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Labor Day Parade



Little ones rush out to pick up candy tossed in their direction from a float in Merrill's annual Labor Day Parade.



A colorful tractor pulls a Merrill Swim float decked out with white and blue balloons to represent bubbles.



The Merrill High School Band - the Marching Jays - are always a big hit in Merrill's annual Labor Day Parade. Here the Old City Hall [now The Loft Apartments] provides the backdrop for the band as they march eastward on E. First St.



Merrill's own 2025 Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo Princess Madi Skic rides her horse in the parade. Joseph Frederick photos.

Lincoln County A&L Committee discussing possible next steps for Pine Crest

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

The Agenda for the Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, Lincoln County Administrative & Legislative (A&L) Committee, released last week, contained two items related to Pine Crest Nursing Home. Agenda item #9 was titled "Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Next Steps for Pine Crest" and Agenda item #10 was set for Closed Session indicating the committee might consider a motion to adjourn into closed session for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the

purchasing of public properties, noting "Pine Crest Sale Negotiations" specifically as the topic of discussion. Pine Crest Nursing Home is not currently listed for sale by the County; however, the Board had previously approved selling the facility, a sale that fell through the end of June 2024 in response to a lawsuit filed by current District 7 County Supervisor Don Dunphy that challenged the sale. Dunphy subsequently dismissed the lawsuit. He ran for County Supervisor this past April on a promise to stop the sale of Pine Crest.

Unsolicited interest in purchasing Pine Crest
 During the Aug. 20 Lincoln County Board of Supervisors meeting, prior to discussion regarding a possible referendum pertaining to Pine Crest on the Nov. 5 ballot, Board Chair Jesse Boyd had noted that the initial buyer had sent a letter again expressing interest in purchasing Pine Crest and that the County had also received another letter of interest.

"Before we get to the motion," Boyd said in the meeting, "I want to be open, and I have some information to share with the Board and those in attendance. ... As we sit here today, former Asset Purchase Agreement with Senior Management for the sale of Pine Crest was terminated by the end of June. Pine Crest is not currently listed for sale. Broker contract with Marcus and Millichap has expired."

"Although not up for discussion or any action tonight, perhaps relevant for purposes of transparency to all information during our consideration of this resolution, Senior Management has expressed interest in still acquiring Pine Crest if litigation is resolved," he said. "The County also received an unsolicited letter expressing an interest in purchasing of Pine Crest by a different buyer."

"I'm not saying more about either one of these communications," Boyd said, "as the County has not acted

See PINE CREST page 8

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Tomahawk pup Arlo named first WPS 'Ambassadog'

A Tomahawk dog recently took the top spot in a 2024 campaign promoting safe digging.

Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) customers and dog lovers alike cast thousands of votes in July for the best canine in the company's first safe digging photo

contest. Arlo, a nine-month-old Aussiedoodle from Tomahawk, garnered the most votes and was named WPS's new voice for safety as the company's first-ever safe digging "ambassadog." The Tomahawk pup, who is named after folk

singer Arlo Guthrie, will now spend the next year starring in a social media campaign to remind everyone to call 811 at least three days before digging.

Arlo was featured on digital billboards across northeast and north central Wisconsin on National Safe

Digging Day on Sunday, Aug. 11.

A release from WPS said Arlo's road to the title of top dog began this spring, when his soon-to-be owners

See **AMBASSADOG** page 7



Photos courtesy of WPS.



Paper Cities Kennel Club to hold Annual Dog Show this weekend

The Paper Cities Kennel Club (PCKC) will hold its annual AKC licensed All-Breed Dog Shows and Obedience/Rally Trials this weekend, Sept. 7 and 8, 2024, at the Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC) from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. The public is invited, and the event is free to attend, but there is a \$5 parking fee. Families are asked to keep strollers outside.

More than 100 different breeds of dogs recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) will be showcased, with approximately 600 entries each day. The dogs and their owners or handlers come from all over the country to compete in the weekend events, which include Conformation, Junior Showmanship, National Owner-Handled Series, Obedience, and Rally Obedience.

There will also be a Four to Six-Month Beginner Puppy Competition on Saturday.

A Pee Wee Class Special Attraction will be held Sunday, around the lunch hour, where children ages 5-9 years can show their dog or someone else's dog in a ring with their parent/guardian/responsible adult. This event is a huge crowd pleaser and PCKC is thrilled to offer it!

New this year, AKC Fast CAT tests will be hosted on the show site. Fast CAT, which stands for Coursing Ability Test (FCAT) is a relatively new sport through AKC. Dogs run one at a time, over a timed 100-yard dash, using a mechanical system chasing a lure or squawker, and get AKC titles based upon points earned. Points are earned based upon a combination of miles per hour and handicap. Handicap is based upon the height of the dog.

FCAT provides a terrific opportunity to introduce new participants to the world of AKC sports, as it's one of the few events where all that is needed to compete is a dog's natural instincts. Dogs that love to run, or run and chase bunnies or other things, love Fast CAT. It's easy for handlers, as no experience/training is needed. The Fast CAT track is completely fenced in, so people don't need to worry about their dog being able to run away. PCKC is excited to be working with their Lure Operator who is coming from Illinois. People can enter the tests "day-of," and there will be Fun Runs on Saturday after 2 p.m. Fun Runs cost \$5/run, and it's a great time to come and try it with your dog!

Conformation events are the signature events of the AKC. They concentrate on the distinctive features of purebred dogs and help to preserve those characteristics. Traditional Obedience events consist of formal exercises in which accuracy and precision are essential, but the natural movement of the handler and the willingness and enjoyment of the dog are still very important.

Rally, in which signs direct dog and handler through an obedience course, offers an experience that is fun and energizing. Rally was designed with the traditional pet owner in mind and as a foundation for more advanced training.

A raffle will also be held on Saturday and is open to exhibitors, spectators, and the public. Typically there are about 80 baskets (some for the dogs and some for the people). Each year the club donates a portion of the proceeds from the raffle to a very worthwhile cause, and this year, their recipient is the Marathon County Sheriff's Department "Paws Enforcing Laws" Program. "Paws Enforcing Laws" is completely self-funded — no tax dollars are used. They depend on the generosity of communities to help support their program. The raffle proceeds will go toward vet bills, equipment needs such as heat alarms systems for the squads, kennels for the vehicles, vests, and to help provide the ability to plan and prepare for the replacement of K9's when they retire. It is a source of great pride and honor that they do this completely through fundraising and donations. The balance of raffle proceeds go to support the club's Canine Ambassador Program and its Bite Prevention Program, which teaches kids (second graders, mostly) how to stay safe around dogs.

The event is a great spectator event and the show is a fun activity for families. It is also a great venue to talk to breed experts about topics such as training, grooming, and the right breed for your lifestyle and a great starting point to finding a responsible breeder.

Food vendors and a professional photographer will also be on site.

For more information, go to: papercitieskc.org

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Aspirus locations, including Merrill, utilizing autonomous lawn mowers from Merrill business

"We are always looking for ways to reduce our carbon footprint and contribute positively

to the health of our environment and the communities and patients we serve," said Andrew Miller, Director of System Facilities Management and Security for Aspirus Health. "Switching from gas-powered mowers to these autonomous mowers at locations that can currently support the technology was an easy choice. These autonomous mowers help reduce the environmental impact of our lawn maintenance and deliver a higher value to our landscape operations and campuses."



Photo courtesy of Aspirus Health

Aspirus Health recently introduced autonomous lawn mowers at six locations in its system, including Merrill.

A release from Aspirus said the autonomous lawn mowers support the health system's environmental sustainability efforts.

The battery-operated, self-propelled mowers are managed through an application and operate on electricity rather than gas.

Aspirus Merrill Hospital, as well as Aspirus's Tomahawk, Portage, Rhinelander, and Wausau locations, are currently utilizing the autonomous lawn mowers.

Implementation of the mowers was completed in July.

"The autonomous mowers use navigation technology, sensors, and programming to move about lawns; mow grass at the desired height and pattern; and return to a docking station for recharging," Aspirus said. "They can operate rain or shine, night or day."

The release noted that Aspirus Inc. Corporate Office maintenance teams built solar charging stations for the mowers to support the initiative and minimize electrical usage and costs.

"Mower performance has been strong, and we are running them right through all the recent rainstorms," Miller said. "The mowers are getting a great response from our patients and employees, too."

"The benefits of the autonomous mowers extend well beyond just entertaining onlookers," the release said. "The autonomous mowers reduce air and noise pollution. They produce zero direct emissions during operation, unlike gas-powered mowers that emit pollution and

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Saints In Our Midst

Dear Reader,

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it's easy to overlook the quiet acts of kindness and the unwavering strength of character that some individuals exhibit. These rare souls, who we might call the "saints in our midst," embody virtues that transcend the ordinary. They remind us that sainthood is not a distant, unattainable ideal but a tangible reality that can manifest in any of us, regardless of our circumstances.



Every now and then, we encounter an extraordinary person whose strength of character and capacity for love shine through. These individuals are rare, but their impact is profound. They inspire us not through grand gestures or ostentatious displays, but through their consistent, quiet commitment to virtue. In a world where money and power often dominate, they remind us that true integrity lies in the purity of our actions and intentions.

We all strive for sainthood at times, in our own ways and within the limits of our capabilities. When we choose to do the right thing, despite adversity, we are tailoring ourselves to be the best versions of who we are. It's in these moments of moral clarity and strength that we brush against the essence of what it means to be saint-like. Whether it's standing up for what is right, offering a helping hand to someone in need, or simply showing love and patience in difficult situations, these acts define our potential for greatness.

In recognizing and celebrating these saints, we also acknowledge our own potential for goodness. We may not all be destined for sainthood in the traditional sense, but we can all strive to embody the virtues that define it. By doing so, we contribute to a world that is a little kinder, a little more just, and a lot more compassionate.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

LAWN MOWERS from page 2

greenhouse gases. They are also virtually silent, dramatically cutting down on noise pollution."

Aspirus said other benefits of the autonomous mowers include electric motors that are more efficient than combustion motors and require less energy and maintenance to operate; lightweight bodies that don't compact soil, allowing soil to absorb more water and reduce storm water runoff; and sharp blades that neatly cut grass, mulching it back into the ground and minimizing the need for fertilizers and chemicals.

"Not only do these autonomous mowers help reduce our carbon footprint, but they are also creating efficiencies for our grounds and landscape teams, making our landscaping maintenance more cost effective, enhancing the look of our campuses, and allowing maintenance staff who also provide grounds services to focus more heavily on critical assets and preventive maintenance programs within our facilities," Miller said.

Aspirus purchased the autonomous mowers from Power House Lawn and Leisure in Merrill.

"We appreciate the collaboration we've shared with this local central Wisconsin business in making our autonomous mower initiative a reality," Miller said. "We're grateful

to them for being such an excellent partner to us."

Plans are being developed to roll out autonomous mowers at other Aspirus Health locations in the future, according to the release.

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Patrick J. Wood
Publisher
publisher@mmclocal.com

Tim Schreiber
General Manager
tschreiber@mmclocal.com

Rick Argall
Circulation Manager

Niki Piechota
Graphic Designer

Tina L. Scott
Editor
tscott@mmclocal.com

Jennifer Gartmann
Sales Consultant
jgartmann@mmclocal.com

Heidi Schult
Front Office Manager/CSR

Heidi Griebel
Customer Service Representative

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

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

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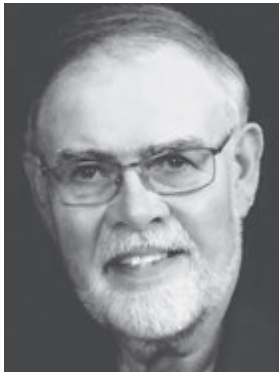
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OBITUARIES

Bruce B. Schaefer



Bruce B. Schaefer, age 76, passed away on Friday, August 30, 2024, at Woodland Court Elder Services, while surrounded by his loving family and under the care of Interim Hospice. He was born on June 29, 1948, to the late Arthur and Naomi (Henrich) Schaefer in Merrill. He attended and graduated from Merrill High School before going on to take college courses in agriculture. Bruce met Janet Wiesneski, and the two were united in marriage on October 18, 1996

in Merrill.

Bruce grew up on the family dairy farm in Merrill. He eventually took it over and it became a beef farm. He enjoyed working in the fields and spending time logging. Bruce had also worked for Van Der Geest Dairy Farms until his retirement in 2018. He loved being outdoors, whether it was deer or bird hunting or taking a fishing trip to Canada, he looked forward to it. Bruce was very involved with 4-H, especially the market shows and the Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo event. He was easy to talk to, and had a heart of gold. Bruce was a kind, strong man who never hesitated to help family and friends. Bruce had a strong faith in God and was active in his church, St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, where he helped with ushering and the youth group. He is remembered as a steadfast, protective and faithful person that will be sadly missed, but will remain in the hearts and minds of his family and friends.

Bruce is survived by his wife: Janet Schaefer of Merrill, sister: Barbara Schaefer of Kamuela, Hawaii, niece: Bethany Schaefer of Wausau, nephew: Michael (Jill) Schaefer of Grafton, OH, brother-in-law: Paul (Renee) Wiesneski of Merrill and many other beloved extended family members of both Bruce and Janet. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother and sister-in-law: Phil and Jean Schaefer and brother-in-law: Mark Wiesneski.

The memorial service for Bruce will be held on Friday, September 6, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ in Merrill. Rev. Mike Southcombe will officiate. Visitation will be held on Friday, September 6, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the church. A private family inurnment will take place at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, family suggests to direct donations in Bruce's name to St. Stephen's United Church of Christ.

Bruce's family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to niece Spring Wiesneski who gives invaluable help in this time of need and beyond. They would also like to thank Interim Hospice and Woodland Court for the care and compassion they had toward Bruce and his family during his stay there.

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

Delores A. Gast



Delores A. Gast, 91, of Weston, passed away Thursday, August 29, 2024, at Pride TLC, Weston.

Delores was born September 30, 1932, in the Town of Maine, Marathon County, daughter of Henry and Edna (Woller) Hoff. She married Lyle E. Gast on June 23, 1951, at the former Zion Lutheran Church in the Village of Maine, Marathon County. They were able to celebrate their 72nd wedding anniversary before Lyle passed away on

October 12, 2023.

Delores took pride in being a homemaker and raising her four children. Delores' children were her pride and joy. Although she was busy with the kids, she also worked at Hanson Glove in Merrill as a sewing supervisor. Delores often took seasonal positions with JW Perry making wreaths, roping, and grave blankets; and Oconomowoc Canning Company, both in Merrill. She also worked in housekeeping at AmericInn in Merrill and I.F.C. in the Village of Maine.

Delores and Lyle enjoyed camping and for 15 years, they traveled to Palmetto, Florida with their 5th wheel camper. They would return to Wisconsin in the spring/summer and stay at Shady Brook of Post Lake or go to their favorite place, Carol Lake, to fish. Delores enjoyed fishing, especially trips to Cananda. She also enjoyed playing cards, sewing, cooking, baking, gardening, canning, and snowmobiling. Delores was a longtime member of Faith Lutheran Church, Village of Maine.

Survivors include her daughters, Linda (Daniel) Meschefske and Donna Mae (Norbert) Normand both of Wausau; sons, Lyle (Cheryl) Gast, Jr. and Larry (Mary) Gast both of Wausau; two grandchildren, Bonnie Dean of Wausau and Allen (Wendy) Gast of Neillsville; four great-grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Anna Dean and Bryce and Caleb Gast; and sister-in-law, Shirley Johnson (Norm Bailey) of Pawcatuck, Connecticut. Delores was preceded in death by her husband, Lyle Gast; and parents, Henry and Edna Hoff.

The memorial service for Delores will be held at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, September 12, 2024, at Faith Lutheran Church, Village of Maine. Rev. Donald Love will preside. The burial will take place in Maple Grove Cemetery, Village of Maine. The family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 A.M., Thursday, September 12, 2024. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

The family would like to thank Pride TLC, Weston for taking great care of their mother while she resided there. They would also like to thank St. Croix Hospice for the compassionate care they provided to Delores and the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Patricia (Pat) B. Alberg



Patricia (Pat) B. Alberg, 98, passed away peacefully on August 28, 2024 and is now resting in eternal Heaven with her beloved husband, Duane.

Pat was born to the late Emerson Ball and Ann O'Connell on September 17, 1925 in Tomahawk, WI. She graduated from Tomahawk High School in 1943.

She was married on June 1, 1946 at St Mary Catholic Church shortly after Duane returned home from WWII and had almost 70 joyous years together. Together, Duane & Pat had two children - Mark & Lois.

Pat loved to spend time with her family - she was in attendance at all of their activities - from dance recitals, sporting events and theater shows. She loved to be out at the lake, golfing, sewing, knitting, crocheting and dancing with Duane & with friends. Pat was a faithful member of St. Mary Catholic Church. She volunteered for many duties associated with church - money counting, scheduling, Calvary Cemetery Secretary, Renew Bible study group and the American Red Cross blood mobile.

Pat worked during senior year of high school on weekday afternoons and weekends as a stenographer for the Wisconsin Conservation Dept for 5yrs. She then changed jobs to work at Owen's Illinois Paper Mill doing Secretarial and Computer Operations until she retired on December 31, 1983.

Pat is survived by her son, Mark (Jackie); her daughter, Lois (Dave) both of Tomahawk. Six loving grandkids Danielle Engel (Jeff Kuhn) Monona, WI; Stacy Hilgendorf Gales (Mark) Franklin, WI; Andy Alberg (Sarah), Michelle Nelson (Nate), Melissa Kahle (Jason) all of Tomahawk & Shawn Alberg (Erica Shelter) of Black Earth, WI. She is also survived by 22 adoring great grandchildren and a sister, Joan Ball of California.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her brothers, Jim & Howard Ball, her sister, Mary Ann Timm.

Mass of Christian Burial for Pat will take place at 11:00a.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2024 at St. Mary Catholic Church with Fr. Aloysius Anthony officiating. Visitation will take place on Wednesday, September 4, from 4:00p.m. to 7p.m. at Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral Home with vigil service at 7:00p.m. Visitation will continue at the church on Thursday from 9:00a.m. until time of Mass at 11:00a.m. Burial to follow at Calvary Cemetery, Tomahawk.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

Notice: To ensure ample space for local news, sports, and information, the Merrill Foto News will not be accepting letters/opinion pieces regarding this year's presidential election.

To the Editor:

Early August seemed a popular time to hold a class reunion, as several were taking place across Merrill. In each instance, a lot of people said "we should," while only a few said "let's do it" and picked up the mantle and made it happen. That is so often the case. The MHS Class of '74 celebrated its 50 year anniversary. Those many classmates who had a tremendous time reconnecting and remembering great times from so long ago are grateful to those who did step up. Vicki, Jane, Denise, Noelle, Joel, Tom, Paul, (and anyone else I may have missed) - we are looking at you! From your fellow classmates - THANK YOU. And I WILL see you in five years.

- Jeff Krueger, MHS Class of 1974
Bartlett, Ill.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

• Letters must be 250 words or less. (There will be no exceptions to this. Any letter longer than 250 words will not be printed.)

• The writer must include their full name, complete address, and a phone number where he/she can be easily reached for verification. Phone numbers and street addresses will not be published, but will be used for verification purposes, if necessary. Letters must be signed and the name, city, and state will be printed.

• Letters may be edited for style, grammar, and length.

• We retain complete discretion to determine whether a letter is printed. The First Amendment right to free speech protects speech from government control; it does not give people the right to have their views published in a privately-owned newspaper, or anywhere else for that matter.

• We will not accept letters that make controversial or unsubstantiated claims. This is because we are liable for any false claims we publish, regardless of the source of the claim. Form letters or those we determine to be libelous or slanderous will not be accepted. Any letter deemed derogatory, inflammatory, or involving vulgar language will not be published. We reserve all rights to reject material submitted to this publication.

• Letters will be published on a "first come, first served" basis. Any letters which we are unable to publish in the printed newspaper may be run online at www.merrillfotonews.com and/or may be printed in the paper at a later date.

• In fairness to all, and due to space constraints, there is a limit of two letters per year from an individual writer. Additional letters may be submitted to our Paid Letters to the Editor column and will require payment in full prior to

See **LETTERS TO EDITOR** page 5

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CARL EDWARD RANDALL
April 30, 1974 - Sept. 7, 2023

Little we knew that morning, God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly; in death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you; you did not go alone;
For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories; your love is still our guide;
And though we cannot see you, you are always by our side.
Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same.
As God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

Love you, miss you:
Mom, Dad, & PJ, Susan Pankow & Family

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: 08/30/2024
/S/HON. GALEN BAYNE-ALLISON
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, BR I
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing
 Case No. 24-CV-112
 IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME
 CHANGE OF
 Beau Riley Gillhouse
 By (Petitioner) Madelyn Kate Kurtz

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
 A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
 From: Beau Riley Gillhouse
 To: Beau Riley Kurtz
 Birth Certificate: Beau Riley Gillhouse

IT IS ORDERED:
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
 Judge's Name: Hon Galen Bayne-Allison
 Place: Lincoln County Courthouse-Br 1 Courtroom
 1110 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452
 Date: 10/11/24
 Time: 9:45 AM
 If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0319 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
 Published: 9/5/24, 9/12/24 & 9/19/24
 WNAXLP

Legals 7700

DATE SIGNED: August 19, 2024
 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
 Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
 Case No. 2024 IN 28
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 ANITA S. BARLAU
 DOD: 10/20/2023

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
 1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 04/22/1939 and date of death 10/20/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W9351 Natzke Road, Merrill, WI 54452.
 3. All interested persons waived notice.
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 11/29/2024.
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main St., Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office. Mary M. John Eaton Law, LLP
 513 Grant St, Wausau, WI 54403
 Telephone: 715-843-6700
 Bar Number: 1019515
 Published 8/29/24, 9/5/24 & 9/12/24
 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: August 20, 2024
 Electronically signed by Galen Bayne-Allison, Circuit Court Judge

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing
 Case No. 2024CV000097
 IN THE MATTER OF THE
 NAME CHANGE OF
 CINDI LOU KARAU
 By (Petitioner) Rachel L. Hahn
 By (Co-Petitioner) Daniel S Karau

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
 A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
 From: Cindi Lou Karau
 To: Cindi Lou Fick
 Birth Certificate: Cindi Lou Karau

IT IS ORDERED:
 This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
 Judge's Name: Hon. Galen Bayne-Allison
 Place: Branch 1 Courtroom. Lincoln County Courthouse, 1100 E Main St, Merrill, Wisconsin
 Date: 09/25/2024
 Time: 8:30 a.m.
 If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0319 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Merrill Foto News, a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
 Published 8/29/24, 9/5/24 & 9/12/24
 WNAXLP

LETTERS TO EDITOR

from page 4
 publication at the same rate as Political Letters to the Editor (see policy below).
POLITICAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

- Letters to the editor on political issues, with or without a candidate endorsement, including those submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum, or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words in length plus \$10.00 per additional 100 words.
- All political letters must be prepaid prior to printing.
- Letters to the Editor will not be accepted from candidates running for election or representatives of an organization

endorsing their own referendum, as these are clearly advertisements and not opinion letters; those submissions will be referred to our Advertising Department to be run as paid ads.

REPORTS

MERRILL FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS

For two weeks (Aug. 19-Sept. 1, 2024):

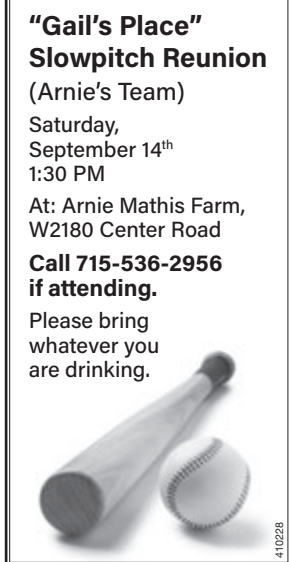
- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury 81
- Good intent call, other 1
- Motor vehicle accident with

injuries 2
 Standby for Tomahawks E.M.S. 2
 Total: 86
TOTAL INCIDENTS/CALLS FOR 2024: 1510



CHECK US OUT ONLINE!
 merrillfotonews.com

"Gail's Place" Slowpitch Reunion (Arnie's Team)
 Saturday, September 14th 1:30 PM
 At: Arnie Mathis Farm, W2180 Center Road
Call 715-536-2956 if attending.
 Please bring whatever you are drinking.




Nifty '50 Fords
 N3135 Hwy. 17, Merrill

Pet of the Week
 Loki is a very sweet but also very shy boy, he would be best in a quiet calm home with someone willing to work with him to bring him out of his shell, he loves to play with toys and get attention when he's feeling safe! Loki would be great in a home with another cat since they seem to help him come out of his shell more!

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

Budget Publication 2024-25 Required Published Budget Summary Format

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the qualified voters of the Merrill Area Common Public School District comprised of the City of Merrill, Towns of Birch, Corning, Harding, Harrison, Merrill, Pine River, Rock Falls, Russell, Schley, Scott and such parts of Ackley and Vilas as are in such district, that the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing of said district for the transaction of school business and the approval of the tax levy for the 2024-2025 school year will be held in the Merrill High School Auditorium (1201 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin – please enter the building at Door #16) on Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Detailed copies of the budget are on the MAPS website or available in the office of the Superintendent of Schools.

GENERAL FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	8,642,979.30	8,657,287.31	8,936,842.25
Ending Fund Balance	8,657,287.31	8,936,842.25	8,936,842.25
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Transfers-In (Source 100)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Local Sources (Source 200)	7,995,421.98	10,229,691.37	9,305,566.00
Inter-district Payments (Source 300 + 400)	5,988,737.00	6,072,635.00	6,459,202.00
Intermediate Sources (Source 500)	247,328.95	192,704.83	219,904.00
State Sources (Source 600)	21,558,450.96	20,849,914.37	21,611,889.00
Federal Sources (Source 700)	2,205,151.21	2,132,841.20	1,606,343.00
All Other Sources (Source 800 + 900)	73,884.38	140,261.31	86,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	38,068,974.48	39,618,048.10	39,288,904.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
Instruction (Function 100 000)	16,004,679.56	14,992,410.32	15,846,047.00
Support Services (Function 200 000)	15,253,063.44	16,765,496.32	16,137,193.00
Non-Program Transactions (Function 400 000)	6,796,923.47	7,580,586.52	7,305,664.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	38,054,666.47	39,338,493.16	39,288,904.00

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	1,537,427.90	1,586,085.17	1,669,901.53
Ending Fund Balance	1,586,085.17	1,669,901.53	1,669,901.53
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	8,234,916.84	8,125,204.57	8,505,041.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	8,186,259.57	8,041,388.21	8,505,041.00

DEBT SERVICE FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	59,099.40	59,524.40	59,524.40
Ending Fund Balance	59,524.40	59,524.40	59,524.40
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	111,350.38	0.00	0.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	110,925.38	0.00	0.00

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	1,880,947.65	1,628,746.68	2,415,113.98
Ending Fund Balance	1,628,746.68	2,415,113.98	2,786,913.98
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	556,780.37	1,059,239.72	371,800.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	808,981.34	272,872.42	0.00

FOOD SERVICE FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	535,546.49	485,309.48	277,355.07
Ending Fund Balance	485,309.48	277,355.07	150,071.07
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,326,010.66	1,273,219.46	1,201,000.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	1,376,247.67	1,481,173.87	1,328,284.00

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
Beginning Fund Balance	10,399.54	(31,298.02)	20,074.32
Ending Fund Balance	(31,298.02)	20,074.32	20,074.32
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	247,793.30	379,653.11	505,000.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	289,490.86	328,280.77	505,000.00

Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses

ALL FUNDS	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
GROSS TOTAL EXPENDITURES – ALL FUNDS	48,826,571.29	49,462,208.43	48,627,229.00
Interfund Transfers (Source 100) – ALL FUNDS	4,339,304.38	4,575,603.55	4,391,404.00
Refinancing Expenditures (FUND 30)	0.00	0.00	0.00
NET TOTAL EXPENDITURES – ALL FUNDS	44,487,266.91	44,886,604.88	44,235,825.00
PERCENTAGE INCREASE – NET TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR YEAR		0.90%	-0.0145%

PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY

FUND	Audited 2022-2023	Unaudited 2023-2024	Budget 2024-2025
General Fund	7,490,777.00	9,463,617.00	8,790,631.00
Referendum Debt Service Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non-Referendum Debt Service Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Expansion Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Service Fund	225,000.00	350,000.00	478,500.00
TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY	7,715,777.00	9,813,617.00	9,269,131.00
PERCENTAGE INCREASE – TOTAL LEVY FROM PRIOR YEAR		27.19%	-5.55%

Labor Day Car Show



Check out this classic aqua beauty - a 1954 NASH with a bed inside of it!



Attendees were lined up to get food at the vendor food stands that opened up for the day at the car show.



Car enthusiasts were out in full force, showing off and checking out vehicles of all makes and models, old and new, in every color of the rainbow. It was a beautiful day for a Car Show!



The Merrill Fairgrounds drew a crowd for the Annual Labor Day Car Show on Monday, Sept. 2, 2024. Joseph Frederick photos.

OCHD provides information on animal bites, rabies

The Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) recently provided information on animal bites and rabies. In a release, OCHD said it has conducted more than 40 animal bite and potential rabies exposure investigations in 2024.



“Rabies is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system and is typically transmitted through a bite from an infected animal,” OCHD said. “Rabies is considered fatal if contracted.”

Four bats have tested for rabies in Wisconsin this year. The counties involved are Columbia, Richland, Sauk, and St. Croix.

Symptoms of rabies include irritability, headache, fever, double vision, and itching or pain at the bite site. Later symptoms include spasms of the throat, convulsions, delirium, paralysis, and death.

OCHD provided the following tips to help stay safe from animal bites:

- Keep your pets current on rabies vaccinations.
- Leave the handling of unfamiliar animals to professionals.
- Contact Wild Instincts or Northwoods Wildlife Center for wild animals that may need help.
- Contact the Oneida County Humane Society for domestic pets that may need help.
- Teach children to not approach unfamiliar animals.
- Never leave a young child alone with a pet.

For bites and scratches:

- Clean the wound with lots of soap and water.
- Report the bite to law enforcement.

Contact your doctor or go to your local emergency room.

If the animal has been or can be safely captured, hold onto the animal until OCHD can be consulted.

For more information, visit dhs.wisconsin.gov/rabies/index.htm or datcp.wi.gov/Documents/RabiesBites.pdf.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the qualified voters of the Merrill Area Common Public School District comprised of the City of Merrill, Towns of Birch, Corning, Harding, Harrison, Merrill, Pine River, Rock Falls, Russell, Schley, Scott and such parts of Ackley and Vilas as are in such district, that the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing of said district for the transaction of school business and the approval of the tax levy for the 2024-2025 school year will be held in the Merrill High School Auditorium (1201 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin – please enter the building at Door #16) on Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Detailed copies of the budget are on our website, on file in the office of the Superintendent of Schools and at most Merrill financial institutions. Published September 5 & 12, 2024

WNAXLP

CLOVERDALE COUNTRY STORE

2 miles South of Curtiss on Hwy. E 715-223-4797 We accept: SNAP/EBT Cards

Turkeys Whole - Frozen 16 lb..... ONLY 99¢ a lb	Orange Juice Lots of Pulp 52 oz..... ONLY 1.99	Butter Salted Quarters 16 oz..... ONLY 2.99
Bacon End Pieces - Frozen 3 lbs..... ONLY 99¢ a lb	Bacon Original Thick Cut - Frozen 40 oz..... ONLY 5.99	Miracle Whip 30 oz..... ONLY 2.29
OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30-6:30 • SATURDAY 8:30-4:00		
Bacon Bits Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs..... ONLY 1.99 a lb	Cream Cheese Original 8 oz..... ONLY 1.69	Melting Chocolate Lafayette 5 lbs..... ONLY 99¢ a lb
Supreme Pizza 12 in - Frozen 26 oz..... ONLY 2.99	Shredded Cheese Fiesta Blend 5 lbs..... ONLY 8.99	Rice Krisp Cereal 3 lbs..... ONLY 1.69 a lb
Pork Crumbles Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs..... ONLY 99¢ a lb	Swiss Cheese 7 lbs..... ONLY 2.49 a lb	Chicken Noodle Soup Condensed 10.75 oz..... ONLY 99¢
Chicken Tenderloins Raw, Uncooked - Frozen 48 oz..... ONLY 4.99	Cheddar Cheese 5 lbs..... ONLY 1.89 a lb	Granola Bars Sweet, Salty, Peanut 21 oz..... ONLY 2.29
Chicken Nuggets Breaded, Uncooked Frozen 4 lbs..... ONLY 5.99 a lb	Cheddar Cheese Shredded 5 lbs..... ONLY 9.99	Butter Finger Candy Bars 68 oz..... ONLY 8.99
Ham Smoked Bone In - Fully Cooked Frozen 9 lbs..... ONLY 59¢ a lb	Muenster Cheese Ends Trim 35 lbs..... ONLY 1.89 a lb	Baked Beans Home Style 28 oz..... ONLY 1.29
Cheese Curds Breaded - Frozen 16 oz..... ONLY 99¢	Crinkle Fries Ready to Cook - Frozen 32 oz..... ONLY 2.49	Smoked Sausage Irish Garlic - Uncooked Frozen 19 oz..... ONLY 3.99
Bologna Sliced Turkey - Frozen 16 oz..... ONLY 99¢	Polluck Breaded - Uncooked Frozen 5 lbs..... ONLY 1.55 a lb	Chicken Breast Oven Roasted, Sliced Frozen 20 oz..... ONLY 1.99
Ribeye Steaks Boneless, Uncooked Frozen 8 oz..... ONLY 8.99 a lb	Chicken Breast Skinless, Boneless Frozen 5 lbs..... ONLY 1.99 a lb	Beef Patties Uncooked, Frozen 5 lbs..... ONLY 1.99 a lb

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

408280

LOOK FOR OUR 2024-25 Made In Wisconsin Magazine



COMING SOON TO RACKS NEAR YOU!



If you would like to be part of the 2024-25 publication, Contact Jennifer Gartmann at 715-218-1644 or email jgartmann@mmclocal.com

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: OCT. 2, 2024 Publishes October 30, 2024

389451

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY 9 (CESA 9) is currently accepting bids to replace existing asphalt shingles with GAF shingles and properly dispose of all discarded materials. GAF licensed contractors only may apply.

RFPs may be picked up at the CESA 9 office or requested via e-mail to bplautz@cesa9.org. All proposals must be postmarked or dropped off at 304 Kaphaem Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487 by 3:30pm CST on September 27, 2024.

Prospective bidders may call Bryan Plautz at 715-218-0770 with questions pertaining to the project or to request an appointment to view the project.

CESA 9 reserves the right to accept and/or reject any or all bids. Contractors will be required to provide a certificate of insurance and accept all applicable legal responsibility.

CESA 9
304 KAPHAEM ROAD
TOMAHAWK WI 54487
715-453-2141

408280



Photos courtesy of WPS.

AMBASSADOG from page 1

were searching for a new dog after their previous one passed away. "They initially didn't want a puppy, but couldn't get enough of Arlo's unique coat and his personality," the WPS release said. "He reminded them of the narrator in the 'The City of New Orleans,' so his owners named him after Guthrie, who popularized the song." WPS noted that Arlo's favorite activity is digging,

especially when searching for toads in the garden at his home. "His energetic nature also leads him into playing with other dogs or wrestling matches with pine branches," WPS said. "He's got a soft side, too - his owners say he loves to snuggle and sleep on top of his family." WPS said digging can be dangerous if you don't call 811 or go to diggershotline.com at least three days in advance, noting that it's free, and it's the law.



Congratulations to Taylor Zastrow, the 2024 Merrill recipient of the Lincoln County Retired Educators scholarship. Taylor attends UW-Stevens Point majoring in English Education. Submitted photo.

ADVERTISE Call 715-536-7121 TODAY!

Merrill Citywide Rummage Sales Saturday, Sept. 7th

Check our Classified Section for even more sales.



CHECK ADS FOR MULTIPLE DATES!

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| <p>City Wide Rummage Sale 7000</p> <p>01. 402 Tyler St. Wed-Fri 9-5, Sat 8-Noon. Stationary exercise bike, hunting clothes, household items, kitchen table & chairs, home decor, collector baskets, craft items, doll house & much more.</p> <p>02. 209 S Curran St. Thurs., Fri., Sat. Puzzles, dish towels, pillow cases, exercise bike, rocking chair, water ski stuff, books 10¢ ea., art work, house wares.</p> <p>03. 704 Schulz St. Thurs-Sat 7am-5pm. We put Mom in a home, EVERYTHING MUST GO! Antique furniture, sectional couch, organ, collectables, come find some treasures!</p> <p>04. 1204 N. Sales Street, Christ Ev. Lutheran Church. Sat Sept. 7, 8:00AM-2:00PM. FREE clothing and more. FREE food and water. FREE restrooms for visitors. Children's activities available. Doors open rain or shine. Find us across the street from Merrill High School.</p> <p>05. 2800 Thielman 13B, 9am Sept. 5, 6 & 7. Downsizing Collections, too much to list. FREE Books. Rain Dates Sept 12, 13 & 14.</p> <p>06. Lighthouse Storage Unit 502, across from Dave's County Market, Sat. 7-3, Sun ? Something for Everyone. All reasonable offers accepted. Must make room.</p> <p>07. 1102 Michler Crest, Friday 8:30am-5. Saturday 7:00-1pm. Multi Family Garage Sale-Household items, kid's/adult clothing, furniture, dishes, vacuums, pictures, seasonal decorations, toys, much more.</p> <p>08. 2402 E 8th St., 8AM-4PM Sat. Sept. 7th. Clothes, Household items & misc.</p> | <p>City Wide Rummage Sale 7000</p> <p>09. 1106 E 8TH ST. HAVEN'S RUMMAGE SALE FUNDRAISER SEPT. 6 & 7, 9AM TO 3 PM A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING</p> <p>10. 245805 County Road W, Sat. ONLY. 9-4. Air fryer, Ethan Allen bedroom set, Barbie dream house, Elmo stove, vintage lamp, Harley Davidson jacket, Brother sewing machine, Wilson Leather jacket, Miller clock, and much more!</p> <p>11. N2748 E Shore Dr. Garage /estate sale. 9/6 & 9/7 • 8AM to 3PM Dining table sets, coffee tables, chairs, couches, collectibles, antiques, lamps, baskets, landscaping & gardening items, TVs, seasonal decor, tools, misc. lumber, framed steel door, electric piano, Lg picture window, household, women's clothing, pet items & much more. No early sales!</p> <p>12. W5761 Tannery Dr. Friday & Saturday, Sept 6 & 7, 10am-5pm. Sunday Sep 8, 10am-2pm, Everything 1/2 Off.</p> <p>13. 1301 O'Day St, Apt 6 ~ Garage in back lot. Sat. 9/7 • 9a-5p. Antique Oak table w/6 chairs, Antique dresser with mirror, Futon frame, Lots of household items. Clothes, mens, womens, Toys, Games, Some crafts, Humidifier, Shop vac.</p> <p>14. 804 S Center Ave. Thurs.-Fri. 3-7, Sat. & Sun. 8-5. Adult clothes various sizes, Men's and Women's winter items, baby Girl's NB-3T, Boy's 18-3T, everything baby, kids toys & books, animal supplies, horse tack, bunny cage, gardening tools, Veterinary books.</p> | <p>City Wide Rummage Sale 7000</p> <p>15. 303 N Prospect Street, Sept. 4-8, 7am-6pm. Last sale of the year! Books, DVDs, CDs, Cookie Jars, Dishes, Men's Stuff, Furniture, Knickknacks, Clothes.</p> <p>16. 166937 County Line Rd., Merrill, Estate/Garage Sale. Sept. 5-7, 8am-6pm. NO Clothes! Fuel barrel, Furniture, Housewares, Milk Cans, Tools, Gourds, Toys, Christmas, Lawn Mower, Ladders, Baits, Something for Everyone!</p> <p>17. N3228 Anna Rd. Camping gear-sleeping bags & matts, coolers, lantern, small tents, folding stadium seats, camp chairs. Vases, pictures, decorative items, ladies shoes, clothing, books, puzzles, wooden and new metal snow shoes. Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10:30-5.</p> <p>18. 2406 E 8th St., Merrill, Sat. ONLY! 8-4. Honda four wheeler, Stihl gas weed trimmer, Commercial floor drum sander and floor saner edger, variety of antiques.</p> <p>19. Corner of K and G, Big Garage Sale Sept. 5-7, 8-4. Misc. & Antique items. Park in Prairie Trails parking lot.</p> <p>20. N2767 E Shore Dr., Fri 9/6 & Sat 9/7, 8am-4pm. Row boat oars, over 65 Puzzles, new household kitchen items.</p> <p>21. 304 Pier St., Merrill, Garage Sale. Sat, Sept 7, starting at 8-6. We have many NEW items to see. Sporting goods and clothing, Xmas decor, household items, clothing for young to adults size 2X. Furniture, stove, twin head board, pub table-chairs, rocker and so much more.</p> | <p>City Wide Rummage Sale 7000</p> <p>22. N2688 State Hwy 107. Multi-Family. 9/7 • 8-5. Girls Clothes up to size 6, Beauty products, Household, Stollers, Toys, Makeup bags, Motorcycle, Pontoon boat. NEW Pampered Chef items, Rich's BBQ Truck & Freeze-dried candy.</p> <p>23. 1404 Jackson St., Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. 9-5. To many treasures to list!</p> <p>24. 602 East Street in Alley, 9/5-7. 8A-4P. 100's of LEMAX Christmas houses, animated, carnival, accessories. Christmas lights, decor. Ice auger, Microwave, Mini fridge, NIB Steel toes, Leaf blower, Large Antique bird cage, Lots of Misc & Household items.</p> <p>25. W4509 HWY C, AKA Zoellner's. 2 outdoor motors, lots of fans, sizes from 12 inch to 48 inch, house plants, auto jacks, hot dog cooker, records, musky baits, banding machine, fresh produce, growing light, file cabinet & much more. Also free stuff. Sat 8-5.</p> <p>26. 1604 E 12th St. Multi-Family Garage Sale. Clothing, Housewares, Crafts. Friday & Saturday 8a-6p.</p> <p>27. 1604 Jackson St., Saturday September 7th, 8AM to 2PM. Kitchen items, adult clothing, Trea-ger Grill, deck box, Stihl chain saw. Too many miscellaneous items to list! Something for all adults! Sorry no children items.</p> | <p>City Wide Rummage Sale 7000</p> <p>28. 201 E. Riverside Ave., Fri.-Sat. 9-5. Cleaned whole house - from basement - attic, from modern - antique furniture, frames, lamps, camp gear & cots, dog kennel, deer hauler, bike hitch rack, patio furniture, treadle sewing machine, space heaters. Everything works & must go!</p> <p>29. 2209 River Street, Sat & Sun, 8-5. Tools, Antiques, items from Italy, England and Japan, figurines, college student items, unique Nativity sets, blue and white Delft items.</p> <p>30. 301 N State Street, Friday 9-2, Saturday 9-?. Avon new and discounted, window A/C unit, house plants, foot stools, ladies plus size clothing 25¢-\$1.00, purses, bags, electronic misc., glassware, hand embroidered dish towels (new).</p> <p>31. N1311 Golf Dr., Thurs. & Fri., 8-5, Sat. 8-2. Good Stuff Sale: Restaurant supplies, commercial booster seats, high chairs, garbage cans, light fixtures, 4 person sport dome tent-new, fire pit, coolers, home & holiday decor, queen bed set, dresser, mirror, futon mattress, recliner, ottoman, stands, office chair, microwave, Hoover vacuum, 5x7 rugs, 8x10 rug, bedding, pillows, baby clothes, Medela Breast Pump with bottles & case, play pen, bath tubs, name brand winter coats, boots all sizes, dog & cat supplies, movies, CD's, jewelry.</p> <p>32. W4846 River Bend Dr., Thurs. - Sat., 8-4. Men's clothing / hunting, fishing gear, camping, household items, hats, boots, gloves, bow & arrows, sleeping bags.</p> | <p>City Wide Rummage Sale 7000</p> <p>33. N1601 Spile Dam Rd., Merrill (8 miles east of Merrill) Inside. Sept. 6 & 7, 8-5. Used: 2 twin mattresses, plant stands, dresser, player organ with stool, outdoor love seat/cushions, assorted tols, canning equipment, puzzles. New: queen quilt, pasta machine, indoor grill, reams of paper, cabinets. Antique: full length fur coat, library table, buffet, wooded closet with doors and drawers, white enamel cookware, wash stand, steamer trunk.</p> <p>34. 710 Scott St., Friday & Saturday, 8-4.</p> <p>35. W5124 Hillside Dr., Fri. 9/6, 2-6, Sat. 6/7, 8-2. Household, holiday decor, girls 10/12-women's clothing, toys, scrapbooking/craft supplies, sporting goods, tools.</p> <p>36. N2518 State 107, Big Sale. Fri. 9-5, Sat. 8-3. Horse tack, tools, baler, generator, 88-98 C/K truck parts, women's clothes M-XL, dresses, beauty products. Lots of free stuff and much more!</p> <p>37. 1810 East 1st St. Multi-Family Sale Sept 4th-8th • 8A-5P. Electronics, Womens, Mens clothes, Furniture, Tools, DVDs, Dishes, Household items, Much More!</p> <p>38. 1611 E. 2nd St. Sept 5-7 • 8A-5P. Boys NB-18m, Girls 2T-12, Elvis, Toys, Scrubs, Tools, Womens clothes, Camping supplies, Craft supplies, Maternity, Girls shoes, Misc., Free items.</p> <p>39. 1008 E 8th St., Sat. Only! 8am-4pm. Gardening & Yard Supplies / Furniture / Tools / Electronics / Pots & Pans / Canning Supplies / Misc. Household Furnishing.</p> |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|

Gazebo Nights



Copper Box provided live music in Normal Park at last Thursday's final Thorogood Thursday Gazebo Night of the 2024 summer concert season.



While the weather was a little less than ideal, Copper Box's music did not disappoint.



One couple decided it was a good night for dancing.

Joseph Frederick photos.

MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

Why *The Breakfast Club* might be the most enduring '80s movie

BY JALEN MAKI

We've all been asked this question before: "What's your favorite '80s movie?"

I believe there's a distinction between an "80s movie" and "a movie that was released between 1980 and 1989." In taking a look back, the list of films I'd consider as being among my favorites of the decade ended up being longer than I expected. *The Shining*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Stand By Me*, *Back to the Future*, *Airplane!*, *Dead Poets Society*, *The Terminator*, *When Harry Met Sally...*, *Top Gun*, *Aliens*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Predator*, *The Goonies*... the '80s were pretty stacked!

Even though all of those films came out in the 1980s, I wouldn't necessarily consider them '80s movies. Why not? Because, to me, the defining characteristic of a true '80s movie is the involvement of John Hughes.

I mentioned this in a column I wrote about *Fargo* last year, in talking about Midwestern movies: John Hughes' run from the mid-'80s through the early '90s is bananas. In this time, Hughes hammered out banger after banger, with several of them being definitive movies of the decade: *Sixteen Candles*, *Pretty in Pink*, *Weird Science*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, and, my favorite of them all, and the one that might outlast the rest in both pop culture and the collective consciousness: 1985's *The Breakfast Club*.

To set the scene: It's March 24, 1984. Shermer High School. Shermer, Illinois. Five students, for various reasons, are forced to serve a day-long Saturday detention in the library.

On the surface, these characters couldn't be less alike. You have five pretty standard high school archetypes: the brainiac, Brian Johnson (Anthony Michael Hall); the athlete, Andrew Clark (Emilio Estevez); the quiet weird girl, Allison Reynolds (Ally Sheedy); the Prom Queen, Claire Standish (Molly Ringwald); and the rebellious hoodlum, John Bender (Judd Nelson).



I'm not sure if the average high school's social structure is *quite* as rigidly defined as *The Breakfast Club* wants us to believe, but the film does a masterful job in telling us everything we need to know about these characters within a few minutes of meeting them. Well, as we come to find out, not *everything* – in fact, very little, and that's the brilliance of the movie.

When they walk into the library, the characters silently try to figure out where the others stand socially. Andrew identifies Claire as someone from the same side of the tracks and sits at her table. Brian sits behind Claire and Andrew at first, but immediately and without protest moves to the table to his left because John wants his spot, and Allison sits in the back. From the jump, they're separated by social class.

Enter Vice Principal Richard Vernon (Paul Gleason). Vernon runs his detentions like the Navy, and he makes it clear right away that he won't tolerate any tom foolery. He tells the students that they can't leave their seats, and to make sure they do something productive with their time, he gives them an assignment: They must each write a 1,000-word essay on "who they think they are."

Throughout the day, the students size each other up and butt heads, and through arguments and heart-to-hearts, they find out that despite their differences in upbringings and cliques, they all have more in common than they ever imagined.

A genius way Hughes demonstrates the characters' superficial dissimilarities is through their lunches. Claire has sushi, which is a pretty bougie lunch for a high schooler. Andrew's pulling sandwiches and milk and cookies and an assortment of other items out of what might be a bottomless brown paper bag, but the guy's a wrestler, so he needs the calories. All of the food groups are represented in Brian's lunch, a fact John's quick to mockingly point out. Allison has the lunch of a child left to their own devices – pure sugar. I mean, who among us hasn't washed down the occasional Pixie Stick and Captain Crunch sandwich with a crisp can of Coke? And John doesn't have lunch at all. The meals act as a representation of each character's home life, or at least, how it's perceived from the outside: high-class, goal-driven, sensible, manic, neglectful.

What makes the movie work is that each character gets their time in the limelight and under the microscope, and in learning about each other, they learn about themselves. We find out about Claire's parents' bad marriage; the toxic relationship Andrew has with his dad; the unbearable academic pressure Brian faces on the home front; Allison's empty, unsatisfying home life; and the physical, verbal, and emotional abuse John is subjected to on a daily basis. Heck, we even pull the curtain back on why Vernon's such a contemptible jerk all the time.

Years from now, I think *The Breakfast Club* could very well be the most enduring of Hughes' '80s movies because even adults can glean a thing or two from its surprisingly blunt and earnest exploration of high school-

aged people's emotional complexities. Sure, the music and fashion have aged, but the film's message is timeless. No one is *only* who they appear to be; everyone is more complicated and nuanced than meets the eye, with unique yet relatable problems, anxieties, and fears.

In the social framework of the teenage years, it might just be easier to morph yourself into who you think others want you to be in order to be accepted, rather than to live authentically and risk rejection. At 7 a.m., this was a bleak reality that the characters had accepted, but by that afternoon, they were ready to reject it altogether.

Each character wants to be loved and embraced for who they really are, even if they're still figuring out who that is. For these characters, it took a day in detention with strangers to realize they actually have agency in the process of self-discovery, and, that in order for others to achieve the same acceptance they're seeking, they themselves have to play an active part in it.

The end of the movie is a 450-foot home run, with the characters bucking Vernon by leaving behind a single letter instead of writing five separate essays.

"You see us as you want to see us – in the simplest terms and the most convenient definitions," Brian writes on behalf of the group. "But what we found out is that each one of us is a brain, and an athlete, and a basket case, a princess, and a criminal."

Were the characters all still friends on Monday? This is a question asked and answered with brutal honesty in the movie. But whether or not they were, there was wisdom in knowing that their social structure was an illusion; and there was virtue in shattering it.

Jalen's columns, "Movies You Gotta See" and "The Free Play," can be found online at www.medium.com/@jalenmaki.

PINE CREST from page 1

upon them and they are not a part of today's Agenda, but it seems general awareness of information that would be relevant and also I believe it is in the interest of transparency in this process. I want to be transparent to this process."

Following discussion of the original referendum asking voters if they would support a \$5 million increase in the tax levy for the next 5 years to fund the operations, maintenance, and debt service of Pine Crest - and two amendments seeking to modify that resolution first to \$1.5 million for 10 years and then to \$4.5 million for 5 years, both of which failed on roll call votes - the County Board then voted 8-11 against the resolution for a November referendum.

People for Pine Crest start online petition

In response to the items on the A&L meeting Agenda, People for Pine Crest - a local grassroots group that has been opposed to the sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home to any outside entity and that desires to keep the nursing home Lincoln County owned - took to Facebook and announced they had started an online petition opposing the sale of Pine Crest. That petition is online at: form.jotform.com/242426696823162.

Offers to purchase spark new Dunphy lawsuit

Boyd's mention of Senior Management and another unsolicited buyer's interest in purchasing Pine Crest Nursing Home set events in motion that sparked a new Dunphy lawsuit. On Aug. 26, 2024, Dunphy filed a lawsuit

in Lincoln County against Renee Krueger, Lincoln County Administrative Coordinator. The lawsuit asks the Court for a writ of mandamus directing Krueger to produce to Dunphy a copy of "the offer made to purchase Pine Crest Nursing Home by Senior Management, Inc. and the unsolicited offer to purchase Pine Crest Nursing Home made by an unidentified buyer." In Dunphy's filed Complaint, he alleges he requested the documents via an open records request to Krueger on Aug. 22 and was denied the request the same day "via e-mail asserting that the documents are not public records until negotiations are complete and that the Defendant believed the documents would be the subject of a closed session meeting." Dunphy cited

Wisconsin Statute 19.32(2) defining a record to include "any material ... kept by an authority" as the basis for his request and alleged "An offer to purchase a publicly owned nursing home is clearly a record within the meaning of Stat. 19.32(2)."

"The Defendant's refusal to allow inspection of public records is without authority and a brazen flouting of the Open Records Law," Dunphy's Complaint further alleged.

As of Aug. 27, Marathon County Circuit Court Judge Suzanne C. O'Neill had been assigned to the case, as Lincoln County judges were disqualified, having had previous working relationships with the parties.

County Board funding for Pine Crest

Regardless of what happens in closed

session at the A&L Committee meeting, any recommendation to sell Pine Crest or list Pine Crest for sale would need to go to the full County Board for approval.

In the meantime, the County Board needs to determine how it will fund the ongoing cost of operations, maintenance, and debt service for Pine Crest for 2025. Dunphy and members of the People for Pine Crest have suggested the nursing home could be self-sustaining insofar as operations and debt service are concerned based on recent increases in State Medicaid reimbursements and year-to-date 2024 financials. However, while the County is still under contract with North Central Health Care (NCHC) for the management of Pine Crest,

the County must still pay NCHC its annual \$440,000 payment. After receipt of this payment, NCHC has then been paying the \$630,000 annual debt service on the Pine Crest expansion project; however, Lincoln County is liable for the payment if NCHC incurs an annual shortfall at the end of the year.

In addition, Lincoln County needs to provide ongoing maintenance of the Pine Crest facility and begin to address deferred maintenance, expenses they weren't planning to need to do for 2025, as it was anticipated the facility would no longer be County-owned going into 2025. All that changed when the Asset Purchase Agreement with Senior Management was terminated the end of June.



THE GLEASON CORNER

Gleason Area Lions Club: "We Serve"



Senior Dining meals

In 1917, Lions Clubs was formed in Chicago, Ill. Later that year the organization went international with the formation of Border Cities Lions Clubs in Windsor, Canada. Today there are more than 48,000 clubs and 1.4 million members worldwide in more than 200 countries and geographic areas. Focused on the common global causes of serving community and addressing the issues of vision loss/fighting blindness, diabetes, alleviating hunger, caring for the environment, fighting childhood cancer, and helping seniors and the disabled, each club works to make a difference in their own home town as well as supporting these causes in a bigger way through the international organization. They also support children and schools, provide scholarships, mentor youth, award grants to support humanitarian projects, and help communities after natural disasters.

"Lions are there to make life better for those in need," their website says. "Lions meet the needs of local communities and the world every day because they share a core belief - to serve their community." Lions are part of a global service network, while helping their local communities.

Gleason Area Lions Club. The Gleason Area Lions Club, sponsored by the Merrill Lions Club, was chartered in 1985 and formed with 14 charter members. In 1987 the club sponsored a Lioness branch that worked in conjunction with them, but later the clubs joined together as one, with men and women working together. Today the group is led by President Gary Gretenhardt and currently has 50 members. Two words sum up the Gleason Area Lions Club: "We Serve," Gretenhardt said. It is the international mission, and the mission of the local Lions, as well.

Gleason Lions Park, N5179 Bradley St. in Gleason, includes a Clubhouse where meetings are held on the

second and fourth Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. Most of their events are also held here, unless they are working on a community project.

The Gleason Area Lions Club works to serve and to help others within their community, supporting area volunteer fire departments and first responders, supporting food banks, and giving two scholarships each year to area high school Seniors who intend to work with people who have disabilities. Each month they also work jointly with the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC) to serve a meal to area seniors - residents age 60 and older - and their spouse or domestic partner, as well as those with a disability who live with the senior. (Reservations required, small donation requested.)

The Gleason Area Lions Club also holds annual community events including the Mud Bogs, Annual Golf Tournament, Truck and Tractor Pull, Pancake Breakfasts, and Blood Drives. And the club supports the Wisconsin Lions Camp, Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin, Leader Dogs for the Blind, and Food for Kids programs, as well as many others on state and international levels.

LEO Club. The Gleason Area Lions Club recently sponsored a Leo Club which aims to teach leadership skills and teamwork to area youth, provide youth the opportunity to gain valuable experience and opportunities for volunteering, and positively impact the community. There are approximately 144,000 Leos and 5,700 Leo clubs in more than 140 countries worldwide.

The Leo Club motto is "Where there's a need, there's a LEO - Leadership, Experience, Opportunity." Club activities help youth learn how teamwork and cooperation can bring about change in their community and the world. The Gleason Leo Club works closely with the Lions in many of the activities

they support, and helps with and holds events along with Gleason Area Lions Club events, such as their recent bake sale in conjunction with the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast in August. The Gleason Leo Club also provides many opportunities for fun and camaraderie for area youth.

Upcoming events. Upcoming Gleason Area Lions Club events include a Truck and Tractor Pull on Sept. 21 with flea market, food, bouncy house, and live music that night in addition to the pulls; their next Pancake Breakfast on Oct. 6; a Pancake Breakfast/Blood Drive on Nov. 3; and Senior Dining meals held the third Wednesday of each month at the Gleason Area Lions Club, N5179 Bradley St. in Gleason.

More info. For more info, see the clubs Facebook pages at: facebook.com/Gleasonarealions/ and facebook.com/GleasonLeos.

When not being used by the Lions clubs, the Gleason Area Lions Club building is also available for rental for parties and gatherings. To learn more, contact GleasonAreaLionsClub@gmail.com.



Scholarships awarded to high school Seniors
Photos courtesy of Gleason Lions Club.

Gleason Mennonite Church
5626 State Road 17, Gleason, WI

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.
Matthew 18:20

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Gleason Lions Club Truck & Tractor Pull
N5179 Bradley St Gleason, WI 54435

Saturday, September 21st
Registration from 8-10:30 am
Pulls start at 11:00 am

Truck & Tractor Pull Rules available at Gleason & Area Lions Club website.

Cash Raffle Drawing held at 4PM
Honky Tonk Highway playing 5-8

- Tractor Bounce House 9 am - 9 pm
- Flea Market 10 am - 4 pm
- Silent Auction ends 8 pm
- Kitchen Open Noon - 5 pm

Food at bar after, and Campfire (weather permitting).

Contact Heather at (715) 218-7011 with questions.

Feature Item

Fresh Ground Peanut Butter

- Regular \$3⁴⁹ lb. (Plain Ground Peanuts)
- Honey Roasted \$3⁴⁹ lb.
- Chocolate \$4²⁹ lb.

Pair with apples for the perfect snack!

SUMMER HOURS: WED. & SAT. 8AM-5PM. MON, TUES., THURS., & FRI. 8AM - 6PM
Located in Gleason. All prices subject to change. While supplies last.

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N5336 WI-17, Gleason
Hours: Monday-Thursday 3pm-8pm
Friday 3pm-9pm • Saturday & Sunday 11am-9pm

Sunday School Starts
Sunday, September 8th at 9:15am (before church)

Luther Memorial Church
N5308 Town Hall Rd., Gleason, WI

Saturday Worship with Communion
6:00 pm

Sunday Worship with communion
10:30 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

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Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Sept. 5 - Bingo at St. Francis School
 Sept. 7 - Hillside Alive at Normal Park
 Sept. 7 - Community Wide Rummage Sales
 Sept. 7 - St. Francis Xavier Sportsmens Banquet
 Sept. 7-8 - Paper Cities Kennel Club AKC All-Breed Dog Shows, Tests and Trials at MARC

Sept. 12-15 - Northwoods Fall Ride in Tomahawk
 Sept. 13 - Brad Emanuel at Sawmill Brewing Co.
 Sept. 13-14 - NCWGCA Fall Gun Show at Merrill Expo Building
 Sept. 13-15 - Grace & Sophie's Pumpkin Patch
 Sept. 14 - The Gospelers concert at St. Stephens

Sept. 15 - MACA Concert: Uptown
 Sept. 15 - Bingo at VFW
For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/events or contact the event sponsor.



Secretary of Agriculture Randy Romanski and Fairness of the Fair Kelsey Henderson meet with winning processors Michelle and Andy of Geiss Meat Service. Geiss placed in the State Fair contest for their summer sausage and bologna loaf. **Submitted photo.**



Front row L to R: Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Board President Charlie Crave; Andy and Michelle of Geiss Meat Service; and Secretary of Agriculture Randy Romanski. Back row L to R: Wisconsin 4-H member Kassie and Fairness of the Fair Kelsey Henderson. **Submitted photo.**

Geiss Meat Service wins State Fair Champion Meat Processor

In early August at the Wisconsin State Fair, Geiss Meat Service of Merrill won Grand Champion for their summer sausage, and they also won Reserve Champion in the specialty cured meat products division for their Peppered

Bologna Loaf. Their items were auctioned off at the Governor's Blue Ribbon Meat Products Auction benefitting the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. Their summer sausage sold for \$3,200 and their Peppered Bologna Loaf sold for

\$1,900. Geiss Meat Service has been in business for more than 67 years. Going into their third generation, they are extremely proud of their rich history and achievements. Geiss Meat Service prides itself on its strong reputation of providing the best in both quality and service. Over the many years, their location has remained the same, but their building and equipment are improving and expanding every day. Since 2007 Geiss Meat has received several awards for their variety of smoked and cured products. Geiss



Meat Service has remained an integral part of the community. Learn more at geissmeat.com/. The auction helped the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation raise nearly \$130,000. The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation supports Wisconsin 4-H activities including 4-H conferences, teaching materials and workshops,

and overall development of 4-H youth. "We're so proud of Geiss' accomplishments," said Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Executive Director Brenda Scheider. "And we're grateful that Wisconsin State Fair Champion processors, like Geiss Meat Service, help us be able to continue our support of Wisconsin 4-H youth." For complete auction details, go to Wis4HFoundation.org/gbrmpa. The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, based in Madison, provides essential funding for 4-H programs throughout Wisconsin.



By partnering with individuals, corporations, and foundations, the Foundation supports more than 150,000 youth who take part in various 4-H leadership, developments, and community-building activities throughout the state. Learn more at Wis4HFoundation.org.



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DNR urges safe ATV/UTV riding

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is urging ATV/UTV enthusiasts to always recreate responsibly when hitting the trails. "That means staying on designated routes, wearing a helmet and seatbelt, and keeping their speed in check," DNR said. So far this year, 22 people have been killed in ATV/UTV crashes, according to the DNR. [Note: That was prior to Labor Day weekend.] Most of them were not wearing seat belts or helmets, and alcohol and speed were also noted as contributing factors. DNR conservation wardens and county sheriff deputies noted that during this year's Think Smart Before You Start campaign, which occurred from Friday, Aug. 2 to Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024, many

individuals were observed not using proper safety equipment. Anyone under the age of 18 is required by law to wear a helmet on an ATV or UTV, whether they're driving the machine or riding as a passenger. All passengers, regardless of age, must wear a seatbelt when riding in a UTV. "We are continuing to observe young riders and passengers not wearing the safety equipment required by law," said Lt. Warden Jacob Holsclaw, DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Administrator. "These infractions not only result in citations, but they can also mean the difference between walking away from an accident or not." "One of the best things ATV and UTV operators can do to operate safely is to take an online safety



The Wisconsin DNR is reminding riders to always wear a helmet, watch speeds and stay on routes designated for ATVs and UTVs. **Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR** course," DNR said. A list of approved safety education classes is available on the DNR's Safety Education webpage at dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/safetyEducation. Wisconsin law requires every operator involved in a crash incident to report the incident without

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Merrill Varsity Boys kick off their soccer season

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

The Merrill High School Boys Varsity Soccer team traveled to Lakeland Union High School for their first game of the season last Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, and took a tough loss. While goalie Matthew Holloway and the teamwork of the

Merrill team resulted in some great saves throughout the game, the scoreboard found the guys on the short side of the 8-0 final score. "[But] Our boys did better than the score would suggest," said Merrill Boys Varsity Soccer Head Coach Casey Burmeister. "They kept their enthusiasm

up and showed valuable potential." "Lakeland has a good team, including many honorable mentions and a first team pick from last year," he said. "Lakeland also did very well in their communication on the field, and that is a key area we aim to improve. This game was a learning game for us,

and I know we'll move on stronger." Looking forward, the team has two games this week, both home games at Jay Stadium. On Tuesday, Sept. 2, they play Shawano, and on Thursday, Sept. 4, the Merrill Boys will play Stevens Point beginning at 7 p.m.

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Varsity swimmers compete against Medford

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Aug. 27, 2024, the Merrill Varsity Girls Swim Team was competing against the Medford Varsity Girls.

"We had tough competition against a very experienced Medford team for our first dual meet of the season," said Head Varsity Swim Coach Kristie Winter. "We still had some really nice individual swims."

The Merrill Varsity Girls had five top-three finishes at the meet.

"Sophomore Marissa Miles was our top point earner, taking first in the 50 yard Freestyle and 100 yard Butterfly with a new personal best time," Winter said.

"Senior Olivia Pajtach was just out touched in both the 200 yard Individual Medley and 100 yard Breaststroke, with both times being within a second of her personal best times."

"Junior Addison Jirovec finished first in the 100 back yard Backstroke and third in the 200 yard Individual

Medley behind Pajtach," Winter said. "Junior Emily Winter also posted impressive early season times in the distance events, finishing second in both the 200 and 500 yard Freestyle events."

And "Junior Claire Jirovec touched the wall second in the 100 yard Freestyle and then third in the 100 yard Breaststroke behind Pajtach," she added.

In relay events, the ladies also did quite well. The team of Addison Jirovec, Olivia Pajtach, Marissa Miles, and Claire Jirovec finished first in the 200 Yard Medley Relay with a time of 2:01.83.

The team of Brenna Jirovec, Olivia Pajtach, Emily Winter, and Marissa Miles took second place in the 200 Yard Freestyle Relay with a time of 1:53.76.

The team of Addison Jirovec, Caroline Durbin, Emily Winter, and Claire Jirovec finished second in the 400 Yard Freestyle Relay with a time of 4:30.66.

Combined Team Scores Medford 99 @ Merrill 71



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2024 FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

HEAD COACH: Casey Burmeister, 1st year

ASSISTANT COACHES: Mason Gebert, 1st year

2023 RECORD: 4-14

2023 POST SEASON RESULTS: Lost first round to Antigo.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: All graduated.

KEY RETURNERS: Sebastian Trevino, Tyler Spade, James Crockford, and Vincent Keenan.

KEY LOSSES: Jonathon Kracht, Jaden Busch, Michal Slaby, Kekoa Scheutze, and Clayton Evans.

2023 RECAP: The 2023 season ended with 4 wins and 14 losses in all play and 0 wins and 8 losses in Wisconsin Valley Conference play. The team won the Antigo Invitational during the regular season and then ended up losing at home to Antigo in the first round of playoffs. Despite the early exit, the team improved drastically upon the previous two seasons by scoring 19 goals and posting 3 clean sheets under Coach Schroder's tenure.

2024 OUTLOOK: The team graduated many key players including their top defender and goalkeeper

BOYS SOCCER



Boys Varsity Soccer Team. Front row L to R: Tiberius Giese, Caleb Gennrich, Max Westover, James Crockford, and Shane Gibson. Back row L to R: Ivan Lee, Jacob Shimel, Jack Moore, Omar Antonio, Elijah Hohman, Drake Hoffman, Tyler Spade, Vincent Keenan, Matthew Holloway, Sebastian Trevino, Colin Apprill, Connor Zdroik, and Mason Renken. Missing from photo: Liam Zdroik and Ryan Bares. Submitted photo.

in 2023. The current team is young but eager to prove they can compete in their final season in the Wisconsin Valley Conference before moving to the Great Northern Conference for the 2025 season. The schedule includes non-conference play against many regional opponents which will help the team gauge where they will fall once Division III playoffs are ranked.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: This year will be tough given we are still in the Wisconsin Valley Conference and do have a young team and new staff. My main goal is for the boys to work hard and improve their skill level together as a team, as well as, as individuals. If they do this and enjoy playing this amazing sport, we'll have a successful year and hopefully some wins to go along with it. We are very excited to get started.



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GIRLS TENNIS



Girls Varsity Tennis Team. L to R: Addison Pickard, Kaytlyn Hulke, Maycie Zastrow, Rose Dornbrack, Greta Peterson, Jenna Malluege, Sarah Rell, Korina Kraegenbrink, Parker Wagenaar, Claire Hintz, Emily Frahm, Johanna Dahlke, and Grace Hoock. Stacy Literski photo.

HEAD COACH: Elizabeth Thiel, 1st year

ASSISTANT COACH: Morgan Wilde, 5th year

2023 RECORD: 0-6 in the Wisconsin Valley Conference

2023 POST SEASON RESULTS: No players advanced to Sectionals after conference play.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: None.

KEY RETURNERS: Junior Emily Frahm, Senior Sarah Rell, Junior Jenna Malluege, Junior Korina

Kraegenbrink, Senior Johanna Dahlke, Junior Parker Wagenaar, Sophomore Claire Hintz, Junior Rose Dornbrack, and Senior Kaytlyn Hulke.

KEY LOSSES: Chloe Belant and Lauren Belsky.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Junior Maycie Zastrow, Junior Grace Hoock, Sophomore Addison Pickard, and Sophomore Greta Peterson.

2023 RECAP: The team struggled to secure

wins last season in the Wisconsin Valley Conference. The team was young - consisting of many Sophomores on Varsity - and that proved to be no match for the more tenured players on opposing teams. High points of last season included growth - growth in mental toughness, growth in skills, and growth in confidence - to better prepare the team for the 2024 season.

2024 OUTLOOK: As this is my first season as Head Varsity Coach, I am very excited for the season to begin. We went from 19 girls to 29 girls. We gained seven new Freshmen this year who jumped right in, eager to learn without having any experience. As this is my first season, I am implementing new strategies for both doubles and singles to be more competitive on the court. I see a lot of talent on the team during practice with the motivation to learn new techniques. One area of improvement would be

See **GIRLS TENNIS** page 19



Girls Tennis Team. Front row L to R: Lauren Rice, Kally Dudek, Ava Jozwiak, Louisa Fleischman, Mariah Hulce, Parker Wagenaar, Greta Peterson, and Emily Frahm. Middle row L to R: Bryanna Doerr, Kristyn Henderson, Addison Pickard, Bryn Imhoff, Mckenzie Plautz, Kaytlyn Hulke, Maycie Zastrow, Destiny Trevino, Sarah Rell, and Johanna Dahlke. Back row L to R: Coach Elizabeth Thiel, Ava Latzig, Noelle Iverson, Addisyn Krause, Rose Dornbrack, Jenna Malluege, Grace Hoock, Korina Kraegenbrink, Ally Boquist, Claire Hintz, Manager Finlee Lange-Peronto, and Assistant Coach Morgan Wilde. Stacy Literski photo.

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CROSS COUNTRY



Cross Country Team. Front row L to R: Charlotte VanDerNest, Natalia Woller, Madlyn Hunter, Gracie VanVuren, Robin Schmidt, and Danielle Schielke. Back row L to R: Brady Eggebrecht, Jonathan Myszka, Jacob Mueller, Treg Knospe, Preston Schmidt, Jameson, Morgan, and Ben Hanson. Missing from photo: Erik, Grunenwald, Norah Schmidt, and Tony Countryman.

HEAD COACH: EmmaLee Smith, 1st year Varsity Head Coach - 10 years Cross Country experience

ASSISTANT COACHES: Kaitlin Nohr, 1st year, Alyssa Swan, 6 years as Head Coach

KEY RETURNERS: Boys: Erik Grunenwald, Jacob Mueller, Treg Knospe, Tony Countryman, Jonathan Myszka, and Brady Eggebrecht. Girls: Charlotte VanDerNest, Danielle Schielke, Robin Schmidt, Norah Schmidt, and Gracie VanVuren.

KEY LOSSES: Kaden Schwandt, Amber Radke, and Brooklyn Kragenbrink.

NEWCOMERS: Jameson Morgan, Ben Hanson, Preston Schmidt, Madlyn Hunter, and Natalia Woller.

2023 RECAP: The team showed exceptional dedication

and improvement throughout the season. From the first race through to the end of the season, the athletes consistently pushed their limits and demonstrated impressive endurance - consistently paired with steady improvement PR's (personal records). The overall team performance was a testament to their hard work.

2024 OUTLOOK: We are taking a slightly different approach to training this year. A greater focus on consistency in training - strength, endurance, progression, and resistance to help build the best athletes and prepare them for the challenges they endure in a race. We have an excellent group of students this year and they are up for the challenge.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: Cross Country has always been a tight-knit group. The athletes show great support for each other in all facets of the sport. Though the team is not substantial in number again this year, they truly are some of the best - willing to work hard and adapt to challenges to push themselves and each other to be their best. I am proud to be their coach, and I hope they know I want to build confidence and support them to be their best on and off the course.



GIRLS SWIMMING



Girls Swim Team. Front row L to R: Emily Winter, Addison Jirovec, Coach Kristie Winter, Assistant Coach Ginger Kanitz, Patricia Priebe, and Chloe Hipke. Middle row L to R: Olivia Pajtash, Brenna Jirovec, Claire Jirovec, Marissa Miles, Deylah Schulz, and Caroline Durbin. Back/top row: Kate Klimick. Missing from photo: Anabella Foust. Erin McKeen photo.

HEAD COACH: Kristie Winter, 11th season

ASSISTANT COACH: Ginger Kanitz, 9th season

2023 RECORD: Finished third at Wisconsin Valley Conference Meet.

2023 POST SEASON RESULTS: Finished fifth at Sectionals and qualified Medley Relay for State.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Marissa Miles 100 Freestyle.

KEY RETURNERS: Senior Captain Olivia Pajtash - State qualifier in individual 500-yard Freestyle, member of State qualifying 200 Medley Relay(2023); Junior Addison Jirovec - two-time member State qualifying Medley Relay

(2022 Butterfly Leg; 2023 Backstroke Leg); Junior Claire Jirovec - member State qualifying Medley Relay 2023; Sophomore Marissa Miles - member State qualifying Medley Relay 2023 and All-Conference 100 Freestyle.

KEY LOSSES: All Varsity members are returning.

2023 RECAP: Our small but mighty team had a phenomenal season in 2023 with every single swimmer earning points at both Conference and the Sectional meet, allowing us to come in third in the Conference behind only Stevens Point and DC Everest. We also made our seventh consecutive trip to the State meet, qualifying our Medley Relay and individual swimmer Olivia Pajtash in the 500 Freestyle.

2024 OUTLOOK: We are coming into this season stronger than ever. We did not lose any key swimmers from last year, but added two developmental swimmers to help our team cover more events. Our goal is to hold third

place in the Valley and move up in the rankings at the Sectional meet. The Valley is very diverse ,with both Division 1 and Division 2 teams - some of the teams are two to three times our size. It makes finishing higher than third a huge goal, but I can definitely see us bringing home a plaque from Sectionals this year where the playing field drops to our Division 2 level. Rhinelander, as always, will be a strong opponent, as well as Rice Lake and Wausau East.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: I am very proud of the hard work and dedication this team has put in during the off season. There have been lots of hours in the pool and weight room logged over the school year and summer months by these athletes. We will be coming in strong and ready to continue to improve all season. I expect to see a few more individual qualifiers and possibly even another relay headed to State in November, as well.

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FOOTBALL



Varsity and JV Football Team. Front/bottom row L to R): Ryan Coates, Cole Schoerner, Brett Suchocki, Ty Schuett, Marvin Downs, Josue Amador, Callum Wheeler, Kanin Jahnke, Noah Clifford, Hunter Yingling, Jensen Olson, Bobby Hoffman, Remington Skic, and Collin Gennrich. Second row L to R: Preston Schuelke, Ivan Amador, Jace Olson, Jayden Graap, Matthew Wiederhoeft, Xander Carey, Kaiden Henrich, Keylin Allen, Noah Klug, Jayden Chase, Peyton Hagenbucher, and Brody Klebenow. Third row L to R: Michael Creel, Tony Stricklin, Jase Steinagel, Aidan Houghton, Aiden Lonsdorf, Coach Greg Thorson, Coach Dakota Ress, Coach Troy Pieper, Coach Jason Wadzinski, Coach Alex Marx, Coach Isaac Buntrock, Coach Andy Plisch, Coach Gavin Wroblewski, Jax Hanson, Ben Gruett, Avery Voermans, Joshua Riste, and Caden Parham-Stevenson. Back/top row L to R: Cole Rudie, Ryker Remington, Josh Gustum, Austin Depies, Will Miemietz, Jadon Van Der Nest, EJ Weix, Hunter Oppen, Quinten Tomajcik, Korbyn Brown, Trenton Klimek, Carson Brooks, Mason Bloch, and Max Kuhn. **Katie Hanson photo.**

HEAD COACH: Jason Wadzinski, 16th season coaching high school football, 4th as Head Coach.

ASSISTANT COACHES: Alex Marx, Greg Thorson, Andy Plisch, Isaac Buntrock, Michael Augustiniak, Troy Pieper, Gavin Wroblewski, Dakota Ress, and Chris Zastrow.

2023 RECORD: 1-9

2023 POST SEASON RESULTS: Did not qualify.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: None.

KEY RETURNERS: Aiden Lonsdorf & Jax Hanson stepping into new roles of Quarterback and Runningback; Austin Depies and Carson Brooks on the offensive and defensive lines; Callum Wheeler at Runningback; EJ Weix at Safety and wide receiver; Kaiden Henrich at Tight End.

KEY LOSSES: Erik Mann at Linebacker; Brody Lange and Mikal Plautz at Defensive Line.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Aiden Lonsdorf and Jax Hanson stepping into new roles of Quarterback.

2023 RECAP: Reflecting back on the 2023 season, we had a young team that displayed a great deal of growth over the season. Things didn't shake out in the win/loss column as we had hoped, but we improved as the season went on.

2024 OUTLOOK: We are excited for the 2024 campaign. We have a solid group of Seniors this year ready to lead this squad. We have a very tough start to our schedule that we must endure as the season progresses on.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: Thank you to the Merrill community for all the support you've shown through the ups and downs of high school football. We have a great group of young men this year who will be ready to work hard in efforts to make our community proud.



JV2 Football Team: Front/bottom row L to R: Easton Simon, Ty Scott, James Barker, Avery Kolinski, Connor Josiger, Jordan Scheuermann, and Bennett Jacobson. Second row L to R: Coach Brian Suchocki, Aiden Drake, Gracin Bloch, Broc Suchocki, Liam Huggins, Brodie Isaacson, and Coach Guy Pawlicki. Back/top row L to R: Fletcher Talericho, Alex Bushar, Peyton Zimmerman, Kullin Amundson, Conner Riste, Jude Charbanneau, and Otto Lee. **Katie Hanson photo.**

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HEAD COACH: Kasie Holt, 2nd year Varsity Head Coach, 9th year with Merrill Volleyball

ASSISTANT COACH: Lindsay Krueger, 4th year/Statistician: Molly Dallman, 3rd Year/JV Coach: Jamie Pieper, 3rd Year/JV2 Coach: Trina Lutzke, 1st Year

2023 RECORD: 19-15

2023 POST SEASON RESULTS: Lost in the second round of Regionals to Waupaca, who ended up playing in the Sectional Final game against Rice Lake. Our first set against Waupaca was lost with a score of 32-30 (games typically go to 25). It was the most exciting match I've ever coached, and I believe that whether you were a player, parent, or coach, we will all remember that game forever. Even though we didn't come out with a win, I was so incredibly proud of Merrill Volleyball.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Ava Detert (Honorable Mention)

KEY RETURNERS: Ava Detert is returning with several years of Varsity experience, and we consider her our "quarterback" of the back row because of her strong leadership skills, high volleyball IQ, and "nothing touches the floor" mindset. Ava Detert absolutely loves the game of volleyball, and her competitive nature keeps the energy high for the entire team. Katie Heckendorf really grew last year, not only as an outside hitter, but passing as well. I'm not sure it's possible, but it feels like her vertical has increased yet again. She is quick to the ball and incredibly instinctive when it comes to her net play. Breleigh Raasch has solidified her swing on the right side and is a force to be reckoned with. It has been fun to watch her put down the ball this summer, and we are excited to see her do great things. Grace Reimann has recently shifted from an outside hitter to a middle hitter. This move happened because Grace is incredibly quick at the net. Middles put on dozens of miles in any given game, and Grace is able to keep up the speed of the game and make smart plays. Kaela Clerveaux played a lot of

VOLLEYBALL



Girls Volleyball Varsity Team. Front row L to R: Kaela Clerveaux, Katie Heckendorf, Ava Detert, Breleigh Raasch, and Grace Reimann. Middle row L to R: Miley Krueger, Coach Dallman, Coach Krueger, Coach Holt, Coach Pieper, Coach Lutzke, and Avery Hooch. Back row L to R: Gabby Wheeler, Madison Robbins, Olivia Barker, Grace Hoff, Brooklyn Harding, Kendell Klug, and Vanessa Pintor.



Girls Volleyball JV Team. Front row L to R: Grace Wegner, Miley Krueger, Gabby Wheeler, Abbie Krueger, and Laci Wirtala. Middle row L to R: Olivia Collisworth, Reese Kaminski, Avery Hooch, and Vanessa Pintor. Back/top row L to R: Morgan Wienke, Lily Berndt, Cadence Seliger, Olivia Barker, and Coach Pieper.



Girls Volleyball JV2 Team. Front row L to R: Kylie Lutzke, Brianna Schmirler, and Emma Wendt. Middle row L to R: Jennavecia Conrad, Cameron Wszalek, Tenley Weix, and Brooklyn Clabots. Back row L to R: Coach Lutzke, Kirklín Hintz, Irelyn Mulrooney, Ava Schult, and Megan Gustum.

volleyball this winter and spring and it shows. Her volleyball IQ, confidence, and leadership has increased immensely. She did really well this summer hitting and blocking, so we are really excited to see what she will do for us in the front row as well!

KEY LOSSES: Merrill Volleyball graduated 10 Seniors (Avery Hoff, Emma Hoff, Chloe McRae, Lex Emmer, McKenna Meyer, Emerson Iwen, Maddy Ott, Jalie Severt, Hannah Hayes, and Anna Bowe) and it's hard to put into words how much we will miss them - I could write a book. Many of them had been on Varsity for several years and that experience both on and off the court is invaluable.

See VOLLEYBALL page 19



Kasie Holt photos.

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CHEER TEAM



Cheer Team 2024-25. Names with grade. Front/bottom row L to R: Paige Byer (10), Shanna Herdt (10), Bryn Imhoff (10), Emilianna Garcia (9), Jacee Bush (9), Morgan Kucirek (9), and Emma Wallace (9). Second row L to R: Sydney Schleif (9), Hayden Seidner (9), Deliah McDaniel (10), Emily Hayes (10), Maycee Eisner (10), Dezariah McDaniel (9), and Vanessa Wolfe (9). Third row L to R: Hannah Klinger (11), Maddie McCoy (12), Keeley Benedict (11), Avery Frisch (11), Gemma Malone (11), Sylvia Hanson (11), Rory Gates (10), and Kayleigh Strey (10). Back/top row L to R: Sadie Schleif (10), Molly White (12), Miranda Osness (10), Acazia Clayton (12), Bluejay (10), Liberty Fuchs (11), Adison Clark (11), Kaylynn Allen (11), and Natalee Clifford (10). Missing from photo: Megan Cordova (12), Ryleigh Golisch (11), and Ralph Nance (11). **Erin Swan photo.**

HEAD COACH: Sarah Fuchs, 3rd Year coaching in Merrill (7 years previously in California)

ASSISTANT COACHES: Christina Clifford, 2nd Year coaching in Merrill (5 years previously in California)

KEY RETURNERS: (From last season) With the exception of one cheerleader and our four graduated Seniors from the Class of 2024, the remainder of the team has returned for this season.

KEY NEWCOMERS: We added 4 new Varsity Cheerleaders to the Varsity Team and added a JV Team to the program this year with 14 JV Cheerleaders.

2023 RECAP: We learned a lot as a team last year and began to start incorporating more stunts into our halftime routines.

2024 OUTLOOK: We are looking forward to expanding our knowledge and capabilities as a team in the sport of Cheer throughout our season.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: I am super excited that the Merrill High School Cheer Program has continued to grow each season since I was offered the position as the Head Cheer Coach three years ago. This year we were able to add a JV Team due to the increased number of student athletes that signed up. Our goal as a Cheer program is to continue to inspire our up and coming youth cheerleaders in our community through our annual Youth Cheer Camp (more information on this year's camp will be shared with Merrill families soon). We will continue to demonstrate great leadership and positive sportsmanship as a team, whether we are at home in Jay Stadium or while visiting our surrounding schools during our away games. We are really looking forward to an amazing season!! Go Bluejays!!!

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

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DANCE TEAM



Merrill Dance Team. Front row L to R: Tatiana Anderson, Shaylee Marks, Alyssa Schneider, Shanna Herdt, and Vanessa Wolfe. Back row L to R: Liberty Fuchs, Emma Wallace, Molly White, Marielle Naas, Adison Clark, and Emily Hayes. Missing from photo: Paige Byer.

Submitted photo.

GIRLS TENNIS *from page 19*

our serving. One of the more difficult things about tennis is serving. As a team, they have all wished to improve upon this. So we will be putting a heavy focus on this during practice to increase accuracy, speed, form, and confidence while serving. The key to our success this year will be for the girls to be more confident in their abilities and carry it to their matches throughout the season. With my limited time thus far with the team and still evaluating the team as a whole, I am excited about what I have seen from my veteran players so far.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: One major goal I had for this season was to update our tennis equipment. The original equipment had excessive wear and was in need of replacement. Sierra Pacific Windows and Merrill Lions Club both graciously donated towards new court squeegees and new scorecards. On top of that, our tennis booster mom, Kelly Kraegenbrink, headed up our weekly bake sales at Gazebo Nights, which helped generate enough funds to purchase additional uniforms for all our incoming players. Additionally, I am looking forward to getting to know each of the players, teaching them to become well rounded players on the court, and winning a conference match.

VOLLEYBALL *from page 17*

KEY NEWCOMERS: Although we lost 10 Seniors, we had several players waiting in the wings, ready to go. Grace Hoff is one of those players. Losing both of our Senior starting middles, I believe Grace will step into that role seamlessly. When Grace hits the ball and connects, it's magic, and she will immediately change the momentum of our game in a positive way. Other teams are not going to want to hit against Grace when she's paired with Brooklyn Harding, because that block is a WALL. Brooklyn has worked hard this summer and improved every time she steps into the gym. She also brings such a positive energy; it's hard to not be smiling when you are around her. Finally, we have Freshman Kendell Klug. Being a Freshman on Varsity can often be intimidating, but Kendell has jumped right in. S son didn't end the way we'd hoped, it was still a season I will never forget.

2024 OUTLOOK: For the most part, we have an entire new roster, and these girls have the talent to do great things. Sometimes it feels like others don't believe we will be as successful because of our young team. However, we all know we have a lot of work to do and we are incredibly scrappy, competitive, and eager to improve. I believe that when we can put it all together, we will surprise you.

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HEAD COACH: Amanda White, 1st year of coaching

ASSISTANT COACHES: N/A

2023 POST SEASON RESULTS: 10th at State; 3rd at Regionals; 7th in Poms, 3rd Hip Hop at Kaukauna; 11th in Hip Hop, 8th in Poms at Ashwaubenon; and Molly White was an All State qualifier.

KEY RETURNERS: Amelia White, Adison Clark, Alyssa Schneider, Emily Hayes, Liberty Fuchs, Marielle Naas, Paige Byer, Shanna Herdt, and Tatiana Anderson.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Maycie Johnson, Shaylee Marks, Vanessa Wolfe, and Emma Wallace.

2023 RECAP: The recent season brought notable achievements and challenges for our team. On a positive note, we successfully advanced our routine to the State level through diligent effort and commitment. Our team's unwavering dedication was evident, with members consistently showing up prepared for each practice. Despite some challenges, the commitment of the dancers remained strong, and the perseverance to complete the season strong was commendable. Overall it was a good year that has helped shape the dancers to become better and stronger dancers.

2024 OUTLOOK: As we step into the new season, the Merrill Varsity Dance Team is more excited than ever to showcase our passion, dedication, and talent. We've been working hard and fine-tuning our skills. Our dancers are

focusing on perfecting their pirouettes, strengthening their leaps, and have the drive to be their very best! Our bond and dedication are stronger than ever. We can't wait to share our energy and enthusiasm with you!

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: I am incredibly excited and honored to be the new Coach of the Merrill Varsity Dance Team! I am thrilled to be joining this vibrant and talented group of dancers. Together, we will strive for excellence, embrace new challenges, and create unforgettable moments. We invite you to join us at our performances and events throughout the fall and winter season. Your cheers and applause mean the world to our team and help fuel our passion and commitment. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates, event information, and a behind-the-scenes look at our preparations. Thank you for being such a vital part of the Merrill Varsity Dance Team's journey. Together, let's make this season unforgettable!

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2024-25 SEASON: We will perform at the majority of the Girls and Boys Basketball home games.

OUR COMPETITION DATES ARE:

- Little Chute Holiday Invite: Dec. 14, 2024
- Kiel Winter Invite: Dec. 21, 2024
- Kaukauna Dance Classic: Jan. 11, 2025
- Regionals: Jan. 25, 2025
- State: Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2025

GO TEAM

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Bluejay Varsity Football Team wins home game, heads into Conference play 2-0

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

“The Bluejays pulled off a thrilling come-from-behind victory Thursday night against the Crandon Cardinals,” said Jason Wadzinski, Head Coach of the Merrill Varsity Football Team. The home team took the win 22-18 in the final minutes of the non-Conference game.

The Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, home game added another exciting win to the Bluejays’ pre-Conference score sheet, and has the Bluejays poised to begin their Conference season with high confidence. This was the Bluejays’ second consecutive win, having won their first [also non-Conference] away game against Osceola the previous Friday night 34-14.

In the first quarter of Thursday night’s game, the Merrill Bluejays were off to a fast start when they scored the first touchdown of the game, but the Crandon Cardinals

were right behind them and scored a touchdown of their own. Crandon failed at the two-point conversion and the score was Merrill 7-Crandon 6.

Crandon followed up with another touchdown on a 52-yard run (failed two-point conversion), and pulled into the lead: Crandon 12-Merrill 7. And despite all attempts to move the ball into the endzone, there the score remained for the next two quarters.

Going into the fourth quarter, the Cardinals jumped in to land another touchdown on a 4-yard run and ratcheted the score up to 18-7, and the pressure was on.

“Trailing 7-18 with 5:00 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, Merrill rallied back to cut it within a score,” Wadzinski said. The Bluejays landed a touchdown on a 6-yard pass and made their 2-point conversion, bringing the score up to Crandon 18-Merrill 15.

“After recovering the onside kick, the Bluejays had an untimely turnover,” Wadzinski said. As fans held their breath, “The Merrill defense held and gave the ball back to the offense for one more shot. With under a minute to play, Aiden Lonsdorf hit EJ Weix in the back of the

endzone for the go-ahead touchdown.”

“The victory was sealed with a Keylin Allen interception the following drive,” he said.

“I’m incredibly proud of the grit our boys showed Thursday night,” Wadzinski said. “The ability to overcome that adversity and never give up

is a testament to the team we have this year.”

“It may not have been pretty, but we’re 2-0 heading into Conference play,” he said.

The Bluejays welcome Mosinee to Jay Stadium Friday night, Sept. 6, in their Conference opener.

Box score
Crandon 18 @ Merrill 22



Bluejay #0 Aiden Lonsdorf is in possession of the ball for Merrill.



Ty Schuett has the ball, and the Bluejays are on their way to a touchdown to start the game!



Merrill's Varsity team pays tribute to the flag during the national anthem.



The Bluejays tackle a Cardinal. Peter Tesch/Blue Sky Photography photos.

Girls Tennis Team is racking up wins despite lightning, downpours, and extreme heat

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Girls Tennis Team has been hitting the court hard, with several matches already racking up the scores for their 2024 season even before school started.

Merrill vs Rhinelander, Ashland, and Ironwood

On Friday, Aug. 23, the Lady Jays traveled to Rhinelander for an Invitational with Rhinelander, Ashland, and Ironwood.

“We started playing Rhinelander first and, as soon as we got started, we had to take a 30-minute break due to lightning in the area,” Merrill Girls Tennis Team Head Coach Elizabeth Thiel said. “After 30 minutes, we got back out

on the courts, and then it started to downpour so we had to wait two and half hours before returning back to the courts to finish our match with Rhinelander.”

“After the rain delay, we played Ashland and then Ironwood. It was a very long day for the girls,” she said.

“We made a few changes this year to the lineup, where some girls who played doubles switched to singles and some singles switched to doubles,” Thiel said. “Even with the changes, the girls played hard and gave their best effort. This also gave me a good indication of what we need to improve upon in practice for matches later in the season. We ended the day with a 2 win – 1 loss record.”

Merrill vs. Wisconsin Rapids and Antigo

On Monday, Aug. 26, the girls traveled to Wisconsin Rapids for a triangular against Wisconsin Rapids and Antigo.

“The heat was brutal for the girls,” Thiel said. “My main focus was making sure the girls were hydrated enough, as well as cooling them down with cold wash clothes.”

“Despite the heat, we ended with a 1 win against Antigo and 1 loss against Wisconsin Rapids,” she said.

“The match against Wisconsin Rapids, the girls were more in auto-pilot; they didn’t get much of a break between matches, as we had to finish by 3 p.m. due to the heat per the Wisconsin Rapids athletic director.”

The Merrill Girls will

play their first Conference opponent in a match against Wausau East on Thursday, Sept. 5, at 4 p.m. at Wausau East High School.

2024 Merrill High School Fall Sports Schedule

Boys Football (Varsity, JV, and JV2)			
Thurs., Sept. 5	Mosinee (JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Fri., Sept. 6	Mosinee (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Mon., Sept. 9	Mosinee (JV)	Away	5:30 pm
Thurs., Sept. 12	Medford (JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Cheer Team (Varsity & JV)			
Fri., Sept. 6	Mosinee (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Girls Swim & Dive (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs., Sept. 12	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:30 pm
Girls Tennis (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs., Sept. 5	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:00 pm
Thurs., Sept. 12	Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:00 pm
Girls Volleyball (Varsity, JV, and JV2)			
Thurs., Sept. 5	D. C. Everest (JV & JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Thurs., Sept. 5	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Sat., Sept. 7	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	9:00 am
Thurs., Sept. 12	Wausau West (JV & JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Thurs., Sept. 12	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Boys Soccer (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs., Sept. 5	Stevens Point (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs., Sept. 5	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Thurs., Sept. 12	Marshfield (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs., Sept. 12	Marshfield (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Girls Cross Country (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs., Sept. 5	Nine Mile Meet (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:05 pm
Boys Cross Country (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs., Sept. 5	Nine Mile Meet (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:30 pm

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:






The Merrill Girls Varsity Tennis Team is looking good despite enduring lightning, downpours, and extreme heat during their first matches. Submitted photo.

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