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## Gazebo Nights begin



On Thursday night, July 11, 2024, the Gazebo Nights crowd vied for the spots in the shade. **Tina L. Scott photo.**



The Merrill Band Booster Club brought a shaved ice truck to Normal Park. Their fundraiser proved to be a big hit with the kids. **Tina L. Scott photo.**



Brian McLaughlin, also known as BMAC, performs familiar hits for the Thorogood Thursday Gazebo Nights crowd on July 11, 2024. **Joseph Frederick photo.**

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## Local advocacy group, Lincoln County Board Chair Boyd react to Pine Crest sale agreement's termination

BY JALEN MAKI  
MMC STAFF

A local group that has advocated against the sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, as well as the Chair of the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors, recently reacted to the termination of the facility's sale agreement.

A lawsuit brought against Lincoln County by Donald J. Dunphy, who serves as District 7 Supervisor on the Lincoln County Board, led to the facility's buyers, Merrill Campus LLC and Senior Management Inc., ending the Asset Purchase Agreement with the County.

A June 28, 2024, letter to Lincoln County Administrative Coordinator Renee Krueger from the buyers' attorney, Richard J. Summerfield, said the buyers chose to terminate the agreement due to language in the agreement that states that should there be litigation brought against the County or the facility, the County would be in default of the agreement.

With the sale of the facility now off, "People for Pine Crest" and Lincoln County Board Chair and District 10 Supervisor Jesse Boyd voiced their views on the issue and are

looking ahead to what's next.

### "People for Pine Crest" laud termination of sale agreement

"People for Pine Crest," a group that has advocated against the sale of the Merrill facility, lauded the news of the sale agreement's termination.

Dunphy is a member of People for Pine Crest.

In a release from the group, Gene Babel, a Merrill resident and group member, said the termination of the sale agreement is "great news for the people of Lincoln County."

"Selling Pine Crest to an out-of-state corporation like Senior Management Inc. was never a good idea," Babel said. "As a County nursing home, Pine Crest has been taking care of Lincoln County residents for 70 years, and we should be investing in Pine Crest so it will continue to do so for the next 70 years."

The group called the sale of Pine Crest "widely unpopular" and highlighted an Oct. 2023 public opinion survey for Lincoln County residents conducted by the *Tomahawk Leader* and the *Merrill Foto News* that found that more than 80% of the nearly 800 respondents would have supported an increase

in property taxes for five years or more to keep the nursing home County-owned.

Over the course of more than a year, People for Pine Crest collected more than 800 signatures on a petition opposing the sale, while group members have utilized public comment periods during numerous County Board meetings to speak out against that County's sale of the nursing home.

The group also pointed to the Board's Aug. 2023 rejection of a potential referendum that would have put the future of Pine Crest funding in the hands of Lincoln County voters.

"As the supervisors moved forward in their efforts to sell the nursing home, Pine Crest's finances continued to improve," the release said.

Pine River resident Eileen Guthrie said in the release that "one of the hollow arguments that the proponents of selling Pine Crest often made was that it cost too much money."

"However, Pine Crest's operating budget is in very good shape," Guthrie said. "In fact, through the end of May 2024, Pine Crest is running a net positive operating budget balance of \$555,000.00, according

See **PINE CREST** page 5



A pink bubblegum flavored shaved ice helped this little girl cool off in the July 11 heat. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

## Lahti sentenced in drunk driving homicide

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

At a July 8, 2024, sentencing hearing in Lincoln County Court, John James Lahti, age 43, of Merrill was sentenced to 15 years in prison plus 10 years of extended supervision in the Sept. 17, 2022, death of an 8-year-old Gleason boy and the injuries to his family members, sustained when Lahti was driving drunk and crossed the center line on Hwy. 17 north of Merrill causing a head-on crash. Lahti struck a vehicle

occupied by a family of four, and the collision resulted in the death of eight-year-old Ian Skaar and serious injury to his mother, Leah Skaar, both of whom were passengers in the vehicle. Ian's sister and his father, Tom Skaar, who was driving, also sustained minor injuries.

Lahti was treated for minor injuries at Aspirus Merrill Hospital, and then arrested. He has been held in the Lincoln County Jail on a \$500,000 cash bond since.

The Complaint in the case said Lahti displayed

many signs of being impaired by alcohol use and a preliminary breath test taken approximately 30 minutes after the crash put him at .290 Breath Alcohol Concentration (BrAC) at 7:55 p.m., more than three times the legal limit at the time of the crash. A second test registered .223 BrAC at 11:45 p.m. The legal limit in Wisconsin is .08 BrAC or Blood Alcohol Content (BAC). Law enforcement also found an open, half-full bottle of brandy in the vehicle.

Lahti was previously convicted of Operating

While Intoxicated, first offense, on February 24, 2004.

### Lahti reached plea agreement

Originally charged with eight felony counts, including Homicide by Intox Use of Vehicle (2nd+), OWI Cause Injury (2+), Injury by Intoxicated Use/Vehicle, Homicide by Use of Vehicle w/ PAC (2nd+), PAC Cause Injury (2+), Injury by Use of Vehicle with PAC, 2nd Degree Reckless Homicide, and 2nd Degree

See **LAHTI** page 3

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# Heatstroke Prevention: Tips Every Caregiver Should Know

“Cracking a window doesn’t lower the temperature in a vehicle as much as people think it will.”

Hot summer days have already claimed the lives of at least 10 children this year in the United States due to heatstroke, often caused by being left unattended in cars.

Aspirus Health strongly advises all caregivers to never leave children alone

in a vehicle, even for a moment. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911 immediately.

Heatstroke, also known as hyperthermia, is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths in children. It occurs when the body cannot cool

itself quickly enough, leading to a dangerously high body temperature. Young children are particularly vulnerable, as their bodies heat up three to five times faster than adults. According to NoHeatStroke.com, since 1998, at least 976 children in the United States have died from heatstroke in vehicles.

“A car can become dangerously hot very quickly,” warns Amanda

Tabin, Safe Kids & Injury Prevention Coordinator at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. “Cracking a window doesn’t lower the temperature in a vehicle as much as people think it will, so the best practice is to make sure you don’t leave any kids (or pets) in a vehicle unattended – even for a minute.”

We can prevent these deaths and near misses by remembering to ACT:

**A: Avoid** heatstroke-

related injury and death by never leaving a child alone in a car, not even for a minute. Always keep your car locked when not in use so children cannot get inside on their own.

**C: Create reminders.** Place a stuffed animal or other memento in your child’s car seat when it’s empty and move it to the front seat when your child is in the back. You can also place your phone, briefcase,

or purse in the back seat to ensure you check the back before leaving the car.

**T: Take action.** If you see a child alone in a car, call 911 immediately. Emergency personnel are trained to handle these situations. Your call could save a life.

For more information on preventing child heatstroke deaths, please visit [safekids.org/heatstroke](http://safekids.org/heatstroke).



Amanda Tabin, Safe Kids Injury Prevention Coordinator, Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Photo courtesy of Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

## Merrill Airport to be part of AirVenture Cup Race

The Merrill Airport will be part of the 26th annual Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture Cup Race next weekend.

The race, slated for Sunday, July 21, 2024, weather permitting, will start and end at Wausau Downtown Airport. Approximately 100 unique aircraft from 38 race

classes will finish the race of more than 400 nautical miles.

The race will begin at 9 a.m., and the course will include the planes flying over (and some landing) at the airports in Wausau, Shawano, Menominee, Escanaba, Manistique, Sawyer, Land O’ Lakes, Tomahawk, and Merrill.

A release from the

AirVenture Cup said the race “provides pilots and aircraft builders an opportunity to race their aircraft in a safe and fun environment, all while promoting aviation in and over the communities where the races are held.”

The first race was held in Kitty Hawk, N.C., in 1998, with 10 aircraft, and



it has since grown to the major aviation event it is today, drawing thousands of spectators.

For more information, visit [airventurecuprace.com](http://airventurecuprace.com).

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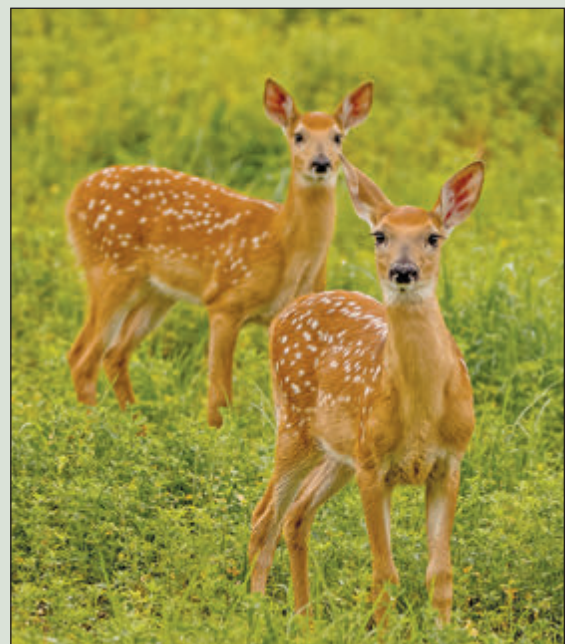
Pictured is the race course for the 26th annual EAA AirVenture Cup Race. Photos courtesy of the AirVenture Cup

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Top: A pair of fawns stop to pose for a photo. Bottom: A doe and her fawn alert to nearby sounds. Photo taken west of Merrill. Peter Tesch photos. Blue Sky Photography.

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# German film presentation

## Presenters from Germany come to Merrill

The Merrill Historical Society recently announced that on Thursday, July 25, 2024, Board Members of Film Museum Bendestorf, Andreas and Sven, will be visiting Merrill and giving a presentation about the history of Studio Bendestorf, German film, and local filmmaker Bill Rebane's role in getting American film producers to make their movies in Germany.

In 1947, after World War II ended, Studio Bendestorf was one of the first film studios to start making movies again. In the 1960's and 70's, Bill Rebane was the U.S. representative for the studio and helped convince the makers of *Dollars* (1971) starring Goldie Hawn and Warren Beatty, *How I Won the War* (1967) starring John Lennon, and *The Odessa*



*File* (1974) starring Jon Voight to take advantage of Studio Bendestorf's facilities.

The studio closed in 2005, but a wing of the building

has been preserved and now houses Film Museum Bendestorf. The museum is dedicated to preserving the history of not only Studio Bendestorf, but all German

film.

This program will be presented at Cosmo Hall on July 25 from 4 to 6 p.m. and includes light refreshments. Tickets are available at the Merrill Historical Society Museum, 100 E. Third St. in Merrill, during normal business hours - Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- or by appointment. Call 715.536.5652 or visit [www.discovermerrillhistory.org](http://www.discovermerrillhistory.org) for more information.

*The Merrill Historical Society is a private nonprofit 501(c)3*

*corporation. Their mission is to educate the public about the area's heritage using the unique historical and cultural resources they collect and preserve.*



Andreas Hellmanzik and Sven Simonsen. Submitted photos.

### LAHTI from page 1

Reckless Injury, six of the counts were dismissed but read in as part of a plea agreement whereby Lahti pled No Contest to the Homicide by Intox Use of Vehicle (2nd+) and OWI Cause Injury (2+) charges. The plea agreement saved court time and expense and spared the victims the ordeal of a trial in the matter.

The plea was entered during a Feb. 20, 2024, Plea Hearing before Judge Robert Russell during which the Court accepted the pleas and found Lahti Guilty Due to No Contest Plea on the two charges. Sentencing was then scheduled for July.

### Sentencing details

Judge Russell imposed the 15 years in prison plus 10 years of extended supervision sentence on the charge of Homicide by Intox Use of Vehicle (2nd+), and Judge Russell additionally imposed a sentence of 1 year in prison plus 1 year of extended supervision on the charge of OWI Cause Injury (2+); however, the sentences will run concurrent and, with credit for time already served, Lahti may

be released from prison in 2037.

Lahti was also sentenced to an order of absolute sobriety, prohibited from being on any premises where the main purpose is for the sale of alcohol, prohibited from contact with the victim's family except that he will write a letter of apology to the victims which must be pre-approved by the Court's agent, alcohol and drug assessment and treatment, revocation of his driver's license for five years and then restriction to operating vehicles equipped with an ignition interlock device for five years after that, and

restitution was left to be determined.

During the sentencing hearing, a number of victims made statements for the court's consideration, which the Court balanced with character references submitted by Lahti's attorney on Lahti's behalf and a pre-sentence investigation filed in the weeks prior to the hearing.

### Skaar family responds

In response to the sentencing, Tom Skaar said it was extremely painful for his family to have to keep reliving the accident and Ian's death.

"We are thankful that

the sentencing hearing is done and we can continue to move forward as a family," he said. "It was an incredibly difficult day for Leah, Julia, and I. We feel fortunate to have a great support system in place to help us through this difficult time. Family, friends, community members, our employers and coworkers have shown us that people can come together and be very supportive."

"We hope this case highlights how dangerous drinking and driving impaired is, and deters others from making similar decisions," Tom said.

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(and anyone else we may have forgotten.)

# OBITUARIES



**Debra Lynn 'Deb' (Natzke) Seidl** age 57 of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 with her family by her side following a short struggle with cancer. Deb was born on September 27, 1966 in Merrill, Wisconsin to LuEllen (Pohmeier) Natzke and the late Martin Natzke.

Deb attended Trinity Lutheran Grade School in Merrill and graduated from Merrill High School in 1985. She then attended the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in General and Choral Music with a major in piano. She taught K-12 choral music for 34 years. Her first two years of teaching music were with the Shawano School District and the remaining 32 years of teaching music were with the Hilbert School District in Hilbert, Wisconsin.

While attending UW-Green Bay she met the love of her life, Daniel 'Dan' Seidl. They married on October 16, 2004 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Appleton, WI. Together they have had two golden retriever fur babies, Coda and Banjo. Deb and Dan enjoyed traveling and going to Broadway Musicals. Deb will be remembered as an extremely caring person, always putting others first. Additionally she enjoyed playing Dominoes with her mom, as well as card games (sheepshead).

She was very involved at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Appleton, WI leading the TAPS (Thanks and Praise Service) for many years. Additionally she taught piano lessons in Hilbert and directed many high school musicals. After joining Hope Lutheran church in Fond du Lac she enjoyed singing in the church choir.

In addition to her husband Dan, she is survived by her mother, LuEllen Natzke, brother Michael (Kelley) Natzke, nephews Ben (Ali) Natzke, Matt (Nicole) Natzke and great niece Nora Natzke with a great nephew due in August. She is further survived by her mother-in-law, LouAnn (Glasow) Seidl, sister-in-law Jennifer (Rick) VanderSande and nephew, Trenton VanderSande.

She was preceded in death by her father Martin Natzke, father-in-law Robert 'Bob' Seidl, grandparents, many aunts and uncles and one cousin.

Funeral service in celebration of Deb's life and her new life in Christ was at 11:00 am on Monday, July 15, 2024 at Hope Lutheran Church in Fond du Lac with the Rev. Dr. Phillip Enderle officiating. Burial was in the St. Peter Lutheran Cemetery in Hilbert. A time of visitation was held at the Wieting Family Funeral Home (411 W. Main St.) in Chilton from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm on Sunday, July 14, 2024 and on Monday, at Hope Lutheran Church in Fond du Lac from 9:00 am until 10:45 am. At the time of the service, there will be a link available at [wietingfuneralhome.com](http://wietingfuneralhome.com) for those wishing to watch a memorial video or view photos of the flowers and gifts given to the family.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the charity or church of your choice. We'd like to thank the EMT's, emergency staff and ICU staff at SSM/St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac for the compassionate care they gave Deb.



## In Memoriams

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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:

Let us clear the air regarding the cancellation of the purchase of Pine Crest Nursing Home by a for profit, out of state corporation.

First, the County maintaining ownership of Pine Crest is good news for the families of Lincoln County. The sale of our County nursing home would have ended a nearly century-long commitment between the residents of Lincoln County and our elderly and most vulnerable citizens.

This has been People for Pine Crest's position all along. We have collected petition signatures, held meetings, conducted and shared our research, testified at the County Board meetings, and even hosted our own town hall when the County Board refused to hold its own.

When the county government is not responsive to the people, when the local media refuses to ask the hard questions, the only recourse for a concerned citizen lies in the courts. It is the venue of last resort. We are grateful to Mr. Dunphy that at least someone is trying to hold County

officials responsible for following their own rules and adhering to the legal requirements for county government.

Second, maintaining County ownership of Pine Crest presents us with the opportunity to come together to keep Pine Crest strong and to serve the people of the County for another 100 years.

What we have learned over the past several months is that the future for Pine Crest is sound and improving. Changes in the Medicaid reimbursement rate have put Pine Crest operations on a financial path that will not require greater investment from the County.

Like every other building in the County, Pine Crest does need capital improvements and we have known this all along too. This is something that we can solve, both for today and the long term. What it requires is the will and the courage of the County Board to sit down with members of the community to get down to the business of figuring out a long-term plan to keep Pine Crest a high-quality, affordable, and local County-owned nursing home.

It's time to stop looking backwards and start planning for a better future. We are here to do that work and we hope the Lincoln County Board is ready to do the same.

- Michael Southcombe,  
Merrill, Wis.  
People for Pine Crest

*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.*

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

### Embracing Stoicism

Dear Reader,

In the hustle and bustle of our modern world, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the pressures and challenges we face daily. However, the timeless wisdom of Stoicism, as articulated by great thinkers like Seneca, Cicero, and Marcus Aurelius, offers a path to inner peace and a meaningful life. By viewing each day as a separate life, practicing restraint and moderation, regulating our emotions, and seizing the opportunities life presents, we can transform our existence.



Seneca, one of the most prominent Stoic philosophers, teaches us to live each day as if it were a complete life. This concept encourages us to focus on the present moment, appreciating the here and now without being burdened by regrets of the past or anxieties about the future. By treating each day as a new beginning, we can cultivate a sense of gratitude and purpose, making the most of our time and experiences.

Cicero, renowned for his eloquence and philosophical insights, emphasized the importance of restraint and moderation in all aspects of life. He believed that true happiness comes from balance and self-control, not from excess or indulgence. By exercising moderation in our desires and actions, we can avoid the pitfalls of overindulgence and maintain a steady course towards a virtuous and fulfilling life.

Marcus Aurelius, the Stoic emperor, provides profound guidance on regulating our emotions. In his Meditations, he reflects on the importance of inner tranquility and emotional resilience. By understanding that our perceptions shape our reality, we can learn to manage our responses to external events. Practicing mindfulness and self-awareness allows us to maintain our composure and clarity of thought, even in the face of adversity.

Life is fleeting, and the Stoics remind us of the urgency to seize the opportunities it offers. Seneca, Cicero, and Marcus Aurelius all highlight the importance of taking initiative and making the most of our potential. This Stoic principle encourages us to act with purpose and determination, recognizing that our time is limited and each moment is precious.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**

Publisher

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# LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

**CITY OF MERRILL COMMON COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024 MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:30 PM**

**I. Call to Order** Mayor Hass called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.  
 In attendance: City Clerk Anderson-Malm, City Attorney Hayden, City Administrator Akey, Finance Director Ley, Fire Chief Klug, Library Director Oilhoff, Police Chief Bennett, Street Superintendent Bonack, Utility Operations Manager Steinagel, Social Media Specialist Savall.  
 Public present: Sue Kunkel, Pastor Mike Zahn and 1 person was remote  
 Excused: Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Pagel, Parks & Recreation Director Wendorf

**II. Invocation** - Pastor Mike Zahn - Christ United Methodist Church

**III. Pledge of Allegiance** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

**IV. Roll Call** Present: Alderperson Caylor, Alderperson Caylor, Alderperson Meyer, Alderperson Fermanich, Alderperson Lass, Alderperson Rick, Alderperson Weix Jr., Alderperson Rutkowski

**V. Common Council Meeting Expectations** City Clerk Anderson-Malm read the meeting expectations statement.

**VI. Public Comment** There was no public comment.

**VII. Minutes from Previous Meeting**  
 1. Consider placing the minutes from the June 11th meeting on file - Alderperson Meyer motioned to place minutes on file. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded and the motion passed.

**VIII. Revenue and Expense Reports**  
 1. Consider the June 2024 Revenues and Expense Summary Report - Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.

**IX. Communications and Petitions**  
 1. Consider the claim filed by Michelle Lahr for windshield damage on a vehicle in the designated Weinbrenner employee parking lot on June 10, 2024. The City's insurance carrier is recommending this claim be disallowed. The recommendation is based on the fact that an investigation revealed no liability on behalf of the City. - Alderperson Rick motioned to approve the disallowance of a claim. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion passed.

**X. Health & Safety**  
 1. Consider the Class "B" Alcohol Beverage License renewal application for Arbuda WI LLC dba Cobblestone Inn & Suites, 3209 E Main St., Merrill. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval. - Alderperson Rick motioned to approve. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion passed.  
 2. Consider a temporary picnic license, to sell fermented malt beverages, for Merrill Baseball Legion/Jr Legion, at 500 Logan St, for July 10, 16, and 17th, 2024, in conjunction with Legion Baseball Games. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval. - Alderperson Rutkowski motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded, and the motion passed on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson Lass voted no.  
 3. Consider a temporary picnic license to sell fermented malt beverages for the Merrill Rangers, at 500 Logan St, on July 14, 21, 31, August 9, 10, and 11, 2024, in conjunction with the Baseball Games. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval. - Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion passed on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson Lass voted no.  
 4. Consider a temporary picnic license, to sell fermented malt beverages for Merrill Youth Softball Association (aka Merrill Fastpitch), at the MARC Softball Concession Stand, from July 26th through July 28th, 2024 in conjunction with the Merrill Fastpitch Tournament. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval. - Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded and the motion passed on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson Lass voted no.  
 5. Consider a temporary picnic license to sell fermented malt beverages to Merrill Youth Softball Association (aka Merrill Fastpitch), at the MARC Softball Concession Stand on September 21, 2024, for a Merrill Fastpitch Kickball Tournament. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval. - Alderperson Rick motioned to approve. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson Lass voted no.  
 6. Consider a temporary picnic license to sell fermented malt beverages to Merrill Youth Softball Association (aka Merrill Fastpitch) at Normal Park, on January 11, 2025, in conjunction with the 2nd Annual January Jamboree. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval. - Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve. Alderperson M. Caylor seconded and the motion passed on a 7/1 voice vote. Alderperson Lass voted no.  
 7. Consider an extension of the premise for Merrill Youth Hockey at the MARC to serve beverages indoors and outside, on August 24, 2024, in conjunction with a car show hosted by Zelich Auto. The Health & Safety Committee recommends approval. - Alderperson Rick motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded and the motion passed.

**XI. Board of Public Works**  
 1. Consider the SD Ellenbecker bid for the M2024-03 O'Day Street sidewalk project for \$45,600. The Board of Public Works Committee recommends approval. - Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded, and the motion passed on an 8/0 roll call vote.  
 2. Consider the bid from American Asphalt for the M2024-04 Parking Lot paving project for \$86,520 with the understanding of a budget amendment proposal. The Board of Public Works recommends approval.

Legals 7700

- Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve the bid and the budget amendment of \$50,000 to \$60,000 for 2024. Alderperson A. Caylor seconded, and the motion passed on an 8/0 roll call vote.

**XII. Place Committee Reports on File**  
 1. Consider placing the following monthly reports on file: Board of Public Works, Festival Grounds, Health & Safety, Historic Preservation, Library Board, Marketing & Communications, Personnel & Finance, Police & Fire Commission, Tourism Commission, and Transit Commission. - Alderperson Meyer motioned to place monthly reports on file. Alderperson Rutkowski seconded and the motion passed.

**XIII. Resolutions**  
 1. A Resolution authorizing the vacation of a portion of E 5th Street for daycare expansion. - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF E 5TH STREET FOR DAYCARE EXPANSION WHEREAS, St. John Lutheran Church has requested, by petition, the vacating of a portion of E 5th Street for expansion of the church to accommodate daycare located at 1104 E 3rd St., Merrill, and; WHEREAS, the Board of Public Works on May 1, 2024, and the City Plan Commission on May 6, 2024, have recommended such a vacation: NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 9th day of July 2024, that the following described street be vacated: Located in the NE¼ of the SW¼ of Section 12, Township 31N, Range 6E, City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin: All of Fifth Street right of way lying between the East right of way of Court Street and the West right of way of Spruce Street. The City of Merrill reserves an easement for construction and maintenance purposes related to utilities serving the public currently located in, on, or around the vacated area. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City hereby declares that the public interest requires this street vacation, and the portion of the street to be vacated is not needed for public purposes and hereby declares that the portion vacated shall revert, to the extent permitted by law, to the adjoining property owners. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no construction or development, on, over or under the vacated street area shall commence until the City of Merrill Board of Public Works has approved a final development plan submitted to it by St. John Lutheran Church. Alderperson Rick motioned to approve the resolution. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

2. A Resolution honoring Shari P. Wicke, for her long-time service to the City of Merrill - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution: A RESOLUTION HONORING SHARI P. WICKE, FOR HER LONG-TIME SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MERRILL WHEREAS, Shari Wicke, has served the City of Merrill as the Community Development Program Director and Building & Zoning Assistant for over 26 years, from September 2, 1997, to May 1, 2024; and, WHEREAS, these years of service have been marked by dedication to the best interests of our community and citizens; and WHEREAS, Shari has earned the admiration and respect of her fellow employees by the way in which she has carried out her duties; and WHEREAS, Shari's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 9th day of July 2024, that the Common Council and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Shari has given the City of Merrill and commends her for those 26 years of service; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Shari, congratulate her upon the occasion of her retirement from the City of Merrill, and extend our warmest wishes for her enjoyment of continued prosperity in the years that lie ahead. Alderperson M. Caylor motioned to approve the Resolution. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

3. A Resolution honoring Lori Kroening, for her long-time service to the City of Merrill. - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution: A RESOLUTION HONORING LORI KROENING, FOR HER LONG-TIME SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MERRILL WHEREAS, Lori Kroening has served the City of Merrill Transit Department for close to 7 years. Lori began as a part-time Driver on June 26, 2017, and was promoted in August 2017 to full-time Transit Coordinator until her retirement on April 1, 2024; and, WHEREAS, these years of service have been marked by dedication to the best interests of our community and citizens; and WHEREAS, Lori has earned the admiration and respect of her fellow employees by the way in which she has carried out her duties; and WHEREAS, Lori's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill Transit Department; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 9th day of July 2024, that the Common Council and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedicated and faithful service Lori has given the City of Merrill Transit Department, and commends her for those 7 years of service; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Lori, congratulate her upon the occasion of her retirement from the City of Merrill Transit Department, and extend our warmest wishes for her enjoyment of continued prosperity in the years that lie ahead. Alderperson Rutkowski motioned to

Legals 7700

approve the Resolution. Alderperson Fermanich seconded and the motion carried.

4. A Resolution honoring Thomas C. Teetzen, for his extended service and great contribution to the City of Merrill. - City Attorney Hayden read the following Resolution: A RESOLUTION HONORING THOMAS C. TEETZEN FOR HIS EXTENDED SERVICE AND GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY OF MERRILL WHEREAS, Thomas Teetzen has served the City of Merrill as a Firefighter/Paramedic from April 22, 2004, to May 4, 2024; and, WHEREAS, Thomas Teetzen's skills and experience will be missed at the City of Merrill Fire Department; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 9th day of July 2024, that the Common Council and the people of Merrill officially acknowledge with deep appreciation the faithful service Thomas Teetzen has given the City of Merrill Fire Department and commends him for those 20 years of service; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby commend the meritorious and dedicated service of Thomas Teetzen, congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement from the City of Merrill Fire Department, and extend our warmest wishes for his enjoyment of continued prosperity in the years that lie ahead. Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to approve the Resolution. Alderperson Rick seconded and the motion carried.

**XIV. Mayor's Communications** Mayor's Communications for July: July 10 - City Band concert at the Gazebo

Legals 7700

July 11 - Kick-off of Gazebo Nights  
 July 18 - Banker's Square lunchtime concert from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
 July 26-28 - Softball tournament at the MARC  
 July 27 - Black Squirrel Scurry  
 August 2 & 3 - Festival of Quilts at the Expo Center  
 August 3 - movie at Normal Park  
 August 7-11 - Lincoln County Fair at the Merrill Fairgrounds  
 August 13 - Partisan Primary Election  
 August 20 - Community Night Out  
 The Farmer's Market is at Normal Park on Wednesday and Saturday all summer.  
 State Park day passes are available at the TB Scott Library  
 The Strategic Plan will be reviewed; please review and return it to City Administrator Akey or Mayor Hass.  
 Due to the August 13th Election, the August Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 14th at 6:30 pm.  
**XV. Adjournment** Alderperson Meyer motioned to adjourn. Alderperson Caylor seconded and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori L. Anderson-Malm - City Clerk  
 Published July 18, 2024 WNAIXLP

## PINE CREST from page 1

to the latest figures from North Central Health Care."

Renea Frederick of Merrill said in the release that the group is "ready to get to work so Pine Crest can continue to provide high quality, affordable, and local care."

"All of the effort that went into trying to sell Pine Crest would have been better spent on saving it," Frederick said. "That said, we see this moment as an opportunity to bring people together to make Pine Crest even better. We are ready to roll up our sleeves and invest in Pine Crest for the long haul and we expect the County Supervisors to do the same."

### Board Chair Jesse Boyd: Sale agreement's termination "came as a surprise"

On Wednesday, July 3, Lincoln County Board Chair and District 10 Supervisor Jesse Boyd said the termination of the sale agreement "came as a big surprise."

"All parties involved knew during the process that Supervisor Dunphy filed notice of a lawsuit, but during our conversations regarding the extension, the lawsuit was never discussed," Boyd said.

Boyd said the resolution that Dunphy's lawsuit is based on "is not binding County Board Supervisors, only acting as a recommendation."

"Nor do we believe the Forestry Department has any knowledge regarding a nursing home," he said.

Looking forward, Boyd said he doesn't know what the Board will do regarding how Pine Crest will impact the 2025 County budget.

Boyd said he assumes Dunphy "has come up with a plan," but noted that Dunphy "has not shared this information."

"However, I've heard of discussion regarding another referendum," Boyd said. "What that amount will be, I would urge any Supervisor or concerned citizens to look back at the last legislative session. When you do look back, the numbers were laid out in the resolution for the cost of maintenance, debt service, and operational cost. That came to just under \$4 million per year. However, the resolution was only for \$3 million, and it's guessing to factor in inflation."

Boyd said he feels like "we're beating a dead horse when we talk about Lincoln County's finances."

"We depleted to critical levels all fund balances and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funds," he said. "We've used those monies for operational expenses, which has left us in a critical situation."

Boyd pointed to a situation involving the County's Solid Waste Department, saying that the only way to keep the Lincoln County Landfill open was to bond a new cell and a new compactor, which Boyd said was "no fault of the Solid Waste Department."

For years, Boyd explained, the Department set aside \$200,000 per year to use when a new cell would be needed, but those funds were ultimately allocated to operational expenses.

"We are all doing our best to stay optimistic and forward-thinking," Boyd said. "To put it simply, we cannot afford to run or have someone else run a nursing home without increasing taxes or bonding for operational expenses. Let me remind you that the majority of our tax base is on a fixed income."



Lincoln County Humane Society would like to send a big thank you and happy birthday to Emily P. She brought in \$50 for her birthday for the pets! Submitted photo.

## NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

**The final installment of 2023 property taxes is due by July 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Make your payment timely to avoid interest and penalties. Include your payment coupons or PIN numbers with payment and a phone number. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for a return receipt.

**(final installment can be paid starting February 1 through July 31 to avoid interest and penalty)**

Office hours are 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday – Thursday and 8:00 am - 1:00 pm on Friday  
 You can pay by debit/credit/e-check card on the County website  
<https://www.co.lincoln.wi.us/treasurer>  
 Mail to: Lincoln County Treasurer, 801 N Sales St, #204, Merrill WI 54452-1632  
 Drop Box: Located Near North Entrance on Building  
 Robbin Gigl, Lincoln County Treasurer  
 Published July 18, 2024 WNAIXLP

## EARLY IN PERSON VOTING NOTICE

Early voting for **Town of Merrill** residents for the August 13th, 2024 Partisan Primary Election, will begin at the Town of Merrill Community Center, W4594 Progress Ave. on Tuesday, July 30th. Call for an appointment 715-536-4383.

**Voting hours are:**

Tuesday • July 30th	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday • August 1st	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday • August 6th	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday • August 8th	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday • August 9th	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mitzi Flegner, Clerk [www.townofmerrillwi.gov](http://www.townofmerrillwi.gov)  
 July 18 & 25, 2024 WNAIXLP

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING PROJECT ID: 9423-00-00/70 WIS 86 – COUNTY E SPIRIT RIVER BRIDGE B-35-003 COUNTY O LINCOLN COUNTY

The Lincoln County Highway Department in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation propose to replace the bridge that carries County O over Spirit River in the Town of Tomahawk. This bridge replacement project is located on County O approximately 0.5 miles south of the junction with WIS 86 and is currently scheduled for construction in 2026.

MSA Professional Services, Inc., consulting engineers from Rhinelander, Wisconsin, are currently preparing preliminary plans.

A Public Involvement Meeting for this project has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 24, 2024, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Lincoln County Highway Department office, 100 Cooper Street Merrill, WI 54452. Topics for discussion include the proposed scope of work, approach roadway impacts and road closure concerns. All concerned citizens are invited to attend.

Wheelchair accessibility is available at this meeting site. Hearing impaired people may request an interpreter at the meeting if they plan to attend by calling 1-877-204-0572 and asking for the Lincoln CTH O bridge replacement engineer at least 3 days prior to the meeting date. Persons with a concern for or knowledge about historic buildings and structures and archaeological sites are encouraged to attend this meeting or provide comments to the local unit of government or MSA Professional Services, Inc.  
 Published July 18, 2024 WNAIXLP

## 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 WNAIXLP

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If you know of a crime that has already happened, submit a tip. If you know of someone that has been breaking into cars or buildings, deals drugs, or is taking advantage of another. Information regarding unsolved crimes or Instances such as this would be reasons to submit a tip verses calling 911.

When you send a tip, you must remember the number you entered when you submitted the tip. You will use this number to log into the app again. Be sure to check the tip periodically. Officers will contact you through your tip to ask clarifying questions. This is how they will let you know if you received a payout if the tip resulted in an arrest. You will never receive a notification if there is a response through the app. That is why it's important to check back periodically.

Pictures and videos can be incredibly helpful to law enforcement. You can upload both through the P3 app.

When you call or send a tip you should not indicate your name. Both are completely anonymous.

### Selling stuff online? Here's how to avoid a scam

By Alvaro Puig Consumer Education Specialist, FTC July 27, 2022

Selling stuff online can be a great way to make some extra cash. Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, and other sites attract a lot of buyers — and scammers. Here are some ways scammers try to cheat you and what to do about it.

#### Fake payments and bogus refund requests

A scammer posing as a buyer says they want to buy the thing you have for sale. When it comes time to pay, they insist on paying through a mobile payment app. They send you a fake payment notification and hope you send the item before you realize it's a scam.

Or they say there was an issue with the payment they sent. For example, they might say they accidentally paid you twice and ask you to refund one of the payments.

#### Fake check overpayment

The scammer offers to give you a check for more than the selling price. They tell you to deposit the check and send the difference back to them.

The check is fake, but if you deposit it, it'll appear in your account balance. That's because banks must make your money available quickly, usually within two days.

When a bank says the check cleared, that doesn't mean it was a good check. It can take weeks for the bank to figure out the check was fake. By that time, the scammer has the item you sold and the money you sent back. And the bank takes the money from the fake check out of your account.

#### How a Fake Check Overpayment Scam Works

- You're selling an item for **\$200**
- A buyer sends you a check for **\$500**
- You deposit the check, return the difference of **\$300**, and ship your item
- A few weeks later... The bank tells you the check was fake and takes **\$500** out of your account.

**You've lost \$300 in cash — plus the item you were selling.**

### Fake verification codes

A scammer posing as a buyer says they want to buy the thing you have for sale. They send you a text message with a Voice verification code and ask you to give it to them, they'll use it to create a new phone number linked to your phone number. If someone tracks the Google Voice number to your real phone number. That's how they can conceal their identity.

### Advice for selling things online

Many sites recommend selling your item in person and meeting a buyer you can meet in person and see payments. If you're not selling locally, look for the protections the site offers.

To avoid a scam:

- Don't accept a mobile payment from someone you don't know.
- Never deposit a check for more than your selling price.
- Don't share your Google Voice number or any verification codes with anyone you don't know.

Image

#### Selling stuff online?

To avoid a scam

- Don't accept a mobile payment from someone you don't know
- Don't deposit a check for more than your selling price
- Don't share any verification codes with anyone you don't know

Report scams at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#)

### Report a Scam

If someone tries to cheat you, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#)

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# Is the P3 app anonymous?

The multi-lingual P3 Tips App is a secure, anonymous, and efficient means of safely communicating with Crime Stoppers.

**When to call 911 vs. reporting to Crime Stoppers** - When someone is in immediate danger, a drunk driver, active criminal activity happening **CALL 911**. Time is of the essence in such matters. When you are aware of criminal activity or have details about a crime, you can send the tip through to Crime Stoppers either through the P3 app or a phone call to the anonymous line.

# SHRED DAY

September 7th • 9-11 AM  
Crossbridge Community Bank  
15 E Wisconsin Ave., Tomahawk

### Tips on Tips By Tom Berg

Crime Stoppers' basic principle has always been to provide the public with a method to anonymously assist law enforcement in solving crimes. This began with the anonymous tip telephone line and has progressed to include electronic submission of tips via the p3tips.com site.

Where telephone calls are answered by a trained dispatcher or volunteer that can help the tip provider to provide as much useful information as possible, the tipster does not have this opportunity with the electronic submission, so some guidelines and suggestions are in order.

People have various motivations for providing a Crime Stoppers tip. While the opportunity for a reward might motivate some, others simply want to see justice done, a wrong righted, and order in society. All want to see crimes solved, and the best tip possible gives the best chance. P3 provides various prompts, such as location. It is helpful if these are filled out completely. A number of states have Lincoln Counties, and it is surprising how many tips we get for Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County, Nebraska, and vice-versa. In providing details of a tip, try to answer as many of the questions "who, what, where, why, and how" as possible, and in enough detail as possible to allow police to work with the tip. Insufficiency is frustrating to police, sometimes making a tip unworkable, which then frustrates the tipster who would like to see results. P3 offers the opportunity to write a reply where police can leave a message for the tipster. Establish this site for receiving questions and notifications. Own your tip and check occasionally (for security reasons, p3 will not message you) - some investigations take longer than others. Both phone and electronic tip recipients provide a tip number. WRITE IT DOWN! This is your ticket to receiving messages or questions from police and notification of a reward. Not all callers are interested in a reward but all callers are interested in seeing their crimes solved.

### Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County, Inc Donation Form

Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County is a non-profit entity, solely supported by local donations, which pay for the organization's activities, rewards, and operating expenses, including the P3 Intel. Fill out this form and send it in with your donation to Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County 1004 East First Street, Merrill, WI 54452 to receive your FREE We Support Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County window sticker!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**CRIME STOPPERS  
ALSO GAVE AWAY  
\$1,000  
SCHOLARSHIP**

## 3 WAYS TO TIP

Tap the App: P3 Tips  
(Search "P3 Tips" in the  
Apple Store or Google Play)

Type: Submit a tip online at [www.p3tips.com](http://www.p3tips.com)  
Talk: Call 715-536-3726

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# Lincoln County achieves record tourism numbers for 2023

## Tomahawk, Merrill Chambers highlight successes, look to future

BY JALEN MAKI  
MMC STAFF

second consecutive year, and investments tourism businesses made in goods and services.

Last year Lincoln County tourism supported 665 part- and full-time jobs across various sectors of the industry, part of the more than 178,000 jobs sustained by tourism across the state, according to the Merrill Chamber.

Tourism in Lincoln County also generated \$6 million in local and state tax revenue in 2023. Statewide, tourism generated \$1.6 billion in local and state tax revenue last year.

“Without this revenue, each Wisconsin household would pay an additional \$660 to maintain the current level of government services,” the Merrill Chamber said.

“We have really seen a benefit as a Chamber and Visitor’s Center in developing stronger strategic partnerships with the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, and the Tomahawk Area Chamber to drive tourism to our local communities,” said Clyde Nelson, Executive Director of the Merrill Chamber.

The Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce said in a release that it is “thrilled to see the effort of so many organizations in Lincoln County paying off.”

“Lincoln County is a gateway to the Northwoods,” the Tomahawk Chamber said. “Seeing the efforts garnering a return is success in the best way. Tourism is a large portion of our economic success in the Tomahawk area. As the Chamber, we strive to support our local businesses by driving those tourism dollars to our region.”

The Tomahawk Chamber added that the relationships the organization has with Tomahawk Main Street Inc. and other local partners have helped drive the success of tourism in the area, noting that without those partnerships working towards a similar goal, “these numbers would not be as high as they are.”

“We share the successes within Lincoln County with the Merrill Chamber,” the Tomahawk Chamber said. “Efforts by both Chambers are showing greater returns every year. We look forward

to growing our partnership with the Merrill Chamber and continuing to promote Lincoln County together.”

To learn more about Wisconsin tourism’s record-breaking year and view the 2023 economic data, including a county-by-county breakdown, visit [industry.travelwisconsin.com/research/economic-impact](http://industry.travelwisconsin.com/research/economic-impact).

“With the help of our local publication team, MMC LLC, and the Merrill Foto News, we took advantage of the opportunity to increase the size of our 2023 Visitor’s Guide to make it more visible in stands around Wisconsin and surrounding states and highlight more that Merrill has to offer. We also printed more guides to distribute to more visitor centers and events,” Nelson said. “We have a great community that offers a lot which makes this a great place to not only visit, but to live and work as well. We encourage everyone to visit our website, [merrillchamber.org](http://merrillchamber.org), to see what’s going on in Merrill and our surrounding communities.”

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**TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> - MEAT LOAF  
30<sup>TH</sup> - CHOP SUEY  
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

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

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- MONDAYS: Soup & Sandwich Available 3-7pm
- LUNCH AVAILABLE: TUES. & FRI. 11am-2pm WED. & THURS. 11am-8pm Specials • Fish Fries • Homemade Soup
- 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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Lincoln County had a record year for tourism in 2023.

The Wisconsin Department of Tourism, on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, released economic data for 2023, showing that tourism had a record \$25 billion impact throughout Wisconsin, making it the best year for tourism in state history.

Wisconsin topped a record year – in 2022, the Badger State saw a \$23.7 billion economic impact from tourism.

Lincoln County also had its best year for tourism to date. A total economic impact of \$109 million was generated by tourism in Lincoln County in 2023, beating the county’s previous record of \$103 million, set in 2022.

A release from the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce said Wisconsin’s historic year in tourism was fueled by economic impact growth in all 72 counties, a record number of overnight visitors for a

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JUNE 4, 2024**  
Boy, Owen Jerome, born to Dani Breaman and Dave Breaman of Merrill.

**JUNE 11, 2024**  
Girl, Josie Joan, born to Megan Spoon and Michael Spoon of Ringle.

**JUNE 15, 2024**  
Boy, Elijah Daniel, born to Skylin Harris and Joshua Harris of Merrill.

**JUNE 23, 2024**  
Boy, Walter Scott, born to Dominique Coey and Brandin Coey of Gleason.

**JUNE 26, 2024**  
Boy, Cooper Maddux, born to Cassandra Oelke and Trevor McManus of Wausau.

**JUNE 27, 2024**  
Boy, Hucksley Maurice, born to Abrielle Tiffany and

Daniel Tiffany of Merrill.

**JUNE 28, 2024**  
Girl, Morgan Lynn, born to Hanna Okrzesik and Jason Woller of Wausau.

Girl, Amelia Mavis, born to Cassandra Krueger and Brian Krueger of Merrill.

### Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

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. 21 - 26th EAA

AirVenture Cross Country Air Race

Jul. 24 - Merrill City Band concert at Normal Park

Jul. 25 - Gazebo Nights Concert: The Glam Band

Jul. 25 - German film presentation at Cosmo Hall

Jul. 26-28 - Merrill Fastpitch Softball Tournament at the MARC

Jul. 27 - Black Squirrel Scurry starting at Prairie Trails Park

Jul. 27-28 - Dig Days at Barnes Creek Daylilies

Jul. 31 - Merrill City Band concert at Normal Park

Aug. 1 - Bingo at St. Francis School

Aug. 1 - Gazebo Nights Concert: Rising Phoenix

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

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Pizza Supreme Frozen 26 oz. ONLY \$2.99	Cheese Wraps Cheddar 6 oz. ONLY \$1.29	Tilapia Fillets Parmesan - Frozen 24 oz. ONLY \$2.99
Sausage Crumbles Chorizo - Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY 69¢ a lb.	Cottage Cheese Organic 4% Fat 16 oz. ONLY 99¢	Cheese Sliders Classic 16 ct - Frozen 29 oz. ONLY \$4.99
Beef Patties Uncooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.99 a lb.	Yogurt Strawberry 48 - 4 oz. ONLY \$1.99	Onion Rings Breaded - Ready to Cook Frozen 2 lbs. ONLY \$4.99
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## 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)**

## Rummage Sales This Week 7200

**Annual Flea Market Garage Sale.** Over 25 Families. July 18 & 19. 8AM-6PM. 120558 County Rd. L, Athens. Lots of baby & children's clothes, Fabric, Home School materials, Books, Tupperware, Furniture & Much, Much More! Bake Sale & Food Stand, including doughnuts & soft serve ice cream both days.

**Kronenwetter: 941 O'Keefe Dr. FRI 7/19 thru TUES 7/23, 9a-4p** (2) adult bikes and lots of miscellaneous. Check it out!

**Multi Family Sale.** 804 S Center Ave. 7/19 - 4-6, 7/20 & 21 - 8-5. Woman's clothes M-3XL, Men's clothes, baby clothes 0-2T, baby gear, breast feeding supplies all sizes, Girl's clothes 6-8, toys, tent, household, saddle, bunny cage, nursing scrubs.

**W5561 Joe Snow Rd. 7/18-8/8, 8-6.** 2 Matching Twin Beds and Dresser, Bikes, Prom/Bridesmaid Dresses, Yarns, Books, Knitting Needles, Crochet Hooks, etc.

**Wausau west: 1417 N. 2nd Ave. TH 7/18 & FRI 7/19 9a-5:30p** Rain or Shine - Need any camping items? Drop in! Lots of Tupperware. Very reasonable - don't miss this one! Books, records, Pampered Chef & more!

## Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202

**Wausau: 1639 Pearson St. Hunting & Fishing Sale! WED 7/24 thru FRI 7/26 8a-5p** Muskie bucktails; wooden baits; rods & reels; (3) fish locators; ice fishing equip; camping gear; bows; Harley parts & clothing; diving masks & fins & more + 2 other sales on the block!

**WAUSAU Downsizing** 1630 Gemini Place **WED 7/24 thru FRI 7/26 8a-6p.** Household, hunting, tools, fishing items, musky lures, old collectibles & new items, great for gifts!

## Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202



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## Estate Sales 7208

**Estate Sale:** 1007 Memorial Dr. Thursday - Saturday, July 18-20 • 8AM-5PM

## Estate Sales 7208

**Large Estate Sale**  
4105 Dixie Avenue, Wausau North Side (off County Road K) **July 25, 26, 27 (10am - 4pm)**

Picker memorabilia, signed, helmets, footballs & artwork. Favre, Montana, Reggie White, Leroy Neiman print & others. Vintage baseball cards from 50's, 60's and 70's, U S stamps, U S coins. Thomas Kincade prints and plates. Peter Scott waterfowl prints. Disney and Warner Brothers limited edition artwork. Richard Nixon and Glenn Miller signed memorabilia. Huge selection of wildlife pictures, framed and unframed. Owen Gromme, Maas, Koelpin, and more. Other collectibles including Betty Boop lamp and figurines, Raggedy Ann doll collection, Maxine, Charlie Brown, Hummels and other seasonal items. Over 200 collector plates, Franklin Mint, Hummel, Danbury, etc. Many kitchen items, Phalgraff 8-piece dinner setting, serving dishes, wine and water glasses, bowls, etc. Leather couch, matching chair, lamps, Love seat and matching chair and ottoman. Trek bicycles, chain saws, chipper, snow blower, weed eater, leaf blower, lawn mowers, desk, exercise air-dyne bicycle, L-shaped desk, misc office items. 2 sets of golf clubs, Wheel rims for Jeep. Cross country skis, CDs, DVD's, VCR recorder, misc. electronics

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Or stop in and pick up an application at: **Mitchell Metal Products 905 South State Street, Merrill, WI 54452**



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- Or Email your resume to [gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com](mailto:gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com)
- Or go to [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com) to search vacancies

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"The 12U Merrill Allstars delivered a series of thrilling performances this past week to capture the District 5 Championship title. Despite an initial setback, the team demonstrated resilience and determination, ultimately emerging as champions," coaches said. "The week began with a tough loss against the Wausau Nationals, with Merrill falling 3-5. Merrill defeated Wausau American, securing a crucial 8-5 victory on Tuesday. Additionally, Merrill All Stars defeated Appleton Nationals with a final score of 9-8 and concluded the week with a double header against Wausau Nationals, securing the title as District 5 Champions with a 16-12 and 17-3 victory." Congratulations, 12U Merrill Allstars! Front L to R: Cam Neumann, Oliver Kahr, Ben Schmeltzer, Colton Van Lieshout, Parker Simon, and Shaban Kiskoski. Middle L to R: Charles Graap, Taylor Timm, Carter Madden, William Frisch, and Cameron Thom. Back L to R: Coach Paul Timm, Manager Tom Schmeltzer, Coach Jon Van LieShout, and Coach Chris Simon. **Submitted photo.**



Coach Kevin Harding provided a season recap for the Merrill 9U Blue Travel Team, who wrapped up their season at the Waupaca Comet Classic July 13-14, 2024. They beat Neenah Red (11-9) and lost to Shawano (11-3) and Fond Du Lac (10-7). Earlier in the season, the boys took first place at Merrill Baseball tournament (May 31- June 2). In pool play they beat Wisconsin Rapids White 20-0, Plover Americans 24-4, and DC Everest Green 15-1. In the Championship game, they defeated Rhinelander 5-3. The team also played in the Antigo Dugout Club Tournament on June 14-16. They were 2-0, beating Plover Americans 10-0 and Wisconsin Rapids White 16-6. Unfortunately, bracket play on Sunday was canceled due to rain. Front L to R: Ender Moe, Parker Eisner, Lawson Schmidt, Ryder Banaszak, Jase Allen, and Hoyt Brendemuehl. Middle L to R: Henry Dalsky, Henry Savall, Beckett Schooley, Hoyt Dalsky, Tate Klug, Eli Harding, and Sam Smith. Back L to R: Coach Cody Schmidt, Coach Matt Smith, Coach Rob Klug, and Coach Kevin Harding. **Submitted photo.**

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The Tomahawk Farm & Flea Market recently donated \$564 plus catnip and dog treats to the Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS). "We are so grateful for your support!" said LCHS staff. Pictured: Pat Hoffman and Sue Stefanich of Tomahawk Farm & Flea Market. **Submitted photo.**

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Seven Wausau Metro Adult Special Olympics representatives accepted the big check from assorted Prevail Bank professionals. Submitted photo.

## Shredded documents equate to \$1,439 for Wausau Metro Adult Special Olympics

Prevail Bank recently held a Community Shred Day event in Wausau. As a result, \$1,439 was gifted to the Wausau Metro Adult Special Olympics. Prevail Bank donated \$1,000; the public contributed

\$439. Prevail Bank pledged a dollar for every pound of paper shredded, up to \$1,000. This year area citizens and local businesses brought 6,200 pounds of paper to be shredded and recycled. Prevail Bank

continuously looks for ways to give back, support those pursuing dreams, and make things better in central Wisconsin.

## Calling All Campers: Ten Expert - Approved Tips for a Safe and Enjoyable Trip

“Get out there and enjoy nature, but be safe, be smart about it and make sure you plan ahead.”

The number of North American households considering themselves campers has soared in the past decade. According to the latest report from Kampgrounds of America, Inc. (KOA), active camping households—those who’ve camped in the past year—have spiked by a remarkable 68 percent. Even households that haven’t camped recently but still identify as campers have increased by 23 percent.

Camping offers a perfect escape from the daily grind, allowing you to reconnect with nature. However, before venturing into the great outdoors, it’s important to prioritize safety.

Here are ten essential tips from experts at the U.S.



Campfires are made for roasting marshmallows, and what would camping be without a campfire? Stock photo.

Forest Service (FS), National Park Service (NPS), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- **Be Prepared:** Pack a first-aid kit, essential supplies like a flashlight, bedding, food, water, sunscreen, bug spray, matches, and yes, s’mores.

Rachel Laszko, MD, Aspirus General Surgeon, advises, “Make sure to pack your prescriptions and have your provider’s phone number and health insurance information handy.”

• **Weather Awareness:** Keep an eye on the forecast and be ready for changing weather conditions.

• **Dress Appropriately:** Bring sturdy shoes, rain gear, and extra clothes to stay dry and warm.

• **Stay Hydrated:** Rehydrate frequently, especially in outdoor settings where drinkable water may be scarce.

• **Be Aware:** Monitor your energy levels and health, and know when to adjust plans for safety.

• **Food Safety:** Use well-iced coolers for perishable foods, separate raw and cooked items, and cook meats to safe temperatures.

• **Tick Awareness:** Regularly check for ticks, especially in wooded areas.

• **Wildlife Caution:** Admire wildlife from a safe distance and avoid approaching or feeding the animals.

• **Campfire Safety:** If allowed, build fires in designated areas and ensure they are fully extinguished before leaving.

• **Cleanliness:** Maintain hygiene by washing hands, using biodegradable soap, and leaving no trace at your campsite.

“Get out there and enjoy nature, but be safe, be smart about it and make sure you plan ahead,” said Dr. Laszko.

## 2024 Merrill Summer Baseball Schedule

### Merrill Rangers

Sun. July 21	Minocqua	Home	1:30 pm
Wed. July 24	Marshfield	Away	7:00 pm

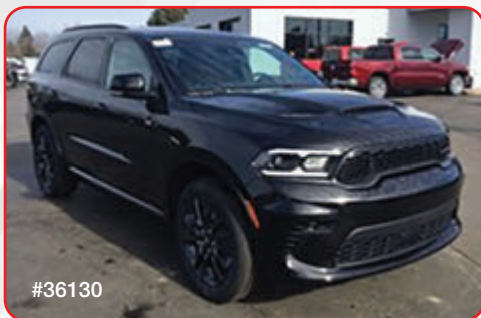
### Merrill Post 46

Friday, July 26 - Monday, July 29 AA Regional Tournament

### Merrill Jr. Legion

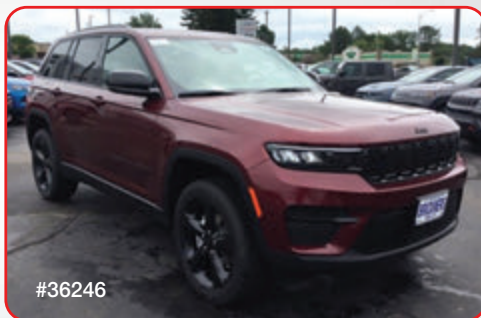
Friday, July 19 - Monday, July 22 17U Regional Tournament

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