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Fire crews first attacked the fire from the exterior before forcing entry into the burning garage.



Tender 65 fills a portable water supply tank while another unit draws from the tank to fight the fire.



Crews responded to a Sept. 9 fire in the Town of Rock Falls. Photos courtesy of Merrill Fire Department.

Town of Rock Falls garage fire likely caused by bug zapper

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, at approximately 3:30 p.m., the Lincoln County Dispatch Center took a call reporting a garage fire at a home on Mary Todd Ct. in the Town of Rock Falls. Initial reports indicated smoke and flames were coming out of the eaves of the detached garage; however, other structures on the property were within 30-40 feet of the burning building. The Merrill Fire Department (MFD)

was dispatched to the scene for the structure fire and responded with Engine 61, Medic 61, Medic 63, and Tender 65. Tomahawk EMS and Wisconsin Public Service were requested to the scene and a General Alarm for off-duty Merrill firefighters was issued. The first units to arrive on scene confirmed smoke coming from the eaves and flames coming out of the north side of the building above the overhead garage doors. Crews deployed and began to extinguish the exterior flames, then forced entry through a service door on the north side of the

garage to extinguish interior flames. While the fire was extinguished, the structure and contents sustained fire, smoke, and heat damage, according to a release from the MFD. Initial investigation indicated the fire was unintentional and “likely caused by a bug zapper that was plugged in and placed very close to an interior wall” and suggested that the bug zapper “may have overheated or had a malfunction,” the MFD said. No injuries were reported.

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town of Russell fire department

Motorcycle accidents claim two lives in Lincoln County

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Two men died in separate fatal motorcycle crashes in Lincoln County this past weekend. At approximately 1:23 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 13, 71-year-old Martin L. Hrpcha of Kankakee, Ill., died when his motorcycle crashed on Spring Creek Dr. in the Town of King in Lincoln County. Preliminary investigation suggests he was driving eastbound on Spring Creek



Dr. when his motorcycle “entered the shoulder of the road while negotiating a curve and rolled,” according to a release from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (LCSO). The driver was unresponsive and was later pronounced dead by Lincoln County

Coroner Valerie Caylor. Agencies assisting LCSO on scene also included the Tomahawk Fire Department and Tomahawk EMS. The crash remains under investigation. At approximately 11:53 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13, 50-year-old Paul Bohman

of Marshfield was killed in a single motorcycle crash on US Hwy. 51 near mile marker 211 in the Town of Merrill. Preliminary investigation suggests he was traveling southbound when he struck a bear, according to a release from the LCSO. The driver was unresponsive and later pronounced deceased by Lincoln County Coroner Caylor. The Merrill Police Department and Merrill Fire Department also assisted at the scene.

Hillside Alive!



Top Photo: Hillside Worship performs praise music in the Gazebo at the Sept. 7 Hillside Alive event held in Normal Park. Bottom Left Photo: A volunteer applies a temporary tattoo, one of the popular and fun free perks for the kids. Bottom Right Photo: There were lots of fun activities for the kids under the big tent. Joseph Frederick photos.





The Fire Pup poses with some of the K3 kids at Kate Goodrich.



Washington School fourth graders pose with firefighters.

MFD's Fire Prevention School Programs

The Merrill Fire Department (MFD) is once again engaging in fire prevention education in the schools. "Our goal is fire prevention education of pre-school through fifth grade that will continue to protect you and your families," said Josh Klug, MFD Fire Chief.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) announced "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!" as the official theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, 2024. "Smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a home fire, but they have to be working in order to deliver the needed protection," said Lorraine Carli, Vice President of the Outreach and Advocacy division at NFPA. "This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign reinforces the critical importance of smoke alarms and what's needed to install, test, and



Fire safety includes introducing kids to what a fireman looks like when wearing all of his gear.

maintain them properly." Having working smoke alarms in the home reduces the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half (54

percent). However, roughly three out of five fire deaths occur in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.



Firefighters pose with some of the little ones who are learning about fire safety.

All photos courtesy of Merrill Fire Department.

More than one-third (38 percent) of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present.

"People tend to remove smoke alarm batteries or dismantle them altogether when they don't know how to fix the issue. These actions put them at serious risk in the event of a home

fire," said Carli.

"The MFD utilizes a progression of education where we start at the preschool level showing the students the 'Friendly Firefighter' dressed in all of his fire gear and continue educating the same students annually for seven years," Klug said. "Each year we review what was learned the previous year and add in new fire prevention and safety techniques such as checking and maintaining smoke detectors twice each year. We also have students, along with their families, create and practice an escape plan to get out of their homes safely."

"Of course the Fire Pup comes to visit the Kindergarten classes to help instill our message and make a memorable impression on our young learners," he said. "Our second graders get a fun video safety lesson from Red-E-Fox explaining the use of our 911 system."

"Through the years of educating our community's youth, we are also empowering them through homework assignments to bring their safety education into their home, causing moms, dads, and families to complete home safety checklists, check smoke detectors, and plan escape routes for each family member, among several other take home assignments."

Merrill Fire Department's "Fire Prevention Week" usually takes three weeks to complete. For their 2024 fire prevention education, 21 shift personnel will personally talk to and educate more than 1,000 students plus the teachers and school staff will enjoy a refresher annually. "Our fire prevention and safety messages will then be taken into many of the homes in our community by our Junior Firefighters (students)," Klug said.

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| REPORTS |

MERRILL FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS
For Sept. 9-15, 2024:

Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional 1
 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction 1
 Biological hazard investigation, none found 1
 Building fire 1
 Cooking fire, confined to container 1

Dispatched and cancelled en route(EMS) 2
 EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury 41
 Motor vehicle accident with injuries 1
 Passenger vehicle fire 1
 Standby for Tomahawks E.M.S. 1
 Total: 51

TOTAL INCIDENTS / CALLS FOR 2024: 1,613

CITY OF MERRILL LEAF COLLECTION

****Leaves are collected curbside in clear plastic bags.**
 - Please keep pine needles bagged separately.

****Leaves can also be brought to the City's yard waste site located at the south end of Blaine Street.**
 - Open 24/7

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Voting now open in Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin contest

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) announced the nominations for their Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin contest last week, and several area manufacturers were nominated for products they produce. More than 130 products were nominated this year, “representing every corner of the state and a wide array of industries, including military and space, food and beverage, machinery and transportation, and more,” the WMC said in their announcement press release.

Nominees include two products manufactured right here in Merrill:

- Christmas Wreath Rings produced by Mitchell Metal Products of Merrill, described as: “A welded wire frame used to create personalized Christmas wreaths, our wreaths are laid on veteran grave sites nationwide through the Wreaths Across America program. We are the premier manufacturer of this product, which is shipped worldwide.” -and-

- American Heritage 6” Tobacco Safety Toe Work Boot produced by Thorogood of Merrill, described as: “Integrating a rich legacy of craftsmanship and tradition, the Thorogood® American Heritage 6” Tobacco Safety Toe Work Boot combines safety, comfort, and timeless style. Made with full-grain American leather, Thorogood Boots uphold a legacy of exceptional workmanship, ensuring durability that meets the demands of the toughest jobsites. Offering both style and security with their slip-resistant MAWWear Wedge™ outsole and steel safety toe, these moc toe boots make you look and feel great from on to off the clock. We design high-quality job-fitted footwear for hard-working people because we understand the foundation you stand on is only as good as what you’re standing in.”

Other products nominated from manufacturers in the north central Wisconsin area include:

- RMC-40 3D Combo Printer produced by Compound Dynamics LLC of Schofield
- Cougar Paper produced by Domtar of Rothschild
- Structural Steel produced by Merrill Steel of Schofield
- Minocqua Popcorn and Puffs produced by Minocqua Popcorn and Puffs of Minocqua
- Baled Hay produced by Pleasant’s Best Sauces of



Christmas Wreath Rings produced by Mitchell Metal Products of Merrill.



American Heritage 6” Tobacco Safety Toe Work Boot produced by Thorogood of Merrill.

Minocqua

- Steel Plate Girder Deck Bridge produced by Veritas Steel of Wausau
- Wine Beer and Spirits Labels produced by Wausau Coated Products of Wausau
- Textured Granite Custom Architectural Pavers produced by Wausau Tile of Rothschild
- Teriyaki Meat Snack Sticks produced by Wenzel’s Farm of Marshfield

WMC partners with Johnson Financial Group to hold the annual contest, which began in 2016, designed to highlight Wisconsin’s thriving manufacturing industry, which contributes \$71 billion to the economy according to the WMC, as well as providing job and career opportunities for nearly half a million Wisconsinites and generating innovative products for and in a huge variety of industries.

“Wisconsin is home to nearly 500,000 men and women who are employed by our thousands of manufacturers,” said WMC President & CEO Kurt R. Bauer. “This contest highlights not only the cool products made in our state, but

also the entrepreneurship and work behind each product. Our manufacturers are the best in the country, and we have a great opportunity to underscore their contributions to our economy, the high-paying careers they create, and the innovative, necessary products they make.”

Since the contest began eight years ago, it has tallied more than one million votes from Wisconsin residents in the contest.

Anyone in Wisconsin can vote - manufacturers, employees, and consumers - and can cast one vote per day, per device, at madeinwis.com.

Voting in the first round - the popular vote round - runs Sept. 16-24. The top 16 products with the most votes will then go on to compete in “Manufacturing Madness,” a bracket-style tournament that will ultimately result in one winner. The “2024 Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin” will then be announced and awarded on Oct. 17 in Madison at WMC’s Business Day event.

To see all of this year’s nominees and cast your vote, go to: madeinwis.com. Remember, you can vote once per day per device.

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MERRILL Foto News

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

Merrill Area United Way 75 years United Way Merrill Area United Way

GIVE • ADVOCATE • VOLUNTEER

Turning the page from summer to fall is always bittersweet. The warm, or hot, weather of summer is diminishing with temperatures dropping overnight and dew on the ground. Fall comes the start of the United Way annual campaign to raise dollars to support not-for-profit organizations that help improve the lives of Merrill area people, your relatives, neighbors, friends perhaps.

The week of Labor Day our campaign started, and the flyer went out to every household and business in the area. You likely received it in the mail already. Our flyer is not “junk mail” so please look closely – it has a photo of the County Courthouse on it, our local Board and a mentor/student involved with Big Brothers-Big Sisters. United Way’s annual 2024-2025 campaign is underway and runs through mid-November. We only ask once a year for your donation. It is our annual appeal to the entire public with our direct mail piece to every household in the county. All dollars support our local programs, unless a donor designates funds to go elsewhere. Please give generously and help your neighbors, family, and friends. For those who prefer to use your smart phones to make donations, we now have a QR code on the campaign flyer and on the website at www.merrillareaunderway.org. Our website has been reconstructed and the new site went live in early August. The online donations are made through nationally recognized **Stripe**.

This is a time of year that I think about changes people make as they adapt to children going back to school. Agencies that United Way funds, like the Food For Kids Program, the BlueJay Nests (at the four MAPS Schools) Boys and Girls Club (afterschool programming for activities and homework mentoring) and others, are all geared up for helping our youth get a better education. But also changing for families, are the need for supportive day-care opportunities. Parkside Preschool has prepared for the changes in family structures based on school. Childcaring, Inc. provides training and certification programs for caregivers and will help those interested in establishing an in-home daycare program, while learning about meeting the states expectations for opening such facilities. Folks, there is always more than meets the eye, with all these agencies and impact programs. We have no idea what impact of losing any of these agencies would be on the community. It’s time to think about the 20 funded agencies and programs.

Having an impact on someone’s life in a profound way happens regularly with our agencies. We provide help with basic needs (like shelter and avoiding eviction with rental assistance, food, utility payments to avoid shut offs, and much more), educating our youth, and health concerns, with counseling for people struggling through alcohol and drug abuse and mental health.

But we cannot have any impact without YOU, the people in this community that support programs to help elevate people who are struggling on many different fronts. The generous hearts and financial support of our local citizens are what makes the difference. The donations for United Way come from individuals, families, retirees, fundraisers, employee campaigns and companies.

If our campaign window is not a good time you can give, remember United Way accepts donations year-round. United Way is determined to make a positive difference in the Merrill area. To donate send checks to Merrill Area United Way, at P. O. Box 813, Merrill 54452. Our website is www.merrillareaunderway.org where **Stripe** donations can now be made. For further information email us at delores.olsen@merrillareaunderway.org; or call our part-time office at 715-536-2016.

Dee Olsen, Executive Director • Merrill Area United Way

OBITUARIES

Bonnie J. Schwoch passed away August 31st. Born March 10, 1945. A celebration of Bonnies life will be held on October 19th.

James L. 'Jim' Ronis



James L. 'Jim' Ronis, of Gleason, passed away Thursday, September 12, 2024, at Woodland Court Elder Services, Merrill. Jim was born September 16, 1955, in Merrill, son of Leonard and Audree (English) Ronis. He married Debra Thom on July 16, 1982, in Merrill. Jim worked at Merrill Sand & Gravel for over thirty years and retired as a heavy equipment operator. Jim and Debbie operated 'Ronis' Rolling Ridge Ranch' for many years. Jim enjoyed showing their Belgian Draft Horses at the Wisconsin State Fair in West Allis and many other draft horse shows in the area.

Jim enjoyed horse riding, camping, fishing, and hunting. More recently, you could find Jim riding around Gleason on his side by side. Jim enjoyed building race cars and in 2001 he went to the Daytona 500 with several family members.

Jim is survived by his wife, Debra Ronis of Gleason; daughters, Carrie Ronis and Ashley Ronis both of Gleason; sons, Tommy (Amy) Kiefer of Oak Grove, MN and Phil Kiefer of Crandon; grandchildren, Carlee Ronis of Gleason, and Hannah and Cody Kiefer of Oak Grove, MN; mother-in-law, Jean Thom of Gleason; brother and sister-in-law, John and Katie Ronis of Gleason; and several brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The memorial service for Jim will be held at 3:00 P.M., Saturday, September 28, 2024, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Elwood Derstine will officiate. The family will receive friends beginning at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, September 28, 2024, at the funeral home. The burial will take place in Gleason Cemetery, Town of Russell, at a later date.

The family would like to thank the staff at Woodland Court Elder Services for the exceptional care they provided Jim.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Reinold "Reinie" F. Lenz



Reinold "Reinie" F. Lenz, 85, of Merrill passed away Wednesday, September 11th, 2024, at Woodland Court Elder Services, Merrill, under the care of Aspirus Hospice. Reinie was born September 5th, 1939, in Wausau, WI son of the late William Jr. and Helen (Svehla) Lenz. He graduated from Mosinee High School and then pursued advanced degrees at both UW-Stevens Point and UW-Stout.

He married Marlene Parsch, November 5th, 1966, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wausau, WI. He worked in public schools as a teacher then as a guidance counselor and retired from the Merrill Area Public School district after 30+ years. In retirement, he watched countless Brewers games and Packers games, even traveling to numerous stadiums with Marlene to cheer them on. In addition, he gardened, bowled and whitetail deer hunted.

Reinie served in the U.S. Army 1961-1964 and went on the Never Forgotten Honor Flight in 2016. He often told people that this was one of the best experiences of his life. He was a member of the American Legion as adjutant for many years, the seven-gallon blood donor club, and St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill where he volunteered his time to serve the congregation in a number of different roles. He was a proud veteran; proud of his heritage; and of his children and grandchildren.

Reinie is survived by his wife, Marlene Lenz of Merrill; daughter, Brenda (Mark) of Fredonia; son, Brad (Gina) of Wausau; grandchildren, Myla, Cooper, Max, Iyla and Addisyn; and sister Lois Obermeier of Mosinee; sisters-in-laws Eunice Parsch and Gerri Loy; and brother-in-law Lyle Rusch. Reinie was preceded in death by his parents, William Jr. and Helen Lenz; son, Brian; brother, Miram Lenz; brothers-in-law, Vernon Obermeier, Charles Parsch and Larry Parsch; and sisters-in-law, Rita Lenz, Jean Rusch and Gerry Parsch.

A memorial service for Reinold will be held at 2:00PM on Friday, September 20th, 2024, at St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill. The Reverend David Szeto will officiate. Visitation will begin at 1:00PM prior to the service at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill or the Never Forgotten Honor Flight.

Online condolences may be made at: www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Mark Alan Zipperer



Mark Alan Zipperer, age 58, of Merrill, passed away on Monday, September 9, 2024, at his home, after a short courageous battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his family and under the care of Compassus Hospice. Mark was born on September 21, 1965 to the late Francis and Irma (Franzen) Zipperer in Manitowoc, WI. He attended and graduated from Antigo High School with the class of 1983. Mark met his soul mate and best friend, Sharon

Hehling, and the two were united in marriage on June 24, 1995, a loving union lasting over 29 years.

Mark worked for the U.S. Postal Service from January 1988 until his retirement in November 2021. He also worked at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery for 3 years, as a groundskeeper. Mark followed the Packers (which he owned stock in) and the Brewers, Bucks and Badgers. He loved the Wisconsin sports teams and was the ultimate sports fan! In his younger years, Mark was involved with little league and modified softball leagues and enjoyed bowling. He even bowled a 300 game in November 2009. He loved to play cards, especially Sheephead and enjoyed cribbage. Mark looked forward to camping trips with his family. He was very active in his church, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, serving as an usher, selling scripts, church council for 4 years, worked as the chairman of the fair stand for 3 years and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a man of strong faith and had a servant's heart. Mark will be missed dearly, but his strength and courage will live on in his family and friends.

Mark is survived by his wife: Sharon Zipperer of Merrill, stepson: Nathan (Jill) Eggebrecht of Hopkinsville, KY, with their sons: Renzo and Rowan, stepdaughter: Rachel (Steve) Rueckert of Waukesha, WI, with their son: Casen and daughter: Raena, sisters: Connie (Ray) Warpehoski, Vicki (Ron) Schropfer, Karen (Kevin) Marten and Michele (Terry) Frahm and brother: Ken (Amy) Zipperer, along with many nieces, nephews and good friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister: Bonnie (Duane) Leonard, niece: Sammy Zipperer, nephews: Colton Schropfer and Benjamin Stahoski and brother-in-law: Roy Rustick.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Mark was held on Friday, September 13, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill. Father Charles Hoffma officiated. Visitation was held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Waid Funeral Home and again on Friday, September 13, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m., also at the funeral home. Entombment at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery immediately followed Mass.

In lieu of flowers, family asks that donations in Mark's name be directed to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

Mark's family wishes to express their appreciation to Marshfield Medical Center in Weston, especially the Radiology and Oncology departments for their care, professionalism and support shown to them during his time there, as well as Compassus Hospice for their compassion and support shown to Mark and his family during his final days; it is appreciated beyond words. Another huge thank you to all of the friends and family that came to help, give support and show their love.

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.

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In Memoriams

In Loving Memory of
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Love & Miss You
Jane, Sue & Bob

We can assist you in finding a heartfelt way to honor and remember your loved one.

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MERRILL Foto News

2011 E. Main St., Merrill
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Memory Bear Workshop

Please join us for a time of healing as we create huggable bears from your loved one's clothing. This event will be held at **Waid Funeral and Cremation Service**, 301 Eagle Drive, Merrill, WI

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024
4:00-8:00 PM

We will start punctually as it takes the entire scheduled time to design, cut and sew the bears. One bear per family will be made at this event. We do not have volunteers who can create additional bears outside this workshop. Contact Anna Winningham for more details. A light meal will be served.

Waid Funeral and Cremation Service

To reserve your spot, RSVP before October 4 by calling 715-536-4646.

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OBITUARIES

Therese "Terri" A. Kufahl



The world lost a true ray of sunshine on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Therese "Terri" A. Kufahl, just turned 52 years old and passed away unexpectedly at the Aspirus Wausau Hospital, with her family by her side. Terri was born on September 10, 1972, to Larry & Patricia (Polebitski) Peeters in Merrill, WI. Her father survives. She attended and graduated from Merrill High School. Terri met her soul mate and best friend, Jeremy Kufahl, and the two exchanged marriage vows on June 28, 1991, in Merrill, a union lasting 33 years.

Terri knew that she wanted to work with jewelry, even when she was younger, and she was able to fulfill that desire at Klug's Country Gold in Merrill, where she had been for the last 28 years. Terri was the definition of beauty, in every sense of the word. She was a social butterfly that enjoyed making people's day with little gifts or something to let them know she was thinking of them. Terri loved going camping with Jeremy every chance she could and going on the pontoon with friends. She enjoyed doing crafts with her mother and making all sorts of gifts for people. Terri really enjoyed the Wizard of Oz and had a love for frogs! Her grandchildren, or as she called them, her "littles", were the joy of her life, her family was always first and foremost in her life. She had recently lost her little fur-baby, Lira, her sidekick for many years. Terri was selfless, vibrant, sweet, had a great sense of humor and liked to make people laugh. Terri has left a void in many people's lives, and she will be missed beyond words.

Terri is survived by her husband: Jeremy Kufahl, father: Larry Peeters, sons: Kurtis (fiancé Jessica) Kufahl and Tyler Kufahl, all of Merrill and her beloved grandchildren, her "littles": Asher, Ember and Everly, as well as numerous life-long friends, new friends and friends she considered family. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, mother: Patricia "Pat" Peeters, sister: Rebecca Peeters and her little fur-baby, her dog: Lira.

The visitation for Terri was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Waid Funeral Home. A prayer service officiated by Dan Seehafer began at 8:00 p.m. Interment at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, family requests that you send donations in Terri's name to a charity of your choice, or buy some dog food or treats and bring to the Lincoln County Humane Society in Merrill, in memory of Terri and her little dog, Lira.

At a time like this, family wants to express gratitude to all of the family and friends that have been a true blessing to Terri over the years and the outpouring of love and support is heartwarming. Thank you.

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.

Ronald "Ron" E. Schneider



Ronald "Ron" E. Schneider, age 92, passed away on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at his home in the town of Scott, while under the care of family. Ron was born on January 29, 1932 to the late Henry and Martha (Schepp) Schneider in Merrill, WI. On July 7, 1956 he married the love of his life, Shirley Grund of Merrill. Sadly, Shirley preceded him in death in 2021. Ron enlisted and proudly served his country overseas in France and in Germany from 1956 until 1958.

Ron, along with his brother Lloyd, ran the family dairy farm together in the town of Scott for many years. Ron was also a very well-known and trusted electrician. When he was not working on the farm he was doing electrical work for his many customers and friends. He was a lifelong houndsman, he owned, ran and enjoyed working with his many dogs throughout his life. He enjoyed hunting and running coyote, fox, or raccoon. His absolute favorite though was bear hunting. Ron ran his dogs for many years in Lincoln and in Iron County. He was a member of the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association and the Merrill Houndsman Association.

Ron looked forward to going out west every year. He enjoyed watching many rodeos and attending the Bucking Horse Sale in Billings Montana. Ron was a great storyteller and was always a helpful and generous individual to his family and friends. He was a people person and had many friends all over throughout the years. Above all he cherished his time spent with his family, to include his three children, eight grandchildren, twenty great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren along with their spouses. He will be greatly missed by all that had a chance to meet and know him.

Ron is survived by his sister Judy Moeck of Merrill, his children Rhonda Woellner of Merrill, Mark (Luann) Schneider of Athens, and Gregg (Terri) Schneider of Merrill. His grandchildren Willow (Stacy Fox) Woellner, Heather Krzanowski, Maria (Ryan) Winter, Derek Woellner, Brittney (Brandon) Zinkowich, Brooke (John) Breaman, Karly (Nathan) Voge, and Adam Schneider. Great grandchildren, Alysian (Dakota) Kimmons, Sawyer and Poppy Fox, Christopher, Kaitlynn, Aiden, Austin and Bryce Krzanowski, Braelynn and Ivy Winter, Ryker, Colt, and Walker Zinkowich, Ledger, Lawson and Laker Breaman, Harper and Huxlee Voge, and Jonathan and Abby Schneider. Great great grandchildren Novalee and Forest Kimmons. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Shirley, brother Lloyd Schneider, and sister Joyce Henrich.

At this time service arrangements are still pending. 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.

Sally J. (Burrow) Robbins



Sally J. (Burrow) Robbins, age 84, passed away peacefully, surrounded by the love of her family, on August 31, 2024, at Saddle Ridge Therapy Center (Sheridan, WY).

Sally was one of 16 children and the youngest daughter of the late Arthur Sr. and Dorothy (Shimek) Burrow (Merrill, WI). She spent her childhood and young adulthood in Merrill, where she married the father of her three children.

Sally remarried in 1972, to Paul Robbins, with whom she was with for the remainder of her life. Always the adventurer, Sally lived in Florida, Arizona, and returned to Wisconsin. In 2016, she moved across country to be close to her daughter (and family) in Sheridan, Wyoming. For anyone who knew her, she was feisty, stubborn (the Burrow trait), and fully enjoyed the life she created. In Sheridan, she actively participated in her church, Grace Anglican (including volunteer work at their thrift store), and loved cruising the aisles at Walmart, playing cards ("31"), and her beloved cats. She expressed her pride in her daughter (Robin) and two grandsons (Matthew and Thaddeus) at any opportunity. She was a beloved mother and grandmother, will be truly missed and remembered in all the "funny grandma" stories.

Survivors include Paul Robbins (spouse, Westview Care Center), Robin Lipke (daughter), and (grandsons), Matthew (and Nichole) Adams, and Thaddeus Lipke. She is also survived by: her grandchildren: Travis Becker, Nicole Becker, Dillon Fuller, great- and great-great-grandchildren; her siblings: Joyce "Totsy" Kleinschmidt, Arlisle "Honey" Weber, Barbara Simpson, Bill Burrow, and Ron Burrow. She is preceded in death by her infant son (Mark Lipke), her daughter (Rhonda Fuller), her parents, and siblings: Dorothy "Sister" Tollefson, Arthur Jr. "Buddy" Burrow, Jacqueline Stiver, Lucille "Molly" McEwen, Geraldine "Jerry" Mahn, Patrick "Nibby" Burrow, Donald "Joe" Burrow, Stuart "Sam" Burrow, and Tom Burrow.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Sheridan at Grace Anglican Church, and Sally's ashes will be placed in the Columbarium at Merrill Memorial Park by her family at a future date. Online tributes can be made at https://www.kanefuneral.com.

Katheryn "Kathy" Zimmerman



Katheryn "Kathy" Zimmerman, age 81, of Merrill, passed away on Friday, September 13, 2024, at Woodland Elder Services in Merrill, while under the care of Aspirus Hospice. She was born on July 23, 1943, to the late Winfield and Olive (Johnson) Craven in Merrill. Kathy grew up in the Merrill area, attending and graduating from Merrill High School with the class of 1961. On October 7, 1961, Kathy married her best friend and soul mate, Patrick Zimmerman in Merrill, a strong and loving union lasting 61 years.

Kathy began her working career as a key card operator at Weinbrenner Shoe Company. She then worked to care for their three children during their formative years. In 1977 Kathy and Pat purchased Champs Family Restaurant in Merrill, which they operated together for the next 18 years. She then worked until her retirement as a teller at M&I Bank in Merrill where she enjoyed seeing many people from the Merrill community. Kathy was very involved in church activities through most of her life. She was very active in Bible study groups, hosting many in her home. She was also a member of the Merrill Christian Women's Club for many years. Most recently, she attended Highland Community Church. Kathy's faith in God was a priority in her life, and she lived each day in her faith. Kathy is remembered by her children and grandchildren as loving, caring, supportive, and a source of quiet strength. She will be sadly missed by all her friends and family, but never forgotten.

Kathy was preceded in death by her husband Patrick Zimmerman of Merrill, WI. She is survived by her three children: Tim (Brenda) Zimmerman of Schofield, WI, Rod (Michelle) Zimmerman of Menomonee Falls, Chris (Matt) Eder of Merrill, WI, grandchildren whom she adored: Bryce, Ally, Mike, Nick, Sydney, and Mia. She is further survived by nieces and nephews. Kathy was preceded in death by her parents and sisters Amy Ebert and Beatrice Fuller.

The memorial service for Kathy will take place on Sunday, September 22, 2024, at 4:00pm at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill. Pastors Dan Shields and Adam DeBroux will officiate. Visitation will take place on Sunday, September 22, 2024, from 1:00pm until 3:45pm. Inurnment at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery will take place at a later date.

For those unable to attend in person, the service will be live streamed on Sunday, September 22, 2024, at 4:00pm and will be available for viewing under her obituary on the funeral home website. It will then be posted as a recording for future viewing.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the staff at Woodland Elder Services, Kind-hearted Home Care and Aspirus Hospice for the care given to their mom and for the support shown to the family.

In lieu of flowers, please direct donations to the Merrill City Band, as it was very important to both Kathy and Pat, and they enjoyed it for many years together.

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.

REPORTS

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD: SEPT. 9-15, 2024

On 9/9/2024 deputies were sent to an address on 1st Ave. in the Township of Birch for a reported domestic disturbance that had become physical. It was reported that the suspect, a 48-year-old Irma man, had shown up at the victim's residence looking to fight the victim and acting extremely aggressive towards anyone in the area. The suspect then engaged the victim, a 40-year-old Pulaski man, in a fight where the suspect threw the victim to the ground and repeatedly struck the victim. During this time, witnesses in the area kept trying to separate the two. Once the two were separated, the suspect attempted to engage in fights with the witnesses. The suspect was told to leave and eventually did so. The suspect was later located by deputies and was aggressive towards them and refused to cooperate. The suspect was taken into custody without incident. While being transported to the jail, the suspect made several threats to the deputy concerning family and friends. The suspect was booked on several criminal charges and will have court on Monday.

On 9/11/2024 deputies were advised of a report of a reckless driver on CTH A near Echo Valley Rd. in the City of Tomahawk. As deputies got into the area, they had found that the suspect vehicle was stopped alongside the road. A deputy made contact with the driver, a 50-year-old male from Rockford, Ill. Upon making contact, the deputy noticed signs of impairment. The deputy asked the driver to perform some sobriety tests which the driver

refused to do. The driver was then placed under arrest for a first offense OWI and cited for open intoxicants. The driver was later released to a responsible party.

On 9/13/2024 deputies were dispatched to the area of CTH A and CTH U in the Town of Bradley for a motorcycle vs. car crash with injuries. According to witnesses, a car being driven by 58-year-old Irma woman, was northbound on STH A stopped at CTH U waiting for traffic to clear so that she could turn onto CTH U. At that time, a motorcycle being driven northbound on CTH A by a 61-year-old man, also from Irma, struck the rear of the car that was waiting to turn onto CTH U. None of the occupants in the car were injured. The driver of the motorcycle sustained serious injuries and was transported by ground ambulance to Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital.

On 9/13/2024 the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (LISO) received a report of a reckless driver on USH 51 near mile marker 29 in the Town of Merrill. This complaint was called in by two Eagle River Police detectives who were in an unmarked police vehicle returning to Eagle River from training. The detectives were able to keep the suspect in sight and report the driver's behavior while waiting for LISO squads to intercept. LISO received multiple calls reporting this same vehicle for reckless driving. A deputy located the vehicle in question and conducted a traffic stop. Upon making contact with the driver, a 33-year-old man from Fond du Lac, the deputy noticed signs of impairment. Sobriety tests were conducted and, as a result of

See SHERIFF REPORTS page 13

Bernhardt V. O. 'Bernie' Frick



Bernhardt V. O. 'Bernie' Frick, 85, of the Town of Schley, passed away on Sunday, September 15, 2024.

Bernie was born January 8, 1939, in Merrill, son of Bernhardt and Marvel (Mitchell) Frick. Bernie was a 1957 graduate of Merrill High School. He married Caroline Haig on July 1, 1961, at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. Caroline passed away on June 12, 2021.

Bernie joined the National Guard and served with the 32nd Red Arrow Division for 7 years. He trained at Fort McCoy, WI, Fort Knox, KY, and Fort Lewis, WA. Bernie was activated in 1961 during the Berlin Crisis. He was ranked as a 3rd class sergeant and held the Gunner and Tank Commander positions.

Bernie worked at Lincoln Wood Products and then worked as a supervisor at Semco in Plant 2. In 1972, Bernie went back to work on the family farm on a part-time basis. He took over the family farm in 1975 and 'retired' in 2021. Bernie was a Delegate for Foremost Farms and received several awards in farming including Milk Quality Award from Foremost Farms and an award for Farming Steward of Land Cattle. Bernie was a proud farmer: He took great pride in his beef cattle and the way his fields and crops looked.

In addition to his full-time work on the farm, Bernie drove bus for Peterson Bussing for 14 years. He really enjoyed this, and the kids called him 'Grampa Bernie.'

He enjoyed spending time with his family and seeing the younger ones grow up. He loved woodworking and he took great pride in his projects. Bernie loved making his yard look nice. In later years, Bernie enjoyed planting his flowers and cutting hay. Bernie was an active member of St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill, where he was a member of the finance committee.

Bernie is survived by his daughter, Sue (Eugene) Gryskiewicz of Merrill; sons, John Frick, Lorne Frick (Stephanie Bosley), and George Frick (Wendy Vick), all of Merrill, and Glenn (Doreen) Frick of Wausau; grandchildren, Amanda-Sue (Kade) Kleinschmidt of Weston, Caleb (Krista) Bigelow of Weston, Seth Gryskiewicz of Merrill, Samantha Frick (Steve Martyn) of Antigo, Ashley (Thomas) of Merrill, Christopher Frick of San Diego, Bryant Frick (Miranda Monnot) of Bloomville, Paul Frick (Brittney Barry) of Omaha, NE, Toni Frick (AJ Burgener) of Merrill, Betsy (Scott) Pagel of Schofield, Nikki (Eddie) Schroener of Merrill, Jenny (James) Dailey of Wausau, and Tyler Berg of Merrill; 17 great-grandchildren; sisters, Nancy Schmidt of Shawano and Gail Haig of Merrill; brothers, Daniel (Grace) Frick of Merrill, Larry (Sue) Frick of Wausau, and Tim (Debbie) Frick of Richmond, VA; and aunt, Florence Schapp of Merrill. Bernie was preceded in death by his wife, Caroline Frick; infant son, James Frick; parents, Bernhardt and Marvel Frick; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Gerhardt and Bertha Haig; and brother-in-law, Lloyd Haig.

The funeral service will be at 11:00 A.M. Monday, September 23, 2024, at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. The Rev. David Szeto will officiate. The burial will follow in Luther Memorial Church Cemetery, Town of Schley. Visitation will be from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Sunday at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill, and again after 10:00 A.M. Monday at the church.

The family would like to thank Tanya Kimble for the help she provided to them and Bernie. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

Z-Best Storage, W4717 White Birch Rd, Merrill WI 54452 will hold a Public Sale Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Street/Utility Construction Project The City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, will receive bids for a street and utility project.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JUNE E. KRIEVALD PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed.

You've Got It! Somebody Else Wants It! Check The Classifieds.



Legals 7700

TOWN OF PINE RIVER LINCOLN COUNTY, WISCONSIN Notice of Adoption of Updated Zoning Ordinances

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: 09/09/2024 /S/GALEN BAYNE-ALLISON CIRCUIT JUDGE/COURT COMMISSIONER

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Amended Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 24-CV-90

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

Legals 7700

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MARATHON COUNTY Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims)

Plaintiff(s): ONEMAIN FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC AS SERVICER FOR ("ASF") WILMINGTON TRUST, N.A., AS ISSUER LOAN TRUSTEE FOR ONEMAIN FINANCIAL ISSUANCE TRUST 2022-S1

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above.

Legals 7700

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH - LINCOLN COUNTY Case no. 24-CV-102 (30405-Other Real Estate)

EAST HILL INVESTMENTS, LLC PO Box 238 Merrill, WI 54452, Plaintiff, v. JACOB GUMZ

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN To each person named above as a defendant: You are hereby notified that the plaintiff has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.

BY THE COURT DATE SIGNED: September 4, 2024

Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar

Legals 7700

NOTICE CITY OF MERRILL TAXPAYERS

The Board of Review for the City of Merrill will meet on, Monday, October 14, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers.

No person shall be allowed to appear before the Board of Review, to testify to the board by telephone or to contest the amount of any assessment of real or personal property if the person has refused a reasonable written request by certified mail of the assessor to view such property.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF TRUST ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF LINCOLN, in the matter of the Lorena J. Sosnovske Revocable Trust dated May 24, 2007 (the "Trust"):

Legals 7700

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT LINCOLN COUNTY Case No. 22CV109

JESSE L. ZUELSDORFF, a/k/a JESSE L. ZUELSDORFF, FARM CREDIT SERVICES OF AMERICA, PCA, HEARTLAND COOPERATIVE SERVICES n/k/a RIVER COUNTRY CO-OP and DNF ASSOC. LLC a/k/a DNF ASSOCIATES, LLC, Cogeneity Global Inc., Defendants.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of and pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure made in the above-captioned action, and the order of the Court dated on the 22nd day of March, 2023, and entered on the 22nd day of March, 2023, in the amount of \$86,158.49, I will sell at public auction in the main entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse located at 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, 54452, on the 17th day of October, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., all of the following premises, to-wit:

City of Merrill Property For Sale

The City of Merrill is offering the properties listed below for sale. This is a sealed bid sale. Bids will be considered based on highest bid amount and proposed use.

Table with 2 columns: ADDRESS and DESCRIPTION. Rows include 508 Grand Ave (Vacant Lot), 809 Grand Ave (Vacant Lot), 903 Grand Ave (Vacant Lot), 704 N State Street (Vacant Lot), 410 N Prospect Street (Vacant Lot), 1905 Jackson Street (Vacant Lot).

Bidders are responsible for checking the accuracy of the provided information. Bids must be submitted to the Clerk Treasurer's Office in a sealed envelope marked "PROPERTY BID" no later than 4:00 pm Thursday October 24th, 2024.

Published September 19 & 26, 2024 WNAXLP

NOTICE CITY OF MERRILL TAXPAYERS

The City Assessor will be available, the following days in October in the City Assessor's Office at City Hall:

Wednesday, October 2, 2024 from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm Thursday, October 3, 2024 from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm Friday, October 4, 2024 from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm

Anyone seeking additional information regarding their assessment may contact the City Assessor, Kitt Koski, at 715-577-1875 to set up an appointment or discuss their assessment.

The Board of Review for the City of Merrill will meet on, Monday, October 14, 2024, at 4:00 in the City Hall Council Chambers. This meeting is a statutory meeting to hear appeals from the Assessment Roll of the City of Merrill.

Lori L. Anderson-Malm City Clerk

The Merrill City Hall is accessible to the physically disadvantaged. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the Merrill City Hall at 715-536-5594. Published September 19, 2024 WNAXLP

Check Us Out Online! merrillfotonews.com

NOTICE MERRILL WATER UTILITY SYSTEM FLUSHING

In an effort to check and improve water quality, the Merrill Water Utility will be flushing hydrants and the water system, on a citywide basis, the week of September 23, 2024 through September 26, 2024 in the following areas:

- 1. East of Center Avenue on Monday, September 23, 2024. 2. Center Avenue, West to Prairie River on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. 3. Prairie River, West to Wisconsin River on Wednesday, September 25, 2024. 4. West of the Wisconsin River (6th Ward) & South of Wisconsin River on Thursday, September 26, 2024.

You may notice discoloration during or following flushing. This should be eliminated shortly after you run water through your own service line. If problems persist, please call the Merrill Water Utility at 715-536-6561.

Gabe Steinagel Utilities Manager Published September 12 & 19, 2024 WNAXLP

Check out the CLASSIFIEDS

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Sept. 19 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.
 Sept. 20 - Live music by Paddygrass at Sawmill Brewing Co.
 Sept. 20-22 - Grace & Sophie's Pumpkin Patch
 Sept. 21 - Gleason Area Lions Truck and Tractor Pull (and more!)
 Sept. 21 - Bar Bingo at Bubba's Pub
 Sept. 21 - Colorama Bike Tour
 Sept. 21-22 - Grandpa's Farm

Sept. 25 - Trivia Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.
 Sept. 26 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.
 Sept. 27-29 - Grace & Sophie's Pumpkin Patch
 Sept. 28 - Merrill Enrichment Center's Fall Craft & Market
 Sept. 28 - Northwoods Ice Age Trail Fall Color Hike
 Sept. 28 - Fall "Everything Goes Sales Event" (Flea market & more) at the MARC
 Sept. 28-29 - Grandpa's Farm

Sept. 29 - Bingo at VFW
 Oct. 1 - Lincoln County Community Baby Shower
 Oct. 2 - Trivia Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.
 Oct. 3 - Bingo at St. Francis
For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/events or contact the event sponsor.

Hamburg Fire Department receives grant funding for PPE pants

WPS Foundation providing lifesaving equipment to first responders through Rewarding Responders Grant

The Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) Foundation is putting important new tools in the hands of the men and women who keep our communities safe. WPS Foundation is awarding \$75,000 to help more than 40 area public safety agencies purchase lifesaving equipment.

The funding is part of the WPS Foundation's Rewarding Responders Grant program, which supports first responders across northeast and north central Wisconsin.

"We are honored to support the brave individuals who work tirelessly to keep our neighborhoods safe, secure and welcoming," said Beth Straka, President of the WPS Foundation. "From helping children safely get to school to providing critical medical care, these grants give first responders the invaluable tools they need to serve our communities."

Including this year's grants, the WPS Foundation has awarded more than \$600,000 to help police, fire, and emergency medical services agencies strengthen public safety in their communities.

Helping everyday heroes make a lasting impact

The Rewarding Responders Grant is part of the ongoing commitment of WPS to safety for its employees and communities. The program's grants help local first responders purchase critical equipment or training that allows their members to improve public safety.

From our readership area, this year's grant recipients include the Hamburg Fire Department, which is using its grant to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) pants. Jen Borchardt, EMS Training Officer and EMS Grant Writer for the Hamburg Fire Department, wrote the WPS grant requesting \$1,800 to cover the cost of "reversible" safety PPE pants. "The PPE pants will complete our "gear" that we use for responding for motor vehicle accidents, search and rescue, or any other incident that may require such attire," Borchardt said.

"Our department is volunteer, so we rely on community support along with grants to assist us in covering the costs of



From L to R: Nicholle Modrzejewski, Hamburg Fire Department EMS Secretary/Treasurer, and Jen Borchardt, Hamburg Fire Department EMS Training Officer & EMS Grant Writer, hold the check they received from the WPS Foundation Grant. Shown on the left are the "reversible" safety PPE pants the Department will order with the WPS grant funds. Pictured on the right are the new PPE jackets the Department recently purchased with monies raised from fundraisers such as the Hamburg Fire/EMS Annual Tractor Pull and the Fall Flower Sale. As a volunteer fire department, the Hamburg Fire Department relies on fundraisers, grants, and donations to help purchase new safety equipment and PPE gear. Photo courtesy of Hamburg Fire Department.

new equipment and gear so that we are able to keep ourselves safe, as well as the community members we are called to provide care to," she said.

Grant recipients

The 2024 grant recipients from central Wisconsin include:

- Antigo Police Department — Fire suppression tool
- Bevent First Responders — AED
- Hamburg Volunteer Fire Department — Safety clothing for firefighters
- Hatley Area Fire and Ambulance District — Patient transport unit for rugged terrain
- Kronenwetter Police Department — New batteries and electrode pads for AEDs
- Marathon County Sheriff's Office — Explosive device protection and safety glasses
- Mosinee Fire District — Gas detector
- Plover Police Department — Portable fire suppression tools
- Ringle Fire Department — Air lift bags
- Stockton Fire Department — Emergency alert pagers
- Town of Hewitt Volunteer Fire Department

- New firefighting hose
- Waupaca Area Fire District — Gas detector
- Waupaca County Sheriff's Office — Water rescue drysuit

Legacy of supporting public safety efforts

The WPS Foundation offers its Rewarding Responders Grant annually as part of its longstanding support of public safety efforts. Since the program began, the grants have helped 211 individual agencies acquire lifesaving equipment or vital training to enhance safety in their communities.

Eligible emergency response agencies can apply for up to \$2,000 in funding through the grant program. Agencies may receive a grant if they:

- Operate in the WPS service area.
- Did not receive a grant during the previous year.
- Complete an online grant application.
- Demonstrate the equipment or training they will acquire is part of a well-planned effort to improve public safety. Grants also may be put toward unique, safety-related projects that are one-time efforts.

Classifieds

Plautz's Pub LLC.
 310 E. 2nd St., Merrill
 715-536-4611

SERVING FOOD DAILY TILL 8PM

HOURS
 MONDAY • Noon - 6pm
 TUE. - FRI. • Noon - Close
 SATURDAY • 11am - Close
 SUNDAY • 11am - 6pm

SEPTEMBER BOOZE OF THE MONTH

WINDSOR
 \$5.00 - 16 oz. Pint

SUNDAY SEPT. 22ND

GREEN BAY VS. TENNESSEE
 Open at 11am
 Game at Noon
SHOTS ON TOUCHDOWNS
FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS DURING THE GAME

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28TH
WARREN'S CRANBERRY FEST BUS
 Seats still available \$40



COSMO Theatre KIDS • \$5.00
 SENIORS • \$5.00
 Main St. • Merrill ADULTS • \$8.00

MOVIES AND SHOWTIMES
 9/20/24 TO 9/26/24
 Mondays All Seats \$5.00

TRANSFORMERS ONE
 "PG" (1HR 44MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00PM
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

SPEAK NO EVIL
 "R" (1HR 50MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00PM
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

BETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE
 "PG13" (1HR 44MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00PM
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
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September 19th - October 4th

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Bring your completed game sheets or mail to:
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NAME: _____

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Don't let child passenger safety take the back seat

September Law of the Month: Child passenger safety

In 2023, a child under age 13 was injured or killed in a driving-related crash every 5 hours in Wisconsin. Proper seat belt and car seat usage can save children's lives.

The Wisconsin State Patrol's September Law of the Month is child passenger safety, to help families and caregivers keep their precious cargo out of harm's way.

"Making sure children are as secure as possible on the road should always be a top priority," Wisconsin State Patrol Superintendent Tim Carnahan said. "That means buckling up every



trip, selecting the right car or booster seat for the child's size and age, and ensuring it's installed correctly."

When a car seat is installed and used correctly, it can reduce the risk of death in a crash by as much as 71%, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Protect children with the right seat as they grow

Approximately half of all car seats are not correctly installed, according to data from NHTSA. Choosing the right car seat for the child's age and size and following the installation instructions in the car seat manual and vehicle owner's manual will help keep your child safe.

According to Wisconsin state law, children must ride in a:

- Rear-facing car seat until they are 1 year old and weigh 20 pounds
- Forward-facing car seat with a harness until they are 4 years old and weigh 40 pounds
- Booster seat until they are 8 years old, or weigh 80 pounds or are 4'9"

Moving children to the next type of car seat before they're ready leaves them vulnerable in a crash. More car seat safety recommendations for various ages and sizes are available online.

Once the car seat is installed, be sure the child is safely secured with the harness every trip.

Wisconsin's seat belt safety laws

About 8% of Wisconsin motorists do not wear a seat belt, while approximately 50% of motorist fatalities in Wisconsin are unbelted.

• Seat belt use is required by law in Wisconsin for all vehicle drivers and passengers, including children. It is also one of the best preventions against serious harm in the event of a crash.

"Lead by example to keep

everyone safe on the road," Carnahan said. "Set the expectation that everyone should put their seat belt on as soon as they get in the vehicle.

WisDOT encourages people of all ages to promise to protect themselves and others on the roads by always wearing a seat belt and taking the Buckle Up Phone Down pledge.

Free resources

The Wisconsin State Patrol is hosting open house events throughout the state in September

and October. Certified car seat technicians will be on-site at many of these events offering car seat safety guidance. Visit the Wisconsin State Patrol's Facebook page for dates and locations.

National Seat Check Saturday is September 21, 2024. Certified Child Passenger Safety technicians will be available in communities across Wisconsin to demonstrate how to use car seats, booster seats, and seat belts correctly.

Child Passenger Safety

Week is September 15-21, 2024. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation encourages all families to take this time to review best practices to keep your child safe.

Additional resources are available for parents on the Safe Kids Wisconsin and NHTSA websites, including frequently asked questions, car seat tips, and videos.

View the September Law of the Month video and news release online: wisconsindot.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/newsroom/law/lom.aspx.



Children should be in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until they are 4 years old and weigh 40 pounds, and the harness straps should be snug and securely fastened. Children should not wear slippery puffy coats in their car seats.



Babies should ride in a rear-facing car seat until they are 1 year old and weigh 20 pounds, in the back seat if the vehicle has one. Stock photos.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

An Unusual Story That Might Possibly Be True

Dear Reader,

One summer day, my cousin Patrice texted me to say that Charles Gallagher, my third cousin, had passed away. She mentioned that a celebration of life would take place the following month, and she hoped I could join with some family members to honor him. Naturally, I thought of my brothers and sisters, who were also part of our shared lineage.

The celebration was set to take place in St. Ignace, Michigan—one of the ports to Mackinac Island, where we had spent many summers working and where our family reunited every year for 25 years at the Grand Hotel. We stayed at the hotel that weekend and reflected on those indescribably fun and magical memories that have lingered long after the summers ended.

It was nice to renew—or perhaps begin anew—our bonds with the rest of the family, even if a funeral wasn't the ideal occasion. There simply aren't going to be many other opportunities to do so. After paying our respects at the graveside ceremony, we made our way to a celebration of his life at Nora Gallagher



Massey's home, another cousin. With a live band and over 150 guests, the atmosphere was anything but somber.

As we talked and exchanged stories with the Gallaghers, we realized that they were fun, compassionate folks—just like us. Had we known them in our youth,

we would have had great times together. So often second and third cousins and other family grow apart; sometimes, the disparate members of the family tree never reunite. In this case we were able to reconnect with the long-lost cousins as one family.

We resolved that we would meet again soon, and not at a funeral. Why wait for a funeral? Should we not make the effort to stay close and in touch as often as possible? In a fast-paced world, doing this daily, weekly, or monthly is a challenge. But why not annually? Who knows, maybe next year we'll gather there again, not in mourning, but in celebration of life and family.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

Prayer to St. Jude:
May the Sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude helper of the helpless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day on the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude. JH 386387

CLASS OF '54 REUNION
October 3, 2024 • 12 PM - ?
"Going Dutch"
Classmates and surviving spouses
Eagles Club • 1205 Lake St., Merrill

Health Department works to increase awareness of 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

September is Suicide Prevention Month, and the Lincoln County Health Department, with support from the Healthy Minds for Lincoln County Coalition, is working to increase the public's knowledge of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Efforts include developing a number of resources to spread the word about 988 including wallet cards, magnets, and posters that have been customized for Lincoln County. These resources have been mailed to worksites, first responders, veterans groups, clinics, and churches in the county. Also with generous support from Aspirus Health, two billboards promoting 988 are located in Merrill and Tomahawk this month.

Special attention has been given to men in Lincoln County who are disproportionately impacted by suicide. From 2017-2023, 83% of the 40 suicide deaths in the county were men. The age groups most impacted were men ages 31-40 and 51-70. (Source: WI Department of Health Services, Vital Records)

"Although the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline launched several years ago, there are still community members who don't know it's available," said Kristin Bath, Public Health Educator for Lincoln

County Health Department. "Through these promotional efforts, we hope we can increase awareness and connect people to crisis support when it's needed."

The 988 Lifeline offers 24/7, free and confidential mental health and crisis support from trained counselors. It is available via call, text, or chat. Learn more at 988lifeline.org. Since July 2022, 643 calls have come in to 988 from Lincoln County. (Source: WI Department of Health Services, 988 Data Dashboard)

If you would like to download or order 988 materials, go to: bit.ly/HealthyMindsLincolnCounty or contact Kristin Bath at 715.539.1373, kristin.bath@co.lincoln.wi.us.

Lincoln County Health Department is always striving for a safer and healthier Lincoln County.

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27 died in fatal ATV/UTV accidents in Wisconsin already this year, 5 within the last four weeks

TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is calling for a special focus on ATV/UTV safety in the wake of a recent rapid increase in fatal ATV/UTV accidents this year. Already (as of Sept. 5, 2024) 27 people have died in fatal ATV/UTV accidents in 2024, with the victims ranging in age from 4-79 years old, and 5 of those fatalities occurred within the last four weeks.



Always wear a seatbelt and helmet, stay sober, and follow posted stop and speed limit signs. Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR.

The 2024 fatalities included both ATV and UTV tip overs and roll overs, breaking through the ice, collisions with fixed objects (stump in the ditch, rock wall, utility poles, and trees), collisions with other ATVs/UTVs, collisions with moving motor vehicles, and being ejected from the machine, among other causes that resulted in a death from the incident.

Between 2021-2023, 100 people lost their lives in fatal ATV and UTV incidents in Wisconsin [47 in 2021, 21 in 2022, and 32 in 2023]. In addition, more than 250 people were injured in non-fatal crashes in each of those years [311 in 2021, 255 in 2022, and 284 in 2023], totalling 850 people injured in non-fatal crashes in that three-year period.

Safety protocol

A press release from the DNR provides tips and sound advice for helping reduce the chances of injury or death while riding an ATV/UTV. First and foremost, that includes always wearing a helmet on ATVs/UTVs and a seatbelt on UTVs, operating equipment sober, following

posted regulatory signs on roadways, and following basic off-road vehicle safety rules.

“Crashes can happen to anyone,” the release said. However, many fatalities can be prevented.

According to the DNR, at least 18 of the ATV/UTV victims this year were not wearing a helmet, and over half of the UTV victims were not wearing a seatbelt.

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, and all passengers, regardless of age, must wear a seatbelt when riding in a UTV, the press release said. ATVs/UTVs are required to follow all road signs, including stop signs and posted speed limits, and each machine has a maximum capacity/number of occupants that should not be exceeded. In other words, don't operate a machine with more than the recommended number of passengers, if passengers are permitted

on a specific machine.

Per 2024 fatal crash statistics, more than half of fatal crashes occurred on roadways, including on public roads closed to ATV/UTV traffic, and vehicle occupancy was exceeded in several crashes.

One of the best things ATV and UTV operators can do to operate safely is to take an online safety course, the 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.

Crash reports are required

In the event of any crash incident involving an ATV or UTV, Wisconsin law requires every operator involved in a crash incident to report the incident without delay to law enforcement officials. In addition, within 10 days of the incident, the operator must submit a written report to the DNR.

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:

A shout-out to thank officials for their effective communication in the recent culvert replacement on Thiel Drive in the Town of Merrill. The replacement was badly needed for flood control, but the situation literally put residents on an island surrounded by the Prairie River and its alternate overflow channel. Everybody knew there would be inconvenience, but this was effectively minimized by extensive communication from Mike Hass, Town Chairman, and Jason Lemmer, Lincoln County Highway Commissioner, so there were no surprises. And special thanks to residents Gary Schwartz and Chuck Degner for arranging alternate access through two properties and a swamp. This is a great example of how communication can work.

- Tom Burg
Town of Merrill, Wis.

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 publication at the same rate as Political Letters to the Editor (see policy below).

POLITICAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

• Letters to the editor on political issues, with or without a candidate endorsement, including those submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum, or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words in length plus \$10.00 per additional 100 words.

• All political letters must be prepaid prior to printing.

• Letters to the Editor will not be accepted from candidates running for election or representatives of an organization endorsing their own referendum, as these are clearly advertisements and not opinion letters; those submissions will be referred to our Advertising Department to be run as paid ads.

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REPORTS

MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS SEPT. 9-15, 2024

9-9-24

At 4:56 a.m. a convenience store reported there was a male at their store who told employees he was high on mushrooms. The male was reported to be loitering in the parking lot for the past half hour and bothering other customers. The 16-year-old male was placed through field sobriety tests by a drug recognition expert from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office who found the male heavily under the influence of THC and hallucinogens. The male was arrested for operating while intoxicated. During processing, the male threatened the deputy. A search of the vehicle the male had operated revealed drug paraphernalia and marijuana. The male will be referred for possession of THC, possession of drug paraphernalia, and battery/threats to law enforcement officer.

At 12:57 p.m. a male was arrested for a probation violation at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

9-10-24

At 9:59 a.m. a male was arrested for a probation violation at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

At 5:24 p.m. an officer conducted a traffic stop. K9 Dasty was deployed to conduct an external vehicle drug sniff of the vehicle and indicated a positive alert. The male driver was subsequently arrested for possession of methamphetamine.

At 8:29 p.m. officers executed a search warrant at a residence. As a result of the search warrant, methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl, and marijuana, along with a plethora of drug paraphernalia were seized. A male and female were arrested for multiple drug charges and a third female was cited for possession of THC.

9-12-24

At 7:58 p.m. officers responded to a request for a welfare check on the caller's upstairs neighbor. After completing the welfare check,

the upstairs neighbor became upset and came down to confront the caller before pushing him and verbally threatening him. The suspect was charged with disorderly conduct and battery.

At 10:06 p.m. a male came to Merrill City Hall and contacted the dispatch center, asking for assistance. The male was contacted by officers and found to have two active warrants. The male was arrested for the outstanding warrants.

9-13-24

At 9:01 a.m. a crash was reported on Grand Ave. at Cottage St. It was found a vehicle failed to yield right of way from a stop sign, causing the crash. A crash report was completed and the offending driver was cited for failure to yield right of way from stop sign and no insurance.

At 12:52 p.m. an anonymous caller reported a male with an active warrant was at a residence. It was confirmed the man had an arrest warrant through Marathon County. The man was found inside of a garage. The man attempted to hide in the loft area of the garage rather than surrender and was subsequently further charged with resisting an officer.

At 3:33 p.m. a hotel reported a male had gained access into their swimming pool area through an emergency door. The man was not a guest of the hotel and had left prior to officers' arrival. Hotel staff further found the man had been naked in their hot tub and had possibly been masturbating in the hot tub. As such, the hot tub had to be drained, cleaned/disinfected, and refilled. The man's identity is known, and he will be charged with trespassing, lewd lascivious behavior, and criminal damage to property.

At 7:35 p.m. an off-duty officer reported a vehicle driving that struck the curb multiple times, was seen operating left of the center line, and failed to stop at a stop sign. An on-duty officer located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. The driver displayed characteristics indicative of intoxication and agreed to perform field sobriety tests. Given the driver's performance of said tests, the officer's observations, and the reported driving behavior,

the man was arrested for second offense operating while intoxicated.

9-14-24

At 2:59 a.m. an officer came upon a vehicle that had crashed into a parked vehicle. The driver stated she had been adjusting the heater in her vehicle when she struck the car parked roadside. A crash report was completed, and the driver was cited for inattentive driving.

At 10:40 a.m. a caller reported a truck driving erratically and causing excessive black smoke from the exhaust in a parking lot. When the officer arrived, the vehicle was leaving the lot and the officer monitored the driving. The officer observed that each time the vehicle would pass another vehicle the driver would cause thick black smoke to come from the exhaust. When the vehicle was not passing a vehicle, the exhaust was fine. The driver claimed the issue to be an engine problem but had no explanation as to why the problem would not occur once the officer was directly behind him. The driver was cited for disorderly conduct with a motor vehicle.

9-15-24

At 12:08 a.m. an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for speeding. The driver displayed characteristics indicative of intoxication and agreed to perform field sobriety tests. As a result of the officer's observations and field test performance, the driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

At 4:09 a.m. an officer observed a vehicle with the hood up near the hydro dam. The officer made contact with a male who was doing work under the hood. The man attempted to hide a baggie containing suspected methamphetamine in the engine compartment. The man was arrested for possession of methamphetamine. A further search of the vehicle revealed a marijuana pipe, two syringes containing suspected methamphetamine, and a scale with suspected methamphetamine residue on it. The man was additionally charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Pet of the Week



Meet April! She is a nice girl who is very shy at first but is nice once she warms up to everyone. She is going to be best in a home that is more on the calm side to help her come out of her shell. April is a beautiful girl who will do well with lots of love and time.

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Announcements 7005

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Rummage Sales This Week 7200

Merrill, 207 N Prospect St., Sat. 9/21, 9-3. Holiday Items, Kitchen items, Tupperware, Baskets, to much to list!

Rummage Sales This Week 7200

Merrill: W8713 St. Hwy. 64 TH 9/19 & FRI 9/20, 8a-6p SAT 9/21, 8a-4p

We sold the cottage and are downsizing! Furniture, household, outdoor tools, games, zero-turn mower, etc. Something for all!

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Weston: 6809 Alta Verde St. 3 houses! TH 9/19 thru SUN 9/22 9a-6p

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Estate Sales 7208

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Price County Health & Human Services Department

Price County is accepting applications for an Aging and Disability Unit Manager within the Health and Human Services department. This position is responsible for the day-to-day administration of a broad array of statutorily mandated programs and services targeted to citizens of Price County who are frail elderly, physically disabled, developmentally disabled, and children in need of Long-Term Care Services. These programs include but are not limited to ADRC Branch Manager, and Adult Protective Services. This position directs and supervises professional staff in the unit as well as teaming with the Senior Services Manager to provide services for the community. Assures a program and service array for the most vulnerable populations to enhance their safety, well-being and quality of life while meeting requirements for state and federal reimbursement to optimize non-local funding thereby moderating the need for local tax levy.

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A full description of minimum requirements and application instructions can be found on the Price County website's employment opportunities page at www.co.price.wi.us, by emailing a request to hroffice@pricecounty.wi.gov or by calling 715-339-5131.

Resume and completed application must be received by the Price County Office of Administration by 4:30 p.m. on October 2, 2024, to be considered for this position.

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Guns 7264

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SHERIFF REPORTS
from page 5

those tests, the driver was placed under arrest for a second offense of OWI, as well as tampering with an ignition interlock device, and second offense of prohibited blood alcohol concentration. The subject was then transported to the Lincoln County Jail where he was turned over to corrections staff.

On 9/14/2024 LISO received a report from Tomahawk Ambulance of a vehicle vs. pedestrian crash at the Skanawan Town Hall. Upon the deputy's arrival, he made contact with the driver of the suspect vehicle, a 30-year-old Wausau man. The vehicle had damage consistent with a car vs. pedestrian crash, and there was an injured party on scene. In talking with the driver, he noticed signs of impairment. The deputy asked the driver to do some sobriety tests, which he refused to do. The suspect was then placed under arrest for a second offense of OWI along with several other charges. As the deputy continued to investigate the incident, he learned that the victim in the incident, a 41-year-old Wausau man, had been driving the vehicle prior to the crash. The subject denied driving the vehicle; however, the incident was

captured on security cameras from the Town Hall. The second subject was asked to perform sobriety tests which he also refused to do. As a result of this, that subject was placed under arrest for a fourth offense of OWI along with several other charges. Both parties were transported to the Lincoln County Jail where they were turned over to corrections officers.

On 9/14/2024 a deputy on patrol noticed a vehicle make a turn in front of her and the driver, a 61-year-old Green Bay man, was not keeping his vehicle within his lane of traffic. The deputy stopped the vehicle for this violation and went to make contact with the driver. Upon contacting the driver, the deputy noticed signs of impairment. The deputy asked the driver to perform some sobriety tests which the driver did do. As a result of those tests, the driver was placed under arrest for a first offense of OWI. He was later turned over to a responsible party.

There were also two fatal crashes over the weekend. See front-page story.

Deputies also conducted 139 traffic stops, performed 11 security checks, responded to 13 driving complaints, and responded to 5 car vs. deer crashes and 2 car vs. bear crashes. The 911 Dispatch Center took 13 hang-up calls and 10 nuisance calls.

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715-432-5197 Joseph Thorne

The TurfMutt Foundation reminds fall is the most important season for your yard

What you do this fall impacts your yard's health and beauty year-round

For fifteen years, the TurfMutt Foundation has encouraged people to get outside, care for, and enjoy their own family backyards, parks, and community green spaces. As autumn approaches, there's no better time than now to plan for next spring and summer.

"Now that fall is just around the corner, our best advice is to just keep going," said Kris Kiser, President & CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation. "Fall is a great season for getting outside with the more moderate temperatures and changing foliage but also to prepare trees, shrubs, grass, and gardens to better weather the colder months."

Kiser added that it's important not to sleep on autumn yardwork. "Don't put your outdoor power equipment away just yet," he advised. "Fall is actually the most critical season for your outdoor living room. What you do now will set the tone for what

your yard will look like and how healthy it will be next spring."

Here are just a few ways the TurfMutt Foundation suggests sprucing up and enjoying your family yard this fall:

1. Create a Fall Yardwork Checklist. As long as your grass is growing, keep mowing. Other important to-dos include aerating your lawn, overseeding, cleaning out flower beds, trimming back perennials, and adding a fresh layer of mulch around trees and shrubs to protect them during the winter months.

2. Feed Your Lawn, Naturally. When autumn leaves fall, consider mulching them with your lawnmower instead of raking and disposing of them. This will not only keep yard waste out of the local landfill, it also adds organic matter back into the soil.

3. Plant Bulbs Using the "Right Plant, Right

Place" Principle. Fall is an ideal time to plant many spring flower bulbs. Select those that will thrive in your region by checking out the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. By choosing the right plants for your climate and lifestyle, you'll be rewarded with a beautiful and purposeful green space your entire family will enjoy year-round.

4. Embrace Outdoor Living (and Working). In many areas of the country, fall means a respite from scorching temperatures and an opportunity to really embrace outdoor living. Fall allows families to transition even more everyday activities like dining, studying, working, and relaxing into their outdoor living area.

5. Personalize Leaf Peeping Season. No need to fight the crowds to enjoy the fall foliage if you plant trees that change color. Or you can experience the glory of fall by taking a family walk to

a neighborhood park or natural area.

To learn more about the TurfMutt Foundation, visit TurfMutt.com, where visitors can download the TurfMutt Foundation's International Backyarding Fact Book. For more, sign up for Mutt Mail, a monthly e-newsletter with backyarding tips and all the news from the TurfMutt Foundation here. Look for Mulligan the TurfMutt on the CBS Lucky Dog television show on Saturday mornings.

TurfMutt, which is celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2024, was created by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's (OPEI) TurfMutt Foundation and has reached more than 70 million children, educators and families since 2009. Championed by Foundation spokesdog, Mulligan the TurfMutt, and through education partners such as Weekly Reader, Discovery



Cleaning up and preparing your yard in the fall is an important step in your landscaping grand plan. **Stock photo.**

Education and Scholastic, TurfMutt has taught students and teachers how to "save the planet, one yard at a time." Today, TurfMutt is an official USGBC® Education Partner and part of their global LEARNING LAB. TurfMutt has been an education resource at the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Green Apple, the Center for Green Schools, the Outdoors Alliance for Kids, the National Energy Education Development (NEED) project, Climate Change Live, Petfinder and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2017, the TurfMutt animated video series won the coveted Cynopsis Kids Imagination Award for Best Interstitial Series. TurfMutt's personal, home habitat was featured in the 2017-2020 Wildlife Habitat Council calendars. TurfMutt.com.



Merrill Fire Department Chief Josh Klug speaks at the short check presentation ceremony. **Submitted photo.**



Merrill Mayor Steve Haas (far left), Merrill Fire Department (MFD) Chief Josh Klug (middle in white shirt), and Merrill City Administrator Rod Akey (middle in red shirt) accept the ceremonial check for the MFD's portion of the Fire Dues Program. **Submitted photo.**

Merrill Fire Department highlights benefits of Wisconsin Fire Dues Program

State presents check for \$50,000 to Merrill Fire Chief

On Sept. 3, 2024, Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) Secretary Dan Hereth and Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance Nathan Houdek presented a ceremonial check for more than \$50,000 to City of Merrill Fire Department Chief Josh Klug. The check represents the department's share of funding from the Wisconsin 2% Fire Dues Program.

"Safety is a vital part of our department's mission, and our state fire departments are the backbone of safety in Wisconsin communities," said DSPS Secretary Dan



Hereth. "Ensuring that safety means funding our fire departments, and the Fire Dues Program is a major source of funding."

The 2% Fire Dues Program requires insurers to pay 2% of premiums collected for insurance against loss from fires. The

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) collects the dues, and DSPS distributes the dues to hundreds of cities, villages, and towns across Wisconsin according to a prescribed formula. This summer, Wisconsin professional, volunteer, and hybrid fire departments received a total of \$32.2 million, a nearly \$4 million increase over 2023.

"This program is all about prevention. Fire departments across our state can take their share of the Fire Dues funding and put it towards the programs that best serve their communities. We're

proud to play a part in this collaboration," said Commissioner Houdek.

Wisconsin fire departments can use the Fire Dues funding in a variety of ways to keep communities safe, including buying and replacing equipment, producing fire prevention programming, training crews, and more. Merrill has used some of its annual funding to keep a dedicated Fire Inspector on staff.

"Previously, we had employees filling in that role on a rotating basis," said Merrill Fire Chief Josh Klug. "Having someone dedicated to that job allows

our other fire staff to concentrate on their work, and for our local businesses it provides consistency. There is no question about whom to contact with questions about fire inspections."

Chief Klug and Fire Inspector Joe Bozinski joined Merrill Mayor Steve Haas and City Administrator Rod Akey to accept the ceremonial check for \$50,872.26.

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, and maintains

the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With two offices and roughly 250 employees, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.



Blue Jay 96.3 WJMT Radio recently held their 2024 BlueJay Blackout Bingo contest. In photo, Steve Resnick of WJMT awards the grand prize of \$963.00 to Renee Waliczek from Irma. Mike Kunkel of Merrill won the second place prize of \$196.30, and Brenda Black of Merrill won the third place prize of \$19.63. Jenny Annis also won a Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, overnight getaway.

Photo courtesy of Blue Jay 96.3 WJMT Radio.

Felzkowski receives WCA's Outstanding Legislator Award

State Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) recently received the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA)'s Outstanding Legislator Award.

A release from WCA said Felzkowski was recognized for her "exceptional work on behalf of county government during the 2023-2024 Legislative Session."

"Senator Mary Felzkowski was one of two authors who spearheaded what could be described as the most important piece of legislation in generations in our state – the shared revenue bill," said WCA President and CEO Mark D. O'Connell. "Because of her leadership in working alongside our team and other local units of government, as well as with both sides of the aisle and the administration, this new law provides much needed funding to counties and the entire state moving forward."

The release said the WCA Outstanding Legislator Award is handed out biennially to a select group of legislators who have represented county interests in both the legislature and in their districts.

"These legislators have demonstrated leadership for counties on key issues, legislation and the state budget," WCA said.

"The work of Senator Felzkowski can be felt not just in Senate District 12, but throughout our state," O'Connell said. "We are incredibly proud to present her with this award and are grateful for her dedication in advancing sensible public policies that keep in mind the taxpayers of Wisconsin."

WCA represents the interests of county government both on the state and federal levels and is located in Madison, Wis.

For more information, visit wicounties.org.



In her State Capitol office on Tuesday, Aug. 20, Felzkowski (left) was recognized with her WCA Outstanding Legislator Award from WCA Government Affairs Associate Chelsea Shanks.

Photo courtesy of WCA.

Merrill Varsity Football Team suffers tough loss to Medford

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Last Friday night, Sept. 13, 2024, the Merrill Varsity Football Team traveled to Medford where the Bluejays went up against the Raiders in their second Conference game of the season in the Great Northern Conference. It was a rough game for the Merrill players who remained scoreless throughout all four quarters while they watched their opponents make plays into the endzone and rack up

the touchdowns. Ultimately, Merrill suffered a 40-0 loss to Medford.

"It was a tough one for us no doubt Friday night," said Jason Wadzinski, Merrill Varsity Head Football Coach.

"We got some linemen who got nicked up and weren't able to finish the game," he said. "Going up against a stout line on both sides like Medford has, that didn't help any."

"We need to figure out ways to get our offense going despite a few injuries,

to help keep our defense off the field," Wadzinski said.

"We're looking forward to Antigo this week and the War on 64."

Merrill plays Antigo this Friday night in an away game. They would welcome a big hometown crowd to cheer them on as the Bluejays play the Red Robins, long-time rivals in the ongoing War on 64. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. in Antigo.

Box Score
Merrill 0 @ Medford 40

2024 Merrill High School Fall Sports Schedule

Boys Football (Varsity, JV, and JV2)			
Thurs. Sept. 19	Antigo (JV2)	Home	4:00 pm
Fri. Sept. 20	Antigo (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Mon. Sept. 23	Antigo (JV)	Home	5:30 pm
Cheer Team (Varsity & JV)			
Fri. Sept. 20	Antigo (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Mon. Sept. 23	Antigo (JV)	Home	5:30 pm
Girls Swim & Dive (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs. Sept. 26	Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:30 pm
Girls Tennis (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs. Sept. 19	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:00 pm
Tues. Sept. 24	Marshfield (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 26	Wausau West (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:00 pm
Girls Volleyball (Varsity, JV, and JV2)			
Thurs. Sept. 19	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV & JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Thurs. Sept. 19	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Sat. Sept. 21	Wausau West (Varsity)	Away	9:00 am
Sat. Sept. 21	Tournament (JV2)	Home	9:00 am
Mon. Sept. 23	Stevens Point (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 26	Marshfield (JV & JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Thurs. Sept. 26	Marshfield (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Boys Soccer (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs. Sept. 19	D. C. Everest (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 19	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Sat. Sept. 21	Antigo (Varsity)	Away	9:00 am
Tues. Sept. 24	Wausau West (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:30 pm
Thurs. Sept. 26	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 26	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Girls Cross Country (Varsity and JV)			
Sat. Sept. 21	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	T. B. D.
Boys Cross Country (Varsity and JV)			
Sat. Sept. 21	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	T. B. D.



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Merrill Girls Volleyball wins against Wausau West 3-0, goes 2-2 in Tournament

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Last Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024, the Merrill Girls Varsity Volleyball Team welcomed Wausau West to Merrill for a Conference match-up on their home court and won 3-0 in three sets.

"Tonight was our home opener and I couldn't have asked for it to go any other way!" Merrill Varsity Girls Volleyball Head Coach Kasie Holt said. "Our hitting was phenomenal with Grace Hoff and Brooklyn Harding leading us each with five kills for the night."

"Brooklyn had 17 hitting attempts and 0 errors, which is very impressive," she said. "Kaela Clerveaux ended the night with 15 assists; she was really able to move the ball around and run plays that we have been working on in practice."

"Our aggressive serving also contributed to our win," Holt said. "There were times where the girls were serving 5-7 times in a row."

"Wausau West struggled to get their offense going, but when they were able to get ahold of it, our defense was there waiting to dig it up. Kendell Klug led the team with 11 digs, and Ava Detert followed closely behind with 10."

"The girls were able to keep high energy through the entire match and never let up," Holt said."

Box Score
Wausau West @ Merrill
Merrill won 3-0 in 3 sets: 25-17, 25-10, 25-15

This past Saturday, Sept. 14, the Merrill Girls played host at the Merrill Invitational Volleyball Tournament and welcomed seven other teams to the Merrill High School Fieldhouse. Varsity Girls from Athens, Chippewa Falls, Edgar, Medford, Newman Catholic, Stanley-Boyd, and Winneconne high schools all came to compete. Merrill's Varsity Girls Team played against Athens, Edgar, Winneconne, and Stanley-Boyd and ended their day 2-2.

"In pool play we beat Athens 2-0 (26-24, 25-16) and Winneconne 2-0 (25-23, 25-19)," Holt said. "We started off the morning really strong, which we've struggled a bit to do in other tournaments. At the time, Winneconne was undefeated and ranked #4 in Division 2. Winneconne is in our Regional for playoffs, so that win was really big for us."

"Unfortunately, in the first few points of our third game against Edgar, one of their players came under the net and our starting right side hitter, Brooklyn Harding, landed on her and rolled her ankle pretty badly," she said. "Brooklyn has really been a spark for us, bringing positive energy both on and off the court - seeing her hurt was hard for us as a team to come back from."

"We gave it our best fight, but we ended up falling to Edgar 0-2 (17-25, 20-25)," Holt said, "And then [to] Stanley-Boyd 0-2 (17-25, 13-25)."



#10 Brooklyn Harding rises up to block the ball. Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photos.



This time Brooklyn Harding raises both arms over her head not to block, but to celebrate with teammates #12 Kaela Clerveaux and #13 Grace Hoff.



Senior Ava Detert's vertical jump to hit the ball.



Merrill's #3 Vanessa Pintor leaps into the air, prepared to attack the ball with an open-handed return.




Merrill's block puts the Wausau West Warriors on the defensive.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK


Aiden Lonsdorf, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of Sept. 19, 2024. Aiden is a quarterback on the Merrill Varsity Football Team, having moved up from playing receiver and safety previously. He started playing football in sixth grade for Prairie River Middle School, advanced to JV 2 as a Freshman, and started playing Varsity as a Sophomore.

When not in school or playing football, Aiden likes to lift weights at the high school and to hang out with his girlfriend and friends, spend time outdoors, and cook. The son of Sara and Matt Lonsdorf of Merrill, Aiden has a 3.7 GPA, and plans to go to a four-year college after graduation. He hopes to play college football and plans to study criminal justice.




Aiden Lonsdorf

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