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Area residents and school children pay tribute to Veterans

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Monday, Nov. 11, 2024, area residents gathered to pay tribute to veterans on this Veterans Day 2024. The day began with a traditional ceremony, the Honor Guard, bugle playing, and the laying of the wreaths at Merrill's Cenotaph Park in the morning.

Then area schools, including Kate Goodrich Elementary School, Merrill High School, and Washington Elementary School, held special programs to extend their honor and thanks to local veterans personally.

Prairie River Middle School and St. John Lutheran School held similar programs on Wednesday, Nov. 13, after this issue had already gone to press.



More photos online
merrillfotonews.com



Trinity Lutheran School students gather to pay their respects to area veterans as they watch the annual Veterans Day ceremony at Cenotaph Park.

The Honor Guard stands in formation.
Joseph Frederick photos.

Craft show weekend draws hundreds to shop Merrill

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Merrill's annual craft and vendor shows drew hundreds of shoppers out on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8 and 9, 2024, to nearly a dozen locations in and around Merrill. The traffic sometimes came in waves, as groups of shoppers made their way from one spot to the next in search of unique handcrafted items, vintage treasures, and their favorite products from specialty vendors. Some found gifts

and got a head start on their Christmas shopping; others found decor for their yards and homes; still others delighted to find a little something to pamper themselves; and some shoppers accomplished all three. From New Testament Church on Merrill's north side to the Holiday Market at Lange Machines south of Merrill on Hwy. K, and from the VFW on Merrill's east side to Kate Goodrich Elementary School, which was probably the most

westerly location, shoppers didn't have to travel far between stops. Some, like the shows at the Merrill Expo Center [at the Fair Grounds], Merrill High School, St. Francis Catholic School, Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes, St. John's Lutheran School gymnasium, and the Vintage & Uniques sale at the Agra Pavilion were just a short distance apart. Shoppers could have

See **CRAFT SHOW** page 3



With a lathe and a lot of skill, logs can become snowmen and Christmas trees, and beautiful home decor. This booth at New Testament Church had a nice variety of items demonstrating how each item is handcrafted and unique.
Heidi Griebel photo.



A flocked Christmas wreath decorated in green, gold, and black makes a classy statement for a front door.
Rose Laessig photo.

Lincoln County has some beautiful deer

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Bow deer hunting has been open since Sept. 14, 2024, some youth hunts

and hunts for hunters with disabilities were held in October, and the gun deer hunting season will begin on Nov. 23 in Wisconsin. In Lincoln County, one photographer has been

shooting lots of deer—with his camera—for the last few weeks and actually, all year long. His photos are proof that Lincoln County has some beautiful deer, and it is just a matter of being in the right time at the right place to get the perfect shot, whether with a camera, a

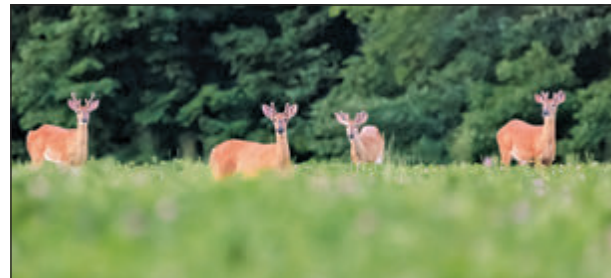
bow, or a rifle. Good luck to all the hunters out there, but remember, albino and/or all-white deer may not be harvested in Wisconsin. You can get a great shot at one with your camera like Peter Tesch did here, but not with a weapon.



A nice buck at the edge of a field in Lincoln County.



A close-up of a doe taken in the winter.



Four young bucks in a field alert to the presence of the photographer. Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photos.



This majestic all-white deer appears to be at least an 8-pointer with a beautiful wide spread, BUT it is illegal to harvest albino and/or all-white deer in Wisconsin.

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MERRILL Foto News

Early Ad Deadlines for the November 28 Issue

CLASSIFIED & DISPLAY ADS DUE BY:

Friday, November 22nd at 3pm

Happy Thanksgiving!

Our office will be closed on Nov. 28th

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Reflecting on Our Blessings This Thanksgiving

Dear Reader,

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, we are reminded of the many blessings we enjoy as individuals and as a nation.

When you think about it, our country is the greatest in the world, built on the foundations laid by our forefathers and strengthened by each generation.

Take a moment to think about the family you have



and the family from whence you came. The love and support that surround us during this season are invaluable.

Consider, too, the opportunities we have in our work and careers. With unemployment at a low rate, many of us are fortunate to have jobs, and for those seeking employment, opportunities are still out there.

This generation has contributed to our nation's ongoing greatness, each of us playing a part in shaping our community and our country.

So, as you gather with your loved ones this Thanksgiving, take a moment to reflect on the abundance in your life. Share your blessings with those around you and offer a prayer of thanks for the goodness we experience daily.

PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher

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

The Flag Speaks

I was designed and made by Hopkinson and Ross in 1776—The Flag.

Thirteen stars and thirteen stripes representing those colonies risking everything—property, limbs, and lives for freedom—The Flag.

In 1777 I was raised for the first time in battle—The Flag.

I flew over our Founders as they drafted a Bill of Rights and Constitution to ensure that future generations would have the freedoms they fought for—The Flag.

I flew high and proud but with a broken heart as country man took up arms against country man to ensure all men would be free and equal, as our creator intended—The Flag.

I flew over the nation as they rebuilt the war-torn land and took steps to let go of the bondage of slavery, both slave owners and slaves, and reach out to each other as free and equal people—The Flag.

I have flown proudly as the young nation realized it could never

be free while voices were silenced; we welcome the 19th Amendment, we hear the voices of our mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters—The Flag.

I have flown proudly into battles on our shores to defend our freedom—The Flag.

I have flown proudly on foreign shores watching our soldiers fight, fall, and die helping the oppressed have their own country of freedom—The Flag.

I have had many kneeling before me praying and crying at the casket of their loved ones who gave their all—The Flag.

I've been gently folded and placed into the hands of the grieving family, a reminder of what their loved one fought and fell for—The Flag.

This country is diverse with many different views, but after the vicious attack of September 11, 2001, I flew from porches, buildings, and yards, reminding the world that: "WE ARE UNITED AND WHEN YOU

See FLAG SPEAKS page 6

Pet of the Week



Meet Cho and Lally. They are 2 of the 53 cats that we have here at the shelter waiting for their forever home to come along!

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

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Advertisement for Prairie Pines featuring various food items like fruitcakes, turkeys, sugar, and deli specials with prices.

Advertisement for U Bake featuring various baked goods like scones, pizzas, and breads with prices.

Advertisement for Able Concrete Raising Inc. with services like steps, sidewalks, and driveways.

Check out the CLASSIFIEDS advertisement.

Large advertisement for Cloverdale Country Store listing various food items and their prices.



October Youth Optimist

Sarah Rell, a Senior at Merrill High School, is the October Youth Optimist of the Month. "Sarah is in my Advanced Placement Literature and Composition class," said Mrs. Amy Raddatz in her nomination.

Sarah Rell

log many volunteer hours for activities that Sarah must help organize. This involves positive connections with MAPS employees and the Merrill community alike.

Joslyn Rettinger, an eighth grader at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), is the October Youth Optimist of the Month. "Joslyn Rettinger is very deserving of being a 'Youth Optimist' for a variety of reasons," said Mr. Mike Rindt in his nomination.



Joslyn Rettinger

Optimist Clubs: "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" Merrill Noon Optimists - Wednesdays at 12:00 noon at the Eagles Club, 1205 Lake St., Merrill

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Election results

Trump takes back White House, Lincoln County is a pivot county; Baldwin, Tiffany, Felzkowski, Callahan defend seats

BY JALEN MAKI AND TINA L. SCOTT
MMC STAFF

Voters across the country cast ballots in federal, statewide and local races in the Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, General Election.

U.S. President

Republican former President Donald J. Trump defeated Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris in his bid to return to the White House after losing his 2020 reelection campaign to current Democratic President Joe Biden.

With roughly 99% of votes counted, Trump carried the Badger State with approximately 49.7% of the vote. Harris garnered about 48.8%.

In Lincoln County, Trump tallied 10,631 votes (61.4%), while Harris received 6,306 (36.4%), according to preliminary results

from the Lincoln County Clerk's Office.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who ran on the We the People ticket before ultimately dropping out of the race and endorsing Trump, received 119 votes in Lincoln County after his legal efforts to be removed from Wisconsin ballots were unsuccessful. Party for Socialism and Liberation candidate Claudia De la Cruz and Justice for All candidate Cornell West garnered nine and eight votes in the county, respectively, while 44 votes went to Jill Stein of the Wisconsin Green Party. Libertarian candidate Chase Oliver received 36 votes. Randall Terry of the Constitution Party tallied 33 votes.

A total of 23 write-in votes were cast.

Eyes were on pivot counties, like Lincoln County, Wis.

Think your vote doesn't matter? Think again.

Did you know that—according to Ballotpedia, an online encyclopedia of American politics [Ballotpedia.com]—Lincoln County, Wis., was considered a pivot county in the 2024 Presidential election, and the eyes of the nation were upon us?

“Pivot Counties are the 206 counties nationwide Ballotpedia identified as having voted for Barack Obama (D) in the 2008 and 2012 Presidential elections and Donald Trump (R) in 2016,” the site said. “Media and political observers sometimes refer to these counties as swing counties.”

“Ballotpedia defined Pivot Counties Trump won in 2020 as Retained Pivot Counties and those Joe Biden (D) won as Boomerang Pivot Counties,” the site further said. “As of November 6, 2024, there were 169 Pivot Counties across 27 states that Trump won in 2020 and 2024. There were

two Pivot Counties—one each in Vermont and Connecticut—that Trump won in 2020 and Harris won in 2024. There were 14 Pivot Counties across 10 states that voted for Trump in 2016, Biden in 2020, and Trump in 2024. There were seven Pivot Counties across six states that voted for Trump in 2016, Biden in 2020, and Harris in 2024.”

Fourteen pivot counties were still uncalled as of their site update on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2024.

In their analysis of counties in states won by Trump in 2016 and Obama in 2012, Donald Trump won in Lincoln County in this 2024 Presidential election by a 25.2% margin of victory. He also won in Lincoln County by a 22.77% margin of victory in the

See **ELECTION RESULTS**
page 15



When the Holiday Market opened at Lange Machine late Friday afternoon, a crowd was already gathered and waiting to shop.
Tina L. Scott photo.



CLASSIFIEDS
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Accepting a donation to the Lincoln County Veterans Council for the annual Veterans Day Free Meal. Shown L to R: Steve Sabatke, Am Vets Post 2000; Michael Schuster, VFW Post 10203; Denni Radloff, VFW Post 1638 Auxiliary; Sue Ryman, Incredible Bank; John Rathke, VFW Post 1638; Bill Burcalow, DAV Chapter 29; and Bob Soward, VFW Post 2687.

Submitted photo.



A display of handmade evergreen kissing balls at the Merrill High School Fieldhouse.
Heidi Griebel photo.

CRAFT SHOW from page 1

walked between some locations, but driving was faster for most hardcore craft show shoppers, and a vehicle was helpful for stashing all of the purchases between stops.

Unique antique and vintage pieces decorated for Christmas were popular and selling fast, as were wreaths, baked goods, jewelry, and front porch decor, shoppers said. Signs of all kinds—from rustic to refined and everything in between—were in abundance, and gnomes were still popular. Sewn, crocheted, and quilted textiles; woodcrafts; decorated repurposed and upcycled items; stained glass, metal, pottery, wood, twigs, and glass; and indoor and outdoor decor with evergreen boughs—both real and artificial—were on display and for sale. Vintage and flea market finds and newly completed projects all found their place at the sales. The extensive variety of products and craft items, across the ten different locations, created a lot of interest for shoppers in

Merrill this past weekend. And for many, the shopping didn't stop at the shows. Many shoppers stopped for a coffee, lunch, or a drink afterwards, lending an extra boost to the Merrill economy. The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store said they had a busy day Saturday, as well. If you missed this batch of craft and vendor sales, you'll want to mark your calendars for the Christmas Craft & Vendor Sales coming up on Dec. 7. So far three Merrill locations are on board for that event.

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Hours: Monday thru Friday 9AM to 5PM

Don't Miss This! Friday, November 22 Nifty Thrifty Sale

50% off everything in the store!

Special Nifty Thrifty Sale Hours: 7am-7pm

Saturday, December 7 Mrs. Claus Visit with her incredible elves!

1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Don't forget Nifty Thrifty Sales are the 4th Friday of every month, AND REMEMBER...THRIFTING IS FUN!!!



MERRILL Foto News

Patrick J. Wood
Publisher
publisher@mmclocal.com

Tim Schreiber
General Manager
tschreiber@mmclocal.com

Niki Piechota
Graphic Designer

Tina L. Scott
Editor
tscott@mmclocal.com

Jennifer Gartmann
Sales Consultant
jgartmann@mmclocal.com

Heidi Schult
Front Office Manager/CSR

Heidi Griebel
Customer Service Representative

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

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

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

OBITUARIES

Carol Ellen Schmidt



Carol Ellen Schmidt, age 87, a lifelong Merrill resident, passed away on Monday, November 4, 2024, at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill while under the care of Interim Hospice Service.

She was born on December 24, 1936 to the late Carl and Ella (Kleinschmidt) Schult in Merrill. Carol attended Trinity Lutheran Church school and then went on to graduate from Merrill High School. She met LeRoy Schmidt and the two were united in marriage on

January 15, 1955, they were married for 69 years. LeRoy survives.

Carol worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant for most of her adult life, at Holy Cross Hospital, which at the time of her retirement was Ministry Good Samaritan Hospital. She helped to deliver many babies and provided care for both the babies and new mothers, she also worked on the medical/surgical floor and ended her career assisting in the pharmacy of the hospital. She truly had a servant's heart, spending many hours volunteering at Bethesda Thrift Store in Wausau many times working alongside her sister, Donna. This became the highlight to her week. Carol supported Lutherans for Life, Hope Center for Women and many other charitable organizations. She looked forward to get aways to Camp Luther, occasional sleepovers with friends and trips to visit her daughter Barb, who lived out of Wisconsin all of her adult life, and also gatherings of her friends' group, affectionally known as the Ladies of the Lake. Carol was a collector of many things, among them antiques, old quilts, pretty glassware, tea pots and nativity sets, but her favorite thing to collect was cardinals and she had many. Carol and LeRoy were the owners of Schmidt's Concessions in her younger years. Many weeks were spent at fairs, football games and 4th of July celebrations making and selling cotton candy, snow cones caramel apples and THE BEST POP-CORN EVER! Together, they also owned several rental properties, where Carol managed the records and kept things running smoothly. Carol looked forward to the Lincoln County Fair every year, where she entered many handmade items, she was an avid quilter and crafter. She also entered unique antiques and received many ribbons on her entries. Carol was a former member of Zion Lutheran Church, but most of her faithful years were at Trinity here in Merrill, where she was a member of several groups and organizations, most fondly was the quilting for missions group. She is remembered as a caring, compassionate and happy person and will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Carol is survived by her husband: LeRoy Schmidt of Merrill, daughter: Barb (Bryan) Bonke of Missouri, with their son, Brandon, daughter: Chris (Keith) Maahs of Merrill, with their children, Ryan (Emily) Maahs, Tyler (Kristin) Maahs, Gina (Nick) Zurbey and Jacob (Amber) Maahs, son: John (Ellie) Schmidt of Merrill with their daughter, Katie Halvorson, and daughter: JoAnn (Jeff) Brandenburg, with their daughter, Jennifer (Jon) Lee, great grandchildren: Cale, Kaeden, Hudson, Kinley, Hayden, Bentley, Hollis, Owen, Hazel, Eldrick, Jazalyn and Juliann, sister: Donna (Roger) Block and brother: Allan (Chris) Schult. She was preceded in death by her parents and her daughter: Katherine Schmidt.

The funeral service for Carol was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson officiated. Visitation took place on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the church. Burial at Scott Cemetery immediately followed the service.

The family wishes to thank Pine Crest Nursing Home and Interim Hospice for their care, love and compassion that was shown to Carol and her family during her stay.

In lieu of flowers, family requests that donations in Carol's name be directed to the Trinity Lutheran Church.

Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Merrill is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstine.com.

Rudolf 'Rudi' Neubauer



Rudolf 'Rudi' Neubauer, 85, of Merrill, passed away Monday, November 4, 2024, at his home under the care of his family and Compassus Hospice.

Rudi was born April 7, 1939, in Munich, Germany, to Ludwig and Rosa (Deutschenbaur) Neubauer. Rudi arrived in the United States in 1959. On August 9, 1962, he enlisted in the United States Army on August 9, 1962. During his time in the Army, he received the Code of Good Conduct Medal, and he was also a member of the ski team. Rudi was honorably discharged on July 31, 1964. Rudi married Sally Ann Krueger of July 17, 1965, at St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill. Together, they had two daughters, Tonya Ann and Tiffany Sue.

Rudi worked at Van's Packing in Merrill. In 1970, he started working as a Fire Fighter and EMT with the Merrill Fire Department. He worked with MFD for twenty-three years and was one of the three that started the ambulance service in 1970. Rudi also worked for Quality Furnace in Merrill. Later, he became a member of the Friends of the Council Grounds where he helped with cutting wood for the campers at the park.

Survivors include his wife, Sally Ann Neubauer of Merrill; daughters, Tonya Ann (Mike) Roth of Maumelle, AR and Tiffany Sue (Todd) Lemanski of Oregon, WI; five grandchildren, Noah Roth, Samuel Roth, Sarah (JaVaughn) Iverson, Josiah Roth, and Daniel Roth; and four great-grandchildren. Rudi was preceded in death by his parents, Ludwig and Rosa Neubauer; and siblings, Ludwig Neubauer, Frances Rein, and Erika Richter.

The memorial service for Rudi will be held at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, December 5, 2024, at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. Rev. David Szeto will officiate. Inurnment will take place at St. Francis Xavier Veteran's Memorial with graveside military rites conducted by V.F.W. Post 1638, Merrill. The family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 A.M., Thursday, December 5, 2024, at church. Taylor-Stine Funeral & Cremation, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstine.com

Gladys Mae Gross Uryga



Today, we honor the life of an extraordinary individual: Gladys Mae Gross Uryga. With heavy hearts but also a spirit filled with gratitude, we remember a beloved friend, family member, and neighbor who has touched our lives in ways that words can scarcely convey.

Gladys was not just a person; she was a beacon of light in our community. She exuded kindness, warmth, and an unwavering commitment to uplifting those around her;

Gladys' laughter could light up a room, and her smile had a way of making even the heaviest of hearts feel a little lighter.

Born in Waupaca, WI, on March 24, 1934, Gladys lived a life full of purpose, passion, and love. From an early age, she demonstrated and enduring curiosity about the world and a deep-seated desire to make it a better place. She often said, "Life is not just about existing; it's about leaving a legacy of goodness. Show others you care."

Throughout her life, Gladys dedicated herself to volunteering at the Texas State Mental Hospital, Harlington Health Care Center, and the Family Abuse Center through community service, and other charitable work. Whether it was through her role as the Activities Director at the Picacho Peak Resort in Red Rock, AZ where she was known as having "more warmth than the Arizona Sun", or simply by being a helping hand to a neighbor in need, Gladys exemplified the true meaning of a kindred spirit. She believed every small act of kindness contributed to a larger tapestry of love and support.

Gladys was a devoted mother and wife, lovingly nurturing her family. She attended Plamann School in the Town of Schley where she resided. In 1951, she married Gordon Gross of Gleason, WI. Together they built a life in Merrill. From 1961 to 1980 she and Gordon owned and operated White Birch Mobile Home Park until retirement. (During that time) Gladys also managed Mattson Camera Shop. Gladys and her husband loved to travel internationally and nationally with many trips to Canada, Mexico, Spain, Jamaica, Portugal, Alaska, and most US states. After retirement, they moved to San Benito, TX where they spent time living life in the warm sunshine during the winter months and in Gleason, WI during the summer months. Unfortunately, Gordon passed away leaving her widowed. Many years later she married Bruno Uryga at her family cabin and resided between Gleason and Texas until his passing. Her children, Susan Herbig, San Benito, Texas and Calvin (Debra) Gross, Gleason, WI were her pride and joy, and she cherished the moments spent together. She also has 4 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren. She lead by example teaching them the importance of compassion, integrity, and hard work, instilling values that will guide them for years to come.

Let us not forget how Gladys loved to bring people together especially around the campfire or on the ATV trails in Harrison Hills. Her gatherings, whether they were holiday celebrations or simple barbecues, became cherished times spent together. She had a gift for making every guest feel special, her entertainment ensuring that on one left without a smile, a full belly, and even a joke or two that would linger long after the night was over.

As much as Gladys gave to others, she also knew how to receive love in return. She cherished the deep connections she formed in our community, treating friendships like treasures that enriched her life. In times of need, many turned to Gladys for guidance, comfort, or simply a listening ear. She had an uncanny ability to offer wisdom that resonated deeply, reminding us all that we are stronger than we know.

While we mourn the loss of Gladys, let us also celebrate the legacy she leaves behind. Her story doesn't end with her; it lives in each of us who were fortunate enough to know her. We carry forward the lessons of kindness, resilience, and compassion that she embodied.

In honoring Gladys, let us remember to be kind to one another. Whether it's through acts of service, lending a hand to a neighbor, or simply spreading joy, we can ensure that her spirit remains alive in our everyday actions and choices.

So today, as we say goodbye to our dear mother, grandmother and friend, let us remember Gladys not in sorrow, but in gratitude. Let us cherish the memories we hold so close and let them inspire us to live our lives in a way that reflects her beautiful spirit. Her family will be having a gathering at a later date.

We love you, Gladys, we will miss you dearly. Thank you for everything; your impact continues to be felt. Rest in peace, until we meet again.

Sharon Ann Kasper



Sharon Ann Kasper, age 72, of Merrill, passed away from the effects of Alzheimer's Disease on Thursday, November 7, 2024, at her home with her husband by her side and under the care of Interim Hospice Services.

Sharon was born on January 7, 1952, to the late George and Norma (Rusch) Strasser in Merrill. She graduated from Merrill High School in 1970. Sharon met the love of her life, Clint Kasper, and the two exchanged marriage vows on November 11, 1972, in Merrill. Their union lasted 51 years and he survives.

Sharon had a heart of gold and worked hard for 40 years as a certified nursing assistant, with many of those years at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill. She loved her job and the residents loved her, often requesting her. Her heart was truly in her work and it showed.

Sharon's family was first and foremost in her life, especially her beloved grandchildren. She looked forward to spending time with her son and his family, especially around the holidays and would always make her famous chocolate chip cookies.

Sharon was a Brewers fan and would watch the games every chance she had. She loved her dogs, especially Maggie the beagle. Sharon is remembered as a friendly and outgoing person, who could visit with just about anyone. She was always happy and very caring and generous. Sharon will be missed dearly, and never forgotten.

Sharon leaves behind her husband: Clint Kasper of Merrill, son: Eric (Julie) Kasper of Rice Lake, WI, with their children: Maddie and Jackson, brother: Gene Strasser of Merrill and last, but not least, her 4-legged friend, Maggie. She was preceded in death by her parents and 3 siblings: Jim, Rosie and Dale.

A visitation will take place on Saturday, November 16, 2024, from 1:00pm - 4:00pm at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Sharon's name to the Lincoln County Humane Society.

The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Interim nurse, John, for his care and compassion, and to all the assistance and support from Irv & Sherri Struck and Anna Hudson.

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



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Lincoln County featured on *Discover Wisconsin*

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The latest episode of *Discover Wisconsin*, the longest-running travel and tourism television series

in the nation, which begins streaming today, Nov. 14, 2024, will be all about Lincoln County. Titled "Lincoln County - What's Behind the Trees," the episode will reveal "the

beauty behind the trees of Lincoln County," a Nov. 11 press release from *Discover Wisconsin* announced.

"Co-hosted by Eric Paulsen and Lindsey Hayes, this *Discover Wisconsin*

episode showcases the gorgeous gateway to the Northwoods. From its natural beauty and outdoor recreation to delicious dining and spectacular shopping, Lincoln County

offers adventure and relaxation at your own pace," the release said.

The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors and Lincoln County Administrative Coordinator have been working to promote tourism in Lincoln County to stimulate, sustain, and grow the area economy. With so many areas in the state and across the nation competing for workers and people to move into their areas to fuel industry, and with most of those areas facing the same challenges repeated everywhere—a shortage of affordable workforce housing and child care—the Board opted to focus their energy on promoting tourism instead, former Lincoln County Board Chair Don Friske said in an interview last year. Promoting tourism benefits local businesses—from retail shops to gas stations to restaurants and

everything in between—and increases revenue by virtue of additional sales tax collected. It's a win-win, and the community has all the raw natural resources to draw tourists to the area.

One of the initiatives to promote tourism in Lincoln County was to work in partnership with *Discover Wisconsin*.

"Our journey in working with *Discover Wisconsin* has been extraordinary," said Renee Krueger. "The process of reflecting on all of the amazing qualities within the communities of Lincoln County and brainstorming what makes us a truly valuable and desirable destination was eye-opening and incredibly rewarding."

In this new episode of the show, "Eric Paulsen and Lindsey Hayes take the lead,

See **LINCOLN COUNTY** page 15

OBITUARIES

Steven W. 'Steve' Hoefs



Steven W. 'Steve' Hoefs, 66, of Merrill, passed away Sunday, October 13, 2024, at his home.

Steve was born October 27, 1957, in Milwaukee, son of Gerald and Sheila (Fildes) Hoefs. He married Theresa 'Teri' Pelczynski on July 1, 1978. Steve served his country in the United States Army for eight years. He was stationed in Virginia, Germany, and Colorado. After his honorable discharge, Steve worked as a heavy equipment operator for Canyon Contracting in Maryland.

Steve enjoyed reading, gardening, flowers, taking walks, fishing, and taking his baby sister to Friday Fish Frys. Steve also enjoyed watching NASCAR and watching football, especially the Green Bay Packers.

Survivors include his wife, Theresa 'Teri' Hoefs of Merrill; children, Mary (James) Carrol of Maryland and Nicholas Hoefs of Oregon; two grandchildren, Chloe Carrol and Curtis Carrol both of Maryland; siblings, Jeff (In Wol) Hoefs of Franklin, WI, Andrea (Michael) Murphy of Texas, Randy Hoefs (Kerrie Clark) of Pewaukee, and Kimberly Hoefs (Doug Leinbach) of Merrill; and former sister-in-law, Sue Wills of Kettle Moraine, WI; and nieces and nephews, Jin Hoefs, Jason Hoefs, Cole Carson, Stephanie Hoefs, Kenzie Roe, and Chris Hoefs (Tiffany Walton). Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Gerald and Sheila Hoefs; an infant son, Steven W. Hoefs, Jr.; and nephew, Zachary J. Walter-Hoefs.

A celebration of life will take place at a later date.

Taylor-Stine Funeral and Cremation, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Erland (Erl) Clifford Carlson



Erland (Erl) Clifford Carlson, 69, of Merrill, passed away Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Erl was born March 19th, 1955, in Marshfield, son of Clifford Carlson and Lois (Franke) Carlson-Schindler. He married Jeanine (Beaudette) Carlson on July 21, 1981, in Merrill.

Erl is survived by his wife, Jeanine Carlson of Merrill; son, Garret (Jillian) Carlson of Lisbon, Iowa; daughter Nicole (Adam) Pagenkopf of Glencoe, Minnesota; grandchildren, Lily and Lucas Carlson, Murielle and Adler Pagenkopf; and sister, Karen Carlson of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Erl was preceded in death by his parents, Clifford Carlson and Lois Carlson-Schindler; step-father, James Schindler; brother, Alan Carlson; and his grandparents.

Erl attended Colby High School, graduating in 1973. He then attended Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore, Wisconsin. He spent his working life as a meat manager for grocery stores, particularly in the Merrill and Wausau area until his retirement.

Erl loved his family dearly and always enjoyed spending time with them. Erl had an interest in wood working and built all of the interior of their log home and completed many projects on their hobby farm. He enjoyed feeding and watching his song birds. Erl was an avid Packer, Brewer, and Badger fan. He delighted in the couple of times he got to Lambeau field for a game. As a member of the Lincoln Gun Club he won many awards, and shooting trap was another hobby of his. Most of all, he loved grilling and sitting out on the patio.

The family would like to thank Aspirus Wausau Hospital, including the Cardiac ICU team, for Erl's care during his stay there.

As a loved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, Erl will be missed by many, including his faithful dog Una.

A memorial service for Erl will be held at 3:00 P.M., Thursday, November 21, 2024, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. Michael Southcombe will officiate. The family will receive friends beginning at 1:00 P.M. Thursday, at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Joseph "Joe" Day



Joseph "Joe" Day, age 81, passed away on November 7, 2024 while under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services and Woodland Court Elder Services.

Joe was born on August 3, 1943 in Tomahawk, Wisconsin to the late Fahy and Jean (Falk) Day. He graduated from Merrill High School in 1961 and enrolled in the U.S. Army, where he served for three years in Frankfurt, Germany as a Company Clerk. In 1970, while home on a break from college, he met Carol Meyer, the love of his life, and the two were united in marriage in 1973 in Merrill. He later finished his studies in accounting at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Joe began his career as an accountant at Nicklaus Enterprises in Irma and then as Treasurer of River Valley Bancorporation in Rothschild and Merrill. He later worked as the Controller at Interstate Trucking Corporation in Merrill and Controller at PGA Inc. in Weston, until his retirement in 2008. He and his family were founding members of the Merrill Ice Reflections Figure Skating Club, and Joe served as its President for several years. Joe was a charter member of the Merrill Noon Optimist Club and also served on the Aspirus Wausau Hospital Institutional Review Board.

Joe enjoyed spending time at the family's cottage in Mercer, where he loved sitting on the deck listening to the loons and having evening campfires. He also loved vacationing in Door County. Following retirement, Joe and Carol spent parts of many winters at the SunBird Golf Resort in Chandler, Arizona, where he was able to devote more time to his golf game. He delighted in spending time with his grandson, especially having their chocolate milk and donuts. When at home, Joe could frequently be found in his "shop" watching or listening to Packers, Badgers, or Brewers games and tinkering with various projects. Another of his hobbies was feeding and watching the birds that visited his many bird feeders. He was strong-willed, hardworking, honest, kind, loving, caring, and very loyal.

Joe is survived by his wife of 51 years, Carol Day of Merrill; his daughter, Lindsey Day Skeens (David Skeens) of Minneapolis, Minnesota; one grandson; and his mother-in-law, Wanda Meyer of Minnetonka, Minnesota. He was preceded in death by his parents; infant brother; brother, John Day; and father-in-law, Edgar Meyer.

The funeral liturgy will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Merrill. Deacon Jim Arndt will officiate. Visitation will be held on November 21, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the liturgy, also at Waid Funeral Home. Military honors will be conducted by the Merrill V.F.W. Post 1638 immediately following the liturgy.

The family wishes to thank Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services and Woodland Court Elder Services for the care, love, and compassion shown to Joe and his family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Joe's name be directed to the Merrill Ice Reflections Figure Skating Club or the Lincoln County Humane Society.

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.

Donald J. 'Bootz' Bloechl



Donald J. 'Bootz' Bloechl, 92, of Merrill, formerly of Gleason, passed away Saturday, November 2, 2024, surrounded by his family at Rennes Health & Rehab in Weston.

Bootz was born November 12, 1931, in Lincoln County, son of Joseph and Rose (Kawan) Bloechl. Bootz enlisted in the United States Army on March 8, 1956, and was honorably discharged on March 7, 1958. He married Alma E. Kanapka

on May 21, 1955, in Merrill. She preceded him in death on March 4, 2017. Bootz took over the family dairy farm from his parents. He farmed in the Gleason area for many years. He also worked for over thirty years at Lincoln Wood in Merrill. Bootz was a hard worker and a gentle soul.

Bootz was very proud of the shack he built in Gleason. He harvested the logs from his property and milled them to build the shack. Bootz enjoyed hunting, 4-wheeling, tinkering, watching the Green Bay Packers, and hosting Packer parties at the shack.

Bootz was known for his sense of humor and being a practical joker. This goes way back to his childhood when he threw bullets into the elementary school's woodstove. Bootz drew little jokes and had funny signs posted all over. His mind was always working and thinking of the next joke or goofy thing he could do.

Bootz enjoyed Friday Fish Fries, Tuesday night Eagle's Club liver dinners, and a good Old Fashioned. He could eat anything as long as it had maple syrup or honey on it. Bootz enjoyed Sunday drives. Bootz loved all animals, especially his dogs, Bailey and Brandi. Bootz was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Merrill.

Survivors include his three daughters, Lori Bushar (Roger Volovsek) of Weston, Kathy Bloechl of Marshfield, and Lisa (Steve) Chartier of Merrill; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Michael (Amanda) Bushar and their daughter Charlie of Birnamwood, Jason (Courtney) Chartier and their son Woodson of Green Bay, Leah Krueger of Stevens Point, Laura (Darrin) Prentice and their son Davin of Merrill, Lindsay (Garrett) Pagel of Merrill, and Angie Chartier (Samantha Lucey) of Hilton Head, SC; sister, Shirley Gennrich; sister-in-law, Lydia Wachsmuth of Wausau; and many nieces and nephews. Bootz was preceded in death by his wife, Alma Bloechl; parents, Joseph and Rose Bloechl; infant son, Gregory Bloechl; sister and brother-in-law, Lavergne (Chester) Hodgson; and brother-in-law, Marland Gennrich.

Taylor-Stine Funeral & Cremation, Merrill, is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstine.com

Steven "Steve" Duane Tomajcik



Steven "Steve" Duane Tomajcik, age 54, of Merrill, passed away at the Aspirus Merrill Hospital on Saturday, November 9, 2024. Steve attended Washington School as a child, and later in life, The Life Tasks Center in Merrill, where he made many lifelong friends. Steve competed in Special Olympics for many years, in track and bowling. Steve worked for over 20 years at Lincoln Industries in Merrill before he "retired". He spent the last several years dividing

his days between Kindhearted Home Care and Camp EPIC, LLC. In the years since Steve's dad, Duane, passed away, he lived with his aunt Audrey Blum, as she and Tracy worked as a team to provide him the care he needed. These years were, without a doubt, spent living his best life. Steve looked forward to bowling with Fun Frames every Saturday with his friends until summer, when weekends were spent at Audrey's cottage or at his best friend Mark's cabin, aka, his brother from another mother. Steve loved to sit by the campfire and throw wood in it to keep it at a nice roar and enjoyed the outdoors. At home, you could often find him on a nice day sitting in the driveway, watching cars go by and listening to music with one of his many Hot Wheels in hand. Steve made friends everywhere he went, and the world will certainly be a sadder place without him. Steve was a special gift to this world and anyone who was fortunate enough to know him, felt his love for all in his kind and gentle spirit. He gave the best hugs and was not shy about sharing them. He never missed an opportunity to let you know he loved you, and if you were lucky enough to be loved by him, you knew you were truly blessed.

Steve is survived by his siblings, Linda (Dennis) Schneider, John (Judy) Tomajcik, Julie (Rodney) Young, Jeff (Mary) Kleinschmidt, Jodie (Roger) Zerbe, Tracy (Matt) Kalenske, and Shawn Tomajcik, all of Merrill, and Cynthia (Keith) DeBoth of Appleton and special aunt: Audrey Blum. He is further survived by Mark (Star) Blum, Pat (Deb) Blum and the entire Blum family, who welcomed Steve into the fold without hesitation, aunt: Nancy Gartmann of Merrill, uncle: Dick (Grayce) English of Ashwaubenon, Mary (Marvin) Anderson, Judy Stevens and Carlyn Tomajcik, all of Merrill, along with many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents: Duane and Donna (English) Tomajcik, brothers: Joseph and Thomas Tomajcik, sister: Patricia Tomajcik, grandparents: Sylvester and Evelyn Tomajcik and Harold and Martha English, aunts and uncles: Marcella (Milton) Schneider, Bonita (Fritz) Heller, Marge English, Allison (Nancy) English, Sanford English, Bruce (Betty) English, James (Patricia) English, Lyle English, Reuben Gartmann, Michael Tomajcik, Lois Blum and Dean Stevens.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Steve will be held on Friday, November 15, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. at St. Francis Catholic Church in Merrill. Father Maria Vallehaneni will officiate. Visitation will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Waid Funeral Home, and again on Friday, November 15, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Burial will immediately follow the Mass and will take place at St. Francis Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Steve's name to the Special Olympics.

Family would like to give thanks to Dr. Rajender Polireddy, Marshfield Clinic, Merrill, Aspirus Merrill Hospital, Aspirus Wausau Hospital and cardiology for the care they provided to give Steve the best quality of life. Kindhearted Home Care and Camp EPIC, for all the wonderful days you gave to Steve. The Merrill Go Round staff and their kind drivers, Woodland Court Elder Services, where Steve resided the past year in his own "apartment". A special thank you to Aunt Audrey for her love and compassion, for without her, Steve would not have had the happiness that sustained him for the last few years.

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.

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar



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

MOVIES AND SHOWTIMES
11/15/24 TO 11/21/24
Mondays All Seats \$5.00

RED ONE
"PG13" (2HR 2MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

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"PG" (1HR 34MIN)
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SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

HERE
"PG13" (1HR 44MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:00PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00 & 9:00PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

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12 Noon-8pm

Friday
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WEEKLY BRIEFING - NOVEMBER 14TH - 18TH

THURSDAY - MUSHROOM & SWISS BURGER
FRIDAY - WALLEYE & HADDOCK SANDWICHES
SATURDAY - NORMAL MENU
SUNDAY - BROASTED CHICKEN
MONDAY - NORMAL MENU

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JACKPOT IS OVER \$1,835 & HALF OF SALES THAT DAY!

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DINNER SPECIALS FOR NOVEMBER

TUESDAY NIGHTS NOV. 19TH - CHIMP'S NOV. 26TH - SEAFOOD ALFREDO	FRIDAY NIGHTS NOV. 15TH - CATFISH NOV. 22 - BLUEGILLS
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DINNER SERVED FROM 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Visit our Website! 584.localfoewi.com

FREE Thanksgiving Dinner

Please join us at
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
W2604 County Road P, Merrill, WI

Thanksgiving Day, November 28
Serving 11 am - 1 pm
Dine In, Take Out, or Delivery
(For people without transportation)

Turkey • Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Vegetable • Stuffing • Dinner Roll • Pie

FOR DELIVERY CALL 715-432-4954,
ON OR BEFORE WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27th.

St. Paul's Sunday Services are at 8:30 am and
Sunday School is at 9:30 am. All are welcome!

Thanksgiving Day Buffet

3 Meat Entrées - Tom Turkey,
Golden Chicken and Kielbasa & Kraut,
served with all the trimmings, salad
bar, ASSORTED DESSERTS and coffee!

RESERVE TODAY!
715-536-3847
Serving 11am to 2 pm

Kathy & Gal's CLUB 64 2405 W. Main St. Merrill

Nov. 13 - Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Company
Nov. 13 - Turkey Time Music Party at Agra Pavilion [Kids event sponsored by Merrill Area Park & Rec]
Nov. 14 - MACA Concert: Jeremy Stolle: No More Talk of Darkness
Nov. 14 - Merrill Chamber Business After Hours at Ballyhoo's
Nov. 14 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Company
Nov. 14 - Thursday Night Board Games at Nor Comm Games
Nov. 16 - Poker Run

Nov. 16 - Devils Creek Stump Jumpers Snowmobile Club Sportsmen's Dance and Raffle at Kathy & Cal's
Nov. 17 - Scott Heidemann Chili Cook-off at Calvary Lutheran Church
Nov. 17 - Holiday Craft Fair at The Creative Spirit
Nov. 19 - Aspirus Merrill Hospital Volunteers "Girls Night Out Wine and Hors d'oeuvres Event" at Les & Jim's

Nov. 21 - "Soup's On" Cook-off fundraiser at Nicolet Bank
Nov. 21 - Cover to Cover Book Club at T.B. Scott Free Library
Nov. 21 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Company
Nov. 22 - 59th Annual Venison Feed in Tomahawk
Nov. 23 - Hunter's Widow Bingo at Plautz's Pub
Nov. 23 - Bingo at Gleason Bowling Center

Nov. 24 - Bingo at VFW
Nov. 27 - Trinity Merrill Christmas Concert Series
Nov. 27 - Northwoods Bassist at Gleason Bowling Center
Nov. 27 - Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Company
Nov. 28 - Free community Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Stephens Church
For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/events or contact the event sponsor.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

DATE SIGNED: November 8, 2024
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2024 IN 44

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
RONALD H. NICKLAUS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 2/9/1936 and date of death 8/7/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N5127 Walsh Road, Irma, WI 54442-9632.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 02/28/2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office. Attorney David J. Fenlon Ruder Ware, L.L.S.C. 130 N. Adams St. Green Bay, WI 54301 920-435-9393 Bar No. 1036251
Published November 14, 21 & 28, 2024
WNAXLP

Legals 7700

DATE SIGNED: November 6, 2024
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
LORENA J. SOSNOVSKE
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2024-IN-42

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth November 16, 1937 and date of death August 13, 2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N7301 State Road 107, Gleason, WI 54435.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is February 28, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room probate Office. Atty. Craig J. Nienow N5041 County Road JJ Irma, WI 54442 71 5-536-7185 Bar Number: 01015178
Published November 14, 21 & 28, 2024
WNAXLP

Legals 7700

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUDIT
Notice is hereby given that a public audit for post-election voting equipment for District 4 in the City of Merrill for the November 5, 2024 General Election is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. The testing will be conducted at the Lincoln County Services Building, 801 N. Sales Street, Merrill.
Lori L. Anderson-Malm
City Clerk
Published November 14, 2024 WNAXLP

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: 10/30/2024
/S/Robert R. Russell
CIRCUIT JUDGE/COURT COMMISSIONER

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing
Case No. 24-CV-149
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME
CHANGE OF
Noah Ashton David Kummer-Wotruba

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Noah Ashton David Kummer-Wotruba
To: Noah Ashton David Wotruba
Birth Certificate: Noah Ashton David Kummer-Wotruba

IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Honorable Robert R. Russell
Place: Lincoln County Courthouse, Br 2 1110 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452
Date: December 2, 2024
Time: 9:45 AM
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0319 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
Published: 11/7/24, 11/14/24 & 11/21/24
WNAXLP

TOWN OF SCOTT MERRILL, WISCONSIN

NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, November 27, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Scott Town Hall, N563 Lake Road, Merrill, a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2025 Budget for the Town of Scott will be held.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS
Notice is further given that on Wednesday, November 27, 2024, immediately following the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2025 Budget, a special meeting of the electors called pursuant to Section 60.12(1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes by the town board will be held to approve the 2024 town tax levy to be collected in 2025 pursuant to Section 60.10(1)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes.
Published November 14, 2024
WNAXLP

FLAG SPEAKS
from page 2

ATTACK ONE, YOU WILL HEAR FROM ALL"—The Flag.

After September 11th an NFL player gave up his career to defend this nation; a few years later another NFL player started taking a knee as I'm raised. I draped the casket of the hero—The Flag.

I've been stepped on, spit upon, burnt, and with disdain had a knee taken as I'm raised in the name of Social Justice—The Flag.

That, my kneeling friend, is true Social Justice—the fact that you have the right to disrespect me—The Flag.

I've gained a total of fifty stars, but I will always have thirteen stripes, a reminder of those colonies who faced the greatest army in the world in 1776, with little hope of winning, a great fear of losing, yet had the courage to fight for freedom—The Flag.

Yes, I am the American Flag, my colors don't run in battle, and I shine a light of hope to the world of what life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness looks like.

Sincerely, Your Flag.

Thank you Veterans. Happy Veterans Day.
Sincerely, America, The World, and Kittie Crossen

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TUE. - FRI. • Noon - Close
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NOVEMBER BOOZE OF THE MONTH
CAPTAIN
\$5.00 - 16 oz. Pint

SAT. NOV. 16TH
CRIBBAGE TOURNEY
Starts at Noon
\$40 per team
\$240 1st Place (based on 12 teams, 100% payout)
Lunch Provided!

SAT. NOV. 23RD
HUNTER'S WIDOW BINGO
Open 11am. Start 1pm
WEAR BLAZE ORANGE OR PINK & GET ONE FREE ENTRY INTO OUR PRIZE GIVEAWAY!
• Drink Specials & Snacks

MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is
Easton Barker
Son of Alissa Zajackowski and Logan Muenchow, and Anthony Barker

Easton is in 3rd Grade at Washington Elementary School. He was nominated by Mrs. Yang.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
My favorite subject in school is math because my math level is a grade higher.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
My favorite part of coming to school is to go play football at recess with my friends.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
I would hope to play football someday when I am older.

Easton Barker is a responsible and kind student who is dedicated to helping others and furthering his education, as well as having a positive attitude in the classroom. Easton consistently strives to improve and take on new challenges. Easton shows leadership and a commitment to teamwork. His thoughtful contributions to class discussions and respectful demeanor make him a role model. His peers also take notice of his actions and look up to him. Way to go Easton!
~ Mrs. Yang

Student of the Week Sponsored by:
INTERFLEX GROUP
1401 W. Taylor St., Merrill
(715) 536-5400

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT LINCOLN COUNTY
Case No. 24CV146
Case Classification Code 30301
Money Judgment
K&A File #: 24-00254-0
WAUSAU SURGERY CENTER LP
3801 STEWART AVE
WAUSAU, WI 54401
Plaintiff,
vs.
RANDALL S QUINN JR
508 EAST STREET
MERRILL, WISCONSIN 54452
Defendant(s).

PUBLICATION SUMMONS

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff, WAUSAU SURGERY CENTER LP, has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. Within forty (40) days after November 14, 2024, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the Court whose address is: LINCOLN COUNTY CLERK OF COURT LINCOLN COUNTY COURTHOUSE 1110 E MAIN ST MERRILL, WI 54452 the Plaintiff's attorney whose addresses is:
KOSTKA & ASSOCIATES, LLC
P.O. BOX 1519
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN 54402-1519
You may have an attorney help or represent you.
If you do not demand a copy of the Complaint within forty (40) days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This communication is from a debt collector.
Dated: November 4, 2024
KOSTKA & ASSOCIATES, LLC
Attorneys for the Plaintiff
Electronically signed by Timothy L. Kostka
Timothy L. Kostka
State Bar No. 1000258
P.O. Box 1519
Wausau, WI 54402-1519
P: (715) 845-1805
Published November 14, 21 & 28, 2024
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- More stamps means more cards to choose from. Example: 15 stamps = 15 cards
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2024 DEER HUNTING Guide

Wisconsin's 2024 nine-day Gun Deer Season opens Nov. 23

FOR THE MERRILL FOTO NEWS
A NEWS RELEASE FROM THE WISCONSIN DNR

MADISON, Wis. – It's almost time for hunters across Wisconsin to head out for the 2024 nine-day gun deer season, opening Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024, and running through Sunday, Dec. 1. This is the latest nine-day window within which the season may occur, as established by state law.

With this year's season starting further removed from the peak of breeding activity, fewer deer may be on the move relative to recent years with earlier openers. Still, there is reason for optimism, as other factors like colder temperatures and snow cover could still create excellent deer hunting conditions. Furthermore, last year's mild winter means fawn production and antler development will likely be better than in recent years.

As of midnight on Oct. 29, 2024, year-to-date sales for gun, bow, crossbow, sports, and patron licenses reached 444,743. Of that total, 123,861 are for gun privileges only.

Register your harvest

All harvested deer must be registered electronically by 5 p.m. the day after the deer is recovered. Hunters will need the unique harvest authorization number associated with each permit. Proper registration provides accurate harvest data for DNR wildlife managers and County Deer Advisory Councils for the management of Wisconsin's deer herd.

The three options to register a deer are:

- Online with GameReg at: gowild.wi.gov/wildlife/harvest
- By phone at 1.844.426.3734
- Electronically at a participating in-person registration station [apps.dnr.wi.gov/cwd/RegStation/Search]

Know your target

Elk sometimes venture outside of the elk management zones, especially during the fall breeding season, so hunters are reminded to properly identify their target. Any elk taken without a tag may result in a fine and a revocation

of your hunting license.

Hunters should be sure of their target to avoid an accidental shooting of non-target animals.

See **GUN SEASON** page 9



Nick Berard



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GOOD LUCK HUNTERS!

We wish you a safe & successful season!

2024 DEER HUNTING Guide

Hunting can help slow the spread of CWD

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been detected in more than half the counties in Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) needs your help to monitor and slow the spread of the disease.

How to help

Hunting is one of the best ways to slow the spread of CWD on the landscape. It helps manage deer populations and decrease the likelihood of disease transmission.

Consider submitting a sample of your deer harvest to the DNR for testing, especially if you hunt in one of this year's priority areas [see map]. Lincoln, Oneida, and Marathon Counties are all in this year's priority area. These are locations

with newer detections of CWD, and additional samples will help the DNR to better understand disease levels and distributions in the area.

What happens if your harvest receives a CWD-positive test result?

If your harvest receives a positive test result, a replacement authorization will be issued to the corresponding Go Wild account within two to four days. If the positive result is from an antlered harvest, the replacement authorization will be for an antlered harvest valid statewide.

New this year, if the CWD-positive test result is from an antlerless harvest, an either-sex replacement

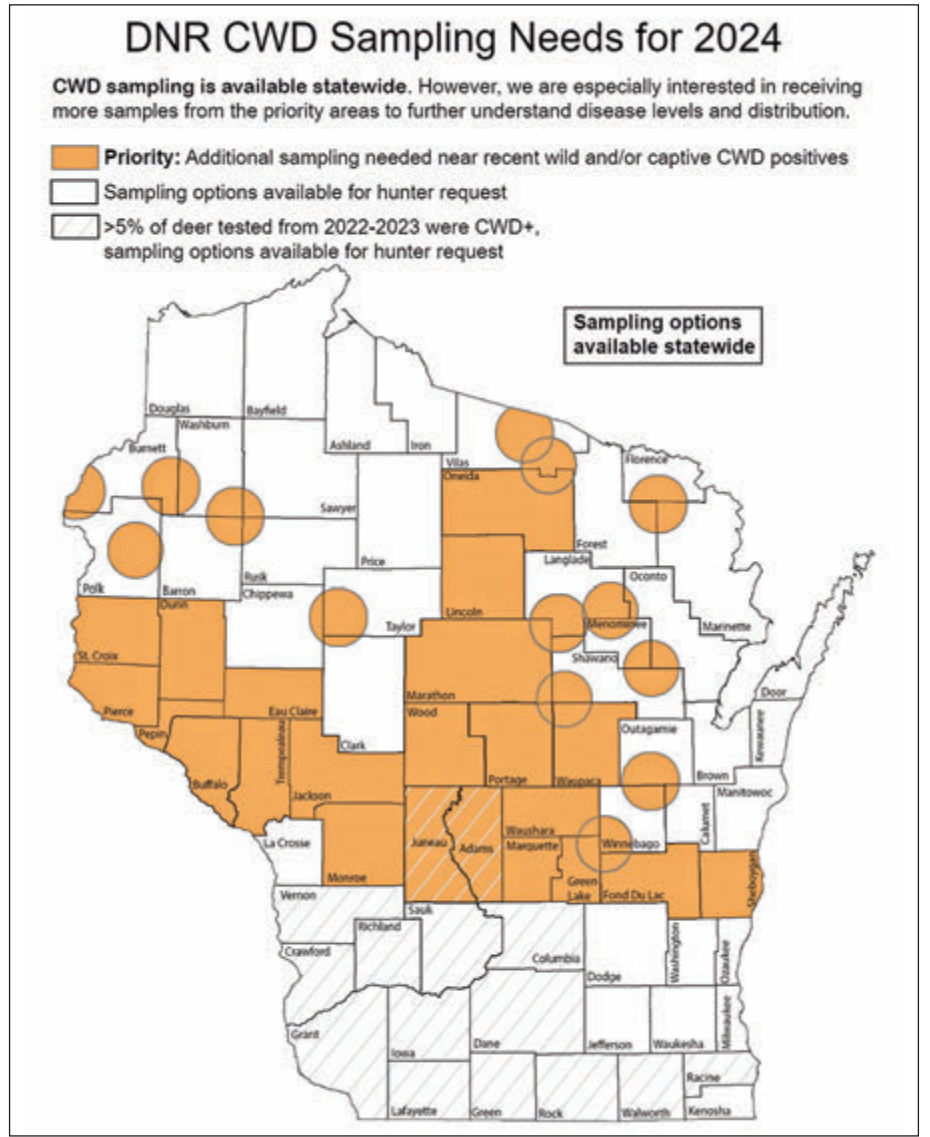
authorization will be issued for the same DMU and land type.

Proper deer carcass waste disposal

Proper carcass waste disposal helps slow the spread of CWD by removing potentially infected deer waste from the landscape. There are several disposal resources available, including deer carcass disposal dumpsters, landfills, or transfer stations.

To find a CWD sampling or disposal location in your area, use the DNR's CWD Sample and Disposal Locations Map here: <https://shorturl.at/tEqbc>.

Additional locations will be added leading up to the nine-day gun season.



Alex Neumann, age 12, shot an 8-pointer in Lincoln County on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, during the youth hunt right before the storms rolled in. **Submitted photo.**



On the last evening of the 2024 youth deer hunt, Oct. 6, Aaron Jaeger of Merrill shot this buck and doe while hunting with his dad in Lincoln County. **Submitted photo.**



Samantha Jaeger of Merrill shot this beautiful 8 pointer on Sept. 20, 2024, while hunting in Lincoln County. **Submitted photo.**

GUN SEASON from page 8

See the differences between elk and white-tailed deer using the DNR's comparison guide [see guide in this edition].

Hunt safely

It's important for all hunters to do their part and keep Wisconsin a safe place to hunt by following the four basic rules of firearm safety, TAB-K:

- T - Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- A - Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
- B - Be certain of your target, what's before it and what's beyond it.
- K - Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.

Hunters must ensure at least 50% of outer clothing above the waist is blaze orange or fluorescent pink. Hats or head coverings, if worn, must also be at least 50% blaze orange or fluorescent pink. Faded or stained clothing is unsafe and should be replaced.

Additionally, anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1973, must have a hunter education certification to purchase a hunting license unless hunting under the Mentored Hunting Law. Learn more about safe hunting in Wisconsin and register to take a hunter education course on the DNR's Outdoor Skills webpage at: dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/HuntingSafety.

Mobile-friendly hunter resources

The DNR's Online Deer Camp is a one-stop shop for everything a hunter needs to know before heading out this season. It contains helpful links and information regarding purchasing a license, regulations, shooting hours, public land maps, and more. Check it out at: dnr.wisconsin.gov/GoHunting.



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Tree stand safety reminders

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Archery season has been under way for a while, the rut is already in full swing according to many hunters, and the gun deer hunting season will soon begin.

Whether you're hunting with a bow or a firearm, it's always important to remember to take your time, be cautious, and be safe when hunting from a tree stand. Every year hunters are injured, and some even die, from accidents related to hunting in/from a tree stand.

Avoid the risk of a fall, accident, or injury by *always* following these basic rules of tree stand safety before, during, and after every hunt, provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR):

- Connect your harness to your tether line and keep your tether line short.
- Maintain three points of contact while climbing in/out of your tree stand.
- Always use a haul line to raise/lower your unloaded firearm/bow in and out of the stand.
- Use a lifeline while climbing up and down.
- Be sure to let someone know of your hunting plans, including where you're going and when you plan to return.
- Carry a cell phone in case you need to call for help. [Be sure it is attached to your body or in an inside pocket so you can get to it easily in the event of a fall or other accident.]



Focus on tree stand safety and climb into your stand with confidence this fall.

David Nevala photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR.

The DNR also reminds hunters to inspect all equipment in advance of the hunt, especially straps, for fraying or tearing or brittle pieces, and to replace equipment as necessary. In addition, hunters should inspect the tree they plan to hunt from prior to attempting the climb. Ensure it is sturdy and will sustain the weight of your body and gear and that the tree, even if it is one you've used in the past, has not been weakened by disease, storm damage, or insect infestation or woodpeckers, etc.

The DNR provides more information about hunting from a tree stand, tree stand safety, and even a free course on their website. Go to: dnr.wisconsin.gov/education/OutdoorSkills/TreestandSafety to learn more.

One of my favorite hunting memories

SUBMITTED BY RON PRESL

One of my favorite hunting memories occurred in 1988. I was hunting with my friend, Ken Bashara, who was the principal at Lincoln Elementary School, which was located where Walgreens is now. Ken never shot a buck in 34 years of hunting, although he admitted that much of his hunting seasons were spent in the shack playing cards, making meals, and having a beverage or two. This year he was going to get serious.

We went to our stands early on opening morning. As I was walking to my stand, I heard Ken shoot. I was hoping that he didn't shoot himself in the foot.

He yelled, "Ron, I just shot at a trophy buck!" I went to his stand, and he showed me where he had shot at the buck. It was a very close shot, about 15 yards away.

We looked for any evidence of a hit but found nothing. I asked Ken how he could have missed such a close shot. He said that he was so fascinated with the buck's big horns that he must have shot over the back of the deer. We then went back to our stands to hunt.

At around 4:25 p.m. I heard Ken shoot again. Ken yelled, "Ron, I just shot at another trophy!"

I thought to myself, "Oh no! Here we go again." I hurried to Ken's stand because it was getting dark, so we had to hustle to see if Ken had hit the deer. I asked Ken where the deer was when



Ken Bashara with his trophy buck with a 19-inch spread, shot in 1988. Submitted photo.

he shot at it.

Ken said, "It was down the blaze by those white birch trees."

I thought to myself, "If Ken couldn't hit a deer at such a close shot, how would he ever hit one at over 75 yards?"

We both ran down the blaze, and Ken spotted the large buck lying on its side and yelled, "There he lays!"

I ran over to see a beautiful buck with a 19-inch spread and let out a yell that had to be heard throughout the

2024 DEER HUNTING Guide

2024 DEER SEASON STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT ZONES

2024 Deer Season Structure

Statewide: Bucks plus antlerless by harvest authorization*

- *Buck only county: No antlerless harvest authorizations available for purchase. Junior antlerless harvest authorizations remain valid.
- Holiday Hunt: Antlerless only. Dec. 24 - Jan. 1**
- Holiday Hunt: Antlerless only. Dec. 24 - Jan. 1** and Extended Archery Season: Jan. 6 - 31, 2025
- ▨ Metro Sub-unit: See regulations for detailed boundaries
- Non-quota area: No harvest authorizations issued by the DNR

**Note: Counties participating in the Holiday Hunt do not have an open buck season during those dates regardless of weapon type.

surrounding woods.

The next week then School Superintendent Tom Strick and the Merrill School Board proclaimed a special "Ken Bashara Day." Lincoln School held an assembly in the gym for Ken. The teachers planned a skit, poem, and a song, and Superintendent Strick came running in dressed in blaze orange. Some School Board members

were present, too. It was a memorable day, one that's etched in my memory forever,

That season was a turning point in Ken's deer hunting future. He now took hunting very seriously, and as the years passed, he recorded many successful hunts, bagging numerous bucks, but none as special as the 19-inch trophy buck.

Ken was the best hunting partner I could have ever had, and to this day, I cherish the many memories that we made over the years that we hunted together.



Abby Jaeger of Merrill shot her first turkey on the last day of the youth hunt on April 14, 2024, while hunting with her mother. Submitted photo.

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2024 DEER HUNTING Guide



DON'T SHOOT AN ELK!

BE AWARE!

ELK ARE IN WISCONSIN

Look for differences between ELK and white-tailed DEER.

- COLORING**
ELK: Tan rump patch, black legs and a dark brown, furry neck.
DEER: Legs the same color as bodies and a white throat patch.
- TAILS**
ELK: SHORT tail.
DEER: LONG tail with a white underside.
- ANTLERS**
ELK: Sweep BACK.
DEER: Curve FORWARD.
- JEWELRY**
ELK: Some marked with COLLARS and EAR TAGS.
- SIZE**
ELK: Adults stand 4-5 FEET at the shoulders.
DEER: Adults stand 3-3 1/2 FEET at the shoulders.

NOTE! A 5- to 6-month-old elk calf will be about the same size as an adult white-tailed doe.

LEARN MORE
 SCAN to visit the Elk in Wisconsin webpage.


Always be sure of your target and beyond



Donate deer hides for Lions Camp, antlers for pups, hearts for refuge

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Lions Club is again collecting deer hides, antlers, and hearts.

Deer hides

Deer hunters who wish to put their deer hides to good use and support a worthy cause should remove the head and legs and can deposit their deer hides in the Deer Hide Collection box on the corner at 1401 E. Main St. in Merrill (former Caylor's Corners building) or the Deer Hide Collection box at SGS S. State Street (old Chipper building). Look for the sign and the box in the parking lot or at the end of the drive, respectively.

All proceeds from the deer hides will be used to support Wisconsin Lions Camp.

Since 1956, Wisconsin Lions Camp has been providing people with disabilities with a high quality summer camp program, and the proceeds of the deer hide collection program are an important part of keeping the camps operational. There is no cost for campers to participate.

Deer antlers

The Merrill Lions Club is also collecting deer antlers. Antlers will be donated to Leader Dog puppy raisers for the puppies to chew on.

Deer hearts

Deer hearts are also being collected and will be donated to the Wildlife Refuge in Antigo.

Thanks to local businesses for their support

The Merrill Lions want to thank the local businesses and individuals that made it possible for the collection. Mike Giese and RESI and Jay Schlueter at SGS provide the spaces and locations for the collection on their property this year, and River Country Co-op is donating a portion of the salt used to preserve the hides.

For more information about the collection or if there are any questions, contact Dennis Knott at 715.218.1525 or Jeff Kraft at 715.536.6656. Both are members of the Merrill Lions Club.



Left Photo: Aaron Jaeger shot his first turkey on Sept. 29, 2024, while hunting with his dad, David Jaeger. Right Photo: David Jaeger of Merrill shot this 306-pound black bear in Ringle, Wis., on Sept. 8, 2024, while hunting with Hookin and Shootin Guide Service. This was his first bear. Submitted photos.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor:

We changed Fill the Gazebo to June this year and are finally able to close that. We took in \$8,169.61 and collected 1,312.24 pounds of food, which filled 52 boxes. We divided everything four ways: Merrill Community Food Pantry, Trinity's Open Hearts Food Pantry, New Testament's His Hands Extended Food Pantry, and the Food For Kids Program. I would like to acknowledge the contributors: Sierra Pacific, Culvers, Lions, Eagles Auxiliary, Romatoski Builders, St. Stephens UCC, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, New Testament Church, Ascension Church, United Methodist Church, Bible Presbyterian Church, and 35 individuals that dropped off food and monetary donations.

Our thanks to the many that helped make this event a success. We plan to keep our new date as the second Saturday of June in hope to help the food pantries stock up for the summer.

- Fill the Gazebo Committee
Cheryl Buck, Chairperson
Merrill, Wis.

To the Editor:

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 an armistice was called, thereby ending World War I. Armistice Day is now called Veterans Day, a day we as a nation have put aside to say thank you to those who served, both past and present. It is the right thing to do. We should never forget the sacrifices they have made. Every day should be Veterans Day, and every day we should say thank you and be grateful for their service. This should include our law enforcement officers, firefighters, first responders, and all those who put their lives on the line for their communities and country.

Our nation seems divided, but we're not. We just have different opinions. That's really our strength. The diversity of opinions brings about working solutions. A few years ago, I wrote *The Flag Speaks*. I wrote it after doing research on the service history of my husband's grandfather. He served in the Army in WWI as a Lieutenant and as Commander for the 52nd Seabees in WWII. I would like to share with our veterans who have saluted and carried our flag into battle, *The Flag Speaks*, and it is dedicated to all of them. [See page 3 of this issue.]

From my heart, thank you for your service.
- Kittie Crossen
Gleason, Wis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

- Letters must be 250 words or less. (There will be no exceptions to this. Any letter longer than 250 words will not be printed.)
- The writer must include their full name, complete address, and a phone number where he/she can be easily reached for verification. Phone numbers and street addresses will not be published, but will be used for verification purposes, if necessary. Letters must be signed and the name, city, and state will be printed.
- Letters may be edited for style, grammar, and length.
- We retain complete discretion to determine whether a letter is printed. The First Amendment right to free speech protects speech from government control; it does not give people the right to have their views published in a privately-owned newspaper, or anywhere else for that matter.
- We will not accept letters that make controversial or unsubstantiated claims. This is because we are liable for any false claims we publish, regardless of the source of the claim. Form letters or those we determine to be libelous or slanderous will not be accepted. Any letter deemed derogatory, inflammatory, or involving vulgar language will not be published. We reserve all rights to reject material submitted to this publication.

- Letters will be published on a "first come, first served" basis. Any letters which we are unable to publish in the printed newspaper may be run online at www.merrillfotonews.com and/or may be printed in the paper at a later date.
- In fairness to all, and due to space constraints, there is a limit of two letters per year from an individual writer. Additional letters may be submitted to our Paid Letters to the Editor column and will require payment in full prior to publication at the same rate as Political Letters to the Editor (see policy below).

POLITICAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

- Letters to the editor on political issues, with or without a candidate endorsement, including those submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum, or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words in length plus \$10.00 per additional 100 words.
- All political letters must be prepaid prior to printing.
- Letters to the Editor will not be accepted from candidates running for election or representatives of an organization endorsing their own referendum, as these are clearly advertisements and not opinion letters; those submissions will be referred to our Advertising Department to be run as paid ads.

Merrill resident Marion Perkins celebrates her 100th birthday

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, longtime friends and relatives of Marion Perkins gathered with staff at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill to celebrate her 100th birthday, which officially occurred on Nov. 11, 2024. Daughters Jean and Kate Perkins hosted the afternoon party which included about 50 in-person guests and started with a Zoom call to include Marion's nieces and nephews in Tennessee and Wisconsin who were unable to travel for the party.

"Guests at the party shared memories and stories of Marion's life," said daughter Kate. "Many spoke of her religious faith, her devotion to friends and family, and her kindness. Some were more lighthearted and praised her excellent penmanship, her beautiful Christmas trees, and her skill at sheephead."

Born on Nov. 11, 1924—Armistice Day, now known as Veterans Day—Marion grew up attending Armistice Day parades on her birthday, and when she was little, her father told her the parade was for her, Kate said.

The second youngest of five children (four girls and one boy), Marion was especially close to her sister, Ruth, who was her lifelong best friend; the two shared adventures until Ruth died in 2022.

"Marion's earliest memory is moving to Knox Mills [Wis.] from Stetsonville in 1928 when she was four [years old]," Kate said. "She remembers that her sister Ruth fell out of the car. Ruth was standing behind the front seat with the dog. The car moved suddenly, the door popped open, and Ruth fell out. Marion's dad yelled at her mom for not watching Ruth better, but the kids [including sisters Dorothy and Adeline and brother Fred] just laughed."

As a child, Marion loved reading, singing, and her beloved dog, Spot. "Sometimes she avoided chores by taking a book and her beloved dog Spot out to hide in the woods and read," Kate said.

"One of her whole family's favorite activities was singing," she said. "Two songs they especially liked were *The Prisoner's Song* and *Cowboy Jack*," two ballads popular in the 1920's. When other children were raising their hands to suggest children's songs like *Mary Had a Little Lamb* to sing at school, Marion and Ruth always requested those two songs.

Marion attended a one-room schoolhouse in Knox Mills, and her first job was as janitor of the school when she was in the eighth grade. She later wrote about that experience and her story was published in *Our Wisconsin* magazine. Some of her schoolmates there were her dearest and lifelong friends, and Marion and her sisters helped organize several reunions with those classmates over the years.

With no high school in Knox Mills, Marion and her siblings attended high school in Prentice and boarded with families there during the week, coming home only on the weekends or school breaks. She then attended and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a teaching degree in English and American History, the only one of her siblings to go to college.

"One of the most fateful decisions of her life was accepting a teaching job in Phillips, Wis.," Kate said. "There, in August of 1950, she met a young woodworking teacher named Art Perkins."

"It wasn't quite love at first sight," she said, "But by October, they were engaged, and they married on December 30, 1950."

Marion and Art had four children: Greg, Jean, Kate, and William, who died as an infant.

In 1962, Art accepted a job teaching Industrial Arts at Merrill Senior High School, where he taught for several years. "Marion kept house and taught future teachers at the Lincoln County Normal School, a two year teachers' college in Merrill. This was her favorite job of all time," Kate said. "The students shared her love of teaching and appreciated her advice on how to be a successful teacher. She also taught for a few years at St. Anne's Catholic School."

But Art's heart wasn't in teaching; he longed to farm the land, so in the mid 1960's, the couple bought a dairy farm seven miles north of Merrill and began farming. Marion, who hadn't learned to drive a car until she was 40 years old, learned to drive a tractor and to rake hay. She had a garden and apple trees.

Having grown up in the "very rural village" of Knox Mills, Wis., Marion "loved living in the country," her daughters said, and is still proud of her accomplishments on the farm.

From watching the leaves on the large maple trees in their yard change color to harvesting and canning the food from her garden and apples from the trees, Marion loved it all. She also loved to bake. "She made the best apple pies, using apples from her own trees on the farm, as well as oatmeal cookies, cinnamon buns, Kringle, and fruit cake," Kate said.

"Marion's favorite hobby was still reading, and one of her friends at her birthday party recalled the time Marion decided to limit her reading to four books a week so she could get her chores done," she said.

Marion also loved Christmas. She loved putting up her Christmas tree—cut from their property—and decorating her home. For many years, Art, Marion and several other couples had an annual tradition of a progressive Christmas party where they traveled to each other's



Marion Perkins celebrated her 100th birthday with a party at Pine Crest Nursing Home. One of the Occupational Therapy staff made her a cherry walnut cake, Marion's favorite, to help celebrate the occasion. **Submitted photo.**

houses to admire each other's Christmas trees, their daughter said.

The family's roots were firmly planted in the Merrill area. Their children attended St. Francis Catholic School and all were active members of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. In later years, Marion was an active member of the Catholic Deanery's Council of Catholic Women.

As the years went on, Marion and Art retired from farming but stayed on the property. Retirement provided them with freedom to travel, which Marion loved. Art was a World War II veteran, and the couple went on an Honor Flight to Washington DC to see all the Veterans memorials. They traveled to visit their children, as well as extended family in Arizona and Colorado, and went to Mackinac Island. Marion also enjoyed traveling with her sisters—like the time she and her sister, Adeline, went to Philadelphia and New York—and she also went to San Antonio for a conference of Catholic women.

After her husband, Art, died in 2010 at age 87, Marion built a new house on the farm property, and she lived there by herself until this past March when—at 99 years of age—she moved into Pine Crest.

But her beloved country property is still in the family. Daughters Jean and Kate now grow trees on the family farm where they once tended crops and chased cows.

Today, now 100-year-old Marion continues to enjoy life while at Pine Crest. She likes physical and occupational therapy—and works hard at it, her daughters said. She enjoys bingo, Mass, the musical activities, the friendly and caring staff, and being in Merrill where friends and family can visit often. Her daughter Jean lives in Merrill. Her daughter Kate lives in Warrenville, Ill., with her husband, Kent Archie; granddaughter Rachel Archie also lives in Warrenville; and granddaughter Madelaine Archie lives in St. Louis, Mo.; and all visit as often as they can.

What can we learn from a 100-year-old woman with all that she has seen and experienced? We asked her:

What is still on your bucket list—something you always wanted to do but haven't yet? "Travel to London, Paris, and Rome," Marion said. She definitely would have liked to travel more. When Marion was in her 20's, she bought a life insurance policy that would provide a cash

See 100TH BIRTHDAY page 16



Seated, 100-year-old birthday girl, Marion Perkins. Standing behind her from L to R: her granddaughters Madelaine Archie and Rachel Archie; daughter Jean Perkins; and daughter Kate Perkins with her husband Kent Archie. **Submitted photo.**

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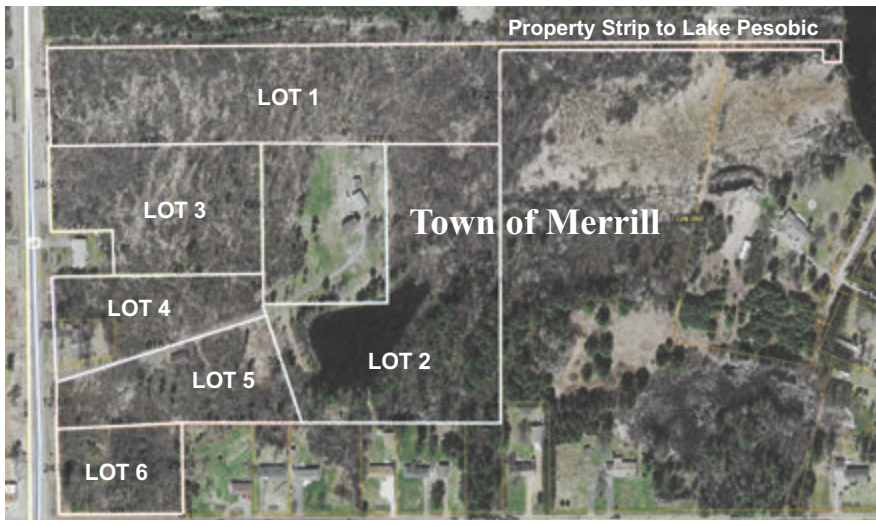
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bid contingent upon an inspection. Title to the premises shall be conveyed by Personal Representative's deed except restrictions, reservations, easements, agreements, covenants and rights-of-way of record.

The Personal Representative reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid or combination of bids he deems most satisfactory in his sole discretion. Terms of sale: \$2,500 within seven (7) days of notification of acceptance of bid and balance of bid price in cash at time of closing, with closing to be within thirty (30) days of notification of acceptance of bid. All bids shall be sealed in an envelope marked "Howland Estate Bid" and sent by first class mail to Attorney Craig J. Nienow, N5041 County Road JJ, Irma, WI 54442.

Bids will be examined on the 27th day of November, 2024. The successful bidder, if any, will be notified on or before the 4th day of December, 2024.



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ELECTION RESULTS
from page 3

2020 election, despite losing Wisconsin overall. And in 2016, Trump won in Lincoln County by a 20.6% margin of victory. That's a 4.6% increase in his margin of victory in Lincoln County alone from the 2016 election to the 2024 election.

Barack Obama won the Lincoln County vote in the 2008 Presidential Election by a 12.48% margin of victory, and again in the 2012 Presidential election, but that time by a much slimmer .71% margin of victory.

Lincoln County wasn't the only county in Wisconsin being closely watched in this Presidential race. Eyes were also on Adams, Buffalo, Columbia, Crawford, Door, Dunn, Forest, Grant, Jackson, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, Marquette, Pepin, Price, Racine, Richland, Sauk, Sawyer, Trempealeau, Vernon, and Winnebago Counties in the Dairy State.

U.S. Senate

Incumbent U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) narrowly defeated her Republican challenger, Eric Hovde, by a roughly 49.4% to 48.5% margin to retain her seat.

According to preliminary results, Hovde was the top vote-getter in Lincoln County, tallying 10,119 votes (58.4%) to Baldwin's 6,527 (38%).

Disrupt the Corruption candidate Phil Anderson and Thomas Leager of the America First Party received 225 votes and 170 votes in the county, respectively.

Six write-in-votes were cast in Lincoln County.

U.S. House of Representatives

In Wisconsin's 7th

Congressional District, incumbent Republican Tom Tiffany emerged victorious over Democratic challenger Kyle Kilbourn. Approximately 274,000 votes (about 64%) went to Tiffany. Kilbourn garnered about 157,000 votes (roughly 35%).

Lincoln County voters supported Tiffany by an 11,125-vote to 5,738-vote (roughly 64.2% to 33.2%) margin, according to preliminary results.

Lincoln County saw 11 write-in votes cast.

State referendum

A referendum seeking to amend language in the State Constitution to say "only" U.S. citizens can vote in Wisconsin elections was approved by a roughly 70.5% to 29.5% margin.

According to preliminary results, in Lincoln County, 12,972 votes (about 75%) were cast in support, while 3,110 voters (roughly 18%) were opposed.

There were 1,219 undervotes on the referendum question, accounting for about 7% of ballots cast.

State Senate

State Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) will represent Wisconsin's 12th Senate District for another term after besting her Democratic opponent, Andi Rich. Approximately 75,000 votes went to Felzkowski (about 68%), while Rich tallied just fewer than 36,000 votes (roughly 32%).

Preliminary results showed that Felzkowski carried Lincoln County by an 11,422-vote to 5,302-vote (approximately 66% to 31%) margin.

Eight write-in votes were cast in the county.

State Assembly

In Wisconsin's 35th Assembly District, incumbent Calvin Callahan (R-Tomahawk) took down

Democratic challenger Elizabeth McCrank. Callahan tallied just fewer than 25,000 votes (approximately 68%), while roughly 11,800 votes (about 32%) went to McCrank.

Callahan emerged as the top vote-getter in Lincoln County, tallying 10,871 votes (about 63%) to McCrank's 5,788 (roughly 33%).

Seven write-in votes were cast in Lincoln County, preliminary results showed.

Lincoln County District Attorney

Democratic Lincoln County District Attorney Kristopher Ellis was unchallenged in his bid to return to the post. Ellis received 10,895 votes.

Lincoln County voters cast 504 write-in votes.

Lincoln County Clerk

Republican Christopher Marlowe will serve another term as Lincoln County Clerk after running unopposed. A total of 13,948 ballots were cast for Marlowe.

According to preliminary results, 227 write-in votes were cast.

Lincoln County Treasurer

Republican Lincoln County Treasurer Robbin Gigl will return to the post after running for reelection unchallenged. Gigl received 13,782 votes, according to preliminary results.

A total of 140 write-in votes were cast.

Lincoln County Register of Deeds

Republican Lincoln County Register of Deeds Sarah Koss did not face an opponent in her bid to return to the position. Preliminary results showed that Koss tallied 14,016 votes.

Lincoln County voters cast 133 write-in votes.

Rathke steps down from role as VFW Post 1638 Commander

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

At the Nov. 5, 2024, meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Schmitt Manecke-Donner Post 1638, current Commander, John Rathke, announced he was stepping down from his leadership role, because he learned there was a problem with the documentation of his military record and—though he is taking the necessary steps to get the matter resolved—it was the right thing to do. As soon as it is resolved, he will be back to active membership in the VFW in good standing and will again work to support the organization however he can, including in a leadership role if he is again elected to serve, he said.

Rathke had the support of Senior Vice Commander Corey Dornbrack and, following Rathke's announcement to Post 1638 membership, the two also went to the VFW Post 1638 Auxiliary and shared the same information with the membership there so everyone in the Post 1638 community would be fully and accurately informed of the circumstances that led to his decision.

The problem started when Rathke was informed his paperwork showed he wasn't eligible for the VFW, Rathke said. "I needed to have my DD-215 changed, because they didn't have my war awards on there."

"I was informed my DD-214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) did not show a qualifying medal to be a member of the VFW. I then put in a correction of record to the Air Force Board of Correction, the process I started last year in November," he said. "I received the letter back from the Air Force Board of Corrections stating the information I provided did not qualify for the medal I requested for the correction of my DD-214. I have since been in contact with the VSO (Veteran Service Office) and have been informed I qualify for the Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWASM). I am currently in the process of completing another Air Force Board of Correction."

"They denied the one award that we put in for—we put in for the wrong one basically. So I felt at that time that I needed to step down until I got that corrected," Rathke said. "I wanted to do the right thing."

"I was deployed to Diego Garcia from Jan. 2, 1991, until the end of May 1991," he said. "I also retired from active duty with an honorable discharge, which is one of the requirements to be a member of the VFW."

"It was my discussion and obligation to inform the Post membership of my circumstances and step

down from Commander until the correction is completed," Rathke said. "From day one when I signed up in the VFW, 18 years ago, I assumed my DD-214 was correct, due to the fact my deployment was during Desert Storm and the B-52's were deployed out of Diego Garcia for bombing missions, where I helped maintain and repaired them when any damages occurred."

"There is a paperwork discrepancy here which makes me temporarily ineligible until it's resolved," Rathke said. He said it was important to him to be fully transparent and to step down until the issue is formally resolved.

Rathke's record in Merrill

Rathke joined VFW Post 1638 in 2006 and was elected to Junior Vice Commander in 2012. He was Commander from 2013-2019, during which time the Merrill post was recognized with numerous awards, including Captain of the All-State (the top award at the State level) for 2014-2015, All-State for two years, and All-American for one year. In 2022, he was again elected Commander, a role he has held until now, and under his leadership, VFW Post 1638 was again named All-State, one of the top 15 posts in Wisconsin, and All-American for 2022-2023. In 2016-2017, Rathke also helped start the funding for the construction of the new Northwoods Veterans Post.

Military family needs to support one another

Ultimately, it is just a paperwork discrepancy, Dornbrack said. The issue is in the process of being rectified and, once it is, Rathke will be restored to good standing within the VFW and he will be eligible to serve in a leadership role again if he so chooses.

The current paperwork failed to show his proper credentials to verify that he was eligible to be a member of the VFW and to be an officer in good standing.

Essentially, Rathke's records were missing the documentation for the Southwest Asian Medal he received as a result of his serving in Diego Garcia in a combat role.

Not all awards get into a soldier's paperwork, Dornbrack explained. "Some awards aren't given until afterwards, and if you go on to another unit or you get out of the military, everything doesn't catch up with you."

"Some awards are easier to see than others," Dornbrack said. "And sometimes you think it's in there, but it's not. You know what you did, but all of a sudden there's nothing there."

It's unfortunate that false rumors about Rathke's voluntarily stepping down have been circulating in

the community, Dornbrack said. "It is highly disappointing."

"You know, we military—we're family," he said. "We have enough issues [from our service/combat] without stuff like this ... we just don't need this, you know, other people throwing members under the bus unjustifiably."

"The District Commander knows about it; the State Commander knows about it," Dornbrack said. "I'm a District officer myself—I'm the Senior Vice [Commander] for District also, so the higher entities know that this is going on, and they want to help any way they can. It's not that John's not putting forth his information ... It's when you don't put forth your information, that's where it causes problems."

The paperwork has always been there, Rathke said. But at the time it was looked at, no one noticed an issue.

Maybe the VFW needs to do something different—that when you apply for the VFW, it's got to get sent up to the State for verification, the two suggested. It's possible that membership procedures should be tweaked going forward to avoid these kinds of issues.

Interim Commander, elections to fill two vacancies in December

Dornbrack is currently acting VFW Post 1638 Commander in an interim role. As Senior Vice, he can choose to take on the role of Commander, Rathke said, and Dornbrack said he is considering doing so and will make a decision on that before the next meeting, but he wasn't prepared to officially accept the role immediately at the November meeting when Rathke announced his decision to step down. It's a lot of responsibility, Rathke said.

If Dornbrack fills the Commander role, the membership of VFW Post 1638 will need to elect a new Senior Vice Commander, as well as a new Junior Vice Commander—due to the recent and unexpected death of Junior Vice Commander Paul Kudick—at the December meeting. If Dornbrack opts to retain his position of Senior Vice Commander instead of stepping into the Commander role, then the VFW membership will need to elect a new Commander and Junior Vice Commander. In either case, two leadership roles will be filled at the upcoming Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, VFW Post 1638 meeting at 6 p.m.

All members of the VFW in good standing are eligible to come to that meeting to vote in this election. Nominations will be accepted from the membership to fill the vacant roles.

LINCOLN COUNTY
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showcasing the area's stunning natural beauty and exciting outdoor recreation, with a few foodie and shopping stops along the way," the release said. "Eric notes the beautiful scenery driving along Highway 107, which holds Wisconsin's largest motorcycle rally."

"It isn't long before Eric hits the stunning trails for a leisurely ride on the Underdown Trails, noting ways to up the ante. He enjoys the slower pace of Lincoln County, refueling at the Sawmill Brewing Company, stopping by Merrill Music in The Square, and shopping the local favorite, Johnsons of Merrill."

"Later, Eric travels to Tomahawk to explore the water adventures on Lake Mohawksin and Lake Nokomis, such as water ski shows, kayaking trips, and lakeside meals."

"On a mission to find more thrilling adventures," the release continued, "Lindsey discovers one-of-a-kind opportunities to explore behind the trees of Lincoln County. From horseback riding to dog sledding, Lincoln County offers an array of fast-paced adventures for all to enjoy. As Lindsey continues her quest, she admires the remarkable parks plotted throughout the County. Each park provides recreational opportunities that highlight the area's natural beauty."

There are so many great experience in Lincoln County, and some lifelong County residents didn't even know all these opportunities exist, Krueger said. That was one of the things she learned in the process of identifying and promoting all the things Lincoln County has to offer to tourists. Those same opportunities are all right

here waiting to be discovered and enjoyed by local residents, too.

"The [Discover Wisconsin] production teams brought our vision to life and we couldn't be more proud of the end product and the ability to share so everyone can adventure what is beyond the trees!" Krueger said.

The exclusive early debut of the episode will be available beginning today [Thursday, Nov. 14] at 4 p.m., available through discoverwisconsin.com, Roku, Apple TV, SmartTV, Google Chromecast, Amazon Fire, and YouTube. Download the *Discover Wisconsin+* App in the iOS App Store or Google Play store to stream it on your mobile device.

The episode will then air statewide on Saturday, Nov. 16, at 10 a.m. on Fanduel Sports Network (formerly Bally Sports Wisconsin) and at varying times across local affiliates of the *Discover Wisconsin* Regional Television Network. "The episode will reach the show's broadcast network of viewers across the upper Great Lakes region, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Upper Michigan," the release said.

"This [episode] is the first production of our two-year relationship," Krueger said. "This show was heavily focused on 'What is behind the trees,' focusing on outdoor recreation as the emphasis. By highlighting outdoor adventures, we believe this will bring visitors to our businesses, hotels, restaurants, and local shops."

"While there are so many great places we could highlight, we wanted to keep this episode with a brief overview of just a few," she said. "We appreciate the great reception and participation with those involved, as everyone had a great time, which made us able to finalize this show in a short amount of time."

Merrill Varsity Girls Swim Team: On the road to State

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Tournament season is here. The Merrill Varsity Girls Swim Team started on the road to State with a trip to Wisconsin Rapids on Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024, for the Wisconsin Valley Conference Meet.

“As a team, they finished fourth place

behind Stevens Point, DC Everest, and Wausau West,” said Merrill Varsity Girls Swim Team Head Coach Kristie Winter. “The ladies kicked the meet off with a season-best, All Conference Honorable Mention third place finish in the 200 yard medley relay with a time of 1:58.20. The relay was swam by Addison Jirovec, Olivia Pajtach, Marissa Miles, and Claire Jirovec.”

“Emily Winter followed up in the next event with a podium sixth place finish in the 200 yard freestyle cutting 3 seconds from her seed time with a 2:14.56,” she said. “In the 200 yard individual medley, Addison Jirovec was back on the podium finishing seventh for the team in 2:29.99. Then her sister Claire swam her way to an All Conference Second Team swim in the 50 yard freestyle with a time of 26.27.”

“After the break, Marissa Miles continued the momentum with a season-best race, finishing third for an All Conference Honorable Mention in the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 1:02.22.”

“In the 100 yard freestyle, both Claire Jirovec and Miles were back in the top 8 with a fourth place finish for Miles [58.04] and fifth place finish for Jirovec [58.97],” Winter said.

“Next up was the distance 500 yard freestyle. Pajtach finished in fourth place with a 5:40.19, followed by Winter in eighth place with a 5:57.24. In the 200 yard freestyle relay, the team of Claire Jirovec, Brenna Jirovec, Winter, and Miles finished a solid fifth place with a time of 1:49.56,” she said.

“Addison Jirovec then also received All Conference Honorable Mention for her third place finish in the 100 yard backstroke with a time of 1:06.28.”

“In the 100 yard breaststroke, Pajtach finished in sixth place with a 1:16.66, and the 400 yard freestyle relay of Pajtach, Caroline Durbine, Winter, and Addison Jirovec finished the meet off with a season-best eighth place finish in the 400 yard freestyle relay with a time of 4:13.53.”

“In all, the Lady Jays had 13 top-8 finishes during the 11-event meet,” Winter said. “With the entire team posting season-best times.”

WIAA DII Sectionals

“After a quick week of rest, the team was on the road again to WIAA DII Sectionals in Menomonie on Saturday, Nov. 9, with high hopes of qualifying for the State Meet in Waukesha Nov. 15,” Winter said.

“The 200 yard medley relay of Addison Jirovec, Pajtach, Miles, and Claire Jirovec finished in fourth place, cutting additional time to 1:57.45, and punched their return ticket to State,” she said. “The foursome had also qualified last year, making it the fourth consecutive season Merrill has sent a 200 yard medley relay and eighth consecutive year the team will be represented at the State Meet.”

“Miles then finished in sixth place in the 100 yard butterfly with a time of

1:02.23, earning her first individual State qualification,” Winter said.

“In the 500 yard freestyle, Pajtach was Sectional Champion with a time of 5:34.95, earning her a second individual trip to State,” she said. “Pajtach had qualified last year in the same event, finishing 15th in 2023.”

“Overall the team finished in fifth place of the 14 teams attending the Sectional Meet,” Winter said. “Additional point earners were Winter finishing tenth in both the 200 and 500 yard freestyle events. Addison Jirovec finished top 8 in the 200 yard individual medley and ninth in the 100 yard backstroke. Claire Jirovec finished eighth in the 50 yard free and ninth in the 100 yard freestyle. Pajtach also finished fifth in the 100 yard breaststroke with Brenna Jirovec finishing a strong 12th place.”

“The team also had a couple of 16th place finishes rounding out the individual events. Caroline Durbine finished 16th in the 200 IM, and Deylah Schultz finished 16th in the 200 freestyle,” she said. “Both freestyle relays swam well with season-best times. The 200 freestyle relay composed of Claire Jirovec, Brenna Jirovec, Winter, and Miles finished seventh with a time of 1:48.68. Merrill finished the meet off with an eighth place finish in the 400 yard freestyle relay, led off by Pajtach, Durbine, Winter, and Addison Jirovec with a new season-best time of 4:12.79.”

Heading to State, Bluejay proud

Four Merrill swimmers will compete at State this Friday evening: Addison Jirovec, Olivia Pajtach, Marissa Miles, and Claire Jirovec will compete as a team in the 200 yard medley relay. Miles will also compete individually in the 100 yard butterfly, and Pajtach will compete individually in the 500 yard freestyle.

All of their teammates will attend to cheer them on.

Merrill High School (MHS) will celebrate their State-bound swimmers with a parade through the hallways Friday morning beginning at 9:15 a.m.

The bus transporting the team to Waukesha will leave MHS at 10 a.m. with a Merrill Police Department and Merrill Fire Department escort, taking the team past both Washington Elementary School and Prairie River Middle School where young Bluejay-proud Bluejays will line the sidewalk to cheer for the team and celebrate their trip to State, and then sending them on their way at the city limits ... on the road to State.



The Merrill Girls Swim Team poses for a photo in the pool.

Erin McKeen photo.

2024-2025 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)
Practice begins Monday, November 18th

Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

Fri, Nov. 15	Multiple Schools (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:00 pm
Tues, Nov. 19	Stratford (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Tues, Nov. 19	Stratford (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Thurs, Nov. 21	Faith Academy (JV2)	Away	6:00 pm

Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV)
Practice begins Monday, November 18th

Girls Wrestling (Varsity)
Practice begins Monday, November 18th

Boys Hockey (Varsity & JV)

Thurs, Nov. 21	Waupaca (Varsity & JV)	Away	T. B. D.
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Girls Hockey (Varsity & JV)
Practice begins Monday, November 18th

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Olivia Pajtach, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of Nov. 14, 2024. Olivia began swimming competitively in second grade, then swam for the Merrill Aqua Jays, the Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) Swim Team, the Rhinelander Swim Club, and is now Captain of the Merrill Girls Varsity Swim Team, having been on the team all through high school. Her favorite event is the 500 freestyle. In the summer she works part-time as a lifeguard at the Bierman Aquatic Center at the MARC and she also works as a lifeguard at the PRMS pool. Olivia has also been on the Merrill Girls Varsity Soccer Team the last two years and plans to play again this year.

At school Olivia is a member of the National Honor Society, Link Crew, Junior Optimists, Raise Your Voice Club, and Tri-M Music Honor Society, and she is also a drum major in the Merrill Marching Jays.

When she has free time, Olivia likes to hang out with her sister (she just visited her at college in Iowa where they went shopping and got their nails done) and her family and friends, shopping, watching movies, or just relaxing, and she also likes to bake.

The daughter of Seth Pajtach and Stephannie Pajtach, both of Merrill, Olivia has a 3.9 GPA. After graduation, she plans to go to UW-Oshkosh to major in nursing and swim on their swim team, then pursue her Master's degree, and ultimately to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) and work in anesthesiology.

Congratulations from these sponsors:

Olivia Pajtach

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

100th BIRTHDAY from page 12

payout to her in her 40's, Kate said. “She planned to

travel to Europe with the money.”

But life had changed a lot during that 20-year period, and when the payout came, Marion and Art were dairy farming. Instead of a trip to Europe, Marion used the money to buy a barn cleaner. But she said she doesn't regret that decision, because the barn cleaner made their daily chores so much easier.

What are you most proud of? While there are many things Marion accomplished during her 100 years of life, and much to be proud of, she said raising her family and keeping them healthy are her best accomplishments. Close behind is how proficient she became at farming with Art. She said she knew nothing of farming when they first

began, but she learned to drive a tractor, do field work with the tractor, rake hay, milk cows, and raise calves.

What advice would you give your grandchildren? True to her nature, Marion's advice is a mix of wisdom and practicality. “As Polonius said in Hamlet, ‘This above all: to thine own self be true ... Thou canst not then be false to any man.’ And then: Find work you enjoy because you may have to do it for a long time.”

Any advice on getting older? Accept the fact that you're going to get older and do the best you can with what you have, Marion said.

These wise words have guided Marion throughout her first 100 years. They are good advice for us all.

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