

Two receive minor injuries in bus vs. SUV crash in Town of Merrill

Two people, including a student, received minor injuries in a school bus vs. SUV crash last week.

According to a release from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 7:27 a.m., the Lincoln County 911 Center received a report of the collision, which occurred on State Hwy. 17 near County Rd. G in the Town of Merrill.

The release said a school bus carrying children to school was northbound on State Hwy. 17 when the driver attempted to turn westbound onto County Rd. G. The bus was then struck by an SUV traveling southbound on State Hwy. 17.

One passenger from the SUV and one student from the bus were transported by Merrill ambulance with what appeared to be minor injuries, according to the release.

The bus driver told authorities he thought he had time to make the turn.

Both vehicles were rendered inoperable and removed from the scene by a Merrill-area wrecker service.

State Hwy. 17 was closed for a period of time to allow time for investigation and clean up.

No citations related to the incident had been issued as of last Tuesday.

Associated Bank Merrill wins Veterans Day Display Contest for third consecutive year



Photos of this year's award-winning Veterans Day display at Merrill Associated Bank, created by Denni Radloff and Corey Dornbrack. **Emily Gibson photo.**

The Merrill branch of Associated Bank won the Associated Bank companywide Veterans Day Display contest again this year and was able to donate \$250 to the local Merrill VFW Post 1638.

"Associated Bank runs a contest across all our branches for our Veterans Appreciation Event, said Emily Gibson, Associated Bank Merrill Branch Manager / Community Markets. "Branches are invited to decorate windows and create displays honoring our Veterans. The pictures are then compiled and voted on by Branch Banking Leadership. This year five branches won and were able to donate to our local VFWs."

"This is the third year in a row that the Merrill branch has been one of the winners for this event," she said.

"Denni [Radloff] and Corey [Dornbrack] take a lot of pride in setting up this display for us and even change it up every year for our customers and community members that stop in," Gibson said. "My team and I are super thankful to have a great partnership with them to help us in honoring all our Veterans, both in and outside of our community."



Merrill Associated Bank staff present a \$250 check to Merrill VFW Post 1638. L to R: Ryan Schwartzman, Corey Dornbrack (Merrill VFW Post 1638 Commander), River (Service Dog), Denni Radloff (Merrill VFW Post 1638 Auxiliary President), Emily Gibson, Jamie Peel, Silvia Carreto, and Missy Fisher. **Submitted photo.**

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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.

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Merrill Ice Drags



The Merrill Ice Drags kicked off their 2025 racing season with their "Test and Tune Day" on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025. **Joseph Frederick photos.**

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USDA and Wisconsin award \$23.2 million to projects that strengthen food supply chain infrastructure

Two area farms receive a combined total of nearly \$600,000 in funding

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced on Jan. 6, 2025, that it has partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to award \$23.2 million for 30 projects through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI). The 30 Infrastructure Grants announced then and the previously announced 41 Equipment Grants total 71 projects in Wisconsin funded through RFSI to build resilience across the middle of the supply chain while strengthening local and regional food systems.

"These Infrastructure Projects being funded through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program will build strength and resilience in Wisconsin's food system, diversify agricultural markets, create new revenue streams for small

and mid-sized producers, and provide economic opportunities for local communities," said USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt. "USDA is grateful for Wisconsin's support strengthening local and regional agricultural supply chains."

"Wisconsin's farmers, producers, and our agricultural industries are a critical part of our state's economic success and help make sure we're getting food to tables, grocery stores, and restaurants across our country and the world over," said Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers. "I'm incredibly grateful these investments will help strengthen our supply chains and bolster economic opportunity and resilience across our state."

In our area, two Infrastructure Grant projects were funded:

- Red Door Family Farm in Athens received a \$372,924 grant to construct a packing shed and cold storage facility to package and store their organically grown vegetables as well as those of 20 other farms. The purchase of a refrigerated truck will allow Red Door to transport produce from partner farms and distribute it to local and regional wholesalers, retailers, and food access organizations such as Feeding America and Marathon County Hunger Coalition.

- Cattail Organics in Athens received a \$193,789 grant to expand access to fresh produce in underserved areas in north central and northern Wisconsin for customer segments including schools, retail, and food aid organizations. Funds will be used to expand cold storage with the purchase of a set of two coolers that hook into their washing and packing shed; the purchase of a refrigerated box truck (expanding delivery capacity to longer distances and to allow cross docking for other producers); and creating safer loading areas for their farm vehicles, other farms, and entities like the Wisconsin Food Hub cooperative who pick up with semis or larger trucks. In addition, funds will support an ergonomics and safety training for their farm staff and other local farms for packing and loading produce in collaboration with Move Right Injury Prevention and Ergonomics this spring and expanded staff time for a manager of 5-10 hours/week helping coordinate new routes and

MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is **Emma Hoffman**
Daughter of **Cory and Kara Hoffman**

Emma is in the 3rd Grade at New Testament Church Christian Academy. She was nominated by Mrs. Nelmark.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
Science, because I'm learning about all kinds of animals. I love all animals.

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

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

Emma is very diligent in doing her work. She prides herself on everything she does. She loves to help others and her teachers. ~ Mrs. Nelmark

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Cenex brand celebrates local festivals and community pride With the Hometown Throwdown Giveback Program

Hometown Throwdown will continue the brand's tradition of giving back to communities by awarding \$150,000 to fund five local festivals.

On Jan. 7, 2025, Cenex, the energy brand of CHS Inc., announced their second annual Hometown Throwdown contest. The contest invites individuals and organizations to nominate their hometown festival by sharing what makes their celebrations unique. This year, Cenex will award a total of \$150,000 to five qualifying festivals, with the grand prize winner receiving \$100,000.

Launched in 2023, Hometown Throwdown draws inspiration from the brand's deep local roots and builds on its long

history of giving back to the communities it serves. With retail locations across 19 states, each store is locally operated by community members, embodying the brand's commitment to being a true part of the neighborhoods it calls home.

Last year more than 500 festivals were nominated, 3 festivals were selected as finalists and over 7,000 people voted for the grand prize winner. The Norborne Soybean Festival garnered the most votes and won the grand prize of \$100,000, while the other

two finalists—the Hayward Musky Festival and the Roseau Fall Harvest Festival—each received \$25,000.

"I've never seen my community come together with such heart and determination as they did for Hometown Throwdown," said Kyle Durham, volunteer with the Norborne Soybean Festival. "Norborne and Cenex share a deep-rooted passion for preserving and celebrating our community's spirit and history. Winning the prize wasn't just about the money—it was about

the pride we felt. We will use the funds to make the festival more inclusive and accessible for everyone by investing in permanent

See CENEX page 9

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Looking Past; Looking Forward

Dear Reader,

When the love of your life dies, the impact is profound and life-altering. The grief can feel as though it will never subside, and the absence of that person—your partner in all things—casts a shadow over even the smallest moments of your day. The process of losing them, from illness or sudden tragedy to the final goodbye, is one of life's greatest challenges.



can provide crucial support, but their lives will naturally continue, and you may find yourself needing to rebuild parts of your own. Consider joining a grief support group where others who've experienced similar losses can share their insights and struggles. Knowing you're not alone in your feelings can be deeply reassuring.

After the funeral is over, the loneliness often sets in deeply. Friends and family may surround you for a time, offering kindness and support, but eventually, their lives pull them back to their routines. And there you are, left to grapple with the silence.

Many who experience such a loss have shared how the grief feels inescapable. The memories you shared with your spouse linger everywhere—in your home, your daily habits, and even in the way you think about the world. The ache is particularly acute when something good or bad happens, and you instinctively want to share it with them.

There is no one-size-fits-all answer to coping with such loss. Each person's grief is unique, shaped by the depth of the relationship and the individual personality of the one left behind. However, here are some thoughts that may offer comfort and guidance as you navigate this painful journey.

First, take it one day at a time. It's simple advice, but it holds profound wisdom. In the early days, just getting out of bed and facing the world can feel like a monumental task. Allow yourself to move at your own pace. Don't rush the grieving process or feel pressured to "move on" too quickly. Healing is not linear, and it's okay to have days when the sorrow feels overwhelming.

It's important to lean on others—but

Though it feels impossible at first, try to slowly re-engage with the world. Take up an activity or explore something you've always been curious about. Join a class in art, writing, or history. Volunteer with an organization that aligns with your values. If you're physically able, activities like yoga, gardening, or walking in nature can offer both physical and emotional relief.

You may find some healing in honoring your loved one's memory. Create a ritual or space where you can remember and celebrate your spouse. It might be a small garden, a photo album, or even a weekly moment of reflection. This helps keep them present in your life in a way that feels healthy and comforting, rather than overwhelming.

But don't remain in a constant state of sorrow. Your loved one wouldn't want that. While they may no longer be physically by your side, their love and influence live on in you. Embracing life doesn't mean forgetting them; it means carrying their memory with you as you find joy again.

Take heart, dear reader. Though the journey of loss is painful, it's also a testament to the love you shared. Grief is a long and winding road, but it does not mean your own story is over. It's a new chapter—one you didn't ask for, but one in which you can still find meaning, connection, and even hope.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

OBITUARIES

Randall J. 'Randy' Braatz



Randall J. 'Randy' Braatz, 70, of Marathon, passed away Sunday, January 12, 2025, at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee.

Randy was born May 24, 1954, in Wausau, son of Emil Braatz Jr. and Verona (nee Hanke) Braatz. Randy graduated from Marathon High School in 1972. He married Cynthia 'Cindy' Pagel on September 2, 1988, at Faith Lutheran Church, Village of Maine, Marathon County. Randy worked at the Ford garage and also dairy farmed. He sold the dairy herd in 2001 and went to work in lawn equipment sales in Edgar. He worked for a few years at the Co-Op in Marathon and then worked at Marathon Cheese Corp. He retired on his 70th birthday after working there for seven years.

Randy was a longtime member of Faith Lutheran Church: he served as a Church Elder and was very involved in bible studies. He was also a member of the Pommerscher Verein of Central Wisconsin where he was on the Board and was a member of the dance group. Randy enjoyed staying active. He took walks every morning and once it got cold outside, he would ride his stationary bike. Randy also enjoyed playing Sheephead. After retiring, Randy built a raised garden and was looking forward to gardening this year. In earlier years, he was involved with the Jaycees, played church league baseball and dartball, and bowled. He adored his two little grandkids and they loved their 'Opa'.

Survivors include his wife, Cindy Braatz of Marathon; daughter, Ericka (Kyle Kretschmann) Braatz-Kretschmann of Evansville, WI; grandchildren, Felix and Lucy; siblings, Janelle 'Janie' (Thomas Bogren) Braatz of Rothschild, Carlene (David Daniels) Braatz of Rhineland, Joel (Cassie McLain) Braatz of Merrill, Lowell (Maureen) Braatz of Wausau, and Laurel (Timothy Feist) Braatz of Sturgeon Bay; brother-in-law, Don (Kathy) Schult of Wausau; and nieces and nephews, Donald Schult Jr. 'DJ'(Sara) of Merrill, John (Carla) Schult of Wausau, Sam Braatz of Mosinee, Hannah Braatz of St. Paul, MN, and Kelsey Daniels of Savage, MN. Randy was preceded in death by his parents, Emil Jr and Verona Braatz; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Clarence and Elaine Schult.

The funeral service for Randy was held at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, January 20, 2025, at Faith Lutheran Church, Village of Maine. Rev. Donald Love officiated. Burial took place in Faith Lutheran Church Cemetery - West, Town of Scott, Lincoln County. Visitation was held from 3:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Sunday, January 19, 2025 and after 9:00 A.M. Monday, January 20, 2025, all at the church.

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

Peggy Jo-Ann Monti



Peggy Jo-Ann Monti, age 82, of Gleason, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Sunday, January 12, 2025. She was born on October 29, 1942 to the late Theodore "Ted" Anthony and Irene (Myska) Leder in Gleason. Peggy graduated from high school and was united in marriage to Jerome Monti on June 23, 1963 in Bloomville at St. John The Baptist Catholic Church.

Peggy enjoyed being a homemaker and raise her children. She had a love for her Lord and Savior Jesus, and she loved singing in the choir and helping with the food, baskets and carnivals. She was caring and embedded in this community. Peggy prayed for those who had a need or just because she was led to be a prayer warrior. She was involved in prayer meetings and traveled on charismatic renewal retreats. Peggy had a deep love for her family and was a caring person. She raised her children to be strong and independent with a foundation and belief in God. Peggy looked forward to having dinner with her sisters, and praying for her brothers. She enjoyed baking and made pies and desserts for nephews, nieces and church functions. Peggy also liked to be able to teach what she had learned. She loved being out planting in her garden and watching the cardinals, as she felt peace and closeness with God there, and her gardens flourished with her prayers. For 82 years, she was loved and gave back that love with her time, prayers and talents - THANK YOU, MOM, WE LOVE YOU!

Peggy is survived by her husband: Jerome "Jerry" Monti of Gleason, daughters: Dolores (Jim) Haizel of Withee, Angela (Randy Gilray) Monti of Wausau and Rena (Gary) Reissmann of Gleason, son: Tony (Colleen) Monti of Omaha, NE, her beloved grandchildren: Ashley (Thomas) Austin, Chris Frick, Bryant Frick (Miranda Monnot), Austin (Cassandra) Reissmann and Autumn Reissmann, great grandchildren: Michael Monnot, Ivory Frick, Harper Reissmann and Isaac Austin. She is further survived by her brothers: Ron Leder of Merrill, Ted (Nancy) Leder Jr. "Louie" of Gleason, Matt (Kim) Leder of Merrill and Tim Leder of Eugene, OR, sisters: Dolores O'Donnell of Port St. Lucie, FL, Josie (Mark) Ollhoff of Wausau, Kris (Perry) Block of Merrill and Jane Helm of Wausau, brother-in-law: Richard "Dick" (Judy) Monti of Mayville and sister-in-law: Susie, along with numerous nieces, nephews, good friends, and last, but not least, her fur-baby "Poofie". She was preceded in death by her parents, brother: Mike Leder, sister-in-law: Gloria Leder and brother-in-law: John O'Donnell.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Peggy was held on Friday, January 17, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at the St. John The Baptist Catholic Church in Bloomville. Father Maria Vallabhaneni officiated. Visitation was held on Friday, January 17, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of Mass, also at the church. Burial at the St. John Cemetery immediately followed Mass. Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation of Merrill is assisting the family. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com.

Betty Jane Krause



Betty Jane Krause, age 94, of Merrill, passed away on Sunday, January 12, 2025, at Bell Tower residence, while surrounded by her loving family 24 hours a day while on her 10-day journey home to God. She was under the care of Interim Hospice. She was born on March 31, 1930 to the late Edmund and Lillian (Berndt) Kleinschmidt in the town of Corning. Betty attended Trinity Lutheran School and was baptized, confirmed and married at Trinity Lutheran Church. She met and married the love of her life, Norbert Krause, on July 3, 1954. Sadly, he passed away on June 27, 2002. She provided loving care for Norbert for years as he progressed through Parkinson's Disease until he needed more physical care than she could provide.

Betty was a homemaker and a farm wife. She worked hard on the farm and raised their 2 children. Family was a very important part of her life and she would enjoy the time spent with them. She was the oldest of her family and would always organize the family Christmas party and lead everyone in Christmas carols. Betty had an incredibly strong faith and was faithful with reading her Bible. She was always "OK" and never complained. Betty's smile could light up a room and everyone who met her said what a sweet lady she was. She loved organizing and having her rummage sales every year, and had many repeat customers that would look forward to her sale. She loved visiting with them just like they were family. Her children would be asked "when is your mom having her rummage sale?" When she was baking, her apple bars and jello salad were her specialty. She loved spoiling her 3 grandchildren by making them each their own favorite breakfast. Betty loved having the great grandkids over after school and playing cards with them. Of course, she would always let them win and she would have their favorite snacks on hand. Betty was a skilled seamstress and made many gifts for family and for donations. She also enjoyed crocheting. You could find Betty and her friends out and about on a Friday night, trying all of the area fish fry! She took such pride in keeping her lawn perfect and sweeping off her sidewalk or chopping ice and her house was always spotless and super organized. She was a caretaker for her mother-in-law Ruth for several years after she was wheelchair bound after having a stroke. Betty was a member at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, the Homemakers Club, ladies aid and was a Sunday School teacher. Betty looked forward to listening to polkas and Swap Shop on the radio. She will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Betty is survived by her son: Daniel (Becky) Krause, daughter: Sally (Mark) Woller, sister: Joy (Al) Hulke, all of Merrill, grandchildren: Melissa (Chad) Wesbrock, Stephannie (Seth) Pajdash, all of Merrill and Eric (Jami) Krause of Mosinee, great grandchildren: Brady Haynes (girlfriend, Sidney), Connor Haynes (girlfriend, Emma), Emma Pajdash, Olivia Pajdash, Grayson, Benton and Bianca Krause and Macy Wesbrock. She is further survived by many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband: Norbert, sister: Phyllis (Jim) Rahlf and brothers: Jimmy (LuEllen), Jack (Dawn) and Leroy Kleinschmidt.

The funeral service for Betty was held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ in Merrill. Rev. Mike Southcombe officiated. Visitation was held on Thursday, January 16, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service, also at the church. Burial will take place at a later date at Merrill Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, family requests that donations in Betty's name be made to St. Stephen's United Church of Christ or the Lincoln County Humane Society.

Family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful and caring nursing staff at the Aspirus Merrill Hospital, Bell Tower residence and to Interim Hospice.

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.

John D. Thiel



John D. Thiel, 88, formerly of Merrill, died on January 4, 2025, in Stuart, Florida.

John was born in Fond du lac, WI, to Roy and Dottie Thiel. He went to high school in Fond du lac, and graduated from UW Madison Law School. He served in the Army National Guard.

John spent his career as an attorney in private practice in Merrill. He also spent 10 years as the Merrill City Attorney.

John loved hunting, fishing, and tropical vacations which often included scuba diving.

John married Deborah (Goetter) Thiel and she survives. He is further survived by his children: John Thiel Jr, Michael Thiel, and Kristen (John) Schefdore, all of Merrill, as well as his beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His siblings Roy Thiel of Bayfield, Gretchen Rieser of Waupaca, and Mary Thiel of Stuart, FL, as well as numerous nieces and nephews survive as well.

A private family gathering is planned for the future to celebrate his life.

Gerald "Jerry" R. Voigt



Gerald "Jerry" R. Voigt, 80, passed away peacefully Monday, January 13, 2025, at his home.

He was born February 29, 1944, in Wausau, son of the late Edward and Minnie (Luedtke) Voigt. On October 11, 1969, he married Geraldine Borchardt at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hamburg and they were happily married for 55 years.

For over 25 years Jerry worked as a window clerk at the Post Office. He could tell

you any zip code in Wisconsin and was the go-to for finding the addresses of classmates to plan class reunions. He was involved with the 4-H program for over 50 years, raising and showing rabbits and was very proud of winning the prestigious C.J. McAleavy Award. Jerry enjoyed flower gardening, especially gladiolas and made floral bouquets and corsages for his children's weddings and formals. His yard was one you stopped to admire when passing by. He was an avid Badgers sports fan, enjoyed trips to the casino, Diet Sundrop, and playing Farkle.

Survivors include his wife, Geraldine, Hamburg; children, Heidi (Debbie) Voigt, Phoenix, Arizona, Shane (Lesley) Voigt, Waunakee and Haley (Greg) Ellenbecker, Merrill; grandchildren, Fletcher, Mackenzie, Natalie and Paige; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his father and mother-in-law, Gerald and Irene Borchardt, siblings, Evelyn (Lester) Krueger, Elmer (Elaine) Voigt, Irene (Walter) Krueger, Sheldon (Dorothy) Voigt and James (Arlene) Voigt.

Funeral service was 11:00 a.m. Friday, January 17, 2025, at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hamburg. Rev. Philip Bogen officiated. Burial was in the Hamburg Cemetery. Visitation was 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 16, 2025, at Peterson/Kraemer Funeral Home, 3400 Stewart Ave., Wausau and again on Friday from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hamburg.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.petersonkraemer.com

Dale C. Woller



Dale C. Woller, 63, of Merrill, passed away Saturday, January 11, 2025, at his home.

Dale was born October 2, 1961, in Merrill, son of Robert Woller Sr. and Mae (Iwen) Woller. He married Bonnie Robinette on May 14, 2004. She survives. Dale had worked at Hurd Millwork for many years. At that time, he also worked for City Transfer moving company. After retiring, he continued to work at City Transfer.

Dale enjoyed open water fishing, ice fishing, deer hunting, and cruising around the country roads in his truck. He enjoyed watching Wisconsin sports especially the Green Bay Packers. In younger years, he enjoyed shooting pool.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie Woller; children, Monica Toppi of Merrill, Dustin (Tori) Woller of Wausau, and Cory (Angie) Woller of Merrill; grandchildren, Jasmine Toppi, Christopher Klempke, and Adaline Woller; step grandchildren, Dante Hendrickson and Nevaeh Hendrickson; great granddaughter, Miracle Toppi; and siblings, Geno (Bonnie) Woller, Pat (Yvonne) Woller, Tim (Tammy) Woller, Joyce Grob, Tammy Woller, and Mark Woller all of Merrill; sister-in-law, Mary Woller of Gleason.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Sr. and Mae Woller; brother, Robert Woller Jr.; and brother-in-law, Robert Grob.

Per Dale's wishes, no services will be held. Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com

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

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www.merrillfotonews.com

OBITUARIES

Darwin D. Berndt



Darwin D. Berndt, age 77, passed away on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at the Aspirus Hospice House in Wausau, with his family by his side and while under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. He was born on August 25, 1947 to the late Frank and Helen (Nienow) Berndt in Merrill. Darwin attended and graduated from Merrill High School. He then bravely enlisted in the United States Army, and proudly served his country from 1965-1968, which included serving in Korea in 1966. Darwin married Doreen Gaeu (Wendt) on January 1, 2018, in Merrill. She survives.

Darwin worked as a heavy machinery operator with Local 139 for most of his adult life. After retirement, he enjoyed going golfing, deer hunting, watching baseball, playing cards and making maple syrup with family. Darwin also enjoyed his "happy hours" with his daughter, Denise. Later in life, he collected heavy machinery toys and was a master of puzzles! Darwin loved listening to polkas and was a member of the Copper River Midnight Riders Snowmobile Club. He was a member at Immanuel Lutheran Church in the town of Corning and the Corning Volunteer Fire Department. Darwin is remembered as a fun-loving and sensitive man with a huge heart, and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Darwin is survived by his wife: Doreen Gaeu of Merrill, son: Dave (Patti) Berndt of Merrill, daughters: Denise (Greg) Brandenburg of Merrill, Debbie Berndt of Eau Claire, WI and Lana (James) Wendt of Merrill, grandchildren: Meranda (Eric) Wilke, Dimitri Alft (girlfriend, Stephanie), Devan (Janessa) Berndt, Alex Brandenburg (girlfriend, Kim), Dylan Alft (girlfriend, Sheena), Ali Berndt, Christian Koller, Branden Brandenburg (girlfriend, Kellen), Sophie Wendt, Lawson Wendt and Jaxlyn Wendt, 4 great grandchildren, step-children: Terry (Jill) Gaeu and Connie Fryman (friend, Rob McSwain), brother: Dean (Sherry) Berndt, sister: Darlene (Doug) Gering and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, first wife: Diann and second wife: Vickie.

The funeral service for Darwin will be held on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, in the town of Corning. Pastor Joel Danner will officiate. Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Taylor-Stine-Waid 903 East 3rd Street location, and again on Monday, February 3, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service, at the church. Burial in the church cemetery will immediately follow the service. Military honors will be conducted by the Merrill VFW Post 1638 at the cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, family requests that donations in Darwin's name be directed to the Aspirus Hospice House.

The family wishes to extend sincere gratitude to the staff at the Aspirus Hospice House and for making his "mansion" feel as close to home as possible during his last days.

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.

Helen M Hanns



Helen M Hanns, of Merrill, WI, passed away peacefully under hospice care at Pine Crest Nursing home in Merrill on Friday, January 10, 2025. Helen was born on February 15, 1948, in Phillips, WI, the daughter of Vince and Helen Foytik.

She graduated from Phillips High School in 1966. She married Dennis Stanke on September 17, 1966 and they had two children, Sandee Bindl and Robert Stanke. Helen and Dennis divorced in 1990.

Helen was then in a long-term relationship with Richard (Dick) Hanns, and they moved to Merrill in 1995. Helen and Richard were married on October 8, 2016.

Helen was a lover of horses, raising Appaloosa's for over 50 years. She was actively involved in local horse clubs over the years, including the Medford Rough Riders and Merrill Riders. She was a long-time member of the Appaloosa Horse Club. Helen enjoyed trail riding with Dick on her favorite horse, Tipper and their trusty dog, Duke following along. She also enjoyed Country music and line-dancing with Dick. Helen loved all animals including watching the wildlife out her front window. She had names for the wild turkey's that came to her bird feeders and for the pair of Eagles that flew over the farm.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother: Donald Foytik. She is survived by her husband, Richard (Dick) Hanns; children, Sandee (Jeff) Bindl of Loganville, WI and Robert (Christine) Stanke of Phillips, WI; sisters, Carol Lapp and Susan Nordall, both of Phillips, WI; four grandchildren, Dustin (Wilma) Stanke of Athens, WI, Dylan (Jaunita) Stanke of Phillips, Jacob and Brett Bindl, both of Loganville, WI; and four great grandchildren.

Per Helen's wishes, no service will be scheduled. Cremation will take place followed by an inurnment at a later date at Nola Cemetery in Park Falls, WI followed by a Celebration of Life in Phillips, WI in the Spring.

The family would like to thank Interim Hospice and Palliative Care of Wausau, as well as Pine Crest Special Care Unit for their kind and compassionate care.

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.

Garilyn R. 'Gari' Eder



Garilyn R. 'Gari' Eder, 68, of Merrill, passed away Friday January 17, 2025, at Marshfield Medical Center - Marshfield.

Gari was born August 28, 1956, in Houston, TX, daughter of Rev. James and Grace (Olson) Pulham. After graduation, she attended school at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical Institute and received an associates degree in administration assistance. She married Daniel Eder on September 13, 1975,

in Glidden, WI. He survives. Gari was a homemaker and also worked as a paraprofessional at a school.

Gari was a great cook and for 20 summers, she worked as a head cook at Assembly Park Bible Camp. She also enjoyed crafting especially sewing, knitting, and crocheting. She loved showing support to others in making prayer blankets, Boo Boo Bears, and Memory Bears.

Survivors include her husband, Daniel Eder of Merrill; children Jenny Eder and Matt (Christine) Eder, of Merrill; granddaughter, Amelia Eder; sister, Georgene 'George' (Larry) Erickson of Mellen; father-in-law, Russell 'Ted' Eder of Glidden; sisters-in-law, Christine Pulham of Athens and Julie Eder of Merrill; and brothers-in-law, Ken (Diane) Eder and Dennis Eder of Glidden. Gari was preceded in death by her parents, Rev. James and Grace Pulham; sister, Enelle Eder; brother, James Pulham Sr.; and mothers-in-law, Ruth Eder and Charlotte Eder.

The memorial service for Gari will be held at 3:00 P.M., Saturday, January 25, 2025, at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation - 301 Eagle Dr., Merrill. Pastor Jeff Weiss and Pastor Brian Whitaker will officiate. The family will receive friends beginning at 1:00 P.M. at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com

Elaine Marie Marnholtz



Elaine Marie Marnholtz (73) passed away with family by her side on January 15th, 2025 after a short battle with cancer. Born July 31st, 1951, Elaine grew up in Wonewoc, WI. She graduated from Wonewoc High School in 1969. Elaine was employed at Mitchell Metal Products for 26 years, and retired in 2013. Elaine married her high school sweetheart, Steven Johnson with whom she had her four children. After her husband Steven passed away (October 14, 1980), Elaine moved to Tomahawk WI. She met her second love, Brian Marnholtz, New Year's Eve 1983 and they were married on November 3rd 1984 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill WI.

Always the life of the party, Elaine and Brian started a karaoke business called Mystic Fever Karaoke and brought so many people together. They spent much of their time camping up north in Hayward WI with their pets. Here, they met many lifelong friends. When Brian took the fishing boat out, Elaine was always in back snapping pictures of sunsets and wildlife and listening for loons. She loved to watch the snow fall and "crunch around". If you knew her you know what that means. Anyone who knew Elaine knew what a treasure she was. Simply, she was sweet and she was funny. She loved to laugh and make people laugh. She invented her own goofy language with her siblings and passed it along to her children and grandchildren. She danced and sang through life, and loved to the fullest. She loved to read, do puzzles and loved to listen to Classic Country. She also loved to cook and bake. She made the best chocolate cake. She loved to play cards with her in-laws. Elaine sang in a band and also enjoyed playing the bass guitar. She had the great honor of meeting her idol, Loretta Lynn. Above all, Elaine loved her family. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren were her greatest treasures. She and Brian loved to travel to watch them at their various sporting events and hated to miss an opportunity to cheer them on.

Elaine was preceded in death by her parents Esther Short (Conway) and Harvey Short, her first husband Steven Johnson, and siblings Jim, Bob, Bud, Maggie, Lester, Elna, Tom, Roy, Alice, Harry, Delores. She is survived by her husband, of 40 years, Brian, siblings Mary Dominguez, Judy Steenblock, Harvey Short, Warren Short, Roger Short. She also leaves behind sons Steven Johnson Jr. (Shelly), Andrew Johnson, and daughters Ann Johnson-Lambert (Aaron), and Amy Johnson (Eric), 10 grandchildren Steven, Khrystyna, Nikki, Lucas, Colton, Schae, John, Austin, Hunter and Dawson, 14 great grandchildren, many in laws, cousins, nieces and nephews, whom she dearly loved.

The family would like to thank, family friend, Stacy Weinberger-Jach for helping make her transition as comfortable as possible and Elaine's Sister In-Law, Kelly Martello, for everything she has done for the family. We would also like to thank Compass Hospice Care.

A Celebration of Life will be held May 17, 2025, from 11am to 4pm at the Agra Pavilion in Merrill, WI. 404 S. Park St Merrill, WI 54452 Donations can be made in Elaine's honor to: Lincoln County Humane Society 310 N Memorial Dr Merrill WI 54452 Cards and well wishes may be sent to 1901 W. Main St Merrill, WI 54452

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.

Russell J. Ryan



Russell J. Ryan, of Gleason, passed away unexpectedly on January 15, 2025, age 67, at a local hospital with family by his side.

Russell was born on October 6, 1957, to Patrick J. and Helen M. (Abitz) Ryan. He was the oldest of six siblings. The family moved to Gleason in 1970. Russ graduated from Merrill High School in 1976. He was an active outdoors person; small game hunting, fishing, bear/deer hunting and training dogs. Russ also

enjoyed trapping. For many years, he went mule deer hunting in Colorado with other family members.

Russ was active in many organizations. He held lifetime memberships with Wisconsin Trappers Association (Received a plaque in 2000), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, North American Hunting Club, Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, and the N.R.A. He was also a member of Lincoln County Sports Club, Parrish Highlanders, and Harrison Hills ATV clubs. He participated in the Langlade County Fair Tractor Pulls winning a trophy in 2014 for 3rd Place in the Old Timers Class 5000 lbs. Russ enjoyed going to local events such as Gleason Lions Heritage Days Antique Show.

Russ was employed by Baginski Farms in Antigo working in the Potato Industry. After 45 years with the company, he retired in 2021. Russ also worked in farming. He enjoyed working the land at his brother's farm and planting his own food plots for the wildlife.

Russ was independent and did things his own way. He always was willing to help others in need. Anyone who made fried green tomatoes, green tomato pie, and/or holiday white sugar cookies had a friend for life.

Survivors include three brothers, Robert Ryan, Ronald Ryan and Randy Ryan all of Gleason; two sisters, Shirley Ryan of Gleason and Sara Ament (Neal Thieme) of Merrill; three nephews; four nieces; and he was a great-uncle to three nephews. Russ was preceded in death by his parents and many aunts and uncles.

The funeral service for Russ will be held at 11:00 A.M., Saturday, February 1, 2025, at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation, 301 Eagle Drive, Merrill. Rev. Greg Laska will officiate. Visitation will be held on Friday, January 31, 2025 from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. and after 9:00 A.M. Saturday, February 1, 2025 all at 301 Eagle Drive, Merrill.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the family for a memorial yet to be determined.

Fly high, big brother. Love you, rest in peace.

Everything is going to be okay. Maybe not today, but eventually it will. Hold fast to your hope and never stop believing. All things happen in God's perfect time. Amen

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com

USDA from page 2

partnerships, they said.

This awarded funding is part of the \$420 million available through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant program to build capacity within the middle of the supply chain and support local and regional

producers. It is funded by President Biden's American Rescue Plan. Through this program, AMS has entered into cooperative agreements with state agencies, commissions, or departments responsible for agriculture, commercial food processing, seafood, or food system and distribution activities or commerce activities in states or U.S. territories.

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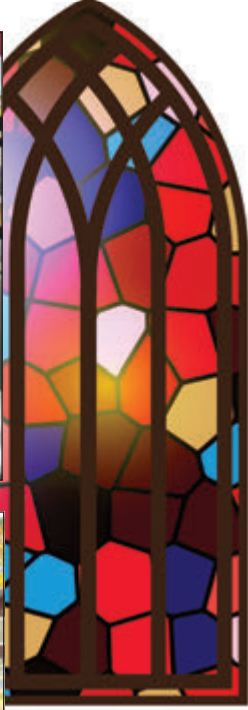
NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Owners of Lots, Niches or Crypts at Merrill Memorial Park Inc., will be held at the cemetery office at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2025 for the transaction of any and all business that may properly come before the meeting.

Merrill Memorial Park, Inc
Robert Schneider (Secretary)



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: *Celebrating being United in Faith and Community*



BY MARGARET DELP, JULIA FLEISCHMAN, EMMETT JOHNSON, ABIGAIL RELL, AND DAVEN SAEGER
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL 8TH GRADERS

“Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community” is the theme of National Catholic Schools Week at St. Francis Xavier (SFX) Catholic School in Merrill, Jan. 26 thru Feb. 1, with students spreading their love of Jesus and service to the community. The kids will have many opportunities to dress up and show their personalities. It will be a time of bonding and togetherness while doing faith-filled activities.

These include singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet and praying a rosary while walking through the school and parish office. Cards

to all parents and parishioners will be written and sent out by students and teachers thanking them for all their help and support. Students will also be spending most of their time with church buddies. One activity will be a snowman building competition. This is weather dependent, but is a perfect opportunity to spend time with kids of different ages and spend time with one another.

“We spend time with our church buddies to learn how to work with someone who is not on our level, and we get to work together with that person to complete the project,” said Mrs. Homan, 4th and 5th grade teacher.

Adoration and Mass with church buddies are main events during St. Francis’s special week. These two activities play big parts in their school community. Teachers and students come together in prayer and spend time with the Lord.

“During adoration, we’re supposed to be meditating on the mercy of Christ and what it does for us as a group. It sets everybody’s heart and mind at the same time. It allows you to kind of have a communal prayer, a time of reflection, and it’s not

Photos courtesy of St. Francis Xavier Catholic School.

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very common that you get a bunch of people in the same room thinking the same thing, taking the opportunity to reflect on the mercy of God. It gives everybody a chance to be on the same plane for a little while and maybe figure out some of the same things," Mr. Bialecki said.

"Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate our Catholic identity. We work hard throughout the year, so Catholic Schools Week gives us a time to play and celebrate together as a school," said Mrs. Shimel, SFX principal. "Every day our students repeat our school's tagline: service, faith, excellence. Throughout the year, we've done numerous service projects already. We visit Pine Crest weekly to pray with the residents, we've collected items for the victims of the North Carolina hurricanes, and we've collected Christmas gifts for the residents at Pine Crest. During Catholic Schools Week, we always choose a foundation to serve. This year, we'll be making and sending valentines to veterans that live in veteran living facilities throughout Wisconsin."

The kids are also going to be able to dress up as different things for each day of the week. On Monday, the kids are celebrating USA Day. Neon Day is on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the kids are going to be dressing up as different sports players or sports teams. Thursday is Dress Up For Jesus Day. Then on Friday, the kids are going to have a Topsy Turvy Day. They can wear crazy socks, crazy hats, and there will be classroom swaps and teacher swaps. The students are looking forward to doing all these fun activities.

"Catholic schools teach faith in every aspect of education, which helps develop students physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Through our Catholic faith, we learn values, thrive on academic excellence, and learn about our community and ways we can serve others," Mrs. Shimel said.

We asked an SFX student, "In your perspective, what are the benefits of having a Catholic education?"

"Better education and you have the benefits of being able to go to church and confession. You're able to have good friends because they are closer to Jesus. You're able to grow closer to Jesus through the education you have and your friends," said Owen Peterson, a student in sixth grade.

There will be an Open House Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, from 4-6 p.m. The public is invited to come meet the teachers, see the school, and get registration materials for next year. Future preschool and 4K families are highly encouraged to attend, as these classes fill up quickly. The 4th and 5th graders' Saint Wax Museum will also be taking place during this time. Everyone is welcome.

Catholic Schools Week will be a time to celebrate and grow students' relationships with Jesus and as a school. The week will end with a family glow dance.



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Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

- Jan. 25** - Annual Merrill School Forest Family Fun Day
- Jan. 25** - Merrill Ice Drags
- Jan. 29** - Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Co.
- Feb. 1** - Rotary Uncorked 2025 at Les & Jim's
- Feb. 1** - Underdown Snowshoe Adventure
- Feb. 1** - Gleason Ice Racing
- Feb. 1** - Merrill Ice Drags
- Feb. 1** - Ultimate Ice Racing at Merrill Fairgrounds
- Feb. 1** - Puzzles & Pints at Sawmill Brewing Co.
- Feb. 1** - Ice Cream for Breakfast Day at Cosmo Hall



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

Underdown snowshoe adventure set for Feb. 1

The Northwoods Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance will host a guided snowshoe hike in the Underdown area of the Lincoln County Forest on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, starting at 10 a.m. Participants should plan to meet at the Underdown Recreation Area parking lot on Copper Lake Rd.

Organizers invite everyone to "Come and enjoy the wonderful

landscape created by the Great Wisconsin Glacier about 10,000 years ago. A UW geology and geophysics professor described the Underdown as a 'world class hummocky feature' of glacial topography. In simpler terms, the area has swamps, lakes, bogs, and hills abundantly."

The trail is well marked and packed, and hikers can choose between distances of one to four hours depending on their ability, experience, and endurance. The trail is "moderately difficult." Attendees should plan to bring their own snowshoes, drink, and weather appropriate clothing. If there isn't enough snow for snowshoes, the event will become a hike instead. In that case, attendees may want to bring cleats, organizers said.

"Hot cider, hot chocolate, cookies, and a blazing fire will await hikers after their adventure. There is no

charge for this event, however, any donations to the chapter will be gratefully accepted."

For more information, contact Ruby Jaecks at 715.551.1118 or brjaecks@outlook.com.

Directions to reach the Underdown Recreation Area parking lot

From Merrill: Take Hwy. 51 to K north of Merrill, K right to H, H right to Copper Lake Rd., right on Copper Lake Rd. to Underdown parking lot.

From Tomahawk: Take Hwy. 51 South to Cty. Rd. J at Irma, left on J to H, right on H to Copper Lake Rd., left on Copper Lake Rd. to Underdown parking lot.

From Rhinelander: Take Hwy. 17 South to Hwy. J at Bloomville, go right on J to Copper Lake Rd., turn left on Copper Lake Rd. to Underdown parking lot.

Follow the Ice Age Trail signs.

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 Time: 6 - 9 PM

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 Uncorked

Enjoy a selection of wine and, craft beer from Sawmill Brewing Company, and heavy appetizers.
 Music provided by pianist and solo artist **Amanda Anderson.**

Raffle prizes, games, wine pull, and your entry ticket will give you a chance to win a door prize!
 Please contact Karen with any questions at kdkarow@gmail.com

Theme: Red, Black, & White
 Proceeds will go to the **St. John's Daycare Expansion Project!**

Yes! I/We would love to attend. Enclosed is my reservation:
 Name(s): _____
 Mail/Email Address: _____
 Total Enclosed: _____

Make Checks Payable to: Rotary Club of Merrill
 Mail Prepaid Reservations to: Rotary Club of Merrill, PO Box 101, Merrill, WI 54452

Women's Luncheon
 Saturday, February 8th
 11:00am - 1:00pm

Tickets \$20 sold in advance only!

Motivational Speaker:

Jennifer Malinowski is part of the worship team at New Testament Church. She received her bachelor degree in Theology from Vision Christian Bible College and has been in the full time ministry for 26 years. She has a heart for worship and a passion for uplifting and encouraging women in their walk with the Lord.

Jennifer Malinowski

• Limited Seats Available
 • Ages: 12 & Up

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 N2519 County Road K, Merrill, WI 54452

Tickets sold at:
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 (715) 536-8554
 Face book Page:
 Hearts United Women's Ministry

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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
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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
City of Merrill
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Published January 16 & 23, 2025
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 14, 2025
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Phyllis Louise Monka
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2025 IN 03
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 12/27/2024, and date of death 12/27/2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1806 W. Jackson Street, 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.
Stephanie Springborn
N2395 Gen Drive
Merrill, WI 54452
715-218-8496
Published 1/23/25, 1/30/25 & 2/6/25
WNAXLP

BY THE COURT
DATE SIGNED: January 15, 2025
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Darwin Barndt
DOD: 01/11/2025
Notice Setting Time to Hear
Application and Deadline for Filing
Claims (Informal Administration)
Case No. 2025-IN-04
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 08/25/1947, and date of death 01/11/2025, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W5371 Park Ave, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E Main St, Merrill, Wisconsin, 2nd Floor, before Becky Byer, Probate Registrar, on February 27, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 2, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main St, Merrill, Wisconsin, 2nd Floor.
6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0342 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.
W. Erich Scherr
1029 E. Main St, Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-8371 Bar Number 1031423.
Published 1/23/25, 1/30/25 & 2/6/25
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BY THE COURT
DATE SIGNED: January 16, 2025
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Dale C. Woller
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2025 IN 06
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 10/02/61 and date of death 01/11/25, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 405 N Prospect St.
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.
Tori Smith (Woller)
416 N 6th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401
715-571-8499
Published 1/23/25, 1/30/25 & 2/6/25
WNAXLP

BY THE COURT
DATE SIGNED: January 17, 2025
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Gregory Keith Cegielski
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2025 IN 07
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 3/23/1973 and date of death 1/09/2025, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W8447 HWY 64, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 2, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
Rory Cegielski
325 Central Ave., Medford WI 54451
715-560-5434
Published 1/23/25, 1/30/25 & 2/6/25
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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: 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

Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
December 18, 2024 - Minutes
The meeting was called to order by Blake at 5:30 PM in the Board Room. Board members present: Ashbeck, De Rizzo, Hornischer, Gremler, Liberty, Proulx, Smith, and Blake. Board member absent: Woller. Others present: Superintendent Murray, MAPS Administrators, Student Representatives Black and Wagenaar, twelve people from the staff and public, and Recorder Woller.
MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Ashbeck, second by De Rizzo to approve the MAPS 4K Contract for 2025-2026. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Liberty, second by Gremler to approve the 2024-2025 PRSYL School Readiness Goals. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Proulx, second by Hornischer to approve the BVA Governance Board enrollment limit recommendation for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the MHS course description

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book for 2025-2026 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Hornischer to approve the purchase of the Massy Ferguson tractor from Fund 46. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the revised 2024-2025 Organizational Chart. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Proulx, second by De Rizzo to approve the donation of funds from Merrill Lions Club valued at \$4,000 for helping to support the Kate Goodrich, Washington, PRMS and MHS Nest programs. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve consent agenda items a through d, which includes minutes of the November 20, 2024 meeting; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,197,261.01; donations totaling \$3,425.00; and, the attached personnel report, contingent upon release of contract for hirings and upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable. Motion carried with Proulx and Smith abstaining from the November 20, 2024 minutes.
Blake called for a MOTION to adjourn into executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under Section 19.85(1)(c). The purpose of the closed session is to discuss administrators' and supervisors' evaluations; and, to conduct the Superintendent's regularly scheduled summative evaluation. Motion by Proulx, second by Hornischer to adjourn into closed session carried unanimously on a roll call vote.
MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Proulx to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.
Respectfully submitted,
Ron Liberty
Board Clerk
RL/tlw
(The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin.)
Published January 23, 2025
WNAXLP

Merrill Area Public Schools
Special Board of Education Meeting
January 7, 2025 - Minutes
The meeting was called to order by Blake at 5:30 p.m. in the Board room. Board members present: Ashbeck, Blake, DeRizzo, Gremler, Liberty, Smith and Woller. Board members absent: Hornischer and Proulx. Others present: Superintendent Murray, Director of SPED/Pupil Services Haluska, and Recorder Fuchs.
Blake announced an executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under Sections 19.85(1) (a); (f) except where par. (b) applies; and, 118.125. The purpose of the closed session was to conduct one (1) student expulsion hearing, deliberate, and act regarding the same. President Blake asked for a contemplated motion to go into closed session. MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck. Motion carried on a roll call vote.
MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to adjourn at 5:56 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Ron Liberty
Board Clerk
RL/saf
(The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin.)
Published January 23, 2025
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The January 14th, 2025 Council Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting. The minutes are available for viewing on the bulletin board outside the City Clerk's Office and on the City of Merrill website. Complete Ordinances are available on the City of Merrill website:
<https://www.ci.merrill.wi.us/>
Published January 23, 2025
WNAXLP

Z-Best Storage, W4717 White Birch Rd, Merrill WI 54452 will hold a Public Sale Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Preview at 9:50 a.m. on the day of sale. Bidding is on the complete contents of storage unit #50 rented by James Bowman of Merrill WI. Includes: furniture, household, patio chairs, grill & accessories, misc. Contact 715-536-0649 on Friday, Feb 14th to confirm sale will proceed as scheduled.
Published January 23, 2025
WNAXLP

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CENEX from page 3

structures that will continue the legacy of our festival for generations to come.”

This year, Hometown Throwdown has expanded to award and recognize five festivals. The grand prize winner will receive \$100,000, the runner-up will take home \$20,000, third place will be awarded \$15,000, fourth place will receive \$10,000 and the fifth-place winner will take home \$5,000.

The entry period for the competition starts Jan. 7 and runs through Feb. 7, 2025. Individuals and organizations can enter through the Hometown Throwdown online entry form. Once the entry period has closed, five finalists will be announced on May 1, and voting will be open May 1 through May 31. The grand-prize winner and four runners-up will be picked after voting closes in accordance with the rules and will be announced on June 17.

“The Cenex brand is proud to give back to the communities we call home, and there’s no better way to celebrate than by embracing the pride and joy people feel for their local festivals,” said Erin Wroge, Senior Director of Energy Marketing,

Cenex. “Hometown Throwdown is a way of honoring the spirit and traditions that make each community unique.”

To be eligible, festivals must be run by a local chamber of commerce, municipality, downtown commission, community-oriented non-profit group, or other similar organization. Festivals must take place in the following states: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Additional information about Hometown Throwdown, including entry requirements and restrictions, can be found at CenexHometownThrowdown.com.

To learn more about the ways the Cenex brand gives back to local communities, follow them on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube or visit cenex.com.

Cenex, the energy brand of CHS Inc., provides high-quality refined fuels through nearly 1,400 locally owned convenience store locations across 19 states. Consumers depend on Cenex fuels, lubricants, propane and renewable energy products to power homes, businesses and communities.

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/>).

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❖ PART 3 OF A SERIES ❖

Part 3: City of Merrill property taxes explained

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

This article is part 3, the final installment in 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.

Four jurisdictions on one bill recapped

As mentioned in part 2 of this series, the Real Estate Property Bill City of Merrill residents receive reflects tax levy assessments from four different jurisdictions: 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 for the coming year; then subtracts from that any other sources of income available to them (such as state or federal aid, grants, shared revenue, etc.); and the remainder is what becomes their tax levy amount, an amount which is restricted by State laws to a maximum percentage of increase; and this is used to set their tax (or mill) rate.

Clarifying examples

One astute reader pointed out there was a flaw in the example I used in part 2 of this series, explaining how a property reassessment alone can result in higher property taxes. He's right. My example kind of mixed apples and oranges.

My original example said: 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.

It should have said simply: After reassessment: IF 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. That would be correct. The tax rate remaining consistent, multiplied by a new higher property value, will result in said increase in taxes.

However, to the reader's point, my original example said: 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. In that case, if the taxing entity did not need to raise any additional amount for an increased budget, the tax rate would actually decrease (not remain the same as I originally stated) to .8%. And in that case, even though a property that was previously valued at \$200,000 might now be valued at \$250,000, the property owner would still only pay \$2,000 in taxes (the same as the previous year) because,

even though his property value went up, the overall tax rate went down.

So that would be the scenario in the case of increased values due to reassessment where the tax levy amount stayed the same, bringing the tax levy percentage down.

So let's recap to clarify with a couple more examples.

Let's say a property's assessed value doubles, like some properties that were previously valued on the low end in the City of Merrill did this past year. If a property was previously valued at \$50,000 and it doubled to \$100,000 in assessed value, but the tax rate stayed the same, and for the sake of simplicity, let's stick with that 1%, then a property valued at \$50,000 x a 1% tax rate would have had a \$500 tax bill previously, and with the new assessed value having doubled to \$100,000, the tax bill would increase to \$1,000 (\$100,000 x 1%). That is, all things being equal.

However, if the tax rate decreases, because the entire tax values of a municipality did not double—only some of those on the lower end of the spectrum—so the tax rate would go down to generate the same overall tax levy for the budget, and let's go with that same .8% again to keep things simple, then the amount of the new year's tax bill would be \$100,000 x .8% or \$800. So the taxes would increase (because of the increased value) but not in direct proportion to the increase in value. In other words, the taxes wouldn't double, even though the assessed value of the property doubled.

City of Merrill 2024 tax levy

Moving on to the specifics of our local taxes, the City of Merrill increased their overall annual budget for 2025 by just 2.1%, the maximum allowed amount, from \$5,849,296 in 2024 to \$ 5,972,666 for 2025. "The City of Merrill Held the levy at 2.1% which is below the average increase of inflation," said Merrill Mayor Steve Hass. This allowed for a 2.5% increase for City of Merrill employees, which is still below the cost of inflation, he said, but did provide City employees with some relief.

However, after factoring in adjustments for the Tax Incremental Districts and the increase in the assessed values of all properties within the City of Merrill, based on the recent reassessments, the overall City of Merrill mill rate actually went down, from 16.78% in 2023 to 10.06% for 2024. That's because the total assessed value of properties within the City of Merrill increased from \$423,537,330 in 2023 to \$683,425,200 in 2024, an increase of nearly \$260,000,000.

Factoring in the rates for the other taxing jurisdictions (Lincoln County, MAPS, and NTC), the total levy taken against residents within the City of Merrill actually decreased from 7.7% in 2023 to 0.8% in 2024.

Median home values in Merrill increased with reassessment

Prior to the reassessment, "the median home value in Merrill was \$80,000," said Emily Ley, Finance Director for the City of Merrill, "and it is now [with the reassessment] \$150,000." The increase in value was significant due to the housing shortage. "That's an 87.5% increase in the value [of

the property], and it was an 11% percent increase for the median home value that [the taxes] went up," she said. So even though home values increased significantly, taxes did not increase by the same rate.

Rather, the reassessment to set the assessed values of properties much closer to the fair market value means that now property owners are "paying their fair share," said City Administrator Rod Akey. "The reevaluation tries to make everything equal," he said. It is more equitable to all property owners.

What does all of that mean?

In a nutshell, this means taxes increased for properties where assessed values increased from 2023 to 2024. But for properties where the values were already close to fair market value in 2023, so their assessed value remained the same upon reassessment in 2024, those properties' real estate taxes actually went down.

Consider this: A property already with an assessed value of \$150,000 within the City of Merrill in 2023 would have paid \$4,866.09 in net tax (prior to any lottery credit or first dollar credit). Let's say that assessed value was spot on because the home was purchased in 2023 for \$150,000, so it didn't change in value due to the 2024 reassessment. That same property with an assessed value of \$150,000 in 2024 would now pay \$2,873.64 in real estate taxes.

Their tax bill would have decreased significantly this year because all properties (based on the reassessment) were paying their equitable share of the tax burden.

A property with an assessed value of \$80,000 in 2023 (which was the median home value prior to this reassessment) would have paid \$2,595.25 in net tax (prior to any lottery credit or first dollar credit), but now with a reassessed value of \$150,000 (which is the new median home value) in 2024, that same property would pay \$2,873.64 in real estate taxes. So the home's value increased 87.5%, but their property tax obligation only increased 11.2%.

Last year, the first homeowner was paying more than his fair share of property taxes, but now that properties were reassessed, each property owner's share of the tax burden has been reset to level the playing field again, so to speak.

We sincerely hope that this series has helped better explain how property taxes are calculated and why property taxes may have changed this year. If not, additional resources are available. For links to public information or to learn more about taxation and assessment (DOR's 2024 Guide for Property Owners); your property assessment, tax bills, and payment history (Lincoln County Land Records); or City of Merrill tax rates compared to other Lincoln County municipalities (Lincoln County Mill Rates), go to: ci.merrill.wi.us/taxcollection. For questions on your property's assessed value or to learn how to dispute that assessed value, contact Kitt Kostki at 715.577.1875. For questions about the City of Merrill annual budget or this year's tax levy amount, contact City of Merrill Finance Director Emily Ley at 715.536.5594.

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Varsity Boys Hoops: After two losses, Boys secure victory to close the week

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, the Merrill Varsity Boys Basketball Team traveled to DC Everest to play a challenging game that ultimately resulted in a Bluejay loss.

"It was another night where we showed we can play with the top-tier bigger teams," said Merrill Boys Varsity Basketball Head Coach Troy Pieper. "Everest is a very good team, and we had our chances tonight, and probably should have pulled this one out if we executed a little better at times in the second half, but credit Everest for executing better at the end and making their free throws."

"We talk all the time about the four 4's—the first and last 4 minutes of each half," he said. "We lost three of the four tonight. We started down 9-0, and we didn't rebound well and gave too many second chances down the stretch of the first half that put us in a double digit deficit at the half."

"We fought back though and didn't let up and took the lead in the second half," Pieper said. "I couldn't be prouder of the guys for not giving up. Other years when playing at Everest and they get up double figures, it would snowball into a worse deficit, but the guys did their job of not flinching and won the second half but just didn't win it by enough."

"I thought Tyson Ott was really impressive tonight," he said. "He was aggressive all night and really looked confident out there all night. He was also playing with a little stomach bug so it's even more impressive when you add that element to the night."

Box Score
Merrill 51 @ DC Everest 59

On Friday, Jan. 17, the Merrill Boys played a home game against Marshfield and suffered a second loss.

"Marshfield is one of the best in the state of Wisconsin for a reason," Pieper said. "They are just a well-oiled machine, and we came out a little flat and off tonight, and when you do that against a team like Marshfield, it's going to be a rough night."

"I thought Cooper Wendorf gave some really good minutes," he said. "He looked confident and aggressive on both ends of the floor and took care of the ball really well against a very good defensive team."

"The only thing about humble losses like this," Pieper said, "Is thankfully



Kory Page has determination written all over his face as he heads for the hoop. **Joseph Frederick photo.**

we get to play the next night to get the taste out of our mouth."

Box Score
Marshfield 73 @ Merrill 34

On Saturday, Jan. 18, the Merrill Boys did exactly that, playing a victorious home game against the Antigo Red Robins for Merrill's Hall of Fame Night.

"You never know how you will respond playing back-to-back games," Pieper said. "And especially coming off of a loss like the night before, but the guys responded well and came out and set the tone early and often. Our defensive energy was back after not quite having it Friday. I was very happy how everyone flew around tonight."

"It was probably our best night efficiently on offense as well," he said. "We really did a great job of making the extra pass and taking great shots all night. At times this year we take shots way too early in the possession, but tonight we really did a nice job of moving the ball and getting the defense moving and getting great shots both against their man defense and their 1-3-1 defense."

"We had four guys finish in double figures, and two finish with 8 and 9 points," Pieper said. "It was a well-balanced attack tonight. I liked seeing Kory Page get going again; he's been the focus of other defenses lately and it's frustrated him a little, but tonight he was patient, stayed out of foul trouble, and had a very nice controlled aggressiveness. He can score in so many ways; when he's playing like he did tonight and creating

opportunities for everyone, we are a very dangerous team."

"I thought Aidan Houghton might have had his best game of his career," he said. "And when you look at the box score, you will only see three points and only four shots taken, but he was locked in all night on both ends. He was attacking the boards and showing his athleticism all night. He finished with 10 rebounds, 4 of them offensive boards which is like adding 4 more possessions for us, and he was everywhere on defense, had a highlight block of a 3-point shot, and he was making the extra pass and creating for his teammates adding 4 assists. He just was everywhere tonight. It's not all about scoring and doesn't always show in the box score, but we are at our best when we are doing all the little things, and I thought Aidan showcased that tonight."

Box Score
Antigo 57 @ Merrill 77

EMU Bluejacks shutout by SPASH, rebound with victory over Houghton

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Jan. 16, 2025, the EMU Bluejacks traveled to play SPASH in a conference game and got completely shutout, taking a tough loss. Goalie Chase Klebenow had a rough night, as play dominated on his end, making a whopping 45 saves but permitting 12 SPASH goals to get through.

Box Score
SPASH 12, EMU 0

On Jan. 18, the EMU Bluejacks played Houghton in a non-conference game at the MARC. Houghton claimed the first two goals in the first period with the Bluejacks scoring one and trying to catch up. Brody Klebenow made the goal for the Bluejacks with an assist by Liam Zdroik.

But in the second period, the

Bluejacks turned the game around, scoring two more goals to take the lead. First Connor Zdroik put one in the net with an assist from Brody Klebenow, and then Zach Pagel and Jackson Pierce teamed up to make a second score.

In the third period, the Pierce/Pagel team quickly scored another goal within less than a minute of play, followed by a Pagel/Pierce score close to 11 minutes in. Houghton scored another as the visitors tried to catch up. But the Bluejacks' Brody Klebenow finished things off with an assist from Connor Zdroik to make a sixth score for the Bluejacks, and the Bluejacks claimed the game's victory with a solid three-point lead.

Goalie Connor Burton made 23 saves.

Box Score
EMU 6, Houghton 3

2024-2025 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)			
Fri, Jan. 24	Wausau West (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Fri, Jan. 24	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Tues, Jan. 28	Wausau East (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Tues, Jan. 28	Wausau East (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)			
Fri, Jan. 24	Wausau West (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Fri, Jan. 24	Wausau West (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Tues, Jan. 28	Wausau East (JV & JV2)	Away	4:30 pm
Tues, Jan. 28	Wausau East (Varsity)	Away	6:00 pm
Thurs, Jan. 30	Granton (JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs, Jan. 23	Marshfield (JV)	Home	6:30 pm
Thurs, Jan. 23	Marshfield (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Sat, Jan. 25	Whitnall (Varsity)	Away	8:00 am
Sat, Jan. 25	Bay Port (JV)	Away	8:00 am
Thurs, Jan. 30	Wausau West (JV)	Home	6:30 pm
Thurs, Jan. 30	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Girls Wrestling (Varsity)			
Thurs, Jan. 23	Marshfield (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Thurs, Jan. 30	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	6:30 pm
Boys Hockey (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs, Jan. 23	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV & JV2)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs, Jan. 23	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Fri, Jan. 24	Langlade (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Sat, Jan. 25	Cedarburg (Varsity)	Home	12:00 pm
Sat, Jan. 25	Cedarburg (JV)	Home	2:00 pm
Girls Hockey (Varsity & JV)			
Tues, Jan. 28	Stevens Point (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Tues, Jan. 28	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm



The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Jacob Schmeltzer, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of Jan. 23, 2025. Jacob is a guard on the Merrill Boys Varsity Basketball Team. He started on the fifth grade Merrill Traveling Team, then played for Prairie River Middle School, and then the Merrill JV Basketball Team as a Freshman before moving up to Varsity. Jacob also plays on the Varsity Football Team and the Merrill Varsity Golf Team.

In his free time, Jacob said he likes to golf and hang out with his friends. He also enjoys swimming with friends at Council Grounds, watching sports, or playing basketball with friends at Riverside. He also enjoys family get-togethers with his large family.

The son of Tracy and Chris Schmeltzer of Merrill, Jacob will graduate this spring. Jacob plans to attend Madison Area Technical College beginning in the fall. He has not yet decided on his major or a specific career goal.



Jacob Schmeltzer

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