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Weinbrenner Shoe Company named finalist for Manufacturer of the Year

BY TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR



Weinbrenner Shoe Company, headquartered in Merrill, has been named a finalist in the Large Manufacturer Category (250-499 employees) for the 36th Annual Manufacturer of the Year (MOTY) Awards. This statewide recognition highlights the company's contributions to Wisconsin's manufacturing industry. Weinbrenner, known for its Thorogood® brand work and safety boots, has been a key employer and producer of high-quality footwear in Merrill for decades. "We're honored to be recognized," a company representative said. "This reflects the hard work of our employees and

See SHOE page 3

Suspected grass/brush fire determined to be camper fire



BY TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

On Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, just before 3 p.m., the Merrill Fire Department (MFD) and Merrill DNR Ranger were dispatched to a possible grass or brush fire due to the report of black smoke coming from a field north of Tri-Hi Transportation on Hwy. 107 northwest of Merrill in the Town of Merrill. According to a press release from the MFD, Brush-66, Enigne-61, and Med-61 responded immediately but quickly determined it was not a grass or brush fire, but "a large camper that was burning and was already mostly consumed by fire."



The Merrill Fire Department and DNR were called to a suspected grass/brush fire which turned out to be a camper in a lightly wooded area. Photos courtesy of Merrill Fire Department.

"Brush-66 was used to fight the fire," the release said. "The fire was extinguished efficiently despite the frigid cold weather." "With assistance from Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and the local DNR warden, it was determined that the resident of the camper was not

home," the MFD release said. "When the owner returned, he said he had just stoked the wood furnace prior to leaving. There were no injuries and the camper was a total loss. The official

cause of the fire is undetermined, but likely attributed to the wood furnace. The owner/occupant was put up for the night at the AmericInn through the Merrill Firefighters' Charities."

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A&L Committee selects broker for Pine Crest sale

People for Pine Crest to present alternative options at Feb. 1 town hall meeting

BY TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

On Jan. 8, 2025, the Lincoln County Administrative & Legislative (A&L) Committee adjourned into closed session to evaluate the broker proposals received to select a broker to represent the County to facilitate the sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home. All members of the A&L Committee were present at the meeting including Chair Jesse Boyd, Greg Hartwig, Lori Anderson-Malm, Angela Cummings, Marguerite Lyskawa, Ken Wickham, and Julie DePasse.



Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill. Tina L. Scott photo.

Afterward, the meeting reconvened into open session to take action on the items discussed in closed session. Julie DePasse made a motion and Ken Wickham seconded a motion "to award the brokerage contract of Pine Crest Nursing Home to Marcus & Millichap as the committee

believes it is the most advantageous and to further authorize the Administrative Coordinator, Corporation Counsel,

and Board Chairman to negotiate the contract terms." The motion carried

See PINE page 2



Members of the Corning All Stars 4-H Club recently made a donation to the Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS) which included animal food and cat litter. Some members of the club are shown here with Samantha from LCHS (back row, far right). **Submitted photo.**



Pictured with the ceremonial check, from L to R: Alan Ogilvie, Church Mutual President and CEO; Dee Olsen, Executive Director of Merrill Area United Way; and Leah Burbach, Church Mutual Campaign Chair. **Submitted photo.**

Church Mutual raises more than \$187,000 for United Way

Church Mutual held its annual United Way campaign in September to raise funds for area nonprofits. Employee pledges plus matching funds from CM CARES, the Church Mutual foundation, equaled a \$161,088 contribution to the Merrill Area United Way (MAUW). The donations will benefit United Way affiliate organizations that support those in need in the Merrill community. Church Mutual employees pledged an additional \$26,186 to nonprofits that are not affiliated with MAUW, bringing the total amount raised to more than \$187,274. Since 2000, Church Mutual and its employees have contributed more than \$2.6 million to Merrill Area United Way.

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Patrick J. Wood
 Publisher
 publisher@mmlocal.com

Tim Schreiber
 General Manager
 tschreiber@mmlocal.com

Rachel Crockett
 Graphic Designer

Tina L. Scott
 Editor
 tscott@mmlocal.com

Jennifer Gartmann
 Sales Consultant
 jgartmann@mmlocal.com

Heidi Schult
 Front Office Manager/CSR

Heidi Griebel
 Customer Service Representative

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

Mailing Address:
 Foto News
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 Merrill, WI 54452
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PINE from page 2

on a voice vote. The Lincoln County Board had previously passed a resolution granting the A&L Committee the authority to select the broker for this purpose.

Marcus & Millichap is the same broker that helped facilitate the offer to sell Pine Crest which the buyer terminated on June 28, 2024, in response to a lawsuit filed to stop the sale by Lincoln County Board Supervisor Donald Dunphy. That sale had been set to close June 30, 2024, and had then been postponed to Sept. 30, 2024, but did not take place.

People for Pine Crest says there are options

People for Pine Crest, the local grassroots organization that formed in 2023 in opposition to the sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home, has scheduled a town hall style meeting to be held on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the Merrill Expo Center (Merrill Fairgrounds), 303 N. Sales St. in Merrill. "The meeting is open to the public and all concerned Citizens of Lincoln County are encouraged to attend," they said in a Jan. 25 press release.

"People for Pine Crest has been involved in a lot of research, reaching out to many resources to find a solution to keeping Pine Crest owned by Lincoln County and securing a 5-star rated facility to remain for our aging population," the release said. "A majority of Lincoln County Board Members have no interest in keeping Pine Crest County owned, citing affordability. The People for Pinecrest beg to differ."

"The town hall meeting will have a wealth of information from State agencies as well as other presenters, showing that there are options to keep and maintain our beloved facility," the release said.



State Constitutional Amendment on Voter ID heads to the ballot box

Rep. Callahan and Senator Felzkowski support Voter ID

On Jan. 14, 2025, the State Assembly convened to approve Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 2, which would enshrine the state's photo ID law for voting into the Wisconsin State Constitution. Rep. Calvin Callahan (R-Tomahawk), who represents the 35th Assembly District, voted to support SJR 2.

"Election Integrity remains a priority of mine this session," said Rep. Callahan. "Ensuring that each voter who comes to the polls is who they claim to be is a common-sense measure to secure our elections."

The resolution already passed the State Senate on Jan. 8, 2025. Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma), who represents the 12th Senate District, also voted in favor of the resolution.

The matter will now go to voters as a statewide referendum on April 1, 2025. The ballot question will ask:

"Photographic identification for voting. Shall section 1m of article III of the constitution be created to require

that voters present valid photographic identification verifying their identity in order to vote in any election, subject to exception which may be established by law?"

Wisconsin law currently requires photo ID for voting, but adding this requirement to the constitution would make it more permanent. Changing or removing the requirement in the future would require another statewide referendum.

Rep. Callahan emphasized that approving the amendment would not eliminate current exceptions to voter ID requirements, nor would it prevent the legislature from creating additional exceptions in the future. Voters without valid ID on Election Day would still be allowed to cast provisional ballots, as they can under current law.

"Approving this amendment in our April 2025 Election will help to cement the security of our electoral process," Callahan said.

It would ensure that voter ID laws remain in place unless voters choose to change them through another referendum, he said.

The amendment must now be approved by voters on the April 1, 2025, ballot to become part of the Wisconsin Constitution.

Underdown Free Trail Pass Weekend is Feb. 1-2

The Lincoln County Forestry Department will host their annual Underdown Free Trail Pass Weekend on Feb. 1 and 2, 2025. Visitors to the Lincoln County Underdown Recreation Area are free to use the cross country skiing, fat tire biking, and snowshoe trails for free on these

two days. Please note that snow levels are low and ski trails have not been groomed yet as of this writing. For up-to-date Lincoln County trail conditions, log on to co.lincoln.wi.us or call the Trail Hotline at 715.539.1033.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

On Aging and Invisibility

Dear Reader,

As we age, we begin to relinquish the power and foundation we spent a lifetime building. The network of friends, family, and community that once anchored us starts to loosen. The lives we touched, and that touched us, continue on—but often without us in the same role. In the fourth quarter of life, we find ourselves gradually diminished, both in presence and influence.



While aging can bring invisibility, it can also bring clarity. Freed from the need to prove ourselves or chase accolades, we can rediscover what truly matters. We can focus on what is eternal—love, kindness, and wisdom—sharing it in ways that go beyond words.

Invisibility is also a kind of freedom. It gives us the space to observe, reflect, and create without the distractions of

being in the spotlight. We can use this time to mentor others, pass on our stories, and nurture relationships that bring depth rather than breadth to our lives. Our wisdom, experience, and quiet presence can still be a source of strength and guidance for those who choose to notice.

Retirement marks a turning point. Once the initial transition settles, the mutual accord of separation sets in—we are no longer integral to the rhythm of daily work. We search for ways to fill our days, to occupy time, and to maintain purpose.

Yet as life plods on, our involvement begins to wane. At family gatherings, meals, or community events, our voices may not carry the same weight. Fewer people ask for our thoughts or lean in to listen. The slow fade of relevance takes hold. And then one day, it happens. You walk into a room—crowded or quiet—and feel unseen. You have become invisible.

But this need not be the end of the story.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

SHOE

from page 3

our dedication to quality." The MOTY program, hosted by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) and other sponsors, honors manufacturers for innovation, philanthropy, and job creation. Winners will be announced during a black-tie event on Feb. 20, 2025, at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. For more information, visit wimoty.com.

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Starting **February 1st through the 16th**, there will be trail work done on the Prairie River Fishery Area from Dajis Drive to R&H Road. The dog sled race that uses this portion of the trail will be held on **February 15-16, 2025.** Thank you.

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THE PEOPLE FOR PINE CREST

is hosting a public Town Hall forum
"Our Pine Crest, Our County, our Future"

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Merrill Expo Center | 303 N. Sales Street
Moderated By: Dorothy Skye - League of Women Voter's

Learn the newest information about the impact of Lincoln County's unnecessary sale of the Pine Crest Nursing Home to a private operator and what it means to you and our community.

Hear from a representative of the WI Department of Health. Get involved. Remember your voice matters by **ATTENDING** the Town Hall Forum February 1st.

Did You Know?

The Merrill Foto News website contains even more stories and photos that don't fit into our print edition.

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OBITUARIES

Bernice C. Schulz



Bernice C. Schulz, 78, of Merrill, passed away Sunday, January 26, 2025, at her home. Bernice was born August 19, 1946, in Merrill, daughter of Lawrence and Hertha (Hinz) Schult. Her father really wanted a son, so he oftentimes called Bernice, 'Stanley'.

Bernice graduated from Wausau High School. She was introduced to Ralph Schulz through his sister, Elaine. Bernice and Ralph were married on June 19, 1965, in the Town of Scott, Lincoln County. Bernice worked in housekeeping at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill for over thirty years. Prior to that, she worked at Fromm Farms, Tiny Tot, Seeger's Dairy, and drove bus.

Bernice was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. She enjoyed fishing and camping, canning, tending to her flower gardens, and feeding and watching the birds. She really enjoyed animals of all kind. Bernice loved her grandchildren and spending time with them.

Survivors include her husband, Ralph Schulz of Merrill; children, Christine Brown and Gary (Vicki) Schulz both of Merrill; grandchildren, Haley (Daleth) Jacobsen and Zachary T. Brown both of Merrill; and her in-laws, Elaine Hoff, Dorothy Hagedorn and Ruth Buck all of Merrill, Barbara Turner of Florida, and Jerome Schulz of New London. Bernice was preceded in death by her parents, Lawrence and Hertha Schult; an infant son; sister, Dorothea (Lawrence) Baneck; and brothers-in-law, Donald Hoff, Milton Hagedorn, Lloyd Buck, and Arthur Turner.

The funeral service for Bernice will be held at 11:00 A.M. Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. Rev. David Szeto will officiate. Burial will take place in Snow Hill Cemetery, Town of Scott. The visitation will be held from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation - 903 E. Third St., Merrill, and after 10:00 A.M. Wednesday at the church.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com

Shirley Olkives



Shirley Olkives, 87, passed away on January 24, 2025, peacefully under Compassus Hospice Care.

She was born on March 24, 1937 daughter to Arther and Elfried Lambrecht Porath.

Shirley married Clifford Sabatke on September 26, 1953, at Zion Lutheran in Merrill, they were married for 56 years. He preceded her in death on February 4, 2010.

She then married Allen Olkives on May 16, 2013. He preceded her in death on January 2, 2024.

Shirley worked at Tiny Tot, Hanson Glove, and Anson and Gilkey.

She got her GED, then enrolled in Wisconsin College of Beauty School and graduated in May 1975. After graduation, she started at Baimans Beauty Wausau for 1 year. Then she moved to Lidya Beauty Salon in Merrill, until she opened her own shop. In 1981, she opened Fashion Fair in her home, where she did hair until well into her seventy's. She would also go and do hair at Taylor Stine Funeral home and Waid Funeral home, whenever they called. Along with doing hair, she watched one or more of the grandchildren or great grandchildren. She would ask if they would like to come with her to the funeral home, but most of them turned their nose up; but she had one that loved to tag along.

Before they put up the garage in the back yard, they had a good side garden. They canned most of what was grown. Shirley had the best rhubarb plants and made bars with it, unless one or more the children had pulled the rhubarb to eat with sugar. Making homemade quilts was a passion of hers, if she wasn't giving them as gifts, she was making some for the veterans at King. She loved to go fishing and would take the grandkids and great grandkids. Even if no one caught any fish, she would sit out and fish for hours. She loved playing cards. Rummy, Zumba Kings Corner and many others with the brothers, sisters and significant others. She loved to go to the casino with her sisters and brothers-in-law. She loved to go to the Brewers games with the family. Shirley was an avid Packers fan. She enjoyed going up to North Forest Campground and camp by her brother Ronald along with family members. She loved to travel with family and friends. She was an avid lifetime member the Ladies VFW Auxiliary 1638. She was the secretary for more years than we can count. Shirley was also the President of the Ladies Auxiliary 1638 in 1996, and District President in 1997. Shirley and Clifford also spent many years doing the Buddy Poppy for the VFW. She was on the Auxiliary bowling league for many years, going to the state bowling tournaments. She was a member of the Ladies Eagles Auxiliary 584.

Shirley is survived by 3 children, Keith Sabatke, Wausau, Yvonne (Pat) Woller Merrill, LuAnn Steger, Gleason. Grandchildren, Shawn (Sarah) Sabatke Jacob Sabatke Jason (Jammie) Woller, Nicole (Pete Berna) Woller, Amy Woller, Michele Steger, Sara Steger, Rebecca Liss, Nicole Kelch and TJ Liss. 17 great grandchildren and 7 great great grandchildren, with another due in May.

Shirley is further survived by her brother, Robert (Bernice) Porath and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husbands, Clifford and Allen, son Dwight, son in law, Steve Steger; daughter in law, Sue Sabatke; siblings Otto (Selma) Porath; Lavilla (Albert) Steckling; Grace (Arnold) Raddatz; Lorraine (Victor) Raddatz; Charlotte (Roman) Labarge; Ronald (Phyllis and Veronica) Porath and Melvin (Pat) Porath and Pearl (Leslie) Sabatke.

Services will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025, at 11:00 am at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Pastor Scott Gustafson will officiate. The service will be live streamed for those unable to attend in person. Visitation will be held at the church from 9:00 am until time of service. Friends may call Friday, February 7, 2025, from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral Home (formerly Waid Funeral Home), 301 Eagle Drive. Burial will follow at Maple Grove Cemetery.

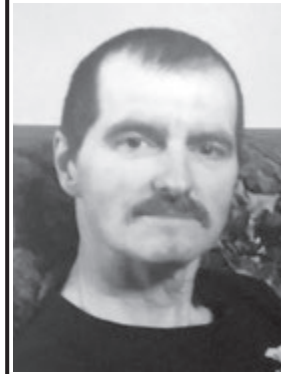
In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations in Shirley memory be directed to Trinity Lutheran Church Radio broadcast or to Bell Tower Residence.

A special thank you to the nursing staff at Bell Tower for their compassion and excellent care that they had provided to Shirley and our family.

A special thank you also to Compassus Hospice for the care they gave Shirley in her final days.

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

Patrick "Pat" John Beyer



Patrick "Pat" John Beyer, age 56, of Gleason, passed away at home with his family surrounding him, under the care of his niece, Gera, and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services on Friday, January 24, 2025

He was born on August 20, 1968 to his father, the late Ronald Fox Beyer and his mother, Constance Kathleen (Burgener) Fischer. Pat attended Merrill High School and graduated with the Class of 1986. He married his high school sweetheart, Laura Boquist on May 15, 1993.

Through the years, Pat was a computer programmer for the sheet metal industry. He was employed by Metal Industries, Skaar Construction, Merrill Manufacturing, Merrill Tool & Water Jet and Forefront Mechanical. He was previously working for Tweet Garot and doing work for Merrill Millwork through his new business, Beyer Mechanical. Pat also helped his daughter run LS Forestry Equipment & Food Plot Seeds.

Pat will be deeply missed by his family and many friends.

Pat enjoyed talking, being outdoors, including field work, fishing, but most of all, hunting. He loved taking his children with him. Pat took young kids on youth turkey hunts and on any outdoor adventure they wanted through Kippenburg Creek Kids. He was planning on taking his grandson turkey hunting this Spring and donating his bear tag to him in the Fall.

Pat is survived by his wife of 31 years, Laura; daughter, Tricia (Doug) Evans of Gleason; son, Travis (Skylar Herdt) Beyer of Merrill; four grandchildren, Tyson, Violet, Robert and Lilyann Evans; mother and step-father, Constance "Connie" and LeRoy Fischer of Merrill; mother-in-law, Rose Boquist of Gleason; siblings, Cheryl "Sherry" Henrich of Weston, Larry (Lorri) Beyer of Wolf Point, MT, and Mike (Denise) Beyer of Gleason; brothers-in-law, Sigmund Podgorski of Wausau, Aaron (Krissey) Boquist of Gleason and Carl (Ranee Lott) Boquist of Deerbrook; along with many nieces and nephews. Pat was preceded in death by his father, Ronald Beyer; maternal grandparents, Herman and Violet Burgener; paternal grandparents, William and Jessie Beyer; sister, Nancy Podgorski; nephew, Michael Zuelsdorff; father-in-law, Robert Boquist; and brother-in-law, Lucas Boquist.

The funeral service for Pat will be held on 11:00 A.M. Friday, January 31, 2025 at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Gleason. Rev. Greg Laska will officiate. The family will receive friends beginning at 9:00 A.M. Friday at church. Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com

The family would like to thank Gera Zuelsdorff for taking care of her uncle, Pat, the last few weeks. Your care and kindness will never be forgotten.

Shannon H. Barden



Shannon H. Barden, age 48, of Merrill, WI, passed away on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff, WI. Shannon was born in Merrill, WI, on May 13, 1976, to Frederick and Sherry (Benson) Barden. He was married to Christine Uttecht on October 2, 2004; she survives.

Shannon was a 1994 graduate of the Merrill High School. He was a talented chef who worked primarily in Wausau, WI, at various restaurants including Hereford and Hops, Green Mill Restaurant and Bar, and the Hoffman House, which was where he met his bride of 20 years. He was a gifted musician who spent many hours in his recording studio. Shannon expressed himself beautifully through music. A kind and genuine heart, he was a good listener who loved helping others. Family and friends knew they could always count on him. Shannon was a huge animal lover. His cats, Gibson, Bert, Bella, Behr, JJ, and Munky, were like his children and a big comfort to him. He played benefits and participated in countless fundraisers for several humane societies, creating "Metal for Mutts" and "Cats and Tatts". His many tattoos told the story of his life.

Survivors include his wife, Christine Barden, of Merrill, WI; his father, Frederick (Judy) Barden, of Blair, WI; his mother, Sherry (Daniel) Hodkiewicz, of Merrill, WI; his brother, Shad (Leidy) Barden, of Missouri; his father-in-law, Ronald Uttecht; his sister-in-law, Jeannie (Dan) Larson; and his brother-in-law, John (Sara) Uttecht, all of Birnamwood, WI. Shannon is further survived by his niece, Gaia Barden; and his nephew, Hazard Barden. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Norman and Reta Benson; and his mother-in-law, Darlene Uttecht.

A celebration of life gathering will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2025, at the Town of Merrill Community Center, from 12:00 PM until 4:00 PM. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Shannon's obituary and leave online condolences at generationsfuneral.com.

Marshfield Clinic blood drive in Merrill seeks donors

Marshfield Clinic Health System's blood supply partner, Versiti, will host a blood drive at Marshfield Clinic Merrill Center, 1205 O Day St., in Merrill on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, from 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Anyone eligible to donate blood is welcome to attend, and all donors will receive a free pint of Culver's custard. Walk-ins are allowed, but registration is encouraged at: donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11598994.

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OBITUARIES

Linda Marie Woller



Linda Marie Woller, age 67, passed away at her home in the Town of Berlin on Saturday, January 25, 2025. She was born on September 13, 1957 to the late Richard and Florence (Eberhardy) Beilke Sr., in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Linda caught the eye of Dean Woller while in high school and were united in marriage on March 27, 1976 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Town of Berlin. Shortly after marriage, her and Dean purchased their farm where they dairy farmed for 17 years. Linda also worked as a chef at Willow Springs. Linda was an amazing cook and Dean can happily say he never starved.

Linda was stubborn, funny and loved to talk. She enjoyed crocheting, gardening, canning, ceramics and baking many goodies for those she loved. She taught Sunday School for many years and ran the Script program for a few years at church.

Faith was extremely important to Linda and always made the effort to attend each Sunday. Linda will be very missed by her family, friends and her animal companions.

Linda is survived by her husband, Dean Woller, children: Chris (Wendy) Woller, Jeremy (Linda) Woller, and Matthew (Jackie) Woller, grandchildren: Kenzie, Jackson, Parker, and Stella, step-grandchildren: Tearsa (Noah) Vanenkevort, Jonathan Chandler, Lana Chandler, Brantley Berger, and Mariah Ratsaphonh, step-great-grandchildren: Garth and Ariella Vanenkevort, brother Brian Beilke, siblings-in-law: Todd (Lana) Woller, Lisa Koenig, Jon (Lynn) Woller, Kent (Tami) Woller and Terry Beilke, mother-in-law: Jalaine Woller, her beloved dogs: Dutches and Maggie, and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, Angela Woller, parents, brother Richard Beilke Jr., father-in-law, Gordon Woller and brother-in-law Craig Woller.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, January 31, 2025 at 11:00 am at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Town of Berlin. Rev. Andrew DeGier will officiate. A visitation will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2025 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, 903 East Third Street, Merrill, WI 54452. A visitation will also be held on Friday, January 31, 2025 from 9:00 am until the time of service at the church. Interment will take place at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery in the Town of Berlin.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in loving memory of Linda to the Northland High School and/or Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

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.

Donald "Fritz" Taylor Jr.



Donald "Fritz" Taylor Jr., age 62, passed away on Thursday, January 16, 2025, in Rochester, MN, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was born on July 2, 1962 to Donald L. and Carol "Joy" (Gleisner) Taylor Sr. in Woodstock, IL. Fritz fell in love with Rebecca Owens, and the two were united in marriage on October 21, 2000 in Merrill, a union lasting almost 25 years.

Fritz was a very skilled auto mechanic and worked for his dad at their family business.

During his younger years, he enjoyed hunting and was an avid bowler, winning numerous trophies and was inducted into the Bowling Hall of Fame. When he was a boy, Fritz was active in the Pioneer Club. In his pastime, he looked forward to playing golf, listening to music, woodworking with his dad, watching movies with Rebecca and carefully manuring his lawn. Fritz enjoyed his family, and cherished the family get-togethers, especially at Christmas, where he would cook for the family. Recently, the family had taken a trip to Alabama to visit family, and to Florida and Georgia; a trip that has become a very special memory for his family. Fritz was a member at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. He is remembered as a jokester, that had a witty and fun sense of humor. Fritz remained positive and upbeat throughout his cancer journey and had a good attitude. He will be missed dearly, but will remain in the hearts of his family and friends forever.

Fritz is survived by his parents: Donald L. and Carol "Joy" (Gleisner) Taylor Sr., wife: Rebecca Taylor, sons: Nicholas and Christopher Taylor, sister: Debbie (Kevin) Trader, brother: Dale (Kelle) Taylor, 3 nephews: Taylor (Brittany), Noah and Ian, mother-in-law: Karen Owens, brother-in-law: Frank (Michelle) Owens, sister-in-law: Wendy Owens and last, but not least, Fritz's buddy and companion: "Rascal". He was preceded in death by his grandparents: Bernie and Clara Gleisner, father-in-law: Alan Owens, sister: Deanna Taylor and several aunts and uncles.

The funeral service for Fritz will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation at the 301 Eagle Drive location, Merrill, and again on Thursday, January 23, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service, at the church. Cremation will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, family requests that donations in Fritz's name be directed to the Trinity Lutheran Church and School. A special thank you to the nursing staff in the oncology unit at the Marshfield Medical Center - Weston, and Dr. Paul Thompson at the Marshfield Medical Center - Merrill, for their compassion and the excellent care that they had provided to Fritz and his family.

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.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

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 1/21/1935 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

DATE SIGNED: January 27, 2025
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
DARWIN BERNDT
DOD: 01/11/2025
Amended

Notice Setting Time to Hear
Application and Deadline for Filing
Claims
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 25-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 Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E Main St. Merrill, Wisconsin, Br. 3 Hearing Room, 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 9, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main St, Merrill, WI 54452, Room 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, P.O. Box 176, Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-8371 Bar Number 1031423
Published 1/30/25, 2/6/25 & 2/13/25
WNAXLP

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
WNAXLP

**ADVERTISE
HERE
715-536-7121**

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT:
/SHON. GALEN BAYNE-ALLISON
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
DATE SIGNED: 01/21/2025

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice and Order for
Name Change Hearing
Case No. 25-CV-06
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME
CHANGE OF

Jacob Joseph Emil Kummer-Wotruba
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Jacob Joseph Emil Kummer-Wotruba
To: Jacob Joseph Wotruba
Birth Certificate: Jacob Joseph Emil Kummer-Wotruba
IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Hon. Galen Bayne-Allison
Place: Lincoln County Courthouse-Br 1 Courtroom
1110 East Main St., Merrill, WI 54452
Date: 03/20/25
Time: 10:30 AM

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 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: 1/30/25, 2/6/25 & 2/13/25
WNAXLP

LAW OFFICE OF GREGORY J. STACKER LLC
1220 N. 6TH ST., Suite #3
Wausau, WI 54403
715-845-9211
Fax: 715-842-9317

Date: January 21, 2025
To: Christopher Stillwell
W5793 Joe Snow Road
Merrill, WI 54452

VIA MAIL, PERSONAL SERVICE & PUBLICATION

Re: NOTICE OF DEFAULT ON LAND CONTRACT DATED 3/8/24, RECORDED BY LINCOLN COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS ON 4/22/2023, AS DOCUMENT NO. 569436 WITH DML Income Trust, Dennis or Margaret Lerch, Trustees

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE as follows:
1. That you are in default of your payment obligations under the above Land Contract for the Purchase of W 5793 Joe Snow Road, Merrill, WI 54452 (Copy attached) in that the monthly payments of \$601.75 were due on the 1st of the each month, but you made your last payment of \$300.00 on or about August 1, 2024, and have made no payments thereafter, so that as of January 1, 2025, you were delinquent in the amount of \$3010.50 plus \$601.75 for each additional month until you cure your default.

2. That you are also in default in the Land Contract prohibited you from committing waste or allowing waste to be committed on the Property, and were required to keep the Property in good tenable condition.

3. That you have **30 days** following written notice to you to bring the payments on the Land Contract current and to return the Property to good tenable condition, and that upon your failure to cure your defaults within 30 days, the entire outstanding balance of the Land Contract will become immediately due and payable [See Land Contract, page 3, 3rd paragraph after B] and the default interest rate of 12% per annum will become effective as of the date of your initial default.

4. You are also notified that the Land Contract Vendor will commence a land contract foreclosure action, with a period of redemption to be set by the Court to be conditioned on full payment of the entire balance of principal, interest, and attorney fees and a determination that all amounts previously paid on the Land Contract will be forfeited as liquidated damages.

5. This Notice is from a Debt Collector. Any information obtained may be used to collect this debt and/or realize on the security for the debt. The Fair Debt Collection Practices notice has been mailed to your last known address. Dated this 21st day of January 2025
/s/ Gregory J. Stacker
Law Office of Gregory J. Stacker LLC
Attorneys DML Income Trust
1220 N. 6th St., Wausau, WI 54403
Voice Phone 715-845-9211
Email Greg@stackerlawoffice.com
Published January 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

Legals 7700

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

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



Park City Credit Union (PCCU) in Merrill held a "Share the Care" event and collected supplies for the Lincoln County Humane Shelter. Here PCCU employees bring in the food, kitty litter, and cleaning supplies they collected. Submitted photo.

EARLY IN PERSON VOTING NOTICE

Early voting for **TOWN OF MERRILL** residents for the February 18th, 2025 Spring Primary, will begin at the Town of Merrill Community Center, W4594 Progress Ave. on Tuesday, February 4th.

Voting hours are:
Tuesday • February 4th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday • February 6th 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday • February 11th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday • February 13th 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday • February 14th 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mitzi Flegner, Clerk
Published January 30, February 6 & 13, 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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST

Notice is hereby given that public testing of the DS200 Tabulating Equipment and the ExpressVote machines being used in the City of Merrill for the February 18, 2025 Spring Primary is scheduled to begin at 1:00 P.M. on Monday, February 10th. The testing will be conducted in the Common Council Chambers, 1004 East First Street.

Lori L. Anderson-Malm
City Clerk
Published January 30, 2025 WNAXLP

Merrill Wrestling Program inducts two new members into their Hall of Fame

On Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025, the Merrill Wrestling Program inducted two new members into their Hall of Fame, in conjunction with a Wrestling dual against Marshfield and Youth Night, making for an exciting evening for Merrill Wrestling.

Kevin Steidinger and Chad Meyer were officially inducted into the 2025 Merrill Wrestling Hall of Fame (HOF).

Kevin Steidinger

"It was awesome, two of Merrill's finest coming back to be a part of this dual," said Merrill Boys Varsity Wrestling Head Coach Brian Suchocki. "Chad and Kevin are great representatives of Merrill Wrestling. They were able to come down to our warm-up before the dual and meet the guys. I think that helped set the tone for the night."

Kevin wrestled Varsity for three seasons from 1982-1984. When he was a Senior, the Jays finished second in the State Wrestling Tournament. Steidinger finished his Senior year with a 28-6 record and a third place finish at State. He was also a Badger State Champion and his 21 pins were a school record. As a Junior, Steidinger was a Regional and Sectional Champion and the team won a Wisconsin Valley Championship and was the number-1 ranked dual meet team in the state. He was a Wisconsin Valley runner up all three years and had 69 career wins.

After high school graduation, Steidinger continued wrestling for the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1984-1988. He graduated in 1989 with a degree in Special Education and taught in Wisconsin, Florida, and N. Carolina where he retired after 30 years. It was there he met his wife, Ruth, and they had twin daughters, Bennett and Carson. In 2006, Steidinger was a finalist for Teacher of the Year in Wake County Public Schools. He continues to work part-time teaching special education classes at Cary High School in N. Carolina.

During his teaching career, Kevin coached football, wrestling, and track and field. He was the Head Wrestling Coach at Edgewater High School in Orlando for three seasons and able to help turn around a struggling wrestling program. In his second year, he had two Conference Champions and two State qualifiers. In his last year, he had a young team that performed well, with the core of that team going on to win a District Championship.

"I am indebted to my parents and family for their sacrifices and encouragement," Steidinger said. "Also, the support



More photos online merrillfotonews.com

From L to R: 2025 Merrill Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee Chad Meyer, Coach Roger Wendorf, and Hall of Fame inductee Kevin Steidinger.

Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photo.

of the Merrill Wrestling family and Wrestling Club was instrumental in my development as a wrestler and person. They fed me, gave me rides, encouraged me, and made it possible to spend the long hours and days that wrestling demands. I spent numerous Friday nights at a teammate's house so I could attend a Saturday Tournament."

Recalling his coaching career at Edgewater, Steidinger said: "I was a young and inexperienced coach. I based my philosophy and workouts on what I learned while wrestling at Merrill. I had phenomenal coaches and mentors; Roger Wendorf, Leo Leiskau, Randy Hill, Arvo Britten, and Dave Belfiori. They stressed fundamentals, hard work, and relationships. Those foundations helped me establish a bond with my wrestlers as they developed a love for the sport. I am proud that two of my wrestlers became coaches in the area."

"I would like to thank the Merrill School Board and Administrators for their support, particularly Mr. Lanny Tibaldo and Mr. Jack Ader," he said. "I started wrestling halfway through the season of my eighth grade year. Coach Britten called my parents and convinced them to let me 'try' wrestling (he did the same for football). I would never

have been able to compete in sports if it wasn't for the after-practice activity bus. I spent many hours being the only student on the bus taking me home to Little Chicago. That community support made my participation and accomplishments possible. Thank you."

"I am humbled and honored with this recognition," Steidinger said. "The lessons from wrestling have guided me through the highs and lows of my life. I have many fond memories of teammates, practices, dual meets, and tournaments while wrestling for Merrill. Go Jays!"

Chad Meyer

Chad Meyer was a two-year Varsity wrestler for Merrill at Heavyweight with a combined record of 53-19. In those two years he scored 71 take downs, 31 pins, and 277 team points. He went 17-0 in dual meets. His Senior year, in 1989-1990, Meyer was one of the Merrill Varsity Wrestling Team Captains, won the Legion Award, had a 30-9 record, and took second place at State. In his two-year high school wrestling career, Meyer was a Wisconsin Valley Conference Champion, two-time Regional Champion, two-time Sectional Champion, and a two-time State qualifier.

Meyer grew up watching his older cousins participate in wrestling and basketball, so he wrestled from first through fourth grades, then played basketball from fifth grade until his Freshman year. "During those years of playing basketball, I always had Roger Wendorf in my ear telling me that I should go out for wrestling," Meyer said. "So finally after my Freshman year, I was talking with Roger again, and he told me I should go out for wrestling. Plus, he said I was too short to play basketball and I was built like a wrestler."

"After hearing him say it that way, I finally decided to start wrestling again my Sophomore year on JV," he said. "So I would like to say thank you to Roger Wendorf for being so persistent and getting me back involved with wrestling again."

"I also would like to thank all of my coaches: Roger Wendorf, Leo Leiskau, David Branvold, Scott Areneson, plus thank all the alumni that would come back to practice and make us work hard," Meyer said. "I especially would like to thank Leo Leiskau for wrestling with me in practice everyday and pushing me to get better."

Meyer lives in Merrill with his wife, Beth, and has a son, Kole. He has worked at Reindl Printing for the past 33 years.



BINGO IS BACK!
Sunday, Feb. 2nd • 4PM
Jackpot is over \$2,000!
Bingo Special – 3 Chicken Legs only \$3
Conference Room & Hall Rental Available
 Open at 4pm Mon. & Thurs. • Open at Noon Fri.
 Open at 11am Sat. & Sun. • Closed Tues. & Wed.
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DINNER SPECIALS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY
TUESDAY NIGHTS **FRIDAY NIGHTS**
FEB. 4TH - **JAN. 31ST -**
LIVER & ONIONS **COCONUT SHRIMP**
FEB. 11TH - RIBS **FEB. 7TH - PERCH**
DINNER SERVED FROM 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
 Visit our Website! 584.localfoewi.com

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Feb. 1 - Rotary Uncorked 2025 at Les & Jim's
Feb. 1 - Ice Age Trail Snowshoe Hike/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
Feb. 7-23 - Love the Littles Diaper Drive
Feb. 8 - Winter Craft & Vendor Sales
Feb. 8 - Merrill Ice Drags
Feb. 8-9 - Merrill Ice Reflections Ice Skating Show
Feb. 14 - Free Swing Dance Basic Lessons at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Feb. 15 - Knights of Columbus Ice Fishing Tournament
Feb. 15 - Gleason Ice Oval Races
Feb. 15 - Merrill Ice Drags

NTC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
 3yr. Old Preschool & 4yr. Old Pre K
 Kindergarten - 12th Grade
OPEN HOUSE
 N2519 Hwy K, Merrill, WI

Monday, February 3rd - Thursday, February 6th
 8:00-2:30 (all walk-ins welcome)
 Any other time (by appointment only)

- Classroom Visit
- School Tour
- Informational Packets
- Meet Teachers

Laying a Godly Foundation for your child's future.
Appointments preferred, but not required
 call 715-536-6855

COSMO Theatre
 KIDS • \$5.00
 SENIORS • \$5.00
 ADULTS • \$8.00
 Main St. • Merrill
MOVIES AND SHOWTIMES
 1/31/25 TO 2/6/25
Mondays All Seats \$5.00

GREEN AND GOLD
 "PG13" (1HR 39MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:00PM
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:00 & 7:00PM
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

DOG MAN
 "PG" (1HR 29MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:00PM
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:00 & 7:00PM
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

WOLF MAN
 "R" (1HR 43MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:00PM
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:00 & 7:00PM
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM
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Saturday & Sunday
 Breakfast 7am-11am
 Mimosas & Bloody Mary's

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

Sunday & Tuesday
 Braoasted Chicken
 12 Noon-8pm

Friday
 Fish Fry 12 Noon-8:45pm

Red Granite Bar & Grill
 Order Online - Check wait times or just stop in!
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Plautz's Pub LLC.
 310 E. 2nd St., Merrill
 715-536-4611
SERVING FOOD DAILY TILL 8PM

HOURS
MONDAY • Noon - 6pm
TUE. - FRI. • Noon - Close
SATURDAY • 11am - Close
SUNDAY • Noon - 6pm

FRI. FEB. 7TH
LIVE MUSIC BY GEOFF LANDON
 7:30 - 10:30pm
 • DRINK SPECIALS
 • BUCKET SPECIALS

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

Drive winter blues away by spending time outside

Lower stress, boost mental health, power up your memory by getting outside



Winter blues got you down? Spending time outside can help boost your mood and both your physical and mental health.

“Getting outside in the wintertime can really help your state of mind,” said Kris Kiser, President of the TurfMutt Foundation, an organization that has spent the last 15 years advocating for outdoor living and the care and stewardship of our yards, parks, and other green spaces, for the benefit of all.

“Just twenty minutes outside can make a big difference for your mood and mental health. It might take a little more preparation and planning but it’s doable with the right outdoor wear,” he said.

The TurfMutt Foundation offers a few reasons why getting outside in the

wintertime is good for you:

Outdoor time elevates mood. Exposure to natural light—even in the shorter days of winter—raises levels of serotonin, the body’s “happy chemical.” Sunlight is also a good way to get a natural dose of vitamin D, which is good for bones and the immune system.

A little goes a long way. Recent research suggests that spending just a few minutes walking outside may enhance mood, memory, and the ability to absorb new information. Just five minutes can improve your mood, according to research.

More calories are burned when it’s cold. Being outside in colder temperatures requires your body to work harder to keep you warm. Consequently, more calories are burned. Engage in a friendly snowball fight with the kids or take a walk with Fido to rev up metabolism and have a little fun.

Activity boosts immunity. According to MedlinePlus, exercise helps decrease risk for heart disease, maintains bone health, and can help flush bacteria out of the lungs and airways.

Nature’s benefits can relieve stress—fast. A study from the University of Michigan concluded that spending just 20 minutes in a natural setting reduces the level of cortisol, the stress hormone.

Memory improves. Researchers at the University of Michigan conducted a study that revealed walking in a natural setting versus an urban one improved recall ability by nearly 20 percent.

You don’t have to go far. Yard work is a good way to log time outside, maintain your property, and prepare your yard for spring. Just remember if you’re using a snow thrower, chainsaw, or other outdoor power

equipment, read the owner’s manual first and follow all manufacturer’s instructions, and never disable safety features.

There’s less daylight in winter, so it’s important to pay attention to your surroundings. You may want to wear a head lamp, reflective clothing, or bring along a flashlight, so you can see and be seen. Never exercise outside when the temperature or windchill is below -10 degrees Fahrenheit due to the risk of frostbite.

TurfMutt, which celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2024, was created by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute’s (OPEI) TurfMutt Foundation and has reached more than 70 million children, educators, and families since 2009. Featuring Foundation spokesdog, Mulligan the TurfMutt, and through education partners such as Weekly Reader, Discovery Education, and Scholastic, TurfMutt has taught students and teachers how to “save the planet, one yard at a time.” TurfMutt’s long list of educational accolades and more information can be found at TurfMutt.com.

T.B. Scott Free Library receives \$10,000 PLA grant

T.B. Scott Free Library in Merrill was one of five Wisconsin libraries and more than 130 public libraries to receive a Public Library Association (PLA) grant for the purpose of hosting a digital literacy workshop between Dec. 2024 and May 2025. The grants were funded by a \$2.7 million contribution from AT&T. “The T.B. Scott Free Library is, most definitely, a tech hub for Merrill and the surrounding communities,” said Laurie Ollhoff, Director at the T.B. Scott Free Library. She confirmed the T.B. Scott Free Library received a \$10,000 PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive Grant.

The PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive and the new PLA Digital Navigator Workshop Incentive support public libraries in their work of improving basic digital skills among families and communities. The workshops will utilize DigitalLearn training materials, created in collaboration with AT&T,

that are freely available to anyone through DigitalLearn.org and AT&T ScreenReady.

This cohort is the third to participate in the expanded national initiative and collaboration between PLA and AT&T. Since 2022, PLA has helped nearly 400 public libraries conduct more than 3,800 workshops, training more than 19,000 learners across 45 states through its digital literacy incentive programs. This new cohort will increase the number of learners libraries can continue to reach.

PLA President Michael Lambert said, “PLA is proud to support public libraries in being at the forefront of boosting digital literacy skills and bridging the digital divide in their communities. With another year of PLA’s sustained collaboration with AT&T, more learners across the nation than ever before will get connected to vital digital literacy skills and technology resources at the

library.”

Workshops will be offered on eight digital literacy topics. Courses cover basic technology skills which include topics such as internet use, video conferencing, cybersecurity, and using mobile devices.

Recipients of the new PLA Digital Navigator Workshop Incentive will utilize DigitalLearn materials to support library patrons with ongoing, individualized guidance with their devices, connectivity, and digital skills. Digital navigators are trusted guides who assist community members with ongoing, individualized support for accessing affordable and appropriate connectivity, devices, and digital skills.

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MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week’s Featured Student is

Aria Kimmins

Daughter of Angela Shellenberger and Jordan Jaeger

Aria is in the 4th grade at Washington Elementary. She was nominated by Ms. Morgan.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?

I love music because I actually get to sing and be me!

What is your favorite part of school? Why?

I get to learn and see my friends every day!

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?

I would like to become a doctor to help people.

Aria is a remarkable 4th-grade student. She approaches school with a positive attitude that brightens the classroom. Her kindness and support for her classmates create an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued. Aria is not only a hard worker but also embodies a sunny disposition that inspires those around her. Her unwavering positivity and dedication make her very deserving of Student of the Week.

~ Ms. Morgan

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Merrill Varsity Boys Wrestling Team hits the mat across the region

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Wisconsin Rapids dual

On Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, the Merrill High School (MHS) Boys Varsity Wrestling Team traveled to Wisconsin Rapids (WR) to compete in a Wisconsin Valley Conference dual against Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln (WRL). Wisconsin Rapids is State-ranked number 2, Merrill Varsity Head Wrestling Coach Brian Suchocki said. "We had some good matches against WR, but let a few opportunities slip," he said. "Brady Norton had a nice match getting a tech fall. Brady came out and really got after it."

"Carson [Brooks] followed suit with a nice pin," Suchocki said. "Dusty [Schmirler] had the match of the night to get the win on a last second takedown."

"Noah [Klug] received a forfeit for the other win," he said.

"Rapids is a good team and you have to fight for everything," Suchocki said. "As a team, we can compete with them, but we have to win every toss up. It's good to go up against the best in the state to mark where we are at."

[Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]

Box Score

Merrill 20 @ Wisconsin Rapids 53

Bluejay Challenge Wrestling Tournament

On Saturday, Jan. 11, the Varsity Boys hosted the Bluejay Challenge Wrestling Tournament in the MHS Fieldhouse, welcoming teams from 22 other schools: Abbotsford, Adams/Friendship, Amherst, Antigo, Athens, Boyceville, Chippewa Falls High School, Crandon, Edgar, Elcho, Lakeland Union High School, Menominee Indian, Mosinee, Neillsville, Nekoosa, Pulaski, Saint Croix Central, Stanley-Boyd, Three Lakes, Tri-County, Wausau West, and Wittenberg-Birnamwood.

"Overall we took fifth as a team at the



Josh Gustum is on the mat in a match against a competitor from Saint Croix Central at Saint Croix Central for the HOF duals. Photo courtesy of Merrill Wrestling Program.

Bluejay Challenge," Suchocki said. "Noah [Klug] led the way taking the championship in a dominant performance. Noah continues to develop and improve this season."

"Callum [Wheeler] had a great tournament, making it to the Championship," he said. "Callum was aggressive all day. It was good to see him get after it going into the second half of the season."

"Dusty [Schmirler] had another solid performance, taking third," Suchocki said. "Others placing in the top six were Brett [Suchocki] fourth, Broc [Suchocki] sixth, Hunter [Opper] sixth, and Carson [Brooks] sixth. Overall, it was great competition and we had a solid performance."

[Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]

Team Results

- 1 Wausau West 393.5
- 2 Pulaski 366.0

- 3 Saint Croix Central 354.5
- 4 Wittenberg-Birnamwood 319.0
- 5 Merrill 318.0
- 6 Chippewa Falls 309.5
- 7 Crandon 249.5
- 8 Neillsville/Greenw./Loyal 204.0
- 9 Nekoosa/Assumption/Port Ed. 192.5
- 10 Antigo 182.0
- 11 Stanley-Boyd 174.0
- 12 Edgar 168.5
- 13 Amherst 154.0
- 14 Abbotsford/Colby 152.0
- 15 Boyceville 147.0
- 16 Lakeland 127.0
- 17 Mosinee 114.0
- 18 Adams-Friendship 102.5
- 19 Athens 93.5
- 20 Menominee Nation 64.0
- 21 Elcho 35.0
- 22 Tri-County 18.0
- 23 Rhinelander 0.0

23 Wabeno/Laona/Three Lakes 0.0

DC Everest dual and Parents Night

Parents Night for Merrill wrestlers was in the MHS Fieldhouse Thursday evening, Jan. 16, coupled with a Boys Varsity Wrestling dual against DC Everest (DCE), and two ladies from the MHS Girls Varsity Wrestling Team also participated in this dual.

"The dual was extremely exciting," Suchocki said. "Although DCE came away with the victory, it was very competitive. After being down 13-0 as a team, Broc was able to get things going with a third period pin. That started some exciting matches."

"Kendell [Klug] had a wild back-and-forth match," he said. "Going into the third period Kendell was down 17-11. She dug deep and stayed after it to get the pin. That match itself was very exciting and helped motivate the team."

"Brett [Suchocki] came up next, building a lead in the match and then ending in a pin," Suchocki said. "Brett was really aggressive and wrestled well."

"After giving up a forfeit, Callum [Wheeler] took on State-ranked Deakin Trotzer. This was a great match for Callum," he said. "This is his first time getting a win over Deakin, and it was a major decision. Callum scrambled well and stayed poised throughout the match. To start the match, Deakin was in on a shot and Callum defended well to get the first takedown. After that Callum kept it going. The win is good momentum for him to take into the end of the season."

"Brady [Norton] followed up the win with a quick pin in 33 seconds," Suchocki said. "That was a dominant performance by Brady. Even though it was the last win for us, we wrestled well in many of our losses and gave great effort."

"I felt we were in better shape and had a great crowd supporting our wrestlers," he said. "It was awesome having two members



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of our Girls Wrestling Team join us. Even though Madlyn [Hunter] lost her individual match, she battled well and showed great resilience. That helped us perform well. We have a tough conference and tough schedule. Each competition is competitive, and the team is handling it well."

[Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]

Box Score

D.C. Everest 43 @ Merrill 27

(Merrill was deducted 1 team point for unsportsmanlike conduct)

St. Croix Central HOF duals

On Friday, Jan. 17, the Boys Varsity Wrestling Team traveled to St. Croix Central High School to compete in the HOF duals. "We took on Hudson, a powerhouse wrestling program, Division 2 #4 State-ranked Saint Croix Central (SCC), and Barron," Suchocki said. "We had close losses in both matches against Hudson and SCC. We followed that with a dominant 63-6 victory over Barron. We wrestled well and had some chances to win all three duals"

"Remington [Skic], Callum [Wheeler], Hunter [Opper], Austin [Depies], and Josh [Gustum] all went 3-0," he said. "Remington was aggressive and took care of business. Callum followed his big win Thursday with some nice matches. Hunter wrestled controlled matches and had some nice shots. It was a good day for him."

"Austin also wrestled well, getting his shots and finishing his matches. Josh came out with a great plan on his feet and executed it well. Josh wrestled under control and had a good day."

"Brett [Suchocki] and Carson [Brooks] went 2-1," Suchocki said. "Dusty [Schmirler], Broc [Suchocki], Will [Miemietz], and Noah [Klug] went 1-2. Brady [Norton] was 0-3."

"We wrestled some tough opponents," he said. "The tough competition continues to help us develop."

[Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]

Team Score:

Merrill 36 @ Hudson 41

[Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]

Box Score:

Merrill 31 @ Saint Croix Central 46

[Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]

Team Score:

Merrill 65 @ Barron 6

Marshfield dual

Merrill took on #11 State-ranked Marshfield Thursday, Jan. 23, on their home turf. It was also Hall of Fame (HOF) Night and Youth Night for Merrill, with two former wrestlers, Kevin Steidinger and Chad Meyer, inducted into the 2025 Merrill Wrestling HOF. [See separate article.] The youth were able to get posters signed after the match by the high school wrestlers," Suchocki said.

"The dual was exciting from start to finish," he said. "We had some incredible back-and-forth matches."

"Dusty [Schmirler] got us started with a big pin in the first period," Suchocki said. "Broc [Suchocki] was able to follow up that with an 11-6 victory, getting the team score to 16-9."

"Remington [Skic] put four points on the board with a major decision," he said. "Callum [Wheeler] continued his dominant wrestling, getting a technical fall. Callum is wrestling really well and is putting things together going into the end of the season."

"Brady [Norton] also went out very aggressive, picking up a technical fall. Following Brady's match, the score was 23-20 Merrill," Suchocki said. "We traded pins the next four matches. Hunter [Opper] picked up a big pin for us, and Carson



More photos online merrillfotonews.com

The Merrill Boys Varsity Wrestling Team celebrates their second place success at the Tournament in Whitnall and two of their teammates—Callum Wheeler and Austin Depies—reaching their milestones of 100 wins each. Photo courtesy of Merrill Wrestling Program.

[Brooks] did, as well. Those matches were very exciting. That brought the match to 35-32 Merrill going into the final match."

"Noah [Klug] would lose a hard fought match 3-2, putting the score 35-35," he said. "After the tie breakers were figured out, we ended up losing the dual. Regardless of that outcome, it was a great night for the fans, coaches, and wrestlers. Our wrestlers are wrestling well as a group and competing for each other. As a coach, I can't ask for more. We have some big matches ahead of us, and we need to keep that momentum going."

[Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]

Box Score:

Marshfield 35 @ Merrill 35

Marshfield wins on tie breaker with 4 6-point victories compared to 3 for Merrill

Whitnall Invitational

On Saturday, Jan. 25, the Boys traveled to Whitnall High School for a Varsity Invitational to compete against multiple

See WRESTLING page 10



Carson Brooks pinning his opponent at 190# on Jan. 23, 2025, in the dual against Marshfield. Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photo.

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Fallon Aliche Beauty Co. recently held a fundraiser in honor of Zena, a dog they adopted from the Lincoln County Humane Society last May. They presented a check for the funds raised to help the other animals at the shelter. Submitted photo.

WRESTLING from page 9

schools in duals there. "We took second place short-handed," Suchocki said. "We were able to get a shutout in one dual, beating Racine Horlick/Park 72-0. Overall, we had a good performance and we came out relatively healthy, which is important this time of the year. Dusty [Schmirler], Broc [Suchocki], and Callum [Wheeler] came away with 5-0 records. Brett [Suchocki], Will [Miemietz], Hunter [Opper], and Austin [Depies] went 4-1. Remington [Skic], Brady [Norton], Carson [Brooks], and Josh [Gustum] went 3-2. Preston [Schuelke] went 2-2."

"A huge highlight of the day is we had two wrestlers

get to 100 wins," he said. "Callum and Austin both hit 100 career wins. Austin was able to get his 100th win against Elkhorn. Austin has wrestled since kindergarten and has put in so much time. He wrestles a lot in the offseason every year. Callum has also wrestled from his youth and has developed well over the years. Callum is a great competitor. I am very proud of both. It takes a lot to get to 100 Varsity wins. It's a mark that is impressive. I'm glad both are able to enjoy this milestone their Senior year. A lot of their family was present to enjoy it with both boys."

Match #1 Round 1 - [Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]
Box Score: Merrill 72 - Racine Horlick/Park 0

Match #2 Round 2 - [Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]
Box Score: Merrill 58 -

Menomonee Falls 19
Menomonee Falls's team score was adjusted by -2.0 for 190 back-to-back unsportsmanlike conduct

Match #3 Round 4 - [Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]
Box Score: Merrill 58 - Kenosha Bradford 23

Match #4 Round 5 - [Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]
Box Score: Merrill 51 - Elkhorn Area 24

Match #5 (First Place Match) - [Individual results for Merrill included on our website.]
Box Score: Kenosha Indian Trail 55 - Merrill 24
Kenosha Indian Trail's team score was adjusted by -1.0 for misconduct

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Someone's waiting for you... in classifieds

Mandatory meetings announced for Bluejay Trap

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Bluejay Trap Team is gearing up for another season. "And we have a BIG year ahead of us—defending Conference Champs and we are hosting the Conference shoot," coaches said.

There are two important meetings coming up for athletes and parents, including anyone who wants to come to learn more about the sport and possibly joining the team. Please mark your

calendars. There will be a mandatory meeting on Feb. 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Gun Club on Corning Rd. west of Merrill for all new Bluejay Trap Team athletes or those wanting more information about the team. There will be a mandatory meeting on Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Gun Club on Corning Rd. for all returning athletes. Anyone with questions can email the coaches at bluejaytrapteam@gmail.com or call Coach Ashley at 715.218.9039.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MERRILL AREA UNITED WAY, INC.

Merrill Area United Way is seeking applicants to fill our open position of Executive Director due to the retirement of current Director.

This position manages, coordinates the operations of the United Way organization and supports the volunteer process needed to implement community-wide fundraising and fund distribution for the Merrill Area United Way. This is a part-time position with flexible hours reporting to the United Way Board of Directors.

Qualified applicants must be a self-starter, have strong oral and written communications skills, broad knowledge of nonprofits, experience in fundraising and volunteer coordination, comfortable using MS products, QuickBooks Online and social media. Provide own transportation for errands and limited travel required.

Submit resume and application no later than February 12th to delores.olsen@merrillareaunderway.org

Application and job description are available on the Merrill Area United Way website.



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Breaking barriers: Merrill Varsity female wrestlers shine on the mat

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Westby High School competition

The Merrill Girls Wrestling Team traveled to Westby High School for a competition on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025. "The team fared well," said Scott Arneson, Head Coach for the Merrill Girls Varsity Wrestling Team. "As a team, they were able to unofficially score the most points as a team—so if team points were scored, they would have been first. Also as a team, their record was approximately 38-13. It was neat to watch the girls pull together and cheer for each other."

"Some team highlights—Marissa Miles' sweet arm spin, Natalia Woller's comeback OT win over a wrestler that had beaten her earlier this season, Bryanna Doerr's two 'perfect' sweep singles, and Merin Yates' 'I had her scared moment.'"

Individual results:

- Natalia Woller 3-0, Kendell Klug 5-0, and Kaylynn Allen 5-0 all finished in first place

- Merin Yates 4-1, Marissa Miles 2-1, Adison Clark 4-1 & Madlyn Hunter 4-1 were all 2nd place finishers

- Liberty Fuchs 4-1 took third place

- Bryanna Doerr 2-3 took sixth place

- Shelby Yates 3-2 and Gracie Vanvuren 2-3 - both took seventh place

"The Merrill Lady Jays Wrestling Team has been busy thus far in January, and they won't be slowing down any time soon," Arneson said.

Tomahawk dual

On Thursday, Jan. 23, the Merrill Girls Varsity Wrestling Team traveled to Tomahawk High School where they "got to make history again by competing in the 'first ever' dual meet against Tomahawk," Arneson said. "By the Merrill coaches only, it was called the Northern Wisconsin River Rumble, but no matter the name, Lincoln County wrestling fans got to see a great match."

"The only negative is the girls missed the great match going on in Merrill with the Boys wrestling Marshfield to a tie," he said.

"A big thank you goes out to Coach Garrou and staff, Ryan Flynn the AD, and the Tomahawk community for offering the opportunity to compete and help promote the growth of women's wrestling," Arneson said. "The dual meet was back

and forth, and the crowd got to enjoy a great battle between the Lady Hatchets and the Lady Jays. Merrill was able to sneak out the win 37-27."

"They have a great group of girls with about 30 on their team," he said. "Bob Garrau and staff are doing a great job with their girls program which has been growing the past few years."

"The TEAM of 12 that represented Merrill High School Varsity were: 100 pounds Natalia Woller, 107 Madlyn Hunter, 114 Gracie Vanvuren, 120 Lauren Hoffman, 126 Kendall Klug, 132 Adi Clark, 138 Kaylynn Allen, 145 Bryanna Doerr, 152 Liberty Fuchs, 165 Marissa Miles, 185 Merin Yates, and 235 Shelby Yates," Arneson said. "The TEAM (Together Everyone Accomplishes More) competed with high energy, great enthusiasm, and awesome effort."

"The weather sure has been cold, but the Girls Wrestling Team is on fire!" he said. "Ok, they have been wrestling well."

Saint Croix Falls tournament

The very next day, on Friday, Jan. 24, the girls were at Saint Croix Falls High School for a huge team competition. "With little rest, the girls enjoyed a 3.5-hour bus ride one-way to Saint Croix Falls High School to compete in the 30-team individual (bracketed style) tournament," Arneson said. "This is the first double-elimination style tournament the girls wrestled in."

"It came at a great time, because it will be the same style for the WIAA Regional and Sectional Tournaments coming up," he said. "This was a high-level tournament which included some teams from Minnesota. All but one of the girls took a loss on the day, but their ability to persevere, shake off losses, and continue to fight for the next highest individual place earned the TEAM a 'well-deserved' third place finish."

Individual results for the Saint Croix Falls Tournament:

- 100 - Natalia Woller - 1-2
- 100 - Madlyn Hunter - 6th place - 3-2
- 114 - Gracie Vanvuren - 0-2
- 120 - Lauren Hoffman - 5th place - 4-1
- 126 - Kendall Klug - 5th place - 4-1
- 132 - Adi Clark - 7th place - 3-2
- 138 - Kaylynn Allen - 5th place - 4-1
- 145 - Bryanna Doerr - 0-2
- 165 - Marissa Miles - 3rd

- place - 3-1
- 185 - Merin Yates - Champion - 4-0
- 235 - Shelby Yates - 3rd Place - 3-1

Team Results: Merrill took third place out of 30 teams

An open invitation
"We still have room for girls looking to be part of the excitement of Merrill Women's Wrestling," Arneson said. "We are getting in shape, we are getting stronger, drilling good technique, and we are becoming a better team as well as individuals—one step at a time."

"The coaching staff would like to thank all the parents for supporting our team and allowing us to coach their daughters," he said. "We'd also like to thank Merrill Area Public Schools and Mr. Chris Hahn for allowing us to start a women's wrestling team this season. The positive support we have from the parents, the school, and the community will definitely help us reach our goal to be one of the top girls wrestling TEAMS in the state—in the near future."

Next up for the Merrill Girls Wrestling Team:

- Another individual-style double-elimination bracket tournament at Eau Claire North on Saturday, Feb. 1

- A home tournament on Friday, Feb. 7, at Prairie River Middle School

- Merrill hosts the WIAA Girls Regional Tournament on Friday, Feb. 14, at Merrill High School

"Come out and see the girls compete," Arneson said. "Don't forget we have our Middle School 30-team meet at the high school on Friday, Jan. 31. and Saturday, Feb. 1. Merrill hosts our Junior Jay K-8 Tournament. You can definitely find some wrestling matches to watch in the next two weeks in Merrill."



The Merrill Girls Varsity Wrestling Team celebrates taking third place as a TEAM in a bracketed tournament with 30 teams. Photo courtesy of Merrill Wrestling Program.

2025 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

Tues, Feb. 4	Tomahawk (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Tues, Feb. 4	Tomahawk (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm

Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

Thurs, Jan. 30	Granton (JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Thurs, Feb. 6	Stevens Point (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Thurs, Feb. 6	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm

Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV)

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. 30	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	6:30 pm
Sat, Feb. 1	Marshfield Invite (Varsity)	Away	9:30 am
Sat, Feb. 1	Marshfield Invite (Varsity)	Away	10:00 am

Boys Hockey (Varsity & JV)

Tues, Feb. 4	Wausau West (JV)	Marathon	5:00 pm
Tues, Feb. 4	Wausau West (Varsity)	Marathon	7:00 pm
Thurs, Feb. 6	Marshfield (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs, Feb. 6	Marshfield (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm

Girls Hockey (Varsity & JV)

Sat, Feb. 1	Middleton (Varsity & JV)	Away	T. B. D.
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The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Kory Page, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of Jan. 30, 2025. Kory is a point guard on the Merrill Boys Varsity Basketball Team. He started playing basketball in the third grade at Trinity Wausau and played there until transferring to Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) in eighth grade. Due to COVID, he was unable to play competitively there, but he joined the MHS JV2 Team as a Freshman and Sophomore before advancing to Varsity last year. Similarly, Kory played baseball at Trinity Wausau from third through seventh grades and then joined the MHS JV Baseball Team as a Freshman. He moved up to Varsity as a Sophomore and has been on the Merrill Varsity Baseball Team since. Kory works part-time at KB Body Shop in Merrill as a detailer, a job he's held for about a year and a half. He also volunteers at his church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, helping with the PowerPoint presentation during worship and helps his mom as a teacher's assistant with the church daycare. In his free time, Kory likes to hunt (deer, turkey, and duck); hang out with friends; and spend time with family. "I'm a big family guy," he said. "We go to my grandpa's and try to do that every weekend to get everyone together, eat together, play games, and play cards."

The son of Dan and Cathy Page of Merrill, Kory has a 2.4 GPA and plans to attend Northcentral Technical College to get a two-year degree for architectural design and hopes to then work for Modern Builders and Suppliers Inc.



Kory Page

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