



**Merrill Photo News**

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**PUBLISHER'S LETTER**  
**Luck O' The Irish**

Dear Reader,


Another Saint Patrick's Day is upon us, and for one day, everyone—Irish or not—joins in the celebration. On this day, we revel in the so-called “luck of the Irish” and pass it along to everyone we meet.

But what is luck, really? Some see it as pure serendipity—good fortune striking at random, being in the right place at the right time. Luck, in this sense, feels fleeting, unpredictable, something that happens to you rather than something you create.

Yet, there's another kind of luck—the kind that isn't random at all. It's the luck that comes from hard work integrity, and a commitment to doing what's right. This kind of luck isn't just stumbled upon; it's earned. It's built through perseverance, through lifting others up rather than stepping over them. It's the luck that carries not just the fortunate individual but those around them as well.

Of course, there's also another version of luck—the kind that comes at the expense of others. The luck of those who cut corners, take advantage, and push others down to climb higher. But that kind of luck is hollow, fleeting, and never truly fulfilling.

So this Saint Patrick's Day, may you find yourself on the right side of luck—the kind that brings joy, kindness, and goodwill to all. May your blessings be many, your troubles be few, and your heart be as full as a pint of Guinness.



**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher  
Author of “Reflections” a new book now available on Amazon.



Kozy Corner Kitchen ... no, that's not a typo. Bob just doesn't have his new signage yet.

**Tina L. Scott photo.**

**KOZY**  
*from page 1*

great deal of damage and shutting it down indefinitely. It remained closed until Lass decided to take on the project.

Lass completely redid the entire restaurant—from the dining area to the kitchen and everything in it—with one notable exception. He retained an original feature that had long lain hidden—and one of the most striking features of the restaurant today—the building's original tin ceiling, which had been hidden beneath a drop ceiling for years.

“When I took out the false ceiling, that was up there,” Lass said, pointing to the ornate ceiling now painted gold. “All the center pieces are solid copper, and the outer edges are tin.”

**A rich history**

Digging in newspaper archives, the earliest mention of the location I found during a mini research session was a reference to the building being Shorts Sales &

Service in August 1959. The next mention is on May 15, 1969, when a grand opening was held at the location for a new restaurant, named Haffe's Kitchen, owned by Laona Haffeman. Laona was Merrill resident Steve Sabatke's grandma, and he remembers it already being a restaurant when she and his Grandpa Roy bought the building. “We always called it Kozy Korner even when Grandma ran it,” he said.

Just months after the Haffemans purchased the restaurant, it was listed for sale due to health reasons as “real estate and restaurant equipment for \$10,500.”

In September 1970, Mrs. Kenneth Rowe of Wausau purchased and reopened the business as Kozy Korner. It changed hands again in mid-1974, with Chub Severt opening the location under the name Kozy Korner Kitchen. That name has stuck and been associated with the location for more than 50 years, until Lass changed the spelling of Korner to the traditional spelling of Corner this year—although he said he doesn't yet have the new signage for the building.

That review of newspaper archives revealed the restaurant has changed hands many more times over the years, including in October of 1977, when Judy and Dick Goff became the new owners of Kozy Korner Restaurant. In May 1981, Marianne Klade became the new owner, and she also opened an Eastside Kozy Korner location at 1219 E. Main St. in April 1985, with the original restaurant being dubbed the Westside Kozy Korner. Sometime between 1985


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**MERRILL FOTO NEWS**  
**Student of the Week**  
This Week's Featured Student is  
**Kylee Graap**  
Daughter of Morgan Ruplinger and Derek Graap  
Kylee is in the 3rd grade at St. John Lutheran School. She was nominated by Mrs. Gipple.




**What is your favorite subject in school? Why?**  
Reading. I really like to read because it calms me.

**What is your favorite part of school? Why?**  
Playing with my friends at recess.

**What would you like to do/become someday? Why?**  
I want to be an artist because doing art is fun and makes me happy.

Kylee is such a joy to have in class! She takes responsibility for her learning by participating in classroom discussions and asking questions when needed. She is also eager to help others. Kylee is a very kind and caring friend, and she is a great role model for younger students at our school.

~ Mrs. Gipple

**Student of the Week Sponsored by:**  
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**\$10<sup>95</sup>** for 24.oz.



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**\$5<sup>49</sup>** dz.  
was \$6.99 dz.  


**ALCAM BUTTER SALE!**  
**\$2<sup>99</sup>** lb.  
No Limit!  


**FUJI APPLES**  
**\$3<sup>99</sup>** for 3 lbs.  


**SIMPLIT HASH BROWN PATTIES**  
**\$8<sup>99</sup>** 20 ct.  


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Located in Gleason.  
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All prices subject to change. While supplies last.  
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AUTO  
from page 1

Vollert ran his own fabrication business, VPT Fabrication, from his home shop. He also grew up in a family-owned live bait business, which he still occasionally helps with on weekends. He has always been self-employed, he said.

The new shop offers comprehensive automotive services including diagnostics, transmissions, engine work, maintenance, brakes, oil changes, tires, and most vehicle repairs. While they service most vehicle makes and models, Vollert mentioned they can provide routine maintenance and tires on electric vehicles but not electronics work due to dealer-specific computer programming requirements. They also carry used tires for anyone needing a spare or two. And they recently started offering gift certificates for services.

In addition to Andy, Andy’s Autocare employs three people. Vollert’s

19-year-old son Ben helps with oil changes and other maintenance, while his girlfriend Amanda Huff handles the bookkeeping, and a local resident Ryan also assists in the shop.

Looking to accommodate working customers, Vollert currently has a key drop-off. “People that work, as long as they have a spare vehicle or a way to get to work, a friend or

See AUTO page 5



**Pet of the Week**

Seraphina is a beautiful girl looking for a home to call her own! Seraphina is great with other cats and is very sweet! Seraphina is vaccinated, spayed, and micro-chipped.

Visit all the adoptable pets at the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: MON.-SAT. 12-4 PM & SUN. 12-2 PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us at [www.furypets.com](http://www.furypets.com).

SPONSORED BY

**Dave's County Market**

300 E. First St.  
Merrill, WI

*Thank You*

Thank you to all the friends and family for making Kathy's celebration of life a tremendous success. I know she felt your love for her. Thank you everyone.

With Love

The family of Kathy Krueger



Andy Vollert is ready to greet customers behind the counter at his new business, Andy’s Autocare LLC, in Merrill.  
Tina L. Scott photos.

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<b>Onion Rings</b> Breaded - Frozen 32 oz..... <b>ONLY \$1.99</b>	<b>Lil Smokies</b> Beef - Frozen 10 oz..... <b>ONLY \$1.29</b>	<b>Orange Slices</b> 5 lbs..... <b>ONLY 99¢</b> a lb
<b>Bratwurst</b> Original Fully Cooked, Frozen 19 oz..... <b>ONLY \$1.99</b>	<b>Orange Juice</b> Low Pulp 59 oz..... <b>ONLY \$1.89</b>	<b>Baked Beans</b> Hickory Brown Sugar 28 oz..... <b>ONLY \$1.29</b>

**OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30-6:30 • SATURDAY 8:30-4:00**

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<b>Ham Steak</b> Thick Cut, Frozen ..... <b>ONLY \$1.39</b> a lb.	<b>Muenster Cheese</b> End-Trims 35 lbs..... <b>ONLY \$1.79</b> a lb.	<b>Hot Dogs</b> Jumbo, Frozen 16 oz..... <b>ONLY \$1.59</b>
<b>Bratwurst</b> Beef - Fully Cooked Frozen 12 oz..... <b>ONLY \$2.29</b>	<b>Pepper Jack Cheese</b> End-Trims 20 lbs..... <b>ONLY \$1.59</b> a lb.	<b>Pork Sausage Crumbles</b> Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs..... <b>ONLY 99¢</b> a lb.
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**Ad & News Deadlines:**  
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12:30 p.m. Monday  
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11:30 a.m. Monday

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

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY  
**CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL**

# Merrill Area United Way

75 years

# GIVE • ADVOCATE • VOLUNTEER

The recent hiring and announcement of the new Executive Director, Debbie Moellendorf has brought about very favorable comments in the community and on social media platforms. Moellendorf started with Merrill Area United Way on March 18th. The next six weeks will be time for training and transitioning the post, as Dee Olsen will step down on May 2, 2025. It is an ideal time, as the deadlines for the two largest reports for United Way Worldwide are impending. They are Membership Certification and Data Base II. Additionally, the Annual Board Planning and Goal Setting session is set for April 16th. Aside from this, there is a multitude of other areas Moellendorf will be focusing on. As we move forward with new leadership, be reminded that the success of United Way is a reflection on the community and the people that support the programs funded by United Way. Without the community, we could not be effective.

It is important that our donors know their funds are getting to the people who need help. March 3rd the first round of agency allocation checks were sent to United Way funded agencies and programs. The second round will be mailed September 2, 2025, once pledged dollars are received. The 2025 funds to agencies totaled \$184,800. Some of the agencies receive donor designated funds specifically designated to their agency. Every year we get incredible stories of how these funds have helped people. The stories are at the heart of it all.

March is National Fatherhood Initiative Month with a clear message. While we recognize both parents are equally important in a child’s life, we also know statistics show that more fathers are inactive or not present in their child’s life. Fathers don’t have to be superheroes. Just be a dad who is present and supportive. Let’s all work together to support our children. United Way helps by supporting child-related programs for Family Resource Center, Parkside Preschool Center, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Big Brother-Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Food for Kids, the Bluejay Nests and several more.

The Annual Planning and Goal Setting meeting scheduled in April is a critical time for the Board to evaluate organizational progress, benchmark previous goals and discuss the future directions MAUW will take. The facilitator for this session is Laura Huggins, a marketing guru with Connexus Credit Union. From this meeting we expect to set goals that will heighten our community presence and continue to drive United Way forward in supporting our agencies, neighbors, and community.

During the year 2025 we will be supporting the United Way Worldwide Brand Refresh initiatives. Brand Refresh is expected to provide greater uniformity amongst all United Ways across the world. It will require several changes for anticipated full implementation by 2028. One change will be switching the well-known “Live United” slogan to the new slogan, “United is the Way”. To learn more about United Way, visit our website and look at our 2024 Annual Report, at [merrillareanitedway.org](http://merrillareanitedway.org) or visit us on Face Book. Remember to help your community by helping others, volunteering, and giving financial support. Donations stay local and are always appreciated at Merrill Area United Way, P O Box 813, Merrill, WI 54452.

Merrill Area United Way • Dee Olsen, Executive Director



OBITUARIES

Julie K. Zastrow



Julie K. Zastrow, age 66, of Merrill, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 14, 2025, at the Marshfield Medical Center in Marshfield, after a short, but aggressive illness. She was born on March 25, 1958 to the late Carl and Louise (Diethelm) Zulliger in Merrill. Julie met Steve Zastrow when he came to help out on the family dairy and ginseng farm. He fell in love with the farmer's daughter, and the two were united in marriage on May 6, 1979 in Merrill. He

survives.  
Julie graduated from the accounting program at NTC with a gold tassel. Her teachers had always given her commendations for her hard work and dedication.  
Julie worked at various kinds of jobs, including on the family dairy and ginseng farm, Aqua Finance, Dave's County Market, Kohl's, Wausau Hydraulics and Semco.  
She looked forward to working on projects at home with Steve as soon as Spring hit! Julie was a strong and independent woman that was always busy and helping. She loved their rides throughout Wisconsin during the Fall, "leaf peeping" as she called it – admiring the beautiful scenery and colors, and of course, stopping in Door County for some cherries and fudge. Julie enjoyed traveling the shores of Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. She has many happy memories of camping with family and friends around the campfire at Star Lake. Julie's faith was at the center of her life, it was very important to her, and she loved Jehovah and His congregation of fellow worshippers. Steve and Julie even built their own home together in 1989, something they had fond memories of. Julie will be sadly missed, but her hospitality and love will live on in her family and friends.  
Julie leaves behind her husband: Steve Zastrow, sister: Margaret (John) Hartman, brothers: John and Armin Zulliger, nieces and nephews: Mark, Todd, Kim, Jeremy and Jason Zulliger, Kristina Hartman Rodgers and Cynthia Hartman Roberts. She is further survived by many cousins and good friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, and sisters-in-law: Bonnie Zulliger and Cindy Jones, and her English Springer Spaniels: Brandy #1 and Brandy #2.  
The memorial service for Julie will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation at 301 Eagle Drive in Merrill. Ted Starzinski will offer support to family and friends. Visitation will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. until the time of the service, also at the funeral home.  
The service will be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. It can be found under her obituary on the funeral home website.  
Donations to the Jehovah's Witness congregation in Merrill in Julie's name is preferred.  
Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation Services of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at [www.taylorstinewaid.com](http://www.taylorstinewaid.com).

June Marie Krueger (nee Stine)



June Marie Krueger (nee Stine) passed peacefully surrounded by her family on Sunday, March 9, 2025, at the age of 89, she was born on September 10, 1935, in Merrill, WI, daughter of the late Hamilton and June (nee Jourdan) Stine. June was a 1954 Merrill High School Graduate. She married the love of her life Robert "Bob" Krueger on September 1, 1954, in Bessemer, MI. She worked at Pine Crest Nursing Home for many years and retired in 2002.

June lived a full and vibrant life filled with love, laughter, and a knack for making every moment special. She was an avid fisherman, finding joy and serenity on the water, always eager to reel in the next big catch. A gifted baker, her cakes were legendary, each one crafted with care and love. Her creativity knew no bounds—if she set her mind to something, she could make it. Whether it was sewing, crafting, or fixing things, there was nothing she couldn't do.  
She cherished time spent playing cards and cribbage, always up for a friendly competition, and she never passed up an opportunity to visit the casino. More than anything, she was the heart of her family—a devoted daughter, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, whose warmth and kindness touched everyone who knew her.  
She will be deeply missed and forever remembered by her loving family, including children Sherry (Dan) Knorr, Kim Robinson, Becky (Dan) Krause, and Ann Marie (Lawrence) DiMatteo; grandchildren John (Jodi) Knorr, Nathan (Sarah) Knorr, Jerry (Nicole) Robinson Jr., Jennifer (fiancé Matt Pulliam) Robinson, Eric (Jami) Krause, Amanda (James) Draxler, and Lorenzo (Debbie) DiMatteo; great-grandchildren Earl (fiancée Katie), Quentin, Gabe, and Sam Knorr, Joanne Robinson, Azalea Blake, Grayson, Benton, and Bianca Krause, Wesley and Amelia Draxler; great-great-grandchildren Kinsley Knorr and Justin Ray Running. She is further survived by sisters-in-law Lori Stine and Judith Stine, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. June was preceded in death by her parents, husband Bob, brothers Edwin (Grace) Stine, James Stine, and Dale Stine, and sister Gloria (Charles) Minesal Sr.  
A visitation will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025, from 11:00am until 12:45pm, with the funeral service at 1:00pm, at Phillip Funeral Home 1420 W. Paradise Dr. West Bend. Entombment to follow at Washington County Memorial Park at 1:45pm. In lieu of flowers, memorials in June's name to St. Jude Children's Hospital or a Children's Charity would be appreciated.  
The family would like to thank the staff at Accent Care Hospice for the Kindness and support they gave to June.  
June's legacy of love, laughter, and strength will live on in the hearts of those who knew her.

Yupin Hall (Yimsharuay)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Yupin Hall (Yimsharuay), who passed away peacefully on March 10th, 2025 at the age of 85.  
Yupin Hall (Yimsharuay) was born to the late Aweng Tale and Leck Yimsharuay on November 16, 1939 in Bangkok, Thailand. She received her secondary education in Thailand and continued to educate herself. She married Phillip Hall in 1968 and moved to Merrill, Wisconsin where she became an American Citizen shortly after. They divorced 10 years later. Yupin was devoted to her children. She had a very strong work ethic, never missing a day. Her last employer was Northern Wire, where she retired in 2006 as a Drill Press Operator.  
Yupin, lovingly referred to as Mama by family and close friends, loved to travel and experience new places. Her father told her that you have not been to America until you have seen Mount Rushmore (The Presidents Heads). Well, she has and so much more. Mama was a strong and brave woman who could wield a broom stick like a sword if she had too, but also had a soft spot in her heart for homeless cats and dogs, often giving them a home. She donated every year to food banks and recently to Saint Judes. Mama had a great sense of humor and loved to laugh. She loved to cook her Thai food which captured the attention of her neighbors. She was a loving and dedicated mother. One way to provide for her family was going into the forest to pick safe edible plants, along with fishing catfish, smelt, and salmon.  
Mama will forever be missed and loved by her family, including children Anna Hall-Stella (Jamie), Cynthia (John) Dahlin, and Samuel (Angela) Hall; grandchildren Aram Urk Yimchaloi, Dominic (Rebecca Kim) Belfiori, Serafina Stella, Haley Napora, Cayden Dahlin, Tyranon Dahlin, Trejon Dahlin, Cameran Dahlin, step grandchild Stephanie Young, Brittany Gresen (Shawn), Blake Gresen, as well as several great grandchildren. She is further survived by many nieces and nephews in Thailand. Yupin was preceded in death by her cherished Grandma Tocktim, parents Aweng Tale and Leck Yimsharuay, and all 10 of her brothers and sisters. A small family gathering will take place in the future to honor her.  
The family would like to give a very special thank you to U.P. Home Health and Hospice, and also to Melissa Rife Aho and her daughter Carleigh Aho, in helping to ease Mama's transition into her next life.  
The Passage "Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment."  
"Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared" ~ Buddha

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In Memoriams

In Loving  
Memory of  
JOHN DOE  
Apr. 9, 1954-Aug. 6, 2014



It's hard to believe it's  
been 2 years already  
since you left us.  
We think of you  
every day.

Love & Miss You  
Jane, Sue & Bob

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remember  
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YOUR FAMILY'S  
PERSONAL MEMORIAL





Please join us for a time of healing as we create huggable bears from your loved one's clothing. This event will be held at **Taylor-Stine-Waid**, located at 301 Eagle Drive, Merrill.


**SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025  
9:00 AM-1:00 PM**

We will start punctually as it takes the entire scheduled time to design, cut and sew the bears. One bear per family will be made at this event. We do not have volunteers who can create additional bears outside this workshop. Contact Anna Winningham for more details. A light meal will be served.

**TAYLOR-STINE-WAID**  
FUNERAL & CREMATION

To reserve your spot, RSVP before April 4 by calling 715-536-4646.

**Dean D. Arnott Jr.**



Dean D. Arnott Jr., age 65, of Merrill, passed away while driving truck across the North Carolina coast on March 10, 2025. He was born on July 10, 1959, to the late Dean and Joan (Rohloff) Arnott in Tomahawk. Dean attended and graduated from Tomahawk High School.  
Dean loved and cherished his family, and would faithfully talk with sister, Jill, at least once a day. He was currently an over the road truck driver for Lincoln Wood Products in Merrill. Dean also owned and operated his own company, Arnott Freightway. He enjoyed trucking and seeing the countryside. Dean was also a Harley-Davidson enthusiast, taking a ride whenever possible! He loved his life, his friends and family and was very kind-hearted.  
Dean passed away doing what he loved, just as he had wanted.  
Dean is survived by sisters: Joan Vasquez (Terry Hagar), Jill (Ron) Shaw and June Arnott, brothers: Dave Arnott and Donn Arnott (Lindsay Mae Demski), uncle: Dale Arnott, aunt: Kathy Krueger, numerous nieces and nephews and lots of good friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.  
Per Dean's wishes, no service will be held, but family is planning to take him for one last ride to all of his favorite places.  
Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation Services of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at [www.taylorstinewaid.com](http://www.taylorstinewaid.com).

**Will your family know  
what you wanted?**

*We can help you record your wishes so  
they won't have to wonder. Call today.*



**TAYLOR-STINE-WAID**  
FUNERAL & CREMATION

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**(715) 536-4646**  
[www.taylorstinewaid.com](http://www.taylorstinewaid.com)



| OBITUARIES |

Bristol D. Bailey



Sweet little Bristol D. Bailey, gained her little angel wings at the age of 3 months old, due to illnesses, and complications because of being 2 ½ months premature. Bristol was born on December 6, 2024, to Megan Bailey. Her mother and brother have wonderful memories of Bristol and her little personality, very strong and feisty, was a momma’s girl and was definitely very loved. She was Jameson’s “little girl” and she meant everything to him! Bristol and Jameson will forever be connected; she was so special to him. She is survived by her mother: Megan Bailey, brother: Jameson Bailey - Vinzant, grandparents: Tracy and Doug Bailey and uncle: Austin Bailey (Isabelle). She is further survived by some great grandparents, as well as some that have passed away before her. The family wishes to thank the wonderful and caring staff at the NICU in Wausau and the PICU in Madison. A Celebration of Life for Bristol will take place at a later date. Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at [www.taylorstinewaid.com](http://www.taylorstinewaid.com).

Jennie J. Voigt



Jennie J. Voigt, 91, passed away March 7, 2025, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. She was born December 3, 1933 in town of Hamburg, daughter of the late Arnold and Ida (Bloch) Krenz. On May 29, 1954, she married Gene Voigt at St. John Lutheran Church, Hamburg, and he preceded her in death on September 15, 2017. Jennie farmed with her husband and also worked as the secretary and treasurer for their business, Gene Voigt Trucking. In her younger years, she was involved with the Hamburg Homemakers, Berlin/Hamburg Lions Club, and active at her church as a Sunday school teacher and member of the ladies aid. Her favorite pastimes were spending time with family, embroidery, cards, dominoes and completing word find books. Survivors include her children, Diane (Gary) Johnson and David (Nancy) Voigt; grandson, Corey (Lexie Strasser) Voigt; numerous nieces and nephews. Besides her parents and husband, Gene, she was preceded in death by a sister, Arlyle Werner and a brother, Vilas Krenz. Funeral service will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 21, 2025, at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Hamburg. Rev. William Ostrem will officiate. Burial will be in the Hamburg Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday from 9:30 am until the time of service all at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Hamburg. The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to their family and friends at Wood Aven/Benedictine Health and Rehabilitation for the care she received during her stay. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.petersonkraemer.com](http://www.petersonkraemer.com)



**READ, REUSE, RECYCLE**



| LEGALS |

Notice of Absentee Ballot  
Town of Corning – Lincoln County

To obtain and absentee ballot for Corning residents, Contact Rick Hass, 715-536-3432 715-218-1712 Corning Town Clerk, to set up appointment time to vote. Or go on [Myvote.WI.gov](http://Myvote.WI.gov) to request an absentee ballot. Published March 20, 2025 WNAXLP

REQUEST FOR LAWN  
MOWING PRICE QUOTE  
TOWN OF CORNING – Lincoln County

The Town of Corning is accepting price quotes for mowing and trimming the Lawn by the Corning Town Hall. The Lawn shall be mowed once a week or as needed. The mowing shall be the same as was mowed the previous year. Trimming will be done by the building, trees, sign, and by the power box. Price to be by the charge per occurrence. Mower, trimmer, and fuel to be provided by the individual. Quotes are due 7 pm April 14, 2025, to be opened at the April 14 Town Board Meeting. For details contact Rick Hass, (715) 536-3432. The Town Board of Corning reserves the right to accept and/or reject any and/or all quotes. Contractors will give Town of Corning a Certificate of Insurance & accept all responsibility according to State Statutes that apply to Workmen’s Comp, Liability Insurance, Commercial Auto Insurance, Social Security and Withholding taxes. Please send your sealed bids to Rick Hass, Clerk, Town of Corning, N1428 Strawberry Road, Merrill, WI 54452. Rick Hass, Clerk Recycle Recycle Published March 20, 2025 WNAXLP

Legals

7700

The March 11th, 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 March 20, 2025 WNAXLP

Legals

7700

**BY THE COURT**  
**DATE SIGNED: January 20, 2025**  
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer  
Probate Registrar  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Danny Woller  
**Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)**  
Case No. 2025 IN 20  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**  
1. An application for informal administration was filed.  
2. The decedent, with date of birth 10/30/1944 and date of death 01/28/2025, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 700 Grand Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452.  
3. All interested persons waived notice.  
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent’s estate is June 27, 2025.  
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.  
Thomas Lee Woller  
145822 Flint Creek Circle,  
Wausau, WI 54401  
715-409-6701  
Published 3/20/25, 3/27/25 & 4/3/25 WNAXLP

**DATE SIGNED: March 10, 2025**  
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer  
Probate Registrar  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT LINCOLN COUNTY**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY JANE OPPER  
**Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration)**  
Case No. 25-IN-18  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**  
1. An application for informal administration was filed.  
2. The decedent, with date of birth February 25, 1947, and date of death June 15, 2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 509 E. 1st Street, Merrill, WI 54452.  
3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office, before Becky Byer, Probate Registrar, on April 10, 2025 at 10:00 am.  
**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 June 27, 2025.  
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.  
6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.  
The names or addresses of the following interested persons (if any) are not known or reasonably ascertainable: David Tuttle, Janesville, Wisconsin.  
*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.*  
Attorney Corinna T. Fischer  
Goyke, Tillisch & Fischer, LLP  
2100 Stewart Avenue, Ste. 140  
Wausau, WI 54401  
715-849-8100 / Bar Number: 1115525  
Published 3/20/25, 3/27/25 & 4/3/25 WNAXLP

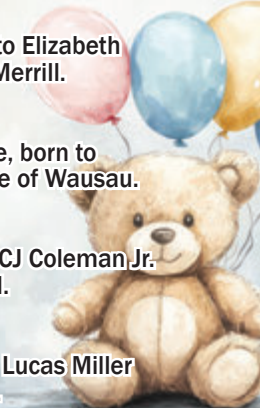
MERRILL AREA BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FEBRUARY 19, 2025**  
Boy, John Lee Hudson, born to Elizabeth Dhols and Jacob Hudson of Merrill.

**FEBRUARY 25, 2025**  
Girl, Marilyn Sumayya Cinque, born to Keyaan Griffin and Sky Pierce of Wausau.

**FEBRUARY 26, 2025**  
Boy, Colt Robertson, born to CJ Coleman Jr. and Suzie Coleman of Merrill.

**MARCH 8, 2025**  
Boy, Remington Lee, born to Lucas Miller and Heather Miller of Merrill.



EARLY IN PERSON VOTING NOTICE

Early voting for **TOWN OF MERRILL** residents for the April 1st, 2025 Spring Election, will begin at the Town of Merrill Community Center, W4594 Progress Ave. on Tuesday, March 18th.  
**Voting hours are:**  
Tuesday • March 18th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Thursday • March 20th 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday • March 25th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Thursday • March 27th 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Friday • March 28th 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Mitzi Flegner, Clerk  
Published March 13 & 20, 2025 WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST

Notice is hereby given that public testing of the DS200 Tabulating Equipment machine and the Express Voting machine being used in the Town of Merrill for the April 1, 2025, Spring Election is scheduled to begin at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, March 24, 2025. The testing will be conducted in the Town of Merrill Community Center, W4594 Progress Ave., Merrill, WI 54452. Mitzi Flegner, Clerk  
Published March 20, 2025 WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST

Notice is hereby given that public testing of the ExpressVote and DS-200 voting equipment being used in municipalities within Lincoln County for the April 1, 2025 General Election is scheduled from 8:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, 2025 through Wednesday, March 26, 2025. All towns and cities in Lincoln County will be testing their voting equipment through the Municipal Clerk’s Office within these times. For specific times pertaining to an individual municipality please contact the clerk for that municipality. Specific times will also be posted on all municipal bulletin boards and websites where available. Published March 20, 2025 WNAXLP

| LEGALS |

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT LINCOLN COUNTY  
AMENDED SUMMONS  
(FOR PUBLICATION)  
Case No. 25-CV-13  
Code: 30404 (Foreclosure)  
NICOLET NATIONAL BANK  
111 N. Washington Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
JOSHUA J. DUELLMAN  
711 E. 1st St., Apt. 605  
Merrill, WI 54452  
Defendant.

TO: Joshua J. Duellman  
711 E. 1st St., Apt. 605  
Merrill, WI 54452  
You are hereby notified that Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. Within forty (40) days after March 13, 2025, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street, Suite 205, Merrill, WI 54452, and to Christopher M. Seelen, Plaintiff’s attorney, whose address is Ruder Ware, L.L.S.C., 402 Graham Avenue, P.O. Box 187, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0187. You may have an attorney help or represent you. If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within forty (40) days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. **You are notified that we are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.**  
Dated this 7th day of March, 2025.  
RUDER WARE  
Attorneys for Plaintiff, Nicolet National Bank  
By: Electronically signed by,  
Christopher M. Seelen  
Christopher M. Seelen  
State Bar No. 1029724  
**P.O. ADDRESS:**  
RUDER WARE  
402 Graham Avenue  
P.O. Box 187  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0187  
Telephone: 715-834-3425  
Fax: 715-834-9240  
Published March 13, 20 & 27, 2025 WNAXLP

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

TOWN OF PINE RIVER

Notice is hereby given that the **April 1, 2025 Town Board Meeting** for the Town of Pine River will be held at the **Pine River Volunteer Fire Department** N1622 Range Line Road at 7:00 PM [www.townofpineriver.com](http://www.townofpineriver.com).

\*Please Recycle\* Amanda Herdt, Clerk  
Published March 20, 2025 WNAXLP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
CITY OF MERRILL

The City of Merrill will be accepting Proposals for the property located at 703 S Center Ave. For more information please visit our website or contact Rod Akey at [Rod.Akey@ci.merrill.wi.us](mailto:Rod.Akey@ci.merrill.wi.us). Proposals are due April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Published March 13 & 20, 2025 WNAXLP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
CITY OF MERRILL

The City of Merrill will be accepting Proposals for the property located at 401 S Kyes Street. For more information please visit our website or contact Rod Akey at [Rod.Akey@ci.merrill.wi.us](mailto:Rod.Akey@ci.merrill.wi.us). Proposals are due April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Published March 13 & 20, 2025 WNAXLP

TOWN OF PINE RIVER, LINCOLN COUNTY  
ROAD PROJECTS BIDS REQUEST

The Pine River Town Board is accepting bids for the following 2025 road projects:  
1) Grind and pulverize with sheeps foot approximately 1 mile of French Ridge Road  
2) Grind and pulverize with sheeps foot approximately .5 mile of High Ridge Road  
3) Repave approximately 1 mile of French Ridge Road to a compacted 2.5"  
4) Repave approximately .5 mile of High Ridge Road to a compacted 2.5"  
Paving and grinding projects must be bid separately. Work must be completed by September 15, 2025. Project specifics are available from Greg at 715-536-3694 or 715-218-1451. Sealed bids must be received by the start of the Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 7 PM at the Town of Pine River Fire Station and can be delivered in person or mailed as: Road Project Bids, C/O Dave Breunig, N1647 Deer Run Ave., Merrill, WI 54452. Town Board reserves right to reject any or all bids. Please Recycle Amanda Herdt, Clerk  
Published March 13 & 20, 2025 WNAXLP



## KOZY

from page 2

and 1996, Connie Fischer took over ownership, and in 1989 ads ran that billed the restaurant as Kozy Korner Restaurant & Coffee Shop. Fischer ran the business until she sold it to Pete Buntrock in early 1999 who then ran it simply as Kozy Korner Restaurant. In January 2004, Kozy Korner Restaurant was purchased by a new owner, 44-year-old Marjorie Kautz and her husband, Donald. Marjorie managed and operated the diner until her unexpected

death just 19 months later on Aug. 25, 2005. Lass said he purchased the property from Marge’s husband, Donald Kautz.

### New look and plans for the future

With the completion of the renovations, the dining room interior walls now feature rough-sawn lumber from a Wisconsin supplier, sealed with a clear finish, giving the space a rustic vibe. On the walls hang deer and fish mounts, complementing the lumber and reflecting Lass’s passion for the outdoors.

“I’m looking for more mounts, more fish, and over time, this will all be filled up,” he said, gesturing to the walls.

The restaurant held a soft opening in February, followed by a grand opening about three weeks ago, which Lass described as “jammed” with customers.

Lass’s investment in the renovations and his commitment to preserving a part of Merrill’s history proves Kozy Corner—however you spell it—is likely to be an important part of the community for many years to come.

### A familiar menu with a unique twist

Currently, Kozy Corner Kitchen operates primarily as a breakfast diner but also serves lunch items including burgers, fries, grilled cheese, tomato soup, and chili. One unique feature is the restaurant’s extensive cheese selection.

“You have 50 some choices of cheese, cheese of the day,” Lass explained. “You buy your brick of cheese, we’ll slice it and put it on your grilled cheese sandwich, you take the rest home.” He pointed to a small refrigerated case in the corner of the dining area.

The restaurant also functions as “a little mini cheese house,” with cheese sourced from Dupont Cheese in Marion, Wis. “They only use whole milk in their cheese, and it’s just so creamy, so flavorful,” Lass said.

When asked what he wants Kozy Corner Kitchen to be known for, Lass emphasized cleanliness and quality. “I want to be known for having the cleanest restaurant in Merrill, always, without question,” he said.

In the kitchen, Lass has a chef he describes as “exceptional.”

“I have not had one complaint or issue of a burger or an omelet—nothing ever sent back,” Lass said.

The restaurant is open seven days a week, with hours from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. except Mondays and Tuesdays when they operate from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Locally-sourced fresh bakery is available on the weekends.

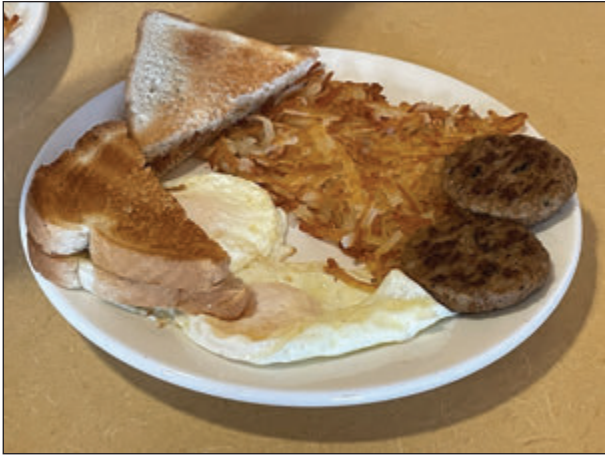
### Plans to expand to dinner

In the future, Lass plans to expand service to include dinner hours, operating



Customers finish their breakfast in the renovated dining area. This photo offers an even more expansive view of the historic ceiling.

Tina L. Scott photos.



Kozy Corner Kitchen has long been a favorite place to get a good breakfast and a hot cup of coffee, and now it is again.

from 4 to 8 p.m. with an all-Italian menu, once he secures additional staff. “I’m always looking for more cooks and waitresses,” he said, particularly for the planned dinner service.

Kozy Corner Kitchen joins Jokin’ Joe’s Bait and Tackle Sporting Goods as the second Merrill business owned by Lass.

“My goal is to get this place and the other place—get people trained up,” Lass said, explaining his long-term plan to possibly sell the businesses to employees

once they’ve been fully trained in all aspects of operations.

For now, Kozy Corner Kitchen serves as a comfortable gathering

place for the community, just as it did for many years before. As Lass says, it’s “just a place to hang out and have fun” with “really good food.”

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2:30am, Sat. 7am-2:30am,  
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\$5 Burger & Home Fries  
Dine-in only & additional  
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Friday  
Fish Fry 12 Noon-8:45pm

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Main St. • Merrill ADULTS • \$8.00

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Mondays All Seats \$5.00

SNOW WHITE  
"PG" (1HR 49MIN)  
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM  
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM  
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM  
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM

BLACK BAG  
"R" (1HR 33MIN)  
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:00PM  
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:00 & 7:00 & 9:00PM  
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:00 & 7:00PM  
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM

MICKEY 17  
"R" (2HR 17MIN)  
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM  
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00 & 9:15PM  
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM  
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM

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

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OF THE MONTH  
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CRIBBAGE  
TOURNAMENT  
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SAT. MARCH 29TH  
MIXED COUPLES -  
POOL TOURNAMENT  
Open 10am, Starts 11am  
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SUNDAY, 4PM  
APRIL 6th!  
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Open at 11am Sat. & Sun. • Closed Tues. & Wed.

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LENT SPECIAL!

Ash Wednesday March 5 - Easter Sunday April 20, 2025  
EVERY DAY, ALL DAY!

6" Tuna \$3.99! Reg. \$5.69

Tuna Salad \$4.99! Reg. \$7.69

SUBWAY

Antigo, Merrill, Tomahawk

Certain restrictions apply, not valid with other offers.

447987

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING  
MAR 29

Spring into GREEN

GRAND PRIZE PRIZE PAYOUT

7:00 PM	\$500 CASH
7:30 PM	\$500 CASH
8:00 PM	\$750 CASH
8:30 PM	\$750 CASH
9:00 PM	LAWN MOWER
9:30 PM	\$1,000 CASH
10:00 PM	LAWN MOWER
10:30 PM	\$1,500 CASH
11:00 PM	TRACTOR
11:30 PM	\$2,000 CASH
12:00AM	LAWN MOWER

WIN A NEW JOHN DEERE TRACTOR  
OR ONE OF THREE ZERO TURN  
MOWERS

HO-CHUNK GAMING  
WITTENBERG

HOURLY HOT SEATS  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY | 12PM - MIDNIGHT



PINE  
from page 1

Wickham, Lori Anderson-Malm, Marguerite Lyskawa, and Greg Hartwig; Lincoln County Corporation Counsel Karry Johnson; Lincoln County Administrative Coordinator Renee Krueger; and the broker selected by the Committee to facilitate the sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home, Marcus & Millichap, all in attendance. DePasse made a motion, and Wickham seconded a motion to go into the closed session, and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Any other Lincoln County Board Supervisors in attendance were also invited into the closed session portion of the meeting. The closed session was called according to Wis. Statutes for the purpose of “Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons

require a closed session” for the purpose of an update from the broker and review of any Letters of Intent for the sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home. After more than an hour deliberating, the meeting was called back into open session on a motion from Julie DePasse, seconded by Greg Hartwig, and a unanimous vote. Chairman Boyd announced there was no motion coming out of the closed session; however, the broker had been directed to continue negotiations with interested parties. He called for a 10-minute recess and, once reconvened and called back into open session, a second closed session was conferred according to Wis. Statutes for the purpose of “Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved” specific to “(1) litigation related to return of earnest money; (2) possible litigation

related to Tortious Interference by Donald J. Dunphy with Contract of the Sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home; and (3) the tax deed class action lawsuit in Wisconsin filed against all counties and the City of Milwaukee.” DePasse made the motion, seconded by Cummings, with the closed session to include Krueger and Johnson; it passed unanimously on a voice vote. After nearly another hour, the A&L Committee again reconvened into open session on a motion from Cummings, second from Lyskawa, and a unanimous voice vote. This time the Committee did take formal action. DePasse made a motion directing Lincoln County Corporation Counsel to draft a resolution to authorize the commencement of litigation against Donald J. Dunphy for tortious interference with the contract regarding the prior Pine Crest Nursing Home sale at her earliest convenience. The motion carried on a voice vote before the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

## Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

<b>Mar. 20 - Veterans Coffee &amp; Conversation at Pine Ridge Restaurant</b>	<b>Mar. 27 - Food Truck Stevies at the Creative Spirit</b>	<b>Mar. 29 - Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at The Eagles Club (in honor of Brandi Dufour for her children)</b>
<b>Mar. 21 - St. Francis Fish Fry</b>	<b>Mar. 27 - Brewers Baseball Opener and Tailgate Party at Plautz's Pub</b>	<b>Mar. 29 - Mixed Couples Pool Tourney at Plautz's Pub</b>
<b>Mar. 21 - Billy Bronsted and Augie Dougherty at Sawmill Brewing Company</b>	<b>Mar. 27 - Veterans Coffee &amp; Conversation at Pine Ridge Restaurant</b>	<b>Apr. 2 - Honor in the Air Film Screening at T.B. Scott Free Library</b>
<b>Mar. 22 - Little Lakes Memories Banquet</b>	<b>Mar. 28 - Library Social Hour at T.B. Scott Free Library</b>	<b>Apr. 3 - Bingo at St. Francis</b>
<b>Mar. 22 - Blacklight Bingo at Bubba's Pub</b>	<b>Mar. 28 - St. Francis Fish Fry</b>	<b>Apr. 3 - Veterans Coffee &amp; Conversation at Pine Ridge Restaurant</b>
<b>Mar. 22 - St. Patty's After Party at Hy-Da Way</b>	<b>Mar. 28 - Live music at Sawmill Brewing Company</b>	<b>Apr. 3-6 - Merrill High School Musical: Catch Me If You Can, The Musical</b>
<b>Mar. 26 - Critic's Choice Movie at T.B. Scott Free Library</b>	<b>Mar. 29 - Art &amp; Craft DeStash at Merrill Enrichment Center</b>	
<b>Mar. 26 - Wednesday Bingo at The Dugout</b>		

For more information, go to: [merrillchamber.org/events](http://merrillchamber.org/events) or contact the event sponsor.

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# Local Art & Craft DeStash event set to debut at Merrill Enrichment Center

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

The Merrill Enrichment Center will hold a new community event aimed at helping local artists and crafters refresh their creative spaces while offering bargains to fellow hobbyists who want to stock up on supplies and tools.

Called the Art & Craft DeStash, the event will take place on Saturday, Mar. 29, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Merrill Enrichment/Expo Center, 303 N. Sales St.

“Our Art & Craft DeStash event is designed to attract artists, crafters, and everyday creatives who are looking to save a little money on supplies,” said Tammie Mrachek, Merrill Enrichment Center Director.

The concept emerged naturally from the seasonal urge to declutter. “The idea came about when looking for something new to offer and bring to the area,” she said. “It’s spring and we are starting to clean out our own supply closets.”

For many creative people, experimentation often leads to accumulated supplies. “Knowing how many supplies and materials we buy and try before we find what works best for us ... or before we try a new hobby ... the supplies and cost can really add up,” said Mrachek.

The response from vendors has been strong, with more than 25 participants already registered for the event. Shoppers can expect to find a diverse selection of creative materials including scrap glass, paper crafting supplies (stamps, inks, blender pens, die cutting machines, and card kits), knitting and crocheting materials, cake decorating tools, jewelry making components, and fabric, she said.

More specialized items will also be available, such as materials for making bath bombs, sewing patterns, a serger machine, dress forms, vinyl for signs and t-shirts, needlepoint and cross stitch supplies, weaving materials, looms, and displays for craft and vendor shows.

The event is free to attend and open to the public. Organizers hope to establish the DeStash as an annual tradition in Merrill.

Those interested in learning more about the event can contact the Merrill Enrichment Center at 715.536.4226 or email [mec@ci.merrill.wi.us](mailto:mec@ci.merrill.wi.us).

# Merrill and Gleason Lions to promote diabetes awareness on National Diabetes Alert Day

The Merrill Lions Club and Gleason Area Lions Club will host informational booths on March 25, 2025, in recognition of National Diabetes Alert Day. Volunteers will be at Dave’s County Market and Walgreens from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. to distribute materials and answer questions about diabetes prevention and management.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 30.3 million people in the United States—9.4% of the

population—have diabetes. While 23 million have been diagnosed, an estimated 84.1 million have pre-diabetes. The total estimated cost of diabetes, including direct and indirect expenses, is \$245 billion annually.

Diabetes is a growing health concern, and many people don’t even realize they have it. However, the earlier it is detected, the easier it is to control. Awareness is the first step in preventing and managing diabetes.

Diabetes Alert Day, observed annually on the fourth Tuesday of March, is an initiative of the American Diabetes Association. The Wisconsin Lions Foundation and local Lions Clubs are working to raise awareness across the state.

Community members unable to visit the booths can take the diabetes risk test at [stopdiabetes.com/get-the-facts/risk-test.html](http://stopdiabetes.com/get-the-facts/risk-test.html).

“Stop by, pick up some information, and say hello,” said Dennis Knott, Lion and Diabetes Alert Chairman.

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450553

PRICE COUNTY  
County Veterans Service Officer

Price County is accepting applications for the position of County Veterans Service Officer in the Price County Veterans Service Department. This position plans, directs, and organizes efforts to assist Veterans, their families, and survivors regarding benefits available to them through the Federal Veterans Administration, the Wisconsin State Department of Veterans Affairs, and county and local resources.

This is a management position in which the employee plans for the daily operations of the office, supervises the support staff in implementation, applicable benefit preparation, and maintains a flow of information and services to the Veteran community of Price County. This includes coordinating benefits with other departments, local, state and federal. The County Veterans Service Officer serves as the Veterans and their dependents advocate to local, state, and federal programs and benefits. This position takes direction from the County Administrator and the Executive Committee.

This is a full-time, exempt position with a starting annual salary of \$64,209.60 (Grade 9), and full benefits package. Benefits include Wisconsin Retirement System with 6.95% employer match, income continuation insurance, choice of multiple health insurance plans including a zero deductible plan, 22 days of paid leave within the first year, 10 paid holidays per year, paid maternity/paternity leave, and quarterly employee lifestyle enhancement reimbursement perk. Dental/vision, flex spending, WI Deferred Comp, life, short-term disability, accident, and cancer/critical illness coverages are available.

A full description of minimum requirements and application instructions can be found on the Price County website's employment opportunities page at [www.pricecounty.wi.gov](http://www.pricecounty.wi.gov), by emailing a request to [hr@pricecounty.wi.gov](mailto:hr@pricecounty.wi.gov) or by calling 715-339-5131.

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Way too much to mention Dress for the weather, be aware of neighbors mailboxes and drive-ways.

For pictures go to EstateSales.org or our Facebook page at V&J Estate sales and service.

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# Merrill residents honored veterans on National Wreaths Across America Day



Preparing for the ceremony at the Wisconsin National Veterans Cemetery. **Dave Melancon photo.**

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

Local residents took part in National Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day on Dec. 14, 2024, in a heartfelt tribute to fallen veterans. The northern Wisconsin National Veterans Cemetery in Harshaw was one of 4,909 locations where wreath-laying ceremonies took place. The event, which honors veterans, included Master of Ceremonies Commander Casey Crump, Ret. U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; presentation of colors by the American Legion Riders, District 11; and an invocation by Rev. Charles Sheffler. The American Legion baseball team, Rhinelander Post 7 Rebels, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Jake Kriesel sang the National Anthem.

Guest speaker Rev. Sheffler spoke on this year's theme, "Live With Purpose." Wreaths representing all branches of service, POW/MIA, and



Volunteers place wreaths at the Wisconsin National Veterans Cemetery in Harshaw on National Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day.

Medal of Honor recipients were placed, including those presented by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1638 members Dennis and Kathy Palazzo

and Auxiliary members Denni Radloff and Cathy Dornbrack.

The ceremony concluded with a three-round volley by the Northwoods Honor Guard and the playing of Taps by Ginny Buzzell.

As family members and volunteers placed wreaths on graves, each veteran's name was said aloud in a tribute to their life and service. The wreaths were not placed to "decorate graves" but to remember—not their deaths, but their lives. Each wreath is a gift of appreciation from a grateful America.

A luncheon and dessert social followed at Rondele Ranch.

### Local tribute

In Merrill, WAA wreaths were placed on the graves of Army Sgt. Ryan Jopek and Army PFC Grant Dampier, both killed in action in 2006

during Operation Iraqi Freedom. This year, Jopek's father highlighted another local soldier, Army PFC Walter Waschick, who was killed in action at age 18 and is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, asking if he could be honored with the placing of a wreath on his grave in 2025.

With the help of St. Francis Parish Secretary Kris Leggett, Mary Ingman located Waschick's grave and paid tribute to him in 2024. She took this year's WAA Wreath that she had placed on her own father's grave, Einar H. Ingman, Jr., Medal of Honor Recipient, and placed it on Walter Waschick's grave.

"My father would have wanted this wreath shared with Army PFC Waschick, who was Merrill's first casualty in the Vietnam War," Ingman said. "As I placed the wreath, I said, 'Today I place a wreath on the grave of an American hero, Walter Waschick. Thank you for your service, from a grateful nation.'"

### Supporting the mission

"This event would not be possible without the support of volunteers, wreath sponsors, and the many businesses and organizations that contribute each year," Ingman said.

Nationally, three million wreaths were placed in 2024. The program continues to grow, with next year's National Wreaths Across America Day scheduled for Dec. 13, 2025. Wreaths may be sponsored online at [wreathscrossamerica.org](http://wreathscrossamerica.org) or by mailing a check to Wreaths Across America, P.O. Box 249, Columbia, ME 04623. Donations should include "W10048/WINWNC" in the memo line.

For more information, contact Mary at 715.612.2196 or Bob at 715.360.2390.

The mission of Wreaths Across America remains: "Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the value of freedom."

## FFA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

**Brooklyn Clabots**, a Freshman at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named FFA Member of the Month for February 2025. This is Brooklyn's first year in FFA, and she has already taken an active role, participating in the fruit fundraiser and the FFA volleyball tournament, and she will soon compete on the livestock judging team. Brooklyn said she joined FFA "to further my experience in agriculture and get to participate in fun activities."

Brooklyn has a strong background in agriculture. "At my dad's in Clark County, I show beef and rabbits. I have been showing beef since I was in third grade and rabbits since I was about five," she said. "I have always known that I really loved animals, but in the last few years, I have been able to really further my knowledge and experience with these animals."

Beyond FFA, Brooklyn is actively involved in sports and other extracurricular activities at MHS. She has played volleyball since seventh grade, recently joined the track team as a thrower, and has been in dance since she was three years old. At school, Brooklyn is a member of Student Council, Junior Optimist Club, Raise Your Voice, and Yearbook Club. She also works part-time at Dairy Queen and Ana Blair's.

In her free time, Brooklyn enjoys arts and crafts, playing volleyball, and spending time working with her animals. "I love being creative and staying active, and working with my animals is something I'm really passionate about," she said.

The daughter of Danielle Ludvik of Merrill and David and Stephanie Clabots of Gilman, Brooklyn has a 3.857 GPA. Brooklyn plans to pursue a career as a veterinarian. "I'm not sure where I want to go to college yet," she said, but she knows she wants to be a veterinarian.



Brooklyn Clabots



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The Wisconsin National Veterans Cemetery in Harshaw, after all the wreaths have been placed. A tribute to the lives of those who lay in rest.



Representing Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1638: Dennis and Kathy Palazzo.



Representing Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1638 Auxiliary: Denni Radloff and Cathy Dornbrack.



Someone places a wreath at the Wisconsin National Veterans Cemetery in Harshaw, speaks aloud a name, and pauses for a solemn moment.

Dave Melancon photos.

# Northcentral Technical College announces free Dental Sealant Clinic for Kids

Appointments are required for the Friday, April 4, event

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is pleased to partner with the Community Partners Campus to offer a free dental sealant clinic for children ages 6 to 17. The event is open to the public and will be held at NTC's Wausau campus in the Center for Health Sciences building Friday, April 4, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Dental sealant services will be provided by NTC Dental Hygiene students, under the supervision of

dentists and hygienists, and focus on preventative dental care to keep teeth healthy. Sealants are thin, protective coatings applied to back teeth to help prevent cavities. They seal off grooves where food and bacteria can become trapped, making teeth easier to clean. The application process is quick and painless. Sealants last for several years, which helps prevent cavities for kids and teens well into the future. This free community event is open to all kids ages 6 to 17 and no proof of finances, insurance, or residency is needed. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 715.803.1585. This event is sponsored by the NTC Dental Hygiene Club and the NTC Foundation.



The Legion Award is given to the Senior who most displays citizenship, leadership, sportsmanship, competitiveness, and value to the team. This year's Legion Award was awarded to Austin Depies. L to R: Kurt Perra (Legion member), Austin Depies, and John Van Lieshout (Middle School Wrestling Coach and Legion member). Photos courtesy of Merrill Wrestling Program.



Award winners L to R: Dusty Schmirler (Most Team Points), Remington Skic (Charles Gustin Outstanding Wrestler Award, Rod Genrich Memorial Most Takedowns Award, and Most Dedicated), Broc Suchocki (Most Improved Underclassman), Austin Depies (Legion Award and Most Pins), Callum Wheeler (Ogre Award — given to the Senior who gets the most out of their ability, gives 100%, and leads by example), Carson Brooks (The Jered Severt Coaches Award — given to an upperclassmen who displays best what it means to be a Merrill wrestler), and Brett Suchocki (Most Improved Upperclassman).

## Varsity wrestlers rack up awards at 65th annual Legion Awards Banquet

On Tuesday, March 11, 2025 the Merrill High School Wrestling Team held their 65th annual Legion Awards Banquet, recapping a great season. "It's a good time to celebrate accomplishments, show appreciation, enjoy a good meal, and even look to the future," said Merrill Varsity Wrestling Team Head Coach Brian Suchocki. "Thanks to all for making this a spectacular season." Numerous players received awards at the banquet. [See photos]

### 2025 Merrill High School Spring Sports Schedule

#### Boys Baseball (Varsity, JV, & JV2)

Practice begins Monday, March 24th

#### Girls Softball (Varsity & JV)

Practice began Monday, March 17th

(No events scheduled for this week.)

#### Boys Golf (Varsity & JV)

Practice begins Monday, March 31st

#### Girls Soccer (Varsity & JV)

Practice begins Monday, March 24th

#### Girls & Boys Track & Field (Varsity & JV)

Practice began Monday, March 10th

(No events scheduled for this week.)

#### Trap Team (Varsity)

Tues, March 25

High School Season Begins • 4:30 - 7 pm



The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:

PROTECTING THE GREATER GOOD







Merrill's Remington Skik took second place in his weight class.  
Photos courtesy of Merrill Wrestling Program.



Brant Suchocki of Merrill took first place in the 12U division at the Dominate the Dells Wrestling Tournament.

# Merrill wrestlers shine at Dominate the Dells Tournament

The Merrill Wrestling team delivered a strong performance at the Dominate the Dells Tournament in Wisconsin Dells on March 8-9, 2025, with multiple wrestlers securing top finishes in their respective brackets.

Brant Suchocki led the way for Merrill, capturing first place, dominating the 12U Boys - 117 division. He opened with a 16-1 technical fall victory, then won a tight 8-6 semifinal bout before securing the championship with a 12-2 major decision in the finals.

Remington Skik finished runner-up in his USA Junior Boys - 144 bracket, putting together an impressive run to the finals. He started with a 13-8 decision win, then powered through the semifinals with a 14-6 major decision. In the championship match, he fell to Nicholas Wise, taking home second place.

Broc Suchocki and Mason Fuchs each earned fifth place finishes in their brackets. Broc Suchocki fought through the 16U Boys - 126 bracket, securing victories by fall and decision on his way to a fifth place finish and closed out the tournament with an 8-4 decision win in the placement match. Mason Fuchs competed in the 14U Boys - 75 division, battling through the consolation rounds with a 4-0 decision and a 9-1 major decision before finishing fifth place with an 11-2 major decision.

Other notable performances at the tournament included Bennett Martinovici (12U Boys - 82) who finished with a 3-2 record, showing resilience with two dominant wins, including an 18-0 technical fall; Brett Suchocki (USA Junior Boys - 138) who went 2-2, earning two pins in the consolation rounds; and Hunter Opper (USA Junior Boys - 175) who finished 1-2, securing a victory by fall.

"The Merrill wrestlers demonstrated their toughness and skill in a highly-competitive field," Merrill High School Varsity Head Wrestling Coach Brian Suchocki said.

## VFW Pub 1638 progressive bingo jackpot winners announced.



On Mar. 16, 2025, two players at VFW Pub 1638 split a progressive bingo jackpot of \$4,479, each winning \$2,239.50. Winners Sherry Dupke (left) and Roxane Bergmann claimed the jackpot, which had accumulated over several months. VFW Pub 1638 hosts progressive bingo events twice a month, offering a space for community members to gather and play. See the VFW Pub 1638 weekly ad in the Steppin' Out section for more information.

Photo courtesy of VFW Pub 1638.

## Preliminary hearing set for Tomahawk woman charged with husband's homicide

BY JALEN MAKI  
TOMAHAWK LEADER EDITOR

A court appearance has been scheduled for a Tomahawk woman charged with stabbing and killing her husband earlier this year.

Court records show that Michelle Marie Sanderson, 43, is set to appear in Lincoln County Court for a preliminary hearing on Wednesday, Apr. 16, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., during which, Judge Robert R. Russell will

determine whether or not sufficient evidence exists for the case to proceed to trial.

Sanderson is accused of stabbing her husband, Richard "Ricky" Sanderson, 50, in the upper chest/lower throat area with a steak knife in the kitchen of their Tomahawk home on Thursday, Jan. 9. She then allegedly transported the victim to Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

According to a criminal complaint,

Michelle Sanderson told authorities that she found Richard Sanderson outside already injured, but a third party claimed they witnessed the couple arguing before seeing the alleged stabbing occur.

Sanderson is facing one felony count of first degree reckless homicide, one misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer and one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct, each with a domestic abuse modifier.



## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Merrill High School Senior, **EJ Weix**, has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of March 20, 2025. EJ is a shooting guard on the Merrill Boys Varsity Basketball Team and was a consistently high scorer this season. He started playing basketball in third grade and played on the traveling team until high school where he played JV as a Freshman before moving up to Varsity. EJ also plays safety on the Merrill Varsity Football Team and is a pitcher and outfielder for the Merrill Varsity Baseball Team. He started playing flag football in second grade, then advanced to tackle football in sixth through eighth grades, playing for Prairie River Middle School, and played JV2 as a Freshman before moving up to Varsity. He started playing tball at age 4 or 5, advanced through city and traveling baseball leagues, and played both JV and Varsity Baseball as a Freshman before playing strictly Varsity Baseball in spring 2023. At school, EJ is part of a unified physical education class with some special ed students, which is his favorite class, and he is on the LINK Crew. He enjoys time with family playing board games and card games and likes to play video games, watch tv, lift weights, and go deer hunting. The son of Steve and Joeline Weix of Merrill, EJ has a 3.5 GPA. This summer EJ will work for the Merrill Area Park & Recreation Department, and next fall he will attend UW-Eau Claire, play college football, and continue his education. He is considering a career in the physical therapy arena.



EJ Weix

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