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One dance performance, performed to the song, *It's All Coming Back to me Now*, was a tribute to Chad Glaze, who died on Dec. 31, 2023, in a UTV accident and is the father of dancer, Katy Glaze. His presence was represented by the boots and cowboy hat placed at the front of the stage for the song.  
**Tina L. Scott photo.**

## Brooke's School of Dance celebrates five years with a dance party

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
 EDITOR

Brooke's School of Dance held their annual dance production last weekend, May 4 and 5, 2024, at the Merrill High School Auditorium.

Titled "Let's Go Party!" this year's presentation included 39 group performances featuring combinations of tap, jazz, hip hop, ballet, and lyrical dance styles, performed to songs like *Barbie Girl*, *Girls Just Wanna Have Fun*, *Life of*

*the Party*, *Shake the Room*, *Scream and Shout*, and *Never Grow Up*, plus a well-rounded dancer showcase featuring dancers who take classes in all five styles of dance performed to

See **BROOKE** page 2



L to R: Monk, Lange, and Sundquist.  
 Photo courtesy of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

## Three Lincoln County Sheriff's Office employees receive "Team Award" at state convention

Sgt. Investigator Lange, deputies Monk, Sundquist recognized for lifesaving efforts

in a tree accident. Lange, Monk, and Sundquist responded to the scene, and upon arrival, Lange found the man to be stuck in the "V" of a tree about 12 feet up, with a severe laceration to his arm.

WISCONSIN DELLS Three members of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office were recently honored for their efforts in saving the life of an injured individual.

When Sundquist arrived on the scene, he and a first responder got into the bucket of a tractor to rescue the victim. When the man was removed from the tree, the pressure that was preventing blood loss was relieved, and Sundquist was exposed to a "significant amount of blood as the wound flowed freely," exposing Sundquist to "potential bloodborne pathogens," the Sheriff's Office said.

On Saturday, April 25, 2024, Sgt. Investigator Lange, Deputy Monk, and Deputy Sundquist attended the annual Wisconsin Professional Police Association Convention in Wisconsin Dells.

Once on the ground, Lange recognized the need for a tourniquet to be placed immediately, doing so with Sundquist's assistance.

According to the post, on that day, a 911 call was placed for an adult male victim critically injured

The Sheriff's Office said the application of the tourniquet stopped

See **LINCOLN** page 3

## YA Student Stars honored

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
 EDITOR

The Merrill High School Youth

Apprenticeship Program celebrated their Student Stars at a banquet with their friends, families, mentors, and employers



Front row, L to R: Nora Trojanowski, Gretchen Such, Allison Hunter, Madelyn Mootz, Anna Westfall, and McKenna Meyer. Back row, L to R: Phillip Vogel, Christian Gilbert, Sawyer Peterson, Matthew Steffen, and Kaiden Ratzlaff. Missing from photo: Jacob Graap.  
 Photo courtesy of Merrill High School.

on May 1, 2024, at the Merrill Eagle's Club. Awards were given for excellence in developing career readiness skills at their worksite. Of the 88 students participating in YA in the 2023-24 academic year, 12 students were presented with this year's Stars award.

- Kaiden Ratzlaff, MAPS IT Department
- Matthew Steffen, Breaman Merrill Ford
- Phillip Vogel, Nieman Brands, Fromm Family Foods
- Nora Trojanowski, Pine Crest Nursing Home
- Gretchen Such, St. Francis Xavier Child Care
- McKenna Meyer, Incredible Bank
- Jacob Graap, Russ Davis Wholesale

Recipients of this year's awards and their respective employer/worksplace are:

- Christian Gilbert, Brickner's Park City
- Anna Westfall, Park

See **YOUTH** page 3

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# Rumors and wolves and pigs ... Oh my!

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

## How do rumors get started?

Oftentimes, a rumor is based on something that actually occurred and may have a nugget of truth as its basis, but somehow the information gets vastly distorted over time and as it is spread. Similar to the old game of telephone where kids sit in a circle and the first whispers something into the ear of the person sitting next to them and they then whisper it into the next person's ear and so on, all the way around the circle, the message that gets back to the first person often becomes distorted by the time it arrives.

The more detailed or complex the story, and the more times the information is shared (i.e., the more kids in the circle), the greater the chance that the story will be entirely different by the time it comes "full circle."

Sometimes a rumor begins when an event is misinterpreted, either innocently or more maliciously. Assumptions are made or people speculate out loud. Instead of asking or waiting for all the facts, they share their thoughts, ideas, or speculation, and others interpret that information as fact, when it hasn't been verified and often couldn't be further from the truth.

Someone sees a co-worker in a bar with a woman they don't recognize and speculates the co-worker is stepping out on his wife, when actually the woman was the guy's sister who was home from college and just wanted to have drinks with her brother for old time's sake.

A neighbor's car has the front fender all smashed up and someone speculates that she "had a few too many again and probably hit a guard rail" when, in fact, a deer ran into the side of her car as she was coming home from work.

People in the city lose power and a road is barricaded off and someone on Facebook reports a car hit an electric pole when, in fact, a transformer blew and there was no accident or car involved at all.

Occasionally, rumors are straight-up lies, fabricated by someone to make someone else look bad. They can be malicious and harmful, intent on deliberately damaging another person's reputation, and that is their intent. Political ads quickly come to mind.

But at other times, rumors seem to originate out of thin air without any evidence to substantiate them. Who fabricated them, and when and where and why are a

complete mystery.

## Wolf shooting rumor

Such is the case with recent rumors in the community that very recently a wolf (or more than one) was shot and killed west of Merrill. I've now heard multiple versions of this story - from a farmer killing a wolf that attacked his pigs - to a man shooting a wolf when a pack surrounded his dog or dogs and perhaps a dog was even killed by wolves. I've heard rumors about the DNR responding and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office responding and various versions of how that went down.

But here's the thing ... none of that is true.

## Fact checking dispels rumors

I contacted multiple sources to try to verify any of the above information.

Individuals who were supposedly involved in the matter said it wasn't them. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is unaware of any such incident, and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office said they haven't responded to any situations involving wolves this year either.

Curt Butler, Lincoln County's Wisconsin DNR Conservation Warden said he has "heard about the rumor, several versions of it, and some that are quite elaborate," but it simply isn't true.

"I am not aware of any wolf conflicts in Lincoln County this year," Butler said. "I also consulted with local WDNR wildlife staff, who stated they also are not aware of any wolf conflicts in Lincoln County this year. And as a result, I can also say there are no Lincoln County wolf conflict reports or current investigations by myself or the WDNR."

"Based on what I know currently, this appears to be a rumor, and certainly false as to any WDNR involvement," he said.

Tyler Iverson, Chief Deputy Sheriff at the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, also responded. "Looking through our calls for the last couple of months, I only see one that slightly matches what you are describing. This particular call was of a deceased dog located in the road. The caller/animal owner felt that, due to the condition of the animal, that the dog may have been attacked by wolves or



coyotes. The responding deputy's assessment was that the dog was most likely struck by a car and he did not observe any injuries that were consistent with a wild animal attack," Iverson said.

"The DNR did not respond to this call and there is nothing in the call notes suggesting that the caller killed a wolf nor that a dog attacked and killed a wolf," he said. "It appears as if the information you have received is nothing more than a rumor."

To clarify, the Lincoln County wolf killed rumor currently circulating is a modern day fairy tale akin to the children's fairy tale of "The Three Little Pigs," though I've yet to discover any redeeming value or lesson in this modern day version.

## Dispelling rumors

While some rumors are truly difficult to dispel, others can be set to rest fairly quickly and easily by going straight to the subject of the rumors and asking for the facts. As Joe Friday in Dragnet used to say, "All we want are the facts, ma'am."

That's not always possible, or comfortable, to do. In this case, and as a reporter, I can comfortably do that. But in many cases, I don't recommend it. Rather, the best advice I can give is this: Shut it down.

How do you shut down a rumor if you can't either verify or discredit what is being said? It's pretty easy actually: Quit repeating it.

In some circles, that might be rephrased as "quit gossiping."

A pastor I know makes it straightforward and easy to navigate this situation. Before you repeat something, ask yourself a couple of questions. First, "Is it true?"

If it's not or if you don't know (as in, you didn't see it with your own eyes), then don't repeat it.

Second, "Is it helpful?"

Even if it is true, is it truly helpful to the person or people involved to repeat it? If not, don't repeat it.

It's pretty simple really.

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Younger and older dancers danced together in many of the numbers. In this performance, the older dancers incorporate a lift into their routine. Tina L. Scott photo.



The first ever alumni dance brought 85 former dancers and teachers onto the stage to dance together, representing forty years of dance in Merrill. Tina L. Scott photo.

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## BROOKE from page 1

Don't Stop the Party. It truly was a party-like atmosphere and the high energy of the dancers kept the party going throughout the show.

Celebrating five years as Brooke's School of Dance under the ownership of Brooke Burton, this year's show also culminated in the first-ever alumni celebration dance featuring alumni dancers from Brooke's School of Dance and Dorinda's Dance Studio, going back to and including Dorinda Gustke who founded the dance studio (Merrill High School Class of 1984 graduate). More than 80 alumni dancers and teachers performed on stage and included graduates spanning 40 years of dance in Merrill.

"What an amazing and fast year this has been!" Burton said.

Now that the new studio is fully up and running, Burton said she will be offering summer dance lessons, and registration is also open for the 2024-2025 dance season. For more information, call the studio at 715.218.6467. She is also planning an open house in August.

# PJ Childers named new President of Crossbridge Community Bank

**FOR THE MERRILL FOTO NEWS**

Crossbridge Community Bank recently announced that PJ Childers has been named the new President of Crossbridge Community Bank, Crossbridge Mutual Holding Company, and Crossbridge Financial Inc.

Childers' promotion from Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending took effect on Monday, April 15, 2024.

An April 16 release from Crossbridge said Childers' new role will include overseeing operations and strategic planning for the bank alongside Crossbridge CEO Mark Zulliger. Childers will also take a seat on Crossbridge's



Childers

Board of Directors.

The release said Childers is a 19-year veteran of Crossbridge, noting that she has been part of the executive leadership team for the past seven years and has been "integral to the creation and implementation of the bank's 2022 rebrand."

"PJ has always had a clear and distinct vision to propel the bank into our next era," Zulliger said. "She is rooted in the community and is an example of the integrity and service model that drive our organization."

Childers said she is "very excited" for this next step in her banking career.

"Crossbridge Community Bank is more than just an employer," she said. "To be able to work for an organization that puts purpose first has truly been fulfilling."

Childers graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with a bachelor's degree in finance. She also completed the Wisconsin Bankers Association School of Bank Management and in 2019 became a graduate of the

Graduate School of Banking at UW-Madison.

The release noted that Childers is also a longtime board member of the STAR (Support Tomahawk Area Resources) Foundation and the Tomahawk Hockey Association, and she recently completed her term on the Wisconsin Bankers Association (WBA) BOLT (Building Our Leader of Tomorrow) Board.

"(Childers) was fortunate to have traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with banking regulators as part of a WBA advocacy trip," the release said, adding that she has also

See CHILDERS page 9

**YOUTH**

from page 1

- Madelyn Mootz, St. John's Lutheran Christian Care
- Sawyer Peterson, Peterson Brothers Sand and Gravel
- Allison Hunter, Geiss Meat Services

Linda Murray and Steve Hintze, YA Coordinators at MHS, explain the YA Program is "a rigorous one or two-year elective, statewide program for high school Juniors and Seniors that combines academic and technical instruction with mentored, paid, on-the-job learning that makes a real world connection for students."

Youth apprenticeships are available in 13 different program areas, encompassing a wide array of occupations, skills, competencies, and work experience opportunities including:

- Agriculture, food, and natural resources
- Architecture and construction
- Art, audio/visual technology, and communications
- Business

- Education
- Finance
- Health science
- Hospitality, lodging, and tourism
- Information technology
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, technology, engineering, and math
- Transportation, distribution, and logistics

"Youth Apprentices work a minimum of 450 hours at their YA worksite each year of their program and take related high school or college classes to enhance their worksite experiences," Murray and Hintze said. "They earn one credit for each semester they successfully participate in YA, and at the completion of their apprenticeship, they receive a Certificate of Occupational Proficiency from the State of Wisconsin, an accomplishment that is recognized by both employers and colleges alike."

From a student standpoint, participation in the YA Program provides them with a chance to

learn and earn at the same time. On-the-job training and experience enables them to learn from skilled professionals in the workplace, step away from the academic environment and to develop real-world experience in the workforce during part of the school day, explore career areas, and earn a paycheck.

"They become more organized and efficient with their time, increase career awareness and improve future employability, and develop the necessary skills needed for entry-level employment," Murray and Hintze said. Also, in some program areas, they begin working towards a Registered Apprenticeship, they said.

Employers participating in the YA Program realize real benefits, as well. Especially in today's competitive workforce, hiring apprentices enables them to attract and recruit potential employees early and provides them with the opportunity to "shape the quality of their workforce,"

the YA Coordinators said. Students are educated and trained according to each employer's best practices in a live work environment. By developing partnerships with MHS, YA employers also "build great employee loyalty and create positive PR by helping youth with employment and education," Murray and Hintze said.

Students and employers interested in learning more or participating in the YA Program for the 2024-25 school year can contact Murray or Hintze at MHS at 715.536.4594.

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*"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."*

## NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to qualified electors of the MERRILL AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT that due to a resignation, there is a limited-term vacancy on the School Board until the April 2025 election.

An elector desiring to be a candidate for this position must file a **letter of interest and resume' at the MERRILL AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE, 1111 NORTH SALES STREET, MERRILL, WI 54452, PRIOR TO 4:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024.** Two written questions will also be asked to be completed before the interviews to be held on May 22, 2024.

Any qualified elector of this District who has filed a resume' and letter of interest before the deadline, shall be required to submit to a criminal background check. Persons convicted of felonies will not be considered for Board appointments.

The Board of Education will interview and name the individual to fill this position until April 2025.

Published May 2 & 9, 2024

WNAXLP

**LINCOLN**

from page 1

further blood loss, while Monk assisted at the scene by clearing a path and setting up a landing zone to extricate the victim, who had lacerations to the blood vessels and the artery in his arm.

"Due to Lange's quick actions, the patient was able to be stabilized and transported by air to a trauma center," the Sheriff's Office said. "Without proper tourniquet placement, the patient would not have survived."

The Sheriff's Office said the trauma center commented on how well the placement of the tourniquet was, noting there was minimal bleeding present upon arrival.

Along with earning the Team Award, Sheriff Ken Schneider awarded Lange with the Life Saver medal, Monk with a Letter of Recognition, and Deputy Sundquist with the Sheriff Recognition medal.

"The actions of Sgt. Investigator Lange, Deputy Monk, (and) Deputy Sundquist reflect great credit upon themselves, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, and the law enforcement profession," the Sheriff's Office said.

*In Loving Memory Of*  
**Kiedi Larkee**  
*Who passed away*  
**May 10, 2006**

*God looked around His garden,  
He found an empty place.  
He then looked down upon this earth and  
Saw your tired face.*

*He put His arms around you  
And lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful;  
He only takes the best.  
He saw the road was getting rough,  
So He closed your weary eyes and whispered,*

**"Peace Be Thine."**

*It broke our hearts to lose you,  
But you didn't go alone,  
for part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.*

*Sadly missed by*  
**Family & Friends**

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

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# OBITUARIES



**Hazel M. Marnholtz**, one day shy of 92, passed away on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, while under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. She was born on May 1, 1932 to the late Walter and Clara (Bean) Koepke in Merrill. Hazel attended school in Merrill. She met the love of her life, Lyle Julius Marnholtz, and the two exchanged marriage vows on July 7, 1951, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill.

Sadly, Lyle passed away on June 12, 1997. Hazel was a farm girl through and through! She loved living and working on the family dairy farm in the town of Pine River. Hazel also worked some at the A&W stand in Merrill (which she absolutely loved) and for Lincoln Wood for 26 years. She took her family camping many times up by the Hayward area and the Chippewa Flowage. Hazel enjoyed being outdoors, especially watching the cardinals. She was proficient at math and spelling and it showed in her Yahtzee skills! Hazel was a feisty and fun lady that had a very strong work ethic, and was a religious and God-fearing woman. She was a member at Trinity Lutheran Church. Hazel will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Hazel is survived by her children: Larry (Laura) Marnholtz of Merrill, Brian (Elaine) Marnholtz of Merrill and Kelly (Mark) Martello of Tomahawk, 7 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and 11 great great grandchildren. She is further survived by her sister: Marcella Young. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband: Lyle, daughter: Linda (Ronald) Fischer and siblings: Bob, Jim, Don, Elaine and Violet.

The funeral service for Hazel will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. Visitation will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Waid Funeral Home, and again on Monday, May 6, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service, at the church. Burial will take place at St. Paul's Cemetery in the town of Scott immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, family suggests sending monetary donations in Hazel's name to either Trinity Lutheran Church or Trinity Lutheran School, as they were both near and dear to her heart.

Family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services for their care, compassion and support shown to Hazel and the family during her time with them. The explanations on what was happening and their patience were very appreciated.

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



**Bonnie B. Dickelman - Cannon**, 87, formerly of Shawano, passed away Thursday, May 2, 2024, at Benedictine Living Community, Wausau.

Bonnie was born May 21, 1936, in Sheboygan, daughter of George and Amelia (Skrube) Bacon. She married James Wolff and they were blessed with five children. Bonnie lived in Merrill and worked at the former Strand's clothing store and also worked for many years as a cashier at the former Rexall Drug store.

Following James' passing Bonnie moved to Gresham where she married Ray Dickelman. They enjoyed tending to their large, beautiful yard which then became the center of many family gatherings. They started their own business and Bonnie also began a job at the new Shawano Walmart.

Following Ray's passing she decided to move to Shawano where she continued to work at Walmart for over twenty years. While living in Shawano, Bonnie rekindled an old friendship and later married Edward Cannon. During their time together, they enjoyed their retirement and spending time with family.

Bonnie was a member of Peace United Church of Christ in Shawano and volunteered at the Shawano Food Pantry for many years and at one point served on their board. She was also a proud member of the Shawano Red Hatter's.

Bonnie was known for her sense of humor and ability to light up a room with her fun quirky personality and her contagious laugh. She had a deep love of music and enjoyed singing for many weddings and various church events. Bonnie enjoyed spending her time doing various hobbies such as sewing, crocheting, reading and was proud of her beautiful plants. She also enjoyed going to the casino and was known for her super fandom of the Green Bay Packers.

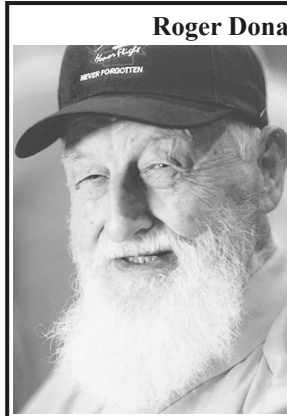
Survivors include her children, Jim Wolff of Merrill, Craig Wolff of Enid, Oklahoma, Dana (Kevin) Wendt of Merrill; son-in-law, Daniel Laatsch of Merrill; sisters, Betsy (Armond) Akey of Monmouth, IL and Colleen Hickman of Milwaukee; sister-in-law, Phyllis Bacon of Sheboygan; stepchildren, Cheryl (Jim) Connor, Randy (Jane) Dickelman, Ron (Linda) Dickelman, Russ Dickelman, Lorri (Leroy) Vandre, and Brad (Jeanette) Cannon; grandchildren, Chellee Smith, Traci (Mark) Grenwalt, Trista Wolff, Alex (Sadie) Wolff, Bryan (Tara) Wolff, Christi Wolff, Tyler (Danielle) Wendt, and Bryson (Dannielle 'Shorty') Wendt; and numerous great grandchildren, step grandchildren and step great grandchildren.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her husbands, James Wolff, Ray Dickelman, and Edward Cannon; parents, George and Amelia Bacon; brother, Jay Bacon; brother-in-law, Luke Hickman; infant son, Timothy Wolff; daughter, Michelle 'Micki' Laatsch; stepsons, Robert Dickelman and Jeff Dickelman; grandson, Jason Dickelman; grandson, Dillon Cannon; granddaughter, Keana Wendt.

A graveside service will take place at a later date in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Shawano.

Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com)



**Roger Donald Hoffman, Sr.**

passed away April 29, 2024, in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. He was born in Merrill, Wisconsin on June 12, 1933, to Arthur Rudolph Hoffman and Ida Marie (Gehrt) Hoffman. Roger was the eleventh of fourteen children. There were seven boys and seven girls in the family.

He served in the USAF as an aircraft and engine mechanic and electrician. He also worked at ROW and Wire

Products in Merrill.

Roger enjoyed building and built numerous homes. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing. In his older years he enjoyed doing jigsaw puzzles, playing Yahtzee, watching Westerns, and reading large-print Westerns his son-in-law, Jeff would pick him up at the library. He also enjoyed going on long rides with his daughter, Joy looking for wildlife while drinking a shake she would stop and pick up for him. He lived with Jeff and Joy for the last few years of his life.

Roger was married to Carol Joyce Larson, and they had six children: Joy (Jeff) Weber, Christine Rohmeyer, Linda (Randy) English, Mike (Sue) Hoffman, Bob Hoffman, and Lori (Greg) Radke. Carol passed away at the age of 39.

Some years later Roger married Rose Mary Duginski. He had four stepchildren: Carrie (Mike) Baumgart, Vince Zoellner, Renee (Doug) Smith and Colleen (Aaron) Skoviera. They also had one son together, Roger Hoffman, Jr. Rose passed away nearly four years ago.

He had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren from both families that he loved spending time with.

Roger was preceded in death by both his wives, his grandson, Andy Hoffman, his stepson, Vince Zoellner, his parents, his brothers and sisters: Herman, Alice, Harry, Adeline, Marie, Marvin, Mildred, Art, Florine, Betty, Tom and Judy as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He is survived by his brother Kenneth (Ethel) Hoffman of Strafford, MO and his sister-in-law, Evelyn (Hoffman) Harrison of Mesa, Arizona as well as many nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to express their appreciation to Tomahawk Health Services, Compassus Hospice Care, Rhinelander, and the VA Caregiver Support Group from Colby (Kristi and Chelsea) for all the wonderful care they gave Roger as well as the support they gave to the family. Thank you too to the VA for the support they offered Roger while he lived with Jeff and Joy.

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## Herbert "Doc" Leroy Hommerding



Herbert "Doc" Leroy Hommerding, age 92, of Harrison Hills, died unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, April 28, 2024. He was born on November 27, 1931 to the late John J. and Pauline M. (Mosser) Hommerding in Merrill. Herb attended and graduated from Merrill High School. He went on to proudly serve his country in the United States Navy from Jun 19, 1951 until his honorable discharge

on June 17, 1955. While in the Navy, he received the Good Conduct Medal and was on the Great Lakes Drill Team. He then received his degree in Dentistry at Marquette University. Herb married Lois Janet Wigent on June 4, 1955 in Great Lakes, IL. Sadly, she preceded him in death on July 8, 2018.

Herb was a dentist at Hommerding's Dental in Schofield, WI for 33 years. When he wasn't working, he enjoyed deer hunting and fishing on the lake that they lived on. Herb looked forward to any activity as long as it was outdoors and he was able to enjoy nature. He would go for long walks, pick berries and feed the birds. Herb also liked to relax with a crossword puzzle or two. He was a funny guy, always having a new joke to tell! Herb was very active in his church, St. Augustine Catholic Church in Harrison Hills, volunteering his time as a greeter, usher and reader, and would volunteer for any and all events for the church. He was a past president of the American Dental Society and past president of the PTA at St. Therese. Herb never lost an ounce of his quick wit and intelligence. He will be sadly missed by his friends and family.

Herb is survived by his sons: Steven (Nancy) Hommerding of Gleason, WI and James J. Hommerding of Sun Prairie, WI, grandchildren: Kelli (Josh) Burbach, Jon (April) Hommerding, Michael Hommerding and April Hommerding, along with 3 great grandchildren: Rylee, Cameron and Archer. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife: Lois Hommerding and brother: Elmer Hommerding.

A private interment will take place at St. Francis Catholic Cemetery in Merrill.

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

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**APRIL 19, 2024**

Girls, Loretta Jessica and Naomi Grace, born to Jessica Kildahl and Joshua Kildahl of Amherst.

**APRIL 26, 2024**

Boy, Jesse Wayne Patrick, born to Lauryn Kleinschmidt and Blake Szevs of Merrill.

**APRIL 24, 2024**

Girl, Elizabeth Leigh Ann, born to Dayna Barna and Andrew Schwartz of Merrill.

**APRIL 29, 2024**

Boy, Wes Lee, born to Lacey Savaske-Simonsmeier and Tylor Savaske-Simonsmeier of Merrill.



# Family Medicine physician Paul Samundsen joins Marshfield Clinic Merrill Center



Samundsen. Photo courtesy of Marshfield Clinic.

A Family Medicine physician, Paul Samundsen, M.D. recently joined Marshfield Clinic Merrill Center and is now accepting patients.

He previously worked as an Emergency Department physician at Marshfield Medical Center-Park Falls.

A release from Marshfield Clinic said Samundsen has special interest in

musculoskeletal medicine, along with preventative care and chronic disease management.

Samundsen cares for patients of all ages and helps adults with issues such as hypertension, diabetes, and COPD.

"When he is with patients, Dr. Samundsen says one of his main goals is to make everyone feel comfortable,"

Marshfield Clinic said.

"I don't look like a typical physician, and I strive to create a non-judgmental environment where everyone can work on their medical issues without feeling degraded or embarrassed," Samundsen said.

Samundsen is a veteran of the U.S. Army who served before attending

Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, Ill. His dedication to veterans and military families continues to this day, Marshfield Clinic noted.

"I will always have a special interest in caring for veterans after caring for basic training soldiers, Cadre and active-duty soldiers, active-duty

military families, and retirees," Samundsen said. "I particularly enjoy listening to and learning from the experiences of WWII and Korean War veterans."

In his free time, Samundsen enjoys spending time with his three sons, along with football, hockey, boating, and fishing.

## Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

- May 9 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.
  - May 11 - Spring Wildflower Hike on Ice Age Trail
  - May 12 - BINGO at VFW
  - May 15 - Trivia Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.
  - May 16 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.
  - May 18 - Merrill Spring Citywide Garage Sales
  - May 18 - Food Truck-a-Palooza at Merrill Festival Grounds
  - May 18 - Lincoln County Sports Club Open House/Fundraiser
  - May 19 - Girls on the Run North Central Wisconsin Celebratory 5K
- For more information, go to: [merrillchamber.org/](http://merrillchamber.org/) events or contact the event sponsor.



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- TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
MAY 14TH - CHICKEN CORDON BLEU  
MAY 21ST - MEATLOAF  
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM
- FRIDAY NIGHTS**  
MAY 10TH - LAKE PERCH  
MAY 17TH - CATFISH  
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM

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- MONDAYS:** Soup & Sandwich Available 3-7pm
- LUNCH AVAILABLE:** TUES. & FRI. 11am-2pm WED. & THURS. 11am-8pm
- SPECIALS:** Fish Fries • Homemade Soup & FRI. 4-8pm
- DINNER MENU:** TUES. 4-8pm
- SATURDAY:** Bar Open at 3pm
- SUNDAY:** Bar Open From 11am-7pm
- HAPPY HOUR:** TUESDAY-THURSDAY • 3-6PM

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On Jan. 21, 2024, the Merrill Eagles 584 held a Pancake Breakfast Benefit for AL and Holly Cortright to assist them with ongoing medical expenses. Shown presenting the funds to Holly and AL (center) are Auxiliary representative Sue Heckendorf and Aerie representative Bryan Plautz. Submitted photo.

## Spring Wildflower Hike

The Northwoods Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance is holding their Annual Guided Spring Wildflower Hike this Saturday, May 11, 2024, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Ice Age Trailhead on Turtle Lake Rd.

The hike will take place in the beautiful hills and rolling hardwoods of the Harrison Hills in Lincoln

County, and participants will learn the names of all of the wildflowers along the way. The terrain will be hilly and moderately difficult.

To get to the starting point, take Hwy. 51 to Hwy. J at Irma, then go east on Hwy. J for five miles to Turtle Lake Rd. Go north for three miles on Turtle Lake Rd. to the Ice Age Trailhead.

Follow the Ice Age Trail event signs.

If coming from the east, take Hwy. 17 to Hwy. J at Bloomville, then go west on Hwy. J to Turtle Lake Rd. and turn right. Follow the Ice Age Trail event signs.

For more information, contact Ruby Jaecks at 715.551.1118 or email her at [brjaecks@outlook.com](mailto:brjaecks@outlook.com).

## O'Day Street reconstruction project

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

The first major road project in the City of Merrill started last Wednesday, May 1, 2024, on O'Day Street from S. Center Ave. to Tee Lane Dr.

The utility and road reconstruction project, which is scheduled for completion by June 1, will detour traffic, utilizing Martin St., Lark St. and Tee Lane Dr. to access Marshfield Clinic, Bell Tower Residence, the

Merrill Golf Course, and Riverside Park.

For local residents, garbage pickup will continue according to the regular schedule according to the City of Merrill Public Works Department.

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**CHILDERS**  
from page 3

advocacy trip," the release said, adding that she has also previously been on the Board of Tomahawk Main Street Inc., Tomahawk Youth Baseball, and Lincoln County Partners in Education.

Childers succeeds Kathy Rankin, who retired after 46 years with Crossbridge.

"I have been beyond blessed to have had Kathy Rankin as a mentor for the past 19 years," Childers said. "I'm confident I will make her proud. I'm looking forward to working alongside our CEO Mark Zulliger to continue to grow in my banking career and help mentor and lead our staff here at Crossbridge."

Kyle Zastrow, Crossbridge Community Bank Chairman of the Board, said the organization is pleased to see Childers'

ascension to President.

"She embodies what it means to be a community banker," Zastrow stated. "Our belief in local talent and organic professional growth via strong mentors/role models is evident with her promotion. We look forward to her imprint on Crossbridge for years to come in her expanded role."

"As a purpose-driven, local financial institution, we will make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of our customers and the future of our community through the unique structure and culture of mutual banking," the release said. "We proudly have two locations to serve you - in Merrill and Tomahawk, Wis. Our two locations share more than 100 years of history in our communities; as true community banks and partners. Crossbridge Community Bank puts purpose first."

**LETTERS** from page 5

These friends and neighbors, Volunteer Ombudsmen, are caring and concerned individuals with a passion for helping older adults in long-term care settings, promoting and protecting the rights of people 60 years and older who reside in nursing homes and assisted living facilities within their community, by making unannounced visits to designated nursing homes and assisted living communities on a weekly basis. They empower, educate, and support residents. They build trusting relationships so residents feel comfortable sharing their concerns.

Volunteer Ombudsman, Mary, shares about her experience:

"My visits with the residents in my facility have given me so much joy. We have many interesting conversations, but at the same time, I remember I have my Volunteer Ombudsman cap on so I can be an advocate for them if needed. To me, it is very important that residents have a voice, that they feel empowered to speak up. It's important they have someone they can count on to help them, whether for assistance in a matter important to them, or just a conversation."

To make a difference in the lives of elders in your community, email: [boaltc@wisconsin.gov](mailto:boaltc@wisconsin.gov) or call 1.800.815.0015.

- Mary LeMay, MA, Volunteer Coordinator, Serving Clark, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Taylor, Waupaca, and Wood counties.  
State of Wisconsin - Board on Aging & Long Term Care, Ombudsman Program

**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](http://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.

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Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Diaper Closet recently held their "Love the Littles" Diaper Drive and thanks the Merrill community for their donations of diapers, wipes, and money to support the diaper closet. Special thanks to the Lincoln County Health Department and to all the diaper collection sites: Riverside Athletic Club, Chiropractic Wellness Center, T.B. Scott Library, and St. Francis, Trinity, and Our Saviour's churches. The Diaper Closet is open the second Tuesday and fourth Saturday of each month and offers free diapers in a variety of sizes including adult. Call 715.536.5813 for more details and information. **Submitted photo.**



The Wausau Area Metro Special Olympics team, "The Dream Team," won both their games at the Regional competition in Stevens Point on March 17, 2024, earning them a spot at the Spring State Special Olympics games held in Oshkosh April 12-14. At State, they went on to win their first two games on Saturday against the Eau Claire Wolverines and St. Coletta Crusaders and on the final day beat the Door County Tigers, ending the competition with a perfect record and winning gold medals for their team. Two members of "The Dream Team" are from the Merrill area: Brenda Krueger and Calvin Frahm. Congratulations to our local Special Olympics athletes! **Submitted photo.**

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## REPORTS

### MERRILL FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 5, 2024

The most significant event this week was a call to E. 6th St. and Memorial Dr. in Merrill for an arcing and sparking power line on Friday, May 3, 2024, which disrupted power for residents in part of the city for several hours. The incident occurred just after 5 p.m. Wisconsin Public Service was able to restore power around 8 p.m.

EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury 25  
Motor vehicle accident with injuries: 1  
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment: 1  
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO: 2

**Total This Week: 29**  
**Total Incidents/Calls for 2024: 724**

### MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

04/29/24  
At 8:33 a.m. an officer was dispatched to a business for a historical shoplifting complaint. The suspect was identified and the investigation is ongoing.

05-01-24  
At 7:14 a.m. an officer conducted a traffic stop for a registration violation. The driver displayed characteristics indicative of intoxication and agreed to perform field sobriety tests. As a result of the officer's observations and field sobriety test results, the driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated (2nd offense).

At 3:55 p.m. a convenience store turned over a counterfeit \$100 bill

a female had attempted to use for payment. Investigation is ongoing.

05-02-24  
At 11:36 a.m. a crash was reported on E. Main St. at Pine Ridge Ave. A driver failed to stop at a red light and, upon entering the intersection, collided with another vehicle. A crash report will be completed and the offending driver was cited for failure to stop at red light.

At 1:15 p.m. a business reported receiving a counterfeit \$50 bill from a customer. A description of the customer was obtained and investigation is ongoing.

At 3:45 p.m. a store reported a female had shoplifted merchandise. It was found the female had attempted to steal earrings. She was cited for retail theft.

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Merrill athletes at recent Otto Bacher Invitational. Photo courtesy of the Merrill Track and Field Program.

# Merrill Track hosts annual Otto Bacher Invitational

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

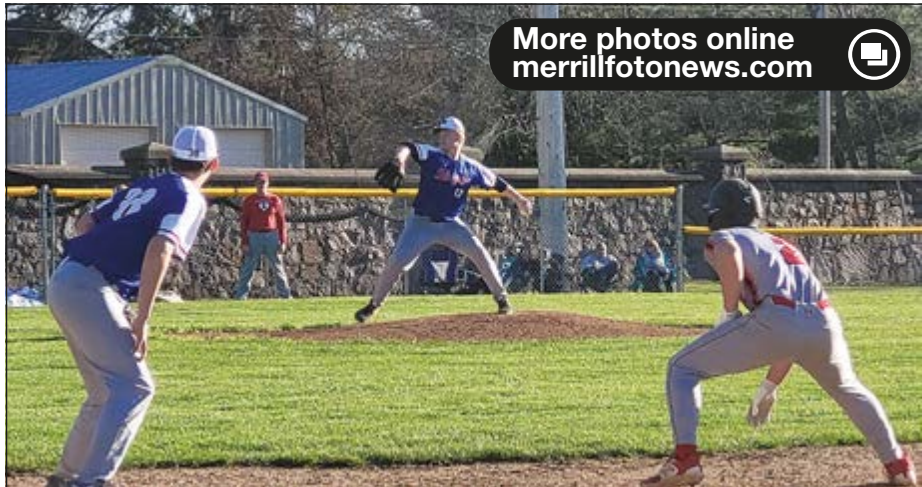
On Friday, May 3, 2024, Merrill hosted the 38th Annual Otto Bacher Invitational Track and Field Meet. “We had a total of 11 different boys and girls teams that competed,” Coach Alec Oestreich said. Competitors came from Antigo, Crandon, Medford, Mosinee, Newman Catholic, Northland Pines, Rhinelander, Three Lakes, Tomahawk, and Wausau East.

“Overall the boys finished 11th and the girls finished 7th,” Oestreich said. “It was a great night filled with some phenomenal competition! I’m really impressed with how our athletes competed. Our final team score doesn’t show it, but we continue to get better each week, and have countless athletes that

keep setting new personal bests.”

Notable performances for Merrill athletes included these highlights:

- Tyler Spade finished 5th in the 400m dash, with a personal best of 53.49 seconds.
- The Boys 4x800m team finished 6th with a 9:42.69.
- Mia Smith finished 5th in the 400m dash, with a personal best of 1:04.33.
- Jalie Severt finished 3rd in the 100m hurdles, with a personal best of 18.05; finished 6th in the 300m hurdles, with 54.47; and finished 4th in pole vault.
- The Girls took 4th in the 4x100m and 4x400m relays with a 56.14 and 4:29.94, respectively.
- Elexa Emmer finished 4th in discus and shot put with a 96’3” and 30’1.5”, respectively.



Pitcher Brady Kanitz delivers a pitch while holding a runner on at first base. Rick Argall photo.

More photos online  
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## READ ■ REUSE ■ RECYCLE

### 2024 Merrill High School Spring Sports Schedule

Boys Track (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. May 9	Stevens Point (JV)	Away	4:00 pm
Girls Track (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. May 9	WI Rapids (JV)	Away	4:00 pm
Thurs. May 9	Rhinelander (Varsity)	Away	4:00 pm
Boys Baseball (Varsity, JV & JV2)			
Thurs. May 9	Wausau West (JV2)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. May 9	Wausau West (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Mon. May 13	Medford (Varsity, JV & JV2)	Home	5:00 pm
Mon. May 13	D. C. Everest (JV2)	Home	5:00 pm
Tues. May 14	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. May 16	D. C. Everest (JV2)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. May 16	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Girls Softball (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. May 9	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:30 pm
Fri. May 10	Medford (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Girls Soccer (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. May 9	Marshfield (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. May 9	Marshfield (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Tues. May 14	Multiple Schools (JV)	T. B. D.	5:00 pm
Tues. May 14	Multiple Schools (Varsity)	T. B. D.	7:00 pm
Thurs. May 16	Multiple Schools (JV)	T. B. D.	5:00 pm
Thurs. May 16	Multiple Schools (Varsity)	T. B. D.	7:00 pm

For all playoff schedules and brackets please go to [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org)

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## Merrill Varsity Baseball loses to rival Wausau East, then edge out a win in re-match

BY RICK ARGALL AND  
TINA L. SCOTT  
MMC STAFF

On Tuesday, April 30, 2024, the Merrill Varsity Baseball Team played at Wausau East and “lost in the bottom of the 11th,” Head Coach Shawn Schultz said.

East scored two runs out of the gate in the first inning, and then Merrill got one in the third, but East still led the game. The game got tied up in the fourth inning when Merrill scored four runs and East scored three, bringing the score to 5-5.

From there, it was a scoreless battle for both teams, inning after inning, until East scored a run in the 11th.

“It was a tough game, but Sam Reimann started and battled for three innings and then EJ Weix came in and pitched great,” he said. “Both teams had opportunities but couldn’t come up with the big hit until the 11th.”

“We had a solid day on defense, turning four double plays,” Schultz said. “It set up a big game for Thursday which was

pushed to Friday by the rain - and we played real well behind Brady Kanitz on the mound.”

Merrill players scoring runs were Brady Norton, EJ Weix, Cooper Wendorf, and Nicholas Palecek scored two runs.

Box Score:  
Merrill 5 @ Wausau East 6

In what turned out to be a late schedule change, the Merrill Varsity Bluejays ended up hosting conference rival Wausau East on Friday, May 3, in a bit of a re-match, this time at Athletic Park in Merrill. Nonconference opponent Tomahawk was originally scheduled for this game, but the league wanted both teams to play make-up games in their Conference due to the weather cancellations.

As the game turned into a pitcher’s duel, Merrill was able to capitalize with aggressive base running while stealing four bases for the game, resulting in a 4-2 win over The Lumberjacks. Merrill scored in the bottom of the first inning on an RBI single by EJ Weix (1-3, 1 RBI, 1 SO) to take an early 1-0 lead and

never trailed in the ball game after that. “Pitcher Brady Kanitz did a great job pitching and we were able to get enough guys on base and scored when we had the opportunities. Their guy did a good job throwing and they were able to keep us off balance. We had a couple base running plays that paid off big when 3B Issak Clapper (0-3, 1 R, 1 SO) was able to

See **BASEBALL** page 12

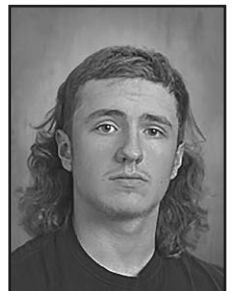
## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**Christopher Holz**, a Sophomore at Merrill High School, has been named Athlete of the Week. Christopher is a member of the Merrill Bluejay Varsity Trap Team and is one of the leading shooters in the entire Conference this season, in fourth place after five weeks of shooting. He has been shooting trap since sixth grade but began practicing before he even joined the team. His dad has been a head coach for Trap and helped him get started with the sport.

At school, Christopher’s favorite classes are woods and biology and he belongs to FFA. He is hoping to get a part-time job at the co-op here in town or else work for Green Lawn this summer.

In his free time, Christopher loves to hunt - particularly duck, bear, and elk - although he said he loves to hunt pretty much anything. He rifle hunts and bow hunts, as well. Christopher also enjoys fishing with his friends - ice fishing in the winter and summer fishing, as well. He shoots trap in a summer league at the gun club, and enjoys working on vehicles, four-wheeling, and camping.

The son of Angie and Kevin Holz of Merrill. Christopher has a 2.7 GPA and plans to go into the U.S. Army after high school graduation and then enter the trades - either in construction or welding.



**Christopher Holz**

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# Bluejay Varsity Trap Team remains undefeated after six weeks

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

In Week 6 of competition, the Merrill Bluejay Varsity Trap Team competed against the Tomahawk Claybusters and Merrill scored a win, with a score of Merrill 120 to Tomahawk 116.

Contributing to the win, Merrill Seniors Bobby Hoff and Nicholas Kriegel both scored perfect 25's in the match.

The JV Trap Team suffered their first loss, losing by a single point in their matchup, Tomahawk 117-Merrill 116.

Intermediate Advanced also took their first loss, Tomahawk 106-Merrill 98.

This week's match is against Lakeland Union High School and the coaches were watching the weather to see if Merrill would be competing on their regular Tuesday evening schedule.

The Merrill Varsity Trap Team goes into the match against Lakeland Union undefeated and hopes to maintain their winning streak. Their biggest competition will be Cole Johnson of Lakeland who currently sits in the number one spot in the Conference with a

score of 141.


Three Merrill Varsity shooters now hold the third, fourth, and fifth places in the Conference, respectively. Christopher Holz, Nicholas Kriegel, and Bobby Hoff are poised to move up if their shooting stays true. Holz has a score of 140 with 104 RR, Kriegel's score is 139 with 91 RR, and Hoff is at 139 with 74 RR.

Rival Mosinee also won their match in Week 6. Both teams are undefeated with six wins apiece and have their sights set on their face-off in Week 8.



Nicholas Kriegel with a perfect score - his second of the season. Photo courtesy of Bluejay Trap Program.


Bobby Hoff scored a perfect 25 in Week 6 of competition. Photo courtesy of Bluejay Trap Program.



**Noelle Iverson**  
It's kids like Noelle that make some of those rough days more manageable for others. She may not realize it, but her presence is a gift to so many."


**April Youth Optimist**  
**Noelle Iverson**, an eighth grader at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), is the April Youth Optimist of the Month. "Noelle is a very polite young lady who works hard and strives for excellence," Ms. Hazley Bonnell said in her nomination. "She consistently comes to her classes prepared and always puts forth her best effort."  
"She serves as a leader in the learning environment by asking insightful questions, contributing deep thoughts during class discussions, and helping others with questions or struggles they may have."  
"In addition to her commitment to academics, she is also an all around nice, accepting, young lady," she said. "In all the encounters I've had with Noelle, I have yet to see her without a smile on her face. Her positive attitude is contagious to those around her, and she is not just friendly to the staff in the building, but her peers as well."  
"She doesn't judge; she views everyone as equals and seems to grasp the concept that individuality of others is not something to dismiss but rather to appreciate and value," Ms. Bonnell said. "As we all know, middle school is hard and can be a rough time for many students. Noelle is the daughter of Crystal Henry of Gleason and Tyler Iverson of Merrill.

**Nora Trojanowski**, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), is the April Youth Optimist of the Month.  
"Nora is the epitome of service through kindness," Mrs. Emily Bonack said in her nomination of Nora. "Since I've had the honor of being her academic advisor for all four years of high school, I've had many opportunities to witness her willingness to help other students in need."  
"Her quietly kind leadership makes her an exceptional Link Leader, helping Freshman transition to high school. She embodies this optimistic, yet peaceful spirit that so many of her younger peers gravitate toward - especially those who are a little on the shy side," she said. "Her calming and helpful presence at the high school is a wonderful addition to our student community."  
"Because Nora can be quiet with her teachers and classmates, she might be overlooked for something like this - many people may not know or notice how she positively impacts our school," Mrs. Bonack said. "However, the Freshmen in her Link Crew group would strongly agree that she made them all feel comfortable and supported. She's a quiet leader - but still a leader; frankly the world could use more people like her - folks that lead through example and quiet one-on-one conversations vs. boisterous, lead-by-performing folks."  
Nora is active in Tri-M Club, Link Crew (Leader), MHS Student Council, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and Junior Optimist Club and has taken Honors English, Honors Biology, and Honors Chemistry.  
She also volunteers to transport dogs for a rescue called Lola's Lucky Day.  
After graduation, Nora plans to become a Clinical Laboratory Scientist. She is the daughter of Kelly and Tony Trojanowski.



**Nora Trojanowski**

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

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

MERRILL FOTO NEWS

## Student of the Week



**This Week's Featured Student is Mercedes Williams**  
Daughter of Stephanie Williams and Brandon Thompson, Jeremy Williams

Stephanie is in the 3rd grade at Washington Elementary School. She was nominated by Mr. Hass.

**What is your favorite subject in school? Why?**  
Art because it allows me to spread my feelings across a piece of paper.

**What is your favorite part of school? Why?**  
Hanging out with my friends because they make me feel welcome.

**What would you like to do/become someday? Why?**  
An artist.

Mercedes is an excellent example of doing the right thing even when no one is looking. She comes to school with an attitude that is positive and ready to learn. She always tries her best and often helps other classmates when she sees them struggling. ~ Mr. Hass

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## BASEBALL

from page 11

steal home when they threw down to second base which turned into a huge run for us. Carter Baade's double in the fifth inning was a big hit for us, as he was able to score on a Sam Reimann RBI single to add on another big run," said Schultz.

Pitcher Brady Kanitz (7.0 IP, 3 H, 2 R, 1 ER, 6 SO, 4 BB) got the win for the Bluejays as they improved their season record to 6-8.

"Brady did a great job for us, as he has done all year," Schultz said.

Merrill was led by LF Brady Norton (2-3, 2 R) and SS Sam Reimann (2-3, 2 RBI) as the Bluejays tallied six total hits for the game.

**Box Score:**  
Wausau East 2 @ Merrill 4

The Merrill Varsity Bluejays traveled south to Waunakee to play a doubleheader on May 4 versus Eau Claire Memorial and Onalaska and split those games, losing the first game to Eau Claire Memorial in a shutout game, 5-0, and winning the second matchup against Onalaska, 7-4.

"We played two good teams," Schultz said.

Though they lost against Eau Claire Memorial in the first game, "Cam Wallin and Carter Kaminski pitched very well against a strong lineup," he said. "They led 2-0 through six innings and found some holes to tack on a few in the top of the seventh. Offensively, we had some chances but they were unable to work their way out of trouble."

"In the second game, we got out to a 6-0 lead and Dawson Schulz held them scoreless through four," Schultz said. "They scored four in the top of the fifth, but Clapper came and slammed the door as we got one back in the bottom of the inning to get to 7-4."

Racking up the runs for Merrill against Onalaska: Brady Norton, Isaak Clapper, Sam Reimann, EJ Weix, Kaiden Henrich, and Carter Baade (2).

"Very good pitching and defense all week long against some good opponents," he said. "[Now we] just have to stay consistent!"

**Box Score: Game 1**  
Eau Claire Memorial 5 @ Merrill 0

**Box Score: Game 2**  
Merrill 7 @ Onalaska 4

The Merrill Bluejays are 7-9 as of May 5.

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