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Merrill man killed, another injured in UTV rollover

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Ryan P. Adams, age 32, of Merrill was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, shortly before 2 a.m. when the UTV he was driving entered a ditch and rolled. A call to the Lincoln County 911 Dispatch Center indicated he was unresponsive, and he was later pronounced dead by Lincoln County Coroner Valerie Caylor.

A 40-year-old male passenger on the UTV was ejected from the UTV and was life flighted to a local hospital by Medivac Air

2. He sustained serious injuries.

The incident occurred on Scott Rd. south of Held St. in the Township of Scott. According to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, "preliminary investigation suggests that the UTV was southbound on Scott Rd. when it lost control, entered the ditch, and rolled." The crash remains under investigation.

In addition to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, the Merrill Fire Department, Merrill Police Department, and Wisconsin DNR also assisted at the scene.

Graap sentenced to 15 years in state prison for 2022 shooting of Kayla Frank

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR



Tanner Graap. Photo courtesy of Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

In Lincoln County Court on Nov. 11, 2024, 30-year-old Tanner Graap of Merrill was sentenced to 15 years in state prison, to run consecutive with any other sentence, followed by 10 years of extended supervision, in response to the Jan. 18, 2022, shooting death of 28-year-old Kayla M. Frank of Merrill.

As of early June 2022, Graap was charged with first degree intentional homicide with modifiers as a repeater and as a felon in possession of a firearm, in addition to other charges. On Aug. 6, 2024, additional charges of maintaining a drug trafficking place with modifiers as a repeater and as a party to a crime were also leveled against Graap.

The sentencing hearing included an agreement whereby Graap pled guilty

in 2022, were all dismissed but read into the record and considered in sentencing, which means Graap cannot be prosecuted for those specific charges again in the future.

Graap appeared in court in custody from the Lincoln County Jail and was represented by Attorney Preston James. Prior to sentencing, several victims made statements and/or read letters to the court, and the court considered character witness letters submitted on behalf of the Defendant. Character witnesses on Graap's behalf pointed out that Graap had completed a degree in welding from Moraine College while incarcerated and hopes to get an additional degree in ministry, stating that he had reconnected with God and his faith while incarcerated and is working hard to help other inmates, including

getting a job with Fox Lake Correctional teaching classes, and focusing on his sobriety.

The Court considered all this prior to reaching a decision and making its ruling, which also included an absolute sobriety restriction for Graap and that he is to have no contact with the victim's family except that he is to write an apology letter to Frank's family to be sent through the Lincoln County District Attorney's Office, to be reviewed with the Lincoln County Victim Witness Coordinator.

Graap is also to maintain full time employment and/or education and to undergo alcohol or drug assessment and treatment and mental health counseling or other programming as deemed necessary.

Graap was credited with 162 days already served.

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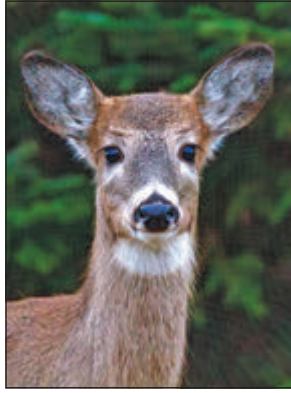
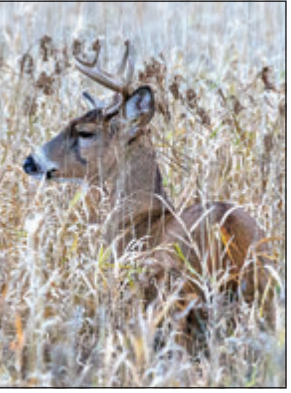
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This photographer got a clean shot at this nice buck. Area hunters will be looking to do the same starting on Saturday, Nov. 23, with the start of the 2024 gun deer hunting season, except that they will be looking for a kill shot instead of a great photo opp. **Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photos.**



Right Photo: Sometimes you've got to get into the thick of things to find the biggest bucks. Good luck to all of our area hunters this coming week! **Left Photo:** A close up of a beautiful doe.

Deer hunting inspiration

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

The Wisconsin gun deer season starts this Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024, and runs through Sunday, Dec. 1.

Just in case hunters need a little inspiration before the hunt, check out these beautiful Lincoln County deer, photographed in recent weeks by a local photographer.

We can't give away any of the exact locations where these deer were photographed, but rest assured, the bucks have been on the move lately.

Good luck hunting, and feel free to send in pictures of those trophy deer after you bag your buck or fill your tag(s) and your freezer.

Reminder: The color of the week is blaze orange. Be safe and enjoy the hunt!



A nice buck with a smaller but respectable rack, stands at the edge of a field, after alerting to a noise.

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 Wednesday, Nov. 27 2 pm - 7 pm
 Thursday, Nov. 28 1 pm - 5 pm
 Friday, Nov. 29 9 am - 7 pm
 Saturday, Nov 30 (Bidding closes at 5 pm) 11 am - 5 pm
 Sunday, Dec 1 (Viewing only, bidding closed) 9 am - 2 pm
 See Santa schedule online!

\$5 Tickets Available at the Door Includes a Ticket for a Beverage and a Cookie Children 2 and Under Free

SPECIAL EVENTS
 Opening Night Gala Tues., Nov. 26, 6 pm - 9 pm \$75 per person before Nov. 17 \$85 per person starting Nov. 18
 Teddy Bear Blast Sat., Nov. 30, 9 am - 11 am \$10 per person before Nov. 25 \$15 per person starting Nov. 26 Children 3 & Under - Free

Stroll through beautifully decorated holiday trees, wreaths, and specialty items. Place the winning bid to take home your favorites! Enjoy festive music, Santa, raffles and complimentary cookie and beverage.

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Proceeds support Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services and Aspirus Family House. For more information, visit wausaufestivaloftrees.org or call 715.847.2470.

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Baiting and feeding ban reminder

With Wisconsin's nine-day gun deer hunting season approaching (Nov. 23-Dec. 1, 2024), it's a good time for a reminder about baiting and feeding bans, put in place in many areas of the state to help stop the spread of chronic wasting disease. CWD is a contagious and fatal disease that can spread in cervid populations via animal-to-animal contact or through contact with materials such as saliva, urine, feces, and carcasses of infected animals.

Bait piles are not the only way CWD spreads from deer to deer, but they increase the risk of transmission. That's why Wisconsin state law requires the DNR to implement a temporary baiting and feeding ban in any county where a CWD-positive deer is identified.

Deer baiting and feeding is currently prohibited in



White-tailed deer

Linda Freshwaters Arndt photo. Courtesy of Wisconsin DNR.

61 counties in Wisconsin, including Lincoln County and Marathon County and every county that borders on these two counties except Price County (sharing a border with Lincoln County) and Clark County (sharing a border

with Marathon County).

More information on "CWD and the science behind baiting and feeding bans" is available in the fall edition of Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine at: <https://shorturl.at/n2txW>

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Power Of A Name

Dear Reader,

In a world filled with words, there is one that stands out above all others—a word that is the most cherished, the most appealing, and the most significant to each of us. That word is our own name.

Whether your name is Mary, Anne, Steve, or Brian, there is an undeniable truth: hearing your name spoken by someone else is a powerful experience. It resonates in a way that no other word can, because it is tied to your identity, your existence, and your place in the world.

Names are unique, yet they are also common. They might be shared by thousands, but when it is your name, it feels singular, special, and deeply personal. It is a word that signifies who you are, and when others remember and use it, it signifies that you are seen, recognized, and valued.

That is why, when you meet someone new and they tell you their name, the best thing you can do is to remember it. And not just remember it—use it. The next time you see that person, whether it's



days, weeks, or even months later, addressing them by name is a small but profound gesture. It tells them that you cared enough to remember, that they left an impression on you, and that you appreciate who they are as an individual.

In a broader sense, remembering and using someone's name is about more than just social etiquette. It's about building connections, fostering relationships, and influencing others in a positive way. When we acknowledge someone by name, we are not just recognizing their presence; we are affirming their worth.

So, as we go through life, meeting new people and forming new connections, let's remember the power of a name. It's the starting point of understanding others. And in a world where everyone wants to be seen and heard, sometimes all it takes is remembering one simple word—their name.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

Courthouse wreath is erected



Tis the season ... to put up the giant wreath on the Lincoln County Courthouse lawn.



Many hands make light work. It takes teamwork to put that giant wreath together.

Joseph Frederick photos.

CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY	
FRESH POTATOES Red or Yellow \$3.29 5 lb. Russet \$3.29 10 lb.	DELI SPECIALS Cheddar Cheese \$3.89 lb. Honey BBQ Chicken Breast \$5.49 lb. Squash Sale 79¢ lb.
Walnut Creek Bone-In Double Smoked Hams \$3.69 lb.	APPLES Fuji, Macintosh, Evercrisp, Pazazz, Pink Lady and Yellow Delicious \$14 1/2 bu.
Deer Apples, Carrots and Sugar Beets \$13 a bag 5 or more \$11 each	
WINTER HOURS: WED. & SAT. 8AM-5PM. MON., TUES., THURS., & FRI. 8AM - 5:30PM	
Located in Gleason. All prices subject to change. While supplies last.	
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MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is
Able Burgener
Son of Derek and Melissa Burgener

Able is in the 2nd Grade at Trinity Lutheran School. He was nominated by Mrs. Thompson.



Local business people gathered on the Lincoln County Courthouse lawn last Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, to assemble the Christmas wreath.

Pet of the Week

This is **Dixie** and she was the dog that came in with the 63 cats that we got in, in Sept. This girl was so shut down when she got to the shelter (not in a mean way she just was so overwhelmed by life). We put **Dixie** in a kennel where it was away from the other dogs in a quieter area to let her decompress from all that she had been through. We took **Dixie** by the kittens that she was in the home with in hopes that it would help her to feel more comfortable! They were so excited to see her and she was like "O I know you!" It is so great to see **Dixie** coming out of her shell and finally warming up to everyone!

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Visit all the adoptable pets at 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 at www.furypets.com.

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

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What is your favorite subject in school?
Why?
Math because I can learn.

What is your favorite part of school?
Why?
I like seeing my friends. I like to play with my friends.

What would you like to do/become someday?
Why?
I want to be a farmer because I want to take care of animals.

Able is great at keeping himself on task and he's motivated to learn. He tries his best at all of his work and strives to succeed.
~ Mrs. Thompson

Student of the Week Sponsored by:
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ReadyWisconsin highlights Winter Weather Awareness Week

COURTESY OF READYWISCONSIN

As winter approaches and before colder temperatures set in, now is the perfect time to plan and be prepared for the upcoming season.

To help encourage everyone to be winter ready, Governor Tony Evers declared the week of Nov. 18-22, 2024, as Winter Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin.

“Winter weather can lead to dangerous conditions including snowstorms, icy roads, and below freezing temperatures, said Greg Engle, Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator. “By planning ahead, we can ensure families and communities are safe during the colder winter months.”

Being aware of weather conditions is essential for being prepared. The National Weather Service (NWS) and other reliable local sources will have forecast information to inform you of potential inclement weather.

Recently, the NWS simplified their cold weather terminology:

- Wind Chill Watches were renamed to an Extreme Cold Watch



- Wind Chill Warnings were renamed to an Extreme Cold Warning
- Wind Chill Advisory was renamed a Cold Weather Advisory

“These changes are part of a nationwide effort to simplify the amount of hazard headlines the National Weather Service has,” said Tim Halbach, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service-Milwaukee. “Instead of using separate terms like ‘Extreme Cold’ and ‘Wind Chill’ warnings to describe similar cold conditions, they will now use just one: ‘Extreme Cold Watch/Warning/Advisory.’ This is because there are situations that can be extremely cold without much wind.”

Extreme cold temperatures can be dangerous for many people, leading to cold-related illnesses and injuries such as hypothermia and frostbite. There were

45 cold-related deaths in the state during the winter months of 2023-2024, according to preliminary data from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). According to that data, there were 861 emergency department visits and 225 hospitalizations in the state due to cold-related illnesses.

“Getting ready for snow and bitter cold before they hit can help prevent trips to the emergency room and it might even save a life,” said Paula Tran, State Health Officer and Administrator for DHS. “During cold snaps, it’s especially important to check on neighbors and loved ones to make sure they’re warm enough where they are and help get them to a warm space if needed.”

When dangerously cold temperatures arrive, it’s important to follow extreme cold warnings and minimize time outdoors, including pets. If you have to be outside, dress for the weather and make sure you

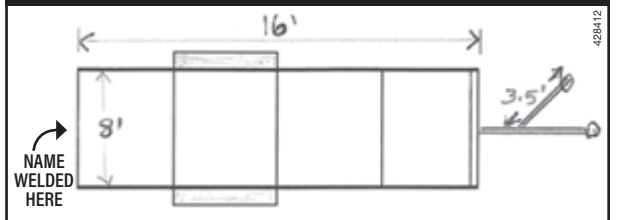
cover exposed skin to reduce your risk of frostbite and hypothermia. Call 211 or visit 211wisconsin.communityos.org/ to find local warming centers and free winter clothing outlets.

Finally, take precautions to avoid slips, trips, and falls in icy conditions and snow shoveling injuries.

When dangerously cold temperatures

See **WEATHER** page 7

Stolen Trailer - Reward Offered \$300



This is a gray tandem boat trailer converted into an 8' x 16' flat bed trailer. The mask is still on the front for boats, and the back is welded with “Lange Auction.”

Please call the Merrill Police Department at 715-536-6272 or Arnie Lange at 715-574-2258 with information.



This small all-white buck is just one of a group of such deer in Lincoln County—fascinating to look at but illegal to hunt. Submitted photo from trail camera.

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Sausage Links Fully Cooked Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY \$1.29 a lb	Hashbrowns Oval Patties - Frozen 45 oz. ONLY \$2.99	
	Sausage Crumbles Italian, Fully Cooked Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$6.99	

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

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Tis' almost the season for sharing your “Big Heart” and making the holiday’s “Cheerful and Bright.” Thanksgiving is a day of family traditions, wrapped with family, great food and the recognition of all the caring people, wonderful gifts and blessings in our lives.

There are so many ways everybody can bring joy to others during this “special” time of year. The “Lincoln County Christmas Spirit Appeal” is underway. There is time to pick up the holiday wish list of so many children and families at designated locations. It is a heart-touching experience to know that you are making someone’s Christmas bright. No child should go without a few Christmas gifts. These are families that don’t have the financial means to provide for a Christmas like so many people have. Also, Nicolet Bank, in conjunction with United Way and some of our funded agencies, is having a Winter Clothing Drive, for coats, gloves, boots, hats, scarves, and mittens. The gift of outerwear will provide warmth for children all winter long. Items must be new and have tags on the item. These NEW items can be dropped off at Nicolet Bank, East Main Street (Merrill) for distribution to the agencies working with families. Remember the Merrill Community Food Pantry and other food pantries are helping people put a holiday dinner on the table. Your support is needed in so many areas.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are a unique time to reflect and truly focus our attention on the most meaningful things in our lives. Every time someone is helped with the very basic needs such as food, shelter, having a safe and secure place to stay, we are thankful. Our agencies help direct people to the resources to make certain no one goes hungry; they stay warm and have a roof over their head. They guide them into areas of financial management to help sustain self-sufficiency.

The staff at our funded agencies and the hundreds of volunteers that participate in the work of these agencies give all the time. They work with a passion for others. For these wonderful people we are most grateful. Merrill is a “Giving Community.” Those that “pay it forward” are sure to find their rewards along the way too. Yes, Thanksgiving is a time to acknowledge what is important in life and how grateful we are for our blessings. Of course, there is always more to be done. Make HOLIDAY GIVING a family event. People can find ways to help others by volunteering, i.e., ringing bells with the Salvation Army, supporting Food For Kids, donating to the Merrill Food Pantry or your church food pantry, providing Christmas gifts to nursing homes and more.

The United Way campaign is near conclusion, and unfortunately, we did not hit goal. In fact, the campaign has declined for two consecutive years now. The end result is we must scrutinize how we apply the dollars we have to work with. A few cutbacks in the amount of funding are most likely. As this article is written, we are just starting the allocation process where the decision will be made on how much to recommend. Once the team recommendations are completed, the funding level recommendations then go to the United Board for the final decisions. Currently our funding is down approximately 20%. This loss will definitely impact the agencies we serve and the people/clients they serve.

We remain hopeful that more donations will come in so we can sustain as much support as possible to all 19 agencies. Donations are accepted year-round and all dollars stay local to help your neighbors, family, and friends. MAUW wishes all donors and partners a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!

To donate send checks to Merrill Area United Way, at P. O. Box 813, Merrill 54452. Our website is www.merrillareaunderway.org. There you can also find a QR Code to make an online donation through Stripe. For further information email us at Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunderway.org ; or call our part-time office at 715-536-2016.

Dee Olsen, Executive Director • Merrill Area United Way

MERRILL Foto News

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

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

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

OBITUARIES

Grace I. Borchardt



Grace I. Borchardt, 87 passed away on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Cremation rites have been facilitated by the Snyder & Hollenbaugh Funeral & Cremation Services of Lone Tree. A private family graveside burial at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Merrill, WI., will take place on November 16, 2024 where she will be laid to rest with her late husband David. Sympathy notes may be left for the family at www.sandhfuneralservice.com.

Grace Irene Retka was born on November 14, 1936, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the daughter of Thomas Sr. and Clara (Janik) Retka. She was united in marriage to David J. Borchardt on November 20, 1954, in Milwaukee, WI. Grace was graduate of Mercy High School in Milwaukee. She worked several jobs in the service industry in Milwaukee such as a waitressing at Riches Tip Top and as a Bank Teller at Southgate National Bank and Tri City National Bank. She moved to Merrill, Wisconsin in 1976 where her and David owned and operated Dave's Club 107. After selling the bar in the late 1980's, Grace worked at Pamida for several years and held various other jobs around town as a bank teller and convenience store clerk. She retired from Walmart in 2010 and moved to Lone Tree, Iowa to be closer to her great grandchildren. Grace was a member of The Women of the Moose in both Milwaukee, WI and Merrill, WI.

Grace took many trips with David in their younger years to Hawaii, Las Vegas, the Caribbean, and Tennessee and love reminiscing about them. She loved spending time relaxing, hunting, and fishing with her husband and grandchildren at their cabin in Parrish, WI. She took many trips with her cousins Serena Rappa and Bernie Kondracki. Her hobbies included playing cards, wordsearches, crossword puzzles, listening to music, dancing, cooking, sewing and her absolute favorite thing to do was go shopping. She spoiled her grandkids and great grandkids immensely. She was an avid reader of romance novels and loved sweets, her candy dish was always full. Grace loved socializing and never met a stranger. Her witty humor, sassy attitude and spunky personality will be greatly missed by all her knew her.

Grace is survived by her daughter, Lynn Vitano and her husband Thomas of Rudyard, Michigan; son Joey Borchardt and his wife Julie of Parrish, WI. Six Grandchildren: Bryanne (Matt) Bell, Abby (Quincy) Niles, Paige Garrett, Danielle (Andy) Niekrasz, Lisa (Blake) Borchardt, and Trace (Emily) Borchardt. Thirteen great-grandchildren: Madison, Tyler, and Jaxon Bell; Brooklyn and Amelia Miller, and Harper Niles; Bradley, Ethan, and Elizabeth Funk; Damon Niekrasz; and Finnick, Everest, and Woods Borchardt.

Grace was preceded in death by her husband David, her parents, Thomas and Clara Retka, and her brothers Robert and Thomas Jr.

Judith A. Weaver



Judith A. Weaver, 88, passed peacefully at home, cared for by her husband of 51 years, Robert Weaver. Judy was born April 5, 1936 in Toledo, Ohio to Katherine and Howard Bruss. She married Robert Weaver June 5, 1973.

Judy graduated from Rosary College and did graduate work at UW Madison as an English Major. She had several careers - English teacher, social worker, Registered Nurse. She loved to read, engaged in several social justice organizations and above all nurtured her family. Large Sunday dinners were a must, including her ex-husband Pat. She was the clerk and organizer of the North Central worship group Society of Friends (Quakers).

Family was important to her and she loved being surrounded by them, and travelling with them to locations like Peru, Spain, Romania, Cuba, Croatia, Ireland, Costa Rica, and other countries. Judy and Bob served in the Peace Corps and went to India on a mission.

Judy took us around the world insisting that her grandchildren who graduated from high school, come with us. Judy planned trips to all corners of the globe. In the 90's Judy took Bob to Morocco as a members of the Peace Corp. Judy did social work while Bob fixed hand pumps and wind mills. Judy and Bob volunteered with the Good News Project many times providing health care and building houses in St. Lucia. Judy insisted that the family have a summer lake place for all the family and friends to gather. Bob misses her terribly! Judy had a long list of charitable organizations. She was the center of TB Scott Book Club. Anyone who met her fell under her grace and humility. Her children and grandchildren will always remember she made their lives better. What a privilege being part of that remarkable life!

Judy was preceded in death by her oldest son, Shawn Finucan and her ex-husband Patrick Finucan. She is survived by her husband, Robert Weaver, her daughter: Deirdre (John) Worrell, her sons: Tim (Kathy) Finucan, and James Finucan, 13 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

A funeral liturgy will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 12:00 pm at Waid Funeral Home. Father Maria Vallabhaneni will officiate. A visitation will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 from 10:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home. Cremation to take place.

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.

Faye I. Latzig



Faye I. Latzig, 88, of Rockford, passed away on Saturday, November 9, 2024. Born June 3, 1936, in rural Wausau, WI, the daughter of Arther and Margaret (Kufahl) Muschinske. Graduate of Wausau High School, Class of 1954. Faye married Rodney Latzig on June 8, 1957. He predeceased her on October 31, 2021. She worked as a beautician in Wausau and as a teacher in Rockford and Belvidere. Faye was a member of Saint John's United Church of Christ, Belvidere and sang in the choir.

Survived by her children, Wendie Temple and Thomas Latzig; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Also predeceased by her parents; daughter, Deanne Mulligan; grandson, Brady Mulligan; and brother, Ronald Muschinske.

Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at St. John's United Church of Christ, 401 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008. Visitation will be from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. prior to the service. Memorials may be made to St. John's UCC to the landscaping fund. To share a memory or condolence please visit olsonfh.com

Elmira M. Krause



Elmira M. Krause, 83, of Merrill, passed away Friday, November 15, 2024.

Elmira was born February 18, 1941, in Merrill, daughter of Elmer and Wilhelmina 'Minnie' (Kienbaum) Henrich. She married Jerry Krause on April 18, 1959, a union that lasted 65 years. Elmira was a homemaker and worked at their business, Quality Furnace Shop.

Elmira loved to bake, garden, work on puzzles, and take vacations. She enjoyed spending time at their cottage on Muskellunge Lake in Tomahawk and taking their '57 T-Bird to car shows. She loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren, and friends. She met with High School friends every other week for lunch, a tradition they kept up for many years.

Survivors include her husband, Jerry Krause of Merrill; daughters, Polly Krause Endres of Kronenwetter and Mary Jo (Mike) Messerschmidt of Merrill; grandchildren, Mariah (Seth) Feldman of Madison, Kacie Endres of Suffolk, VA, Kelsey (Alex) Cordova of Madison, and Adam Messerschmidt (Emily Zelhart) of West Allis. Elmira was preceded in death by her parents, Elmer and Minnie Henrich; son-in-law, Ed Endres; siblings, Dorothy (Kenneth) Berndt, Florence Henrich, Jane (Franklin) Graveen, Art (Ruth) Henrich, and Lucille (John) Jarvi.

The funeral service for Elmira will be held at 11:00 A.M., Monday, November 25, 2024, at St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Merrill. Rev. Michael Southcombe will officiate. Entombment will take place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. The family will receive friends beginning at 9:00 A.M. Monday at the church.

The family would like to thank the staff and caring residents who watched over Elmira at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill, and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services for the care they provided during her stay. They would also like to give a special thank you to Dave and Diane Marnholtz for their many years of friendship and support.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Stephens United Church of Christ Endowment Fund, Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services, or a charity of your choosing.

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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Remembering your smile, laughter, and the joy you brought to our lives during your short 18 years on this earth. 15 years of missing you and we will never stop.

We love you Jordan.
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**NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION
TOWN OF RUSSELL • LINCOLN COUNTY
TUESDAY - APRIL 1, 2025**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an election is to be held in the TOWN OF RUSSELL, on TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025. The following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term for all offices is for two years beginning on Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

OFFICE	INCUMBENT
Town Board Chairperson	Robert Kressel
Town Board Supervisor	Lori Studinski
Town Board Supervisor	Marty Sosnovske
Town Clerk	Amy Brown
Town Treasurer	Susan Fisher

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2024 and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 in the office of the Town Clerk, N5369 Hwy 17, Gleason WI 54435, 715-873-4141.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2025.

Amy Brown, Town Clerk

Published November 21, 2024

LEGAL NOTICES

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. SOSNOVSKIE
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
 Case No. 2024-IN-42

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

- An application for informal administration was filed.
- 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.
- All interested persons waived notice.
- The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is February 28, 2025.
- A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room probate Office, Atty. Craig J. Nienow N5041 County Road J Irma, WI 54442 71 5-536-7185 Bar Number: 01015178 Published November 14, 21 & 28, 2024 WNAJLP

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:

- An application for informal administration was filed.
- 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.
- All interested persons waived notice.
- The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 02/28/2025.
- 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 WNAJLP

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 Friday, November 22, 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 21, 2024 WNAJLP

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 WNAJLP

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT
DATE SIGNED: November 18, 2024
 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
 Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Donald A. Kaminski
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
 Case No. 2024-IN-15

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

- An application for informal administration was filed.
- The decedent, with date of birth 06-22-1934 and date of death 09-29-2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W9934 State Hwy 64, Merrill, WI 54452.
- All interested persons waived notice.
- The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March 7, 2025.
- A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office, Register in Probate 1110 E. Main Street Merrill, WI 54452 715-536-0342 Published 11/21/24, 11/28/24 & 12/5/24 WNAJLP

TOWN OF MERRILL NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION April 1, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at the Spring Election to be held in the Town of Merrill on Tuesday April 1, 2025, the following officers are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. All terms are for two years beginning April 15, 2025.

OFFICE	INCUMBENTS
Town Board Chairperson	Michael Hass
Town Board Supervisor	Darrel Dengel
Town Board Supervisor	Matthew Leder

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a Town Caucus will be held in January 2025 for the purpose of nominating candidates to appear on the Spring Election ballot for the above listed offices. Notice of caucus date to be published and posted at a later date.

Mitzi Flegner, Clerk www.townofmerrillwi.gov

Published November 21, 2024 WNAJLP

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION State of Wisconsin April 1, 2025

Election Details

An election is to be held in the towns, villages, cities, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. The following officers are to be elected:

Department of Public Instruction

One (1) State Superintendent, for the term of four (4) years to succeed the present incumbent listed, whose term of office will expire on July 31, 2025:
 STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION Jill Underly

Judicial Officers

One (1) Justice of the Supreme Court, for the term of ten (10) years, to succeed the present incumbent listed, whose term of office will expire on July 31, 2025:
 JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT Ann Walsh Bradley

Court of Appeals Judge, for the term of six (6) years, to succeed the present incumbents listed, whose terms of office will expire on July 31, 2025:
 COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 3 Lisa K. Stark

Thirty-four (34) Circuit Court Judges, each for the term of six (6) years, to succeed the present incumbents listed, whose terms of office will expire on July 31, 2025:
 LINCOLN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2 Robert R. Russell

For Candidates

The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2024, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. Candidates for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Justice of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals Judge District 3, and Lincoln County Circuit Court Judge Branch 2 file nomination papers and declarations of candidacy with the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Primary Election

If a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Additional Information

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID, you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

DONE in the County of Lincoln, Wisconsin on November 13, 2024

Christopher J. Marlowe
 Christopher J. Marlowe, Lincoln County Clerk
 Published November 21, 2024 WNAJLP

NOTICE OF CAUCUS TOWN OF SCOTT

Notice is hereby given that the **Caucus for the Spring Election** in the Town of Scott, Lincoln County, WI, will be held at the Scott Town Hall, N563 Lake Road, Merrill, at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025**. Qualified electors of the Town of Scott may nominate and vote for candidates to fill the following offices in the Spring Election:

Town Board Chairperson
 Town Board Supervisor (2)
 Town Clerk
 Town Treasurer

Published November 21, 2024 WNAJLP

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION TOWN OF BIRCH Spring Election April 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held in the Town of Birch on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, to fill the following offices to succeed the incumbents listed. The term for all town offices is for two years beginning on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Chairperson	--- David Fox, incumbent
Supervisor	--- Debra Gano, incumbent
Supervisor	--- Terry Lokemoen, incumbent
Clerk	--- Megan Webb incumbent
Treasurer	--- Christine Mertes, incumbent

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2024, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 pm on January 7, 2025 in the office of the Town Clerk, PO BOX 71, Irma, WI 54442, 920-723-0673.

Megan Webb, Town Clerk
 Published November 21, 2024 WNAJLP

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION TOWN OF PINE RIVER April 1, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the Town of Pine River on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. All terms are for two years beginning on Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Office	Incumbent
Town Board Chairperson	David Breunig
Town Board Supervisors (2)	Steve Uttech Raymond Zastrow
Town Clerk	Amanda Herdt
Town Treasurer	Donna Opper
Constable	Marilyn Zastrow

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a town caucus for the purpose of nominating candidates to appear on the spring election ballot for the above listed offices will be scheduled during the month of January, 2025. Notice of the scheduled date of the caucus will be given at least five days before the caucus.

Please recycle. Amanda Herdt, Clerk

Published November 21, 2024 WNAJLP

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION Town Of Harding April 1, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at an election to be held in the Town of Harding on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. All terms are for two years beginning April 15, 2025.

Office	Incumbent
Town Board Chairperson	Michael Hornischer
Town Board Supervisor	Jason Ament
Town Board Supervisor	Darrell Oestreich
Town Clerk	Kristy Ament
Town Treasurer	Carrie Hintz

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2024, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5 p.m., on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, in the office of the town clerk. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is necessary, it will be held in February at the Town of Harding.

Kristy Ament, Town of Harding Clerk REMEMBER TO RECYCLE
 Published November 21, 2024 WNAJLP

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION Town of Corning Election Date April 1, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the Town of Corning on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. All terms are for two years beginning on Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Office	Incumbent
Town Board Chairperson	Chad Kottke
Town Board Supervisor	Greg Kleinschmidt
Town Board Supervisor	Brian Literski
Town Clerk	Rick Hass
Town Treasurer	Katie Giese

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a Town Caucus for the purpose of nominating candidates to appear on the spring election ballot for the above listed offices will be held in January at the Corning Town Hall. A second notice of the scheduled date of the caucus will be posted at least five days before the caucus.

Town of Corning
 Rick Hass, Corning Town Clerk

Please recycle. www.townofcorningwi.com

Published November 21, 2024 WNAJLP

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION TOWN OF ROCK FALLS APRIL 1, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at the Spring election to be held in the Town of Rock Falls on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, the following officers are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. All terms are for two years beginning April 15, 2025.

OFFICE	INCUMBENT
Chairman-Supervisor-Supervisor-Treasurer-Clerk-	Mike VanDeWeerd George Alery Kurt Niersel Cindy Frisch Diane Chambers

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a Town Caucus will be held in January 2025 for the purpose of nominating candidates to appear on the Spring Election ballot for the above listed offices. Notice of caucus date to be published and posted at a later date.

Diane Chambers - Clerk
 Town of Rock Falls
 Lincoln County

Published November 20, 2024 WNAJLP

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION WI Statute s. 10.01(2)(a) and s. 120.06(6)(b)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to qualified electors of the MERRILL AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT that a School Board Election will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, to fill the following Board positions:

Three (3) MEMBERS AT LARGE
 (three 3-year terms)

Terms of office for the following members-at-large expire on April 28, 2025:

Jacqueline Gremler
Paul Proulx
Jon Smith

An elector desiring to be a candidate for a position on the School Board of the MERRILL AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT must file a **DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY** and **CAMPAIGN REGISTRATION STATEMENT** at the MERRILL AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE, 1111 NORTH SALES STREET, MERRILL, WI 54452, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. AND 4:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, PRIOR TO 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Dated this 21st day of November, 2024.

Ron Liberty
 School Board Clerk
 Published November 21, 2024 WNAJLP



Free movie event at T.B. Scott Free Library is next Wednesday

The T.B. Scott Free Library will offer their monthly Critic's Choice Movie for November next Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024, at 1 p.m. Organizers invite the community to "Take a breather before the holidays and join us at the T. B. Scott Free Library for

a fun afternoon." The featured movie tells the story of Debbie, portrayed by Sandra Bullock, who is in the slammer and spends her time while in prison planning the perfect heist. Once out, she gathers her team to execute a

multimillion-dollar jewel heist without a hitch. Or so she thinks.

Plot twists, revenge, and mayhem ensue in this star-studded comedy-drama.

Popcorn and refreshments will be available.



WEEKLY BRIEFING - NOVEMBER 21ST - 25TH

THURSDAY - CHICKEN LEGS 3 FOR \$6
FRIDAY - FISH SANDWICH
SATURDAY - 6" FLAT BREAD PIZZA
SUNDAY - BROASTED CHICKEN
MONDAY - SPAGHETTI

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FREE Thanksgiving Dinner

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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!

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Mark Your Calendar!

50% off Friday, November 22
 7am to 7pm
Nifty Thrifty Sale
 50% off everything in the store!

BONUS Friday, November 29 - 7am to 7pm
Black Friday Nifty Thrifty Sale
 50% off everything in the store!

Saturday, December 7
 1:30pm to 4pm
Come visit with Mrs. Claus and get a sweet treat!

Don't forget Nifty Thrifty Sales are the 4th Friday of every month,
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 THANKSGIVING: 7:00PM

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Friday
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CAPTAIN
 \$5.00 - 16 oz. Pint

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

THURS. NOV. 28TH
OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY
 Open at 10am
GREEN BAY VS MIAMI
 7:00pm

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

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. 21 - Thursday Board Game Night at Nor Comm Games
 Nov. 22 - 59th Annual Venison Feed in Tomahawk
 Nov. 23 - Hunter's Widow Bingo at Plautz's Pub
 Nov. 23 - Harry Potter Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Company
 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. 27 - Critic's Choice Free Movie at T.B. Scott Library
 Nov. 28 - Free community Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Stephens Church
 Nov. 28 - Annual Free "No One Eats Alone" Thanksgiving Meal at Northwoods Veterans Post
 Nov. 29-Dec. 1 - Vintage Holiday Sale at Iron Angel Vintage & Uniques
 Nov. 30 - Small Business Saturday
 Nov. 30 - Small Shop Saturday "Keep It Local"

Road Trip
 Nov. 30 - Karaoke at Eddie's Bar & Grill in Hamburg
 Nov. 30 - Blacklight Bingo at Bubba's Pub
 Dec. 3 - Ladies Night Out Wreath Making at Merrill Aspirus Hospital
 Dec. 4 - Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Company
 Dec. 4 - Trinity Merrill Christmas Concert Series: Praise at Trinity
 Dec. 5 - Bingo at St. Francis School
 Dec. 5 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Company
For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/events or contact the event sponsor.

Merrill Foto News website gets a makeover, new digital content

The Merrill Foto News and the entire MMC family of publications are in the process of overhauling and improving our digital presence and content, with the goal of fostering deeper connections with our readers and boosting engagement.

This transformation is designed with you in mind, aiming to make your interaction with our platforms more enjoyable, informative, and seamless and delivered a variety of

ways. You'll notice a fresh, modern look on the Merrill Foto News website, and in the coming months, across all our websites, making them easier to navigate and more mobile-friendly.

Whether you're catching up on the latest news during your morning commute or browsing through in-depth articles from the comfort of your home, our redesigned platforms will provide a smooth and intuitive experience.

We're also enhancing our multimedia offerings, ensuring that our stories are not only told through words but also through compelling videos and graphics that bring the news to life when possible.

While our print product remains a staple of our delivery, we invite you to check out our updated and improved digital offerings at merrillfotonews.com and facebook.com/merrillfotonews.

WNA seeks editorial, cartoon entries

The Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA) Foundation seeks entries to its annual

Editorial Writing and Cartoon Contest. It aims to increase civic education and engagement

while celebrating the rights established by the First Amendment.

The contest is open to all Wisconsin middle and high school students, including home-schooled students. Essays and cartoons should focus on the importance of the First Amendment.

Students are encouraged to draw from personal experiences, current events, and historical examples.

The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, and winners will be announced in early January 2025.

First-place winners in each contest will receive \$500, second-place winners will receive \$250, third-place winners will receive \$100, and honorable mention recipients will receive \$50.

For the writing contest, high school students will be asked to write a "guest column" (500 words or less) about the First Amendment, and middle school students will be asked to write a "letter to the editor" (200 words or less) on the same topic.

Students wishing to compete in the editorial cartoon contests may do so by submitting one First Amendment-themed editorial cartoon.

For more information and to submit entries, go to wnanews.com/wisconsin-civics-games/

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Lincoln County awarded \$416,684 grant to modernize emergency communication systems and strengthen public safety

Lincoln County was the recipient of a \$416,684.16 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs' Office of Emergency Communications, as part of a statewide initiative to bring Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) technology to local communities. This critical funding will allow the county to upgrade its Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), ensuring faster response times, greater accuracy, and enhanced emergency response capabilities that residents can rely on during any crisis.

"This grant marks a transformative milestone for Lincoln County," said Tyler Verhasselt,

Director of Emergency Management. "This upgrade will improve our emergency communication capabilities, ensuring that our residents receive the swift assistance they need in critical moments. By equipping our first responders with advanced technology, we are enhancing their ability to protect and serve effectively. We are dedicated to providing the highest level of service to our community and this grant brings us closer to our goal."

Scheduled to begin Dec. 1, 2024, and be completed by June 1, 2026, this grant represents Lincoln County's proactive

commitment to enhancing public safety infrastructure. The project will improve interoperability with other emergency response agencies, strengthen community safety, and ensure reliable service in any situation.

Lincoln County extends its gratitude to the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs for their support in advancing public safety, a press release from Verhasselt said. This grant represents a vital step forward in building a dependable and resilient emergency communication system, prepared to serve Lincoln County communities effectively now and in the future.

WEATHER from page 3

arrive, it is important to reduce outdoor activities for your family, including your pets. Make sure you wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing instead of a single heavy layer. Outerwear should be tightly woven and water repellent. Make sure you cover exposed skin to reduce your risk. It is also important to know the signs and symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia.

Ice and snow on the roads are a major threat to drivers throughout the state, causing thousands of motor vehicle crashes each year. Preliminary data from the Wisconsin State Patrol shows nine people were killed and 2,262 were injured in the state last winter from crashes involving winter road conditions.

"We all have a responsibility to protect each other and our plow drivers who work long hours to keep roads clear and help us get where we need to go," Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Secretary Kristina Boardman said. "We ask drivers to remember the basics: slow down, maintain extra following distance from other vehicles, and avoid distractions so you can focus on getting to your destination safely. Check 511 Wisconsin to stay up to date on road conditions and know before you go."

511 Wisconsin is a free website and mobile app that provides traffic and route-specific information. It is important to check 511 Wisconsin before you drive. To learn more about traffic

information or check out hundreds of traffic cameras statewide, people can access the mobile-friendly website at 511wi.gov.

At home or in your car, winter emergency kits should include items such as food, water, a flashlight and batteries, and blankets. In your vehicle, include a snow shovel, extra gloves and hats, a cell phone charger, and kitty litter or sand to help give your wheels traction on icy roads if your vehicle gets stuck.

To prepare for winter storms, stock up on additional supplies and have a plan for what to do if you lose power at home. Plan for extra batteries and other alternative power sources for your needs, including power banks or a generator.

Keep generator safety in mind while it is in operation to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and other hazards:

- Generators should be used outdoors and at least

20 feet away from windows, doors, and attached garages.

- Make sure you have working carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home.

- Follow manufacturer's instructions carefully.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), Wisconsin experiences an average of three to six winter storms during the season. Last winter, the highest one-day snowfall total in the state of 17 inches was reported in Jackson, located in Washington County on Jan. 13, 2024. Hurley in Iron County recorded 75.5 inches of snow last winter, giving it the highest seasonal snowfall total in the state. The coldest temperature recorded in Wisconsin last winter was -18 degrees Fahrenheit on Jan. 15 and 16, 2024, in Clinton, located in Rock County.

You can also learn more tips at dhs.wi.gov/climate/winter-weather.htm.

Reporting active bear dens for wildlife research

Did you spot any bear dens during the fall hunt? If so, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would like to hear from you—

and have your help with wildlife research in Wisconsin.

Den location data is being collected as part of the ongoing Black Bear

Litter and Diet Survey, which seeks to estimate bear reproductive rates within management zones. The information gathered will then be used to inform bear management decisions, including harvest quotas, throughout the state.

If you see a potentially active black bear den while on a hunt, you can report its location to the scientists leading this project on the online submission form at: <https://shorturl.at/>

See **BEAR DENS** page 12



You can support wildlife research in Wisconsin by reporting black bear dens. Photo courtesy of Wisconsin DNR.

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Entertainment 7035



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Craft Sales 7204

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Joyce Peterson solicits bids for the purchase of her homestead located at N2215 Prairie River Avenue in the Town of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, on a large one (1) acre lot with approximately 150 feet of frontage on the Prairie River. This 1,784 square foot ranch home features on the main level 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 bathrooms, laundry, kitchen, dining room, living room and office. On the walkout basement level is a large rec room with a fireplace, wet bar, walk-in cooler and 3/4 bathroom. There is an attached two (2) car garage.

An additional 40,000.00 square foot vacant lot with approximately 130 feet of frontage on the Prairie River is also available for purchase.



The premises may be inspected on **Saturday, December 7th from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.** The premises and improvements are being sold in an **AS IS** condition without any warranties or representations of any nature whatsoever. All bidders are encouraged to thoroughly inspect the premises and may make their bid contingent upon an inspection. Title to the premises shall be conveyed by warranty deed except restrictions, reservations, easements, agreements, covenants and rights-of-way of record.

Joyce Peterson reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid she deems most satisfactory in her 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 "Peterson House Bid" and sent by first class mail to Max Peterson, W4495 County Road G, Merrill, WI 54452.

Bids **will be examined on the 16th day of December, 2024.** The successful bidder, if any, will be notified on or before the 20th day of December, 2024.

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Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce announces winner of 14th Annual Christmas Card Contest

The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce recently announced the winner of its 14th Annual Christmas Card Contest. This year's winning artwork, a beautiful painting of Merrill's iconic Sawmill Brewing Company at Christmas, was created by local artist Sandy Laehn. The Chamber's Board of Directors chose her painting from a talented pool of five submissions, each showcasing beloved locations in the Merrill community.

Among the entries were unique perspectives of cherished local landmarks, including the Lincoln County Humane



This year's winning artwork is a beautiful painting of Merrill's iconic Sawmill Brewing Company at Christmas, created by local artist Sandy Laehn.

Image courtesy of the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce.

Society and Auntie Ray's Coffee House. Each piece highlights the creativity and community pride of Merrill's residents. Exclusive holiday cards featuring Sandy's winning design will be

available for purchase at the Merrill Chamber of Commerce, located at 705 N. Center Ave. in Merrill. Stop in to purchase cards that capture the spirit of Merrill's Christmas. These exclusive holiday cards make the perfect addition to any holiday greeting while celebrating our local spirit and artistry.

The Chamber is proud to continue this annual tradition, supporting local artists and connecting the community with heartfelt holiday keepsakes. For more information, contact the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce at 715.536.9474 or visit merrillchamber.org.



A map of Merrill on the new kiosk helps inform trail users. Laurie Nikolai-Svetlik photos.



The new kiosk where the River Bend Trail intersects with the Brown Trail at Council Grounds State Park.

Merrill Lions, memorial, and Friends group make new kiosk possible

A new kiosk was recently installed in Council Grounds State Park (CGSP) where the Riverbend Trail meets the CGSP Brown Trail at the entrance of the Park. One side of the kiosk will hold/display CGSP maps and information, while the opposite side will display Merrill information.

The kiosk was selected by CGSP Manager Sarah Gilbert to fit well in the designated space. The purchase was made possible by a donation from the Merrill Lions Club, a donation in memory of James Matuszak, donations by Friends of Council Grounds State Park (FCGSP) group members Cathy Robinson and Ernie McCarthy, and funds FCGSP



Directional signs help hikers, bikers, walkers, and all those who use the trails.

earned through firewood sales and watercraft rental.

Installation was completed thanks to volunteers from FCGSP.

The kiosk will help Park visitors learn more about Merrill and help walkers on the Riverbend Trail better enjoy their time in CGSP.

FFA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Mylie Kufahl, a Freshman at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named FFA Member of the Month for October 2024. "This is my first year being in FFA," Mylie said, adding it's been "really fun so far. I joined FFA because I wanted to learn more about agriculture and to try something new. I wanted something for me to do that was in school and out of school, and FFA lets me do both of them."

Mylie said she hasn't been very involved in agriculture up until now, "but I have pets. I've had bunnies before, and I have a cat and a dog." She said FFA has "trips to learn more about agriculture, fundraisers, competitions, community service, conferences, etc." "There are many different opportunities in FFA that are provided that you can do to learn more about agriculture," Mylie said. "I try and participate in most of the things I have the opportunity to be involved in...things like World Dairy Expo, beginning-of-the-year cookout, pumpkin carving, fundraisers, and an upcoming connect conference." At school, Mylie previously played volleyball for three years. "It was a lot of fun, but I decided to take a break from it this year," she said. Outside of school, she has a part-time weekend job bussing tables in Gleason. "During my free time, I spend time with friends riding outside, watching movies, and finding projects for us to do," she said.

The daughter of Kathy Kufahl of Gleason and Casey Mulford of Merrill, Mylie has a 3.896 GPA. "My plan after I graduate is to go to Northcentral Technical College to become a dental hygienist," Mylie said.



Mylie Kufahl

Congratulations from this sponsor:



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FFA Members highlighted in this feature are selected by the Executive Committee of the FFA, not by the sponsor.



2024 Thanksgiving Coloring Contest

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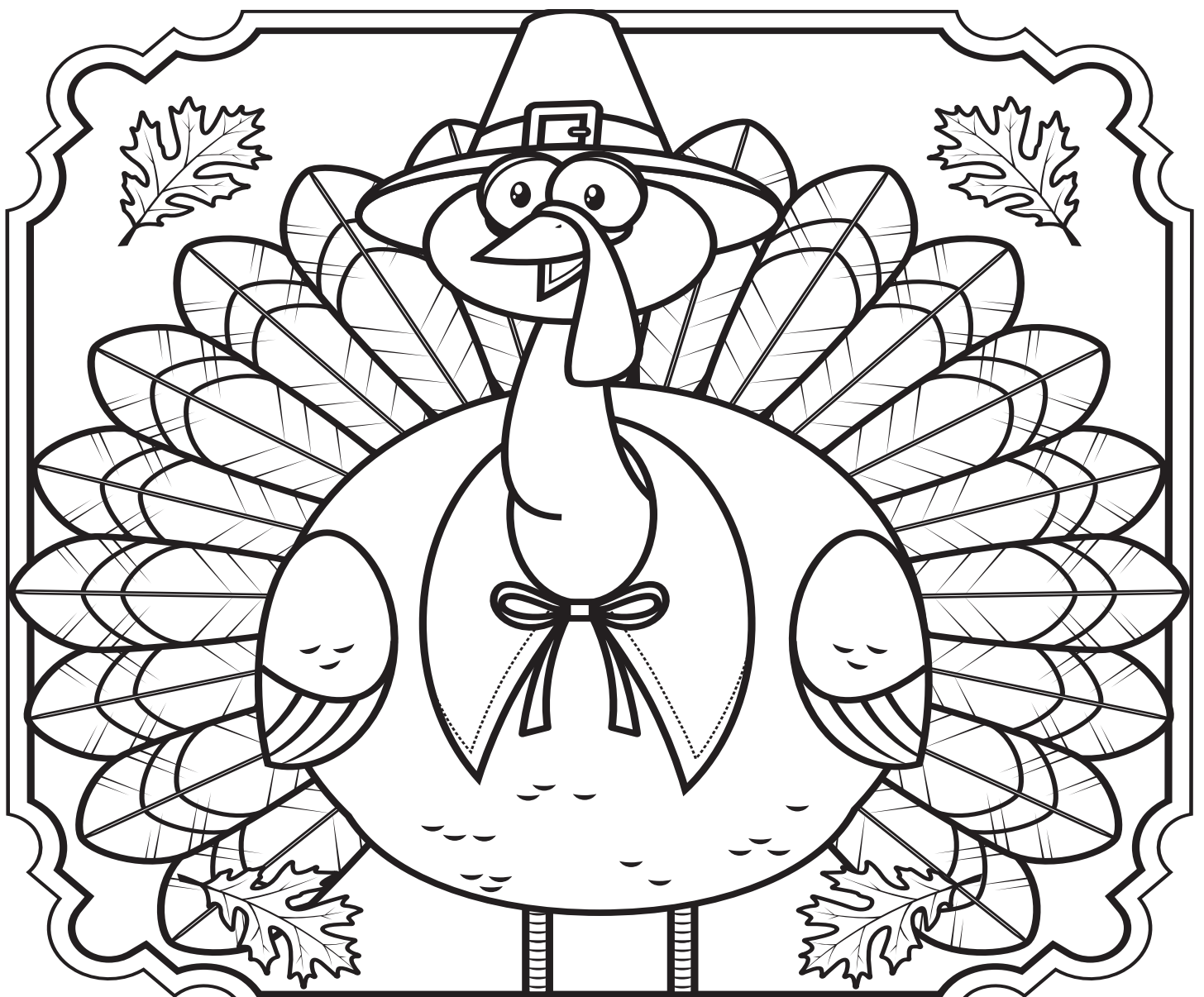
Merrill Foto News
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Deadline:
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One winner per age group
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End-of-year Tennis Banquet honors standout players

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Varsity Girls Tennis Team held their end-of-year Tennis Banquet on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024, to celebrate their accomplishments, improvement, and teamwork, and to recognize team members who were standout players or teammates this season.

Grace Hoock received the Newcomer of the Year Award. "With no previous experience in tennis, she stepped onto the court with determination, ready to embrace the challenges ahead," said Elizabeth Thiel, Merrill Varsity Girls Tennis Head Coach. "From day one, Grace demonstrated a commitment to improvement."

"It was fun to watch how quickly she absorbed the fundamentals and began applying them on the court," she said. "Throughout the season, Grace not only improved her skills, but also developed a keen



Emily Frahm was awarded Honorable Mention in the Wisconsin Valley Conference. Submitted photos.

understanding of the game. She showed remarkable progress, especially when she played at the net."

"Emily Frahm was awarded Honorable Mention in the Wisconsin Valley Conference as a collective vote from all the conference coaches," Thiel said. "From the start of the season to the end, it was clear that Emily had a passion for the game.



Grace Hoock was named Newcomer of the Year.

Each time she stepped onto the court, she brought a willingness to learn. Throughout the season, Emily worked hard on her serving technique, and it showed in matches."

"The growth wasn't just in skill, but also in confidence," she said. "She began to embrace the competitive spirit, taking risks and pushing beyond her comfort zone."

Jenna Maluege received the award for Most Improved. "Jenna showed an eagerness to learn and a willingness to

push beyond her limits," Thiel said. "Throughout the year, I witnessed Jenna tackle challenges head-on. She approached every practice with a positive attitude and a commitment to improvement. It was exciting to see how she embraced feedback, used it constructively, and returned to the court ready to take on new challenges."

"What truly sets Jenna apart is not just the technical improvements," she said, "but the heart she brings to the court. She supports her teammates, celebrates their victories, and has a positive spirit that makes our team stronger."

Rather than a single Most Valuable Player (MVP) this year, "Claire Hintz and Emily Frahm both were

awarded Co-MVP's," Thiel said. "Both Claire and Emily worked extremely hard this tennis season and it showed when they stepped onto the courts."

"Both girls won the most conference points for our team this season, and Coach Wilde and I couldn't be more proud of all their hard work," she said.



L to R: Emily Frahm holds her MVP award, Jenna Maluege holds her award for Most Improved, and Claire Hintz holds her MVP award.

City of Merrill achieves Tree City USA status for 2023 and observes 2024 Arbor Day

City of Merrill Mayor Steve Hass proclaimed November 7, 2024, to be Arbor Day in the City of Merrill. The Merrill Parks & Recreation Department crew planted more than 130 trees in 2023, and more than 160 trees this fall on City boulevards and in City Parks.

The City of Merrill was also designated as a Tree City USA for the year 2023.

"This marks our 38th year as Tree City USA, and we are very proud to achieve this tremendous honor again this year," said Dan Wendorf, Parks & Recreation Director for the City of Merrill. Wendorf thanked the Parks Staff, Jim Yates, Joe Weckwerth, and Ryan Golisch, for their amazing work planting all of the trees.

"We are very fortunate to have easily the best Park Crew in the State," Wendorf said, "I don't think people realize the amount of ground they cover each and every day in helping beautify our community!"

The City of Merrill has a very rich and longstanding tradition of supporting urban forestry through tree planting, tree care, and beautification.

As noted in Mayor Hass's proclamation, he urges citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and



L to R: Chad Krueger (Merrill Parks & Recreation Commissioner), Joe Weckwerth (Merrill Parks & Recreation Department), Ryan Golisch (Merrill Parks & Recreation Department), and Steve Hass (Merrill Mayor). Missing from photo - Jim Yates (Parks Department) Submitted photo.

promote the well-being of this and future generations. "We are very thankful to have such a supportive community. Thirty-eight years as a Tree City USA speaks volumes about how we feel about our valuable trees here in Merrill," Wendorf said.

Residents within the city of Merrill are allowed to plant trees on their personal property without a permit as long as the tree(s) are on the approved species list in the City of Merrill Code of Ordinances, Wendorf said. Public property, boulevard, and right-of-way tree planting is prohibited without an approved planting permit.

2024 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

Mon, Nov. 25	Marathon (Varsity & JV)	Away 5:30 pm
Mon, Nov. 25	Antigo (JV2)	Away 5:30 pm

Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

Thurs, Nov. 21	Faith Academy (JV2)	Away 6:00 pm
Fri, Nov. 22	Lena (JV)	Away 5:45 pm
Fri, Nov. 22	Lena (Varsity)	Away 7:00 pm
Tues, Nov. 26	Ashland (JV)	Home 5:45 pm
Tues, Nov. 26	Ashland (Varsity)	Home 7:15 pm

Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV)

There are no scheduled events for this week

Girls Wrestling (Varsity)

There are no scheduled events for this week

Boys Hockey (Varsity & JV)

Thurs, Nov. 21	Waupaca (Varsity)	Away 5:30 pm
Thurs, Nov. 21	Waupaca (JV)	Away 6:15 pm
Tues, Nov. 26	Antigo (Varsity)	Away 7:00 pm

Girls Hockey (Varsity & JV)

Tues, Nov. 26	Stevens Point (JV)	Away 5:00 pm
Tues, Nov. 26	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Away 7:00 pm



The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Grace Hoock, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of Nov. 21, 2024. Grace joined the Merrill Girls Varsity Tennis Team this year with zero experience in the sport and, by the end of the season, she had been named Newcomer of the Year for her progress and commitment to growth in the sport.

At school, Grace is a member of the Link Crew, Student Council, and Junior Optimist Club, and her favorite class is English. Grace also works part-time at Aspirus Merrill Hospital as a dietary aide.

In her free time, "My favorite thing is probably to go to concerts," Grace said. Going to the Taylor Swift concert in Indianapolis was probably the best, she said, followed by the Niall Horan (former member of One Direction) concert in Minneapolis. Grace also enjoys going shopping or getting coffee at Auntie Ray's with friends and baking, especially chocolate chip cookies, and decorating cookies around the holidays.

The daughter of Geoffrey and Heidi Hoock of Merrill, Grace has a 3.7 GPA. After graduation, "I plan on going to college in Minnesota in the Twin Cities and majoring in something along the lines of pre-medicine," she said. Her career goal is to be a doctor practicing in emergency medicine.



Grace Hoock

Congratulations from these sponsors:



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

Please direct comments or suggestions to fotonews@mmclocal.com

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Rounding up for the Honor Flight and other good causes

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

“Rounding up” has become the latest trend in fundraising, and with good reason. It’s easy to give, giving in small increments barely impacts the giver’s budget, and lots of small donations can add up to something really big. Many people enjoy participating this way; it’s easier than writing a check and the gift or donation is always under a \$1 every time they give. Who can’t spare a little change?

What is rounding up? This is when you check out at a store and, instead of paying the exact total amount due, the clerk asks if you want to round up. For instance, your total purchases with tax come to \$14.03. If you round up, you’re making a donation of \$.97 to whatever cause that store is collecting for. If your total purchases with tax come to \$14.99 and you round up, you’re making a donation of \$.01 to that cause. In both cases, you actually pay the clerk \$15.00. It’s kind of the equivalent of saying “keep the change” but the cap on rounding up is to make the number the next even dollar amount. Your donation is always under \$1.

In many ways, this is even convenient. It makes balancing a checkbook easier (for those who still do that) to work with more even numbers.

Locally, at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, when you check out, you’ll be asked if you want to round up to help



An inviting winter display beckons from the front windows at Merrill Ace Hardware. **Diane Chambers photos.**



Cashier Vincent at Ace Hardware rings up a customer's order. Customers who “round up” this month will be donating to help local veterans go on an Honor Flight.

area families. That’s because profits from the thrift store are used to help area families through the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Office, so rounding up adds to those profits, increasing the funding available to do so.

Now, at Merrill Ace Hardware, clerks are also asking if you want to round up when you check out. For the month of November, all of the funds collected through their “round up” program will be donated to the Honor Flight in our area to help additional veterans make the trip to Washington DC to see all the memorials there. Veterans who have made the trip have said it’s a powerful experience.

Ace Hardware employee Diane Chambers suggested the idea. “We do a round up every year and for many years we did the food pantry; then we did the humane society,” she said. “We want to always try to do something that’s easy for the community to donate to and something they can get

behind.”

“Honor Flight is such a great thing for veterans and it’s an experience that all who want to go should be able to do,” Chambers said. “It’s a way for all of us to honor them.”

The next time you’re checking out at a store and the clerk asks if you want to round up, listen carefully—or ask again if you missed it when they spoke the first time—to see what cause the business is fundraising for. If it’s a cause you can support, consider saying yes and helping local community organizations to continue their good work.

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BEAR DENS

from page 7

NMEc7.

For safe and effective reporting, please:

- Keep a safe distance of approximately 30 yards when near a suspected den.
- If you see a bear, do not try

to approach even if you think it’s resting.

- Take note of your surroundings. Are there any visible tracks, scratch marks on trees, scat, or damaged vegetation nearby? Have there been recent bear sightings in the area? Do you hear any

noises coming from the den?

- Drop a pin in your phone to record the GPS coordinates of your location. If this is not possible, try to remember a detailed description of where you were on the property in question.

• If you have a camera, or phone with a camera function, take a photo from a safe distance (approximately 30 yards) where the den is visible.

To learn more, check out the DNR video discussing the project at: youtube.com/watch?v=A7su1UCu10.

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