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MMC

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024 VOLUME 69, ISSUE 19

### Food lovers gather for first annual Food Truck-a-Palooza

BY RICK ARGALL AND TINA L. SCOTT MMC STAFF

Merrill's first-ever 2024 Food Truck-a-Palooza kicked off the summer season at the Merrill Festival Grounds on Saturday, May 18, 2024, under sunny skies and with summer-like temperatures that topped off somewhere around 80 degrees.

The event featured almost 20 food trucks and more than 65 craft and vendor booths. Local Wisconsin musician, Brad Emanuel, provided the entertainment under the big tent that featured an ample amount of picnic tables for families to sit in the shade and enjoy their food throughout the day. A 50/50 raffle was held by the Lincoln County Humane Society, and a cornhole tournament was on the slate for competing event goers.

Vendors came from around the region to feature arts and crafts that were available for purchase. "We came down from Rhinelander for this event and will definitely be interested

in doing this again next year," said Chris Kott, owner of Up North Baskets and Etc., not long after the event had started. "So far we are very pleased."

Other vendors sold everything from "crazy pens" to decorative drink tumblers. "A little something for everybody," said another vendor.

The lines at the food trucks were steady all day long as vendors hustled to keep up with their customer orders. "I enter as many of these events as I can throughout the year," said Jeff "Fries" Felzkowski, owner of Little Devil Mini Donuts from Tomahawk. "Sales have been good so far," he said when asked early in the day.

Food lovers had many options to choose from, including



A view of the Merrill Festival Grounds as lines began to form at the on-site food trucks Joseph Frederick photo. for Food Truck-a-Palooza last Saturday.

gyros, steak sandwiches, brats, burgers, chicken, and much more.

"We all ordered gyros, and they are very good," said event-goer Steve of Merrill who asked we just use his first name. "[And] the pricing is commensurate with the portion sizing," he said.

Families had many options to choose from with offerings that appealed to both adults and children. "We both had pork sliders and brisket, while our kids had cheese curds and fresh-squeezed lemonade," said Billy Haight and Brittany Walker from Merrill. "The sliders were tender and delicious, while the brisket was juicy and was very good. Our kids just loved the fresh-squeezed lemonade. It

Dear Reader,

14, 2024.

recently announced another 10%

increase in their rates effective July

Since 2021, there have been five

previous rate increases; this is the

sixth. This announcement coincides

with severe deterioration in the USPS's

performance; simply put, the mail is

often late. These rate increases affect

individuals sending mail as well as

newspapers delivering the news. The

rate increases have grown to a crisis.

Your voice is needed, to ask Congress

to place a moratorium on any rate

increases, effective immediately. Mail

is a vital service to all Americans

and provides information that

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USPS's price increases have been

so aggressive that mail volume is

declining, which creates a death

spiral: Each rate increase reduces the

mail volume, making another rate

increase necessary, leading to still

more volume declines.

Consider the following:



Food Truck-a-Palooza offered lots of delicous food Joseph Frederick photo.

was a great family day!" Walker said.

"My family tried a variety of items from different food vendors, and they were all excellent," said Merrill Mayor Steve Hass, "The mini donuts were my downfall; there is nothing like a hot donut." He said he also bought a pie to take home and his family enjoyed that on Sunday. "That was excellent also."

Former Green Bay Packer linebacker Michael Hunt and his wife, Paula, were among the event attendees and made several stops throughout the day at the booths and food trucks around the Merrill Festival Grounds. "We both had a smashburger; that was very good," Paula said. "We also enjoyed The Sawmill truck that was serving beverages, and everything seems to be a great value. Merrill is doing

The adult beverage area was definitely a popular area, especially later in the day with the addition of live music.

"This event exceeded my expectation by four times,"

See FOOD TRUCK page 3

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### **PUBLISHER'S LETTER**

### Rate Increases

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24 percent increase since 2022; another 7.8percent increase scheduled for July 14, 2024.

Periodical Mail (Paid **Newspapers**)

Periodical postage increase for July 2024 will be about 5-7 percent increase since January 2024.

### **EDDM (Free Newspapers)**

11 percent increase for community newspapers; the rate increase means newspapers are paying about

33 percent more for postage than three years ago.

Many newspapers rely on the mail o deliver local news to big, medium sized and small communities alike. We depend on the Post Office and need it to succeed, but not at the cost of our ability to continue serving our

For easy reference, following is contact information for your Senate and Congressional representatives, as well as State Senate and Assembly members. Please call them or leave a message on their constituent website.

Ask them to put an immediate stop to postal rate increases that affect all of us. This action will help stabilize local news in your and our communities and preserve the stewardship that the print medium has had in helping our communities to stay strong, dynamic and filled with character.

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> PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher

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### PUBLISHER'S LETTER **Memorial Day**

Dear Reader,

Memorial Day As approaches, we're reminded of the solemn duty to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms. It's a day to reflect on the bravery and selflessness of those who gave their lives in service to our country.



Yet, amidst this reflection, we can't ignore the tragic reality of war - the senseless need for power, resources, and subjugation that often drive conflicts. Innocents become collateral damage in these atrocities, bearing the burden of decisions made far from their homes.

As we commemorate Memorial Day, we must contemplate the deeper meaning behind it. It's a day not just to mourn the fallen, but to question the necessity of war itself. Can't we aspire to a world where diplomacy triumphs over conflict, where peace prevails over violence?

Though the observance of Memorial Day will endure, let it also serve as a beacon of hope - a hope that one day, the need to wage war will fade into history, replaced by a collective commitment to dialogue, understanding, and peace.

### PATRICK J. WOOD

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

### **Memorial Day events**

### Former Iranian hostage is keynote speaker

In the Merrill area, VFW Post 1638 placed grave flags on the graves of veterans in the Merrill Memorial Park and St. Francis Cemeteries to honor those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The flags will remain until the evening of June 3.

At 6 a.m. on Monday, May 27, representatives from the Post will erect large flags in the cemetery, weather permitting, in preparation for the annual Memorial Day ceremony. This year's event will take place on Monday, May 27, at the Veteran's Memorial in St. Francis Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, located at 2700 Thielman St. in Merrill. The Merrill City Band will make its first appearance of the 2024 season and will start playing at 10:30 a.m., followed by the ceremony beginning at 11 a.m. The concert and ceremony will

SUNDAY.

feature patriotic selections, hymns, and marches. As always, Marches of the *Armed Forces* will honor the five branches of the service. This is a combined program led by VFW Post 1638 and supported by members of the American Legion, DAV, AMVETS, Auxiliaries, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the Knights of Columbus.

This year's keynote/ featured speaker will be U.S. Marine Kevin Hermening who was held hostage by Iran for 440 days, along with 52 other American diplomats. Hermening was witness to a rescue attempt that cost the lives of eight United States servicemen.

Please join community in helping to honor those who keep us safe and fight for our freedom. Feel free to bring a lawn chair or blanket for your family's comfort.

In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held in the Northwoods Veterans Post Hall at 601 Johnson St. in Merrill.











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### Two brothers, two instruments, two secrets revealed

Taps

BY MICHAEL CAYLOR

Twenty-four notes. That is all that it takes to play it.

Those notes, however, can produce strong emotions in even the most stoic person. Many of our nation's strongest warriors cannot make it through those 24 notes without shedding a tear. Most of those strong warriors will someday lay in repose as they are played over them.

This is the story about two instruments and two men, men who never served in the military but who had such great respect for service members and Taps that it caused them to take a family secret to their own graves. It will also tell how those instruments will be returned to the hallowed grounds in Merrill to sound at least one more rendition of those 24 notes.

The origin of the song known as Taps goes back to the Civil War. Brigadier General Daniel Adams Butterfield impressed by the buglers' late-night sounds which told his soldiers it was time to turn in. He and bugler Oliver Wilcox Norton wrote Taps to honor the brave men who had just fought what was known as the Seven-Days Battle. When the bugler finished playing those new notes that night in July of 1862, the whole camp knew the day was done. Those sounds soon spread to other camps. and by the end of the war, even the Confederates were playing Taps to signal the end of day. (It should be noted that later research claims Butterfield just rewrote an earlier bugle call.)

It is believed the first sounding of Taps at a funeral was during the Peninsular Campaign of the Civil War in 1862. A young cannoneer was killed, and fearful the traditional three volleys of fire over the grave would bring more fire from the enemy, Capt. John C. Tidball ordered instead that *Taps* be played.

Melvin F. Talbot was born in Merrill in 1903. Talbot was born to a devout Catholic family and lived in close proximity to the church, the Catholic School, and the Merrill High School, where he stood out in his class. At the age of 14, Melvin began playing the trumpet and later became a member of the Merrill High School orchestra and also began playing engagements with local dance bands. Melvin joined the Merrill City Band in 1918 and was a member for nearly 40 years, directing the band for almost 10 of those years and most of the time also directing the Wausau City Band. As president of the City Band, he was instrumental in establishing the Merrill High School Band and spearheaded the drive for new uniforms; this drive included the United States Marine Corps Band coming



Melvin and Clifford Talbot. Submitted image.

to Merrill for a concert.

The war, which would soon be known as the war to end all wars, was raging across the globe when the United States became involved in 1917. Like every town and city in America, men of the community went off to do their service for their country, and many did not return. In 1918, when the first native son came home to be buried after losing his life in battle, Melvin was called upon to come to the cemetery and play Taps at the young

### FOOD TRUCK

from page 1

said Mayor Hass, who had originally proposed the idea as a way to utilize the Merrill Festival Grounds/ Fairgrounds more. "For a first-time event, we did not know what to expect. ... The variety of vendors that participated was amazing, from the food choices to the crafters.'

Hass said he estimated people attended 3,000 throughout the day. "We didn't have a way of counting the people," he said, "[but] the food lines were long and stayed long throughout the day."

"People from all around the area came to this event, and it shows that advertising pays off," he said. "The live remotes were great from the radio stations, and the ads in the Foto News really worked for us. We also used our Marketing Communications Committee to authorize additional marketing efforts. All of this helped make this event great."

"This will definitely be an annual event," Hass said. And event organizers see ways they can make it even bigger and better for 2025. "We will be looking at ways to make it run smoother next year. We will evaluate what worked well and what needs improvement. But overall, this was a fabulous event."

"The sponsors deserve a lot of credit," he said. "This was the first time, and they all jumped on board to make this event happen. We couldn't do it without their support."

'Social media specialist, Hallie Savall, took this idea and ran with it and deserves a lot of credit," Hass said. "She went above and beyond, and so did her family. They worked super hard to make this event a success."

The Mayor, too, worked the event, arriving at 8 a.m. and working until 7 p.m., pitching in with the nitty gritty work, from selling wrist bands to changing paper towel rolls and hauling garbage carts. "I also want to thank the City staff for helping out and the volunteers from the Chamber, Incredible Bank, and the Fair Board," Hass



Jeff "Fries" Felzkowski prepares mini donuts for patrons. Rick Argall photo.



A cornhole tournament was one of the highlights of the event Joseph Frederick photo.

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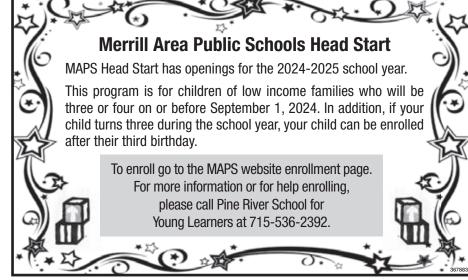
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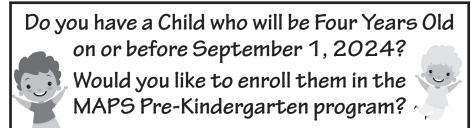


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Editor

tscott@mmclocal.com

jgartmann@mmclocal.com

Jennifer Gartmann

Sales Consultant

Patrick J. Wood Publisher publisher@mmclocal.com

Tim Schreiber General Manager

tschreiber@mmclocal.com Rick Argall

Circulation Manager **Rachel Crockett** 

Graphic Designer

Heidi Schult Front Office Manager/CSR

Heidi Griebel **Customer Service** Representative

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

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

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

Classified Advertising: 11:30 a.m. Monday

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

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

### |OBITUARIES|



Marjorie "Marge" Dawn Heidemann, age 97, of Merrill, passed away Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill.

Marjorie was born July 30 1926, in Merrill, daughter of the late Ray Turbin and Delores (Egan) Cotter. graduated from Merrill High School in 1944 and then was employed at the former Co-op Grocery Store in Merrill. She married Victor Heidemann on September 13, 1947, at the former St. Luke's Lutheran Church in the Town of Pine River. Marge farmed with her husband in the Town of Pine River until retirement in 1988 He preceded her in death on

March 6, 2014. Marge was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church and was a former member of Calvary Christian Women. She loved to read and do word puzzles. She also enjoyed collecting ceramic tea pots and decorating her living areas with wall hangings, flower arrangements, and knick-knacks.

Marjorie is survived by her son, Timothy (Kelley) Heidemann; daughter-in-law, Laurie Heidemann; grand-children, Heath Heidemann, Heather (Jason) Wolff, Ross (Melissa Gilbert) Heidemann, Dirk (Jessica) Heidemann; great-grandchildren, Cade, Aaron, Allison, Tavin, and Brynlee; brother, John Cotter; and half-sister, Ellen Barbre. Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband, Victor Heidemann; parents, Ray Turbin and Delores Cotter; stepfather, John N. Cotter; infant son, Michael Heidemann; son, Scott Heidemann; grandson, Justin Ames; sister, Geraldine Dotter; half-brothers, William Turbin, Richard Turbin, and David Turbin; brother-in-law, Gordon Dotter; sister-in-law, Gene Cotter; and her grandparents, aunts and mucles

The funeral service for Marjorie was held at 11:00 AM, Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at Calvary Lutheran Church, Town of Pine River. The Rev. Jennifer Hoffman officiated. Interment will take place at St. Paul's Cemetery, Town of Pine River. Visitation began at 9:00 AM, Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

The family wishes to extend a special thank you to the staff at Pine Crest Nursing Home and Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services for their love and compassionate care.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefune ralhome.com.

Please send announcements, news briefs, photo submissions and letters to the editor to: tscott@mmclocal.com



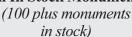


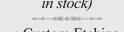
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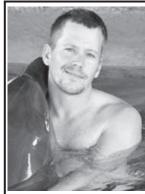
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WAID PUNERAL HO



Stephen "Steve" Wayne-Patrick Bathke, age 36, of Gleason, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, May 13, 2024, while at work in Rib Mountain, WI. He was born on March 17, 1988, in Milwaukee, WI and was the son to the late James Bathke. Steve attended and graduated from Antigo High School. He married his best friend and love of his life, Patricia Zahurones, on June 6, 2020. She survives. Together, they were raising their 2-year-old

son: Clyde.

Steve was currently employed at Ryder Transportation in Rib Mountain, WI as a diesel mechanic. First and foremost, in his life, was his son. He adored him and was attentive to his every need. Family was a priority for Steve, especially his wife and son. They had just come back from a memorable and fun family vacation in the Dominican Republic. Steve loved to be outside, whether it was going for a walk with Patricia and Clyde, casting a line to catch that big bass, or hunting in the woods for a wall-hanger! He enjoyed "tinkering" with machinery of any kind, and would come up with all types of survival tools. Steve loved his animals, especially his Dobermans. He is remembered as a kind, strong and determined man, that was also loyal and compassionate. Steve will be missed dearly, but the memory of him will live on.

Steve leaves behind his wife: Patricia "Trish" Bathke, his pride and joy, his son: Clyde Bathke, brother: James (Rachel) Bathke, sister: Tania (Shannon) Hoffman, nephews: Walker and Wyatt Bathke, niece and goddaughter: Willow Bathke. He is further survived by his beloved pets, his dogs: Zeus and Dixie, cats, chickadees and his pet turkey: "Big Pimpin". He was preceded in death by his father, uncle: Danny Bathke, cousin: Bobby Bathke and dogs: Mieyah and Ellie.

A Celebration of Life for Steve will take place on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill. Rev. David J. Sutton will officiate. Visitation will take place on Saturday, May 25, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. until the time of the service, also at the funeral home.

In lieu of cut flowers, family requests that vegetable plants, trees or perennials be sent so that the family can plant them in memory of Steve.

A special thank you goes to the employees at Ryder Transportation that tried to assist Steve in his time of need. Your efforts were truly 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.

**S. Thomas Tompach**, age 83, of Merrill, passed away on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at the Aspirus Wausau Hospital. He was born on May 17, 1940 to the late Stanley and Averill (Hanson) Tompach in Alton, IL. Tom attended and graduated from high school before going on to earn his bachelor's degree in English from Marquette University. He married Linda Nikolai on December 15, 1984 in Merrill. She

Tom worked in various positions over the years, including as a purchasing manager at Zimpro in Rothschild, and as an Operations Analyst for Wausau Insurance before retiring.

Tom is survived by his wife: Linda, children: Matthew (Angela) Tompach, Paul (Stacey) Tompach, Luke Tompach, Roy Sefton and Michele Sefton, 9 grandchildren: LeslieAnn, Rebecca, Kathryn, Madeline, Olivia, Charlie, Stephanie, Brett and Morgan, 1 great grandchild: Sophia and sister: Mary (Marc) Nielsen. He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Per Tom's request, no services will be held.

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.







### Phyllis Kay Fausch

The family of Phyllis Kay Fausch, age 80, of Irma, is saddened to announce her passing. She died peacefully on Friday, May 10, 2024, at Aspirus Hospital, Merrill. She was born on August 16, 1943, in Merrill, WI, the daughter of Harvey and Catherine (Wiegandt) Kriewald. Phyllis was a member of the Merrill High School Class of 1961.

On February 17, 1968, Phyllis was united in marriage to Harlan H. Fausch in St. Stephens

United Church of Christ in Merrill, a union that would last for over 56 years. This marriage was blessed with two daughters, Julie and Amy.

Phyllis had an adventurous spirit. She was a skydiver in her younger years. She traveled the world extensively and enjoyed taking road trips many places in the United States with her family, friends, and was especially fond of trips with her sister, June. Phyllis was a line dancer and attended many country music festivals, taking in the music and camping. She had a love of flowers and would decorate their Tug Lake home with a beautiful floral landscape every summer. Phyllis was a Packer fan and attended many games at Lambeau Field including the Ice Bowl Championship game in 1967.

A longtime resident of their home on Tug Lake, Phyllis enjoyed walking several miles daily, pontoon rides, bonfires and taking in beautiful sunsets. Phyllis and Harlan were fond of spending winters in Naples, FL; enjoying the ocean and escaping the Wisconsin cold.

She was a life-long member of St. Stephens UCC in Merrill, was a former Sunday school teacher, delivered Meals on Wheels and volunteered in the Holy Cross Hospital Gift Shop.

Phyllis had a very caring nature. Her family is forever grateful for the care and devotion Phyllis gave to her mother, Catherine, in her final years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister, Carol Nichols, brother-in-law, Robert Nichols, nephew, David Nichols

Phyllis is survived by her husband, Harlan, daughters, Julie (Bill) Ratajczyk of Reedsburg, Amy Wojtusik of Irma, sister, June Kriewald of Merrill, grandchildren, Katherine Ratajczyk of Crystal, MN, Rebecca (Alex) Hinz of Oshkosh, Sarah Ratajczyk of Menasha, Emily Wojtusik of LaCrosse, and Harlan Wojtusik of Rhinelander, great granddaughter, Elianna, nephews, Steven (Kim) Nichols, Thomas (Dena) Nichols, John (Mary Jo) Nichols and Matthew Nichols along with other relatives and friends.

A memorial service for Phyllis Fausch will be conducted at 11:00 AM on Friday, May 24, 2024, at St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Merrill, with Reverend Michael Southcombe officiating. Visitation will be held Friday morning from 9:00 AM until the time of the service, at the church. A private family burial will take place in Merrill Memorial Park at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Lincoln County Humane Society or a charitable organization of your choice. The family extends a very heartfelt thank you to the staff of Aspirus Hospital, Merrill for the wonderful care and comfort given to Phyllis. Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is as-

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.



**Jan M. Gartmann**, 59, of Rothschild, passed away Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Jan was born on September 25, 1964, on a U.S. Army Post in Verdun, France, daughter of Jan D. and Joanne (Skrbec) Milos. Growing up, Jan and the family lived in various places due to her father's service in the Marines, Army, and Air Force. Jan was always proud of the military heritage in her family. Jan graduated from Layton High School in

Layton, Utah in 1982. She met Mark Gartmann while he was serving in the military and they were married on December 3, 1987, in Utah. He survives. Jan attended UW-Stevens Point and received a two-year degree. She received her mediation certification in Minnesota and worked as a mediator around the area.

Jan was a great cook and an even better baker. Jan had an avid curiosity for life. She enjoyed going to garage sales and thrift shopping. She was very crafty and talented at decorating and also enjoyed redoing furniture. Jan also enjoyed sewing and tending to her flower gardens. She loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Mark Gartmann of Rothschild; mother, Joanne Milos of Clearfield, Utah; daughter, Victoria Gartmann (Joey Vanouse) of Rib Mountain; sons, Colby Gartmann (Jade Romatowski) of Wausau, Zachary (Mackenzie) Gartmann of Kronenwetter; and Austin Gartmann of Wausau; grandchildren, Maiya and Caedyn Gartmann and Walker and August Gartmann; sisters, Mary Jane Milos of Clearfield, Utah and Peggy Milos (Mark Greenman) of Hooper, Utah; and several nieces, nephews, and in-laws. Jan was preceded in death by her father, Jan D. Milos; and father-in-law, Rueben Gartmann.

The funeral service for Jan was held at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Deacon Jim Arndt presided. Interment took place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Visitation began at 9:00 AM, Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at the funeral home. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefune ralhome.com

### | OBITUARIES |

### Kenneth Allan Graap,



age 87, passed away on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at the Aspirus House Hospice

with his family by his side Kenny was born in the Town of Corning, Wisconsin on August 25, 1936 to the late Charles and Dorothy (Mittag) Graap.

On December 22 1956 Kenny married Carolyn Ann Plautz at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. She preceded him in death on

November 17, 2020. Kenny proudly served in the Army Reserve and was called into active duty during the Berlin Crisis and was stationed at Fort Lewis Army Base in Tacoma, Washington. For 20 years, Kenny owned and operated GW Incorporated. He was also a gifted craftsman who built furniture and cabinets as well as finishing the inside of both family homes. He enjoyed deer and bear hunting, target shooting and traveling to their Arizona home in the winter. He enjoyed having coffee with his Tuesday/Thursday men's coffee group and dinners out with friends.

Kenny loved people. He adored kids, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He always had full-size candy bars and dollar bills for the kiddos when they visited with grandpa. Kenny loved Carolyn and his children dearly Kenny was a very kind, generous, and social man who will be missed dearly by his family and friends.

Kenny is survived by his children: Russel (Tammy) Graap Dawn (Dennis) Gourlie, Rick (Sheila) Graap, and Brent Graap, grandchildren: Jesse Graap, Jason Graap, Jade (Matt) Zastrow, Peter Gourlie, Jen (Jordan) Klos, Ashley (Michael) Shillin, Alex (Chelsea) Graap, Brandon (Leigha Janssen) Graap, Destinee (Tyler Budreau) Graap, Nyssa (Josh) Winchell, and Corey Graap, great grandchildren: Connor Mackenzie, Ava, Easton, Gavin, Emma, Bentley, Easton, Parker, Breigha, Amelia, Jack, Leo, and Hazel, siblings: Eunice Schubert, Virginia McElhaney, and Barbara Golisch. and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his wife, parents, infant sor Bruce, siblings Charles Graap Jr., Audrey Heuser, Dennis Graap and Lucille Graap, siblings-in-law: Kenwood Schubert, Marvin McElhaney, Kermit Golisch, Kathy Graap, Vernon Heuser, Jean Graap, and James (Mary) Plautz.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 11:00 am in the chapel at Bell Tower Residence in Merrill Chaplain John Bourke officiated. A visitation was held on Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 9:30 am until the time of service also in the chapel at Bell Tower Residence. Interment took place at Snow Hill Cemetery in the Town of Scott.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Bell Tower Residence and/or Trinity Lutheran Church in loving memory of Kenneth.

PLEASE FOLLOW DETOUR SIGNS AROUND ROAD CONSTRUCTION TO REACH BELL TOWER. ATTEN-DANTS WILL DIRECT PARKING ONCE THERE.

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.



Beverly A. Pierzchalski, age 76, of Merrill, passed away on Friday, May 10, 2024, at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, while under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. She was born on June 21, 1947 to the late Robert and Delores (Raasch) Reichert in Milwaukee, WI. Beverly attended Merrill High School and took some college courses in

Superior. Beverly worked as a Certified Sterile Processing Technician for many years, until her She worked in retirement.

hospitals throughout the country including Merrill, WI, Irving, TX and Fargo, ND. She was a fan of the Beatles and enjoyed listening to old rock and country music. Beverly also liked to dance and was an avid reader. She was an animal lover, but especially enjoyed spoiling her many cats! Beverly will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Beverly is survived by her children: Lisa (Dan) Kohnhorst, Laura Pierzchalski, Steve (Kathy) Pierzchalski and Jeff (Pam) Pierzchalski, 6 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and sisters: Sherry (Richard) Kort and Christine (John) Reich. She was preceded in death by her parents and sisters Carol Reichert and Diane Hanson.

A private interment will take place at a later date at Luther Memorial Cemetery in the town of Schley.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Pine Crest Nursing Home and to Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services for the care and support they provided to Beverly.
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.

### Farm, Homes & Cabins, Commercial, Horse, Garage, Wood Shop CLEARY **Custom Designed & Value Engineered** Get started at ClearyBuilding.com • Financing available • Digital Floor Planner • Customized, in-house Engineering and manufacturing to suit your needs Call us for a FREE consultation WAUSAU, WI • 715-675-7701 800-373-5550 • ClearyBuilding.con

### |LEGAL NOTICES|

AUTHENTICATED COPY Clerk of Circuit Court STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LANGLADE COUNTY

Amended Summons and Complaint (Small Claims) Case No. 2024SC000094 Claim for money (\$10,000 or less)

If you require reasonable accommoda-tions due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-627-6215 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Antigo Refrigeration & Heating Ltd, 2238 Neva Rd. Antigo, WI 54409

To: Defendant(s): Bryant Behn 731 Maple Grove Rd.

Merrill, WI 54452 SUMMONS

To the Defendant(s):
You are being sued by as described on the attached complaint. If you wish to

You must appear at the time and place

You must file a written answer and provide a copy to the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney on or before the date

and time stated you do not appear or answer, the plaintiff may win this case and a judgment entered for what the plaintiff is

When to Appear/File an Answer Date: June 25, 2024 Time: 8:30 AM

Place to Appear/File an Answer Langlade County Courthouse 800 Clermont Street Antigo, WI 54409 Megan Schmidt, Deputy Clerk Date Summons Issued: 5-14-24 COMPLAINT

Plaintiff's Demand: The plaintiff states the following claim against the defendant(s): The plaintiff demands judgment for: Claim for Money \$8,402,84

I am the plaintiff /s/Linda Schulz 2238 Neva Rd., Antigo, WI 54409 715-627-2665

Published 5/23/24, 5/30/24 & 6/6/24

### CITY OF MERRILL 1004 EAST FIRST STREET MERRILL, WI 54452-2586 NOTICE OF ACTION ON A STREET VACATION

Notice is hereby given that a Resolution to vacate a portion of E 5th Street is to be acted upon by the Common Council of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin, at the meeting of the Common Council commencing at 7:00 p.m., July 9, 2024, at City Hall, Merrill, Wisconsin, on the following proposed Vacation Resolution,

Vacating that portion of East 5thStreet described as follows: Located in the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of

Section 12, Township 31N, Range 6E, City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin: All of Fifth Street right of way lying between the East right of way of

lying between the East right of way of Court Street and the West right of way of Spruce Street.

The City of Merrill reserves an easement for construction and maintenance purposes related to utilities serving the public currently located in, on carguing the vacated area.

on or around the vacated area. 2. This Notice of action is being taken pursuant to a recommendation of the Board of Public Works on May 1, 2024 and the City Plan Commission on May 6. 2024.

Any questions, please call City Engineer Roderick Akey, PE, at 715-536-5594. Dated: May 6, 2024 CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN BY: Lori Anderson-Malm

City Clerk
Published May 16, 23 & 30, 2024 WNAXLP

CITY OF MERRILL COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL **COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:30 PM** 

meeting to order at 6:37 pm due to the prior Committee of the Whole. II. Invocation - Pastor Mike Southcomb

- St Stephens UCC III. Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Alderperson A. Caylor. Alderperson M. Caylor, Alderperson Meyer, Alderperson Fermanich, Alderperson Lass, Alderperson Rick,

### Legals 7700

Alderperson Weix Jr., Alderperson Rutkowski Others present: City Attorney Hayden City Clerk Administrator City Clerk Anderson-Malm, City Administrator Akey, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Finance Director Ley, Fire Department Rep Skoug, Library Director Ollhoff, Police Chief Bennett, Street Superintendent Bonack, Operations Manager Steinagel, Pastor Michael Southcomb, Kathleen Woodward, Mark Woodward, Jeff Klapperich, TJ Burnett, Golden Harvest Representative.

V. Common Council Meeting
Expectations City Clerk AndersonMalm read the meeting expectations. VI. Public Comment There was no

VII. Minutes from Previous Meeting 1. Consider placing the minutes from 9th, April 16th and May 3rd. -Alderperson Meyer motioned to place the minutes on file. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion

VIII. Revenue and Expense Reports April Revenue and Expense
 Reports - Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded and the motion passed. IX. General Agenda Items for Consideration

1. Employee Recognition: - Ms. Akey and Mr. Teetzen were recognized and Mayor Hass thanked them for their longtime service to the City of Merrill.
a. Terri Akey - 35 years - T. B. Scott Library b. Thomas Teetzen - 20 years - Fire

Department -

2. Discuss and consider hiring a Facilities Maintenance Manager. This is being brought directly to the Council. Administrator/Public Works Director/City Engineer Akey explained why this was brought to the Council. The applicant who accepted the position. Taylor "TJ" wno accepted the position, laylor "I".

Burnett, was introduced to the Council.

Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve hiring Taylor "TJ" Burnett as Facilities Maintenance Manager. Alderperson M. Caylor seconded and the motion recorded.

passed.

3. Consider a street use permit for Golden Harvest Market, to close Pearl Street from Main Street to Thielman Street, for a customer appreciation event on June 1, 2024, from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. This is being brought directly to the Common Council. - Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed. Following approval of the motion, Alderperson Meyer asked Golden Harvest to go through the appropriate committees for future requests. X. Health & Safetv Golden Harvest Market, to close Pearl

1. Consider the change of agent application for Walgreens Store #10574, 101 N Center Avenue to Jeffry C. Klapperich. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval. - Alderperson Weix Jr. motioned to approve. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion Safety approval. passed.

2. Consider a Class B liquor license

for The Creative Spirit LLC, 129 N Prospect Street. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval. Alderperson Rick motioned to approve Alderperson M. Caylor seconded and

Alderperson Meyer motioned approval. Alderperson Meyer motioned approve. Alderperson A. C seconded and the motion passed.

seconded and the motion passed.

4. Consider a street use permit for Gesundheit Saloon, 1300 E Main Street, for August 17, 2024, from 11:00 am until 11:00 pm, in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the bar celebration. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval. - Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Rulkowski seconded and the motion passed. the motion passed.

XI. Place Committee Reports on File
1. Consider placing the following
Committee/Commission reports on file: Committee of the Whole. Board of Review, Historic Preservation Marketing & Communications, Airpor Commission, Health & Safety, Personnel & Finance, Board of Public Works, Enrichment Center, Library Board, Parks & Recreation Board, Parks & Recreation Commission, Festival Grounds and City Plan. Alderperson Mever motioned to place reports on file.

Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded and the motion passed.

XII. Ordinances All. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article III, Section 2-59, Polling Places. This is being brought directly

Common Council. Attorney Hayden read the Ordinance Aldernerson Fermanich motioned to Alderperson Fermanich motioned to suspend the rules and give the second and third readings by title only. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried. City Attorney Hayden gave the Ordinance the second and third readings by title only. City Clerk Anderson-Malm answered questions from the Coupril regarding the from the Council regarding the amendment. Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to adopt the Ordinance. Alderperson Meyer seconded, and the motion carried on a 6/2 roll call vote Alderperson M. Caylor and Alderperson Rick voted no.

2. An Ordinance Amending Chapter Article II. Section Regulation on length of lawn and grasses. The Board of Public Works recommends approval. - City Attorney Havden read the Ordinance Alderperson Meyer motioned to suspend the rules and give the second and third readings by title only. Aldernerson A Caylor seconded and the motion carried on a 6/2 voice vote.

City Attorney Hayden gave the

Ordinance the second and third readings by title only. Alderperson Meyer motioned to adopt the Ordinance. Alderperson M. Caylor seconded, and the motion carried on a 7/1 roll call vote. Alderperson Lass voted no.

3. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 30, Article II, Section 30-37 Unauthorized disposal of garbage, refuse or solid waste. The Board of Public Works recommends approval.

- City Attorney Hayden read the Ordinance. Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to suspend the rules and give the second and third readings by title only. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried. City Attorney Hayden gave the Ordinance the second and third readings by title only. Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to adopt the Ordinance. Ordinance. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried on an

seconded and the motion carried on an 8/0 roll call vote.

4. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 32, Article IV, Section 32-91 Snow and ice removal from sidewalks. The Board of Public Works recommends approval. - City Attorney Hayden read the Ordinance. Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to suspend the rules and dive motioned to suspend the rules and give the second and third readings by title only. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried. City Attorney Hayden gave the Ordinance the second and third readings by title only. Alderperson Meyer motioned to adopt the Ordinance. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion carried on an 8/0 roll call

XIII. Resolutions I. Resolutions
A Resolution Approving the Adjusted Merrill Urban Area
Boundary. - City Attorney Hayden read
the following Resolution:
A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE

ADJUSTED MERRILL URBAN AREA BOUNDARY
WHEREAS every ten years, the US
Census Bureau defines the boundaries

for geographic areas meeting the urban area criteria as published in the Federal Register; and, WHEREAS the Federal Highway

Administration (FHWA) allows states to adjust the Census-defined urban area boundaries for planning and funding purposes; and, WHEREAS the Wisconsin Department

of Transportation (WisDOT), following the release of decennial census data, leads a process to adjust Censusdefined urban area boundaries within the state, in conjunction with the FHWA Wisconsin Division; and, WHEREAS WisDOT works with local

officials within the urban areas to develop and propose new adjusted boundaries for these areas; and, WHEREAS WisDOT developed a

proposed new adjusted boundary for the Merrill Urban Area; and, WHEREAS officials from the City of

Merrill and Lincoln County reviewed WisDOT's proposed new adjusted boundary for the Merrill Urban Area and provided feedback on this boundary; WHEREAS WisDOT made changes to

the proposed new adjusted urban area boundary to reflect feedback received from the City and County officials; and, WHEREAS WisDOT is requesting approval of the proposed new adjusted urban area boundary by the City of Merrill: and. WHEREAS, after approval by the City

the new adjusted urban area boundary will be submitted to WisDOT and the FHWA Wisconsin Division for final approval

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 14th day of May, 2024, that the City of Merrill informs WisDOT that the new adjusted boundary for the Merrill Urban Area as reflected in the attached map is

READ = REUSE = RECYCLE

hereby approved and adopted Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve the Resolution, Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion carried.

XIV. Mayor's Appointments

1. Pete Lokemoen to the City Plan Commission, replacing Robert Reimann. Term to expire 05/01/2027. -Alderperson Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion passed.

XV. Mayor's Communications Mayor Hass had the following communications: May 18th is the City Wide Garage Sale May 18th is the Lincoln County Sports

Club open house
May 18th is the Food Truck-a-Palooza with 73 craft vendors, 17 food trucks, 2 bounce houses, Brad Emanual, live radio remotes, and a cornhole tournament at the Festival Grounds from 11:00 am until 7:00 pm.

The Library has State Park day passes and other events throughout the

summer.

Merill Enrichment Center; May 15th

Annual Control of the Center of the Cente Sassy spoons and plant sticks, May 16th sewing class from 12:30 - 4:00, May 22nd and 29th a Mosaic art class (2-part class). Please call the Enrichment Center for more details about these events.
Graduation is May 24th. Mayor Hass

congratulated all the Merrill High School graduates.
Merrill Baseball Association Tournament

is May 31st - June 2nd at the MARC, Lions Park and Athletic Park. The Rodeo is June 7, 8, and 9th at the

Festival Grounds. June 9th is the June Dairy Breakfast at

Fireworks are Friday, July 5th at the MARC instead of Thursday, July 4th.

Memorial Day ceremony will be at the
St. Francis Veterans Cemetary on May

XVI. Adjournment Aldernerson Lass motioned to Adjourn. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm. The complete Ordinances are on the City of Merrill https://www.ci.merrill.wi.us/

Published May 23, 2024

LIQUOR AND BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS TOWN OF RUSSELL, LINCOLN COUNTY

WNAXLP

JULY 1 2024 to JUNE 30 2025 LICENSE PERIOD CLASS B COMBINATION LICENSE: GLEASON BOWLING CENTER

N5353 STATE HWY 17, GLEASON WI 54435 Fodd Schram, Agent

MA'S PLACE N5375 STATE HWY 17. GLEASON WI 54435 Barbara Nickels, Agent
GLEASON AREA LIONS CLUB N5179 BRADLEY ST, GLEASON WI

Charles McCrory, Agent
GLEASON COMMUNITY CLUB, INC N5335 BAYER ST. GLEASON WI 54435

Jason Yanke, Agent

<u>CLASS B BEER</u>

SLED SHED CAMP DOERING RD,

GLEASON WI 54435
Thomas Doering, Agent
CLASS A BEER & CLASS A LIQUOR
REMINGTON OIL COMPANY

N5362 STATE RD 17, GLEASON WI

Dean Sorano, Agent
OLD TIME GENERAL STORE & MERCANTILE LLC N5342 STATE RD 17, GLEASON WI 54435 Ronald Forster, Agent

Published May 23, 2024 WNAXLP

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TRUST ADMINISTRATION
STATE OF WISCONSIN, County of Lincoln, in the matter of the E. Thomas Krembs Revocable Trust dated January

29, 2020 (the "Trust"):

1. E. Thomas Krembs, with date of birth September 4, 1930, and date of death December 14, 2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, Wisconsin.

2. The deadline for filing a claim against

the decedent, E. Thomas Krembs, is September 19, 2024. 3. All claims must include detailed documentation and must be submitted

to the Trustee of the Trust at the following address: 1303 O'Day Street, Date: May 16, 2024 E. Thomas Krembs Revocable Trust

dated January 29, 2020.

By:/s/ Marlene Balschun Schmidt,
Trustee

Dan C. Koblitz, Attorney

Published 5/23/24, 5/30/24 & 6/6/24.

Legals continued on page 6.

### TOWN OF MERRILL MERRILL, WISCONSIN

### BID NOTICE

The Town of Merrill, Lincoln County Wisconsin Will be accepting sealed bids for replacing culverts and blacktop on Spruce Rd - 2 west of K and 1 east of K

Forest Dr - 1 Swede Rd - 1 Schulz Spur Dr - 2

Township will provide culverts.
The work shall consist of furnishing all proper materials, equipment, and labor. Contractor to provided 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 at the June 10th, 2024 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 May 23, 30, & June 6, 2024

WNAXLP

### REQUEST FOR BIDS TOWN OF RUSSELL - LINCOLN COUNTY

The TOWN OF RUSSELL, LINCOLN COUNTY, will be accepting bids for a minimum of 2,500 yards of road gravel to be placed on various town roads.

For additional information please contact Chairman Robert Kressel at 715-873-4041.

Bids will be opened at 6:00 p.m. in the Town of Russell Town Hall on June 11, 2024.

Sealed bids can be submitted to: Town Clerk, N5410 State Highway 17, Gleason WI 54435. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Contractor to provide certificate of insurance showing liability and workers compensation coverage.

Amy Brown, Town Clerk

Published May 23 & 30, 2024

WNAXLP

## Thankyou Merrill businesses for your support of our graduates

### Merrill High School Co-op Program

**Megan Benton Anna Bowe** Alayna Boyd Isaak Clapper Olivia Dzwonkowski **Elexa Emmer Grace English Emma Frazier Lacey Frisch** 

**Katy Glaze Hannah Hayes Carson Henrichs Aaron Hipke Linzee Hixon Allison Hoock Austin Hotchkiss** D'Ondre Houghton **Painted Sunset Ranch** Auntie Ray's Coffee House Helene's Hilltop Orchard **B&H Construction** The Grand Stand Riverside Athletic Club Bell Tower Residence Helene's Hilltop Orchard Merrill Park & Rec and Kwik Trip #386

The Pet Spa Z's Fork Horners Bar and Grill Culver's Restaurant Culver's Restaurant Dairy Queen

Auntie Ray's Coffee House Arby's Restaurant

**Express Market by Festival Foods** 

**Emerson Iwen Mariah Jacoby Jonathon Kracht Zachary Lusher Chloe Malinowski Nathaniel Mattson Alexis Ollhoff** 

Ciana Orzech Savannah Orzech **Madison Ott** Mia Ott **Nicholas Palecek** 

**Mckenna Pickard** 

**Alexia Pophal Alexis Rogers Brooke Rudie** 

Auntie Ray's Coffee House Les and Jim's Lincoln Lanes Arby's Restaurant Culver's Restaurant Dairy Queen Kwik Trip #241 Smiling John's Christmas Trees and Helene's Hilltop Orchard **MAPS Prairie River Middle School** Aspirus YMCA The Grand Stand The Grand Stand Les and Jim's Lincoln Lanes **MAPS Washington Elementary** After School Program Arby's Restaurant River Country Co-op

**Justin Sabatke Donald Salisbury** Addison Schneider **Kaden Schwandt** Ashlyn Shoey **Julia Shull Sophie Simon** Annalee Streich Owen Taylor **Brock Wakefield** Adison Warren

Jorden Weisman Kayli Wirtala

Alayna Wyland

Kwik Trip #241 McDonald's Restaraunt Polka-Dotted Pie Culver's Restaraunt B's Nest Bar and Grill **MAPS Prarie River Middle School** Ana Blair's Boutique Kwik Trip #386 Culver's Restaraunt Culver's Restaraunt Stonev Acres Farm and Culver's Restaraunt Jeb's Bar and Grill Dairy Queen and Auntie Ray's Coffee House Merrill Park & Rec and

Helene's Hilltop Orchard

### Youth Apprenticeship Program

Nanny

Alayna Amundson **Carter Baade Chase Brantner** Jaden Bush Yandel Carrillo-Vidal Victoria Catlin **Malaynie Dengel Grahm Dodge Claire Duley Bryce Eggebrecht Jeffrey Eisner III Grace Faber True Fairfield** Laken Frederick **Christian Gilbert** Jacob Graap **Landon Hipke Brandon Humphrey** Allison Hunter **Brady Kanitz** 

Pine Crest Nursing Home Krueger Wholesale Florist, Inc. Lincoln Wood Products Inc. **Zastrow The Beer Man Zastrow The Beer Man** T.P. Corp. **Woodland Court Elder Services Painted Sunset Ranch Duley Farms** Walmart - Merrill Weinbrenner Shoe Company Athenian Living **Zastrow The Beer Man Geiss Meat Service Brickner Park City** Russ Davis Wholesale Inc. **Brickner Park City** Lincoln Wood Products Inc. **Geiss Meat Service** 

Nicholas Kriegel Regena Lahti **Gene Lohse Chloe McRae McKenna Meyer Madelyn Mootz lan Morgan Zachary Morris Zander Ney Jayce Oberg Sawyer Peterson Olivia Pierce Nolan Polak Kaiden Ratzlaff Morgan Schmidt Benjamin Schneider Sommer Seefeldt Kendel Semling Archer Slattery Dylan Smith** 

J&J Lee Construction Lincoln Wood Products Inc. O'Reilly Auto Parts WEB, Inc. Incredible Bank St. John's Lutheran Christian Care **Bell Tower Residence** Walmart - Merrill **Brickner Park City** Goetsch's Welding and Machine, Inc. Peterson Brothers Sand and Gravel, LLC Aspirus Wausau Hospital Pine River Wreath Merrill Area Public Schools **Bell Tower Residence** Goetsch's Welding and Machine, Inc. Pine Crest Nursing Home Schmitt and Koppelman Lincoln Wood Products Inc. **Zastrow The Beer Man** 

**Matthew Steffen Gracie Such Gretchen Such** Nora Trojanowski **Thomas Troyer Alexa Vandeweerd Ana Voermans Phillip Vogel** Sophie Wendorf **Isabel Wendt Macy Wesbrock Anna Westfall Carson Woellner Chloe Wolf Belant Alex Woller Roman Wunsch** Sergei Wunsch Alayna Wyland

Breaman Merrill Ford Crossbridge Community Bank St. Francis Xavier School Pine Crest Nursing Home Aspirus Wausau Hospital **Bell Tower Residence Pine Crest Nursing Home** Nieman Brands **Burgener Contract Carriers Ltd Woosters Garage Bell Tower Residence** Park City Credit Union **Zastrow The Beer Man** Aspirus Wausau Hospital Walmart - Merrill 2 Boys and A Lawnmower 2 Boys and A Lawnmower Aspirus Wausau Hospital

### |LEGAL NOTICES|

Continued from page 5.

### Merrill Area Public Schools Regular Board of Education Meeting

April 17, 2024 – Minutes
The meeting was called to order by
Blake at 5:30 PM in the Board Room. Board members present: All. Board members absent: None, Others Present: Superintendent Murray, MAPS Administrators, Black and Rudie, 11 people from the staff and public and Recorder Woller

Yingling left the meeting at 5:33 p.m. MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the schedules, course offerings and registration materials for MAPS Summer School Enrichment 2024. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller to

approve the 2024-2025 Elementary Student Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by
Osness to approve the 2024-2025
course descriptions for Prairie River
Middle School. Motion carried

unanimously. MOTION by Gremler, second by Woller to approve the 2024-2025 high school student handbook/agenda. Motion

carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to

plan. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Liberty, second by Gremler to approve the new SEL coach positions presented.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Proulx to approve the 2024-25 fiscal year addendum of the Taher Food Service contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously

MOTION by Gremler, second by Osness to approve the purchase order for Laprea Education, Inc. for \$10,889.10 for decodable classroom library books.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the proposal from Lee Recreation for playgrounds at Kate

Lincoln Wood Products Inc.

Goodrich & Washington Elementary with Principals making final equipment and proposal selection. Motion carried proposal s unanimously

by Ashbeck, second by MOTION Krueger to approve the amended CESA 9 contract to include an additional 1.5 day of CSI time. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to

approve the facilities projects a presented. Motion carried unanimously MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the renewal of health insurance with Aspirus Health Plan with a 9.5% increase as presented for FY25. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the

MOTION by Gremler, second by Proulx MOTION by Gremier, second by Proux to approve the renewal of the dental insurance for FY25 with reduced monthly rate deduction rate as presented with employee deduction portion absorbing the decrease. Motion portion absorbing the properties of the complete of the comple carried with Osness abstaining from the

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the renewals for voluntary benefits as presented. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the additional step to the

teacher compensation plan. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Proulx to approve a stipend for CTE Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the administrator and professional staff compensation plan and issue contracts for 24-25 provide a 3% increase to staff not on a plan. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to

eliminate the After School Program Coordinator support staff position held by Payton Lewandowski at the conclusion of 2023-2024 school year grant. Motion carried unanimously

MOTION by Proulx, second by Gremler to approve the attached personnel report, contingent upon release of contract for hirings and upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable

MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve consent agenda items a through d, which includes minutes of the 27, 2024, and April 10, 2024 meetings; the second reading and approval of Policy 6611 District-Supported/Sponsored Student Activity Accounts; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,307,183,99; and, donations totaling \$2,615.00. Motion carried with Woller abstaining from the approval of the April 10, 2024 minutes; and, Krueger abstaining from a portion of the March 27, 2024 minutes.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Ashbeck to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. Respectfully submitted,

(The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin.)

Published May 23, 2024

### Merrill Area Public Schools Special Board of Education Meeting April 22, 2024 – Minutes The meeting was called to order by

Blake at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Board members present: Ashbeck, De Rizzo, Gremler, Liberty, Proulx and Blake. Board members absent: Hornischer and Woller. Others present: Superintendent Murray, Caylor and Recorder Woller

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Kevin Blake for

President. Motion carried unanimously. Board President for the 2024-2025 term is Kevin Blake.
MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to

7700

nominations unanimous ballot for Brett Woller for Vice President Motion ously. Board Vice President for the 2024-2025 term is Brett Woller. MOTION by Proulx, second by Gremler

to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Ron Liberty fo Motion unanimously. Board Clerk for the 2024-2025 term is Ron Liberty.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by

Gremler to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Paul Proulx for Trescurer Motion 2024-2025 term is Paul Proulx. MOTION by Liberty, second by Asbheck

to approve the board goals (as written) for the Board of Education for 2024-2025. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to hold one regular monthly board meeting on the 3rd or 4th Wednesdays of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to appoint Paul Proulx as representative to the CESA #9 Board of Control, with myself (Ron Liberty) as Alternate Delegate. Motion carried unanimously. MOTION by Ashbeck, second Gremler to appoint Kevin Blake WASB Delegate and Ron Liberty as the Alternate Delegate. Motion

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Gremler to adiourn at 6:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Ron Liberty Board Clerk RI /tlw

(The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting

### Legals

the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Published May 23, 2024

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT LINCOLN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE Case No. 23-CV-94 COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION. Plaintiff,

v. MATTHEW L. SCHULT AND U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on October 9, 2023 in the amount of \$72,956.98 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as

TIME: June 11 2024 at 10:00 am TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash cashier's check or certified funds, payable to the Lincoln County Clerk of Courts. (Personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the clerk of courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation for the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold 'as is' and subject to all liens and encumbrances

PLACE: Lincoln County Courthouse, Main Entrance, 1110 East Main Street, City of Merrill

and Lincoln County
DESCRIPTION: Lot One (1), in Block
Six (6) of J.M. Smith and Company's
Third (3rd) Addition to the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. ~This is a purchase money mortgage ~This is the homestead of the mortgagor PROPERTY ADDRESS: 211 N. Ohio

Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452-1744

DATED: April 25, 2024 Lincoln County Sheriff Attorneys for Plaintiff 413 N. 2nd Street, Suite 150 Milwaukee, WI 53203 414-271-5400

Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson, S.C. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a Chapter 7 bankruptcy case this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt. Published May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2024 & June 6, 2024

7700

### TOWN OF PINE RIVER, LINCOLN COUNTY NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR

LICENSE Notice is hereby given that the following applications have been filed with the Clerk for the Town of Pine River.

RETAILERS "CLASS B" WINERY PERMIT AND RETAILERS CLASS "B" FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE: Melissa Hoffman, Sunset Hollow Ranch. W3193 Pine River Rd Merrill WI 54452

RETAILERS CLASS "B" FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE: Sheryl Chism, Agent, Chism Trail Ranch N1200 Liberty Rd, Merrill, WI

RETAILERS CLASS "B" AND "CLASS B" FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE AND INTOXICATING LIQUOR William Robert Naef, Bill's Bar, N1594 Hwy 64, Merrill, WI 54452.

Please recycle. Amanda Herdt, Clerk Published May 23, 2024

# meone who or her life ng bigger eself."

mpbell

# ation's Heroes on al Day

### pen to the public to attend

7, 2024

nere is bad weather the ceremony will be moved to the on 601 Johnson Street.

laying. Ceremony will begin at 11:00 AM.

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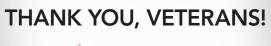
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- Josepl

# Remembering Ou Membering Ou Membering Ou

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When:

**Where:** Veterans Memorial Cemetery off Thielman Stre Northwood's Veterans

Time: 10:30 AM the Merrill City Band will

Sponsored by the VF

### **Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar**

May 23 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.

May 24 - Merrill High **School Graduation** 

May 26 - BINGO at VFW May 27 - Merrill City Band plays/Memorial Day Ceremony

May 29 - Trivia Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.

May 30 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co. May 31 - Third Annual

**E-Cycle Event at Merrill Festival Grounds** 

May 31 - Merrill Baseball **Association Tournament** at MARC

Jun. 1 - Third Annual E-Cycle Event at Merrill **Festival Grounds** 

Jun. 1 - Merrill Baseball **Association Tournament** at MARC

Jun. 1 - Gleason Lions **Club Annual Golf** Tournament

Jun. 1 - Apex Angels & Warriors Wolf/Wolfdog Rescue & Sanctuary Open House

Jun. 2 - Merrill Baseball **Association Tournament** at MARC

Jun. 3 - 46th annual **Merrill Chamber Golf** Classic

For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/ events or contact the event sponsor.

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### **BVA Class** of 2024

Bridges Virtual Academy (BVA), a virtual charter school in the Merrill Area Public School District serving grades K4-12, held its Class of 2024 graduation ceremony Friday evening, May 17, 2024, at Merrill High School. There were 44 total graduates this year from around the state of Wisconsin. Thirty of these graduates, along with their family and friends, traveled to Merrill to participate in the graduation ceremony. BVA's Class of 2024 includes both January and May graduates.

graduates: January Brooke Anderson (Ferryville), Allison Clauser (Milwaukee), Emma Clauser (Milwaukee), Riley Gallagher (Merrill), Ryan Kozlowski (Mukwonago), Shylah Kravick (White Lake), Noah Lewis (New Glarus), Josiah Rasmussen (Janesville), Autumn Tatman (Merrill), and Braden Walker (Baraboo).

May Graduates: Salvador Abundiz

7282



Bridges Virtual Academy Class of 2024 graduates after their graduation ceremony in Submitted photo.

7272

(Green Bay), Ella Arcand (Algoma), Lauren Babich (Franksville), Thia Benhart (Whitewater), Bilges Bent-Ibrahim (Milwaukee), Lily Blechacz (Milwaukee), Grahm Dodge (Merrill), Ethan Filtz (Wittenberg), Haylee Florez (Neenah), Silas Frank (Waterloo), Ava Fullerton (Little Suamico), Jonah Gulisano (Madison), Abigail Gutenberger (Merrill), Maxx Hilstad (Appleton), Lorelei Hughes (South Milwaukee), Silas Jorgensen (Schofield), Isabela Jung (Greenfield),

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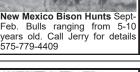
Agriculture Services

7264

Micah Karle (Greenville), Anna Lievens (Delavan), Elias Matiash (Oshkosh), Thomas Matiash (Oshkosh), John Nyquist (Almond), Olivia Pollnow (Franksville), Olivia Ritchie (Wausau), Wyatt Rozmarynoski (Woodruff), Julia Shore (Sun Prairie), Katelyn Shrock (Rhinelander), Taryn Smith (Baraboo), Josiah Spennetta (Middleton), Paul Springer III (Milwaukee), Julia Wacker (Rhinelander), Caleb Waddell (Muskego), Roman Wunsch (Merrill), and Sergei Wunsch (Merrill).

### Miscellaneous Recreational 7530







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### Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us

READ = REUSE = RECYCLE

### Bill Frazier A Love So Dear

Page 13

Unseen, unheard, but always near, so loved, so missed, so very dear.

every day.



Rog & Mar

Niftu '50

of the

### Pet of the Week

This good looking boy is Cinnamon! He is a nice boy who is looking for a nice calm home to call his own! He is on a special urinary food that he will need to stay on. He is good with other cats. and kids! He is a playful and talkative boy once he settles in to his new home and is comfortable!

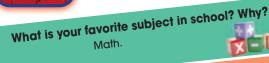
Visit all the adoptable animals at Lincoln. County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in 9 Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-4PM; Sun 12-2PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us on the

### **Fords** N3135 Hwy. 17, Merrill web at www.furrypets.com. IERRILL FOTO NEWS Student



### Son of Ryan & Carri Leyk

Rhett is in the 5th grade at St. John Lutheran School. He was nominated by Mrs. Waldburger.





What would you like to do/become someday?

A police officer or join the military.

Rhett has been making a great effort to complete his work in an outstanding way, and he's always the first to volunteer if I need help. He's really put in a lot of work to improve his grades and behavior this year!

~ Mrs. Waldburger



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

### **Auctions**

ONLINE **AUCTION** STORAGE UNIT(S): The Property Bauers LLC is giving notice of the sale of personal property that is considered abandoned and is being sold for rent, late fees and of the sale. Ben Haring Karen Campos unit: (#7) roll top fishing poles, grill and household items; and

Dana Zuelsdorff unit: (#18) chest freezer,

furniture and household items. The Facility address is N847 County Road KQ Merrill, WI 54452. The auctions will be held on

rentwithabc.com/storageunits starting May 9th 2024 at 5pm with an end time of May 24th 2024 at 5pm. Please contact

715-350-8900 with any questions rentwithabc.com

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7272 Dogs

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AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUP-PIES \$675 and Golden Ret./Lab Mix puppies \$300 shots/worm/vet 715-671-3092

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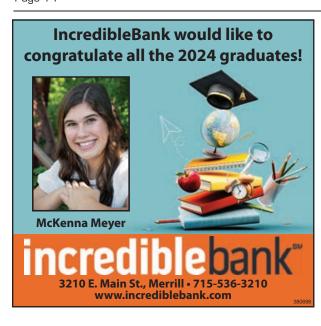
Original - Uncooked - Froze

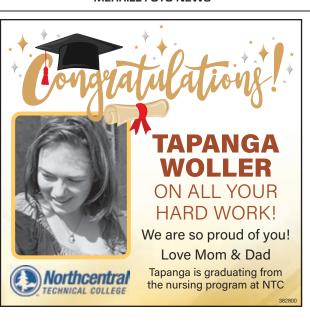
ONLY \$1999

32 ozONLY 5499	6 lbsUNLY a lb.
Pork Crumbles	Cheddar Cheese 5 lbsONLY \$189 a lb.
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2.5 lbs. ONLY 233  French Fries Waffle Cut - Frozen 22 oz. ONLY 199	Cream Cheese Original 2 - 8 oz
Beef Brisket Corned - Uncooked - Frozen 6 lbs	Hot Pockets 12 ct Ham 'n Cheese - Frozen 54 ozONLY \$899
Bacon Bits	Bratwurst

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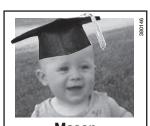
The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank Evelyn and Connor. They donated muchneeded supplies as part of their advent calendar last holiday season!

Submitted photo.

# Congratulations. CLASS OF 2024 • The Best is Yet To Come!



Jerzie Rusch Merrill High School We are all so very proud of you! Love Dad, Mom, **Brandon & Jaden** 



Mason **Thomaschefsky** MADA We are so proud of you! Love you to the moon and back. Grandma Terri & Grandpa Harvey



**Alex Woller** Merrill High School Remembering you finger painting now graduation! WOO HOO! Congratulations Love, Mom and Grandma & Grandpa



Victoria Jo Catlin Merrill High School We have enjoyed watching you grow over the years congratulations girl! From all of us that love you



Merrill High School Congrats J! God's blessings on your next chapter. We love you! Mom, Dad, Jazi & Jilli



Mia Ott Merrill High School
Live the life you imagined and follow your dreams. Keep working hard and stay humble. So proud! Love, Mom & Dad

**Andrew Proulx** Merrill High School You make us all so proud. Chase your dreams and catch them. We love you. Love, Mom



**Parker Welch** Merrill High School Love you baby. Love, Mom and Dad



**Isabel Wendt** Merrill High School Congratulations Bel! Love, Joshua



**Ethan Ravn** Merrill High School So proud of you and very excited for your future Love, Gpa & Gma Ravn



Addison Schneider Merrill High School Good luck at UW Whitewate Dad, Mom, Brennah. Evie (meow) & Stella (meow)



Merrill High School So proud of you kid! Keep being you! Love, Your Family!



**Emma Frazier** Merrill High School Congratulations Emma! We are so proud of you. Love, Your Family



**Allison Wolff** Merrill High School Congratulations! We are very proud of vou! Love, Mom & Dad



Merrill High School oud! Keep letting your light of You will continue making a difference in this world! Love, Mom & Dad



Madelyn Mootz Merrill High School Congratulations, Maddie! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom Jesse & Kaleb



Michael Dickman Merrill High School Be brave. Be silly. Be adventurous. Be kind. Be free. Be you, and know we're so proud of you. Love , Mom, Josh, Zac, Kai, Brie, and Nik



**Dawson Schulz** Merrill High School Congratulations Boss! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, Carmyn & Deylah



Clayton Evans Merrill High School Congratulations! We are very proud of vou! Love, Mom & Dad



**Landon Hipke** Merrill High School We are so proud of you! Reach for the stars, Bud! Love, Your Family



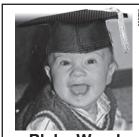
Chloe Belant Merrill High School So proud of you! Look forward to your future successes too! Love, Mom, Dad, and Caelyn



Gabrielle Krueger Merrill High School She said she would, so she did! Love, Mom, Dad & Joey



Sebastian Ollmann Merrill High School You did it! So proud of your achievements Wishing you much success in the future. Love, Dad



**Blake Wood** Merrill High School We are so proud of you! Way to go Buddy! Love, Mom, Dad, & Brady



Mom, Dad, Cole, Bird,

Casie, Jaden



Akeela Conley Merrill High School Way to go!! We are so proud of you! Love, Your Family



Love, Mom, Dad & Hailey



**Elexa Emmer (Lex)** Merrill High School You continue to amaze us Lexilou! So proud of all your accomplishments! Love, Mom and Dad



Zach Morris Merrill High School We are so proud of you Love, Mom & Dad



Macy Wienke Merrill High School Congratulations on all your achievements in High School! Good luck @ Univ. MN Dulth! Love, Dad & Mom



Anna Westfall Merrill High School Go do GREAT things! Your family

# Bluejay Varsity Trap Team has Conference Championship in their sights

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

In Week 8 of competition, the Merrill Bluejay Varsity Trap Team faced off against the Mosinee Trap Team - their biggest rival - and pulled off an exciting win, 119-116. Both teams went into Week 8 undefeated, so it truly was a showdown between the two leading teams in this year's competition. Conference With the win, the Merrill emerged Bluejays victors and are currently the standouts: the only undefeated team in the Conference.

Two Varsity shooters scored perfect 25's this week to help the Bluejays claim their victory: Robert (Bobby) Hoff shot another 25 and Matthew Steffen also shot a perfect score of 25.

After this week's shooting, Merrill Varsity shooter Bobby Hoff rose to first place Varsity shooter in the Conference with a score of 188. Lakeland's Ethan Schumacher is close on his heals. He ties him with a score of 188, but Hoff remains in the lead with 99 RR compared

to Schumacher's 78 RR. Merrill's Christopher Holz retains his third place position in the Conference with a score of 187.

Merrill's Team also beat the Mosinee competition this week, winning 118-106. And three Merrill JV shooters are in the top five shooters in the Conference in their division: Mathew Maas. Mason Meyer, and Alex Petrowski are in second, third, and fourth places, respectively, with scores of 184 (75 RR), 181 (92 RR), and 181 (80 RR). Merrill's Maria Ashbrenner and Lily Kufahl retain their spots as first and second place female JV shooters in the Conference, with scores of 173 and 148, respectively.

This week, in Week 9, which is the final round of regular Conference shooting, Merrill will compete against Rhinelander High School Trap Team. The Merrill Varsity Trap Team is keeping the Conference Championship in their sights, hoping to complete their 2024 regular Conference season undefeated.



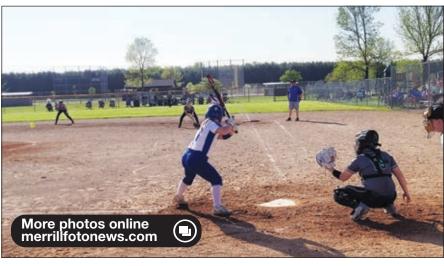
Matthew Steffen shot a perfect score of 25 in Week 8 of competition.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Bluejay Trap Program.



Robert Hoff scores another 25 this week.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Bluejay Trap Program.



Left fielder Alayna Wyland digs in at the plate!

Rick Argall photo.

### Merrill Varsity Softball Team routs Rhinelander in regional playoffs

BY RICK ARGALL MMC STAFF

The Merrill Varsity Bluejays Softball Team (6-16) hosted a regional playoff game versus Rhinelander (1-15) at the Merrill Area Recreation Complex on Friday, May 17, 2024. The game would mark the last home game of the season for Merrill, as they cruised to an 11-0 win over the Hodags.

"It was a fun game. We put good things together piece by piece and everybody did what we were supposed to do," said Head Coach Ali Krohn.

"When you do the little things right, it works out for you, so this will be good going into Tuesday when we go to New London."

The Bluejays jumped out to an early 4-0 lead after one inning and dominated the game behind strong pitching from Senior Sophie Wendorf (5.0 IP, 2 H, 6 SO, 0 ER) who earned the win. Merrill was led at the plate by Ava Detert (1-1, 1 R, 2 RBI, 1 BB), Senior Lexi Ollhoff (2-3, 1 R, 2 RBI), and Senior pitcher Sophie Wendorf (1-3, 2

RBI), as the game was called after 5 innings due to the 10-run rule. Mia Ott and Mackenzie Herdt each had two walks apiece, and Mia Ott added three stolen bases to pace the offense. The Bluejays totaled 11 runs for the game on seven hits and no errors.

Merrill advances to the second round of the 2024 WIAA State Girls Softball Tournament Regionals at New London on Tuesday, May 21.

Box Score: Rhinelander 0 @ Merrill 11

### TWO from page 3

man's burial. Many a solider was laid to rest with Melvin playing for their final call, with eventually Melvin's younger brother Clifford joining in the effort. The two would play separately, or if they were both available, they would play together, with one of the two being off in the distance repeating the notes from afar.

When World War II broke out, our young men went off to fight again, and then the same with the Korean War. Each time the first local casualty was brought home from those wars, Melvin and his bugle were asked to sound *Taps*.

Clifford Talbot went off to college at UW-Stevens Point. While a student there, he contracted what we would consider a minor health condition, but in the 1930's, it proved fatal. Clifford was brought back to Merrill in November of 1937 and buried in the Talbot family plot at St. Francis Cemetery. When he was buried, no one played Taps. As Clifford, much like his brother Melvin, had never served in the armed forces, that honor would not normally be afforded to the young man.

The evening Clifford was laid to rest, his brother Melvin excused himself and went down with his wife Marie to the cemetery, and over the fresh grave, Melvin played *Taps* for his younger brother. As they turned to walk from the grave, Melvin remarked, "There will be no one to play Taps at my funeral someday." With Melvin's great respect for the military, he swore his wife to secrecy that the ceremony was performed,

as Melvin did not want to upset any members of the military by providing that honor.

Melvin became a wellrespected businessman in Merrill community. He had started working at the former Lincoln County Bank in 1921 where eventually he obtained the position of cashier and then executive vice president in 1953. He attended the University of Wisconsin banking school and had graduated as president of his class just a few years earlier. He went on to serve on numerous boards, commissions, and in local clubs.

In January of 1963, Melvin Talbot suffered a heart attack on a Friday evening. He was brought to Holy Cross Hospital where he died that Sunday night at the age of 59. After a funeral mass that Wednesday morning, Melvin was buried at St. Francis without *Taps* being played.

Or was it?

Monica Talbot, sister to Melvin, confessed later on in life that she tried to pay someone \$20 (\$200 today) to play *Taps* that day; however, the temperature was -25 and the musician told Monica his lips would freeze to the mouthpiece.

Many years later in life, Mike Talbot, who contributed most of the details to this story, was speaking with his grandmother Marie about her husband, his grandfather Melvin. Mike said it was a tragedy, that with all of the ceremonies Melvin performed, he never was able to get Taps played at his own funeral. It was then that Marie told her grandson the family secret regarding Clifford's death. Mike then shared the story of Clifford receiving Taps, and how his grandfather Melvin had never received



the honor, with his mother Mary. Mary told Mike that Marie's story was totally true, and then she told him the story she had been sworn to secrecy about from 26 years earlier. Mary told Mike that his father, Jim Talbot, came home on February 16, 1963, Melvin's 60th birthday. He told his wife, "There is something I must do," and off he went to the cemetery. As he stood over the frozen ground that held his father's remains, Jim played Taps with Melvin's bugle.

At the time, Jim had no idea that his father Melvin had performed the same solemn ceremony for his brother Clifford years earlier.

Over the years, the solemn *Taps* ceremony has been repeated probably a thousand times in Merrill. Thankfully, for the most part, it was as we buried a member of the military who came home safely after their service. I doubt few are left who ever heard a Talbot sound *Taps*, as it has been more than 60 years

since that bugle or trumpet has sounded a note.

This Memorial Day, Mike Talbot and his family will be present near the Veterans Memorial in St. Francis Cemetery. The military and members of the public will gather, as they always do, to pay respect to those who gave their lives for this great nation. When the time comes, Taps will sound over the grounds. And for the first time in nearly 90 years, those 24 notes will come from Melvin's bugle and Clifford's trumpet.

### 2024 Merrill High School Spring Sports Schedule

### **Boys Track (Varsity & JV)** Thurs. May 23 Hudson-Sectional (Varsity) Away 4:00 pm Girls Track (Varsity & JV) Thurs. May 23 Hudson-Sectional (Varsity) Away 4:00 pm Boys Baseball (Varsity, JV & JV2) Thurs. May 23 Stevens Point Red (JV2) Home 5:00 pm Thurs. May 23 Northland Pines (Varsity) 5:00 pm Home Girls Softball (Varsity & JV) Playoff Schedule updated at www.wiaawi.org Girls Soccer (Varsity & JV) Thurs. May 23 Lakeland Union (Varsity) Home 6:00 pm Tues. May 28 New Richmond (Varsity) 7:00 pm Away

For all playoff schedules and brackets please go to <u>www.wiaawi.org</u>

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



PROTECTING THE GREATER GOOD



369028

## Marshfield Clinic Health System now including military status in patient health record

### Patient military and veteran status will also be used for research in patient communities

Military experiences and exposures are well-known factors that affect individuals' health and well-being, both in the short and long term. This is especially true when active military personnel and veterans mobilize and deploy to hazardous environments, whether that means combat or natural disaster responses.

To better diagnose and treat current military and veterans, staff and physicians at the Marshfield Clinic Health System are now asking patients about having been in the military or are currently serving.

In the intricate tapestry of veterans' experiences, both domestic and international exposures play a significant role. From traversing the globe to confronting natural disasters at home, their journey encompasses austere environments, biological and chemical exposures, and the enduring legacy of traumatic events. As caregivers, it's imperative to recognize these multifaceted challenges to deliver holistic care. Understanding and facilitating access to the array of resources available is essential in honoring their service and ensuring their wellbeing.

Corey Cronrath, M.D., medical director of Marshfield Clinic Health System's Occupational Health service line, believes understanding a patient's military status and experience is crucial for enhancing their health care.

"As a physician and a veteran, I have been privileged to witness the

dedication and sacrifice of our service members firsthand," Cronrath said. "They face a myriad of dangers from the toxins of burn pits to enemy fire – both at home and abroad. Some of these exposures lead to immediate health issues, while others manifest over time, posing unique challenges to their health. It's crucial for us, as the health care team, to understand these challenges. They affect not only our service members but also their families and communities. By understanding and being aware of the risks and hazards they have faced, we can better support them through the services available within and outside of the Marshfield Clinic Health System."

The questions will be a regular occurrence for those patients aged 17 and older, repeating every three years or until the history is completely captured.

Many people likely already share with their care providers if they have military experience or are a veteran during a normal annual visit. That information is often recorded in typed notes called social histories. Given the advancement in information technologies, the Health System has designed a set of discrete questions to capture these facts more consistently, creating much more reliable and organized data. If patients respond "yes" to whether they have served in the military or are currently serving, additional questions will open, including:

- Branch(es) of service
- If they were deployed or mobilized • Years of service or if they are currently serving

This improvement to the patients' medical records will better inform health care providers about what may be affecting patients' health. It can provide more depth for diagnostics and can better inform

treatment plans. This is critical for a state like Wisconsin where a number of the riskiest occupations are well-represented, including construction, transportation, and agriculture (both farming and forestry). Wisconsin is home to an estimated 350,000 veterans. Information about patients' military history, occupation, and industry will not affect their health insurance costs or coverage.

These data regarding patients' work also places health researchers at a new cutting edge of possibilities.

"This innovation places research team at a tremendous advantage and could change the game," said Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., associate research scientist with the National Farm Medicine Center at Marshfield Clinic Research Institute. "We will be one of the few health systems in the country equipped to examine health data in light of someone's work and military history. And this new development is quite timely given recent federal legislative actions such as the PACT Act and its impact on veterans' eligibility and access to health care, including VA-funded Community Care, which veterans can receive at the Marshfield Clinic Health System, once enrolled."

'This change will help us provide better care for our patients who are serving or who previously served in the military, and it will further our system-wide efforts to capture population health data and provide better care coordination for veterans," Marshfield Clinic representatives said. "Adding this question into the registration process also allows us to better connect our patients to additional services of which they are eligible and helps our care teams identify possible exposures or risks that may have led to current ailments."

## Area businesses come together for Merrill Chamber HR Workshop

Thirteen area businesses came together at the Park City Credit Union Community Room Wednesday, May 15, 2024 Regional for the first Human Resources Workshop. The event was designed to gather HR from area professionals businesses and workforce resource organizations to share insights, collaborate, and connect. The individuals that attended participated in a variety of conversations designed to foster connections and share themes they are seeing within the HR environment whether that be challenges or incentives used to attract and retain talent.

"This idea stemmed from [Merrill Chamber] Human Resource Committee. We continue to hear about the struggle it can be to find and retain talent, and because of this Committee we have heard it's not an isolated issue, so let's make the resources known and get those individuals together into one room and continue to grow our community in a positive way," said Merrill Chamber Executive Director Clyde Nelson.

The Chamber collaborated with Centergy to bring in representatives from North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, CW Solutions, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, and Northcentral Technical College to deliver the tools available to employers and job seekers and the education given to area students going out into the workforce.

"It was a valuable morning for these individuals, and we hope that we can continue to offer these types of workshops through the Chamber,' said Nelson. "As a benefit to our Chamber members, we offer the opportunity to meet quarterly with our HR Committee. Whether you are an HR professional or a small business owner, it allows you the opportunity to hear about the new laws that affect the hiring process and allows you to ask more seasoned professionals for advice on employee or hiring situations happening within your company."

This event was free and open to both Chamber members and non-chamber members. It was sponsored Merrill the Commerce, of Chamber Centergy, Park City Credit Union, and Nicolet National Bank. For more information on resources available to you, please visit the Merrill Chamber website: www. merrillchamber.org.

### **Click It or Ticket**

The annual Click It or Ticket campaign is back, reminding drivers to buckle

up. Law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin State Patrol, are stepping up patrols for the

up patrols for the annual Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement campaign.

The campaign coincides with the Memorial Day holiday weekend, which is the first long holiday weekend of summer. The roads are especially busy during this season, so officers will be out encouraging motorists to wear their seat belts. The national Click It or Ticket campaign runs from May 20 to June 2, 2024.

"We hope buckling up becomes a habit for everyone on the roads," State Patrol Superintendent Tim Carnahan said. "Encourage others to buckle up too. It's a simple step that's proven to save lives."

State law requires all drivers and passengers to wear a seat belt when traveling in Wisconsin. Children must also be in the proper child safety seat for

their age and size. Penalties are higher for transporting unrestrained children, and passengers can also be

The goal of Click It or Ticket is not simply to issue citations, but to

educate the community on the lifesaving benefits of wearing a seat belt. A 2023 survey found that 8% of Wisconsin motorists still do not wear seat belts.

"Our goal is to promote safety on the roads," Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Bureau of Transportation Safety Director David Pabst said. "Buckling up is one of the best ways to reduce injuries and save lives during a crash."

In addition to Click It or Ticket, WisDOT's Buckle Up Phone Down campaign encourages drivers and passengers to be aware of the dangers of not wearing a seat belt throughout the year. Take the Buckle Up Phone Down pledge at wisconsindot.gov/BUPD. Join as an individual, community group or business and commit to traffic safety on every trip.

### MERRILL FOTO LEVV5

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### **ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**Dawson Schulz,** a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Dawson started playing T-ball when he was young and progressed through "Little League and all the stages - minors, majors, played travel ball," then started on the MHS JV Baseball Team as a Freshman before joining the Merrill Varsity Baseball Team in his Sophomore year. He pitches and also plays second and third base.

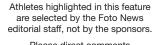
At school, Dawson's favorite class is the building construction class. "We're helping build a duplex with the Merrill Housing Authority," he said. He works part-time at Geiss Meat Service.

In his free time, Dawson likes to hunt (deer and bear, bow and rifle) and fish and participate in pretty much any outdoor activities, he said. "We have a cabin, so I go fishing quite a bit in the summertime," Dawson said. The son of Dennis and Sherri Schulz of Merrill, Dawson has a 3.6 GPA. After graduation, "I am going to NTC and taking their Gas, Uiltity and Construction Course," he said. His goal is to work in the power industry, possibly for WPS.

Congratulations from these sponsors:







**Dawson Schulz** 

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