

Check out what's happening in Merrill!



See Our Section On Page 8

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A photo of two sandhill cranes taken from Hwy. E north of Merrill after a recent snowfall. Photo courtesy of Peter Tesch, Blue Sky Photography.

Aspirus Merrill Hospital set to begin \$40 million renovation and expansion

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Aspirus recently announced they are set to begin a “transformative \$40 million renovation and expansion project” at Aspirus Merrill Hospital. “This initiative underscores Aspirus’ dedication to addressing the growing health care needs in Merrill and the surrounding areas,” a press release said. Scheduled to begin this summer, goals of the project



Photo courtesy of Aspirus.

See **ASPIRUS**
page 5

CHICK DAYS!
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Thank You!

“I want to thank everyone who voted for me in the Spring Election. I will do my best on the County Board to justify your trust in me.”

- Don Dunphy -

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Three new Alderpersons elected in Merrill

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Going into the April 2, 2024, Spring Election, just three of the races for Alderperson in the City of Merrill were contested - in Districts 1, 7, and 8.

In District 1, in the race between William (Bill) Bialecki and Andrew Caylor, it was proof that every single vote counts. Caylor emerged the winner of the tightly-contested race by just four votes. Andrew Caylor got 161 votes (50.63%) as compared to Bialecki’s 157 votes (49.37%). Andrew Caylor will replace Paul Russell, who decided not to run for re-election and publicly backed Andrew Caylor in the race, in representing District 1 on the City Council.

In District 7, in the race between incumbent Mark Weix Jr. and Nicole Trumblay, Weix was the clear winner with more than 75% of the vote. Weix got 276 votes (75.82%) as compared to Trumblay’s 88 votes (24.18%). Weix will serve another term representing District 7 on the City Council.

In District 8, in the race between Rebecca Rutkowski and Renea Frederick, Rutkowski was the clear winner with more than 66% of the vote. Rutkowski got 134 votes (66.67%) compared to Frederick’s 67 votes (33.33%). Rutkowski will replace Steve Sabatke, who decided not to run for re-election, in representing District 8 on the City Council.

The other five candidates ran an uncontested race and were elected as



Rebecca Rutkowski



Andrew Caylor

Alderperson in the City of Merrill for their respective Districts:

District 2: Michael “Gus” Caylor (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 188 votes.

District 3: Nathan Meyer (appointed in July 2023 to fulfill the unexpired term of Rick Blake on the Council) (uncontested) was elected with 125 votes.

District 4: LaDonna Fermanich (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 174 votes.

District 5: Robert “Bob” Lass (uncontested) was elected with 169 votes.

District 6: Mike Rick Jr. (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 143 votes.

New faces to make up the Council

In total, though only three of the races for Alderperson were contested and one of those was run by an incumbent, three new faces will join the Merrill City Council this spring, because Dick Lupton also decided not to run for re-election in District 5 and only one candidate stepped up to run in an uncontested race in that District. Robert “Bob” Lass (no photo available) will join Andrew Caylor and Rebecca Rutkowski in serving their Districts on the Merrill City Council when they officially become part of the new makeup of the City Council at the May 14, 2024, Common Council meeting.

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Makeup of Lincoln County Board to include seven new faces

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

All 22 Lincoln County Supervisor positions were up for election in their Districts. There were 10 contested races in the bid for County Board Supervisor positions to represent their Districts on the Lincoln County Board in the Spring Election last Tuesday, April 2, 2024. One incumbent Supervisor, Lincoln County Chairman of the Board District 9 Supervisor Don Friske, was unseated, while six other incumbent Supervisors - in Districts 2, 8, 10, 12, 18, and 20) won their bids against challengers, keeping their positions on the Board for additional two-year terms. The other three races were

in Districts 7, 13, and 19 where the incumbent opted not to run for re-election and two new candidates ran for the open position.

Twelve candidates won their positions in uncontested races for their respective Districts. Of those twelve, three were in Districts 4, 5, and 14 where the incumbent opted not to run for re-election, and they were the only candidate who ran for election to replace the open positions. The other nine were incumbent candidates who ran unopposed for their positions - in Districts 1, 3, 6, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21, and 22.

In Lincoln County District 1: William R. Bialecki (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 300

votes.

In Lincoln County District 2: Lori L. Anderson-Malm (incumbent) won the race against challenger Scott Doerr with 51.57% of the vote. Anderson-Malm garnered 131 votes while Doerr got 123 votes (48.43%). She retains her position on the Board for another two-year term.

In Lincoln County District 3: Elizabeth McCrank (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 162 votes.

In Lincoln County District 4: Steve Osness Jr. opted not to run for re-election, and Derek Woellner (uncontested) was elected with 186 votes.

In Lincoln County District 5: Don Wendorf opted not to run for re-election, and Andrew Zelinski (uncontested) was elected with 210 votes.

In Lincoln County District 6: Norbert "Nubs" Ashbeck (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 262 votes.

In Lincoln County District 7: Greta Rusch opted not to run for re-election, and Wallace (Jay) Downey and Donald Dunphy faced off for the position. Dunphy won the race with 271 votes (60.76%) compared to 175 votes (39.24%) for Downey.

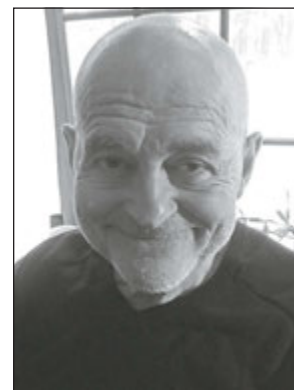
In Lincoln County District 8: Laurie J Thiel (incumbent) won the race against challenger Todd Frederick with 63.60% of the vote. Thiel garnered 166 votes while Frederick got 95 (36.40%) votes. She retains



Bishop



Dorava



Dunphy



Vorpapel



Woellner



Zelinski

her position on the Board for another two-year term.

In Lincoln County District 9: Don Friske (incumbent) was unseated from his position on the Board by challenger Christine Vorpapel who won with 55.87% of the vote. Vorpapel got 214 votes as compared to Don Friske's 169 votes (44.13%).

In Lincoln County District 10: Jesse Boyd (incumbent) won the race against challenger Sheryl Chism with 60.00% of the vote. Boyd garnered 234 votes while Chism got 155 votes (39.74%). There was

also one write-in vote. Boyd retains his position on the Board for another two-year term.

In Lincoln County District 11: Randal John Detert (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 220 votes.

In Lincoln County District 12: Julie DePasse (incumbent) won the race against challenger Paul Gilk with 51.46% of the vote. DePasse garnered 212 votes while Gilk got 198 votes (48.06%). There were also two write-in votes. DePasse retains her position on the Board for another two-year term.

In Lincoln County District 13: George Brixius opted not to run for re-election, and Alan Bishop faced off against Jeffrey Fisher for the position. Bishop won the race with 186 votes (53.30%) compared to 161 votes (46.13%) for Fisher. There were also two write-in votes.

In Lincoln County District 14: Brian Hafeman opted not to run for re-election, and Marguerite Lyskawa (uncontested) was elected with 239 votes.

In Lincoln County District 15: Marty R Lemke (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 125

votes.

In Lincoln County District 16: Dana Miller (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 177 votes.

In Lincoln County District 17: James Meunier (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 180 votes.

In Lincoln County District 18: Kenneth L. Wickham (incumbent) won the race against challenger Susan Dierksen with 64.97% of the vote. Wickham garnered 345 votes while Dierksen got 186 (35.03%). He retains his position on the Board for another two-year term.

In Lincoln County District 19: Julie Allen opted not to run for re-election, and Joseph Dorava faced off against Dan Friske for the position. Dorava won the race with 210 votes (53.98%) compared to 179 votes (46.02%) for Dan Friske.

In Lincoln County District 20: Angela Cummings (incumbent) won the race against challenger Doug Curtis with 58.46% of the vote. Cummings garnered 190 votes while Curtis got 135 votes (41.54%). She retains her position on the

See COUNTY BOARD page 9

THANK YOU
for your vote of Confidence.
I will stand up and work for District 20

YOUR VOTE COUNTS Authorized and Paid for by
Angela Cummings
Lincoln County Board

Thank You!
VOTE Vorpapel

Now the work begins. Please go to co.lincoln.wi.us for calendar, agenda, & paks.
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Spring Brush Clean-up NOTICE
City of Merrill Residents

The City of Merrill Street Department will be having a Spring Brush Clean-up. All City of Merrill residents will be allowed to place brush on the boulevard, on their regularly scheduled garbage collection day, during the week of April 22-25, 2024. Please place brush, butt ends toward the street, next to your garbage and recyclables. Your brush must be on the boulevard by 6:00 AM on your regularly scheduled garbage collection day. We will still collect bundled brush throughout the year, as usual.

Dustin Bonack
Street Superintendent

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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024!

The Foto News will be running congratulations pages with photos of all the graduating seniors and bios on the top students.

MERRILL Foto News Call Today 715-536-7121

JAMES TEAL
Get Together

Join us May 4th from 1pm-5pm at what used to be Teal's Bar (now known as Held's Bar)
13298 Co Rd C, Deerbrook, WI 54424 for food & drinks in memory of Jim.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

One incumbent, two new members to serve on MAPS BOE

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Three candidates ran for three open positions on the Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) Board of Education (BOE) in the Spring Election last Tuesday. In our article prior to the election, we erroneously listed the incumbent candidate as Chad

Krueger. I apologize for this error. The incumbent candidate on the ballot was Brett Woller.

Woller, along with two new candidates - Amber De Rizzo and Mike Hornischer - were the three candidates on the ballot, running for three open positions on the BOE, resulting in an uncontested race.

Brett Woller was re-elected to the

MAPS BOE with 3,224 votes. Amber De Rizzo was elected to the MAPS BOE with 2,925 votes and Mike Hornischer was elected to the MAPS BOE with 3,138 votes. Each will serve a three-year term of office.

Three of the nine positions on the Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) Board of Education (BOE) are up for election each year.

Referendum questions: Two pass, MAPS referendum is a no-go

Now the matters go back to State legislators and the MAPS BOE to move forward

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Merrill and Lincoln County residents voted on three referendum questions in the April 2, 2024, election last Tuesday.

Two of the questions, those being the statewide referendum questions asking residents if they wanted section 7 (1) and (2) of article III of the state constitution to be created, passed overwhelmingly in both Lincoln County and statewide.

According to the unofficial results from Lincoln County (not yet verified

by the Board of Canvass), 4,328 residents (or 61.36%) voted yes to the first state referendum question (pertaining to prohibiting the use of private funds being used in connection with election administration), and statewide, 54.4% of voters voted yes.

Likewise, 4,810 residents (or 68.56%) of Lincoln County voters voted yes to the second state referendum question (pertaining to whether only election officials designated by law should perform election-related tasks), and statewide, 58.5% of voters also voted yes.

Now the issue will go back to legislators to enact the appropriate constitutional amendment in accordance with the wishes of Wisconsin residents.

MAPS Referendum

The third referendum question put to voters in the Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) district was whether the district should be authorized to

borrow \$16,000,000 to facilitate the district's facilities realignment plan and the necessary expenses associated with that plan. In Lincoln County, 2,245 voters (or 46.10%) voted in favor of the referendum, but 2,625 voters (53.90%) voted no, so the referendum failed. [Of note, a portion of the MAPS district extends into the townships of Ackley and Vilas in Langlade County; however, only one person in either township voted on the referendum, and that single vote was a no vote.]

Now the matter will go back to the MAPS Board of Education (BOE) to determine how to move forward.

"We will start that discussion at this month's Board meeting on April 17," Shannon Murray, MAPS Superintendent said. "The plan that was developed is the right plan so the question becomes if we still want to proceed, how, how long will it take, how to fund it, etc. More questions than answers at this time unfortunately."

Lincoln County Presidential preference/primary picks Biden and Trump

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

When it came to the Presidential Preference/Primary vote in Lincoln County last Tuesday, April 2, 2024, the results really didn't come as much of a surprise. While the purpose of the vote was for Wisconsin voters to select the person in each party they want to be on the ballot in the November 2024 Presidential election, to inform Wisconsin delegates to vote accordingly at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions to be held this summer to formalize the names that will be on that ballot, most of the other candidates had already dropped out of the race. It was pretty much a foregone conclusion in the state of Wisconsin and nationally that the country is in for another face-off between current (46th)

President Joe Biden and former (45th) President Donald Trump and that voters will go the polls on Nov. 5, 2024, to choose between the two to become the 47th President of the United States.

In Lincoln County, 7,166 voters turned out for the April 2, 2024, election. That represents a 40.31% voter turnout. There are 17,778 registered voters in Lincoln County.

In the actual Presidential Party Preference Vote, only 6,527 voters indicated a party preference. Of those, 2,363 (36.20%) voted Democratic and 4,164 (63.80%) voted Republican.

For the Democrats, Joe Biden won Lincoln County's Presidential Preference Vote with 2,302 (90.38%) of Democratic voters casting their ballots for him. Another 102 Democratic voters (4.00%) cast their ballot for Dean Phillips,

while 122 Democratic voters (4.79%) cast their ballot for Uninstructed Delegation. There were also 21 write-in votes (.82%). Total votes cast for a Democratic Presidential Preference: 2,547.

For the Republicans, Donald Trump won Lincoln County's Presidential Preference Vote with 3,721 (81.78%) of Republican voters casting their ballots for him. Another 81 Republican voters (1.78%) cast their ballot for Chris Christie, 31 (0.68%) cast their ballot for Vivek Ramaswamy, 162 (3.56%) cast their ballot for Ron DeSantis, 437 (9.60%) cast their ballot for Nikki Haley, and 101 (2.22%) cast their ballot for Uninstructed Delegation. There were also 17 write-in votes (0.37%). Total votes cast for a Republican Presidential Preference: 4,550.

Statewide results

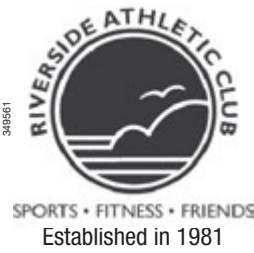
Within the entire state of Wisconsin, the Presidential Preference Vote was similar. Statewide, of the

See **PRIMARY** page 9

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John Piotrowski



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Here's what John has to say about our club: "January 19th, 1968 Life Magazine article motivated me to start working out (article about the interior arteries of the heart). Ever since then, I wake up early, keep a rigid schedule at Riverside maintaining my big pipes."

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Merrill Area Public Schools Head Start

MAPS Head Start has openings for the 2024-2025 school year.

This program is for children of low income families who will be three or four on or before September 1, 2024. In addition, if your child turns three during the school year, your child can be enrolled after their third birthday.

To enroll go to the MAPS website enrollment page. For more information or for help enrolling, please call Pine River School for Young Learners at 715-536-2392.

Do you have a Child who will be Four Years Old on or before September 1, 2024?

Would you like to enroll them in the MAPS Pre-Kindergarten program?

This is a FREE half day program.

To enroll go to the MAPS website enrollment page. For More information or help enrolling, please call Pine River School for Young Learners at 715-536-2392.

MERRILL Foto News

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

OBITUARIES



Elaine E. Oestreich, 83, of Merrill, passed away Friday, April 5, 2024, at Woodland Court Elder Services, Merrill. Elaine was born on September 22, 1940, to Paul and Leona (Berndt) Oestreich. After grade school, she attended Merrill Vocational School. Elaine worked at various places in Merrill including Merrill Woolen Mills and Weinbrenner Shoe Company. At a young age, she was in a major automobile accident and was limited to what she could do. But she made the most of that.

She spent her time helping out on the farm and then moved to Woodland Court Elder Services.

Elaine loved setting puzzles, and you could always find her at her table. She also made many crocheted rugs from plastic bags. She loved going out to eat and stopping for an ice cream cone and enjoyed the occasional O'Doul's. Elaine's best enjoyment was going up North with her sister, Arlene. She would always say, "Maybe I'll get snowed in and have to stay another day." She loved her family including all of her nieces and nephews.

Elaine is survived by her sisters, JoAnn (David) Sauer, Marion Fox, and Betty Clark; brother, Paul (Sandra) Oestreich; sister-in-law, Margaret Oestreich; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Leona Oestreich; sister, Arlene (Jack) Reickenberg; brothers, David Oestreich and Daniel Oestreich; sister-in-law, Georgene Ritchie; and brothers-in-law, Ned Fox and Jack Clark.

The funeral service for Elaine will be held at 11:00 A.M., Friday, April 12, 2024, at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. Andrew DeGier will officiate. Burial will take place in St. Paul's Cemetery, Town of Corning, Lincoln County. The family will receive friends beginning at 9:30 A.M. Friday at the funeral home. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

The family would like to thank the staff of Woodland Court Elder Services for their love and compassionate care for Elaine.



Dr. Larry Hagen OD, 83, longtime Tomahawk resident, passed away Thursday, April 4, in Merrill, WI with his family by his side.

Larry was born April 2, 1941, to Alvin and Edith Hagen (Abell) in Ambrose, ND. He married the love of his life and best friend, Janet Fredenburg on June 23, 1963, in Crosby, ND.

Larry attended Crosby High School, graduated from the University of North Dakota and Illinois College of

Optometry. He began practicing Optometry in Minnesota and purchased the practice in Tomahawk, WI in 1968. He practiced there until his retirement in 2007. They remained in Tomahawk, active in the church and community until 2019.

Larry's passion in life was spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren and was always ready to lend a helping hand whenever needed. He also loved to golf, and was an avid supporter of Tomahawk Athletics and the School System.

Survivors include his wife, Janet Hagen of Merrill, son, Paul (JoAnne) Hagen of Stevens Point, daughter, Angela (Pat) Bailey of Merrill, Grandchildren Lauren Hagen of Oshkosh, Allison Hagen (Joe Schmit) of Minneapolis, Ty Bailey of Madison and Jake Bailey of Madison.

He is also survived by brothers Donald (Karen) Hagen of Melbourne, FL, Duane (Anna) Hagen and Michael (Nadine) Hagen of Williston, ND, and sister Debbie Windisch of Narcoossee, FL.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alvin Hagen, mother, Edith Olsen, step-father, Martin Olsen and brother, LeRoy Olsen.

Visitation will be Friday, April 12, from 4:00-7:00 PM at Grace Lutheran Church in Tomahawk. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 13, at 10:30 AM at Holy Cross Chapel at Bell Tower Residence, located at 1500 O'Day St, Merrill, WI.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Bell Tower Residence or Grace Lutheran Church.

Online condolences for the family may be directed to www.nimsgernfuneral.com

Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral and Cremation Service is assisting the family.



Karen L. Rajek of Merrill, WI passed away peacefully on April 3, 2024, at her newly remodeled residence in Weston, WI. Prior to passing, Karen forged a 72-year trail of laughter, generosity, compassion, and wisdom. She was a selfless, kindhearted woman; a loving mother and wife who spoiled her grandchildren without complaint. She was sweet with a side of spicy. Her larger-than-life persona and trademark particulars will never be forgotten.

On February 8, 1975, Karen married Gary, the boy next door. Together they would raise five amazing children. Unbeknownst to them, Karen and Gary would fulfill their vow "till death do us part" in 2019 when Gary unexpectedly passed. Gary remained her true love throughout the rest of her life.

As her children grew and slightly matured, Karen thought she had all the love she needed, then, along came the grandkids. Grandma had a special ability to never use the word that starts with "n" and ends with "o" when it related to her 11 favorite souls. Her silly grandma-isms were often followed by the sounds of children cackling. She enjoyed everything that came with the title of grandma and was rarely seen without one at her side. She taught them more than she will ever know.

She left behind a lot of stuff that her children do not know what to do with. Her treasures are proof that one can get their exercise by walking the aisles of their local Walmart. Karen could smell out a deal from miles away. No clearance aisle was left unnoticed, no black Friday ad left unturned. The art of the deal benefited many throughout her tenure as the Merrill Steel bingo prize gatherer of which she took deep pride in.

Karen was famously opinionated when it came to details most would overlook. From flooring being laid at a 35-degree angle, to formatting/editing documents, Karen was not scared to express her concerns, nearly always following up with, "I'm just particular". She despised Times New Roman font, which is why her loving children couldn't resist one last poke by including it in her obituary. We understand the potential repercussions of this action as we were warned!

Another passion of Karen's was working in the family business alongside her brothers and more recently children, nieces, and nephews. Karen brought a soft side to steel, focusing on employee engagement, meticulously designing the beloved annual Christmas party hat, and many others that we are not able to list due to time and character constraints. To Karen, her employees were an extension of her family. She appreciated each and every person, no matter their title.

It goes without any doubt, Karen loved to serve her community. She devoted countless hours to the Samoset Council, Boy Scouts of America for over 47 years. "Be Prepared", this is a long list! Karen carried out all positions at Pack Level, served as Cub Scout Leader, Cub Scout Leader Trainer at Philmont Scout Camp in New Mexico, Wood Badge Trained and Staffer, Staffer for the University of Scouting, Day Camp Director and Staffer, Chuckwagon/Buckboard Staff, District Committee, Council Training Staff, Popcorn Kernel (under her reign they had a record year!), and started the Merrill Snow Sculpture Competition. She was heavily involved in Round Tables, OWL Leader Training, Pow Wow/ACES, BALOO, and most recently an Executive Board Member. Karen was a Silver Beaver Recipient along with many other certificates and awards. Many in the area recognized her as the voice of boy scouts due to many years gracing the WJMT airwaves with news and announcements on all things related to the Samoset Council. Karen would agree, the time she spent and the people she met throughout the years played a pivotal role in who she was as a person.

In the race of life, Karen was beat to the finish line by her son, Stephen Rajek, her husband, Gary Rajek, her mother Mary Ann (Kleman) Hinner, and her father Roger Hinner, Sr.

Karen's presence on earth will remain by her children and grandchildren: Richard and daughter, Sara, Rajek (Merrill, WI); daughter in law Amy and children Bryce, Brayden and Britney, Rajek (Merrill, WI); Greg (Mary) and children Max and Clara Rajek (Springfield, MO); Jill (Peter) and children Amelia, Elsie, Brodie and Ian, Fry (Weston, WI); Katie (Chad) Franzen and daughter, Khloe Everett (Weston, WI); as well as her brothers, and their families: Roger Jr. (Becky) Hinner, Rick (Kathy) Hinner, Ken (Lizzie) Hinner, Bob (Candy) Hinner, and Pat (Mary) Hinner. She will be missed by her many in-laws, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The funeral service for Karen will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Stephens United Church of Christ in Merrill. Pastor Michael Southcombe and Pastor Missy Miller will co-officiate. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill, and again on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at the church from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service. Burial at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery will immediately follow the service.

The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the nursing staff at Marshfield Medical Center-Weston, Wausau Manor, and Interim Healthcare for their care, concern, and support shown to Karen and family during her final months.

While we are uncertain what the world without Karen Rajek will look like, we know her infectious smile and witty personality will be carried on through the eyes of her favorite things.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in memory of Karen to Samoset Council, Boy Scouts of America or, in memory of Stephen Rajek to Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

Taylor & Stine
Funeral Home and Cremation Services

Leah D. Reist, Director
McKenna K. Meunier, Director

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MERRILL MEMORIAL PARK, INC. 2024 SPRING CLEAN-UP

All decorations must be picked up by **April 21, 2024, No Exceptions!**
Anything left will be removed and destroyed.
All Spring/Summer decorations may be placed after April 29, 2024.

Please keep decorations on side of foundation and not in the aisle. Shepherd Hooks are not allowed.

For additional information or for rules regarding placement of decorations, please call the office at **715-536-2297**



Betty Jane Puphal Boyd, 82, of Siler City, went home to be with her Lord Saturday, March 30th, 2024, at home surrounded by family.

Betty was born in Lincoln County, Wisconsin on March 3rd, 1942, to Henry and Bernice Liesman Puphal. She is preceded in death by her parents, her daughter, Kristine Hinson; her brothers, Laverne Puphal, Duane Puphal, Henry "Hank" Puphal, and James Puphal; her sister, Gloria Trzebiatowski; and her grand-

son, Luke Moore.

She is survived by her daughter, Kim Boyd Moore (Tim) of Siler City; brother, Reuben Puphal of Merrill, WI; sisters, Eileen Richards, Victoria Drost, Sally Boyd, and Jeannie Robl all of Merrill, WI; grandchildren, Freedom Hinson, Steve Hinson, II, Bobbi Jo Hinson Harber, Lance Moore, David Moore, John Moore, Sarah Crowder, and Hannah Moore; and great grandchildren, Emma Lou Crowder, Cooper Crowder and Luke Murillo.

Betty loved spending time with her family, especially her great grandchildren. She loved to sew, read, and do crafts. She especially enjoyed playing games with her great grandchildren. She was the owner/manager of Curves for Women gym when she lived in Florida, and she was a Certified Nursing Assistant for the better part of her career.

The family will be having a service at a later date in Merrill, WI.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home will be assisting the Boyd family.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com

WAID FUNERAL HOME
301 Eagle Drive • Merrill, WI 54452-3714
Phone: (715) 536-4646
Website: www.WaidFuneral.com
Email: info@waidfuneral.com

Mid-Wisconsin Cremation Society

Direct Cremation

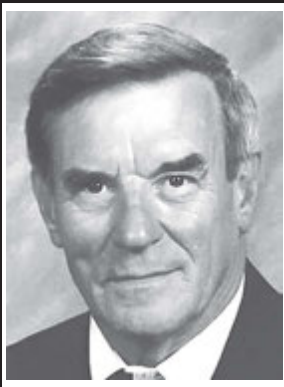
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OBITUARIES



Richard William Giese, age 82 has gone to his Savior's arms on April 3, 2024. He died at home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born at Wausau Hospital on March 29, 1942 to Alfred and Le Elda (Lemke) Giese. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church and attended Trinity's school for 8 years. He married the love of his life Carol Solinsky and was married at

this same church on December 18, 1965. They celebrated 58 years of marriage this last December.

He graduated from Merrill High School in 1960 and later obtained a degree in Criminology.

He had a lifelong career in Law Enforcement that began with the Military Police in the Army and the Criminal Investigative Department. Upon discharge, he joined the Marathon County Sheriff's Dept where he worked for several years. He also worked for Juneau County Sheriff's Department and Waunakee Police Department before retiring and moving to Arbor Vitae, WI in 1999. He was a self-taught carpenter and built many beautiful pieces of furniture and could fix anything!

He was an amazing man who loved the Lord and his family. He is survived by his wife Carol and children: Michele (Gary) Merk, Renee (Samuel) Hone, Tara (Troy) Meffert, David (Kristen) Giese. He is further survived by 13 grandchildren, Andrew (Shandi) Merk, Alyssa Merk Glover (Alex), Samuel Hone, Krista Hone Cicalli (Paul), Christopher Hone, Lydia Hone Van Tassel (Logan), Abigail Hone Van Tassel (Mathew), Naomi Hone, Jordan Hone, Benjamin Hone, Joseph Meffert, Thomas Meffert, and Caleb Meffert. Also 7 great-grandchildren. He has 2 very special cousins, Sally Oberg and Charles Krueger (Maripat) and sister-in-laws Bonnie Bletsoe Lang (Ron) and Leanne Solinsky (Herb).

Funeral Services took place for Dick on April 6th at Nimsgerm Funeral Home in Woodruff, WI with Burial at the Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery on April 9th.

Online condolences may be shared at nimsgermfuneral.com

A special thanks to Compassus Hospice for their care of Dick the last 2 months of his life and for his dedicated nurse, Kitty.

Angels are walking with us today... "I will not leave you or forsake you." Hebrew 13:5

NIMSGERN FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES IS SERVING THE FAMILY.

ASPIRUS from page 1

are to "greatly improve efficiency, access, and the patient experience."

"The health care landscape has encountered unprecedented challenges over the past four years, exerting immense pressure on health care systems across the nation," said Jeff Wicklander, Aspirus Senior Vice President and Central Region President. "Despite these obstacles, Aspirus has thrived, which is a testament to strategic foresight, thoughtful decision-making, and a relentless commitment to efficiency and effectiveness."

One of the biggest changes is the planned expansion to double inpatient beds, going from 10 to 20. The renovation and expansion will include:

- Complete reconstruction of inpatient rooms
- Enhancements to imaging, rehabilitation, laboratory, and pharmacy services
- Updates to the main floor, stairwells, and offices

"In these challenging times, Aspirus is dedicated to innovating and transforming its care models and processes," the release said. "This approach ensures that the system continues to deliver exceptional care that meets communities' changing needs. Maintaining a Critical Access Hospital

(CAH) in Merrill is an important strategy for Aspirus Health as more populations transition to Medicare."

"This investment is a clear indication of our commitment to leveraging resources for the greatest possible impact," Wicklander said. "We are excited to improve and expand care locally while providing a boost to the local economy."

"Aspirus looks forward to continued growth and improvement, as it advances its mission to heal people, promote health, and strengthen communities," the release said.

LEGALS

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT
DATE SIGNED: March 20, 2024
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Lenore M. Ripczinski
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2024-IN-15

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 09-06-1937 and date of death 02-06-2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W10252 HWY 64, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 07-05-2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
Jeffrey Ripczinski
W10252 HWY 64, Merrill, WI 54452
715-921-6450
Published 3/28/24, 4/4/24, 4/11/24
WNAXLP

BY THE COURT
DATE SIGNED: March 28, 2024
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
James H. Von Loh
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2024 IN 16

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 10-29-1952 and date of death 2-4-2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W3964 Center Rd, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 07-19-2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
Robert Von Loh
N2092 Highridge Rd, Merrill WI 54452
715-921-2372
Published April 4, 11 & 18, 2024
WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: 04/01/2024
/S/HON. Robert R. Russell

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing
Case No. 24-CV-47

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Pandora Mayhem Hayley
By (Petitioner) Pandora Mayhem Hayley
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Pandora Mayhem Hayley
To: Vladimir Mayhem Hayley
Birth Certificate: Pandora Mayhem Hayley

IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Honorable Robert R. Russell
Place: Lincoln County Courthouse-Br II
1110 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452
Date: 05/24/2024
Time: 2:30 PM

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
Published: April 11, 18 & 25, 2024
WNAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE
Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to collocate antennas at various heights not to exceed 129-ft on a 143-ft (including appurtenances) structure at the SW corner of W Taylor St and Champagne Dr, Merrill, Lincoln Co., WI 54452. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Project 010723-PR - ENB, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803. ebellersen@ebiconsulting.com or at (407)792-9506.
Published April 11, 2024
WNAXLP

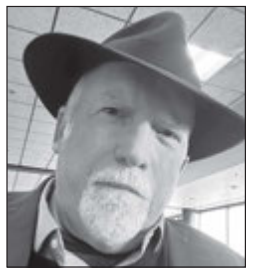
PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Why It Matters

Dear Reader,
Pursuing fame and acclaim has been a long-standing desire, regardless of the avenue - whether it be academics, sports, or any other endeavor.

Unexpectedly finding success in an unanticipated field prompts reflection on the significance of any such recognition of this field or the others. While being acknowledged by faceless strangers may briefly satisfy the ego, the transient nature of their attention underscores the insignificance of external validation.

In the end, true fulfillment lies not in the fleeting acknowledgment of others, but in the pursuit of personal growth and fulfillment for the ultimate good.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

TOWN OF MERRILL MERRILL, WISCONSIN

TOWN OF MERRILL ANNUAL MEETING

The **ANNUAL MEETING** for the Town of Merrill will be held at the Town of Merrill Community Center, W4594 Progress Ave., Merrill, **TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024** Monthly Town Board Meeting immediately following.

RECYCLE www.townofmerrillwi.gov **RECYCLE**
Published April 11, 2024 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF PINE RIVER

Notice is hereby given that the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** for the Town of Pine River, in the county of Lincoln, for the transaction of business as is law required or permitted to be transacted at such a meeting, will be held on **SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 at 1:00 PM** at the Pine River Town Hall, N1647 Deer Run Ave., Merrill. Seven days prior to the meeting, the Annual Report will be posted at www.townofpineriver.com. You may also contact the clerk to request a copy.

Please Recycle Amanda Herdt, Clerk
Published April 11, 2024 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF MERRILL MERRILL, WISCONSIN

TOWN OF MERRILL BID NOTICE

The Town of Merrill is seeking bids for the mowing and trimming of the Town Hall lawn. Bids will be accepted until **April 16, 2024, 5:00 pm.**

Please send bids to:
Merrill Town Hall
W4594 Progress Ave., Merrill, WI 54452
RECYCLE www.townofmerrill.wi.gov **RECYCLE**
March 21, 28, April 4 & 11, 2024 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF PINE RIVER, LINCOLN COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS BIDS REQUEST

The Pine River Town Board is accepting bids for the following 2024 road project:

- 1) Chip seal approximately 1.5 miles of Range Line Road with 3/8" aggregate and hot oil

Work must be completed by September 14, 2024. Project specifics are available from Greg at 715-536-3694 or 715-218-1451. Sealed bids must be received by the start of the Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7 PM at the Pine River Town Hall and can be delivered in person or mailed as: Road Project Bids, C/O Dave Breunig, N1647 Deer Run Ave., Merrill, WI 54452. Town Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Please Recycle Amanda Herdt, Clerk
Published April 11, 2024 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF MERRILL MERRILL, WISCONSIN

BID NOTICE

The Town of Merrill, Lincoln County Wisconsin Will be accepting sealed bids for sealing of cracks on individual listed roads: Elm, Hillside, Council Ground, Doering, South Shore, East Shore, and Country Side Circle.

The work shall consist of furnishing all proper materials, equipment, labor for routing, cleaning, sealing & covering of all cracks & joints in asphalt pavement. Contractor to provide certificate of insurance showing liability & workers comp. coverage. Sealed bids can be submitted to the Town of Merrill W4594 Progress Ave, Merrill, WI 54452

Bids will be opened on Monday, May 13, 2024 at town board meeting. The Town of Merrill reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid deemed to be in the best interest of the town.

TOWN OF MERRILL BOARD
Published April 4, 11, 18, & 25 May 2, 2024 **WNAXLP**

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH 8, 2024

Girl, Daisy Marie, born to Mackenzie Drengler and Derek Terczynski of Merrill.

MARCH 10, 2024

Girl, Oakley Marie, born to Destiny Dunlop and Craig Breunig of Merrill.

MARCH 12, 2024

Boy, Crew Walter, born to Brooke Kottke and Wes Kottke of Athens.

MARCH 14, 2024

Girl, Amiyah Grace Faith Hartman, born to Hannah Hartman and Dustin Pippenger of Merrill.

MARCH 17, 2024

Boy, Ridge David, born to Briana Handschke and Cole Handschke of Athens.

MARCH 21, 2024

Boy, August Curt, born to Kristin Wessel and Ethan Wessel of Edgar.

MARCH 26, 2024

Boy, Morgan Lee, born to Amber Whereatt and Bryce Whereatt of Wausau.

Girl, HarborMac Buttercup, born to Amelia Sliefert and Neil Frazer of Schofield.

MARCH 28, 2024

Boy, Hunter Lee, born to Madison Leistikow and Tyler Leistikow of Hamburg.

March Youth Optimist



Shelby Yates, an eighth grader at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), is the March Youth Optimist of the Month.
"Shelby is the kind of student who brings so much joy to our classroom," Ms. Danielle Bloch said in her nomination. "She's always ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work, and her kindness and respect for others make her a pleasure to be around. Throughout the school year, it's been amazing to see Shelby's progress. She's genuinely interested in learning and gives it her all, no matter what."
At school, Shelby is involved in volleyball, basketball, track, band, and horse club. She was sixth and seventh grade CEO of the math club; was on the honor roll in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades; and received a band award in seventh grade. Outside of school, Shelby participates in Immanuel Lutheran Church youth group fundraisers and servant events, volunteered for the June Dairy Breakfast, and served as a camp counselor at 4-H camp.

"Even though Shelby's involved in a bunch of extracurricular activities, she doesn't let it distract her from her schoolwork," Ms. Bloch said. "She's got this great balance going on. In class, she's not just focused on her own success—she's always lending a hand to her classmates, and her quick wit keeps things lively."

Shelby Yates
"Outside of school, Shelby's a busy bee. Whether she's hitting the court for volleyball or basketball, or showing off her musical skills in the band, she puts her heart into everything she does," she said. "And it's not just sports and music—Shelby's also passionate about her community. From helping out with the horse club and 4-H to volunteering at events like the June Dairy Breakfast, she's always looking for ways to give back."

"Shelby is a shining example of what it means to be a caring and dedicated individual, and without a doubt meets all of the characteristics and qualities that embody being a Youth Optimist," Ms. Bloch said. "Her positive attitude and hard work make her stand out, and there's no doubt she's going places. As she continues on her journey, Shelby's bound to achieve great things and leave a lasting impact wherever she goes." Shelby is the daughter of Melissa and Jim Yates of Merrill.

Katelyn Schult, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), is the March Youth Optimist of the Month. "I have had the pleasure of knowing Katelyn over the past four years through her involvement in band, Marching Jays, and Tri-M Music Honor Society," Ms. Elli Wilk said in her nomination of Katelyn. "She is a genuinely kind, caring, and hard-working person. As a section leader in band, her optimism and willingness to help others make her a great role model to those around her. She goes above and beyond, giving her time to help fellow band members succeed. In rehearsals, Katelyn is focused; I can always count on her to bring her best efforts forward."

"Katelyn's innate ability to see the good in the world is something else that sets her apart," she said. "Katelyn approaches each situation she encounters with a 'glass half-full' mentality, inspiring enthusiasm and excellence to all whose lives she touches."

Throughout high school, Katelyn has participated in District Solo/Ensemble Festival, State Solo/Ensemble Festival, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Pep Band (award, letter, pins, Outstanding Woodwind Musician Award), State Honors Band audition, Marching Jays (section leader), Art Club, Northwoods Marching Band (section leader), and National Honor Society.

In the community, Katelyn is active in Hamburg Hawks 4-H Club (secretary, treasurer, roll call person), her church (youth group, leaf raking, softball, vacation Bible school assistant, offerings counter, A/V booth operator, instrumentalist), Lincoln County and Spirit Hill Ogema 4-H Fairs (concession stand worker, Best of Show, Honorable Mentions, 1st Place Ribbons, clean and setup, horse arena maintenance), Spirit Historical Society (flowerbed project, barn dance setup and cleanup, set rocks for retaining wall), Maple Grove School, and Hamburg Municipal Center (plant, weed and water flowerbeds, roadside cleanup).
The daughter of Scott and Colleen Schult, Katelyn plans to attend a four-year University to study graphic design and/or photography.



Katelyn Schult

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!

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Partisan Primary – August 13, 2024
And
General Election – November 5, 2024

Election of Presidential Electors

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election to be held in the several cities, villages, towns, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, on November 5, 2024, ten electors for President and Vice President of the United States, one for each congressional district and two for the state at-large, are to be elected. The names of presidential electors do not appear on the ballot, but each vote cast for a presidential candidate is a vote for the electors of the candidate. Independent candidates for President or Vice President may circulate nomination papers beginning July 1, 2024, and must file nomination papers with the Wisconsin Elections Commission no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 6, 2024. The Wisconsin Elections Commission is located at 201 W Washington Avenue, 2nd Floor, Madison, Wisconsin.

Partisan Primary and General Election

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a primary election will be held in the towns, villages, cities, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, and an election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The following officers are to be nominated and elected:

Congressional Officers

One United States Senator, for the term of 6 years, to succeed the present incumbent listed, whose term of office will expire on January 3, 2025:

Tammy Baldwin

Representatives in Congress, for the term of 2 years, to succeed the present incumbents listed, whose terms of office will expire on January 3, 2025:

7th Congressional District Tom Tiffany

Legislative Officers

Sixteen State Senators, for a term of 4 years, to succeed the present incumbents listed, whose term will expire on January 6, 2025:

Redistricting Disclaimer: On February 20, 2024, 2023 Wisconsin Act 94 was signed into law. The Act described the boundaries of new senate and assembly districts which will go into effect in November 2024. The districts and incumbents listed in this notice consist of those that are currently in place, not those that will be in place pursuant to the new redistricting law. This change does not affect Lincoln County.

District 12 Mary Felzkowski

Ninety-nine Representatives to the Assembly, for a term of 2 years, to succeed the present incumbents listed, whose term will expire on January 6, 2025:

Redistricting Disclaimer: On February 20, 2024, 2023 Wisconsin Act 94 was signed into law. The Act described the boundaries of new senate and assembly districts which will go into effect in November 2024. The districts and incumbents listed in this notice consist of those that are currently in place, not those that will be in place pursuant to the new redistricting law. This change does not affect Lincoln County.

District 35 Calvin Callahan

District Attorneys

Seventy-one District Attorneys, for the term of four years, to succeed the present incumbents listed, whose terms of office will expire on January 6, 2025

Lincoln County Kristopher Ellis

County Officers

County Officers for each county, for a term of 4 years, to succeed the present incumbents in the office of County Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, and Surveyor, whose terms of office will expire on January 6, 2025:

County Clerk Chris Marlowe
County Treasurer Robbin Gigl
Register of Deeds Sarah L Koss

For Candidates

The first day to circulate nomination papers is April 15, 2024, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2024. Candidates for constitutional, congressional, and legislative officers file with the Wisconsin Elections Commission. All county partisan office candidates file with their respective county clerk. Congressional and legislative district boundaries are described in Chapters 3 and 4 of the Wisconsin Statutes by 2023 Wisconsin Act 94, which is available at: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/acts/94>.

The state legislative maps will be updated for the fall elections. The new maps can be viewed by clicking the "Download Data" option for the 2023 Wisconsin Act 94 legislative districts at: <https://gis-ltsb.hub.arcgis.com/pages/district-maps>. Additional information regarding which legislators represent which districts is available at: <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/?version=2022>.

Additional Information

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

DONE in the City of Madison on March 18, 2024

Meagan Wolfe, Administrator
Wisconsin Elections Commission
201 West Washington Avenue, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 7984
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7984
608-261-2028

365595

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2 miles South of Curtiss on Hwy. E 715-223-4797

We accept: SNAP/EBT Cards

Bacon Hardwood Smoked - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY \$1.99	Pizza Supreme - Frozen 26 oz. ONLY \$3.89	Pretzel Crisps Cheddar 14 oz. ONLY \$1.29
Cotto Salami Sliced - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY \$1.29	Turkey Breast Fillets Uncooked - Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY \$1.99 a lb	Ranch Dressing Original 24 oz. ONLY \$3.99

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

Bologna Thick Cut - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY 89¢	Muenster Cheese 6 lbs. ONLY \$2.29 a lb	Miracle Whip 30 oz. ONLY \$2.49
Cheese Sliders Classic 16 ct - Frozen 29 oz. ONLY \$4.99	Butter Salted - Whipped 8 oz. ONLY \$1.39	Saltine Crackers 16 oz. ONLY 69¢
Black Forest Ham Uncured - Ends-Pieces Frozen 9 lbs. 89¢ a lb	Cheddar Cheese 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.89 a lb	Chocolate Syrup 2-48 oz. ONLY \$4.99
Hashbrowns Mini Rounds - Frozen 6 lbs. ONLY \$5.99	Shredded Cheese Salsa-Jack 5 lbs. ONLY \$9.99	Gatorade Zero Sugar - Straw-Kiwi 28 oz. ONLY 89¢
Beef Patties Uncooked - Seasoned Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$3.99	Co-Jack Cheese w/Peppers 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.89 a lb	Chicken Tenders Breaded Uncooked Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.49 a lb
Pork Sausage Links Original Fully Cooked - Frozen 28 oz. ONLY \$2.49	Havarti Cheese 6 lbs. ONLY \$2.29 a lb	Salmon Patties Lemon Garlic Frozen 14 oz. ONLY \$2.29
Pollock Fillets Skinless - Boneless Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY \$19.95	Colby Jack Cheese Horns 6 lbs. ONLY \$2.99 a lb	Meatballs Original - Fully Cooked Frozen 64 oz. ONLY \$8.99
French Fries Waffle Cut - Frozen 22 oz. ONLY \$1.99	Turkey Breast Fully Cooked Mesquite - Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY 99¢ a lb	Stadium Brats Fully Cooked - Frozen 14 oz. ONLY \$1.79
Ham Steak Thick Cut - Frozen 1.5 lbs. ONLY \$1.29 a lb	Ham Spiral Cut Hickory Smoked Frozen 9 lbs. ONLY \$1.29 a lb	Bacon End - Pieces Frozen 3 lbs. ONLY \$3.99

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



Congratulations

on your Lincoln County Board Retirement Greta Rusch

Thank you for your commitment to the community.

18 years serving on the County Board, preceded by 33 years of Health Department employment
Your dedication, Your diligence, Your loyalty, Your presence and representation of your constituents is valued and appreciated.

You have made a difference.

Thank you, Greta for being our voice.

365250

Lincoln Day Dinner held in Merrill

BY RICK ARGALL AND TINA L. SCOTT
MMC STAFF

The second annual Lincoln Day Dinner was held March 23, 2024, at Les and Jim's Lincoln Lanes in Merrill. Sponsored by the Republican Party of Lincoln County (RPLC), the event was designed as a fundraiser and an opportunity for local residents to meet and hear from area representatives in office.

U.S. Representative Tom Tiffany, State Assemblyman Calvin Callahan, State Senator Mary Felzkowski, and Brandon Maly of Turning Point Action headlined the event, which featured a buffet-style dinner and many speakers that addressed concerns regarding local, state, and national issues. The evening kicked off with Presentation of the Colors by Hamburg's MAR-LIN VFW Post 10203 followed by the National Anthem. Jon Weiler (Second Vice Chair RPLC) emceed the event.

"We want people in our county to help local candidates and to raise funds to assist their campaigns. We are getting the word out regarding local issues and we are providing educational resources for our communities," said RPLC Chairman and then Lincoln County Board Candidate Jay Downey in some of the opening comments.

Then Lincoln County Board Chairman Don Friske addressed the group and discussed the role of the Lincoln County Board and how they are addressing the fiscal concerns of the county. "Are we spending money the way that Lincoln County citizens want us to?" Friske asked rhetorically.

During the headliners' presentations, Calvin Callahan, State Representative for the 35th Assembly District of Wisconsin, took the podium and addressed his re-election strategy and goals. He also provided information on bills he has introduced and what his role is in Madison as a legislator.

Callahan also opened up the forum for a question-and-answer session for any comments or concerns attendees wanted to share or questions they wanted answered.

Lincoln County Clerk Chris Marlowe spoke, along with State Senator for the 12th Senate District Mary Felzkowski. The Senator addressed questions from the crowd regarding local issues and how they are being addressed. Specifically, she discussed area snowmobile trails, how the trails cross over too many properties, and how they are going to adapt next year, given the lack of snow this year.

Felzkowski also discussed wolf hunting in Wisconsin and said we are waiting for the wolf to be taken off the protected species list.

"Legislation has been introduced and we will be wolf hunting in Wisconsin soon!" she said.

U.S. Senate candidate

Eric Hovde provided a message via video which was displayed on the big screen, as he was busy with campaign commitments in Southern Wisconsin and unable to attend in person.

Special guest speaker John Leiber, State of Wisconsin Treasurer, also spoke about fiscal and budget issues in Wisconsin.

Brandon Maly of Turning Point USA presented information about the organization, a national non-profit that reaches out to recruit and educate young voters about issues

that will affect their lives, and discussed their activities and action plan to get their message out to younger generations. An on-site booth offered flyers and fielded questions from people who wanted to know more about their organization.

The evening concluded with Keynote Speaker Congressman Tom Tiffany (R-WI 7th District) addressing the crowd and updating all in attendance about issues on a national level, as well as local issues. He provided information



L to R: Jay Downey, Mary Felzkowski, and Calvin Callahan open up the forum to questions from attendees. Rick Argall photos.

regarding current bills in Congress and his voting record and stance on upcoming bills that will

be introduced. "We have huge elections coming up," Tiffany said. "It is very important that everybody

gets out and votes, either by early voting, absentee ballot, or in person."



Calvin Callahan addresses attendees at the Lincoln Day



Midwest Regional Manager Brandon Maly speaks about

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Thursday, April 18, 2024 5:00-6:00 p.m.

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Sunset Hollow Wine and Bistro, located at 811 E 1st Street, held a ribbon cutting on February 29th to commemorate opening of their new wine, bistro and gifts business. They have featured drinks and specials as well as a regular menu. All organically made. Visit their website to get an updated schedule of events and hours. www.sunsethollowranch.com

Plant Garden Center expanded their selection in their new retail shop which we recently visited to hold a ribbon cutting to celebrate. If you're looking for a unique gift, a solution for a plant pest, or some quiet serenity, look no further. Save the date for their opening day, April 19th. Visit their website for more information. www.plantgardencenter.com


ODC held a Grand Opening to celebrate their **NEW ODC location in Merrill!** They are located at 300 E 2nd Street. The ODC's mission is to empower people with disabilities to achieve their work and life goals. ODC offers customized services for individuals with disabilities from early years through adulthood. www.odcinc.com

If you'd like to schedule a ribbon cutting for your new business, remodel, expansion, or have questions give us a call or stop in.

YA STUDENT STARS

These students were chosen because of their exemplary performance at their place of employment. CONGRATULATIONS!

MADelyn MOOTZ




St John's Lutheran Christian Care

"Youth Apprenticeship has helped me achieve my goal and dream of working with children and being able to work as much as I do since I receive time off of school to go to work. I love learning more about my job and being with the children. I will continue working at the daycare after high school." Madelyn Mootz

"Madelyn is a very hard worker. She is flexible, reliable, eager to learn and willing to go the extra mile to be here for our children at the daycare. She works well with all her co-workers and helps whenever she is needed." Patti Beilke, St. John's Lutheran Christian Care

SAWYER PETERSON




Peterson Brothers Sand and Gravel

"I would recommend YA to other students. It's a great way to learn important skills in the trade you want to pursue and to make money while in high school. My plans after I graduate is to operate heavy equipment for Peterson Brothers Sand and Gravel. This experience changed my plans from wanting to work in a diesel shop to operating heavy equipment." Sawyer Peterson

"Sawyer is a very hardworking and driven employee. He is eager to learn as much as possible and communicates very well with customers and fellow employees. He completes tasks on time and pays attention to details. We are very proud to have Sawyer as part of our team." Brandon Peterson, Peterson Brothers Sand and Gravel

ALLISON HUNTER



Geiss Meat Services

"YA has taught me that if I put my mind to something, I am more than capable of accomplishing it. I really enjoyed how much my mentor has taught me and the level of work ethic I have developed because of it. I would definitely recommend YA to other students. I will be attending UWSP for finance next year." Allison Hunter

"Allison is a very determined young woman. Once she sets her mind to something she does it to her fullest capabilities. She is never afraid to learn something new even if it seems scary at first. She has a beautiful soul and I'm glad I have had the opportunity to see her grow." Kasie Dallman, Geiss Meat Service

MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP This message was provided through The Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship Grant.

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MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

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- Apr. 13 - Merrill Eagles Club Craft Show
- Apr. 17 - Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Co.
- Apr. 13 - Little Lakes Memories Banquet
- Apr. 14 - Merrill Eagles Auxillary 584 10th Annual Spring Raffle
- Apr. 19 - Merrill Concertina Festival
- Apr. 13 - Les & Jim's Craft & Vendor Sales
- Apr. 14 - BINGO at VFW
- Apr. 20 - Merrill Concertina Festival

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On resilience

BY KRIS LEONHARDT
MMC SENIOR EDITOR

DEAR READERS,

Resilience - the capacity of a person or entity to maintain their core purpose and integrity in the face of dramatically changing circumstances.

That word came to mind as I sat in the parking lot outside the Press Times office in Green Bay.

As the late afternoon sun hit the words — Press Times — it cast a light orange glow on the sign.

As I soaked in the moment, I thought over the events of the past month.

With the election drawing near, the atmosphere has become somewhat volatile.

I thought of the numerous editors in our publishing company and some of the things they have had to endure over the past few weeks.

The calls I get from them tell me that it is the same all over.

Our editors — though they represent every generation of the workforce, they have one thing in common — resilience.

I am proud to be a part of this group of kind, sincere and dedicated group of editors that connect and inform our communities.

Though each one of them abides by publishing company policy, they are often subject to those who wish to use them as pawns in their own agenda.

But, our editors are dedicated and resilient and those roots run deep in this company.

If you are not familiar with the “David and Goliath” story behind Multi Media Channels’ legacy, you might want to check out The Chain Gang by Richard McCord.

The Press Times is a testament to resilience — that of the Frank Wood family.



The family’s dedication to local journalism is evident in its publishing footprint and the Pass It Forward internship program that is further supported by the Packers Give Back and Nicolet National Bank.

We were able to shine a light on the program this month

at the Wisconsin Newspaper Association convention held in Madison, where our publications took home 47 awards.

I want to thank all of our editors for their commitment to local journalism and congratulate those who took home awards.

Your dedication blows me away.

NOTE: This editorial was written prior to the April election but we did not have space to run it before the election.

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It's Hard To Stop A Trane?

PRIMARY from page 3

577,328 voters who cast their ballots for a Democratic Party candidate, 88.6% voted for Joe Biden, 3.1% voted for Dean Phillips, and 8.3% cast their vote for Uninstructed Delegation.

Statewide, of the 600,183 voters who cast their ballots for a Republican Party candidate, 79.2% voted for Donald Trump, 1.6% voted for Chris Christie, 3.3% voted for Ron DeSantis, 12.8% voted for Nikki Haley, and 2.2% cast their ballot for Uninstructed Delegation.

Looking at the raw numbers between the top two candidates, 511,444 voters cast their ballot for Joe Biden and 475,576 cast their ballot for Donald Trump.

COUNTY BOARD from page 2

Board for another two-year term.

In Lincoln County District 21: Eugene Simon (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 265 votes.

In Lincoln County District 22: Greg Hartwig (incumbent) (uncontested) was re-elected with 324 votes.

The Lincoln County Board of Canvass meets on Monday, April 8, to confirm the election results, but as it stands, new faces joining the 2024-2026 Lincoln County Board for the 2024-2026 term include Derek Woellner, Andrew Zelinski, Donald Dunphy, Christine Vorpapel, Alan Bishop, Marguerite Lyskawa (photo not available), and Joseph Dorava.

NOTE: This article written April 3.

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Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202

Ashwaubenon Village Wide Rummage Sale: Friday, 4/26-Saturday, 4/27, 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. 145+ rummage sales taking place Village Wide. Please stop by the Ashwaubenon Community Center or Village Hall the week of the sales to pick up a map of all the sales. The map can also be downloaded online that week at ashwaubenon.gov. This event is held rain, shine or snow. 900 Anderson Dr, Green Bay WI 54304

LARGE PRE-OWNED SALE
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Estate Sales 7208

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No Early Sales

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GUN SHOW APRIL 19, 20 & 21. SAUK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, BARABOO, WI Fri. 3pm-9pm, Sat. 9am-5pm. Sun 9am-3pm. For more info: **563-608-4401** or **marvkrauspromotions.net** (wcan)

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Baldwin stops in Merrill on "Dairyland Tour"

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On March 25, 2024, Tammy Baldwin, incumbent Class 1 (junior) U.S. Senator from the state of Wisconsin, began a five-day campaign tour she dubbed the "Dairyland Tour," targeting many areas that have historically leaned more Republican. Baldwin, who is a Democrat, was first elected to the U.S. Senate in Nov. 2012 and made history as the first openly gay member elected to the U.S. Senate and Wisconsin's first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate.

Incumbent Baldwin is running for re-election this fall and currently the only candidate running on the Democratic ticket. She is slated to be on the ballot in the Aug. 13, 2024, Primary Election but is thus far running unopposed within the party. The filing deadline to run for the position is June 3, 2024, so there is still a possibility another candidate may step forward by that date, and in that case, such a candidate would appear on the Aug. primary ballot to run against Baldwin to choose the Democratic candidate on the ballot in the Nov. 6, 2024, election to fill her seat on the U.S. Senate.

The other candidates who will run as opponents on that Nov. 6, 2024, ballot will remain up in the air until the results of the Aug. 13 Primary Election are in. As of this writing, thus far there are seven candidates who will be on the Aug. 13 Primary ballot competing to be the Republican candidate on the Nov. 6 ballot. While more candidates also have until June 3 to file, currently the following individuals in the running to win in the Republican primary with the ultimate goal of competing for the U.S. Senate position are: Kyle Corrigan, Matthew Harvey, Dan Helm, Eric Hovde, Stacey Klein, Rejani Raveendran, and Patrick Schaefer-Wicke.

There are also three additional candidates currently slated to run against the winners of both the Democratic and Republican August Primary winners on the Nov. 6, ballot: Scott Aubart is running as the American Independent Party candidate, Phillip Anderson as the Libertarian candidate, and Joshua Harrington with no party affiliation. Again, more candidates could announce right up to the June 3, 2024, filing deadline.

For her part, Baldwin wanted to get out in advance of June to start campaigning and made a five-day sweep of communities throughout 19 Wisconsin counties, including Lincoln County, from March 25-29. The other counties visited include Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Oneida, Wood, Marathon, Waupaca, Outagamie, Winnebago, Dodge, Jefferson, Green, Richland, Vernon, La Crosse, Juneau,



Baldwin speaks to a group of attendees at a meet-and-greet at the Sawmill Brewing Company on March 26.

Photos courtesy of Baldwin campaign.

Sauk, and Columbia counties. She started in Superior and traveled 1,400 miles start to finish, her campaign officials said.

On day two of her campaign tour, March 26, Baldwin made two pitstops in Merrill, touring Weinbrenner Shoe Company mid-afternoon, followed by a meet-and-greet at the Sawmill Brewing Company afterward.

"On my statewide, five-day Dairyland Tour, I met with Wisconsinites from red, blue, and purple, rural, urban, and suburban communities all over the state to listen to them and hear about the most pressing issues they're facing," Baldwin said in a statement following her trip. "I'm taking everything I heard right back to Washington to find solutions for our families and keep moving America's Dairyland forward."

If re-elected in November, the Madison (Dane County) native would begin her third term as U.S. Senator in 2025. (U.S. Senators serve six-year terms, and elections are staggered so both Senators from a state are not being replaced in the same year/election.) Wisconsin's other current U.S. Senator is Republican Ron Johnson, who was re-elected for his third term back in 2022. His term ends Jan. 3, 2029.



Baldwin toured Weinbrenner Shoe Company in Merrill on her March 26 campaign stop.

More photos online
merrillfotonews.com



MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is

Jillian Severt
Daughter of
Karli & Jesse Severt

Jillian is in 7th grade at Trinity Lutheran School. She was nominated by Mr. Johnson.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
My favorite subject is English because it comes easy to me and I just like everything we do in class.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
Recess and lunch. I like lunch because we get to talk with our friends and there is good food.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
Teacher - I like little kids.
Marine Biologist - I like marine biology because I like the beach and learning about the animals and coral and stuff.

Jillian gives unselfishly to help others out. She consistently steps in to help with extra patrols, car line help, or anything that is asked of her. She is a humble, kind, and caring person and she is a good friend who listens when someone has a problem.
~ Mr. Johnson

Student of the Week Sponsored by:

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

Area students named to Dean's List at UW-Milwaukee

The following individuals from our area have been named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for the Fall 2023 semester. UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with more than 22,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

- Dana Felzkowski, Athens, Letters & Science Undergraduate
- Aiden Janke, Athens, Business Undergraduate
- Abraham Miller, Athens, Architecture Undergraduate
- Daniel Zorowski, Athens, Biomed Sci & HCA Undergraduate

- Fletcher Ellenbecker, Merrill, Eng & Comp Sci Undergraduate
- Benjamin Freyer, Merrill, School of the Arts-Undergraduate
- Danielle Korman, Merrill, Social Welfare Undergraduate
- Madison Malm, Merrill, Letters & Science Undergraduate
- Adam Polak, Merrill, Eng & Comp Sci Undergraduate
- Daniel Ricci, Merrill, Letters & Science Undergraduate
- Haven Wakefield, Merrill, Social Welfare Undergraduate

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LaMonica graduates from The College of St. Scholastica

Chelsey LaMonica of Merrill graduated from The College of St.

Stephan graduates from NTC

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) announced Gianna Stephan of Merrill was awarded a diploma during the fall 2023 term.

Pet of the Week

Meet **Koda**! Won't someone come and give this sweet boy a great home! He is going to need a home that is ready for some of that husky energy. **Koda** is such a character and loves to get attention and to play with his toys! He is good with other dogs his size but will need a cat free home. He loves to go for walks and to do some husky talking when he's excited!

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2024 FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

GIRLS SOFTBALL



HEAD COACH: Alison Krohn, third year as Head Coach, fourth year total

ASSISTANT COACHES: Ben Natzke (12th year), Trey Seubert (3rd year), Ty Belfiori (2nd year), and Miranda Spangberg (2nd year)

2023 RECORD: 8-12

2023 POST SEASON RESULTS: Beat Antigo 8-2, lost to Medford 3-8 in the Regional Final Game

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Sophie Wendorf: Honorable Mention

KEY RETURNERS: Sophie Wendorf, Katie Heckendorf, Lexi Ollhoff, Mia Ott, Caina Orzech, Dani Schielke, Kayli Wirtala, Ava Detert, Olivia Pierce, and Mady Graap

KEY LOSSES: Addy Schmeltzer, Erica Arneson, Maddie Drew, and Macey Weix

KEY NEWCOMERS: Mackenzie Herdt and Alayna Wyland

2023 RECAP: Some of the most memorable games for us last year were being able to defeat DC Everest when they were otherwise undefeated

in Conference play. We also were able to pull out two wins against Antigo last year, one of them in Regionals which was really fun for us. Addy pitched almost every game for us last year with some exceptions, so there is a big role to fill in that position. One of the most unique experiences of last season was warming up on a completely snow-covered field, and then raking near the foul lines so we could see what was fair or foul!

2024 OUTLOOK: We are very excited for our upcoming softball season. Although

we got fooled a little bit by the weather, when we do get the opportunity to be outside, we will use every second we have to improve. We have a lot of potential, and the most exciting thing is to see the girls improve and grow in new experiences throughout the season. We are in a tough Conference, but we expect to compete and be a major player as we have been in the past.

See **SOFTBALL** page 15

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Isaak Clapper, a Senior at Merrill High School, has been named Athlete of the Week. Isaak has been playing on the Merrill Varsity Baseball Team for the last four years and plays multiple positions, mainly third base, and also pitches. He started playing t-ball at about age three, then joined Little League and the Traveling Team until high school. He also plays on the Merrill High School Football Team; he started playing on JV as a Freshman and moved up to Varsity as a Sophomore.

At school, Isaak was on the Link crew last year, and his favorite class is Bluejay Design and Manufacturing. He has been in the Co-op program for the last two years and works at B & M Solutions, a carpentry business in town, doing carpentry work.

In his free time, Isaak likes to hang out with his friends, fish, and work on his truck - a 1998 Chevy Silverado (he just rebuilt the suspension).

The son of Beth Clapper of Merrill, Isaak has a 3.2 GPA. After high school, he plans on getting an apprenticeship for plumbing through NTC and to pursue a career in plumbing.

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Isaak Clapper

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HEAD COACH: Shawn Schultz, ninth year
ASSISTANT COACHES: Garrett Stine 5th year, Rob Klug 18th year, Troy Pieper 5th year, and Gavin Wroblewski, 1st year

2023 RECORD: 7-16

2023 POST SEASON RESULTS: Beat Lakeland in first Regional game 10-3, lost to Mosinee in Regional Semi-final 13 - 3

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Sam Reimann, First Team (unanimous) IF and Brady Kanitz HM P

KEY RETURNERS: Sam Reimann, Brady Kanitz, Isaak Clapper, Carter Baade, Dawson Schulz, and EJ Weix

KEY LOSSES: Nate Brzoznowski OF, Tyson Glisch P/IF, Bradyn Pieper 2B, and Connor Cortright C

KEY NEWCOMERS: Nick Palecek OF, Kaiden Henrich C, Brady Norton - everywhere, Carter Kaminski P, Ben Thom IF/C, Cooper Wendorf IF, Rylan Zimmerman - OF/1B, Noah Klug C/IF, and Mason Bloch 1B/OF

2023 RECAP: We played

lots of good baseball last year - lots of close games. While we came out on the wrong end more often than we would have liked, we did a great job battling and were in almost every game we played. We won some tight games with some timely hits; the Wisconsin Rapids and Eau Claire Memorial games were great team wins. It was a tough season recordwise but we had a great group of guys that worked to get better as the year went on. We finished against a really good Mosinee team. They were the better team that day but it certainly gives these guys some fuel to get better as we work through this season.

2024 OUTLOOK: We have a great group this year. We have had two good weeks of practice heading into game #1. We have six guys coming back that have a ton of experience. The upperclassmen have done a great job of setting the tone for the younger guys in practice. We know what we need to improve on, and they have been working hard to get better every day! We know that



BOYS BASEBALL

it takes a full team to be successful. While we have a strong core of players with experience, it is going to take 15 - 18 guys by the time the season is over. We have some younger guys who are ready to step up for us this spring.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: We are looking forward to a great season. We play in a great baseball Conference with some really good pitchers coming back for their

Senior seasons, so we know we have to be ready every time we take the field. We are also playing a tough nonconference schedule, so by the time we get to the postseason, we should be ready for everyone's best. We are all looking forward to a successful season and hope to see all of our great parents and fans at the park and on the road.

TEAM ROSTER: Senior Carter Baade, Sophomore

Noah Klug, Sophomore Cameron Wallin, Sophomore Quinton Kurtzahls, Junior EJ Weix, Senior Brady Kanitz, Senior Isaak Clapper, Sophomore Mason Bloch, Senior Nicholas Palecek, Sophomore Cooper Wendorf, Junior Carter Kaminski, Junior Brady Norton, Junior Kaiden Henrich, Senior Dawson Schulz, Sophomore Brett Suchocki, Senior Sam Reimann, and Junior Ben Thom.

Athletes and Coaches, have a fun, safe and healthy fall sports season!

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Season openers for Merrill Varsity Baseball: 1-1

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Varsity Baseball Team kicked off their season with a game against the Pewaukee Pirates on Saturday, March 30, 2024, and lost by a single point. "We opened play last weekend down in Franklin against a strong Pewaukee team," said Shawn Schultz, Merrill Varsity Head Baseball Coach. "It was the earliest we have played a game - March 30 - that I can remember."

"It was a solid game by both teams," he said. "We started Dawson Schulz on the mound, and he pitched through two scoreless innings, working through a bases-loaded first inning without a run."

"Brady Kanitz pitched the next two, giving up three runs in the fourth inning to give Pewaukee the lead. Brady did a good job of pitching his way through trouble in the fourth, giving way to Isaak Clapper in the fifth."

"Pewaukee added another

run in the fifth but we came back in a big way in the top of the sixth," Schultz said. "Isaac got things going with a walk after a ground out by Norton to start the inning. Sam Reimann hit the next pitch to center field to move Clapper to third. A wild pitch scored Clapper and moved Sam to second. EJ Weix battled to a two-strike single to drive in Reimann. Consecutive singles by Kaiden Henrich and Cooper Wendorf brought the score to 4-3."

"Carter Kaminski pitched a scoreless sixth to give us a shot in the top of the seventh," he said. "We had a chance with a Carter Baade leadoff walk but came up short, stranding him at third to end the game." Final score: Merrill 3-Pewaukee 4.

"Other than the final, it was a great first game," Schultz said. "Our pitchers threw strikes and gave our fielders chances to make plays which we did."

Box Score:
Merrill 3 @ Pewaukee 4

The team had their second game scheduled for Thursday, April 4. "Thursday's game with Abbotsford was postponed due to the snow, and Friday's game with Ashland was moved to Saturday," Coach Schultz said.

On Saturday, April 6, the Merrill Bluejays were at Merrill's Athletic Park for a shut-out home game against the Ashland Oredockers. Merrill took the win, keeping the Oredockers scoreless the entire game.

"We started Brady Kanitz on the mound, and he did a great job of three scoreless to get us going and give us a chance to get our bats going against a pretty solid starter from Ashland," Schultz said.

"He also drove in our first run in the bottom of the third inning to give us the lead, scoring Clapper from second after reaching on a walk."

"Dawson Schulz came on in the fourth and worked

through the Ashland lineup real well," he said. "Dawson threw four scoreless innings and our offense kept adding on with four in the fifth and two in the sixth to bring us to 7-0."

"In the fourth, Nick Palecek got on base with a hit by pitch (HBP), followed by runs batted in (RBI) doubles by Baade and Reimann, an RBI single by Clapper, and an RBI groundout by Kanitz."

"In the sixth, we used a couple of walks and an error to load the bases," Schultz said. "Baade and Brady Norton used sac flies to drive in the last two runs."

"We played real well again on Saturday," he said. "Consistent pitching and some good defense and timely hitting. You can't ask for more than that. A good way to begin the year at home."

Box Score:
Ashland 0 @ Merrill 7

SOFTBALL from page 13

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: I am excited to start year three as Varsity Head Coach, and I wouldn't be able to do what I am doing without the support of so many in the community. Merrill's commitment to youth sports has always been so important to the growth of our athletes. Thank you to all who have contributed to this. We also are planning our youth night and a fundraiser for Todd Josiger on April 29 at the MARC. We hope to see a large crowd

supporting us against Wisconsin Rapids that day!

VARSITY ROSTER:
Junior Mady Graap, Senior Lexi Ollhoff, Senior Sophie Wendorf, Senior Kayli Wirtala, Junior Dani Schielke, Freshman Mackenzie Herdt, Junior Olivia Pierce, Junior Katie Heckendorf, Senior Sophie Simon, Junior Ava Detert, Senior Mia Ott, Senior Caina Orzech, and Senior Alayna Wyland.



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2024 Merrill High School Spring Sports Schedule

Boys Track (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. April 11	WVC Meet-UWSP (JV)	Away	3:45 pm
Tues. April 16	Wausau West (Varsity)	Away	4:00 pm
Girls Track (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. April 11	Marshfield-Invite (JV)	Away	4:30 pm
Tues. April 16	Wausau West (Varsity)	Away	4:00 pm
Boys Baseball (Varsity, JV & JV2)			
Thurs. April 11	Marshfield (JV2)	Home	4:30 pm
Thurs. April 11	Marshfield (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Fri. April 12	Northland Pines (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Mon. April 15	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV2)	Home	4:30 pm
Mon. April 15	Antigo (Varsity, JV, & JV2)	Away	5:00 pm
Tues. April 16	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. April 18	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV2)	Away	4:30 pm
Thurs. April 18	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Girls Softball (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. April 11	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:30 pm
Fri. April 12	Mauston-Dells (Varsity)	Away	5:00 pm
Sat. April 13	Mauston-Dells (Varsity)	Away	8:00 am
Mon. April 15	Mosinee (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:30 pm
Tues. April 16	Wausau West (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:30 pm
Thurs. April 18	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:30 pm
Girls Soccer (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. April 11	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. April 11	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Tues. April 16	Three Lakes (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Thurs. April 18	Stevens Point (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. April 18	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



HEAD COACH: Alec Oestreich, third year as Head Coach

ASSISTANT COACHES: Bethany Martinovici, Melissa Yates, Dani Schmidt, Jason Wadzinski, Heath Seefeld, and Devan Arntson

2023 POST SEASON RESULTS: We had 12 boys and 19 girls compete at Regionals. One boy and nine girls competed at Sectionals, with Madi Crossman making it to the State meet in the 200m dash.

KEY LOSSES: Madi Crossman, a three-time state Qualifier

2024 OUTLOOK: We have a really solid squad of both boys and girls. We are seeing more underclassmen step up and fill in gaps from last year's Seniors that have left. We're looking to build the confidence in these young athletes, because we have some natural talent. A key this year is focus on improving these young athletes each and every day, and finetuning their skills and techniques to make them the best competitor they can be.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: We have an amazing group of 60 athletes this year across the boys and girls team. We have some strong veteran returners, along with a great group of young athletes that are hungry for competition. As we embark on another exciting season, I want to express my gratitude for the dedication and commitment that our 60 exceptional athletes bring. We have a blend of seasoned veterans and ambitious newcomers, all eager to push their limits and represent our school with pride.

Our annual Otto Bacher Invitational meet at Jay Stadium is on May 3, 2024. We'd love to see many friends, family, and community members there to help support these athletes. This event is not just about showcasing our talents; it's about the collective spirit of our team and the support of our community. I urge all friends, family, and community members to help support us in cheering on our athletes as they chase their dreams and strive for greatness.

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