State Rd. 64 in the Township of Pine River, a Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy conducted a routine traffic stop of a UTV for going 76 MPH in a 55 MPH zone. As the deputy was attempting contact, the driver exited the UTV to lay on the ground, stating that he was intoxicated. The deputy conducted field sobriety tests, and as a result of those tests, the driver was arrested for OWI first offense. The driver was released to a responsible party and was taken to a nearby friend's house.

On 02/03/2024 at approximately 10 p.m. in the area of County Rd. A and County Rd. U in the

Township of Bradley, a Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy conducted a routine traffic stop of a UTV for going 54 MPH in a 35 MPH zone. Deputies made contact with the driver, a 24-year-old female from Tomahawk, and smelled an extremely strong odor of intoxicating beverages. The deputy conducted field sobriety tests, and as a result of those tests, the driver was arrested for UTV OWI first offense. The driver was released to a responsible party.

subject for disorderly conduct.

02-01-24

At 10:33 p.m. officers were dispatched to an apartment on E. 2nd St. in regards to a disturbance. During the investigation, the male party was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct.

02-02-24

At 11:41 a.m. a male was arrested for a probation violation at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. At 2:50 p.m. the School Resource Officer investigated and cited a male student after he was found to be in possession of THC products on school grounds.

02-03-24

At 8:26 a.m. a caller reported her boyfriend had her vehicle and was refusing to return it. Phone contact was made with the man who claimed he was in Michigan and couldn't return the vehicle until the next day. The man and vehicle were determined to be in Wausau. Wausau officers located the man and vehicle, and he refused to turn over the keys. He was arrested for resisting-obstructing an officer, operating a motor vehicle without owner's consent, and multiple counts of bail jumping for Merrill PD. Wausau officers also located

See REPORTS

page 10

Insurance 7308

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

Health Care Services 7310

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

STROKE & CARDIOVASCULAR

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

Internet 7318

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS home internet with EarthLink. Enjoy speeds from 5G & 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, & data plans up to 300 GB. Call **844-223-7265 (WCAN)**

HughesNet Satellite Internet: 25

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

Satellites and Antennas 7324

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

DIRECTV Sports Pack 3 Months

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

Satellites and Antennas 7324

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

Home Building Supply 7358

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

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL

Can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're cutting installation costs in half & offering a FREE safety upgrade! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24 **1-833-224-4977 (WCAN)**

The bathroom of your dreams in

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

THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING A NEW SHOWER?

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

Heating and Cooling 7362

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a GENERAC home standby generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-year warranty w/qualifying purchase*. Call **1-877-626-1009** today to schedule a free quote. it's not just a generator. Its a power move. (WCAN)

Roofing and Siding 7370

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFESSIONAL AND RELIABLE SERVICE DIRECTORY

NORTHERN WISCONSIN'S LARGEST RARE COIN & PRECIOUS METALS COMPANY IS ALWAYS BUYING

- Old U.S. coins, proof sets & paper money.
- Also buying gold & silver jewelry, watches & diamonds.
- Old sports cards - 1969 & earlier. Currently paying top prices.
- No Collection too SMALL or LARGE
- Sports Wear & Memorabilia Headquaters

Augie's Collectibles

11 South 2nd St. • Tomahawk, WI 54487
Open Mon. & Tues. 10am - 5pm or by appointment.

(715) 453-3141

Joseph Thorne Fully Insured

THORNE CONSTRUCTION LLC
715-432-5197
Your Dream Builder

- Build & Remodel
- Complete Remodels
- Shop-Sheds
- Concrete/ICF Walls

Wisco Spray Foam, LLC

N16465 Bachelors Ave,
Thorp, WI 54771

Commercial Residential & Agricultural

Free Estimates

Call Jerry at 608-696-8617

SCRAP METAL

We'll Pick it Up

- Clam Truck Service
- Dumpster Service
- Buying Cars & Trucks

Serving Central & Northern WI for over 80 years
Prompt Service • Fair Prices

Cousineau Recycling

Hwy. 45 South, Antigo • Toll Free 866-330-3730 or 715-623-2372

JAWS HandyMan LLC

Jim Waldburger-Owner

Fully Insured • Free Estimates

Electrical • Plumbing • Drywall • Decks
Light Masonry/Remodeling

715-204-0020

BADGER STATE STEEL ROOFING

FREE ESTIMATES!
Tired of re-roofing your house?
TRY A STEEL ROOF!

- Snaplok (hidden fastener) • Can Be Installed Over An Existing Roof • 40 Year Factory Warranty • 4-Star Hail and Fire Resistant • Ventilated At Peak • Energy Star Efficient • 28 Colors Available

Jerry Stutzman Do it Once, Do it Right! **715-314-2295**

PODEWELTZ

Repair Service, LLC

Heating • Cooling • Sheet Metal

TRANE W2810 Hwy. C, Merrill
(715) 536-6791

It's Hard To Stop A Trane?

KNOTTY PINE

HICKORY • OAK • POPLAR

50,000 SQUARE FEET T&G PANELING IN STOCK

T&G PANELING DOORS & TRIM

Full Service Prefinishing
Serving the DIY & Pro

Better price. More options.

IRON BRIDGE

Est. 2013
241536 Corlad Rd. Athens, WI 54411
Call Lawrence @ 715-257-1011

SHOWROOM OPEN
MON.-FRI. 9AM-6PM, SAT. 9AM-NOON

Call Vernon 715-512-1356

- Can Be Installed Over An Existing Roof
- 40 Year Factory Warranty
- 4-Star Hail and Fire Resistant
- Ventilated At Peak
- Energy Star Efficient
- Hidden Fastener
- 28 Colors Available
- Steel or Asphalt Roofing
- Top Quality Work for Less
- Individual Homeowners, Contractors, or Commercial

BADGERLAND STEEL ROOFING

Tired Of Re-Roofing Your House?
Try a Steel Roof!

Do it Once, Do it Right!

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE

Winter blues?

Northland Buildings Inc.

Start planning your new building now!

Local Sales Rep **Steve Thompson, Aniwa**

1-800-736-4510
northlandbuildings.com

AUCTIONS

HANSEN AUCTION GROUP ONLINE AUCTION

ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS for March 19th
7th Annual North American Manure Application & Wisconsin Custom Operators Auction- Multiple Locations

Wanted: Manure Application and Handling Equipment, Planting, Harvesting, Bagging, Baling, Tilling, Combining, Trucking, Spraying, and Other Custom Operators Equipment
Sell at our location or the convenience of your own home!

Call Parker at **715-642-3981** to Consign Today!
Accepting Consignments Now Through March 5th

VISIT HANSENAUCTIONGROUP.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

| CAMPUS BRIEFS |

Brown of Merrill receives Steiner/Milnes Scholarship

Gracie Brown of Merrill received the Steiner/Milnes Scholarship for the Fall 2023 semester at UW-Stout. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development & Family Studies. Established in 1963, the Stout University Foundation Scholarship Program has helped more than 11,422 of students receive a college education. Through the financial support of alumni, parents, faculty and staff, and friends of the university, the program has awarded more than \$18.7 million over the years.

Iowa State University names Saari to fall semester 2023 Dean's List

Jack Saari of Merrill, who is attending Iowa State University for Mechanical Engineering, was one of 10,800+ students named to the fall semester 2023 Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

UW-Eau Claire fall Dean's List announced

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire announced the names of 2,778 students named to the fall 2023 Dean's List, signifying their academic performance. From our area, the following students were named to the fall 2023 Dean's List:

- Kole Kaldunski, Athens, College of

- Business
 - Cassandra Riehle, Athens, College of Business
 - Ryder Depies, Merrill, College of Education & Human Sciences
 - Nicole Doering, Merrill, College of Education & Human Sciences
 - Emma Jaeger, Merrill, College of Arts and Sciences
 - Jakob Mattson, Merrill, College of Arts and Sciences
 - Lydia McIntyre, Merrill, College of Education & Human Sciences
 - Bailey Orzech, Merrill, College of Arts and Sciences
 - Matthew Palazzo, Merrill, College of Education & Human Sciences
 - Tanaya Pillai, Merrill, College of Arts and Sciences
 - Amelia Skoviera, Merrill, College of Arts and Sciences
 - Macey Jo Weix, Merrill, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
 - Amber Winter, Merrill, College of Education & Human Sciences

UW-Stout announces Dean's List for fall 2023

The following students from our area have been named to the University of Wisconsin-Stout Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester. A GPA of 3.5 or above is required to be named to the Dean's List.

- Cooper Diedrich, Athens, BS Golf Enterprise Management
- Sophia Lombard, Irma, BS Early Childhood Education
- Vaughn Albrecht, Merrill, BS Mechanical Engineering
- Benjamin Doyle, Merrill, BS Management
- Abe Millis, Merrill, BS Psychology
- Caleb Timm, Merrill, BS Graphic Communications
- Ananda Van Wie, Merrill, BFA Industrial Design

Merrill Women's Wrestling update

BY SCOTT ARNESON

Merrill Women's Wrestling was back on the mats this past weekend, Feb. 3, 2024, at Eau Claire North High School for the Husky Women's Wrestling Invitational. The tournament hosted 26 teams this year with hopes to expand next year. The tournament was well run and most participants were able to wrestle at least three matches.

Merrill will plan on attending this tournament again next year with hopes of having a large number of girls competing and scoring enough points as a team to earn a top six finish.

Kaylynn Allen finished the day 3-2, which earned her a ninth place finish.

Merin Yates finished her day 1 and 2, with a fifth place finish.

The level of competition was high, and it was awesome to see the large number of Minnesota schools competing. Wrestling is a little more established in Minnesota, so our girls were able to see a very high level of competition and could take away a mindset on what it will take to raise their bar next season to be a high level wrestler.



Merin Yates getting the pin. Photo courtesy of Merrill Wrestling Program.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, the girls had a combined practice with the Rhinelander Girls Wrestling Team. It was great to have some different practice partners as well as having more intensity and competition in the room during practice.

The girls' next competition will be the Sectional Tournament in Marshfield on Feb. 17. The individual champion in each weight class from the Sectional will be the qualifier for the 2024 WIAA State Girls Wrestling Tournament.

Merrill High School 2nd Quarter Honor Roll 2023-2024

GRADE 9

HIGHEST HONORS (4.0) Lily Berndt, Allyson Boquist, Emilie English, Stuart Gehris, Erik Grunenwald, Mackenzie Herdt, Shanna Herdt, Claire Hintz, Grace Hoff, Lily Hoff, Lilly Hoffman, Reese Kaminski, Brody Klebenow, Abbie Krueger, Miley Krueger, Justice Kunze, Ivan Lee, Kinsey Literski, Marielle Nass, Greta Peterson, Addison Pickard, Emily Raymer, Colton Ruplinger, Isabella Scheffler, Layla Schmidt, Evyn Schmitz, Alyssa Schneider, Jacob Shimel, Remington Skic, Isabella Stutting, Charlotte Van Der Nest, Grace Wegner, Laci Wirtala, Lauren Zuelsdorff

HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99) Paige Byer, Peyton Hagenbucher, Xavier Hanke, Bryn Imhoff, Mya Meyer, Landon Mootz, Elayna Olson, Evan Olson, Grace Reimann, Derek Schult, Deylah Schulz, Caleb Thompson

HONORS (3.5-3.74) Tatiana Anderson, Maria Ashbrenner, Allison Bussan, Hailey Cole, Maycee Eisner, Abigail Gauerke, Josilynn Geiss, Abigail Hart, Trenton Klimek, Izabella Klockow, William Miemietz, Tyson Ott, Vanessa Pintor, Jack Polak, Ryker Remington, Peyton Smith, Kayleigh Strey, Kaylana Vickery, Morgan Wienke, Emma Ziebell

GRADE 10

HIGHEST HONORS (4.0) Kaylynn Allen, Adalyn Blake, Kaela Clerveaux, Addelyn Elliott, Benjamin Gruett, Mariah Hulce, Brenna Jirovec, Hannah Klinger, Korina Kraegenbrink, Lilyann Kufahl, Danica Lipke, Maria Malinowski, Jacob Mueller, Orion Pillai, Jazlin Severt, Parker Wagenaar

HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99) Adison Clark, Olivia Collinsworth, James Crockford, Rose Dornbrack, Brady Eggebrecht, Evan Elliott, Avery Frisch, Hazeley Gates, Ryleigh Golisch, Joshua Gustum, Robert Hoffman, Grace Hoock, Addison Jirovec, Aiden Koebe, Alexis Kropp, Jenna Maluege, Jacob Stetz-Schleif, Cooper Wendorf, Emily Winter

HONORS (3.5-3.74) Cairo Amador-Gonzalez, Olivia Barker, Keeley Benedict, Colton Burrows, Eli Burtman, Caroline Durbin, Gracelee Gentile-Hull, Raphael Gerbig, Sylvia Hanson, Theodore Johnson, Cayson Kendall, Farije Kiskoski, Noah Klug, Alex Koblitz, Quinton Kurtzhals, Violet Radtke, Preston Schuelke, Colton Smith, Brennen Woller

GRADE 11

HIGHEST HONORS (4.0) Max Black, Gus Chrudimsky, Johanna Dahlke, Lily Dallman, Austin Depies, Haylea Drabek, Elizabeth Herdt, Parker Klebenow, Micah Plautz, Jacob Schmeltzer, Jake Schwandt, Mia Smith, Daniel Vaughn, Amelia White

HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99) Kaiden Henrich, Priscilla Ibarra, Dylan Kraegenbrink, Aiden Lonsdorf, Olivia Pajtash, Maya Paulus, Haley Rindt, Takiyah Sell, Benjamin Thom, Merin Yates

HONORS (3.5-3.74) Margaret Cordova, Megan Cordova, Kellen Duerkop, Russell Gruetzmacher, Kaitlyn Heckendorf, Anna Hintz, Katelyn Klimek, Caden Lemmer, Noah Moore, Breleigh Raasch, Emma Rautiola, Sarah Rell, Laura Rennit, Samuel Schneider, Madilyn Sell, Emil Weix, Brock Wilson

GRADE 12

HIGHEST HONORS (4.0) Chloe Belant, Anna Bowe, Isaak Clapper, Malaynie Dengel, Gabriel Durbin, Grace Faber, Emma Frazier, Linzee Hixon, Avery Hoff, Emma Hoff, Allison Hoock, Brooklyn Kraegenbrink, Regena Lahti, Bridger Lemmon, Erik Mann, Chloe McRae, McKenna Meyer, Sebastian Ollmann, Caina Orzech, Savannah Orzech, Madison Ott, Mia Ott, Nicholas Palecek, Alexis Rogers, Carson Schmitz, Sage Schoerner, Kekoa Schuetze, Katelyn Schult, Sommer Seefeldt, Kendel Semling, Michal Slaby, Sophie Wendorf, Kayli Wirtala, Gracie Wyma

HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99) Chase Brantner, Jaden Bush, Dakota Doshier, Olivia Dzwonkowski, Clayton Evans, Anna Florez, Lacey Frisch, Katy Glaze, Allison Hunter, William Klein, Nicholas Kriegel, Chloe Malinowski, Connor McCorkle, Alexis Ollhoff, Olivia Pierce, Michael Quong, Kaiden Ratzlaff, Archer Slattery, Ginni Townsend, Phillip Vogel, Allison Wolff, Talayna Wyland

HONORS (3.5-3.74) Alexa Emmer, Austin Hotchkiss, Emerson Iwen, Jayce Oberg, Sawyer Peterson, Mikal Plautz, Andrew Proulx, Ethan Ravn, Addison Schneider, Dawson Schulz, Jalie Severt, Julia Shull, Dylan Smith, Gracie Such, Nora Trojanowski, Thomas Troyer, Isabel Wendt, Brayden Woller



A handful of the many student and adult volunteers who prepared the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for shipment pose with a trailer they are loading with boxes ready to be shipped to a processing center on their next leg of the journey. Submitted photo.

ST. JOHN'S from page 1

gift ultimately goes to.

In addition to 10,000+ year-round volunteers who help share information about the project in the U.S. year-round, more than 82,000 volunteers in 4,500+ drop-off locations across the U.S. work to collect and ship Operation Christmas Child boxes each year during National Collection Week, the third week in November.

Some of those volunteers are from right here in Merrill and were working at St. John Lutheran Church and School to collect and then ship Operation Christmas Child gift boxes packed and donated locally.

During the November 2023 collection week, St. John's was a hub of activity and the kids got in on the action helping, too, along with volunteers headed up by a

committee organized for this purpose.

After just one day of collecting, "so far we have received over 458 boxes to be shipped to improvised nations," said St. John Lutheran Church Pastor David Szeto back in November.

All told, by the time collection week was over, 721 Operation Christmas Child boxes had been collected and were shipped out according to Cathy Mueller, one of the volunteers.

Kathy Sheridan headed up the Committee at St. John that organized the collection and the volunteers.

Many people also made donations to help pay for the shipping.

For more information about the international program, go to: samaritanpurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/

REPORTS from page 9

drug paraphernalia in the vehicle, and he was arrested by that agency for drug charges and multiple counts of bail jumping.

At 5:39 p.m. a caller reported earlier in the day she and her son had been in the upper level of their residence and heard noise from outside. They discovered a male appeared to be attempting to enter their residence. The man was scared off once he discovered there were people at the

residence. Investigation continues.

02-04-24

At 8:49 a.m. a caller reported observing a vehicle in a parking lot that had a smashed windshield and what appeared to be hair among the breakage. It was found the driver had struck a turkey on

his way to work.

At 12:47 p.m. a caller reported a man had fallen and was lying near a park. It was found the man was intoxicated and fell asleep at the location. He was checked by EMS and released.

At 3:45 p.m. a caller reported finding a syringe lying in a

snowbank along a street. An officer collected the syringe and properly disposed of it.

MERRILL FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS

FOR WEEK ENDING FEB. 4, 2024
EMS call, excluding vehicle

accident with injury	37
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	1
Passenger vehicle fire	1
Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1
Total This Week:	40
Total Incidents/Calls for 2024:	232

Sports

Merrill Varsity Boys Basketball players put two in the win column last week

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Bluejays Boys Varsity Basketball Team was at Wisconsin Rapids on Jan. 29 for a game against Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln, and the Red Raiders took the win on that one. Merrill was down 20-26 at halftime and lost with a final score of 51-64. "We started our busy two-week stretch at Rapids and played alright for the most part," said Troy Pieper, Merrill Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach. "I liked how we played on defense."

"We didn't take care of the ball the best," he said, "But the main factor in the game was the free throw shooting. It might have been the most lopsided free throw attempts in a game that I can remember as a coach."

"Rapids was 21-26, while we only went to the charity stripe 5 times making 4," Pieper said. "I think both teams were aggressive."

"It was a frustrating night to say the least," he said. "So many guys in foul trouble (five guys with 4 or 5 fouls each) makes finding any flow very difficult."

"We are getting closer to putting a full game together I think," Pieper said. "I think on defense, minus all the fouls, we executed our game plan very well."

"EJ Weix (22 pts, 8 FG, 3 3pt, 3 FT, 2 ast, 1 stl) had a nice night with another double double," he added. "Twenty-two points and 10 rebounds."

Carter Baade (7 pts, 3 FG, 1 3pt, 2 ast, 1 stl) contributed seven points to the night, and Carson Woellner (6 pts, 3 FG, 1 ast) put up six points.

Box Score

Merrill 51 @ Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln 64

The boys were back on the road Jan. 30 for a game against the Antigo Red Robins. This time they brought home the win. Although they were down 14-24 at the halftime, they pulled it out in overtime to bring home a 50-49 victory for the Merrill Bluejays.

"Going on the road back-to-back nights isn't easy," Coach Pieper said. "And with the second night being against your rival down the road, it makes it even more tough, knowing they are going to give you all they got, and we got all they had."

"Antigo is getting closer and closer



Freshman Tyson Ott scores in traffic.



Senior Carter Baade scores on a drive to the hoop.

to pulling that upset win, and tonight especially in the first half they were feeling it from deep and their mixing of their zone defenses caused us some issues and slowed the game down, and we just couldn't buy a shot for the life of us," he said.

"I like how we were patient against their zones," Pieper said. "We took care of the ball

See **BASKETBALL** page 12



Senior Jaden Bush, Senior Brody Lange, and Sophomore Eli Burtman fight for position. Joseph Frederick photos.

2024 WINTER MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

Fri. Feb. 9	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Fri. Feb. 9	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Mon. Feb. 12	Wausau East (JV)	Home	5:45 pm
Mon. Feb. 12	Wausau East (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Tues. Feb. 13	Antigo (JV)	Away	5:45 pm
Tues. Feb. 13	Antigo (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Thurs. Feb. 15	D. C. Everest (JV)	Home	5:45 pm
Thurs. Feb. 15	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV, JV2 & JV3)

Thurs. Feb. 8	Stevens Point (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Thurs. Feb. 8	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Tues. Feb. 13	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Tues. Feb. 13	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm

Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV)

Sat. Feb. 10	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	8:30 am
--------------	-------------------------	------	---------

Girls Ice Hockey (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. Feb. 8	Chippewa Falls (JV)	Greenheck	5:00 pm
Thurs. Feb. 8	Chippewa Falls (Varsity)	Greenheck	7:00 pm
Fri. Feb. 9	West De Pere (Varsity)	Greenheck	7:00 pm
Sat. Feb. 10	Cedarburg (JV)	Greenheck	12:00 pm
Sat. Feb. 10	Cedarburg (Varsity)	Greenheck	2:00 pm

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



PROTECTING THE GREATER GOOD



EMU Bluejacks Varsity Hockey scores another win in OT, this time against RAM

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The East Merrill Newman United (EMU) Bluejacks Varsity Hockey Team took on Regis/Altoona/McDonnell (RAM) in a non-Conference game on Feb. 3, 2024, at the Merrill Area Recreation Center (MARC) rink and scored another 6-5 Bluejacks win in overtime.

RAM scored first at 2:51 into the first period with an early lead, but Bluejacks #24 Vinny Newman-Knuckles evened it up with a goal, assisted by #17 Zach Pagel and #12 Brody Trantow at 8:04. Then Bluejacks #27 Nick Bodner scored another with an assist from #12 Trantow to pull ahead at 14:05, but RAM quickly scored a second goal to

See **HOCKEY** page 12

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Molly White, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. At age three, Molly began ballet lessons at the Wausau Academy of Dance, and she's been dancing in multiple genres ever since, taking every possible dance class she can. Her favorite genre is lyrical dance, and last weekend Molly went to the WACPC State Varsity Dance Competition as part of the Merrill Varsity Dance Team where the team competed in Division 2 HipHop and she was also the team's lone solo competitor with a lyrical routine. This is her third year as a member of the Merrill Varsity Dance Team, and this past fall she also joined the Cheer Team.

At school, Molly enjoys history and chemistry and participates in Raise Your Voice and Theatre Jays. Outside of school, she works part-time at the AmericInn and also volunteers at the Wausau Academy of Dance.

While Molly likes to read, watch movies with her family, and hang out with friends listening to music or playing games, mostly "I just dance," she said. When not at school or work, that's pretty much what you'll find her doing.

The daughter of Erin and Evan White of Merrill, Molly has a 3.867 GPA and plans to get a degree in nursing to work in pediatrics. She is considering UW-Eau Claire.



Molly White

Congratulations from these sponsors:



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

Please direct comments or suggestions to fotonews@mmclocal.com

Real Rewards, Year After Year

Nicolet NATIONAL BANK

800.369.0226 | NicoletBank.com



Real Rewards Checking (Real Rewards) is available for consumer deposits only. Annual Percentage Yield ("APY") is accurate as of 1/1/2023. Real Rewards is a variable rate account. Your APY may change at any time after your account is opened, at the discretion of Nicolet National Bank. Real Rewards is a tiered rate product. If qualifications are met for the qualification cycle, Tier 1: The portion of your balance that is equal to or less than \$15,000 will earn 3.00% APY. Tier 2: The portion of your balance that is over \$15,000 will earn 0.01% APY. The APY for Tier 2 will range from 0.40% to 3.00%, depending on the balance in your account. If qualifications are not met for the qualification cycle, your entire balance will earn 0.01% APY. You must enroll in online banking and e-statements in order to qualify. Transactions required each qualification cycle: At least ten posted and cleared debit card transactions (ATM-processed transactions do not count as qualifying debit card transactions), and at least one posted and cleared direct deposit of payroll or social security. Disclosed APY assumes all interest remains on deposit. Fees and withdrawals of interest will reduce earnings and APY. All Nicolet National Bank checking accounts are subject to credit approval. Additional terms and conditions apply. See Nicoletbank.com for details. Member FDIC.

Klug and Skic are Merrill Varsity Wrestling Conference Champions at SPASH, wrestlers fall to Marshfield

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Both Merrill Varsity and Junior Varsity Wrestling Teams competed in the Wisconsin Valley Conference Wrestling Tournament Feb. 3, 2024, at SPASH High School in Stevens Point. "Our conference is one of the toughest in the state," said Brian Suchocki, Head Merrill Varsity Wrestling Coach. "Many state-ranked individuals and other great wrestlers competed for a Conference title. Merrill crowned two Conference Champions: Noah Klug and Remington Skic."

"Remington in his Freshman year has established himself as a great competitor and well rounded wrestler," he said. "Remington shows great maturity on the mat. In the finals, Remington gave up a reversal and two near fall in the second period but stayed composed and finished the match strong to win the Championship."

"Noah wrestled in a solid bracket and came out on top," Suchocki said. "Noah is very deliberate and controlled in his style of wrestling. Being only a Sophomore and earning this Championship is a testament to his hard work."

Three other Merrill wrestlers earned All-Conference honors, taking third place in each of their weight classes: Callum Wheeler, Brady Norton, and Dusty Schmirler. "All three dominated in their third place match," he said.

"Callum is doing some of his best wrestling now. He looks good and continues to push to be one of the top wrestlers in his weight class going into Regionals."

"Brady is also turning it up," Suchocki said. "I liked how Brady competed and stayed solid with his technique. That will be key for him moving forward."

"Dusty has been steady all year. Dusty started us off in the final round with a big pin," he said.

"It was great to go 9-2 in the final round of the tournament," Suchocki said. "We

had 11 wrestlers in the top 5. That shows the depth of our team."

Other top Merrill finishers: Austin Depies and Jayden Graap both took fourth; and Mikal Plautz, Carson Brooks, Hunter Opper, and Brett Suchocki each took fifth place. Ryan Coates and Preston Schuelke also competed on Varsity.

Josh Gustum won the JV 285 pound bracket.

"As a team, we took fifth and were half a point behind Wausau West but only 25 points out of second place Marshfield," Suchocki said. "Our next competition is Saturday, Feb. 10, at DCE for the Regional Tournament. That tournament is the first step in the postseason. The top four will advance to the Sectional tournament."

"I also wanted to add that we had a great fan base that helped us throughout the day," he said. "It was great to see such a large group of blue up in the stands."

Team Scores:

- 1 Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln 241
- 2 Marshfield 174.5
- 3 D.C. Everest 172.5
- 4 Wausau West 149.5
- 5 Merrill 149.0
- 6 Stevens Point 134.0
- 7 Wausau East 53.0

Marshfield dual

On Jan. 30 Merrill competed in the last Conference dual of the season at Marshfield. "Overall, we competed well against the 2023 team state runner-ups," Suchocki said. "We came away with six individual wins and everyone competed with good effort."

"Getting a pin for us was Mikal Plautz. Mikal stayed patient, racking up points, before getting the pin in the third period. That was a big boost for our team."

Dusty Schmirler received a forfeit. "Both Brady Norton and Noah Klug picked up decisions," Suchocki said, "while Remington Skic and Callum Wheeler picked up major decisions (wins of eight or more)."

"All wrestled well for us," he said. "Noah was solid and stayed in great position. Brady built a good lead and kept after it. It was good to have Callum back in the line-up. Callum did a good job coming back after a little time off. Remington had some really nice takedowns in his win."

"Even though we didn't get the team win, it was a good team effort," Suchocki said. "The guys that didn't win battled hard for us."

Individual scores:

- 190 Jason Seidl (Marshfield) over Carson Brooks (Merrill) (Dec 10-4)
- 215 Noah Klug (Merrill) over Jace Frick (Marshfield) (Dec 4-0)
- 285 Mikal Plautz (Merrill) over Joshua Taylor (Marshfield) (Fall 4:25)
- 106 Dustin Schmirler (Merrill) over Unknown (For.)
- 113 Carter Williquette (Marshfield) over Unknown (For.)
- 120 Jon Sternweis (Marshfield) over Jayden Graap (Merrill) (Fall 1:15)
- 126 Remington Skic (Merrill) over Kashton Kilty (Marshfield) (MD 13-3)
- 132 Easton Ledden (Marshfield) over Brett Suchocki (Merrill) (TF 17-2 5:08)
- 138 Brady Norton (Merrill) over Jace Kelnhofer (Marshfield) (Dec 11-6)
- 144 Callum Wheeler (Merrill) over



Noah Klug and Remington Skic. Photo courtesy of Merrill Wrestling Program.

- Joseph White (Marshfield) (MD 12-2)
- 150 Dalton Hagen (Marshfield) over Preston Schuelke (Merrill) (Fall 1:38)
- 157 Grayden Rode (Marshfield) over Hunter Opper (Merrill) (TF 18-3 5:13)
- 165 Caleb Dennee (Marshfield) over Ryan Coates (Merrill) (Fall 0:25)
- 175 Owen Griesbach (Marshfield) over Austin Depies (Merrill) (Fall 1:43)

Team Score:

Merrill 26 @ Marshfield 43

HOCKEY from page 11

even things up, and the teams were tied 2-2 at the buzzer.

In the second period, RAM scored two goals and the Bluejacks remained scoreless, ending the second period 2-4 with RAM in the lead.

Third period EMU scored two, with Bluejacks #26 Brody Klebenow and #17 Pagel both scoring goals unassisted at 4:49 and 5:23, respectively. And then Bluejacks #27 Bodner made a powerplay with an assist from #8 Connor McCorkle and #12 Trantow at 11:57 to pull ahead by one. RAM

fired back with a goal at 16:43 to tie things up before the buzzer, setting the teams up for an overtime face-off.

EMU won that challenge when #17 Pagel scored the winning goal with an assist from #15 Jackson Pierce. Final score: 6-5 for another Bluejacks win.

Goalie #31 Chase Klebenow made 30 saves in the game.

"The whole coaching staff is very proud of the boys for showing resilience and battling back for a great win!" said Assistant EMU Bluejacks Coach Greg Glovinski.

Box Score: Regis/Altoona/McDonnell 5 @ East Merrill Newman United 6

BASKETBALL

from page 11

and got really good looks, just couldn't get anything to fall for most of the night until we finally got some to fall down the stretch."

"We got down 16 in the second half, and again with it being the second game of back-to-back road games, it would have been easy for the guys to fold it up and call it a night, but they didn't," he said. "They just kept getting defensive stops and giving us a chance, and we just chipped away and forced overtime."

"Not as many fouls were called as the Rapids game; however, we still did lose two guys to fouls," Pieper said. "Tyson Ott and Carson Woellner both fouled out, so other guys had to step up and play in crunch time. We got some really big minutes off the bench from Ondre Houghton. He had three assists and hit a huge three while we were making our comeback, and his defense was awesome, which it always is. [I'm] very proud of him for how he stepped up down the stretch for us."

"E.J. (Weix) (15 pts, 6 FG, 1 3pt, 2 FT, 2 stl) followed up his double double against Rapids with another one with 15 points and 11 rebounds, and his 15 points were hard earned as he worked in the post for us against the zone," he said. "And it can be exhausting getting bumped and constant movement back and forth, but he did it well and did awesome."

"Carter Baade (19 pts, 7 FG, 5 3pt, 1 stl) had a real nice night," Pieper said. "What was most impressive is he didn't get the shots to fall early but showed how much he's grown and didn't let it effect him and found his shot and finished with 22 points, including the game-winning 3 with 2 seconds left in OT."

Jacob Schmeltzer (8 pts, 2 FG, 2 3pt, 2 FT, 2 ast, 2 stl) scored the third highest number of points in the game.

"It was a true team win tonight," he said. "A lot of guys gave good minutes, and our defense was on point all night. It really is the reason we were able to make the big comeback."

Box Score

Merrill 50 @ Antigo 49

Feb. 1 was a home game for Merrill, with the Elcho High School Boys Basketball Team on-site for a matchup with the Bluejays. This was another exciting win for Merrill. The Bluejays were up 37-24 at halftime and went on to win the game 77-45.

"I thought during the first half, we were sort of going through the motions," Pieper said, "playing a team that only had six active players, and a team that we were a big favorite to win, so I think the guys just thought they would roll over, but they didn't. Elcho played hard all night and didn't back down a single bit, which is a credit to them and their coach."

"The second half was better; we had much better energy," he said. "I set a couple goals for the guys to meet in the second half and the defense was really on point more. Offensively we were really efficient tonight. we had more than one point per possession, and that is a sign of being solid and taking care of the ball and getting good shots."

"Tyson Ott (14 pts, 5 FG, 2 3pt, 2 FT, 2 ast, 1 stl) had a nice night," Pieper said. "He was aggressive and confident. Each game out you see it more and more; at times you forget he's only a Freshman with some of of the stuff he can do, and the no-fear he plays with doesn't seem like a Freshman at all."

"Carter Baade (21 pts, 8 FG, 3 3pt, 2 FT, 5 ast, 6 stl) followed his 19-point performance against Antigo with another very solid effort, scoring 21 points and dishing out 5 assists," he said.

Jacob Schmeltzer (8 pts, 3 FG, 2 3pt, 1 ast, 1 stl) was the third highest scorer of the night with eight points.

"A lot of guys got minutes tonight and contributed. Eli Burtman (Sophomore) got his first Varsity points of his career; it was good to see him get some good minutes down the stretch. We will really be counting on him a lot next year to have a much bigger role and to get minutes here and there this year will only help with his development."

Box Score:
Elcho 45 @ Merrill 77

Colorful Costa Rica November 2024



9-DAY JOURNEY

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- San Jose • Poas Volcano National Park
- Coffee Plantation Visit • Arenal Volcano National Park
- Sarchi Artisan Village
- Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve
- Selvatura Park & Hanging Bridges
- Butterfly Garden & Hummingbird Gallery
- Manuel Antonio National Park
- Carara National Park • Orchid Garden Tour
- Jungle Crocodile Safari Cruise

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Roundtrip Airfare - ORD/MSP/MKE
- Int'l Air Departure Taxes, Fuel & Fees
- 14 Meals: 8 Breakfasts & 6 Dinners
- Professional Naturalist Tour Director
- Motorcoach Transportation • Hotel Transfers
- Admissions per Itinerary • Comprehensive Sightseeing
- Baggage Handling at Hotels
- 8 Nights Hotel Accommodations

BOOK & SAVE

~~\$3,499 PER PERSON~~
\$3,399 PER PERSON

**Departing
November 6, 2024**

**GO TO
TOURSMMC.COM
FOR MORE INFO
OR TO SIGN UP**

For more information and a full brochure, please contact Caryl Mulder at 262-227-8800, cmulder@premierworlddiscovery.com or Premier World Discovery 877-953-8687 info@premierworlddiscovery.com (Web Code Booking # 180702)