

BUYING? SELLING? LET'S TALK!
 Celebrating our Sesquicentennial
 150 Years of Lincoln County!

Kevin J. Blake
 (715) 204-0084
 www.KevinBlake.firstweber.com

FIRSTWEBER REALTORS
 The human side of real estate.

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 MERRILL, WI
 PERMIT NO. 35

POSTAL CUSTOMER
 ECRWSS

MMC
 MULTI-MEDIA CHANNELS
 LOCAL MEDIA BETTER RESULTS!



Looking for a pumpkin? Look no further than Grace & Sophie's Pumpkin Patch. This is just a small sample of the many varieties and sizes of pumpkins that await visitors.



The cow train (now known as the dairy train) has become a tradition for visitors at Helene's Hilltop Orchard.



Christine Vorpapel becomes "Granny on the Farm" at Grampa's Farm, demonstrating how ice cream is made the old-fashioned way. Her helper distributes samples to give everyone a taste.

It's pumpkin picking and family time!

BY TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

It's pumpkin picking time! Autumn has arrived with chilly nights and deciduous trees bursting forth with glorious colors of rust and red, gold and yellow, orange and amber, set against a bright beautiful blue sky. The crunch of the leaves beneath our feet and the distinctive sound they make as we shuffle our feet along in the piles is music to the ears of all those whose favorite season is fall. Delicious treats made with apples and cinnamon are in season, with pumpkin pie soon to follow. It is the season for pumpkin spice everything, plaid flannel shirts, and spending time with family.

Luckily, the Merrill area has many great locations to embrace all of these things. In addition to roadside pumpkin stands and wagons within the community, the area boasts three different family-friendly venues for picking [or picking out] pumpkins and enjoying an adventurous day together.

Grace and Sophie's Pumpkin Patch
 Located in the Town of Pine River at N785 Range Line Rd., Merrill, Grace and Sophie's Pumpkin Patch has tons of pumpkins in various sizes, gourds, corn stalks and hay bales, and other items for decorating, all for sale. In addition, they offer a 12-acre corn maze, concession stand, large play yard with lots of activities for the kids, and an area to gather and relax around a fire outdoors.

Helene's Hilltop Orchard
 As the name implies, Helene's Hilltop Orchard, N1189 Quarter Rd., Merrill, in addition to pumpkin picking, also offers apple picking in their orchard, as well as pre-picked apples and all kinds of apple products in their on-site bakery. They also offer a corn maze, concessions, and a large play yard with lots of kid-friendly activities. In addition, their sunflower field is popular, along with the cow train (now called the dairy train), jumping/bouncy shed, wagon rides, and outdoor courtyard that typically

hosts live musical entertainment on the weekends. Helene's also has a gift shop with lots of cool finds for pets, a gift shop in the loft filled with some of Olivia's Favorite Things - decor and gifts, largely focused on Christmas, and a shop filled with their line of bottled wines, cider, pickled products, and more. Families can gather for a glass of wine in the barn cellar after they've enjoyed all the activities on the grounds.

See PUMPKIN PICKING page 6

Office Suite for Rent
 Merrill City Center
 100 South Mill Street, Merrill
 Call Chris Malm at 715-218-2591

RiverCountry CO-OP Merrill Country Store

MARTH WOOD PELLETS ON SALE
 Hardwood • Softwood

\$6⁸⁹/Bag **\$7⁷⁹/Bag**
\$302⁵⁰-Ton **\$340⁰⁰-Ton**

1400 Logan Ave. • Merrill • 715-536-2491
 Hours: Monday-Friday 7-6 • Saturday 8-1

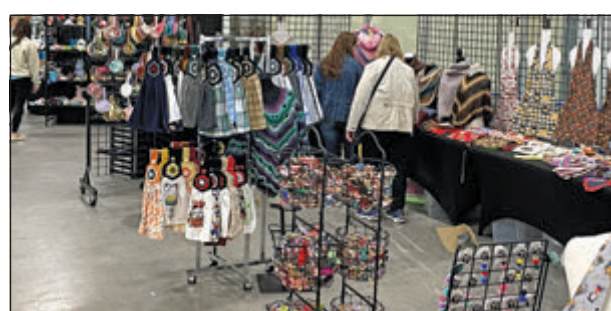
HSU Growing Supply

All-in-One Halloween Decorating Bundle:
 Cornstalks, Pumpkins, Bales & a Weekly Leaf Bin Pickup: \$99

- Order Bulk by Phone • Order Small Items Online
- Pickup in Person

715-675-5856 • HsuGrowingSupply.com

Fall craft shows



A variety of handcrafted items produced from textiles are visible in this photo taken at the MARC show - from aprons, towels, and hair scrunchies to earmuffs and crocheted stuffed animals.



This booth at the MARC featured some really creative ways to make a great bird feeder.



Seasonal gnomes and scarecrows and other autumn decor was for sale at the Merrill Enrichment Center's show on Sept. 28, along with a large variety of other crafts, gifts, home decor, and more.



Craft show vendors at the Merrill Enrichment Center also spilled over into the neighboring building at the Merrill Fair Grounds.



A nice selection of pickled and canned goods filled one booth at the Pine River Town Hall.



Shoppers browse at the Pine River Town Hall during their Sept. 28 event.

A&L Committee to review RFP for broker

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

At the Oct. 2, 2024, Lincoln County Administrative & Legislative Committee meeting, members declined to move into closed session to discuss next steps for Pine Crest Nursing Home. Rather, they opted to discuss proceeding with a request for proposal (RFP) for a broker in open meeting. Committee Chair and Lincoln County Board of Supervisors Chair Jesse Boyd noted that the County Board has directed the A&L Committee to take steps to move forward with the sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home, multiple parties have expressed interest, and recommended using

a broker to facilitate the process.

Boyd specified, "Same criteria: we're looking for somebody to own and operate a nursing home with the best interest of the residents and staff there. ... We don't want those investors that are coming in just to make money, drive the nursing home into the ground."

"The last RFP that went out and the last broker contract that we had was very restrictive in terms of what kind of purchaser - what kind of buyer," said Karry Johnson, Corporate Counsel for Lincoln County. While not necessarily required [versus just going with the

broker the County used last time], she recommended using an RFP to ensure the County is getting the best terms.

Committee member Ken Wickham advocated for transparency in the process, so the public understands any restrictions they place on the type of buyer they are looking for and why those restrictions are being set forth. He said that while everyone may not agree with them, he wanted transparency to tell the public "what we're doing and why we're doing it."

Administrative Coordinator Renee Krueger wanted to publicly acknowledge that the relationship with the

previous broker was a very positive experience and "we appreciated that time with him" and "at the end of the day, he lost out too" and "hopefully he will submit another bid - when we do the RFP - for consideration," she said.

Boyd added that the previous broker, "definitely had our best interest at heart."

Julie DePasse said, "I just think it's important to restate, for the record, when we went up for RFP before, it was only people who had skills with regard to the purchase and sale of skilled nursing facilities, because it was of the utmost importance to us that it stay the skilled

nursing facility to serve the residents of Lincoln County. ... It's a very small, niche little industry, there aren't lots of brokers who specialize in that, and there aren't lots of people who buy and sell nursing homes ... so you have very few who specialize in it, in a very small, small group, but that was who we spoke with last time ... so we talked with three brokers that had very specific skills in that area because that was our goal - to keep Pine Crest a skilled nursing facility in Merrill, Wisconsin, and the brokers all knew that when they came to us."

A&L Committee

members will review the previous RFP for a broker used about two years ago, prior to next month's meeting, and will individually send any desired changes to the Administrative Coordinator, with no discussion between members to occur to prevent any potential for a walking quorum. Krueger will compile a list of any proposed changes to the RFP and include it in the packet for the November meeting so proposed changes - if any - can be reviewed in advance and discussed at the November meeting.

MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is

Alexis Schultz
Daughter of Corey and Gina Schultz
Alexis is in the 4th grade at Washington Elementary School. She was nominated by Mrs. Palecek.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
Math because I like learning new and different ways to do things and learning about numbers.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
My favorite part of school is when the teachers teach us hard things and we learn it so we can help others.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
I want to become a nail tech when I am older because I like putting on nails and am good at it.

Alexis shows integrity and perseverance each day in fourth grade. As an exceptional leader, she models how to follow routines, displays a positive work ethic and attitude when participating in class, and demonstrates kindness when helping her classmates learn. Alexis should be celebrated for inspiring every one of us to be our best in 4th grade.
~ Mrs. Palecek

Student of the Week Sponsored by:

INTERFLEX GROUP
1401 W. Taylor St., Merrill
(715) 536-5400

WINNER OF THE MERRILL FOTO NEWS FALL

MERRILLOPOLY

Congratulations
David Cooper

The Merrill Foto News would like to thank the following sponsors:

Breman Merrill Ford	Miller Furniture
Geiss Meat Service	NAPA Auto Parts
Grand Antiques	PUB 1638
Greg's Gruett's Appliance	River Country Co-op
Images Salon	Riverside Athletic Club
Main Street Resale	Society of St. Vincent de Paul
MARC - Smith Center	Vibe Out Nutrition
Merrill Ace Hardware	Victoria's Floral

Total Prize Package Valued At \$722

Pet of the Week

Meet Ice! This boy LOVES his toys and to go for walks! Ice is going to need to be an only pet in the home. He gets to be very picky about other dogs that he likes so a home where he is the only spoiled boy would be great for him. Ice loves to snuggle. He is about 3.5 years old and ready to find his adventure pal!

SPONSORED BY
Dr. Ronald J. Piffa
Optometrist
715-536-2020

Visit all the adoptable animals at Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N Memorial Dr., Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-4 PM & Sun 12-2 PM.

Fall Harvest Days

There's still time to get your building site ready and get on our build schedule!

WE BUILD ALL WINTER LONG!

Northland Buildings Inc.
Local Sales Rep
Steve Thompson, Aniwa

50 YEAR SNOWLOAD WARRANTY!
northlandbuildings.com 1-800-736-4510

Tomahawk Sew N Vac

715-224-3401
TOMSEWNVAC@AOL.COM • TOMSEWNVAC.COM • FAX: 715-224-3402

SALES • SERVICES • SUPPLIES • CLASSES
ALL MAKE SEWING MACHINE & VACUUM CLEANERS

We Are Back Doing Repairs
Sewing Machine, Long Arm Machines
Vacuums & Carpet Cleaners
(We are also doing Sales - Call Ahead)
Drop them off at Honeycomb Loft
216 W. Wisconsin Ave., Tomahawk
(next door west of our old location)

MON-TUE-THUR 10:00 - 2:00
If you have questions, please call us at 715-224-3401
Home pickup available on Vacuum Cleaners, Sewing Machines and Carpet Cleaners

Present this coupon in store for \$5 off any repair

Thank You!

Park City Gardens Volunteers and Supporters for a beautiful 2024 season!

2024 Volunteer Workers

• Nancy Arndorfer	• Amanda Mathis
• Marcy Barney	• Dixie Oberg
• Mary Bauman	• Judy Osypowski
• Vicki Bender	• Barb Peterson
• Courtney Busterud	• Linda & Bryan Plautz
• Jennifer Cordova	• Marge Schultz
• Ann Donner	• Sandy Sherfinski
• Cindy Geiss	• Tanya Sliwinski
• Jean Hall	• Ann Stoeckmann
• Barb Hartwig	• Jane & Mike Thiel
• Linda Huss	• Terry Vander Heiden
• Cynthia Kotila	• Patti Vander Geest
• Cindy Latzig	• Mary Vandehey
• Cindy Lezotte	• Katy Weckwerth
• Jody & Joseph Malsack	• Kathy & Bill Wulf
	• Lynn Zentener

2024 Board Members

• Nancy Arndorfer	• Barbara Krefl	• Terry Vander Heiden
• Ginny Drew	• Barb Peterson	• Katy Weckwerth
• Linda Huss	• Lynne Reindl	• Kathy Wulf

2024 Park City Gardens Contributors & Benefactors

• Joe Abt	• Lincoln Wood
• ABG Masonry	• Lions
• Laurie & Steve Wolf-Dahm	• Nicolet Bank
• Crossbridge Community Bank	• Park City Credit Union
• Edward Jones - Kevin Cohrs	• Preceptor Alpha Beta
• Eagles	• Mary Vandehey
• Carol Finanger	• Walmart-Karen Thiel
• Carol Holz	• Katy Weckwerth
• Johnsons of Merrill	• WI Phi Master
• Laureate Alpha Delta	• Xi Alpha Nu
• Mark Lee	• Jerry - The Watering Man

We apologize if we inadvertently left someone out. For more information, contact Ginny @ 715-536-9605

<h3>Apples</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cortland • MacIntosh • Crimson Crisp • Yellow Delicious • Gala • Ambrosia • Jonagold <p>\$4⁹⁵ 1/2 peck (5 lbs.) \$14 1/2 bu. Call for large quantity pricing.</p>	<h3>Fresh Cranberries</h3> <p>\$2⁵⁰ lb.</p> <h3>Kraut Cabbage</h3> <p>\$22 50 lb.</p> <h3>Deer Apples and Sugar Beets</h3> <p>\$14 a bag Buy 5 or more \$12 each</p>
<h3>Small Straw Bales</h3> <p>\$4 each</p> <h3>Pie Pumpkins</h3> <p>\$3 each</p>	<h3>Deli Specials</h3> <h4>Colby Cheese</h4> <p>\$3⁸⁹ lb.</p> <h4>Rotisserie Chicken Breast</h4> <p>\$5⁸⁹ lb.</p>

SUMMER HOURS: WED. & SAT. 8AM-5PM. MON., TUES., THURS., & FRI. 8AM - 6PM

Located in Gleason. All prices subject to change. While supplies last.

PRAIRIE PINES

715-873-4840
STOP IN AND ENJOY OUR FRIENDLY, AGREEABLE SERVICE!

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The High Cost Of Estrangement

Dear Reader,

In the course of life, it's inevitable that even the closest of relationships will encounter disagreement. Whether it's a difference of opinion, a conflict of values, or something else entirely, these moments can feel incredibly significant – like hills worth dying on. But what happens when two people, bound by affection and history, find themselves at an impasse over an issue they both deem important?

At first, there's dialogue – a hope that mutual understanding will prevail. Yet sometimes, instead of finding common ground, each party digs in deeper, their positions hardening. What follows is polarization: Both sides, convinced of their own rightness, begin to pull away from each other. Eventually, this tug-of-war leads to estrangement, where the once-close relationship is relegated to the sidelines. What was once a source



of joy becomes a source of pain.

During this period of separation, each person continues to live their life. Perhaps they find new routines, new hobbies, and even new joys. But there's a profound loss here too, an unspoken void where connection once flourished. They live in separate orbits, not sharing in each other's successes, not being present in each other's challenges. On the surface, life may seem okay, even good, but there's something fundamentally missing.

Over time, as the emotional dust settles, a realization begins to

dawn. What seemed like a monumental issue in the heat of the moment begins to shrink in significance. The conflict that once felt so important now seems almost trivial – a speck of dust in the grand scheme of things. And with that realization comes regret: All that time spent apart, all those moments that could have been shared, are lost forever. They missed out on the chance to support one another, to celebrate together, to simply be there for each other.

Eventually, the estrangement ends. They reconcile, recognizing the value of their relationship over the fleeting issues that drove them apart. There's relief in coming back together, in realizing that the bond between them is far more important than any disagreement. But even as they move forward, there's a lingering sense of loss for the time they wasted, the opportunities they missed

to enrich each other's lives.

The truth is, life is too short for such losses. We can get tripped up by small things, but when those small things get in the way of caring for and loving one another, they're not worth the cost. When we let go of pride and stubbornness, we make space for connection and understanding. We remember that what truly matters is the relationship itself, the shared experience of life.

So, let's remind ourselves not to let the small stuff – and it's all small stuff – get in the way of the relationships that matter most. The time we have is too precious to waste on anything less.

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

Check us out online!
merrillfotonews.com

TRINITY MERRILL
LUTHERAN EARLY LEARNING CENTER
www.trinitymerrill.com

Trinity Merrill Lutheran
Early Learning Center

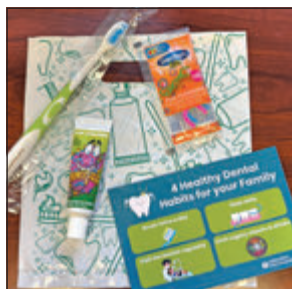
Currently has openings for **2-5**
years old in their Sunshine Room!

For More Information or to enroll, please
contact our Early Learning Center

715-722-0523
Wisconsin Shares are accepted.

Health Department promotes healthy smiles through dental resources to students in 1st through 8th Grade

Recently the Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) provided dental resources to students in Lincoln County in 1st through 8th grade. "We know that families in our county face challenges with accessing dental care, especially those with Medicaid or BadgerCare," said Lexi Buntrock, LCHD Public Health Educator. "By educating and providing dental resources to students, we hope we can foster life-long healthy dental habits and prevent urgent dental needs in the future."



Resources provided to Lincoln County students.
Photo courtesy of LCHD.

Each student received: a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, and a dental magnet. The dental magnet reminds families of four healthy dental habits:

1. Brush twice a day
2. Floss daily
3. Visit the dentist regularly
4. Limit sugary snacks and drinks

The following schools received dental resources for their students in 1st through 8th grade:

- Kate Goodrich Elementary School
- NTC Christian Academy
- Prairie River Middle School
- St. Francis Catholic School

See **HEALTHY SMILES** page 18

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

Smoked Sausage w/Cheddar Cheese, Frozen 10 oz. ONLY \$2.29	Pork Loin Boneless - Frozen 6 lbs. ONLY \$1.89 a lb	Cranberries Fresh 5 lbs. ONLY \$2.29 a lb
Pepperoni Pizza Thin Crust - Frozen 23 oz. ONLY \$2.99	Pork Butt Boneless - Frozen 12 lbs. ONLY \$1.89 a lb	Lentil Soup Organic 18 oz. ONLY 49¢

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30-6:30 • SATURDAY 8:30-4:00

Ham Boneless Smoked - Frozen 6 lbs. ONLY \$1.29 a lb	Orange Juice Original 59 oz. ONLY \$1.29	Summer Sausage Garlic 16 oz. ONLY \$1.69
Turkey Breast Hickory Smoked Frozen 8 lbs. ONLY 99¢ a lb	Cream Cheese 1/3 Less Fat 8 oz. ONLY 99¢	Corn Nuts Original 3 lbs. ONLY 99¢ a lb
Cocktail Smokies Frozen 14 oz. ONLY \$1.29	Ghost Pepper Cheese Sliced 16 oz. ONLY \$2.49	Pineapple Pieces In Syrup 20 oz. ONLY 89¢
Chicken Nuggets Breaded - Uncooked Frozen 4 lbs. ONLY \$5.99	Mozzarella Cheese Diced - Shredded 10 lbs. ONLY \$1.79 a lb	Vegetable Oil 5 quart ONLY \$9.49
Hot Dog Chili Cheese - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY \$1.49	Shredded Cheese 3 - Blend 5 lbs. ONLY \$9.99	Brats Fully Cooked - Frozen 14 oz. ONLY \$1.99
Turkeys Whole Frozen 18 lbs. ONLY 99¢ a lb	Cream Cheese Original 4-8 oz. ONLY \$5.99	Hashbrowns Shredded - Frozen 3 lbs. ONLY \$3.99 a lb
Sausage Crumble Chorizo - Fully Cooked Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY 69¢ a lb	Supreme Pizza Frozen 26 oz. ONLY \$2.99	Smoked Sausage w/Spicy Chili Frozen 6 lbs. ONLY \$4.99
Chicken Tenders Raw - Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$5.99	Sausage Links Fully Cooked - Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY \$1.29 a lb	Ribeye Steak Boneless - Frozen 14 oz. ONLY \$8.99 a lb
Bacon Bits Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.99 a lb	Pork Sausage Sage - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY \$1.99	Salami Cotto Sliced - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY \$1.29

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

HILDEBRAND
Funeral Home
&
Cremation
Specialists

SIMPLY CREMATION \$1,500
Includes basic services and crematory fee

715-365-4343

Serving all of northern Wisconsin

FREUDENTHAL MFG.
W6322 CTH O, Medford, WI

Moveable, U- Shaped Clotheslines
From **\$289 - \$359**
10, 12, 15, 20 foot lengths, 10 ft. wide, 6 ft. high, 7 lines standard. Made with special galvanized, high strength steel tubing.

Picnic Table Frame Only \$169.95

Culverts:
Polyethylene, dual-wall, smooth interior, corrugated exterior. We stock all sizes from 4" to 60" diameters. 20 ft. standard length.

Swing away Mailbox Stands \$145.95

CALL FOR CULVERT PRICING
1-800-688-0104 • www.freudenthalmfg.com

ATTENTION HUNTERS

DO YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR HUNTING MEMORY OR EXPERIENCE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?
How about a particular photo of that trophy Whitetail Buck or other game? If so, we want to hear from you!

Please send your submissions to Merrill Foto News Editor **Tina Scott** at **tscott@mmclocal.com** by **Friday, Oct. 25th.**

Your submission(s) may be featured in the Merrill Foto News' **Annual Hunting Guide in mid-November!**

**Any hunting-related submission is welcome, regardless of how new or old. While e-mailed submissions are preferred, in-person submissions may be dropped off at the Merrill Foto News Office (2011. E. Main Street) between regular business hours of 8 a.m-5 p.m, Monday-Friday.*

MERRILL Foto News

Patrick J. Wood
Publisher
publisher@mmclocal.com

Tina L. Scott
Editor
tscott@mmclocal.com

Heidi Schult
Front Office Manager/CSR

Heidi Griebel
Customer Service Representative

Tim Schreiber
General Manager
tschreiber@mmclocal.com

Jennifer Gartmann
Sales Consultant
jgartmann@mmclocal.com

Niki Piechota
Graphic Designer

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

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

Ad & News Deadlines:
Display Advertising:
12:30 p.m. Monday
Classified Advertising:
11:30 a.m. Monday

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

THE FOTO NEWS (ISSN 0191-8958) is published weekly by Multi Media Channels LLC, N2919 County Road QQ, Waupaca WI 54981. Subscription price by mail: \$100 per year; domestic U.S. Mail only, nonrefundable but transferable. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE FOTO NEWS, 2011 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452.

© Copyright Multi Media Channels LLC 2024. All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication or any of its contents may be reproduced, copied, modified, or adapted without the prior written consent of Multi Media Channels LLC.

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

OBITUARIES

Donald "Don" Anthony Kaminski



Donald "Don" Anthony Kaminski, age 90, of Merrill, passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 29, 2024, while at Woodland Court Elder Services in Merrill, and under the care of Compassus Hospice Care. He was born on June 22, 1934 to the late Leo and Margaret (Ewertowski) Kaminski in Chicago, IL. Don attended and graduated from high school in Chicago, IL. He met Judith Koplin, and the two exchanged marriage vows on April 16, 1955 in Illinois.

Sadly, she passed away on June 27, 2024.

Don had many different careers in life. He owned a television repair business in Illinois before moving his family to Wisconsin, where he farmed, drove school bus as well as worked in the shop repairing them, and was an electrician with Northwest Petroleum. Don enjoyed bowling and traveling to bowling tournaments with his family to different states, making a vacation out of it. He also enjoyed woodworking, building homes, grandfather clocks and cabinets, and was a "jack of all trades" fixing things.

Don is survived by his children: Catherine (Scott) Weber, Stephen (Jennifer) Kaminski and David (Gail) Kaminski, her beloved grandchildren: Brad (Nikki Gerdes) Weber, Bernadette (Trent) Zuber, Brandi (Brandon) Binder, Korie (Scott) Karlen, Jeremy (Stefanie) Kaminski, Michelle (Ryan) Krueger, Katie (Jay) Proft, Daniel (Megan) Kaminski and Nicholas (Tracie) Kaminski, great grandchildren: Mariyah Weber, Faith Weber, Liberty Weber, Quinten Zuber, Xavier Zuber, Emma Binder, Anna Binder, Brandon Karlen, Darin Karlen, Nathan Karlen, Loren Karlen, Carter Kaminski, Reese Kaminski, Ashton Kaminski, Jordan Kaminski, Abbie Krueger, Miley Krueger, Drew Kaminski, Mason Kaminski and Layla Kaminski and special friend: Kennedy Gerdes. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife: Judith Kaminski, brother: Leo Kaminski, special aunt: Lucille Kluczynski and parents-in-law: Herman and Julia Koplin.

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

Don's family would like to thank the staff at Woodland Court for the loving care during his time with them, as well as Compassus Hospice Care. Though we miss him dearly, we are grateful to have decades of memories to keep with us as we move forward with him being with us in our hearts and free from pain.

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

JoAnn D. Vachavake



JoAnn D. Vachavake, 87, of Merrill, passed Friday, October 4, 2024, at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill.

JoAnn was born October 31, 1936, in Merrill, daughter of the late Hattie (Skofronek) and George Ament Jr. She married Ronald Vachavake on June 2, 1956, in Merrill. He survives. JoAnn was a member of St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Merrill. She enjoyed gardening, traveling, spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren,

watching the kids' baseball games, reading, and working on word puzzles and sudoku. She also enjoyed playing scrabble and having tournaments with her sister and mother and playing cards, her favorite being cribbage.

Survivors include her husband, Ronald Vachavake of Merrill; daughters, Susan (Mark) Baumann of New Franken, WI and Kathryn (Carl) Hass of Merrill; sons, Mark Vachavake of Merrill, David (Darla) Vachavake of Merrill, and Jim (Sandy) Vachavake of Wausau; daughter-in-law, Sharon Vachavake of Wausau; 25 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Sandra Dunn of Conyers, GA. JoAnn was preceded in death by her parents, Hattie and George Ament Jr.; son, Richard 'Rick' Vachavake; sisters and brothers-in-law, Elaine (Howard) Alexander and Joyce (George) OKray; and brothers-in-law, Dennis Vachavake and James Dunn.

A memorial service for JoAnn will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Merrill. Rev. Michael Southcombe will officiate. The family will receive friends beginning at 9:00 A.M. Thursday at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill is assisting the family.

The family would like to thank the staff at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill, for the kind and compassionate care they provided to the entire family during JoAnn's stay.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Sonja M. Belling



Sonja M. Belling, age 71, of Tomahawk, WI, passed away on Friday, October 4, 2024, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital in Wausau, WI, after a hard-fought battle with cancer surrounded by her family. Sonja was born in Rhinelander, WI, on December 30, 1952, to the late Kenneth and Cornelia (Zwaard) Smith. She was married to David Belling in 2000; he passed away on June 20, 2024.

Sonja was a 1970 graduate of the Rhinelander High School.

She entered the workforce while lovingly raising her children. Sonja was employed at the PCA Tomahawk Mill, retiring after over 35 years of employment. She loved the outdoors, camping, fishing, and 4-wheeling. Travel was a big part of her life. More recently, she enjoyed working on puzzles and crosswords. Above all, Sonja adored spending time with her family and her dogs throughout the years.

Survivors include her sons, Bill (Jessica) Verhasselt, of Howard, WI, and Bob (Mindy) Verhasselt, of Weston, WI; her daughter, Shannon (Jason) Duginski, of Merrill, WI; her sister-in-law, Darlene Smith, of Gleason, WI; her sisters, Sandy (Cook) Schoenick, of Rhinelander, WI, Suzie Costa, of Madison, WI, Sally (Jerry) Gilliard, of Merrill, WI, Freddie (Larry) Thompson, of Eagle River, WI, and Cindy (Keith) Packard, of Deerbrook, WI; her grandchildren, Kristi, Kyle, Caden, Kralen, Kyan, Kinzley, Calen, and Kensi, in addition to her great-granddaughter, Brynlee. She is further survived by her Yellow Lab, Kalli Kay. Sonja was preceded in death by her parents, Kenneth and Cora; her husband, Dave; and her brother, Bill Smith.

A celebration of life gathering will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at 2:00 PM, at the Lincoln County Sports Club in Merrill. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Sonja's obituary and leave online condolences at generationsfuneral.com.

Nancy Ann Priebe

Nancy Ann Priebe, age 75, was welcomed into her heavenly home on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, while residing at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill. She was born and raised in Merrill, and was the daughter of the late Melvin (Roy) Nelson & June (Severt) Nelson Downing. Nancy attended and graduated with the class of 1967 from Merrill High School. She then attended and graduated from NTC in Wausau. Nancy met Patrick Raymond Priebe, fell in love, and the two were united in marriage in Merrill on June 20, 1970. Sadly, he passed away on April 7, 2008.

Nancy worked at Marshfield Clinic in the office before going to Church Mutual Insurance Company in the archives/records department until her retirement. Nancy loved her Merrill community and visiting with family and friends. She enjoyed and appreciated the quiet life. She loved her puzzles and games, especially with her grandchildren. She enjoyed cheering on the Brewers and the Packers. A favorite pastime was deck time with her husband. Nancy had a strong faith and would consistently put others before herself. She loved her husband, children, grandchildren and her extended family very much and her presence and love will be missed dearly.

Nancy is survived by her daughter: Nikki (Mark) Wittak of Appleton, WI, son: Ryan (Susan) Priebe of Merrill, WI, her beloved grandchildren: Lucas and Marcee Wittak, Sophie, Patricia and Cecillia Priebe, brothers: Chris Downing, Tim (Katie) Bepler and Ted (Marian) Downing, sisters-in-law: Karen Downing, Polly (Wayne) Polak and Mari Nelson, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, stepfather: Arthur F. Downing Sr., father-in-law: Raymond Priebe, mother-in-law: Cleon Priebe, husband: Patrick, brothers: Arthur (Bud) Downing, Jr. and Roger Nelson, sister: Nancy Beth Laabs, brother-in-law: Myron Laabs, sister-in-law: Sheryl Downing, nephews: Jon and Craig Downing. Maria Rodriguez (significant other to Chris Downing)

The memorial service for Nancy will take place on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at Waid Funeral Home. The visitation will take place on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the funeral home. A private interment at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery will take place.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Special Olympics.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation to Pine Crest Nursing Home for the excellent care and love that was shown to Nancy, as she made it her home and developed many good friendships from being there.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com. For those unable to attend the service in person, it will be live streamed and available for viewing on October 19, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. and will be posted as a recording for future viewing.

Bonnie Jean (Gano) Schwoch



Bonnie Jean (Gano) Schwoch, age 79, of Merrill, Wisconsin died unexpectedly on August 31, 2024, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, surrounded by family and friends. Bonnie was born in Merrill on March 10, 1945 to Willard and Florence (Tipton) Gano. A Merrill area resident all her life, she married the love of her life, Dewey Schwoch, on May 7, 1976, and farmed with him in the Town of Pine River.

Bonnie also ran Dairyland Storage for many years, a business she and Dewey owned along with other rental properties in Merrill. She worked as a Beautician for 15 years and continued to work on hair within months of her passing. Bonnie had a heart for young people and desired to become a treatment foster parent. Together, she and Dewey cared for many teenage boys, several of whom have kept in touch over the years. Bonnie came to know Jesus in her 30's and continually grew in her faith and love for Jesus all her life. Bonnie was never shy about sharing her walk of faith. Bonnie attended Hillside Church in Merrill and was passionate about leading people to Jesus. She has been a second mother, grandmother, and mentor to so many over the years.

Bonnie always had a sparkle in her eye, whether it was finding a fun new coffee shop, trying out a new recipe, finding a gem of a deal at a rummage sale, firing up her wood cook-stove, or just spending time with family. Bonnie enthusiastically embraced life and all its God given gifts. Bonnie was an avid gardener and berry picker. She loved canning her vegetables and picking her blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, grapes, and apples. She took great pride in transforming them into jellies, juices, and other delicious concoctions. She always said that picking her berries brought her right back to her childhood.

Bonnie loved to travel with Dewey. Later in life, she and Dewey spent time in Florida each year until they decided to buy a second home in Arizona. For the past seven years they enjoyed spending the cold winter months in Arizona.

Bonnie is survived by her husband, Dewey Schwoch of Merrill; children Jessica (Paxton) Larsen of Waukesha, Tashia Schwoch of Wausau, Meredith (John) Heldt of Merrill and Kevin Moritz of Cookeville TN; grandchildren Timothy Lemke, Steven Lemke, Cody Schwoch, Malika Gehrke, Marguerite Moritz, Brielle Larsen, Brynlee Larsen, Mason Heldt, Hunter Heldt and Grace Heldt. She is also survived by 8 wonderful great grandchildren.

Bonnie is preceded in death by her parents, Willard Gano and Florence Carol; her brother Allen Gano; her daughter Betsy Yates; her granddaughter Melissa Lemke.

A Visitation and Celebration of Life will take place on October 19, 2024, at Hillside Church, 1501 Pier St, Merrill, WI 54452. The visitation will occur from 9am to 11am directly followed by a service celebrating this amazing woman's life.

www.merrillfotonews.com

Mid-Wisconsin
Cremation Society

Direct Cremation

Pre-Arrange Available **\$980.00** Locally Owned and Operated

Complete

948 Grand Ave. Schofield
715-359-6488
HonorOne.com

Taylor & Stine
Funeral Home and Cremation Services

Leah D. Reist
Licensed Director/Licensed Pre-need Insurance Agent

McKenna K. Meunier
Licensed Director

Tammy Klade
Non-Licensed Support Staff Licensed Pre-Need Insurance Agent

903 E. 3rd Street • Merrill • 715-536-6244
www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

WAID
Funeral Home & Cremation Service
Locally owned and Operated
301 Eagle Drive, Merrill, WI • 715-536-4646

Since 1888, we have continued to improve upon our services and facilities to better serve our Merrill area community.

WWW.WAIDFUNERAL.COM
Email: info@waidfuneral.com

We Have
Over 15,000+ Designs
In Our Portfolio
Plus Over
100 Monuments In Stock

Merrill Monument
N2182 CTH K
Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-6654

- Custom Etching
- Pre-Need Monuments
- Final Dates & Inscriptions
- Custom Cemetery Work

EMAIL US: merrillmonument@gmail.com
STORE HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 9am - Noon & 1pm - 4pm

Remember, and be remembered with a granite memorial from

TOMAHAWK MONUMENT CO.

Specialists in Pre-Needs Planning

FROM SELECTION TO DESIGN TO SETTING,
ALL OF OUR WORK IS PROUDLY DONE IN - HOUSE

20 N. 2nd St., Tomahawk, WI • 715-453-6523
Visit us at: www.tomahawkmonument.com
Email us at: contactus@tomahawkmonument.com

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

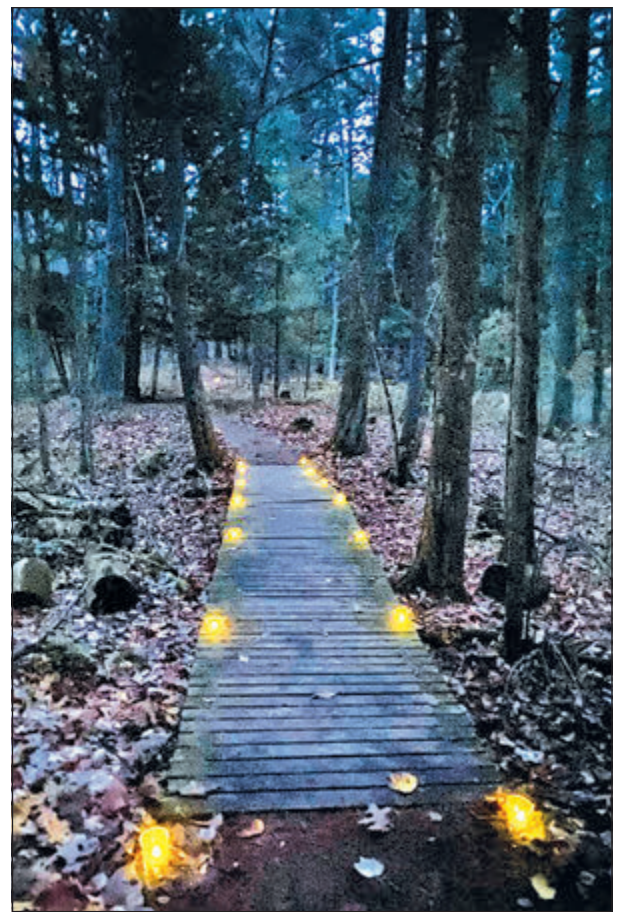
Oct. 10 - Merrill Chamber of Commerce Annual Celebration & Awards
 Oct. 10-13 - Northwoods Fall Art Tour
 Oct. 11 - Haunted Sawmill "Eve of Brutality"
 Oct. 11 - Free Swing Dance Basic Lessons at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Oct. 11-13 - Grace & Sophie's Pumpkin Patch
 Oct. 12 - Council Grounds State Park Fall Candlelight Walk
 Oct. 12 - Haunted Sawmill "The Danse Macabre"
 Oct. 12-13 - Grampa's Farm

Oct. 13 - Bingo at Northwoods Veterans Post VFW
 Oct. 16 - St. John Lutheran Church and School Annual Bazaar
 Oct. 17 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.
 Oct. 18 - Haunted Sawmill "Blackout Night"
 Oct. 18-20 - Grace & Sophie's Pumpkin Patch
 Oct. 19 - Lincoln County's 150th celebration - in Tomahawk & at Merrill Fair Grounds
 Oct. 19-20 - Grampa's Farm
For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/events or contact the event sponsor.

St. John's to hold Annual Bazaar

St. John Lutheran Church and School, 1104 E. 3rd St. in Merrill, will hold their Annual Bazaar on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school gym. Their Ladies Aid will have all the usual goodies available, including handcrafted items, scarves, mittens, plants, homemade baked goods, jelly, jam, and garden produce. Mother's Club will have items for all ages, including potted plants, pumpkins and gourds, crafts, napkins,

and loads of sweet treats. Delicious chili, chicken soup, hot beef and chicken salad sandwiches, and fresh baked pie will be served in the church basement from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or until sold out). Carry outs are also available.



A boardwalk lit by candles makes for an inviting autumn evening walk at Council Grounds State Park.

Tina Kulvete photo.

Free notary services now offered at T.B. Scott Free Library

The T.B. Scott Free Library recently announced they will now offer notary public services at no cost to the community. A library card is not required. The new service is available by appointment on the first and third Mondays of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and on the second and

See NOTARY page 18



Spectacular colors are captured in a photograph of the Northern Lights, taken over Alexander Lake at 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 6, 2024.

Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photo.

Council Grounds Fall Candlelight Walk

Council Grounds State Park will hold a fall candlelight walk this Saturday evening, Oct. 12, 2024, from 6 - 8 p.m.

The walk begins and ends at the beach parking lot. Small lights will illuminate your way on the trail that winds through woods with some hills and boardwalks. There is also a segment of the boat landing loop road closed off for the walk to accommodate those who wish to walk on a paved surface. The walk is about one mile and will take about 20-30 minutes. The Friends of Council Grounds will have warming fires at the beach shelter area for gathering with friends. A vehicle admission pass is required and can be purchased at the park entrance if you don't already have one. Consider bringing a flashlight and smore's fixings. The Friends of Council Grounds will be helping the park staff set out candles and will maintain the warming fires by the beach picnic area that would be great for roasting marshmallows!



WEEKLY BRIEFING - OCTOBER 10TH - 14TH
 THURSDAY - CHICKEN WINGS & FRIES
 FRIDAY - COD, WALLEYE & BLUEGILL
 SATURDAY - PRIVATE EVENT
 SUNDAY - BROASTED CHICKEN
 BINGO - PORK LOIN SANDWICH
 MONDAY - SPAGHETTI
CONFERENCE ROOM & HALL RENTAL AVAILABLE
 Open at 4pm Mon. & Thurs. • Open at Noon Fri.
 Open at 11am Sat. & Sun. • Closed Tues. & Wed.
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 601 Johnson St., Merrill • 715-536-5708
 WE SELL FLAGS!

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
OCTOBER BOOZE OF THE MONTH
ALL CROWN WHISKEY
 \$6.00 - Double Pint
12 YEARS "GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND!"
FRI. OCT. 11TH
LIVE MUSIC BY: MARK WAYNE
 7pm-10pm
 Drink Specials - All Day
SAT. OCT. 12TH
B-I-N-G-O AT 1PM
 \$5 - Mixers • \$2 - Bottles
 Food Specials and 100% Cash Payout
 Special Anniversary Giveaway Basket
SUN. OCT. 13TH
GREEN BAY VS. ARIZONA
 Starts at Noon
 Drinks & Food Specials
SAT. OCT. 19TH
CRIBBAGE TOURNEY
 Starts at Noon
 \$40 per team
 \$240 1st Place (based on 12 teams, 100% payout)
 Lunch Provided!

COSMO Theatre KIDS • \$5.00
 SENIORS • \$5.00
 Main St. • Merrill ADULTS • \$8.00
MOVIES AND SHOWTIMES
 10/11/24 TO 10/17/24
 Mondays All Seats \$5.00
REAGAN
 "PG13" (2HR 21MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00PM
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00PM
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY
JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX
 "R" (2HR 18MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00PM
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY
THE WILD ROBOT
 "PG" (1HR 41MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00PM
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY
www.cosmomovies.com
715-536-4473

28th Annual
RINGLE HARVEST DAY
 Saturday, October 12, 2024
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
FLEA MARKET! Over 100 Vendors!
 Rain or shine!!
 12 miles east of Wausau
 Cty Hwy 29 to Q north
 visit ringleharvestday.blogspot.com
 LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:
facebook.com/RingleHarvestDay

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE DINNER AND BAKE SALE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 • 11A.M. - 1P.M.
 Homemade Potato Pancakes and Buttermilk Pancakes served with Scrambled Eggs and Sausage.
 • Adults - \$10
 • Children 6-12 - \$5
 • 5 years old and under - Free
CARRYOUTS AVAILABLE
Faith Lutheran Church
 15425 Highway K South - Merrill
 715-536-5443

RED GRANITE BAR AND GRILL
 EST. 1933
 FOR A GOOD OLD TIME
11420 S. County Rd. K, Merrill WI • 715-536-9391
 Sun. 7am-2am, Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-2am, Fri. 11:30am-2:30am, Sat. 7am-2:30am, Dine-in • Takeout • NO Delivery
Saturday & Sunday
 Breakfast 7am-11am
 Mimosas & Bloody Mary's
Mondays
 \$5 Burger & Home Fries
 Dine-in only & additional toppings are extra.
Sunday & Tuesday
 Broasted Chicken 12 Noon-8pm
Friday
 Fish Fry 12 Noon-8:45pm
 Red Granite Bar & Grill
 Order Online - Check wait times or just stop in!
 Find us on f

If you would like to be included in this Business Directory please call 715-536-7121



You know you're headed in the right direction when you see the signs.
 Tina L. Scott photo.

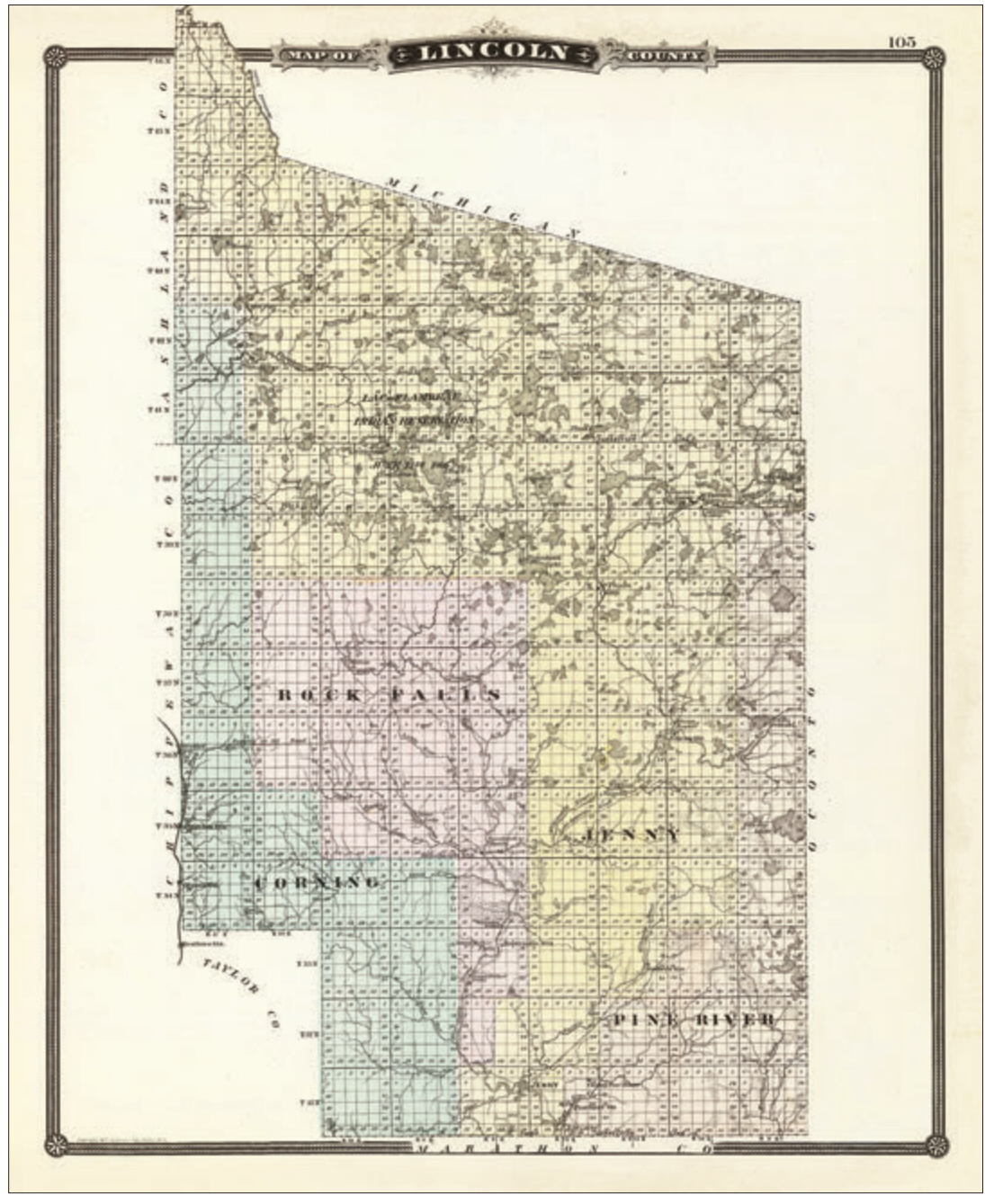
PUMPKIN PICKING from page 1

Grampa's Farm
 At Grampa's Farm, N2613 Norwegian Rd., Merrill, visitors can pick their own pumpkins - and a whole lot more! The list of things to do there and opportunities to reminisce with the younger generation and teach kids about life on the farm or "back in the day" is almost endless. For one admission price, families can do it all: play on the huge playground largely constructed from farm tires and machinery, take a wagon ride and pick a pumpkin, cut their own flowers in the flower and sunflower fields, enjoy concessions, explore the corn maze, pet animals at the petting zoo, ride on little tractors and riding toys, take a try at the giant slingshot in the barn loft to hit a deer target, dress up in pioneer days attire, explore an old-fashioned one-room schoolhouse, learn how to milk a cow by hand, play in a pit of shelled corn, learn how ice-cream is made by hand (and taste it), make a corn cob doll, and so much more!
 Enjoy the photos in this edition that provide a sneak peek at all three locations. [Photos taken Sept. 28, 2024.]

ADVERTISE Call 715-536-7121 TODAY!



The early beginnings of Lincoln County



INFORMATION COMPILED TO MERRILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

During the winter of 1873, Thomas P. Mathews, an influential resident of Jenny, succeeded in lobbying the Wisconsin state government to create Lincoln County. Because of his persistence, he is known as the "Father of Lincoln County." Lincoln County had previously been a part of and was created out of Marathon County under Chapter 128 of the State Statutes of 1874. The new county included the land north of townships 30 and 31 to the Michigan boundary between ranges 2 and 10 east and included 2.75 million acres. Parts of this territory were later annexed to other counties.

Early pioneers of Lincoln County were O.B. Smith, Thomas B. Scott, Myron H. McCord, Thomas P. Mathews, H.A. Keyes, Henry Sales, Dan A. Kline, Peter B. Champagne, John N. Cotter, Julius Thielman, Germaine Bouchard, W.H. Bradley, and Sigmund Heineman.

The first meeting of the County Board of Supervisors was held October 24, 1874. Its members were Charles Sales, Henry A. Keyes, and George W. Strowbridge, with Zephania Space acting as Clerk. During their first meeting, three resolutions were passed. The first established the County seat in the Village of Jenny. Per their second resolution, meetings were held on the second floor of the T.B. Scott Company Store building, which

had suitable quarters for County offices and records. Their third resolution organized all the land in the County into the Town of Jenny.

In addition to establishing its own government, the first order of business for Lincoln County dealt with the work of finalizing a separation with Marathon County. A financial settlement was completed in December of 1874, with the judicial separation following in the winter of 1875.

As the area's population grew, one of the Board's main functions was the determination of new townships. The first new townships were Pine River, Rock Falls, and Corning, which were established in 1876. Scott was set off in 1881, Russell in 1885, and the Town of Harrison in 1889. The last township formed in the early years, Harding, was detached from the Town of Scott in 1922.

The first Lincoln County Courthouse was built in 1881; the first jail in 1885; and the first County Fair was held in 1885. Lincoln was the second county in the state to employ a County nurse.

Education was given great priority by the early families in Lincoln County, although only a handful of children lived here at the time. The first report of schools in the area was found in information filed in 1880 by County Superintendent of Schools David Finn. There were 15 teachers and 527 children aged 4 to 20 - and 239 of them had attended school that year.

Historical Lincoln County, Wisconsin, map from 1877.

The "lost cities" of Lincoln County

Post offices and railroads once connected Lincoln County communities now lost

BY JALEN MAKI
TOMAHAWK LEADER EDITOR

Over the 150 years Lincoln County has existed in northcentral Wisconsin, numerous communities have come and gone.

Many of these "lost cities" were connected by two means: railroads and post offices.

Railroads

The first early European settlements in Lincoln County generally popped up along transportation routes, starting with the Wisconsin River and simple footpaths, after which were wagon roads, and eventually railroads.

When railroads came to Lincoln County, civilization did, too. The first "major" community in the area was Jenny, which

would later become Merrill. In 1881, the Wisconsin Valley Railroad - later known as the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific (CMStP&P) or the Milwaukee Road - arrived. By 1887, the railroad made its way north to Tomahawk and beyond.

Meanwhile, the Soo Line extended across northern Lincoln County. William H. Bradley, Tomahawk's founder, connected the Soo Line to his Marinette, Tomahawk & Western (MT&W) Railroad, bringing the line into Tomahawk from the north. The railroad then left town to the east, connected to the Chicago & Northwestern line, and headed south.

The CMStP&P added a branch to serve the communities' sawmills in the communities of Cotter and Heineman. These communities are just two of the numerous "lost cities" in Lincoln County that were connected by railroads.



The Heineman Depot. Photos courtesy of Tom Burg.

Heineman, originally known as Trout City on the Prairie River, was located west of Hwy. 17 on what is now Heineman Rd., across the Prairie River bridge. Heineman Rd. was then Main St. for the little town, which included a large saw

and planing mill, lumberyard, dance hall, company store, hotel, railroad depot, a schoolhouse, and numerous homes. All but the schoolhouse, two homes, and a chicken

See LOST page 8



LOST from page 7

coop were lost to the fire of 1910, which started as a forest fire.

After Bradley's death in 1902, the CM&StP extended the line eastward to Bloomville and Gleason and purchased the MT&W from Grundy southward. This line passed through numerous now-lost communities on its way to Gleason and into Marathon County.

Among the communities that once existed along this railroad line was Dunfield, which was known for Alta Springs Bottling Works and had previously served as a wagon road stop on the way from Bloomville and Gleason to Rhinelander to the north.

The small community of Doering, established in 1902, can still be found just north of where Bunker Hill used to be.

Several other Lincoln County communities have come and gone. In what is now the impoundment behind the Grandfather Dam on the Wisconsin River was Champagne, and O'Day, a lumber camp of Daly & O'Day Lumber Company, used to exist near the intersection of State Rd. 17 and County Rd. E. As of 1899, the now-lost settlement of Combs could be found between Merrill and Irma.

A state railroad map from the early 1900s shows the MT&W from Spirit Lake to Harrison and Dunfield, with trunk line connections, as well as other railways. Depicted on this map from Spirit Falls eastward to Tomahawk are Homestead, Colburn, Lincoln, Hickey, Kilroe, and Hill. East of Tomahawk were Kings, Lakes Marie, Bass Lake, Antigo Junction, Greens Sid, Gouda, Bundy, and Jeffris Junction

Tomahawk Dam, Gilbert, and Garland could be found south of Tomahawk, while Bay Mill was to the north. Wilkins, south of Antigo Junction; Jansen, south of Dunfield; Foss, south of Irma; Chat, east of Foss; Welling, south of Foss; and Heller, southwest of Doering, were also depicted on the map. To view the map, visit tinyurl.com/yc33xukd.

Post offices

Peter Champagne, a Canadian immigrant, was the first postmaster of Champagne's post office, which was founded on June 24, 1878. The office ceased operations on Dec. 7, 1887, after which the Merrill office began providing mail service.

The first post office in Dudley, a village 16 miles northeast of Merrill on the Prairie River, opened on Aug. 30, 1880. Henry

Dudley, who was born near Watertown, Wis., in 1848, served as the postmaster until the office was shuttered in June 1881, and he continued in this role when it was reestablished in Jan. 1883. Similar to its Heller counterpart, the Dudley office was closed on April 30, 1921, because mail service was being provided by the Gleason post office, with mail service coming from Gleason.

A post office in Chat was founded on March 7, 1884. Richard Town served as the first postmaster. Town changed the name of the office to Irma on April 30, 1888, but changed it back a week later. Mail was delivered to Chat three times a week, until the office was closed in Sept. 1911, with the Irma office providing mail service.

A post office was established in Heller, located near the present-day Schley Town

WOODLAND COURT ELDER SERVICES, LLC
Assisted Living
715-536-3399
715-536-9700
1102 S. Center Ave., Merrill, WI 54452
www.woodlandcourtelder.com
ESTABLISHED APRIL 1ST, 2000!

The Merrill Museum is proud to celebrate Lincoln County's 150 years of history

The Caylor Family is proud to be a part of your history, as we have owned a business on Main Street for the past **87 years!**

Ever since Bud opened his grocery store on Main Street in **1937!**

CAYLOR'S TROPHY BAR
SINCE 1934
808 E. Main, Merrill | 715.536.5780

Proudly Serving Our Community Since 1996!

KRUEGER PLUMBING LLC
715-536-3617
1600 W Taylor St, Merrill
Quality plumbing services you've trusted for almost 30 years!
MP #252751-PM • WDNR Pump #7054 • HVAC #267488

CELEBRATING 31 YEARS OF SERVICE

LP BUILDING SOLUTIONS

NOW HIRING
Scan for Employment Opportunities

9300 Highway S, Tomahawk, WI 54487
www.lpcorp.com

Miller Home Furnishings has been proudly serving Merrill and the surrounding communities since 1945. Millers was started by Clifford Miller and longtime employees Robert Fechtner and Robert Grefe. Fechtner and Grefe later bought Millers in 1980. Wally Smith joined Millers in 1978 and took over the business 20 years later in 1998. Long time employee Steve Hass joined Millers in 1991. Millers prides itself on quality service including free delivery, removal of old furniture and service after the sale.

WESTSIDE MARKET
DISCOUNT GROCERY AND LIQUOR!
WE WANT TO SAVE YOU TONS OF MONEY ON YOUR MONTHLY GROCERY BILL!!

BUILT IN 1886,
this location has always been a grocery store!

In 2017 we took over, remodeled, added a Deli and Liquor Department that will blow your mind!

We're bringing business back to Merrill's Westside!

This year we expanded to Tomahawk to save you MORE MONEY in more places!

Westside MARKET
DISCOUNT GROCERY & MORE!
23 W Wisconsin • Tomahawk
Mon-Fri 10am-5pm • Sat 10am-4pm

EASY WASH LAUNDROMAT
1500 W Main St • Merrill
3 DOORS DOWN FROM WESTSIDE MARKET!
OPEN EVERYDAY 7am-10pm

1500 W Main was built in 1890 as Emerich's Mercantile and Merrill's Woolen Mill. After decades of neglect we purchased the building in 2009 restoring 9,000 sq ft of original hardwood flooring & 1500 sq ft of antique ceiling.

MOM & POP VETERAN OWNED • CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!
1504 W Main Street • Merrill
715-722-0304
Mon-Fri 9a-7p • Sat-Sun 10a-5p
WE ACCEPT CREDIT, DEBIT & EBT CARDS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1969

Our mission is to meet our community's housing needs by providing decent, safe, maintenance free and independent affordable housing. It is our goal to promote self-sufficiency and quality of life for the elderly, disabled, individuals and families, and to provide the community with the highest level of compassion and respect.

- Park Place – Section 8 Multi-Family PBRA/LIHTC
54 – 1 Bedroom Apartments
Qualified Individuals over the age of 18
- Stonebridge – Section 8 Multi-Family PBRA/LIHTC
32 – 1 Bedroom Apartments
6 – 2 Bedroom Apartments
- Westgate – Section 8 Multi-Family PBRA/LIHTC
2 – 4 Bedroom Apartments
4 – 3 Bedroom Apartments
4 – 2 Bedroom Apartments
- Jenny Towers – Section 8 New Construction
101 – 1 Bedroom Apartments
Elderly age 62 & older and/or Disabled over the age of 18
- Bluejay Duplexes
6 – 2 Bedroom Units w/garage
Qualified Individuals over the age of 18
- Ranch Houses
3 – 3 Bedroom Units w/garage
Qualified Individuals over the age of 18

Maximum HUD and WHEDA Income Limits apply
Background checks required

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION CALL 715-722-1081 TO SPEAK WITH A LEASING AGENT OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MERRILLHA.COM



Hall, on March 21, 1890, with William Bessey serving as the first postmaster. Bessey, born in New York in 1854, was known for being a founding father of the Town of Schley. The post office was discontinued on April 30, 1921, because mail service was being provided by the Gleason office.

In the area north of Merrill known as Kickbush, a post office opened Oct. 9, 1891. The first postmaster was John H. Schulz, who was born in Germany in 1852, came to the United States with his parents when he was eight years old, and settled in Merrill in 1884. The Kickbush office was renamed Schulz in May 1909, and on Sept. 30, 1911, the office was shuttered, with mail coming from Irma.

On Dec. 16, 1903, a post office as established in Cotter, with Edward A. Hambrath (Hamelrath) serving as postmaster. The office operated until July 1910, when mail service began being provided from Chat.

Archie B. Gail served as the first postmaster for the Dunfield post office, established on July 23, 1904. The office operated until May 31, 1909, when mail began being

delivered to Dunfield from Gleason.

A post office in O'Day was established on March 22, 1910, with Irish immigrant Margaret Willet serving as postmaster. The office operated until April 15, 1912, when the Merrill office began providing mail service.

Other Lincoln County villages that no longer exist include Athens, Bellemeyers, Boehms, Caulders Spur, Clear Lake, Conklins, Crandalls, Days, Downeys, Elm City, Fries, Gilbert, Greens, Spur, Hoshels, Jones, Jersey City, Kingsleys, Larson, Lutz, McCormick, McInnis, McKays, Meadow, Otis, Paulson Junction, Petersons, Quinns, Russian Schultz, Somo Junction, Stewarts, Turtle Lake, Vachreaus, Welling, Wisconsin Dam, and Zimmerman.

Although these communities are now gone, through the research of dedicated local historians, many are not forgotten.

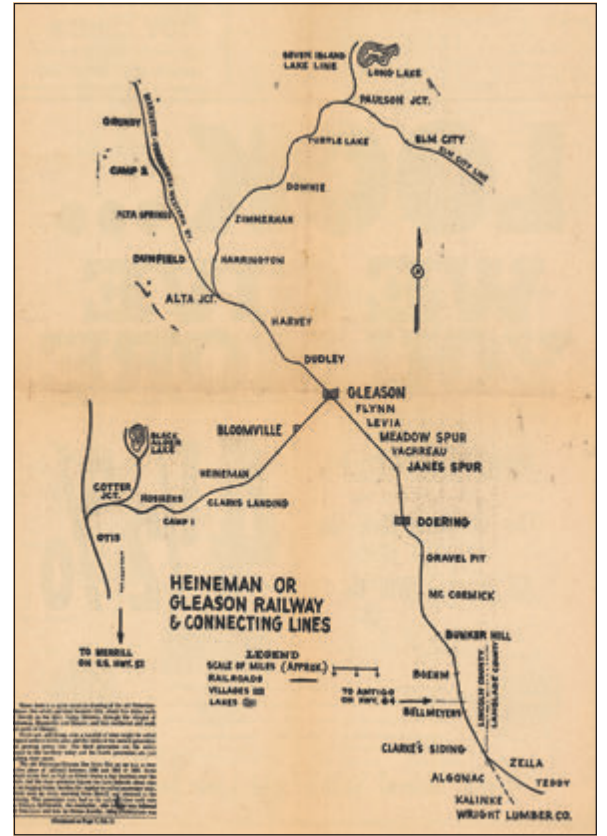


The Doering Depot.

Historical photo.



The devastation left behind from the Heineman fire of 1910. The small city was virtually destroyed. Photo shows the Heineman Lumber Co. saw mill aftermath. Historical photo.



This map, depicting routes of early-day railroad lines in Lincoln County, was published in the Dec. 16, 1967, issue of the Merrill Daily Herald. Historical map.

Proudly serving our community since 1908!

The best service makes all the difference.

We believe your family deserves the best and our professional funeral directors and staff will go the extra mile to provide it for you.



WAID FUNERAL HOME and CREMATION SERVICE
301 Eagle Drive • Merrill, WI 54452-3714
Phone: (715) 536-4646
Website: www.WaidFuneral.com

ROOTED IN OUR COMMUNITY



CURRENT HEADQUARTERS



HEADQUARTERS IN 1985



TOMAHAWK BRANCH IN 1973

Park City Credit Union is proud to serve the area for over 85 years!



park city CREDIT UNION

MERRILL • TOMAHAWK
MINOCQUA • RHINELANDER
715-536-8351 • parkcitycu.org
Federally insured by NCUA.



The Merrill St. Vincent de Paul Conference was formed in March 2003.

St. Vincent de Paul is a lay organization formed to offer person-to-person services to our neighbors in need. No difference of religion, nationality, race or political opinion is considered when one is in need.

**Outreach Office - 503 S. Center Ave, Merrill
715-539-2666 • Mon-Fri 7am-3pm**

**Thrift Store - 1004 E. Main Street, Merrill
715-539-1131 • Mon-Sat 9am-5pm**

If you know of anyone who needs any type of help or assistance please call our Outreach Office.

PROTECTING THE GREATER GOOD



Church Mutual INSURANCE

Founded in Merrill in 1897, we're proud to be part of Lincoln County's past, present and future.

Visit churchmutual.com to learn more about our history of commitment to our community.

© 2024 Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I.

Proud To Be A Part Of Our Merrill Community Since 1988!



Brickners Park City, Inc.



3000 EAST MAIN ST., MERRILL • PHONE: 715-536-2833
VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT **WWW.BRICKNERSPARKCITY.NET**




NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

- Auto Detailing
- Rhino Spray In Bed Liners
- Auto Armor Rust Proofing/Paint Sealant



Celebrating the Sesquicentennial (150 years) of Lincoln County: 1874-2024

County was established in 1874 as the second largest County in Wisconsin

BY TINA L. SCOTT | MERRILL FOTO NEWS EDITOR

LEARN ABOUT LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORY!

Local museums will open to celebrate on Oct. 19

Want to learn more about our Lincoln County history and all of the nitty gritty details, teach your kids about their heritage, and explore historic exhibits and displays? On Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, as we officially celebrate Lincoln County's Sesquicentennial countywide, area historical societies in both Merrill and Tomahawk will be open special hours.

In Tomahawk, while the log cabin has been closed all summer due to the construction of the dream park, the other Tomahawk Area Historical Museum at the corner of Washington Ave. and N. 5th St. will be open that day from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

In Merrill, the Merrill Historical Society Museum at 100 E. Third Street will be open all day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



JOIN THE DISCOVER LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORY HUNT TO HELP CELEBRATE OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL

Enjoy the adventure and the chance to win a prize!

Lincoln County invites history lovers of all ages to participate in the Discover Lincoln County History Hunt throughout the month of October 2024. Complete the History Hunt for your chance to win the Grand Prize of a one-night stay in Junior Suites at the Chula Vista Resort, which includes four water park passes (valid through June 30, 2025.) It also includes a dining voucher for Kaminski's Chop House, Kilbourn City Grill, or the Tavern Restaurant - a \$25 value.

The History Hunt combines a scavenger hunt, driving rally, and word puzzle skills.

Participants first stop at either the Tomahawk Area or Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce to pick up an official Discover Lincoln County History Hunt game puzzle sheet.

Follow the clues on the puzzle sheet to find each location (latitude and longitude) - or ask for and use the easy version that doesn't require utilizing those navigational skills.

Go to each location, in any order. The History Hunt is NOT a race and participants can deviate from the route at any time. This History Hunt will run from Oct. 1 through Oct. 31, 2024, so participants can tackle all of the stops in one day or spread them throughout the month!

At each location, search to find the official Discover Lincoln County History Hunt sign (11x18"). On this sign, participants will read a fun historical fact about the Town they are in

and find the location's word to place on their Discover Lincoln County History Hunt game puzzle sheet.

Once participants have visited all of the locations and found all the words - and written those words on the Discover Lincoln County History Hunt game puzzle sheet - they will use all of the collected words to complete a phrase. That's the word puzzle part.

Turn in the completed Discover Lincoln County History Hunt game puzzle sheet at either the Tomahawk Area or Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce no later than the end of the day on Oct. 31, 2024, to be entered into the drawing, for a chance to win the Grand Prize!

Participants will need:

- 1) The official Discover Lincoln County History Hunt game puzzle sheet.
- 2) Something to write with.
- 3) A vehicle.
- 4) A GPS/cellular device (for hard version) OR the ability to search based on location name, such as a a park (easy version).
- 5) A sense of adventure and a love for local history!

For more information on this and other 150th Celebrations, visit the Lincoln County webpage or the Tomahawk Area or Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce office.

Safe travels and good luck, history hunters!

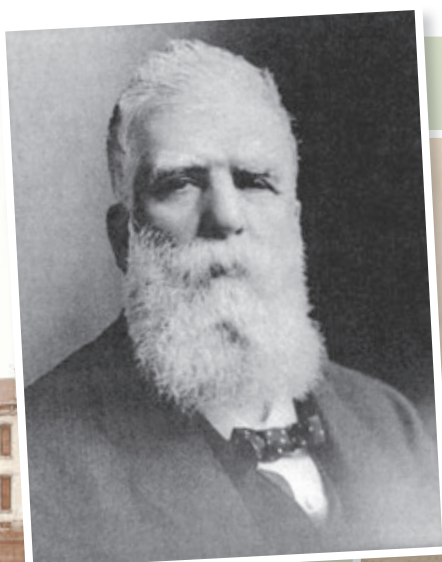
Excerpt from The Merrill Star-Advocate, Tues. July 3, 1900, edition

Progressive Town.

Merrill is putting on all kinds of prosperity airs this summer. On every hand there is repairing, fixing up, etc. The Larkin hotel is looming up. Some very nice residences are being built by some of our working men. The streets are being paved, and the saw mills are running full blast, some nights too. The woods are full of men peeling bark and cutting hemlock logs. Next year the large hard wood finishing factory will be built on the old Central Mfg. Co.'s ground. Merrill is all right, thank you.



Lincoln County's first Courthouse and Jail erected in 1881-1882 at a cost of \$7,500. The building later housed the Lincoln County Training School after the new Courthouse was built in 1903.



William H. Bradley.



Ideal Creamery located in Bloomville in 1912.



Order Today!

Lincoln County Sesquicentennial commemorative clothing available

Order your commemorative Lincoln County Sesquicentennial clothing today! Long and short-sleeved t-shirts, crew neck sweatshirts, and hoodies are available in choice of gray, black, or forest green. To order, go to: simply-stitched-llc.myshopify.com/collections/lincoln-county-150th-anniversary. A great gift idea!

Both the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce and Tomahawk Area Chamber of Commerce have a limited number of sizes and styles available and in stock at their locations for immediate purchase, but quantities and selection are limited.



CELEBRATE IN THE MORNING IN TOMAHAWK!

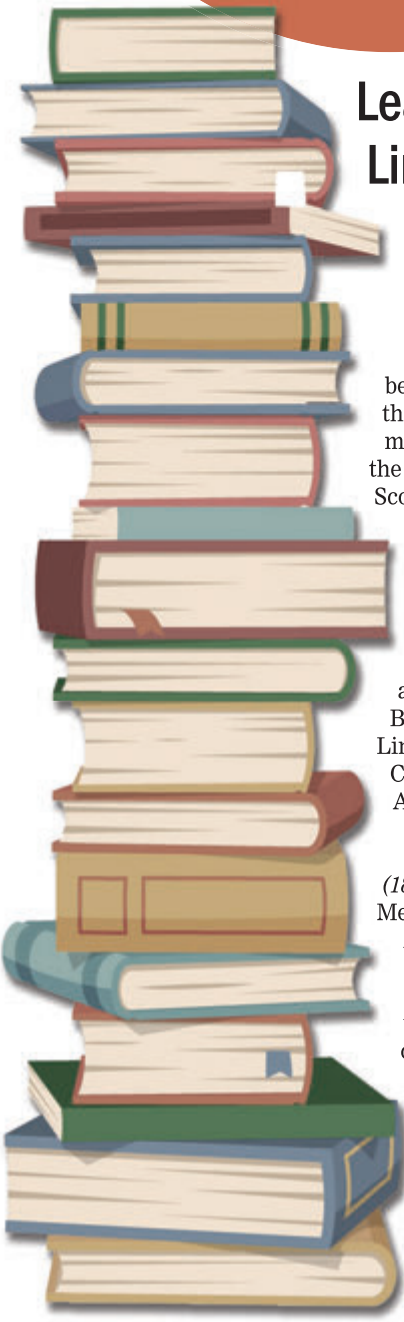
Tomahawk was once just a ferry station and tavern called "Forks and Bouchards" at the juncture where the Tomahawk and Somo flow into the Wisconsin River. William H. Bradley, President of the Tomahawk Land and Boom Co., is credited with founding

the City of Tomahawk. In 1891 the city was incorporated and Angus Buie was elected as Tomahawk's first Mayor. Now known as the "Gateway to the North," Tomahawk is a lively city of 3,441 people (as of the 2020 Census) that also attracts a great number of tourists year round.

On Oct. 19, in the morning, you're invited to celebrate with us in Tomahawk:

- At 8:00 a.m. - All are invited for a **Pancake Breakfast at the Tomahawk VFW Post 2687**, 203 S. 4th St. in Tomahawk
- **Uniquely Wisconsin stories** will be playing on a loop and Tomahawk area items will be collected to be put into the Lincoln County 150 Year **Time Capsule**.

- From 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. - All are invited to participate in the Tomahawk area **Live History Tour**



Learn more about Lincoln County history at your local library.

Some great books have been written documenting the history of Lincoln County, most of which are available at the Tomahawk Library and T.B. Scott Free Library in Merrill. Start with an overview by reading:

• *Lincoln County's 125th Anniversary Edition (1874-1999)*, compiled and prepared by Julia S. Bloechl under direction of Lincoln County Administrative Coordinator and 125th Anniversary Committee

• *Lincoln County Centennial (1874-1974)*, published by Merrill Shopper & Foto News August 14, 1974

There are also many other volumes available that focus on specific areas of Lincoln County and/or specific aspects of the County's history, such as lodging, schools, churches, sawmills, etc. Some are reference only, but many are available for checkout.

CELEBRATE THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING IN MERRILL!

The area where the Prairie River flows into the Wisconsin River was first known as Jenny Bull Falls, later shortened to Jenny. In 1874, when Lincoln County was first established, the Village of Jenny was designated as the County seat of Lincoln County. At that time, all territory outside of the Village was called the "Town of Jenny." In 1881, the name was legally changed and

incorporated, and the Village of Jenny became the City of Merrill, named after the General Manager of the Wisconsin Valley Railroad Company, Sherburn Sandborn Merrill. (The railroad later became a part of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad.) T.B. Scott was named the City of Merrill's first Mayor in 1883 at the first City Council meeting.

On Oct. 19, beginning at noon, you're invited to celebrate with us in Merrill. All festivities will be held at the Fair Grounds in Merrill:

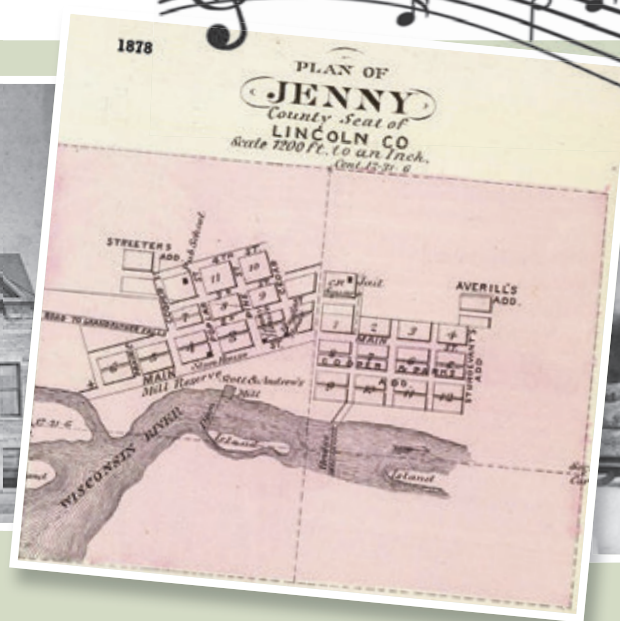
- At 12:00 p.m. - All are invited to **gather in the Merrill Expo Center** where Mark O'Connell from Wisconsin Counties Association and local dignitaries will officially recognize Lincoln County's Sesquicentennial - 150 years. Lincoln County will premiere their partnership with **Discover Wisconsin**, along with the unveiling of **Uniquely Wisconsin** productions, and Merrill area items will be collected to be put into the Lincoln County 150 Year **Time Capsule**.
- From 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **Food Truck Vendors and Food Stands** will be open for food, snacks, and

refreshments. Adult beverages will be available.

- Enjoy a **Vintage Car/Truck Show** on the grounds. The Nicklaus family will have on display a selection of antique cars/tractors.
- From 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. St. John Lutheran Church and School will host an **Old Fashioned Carnival** with games and fun for all ages.
- From 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. enjoy **Live Music** under the tent by **Local Hero's Band with Special Guest Drummer Matt Ryner from the BoDeans**



Early photograph of the old Merrill City Hall built in 1889. The building housed the Library and the Police Department. The building was converted into unique apartments, now known as The Lofts at City Hall.



The original plat map of Jenny dated 1878.



Fehrmann Saloon and Boarding House in Doering when the Post Office was established in 1903. By 1917, Doering had a population of 50. **Historical photos and map.**

Proudly serving Lincoln County for 57 years!



Defender Limited HD10

TOMAHAWK SPORTS CENTER

715-453-5373 • 888-606-4507
693 N 4th St • Tomahawk, WI
tsc@tomahawksportscenter.com



The Legend of Boom Decker Becker

BY BRANDON JOHNSON

Author of *Boom Decker Becker: How One Man Became a Town's Ghost Story*

For over 60 years, visitors to the Merrill School Forest have heard tales of the ghost of Boom Decker Becker. Since Al Curtis spent 33 years as Director of the School Forest, and so many of the programs and traditions there originate with him, it's no surprise that most people in Merrill assume he's responsible for starting this enduring local legend. In fact, it started in the summer of 1962 while Curtis was busy attending summer school. Another teacher named Bob Gruling filled in, and it was during that time that Boom Decker Becker began.

The Boom Decker Becker Story as told by Bob Gruling

Did you hear about Boom Decker Becker the hermit? Well, I don't know for sure, but you might hear him or maybe even see him tonight. What does he look like? He has long gray hair as well as a long gray beard. Usually, he wears kind of a "church going" felt hat. Other than that, he wears a red plaid shirt, a dark jacket, and dark trousers. He also wears tall leather boots. Sometimes he even has his horse with him. Where does he live? Did you know he lives in that little shack up this logging road? Yes, it's kind of a horse barn. Did you ever notice that dark horse blanket in there? When it's really cold, he wraps it around himself. Is he dangerous? No. Not really. But he

can be pretty scary! He roams the forest constantly. Though you can hardly ever see him. He might be behind you, behind a tree, by the creek. Lots of times he makes strange noises. Listen. Can you hear him? What was that?!

With each new storyteller, the legend has changed greatly over the years, from Gruling's playful spirit to the now more common headless horseman version, but no matter the changes, Boom Decker Becker endures.

Copies of the book that tells the entire story of the legend, *Boom Decker Becker: How One Man Became a Town's Ghost Story*, are available for purchase at the Merrill Historical Society.

Happy 150th Anniversary, Lincoln County!



WE DO STUMP GRINDING

715.302.3151

Free Estimates
Licensed & Insured

Mark & Tina Scott, Merrill – Owners

Serving our community for over 68 years!

GEISS



Meat Service
W4490 Pope Road **715-536-5283**

Full Retail Store

- Steaks • Burger • Sausage/Snack Sticks • Jerky
- Brats • Wieners • Bacon • Chicken • Cheese
- Full Custom Processing • Beef/Pork/Wild Game and so much more!

**Open 8am-5pm Mon.-Fri.
9am-Noon Sat. • Closed Sunday**

www.geissmeat.com

We Provide

- Supportive Home Care
- Respite Care
- Adult Social Center
- Health & Fitness Center



Growing With Merrill Since 2010

Contact us for a free consultation.

120 S. Mill Street, Merrill, WI 54452 • **715-218-3772**
info@kindheartedhomecare.com • www.kindheartedhomecare.com
Locally owned and operated by Diane Goetsch

**WENDORF BUS SERVICE, INC.
DAVE & SARA WENDORF**



FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1959



Safely transporting Merrill's children for 65 years!

Serving the Community Since 1934



Taylor & Stine

Funeral Home and Cremation Services

Leah D. Reist, Director
McKenna K. Meunier, Director
Tammy Klade, Pre-Need Ins. Agent

903 E. 3rd Street • Merrill
715-536-6244
www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Saint Stephens

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

903 East 2nd Street | Merrill, WI
715.536.7322 | ststephensucc.net

**ROOTED IN FAITH FOR 141 YEARS,
EMBRACING GOD'S FUTURE!**



Locally Owned & Operated For 34 Years



We take pride in the vehicles we sell and strive to give the customer a great car buying experience.

Visit us today in person to see our newly remodeled store, or online.

IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK...

Over 150 Vehicles In Stock!

Or Custom Order Your New **Ford** Today.

BREAMAN Merrill 1301 N. Center Ave., Merrill, WI 54452
(Hwy 51, Exit 211 then south 1.5 miles)
www.breamanmerrillford.com

Sales: (715) 536-4542
Parts/Service: (715) 536-3039

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 6 pm
Saturday 9 am - 3 pm • Sunday Closed

Proud supporter of the Merrill Community Since 1962

1211 W Water St Merrill, WI
www.agraind.com

AGRA Industries




PROUD MEMBER OF THE TOMAHAWK COMMUNITY SINCE 1968.



CASE CONSTRUCTION

Worldwide manufacturer in construction equipment.

To learn more, visit **CaseCE.com/Tomahawk**

©2017 CNH Industrial America LLC. All rights reserved. CASE is a trademark registered in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates.



Tomahawk's first water tower, erected in 1891, at W. Lincoln Ave. and N. Second St. The structure was about 70 feet high to the bottom of the tank with a total height of 105 feet to the peak. It cost \$2,750. The old water tank, which was condemned as unsafe, was pulled down in early May 1906. Several hundred people assembled to witness the occasion, after hearing the whistle at the pumping station signaling that the project was about to begin. The tower fell precisely as planned. Inspection of the debris showed some rotting of the timbers, even in the tank itself. There was a deposit of ice in the bottom of the tank, over three feet in thickness, weighing many tons, which would have caused great devastation had a storm ever blown over the structure. **Historical photo.**

Antone at Irma near the Estonian Historical photo.



cosmo
GREAT MOVIES
GREAT POPCORN
GREAT PRICES

1908

COSMO THEATRE
Merrill's Finest Theatre for over 115 years!

HAVEN, INC.
HOUSEHOLD ABUSE VICTIMS EMERGENCY NETWORK
715-536-1300

At HAVEN, we've supported survivors of interpersonal abuse in Lincoln County for close to 40 years. In working with our clients, we listen to them, validate them, and help them gain insights about what has happened to them. We also educate them about available options and resources for themselves and their families, and potential ways to hold those who abuse them accountable.

When clients are able to feel safe and able to gain insights regarding their experiences, it allows their healing process to begin, and amplifies their courage in taking back their lives. Because all forms of abuse destroy trust and take away basic human rights, survivors need to know they are not alone as they go through this process and beyond. When people believe survivors, understand their situations, and provide emotional and practical support, they are helping to strengthen the community as a whole.

All services are free and confidential.
Learn more at: www.haveninc.org

3rd St. & Center Ave. • 715-536-6532

Celebrating Over 50 Years
Serving Charbroiled, Pure Beef Burgers!

HAMBURGERS

- Open Daily at 10am
- Drive Thru
- Ice Cream

- Daily Specials
- Double Your Deal (include fries & a drink)
- 4 Value Packs Available

Proud to be a part of our community since 1971!

Home of the Bluejay Burger
www.chipshamburgersmerrill.com

St. John Lutheran Church & School

We give thanks to God for Lincoln County's 150th year anniversary

1104 E. THIRD ST.
MERRILL, WI 54452
WWW.STJOHNMERRILL.ORG

CHURCH: 715-536-4722
SCHOOL: 715-536-7264

2 Locally Owned
AWARD-WINNING
BUSINESSES

PROGRESS = GROWTH
Pine Ridge Complex
Americinn Lodge & Suites

45 Quiet Rooms • 4 Different Types
Large Aquatic Recreation Facilities • Pool, Sauna, Whirlpool
Large Lobby • Fireplace • Quiet Conversation Area • Continental Breakfast
OPENING SPRING 2002

Newspaper clipping from their construction in 2002.

AmericInn
PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 22 YEARS!

Americinn won Trip Advisor Housekeeping and Front Desk Staffs from Wyndham awards!

The Americinn by Wyndham Merrill today.

Arby's
PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR 10 YEARS!

We are so proud to have been the first single store, to achieve status as a National Certified Training Restaurant, and of our perfect Health Department Inspection!

The original crew in November 2014 congratulated during the Ribbon Cutting by Merrill Chamber's Ambassadors & Guests. Becky Sowinski present Manager, is on the far right.

Stop in to support our "No Kids Hungry" Campaign going on now!

Today the AmericInn and Arby's are shining stars on Merrill's Eastside!



Lloyd E. "Mitch" was the owner of Mitchell's Yellow Cab, 17 S. Second St. in Tomahawk, from 1916-1965. His wife, Teelya, answered the phone calls and relayed them to Mitch by means of a short wave radio system between their home and the taxi. He wore out 75 cars and put on 3 million miles. In 1918 he had fares to Milwaukee and Chicago because there were very few cars then. **Historical photo.**

CONGRATS LINCOLN COUNTY ON 150 GREAT YEARS!



Tomahawk Leader snippets from March 4, 1920.

\$3,500,000 TO BE INVESTED IN NEW INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE—CONSTRUCTION OF MILLS TO TAKE TWO YEARS

Plans Call for Construction of Paper Mill, Pulp Mill and Sulphite Fibre Mill and Development of 10,000 H. P. at Grandmother and

The PCA Tomahawk Mill is proud to be a key player of Lincoln County's economy since 1920!



On September 17, 2024, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors passed the following Resolution 2024-09-54 and issued this proclamation in recognition of Lincoln County's Sesquicentennial:

Proclamation Celebrating County of Lincoln's Sesquicentennial

WHEREAS; Lincoln County was created by the Wisconsin Legislature on March 4, 1874, with a population of 895, and land area of 2,750,000 acres. At that time Lincoln County included most of present day Oneida and Vilas Counties, as well as parts of present day Langlade, Taylor, Price, and Iron Counties; and

WHEREAS; Present day Lincoln County encompasses 2 cities, 16 townships, approximately 900 square miles, or 576,000 acres, and ranks 21st in size among the State's 72 counties; and

WHEREAS; Lincoln County has over 1,100 miles of public streets and roads. It has 152 named lakes and 577 unnamed lakes, totaling 15,585 acres. There are 246 streams in the County, 668 miles in length, with 395 miles designated as trout stream; and

WHEREAS; Lincoln County has 11 private campgrounds (512 sites), 3 County campgrounds (43 sites), Council Grounds State Park (55 sites), many resorts; 45 miles of summer ATV trails, and our many lakes provide recreation opportunities that can be enjoyed year round; and

WHEREAS; Winter recreation is also available with 22 miles of cross-country ski trails on County forest lands, 315 miles of maintained snowmobile trails, and 200 miles of winter ATV trails;

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED; that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors recognize and celebrate March 4, 2024, as the County of Lincoln's Sesquicentennial; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED; that Lincoln County Board of Supervisors hereby recognize October 19, 2024, as the official celebration of the County's Sesquicentennial and encourage the community to join us in celebrating Lincoln County's 150 years of being a great community.

Certified by:
Christopher J. Marlowe,
County Clerk

Jesse Boyd,
Chairman,
Lincoln County Board of Supervisors



From the Old Merrill City Hall Basement in 1891



To the Prairie Style Carnegie at Stange's Park in 1911

CONGRATULATIONS!
Lincoln County on 150 Years

To the Breathtaking View along the Prairie River in 2024



417736



Surface Print and Laminate Packaging Stock

Proud to be a part of the Merrill Community Since 1986.

www.interflexgroup.com



Image is everything. Packaging defines it.

177,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing and warehouse infrastructure across four facilities in Wilkesboro, NC, and Merrill, WI.

41764

Pine River Fire Dept. Open House and Pig Roast



The Town of Pine River and Merrill area community came out to support the Pine River Fire Department at their annual Open House and Pig Roast last Saturday and to enjoy some pork. **Michael Caylor photos.**

Make A Difference Day leaf raking contact number correction

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

In last week's article about the Make A Difference Day (MADD) leaf raking event on Oct. 26, one digit

of the phone number was printed incorrectly. The correct telephone number for elderly or disabled residents to call if they are requesting to have their yards raked is: 414.539.0182.

EMPLOYMENT



NOW HIRING FULL-TIME POSITION

Looking for a personable, people friendly, service oriented applicant. Responsibilities would include: Sales, bookkeeping and general store duties and up keep.

APPLY IN PERSON AT:
Klug's Country Gold
1018 E. Main Street • 715-536-5189

More photos online merrillfotonews.com



An array of emergency vehicles was on hand and attendees could see what they look like inside and learn more about the area's emergency services. Of course, the Pine River Fire Department had all their vehicles on display for their Open House, and a Wisconsin State Patrol vehicle was also on hand, in addition to the Life Link III medical transport helicopter that flew in for the event.



The beautiful day enabled the Life Link III helicopter to make a stop at the Pig Roast so members of the public could check it out at the event.



Even the kids bounce house matched the theme of the event - with a fire engine bounce house the little ones could enjoy for free.



What better way to end the annual Pine River Fire Department Pig Roast than with an awesome fireworks show?



Come Join Our Team We're Hiring!

- Production Workers
- Product Development Designers
- Quality Technician

To Apply:

- Apply in person at 1400 W. Taylor Street (employment office - SW corner)
- Or Email your resume to gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com
- Or go to www.indeed.com to search vacancies

We are an equal opportunity employer.

October Youth Optimist



Max Black

Max Black, a Senior at Merrill High School, is the September Youth Optimist of the Month. "Max is a lead designer in the high school's student-run business," said Mr. Timothy Krueger in his nomination. "His optimistic attitude plays a huge role in our class. As you can imagine, designing for a client involves many revisions, communication, and extra time. His leadership skills allow him to bridge the gap in the role teachers would normally take when communicating with clients about their designs. Teachers often know that they can just go to Max when they need something made for their event or club."

At school, Max has been active with DECA (officer), Tri-M Music Honor Society, Raise your Voice (officer), National Honor Society, Track & Field, Cross Country, School Board Representative, Marching Jays, and Pep Band. Outside of school Max volunteers with Make A Difference Day and Highway Cleanup and helps prepare for weekly church services. Following high school graduation, Max plans to attend UW-Madison or Notre Dame for a pre-med program, hopefully followed by another four years of medical school to earn a doctorate. He is also considering enlisting with the National Guard to provide service to his country while still focusing on his education.

Josiah Lockhart, an eighth grader at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), is the September Youth Optimist of the Month. "Josiah is a terrific individual who has a happy, smiling disposition in school," Ms. Joelene Hanig said in her nomination. "His concern for both the peers and adults truly makes a difference, and his ability to lead with respect and consideration for others sets a wonderful example." "Josiah helps make our school a positive place, and his model behavior inspires everyone around him, which is why I am highly recommending Josiah for this award," she said. The son of Marvin and Darlene Lockhart, Josiah lives with his family in Merrill.



Josiah Lockhart

Optimist Clubs: "Bringing Out the Best in Kids"
Merrill Noon Optimists - Wednesdays at 12:00 noon at the Eagles Club, 1205 Lake St., Merrill
Adult volunteers join Optimist Clubs to conduct positive service projects in their communities aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. Their upbeat attitudes empower youth to be the best they can be. Optimists International, with 3,000+ clubs, conducts 65,000 service projects, serving more than six million youth annually. Locally, Merrill Noon Optimists serve 3,000+ area youth, contributing or organizing events and service projects in our Merrill community.



Sponsored by:



(715) 551-8016
Gail Abegglen

CONGRATULATIONS!

Fall Tire Sale

Best Prices of the Season!



\$1 TIRE!

WHEN YOU BUY 3
October thru
November
*Some Brands Excluded

Also, ask us how to save **\$100⁰⁰** and get **6 months 0%** financing on tires or service!

**Must be approved through FCA Financing, by 11/30/24

We perform no charge wheel alignment checks with every oil change!

Brickners
Park City, Inc.

3000 EAST MAIN STREET, MERRILL

PHONE: 715-536-2833 • TOLL FREE 800-499-JEEP (5337)

LOCATED 1/2 MILE WEST OF HWY. 51-64 INTERCHANGE

Visit our web site at www.bricknerfamily.com - Email: Parkcityservice@bricknerfamily.com



417883

410714

EMPLOYMENT




Merrill Area Public Schools is HIRING!!

- 5th Grade Teacher
- Special Education Teacher
- Special Education Aide • Night Custodian
- Part-Time AV Technician

If interested, please login to <https://wecan.waspa.org> or call the Director of Human Resources at 715-536-4581 x10001

READ ■ REUSE ■ RECYCLE

WE ARE HIRING




PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE, PART TIME

- ✓ Flexible Schedule
- ✓ No Nights or Weekends
- ✓ Monday-Friday, Day Shift
- ✓ WI Retirement System

School nursing, communicable disease follow-up, immunizations and oral health services.

Starting wage: \$30.83 to \$34.35

28 hours per week. Must have Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and be a licensed Registered Nurse in Wisconsin.



bit.ly/3ZHgWRh

Apply Today! Application forms available at www.co.lincoln.wi.us or at the Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N. Sales Street, Merrill. Lincoln County is an equal opportunity employer.

CLASSIFIEDS

Business Opportunities 7105

Wanted: Couple with RV to manage a Christmas tree sales lot in Florida from Nov 10-Dec 24. RV will be parked on the sales lot for the season with hook ups provided. Call 715-652-2262 for more information.

General Employment 7110

WANTED: Someone to take care of a small Dog. (Dog - sitter) Call 715-536-6242.

Professional and Technical 7135

OTR TRUCK DRIVERS FT/PT. Put your career in Gear Competitive wages & full benefits. Mileage, Drop pay, Paid weekly, Home weekends, NO east/west coast. 28 Central States. Van & Hopper Division. Agricultural experience a plus. Fox Valley Company since 1958 Call Frank 920-788-6242 or 920-858-0238. Van Groll Trucking, Kaukauna

Announcements 7005

FLORIDA BOUND EMPTY TRUCK. Can move household & Cars - CHEAP! Local 414-520-1612



Rummage Sales This Week 7200

Merrill, W4273 Apartment Street, 1 1/4 Mile past KFC. 8-5, Oct. 11&12. Men's clothes, rugs, puzzles, kitchen, X-mas, pictures, outdoor decor, vac. cleaner, lots more items, women's clothes.

Rummage Sales This Week 7200

Merrill, Multi Family Sale, Friday and Saturday, October 11 & 12. 9-4 W5444 Taylor St. Children's and adult fall and winter clothing, boots, changing table & pad, toys, twin mattress, hard sided cross-bow case and much more.

Appliances 7234

In Merrill, 5 year old Amana Refrigerator, Black, side by side with ice & water in door, clean inside and out. Asking \$400 OBO, call Brian 203-923-6152.

Furniture and Home Decor 7236

PLYMOUTH FURNITURE: QUEEN MATTRESSES FROM \$199 40 Styles on display! All Sizes Avail. PlymouthFurnitureWI.com 2133 Eastern Ave. Plymouth WI 920-892-6006 Open Daily

Firewood 7244

DRY OAK & Hard Maple, \$250/cord. Over 15 mi is extra. Have hard wood in wood shed over a year old. Clean & no bark. 715-351-1888 or 715-873-4196.

Lawn and Garden 7250

New & Used Lawn & Garden Equipment Servicing all brands. Full service small engine repair. Snowblowers, tillers, mowers, chainsaws, log splitters & more. North Central Power Equipment 4001 Dixie Ave, Wausau 1 mile north of Fleet Farm off Hwy K, east on Emery Dr. to South on Dixie 715-370-3002

Miscellaneous Merchandise 7266

For Sale: CD Player w/2 Large speakers, Many CD's. 715-393-5655

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



MULTI MEDIA CHANNELS THE PARENT COMPANY OF THIS PUBLICATION, IS LOOKING FOR A MARKETING AND SALES CONSULTANT

The position involves meeting with businesses to find out their needs and create a marketing plan with our lineup of print products. This position sells advertising to businesses to help them grow via weekly newspapers, special sections, web ads, and a variety of specialty magazines.

This position offers competitive pay and benefits, no nights or weekends, mileage and expense reimbursement.

EMAIL MIKE HOLLIHAN AT MHOLLIHAN@MMCLocal.com

Merrill Housing Authority PROPERTY COORDINATOR

The Merrill Housing Authority is seeking an individual to fill a **40 hour a week** position for a **Property Coordinator**. This person will work closely with the staff, tenants, and the general public, answer phones, maintain waiting lists, filing, screen applicants, lease apartments, collect rent, etc. Must have attention to detail, organizational skills, be able to prioritize work, and meet deadlines. The applicant must have HS diploma/GED, good communication and customer service skills, ability to utilize a computer, working knowledge of MS Office, and ability to learn specialized software for the Housing Industry. A detailed job description can be obtained at 701 E 1st St. Merrill, WI. A resume and cover letter should be mailed to 701 E 1st St. Merrill WI 54452 Attn Lynn Ross, no later than November 8, 2024.

AmronOn-Site Job Fair

Manufacturing Workers Needed!

MONDAY - FRIDAY (8 hours per day)
NO MANDATORY OVERTIME
NO MANDATORY WEEKENDS
EXCELLENT BENEFITS
 (health, dental, vision, 401K)

Tuesday, October 15th and Wednesday, October 16th, 2024
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
920 Amron Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409

***If this date and time does not work for you please give our office a call at 715-623-4176.*

Immediate openings on 1st shift, 2nd and 3rd shifts.

Entry Level to Skilled Level Positions
 \$15.70 per hour - \$27.08 per hour
 (General Laborers, Machine Set up & Run Operators, CNC Operators, Tool & Gage and Lab Operators)

Interviews on Site!



Equal Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action: Minorities, Women, Veterans, Disabilities. Due to the nature of our work, applicants must be U.S. Citizens.



Fall For A New Career

Crew Member

\$19.79-\$20.40/hr

Join our Team!
Two Merrill Locations

- 4 10-Hour Days
- Both shifts available
- Possible OT on Friday
- Attendance Bonus Program (up to an additional \$1.50/hr)
- Retirement & Life Insurance
- Paid Holidays and Vacations
- Excellent Low-Cost Benefits:
Individual: \$88/Month
Spouse: +\$140/Month
Child: +\$63/Month

2024 Monthly Rates

APPLY IN-PERSON
 Two Locations:
 605 N. Ohio St. | 1815 Water St.
 Questions? Call: 715-722-1884

See all opportunities at SPI.CAREERS



Sierra Pacific is an (EOE) Equal Opportunity Employer, including those with a disability and veterans.

Wanted to Buy 7268
COLLECTIONS OF OLD BASEBALL & FOOTBALL CARDS. From the 1950s, 60s, 70s & older. Vintage sport memorabilia autographs bobbleheads & Packers/Braves items. Check your attic, basement & closets. We pay in CASH call Jeff 608-438-7702

WANTED: Old drum sets, snare drums, cymbals from the 1920s through 1970s. Also interested in pro level drum equipment and electronic drums from 1980s to present. Call 615-485-8611 or email me at: yourolddrumz@gmail.com

Cats 7270
Snowshoe & Siamese kittens: 8wks to 5 mos. 300.00 neg. 715-421-3667

Dogs 7272
AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS. Shots Vet ck'd. Wormed. \$700 Can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146) 10/7

AUSSIE DOODLE PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$700-\$900 715-255-2661 (#269146)10/7

Dogs 7272
Australian Shepherd - Blue Merle Puppies and 1 black & white puppy. Born July 2024. \$200 Call 715-219-3395

Border Collie pups \$350, German Shepard pups \$500, Cavapoo pups \$600. C/T 715-316-2617

BOSTON TERRIER PUPPIES Males/Females Health Guar Ready Now 715-937-0916 no text

Brown & White Boston Terrier Male pup. Shots DEW Vet Checked \$300. 715-654-0060

CAVALIER POODLE PUPS Shots wormed vet ck'd M-275 F-300 Pics available have both parents 715-669-3607

Cute and cuddly Cavapoo puppies, first shots, dewormed & vet checked. Your playful & colorful friends are ready for pick up now. \$700 Cash. Call 715-223-5321.

HAVANESE YORKIE PUPS. Tri-color shots vet checked 2 HAVAPOO male pups 715-937-4425

Pomeranian pups Farm raised Sable color Pretty, Friendly Vet. Ck'd \$600 715-229-9088

Dogs 7272
POMERANIAN - MINI - AUSTRALIAN SHEP CROSS PUPS 1-M \$250 1-F \$300 DOB 5-9 715-823-3052

PUREBRED BEAGLE PUPPIES. Shots/wormed, \$500 Born June 15, Ready Now 715-680-0140 or 715-257-9316

PUREBRED GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS shots vet ck'd \$400 cash only Greenwood 715-267-6306

Pure Breed GREAT PYRENEES Puppies \$200 OBO 920-404-9094

REGISTERD CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPS. Shots, Wormed, Dewes, Vet \$950 715-470-0458 Call Only will consider offers. (#509642)S

SHELTIE CROSS PUPS. Dewormed Very Friendly Cute and Playful. \$80 715-223-4780s

TOY POODLE PUPS 1-F 3-M Shots vet ck'd Non-Shedding F-\$700 M-\$600 call 715-990-7555

Livestock 7284
ALL NAT. GRASS FED BEEF. Butchered Dec. 10th Vac. Pak. Incl. Processing \$6.50lb. 715-250-2793

Farm Equipment 7286
For Sale: Kelly 400 Loader, 6 1/2' snow bucket. All mounting hardware included. Good Hyd. cylinders. Came off Allis D-14, \$200 OBO. 715-536-8840

Young farmer looking to buy John Deere 4020 Diesel. Must have 2 remotes, 540/1000 PTO. would prefer power shift and side console. 715-216-0310.

Hay and Straw 7288
Quality Horse Hay or Dairy Quality Hay, \$5.75 sm. sq. Free delivery on 100 bale loads, No SUN calls. Satisfaction guaranteed. 715-558-5282

Agriculture Services 7292
Hand Crafted Garden & Storage Sheds, Garages & Cabins. Many Styles and Options. Sizes from 8' x 8' up to 15' x 40' are available. Call BAKER BARNS, LLC 715-873-3338 mile North of Gleason, Hwy 17

Farms For Sale 7457
5.5 ACRE HORSE HOBBY FARM. Newer 2 story house 36x100 Barn w/Horse Stall's 30x50 Barn for storage 715-823-3052

Lots and Acreage For Sale 7466
CRANDON WI. (Forest County) 10 acres on a town road, power Land Contract Avail, \$89,000. Also 36 Acre Active gravel pit. For Sale Boulder&Stone 715-493-6121

Business and Commercial 7475
FOR SALE: DIXIE LUNCH RESTAURANT & Fifth Avenue Supper Club at Antigo, WI. Oldest running cafe in the State of Wisconsin. Excellent gross business & financials. \$250,000.00. NOLAN SALES LLC, Marion, WI - 715-754-5221 or 800-472-0290. www.nolansales.com

Motorcycles 7502
BUYING SALVAGE MOTORCYCLES-ATVS-WATERCRAFT 920-850-9299 Local Dealer Pickup

WALNECKS MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET WOODSTOCK IL. Sun. Oct 13th McHenry Co. Fairgrounds. 8am-2pm Admin. \$10 Booths \$50 Rain/Shine 630-985-2097

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/MerrillFotoNews

Trucks 7546
CHEVY 2019 Silverado 2500 HD, 57,000 mi., new tires, nice truck, \$32,000. Call 715-966-1436.

PARK CITY CREDIT UNION - MERRILL 2018 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 COLOR: BLACK MILEAGE: 110141 VIN# 1GCVKREC7JZ195003 MINIMUM BID \$20,000 OR BEST OFFER Please contact Trish @ 715-536-8351 Ext. 4233 Or Ashley @ 715-536-8351 Ext. 4821

Painting and Wallpaper 7364
FRITZ BARN PAINTING rusty Roofs, Metal Buildings Free Est. 608-221-3510 920-821-6311

DEADLINE CLASSIFIED DEADLINE MONDAY AT 4 PM

AUCTIONS

HANSEN AUCTION GROUP NITKE 4-DAY FALL CONTRACTOR AUCTION OCTOBER 24-25 & OCTOBER 28-29 ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS! Dozers, Loaders, Backhoes, Tractors and Farm Machinery, Logging, Trucks, Trailers & Construction Related Items CALL 715-539-6295 NOW! ASK ABOUT ZERO COMMISSION! DROP OFF: MON.-FRI. FROM 8:00AM-4:00PM SAT., OCT. 19TH FROM 8:00AM-12:00PM 990 HAPPY HOLLOW RD, MOSINEE, WI 54455 LEARN MORE AT HANSENAUCTIONGROUP.COM

ONLINE AUCTION ANOTHER AUCTION WITH COL. RENÉ BRASS www.colrene.net

(Online Bidding Opens: Oct. 19th - 24th) Shimkus Auto Body Inc. (Owners Retiring!) (Open House Oct 19th (8AM - 10AM) Rhinelander, WI 1855 W Davenport St. See website for a complete list! Trucks: 1972 Mack DM tri-axle dump, 1986 Ford 1-ton dump (looks Nice!) SUV/Cars: 2010 Chev. Traverse, (2) 2015, 2011 Chev. Equinox, 2015 Dodge Dart, 2009 Chev. Malibu, see catalog! Track Loader: Takeuchi TL26 (nice looking machine!) quick attach snow-plow, pulverizer. Lifts: Atlas 9000lb lift, Rotary portable lift & other, Tools: Matco & Snap On tool boxes, (Snap On, Matco, Blue Point, Hand tools) Like New Tire Machines, Collision Frame Straightening Equipment: 18' Kansas Jack III hydraulic frame rack, Star Liner Cheetah 18' w/accessories, Kansas Kack laser measuring system, Blackhawk Shark Alignment Center, large amount of pulling clamps, chains, Buske collision post, Burke uni rack, & more! 22 firearms, Ammo, ETC: ammo, cases, see website for full list Hot Water Steam Cleaners: Northstar & Napa Office Equipment & more! PICKUP & PAYMENT: Saturday, October, 26 (8AM-2PM). Terms: Cash or good check, credit cards. Sales tax charged 10%, buyers fee will be charged. Not responsible for loss or accidents. Settlement made before removing items. Conditions: Sold as is, where is. Announcements made on auction day take precedence over printed material. R.W.A. Col. Rene' Brass #424, Col. Robert St. Louis #450, St.Louis Auctions LLC6728 Whitefish Lk. Rd., Three Lakes, WI 54562. PH: 715-367-1668

REAL ESTATE

ALange Auction & Realty Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024 10:00 AM

REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION W5298 COUNTY ROAD C, MERRILL, WI See Website for Directions. WATCH FOR SIGNS!



Real Estate: 3 Bedroom home, House: Kitchen 15x9, Dining room 22x15, Living room 18.5x 12.5, Bedroom 12x12, Bedroom 12x10, Upper bedroom 15x14, Bathroom 13x9. Porch 14x12 W/ stove. Basement Pored Concert & cement blocks, very nice, 35x35, Oil furnace, 200 amp service, Garage w/16-foot door 24x22. Shed w/wood floor 20x12.

Equipment: Motor cycles • 3 wheeler • Miller welder • Air compressors • tools • heaters • bikes • Lawn mower • truck box • Air tanks • Jack stands • Chain binders • Gas pump • Weed eater • Old furnace • Trampoline • snow blades • Old boat • Cash register • Handmade sled • Cut off saw. Household: Oil lamps • Train sets • Sewing machines • Stereo set • Records • collectible items • miniature trucks, # 29 racing car • Beer signs • Antique dresser • Gun rack • Lights • much much more.

Visit our website for pictures, details, Terms, conditions & Buyers Premium at: www.alangeauctionrealty.com or Call Arnold at: 715-574-2258 Registered Wisconsin Auctioneer • Col. Arnold H. Lange, Manager/Broker, WI Lic. #230 OVER 50 YEARS OF TRUSTED EXPERIENCE

THORNE CONSTRUCTION LLC FULLY INSURED Your Dream Builders • Build & Remodel • Shop/Sheds • Complete Remodels • Concrete/ICF Walls 715-432-5197 Joseph Thorne

SCRAP METAL We'll Pick it Up • Clam Truck Service • Dumpster Service • Buying Cars & Trucks Serving Central & Northern WI for over 80 years Prompt Service • Fair Prices Cousineau Recycling Hwy. 45 South, Antigo • Toll Free 866-330-3730 or 715-623-2372

Pine Grove Seamless Gutters • 5" - 6" Gutters • Leaf Guards • Soffit-Fascia Also doing construction work • Siding/Decks • In-House Trim • Garage Doors • Pole Sheds/Barns • Garages • Log Cabin Kits Merlin Schrock Work • 715-560-8308 Home • 715-773-8292 Lublin, WI Call For Free Estimates

Maple Ridge Construction Specializing In: • Metal and Asphalt Roofing • House Roofs • Barn Roofs • Replacement Windows • Vinyl Siding and More! 715-560-5840

BADGER STATE STEEL ROOFING FREE ESTIMATES! Tired of re-roofing your house? TRY A STEEL ROOF! • Snaplok (hidden fastener) • Can Be Installed Over An Existing Roof • 40 Year Factory Warranty • 4-Star Hail and Fire Resistant • Ventilated At Peak • Energy Star Efficient • 28 Colors Available Jerry Stutzman Do it Once, Do it Right! 715-314-2295

"Give me a call, before the rain starts to fall!" - Brian Plisch • Owner/Operator LOCALLY OWNED Serving the area for 20 years. FREE ESTIMATES Bus: 715-297-0907 www.bpseamless.com Email: bpseamless@gmail.com Great Look, Great Price, 5% off if you mention this ad.

NORTHERN WISCONSIN'S LARGEST RARE COIN & PRECIOUS METALS COMPANY IS ALWAYS BUYING • Old U.S. coins, proof sets & paper money. • Also buying gold & silver jewelry, watches & diamonds. • Old sports cards - 1969 & earlier. Currently paying top prices. • No Collection too SMALL or LARGE • Sports Wear & Memorabilia Headquarters Augie's Collectibles 11 South 2nd St. • Tomahawk, WI 54487 Open Mon. & Tues., 10am - 5pm or by appointment. (715) 453-3141

PODEWELTZ Repair Service, LLC Heating • Cooling • Sheet Metal TRANE W2810 Hwy, C, Merrill (715) 536-6791 It's Hard To Stop A Trane?

Free Estimates • Light Excavating • Demolitions/Removal • Stump Removal • Dump Trailer Service • Trenching... and more • Fully Insured EE MACHINE LLC EDMUND COLLINSWORTH Gleason, WI. 715-216-4682

Call Mark 715-503-5460 • Hidden Fastener Snap Lock • Ventilated at Peak • 4 Star Hail & Fire Resistant • Can Be Installed Over Existing Roof Wisco Steel Roofing, LLC Tired Of Re-Roofing Your House? Try a Steel Roof! CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE

HEALTHY SMILES from page 3

- St. John's Lutheran School
- St. Mary's Catholic School
- Tomahawk Elementary School
- Tomahawk Middle School
- Trinity Lutheran School
- Washington Elementary School

In addition to providing dental resources to students, this school year marks the 13th year LCHD has been part of the Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile Program, which is one of the nation's premier school-based dental sealant programs. The program allows children to receive the following

preventative oral health services: fluoride varnish, dental sealants, and an oral exam, all done at school by a registered dental hygienist, at no charge to the family. Dental sealants are a quick, easy, painless way to prevent cavities in children.

If your child is in 1st through 8th grade in the Merrill Area Public School (MAPS) District, you should have, or will be receiving, a consent form for the Lincoln County Seal-A-Smile program. You can also sign them up by visiting sealasmile.wisconsin.gov/Consent/Home/About or contacting LCHD at 715.536.0307 or LCHealth@co.lincoln.wi.us. "If your child does not attend MAPS but you are interested, please reach out to our department as well," Buntrock said.

"Over the past three school years, in our Seal-A-Smile Program, we have seen the number of students with urgent dental decay increase significantly," Buntrock said. "By providing no-cost preventative services and dental resources to Lincoln County students, we hope we can help address this issue."

Lincoln County lacks dental clinics that can treat patients with Medicaid or BadgerCare. To help support these people, LCHD maintains the Lincoln County Guide to Affordable Dental Care which provides county residents with other options for dental care. The guide, along with other Lincoln County Resource Guides can be found on the LCHD website at bit.ly/4enlnVO.

NOTARY from page 6

fourth Thursdays of the month from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A limited number of walk-ins will be allowed; however, a call to the library is suggested to ensure the notary is available.

This service is being offered to individuals only; it is not available for businesses or organizations.

This service is not available for all documents, however. Documents that require technical or legal knowledge are beyond the scope of this simple, free service and cannot be notarized. The library notary reserves the right to decline service if the documents, identification, or other

circumstances of the request for notary service raise any issue of authenticity, ambiguity, or doubt.

Legal documents must be in a language that the certified notary public can read and speak. Documents must also contain a notarial certificate/pre-printed statement for the notary to fill in.

To use this service, please note:

- DO NOT sign your document in advance. All documents must be signed in the presence of the notary. The rest of the document should be filled out prior to meeting with the notary, leaving no blanks other than the signature space and notary statement/signature, and the complete

document must be presented.

- The signer must be present and sign in the presence of the notary.

- Government-issued photo identification must be provided at the time of service.

- If the document must be witnessed by additional witnesses, you will be required to bring your own witnesses.

- Some documents (e.g. passports, birth, death, or marriage certificates and I-9 forms) cannot be notarized at the library.

To learn more about this new service, call the library at 715.536.7191.

HOMELESSNESS IN WISCONSIN IS REAL

2 YEARS
homelessness
has been on the
rise in Wisconsin

4,861
Wisconsinites were
homeless in 2023

12,197
temporary and
permanent beds are
available in Wisconsin

16,454
Wisconsin students are
experiencing homelessness

DONATE TO THE CAUSE:
Join our mission with St. Vincent de Paul to ease the burden by providing Badger Packs containing fundamental necessities to homeless families in our community.

**SCAN THE CODE OR SEARCH
GoFundMe.com to donate:
"Wisconsin Newspapers Supporting Homelessness"**

All monies donated will go directly back to Wisconsin families in need from the local areas of donation.

The price of progress: Demolition of the Holy Cross Chapel to make way for expansion of Aspirus Merrill Hospital

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

In March 2024, Aspirus announced they would be embarking on a \$40 million renovation and expansion of Aspirus Merrill Hospital, solidifying their commitment to and investment in the Merrill community.

“This investment is a clear indication of our commitment to leveraging resources for the greatest possible impact,” said Jeff Wicklander, Aspirus SVP & Central Region President. “We are excited to improve and expand care locally while providing a boost to the local economy.”

But the expansion will come at the expense of one of Merrill’s historical landmarks, requiring the demolition of the Holy Cross Chapel building.

Doubling inpatient beds, enhancing the facility

“This initiative underscores Aspirus’ dedication to addressing the growing health care needs in Merrill and the surrounding areas,” Aspirus said in a press release at the time. “Aspirus looks forward to continued growth and improvement, as it advances its mission to heal people, promote health, and strengthen communities.”

The project will be extensive and includes doubling inpatient beds in Merrill, going from 10 to 20, as well as:

- Complete reconstruction of inpatient rooms
- Enhancements to imaging, rehabilitation, laboratory, and pharmacy services
- Updates to the main floor, stairwells, and offices

“In these challenging times, Aspirus is dedicated to innovating and transforming its care models and processes. This approach ensures that the system continues to deliver exceptional care that meets communities’ changing needs. Maintaining a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) in Merrill is an important strategy for Aspirus Health as more populations transition to Medicare,” the release said.

The project is designed to “greatly improve efficiency, access, and the patient experience.”

Holy Cross Chapel set to be demolished, Holy Hill continues to evolve

“The removal of the chapel is needed to complete these enhancements,” Andrew Krauss, Media Supervisor at Aspirus Health confirmed when asked. The work is set to begin this month and expected to be completed by the end of November.

Technically, the building is no longer a chapel, Krauss said. “It was decommissioned under previous ownership ... [and] hasn’t been open to the public in nearly a decade.”

In addition to the need for the space for hospital expansion, Krauss said other contributing factors that led to the impending demolition of the chapel building included the need for significant asbestos abatement, and he said the building was



The Holy Cross Chapel sits high on Holy Hill, attached to Aspirus Merrill Hospital. The building is set for demolition later this month to make way for hospital expansion. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

in a “state of disrepair.” When questioned about how the chapel had been neglected to the point that it is in a “state of disrepair,” what specifically that meant and what kinds of issues were in disrepair, and when and why it was closed to the public, Krauss said, “This happened under previous ownership and we decline to discuss further details.”

When a dumpster first appeared outside the building in September, area citizens took their questions and concerns to Facebook, and Michael “Gus” Caylor Jr., City of Merrill Alderperson for the Second District and Chair of the City’s Historic Preservation Committee, confirmed the building will be removed. “I’m afraid you are correct,” he said to those inquiring if the dumpster meant the chapel was soon to be torn down. “The Historic Preservation Committee sent a letter asking them to reconsider to no avail,” Caylor said.

“The Holy Cross Sisters did remove and take possession of the cornerstone time capsule on the church,” added Steve Sabatke, another member of the City’s Historic Preservation Committee. The cornerstone and time capsule were laid and installed on Sept. 17, 1936. The chapel building was dedicated on Jan. 6, 1937, and the finishing touches were put on the building, rendering it completed on Jan. 30, 1937.

Many on the Facebook post expressed their sadness at the loss of another historical building of long-standing significance to so many Merrill residents, including some who graduated from Holy Cross High School on the hill many years ago and others who had attended mass in the chapel over the decades. And after all, the unique and beautiful building, constructed with walls of red “seam-faced” granite from local quarries, has stood high on the hill for more than 87 years, a tribute to God for whom the building was built, that generations might come to know and love Him and worship Him there.

Sister Pat McCormick, former Provincial for the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross USA Province (2000-2006, 2012-2021) and archivist for the Sisters in Merrill, who celebrated her 50-year anniversary of her profession as a Sister earlier this summer, tried to set minds to rest. “When the Holy Cross Sisters came to Merrill over 100 years ago, they were called to fulfill their founder’s charism, “The need of the times is the will of God,” she said.

“The need at that time was to build and staff a hospital for the people of the Merrill area,” Sr. Pat said. “Until 1987 the Sisters ran Holy Cross Hospital, but at that time, they realized they

could no longer manage the hospital and sold the hospital, chapel, Scott Mansion, and Menard Center in order for the hospital to continue. Throughout the years, the hospital has been run by other health organizations: Catholic Health Initiatives, Ministry Health Care, Ascension Health, and now Aspirus Health. During those years, each group saw the need for a hospital in Merrill and made changes to bring it up to modern health care standards.”

“We thank Aspirus Health for continuing the charism of the Holy Cross Sisters by the renovation and expansion they have planned to address the growing health care needs of Merrill and the surrounding area,” she said.

In Merrill, the once growing group of the Sisters of Mercy of Holy Cross has been dwindling and the Sisters here, though still as actively involved in the community as they are able, have been preparing for what Sr. Pat calls “the completion of our mission” since 2021. In Oct. 2021, the community of Sisters in Merrill – which had been made a province back in the 1950s – became a house, a joint process that had been in the works beginning with discussions about nine years prior.

The Sisters of Mercy of Holy Cross, commonly referred to as the Holy Cross Sisters, was established in Switzerland in 1856 and the first Sisters came to the U.S. in 1912, but it was not until 1923 that a group of the Sisters arrived in Merrill. Since that time, they have worked tirelessly in the Merrill community and firmly established themselves on what came to be known locally as the “Holy Hill.”

While the local Sisters continue to do what they can in various areas of ministry, their aging community and decrease in numbers of religious in their - and other religious orders overall - dictate that their primary focus has shifted away from their once extremely active involvement in healthcare, education, and assisted living care in Merrill to other needs of our times. Last year at this time, the Holy Cross Sisters celebrated 100 years of service to the Merrill community. That service isn’t ending, but it has evolved. And so, too, the look of Holy Hill has evolved over the years - most notably with the demolition of the T.B. Scott Mansion on the hill by the hospital’s former owner, Ascension Health, in 2021, prior to the change in ownership to Aspirus. The demolition of the former Holy Cross Chapel by the end of this year will continue to mark the passage of time, the evolution of the face of the hill, and the changing “need of the times.”

Preserving elements of the chapel to honor its legacy

Krauss did indicate that “there is a planning committee working to preserve some element of the chapel for the community.”

“We have engaged with local stakeholders and leaders in the faith community to preserve and donate religious iconography and historical effects,” he said.

“We are planning to preserve some elements of the chapel to honor its legacy,” Krauss said. “We are exploring options to provide a tangible connection to the chapel’s history for the community.”

No other details or specifics were provided.

Pushing forward despite obstacles

“The health care landscape has encountered unprecedented challenges over the past four years, exerting immense pressure on health care systems across the nation,” Wicklander said. “Despite these obstacles, Aspirus has thrived, which is a testament to strategic foresight, thoughtful decision-making, and a relentless commitment to efficiency and effectiveness.”

2024 Merrill High School Fall Sports Schedule

Boys Football (Varsity, JV, and JV2)		
Sat. Oct. 12	Tomahawk (Varsity)	Home 1:30 pm
Mon. Oct. 14	Tomahawk (JV)	Away 5:30 pm
Thurs. Oct. 17	Rhinelander (JV2)	Home 5:30 pm
Cheer Team (Varsity & JV)		
Sat. Oct. 12	Tomahawk (Varsity & JV)	Home 1:30 pm
Girls Swim & Dive (Varsity and JV)		
Thurs. Oct. 10	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Home 5:30 pm
Tues. Oct. 15	Lakeland Union (Varsity)	Away 5:30 pm
Thurs. Oct. 17	Marshfield (Varsity & JV)	Home 5:30 pm
Girls Tennis (Varsity and JV)		
No Scheduled Events For This Week.		
Girls Volleyball (Varsity, JV, and JV2)		
Thurs. Oct. 10	Stevens Point (JV & JV2)	Home 5:30 pm
Thurs. Oct. 10	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Home 7:00 pm
Sat. Oct. 12	Wausau East (Varsity)	Away 9:00 am
Tues. Oct. 15	Wausau West (JV & JV2)	Away 5:30 pm
Tues. Oct. 15	Wausau West (Varsity)	Away 7:00 pm
Boys Soccer (Varsity and JV)		
Thurs. Oct. 10	Multiple Schools-Pool Play #1	Away T. B. D.
Fri. Oct. 11	Three Lakes (Varsity)	Home 5:30 pm
Tues. Oct. 15	Multiple Schools-Pool Play #2	Away T. B. D.
Thurs. Oct. 17	Multiple Schools-Pool Play #3	Away T. B. D.
Girls Cross Country (Varsity and JV)		
No Scheduled Events For This Week.		
Boys Cross Country (Varsity and JV)		
No Scheduled Events For This Week.		



Top Photo: The interior of the Holy Cross Chapel, looking forward toward the altar. **Bottom Photo:** The interior of the Holy Cross Chapel, looking toward the back from the altar. **Photos courtesy of Aspirus Health.**



The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



Merrill Cross Country



More photos online merrillfotonews.com



- 1.) Mid race: Robin Schmidt leading the pack followed by Jameson Morgan, Madlyn Hunter, and Danielle Schielke.
- 2.) Merrill's Erik Grunenwald, finishing first place for boys overall.
- 3.) The Merrill Boys Team took first place at the Oct. 1, 2024, Cross Country Meet at the MARC, competing against teams from Faith Christian Academy and Northland Lutheran School. Front row L to R: Jameson Morgan and Jacob Mueller. Back row L to R: Preston Schmidt, Ben Hanson, John Myszka, Gabriel Keys, Erik Grunenwald, and Brady Eggebrecht.
- 4.) The Merrill Girls Varsity Team took first place at the Oct. 1, 2024, Cross Country Meet at the MARC, competing against teams from Faith Christian Academy and Northland Lutheran School. Front row L to R: Mia Smith and Norah Schmidt. Back row L to R: Danielle Scheilke, Charlotte Van Der Nest, Madlyn Hunter, and Robin Schmidt. Missing from photo: Natalia Woller.

Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photos.

Merrill Varsity Football Team battles hard but is defeated at Wausau East

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Varsity Football Team played against Wausau East at Thom Field in Wausau last Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, at the Wausau East Homecoming Game and came away with a 14-16 tough loss.

The game's first quarter was a pretty equal playing field, with both teams remaining scoreless. Then in the second quarter, the Lumberjacks took the lead with a touchdown on a 25-yard pass (kick no good). The Bluejays followed and one-upped them with

a 36-yard pass for their own touchdown, and their kick was good, edging out a one-point lead, 7-6. But that didn't last long either. Wausau East pulled off another touchdown, on a 21-yard pass with a good kick, going into halftime with the lead, 13-17.

Coming back into it, both teams were again focused on defense and neither let the other score during the entire third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the Merrill Bluejays looked like they were going to take the game. They made a touchdown on a run, their kick was good, and the

Bluejays were in the lead 14-13.

But it wasn't meant to be. The Wausau East Lumberjacks pulled off a three-point field goal in the final seconds of the game, pulling ahead for the win, 16-14.

"We dropped a hard fought defensive battle at Thom Field on Saturday," said Merrill Varsity Head Football Coach Jason Wadzinski. "The boys battled hard until the end of the game."

"Jax Hanson kept us alive with a late interception to get us in scoring position," he said. "EJ Weix did a

little bit of everything on Saturday with Callum Wheeler pitching in offensively, as well."

"We fell short due to a late field goal with under a minute left," Wadzinski said.

"Our boys are resilient and our goal is playoff qualification," he said. "We get another shot this Saturday, Oct. 12, at Jay Stadium." The game starts at 1:30 p.m. against Tomahawk.

Box Score
Merrill 14 @ Wausau East 16



More photos online merrillfotonews.com

#1 Jax Hanson gets an interception in the fourth quarter ... leading to ... Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photos.



Some of the cheerleaders/Dance Team during the first half.



... A touchdown run late in the fourth quarter by EJ Weix.



The mascots duking it out during halftime, all in good fun!

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Keylin Allen, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of Oct. 10, 2024. Keylin is a wide receiver and safety on the Merrill Varsity Football Team and scored the winning touchdown at Merrill's 2024 Homecoming Football Game; he also had the game-sealing interception. Keylin started playing football in fifth grade for Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), advanced to JV2 as a Freshman, was split between JV2 and Varsity last year, and started full-time on Varsity this year. In the spring, Keylin also plays on the Merrill Baseball Team; this last season he was on JV. He started playing baseball in fifth grade at PRMS, playing Little League and for the Traveling Team. At school, Keylin belongs to the Fishing Club. He also works part-time as a metal deburrer at Merrill Tool and Water Jet. In his free time, Keylin enjoys fishing year round, hunting (duck and deer), snowboarding in the winter, riding ATVs and dirt bikes, and hanging out with friends having bonfires. The son of Jessica Brazeau of Merrill and Daniel Allen of Kronenwetter, Keylin has a 3.5 GPA, and plans to go to college "for something in the medical field" after high school graduation. He would also like to play college football.



Keylin Allen

Congratulations from these sponsors:



Athletes highlighted in this feature are selected by the Foto News editorial staff, not by the sponsors.

Please direct comments or suggestions to fotonews@mmclocal.com

Real Rewards, Year After Year

Nicolet NATIONAL BANK



800.369.0226 | NicoletBank.com

Real Rewards Checking (Real Rewards) is available for consumer deposits only. Annual Percentage Yield ("APY") is accurate as of 1/1/2023. Real Rewards is a variable rate account. Your APY may change at any time after your account is opened, at the discretion of Nicolet National Bank. Real Rewards is a tiered rate product. If qualifications are met for the qualification cycle, Tier 1: The portion of your balance that is equal to or less than \$15,000 will earn 3.00% APY. Tier 2: The portion of your balance that is over \$15,000 will earn 0.01% APY. The APY for Tier 2 will range from 0.40% to 3.00%, depending on the balance in your account. If qualifications are not met for the qualification cycle, your entire balance will earn 0.01% APY. You must enroll in online banking and e-statements in order to qualify. Transactions required each qualification cycle: At least ten posted and cleared debit card transactions (ATM-processed transactions do not count as qualifying debit card transactions), and at least one posted and cleared direct deposit of payroll or social security. Disclosed APY assumes all interest remains on deposit. Fees and withdrawals of interest will reduce earnings and APY. All Nicolet National Bank checking accounts are subject to credit approval. Additional terms and conditions apply. See Nicoletbank.com for details. Member FDIC.