

MAPS launches new Community Education program for all ages

Last week Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) announced the launch of a new Community Education program, designed to offer a wide range of educational opportunities to residents of all ages. The initiative aims to strengthen the connection with the community and to provide access to lifelong learning, skill development, and enrichment activities for adults.

The Community Education program will feature a variety of courses and workshops, including adult education classes, career development, fitness programs, and creative workshops. Whether residents seek to advance their professional skills, pursue a new hobby, or simply stay engaged in the community, the program will offer flexible, accessible options for learners of all backgrounds.

"We are thrilled to introduce this new initiative to our community," said Angie Drew, Community Education Coordinator at MAPS. "The goal of the Community Education program is to create a welcoming space for everyone to continue learning, growing, and connecting. By offering a wide range of educational opportunities, we hope to inspire a love of learning that extends beyond the classroom and supports personal and professional development for adults. We encourage the community to get involved, whether it is by registering to take a class or signing up to share a skill or talent."

MAPS has partnered with local community members and various business organizations to develop its initial course offerings and plans to continue developing additional courses to meet the needs and interests of Merrill area residents.

"We believe that education should be an ongoing journey, not limited to just K-12 or higher education," said MAPS Superintendent Shannon Murray. "This program is an investment in our community's future, and we are excited to see how it will help residents build new skills, enhance their well-being, and connect with each other. We are proud to support this initiative, which truly reflects our mission of fostering a strong, vibrant community."

The first session features a diverse catalog of 30+ classes. Registration opened on Jan. 15, 2025, with classes to begin in February. Unless stated otherwise, all courses will be held in person at Merrill High School in the evening.

The Community Education program allows area residents to teach and share their expertise with others. MAPS encourages community members to submit course ideas and/or volunteer as instructors.

For more information, including a complete course list and registration details, follow the MAPS Community Education page on Facebook or go to mapsedu.org/o/community-education.

Tomahawk man dies, woman charged with first degree reckless homicide

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Richard "Ricky" Sanderson, a 50-year-old Tomahawk man, died on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, at Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital from an apparent stab wound to the upper center of his chest/lower throat area, and his 43-year-old wife, Michelle Marie Sanderson, has been arrested and charged with first degree reckless homicide.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office advised that at 9:55 p.m. on Jan. 9, the 911 Dispatch Center received a report of a male subject arriving at the hospital with a visible and

bleeding chest wound, and he was having trouble breathing. "Life-saving measures were attempted by medical staff but were unsuccessful due to the extent of Victim's injury," said a Criminal Complaint filed on Monday, Jan. 13, in Lincoln County Court.

Richard Sanderson was pronounced dead at 10:25 p.m. "The Lincoln County Coroner advised that a preliminary examination of Victim's body revealed a single area of penetrating trauma at the carina. No other injuries were observed," the Complaint said. The stab wound has been listed as the preliminary cause of death. Lincoln County Coroner, Valerie Caylor, said the carina is just above the center



Michelle Sanderson

of the upper chest. "[The carina] means bottom of the throat, beginning of the chest, center of that," she said.

Michelle Sanderson was initially taken into custody in connection with the incident on a probation violation and was then charged with one felony count of First Degree

See HOMICIDE page 3



Staff and ambassadors from the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at the new A&W restaurant with owner, Dee Wells (center in black, holding the giant scissors), and her daughter and three grandchildren beside her. General Manager, Dawn Wolfe, is next to them in the black and orange uniform. Betsy Schmandt (second from far left, wearing the A&W scarf), CEO & President of A&W Restaurants, traveled from the corporate office in Lexington, Kentucky, to celebrate the opening of the new Merrill location.

Tina L. Scott photo.

A&W Restaurant holds ribbon cutting, opens in Merrill

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Merrill hasn't had an A&W Restaurant for more than 60 years since the iconic-shaped drive-in location at 809 N. Center Ave. in Merrill closed. But this week, Merrill got a new A&W Restaurant with both dine-in and drive-through options, located at 207 N. Center Ave., just six blocks south of the old location, when Dee and Jerry Wells of Withee opened their new A&W franchise at the corner of E. Third St. and N. Center Ave.

The staff held a practice run at the restaurant on Saturday, Jan. 11,

New business gets warm welcome from community on a frigid day

2025, inviting family and friends to come in so management and staff could ensure everything was running smoothly. Then on Monday, Jan. 13, at 9:30 a.m., the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting

at the new business, with staff and ambassadors from the Chamber, Merrill Mayor Steve Hass, Merrill City Administrator Rod Akey, and other representatives gathering to welcome the new owners to the community. Owner Dee Wells was there with her daughter and three grandchildren, and she cut the ceremonial blue ribbon. Betsy Schmandt, CEO & President of A&W Restaurants, traveled from the corporate office in Lexington, Kentucky, to help celebrate the opening of the new Merrill location.

See A&W page 5

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The Merrill Area Dining Guide will now be in the Profile Magazine and inserted into the paper. The Foto News is mailed to all addresses in the Merrill area. That's over 14,200 papers!

Share your success and plans with the people of the area.
Contact the Merrill Foto News office to be a part of the Business Profile.

MERRILL Foto News (715) 536-7121

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

We Are One

Dear Reader,

I am not just one; I am a unit of many—my ancestors who paved the way, the stages of my life shaped by community and friends, and the family of God's creation to which we all belong.

Whatever I do is not just me; it is many. We are all in this together. No one deserves all the credit, and no one should bear all the blame. Our successes and failures are collective, reflecting the journey we share.

So, let's make it worthwhile. Let's journey together with love and compassion, setting aside denigration and hate. Our shared path is our greatest responsibility and our most profound opportunity.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

PART 2 OF A SERIES

City of Merrill property taxes explained

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

This article is part 2 of a series to help explain how real estate property taxes are calculated, why some homeowners in the City of Merrill saw their real estate tax bill increase, and why some homeowners' tax increases were more or less than others.

The value of reassessment

On the face of it, residents might think an increase in the assessed value of their home is a negative, because that new number is used to calculate their tax liability (more about that to come), but there are both pros and cons to an increased assessed value.

With a higher assessed value for a property, homeowners should ensure their home is properly insured for the current value of their home, which could mean a premium increase (a con), but this also ensures they will be properly covered in the event of a fire or other catastrophe (a pro).

Pertaining to property taxes, the new assessed values (based on and effective for Jan. 1, 2024) mean all homeowners will pay their proportionate share of the tax levy. For some, this will be a negative and for others, it will have a positive effect.

A higher assessed value also means the homeowner now has additional equity in their home, if they wish to get a loan to make home improvements or for other purposes (a pro) and increases their family's net worth (a pro). And it gives homeowners a more accurate potential sales price if they plan to sell.

a closer look, he said, and he will make adjustments to the value if it is warranted. If homeowners still disagree with the reassessed value, they can attend the Review Board meeting when it is next scheduled at City Hall. "It's usually end of April or early May," Koski said. While the 2025 date isn't yet set, the date and time are published in advance in multiple places, including with a published notice in this newspaper.

Property owners can also view their basic property record at assessordata.org for free to see basic information or they can see a more detailed record at assessordata.com; however, the second site does have a charge, Koski said. "Taxpayers can also come to the open book every year for free or call me at 715.577.1875 any time of the year," he said.

Once reassessments are complete, the value of all the properties within the area are totaled. This total assessed property value is called the "tax base."

Four bills in one

Residents of the City of Merrill actually get four bills in one when they get their property tax bill. [Residents of other municipalities do, too, but their taxing jurisdictions are different.]

The property tax bill they pay reflects a tax levy assessment from the four different jurisdictions [taxing authorities] they are a part of, in this case Lincoln County, the City of Merrill, Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS), and Northcentral Technical College (NTC). Each one of those taxing authorities/entities sets their own budget and calculates the total amount of funding needed from property taxes (tax levy) for the coming year, which sets their own tax (or mill) rate. They take their total annual budget and subtract from that any other sources of income available to them (such as state or federal aid, grants, shared revenue, etc.). The remainder is the amount they need to raise from property taxes (the tax levy). None of these entities can just decide to raise their budget by whatever they want. Each is restricted by State laws that limit them to a maximum percentage they can raise taxes without their constituents voting to allow them to do so in a special referendum. [That's why MAPS needed a referendum in recent years when they wanted to increase taxes over and above what the law allows.]

Each taxing entity divides the total amount needed by the total assessed value of all the property within its jurisdiction (tax base) times 1,000 to come up with a percentage, or mill rate. Put another way, the mill rate is the amount of tax payable per \$1,000 of assessed property value. [1 mill equals \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of property

value.] Each property owner's tax bill is calculated by applying the mill rate to their property's assessed value.

If property values increase across the jurisdiction, as they did for City of Merrill residents, the tax base grows, and the mill rate could decrease even if the tax levy remains the same. New construction added to the tax base can spread the levy across a larger pool, also potentially reducing the mill rate.

This is done four times, once for each of the four taxing authorities, so that there is a different amount of tax payable to Lincoln County, another to the City of Merrill, then to MAPS, and then to NTC. The City of Merrill collects all four taxes and distributes them to the proper taxing authority. Property tax owners can see the amount of tax attributable to each taxing authority by looking at the line items in the largest box on their 2024 Real Estate Tax Bill. They will be able to see the amount of net tax payable for both current year 2024 and compare it to the amount of net tax payable for the previous year, in this case 2023, followed by a percentage of tax change. Those amounts are totaled up and then reduced by the First Dollar Credit and Lottery and Gaming Credit (for homes that are owner-occupied the majority of the year) to arrive at the Net Property Tax due. While the mill rates used for the calculations aren't shown, they are readily available from each taxing jurisdiction.

NOTE: If you live in a home you own as your primary residence and you are not receiving the Lottery and Gaming Credit, you can apply for this credit to start saving money on your property taxes at: Tiny.cc/TaxCredits.

How a property reassessment can lead to higher property taxes

A reassessment can result in higher property taxes for some residents, even if the tax levy rate remains the same. Here's how that works:

- 1. Increased Property Value
What happens: A reassessment updates the market value of properties, which could increase if the local real estate market has grown.
How it impacts taxes: Property taxes are calculated based on the assessed value of a property. If your property value goes up, your taxes will increase, even if the tax levy rate stays the same.
2. Fixed Tax Levy Amount
What happens: The local government sets a tax levy, which is the total amount of money it needs to collect from property taxes to fund services and operations.
How it impacts taxes: If the total value of all properties in the area increases due to reassessments, the local government might not need

See TAXES page 11

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Pet of the Week. Meet Gellert! This boy is just the best! Gellert loves to get attention and to be around other cats! He is great with people! He loves to play with his toys! Gellert would be great in a active home! SPONSORED BY Brickners Park City, Inc. 3000 E. Main St., Merrill 715-536-2833

Student of the Week. This Week's Featured Student is Lydia Anderson, Daughter of Amanda Woller and Nicholas Anderson. Lydia is in the 2nd Grade at Kate Goodrich. She was nominated by Mrs. Morris. What is your favorite subject in school? Why? Math because it is fun! I like to do the work! What is your favorite part of school? Why? Gym because it is awesome and I like playing tag. What would you like to do/become someday? Why? Teacher because I like being a teacher like Mrs. Hahn in 1st grade and Mrs. Delly. Lydia has been working super hard in school and is a great student to be around. She tries her best with everything she does and has been going above and beyond expectations! She is helpful in the classroom and always includes other students. I am so proud of all the work and accomplishments Lydia has made so far! Student of the Week Sponsored by: INTERFLEX GROUP 1401 W. Taylor St., Merrill (715) 536-5400

What if I disagree with the reassessment?

In Sept. 2024, all City of Merrill property owners received a letter from Kitt Koski of Bowmar Appraisal, the firm that did the reassessment. The letter invited residents to call him with questions, most of which he could likely answer by phone, and said he would be at City Hall Oct. 2-4 to answer questions in person. Homeowners could come in for an "open book" to review their property record cards. "I fielded hundreds of phone calls prior to the open book," Koski said.

Koski's letter explained: "The assessor does not create a value; people set the value by their transactions in the market place. The assessor has the legal responsibility to study those transactions and appraise property based on such transactions. Valuation is based on many factors such as location, size, quality, condition, age, and so on."

Homeowners who believe their home's condition is not accurately represented in the reassessed value can ask Koski to conduct either an interior or exterior visit to take

FFA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Tristan Johnson, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named FFA Member of the Month for December 2024. He joined FFA as a Freshman. "I have participated in wildlife judging and have qualified for state two years in a row," Tristan said. "I enjoy going to World Dairy Expo and Midwest Horse Fair." He has also helped with the fruit sale and strawberry fundraiser and said he joined FFA "because of the activities." "I am currently working on my first fair project for the 2025 fair showing steers," Tristan said. "I also have a few animals at home." At school, he belongs to the fishing club, and in his free time, he said he likes to hunt and fish and ride snowmobiles with friends. The son of Travis and Christine Johnson of Merrill, Tristan has a 2.0 GPA. "I plan on getting my CDL after graduating in the spring," Tristan said.



Tristan Johnson

Congratulations from this sponsor: RiverCountry CO-OP Merrill Country Store 1400 Logan Ave. Merrill, WI 54452 715-536-2491 FFA Members highlighted in this feature are selected by the Executive Committee of the FFA, not by the sponsor.

HOMICIDE

from page 1

Reckless Homicide with a Domestic Abuse modifier, one misdemeanor count of Resisting or Obstructing an Officer with a Domestic Abuse modifier, and one misdemeanor count of Disorderly Conduct with a Domestic Abuse modifier. Sanderson appeared in Lincoln County Court Branch 2 early Monday afternoon, Jan. 13, by video, in custody from the Lincoln County Jail. Attorney Jessica Fehrenbach appeared specially by video on her behalf.

According to the Complaint, Michelle Sanderson told a Lincoln County deputy she found the victim outside already injured, but a witness told deputies he had seen Michelle stab the victim with a steak knife in the kitchen of the couple's home.

"Michelle stated Victim went outside to work on something by the truck," the Complaint said. "Michelle stated she went out to look for him after some time and heard him say come here. Michelle said she saw Victim was bleeding. Michelle stated several times throughout their conversation that Victim had a stab wound."

The Lincoln County deputy who responded to Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital then spoke with the witness. "Witness

stated he was visiting with Michelle and Victim," the Complaint said. "Witness stated Michelle and Victim had been arguing all night. Witness further stated, while inside their residence ... at some point during the argument, Michelle produced a knife. Witness did not know where she got it from ... Witness said that Michelle began waving the knife around and at one point swung at him. Witness stated he then saw Michelle move her arm toward Victim. Witness then heard Michelle tell Victim that he had blood on his shirt."

Later a Lincoln County Sheriff's Office investigator also spoke with the witness. "Witness told the investigator that he witnessed Michelle stab Victim in the chest with a steak knife," the Complaint said. "Witness stated Michelle then dropped the knife in the kitchen and they loaded him up and brought him to the hospital."

"The evidence observed at the residence supported Witness's version of the incident and did not support Michelle's version," the Complaint said. "Law Enforcement observed a blood trail from in the kitchen/dining area, through the residence, and outside to where the truck was parked. The blood trail appeared to start with a pool of blood in the kitchen/dining area, indicating that Victim stood there bleeding before

moving to the vehicle. Law Enforcement also observed a steak knife located on the kitchen floor near the start of the blood trail."

"Two Lincoln County Investigators conducted a second interview with Michelle giving her an opportunity to explain her version provided earlier. Michelle maintained her original story," the Complaint said.

Michelle Sanderson has a long history of both misdemeanor and felony convictions throughout the state including under her maiden name, Michelle Twilley, dating back to 2005. Convictions in Marathon, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Dunn, St. Croix, Milwaukee, Walworth, and Racine Counties include misdemeanor convictions for possession of drug paraphernalia, prostitution, retail theft, theft of movable property, misdemeanor theft, bail jumping, OWI, and disorderly conduct—among others and some having more than one count—and felony convictions for both possession and delivery of methamphetamine as a repeater, operating a motor vehicle without consent as repeater, and felony bail jumping as a repeater.

At the time of her arrest, Michelle Sanderson was out on a \$1,000 Signature Bond dated Nov. 6, 2024, for a Lincoln County traffic charge of operating after revocation, a case which has not yet concluded.

Merrill Area United Way



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What will 2025 bring for everyone? We all hope for a great year of change and improvements. The onslaught of New Year resolutions to bring positive change are implemented at the onset of the year, with the resolve that our dedication to changes will make life better. United Ways' whole purpose is to improve people's lives in the areas of basic needs/income, education, and health. That has been our resolution every year – our mission. So let 2025 begin strong and end stronger!

All year-round hundreds of people and families stop at the Menard Center, where several United Way funded service agencies are located. Those who stop are seeking assistance for the most basic of needs. The Merrill Food Pantry serves hundreds of families in meeting their daily food needs. In other cases, people may be displaced from their home. Sometimes families are distraught because their electricity is about to be shut off, or they cannot pay their rent and are being evicted, or there are other needs and their income, for whatever reason, has diminished. In some instances where their income is limited to SSI payments, they find it difficult to manage expenses on their sparse income. These are people with basic needs. These are people who live in our community, have worked for our companies, and are now in need of help to carry on.

Merrill is a compassionate, giving community with the ability to help these folks through difficult situations and, when possible, guide them to the point of getting back on their feet. Our agencies help direct people to resources to make certain no one goes hungry; they stay warm and have a roof over their head. They guide them into areas of better financial management to help sustain self-sufficiency.

The agencies receiving Merrill Area United Way funding that assist people, have responsible, trained staff to detect root causes and provide guidance to assist people so they can help themselves too. MAC Home and Our Sisters House (Tomahawk) are homeless centers that provide critical shelter. North Central Community Action Program, St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, and HAVEN are support systems for people in need. The Merrill Food Pantry is also a United Way funded agency. On an annual basis the Merrill Food Pantry now serves over several thousand clients. In addition, local church pantries also assist people.

Help through challenging times is at the core of our Income/Basic Needs support area. United Way supports these critical programs. So do direct donations made by compassionate donors in Merrill. All donors should be proud of their giving to United Way as these dollars really are part of the answer in addressing community needs. Those that "pay it forward" are sure to find rewards along the way too.

The United Way Board of Directors will hold its Annual Meeting on February 10, 2025, immediately following its Board of Directors meeting, starting at 5:00 p.m. at the VFW Post 1638, 600 Johnson Street, Merrill and is **open to the public**. Business will include elections, policy adoption, recognitions, the 2024 Annual Report and passing the annual budget and agency allocations.

Donations to United Way **are accepted year-round and all dollars stay local**. To donate mail checks to Merrill Area United Way, at P. O. Box 813, Merrill 54452. Or you can also find a QR Code to make an online donation through **Stripe**. Our website is www.merrillareaunderway.org. For other information email us at Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunderway.org.

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OBITUARIES

Gerald E. Plamann



Gerald E. Plamann, 82, of Merrill, passed away January 6, 2025, at his home.

Jerry was born April 10, 1942, son of Erwin and Dorothy (Borchert) Plamann. Jerry enlisted in the United States Navy during the Vietnam Era. He graduated as an "Honorman" at Great Lakes Naval Academy and served on the USS Kaskaskia. While on that tour, he was able to visit and sight-see in many countries, which he thoroughly enjoyed. While serving stateside he was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida. He was honorably discharged after serving four years. He was very proud to have served and went on the Never Forgotten Honor Flight in May of 2019. Jerry was a lifetime member of V.F.W and an American Legion member.

Jerry retired from Brokaw Paper Mill after 31 years. While working at the paper mill, he also owned Sunrise Electric. Once he retired from the paper mill, his electrical business really took off. Jerry was always ready to help people if having electrical problems at any time day or night. He took his work very seriously. Jerry had also worked for a beer brewing company based out of Milwaukee and installed dozens of beer signs outside bars throughout the area.

Jerry was a Charter Member of Gleason Area Lions Club. He and a few other people established the club in 1985 and he was a member of the club until his passing. He attended the Lions International Conference in Brisbane, Australia in 1991, and was the first member to attend an international Conference. He met Sandra at a Lions Club Bowling fund raiser - from then on, they were together for over 12 years. Jerry was very active in Lions Club until being diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in 2024.

Jerry was a longtime member of St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. He served as the Town of Schley Supervisor from 2009-2024. He was also a N.R.A. member. He was a member of H.O.G. and was very happy riding his Harley. Jerry and Sandra put on a lot of miles, some with friends but mostly just the two of them.

He was a supporter of M.D.A. Colorama Car Shows for many years. In his younger years he played baseball and later on sponsored teams, winning many trophies which he was very proud of.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing trips to Canada. He traveled to many bowling tournaments for Lions Club. Jerry went to many Milwaukee Brewer games and was also a Green Bay Packers fan. He golfed in different states with friends. Jerry had a lot of friends and will be missed by all.

Jerry is survived by his fiancée, Sandra (Wedler) Nichols of Merrill; brother and sister-in-law, Arnold and Julie Plamann of Merrill; and nephews, Patrick (Joy) Plamann of Sartell, MN, Daniel (Stacey) Plamann of Harshaw, and Jay (Amy) Marvin of Merrill. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Erwin and Dorothy Plamann; and sisters, JoAnn (Gerald) Marvin and Carol (Ken) McCaskill.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstine-waid.com

All donations may be directed to the Gleason Area Lions Club, PO Box 94, Gleason, WI 54435

Jeannie Ann Bouvat-Gudgeon



Sadly, our beloved, Jeannie Ann Bouvat-Gudgeon, of Rothschild, WI, passed away in her home due to complications related to Alzheimer's on Monday, January 6, 2025. She was 82 years old. Jeannie was known for her positivity, warmth, generosity, and her undeniably loving spirit. She was born on August 22, 1942, to the late Norman and Velma (Lauderdale) Bouvat in Marquette, MI, but was raised by her treasured grandparents, the late John and Anastasia

(Kopanski) Bouvat.

In 1960, Jeannie received her high school diploma from Wausau. She met her true love, Charles Gudgeon, who was an intern at Marathon Electric while she was working as a secretary. On December 19, 1964, they were married. Charles started working as a mechanical engineer at Owens-Illinois in Tomahawk. Throughout their many years in Tomahawk, she was always honored to be his wife, raise their children, and participate in community service. After Charles was sent to Lufkin, TX, then Jasper, TX, from 1975 and 1978, did they briefly leave Tomahawk. Charles and Jeannie were happily devoted to each other for 53 years before Charles passed in 2018.

Raising her two children, whom she considered her pride and joy, as well as the children from the generations that followed, was one of Jeannie's greatest achievements. It has been described that Jeannie "lived life out loud". Nothing could be truer. She had a great sense of humor and was always very upbeat. This was evident in her writing abilities. She enjoyed writing, and her stories and poetry have been published. However, she was most proud of the plays she wrote for churches and other community events, as well as the pieces that appeared in the Tomahawk Leader. She worked as a realtor, enjoyed continuing her education, and spent many years as a tech at the neighborhood veterinary clinic. She made many connections in Merrill while working for the bank and also when working at the Annex in Tomahawk. She also loved flying with her husband, who was a pilot. Their dream home on the lake was always a place of solace and peace for the entire family. Many memories were made there. She loved football, hockey, singing, dancing, and her dogs. She loved to travel, and she and a few of her closest friends went on some incredible adventures. Her last trip was spent in Napa with her daughter, granddaughter, granddaughter-in-law, and niece drinking wine and enjoying each other. She made many lasting friendships with the members of bridge group, as well. She truly made the most of her existence.

Additionally, she recognized her obligations to the community, and Jeannie has engaged in community service all of her life. She was a Girl Scout leader, Sunday School teacher, and longtime Christian worker for Grace Lutheran Church in Tomahawk. She also volunteered with the 4H Drama group when her children were younger and provided her talents for the Ms. Northwoods pageants. Most recently, she served on the steering committee and as secretary for Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers, as well as volunteering for the Historical Society.

She will be lovingly remembered by those she left behind which includes her daughter, Marie Davis, Marie's husband, Steve, and their five children, Anastacia (Heather) Marince, Benjamin Haring, Reilly (Paige) Davis, Nicole Elsholtz, and Matt Davis; and her son, Bryan Gudgeon. She is furthered survived by her great-grandchildren, Eric Soderlund, Elaine Soderlund, and Alexis Elsholtz; her sisters, Bonnie and Norma; and her brothers, Mervin and Michael. Jeannie is further survived by many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She is joined in rest by her husband, Charles; her mother-in-law, Elaine Gudgeon; her sisters, Barbara and Cindy; her brother, Wayne; and her brother-in-law, Mark.

Jeannie will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Her loss is deeply felt by her family and all those who loved her. Both blood and heart ties were part of her family. Jeannie was loved and did love many people, and her effect was as deep as it was wide. Her memory will continue to live on and inspire strength, resilience, and generosity in those whose lives she touched. The family would like to thank everyone for their love and support during this difficult time. May she rest in eternal peace.

A celebration of Jeannie's life will be held on Friday, January 17, 2025, at 2:00 PM, at Generations Funeral Home. Pastor Julie Sinkula will officiate. The family will receive friends for visitation from 12:00 PM until the time of services at 2:00 PM. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Jeannie's obituary and leave online condolences at generationsfuneral.com.

Theodore (Teddy) F. Case



Theodore (Teddy) F. Case was born to Theodore F. B. and Aurelia (Massart) Case, Jr on October 14, 1946, at St. Mary's Hospital in Wausau, WI. He was the oldest of six children. Teddy and his next oldest sibling, Tommy, and their parents lived with their grandfather and grandmother, Theodore Fayette and Emma Case, Sr in Brokaw, WI in the 1940s. In 1949 the young family moved to Merrill and rented a house on Cottage Street.

Both Teddy and Tommy suffered severe brain injuries at birth that left them severely mentally challenged. As was customary in those years, children were often placed in special settings for care and treatment. Teddy and Tommy moved to Union Grove, WI where they lived through much of the 1960s. In the late 1960s they moved to Milwaukee, and in the early 1970s they lived at Lake Shore Manor in Madison, WI. Following the death of Tommy in August 1972, in a drowning accident, Teddy moved to the Jolly Fisherman Friendly Village in Rhinelander, WI. Teddy moved to Merrill in 2003, living first at Deerview and for the past 10 years residing at Ken Crass Home. Teddy passed away in the early morning hours of December 26, 2024.

Teddy always loved animals, especially kittens. The family always had a pet cat, and the boys were often found holding and playing with the kittens that the mother would bring to them. Teddy worked at Lincoln Industries for many years. When various people came to the workshop for meetings, or when members of his family came to visit, he would stop working and make sure to introduce everyone and give short impromptu tours of the facility. He was never bashful, and it made him happy to see people shake hands during these introductions. When shopping at Walmart, he would always introduce his caregivers or family members to total strangers by drawing them together so they could shake hands.

Even though Teddy was apart from his family of origin for most of his life, he was always loved and cherished by his family. He loved being with them and enjoyed the many family vacations they shared throughout the years. Teddy participated in many activities and outings including Special Olympics and bus tours throughout the state of WI.

Teddy had excellent caregivers while living in Merrill, and we are forever grateful for the care he has received. Thank you to the staff of the Ken Crass Home.

Teddy is survived by his brother Jeffrey, Minot, ND, sister Elizabeth, Harvey, ND, nephew Paul Case and his daughter Samantha, Jamestown, ND, niece Amy (Diego) Washington, Rockledge, FL, and children Justin and Kaelani, Anchorage, AK, Mikayla, and Dante, Melbourne, FL, and nephew Sean (Nora) Case, Anchorage, AK and children Dylan, Boise, ID and Melia, Anchorage, AK. He is preceded in death by his grandparents and parents, brothers Thomas and John, sister Kathryn and niece Briana.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Teddy was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Francis Catholic Church. Father Maria Vallabhaneni officiated. Visitation was held on Monday, January 13, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Taylor-Stine-Waid location at 301 Eagle Drive (formerly Waid Funeral Home), with a Rosary Service at 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial took place at the St. Francis Catholic Cemetery.

Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral and Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstine-waid.com.

Verna A. Schaefer



Verna A. Schaefer, 95, passed away peacefully to be with her Savior on Tuesday, January 7. Verna was born May 15, 1929, in Wonewoc, WI, the daughter of Fred W. and Adela (Hahn) Schaefer. Verna was baptized on May 24, 1929, at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wonewoc, WI, and confirmed on April 18, 1943, at Zion Lutheran Church, Wilmington, Delaware.

Survivors include nieces Kathleen Wiesenthal of Houston, Texas; Kim Schultz of Newport News, Virginia; nephew Mark Schultz, Fredericksburg, Virginia; and many other relatives and friends. Verna was preceded in death by her parents and sister Vera Schultz.

The memorial service for Verna will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill. Reverend David Szeto will officiate. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the church. Burial will take place at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Verna's name to St. John Lutheran Church are requested.

Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstine-waid.com

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

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OBITUARIES

James "Jim" Joseph Downing



Beloved husband, James "Jim" Joseph Downing was born on October 24, 1933, in Jeannette, Pennsylvania. He was baptized into the Christian faith, which guided his life. Jim married the love of his life, Mary Jane Mootz, on August 3, 1957, beginning a 67-year partnership filled with love and devotion that all started with a blind date.

Jim grew up among the rolling hills of Pennsylvania, where he developed a strong work ethic. As a teenager, he took on various jobs, including installing billboard signs, working at Jeannette Glass Company, and in a coal mine. He later enlisted in the United States Air Force, proudly serving his country in Korea and Japan before being stationed in Madison, Wisconsin. It was there that he met Mary Jane, and their love story began.

Jim was a Lifetime Member of VFW Post 1638. Some of his cherished memories were participating in a 2014 Honor Flight, accompanied by one of his daughters and spending a memorable day in Washington, D.C. with his grandson also. In 2017, he was a passenger in a Dream Flight Boeing Stearman biplane flying over Stevens Point, Wisconsin. These experiences were a profound highlight in his later years.

Jim's career included many years as the Bindery Supervisor at Merrill Quality Print/Foto News, where he ultimately retired.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Mary Jane Downing; daughters Ann Zastrow, Barbara (John) Wais, and Charlotte Downing; grandson Adam Zastrow (Ben Schorr); great-granddaughter Emilia Schorr-Zastrow; half-sister JoAn Downing; brothers-in-law Eugene Mootz and David (Jean) Mootz; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Joseph Downing and Susan Carnathan Bittner; step-mother Mildred Downing; son Clark Downing; son-in-law Tylor Hartwig; sister Nancy Lopes; brothers-in-law Art Lopes and Leroy Mootz; sisters-in-law Sandy Mootz and Charlotte Mootz.

Jim's life was marked by love, service, and passion. He adored his family, freely giving his time and energy to support them. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting and fishing, had a talent for artistry and craftsmanship, and was a lifelong Pittsburgh Steelers fan. Later in life, Jim and Mary enjoyed traveling to many different places.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, January 16, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. The family will receive friends beginning at 9:30 A.M. Thursday at the church. V.F.W. Post 1638, Merrill, will provide military rites following the service. Burial will take place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery at a later date.

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

Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church or Trinity School, 107 N. State Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452.

Robert E. Shank Jr.



It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Robert "Bob" Shank Jr. on December 24, 2024 at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau WI surrounded by family and close friends.

Robert was born in Salina, KS on September 14, 1961 to Robert E. Shank Sr and Bernice Shank. He grew up on the farm, not only learning how to farm the land and take care of animals, but also a love for riding horses, and the value of hard work. Robert attended

Solomon Public school where he graduated in 1979.

In 1985, Robert married Janet, and they raised 3 children together. Fulfilling his purpose as a provider they moved several times through the years; each time bettering his knowledge and passion for his career which eventually led them to Gleason, WI where they have lived for the past 18 years.

Robert was a visionary in his professional life and worked tirelessly to make sure his family was provided for and had everything they needed. He worked for ADM milling as a millwright where he was able to work on his favorite and most memorable project; the refurbishing of the Old Dutch Flour Mill in Wamego, Kansas. He always strived to learn more and advance in his profession; which led him to the development of his own company in 2010, Critical Path Management.

Robert enjoyed spending time with his family and close friends on vacations and during the holidays. He also enjoyed the occasional golf outings, boating, fishing and being a pilot.

Robert is survived by his wife of 39 years Janet Shank, 3 children Angela (Wes) O'Bannon, Christina (Joshua) Jaeger, Robert III (Natasha) Shank. 22 Grandchildren & 2 Great-grandchildren. 3 Brothers Dave Shank of Lincoln, NE, Mark (Lisa) Shank of Redfield, KS, Doug (Ann) Shank of Mandeville, LA and his Mother Bernice Shank.

He is preceded in death by his Father Robert E Shank Sr and Stepmother Carolyn Shank.

Celebration of Life Gatherings will be held on:

January 18th from 11-4p

Corning Town Hall

N1569 Hwy 64 & 107

Merrill, WI 54542

February 1st from 11-4p

VFW Salina

1108 W Crawford St

Salina, KS 67401

Both gatherings will be casual wear, come as you are.



Peggy and Dennis "Doc" Griffin

The Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS) would like to thank Peggy Griffin, as well as all the Willow Springs Gardens staff and volunteers, for their recent donation in memory of Dr. Dennis Griffin. "Many of you know that Dr. Griffin (affectionately called "Doc" by LCHS staff) was the primary vet for LCHS for many years," staff said. "Doc and Peggy both donated their time and expertise to care for shelter animals. Their ongoing support was a huge factor in LCHS being able to save enough money for our new building."

"Doc also offered veterinary care for the local community, often donating services to families that could not otherwise afford to care for their animals," they said. "Doc is greatly missed. He was a kind, warm-hearted, supportive man, and he is in our hearts always. Thank you, Peggy, for your generous support."

Submitted photo.



Free movie at the library

The T.B. Scott Free Library will hold their next Critic's Choice Free Movie Event at the T. B. Scott Free Library on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025, at 1 p.m.

Start the year off with an adventure set in the Dominican Republic. Mark Wahlberg stars opposite Ukai, the talented Australian shepherd/border collie/Bouvier mixed dog. This exciting movie is inspired by Mikael Lindnords's memoir about a grueling 435-mile team endurance race and a befriended stray dog. Popcorn and refreshments will be provided.

A&W from page 1

Mayor Hass welcomed Wells to the community, and Wells thanked everyone for coming. "This has been amazing," she said. "I haven't been to one [a ribbon cutting/opening ceremony] with such a big Chamber because we're from such a small town, so thank you guys all so much."

"I'm so excited," Wells said. "We've got a great staff and management here, and you guys have a wonderful town, so I'm so glad to be a part of this community."

"And we do have root

beer floats for everybody," she said. "Then we're gonna get this place rockin!"

Staff distributed complementary floats to attendees, and then staff were ready to officially open Merrill's A&W Restaurant for business at 10 a.m.

Customers were already in the building lining up, excited to be among the first to try the area's newest restaurant featuring their infamous "All American Food."

Despite the frigid temperatures, area residents came out in droves and the restaurant was busy all day, with drive-through traffic backed up onto Center Ave. at times.

Gail Ruth (Grill) Wogsland



Gail Ruth (Grill) Wogsland, of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at the Aspirus Merrill Hospital. She was born to Walter and Gertrude (Olson) Grill on November 5, 1936, in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

She graduated from Rhinelander High School. On October 15, 1955, Gail married Douglas Wogsland. He preceded her in death on March 11, 2011. She worked in the office at Park City Motors and Baumgart Waste Removal.

Douglas and Gail traveled every year to Ontario, Canada. She enjoyed aerobic swimming for over 20 years. She was a funny, sarcastic, sweet woman who loved puzzles and reading. Gail volunteered for The Memory Bear Workshops at Waid Funeral Home for many years and volunteered as a sewer for the senior center. She also looked forward to her "get away" weekends with her sisters and her weekly domino games.

Gail was preceded in death by her parents, brother: Walter Grill Jr., her mother and father-in-law, two sisters-in-law: Shirley Kitzke and Delores Wogsland, brother and sister-in-law Donald and Margaret Wogsland. She is survived by two sisters: Judie (Tim) Haenel and Karen (Ron) Engels, brothers, Gary (Kathy) Grill and Harvey Grill, and best friend Patricia Nitzsch of Wausau, WI. Gail will be missed greatly by her nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors.

Per Gail's wishes, no services will be scheduled. Cremation will take place followed by an inurnment at a later date at Prairie Rapid Cemetery in Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com.

In Memoriams

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Staying safe in the cold: Aspirus Health shares cold weather injury prevention tips

“Cold-related injuries can range from frostbite, frostnip, all the way up to hypothermia, where the body is not able to produce heat fast enough to keep it warm to survive.”

As temperatures begin to fall again, it’s important to raise awareness about cold weather injury prevention. Exposure to cold weather can lead to various health risks, including frostbite, hypothermia, and other cold-related injuries.

“Prevention is key,” said Bryan Judge, MD, Aspirus Emergency Medicine Physician and Emergency Trauma Medical Director. “Preparing appropriately when you’re out and about in the car—have a pair of gloves, hat, and boots in case you get stranded—is important.”

Aspirus Health stresses the critical importance of cold weather injury prevention to mitigate the potential dangers associated with winter weather. Here are some tips for preventing injuries related to cold weather:

- **Layer clothing.** Wear multiple layers of clothing to trap warm air close to the body. The layers should include a moisture-wicking base layer to keep sweat away from the skin, an insulating layer for warmth, and a waterproof and windproof outer layer to protect against the elements.
- **Protect extremities.** Keep extremities such as hands, feet, and ears well-covered. Wear insulated and waterproof gloves, thick socks, and a hat that covers the ears to prevent frostbite.

• **Stay dry.** Wet clothing and skin significantly increase the risk of cold-related injuries. Use waterproof outer layers to protect against rain and snow, and change into dry clothing if you become wet.

• **Hydration.** Stay hydrated, as dehydration can increase the risk of cold injuries. Drink warm beverages and avoid excessive consumption of caffeine or alcohol, as they can contribute to dehydration.

• **Know the signs of frostbite.** Be aware of the early signs of frostbite, including numbness, tingling, or pain in extremities. If you notice these symptoms, seek shelter and warm up the affected area gradually.

• **Know your limits.** Be aware of your own cold tolerance and know when it’s time to seek shelter. Avoid pushing your body beyond its limits in extremely cold conditions.

• **Play it safe with outdoor activities.** If engaging in winter sports or outdoor activities, plan ahead. Check weather forecasts, inform someone of your plans, and ensure you have the appropriate gear and equipment.

• **Stay informed.** Be alert to weather conditions and warnings in your area. Be prepared to alter your plans to take extra precautions based on the changing weather forecasts.

By adopting these preventive measures, you can reduce the risk of cold weather injuries and enjoy outdoor activities safely during the winter. It’s crucial to be vigilant, stay informed, and prioritize personal safety in cold weather conditions.



Brooke’s School of Dance recently did a Holiday Donation Drive at the studio to collect supplies for the Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS). Along with cleaning supplies and food for the animals, they also donated some gift cards for Kwik Trip so LCHS can fill their van with gas to take the animals to their vet appointments. The LCHS would like to thank all the dancers at Brooke’s and their families who contributed! Pictured is Mason, one of the studio’s youngest dancers, holding Tris who is available for adoption at the shelter. Submitted photo.

Public involvement meeting set to discuss WIS 64 bridge project

Replacement of Wisconsin River structure proposed for Lincoln County, city of Merrill

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will hold a public involvement meeting to share details about the proposed replacement of the bridge that carries WIS 64 over the Wisconsin River in the Lincoln County city of Merrill, this Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Merrill City Hall, 1004 E. 1st St. in Merrill.

The public is encouraged to attend the meeting to listen to the discussion, ask questions of project staff, and provide input.

A short presentation is planned for 5:15 p.m.; the remainder of the meeting will follow an open-house format.

Built in 1927, the bridge is nearing the end of its service life. WisDOT is proposing to:

- Replace the bridge
- Replace the approach slabs and roadway pavement on either side of the structure
- Install lighting
- Replace pavement markings

Construction currently is scheduled for 2028, but work could be advanced to 2027 if funding becomes available.

During construction, WisDOT proposes closing WIS 64 to through traffic between the bridge’s east approach and the intersection of WIS 64 and Valley St. and detouring

through traffic via County K, County Q, and County Z.

Access to businesses in the project limits and navigation of the Wisconsin River through designated areas will be maintained. However, temporary driveway and parking lot closures will be necessary along WIS 64 during parts of the construction process. WisDOT will contact businesses in advance before closing a driveway.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. Hard-of-hearing, deaf, deaf-blind, or those with a speech disability needing accommodations should contact the Wisconsin Telecommunication Relay Service via 711 at least three days before the meeting.

Comments on the proposed project are being accepted through Jan. 31, 2025, by email to: michellem.guoin@dot.wi.gov or via postal mail sent to: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Attn: Michelle Guoin, 510 Hanson Lake Rd., Rhinelander, WI 54501.

For more information about the project, visit its design website at tinycc.com/Bridge.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
 City of Merrill
 Street/Utility Construction Project
 The City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, will receive bids for a street and utility project. This project is the reconstruction of State Street between Grand Avenue and 10th Street. Bids will be accepted until 2 pm, February 13th, 2025. Bids will be received electronically through Quest CDN VirtuBid™ online bidding ONLY. No paper bids will be accepted. Bids will then be placed on file for further action. Bid documents will be available Monday, January 20th, 2025. Plan documents can be downloaded for a \$50.00 non-refundable fee by inputting Quest Project # 9491489 (http://www.questcdn.com/).
 Published January 16 & 23, 2025
 WNAXLP

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: 12/13/2024
/S/HON. GALEN BAYNE-ALLISON
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, BR I
 STATE OF WISCONSIN
 CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing
 Case No. 24-CV-174
 IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
 Caitlyn Robyn Bernhard
 By (Petitioner) Caitlyn Robyn Bernhard
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
 A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
 From: Caitlyn Robyn Bernhard
 To: Caiden Robyn Bernhard
 Birth Certificate: Caitlyn Robyn Bernhard
IT IS ORDERED:
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
 Judge's Name: Honorable Galen Bayne-Allison
 Place: Lincoln County Courthouse-Br 1
 1110 E Main St, Merrill, WI 54452
 Date: 01/29/2025
 Time: 10:15 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: 1/2/25, 1/9/25 & 1/16/25
 WNAXLP

BY THE COURT
DATE SIGNED: December 27, 2024
 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
 Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 Russell G. Wendt
 Notice to Creditors
 (Informal Administration)
 Case No. 2024 IN 55
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
 1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 10-9-1964 and date of death 12-17-2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W8428 Cty Rd. M, Merrill, WI 54452.
 3. All interested persons waived notice.
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 04-18-2025.
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
 Stanley R. Wendt
 W7750 Cty Rd. Z
 Merrill, WI 54452
 715-218-1081
 Published January 9, 16 & 23, 2025
 WNAXLP

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: January 6, 2025
 Electronically signed by Galen Bayne-Allison, Circuit Court Judge
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice and Order of Hearing (For Publication)
 Case No. 24-TP-4
 IN THE INTEREST OF
 Girl Child
 TO: David L. Lemke
 W185 WI-64 Merrill, WI 54452
 Physical Description of alleged parent:
 Approx. 6 feet tall and 250 lbs
 Red hair, short beard, mustache
 May have dentures
 and any unknown parent at unknown address.
 Additional identifying information:
 Date of conception: March 31-April 4, 2022
 Place of conception: Merrill, Wisconsin
 Date of birth: 11/18/2022
 Place of birth: Wausau, Wisconsin
IT IS ORDERED: This Notice be published advising you that a Petition for Termination of your parental rights to the named-above child be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill Wisconsin, Rm./Br. address 1110 E. Main Street, Branch 1, Merrill, WI 54452, on January 27, 2025, at 2:15PM.
IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR, the court may hear testimony in support of the allegations in the Petition and grant the request of the petitioner to terminate your parental rights.
 You have the right to have an attorney present. If you desire to contest the matter and cannot afford an attorney, the state public defender may appoint an attorney to represent you.
 If you fail to appear and the court terminates your parental rights, a notice of intent to pursue relief from the judgment must be signed and filed in the trial court within 30 days after the judgment is entered, in order to preserve the right to pursue such relief.
 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.
 Karry A. Johnson
 801 N. Sales Street, Ste 207
 715-539-1015

Legals 7700
 Bar Number 1045932
 Published January 16, 2025
 WNAXLP
BY THE COURT
DATE SIGNED: January 8, 2025
 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
 Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 Penny Jo Wenzlick
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
 Case No. 2025 IN 02
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
 1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 08/16/1952 and date of death 12/30/2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 109 N. California St., Merrill, WI 54452.
 3. All interested persons waived notice.
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 04/25/2025.
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
 Jamie Amelse
 714 S. State St, Apt 3, Merrill, WI 54452
 715-212-5240
 Published January 16, 23 & 30, 2025
 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: December 27, 2024
 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
 Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 GLEN M. SIMONIS
 Amended
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
 Case No. 24IN51
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
 1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 11/6/1945 and date of death 10/30/2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1705 E. 3rd Street, Merrill, WI 54452.
 3. All interested persons waived notice.
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 04/18/2025.
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.
 Attorney William A. Grunewald
 Jensen, Scott, Grunewald & Shiffler S.C.
 128 W. Division Street, P.O. Box 426
 Medford WI 54451
 Bar Number: 1008196
 715-748-2211
 Published January 2, 9 & 16, 2024
 WNAXLP

Legals 7700
DATE SIGNED: January 6, 2025
 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
 Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 LYNN J. HENRICH
 DOD: 11/30/2024
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
 Case No. 2025 IN 01
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
 1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 03/29/1949 and date of death 11/30/2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N1245 Wisconsin River Road, Merrill, WI 54452.
 3. All interested persons waived notice.
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 04/25/25.
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.
 Kourtney E. Imig
 835 Fifth Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409
 715-623-2905
 Bar No. 1115847
 Published January 16, 23 & 30, 2025
 WNAXLP

Notice is hereby given that the following application has been filed with the City Clerk, Merrill, Wisconsin:
 Class B Combination
 Hailey Clark, Agent
 Salvo's Pizzeria & Pub, LLC
 201 E 2nd St
 Merrill, WI 54452
 License Period: 2/14/2025 – 6/30/2025
 Lori Anderson-Malm
 City Clerk
 Published January 16, 2025
 WNAXLP



Aldersperson Recruitment District No. 5
 The Merrill Common Council is seeking District No. 5 residents interested in serving as alderperson.
 A Notice of intent form is available on the City website, the City Clerk's office or at the Treasurer counter at City Hall.
 Deadline for letter of intent form is noon on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.
 Interviews will be conducted on Tuesday, February 11 at a special Committee of the Whole (time to be determined). The newly appointed alderperson will begin their term at the February 11th Common Council meeting.
 Published January 16 & 30, 2025
 WNAXLP

EARLY IN PERSON VOTING NOTICE
 Early voting for City of Merrill Residents for the **February 18th Spring Primary** will begin at City Hall (1004 East First Street) on **Tuesday, February 4, 2025.**
 In-Person Early Voting hours are:
 02/04 – 02/07 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
 02/10 – 02/13 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
 02/14 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
 In-Person Early Voting may be completed in the City Clerk's office or at the Treasurer's office window. Please have a photo ID available. Early voting is not permitted on Monday, February 17, 2025.
 Lori L. Anderson-Malm
 City Clerk
 Published January 16, 2025
 WNAXLP

CITY OF MERRILL
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Street Resurfacing Project
 The City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, will receive bids for a street resurfacing project. This project is located on Water Street from W Main Street to S Foster Street and Eugene Street from Water Street 240 feet South. **Bids will be accepted until 2 pm, February 13th, 2025.** Bids will be received electronically through Quest CDN VirtuBid™ online bidding ONLY. No paper bids will be accepted. Bids will then be placed on file for further action. Bid documents will be available Monday, January 20th, 2025. Plan documents can be downloaded for a \$50.00 non-refundable fee by inputting Quest Project # 9493572 (http://www.questcdn.com/).
 Published January 16 & 23, 2025
 WNAXLP

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may submit a request to vote an absentee ballot to their municipal clerk. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen who:

- will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day.
- Has resided in the ward or municipality where they wish to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election.

The elector must also be registered to vote to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued*.

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail
 Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary election or both. You may make written application to your municipal clerk for an absentee ballot by mail, by fax, by email or at MyVote.wi.gov. Or you may apply in person at the clerk's office during the In-Person Absentee Voting period listed below.

Your request for an application, to receive an absentee ballot by mail from your clerk, must be in writing and must include:

- Your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote
- The address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different from the address above
- Your signature
- A copy of your photo identification*

*Voters who are indefinitely confined due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability may not be required to provide photo ID. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.
 **Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee by mail is:
 5:00pm, Friday, February 14, 2025.

Voting an absentee ballot in person
 You may also request to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person. When contacting your clerk leave a phone message or email including your contact information to schedule your appointment. Emails are available on your town website or by calling your clerk.

- Town of Birch,** Megan Webb, P.O. Box 71, Irma, WI 54442, 920-723-0673, Hours: Contact Megan between the hours 3:00-6:00p.m. Monday-Friday
- Town of Bradley,** Kari Kiser, 1518 W. Mohawk Dr., P.O. Box 325, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-453-3326, Hours: Monday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. No appointment needed.
- Town of Corning,** Rick Hass, N1428 Strawberry Road, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-536-3432, Hours: Contact clerk for appointment between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Town of Harding,** Kristy Ament, N2567 County RD E, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-218-6094, Hours: Contact Kristy between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Town of Harrison,** Kathy Voermans, N10095 County Road B, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-453-3395, Hours: Contact Kathy for appointment between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Town of King,** Georgene Linden, N8506 County Road H, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-908-0001, Hours: Contact Georgene for appointment Monday - Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Town of Merrill,** Mitzi Flegner, W4594 Progress Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-536-4383, Hours: Monday, 9:00-5:00 p.m., Tuesday 9:00-1:00 p.m., Thursday 1:00-5:00 p.m. No appointment needed.
- Town of Pine River,** Amanda Herdt, N1901 High Ridge Rd, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-536-7687, Hours: Contact Amanda between the hours of 10 a.m.-6 p.m. to set up an appointment.
- Town of Rock Falls,** Diane Chambers, W5895 Rock Falls Dr, Irma, WI 54442, 715-536-5039, Hours: Contact Diane for appointment between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Town of Russell,** Amy Brown, N5335 Bradley Street, Gleason, WI 54435, 715-873-4141, Hours: Contact Amy for appointment between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- Town of Schley,** Becky Dallman, W1696 County Road C, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-571-1262, Hours: Contact Becky for appointment between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Town of Scott,** Bonny Graap, N563 Lake Road, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-218-5633, Hours: Contact Bonny for appointment between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Town of Skanawan,** Loyetta Gitter, N8506 County Road H, Irma, WI 54442, 715-966-2605, Hours: Contact Loyetta for appointment between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Town of Somo,** Heather Marheine, W10655 Carpenter Rd., Tripoli, WI 54564, 715-453-4662, Hours: Contact Heather to schedule evening appointment during the week. Morning appointments are available on the weekends. Please leave a message to include a call back number.
- Town of Tomahawk,** Jesse Hoffman, N9048 Fox Farm Rd, Tripoli, WI 54487, 715-254-4651, Hours: Contact Jesse for an appointment to be scheduled between the hours of 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday–Thursday.
- Town of Wilson,** Teresa Lepkowski, W8904 State Rd. 86, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-453-6090, Hours: No appointment needed for Tuesdays 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Call for an appointment outside of these hours.
- City of Merrill,** Lori Anderson-Malm, 1004 E. First Street, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-536-5594, Hours: Monday–Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. No appointment needed.
- City of Tomahawk,** Amanda L. Bartz, 23 N 2nd Street, Tomahawk, WI 54487, 715-453-4040, Hours: Monday–Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Appointments are not needed.

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is:
Tuesday, February 4, 2025.
The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is subject to your clerk's availability.
Contact your municipal clerk.

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.
 The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on February 18, 2025. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.
 Published January 16, 2025
 WNAXLP

P3TIPS 715-536-3726

Crime Stoppers
Lincoln County

1004 East First Street, Merrill, WI 54452

REWARDS OF UP TO



Celebrating over 25 Years

Fraud alert and bank scams

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Scammers are continually developing new ways to try to take advantage of residents, and many of their tactics sound legitimate. Scammers spend time developing their craft and are adept at sounding realistic and convincing, trying to get people to part with their personal information or to click on links they send them that can give them access to your bank account.

Recently, I received a call from someone who identified himself with an ID number. He said he was calling from the fraud alert department at my bank ... except he put my bank wrong. That was the first red flag.

Otherwise, he sounded absolutely legitimate. He asked if I had made some specific specific dollar amounts in W. Virginia. I had not, so I told him no. Then he said someone had accessed my bank account from an IP address in W. Virginia, and I said that was absolutely not going to send me a link that I should click on to reset my password to protect my account. That was the second red flag.

I started asking questions. He said I should pull out my bank card and look at the back of it to see he was calling from that phone number. Sure enough, he was!

I said that I was going to hang up and call him back at that same number just to verify the card's fraud department, and he tried to talk me out of it, telling me if I hung up, I would be liable for those fraudulent charges. Now all of my alarms were going off. A legitimate fraud department would have encouraged me to hang up and call back if I had any questions.

I did hang up. I called the number on the back of the card and spoke to someone at the fraud department there. For starters, they said they don't identify themselves the way this person did. They checked my account and there was NO evidence of anyone trying to use my card information. The person who called was a scammer.

Yet he sounded very convincing, and it looked like he was calling from the number on the card. Using technology, this scammer was able to make that number show up on my caller ID. Now they can make it look like they are calling from a specific phone number.

So here's the thing. When someone else initiates a phone call TO YOU and wants to talk to you or sends you an email and they want you to click on a link, and you weren't expecting it, DON'T CLICK ON ANY LINKS!

Hang up the phone or get out of the email. Then call the number of the bank, fraud department, hospital or clinic or supposed creditor, who is trying to get you to give them your information. There is a legitimate reason for them to be contacting you. And THEN, if there is, provide the information they need. Or even go into your bank or creditor to speak with someone.

NEVER give out information to anyone WHO CALLS YOU. In this day and age, you are talking to a legitimate bank or fraud department employee, creditor, or bill collector. If you are scammed! Even if it LOOKS like they are calling from somewhere legitimate. Phone numbers can be spoofed, and it's happening to people right here in Merrill.

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LINCOLN COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

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(Search "P3 Tips" in the Apple Store or Google Play)
Type: Submit a tip online at www.p3tips.com
Talk: Call 715-536-3726

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Is the P3 app anonymous?

The multi-lingual P3 Tips App is a secure, anonymous, and efficient means of safely communicating with Crime Stoppers.

When to call 911 vs. reporting to Crime Stoppers - When someone is in immediate danger, a drunk driver, active criminal activity happening **CALL 911**. Time is of the essence in such matters. When you are aware of criminal activity or have details about a crime, you can send the tip through to Crime Stoppers either through the P3 app or a phone call to the anonymous line.

SHRED DAY

Merrill - May 31 st at the fairgrounds in conjunction with the Optimists E-cycle event.
Tomahawk - September 6th during Dumpster Days.
Both events will be 9 am-11 am.

How to place or lift a security freeze on your credit report

A credit freeze restricts access to your credit report. If you suspect your personal information or identity was stolen, placing a credit freeze can help protect you from fraud.

What is a credit freeze?

When you place a security freeze, creditors cannot access your credit report. This will keep them from approving any new credit account in your name, whether it is fraudulent or legitimate.

To let lenders and other companies access your credit files again to create new accounts, you will need to lift your credit freeze permanently or temporarily.

Place or lift a credit freeze

Freeze or lift the freeze on your credit report for free by contacting each of the three major credit reporting agencies:

- Equifax • Experian • TransUnion

You can submit your request online, by phone, or by mail.

How long do freeze requests take?

Freeze requests:

- Online or by phone: agencies must freeze your credit report within one business day.
- By mail: agencies must freeze your credit report within three business days.

Unfreeze requests:

- Online or by phone: agencies must lift the freeze within one hour.
- By mail: agencies must lift the freeze within three business days.

<https://www.usa.gov/credit-freeze>

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ENTERTAINMENT



Annual Merrill School Forest Family Fun Day is this Saturday

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

It's that time of year again: Time for a day of free outdoor winter fun for families at the Merrill School Forest.

Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) and the Friends of the Merrill School Forest will hold their annual Merrill School Forest Family Fun Day on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.—and everything included is absolutely free, including the food.

This is “a chance for families to enjoy the great outdoors and try different winter activities,” organizers said. And it’s especially a great time to explore all that the Merrill School Forest has to offer.

The day will include free equipment rentals so families can come out to participate in and enjoy snowshoeing and cross country skiing through the Merrill School Forest (last departure at 2 p.m.). And there will be sledding and human foosball, plus a campfire to warm up and roast some marshmallows.

Explore the outdoor Wisconsin Logging History Museum, tour the Animal Museum, and check out the Cordwood Education Center.

Participate in scheduled events:
• 1-2 p.m. inside the lodge, Wild Instincts “Where the Wild Things Heal” from Rhinelander will give a presentation with live animals.

• 11 a.m.-12 p.m. there will be a live historic logging demonstration with Steve Lee and his horses outside in

the lower parking lot.

• 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. inside the main lodge there will be free lunch/snacks available.

The Merrill School Forest is located on Hwy 107 (10 miles north of Merrill) across from Camp New Wood County Park. The Google-approved GPS address is: N4740 State Hwy. 107, Merrill. Parking at the School Forest is limited, but parking is available across the road at Camp New Wood County Park.

Note: Cell phones rarely work in the area.

This event is subject to change or be cancelled due to harsh weather and/or lack of snow, organizers said. Updates and/or cancellations will be posted on the “Merrill School Forest” Facebook page.

WEEKLY BRIEFING - JANUARY 16TH - 20TH

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FRI-Fish Fry
SAT-Regular Menu
SUN-Chicken
MON-\$1 OFF Pizza

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SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

DEN OF THIEVES 2: PANTERA
"R" (2HR 24MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:30PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:45, 7:00 & 9:30PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:45 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN
"R" (2HR 21MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:30PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:45, 7:00 & 9:30PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:45 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

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SATURDAY • 11am - Close
SUNDAY • 11am - 6pm

SAT. JAN. 18TH BINGO
Open 11am, Start 1pm
100% CASH PAYOUT

SAT. JAN. 25TH MEAT RAFFLE
Open 11am, Start 1pm
BASEBALL BOOSTER FUNDRAISER

Volunteer!
Be social!
Meet your neighbors!
Enjoy the arts!
Get active!

★
Get involved in your local community events!

RED GRANITE
BAR AND GRILL
EST. 1933

FOR A GOOD OLD TIME

11420 S. County Rd. K,
Merrill WI • 715-536-9391

Sun. 7am-2am, Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-2am, Fri. 11:30am-2:30am, Sat. 7am-2:30am,
Dine-in • Takeout • NO Delivery

Saturday & Sunday
Breakfast 7am-11am
Mimosas & Bloody Mary's

Mondays
\$5 Burger & Home Fries
Dine-in only & additional toppings are extra.

Sunday & Tuesday
Broasted Chicken
12 Noon-8pm

Friday
Fish Fry 12 Noon-8:45pm

Red Granite Bar & Grill
Order Online - Check wait times or just stop in!
Find us on f

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Jan. 16 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co. | Jan. 18 - Bingo at Plautz's Pub | Feb. 1 - Rotary Uncorked 2025 at Les & Jim's |
| Jan. 18 - Merrill Ice Drags | Jan. 18 - Blacklight Bingo at Bubba's Pub | Feb. 1 - Underdown Snowshoe Adventure |
| Jan. 18 - Gleason Ice Racing | Jan. 18-19 - Statewide Free Fishing Weekend | Feb. 1 - Gleason Ice Racing |
| Jan. 18 - Ultimate Ice Racing at Merrill Fairgrounds | Jan. 19 - Bingo at VFW | Feb. 1 - Merrill Ice Drags |
| Jan. 18 - 4-H Winterfest Celebration at Northwoods Veterans Post | Jan. 22 - Trivia Night at Sawmill Brewing Co. | Feb. 1 - Ultimate Ice Racing at Merrill Fairgrounds |
| Jan. 18 - Pirates of the Caribbean Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Co. | Jan. 25 - Annual Merrill School Forest Family Fun Day | Feb. 1 - Puzzles & Pints at Sawmill Brewing Co. |
| | Jan. 25 - Merrill Ice Drags | Feb. 1 - Ice Cream for Breakfast Day at Cosmo Hall |
| | Jan. 29 - Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Co. | |

For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/ events or contact the event sponsor.

Snowfall spins

WIN UP TO \$1,200 CASH

Earn 25 points up to 4X per promotional day and receive a total of \$60 Rewards Play

HOURLY HOT SEATS
FRI & SAT | 12PM - MIDNIGHT

HO-CHUNK GAMING
WITTENBERG

Ladies Afternoon Tea and Social
The afternoon includes sweet and savory treats, a variety of hot and cold beverages, and live instrumentals.

Saturday, Feb 1, 2025 from 1-3pm
held @ Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, town of Berlin
(facility is wheelchair accessible).

Free to all ages
however, an optional hands-on class in flower arranging, led by a regional designer, requires \$10 per arrangement, payable on day of event.

Reservations please to Shelley, call or text 715-571-4443.

137801 County Road FF, Merrill • www.facebook.com/tlc.berlin
715-536-6588 • www.trinityberlin.net

LINCOLN CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORTS

On 12/3/2024 a Lincoln County deputy on patrol conducted a traffic stop on CTH Q and Lake Rd. in the Town of Scott for a vehicle with expired registration. The deputy made contact with the driver, a 40-year-old man from Wausau. At the time of the initial contact, the driver told the deputy that he had been stopped earlier in the night by a deputy from Marathon County. The LISO deputy, in checking the man's driver's license, learned that his driving status was canceled. The deputy then made contact with the Marathon County deputy and learned that they had cited the man for the expired registration and gave him a written warning for the canceled license violation. As a result of the Marathon County contact, the LISO deputy took the man into custody for a criminal charge of driving without a valid license second offense within three years.

On 12/5/2024 the Lincoln County 911 Center took a call of a male party crushed by a skidsteer at an address on CTH T in the Town of Somo. The reporting party, who is the victim's son-in-law, went to the property and found the victim, a 67-year-old Tripoli man, pinned between the boom and the frame of the skidsteer. The reporting party advised dispatch of the accident and that the victim was unresponsive and he was unable to find a pulse. According to the reporting party, the victim had been working on the equipment by himself at the time of the accident. The victim had been using a front-end loader and a chain to lift the skidsteer bucket to perform maintenance on the skidsteer. During the process, the chain failed and the arms fell on the victim, pinning him between the boom and the frame of the skidsteer. The reporting party then used the same front end loader to lift the bucket far enough off of the victim for fire and medical personnel to extract the victim. Tomahawk EMS, FD, and deputies from the sheriff's office all responded to the scene. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

On 12/6/2024 the 911 Center took a call of an ATV being stolen from an address in the N1500 block of Range Line Rd. in the Town of Pine River sometime between 7:20 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Dec. 4. Unknown subjects stole a 2001 Honda 400EX ATV. A neighbor had reported that the day prior to the theft, they had seen an older model white/silver Dodge pickup truck with rust on it drive slowly past the address where the ATV was stolen from. During the investigation, the deputy learned that there was also security footage from two different locations showing the suspect vehicle. It is described as a white Chevy truck pulling a red horse trailer. If anyone is familiar with this vehicle or remembers seeing anything suspicious in the area, they are asked to contact the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office at 715.536.6272. This remains under investigation.

On 12/19/2024 the 911 center received a call of a vehicle parked partially in the road on USH 8 near CTH CC in the Town of Bradley. The reporting party advised that they suspected the driver of the vehicle to be intoxicated. Upon arrival, the deputy made contact with the driver, a 22-year-old woman from Tripoli, and observed signs of impairment. The deputy asked the driver to perform sobriety tests, which she refused to do. As a result, the woman was arrested for a first offense OWI. She was later released to a responsible party.

On 12/19/2024 a deputy on patrol stopped a vehicle on USH 51 near the 204-mile marker for expired registration on the vehicle. The deputy made contact with the driver, a 31-year-old man from Merrill. In making contact, the driver advised he didn't have a valid driver's license. Further checking revealed that the driver had a revoked driver's license and a warrant for his arrest. The driver was placed under arrest and

transported to the Lincoln County Jail for the warrant.

On 12/30/2024 a deputy was sent to a tavern in the Town of Bradley to investigate a hit-and-run crash that had occurred. A witness reported that the suspect vehicle backed into another vehicle and then left southbound on CTH A heading to the City of Tomahawk. After a short search, the suspect, a 21-year-old man from River Falls, was located at an address in the City of Tomahawk. The suspect advised that he didn't think he hit any other vehicles but did admit to driving while under the influence. He was subsequently asked to perform some sobriety tests which he agreed to do. The suspect was then transported to and turned over to Lincoln County Jail staff.

On 12/31/2024 deputies were dispatched to the area of STH 17 south of CTH G in the Town of Pine River for a one-vehicle rollover crash with injuries. Upon arrival, a deputy spoke with both the driver and passenger of the vehicle, and they reported that the driver swerved to avoid a deer when the crash happened. The deputy noticed several open intoxicant containers in the vehicle and questioned the driver, a 16-year-old girl from Tomahawk, about them. The driver stated she only had a sip earlier in the night. A preliminary breath test was conducted and the driver was found to be over the legal limit. As a result, she was arrested for an offense of violation of the absolute sobriety law. She was later released to her parent. The passenger, also under the age of 18, was released to a responsible party.

On 01/01/2025 deputies were sent to the area of Loop Rd. in the Town of Wilson near Red Cloud Landing Rd. for a reported ATV that had gone through the ice. The operator had just gotten off the ATV to check the ice thickness when he heard a crack and the ATV went through. No one was injured and a wrecker service out of Rhinelander was called to remove the vehicle.

On 01/01/2025 deputies were sent to a tavern in the Town of Merrill for a report of a battery. Upon arrival, the deputies made contact with the victim, a 51-year-old man from Merrill. He reported that he was at the bar when his mother-in-law, a 51-year-old woman from Merrill, came there to confront him about an argument that he and his wife, a 31-year-old woman, had been involved in earlier in the day. During the confrontation at the bar, the suspect struck the victim in the face, knocking him off his bar stool. The victim reported pain in his right arm and lower back and had marks on his face that were consistent with being struck. Following the battery, the suspect left the bar. The case will be sent to the district attorney for review and possible charges.

On 01/03/2025 deputies were dispatched to a call of what was reported to be disorderly conduct that had taken place earlier in the morning at an address on STH 86 in the Town of Tomahawk. In making contact with the victim who had left the address, deputies learned that a 33-year-old woman and the 28-year-old victim, both of Tripoli, had gotten into an argument. The woman was upset that there was nothing to drink in the house. The victim told the woman to pack some things and leave the house, as he was walking outside. The woman then armed herself with a handgun and fired a shot off inside the house. She then walked outside and fired at least one additional shot towards the mobile home. The victim then collected all the guns from the house and left for work. When deputies went to make contact with the woman, she first refused to talk with them, but later came to the door where she was verbally argumentative and telling the deputies they were trespassing. Deputies were eventually able to get the woman to step outside

where they advised her she was under arrest. A struggle ensued, with the woman resisting arrest. After a short struggle, the woman was placed in custody without injury and transported to the Lincoln County Jail. She was booked on first degree recklessly endangering safety, bail jumping (felony), endangering safety/reckless use of a firearm, and disorderly conduct. No injuries were reported as a result of this incident.

On 01/03/2025 deputies were sent to the area of Rapel Rd. near Lake Nokomis in the Town of Bradley for a reported UTV that had gone through the ice. Initial reports indicated that the vehicle was unoccupied and it was unknown if there was anyone in the water. Tomahawk Fire and Rescue, along with the dive teams of Lincoln and Oneida County Sheriff's Offices, were dispatched to the scene. First arriving deputies learned that there were no injuries and no one in the water. The owner, a 68-year-old man from Beloit, spoke with deputies and was put in contact with a wrecker service out of Rhinelander to remove the vehicle.

On 01/05/2025 the sheriff's office received a complaint of a reckless driver traveling northbound on USH 51 near the 200-mile marker in Marathon County. The suspect vehicle, a black Toyota two-door, was reported to be traveling at a very high rate of speed. A deputy located a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle northbound on USH 51 near the 207-mile marker. The vehicle was captured on radar at 105 mph in a 65 mph zone. The deputy was able to get the vehicle stopped and cited the driver, a 21-year-old man from Janesville, for traveling 40 mph over the speed limit.

On 01/05/2025 deputies were sent to an address on Meadowview Ln. in the Town of Schley for a reported physical domestic disturbance. Both the husband, a 56-year-old man, and his wife, a 49-year-old woman, admitted to being involved in a

fight and going after each other physically. In the course of the fight, both parties received minor injuries. Deputies were able to determine that the woman was the primary aggressor and, as a result, she was arrested for domestic battery and disorderly conduct. She was transported to the Lincoln County Jail. Minor injuries were claimed by both involved.

On 01/05/2025 deputies were sent to an address on Barker Ave. in the Town of Pine River for a reported physical domestic disturbance. The victim, a 21-year-old woman from Wausau, had contacted her sister via Facetime and reported that she and her boyfriend, a 23-year-old man from Merrill, had been involved in a fight, and the victim had obvious facial injuries to include bruising and bleeding. The sister then reported this to the sheriff's office. When deputies arrived, they made contact with the victim who refused to cooperate with the deputy's investigation, but she had clear visible injuries consistent with a domestic violence situation. The deputies then attempted to talk with the male suspect who refused to exit the house or to speak with the deputies and eventually barricaded himself in a bedroom and locked the door. The deputies collected what information they could and will submit a report to the district attorney per Wisconsin law, and will be requesting a charge of domestic battery in the case.

On 1/11/2025 deputies were sent to the intersection of CTH JJ and Hillside Dr. in the Township of Merrill for a two-car crash with injuries. An eastbound vehicle traveling on Hillside Dr. failed to yield the right of way to a vehicle traveling southbound on CTH JJ, resulting in a crash. Injuries were reported by passengers in the southbound vehicle. During the investigation, the driver of the eastbound vehicle, an 84-year-old man from Merrill, was showing signs of impairment. Subsequently, he was arrested for OWI causing injury first offense.

TAXES from page 2

to increase the tax levy rate to meet its budget. However, some properties will bear a larger share of the levy if their assessed values have risen more than others.

3. Shifting the Tax Burden

What happens: When some properties see an increase in their assessed values while others remain unchanged or rise less, the total tax burden shifts.

How it impacts taxes: Property owners whose property values have risen the most will pay a higher share of the same tax levy. This means their individual property taxes increase, even though the overall tax rate hasn't changed.

4. Example Scenario

Before reassessment: If the total property value in a town is \$100 million and the local government sets a tax levy of \$1 million, the tax rate is 1% (\$1 million ÷

\$100 million).

After reassessment: If the total property value increases to \$120 million due to higher property values, the local government may still need to collect \$1 million in taxes. While the tax rate remains the same (1%), a property that was previously valued at \$200,000 might now be valued at \$250,000. As a result, the property owner will pay \$2,500 instead of \$2,000, even though the tax rate hasn't changed.

In essence, a property reassessment increases some property values, which leads to a higher tax burden for those properties, even if the tax levy rate stays constant. This process ensures that the local government can collect the necessary funds based on updated property values, but it may result in higher taxes for some homeowners.

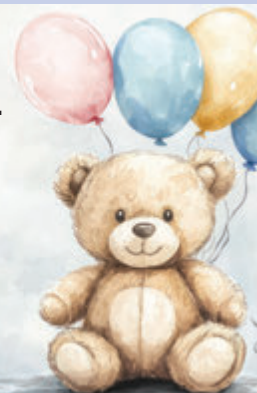
Next week's Merrill Foto News will continue with Part 3 of this series on Property Taxes Explained.

MERRILL AREA BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 10, 2024
Girl, Elektra Blank, was born to Elizabeth Blank and Jakob Blank of Merrill.

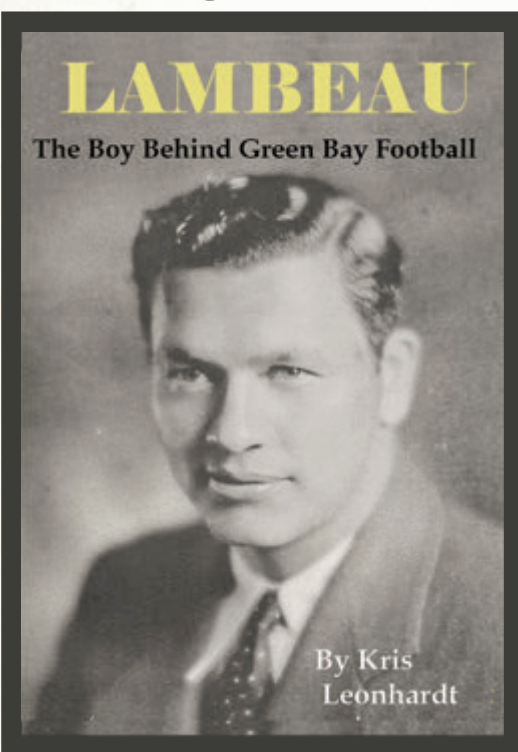
DECEMBER 12, 2024
Girl, Charlotte Ann, born to Autumn Tatman and Brandon Lieder of Merrill.

JANUARY 2, 2025
Girl, Kora Rae, born to Jorie Tomczik and Derek Tomczik of Wausau.



"A fascinating TALE

of dedication that will inspire fans and readers alike. If you love football, community and tales of grit, this book is a must-read."



The story of the beginning of the Green Bay Packers and the life of Earl Louis "Curly" Lambeau are so intertwined that it is hard to imagine one without the other.

From the streets of Green Bay, Lambeau developed a passion for football and grew that yearning into a football team that would exist long past his lifetime.

Like the Packers, Lambeau's story is a tale of adversity and challenge, but also a story of triumph and perseverance. While his personal life and professional career were wrought with challenge, his legacy continues to resonate in the Green Bay community, including a massive structure along Lombardi Avenue that shines a light on his contribution to the professional team.

BOOK SIGNING

Saturday, Jan. 25 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bosse's News Depot
107 S Broadway, De Pere

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements 7005

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

Firewood 7244

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

FIREWOOD - mixed hardwood cut & split. Seasoned 2 years. 3 miles north of Wausau. FREE DELIVERY within 15 miles w/surcharge over 15. \$240 full cord. 715-536-3681

Lawn and Garden 7250

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

Guns 7264

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Antique or Modern Rifles • Pistols • Shotguns
HIGHEST PRICES PAID
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Marshfield, WI
715-384-6580

Dogs 7272

ACA REG. SHITZU PUPS! Shot DEW Vet Ck'd Parents are small \$375. Call 715-669-3607 (#268475) 1/13

ACA REG. SHITZU PUPS! Shot DEW Vet Ck'd Parents are small \$375. Call 715-669-3607 (#268475) 1/13

ADORABLE PUG PUPPIES! Great w/kids awesome family pets shots dewormed vet ck'd 2-F 1-M \$500 715-669-7571 (1/20)

After Christmas Sale: Purebred Jack Russell Terrier puppies. First shots and dewormed. \$200 each. 715-921-2989

AKC YELLOW BLACK LAB PUPS AND AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS \$800. ALSO GOLDEN RETRIEVER CROSS. \$500 CALL 715-671-3092 (#267331) 1/20

BOSTON/RAT TERRIER PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$500 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/13)w

BOSTON TERRIER PUPPIES Males/Females Health Guar. Ready Now \$600 715-937-0916 (01/13)

CAVAPOO PUPS \$700 Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/13)nw

CAVAPOO PUPS. Shots, Dewes, Wormed Vet Ck'd Health Guaranteed \$500 Call 715-470-0458 No Text (#509642) 1/13 amnw

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL PUPS! AKC Champion lovable. \$300 715-267-6070 (1/13)

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES! Vet Checked ACA REGISTERED. Ready to go NOW Cadott 715-289-3165 can send pics (1/13)

Miniature Australian Shepherd puppies. Registered, Blue Merles & Black Tris, shots, dewormed, vet checked, born 10-12-24. Ready now \$400 715-819-0865. No texts.

Dogs 7272

MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPS! \$700 Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)1/13sm

Pomeranian Puppies Cute Fun Vet Ck'd \$500 call 715-654-5149 (1/13)

Purebred German Shepherd puppies \$700. Available January 28th. Call Bill at 715-350-9577.

PURE BRED REGISTERED CAVALLIER PUPS! Vet Ck'd Vac. Dew DOB 10/16/24. \$450 715-669-7306 (1/13)

Rehoming 1 yr old Female shiuba inu dog. \$200. 715-350-4063 (no texts)

Hay and Straw 7288

Hay For Sale, 1st, 2nd & 3rd crop. Dry and Baleage. 715-965-9370

Hay For Sale Good grass mix round bales for horse or beef, also small square dairy free. Delivery within 100 miles of Appleton, WI. 920-878-0005 or 920-878-0288. No messages.

Agriculture Services 7292

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

Services Wanted 7336

Looking for a Piano Teacher: looking for piano lessons in the Merrill area. text or call. Paula 715-302-3295

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

Apartments for Rent 7400

THE MEADOWS APARTMENTS
1, 2, & 3 bedroom units in Merrill, WI For low & moderate income individuals & families. Handicapped accessible. Units Available. Appliances, hot water, water/sewer, garbage service provided. Coin-op laundry facility.
CALL NOW! 712-580-5360 or Toll Free 855-441-8688 Certain income restrictions apply
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Rental Property for Sale 7478

Three 50' x 300' storage rental buildings, 189 units on 7 acres. Set up for 4 more buildings, fenced and camaras. Prime location West of Appleton, WI, 920-878-0005, no messages

Motorcycles 7502

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

Skilled Trades 7175

Experienced Diesel Mechanic: \$30+/hr, M-F 7am to 5pm. Health, Life & Disability Insurance, Tool & Cell phone allowance, Housing available. Send resume to Waldvogel Trucking, W7622 State Hwy 47, Antigo, WI 54409, or call 715-489-3674

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merrillfotonews.com

MERRILL FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS

FOR WEEK ENDING DEC. 29, 2024
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury 33
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG) 1
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill 1
TOTAL INCIDENTS THIS WEEK: 35
TOTAL INCIDENTS/CALLS FOR THIS YEAR (2024): 2,286

FOR WEEK ENDING JAN. 5, 2025
Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional 1
Carbon monoxide incident 1
Community Paramedicine Program visit 1
Dispatched and cancelled en route 1
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury 47
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG) 1
Good intent call, other 2

FOR WEEK ENDING JAN. 12, 2025
Community Paramedicine Program visit 1
Dispatched and cancelled en route (EMS)- MABAS request 1
Dispatched and cancelled en route (EMS) 1
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury 50
Motor vehicle accident with injuries 2
Rescue or EMS standby 1
TOTAL INCIDENTS THIS WEEK: 56
TOTAL INCIDENTS/CALLS FOR THIS YEAR (2025 TO DATE): 95

FOR WEEK ENDING JAN. 19, 2025
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries. 1
Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped) 1
Smoke scare, odor of smoke 1
TOTAL INCIDENTS THIS WEEK (SPLIT YEARS): 57
TOTAL INCIDENTS FOR YEAR END (2024) 2,315

FOR WEEK ENDING JAN. 26, 2025
Community Paramedicine Program visit 1
Dispatched and cancelled en route (EMS) 1
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury 50
Motor vehicle accident with injuries 2
Rescue or EMS standby 1
TOTAL INCIDENTS THIS WEEK: 56
TOTAL INCIDENTS/CALLS FOR THIS YEAR (2025 TO DATE): 95

SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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1	2	4	9	5	3	6	8	7
9	3	8	2	7	6	5	1	4
6	3	8	2	7	6	5	1	4
9	6	5	4	7	5	9	8	3

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AUCTIONS

ONLINE AUCTION

ANOTHER AUCTION WITH
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www.colrene.net

(Online Bidding Opens: Jan. 18th- 23)
Over 1100 lots! (Owners Moving!)
(Open House Jan 18th (8AM - 10AM)
Rhineland, WI 5010 Hilltop Rd

Truck: GMC 2004 Quadra steer ext. cab 4x4 only 96k miles (looks Nice! No Rust!) **ATV:** Yamaha 350 Wolverine 4x4. **Lawn Tractor:** JD L130 w/ snowblower, garden trailer **Tools:** (Rigid table saw, planer, joiner) Delta miter saw, Snap On & SK tools, taps/dies, organizers, drill press, scroll saw, belt/disc sander, clamps, wet stone, Milw. Band saw, Freud biscuit cutter, circular saw, **Antique Gas Pump/ETC:** Tokheim, vintage Texaco porcelain lube rack, shadow boxes, Standard Oil, Texaco oil/grease, 100's of collector cans, clocks, Fire Chief globe, lubester, **Beer Memorabilia 100's of items!** vintage Rhineland beer items, Miller motion light, kegs, collector cans, **Antiques Tools:** hundreds of lots of vintage tools, block planes, drills, hammers, wrenches, levels, tool chest, draw shaves, Winchester drill, number stamps, machinist tools, drill press, **Antiques & Collectibles:** cast iron banks, marbles, broad axes, fire extinguisher, milk bottles, decoys, baseball cards, new wrestling action figures, prints, Oak wall phones, records, metal signs, lanterns, kerosene lamps, seltzer bottles, enamelware, pocket knives, Buddy L Texaco truck, Mod. T coils, military items, hay knives, blow torches, egg crate, 1957 Chev. Parts, **Fishing tackle:** 25+ tackle boxes, rods/reels, fish mounts, tip ups, **15 firearms, Ammo, ETC:** Winchester M1892 44-40, ammo, cases, safes see website for full list

PICKUP & PAYMENT: Saturday, January 25 (8AM-2PM) Terms: Cash or good check, credit cards. Sales tax charged 10 % buyers fee will be charged. Not responsible for loss or accidents. Settlement made before removing items. Conditions: Sold as is, where is. Announcements made on auction day take precedence over printed material. R.W.A. Col. Rene' Brass #424, Col. Robert St. Louis #450, St.Louis Auctions LLC6728 Whitefish Lk. Rd., Three Lakes, WI 54562. PH: 715-367-1668

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• 4 STAR HAIL AND FIRE RESISTANT
• VENTILATED AT PEAK
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• SNAP-LOC HIDDEN FASTENER
• 18 COLORS AVAILABLE

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Your local community newspaper is the best place to look.

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Do you enjoy variety, and working with people of all ages... Then we encourage you to apply!

Caregivers must be trustworthy, motivated and compassionate.

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MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

On 12-10-24 at 9:33 a.m. officers were requested by Probation and Parole to take a male subject into custody for a probation violation.

At 10:10 p.m. officers responded to the report of a disturbance at a residence. The caller was reporting that her adult son was destroying things inside the apartment. Officers found damaged property inside the residence. The male involved was arrested for disorderly conduct and bail jumping.

On 12-11-24 at 1:14 p.m. a female was arrested for a probation violation at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

At 1:27 p.m. a domestic disturbance was reported at a residence. It was found the husband and wife had an argument which escalated to the wife slapping the husband and the husband pushing the wife, taking her phone and keys, and locking her out of the residence. Both were arrested for domestic disorderly conduct.

At 8:01 p.m. a caller reported she finished her shift at work and found someone had caused a scratch along the side of her vehicle while it was in the parking lot. Investigation is ongoing.

On 12-13-24 at 2:45 p.m. an officer took a report of a theft of money from a residence. That investigation is ongoing. During the course of that investigation, a male subject was found to have an active warrant for his arrest. He was arrested and transported to the jail.

At 2:59 p.m. an officer took a report of fraudulent withdrawals from ATM machines in a different part of the state. The investigation is ongoing.

At 4:49 p.m. an officer took a report of a vehicle's tires being slashed. The investigation is ongoing.

On 12-14-24 at 10:37 p.m. officers responded to a local residence for a noise complaint. During the investigation, officers located an intoxicated underage male. The male was cited for underage drinking and was released to a responsible party.

On 12-16-24 at 8:50 a.m. a convenience store reported two individuals had stolen alcoholic beverages the previous night. Surveillance video was obtained and investigation is ongoing.

At 12:35 p.m. a convenience store reported a female had stolen a bottle of alcohol and an energy drink. Officers recognized the female on the surveillance video. The female will be charged with retail theft and several counts of bail jumping.

At 4:01 p.m. a store reported a female had stolen merchandise. The officer was able to identify the woman. Investigation is ongoing.

On 12-17-24 at 10:46 a.m. a caller reported a vehicle struck the rear of his vehicle and left the scene. Investigation is ongoing.

At 7:38 p.m. a caller reported a male passed out in the common hallway of the apartment complex she resides at. Contact was made with the male who was found to be intoxicated. The man has an open bond which prohibits him from consuming intoxicants. The man was arrested for three counts of felony bail jumping.

At 9:56 p.m. a caller reported his landlord had threatened him if he didn't leave the residence. It was found the two involved males are roommates. An argument ensued over the consumption of cheese which led to one male pushing the other which was captured on a video. The offending male was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct.

On 12-18-24 at 2:30 p.m. officers took a male party into custody for a probation violation.

At 9:41 p.m. officers responded to a local residence for a report of a male party kicking in a door. Officers later located the male suspect at a different residence. The male party was arrested for disorderly conduct, bail jumping, and for an active warrant from Marathon County.

On 12-20-24 at 11:24 a.m. officers were investigating an incident at a residence and were informed a male was hiding in a bedroom. The male was found to have a warrant for his arrest. The man was arrested for said warrant.

At 2:46 p.m. a caller reported someone had struck his vehicle while it was parked in a store parking lot and left the scene. A witness was able to provide the registration plate of the striking vehicle. The officer observed surveillance video and observed the crash. The driver was located and cited for hit and run. A crash report will be completed.

On 12-21-24 at 6:45 p.m. it was reported a 17-year-old male was out of control and broke a door. It was found the male had punched a glass door, causing it to shatter. He will be summonsed for criminal damage to property and bail jumping.

At 8:48 p.m. a caller reported his girlfriend was throwing items around their residence. The girlfriend became upset and threw a hammer and snow shovel at the resident. The girlfriend was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct and bail jumping.

On 12-22-24 at 4:04 p.m. a caller reported he found a syringe lying on the ground near his residence. An officer properly disposed of the syringe.

At 4:27 p.m. a caller reported the neighbor struck his residence with a vehicle. It was found the neighbor had been backing and meant to hit the brake but instead hit the accelerator, striking the residence.

At 10:24 p.m. a convenience store reported a male had stolen food at the store. The officer reviewed surveillance video and will be attempting to identify the male.

On 12-23-24 at 4:12 p.m. officers responded to a report of an intoxicated pedestrian in a public business and the male party had also fallen down. Upon officers making contact with the male party, he was asked to leave the business he was at and proceeded to voice his opinion about the officers in a vulgar manner. The male party was warned for disorderly conduct.

At 5:01 p.m. officers responded to an ambulance call for a male party that appeared to be confused and the male was not responding. Upon officers arriving on scene, it was found to be the intoxicated male that officers dealt with earlier. The male suspect's vulgar and profane language continued in a public place, and the male was arrested for disorderly conduct. While in custody, the male subject was resistive with officers, spat at officers, and made numerous threats of harm and death toward officers. The male suspect was also charged with battery or threats to law enforcement, resisting or obstructing an officer, and throw/expel bodily substances.

On 12-24-24 at 2:34 p.m. officers responded to a driving complaint about a red/brown truck driving in excessive speeds in the area. Officers responded to the area in an attempt to locate the vehicle, but officers were ultimately unable to locate the vehicle.

On 12-26-24 at 12:27 a.m. an officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle that ran over a curb. Subsequently, the male operator parked the vehicle on a nearby road and attempted to enter a house prior to the officer relocating the vehicle to continue the traffic stop. Upon further investigation, the male operator was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated in addition to receiving a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

At 2:22 p.m. officers responded to a report of a historical domestic disturbance that involved a male party yelling at and pushing around a female party. It was later reported to officers that the disturbance derived from an argument about their relationship. The male party was later arrested and charged with domestic disorderly conduct.

At 10:44 p.m. an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that had illuminated and colorful Christmas lights covering the entire external passenger side of the vehicle. The male driver was then advised that he could not illuminate his vehicles with Christmas lights while operating on public roadways.

On 12-28-24 at 5:43 p.m. officers responded to a local residence for a report of a juvenile that had been drinking and was acting disorderly. The juvenile was cited for underage drinking and was released to his parents after calming down.

On 12-30-24 at 4:30 p.m. officers responded to an intersection for a bicycle versus car crash. Officers determined that a male on the bike had ridden his bike into the side of the vehicle which had the right of way. The male on the bike was given citations for riding a bike on a sidewalk and for failure to yield to oncoming traffic.

At 11:16 p.m. officers took a male party into custody at a local business for an outstanding warrant issued by the Department of Corrections. The male was transported to the Lincoln County Jail without incident.

On 01-01-25 at 5:40 p.m. a Lincoln County Sheriff's deputy investigating a matter in the county was advised of a domestic disturbance that had occurred

the previous night at a residence in the city. Investigation is ongoing.

01-02-25 at 9:53 a.m. a crash was reported in a business driveway. The driver struck a decorative rock and reported being run off the road by another vehicle. The investigation is ongoing.

On 01-04-25 at 1:27 p.m. an officer conducted a traffic stop. As the operator of the vehicle did not have a valid driver's license, the operator was cited for operating without a valid license and referred for bail jumping charges.

On 01-05-25 at 1:51 a.m. an officer conducted a traffic stop after observing suspicious driving behavior. During the course of the contact, the officer observed signs of impairment. The driver refused to perform any field sobriety tests. The driver was arrested for OWI 2nd offense and a probation violation. He was also cited for operating after revocation.

On 01-06-25 at 9:49 a.m. a student was found to be in possession of a nicotine vaping device at school. A citation was issued for juvenile tobacco violation.

At 10:52 a.m. a student was found to be in possession of a THC vaping device at school. A citation was issued for possession of THC.

At 6:47 p.m. a caller reported his adult son had been yelling at everyone in the household, punched holes in a wall, and challenged the caller to a physical fight. The son was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct and bail jumping.

On 01-07-24 at 9:02 a.m. a male was arrested for a probation violation at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

At 7:50 p.m. a caller reported a female at a residence was being held against her will and assaulted by her boyfriend. The man had also made a similar recent claim to residents at this same residence which was found to be untrue. It was found the caller had come to the residence earlier looking for a female that no longer resides there. This was in violation of an open bond the caller has. Once again, the man's report was found to be untrue. The caller was unable to be located but will be cited for misuse of 911 and six counts of felony bail jumping.

On 01-08-25 at 1:30 p.m. officers responded to Merrill High School for a fight between two students. Both students were taken to the Principal's Office and, after investigating the incident, the student found to be the aggressor was removed from the school and charges were referred.

At 5:56 p.m. officers responded to a domestic disturbance in which it was reported that a male party punched a female party in the stomach. The male on scene was found to be highly intoxicated. Following an investigation, the male was arrested for domestic battery.

On 01-10-25 at 1:42 p.m. a store reported discovering a shoplifter had stolen merchandise earlier in the week. The officer will be reviewing surveillance video to identify the thief. Investigation is ongoing.

At 6:17 p.m. a caller reported a vehicle had struck two mailboxes and failed to stop or report the crash. The hit-and-run crash is under investigation.

At 6:55 p.m. a caller reported her son had a snowmobile in the bed of his truck while at school, and two other youths started the snowmobile in the truck bed, with one causing damage to the truck box. The youths will be cited for damage to property.

On 01-11-25 at 2:06 a.m. an officer observed a vehicle driving the wrong way on a one-way street. The officer noted characteristics indicative of intoxication from the driver. The driver agreed to field sobriety tests and, as a result, was arrested for operating while intoxicated (2nd offense).

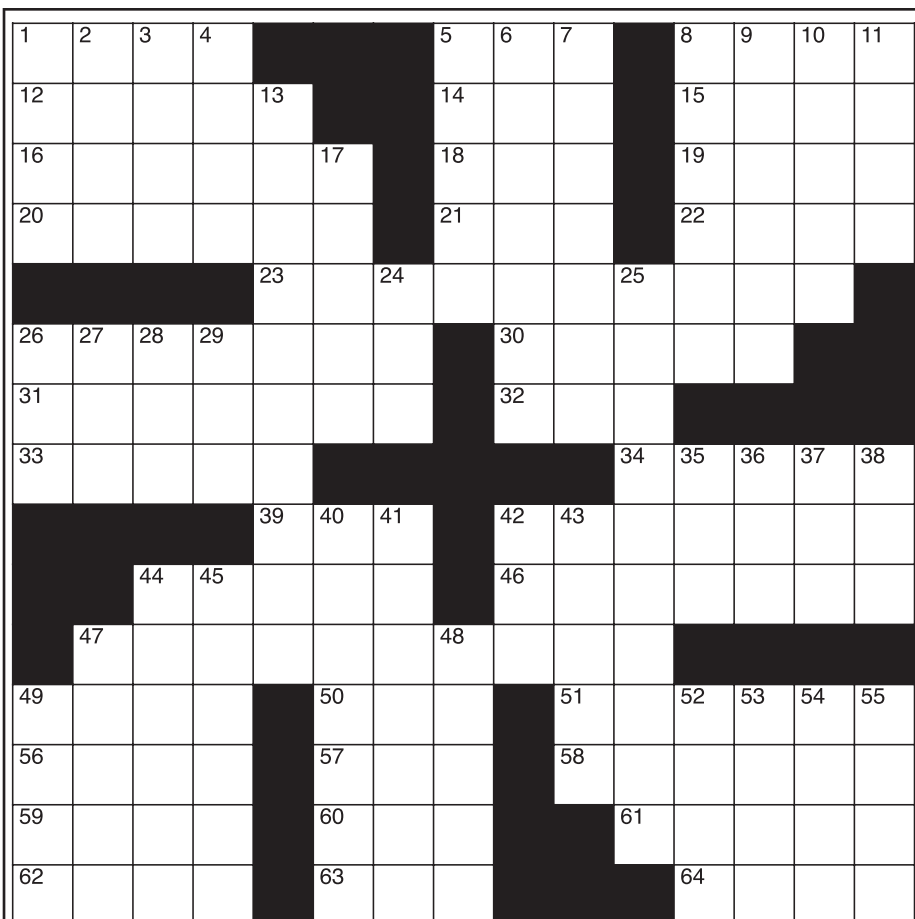
At 4:27 p.m. a male made contact with his wife following a domestic disturbance the previous day, in violation of an open bond and in violation of 72-hour prohibition. The man will be charged with bail jumping and violation of 72-hour prohibition.

On 01-12-25 at 2:12 a.m. a caller reported a male at her residence who would not leave. The male left prior to officers' arrival but was found to have a warrant for his arrest. The man was located and arrested for that warrant. The man was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, after a vape pen containing THC residue and a gem bag containing methamphetamine residue was found on him.

At 3:50 p.m. a male was reportedly causing a disturbance at the emergency room. The man was heavily under the influence of illegal drugs and was screaming, swearing, and creating a disturbance at the facility. The man will be charged with disorderly conduct and resisting an officer.

At 9:28 p.m. a caller reported a male at a residence who was prohibited from being in contact with the female there and the residence. It was confirmed an open bond prohibited the man from being there. Contact was made with the man, and he was arrested for bail jumping.

At 10:48 p.m. a caller reported a male had broken a window and a female was screaming at an apartment complex. It was found the female had thrown a rock through her boyfriend's apartment window, and she came inside through the window and threw items about the apartment. The female was arrested for criminal trespass to a dwelling, resisting an officer, disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property, and six counts of bail jumping.



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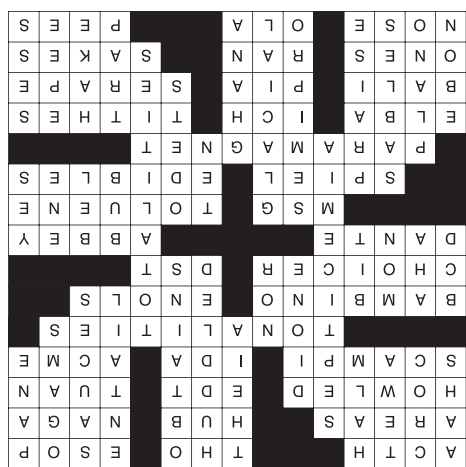
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
- 5. People of northern Vietnam
- 8. Employee stock ownership plan
- 12. Regions
- 14. The center of a city
- 15. Hindu serpentine deity
- 16. Roared
- 18. Sun up in New York
- 19. "Sir" in Malaysian
- 20. Shrimp dish
- 21. Muckraker Tarbell
- 22. Apex
- 23. Harmonic effects
- 26. One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
- 30. Groups in organic chemistry
- 31. More pleasant-tasting
- 32. Spring forward
- 33. Noted writer
- 34. Building occupied by monks
- 39. "The world's most famous arena"
- 42. Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
- 44. Long or fast speech
- 46. Things you can eat
- 47. Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
- 49. Actor Idris
- 50. I (German)
- 51. Taxes
- 56. Indonesian island
- 57. Nuisance (slang)
- 58. Shawl
- 59. Digits

- 60. Moved on foot quickly
- 61. "For goodness ___"
- 62. Facial body part
- 63. Russian river
- 64. Urinates

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Partner to "oohs"
- 2. Scaly water dweller
- 3. Pueblo people of New Mexico
- 4. Music producer Teo
- 5. Greek mythological goddess
- 6. Got together to discuss
- 7. Acquires
- 8. Involve
- 9. Some are tomato-based
- 10. Old Irish alphabets
- 11. A sheet of glass in a window or door
- 13. Blood poisoning
- 17. A moon of Saturn
- 24. Neither
- 25. Sums
- 26. They follow "A"
- 27. Satisfaction
- 28. People of southeastern Burma
- 29. Small amount
- 35. Guy (slang)
- 36. Sound unit
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 38. Affirmative
- 40. Almost at the top
- 41. Extremely slow
- 42. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 43. Influential mid-century playwright
- 44. Martens
- 45. Approval
- 47. Dallas-adjacent Texas city
- 48. African nation
- 49. Dark brown or black
- 52. A place to get caught
- 53. Large-headed, elongated fish
- 54. Type of sword
- 55. Scottish tax or levy



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

Merrill Boys Basketball splits home games: One victory, one defeat

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Varsity Boys Basketball Team played the SPASH Boys in a home game on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025. It was an exciting game, with a fast-pace, and at halftime, the Merrill Bluejays were up 26-24, but in the end, Stevens Point took the win 63-52.

"I couldn't be more proud of the guys' effort tonight," said Merrill Boys Basketball Head Coach Troy Pieper. "We showed that we can play with the best in our conference. Now I want the guys to take this and realize if we execute a little better here and there in both halves, we can not only compete with the best, but we can beat the best."

"We talked about setting the tone from the start, not only physically showing SPASH that we weren't backing down, but with our energy and effort on defense, and we did just that, jumping out to a 9-2 lead, and taking a lead into the half," he said.

"The second half we just had a few too many live ball turnovers that allowed them to get run outs, and not have to score in the half court," he said. "When they had to try and score against us when our defense was set in the half court, they struggled. That is a very talented team with a lot of size. When they got a lead, we had to come out of our game plan a little bit and extend our defense, which opened up things down low for their big guy, but the guys didn't give up. We showed a lot tonight."

"Tyson Ott led us in scoring with 11," Pieper said. "We had three guys score in double figures, but I really liked what I saw from Tyson. He was more aggressive tonight, which I've been talking to him about. While he is only a Sophomore, he's one of our more skilled offensive players, and when we are good, he is playing free and aggressive, and I thought he showed that tonight."

"We've been playing pretty good lately and tonight was

another positive showing," he said. "Playing against some of the best Division 1 teams in our conference is tough, but it makes us playoff ready, and playing the best can only make you better and more hungry."

High scorers for the Bluejays were Tyson Ott (11 pts, 4 FG, 2 3pt, 1 FT, 1 reb, 1 ast, 2 stl), Aidan Houghton (10 pts, 3 FG, 2 3pt, 2 FT, 3 reb, 2 ast, 1 stl), and Kory Page (10 pts, 3 FG, 2 3pt, 2 FT, 9 reb, 3 ast, 3 stl).

Box score
SPASH 63 @ Merrill 52

In a second consecutive home game, the Merrill Boys played Wisconsin Rapids on Thursday, Jan. 9, but this time they took the win.

"Tonight was a grind," Pieper said. "We came out and won the first four minutes like we always talk about. Like Tuesday, we wanted to set the tone early and we did that. We got up 19-2 to start the game. It felt like we were well on our way for a comfortable win, but I give credit to Rapids for not giving up and for chipping away and taking care of the ball and locking down on defense." At halftime, Merrill was up 27-22.

"The second half was much of the same," he said. "We got out to a nice 12-point lead and again, it felt like now we are ready to pull away and cruise, but again I give credit to Rapids, as they fought back and even took a 1-point lead at one point down the stretch. But the guys didn't flinch and continued to grind and fight and found a way to get a much-needed conference win."

"The Wisconsin Valley Conference is a very difficult conference and a deep conference this year," Pieper said. "Each night it's going to be a battle. You have to show up ready for a physical battle each night. No game will be easy, and tonight just proved that."

"After last year not winning a game in conference, it felt like it's been forever, so we needed to end that streak—

which was 16 straight losses in conference play. Our last win came against Rapids on Valentines Day 2023, so no matter how hard we made it or how much of a grind it was, we won't apologize for any conference win."

"It was another night with three guys scoring in double figures, and Tyson Ott (14 pts, 6 FG 2 FT, 2 reb, 1 ast, 4 stl) picked up where he left off against SPASH and was aggressive and led the way for us. He's starting to find his groove, and we are a better team when he's playing the way he did this week."

"Jacob Schmeltzer (12 pts, 4 FG, 4 3pt, 2 reb, 2 ast, 1 stl) really shot it well tonight from beyond the arc," Pieper said. "When his shot is on, it frees a lot up for the other guys. Tonight him hitting four three's for us was huge."

"EJ Weix (11 pts, 5 FG, 1 FT, 5 reb, 1 ast, 3 stl) was the other guy in double figures," he said. "He was very efficient. He was under control all night and a lot of times drew double teams when he drove or caught inside and did a great job finding the open guy. He played an all-around great game on both ends of the floor."

"It was a great week for the program," Pieper said. "We got better and really competed. We've been playing very well lately, as we've won five out of seven after an early-season three-game losing streak. I like the direction we are heading."

Box score
Wisconsin Rapids 49 @ Merrill 54

On Friday, Jan. 17, the Merrill Boys will play the Marshfield Boys with the home court advantage, and they're getting ready. "They are a favorite to go to State this year, so we'll have a great challenge Friday," Pieper said. "And then we turn around on Saturday and host Antigo for Hall of Fame Night, which is always a special night. It's a busy week, but I'm sure the guys will be ready for the challenge."

Merrill Basketball Program to celebrate Hall of Fame Night

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Three new members will be inducted into the Merrill Basketball Hall of Fame this Saturday evening, Jan. 18, 2025. The celebration will take place at halftime of the Merrill Girls Varsity Basketball Team game against Antigo which begins at 7:15 a.m. in the Merrill High School (MHS) Fieldhouse. New inductees include Jessica (VanDerGeest) Truax, Jeff Ott, and John Bezier.

"These three inductees have left a lasting legacy on the school's basketball programs and continue to serve as role models for athletes and fans alike," said Merrill Boys Varsity Basketball Team Head Coach Troy Pieper.

The Merrill Boys and Girls JV and JV2 Basketball Teams' games will all begin at 2 p.m. on

Saturday, with the Boys JV2 game being held at Prairie River Middle School and the Boys JV and Girls JV games being held at the MHS Fieldhouse.

The Merrill Boys Varsity Basketball Team will also play Antigo, with their game starting at 3:30 p.m. and the Girls Varsity game to follow.

Pieper invites Merrill Basketball fans to join the Merrill Basketball Program in celebrating the achievements of this year's Hall of Fame inductees and to "relive some of the best moments in school basketball history."

"Let's fill the stands and show our appreciation for these Hall of Fame inductees!" he said.

Following the games and Hall of Fame ceremony, "there will be a social get together at Eagles Club!" Pieper said. All are invited.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Kaela Clerveaux, a Junior at Merrill High School, has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of Jan. 16, 2025. Kaela plays post on the Merrill Girls Varsity Basketball Team, her third year on the team, and she plays on the Merrill Varsity Volleyball Team, this past season being her second year. She has also played Club Volleyball since seventh grade. In addition, Kaela trains and dances tap and hip hop at Brooke's School of Dance.

At school, Kaela is a member of the Junior Optimist Club, Raise Your Voice, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and her favorite subject is math.

Kaela said she likes to play Club Volleyball and travels a lot for tournaments, but in her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, shopping, playing board games, watching TV, going out to eat, or taking family road trips.

The daughter of Krista Mitchell of Merrill and Jackson Clerveaux of Georgia, Kaela has a 3.9 GPA and wants to attend a four year college after graduation, but is undecided about her major field of study and future career goals.



Kaela Clerveaux

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The EMU Bluejacks play Medford at the MARC. Joseph Frederick photos.

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EMU Bluejacks win four out of last six games, including two shutout games

BY TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

On Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, the EMU Bluejacks took on Wausau West in a conference game at Marathon Park and took a hard loss. Wausau West shut out the Bluejacks who remained scoreless throughout the game. Goalie Connor Burton made 41 saves, but 13 Wausau West goals slipped past him.

Box Score
Wausau West 13, EMU 0

On Sunday, Dec. 29, the EMU Bluejacks traveled to the Waupaca Expo Center and played a shutout non-conference game against Green Bay United. The Bluejacks scored three goals in the first period, one in the second, and another three in the third, all the while keeping Green Bay from making a single score.

Jackson Pierce scored the first goal with an assist from Kanin Jahnke and Zach Pagel. Other offensive players scoring one or more goals in the game were Brody Klebenow, Kanin Jahnke, Parker Klebenow, and Zach Pagel, with assists from Connor Zdroik, Nick Bodner, and one another. Goalie Chase Klebenow made 27 saves. It was one of the more aggressive games of the season thus far, with Green Bay getting seven penalties and EMU six.

“The standout player in this game was Senior goaltender Chase Klebenow,” said EMU Assistant Coach Greg Glovinski. “It was awesome to watch Chase earn his first Varsity shutout. Chase is a great leader on and off the ice and has an outstanding work ethic. We can always count on him on the back end to save us when things do not go our way.”

Box Score
EMU 7, Green Bay United 0

On Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, the EMU Bluejacks took on the Marshfield Tigers in a tight game. Neither team could land a goal the entire first period. But in the second, the Bluejacks were first to score. Zach Pagel made the goal with an assist from Jackson Pierce, followed by a Tigers goal to even up the score. But the Bluejacks pulled out ahead with a goal by Kanin Jahnke less than a minute into the third period, following it up with the final goal of the game, made by Zach Pagel with an assist from Jackson Pierce and Nick Bodner. Goalie Chase Klebenow made 17 saves in the game, allowing only 1 goal for the Tigers to slip by him.

Box Score
EMU 3, Marshfield 1

On Thursday, Jan. 9, the EMU Bluejacks played a conference game against DC Everest at Marathon Park and suffered a loss. Zach Pagel had things off to a good start with the first goal of the game in the first period, with an assist from Jackson Pierce and Brody Benedict, but it was the Bluejacks' only score of the game. DC Everest scored one goal in the first period, two in the second, and one in

the third, claiming the victory. Bluejacks goalie Chase Klebenow made 33 saves in the game.

Box Score
DC Everest 4, EMU 1

The EMU Bluejacks played a shutout game against the Medford Raiders on Friday, Jan. 10, in a non-conference game at the MARC. Everybody got in on the action from the Bluejacks side, racking up 12 points, while Medford remained scoreless. Liam Zdroik made the first goal with an assist from Zack Pagel right out of the gate, less than a minute into the game. After that, Ryker Remington, Nick Bodner, Liam Zdroik, Brody Klebenow, Parker Klebenow, Kanin Jahnke, and Will Mroczenski all made one or more goals with assists from one another. Goalie Connor Burton made 34 saves in the game and completely shutout Medford.

Box Score
EMU 12, Medford 0

On Saturday, Jan. 11, the EMU Bluejacks played a non-conference game against the South Central Navigators at the MARC. The Navigators scored the first two goals in the first period, but the Bluejacks got in on the action about 10 1/2 minutes into the game. Nick Bodner scored a goal with an assist from Zach Pagel, quickly followed by another Bluejacks goal fired into the net by Jackson Pierce with an assist from Kanin Jahnke and Zach Pagel, and before the end of the period, Jackson Pierce single-handedly scored a third goal, bringing the score to Bluejacks 3-Navigators 2.

In the second period, Zach Pagel scored the only goal. And in the third period, the Navigators scored their final goal of the game, but the Bluejacks fired back with another goal scored by Eric Grunenwald for a Bluejacks win. Goalie Connor Burton made 32 saves in the game.

Box Score
EMU 5, South Central 3

2025 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)			
Fri, Jan. 17	Marshfield (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Fri, Jan. 17	Marshfield (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Sat, Jan. 18	Antigo (JV & JV2)	Home	2:00 pm
Sat, Jan. 18	Antigo (Varsity)	Home	3:30 pm
Tues, Jan. 21	Rhineland (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Tues, Jan. 21	Rhineland (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)			
Fri, Jan. 17	Marshfield (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Fri, Jan. 17	Marshfield (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Sat, Jan. 18	Antigo (JV)	Home	2:00 pm
Sat, Jan. 18	Antigo (Varsity)	Home	5:00 pm
Tues, Jan. 21	Rhineland (JV)	Away	5:30 pm
Tues, Jan. 21	Rhineland (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs, Jan. 16	D. C. Everest (JV)	Home	6:30 pm
Thurs, Jan. 16	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Fri, Jan. 17	Saint Croix (Varsity)	Away	4:00 pm
Thurs, Jan. 23	Marshfield (JV)	Home	6:30 pm
Thurs, Jan. 23	Marshfield (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Girls Wrestling (Varsity)			
Thurs, Jan. 16	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Home	6:30 pm
Thurs, Jan. 23	Marshfield (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Boys Hockey (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs, Jan. 16	Stevens Point (JV & JV2)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs, Jan. 16	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Fri, Jan. 17	Multiple Schools (JV)	Home	5:30 pm
Sat, Jan. 18	Multiple Schools (JV)	Home	11:00 am
Sat, Jan. 18	Houghton (Varsity)	Home	2:30 am
Tues, Jan. 21	Pacelli (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Thurs, Jan. 23	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV & JV2)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs, Jan. 23	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Girls Hockey (Varsity & JV)			
Fri, Jan. 17	Beaver Dam (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Sat, Jan. 18	Cedarburg (JV)	Away	1:45 pm
Sat, Jan. 18	Cedarburg (Varsity)	Away	3:45 pm
Tues, Jan. 21	Medford (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm

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