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# LeRoy Fischer: A tribute to a 70-year career

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

Last week LeRoy Fischer - barber to generations of Merrill residents and customers who've traveled far and wide to have him give them a shave and a haircut over the years - hung up his clippers and shears and officially began his retirement. He did so with his ever-ready smile for anyone who was watching, but there's more than a small chance there were tears in his eyes at the same time. It wasn't an easy decision, but it was one that's been a while in coming, as LeRoy has faced increasing health and mobility challenges over the last year. "Due to health issues, I've had to make a serious decision," LeRoy said. "I will have to give up

barbering as of July 1st. I've enjoyed this part of my life so much; it will be hard to do." Many years ago when the *Merrill Foto News* did an article about LeRoy's career, he had commented, "It's really the customers and the people I've met over the years that keep me busy and coming back to the shop every day ... That's the one thing I can say that has never changed over the years, how much fun I have with my customers ... When I don't have fun anymore, that will be the day I retire." The customers are still what makes LeRoy smile and even tear up a little. They've put the fun in barbering all these years, but the physical challenges of the last year have put a damper on LeRoy's fun, making it difficult to do

what he's done for so many years with joy and ease. "My scissors are dull," LeRoy quipped with a sad smile. He said that's how his family suggested he put it. But in truth, it's really just the aches and pains of age and surgeries and a body that won't cooperate with LeRoy's spirit that led to his tough decision. And, it's time he spent more time with his wife and family, LeRoy added. "Thanks to my wife Connie for what she has done to help me with cleaning and decorating. She has been supportive for the last 40 years. [And] to my family for putting up with long hours and missing some family gatherings," he said. They've put up with the phone ringing every day of the week at all hours for appointments for all these years. Now it's time to quiet

the phone and spend more time with family, Connie and LeRoy met at a wedding and hit it off. They were married Sept. 14, 1990, and will soon celebrate 34 years of marriage. Between them they had nine children (Connie had five and LeRoy had four, from their previous marriages) and now they have more than a dozen grandchildren between them. While most live in the area or at least in Wisconsin, one of Connie's children is in Montana, and they'd like to do some visiting.

**A 70-year career**  
What was to become LeRoy's lifelong career as an old-school barber began in the summer of 1954. "Elvis



LeRoy Fischer holds a piece of barber shop history, an antique painted wooden barber shop pole. He stands in his barber shop surrounded by images of Elvis Presley. LeRoy has been an avid collector of Elvis memorabilia for many years and has showcased much of that collection in his shop. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

See **FISCHER**  
page 7



**Left:** A child is mesmerized by the beautiful but fleeting joy of lighting a sparkler. **Middle:** The Merrill Area Recreation Complex was packed with area residents ready for clear skies and bursts of sound and color. Merrill held their spectacular 4th of July fireworks display on July 5 due to a change in vendor. [The vendor was already booked for July 4.] **Right:** Cascading fireworks displays filled the sky over the Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC) Friday night, July 5, 2024, as Merrill held their Independence Day celebration. **Joseph Frederick photos.**

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## Dunphy lawsuit tanks Pine Crest sale Lincoln County is back to square one with nursing home

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

At the July 2, 2024, Lincoln County Administrative & Legislative (A&L) Committee meeting, Lincoln County Administrative Coordinator Renee Krueger officially announced Merrill Campus, LLC and Senior Management, Inc. had canceled their Asset Purchase Agreement with Lincoln County to purchase

Pine Crest Nursing Home, citing Section 5(A)(v) that on the Closing Date (which was originally set for June 30, 2024), "there shall not be any lawsuits filed or threatened against the Seller or the Nursing Home ..." . In a June 28 letter to Krueger in her role as Administrative Coordinator for Lincoln County from Richard J. Summerfield, the attorney for the buyer, Summerfield wrote that

due to the lawsuit filed by Donald J. Dunphy against Lincoln County referencing that Asset Purchase Agreement, "the Seller is in default" of the Agreement and "Purchaser is electing to terminate this Agreement effective immediately and is requesting the refund of the Earnest Money from the Title Company." Though a judge had not yet ruled in the lawsuit against Lincoln County, Dunphy

accomplished his goal in getting the sale canceled. Now Lincoln County is back to square one with Pine Crest Nursing Home and the A&L Committee is taking some time to let the dust settle, start thinking creatively, and figure out where to go next. While the continued operation of Pine Crest Nursing Home was in the

See **DUNPHY**  
page 6

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The Vanderheidens combine native plants like ferns with flowering shrubs and a concrete bird bath in a rock garden surrounding their home.

# Park City Gardens names June 2024 Garden of the Month

## First "Neighborhood of Beautiful Gardens" designation

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

Traditionally in past years, Park City Gardens has awarded the distinction of "Garden of the Month" to local residents whose yards and gardens are showcases of natural beauty, wonderfully cultivated by area residents with a green thumb and an eye for design, and they name a "Garden of the Month" each summer for the months of June, July, and August to honor the homeowners and gardeners at/of those properties.

For June 2024, Park City Gardens made their first "Neighborhood of Beautiful

Gardens" distinction in lieu of a single "Garden of the Month."

"As we drove around the city looking for the exceptional gardens, we drove right into a neighborhood of three lavish gardens," award nominating members of Park City Gardens said. "It just wasn't right to choose just one of these gardens, so we decided to do a 'Neighborhood of Beautiful Gardens.'"

"The neighborhood is settled in a wooded area surrounded by beautiful mature tall trees. These trees tower over the homes and gardens adding

additional beauty."

"All three homeowners have worked the beauty of the woods surrounding their homes into the beauty of their gardens," nominators said. "As you may notice, they also worked netting and fencing into the design. They have done this not only to protect their plants, but to continue to share the area with the animals that were there before the gardens."

"The gardens are located on Bramble Way, providing a beautiful welcome to the neighborhood. The proud gardeners work together and take care of each other's gardens. Between all of them, they have almost 70 years of gardening

experience. It is interesting that each one had their own philosophy on the planning and layout of their individual garden, and yet each one is as beautiful as the others."

Take a drive down Bramble Way to enjoy these beautiful and colorful gardens.

Being honored with the "June 2024 Neighborhood of Beautiful Gardens" distinction are three couples whose properties are located on the street: Greg and Kathryn Gill at 605 Bramble Way, Dan and Terry Vanderheiden at 604 Bramble Way, and Eileen and Jim Richardson at 607 Bramble Way.



The Richardsons combine neat plantings in flower beds and unique objects to create one-of-a-kind gardens.



Pink peonies, white daisies, and other perennial plantings contribute to the lush yard and garden at 607 Bramble Way in Merrill. Photos courtesy of Park City Gardens.

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**Thank You**

We are still in awe for how much we are blessed and loved. We want to thank everyone who had a part in making Mathew's benefit on June 28th such a successful event. Kelly and Beth, you guys are Rockstars for all your planning and organizing!!! This could not have happened without so many donations and others who volunteered your time and effort to make this event such a huge success. And all of you who came from near and far to support us means more than you can ever know. Mathew definitely has a huge mountain to climb, but with all your prayers and support we can get him to the best rehab facility for him and our family. We love you all and keep the prayers coming. God has a plan and He will guide us through this.

Love,  
Johnny, Nancy, Mathew, Hollie and Ryan Dewar  
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### PAID LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters to the Editor, a chance for members of the community to comment on issues of concern to them. All letters must be original, not duplications of letters addressed to public officials or written by others. The views and opinions expressed are those of the letter writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of this publication, its publishers, Editor, or staff.

#### TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Lincoln County Residents,

I would like to express a heartfelt appreciation for all the staff at Pine Crest Nursing Home for their diligence in working through a very difficult situation regarding the potential sale. You truly deserve credit and the County Board appreciates your professionalism in performing your duties.

I would also like to express appreciation for the residents. You also have been placed in a situation beyond your control regarding the potential sale. Know that I have always had your best interests in mind when making decisions on the County Board.

Mr. Dunphy and his group called People for Pine Crest have now placed the County in a very tenuous position. We had a viable buyer who was acting in good faith, has other locations, is in the business of operating nursing homes, and made a fair offer regarding the Asset Purchase Agreement for Pine Crest/Social Services. The buyer has now withdrawn his offer to purchase, stating the Dunphy Lawsuit as the reason.

Last year's County Board had solved this problem. There was going

to be an \$8 million dollar influx of revenue for the County. The nursing home would have stayed open. At this point there are no revenues to support Pine Crest in the coming years without a large increase in taxes to fund Pine Crest.

I would encourage you to reach out to your County Board Supervisor and have a discussion on the topic of total finances for Lincoln County. The can has been kicked down the road and there is no road left. Every fund available had creative accounting measures taken to fund services beyond income limits by previous boards. Capital Improvement Projects will not be able to be funded in 2025. Solid Waste cannot be funded at this time without looking at raising taxes. The debt on the expansion for Pine Crest won't be paid until 2038. Maintenance has largely been ignored on all Lincoln County assets for years. There are many, many projects that need to be done to improve services and keep up with technology.

Facts are what I base my decisions on. I sat in every Ad Hoc Committee on Pine Crest meeting with an open mind. I gathered items, wrote documents, and assisted in finding the best possible solution to keep the nursing home open. Here are some facts for you to consider:

- 1) Lincoln County has put \$9,656,049 into Pine Crest since 2014 (pg 11).\*
- 2) Pine Crest has lost \$9,280,338 (revenue minus expenses) since 2014 (pg 11).\*
- 3) 2015 Lincoln County Board, without a referendum, approved a \$9.6 million expansion project where they promised a return on that investment, which has not happened. There are

currently no residents in that expansion. Four other sections of the building have no residents.

4) A \$4.5 million referendum per year for 10 years proposal was voted down by the Lincoln County Board in August 2023.

5) Repairs needed for the Pine Crest building as of December 2019 total \$17,312,223 (Appendix L).\* None of those repairs have been completed. That total would have increased significantly over the past 4½ years. Mr. Dunphy proposed a \$2 million dollar referendum to pay for said maintenance. Due to inflation, realistically that number would have to be almost doubled.

I will be working hard, as I have done from the

first date of election, to ensure services are funded in the best possible way. I will listen to constructive, accurate information.

Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:3)

- Angela Cummings, Gleason, Wis.

County Board Supervisor, District 20

\*Page numbers are from the Lincoln County AD HOC Committee on Pine Crest Report of Review and Potential Alternatives March 21, 2023.

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

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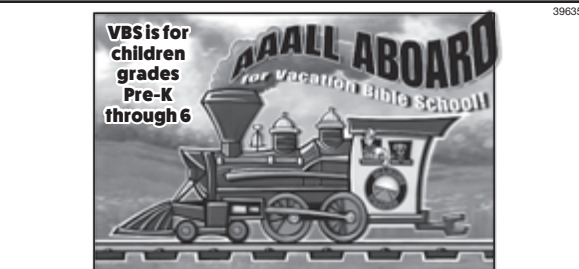
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## Merrill Festival Grounds

At the June 13, 2024, regular meeting of the Festival Grounds Committee, the Committee voted to change the name of the property known as the Merrill Festival Grounds to the Merrill Fair Grounds.

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Donna Freund-Heldt [dheldtco1@gmail.com](mailto:dheldtco1@gmail.com).

Other reunion meet ups include, Thurs.  
(at Madison WI home of Marilyn Townsend),  
Fri. (MHS tour), Sat. (County Fair).

Details on Facebook page for  
"Merrill High School Class of '67 Reunion."

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# OBITUARIES



**Judith "Judy" Leona (Koplin) Kaminski**, age 87, of Merrill, passed away on Thursday, June 27, 2024, while at the Aspirus Merrill Hospital, with her loving family by her side. She was born on January 18, 1937 to the late Herman and Julia (Gaspar) Koplin in Chicago, IL. Judy attended and graduated from Glenbard East High School in Illinois. She met Donald Kaminski, and the two exchanged marriage vows on April 16, 1955 in Illinois. He survives.

Judy, Dadow, Fadow, and Grandma were a few names that made her smile. Other than these names, many of the ways people may remember her best are by her love of horses and riding them in the Merrill Labor Day Parade, involvement in bowling and the leagues, having a huge garden and helping raise her grandchildren. Driving past or stopping by the long gravel driveway in the country, one would remember her tube top and short shorts while working in the garden, like a tan golden goddess! She was a homemaker, but also loved working at Les & Jim's part time for weddings and especially being in charge of the cake cutting.

While raising their children, Judy enjoyed camping, roller-skating, water sports, and their house in Illinois was the neighborhood gathering spot. Judy was truly the matriarch of the family and enjoyed cooking and hosting family dinners and holiday gatherings on the farm. As well, the door was always open for hosting summer fun for out of state families. She wanted people to celebrate all the memories that were shared. She expressed her readiness to be free of pain the night before she passed, she knew that her body had worked against her for many years, yet her mind was sharp up until her last day.

Most important to her was her family, as is evident by her selfless and caring message she requested to read after her passing. "To all my loved ones. Don't grieve for me. I have had a wonderful life. Thanks for all the love and generosity you've shown me. I'm taking lots of precious memories with me, and I hope and pray that you'll also 'Remember the Good Times!'"

Judy is survived by her husband: Donald Kaminski, children: Catherine (Scott) Weber, Stephen (Jennifer) Kaminski and David (Gail) Kaminski, her beloved grandchildren: Brad (Nikki Gerdes) Weber, Bernadette (Trent) Zuber, Brandi (Brandon) Binder, Korie (Scott) Karlen, Jeramie (Stefanie) Kaminski, Michelle (Ryan) Krueger, Katie (Jay) Proft, Daniel (Megan) Kaminski and Nicholas (Tracie) Kaminski, great grandchildren: Mariyah Weber, Faith Weber, Liberty Weber, Kennedy Gerdes, Xavier Zuber, Quinten Zuber, Emma Binder, Anna Binder, Brandon Karlen, Darin Karlen, Nathan Karlen, Loren Karlen, Carter Kaminski, Reese Kaminski, Ashton Kaminski, Jordan Kaminski, Abbie Krueger, Miley Krueger, Drew Kaminski, Mason Kaminski and Layla Kaminski, sister: Alice (Dave) Larsen and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents: Herman & Julia Koplin, brother: Herman Koplin, sister-in-law: Arlene Koplin, Parents-in-law: Leo & Margaret Kaminski and brother-in-law: Leo Kaminski, as well as decades of her beloved horses and a handful of her granddogs.

Per Judy's request, there will be no services.

*Judy's family would like to thank the staff at Woodland Court for the care while she was there this past year, as well as the hospital staff at the Aspirus Merrill Hospital in her final days. Though we miss her dearly, we are grateful to have decades of memories to keep with us as we move forward with her being with us in our hearts and free from pain.*

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

**Wayne Mitchell Bondioli**, age 68, passed away on Monday, July 1, 2024, at Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff.

Wayne was born September 7, 1955, in Merrill, son of the late Clement and Beatrice (Peck) Bondioli. Wayne was the youngest of four children. Wayne graduated from Merrill High School with the class of 1974. After high school, he entered the workforce at Northern Door. From there, Wayne went to Weinbrenner Shoe Company. It was there that he met Judy Berndt. Wayne and Judy were married on October 4, 1980. Together, they were blessed with two sons, Jason and Jared.

In 1986, Wayne and Judy moved to the homestead where Wayne was raised. Wayne was a past member of the Central Labor Council and Merrill Jaycees, having held numerous offices. Wayne liked to hunt and fish in his younger years. He also liked spending time at the hunting shack. Wayne enjoyed word searches and playing cards, especially Cribbage and Sheephead. He also enjoyed watching the Packers, Brewers, and Badgers. Wayne also liked making Christmas wreaths for friends and family.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Judy Bondioli of Irma; son, Jason (Randi) Bondioli of Merrill; three nephews, Rocky (Laura) Kolka of Sheboygan, Randy (Sue) Kolka of Grand Rapids, MN, and Adam Bondioli of Wausau; in-laws, Heidi (Steve) Holland of Vadnais Heights, MN, Valerie (Rodger) Luebke of Apollo Beach, FL, and Minette Berndt of Withee; special friend, Cassandra and her children, Abigail and Brandon. Wayne was preceded in death by his son, Jared Bondioli; parents, Clem and Beatrice Bondioli; brother, Anthony Bondioli; sisters, Joanne (Ron) Kolka and Debra Bondioli; and his in-laws, Ralph and Carol Berndt and Thomas Berndt.

A celebration of Wayne's Life will be held at a later date. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com)



**Gordon Edward Geiger**, 93, passed away peacefully on June 30, 2024. Gordie was born May 5, 1931, on his grandparents' farm in the town of Texas to the late Lynden and Emma (Verbeck) Geiger. He was raised in Merrill and graduated from Merrill High School in 1949. While in high school, Gordie lettered in football and golf. He also played baseball and was also involved in boxing. Gordie was inducted into the Diamond M Club in 2020.

On September 4, 1950, he married the love of his life, Patricia Paquette in Merrill, WI. They celebrated 70 wonderful years of marriage before Patricia's death on December 27, 2020. Pat and Gordie settled in Merrill where they raised their ten children and doted on their grandchildren and great grandchildren. Gordie was a hard worker and held many jobs during his life including working on his grandparents' farm, setting bowling pins, doing seasonal work at the pea cannery and making cherry cream puffs, ski scooters and hand dipped chocolates at the candy factory. But his favorite and longest stint was his 43 years at the Ward Paper Company where he was a lab technician.

Gordie had a quick wit and a great sense of humor. He enjoyed playing golf, was always up for a game of cribbage and was a savant when it came to solving crossword puzzles. He liked watching the Brewers and Packers but he loved watching his grandchildren's sporting events. He was happiest though when he was in the garage making sawdust and working on woodworking projects.

Gordie was a kind soul and a good man. Gordie and Pat taught their kids how to be hard workers, good parents and good people. Gordie will be greatly missed by his children and their families. Katie (Jerry) Adamovich, Eagle River, WI and their children Tim (Jen), Eric (Kim), Adam (Jami), Tara (Justin); Tony Geiger, Merrill; G. Mark (Carla) Geiger Lodi, WI and their children Mark (Cathy), Erin (Shawn) and Brent (Loren); Jenny (Mark) Cournaya, Merrill and their children Jena (Scott), Molly (Jerry); Mary Beth (Brad) Sanders, Merrill and their children Jason (Molly), Jared (Jess) and Peter (Nikki); Patrick (SonDec) Geiger, Olin, IA and their children Bryanne (Matt), Abby (Quincey), Danielle (Andy), Paige and Kolin; Peter (Amy) Geiger, Cottage Grove, WI and their children Mitch and Ally; Tim (Amy) Geiger, Gilbert, AZ and their children Zachary, Jade and Kaden; Molly (Jeff) Drakas, Menasha, WI and their children Emily (Rob), Eric and Matt (Carley); Leah (Gary) Knop, West Bend, WI and their children Kailey (Christopher), Trevor (Megan) and Hannah (Joey). He is also survived by thirty-nine great grandchildren, his brother-in-law Dennis Paquette, and many nieces and nephews.

Gordon was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Geiger, parents, Lynden and Emma Geiger, sister, Grace Batchelder, two Grandsons, Nathan Cournaya and Ben Geiger, and daughter-in-law Roxanne Geiger.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Gordon was held on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill. Father Maria Vallabheneni officiated. Visitation was held on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Waid Funeral Home. Burial took place at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery immediately following the Mass.

The family would like to thank the Compassus Hospice staff for their care and compassion throughout this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Gordon's name to a local charity of choice.

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



**Corey Proulx**

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Corey Proulx,

who was taken too soon from this world on June 25th 2024, at the age of 49. Born on July 11th 1974 in Merrill, to Ed & Kathy Proulx, Corey lived a life filled with passion and curiosity. Corey graduated in 1992 from Merrill High School, and later continued his education in his career. His love for the outdoors was evident from a young age, and he spent countless hours hunting, fishing, and exploring the woods he held so dear. Each journey through nature was a testament to his deep appreciation for its beauty and tranquility.

Beyond his love for the wilderness, Corey had an adventurous spirit that led him to travel far and wide. Whether trekking through rugged landscapes or discovering new cultures, he embraced each adventure with enthusiasm and an open heart. He would try anything once, twice to be sure.

Professionally, Corey was Youth Counselor at Lincoln Hills for a year and a half. However, his true joy came from his family and friends. He was a devoted fiancé to Deann Roble, and a loving father to Hanna Harris (Proulx) he delighted in sharing his passion for the outdoors with them.

In his leisure time, Corey could often be found out in the woods, in his boat on the lake, or watching Bob Ross as he would try to replicate and create his own works inspired by him. His skills as a hunter were matched only by his patience and respect for nature.

Corey's generosity, kindness, and unwavering spirit touched the lives of everyone he met. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Though he is no longer with us physically, Corey's adventurous spirit and love for life will continue to inspire us all. May he find eternal solace in the embrace of nature he so dearly loved.

Corey is survived by his daughter Hanna Harris (Proulx), his fiancé Deann Roble and her children Austin, Ashlyn, Ethan. He is also survived by his parents Ed and Kathy Proulx and his siblings: Michelle (Ariel), Lisa (Ernie), Brian, Andy, Cindy (Don), Lynn (Mark), and Tristen (Sara), aunt: Kathy Burish, cousins: Dan, Matt and Nikki Burish, along with vast amounts of nieces and nephews that he will be dearly missed by.

Corey is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Alice (Jeannette Kucera) Joseph B. Proulx, uncle: Thomas Burish and Wilhelmine Crotteau & Leslie Crotteau. While Corey's time came too soon, he was able to give the gift of life to those through organ donation.

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

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Madilynn Skic of Gleason was named 2025 Wisconsin Pro River Rodeo Princess. She is pictured on the left, with Rodeo Queen Mya Pankow of Tomahawk (on the right).

Photos courtesy of Dianne Lazear

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# OBITUARIES



**Ardis E. Nau**, 86, of Merrill, passed away Friday, June 28, 2024, at Aspirus Merrill Hospital.

Ardis was born August 7, 1937, in the Town of Lessor near Bonduel in Shawano County, daughter of Harry and Dora (Priem) Stuewer. She was baptized on August 26, 1937, at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bonduel. Ardis was confirmed on July 23, 1950, at that same church. Her confirmation verse was "Be ye kind one to another,

tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32

Ardis attended Landsted School, a one-room school in the Town of Lessor, and then Graf School, also a one-room school in the Town of Hartland. She attended 7th and 8th grade in Bonduel with Jack Reinke being her teacher. In 1955, she graduated from Bonduel High School.

Ardis worked at Banters Grocery Store in Bonduel after school and on Saturdays during her Junior and Senior years of High School. This job provided a great learning experience as she had to write down everything that everyone bought and had to make change from the till. She refined her math skills as the till did not automatically calculate the change due to the customer.

After Ardis graduated from High School, she got a job at Wisconsin Public Service in Appleton. She and her friend, Joyce, rode to work with a man from Shawano. Since the man giving them rides was not dependable, Ardis bought a car from the Ford dealer in Bonduel. She paid for this car in silver dollars. Ardis worked at Wisconsin Public Service for three years.

Ardis married Virgil F. Nau on June 28, 1958, in Bonduel. Virgil's father presided over their wedding. Virgil and Ardis lived in Antigo until 1960, when they moved to Merrill in February of that year. They had their two sons in 1961 and 1964 - Todd and Terry. Eventually, Ardis took a job at Seeger's Dairy and worked there for over 20 years as the bookkeeper.

Ardis and Virgil enjoyed fifteen great winters in Arizona. Ardis enjoyed making candy and treats during Christmas-time and loved sharing them with her family and friends.

Survivors include her sons, Todd Nau and Terry (Candace) Nau; granddaughters, Jennifer (Blaine) VanderWielen and Nicole (Brian) Landwehr; great grandchildren, Addison and Mason VanderWielen and Hunter and Rhenley Landwehr; and sister-in-law, Gladys Stuewer. Ardis was preceded in death by her husband, Virgil Nau; parents, Harry and Dora Stuewer; and brothers, Clarence Stuewer and Vernon Stuewer.

The memorial service was held at 11:00 A.M., Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. Rev. David Szeto officiated. The family received friends at the church beginning at 10:00 A.M. Wednesday. The inurnment took place at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

The family would like to thank Interim Healthcare for providing home care to Ardis and the staff at Aspirus Merrill Hospital for the exceptional care provided to Ardis and her family during her recent hospitalizations.

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



**Corrine Carol (Kluckman) Sczygelski**, age 82, lifelong resident of Merrill, WI, passed away peacefully on June 29, 2024 at Pine Crest Nursing Home while under the care of Aspirus Hospice.

Corrine was born on March 22, 1942 to the late Ralph and Gladys (Radloff) Kluckman of rural Merrill. She was the eldest of their three children.

Corrine married the love of her life, Anthony "Tony" Sczygelski on June 20, 1985. Together they created a life of

love and happiness which included Tony's children Ann, Connie, Jim, and Mike. Corrine loved country living, all the farm animals, and was well known for her annual garden that increased in size each spring. Corrine was a dedicated and diligent worker and she always put the needs of others first. Corrine had the gift of hospitality and enjoyed welcoming people into her home. Corrine will lovingly be remembered for her faith in God, strong family values, her giving nature, kindness, and nurturing ways. Corrine had a very quick wit and an infectious laugh that would make her beautiful blue eyes sparkle.

Corrine loved to cook and used her skills as a cook at the Rib Lake Nursing Home. Later, Corrine was a waitress at Florina's Supper Club in Rib Lake, WI. Her nurturing and willingness to serve others made her one of the best waitresses! Corrine retired from Hurd Millwork, Merrill, WI.

Corrine enjoyed puzzles, solving word search puzzles, reading, knitting, crocheting, and painting ceramics. For several years Corrine was active in Pine Crest's choir group, bell choir, and took part in plays. Corrine also enjoyed volunteering and folded numerous napkins as well as aided with other small projects. Corrine LOVED Pepsi! She always made sure she had a well-stocked supply on hand and a can nearby to drink!

Corrine is survived by her niece Donna (Ron) Sletten of Elgin, MN. Special extended family: Laura and Scott Prins, Elijah Ackland, Isaiah Ackland, Emma Ackland, Kaleb Prins, Kylee Prins all of Kasson, MN, Rita and Jim Nelson, Clay Nelson, Conner Nelson, all of Ellendale, MN, Paul and Min Westland of Albert Lea, MN, and Jeff and Jill Schultz of Rochester, MN. Her favorite Maine Coon kitty, Olivia and special therapy dog River and JoAnn Milewozyk.

Corrine was preceded in death by her husband, Anthony Sczygelski, parents, Ralph and Gladys Kluckman, sister, Janet Kluckman, brother, Daniel Kluckman, and best friend, Sandy Hartsock.

Corrine will be sadly missed but never forgotten; our earthly separation is only temporary and one day we will all be reunited in heaven. What a glorious day that will be!

Donna and Ron wish to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the staff at Pine Crest Nursing Home who cared for and loved Corrine as family for the past 10 years, the Pine Crest Activities department for always keeping Corrine well supplied with books, word search puzzles, and various craft projects. JoAnn and River for all of their visits, and Aspirus Hospice for the care given to Corrine and the support given to us. May God bless you all.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 3, 2024 at 2:00 pm at Waid Funeral Home. The visitation was held on Wednesday, July 3, 2024 from 1:00 pm until the time of service also at the funeral home. Interment took place at St. Paul's Cemetery in the Town of Scott.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Pine Crest Nursing Home Activities Department in loving memory of Corrine.

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

# LEGAL NOTICES

Legals

7700

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF TRUST ADMINISTRATION STATE OF WISCONSIN.** County of Lincoln, in the matter of the June E. Kriewald Revocable Trust dated April 30, 2024 (the "Trust"):

1. June E. Kriewald, with date of birth July 30, 1939 and date of death June 11, 2024 was domiciled in the Lincoln County, Wisconsin.

2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent, June E. Kriewald, is November 4th, 2024;

3. All claims must include detailed documentation and must be submitted to the Trustee of the Trust at the following address: S2630 County Road K, Reedsburg, WI 53959. Date: June 24th, 2024

June E. Kriewald Revocable Trust dated April 30, 2024.

By: s/Julie Ratajczk

Julie Ratajczk, Trustee

Craig J. Nienow, Attorney

Published July 4, 11 & 18, 2024

WNAXLP

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## Town of Pine River

**Open Book Friday, July 19, 2024**

**4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.**

**Board of Review Friday, July 26, 2024**

**4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.**

If making an objection, see procedural requirements posted at the Pine River Town Hall, Pine River Fire Department, Bill's Bar, [www.townofpineriver.com](http://www.townofpineriver.com), or contact town clerk at 715-536-7687.

Please Recycle.

Amanda Herdt, Clerk

Published July 11, 2024

WNAXLP

## TOWN OF BIRCH LINCOLN COUNTY, WISCONSIN

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

THE TOWN OF BIRCH IN LINCOLN COUNTY IS SOLICITING BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A POLE BUILDING MINIMUM SIZE 32FT WIDE X 46FT LONG X 12 FT HEIGHT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT DAVID FOX AT 715-218-3690. PLEASE RESPOND BY WRITTEN/SEALED BID BY AUGUST 13, 2024 AT 7:00PM AT THE BIRCH TOWN HALL, W4762 CTY. Hwy. H, IRMA, WI. 54442 OR MAIL BIDS TO TOWN OF BIRCH, PO BOX 71, IRMA, WI 54435. THE TOWN WILL BE USING ARPA FUNDS FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT.

STORAGE BUILDING REQUIREMENTS  
SIZE- MINIMUM 32FT WIDE X 46FT LONG X 12FT HEIGHT  
SIDES- FRONT & REAR 10FT METAL & 2FT WINDOW MATERIAL  
SIDE WALLS - REFLECTIVE MATERIAL THAT GOES ONTO TRUSSES SO BUILDING DOESN'T SWEAT  
FLOOR- HARD SURFACE (CONCRETE)  
FLOOR- DRAIN IN FLOOR, DRAIN TILE GOING OUTSIDE.  
ENTRANCE- APPROACH TO BUILDING  
DOOR- 12FT SLIDING DOOR ON CABLE END  
SERVICE DOOR- 36FT WIDE ON CABLE END (WEST SIDE)  
POWER- CLOSE TO MAIN DOOR (GARAGE DOOR)  
OVERHANG - 1FT  
COLOR - GREEN & TAN OR CREAM  
OPTIONS  
• SOFIT & FASCIA  
• ELECTRICAL- POWER TO BE WIRED TO CODE

THE TOWN OF BIRCH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS BASED ON THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWNSHIP. BID ADVERTISEMENT AUTHORIZED BY BIRCH TOWN BOARD.

Published July 4 & 11, 2024

WNAXLP

## TYPE A NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION August 13, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the several towns, villages, cities, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, the following questions will be submitted to a vote of the people pursuant to law:

**QUESTION 1: "Delegation of appropriation power.** Shall section 35 (1) of article IV of the constitution be created to provide that the legislature may not delegate its sole power to determine how moneys shall be appropriated?"

**QUESTION 2: "Allocation of federal moneys.** Shall section 35 (2) of article IV of the constitution be created to prohibit the governor from allocating any federal moneys the governor accepts on behalf of the state without the approval of the legislature by joint resolution or as provided by legislative rule?"

This referendum ballot is a result of 2023 Enrolled Joint Resolution 6, a copy of which can be viewed or downloaded on the Legislature's website at [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/reg/asm/joint\\_resolution/ajr6](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/reg/asm/joint_resolution/ajr6).

A copy also can be obtained from the office of the county clerk, or the Legislative Documents Room at 1 East Main Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

DONE in the County of Lincoln, Wisconsin This 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024

*Christopher J. Marlowe*

Lincoln County Clerk

Published July 11, 2024

WNAXLP

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters to the Editor, a chance for members of the community to comment on issues of concern to them. All letters must be original, not duplications of letters addressed to public officials or written by others. The views and opinions expressed are those of the letter writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of this publication, its publishers, Editor, or staff.

### TO THE EDITOR:

It is written: There is no greater gift, than a man gives up his life for a friend. On June 25, 2024, our family was made well aware of that when we were notified that our son, Corey, was killed while on watch at Lincoln Hills Correctional Facility, by a 16-year-old juvenile criminal inmate.

At this time we would like to thank everyone who gave us compassion and honored our son by showing their condolences, by coming to the Walk of Life Honor Guard at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, and to the fundraiser held last Thursday at Los Mezcales restaurant.

This incident could have been avoided if those in government hadn't taken all of their protective devices

away from these people in 2019.

Many employees have been beaten, spat upon, and chemicals and urine thrown on them over the years.

As a family affected by this legislation, we urge people to contact your State Representatives to rewrite policies to reinstall some protective measures. Each security guard in this facility, while on watch when multiple students are out of confinement, should have some protection. A thought that occurred to us was, if each had a trained,

See **LETTERS** page 6

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### TB Scott Library Meeting Room Construction

The City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, will receive sealed proposals for the construction of a new meeting room in the existing TB Scott Library. Proposals will be accepted until 2 pm August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at which time they will be opened, read aloud and placed on file for further action. Proposals shall be returned to the City Clerk's office located at 1004 E First Street, Merrill, WI 54452. RFP documents are available from the City of Merrill Engineering Department. 715-536-5594.

Published July 11 & 18, 2024

WNAXLP



Two years have passed since our beloved Ellen Dunphy died. Her memory is cherished by her husband Andrew Clinnin, mother Ruthann Dunphy, father Don Dunphy, brother Jack Dunphy and sister Bridget Dunphy.

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but ever near; still missed, still loved but very dear."

Anonymous



# VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

### You must make a request for an absentee ballot in writing.

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the election. You may also submit a written request in the form of a letter. Your written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature. You may make application for an absentee ballot by mail, email or in person.

### Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee by mail is: 5:00pm, Friday, August 9, 2024.

Note: Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact your municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

### Voting an absentee ballot in person

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

**Town of Birch**, Megan Webb, PO Box 71, Irma, WI 54442, 920-723-0673, Hours: Monday-Friday 1:00-7:00p.m.

**Town of Bradley**, Kari Kiser, 1518 W. Mohawk Dr., P.O. Box 325, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-453-3326, Hours: Monday 8 am. - 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Town of Corning**, Rick Hass, N1428 Strawberry Road, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-536-3432, Hours: Contact clerk for appointment between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Town of Harding**, Kristy Ament, N2567 County RD E, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-218-6094, Hours: Contact clerk for appointment between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Town of Harrison**, Kathy Voermans, N10455 County Rd D, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-453-3395, Hours: Contact clerk for appointment between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Town of King**, Georgene Linden, W4450 County Road A, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-908-0001, Hours: Contact clerk for appointment Monday - Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Town of Merrill**, Mitzi Flegner, W4594 Progress Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-536-4383, Hours: Contact clerk between the hours of 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. to set up an appointment.

**Town of Pine River**, Amanda Herdt, N1901 High Ridge Rd, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-536-7687, Hours: Contact clerk between the hours of 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. to set up an appointment.

**Town of Rock Falls**, Diane Chambers, N6306 Rock Falls Dr, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-536-5039, Hours: Contact clerk for appointment between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Town of Russell**, Amy Brown, N5410 State Highway 17, Gleason, WI 54435, 715-873-4141, Hours: Contact clerk for appointment between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**Town of Schley**, Becky Dallman, W1981 Heineman Road, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-571-1262, Hours: Contact clerk for appointment between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Town of Scott**, Bonny Graap, W6692 Sunset Drive. Merrill, WI 54452, 715-218-5633, Hours: Contact clerk for appointment between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Town of Skanawan**, Loyetta Dennis, W3294 Stevenson Road, Irma, WI 54442, 715-966-2605, Hours: Contact clerk for appointment between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Town of Somo**, Heather Marheine, W10655 Carpenter Rd., Tripoli, WI 54564, 715-453-4662, Hours: Friday - Saturday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**Town of Tomahawk**, Jesse Hoffman, N9048 Fox Farm Rd, Tripoli, WI 54564, 715-254-4651, Hours: Monday - Thursday 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**Town of Wilson**, Jane Kaczmarek, PO Box 566, N10802 County Road CC, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-453-6090, Hours: Tuesday 8 a.m. - noon.

**City of Merrill**, Lori Anderson-Malm, 1004 E. First Street, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-536-5594, Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**City of Tomahawk**, Amanda L. Bartz, 23 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, P.O. Box 469, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-453-4040, Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is: Tuesday, July 30, 2024.

The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is subject to your clerk's availability: Contact your municipal clerk.

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on August 13, 2024. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

Published July 11, 2024

WNAXLP

# PUBLISHER'S LETTER

## A Poetic Insight; Ready for Perils

Dear Reader,

In one of the timeless verses of A.E. Housman, we find a reflection and a warning of life's journey encapsulated in the following poem "I to my perils".



*I to my perils  
Of cheat and charmer  
Came clad in armour  
By stars benign.*

*Hope lies to mortals  
And most believe her;  
But man's deceiver  
Was never mine.*

*The thoughts of others  
Were light and fleeting,  
Of lovers' meeting  
Or luck or fame.*

*Mine were of trouble,  
And mine were steady;  
So I was ready  
When trouble came.*

With these words which have relevance even today, we are encouraged to cultivate a sense of readiness, to equip ourselves mentally and emotionally for the trials that lie ahead. Whether it be in the realm of cybersecurity, home and travel security concerns, or the myriad complexities of daily life, the principle remains the same - to be prepared, to be vigilant, and to be ready when trouble comes.

As we navigate the ever-changing currents of our world, let us embrace the ethos of readiness, recognizing that in our preparedness lies our strength, and in our resilience lies our ability to weather any storm that may come our way.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**

Publisher

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

# LETTERS

from page 5

85-pound guard dog at their side while watching these criminals, just the presence of these animals would deter a lot of unprovoked aggression against them.

So people, we urge you to contact our elected officials and demand they do the jobs they were elected to do.

- Corey Proulx's Mom and Dad, Kathy and Ed Proulx  
Merrill, Wis.

# DUNPHY

from page 6

County's budget through the end of 2024, there are no funds allocated to the operation of the nursing home for 2025 or all of the maintenance costs associated with the Pine Crest Nursing Home and Health & Human Services buildings. Members of the A&L Committee - and the entire Lincoln County Board - will be looking at the ramifications of the cancelation (of which there are many), and the A&L Committee plans to begin discussions at their August meeting; however, they did retain the option to call a special meeting of the A&L Committee in later July if they feel they are ready to get started tackling the issue.

Pick up next week's edition of the *Merrill Foto News* to learn more and get local reaction to the news.

## Town of Russell Fire Department

Thank you for supporting us on our special day!

~ Lieutenant Maas & Firefighter Maas ~



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<b>Pork Crumbles</b> Chorizo Fully Cooked Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY <b>69¢</b> a lb.	<b>Pizza Thin Crust</b> Asst Varieties - Frozen 12 inch. ONLY <b>\$1.99</b>	<b>Potato Chips</b> Kettle Cooked 11 oz. ONLY <b>\$2.29</b>
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<b>Pizza Supreme</b> Frozen 26 oz. ONLY <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>Cheddar Cheese</b> 5 lbs. ONLY <b>\$1.89</b> a lb.	<b>Stuffing Mix</b> Chicken 6 oz. ONLY <b>59¢</b>
<b>Cheddarwurst</b> Fully Cooked - Frozen 13.5 oz. ONLY <b>\$1.89</b>	<b>Cottage Cheese</b> Organic 2% Fat 16 oz. ONLY <b>99¢</b>	<b>Coffee</b> Ground Buttery Syrup 11 oz. ONLY <b>\$1.99</b>
<b>Ham</b> Boneless - Frozen w/Natural Juices 7 lbs. ONLY <b>99¢</b> a lb.	<b>American Cheese</b> Loaf 5 lbs. ONLY <b>\$4.99</b>	<b>Chicken Tenders</b> Breaded - Uncooked Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY <b>\$1.49</b> a lb.
<b>Beef Burgers</b> Uncooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY <b>\$1.99</b> a lb.	<b>Muenster Cheese</b> 6 lbs. ONLY <b>\$2.29</b> a lb.	<b>Bacon</b> Sliced Maple Brown Sugar Frozen 16 oz. ONLY <b>\$2.69</b>
<b>Bacon</b> Hickory Smoked Thick Sliced - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>Colby Jack Cheese</b> 8 oz. ONLY <b>\$1.59</b>	<b>French Fries</b> Crinkle Cut - Frozen 32 oz. ONLY <b>\$2.49</b>
<b>Cocktail Smokies</b> w/Cheese - Frozen 12 oz. ONLY <b>99¢</b>	<b>Cheddar Cheese</b> Medium 8 oz. ONLY <b>\$1.69</b>	<b>Hot Dogs</b> Turkey Fully Cooked - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY <b>\$1.29</b>
<b>Pork Sausage</b> Original - Uncooked Frozen 32 oz. ONLY <b>\$3.99</b>	<b>Chicken Breast</b> Skinless Boneless IQF Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY <b>\$1.99</b> a lb.	<b>Hashbrowns</b> Shredded - Frozen 3 lbs. ONLY <b>\$2.99</b>

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

393247



# Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Jul. 11 - Bingo at St. Francis School  
 Jul. 11 - Gazebo Nights Concert: BMAC, Brian McLaughlin  
 Jul. 13 - Jason Michael Carroll concert at Z's Fork Horners  
 Jul. 17 - Merrill City Band concert at Normal Park

Jul. 18 - Banker's Square Concert Series - Mattea Joy performing  
 Jul. 18 - Gazebo Nights Concert: Rev. Raven & the Chain-Smoking Altar Boys with Westside Andy  
 Jul. 19 - THE VIBE Open Mic Night at the Agra Pavillion  
 Jul. 19-21 - Dig Days at

Barnes Creek Daylilies  
 Jul. 20 - Friends of Council Grounds State Park Bench Cleaning  
 Jul. 20 - Explore Japanese Street Food at The Creative Spirit  
 Jul. 21 - Carry the Cross Concert at Normal Park  
 Jul. 21 - Bingo at VFW  
 Jul. 24 - Merrill City

Band concert at Normal Park  
 Jul. 25 - Gazebo Nights Concert: The Glam Band

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

## FISCHER from page 1

Presley days," LeRoy said. He recounts the story of how he was 12 years old working at the Mobil station at 1300 W. Main St. in Merrill's sixth ward. "The owner, Leonard Bergh, was a good friend of my dad's who had lost his leg in the war," he said. "He needed some help around the shop, so my dad sent me over to lend a hand. My main job was pumping gas and washing windows. Back in those days you didn't just pump someone's gas and send 'em on their way. Washing their windows was part of the deal. I was a bit small for my age, so I had to stand on cases of pop to reach the windows," he said.

At that time the Sixth Ward Barber Shop was located next door. "Bill [Jankowski] owned the shop and had a few other barbers working for him. He and 'Schmidty' [Lawrence Schmidt] would stop in for coffee quite a bit," LeRoy said. "Well, I must have been helping out there for about three or four weeks when Bill joked one morning: 'Are ya gonna be a grease

monkey your whole life or come over and get a real job?'"

The idea appealed to LeRoy, so he talked to Bill about it more. "He talked me into helping him out with cutting hair of older guys in the ward who weren't able to leave their home," LeRoy said. "It wasn't too long before I was called on by other barbers on the westside asking if I could help out some of their guys who were homebound. Then once I started cutting more hair, I had guys asking if I could cut their grass too. It got to a point where I was going house to house with the barber kit Bill gave me in the basket of my bicycle and then pulling along a Handy Andy rotary grass cutter."

As LeRoy became a teenager, he also added more odd jobs - including raking leaves, shoveling snow, and then working part-time at the pea cannery - to his resume. "I liked cutting hair and helping folks out," he said. "The more I did it, the better I got at it."

One day when he was a high school senior, his dad suggested he make barbering a career. "We're

talking one day and he says to me, 'You should really stick with cutting hair ... you're pretty darn good at it.'" Not long afterward, LeRoy also overheard some of the guys at the barber shop talking about him, and they suggested the same. "It makes a guy feel good to hear stuff like that, ya know, so I decided to stick with it."

About to graduate from high school in 1961, LeRoy checked into barber school. But with the Vietnam War going on at that time, "Guys were signing up for everything they could find, to avoid being drafted. So I didn't have much luck with that," he said.

He considered becoming an underwater demolition man with the Navy and going to sea, but he got pneumonia which ended that plan. In Feb. 1962, LeRoy was drafted into the U.S. Army. His technical military occupational specialty was radio repairman, but barbering quickly became his side job. "When they found out I could cut hair, first thing they said, 'Bring them clippers out. You're our barber.' And so I started cutting hair for them. ... Kinda like when I was a kid, it started with me cutting a few guys' hair and next thing I know, I have other guys and their buddies wanted me to cut their hair. As time went on, I started cutting hair for officers."

When LeRoy got back to Merrill after he was discharged from the Army in 1965, he went to work at a local factory for a short time and then soon started cutting hair for Norm Raasch at Ideal Barber Shop [which was located where Banker's Square Park is today]. He attended and graduated from the former vocational school on Merrill's westside, obtaining his barber's license in 1968. When LeRoy started at Ideal, he said he was the first barber in the area to have customers make appointments. It was a new concept to Merrill, and "Norm said, 'You're never gonna make it.'" LeRoy recalls. But it wasn't very long before Norm saw how well it was working and started operating by appointment, too. Walk-ins were still welcome when a barber was there, but it made it a little easier to balance things, LeRoy said.

By the end of 1979, LeRoy was ready to start his own shop. He went out on his own, setting up his barber shop at 724 E. Second St. in Merrill. He opened Jan. 2, 1980, and operated his shop there for 44 years, until last week.

### A very busy guy

In addition to barbering, LeRoy has been quietly involved in many aspects of the Merrill community over the years. LeRoy cut hair for

the prisoners at the Lincoln County Jail and the nursing home (including the old nursing home before Pine Crest was built, LeRoy said) and cut and styled for the funeral homes. He served on the church council at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and as an auctioneer for their fundraisers over the years, worked with the Merrill Snowmobile Club to bring snowmobile racing to the fair grounds in the 1970's and helped get the Merrill Ice Drags off the ground and publicize it back in the day, and most recently facilitated the creation of the Veterans Memorial in the St. Francis Cemetery. Through his work on these and other causes he is passionate about, over the years LeRoy has invested himself into the community he loves. Most recently, he handed over management of the Veterans Memorial to the Knights of Columbus, entrusting them to carry it on with input from VFW Post 1638. It's been difficult to let go of some of the projects that have been so important to him.

But he still has a plan for his future. LeRoy turns 82 this year, there are lots of doctor (not haircut) appointments on the books, and 2024 looks to be a year of transition.

First he wants to clean out his shop. LeRoy has long been a collector of Elvis memorabilia, much of which has been on display in his barber shop these last 40+ years. LeRoy said he is working with a third party to sell it and will donate all of the money to St. Francis Xavier School. Among his extensive collection of probably more than 200 items, he said he even has Elvis Presley bottles with booze still in them.

LeRoy will check with the Merrill Historical Society to see if they have any interest in his collection of historical barber shop chairs, brushes, and tools.

And of course there is more to go through. "We are going to try this year to start cleaning up stuff and work around our home and the barber shop," Connie said. They also have a large shed behind their home, full of things to go through and pare down. "[Then] we can see how we are feeling before we can make big trips," she said.

LeRoy has enjoyed his 70 years as a barber immensely. Most importantly, he wants the community to know how much he appreciates them. "Thanks to Alan Klade for coming in for several years [when he worked alongside me in the barber shop]," LeRoy said. "[And to his friends and customers] thank you for all of the friendships I've had with my barbering ... Thank you for supporting me."



LeRoy trims a customer's beard in his final weeks before retirement. On the wall, a peek at some of his collection of Elvis memorabilia.



At his barber shop, LeRoy Fischer cuts a customer's hair. He will miss barbering but most of all, all the friends he's made over the year and the fun he's had with them. If the walls of his shop could talk, they'd speak of years of laughter, all the people he's met, and decades of Merrill history. **Tina L. Scott photos.**

## STEPPIN OUT

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 Order Online - Check wait times or just stop in!  
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 FRIDAY: 1:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM  
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:00PM  
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM  
 MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY  
 WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM

**DESPICABLE ME 4**  
 "PG" (1HR 35MIN)  
 FRIDAY: 1:00, 7:00 & 9:15PM  
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00 & 9:15PM  
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM  
 MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY  
 WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM

**HORIZON: AN AMERICAN SAGE - CHAPTER 1**  
 "R" (3HR 1MIN)  
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[www.cosmomovies.com](http://www.cosmomovies.com)  
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**WEEKLY BRIEFING - JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup>**

THURSDAY - RIBS  
 FRIDAY FISH FRY - BLUEGILL  
 SATURDAY - STEAK  
 SUNDAY - CHICKEN  
 MONDAY - ALFREDO

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**WE SELL FLAGS!**

**Pet of the Week**

Meet Kit-Kat! She is a nice but shy girl at first. She is going to be best in a home where she is the only cat because she does not seem to enjoy being around others. A nice calm home would be great for Kit-Kat. She is good with people and loves to play and cuddle once she is comfortable in her new home.

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

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**DINNER SPECIALS JULY**

**TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
 JULY 16<sup>TH</sup> - CHICKEN ALFREDO  
 JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> - MEAT LOAF  
 Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**  
 JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> - SHRIMP  
 JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> - CATFISH  
 Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM

**CARRYOUTS AVAILABLE**

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

**HAPPY HOUR: TUESDAY-THURSDAY • 3-6PM**

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## EMPLOYMENT

### FARM HELP WANTED

#### Full Time General Farm Labor

Pick up application at  
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 N1435 County Road D, Antigo, WI 54409  
**715-623-2689**

### JOIN OUR TEAM!

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Tri-Hi Transportation has an opening for a Full-Time Shop Preventive Maintenance Position, working on trucks & trailers.

**This is a Monday-Friday Position, with NO WEEKENDS!**

Must be detail oriented and mechanically inclined, but willing to train the right person. Experience a plus!

Heath & 401K Benefits available!

To apply for this position, please email [matt@trihi.com](mailto:matt@trihi.com)

## Come Join Our Team We're Hiring!

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**To Apply:**

- Apply in person at 1400 W. Taylor Street (employment office - SW corner)
- Or Email your resume to [gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com](mailto:gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com)
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Or stop in and pick up an application at:  
**Mitchell Metal Products**  
 905 South State Street, Merrill, WI 54452

## General Employment 7110



Is accepting applications for a fulltime labor / construction worker to help prep houses either to raise or move the house to a different location. Job involves traveling, some jobs required overnight stays. Work week on average during the summer months is 50 hrs. per week.

No weekend work. Mechanical skills would be beneficial. CDL would be beneficial. Will train worker if necessary. Pay depends on experience. Vacation pay and holiday pay after 6 months. Send resume to email address: [info@schuettemovers.com](mailto:info@schuettemovers.com)

## Health Care 7115

**RN/LPN Needed:** Private-duty nursing is needed for two established patients in downtown Eagle River. All shifts are available, including days, nights, and weekends. Call/Text Debbie at 715-617-2564

## Announcements 7005

**WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications** review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact **The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)**

## Lost and Found 7010

Lost String Trimmer, South of Grandfather Dam. \$20 Reward. 715-536-2701, leave message.

## Rummage Sales This Week 7200

**MERRILL Rummage Sale:** W2471 Center Rd. Tools & Construction materials. Fri-Sun 7/12-14 • 9AM-4PM.

## Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202



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**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE MONDAY AT 4 PM**

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 Little Bit Of Everything On This Sale. Come Check It Out!

**Items To Include:** Small Chest Freezer, Shelving Units, File Cabinet, 50" & 32" Samsung TVs, Queen Size Beds, Chests Of Drawers, Stepstools, Cleaning Supplies, Soaps, Kitchen Table & Chairs, Towels, Bedding, Women's Clothing, Kitchen Cookware & Bakeware, Tupperware, Cast Iron, Pyrex Bowls, Small Appliances, Sofa, La-Z-Boy Recliners, Antique Mantle Clock, Old Stereo, Turntable, Classic Rock Records, Antique Cameras, Old Stage Spotlight, Laptop Computer, Old Radios & Electronics, Space Heaters, Patio Furniture, Poly Storage Cabinets, 6' Poly Folding Tables, Bird Feeders, Shepherd Hooks, Card Table & Chairs, Mini Refrigerator, Newer Mobile Scooters In Excellent Condition, Kitchen Cabinet Rolling Carts, Rolling Butcherblock, Winter Clothing, Garden Hose, Small Rolling Tool Chest, Hand & Power Tools, Power Cords, String Trimmers, Stepladders, Weber Charcoal Grill, Table Saw, Lawn & Garden Tools, Washtub Poly Garden Cart And So Much More!!

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 For pictures go to our Facebook page at V&J Estate Sales and Service or [estatesales.org](http://estatesales.org)

## Miscellaneous Sales 7212

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## Guns 7264

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# REPORTS

## MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**06-10-24**  
At 5:57 a.m. officers responded to a report of a theft at a local storage unit. An investigation is ongoing.

At 10:31 a.m. officers responded to a report of a shoplifting at a local business. An investigation is ongoing.

At 1:38 p.m. officers responded to a report of fraud at a local business. Officers determined that the store had been a victim of a scam and an investigation is ongoing.

**06-10-24**  
At 11:01 p.m. officers responded to a trespassing complaint at a local residence. One male party was taken into custody on an active warrant at the residence. An investigation is ongoing.

**06-12-24**  
At 12:21 p.m. a caller reported receiving notification that he owed thousands of dollars to an association for a loan. The caller stated he had not taken out a loan through this entity and had never heard of them. It is unknown at this time if a loan was taken out using his information or if the correspondence was a scam attempt. Further investigation is forthcoming.

At 6:13 p.m. a caller reported she had been pushed down by her mother. The mother's boyfriend reported the caller had thrown a bottle at him. The mother and daughter do not reside together, and the matter will be turned over to the district attorney's office for any forthcoming charges.

**06-13-24**  
At 2:37 a.m. a caller reported she returned home to find her ex-boyfriend had damaged her lawn by spinning his vehicle tires on it. The caller further reported an earlier incident in which the ex-boyfriend grabbed her face and pushed her. The ex-boyfriend was located and arrested for domestic disorderly conduct and criminal damage to property.

At 12:53 p.m. a caller reported someone stole two boxes that were delivered to her apartment complex. Investigation is ongoing.

At 1:03 p.m. a store reported a male had stolen some merchandise from the store. The male was identified through surveillance video, and the officer will be attempting to locate him for enforcement action.

At 4:02 p.m. a caller reported finding someone had shot a hole through his residence window sometime in the past few weeks. Investigation is ongoing.

At 4:05 p.m. a caller reported someone had stolen a tablet computer from her vehicle. Investigation is ongoing.

At 6:43 p.m. a caller reported an intoxicated driver departing a tavern. Contact was made with the caller and it was found he and the individual he was reporting were involved in a physical altercation outside the tavern. The caller was cited for disorderly conduct, and the officer is attempting to identify the other involved male.

**06-14-24**  
At 12:34 a.m. an officer located damage to the bathroom at

Stanges Park. The investigation is ongoing.

**06-15-24**  
At 3:11 a.m. officers and EMS were dispatched to the area of W. Main and Pine Streets for a report of a male subject that had been in an altercation. Through the course of the investigation, it was found that two separate incidents had taken place, involving several people and two different locations. As a result of the investigation, charges will be referred to the district attorney for disorderly conduct, battery, obstructing an officer, and bail jumping on the different parties involved.

At 4:16 p.m. an officer responded to a business after a customer had gotten into an argument with staff members and was being loud and profane. The female subject was issued a citation for disorderly conduct.

At 6:47 p.m. an officer responded to a business for a report of theft of alcohol by a juvenile. After reviewing the store surveillance video, the suspect has been identified with citations forthcoming.

At 7:07 p.m. an officer observed a two-vehicle accident in the 300 block of E. First St. A female subject was cited for failure to yield the right of way from a driveway.

**06-17-24**  
At 12:17 p.m. a store reported a retail theft that occurred on 06-13-24. Investigation is ongoing.

**06-18-24**  
At 4:22 p.m. a hotel reported a belligerent guest who was refusing to leave after staff told her to leave. It was found the female had yelled racial slurs toward employees, swore, and was loud and causing a scene. The female was arrested for disorderly conduct.

**06-19-24**  
At 8:49 p.m. an officer responded to a report of a theft of money that had occurred at a business. The investigation is ongoing.

**06-20-24**  
At 12:14 p.m. officers were advised that a male subject was at Social Services and there was a warrant for his arrest through Rusk County. The male subject was arrested on the warrant and transported to the jail.

At 4:29 p.m. an officer took a report of a stolen vehicle. The investigation is ongoing.

At 7:02 p.m. officers were contacted by a business on W. Main St. after a male subject had been in the store and appeared to be highly intoxicated. An officer located the vehicle and made contact with the operator, who was also found to have a 0.02 blood alcohol restriction. The driver displayed signs indicative of impairment and refused field sobriety tests. The driver was arrested for 6th offense operating while under the influence and threats to law enforcement.

At 10:11 p.m. an officer took a report of a group of youths that had been throwing eggs at residences in the sixth ward. The youths were located/identified and citations will be forthcoming.

**06-22-24**  
At 4:58 p.m. officers responded to a report of a suspicious person.

It was reported that a female party had walked into a residence without consent of the owner and then walked out. The female party was identified and issued a citation for trespassing.

At 8:03 p.m. an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle. The driver was determined to have an active warrant for their arrest. The subject was taken into custody.

**06-23-24**  
At 11:38 a.m. an officer was advised of a domestic altercation that took place at a residence. Further investigation led to an officer taking a male suspect into custody for domestic disorderly conduct charge.

At 8:31 p.m. an officer conducted a traffic stop on S. Center Ave. near E. Riverside Ave. The driver of the vehicle had a revoked driving status and an open felony bond condition restricting him from operating a motor vehicle. The male driver was arrested on seven counts of felony bail jumping.

**06-24-24**  
At 1:08 p.m. officers responded to a male party who was lying on the ground near a vehicle. Officers later determined that the male was intoxicated. The male was cited by officers.

At 3:50 p.m. officers responded to a complaint at a local residence. Officers later found one of the male parties driving a vehicle. The male was cited for OWI.

**06-25-24**  
At 9:51 a.m. officers responded to a crash involving two vehicles. Officers conducted an investigation and cited one of the drivers for running a stop sign.  
At 3:35 p.m. officers responded to multiple complaints of damaged vehicles at a local residence. An investigation is currently ongoing regarding the damage.

**06-28-24**  
At 12:16 a.m. officers responded to a disorderly male at a local bar. The male was arrested for disorderly conduct.

**06-29-24**  
At 1:58 a.m. officers responded to a local business for a report of a theft of a purse. An investigation is ongoing.

At 2:57 p.m. officers responded to a complaint of a theft from a local business. A male suspect was found at the scene. An investigation is ongoing regarding the theft.

At 3:28 p.m. officers responded to a hit and run at a local business. Officers were able to locate both vehicles and drivers. Citations were issued to one of the drivers.

**06-30-24**  
At 1:58 a.m. officers responded to a local business for a report of accidental alarm activation within the business by the manager. Everything was found to be okay.  
At 11:35 a.m. officers responded to a complaint of a missing person at an assisted living residence, and the person was later found outside the building. It was found the person just hadn't signed out properly.

At 4:55 p.m. Merrill Police Department assisted the Lincoln Co. Sheriff's Office with a mutual aid request in locating a wanted person north of Merrill. The person was located and taken into custody walking eastbound on a rural road.

**07-1-24**  
At approximately 3:24 p.m. an officer went to a residence with a North Central Health Care Crisis worker for an evaluation on a juvenile male. An emergency detention was placed for the juvenile male, and he was transported to North Central Health Care in Wausau.  
At approximately 4:00 p.m. officers were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of E. Main St. and Eagle Dr. One of the drivers was cited for inattentive driving.

At approximately 11:04 p.m. an officer conducted a traffic stop on E. Main St. near Gem St. The driver was cited for operating while revoked.

**07-2-24**  
At approximately 9:40 a.m. an officer was requested to take a male subject into custody at the Probation and Parole Office. The male subject was escorted to the Lincoln County Jail for a Probation Violation.

At approximately 3:33 p.m. officers were dispatched to the DMV at 100 S. Mill St. for a child custody disturbance. Information gathered was that the father showed up to the DMV to take his daughters with him. The father was issued a

Notice of Unwanted Contact form due to his behavior.

**7-3-24**  
At approximately 12:11 p.m. officers responded to a local restaurant for a report of a disturbance. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the complainant who reported having food intentionally spilled on her. The other party involved left the scene prior to officers arriving. This is related to ongoing harassment. Charges are pending.

At approximately 7:05 p.m. officers responded to the parking lot of a local business after a report of a dog being locked in an unoccupied vehicle. Upon officers arrival, the vehicle was no longer on scene.

At approximately 11:07 p.m. officers were dispatched to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office for a report of an intoxicated male outside of the building. Officers contacted the subject and discovered he had bail conditions prohibiting him from drinking. Subject was arrested on scene.

**7-4-24**  
At 2:03 p.m. officers responded to a report of a hit and run involving a parked vehicle. Officers determined the hit and run occurred the previous night. An investigation is ongoing.

At 7:27 p.m. officers responded to a theft at a local business. Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle involved in the theft. One male fled from officers on the stop. After a short foot pursuit, the male was taken into custody. The male involved was taken to the Lincoln County Jail for a warrant and local charges. The female passenger was also taken to the Lincoln County Jail for local charges.

**07-5-24**  
At approximately 1:23 p.m. an officer was dispatched to a residence at the 300 block of Logan St. in regards to a male party that had an active warrant through Marathon County Sheriff's Office. The male party was taken into custody for the warrant.

At approximately 10:34 p.m. dispatch advised of a driving complaint in regards to a motorcycle operating at high rate of speeds on Grand Ave. The driver was issued multiple citations for his driving behavior.

**07-6-24**  
At approximately 7:57 p.m. officers were dispatched to Meadow Apartments on Hollywood Dr. for a report of a female party screaming help from the second floor and damaging a window. Officers arrived on scene and the female was transported to the local hospital. Officers were called back to the hospital and the female became belligerent. She was arrested for disorderly conduct.

**07-7-24**  
At approximately 3:50 a.m. an officer initiated a traffic stop on Cottage St. and W. 4th St. The driver was cited for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked driving status.

At approximately 5:00 a.m. officers were dispatched for a driving complaint near Grand Ave. and State St. The driver was cited earlier for operating after revocation. Officers located the driver at his residence, and he was arrested for resisting/obstructing an officer.

At approximately 7:14 p.m. dispatch advised of a single vehicle crash on W. Main St. near S. Pine St. Dispatch advised that the vehicle had struck a telephone pole. The driver was transported to the local hospital, and she was cited for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated first offense.

## LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

On 06/17/2024 a deputy on patrol stopped a vehicle on USH 51 near CTH D in the Town of King for extremely high rate of speed. The driver, a 26-year-old Merrill man, was cited for traveling 109 mph in a 65 mph zone.

On 06/20/2024 a deputy on patrol observed a vehicle southbound on USH 51 near STH 64 (Mile Marker 208) in the Town of Pine River traveling at a high rate of speed. The deputy had the vehicle on radar at 126 mph. When the deputy attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver of the vehicle, a 25-year-old Land 'O Lakes man, failed to stop for the deputy, causing the deputy to initiate a pursuit on the vehicle. Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (LISO) notified the Marathon County Sheriff's Office of the approaching chase and they sent units to assist.

The chase continued southbound on USH 51 in Marathon County for several miles. As the chase was approaching the City of Mosinee, Marathon County units were able to successfully deploy a tire deflation device, disabling the suspect vehicle, but the suspect continued to flee. Portage County was advised of the approaching chase; however, the vehicle was stopped south of the City of Mosinee on USH 51 (Mile Marker 174) by deputies with the Marathon County Sheriff's Office. During the arrest, a taser was deployed in the apprehension of the driver. The driver was checked out by EMS and turned over to deputies with LISO. The suspect was booked on multiple charges and had court where he was held on a \$500 cash bond; that bond has since been posted. No law enforcement officers were injured in the crash and no police vehicles were damaged. The driver was identified as Benjamin Dorn.

On 06/20/2024, dispatch was advised of a two-vehicle crash with injury on USH 8 near CTH L in the Town of Bradley. A vehicle being operated by a 16-year-old boy from Hazelhurst was traveling eastbound on USH 8 when he attempted to turn northbound on CTH L. A second vehicle being operated by a 47-year-old Tomahawk man was traveling westbound on USH 8 approaching the same intersection. The driver of the eastbound vehicle turned into the path of the westbound vehicle and was subsequently struck. Off-duty EMS personnel attended to the injured parties until the arrival of law enforcement and ambulances from Tomahawk. The driver of the westbound vehicle was showing signs of impairment and refused to cooperate with the investigating deputy. He was subsequently arrested for 3rd offense OWI. He was later transported to the Lincoln County Jail. LISO was assisted by the Tomahawk Police Department and Tomahawk Fire and Ambulance.

On 06/21/2024 deputies responded to a reported vehicle crash with injuries on STH 17 north of Gleason in the Town of Russell. A 65-year-old man from Pelican Lake reported that he was traveling southbound on STH 17 when he lost control of his vehicle. In an attempt to regain control, he over corrected and collided with a guard rail. The driver received a head injury as a result of the crash and he was transported by ground ambulance to Aspirus Merrill Hospital. No other vehicles were involved in the crash.

On 06/22/2024 the sheriff's office received a call of a reckless driver traveling eastbound on USH 8 near Muskellunge Lake Rd. in the Town of Bradley. It was reported that the suspect vehicle was weaving in the road. The reporting party continued to follow the vehicle and a short time later reported that the vehicle had turned southbound onto USH 51 from USH 8. A short time after that, a deputy located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. In making contact with the driver, a 63-year-old Wisconsin Rapids man, the deputy noticed signs of impairment. The deputy then requested the driver perform standard field sobriety tests which the driver complied with. As a result of those tests, the driver was arrested for his 5th offense OWI. The driver was later transported to the Lincoln County Jail where he was booked in.

On 06/23/2024 the sheriff's office received a complaint of a disorderly conduct situation at an area motel in the Town of Merrill. The reporting party stated that the suspect, an 86-year-old Merrill man, threw a bottle of medication at the reporting party while she was in her vehicle. When the deputy questioned the reporting party, she reported that when the suspect threw the glass bottle at her, it struck her in the left arm and caused pain. There was an independent witness who corroborated the reported facts. As a result of the investigation, the male subject was arrested for battery and disorderly conduct.

On 06/24/2024 the sheriff's office was contacted by Aspirus Merrill Hospital that they were placing the facility into lock down, as they had a female victim there who had injuries consistent with domestic violence and who reported she had been threatened with a gun by the male suspect. The investigation revealed that the incident happened at an address on Farmingdale Rd. in the Town of Corning. The victim, a 42-year-old Merrill woman, had injuries consistent with battery and strangulation. As the investigation continued, a deputy located the suspect, a 45-year-old Merrill man, in a vehicle and attempted to stop him. The suspect fled from the

deputy, resulting in a short pursuit. The suspect fled into a farm field, and the deputy terminated the chase. After a short distance, the suspect's vehicle got stuck and he was taken into custody without further incident. The suspect was eventually transported to the Lincoln County Jail where he was booked in on multiple felony charges. During the period of lock down at Aspirus Merrill Hospital, the hospital was guarded by additional law enforcement officers for safety and security.

On 06/18/2024 the sheriff's office handled a motor vehicle crash on CTH K at CTH Q in the Town of Scott. [A separate article was published on this incident and the subsequent death of the driver of the motorcycle.]

**SAFETY CONCERN:** On 06/23/2024 a deputy from the sheriff's office responded to a complaint of a pedestrian walking on the roadway on CTH C near Elm Rd. in the Town of Merrill. It was further reported that the pedestrian was actually a small child. At the time of the call, the child was supposed to be in the care of their grandma and she had lost track of the child. The child was found almost a half mile away from where the grandmother lived. The sheriff's office would just like to remind drivers to be aware and observant of possible changing road conditions and hazards. We would further like to remind everyone that, if watching small children, be sure to keep a close eye on them and keep them away from highways and roads. In this case, the child was returned to the grandmother unharmed; however, a report will be submitted to the district attorney for review and possible charges.

On 06/24/2024 deputies were dispatched to a reported disorderly conduct domestic at an address on Belle Rd. in the Town of Somo. It was reported that a 24-year-old male subject who lives at the Belle Rd. address was intoxicated and acting disorderly by yelling and screaming at his mother and step-father. The parents were reporting that he has a drinking problem and they wanted him to get help, which he refused. The male subject left the house prior to deputy's arrival. It was also reported that the subject may be armed with a knife. After a short search, investigating deputies located and took the subject into custody; no weapons were found. During the process, the subject became increasingly uncooperative and resistive with deputies. He was eventually placed in a patrol car for transport to the Lincoln County Jail. While in transport, the subject was able to get free of his seatbelt, and move his handcuffs to the front of him. The subject then kicked out the rear windows of the squad car while it was in motion. The transporting deputy stopped and requested assistance to regain control of the subject. The subject continued to struggle with deputies until they used pepper spray to get the party back under control. The subject was then transported to the Lincoln County Jail. No injuries were reported as a result of this call; however, the patrol car received substantial damage to both rear doors. The man was booked into the Lincoln County Jail on several charges.

On 06/25/2024 at 1:20 a.m. the Lincoln County 911 center received a weather-related call of a cabin on Navajo Dr. in Tomahawk in the Town of Bradley that had been destroyed by trees falling on it during the severe weather. It was reported that one person from the cabin was injured and one was trapped inside the cabin. Emergency crews from Tomahawk Fire, Tomahawk Ambulance, and LISO responded to the area. Upon arrival, the first responders were not able to make access to the area due to all the trees being down. The Fire Department began cutting a path through the downed trees to gain access to the victim. In the ensuing search for the victim and his family, the first responders discovered that five or six structures had been damaged with varying degrees of damage, and about a five-acre patch of land had significant tree damage and evidence that suggested there may have been rotation. Deputies, along with Tomahawk Fire and Ambulance, worked for several hours to clear a path to all cabins and to confirm there were no other injured persons. All information concerning the damaged structures and injured party were passed along to the National Weather Service for their review. No other persons were reported injured as a result of this storm. LISO was assisted by Tomahawk Fire and EMS, as well as Rod's Wrecker and Wisconsin Public Service.

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**Left:** The Pesobic Pathfinders 4-H Club celebrates with an ice-cream party featuring all the Paul Bunyan ice cream in cones they could eat. **Right:** Eva Jaroski, one of the members of the Pesobic Pathfinders, created a delightful Paul Bunyan art piece featuring Babe the Blue Ox licking Paul Bunyan flavored ice cream in a cone, which the group shared in their thank you note to Cedar Crest. **Ann Jaroski photos.**

## Pesobic Pathfinders 4-H Club award winning ice cream flavor released

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

In July, Cedar Crest Ice Cream of Cedarburg, Wis., released the new 2024 flavor of the month - Paul Bunyan - created by the Pesobic Pathfinders 4-H Club of Merrill.

“When coming up with the flavor entry, the Pathfinders wanted it to relate to Wisconsin,” said Eva Jaroski, Pesobic Pathfinders 4-H Club Secretary. “The flavor, Paul Bunyan, is a representation of the north woods, with logs of chocolate covered pretzel sticks, butterfinger saw dust, and an infusion of maple syrup.”

When the 4-H Club members entered the annual statewide Cedar Crest Ice Cream new flavor contest in Nov. 2023, which was open to 4-H groups statewide, they

were not sure their idea really had a chance. But on Feb. 2, 2024, the Pesobic Pathfinders were notified their entry had won the grand prize - two three-gallon tubs of their Paul Bunyan flavor to host their own ice cream party and a \$500 cash award. And possibly the most exciting part: Their winning flavor would be manufactured and available to purchase for a limited time during the 2024 summer season as one of Cedar Crest’s feature flavors of the month of July. As a July feature flavor, Paul Bunyan is available in ice cream parlors and scoop shops all across the state and beyond for as long as supplies last.

In Merrill, Cedar Crest Ice Cream is served at the 107 Bait Shack, N2040 State Hwy. 107 just north of Merrill. Stop in to see if they’re serving up the award-winning Paul Bunyan flavor.

Since receiving their first shipment of the Paul Bunyan flavor, The Windmill Ice Cream

Shoppe, located north of Tomahawk on Cty. Rd. L, said it’s an area favorite. “It’s been a busy couple of days with the holiday week,” said Russell from The Windmill. “We’ve gone through almost 20 gallons of Paul Bunyan in the past week and received 24 more gallons today. We rotate it with other flavors, but when it’s in, it goes fast! The 4-H winners are always fun and unique flavors; some go on to become regular or feature flavors from Cedar Crest. We hope that happens to Paul Bunyan, as it is very ‘Wisconsin!’”

To find an ice cream parlor serving up Cedar Crest flavors, go to: [cedarcresticecream.com/parlor-locator/](http://cedarcresticecream.com/parlor-locator/).

The Pesobic Pathfinders recently celebrated their win with a picnic and “unlimited ice cream cones enjoyed by one and all” of their Paul Bunyan flavor, Jaroski said. They also decided how to share some of their cash prize - and their Paul Bunyan flavor

- with others. At their March 5 4-H Club meeting, the group had decided to allocate 10% of the \$500 prize “to something in our community to channel the 4-H spirit.”

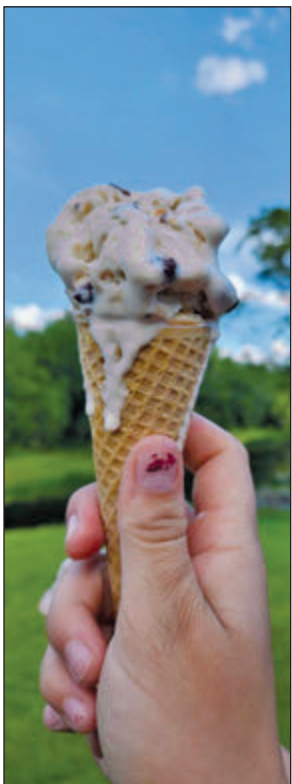
“As one of the main principals of 4-H is to give back and to serve the community, the Pesobic Pathfinders wanted to stay true to the 4-H ideals,” Jaroski said after their ice cream celebration. They decided to use part of their cash winnings “to purchase a three-gallon tub [of their Paul Bunyan ice cream flavor] to donate to the Pine Crest Nursing Home for the residents,” she said.

“With this exciting news, we wanted to spread the joy,” another member of the Pesobic Pathfinders said. “In our meetings we discussed how we would like to give back to the community; we unanimously decided that we wanted to donate to a

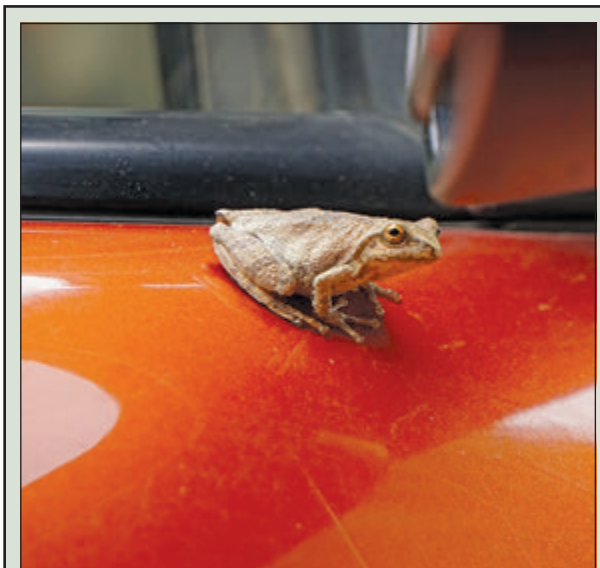
nursing home.”

The limited-time-only Paul Bunyan flavor is also slated to be available at the

Lincoln County Fair, Aug. 7-11, 2024, at the Merrill Fair Grounds.



A delicious scoop of Paul Bunyan on a cone. Better lick that cone fast!



A tree frog recently hitched a ride with a rural U.S.P.S. postal carrier who was out delivering mail on her route. The frog hung around for quite some time before being relocated to a more appropriate location. **Tina L. Scott photo.**



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If you would like to be part of this publication, Contact **Jennifer Gartmann** at **715-218-1644** or **jgartmann@mmclocal.com**

**FALL/WINTER 2024**  
**Ad Reservation:**  
July 31  
**Publish:**  
August 28

389349

## 2024 Merrill Summer Baseball Schedule

<u>Merrill Rangers</u>			
Sun. July 14	WI Rapids	Home	1:30 pm
Wed. July 17	Everest	Away	7:00 pm
<u>Merrill Post 46</u>			
Tues. July 16	Marshfield	Home	7:30 pm
Wed. July 17	WI Rapids	Home	7:00 pm
<u>Merrill Jr. Legion</u>			
Tues. July 16	Marshfield	Home	5:00 pm
Wed. July 17	WI Rapids	Away	6:00 pm

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



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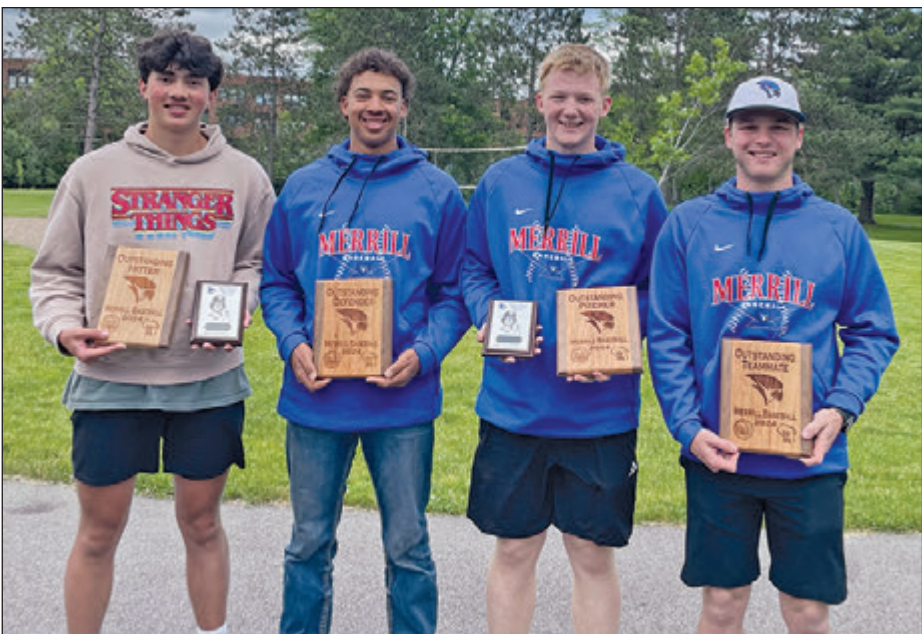
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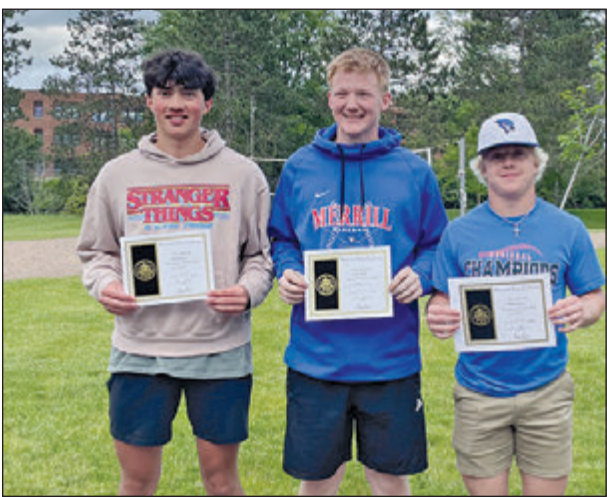




The Merrill Bluejay Varsity Baseball Team ended its season with an awards picnic. "After finishing the season with a 14 - 13 record, there were many deserving players but the following players earned team awards," said Head Baseball Coach Shawn Schultz. **From L to R:** Outstanding Hitter - Sam Reimann, Outstanding Defender - Isaak Clapper, Outstanding Pitcher - Brady Kanitz, and Outstanding Teammate - Nick Palecek.



The Merrill Fastpitch 10U team finished 2nd place in the silver bracket in the Stevens Point Spring Thaw May 11-12. "We were playing Southwest Storm and we were tied 7-7 going into the 6th inning and ended up losing 10-7. This was our first tournament of the year," coaches said. To get to the championship, Graycen Graap threw a perfect game, striking out 9 in three innings, and taking the 12-0 win in three innings against Midwest Warriors. Merrill 10U then traveled to Menasha May 17-18 to take on the Polar Bears. In photo, **L to R in front row:** Ailyn Roberge and Maddyn Jahnke. **Middle row:** Addison Durham, Alexis Jannusch, Aydreaanna Ament, Ari Phelps, Brooklyn Johnas, and Graycen Graap. **Back row:** Quinn Hanh, Peyton Corroo, Raya Osness, Addy Graap, and Bailey Kornhorst. Coaches: Head Coach Steve Osness and Assistant Coaches Sam Flatau, Michelle Roberg, and Mandi Kornhorst. **Submitted photo.**



**L to R:** Sam Reimann, All Conference - 2nd Team Short Stop; Brady Kanitz, All Conference - 1st Team Pitcher, and All District - Honorable Mention Pitcher; and Brady Norton, All Conference - 2nd Team Out Field. **Photos courtesy of Merrill Varsity Baseball Program.**

## Stock up on stamps - before the price increase

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

Planning an upcoming wedding where you'll be sending lots of invitations? Or perhaps just thinking ahead to your Christmas card list for the holidays this winter? You might want to think about stocking up on postage stamps before the upcoming price increase.

Currently first class mail forever postage stamps are 68 cents each. But effective July 14, 2024, the cost of those same stamps will

go up by more than 7.3 percent, an increase of 5 cents each, bringing the price to 73 cents each. In other words, if you buy a roll of 100 first class mail forever postage stamps on July 12, 2024, it will cost \$68, but if you wait until July 14, that same roll of stamps will cost \$73.

It will cost \$5 more per hundred Christmas cards or invitations - or whatever you plan to mail - when you send it via regular first class mail if you buy your stamps for that mailing

after July 14.

The good news is, if you purchase your first class mail forever stamps by July 13, you can stock up at the 68 cent rate and still use those same forever stamps until you run out. You won't need to purchase 5 cent stamps to "make up the difference" when using the "old" stamps like "back in the day" when stamps had specific denominations on them and you needed to have the "exact change," so to speak, to mail a letter.



Postage rates are about to increase again.

Tina L. Scott photo.

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