

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1956 MERRILLFOTONEWS.COM

Spring and **Easter traditions** entertain

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

This past Saturday, April 5, 2025, was a great day to celebrate spring and Easter traditions in the area and were especially entertaining for the kids.

Spring craft and vendor sales brought shoppers

out to explore and see

the latest craft trends, shop for spring decor and Easter-basket fillers, and just enjoy time with friends.

Meanwhile, families and children headed to the Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC) and Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill to meet the

See EASTER page 3



A toddler gathers Easter eggs at the Trinity Glow-in-the-Dark Easter Egg Hunt. Joseph Frederick photo.



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Native American culture comes alive at Washington School

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

A unique cultural experience brought Wisconsin history to life at Washington School on March 14, 2025, when third-grader Piper Pullium and her father, Mathew, shared

their Native American heritage with students.

Mathew Pullium, who has Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw ancestry, provided students with insights into traditional Native American culture through music, dance, and storytelling.

"The pow wow is a gathering that keeps our culture alive,' Mathew Pullium said. "We have a responsibility to care for all children and pass down our culture. In a tribe, no one is related-you are one people.'

See NATIVE page 2

Local photographer captures great shot of bear emerging from hibernation



BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Peter Tesch. owner of Blue Sky Photography, was tipped off about a bear hibernating in a local area north of Merrill and brought his camera to get some nice shots of the bear as it was sleeping and then awakening in a thicket. Later that day, on Monday, March 31, 2025, Pete decided to take his wife for a drive in the area. "I wanted to go back to see if he was still in the area and so Dee could see him [if he was]," Pete said. They were in luck. "We



Peter Tesch captured this photo of a bear in Lincoln County recently with his Canon 6D Mark 2 Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photo. with a Sigma Contemporary 150-600 lens.

See **BEAR** page 2





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The Pulliums brought in sage and other items of significance to Native Americans to explain to third-grade students Kelli Masters Morgan photos.



Mathew Pullium and daughter, Piper, pose together during their presentation on Native American culture and dance.





Third grade students examine the Native American drum up close



Piper Pullium dances for her classmates the way she dances at pow wows.

BEAR from page 1

spotted this massive black bear sunning himself," Pete said. "He had only moved a couple of hundred yards from where he was in the morning."

"He was really groggy and slowly meandered back into the thicket after this photo was taken," Pete said. He captured this amazing shot from about 30 yards away with his Canon 6D Mark 2 with a Sigma Contemporary 150-600 lens.



NATIVE from page 1

The presentation was a great supplement to the third-grade curriculum. according to third grade teacher Sherri Schulz. "Our third graders are studying Native American regions and cultures, so a presentation on Native American heritage fits perfectly with what they've been learning. They've been exploring different tribes across America and their ways of life, and reading stories that highlight traditional Native American customs," said Schulz. "Some of my students didn't realize that Native American cultures are still active today, so having a student and her father visit our school to share their culture in person really brought the concepts they've been studying to life and made them feel more real."

Piper, dressed in traditional regalia handmade by her family, demonstrated Native American dancing for her classmates.

"I was super excited to show my classmates that I can dance. It felt really fantastic," said Piper. "My dress was handmade by my family. My favorite part is the shawl-it's yellow and I love how colorful it is. I feel proud when my dad sings-he is a very talented singer."

Mathew explained the significance of various dances and songs in Native American culture.

"We believe there are healing powers to dance," he said. "The round dance is called the people's dance. They would do this during times when tribes were relocating. Tribes would come together to dance. The round dance is a friendship dance."

He also shared how songs are created in Native American tradition.

"In the song that I sing, there is no lyrics to it, there are no words. There are harmonized vocals-like if you were humming a song," Mathew said. "A song might come to me in the morning when I hear a bird chirping. Or sometimes a song can come to you in a dream. Sometimes you hear a tune, and that is how a song comes to usthe creator is bringing the song to us. These are really old songs. You can hear the upbeat tune in this song, but we also have songs for funerals and for the veterans. Then the beat is different."

Classmates were visibly impressed by Piper's performance and her family's cultural traditions.

"I liked seeing my friend doing these dances that are special to her," said thirdgrader Landry. "I think it's really amazing that she gets to do something so special."

Another classmate, Aenea, was struck by the visual elements of the presentation. "The music was really good and the clothing was super colorful amazing—like and butterfly," she said.

"It was cool how she danced and how she hopped to the drumming. It's pretty awesome what she can do," said thirdgrader Cassidy.

Shannon Weber, third grade aide, noted the lasting impact of the presentation. "I was so impressed by how personable Matt was with the kids. They all had questions, and he took his time having a meaningful interaction with them. The kids have been talking about it for days. I was amazed by the traditional Native American singing and drumming," she said.

School Social Worker Kelli Morgan highlighted the community-building aspect of such cultural sharing. "This presentation on Native American culture was exceptional," Morgan said. "Having families actively participate in our school not only enriches our students' learning but also creates a connection and pride among us all. It helps build a stronger connection between our school and the community, and creates a sense of pride and togetherness for everyone involved."

Piper herself has participated in pow wows and continues to learn traditional dances.

"At the pow wows, I really like the jingles on the dresses," she said. "I want one like that. I went to a pow wow in the winter. Sometimes I get nervous to dance, but then my mom and dad help and I feel better."

"I loved my dad coming here and showing my class the dances," Piper said.

AGREEABLE SERVICE!

Page 2



The family of Cindy Lou Kimmons would like to express their deepest gratitude to all family and friends who offered their thoughts, prayers, and condolences during this difficult time. The kindness and support shown to our family have provided comfort and strength.

A special thank you to the Merrill EMT team, the Aspirus Emergency Room staff, and Dr. Yamin Soe-Htwe, MD, Marshfield Pulmonary Medicine, for their exceptional care and dedication.

Though Cindy will be profoundly missed, her memory will continue to live on in the hearts of those who loved her, the many lives she touched, and the legacy of kindness she leaves behind.

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Spring Brush Clean-up NOTICE **City of Merrill Residents**

The City of Merrill Street Department will be having a Spring Brush Clean-up. All City of Merrill residents will be allowed to place brush on the boulevard, on their regularly scheduled garbage collection day, during the week of April 21-24, 2025. Please place brush, butt ends toward the street, next to your garbage and recyclables. Your brush must be on the boulevard by 6:00 AM on your regularly scheduled garbage collection day. We will still collect bundled brush throughout the year, as usual.

> Dustin Bonack Street Superintendent





Rings and jewelry fill a table at the craft sale at Les 'n Jim's on Saturday. Joseph Frederick photos.

EASTER from page 1

Easter Bunny, participate in the Merrill Area Park & Recreation Department's Easter Egg Hunt, the Trinity Glow-in-the-Dark

Easter Egg Hunt, and to enjoy the Children's Festival at the MARC. With craft projects, games and activities, educational booths, face painting, and animals to touch and pet, the little ones had lots of activities to keep them occupied.

RIGHT: There were so many activities for the kids to do at this year's Children's Festival!



These two children are all smiles as they approach this giant Geodes, rocks, and treasures are on display in this booth. inflated Easter Bunny.







PUBLISHER'S LETTER Little Bursts Of Happiness

Dear Reader,

In a world bustling with deadlines, distractions, and the unrelenting hum of

routine, it's easy to overlook the extraordinary in the ordinary. Yet, it's in those fleeting moments-at the checkout line, on a flight, or in a quick business transactionwhere we hold the power to create something profound: a little burst of happiness.

It doesn't take much. A smile, a kind word, or a

genuine question like, "How's your day going?" can transform an interaction from transactional to meaningful. Sometimes, though, a small token-a physical reminder of goodwill-can spark a ripple effect of positivity. My favorite? A \$2 bill.

The \$2 bill is iconic, rare enough to feel special but common enough to be accessible. Handing it to someone with a simple message—"This is for luck, and I hope it brings you good fortune"more than exchange paper. It says, I see you. You matter. I've passed them to retail clerks who look weary from hours of scanning barcodes, to pilots who ensure our safe passage through the skies, and to business associates navigating the grind.

The reactions vary-some are puzzled, others light up with surprise-but almost always, there's a smile.



What happens next is where the magic begins. That \$2 bill becomes a conversation starter, a keepsake, or maybe even a nudge toward dreaming bigger. It's not about the monetary value; it's about the gesture, the reminder that hope and good fortune are still within reach. The beauty

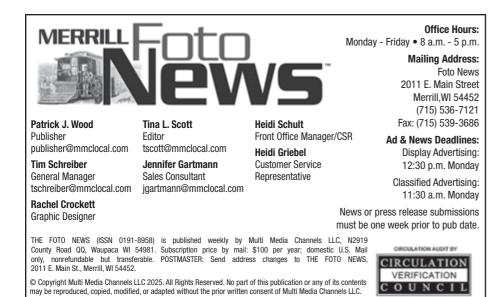
of these small acts is how they inspire us to try harder, be better, and dream more. They remind us that life, for all its unpredictability, holds space for kindness. And perhaps, with enough of these little bursts of happiness, we can create a world where the ordinary feels extraordinary.

So, the next time you find yourself faceto-face with someone in the course of your day, take a moment. Pass along a smile, a kind word, or even a \$2 bill. You never know how far that spark of hope might travel or how brightly it might shine.



PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher

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



Area veterans to take Never Forgotten Honor Flight

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Numerous area veterans are slated to take next week's Never Forgotten Honor Flight (NFHF) to Washington, D.C., to see the memorials that honor their service.

The flight, which will take place on Monday, April 14, 2025, was organized by the Wausau-based NFHF organization, which serves veterans in Barron, Clark, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Rusk, Taylor, Vilas, and Wood counties.

The flight marks the Wausaubased NFHF organization's 51st flight since the first took place in April 2010.

A total of 104 veterans—103 from the Vietnam era and one from the Korean era—will take the flight.

Among those listed to take the trip are Vietnam-era veterans from Merrill Leroy Fischer, Army; William Hanson, Army; James Jackson, Marines; Allen



Michalski, Air Force; Victor Milewczyk, Army; Dieter Nickel, Marines; and Howard Peck, Marines. Other area Vietnamera veterans scheduled on this flight include Tom Wyles IV, Irma, Navy; Larry Hoffman, Army, and Linus Risch, Army, of Athens; and Walter Rydzewski, Deerbrook, Army.

Veterans from other communities throughout northern and central Wisconsin, including Antigo, Edgar, Kronenwetter, Marshfield, Medford, Mosinee, Rhinelander, Wausau, and Weston are also listed on the flight roster.

The veterans will be accompanied by 66 guardians on the one-day round trip that departs Central Wisconsin Airport (CWA) in Mosinee at 6:30 a.m. and is scheduled to return at

approximately 10 p.m.

The public is invited to CWA to welcome the veterans home.

As part of NFHF, veterans receive a free round-trip flight, and guardians pay \$500.00 for the opportunity to accompany up to three veterans on the trip.

Veterans and guardians interested in taking a future Honor Flight can complete an application at *neverforgottenhonorflight.com* or contact the organization at 715.573.8519.

All veterans from the World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War eras are encouraged to submit an application. The only criteria for veterans to qualify for an Honor Flight is to have served (active duty, reserves, or National Guard) prior to May 7, 1975, regardless of where they served.

Completed applications for veterans and guardians also can be mailed to Never Forgotten Honor Flight, 4404 Rib Mountain Dr., #234, Wausau WI 54401.

NFHF said the veterans are selected based upon the order in which their applications are received and the conflict they served in.

"Preference is given to World War II veterans, then Korea Veterans, and then Vietnam era veterans," NFHF said. "Veterans who are terminally ill, regardless of when they served in those three eras, are given top preference. Guardians should be 18 to 69 years old and able to lend physical assistance to the veterans."

As of next week's flight, NFHF will have flown 4,977 veterans to Washington, D.C.

North Central Wisconsin's NFHF is the nation's 77th regional hub and one of five Wisconsin Honor Flight hubs. The Wausaubased organization was certified by the National Honor Flight Network office in Springfield, Ohio, on Dec. 11, 2009.

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|OBITUARIES|

Elizabeth "Betty" Jane (Bloechl) Hodgson

Elizabeth "Betty" Jane (Bloechl) Hodgson, age 98, passed away on April 1, 2025, at Bell Tower Residence, while under the care of their wonderful and kind staff.

She was born on February 13, 1927 to the late Frank X. Bloechl and Barbara (Benzinger) Bloechl in Merrill, WI. Betty lived most of her life in the town of Schley. She attended the Doering Grade School through the 8th grade then Merrill High School through 10th grade.

In 1943, she married Harvey Hodgson and they operated a dairy farm in the town of Schley until Harvey retired. They were married 61 years before Harvey passed away in 2004.

Betty worked many jobs besides the dairy farm. She worked at Hansen Glove Factory, Weinbrenner shoe factory, Peterson Evergreen Business, a canning factory as well as cleaning private homes and businesses in Merrill.

Betty and Harvey had 2 children whom they raised with love in a country lifestyle. They were members of St. Robert's Bellarmine Church and then St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish.

Betty participated in many clubs including the Heller Women's Club which started in 1943 and continued for 70 years. She was an excellent homemaker, very good cook and worked hard to take care of her family. Her skill with baking perfect jelly rolls and chiffon cakes in a wood burning oven was appreciated by her family. Betty's grandchildren were an important part of her life.

She and Harvey enjoyed socializing with many friends. They belonged to Merry Eights square dance group, card clubs, Couples Club and a camper's group. They traveled to many places in their retirement years including Europe, Hawaii, cruises and many states in the U.S.

Betty loved cats, flowers, gardening, a variety of types of music, reading and playing games including 500, Sheepshead, poker, and dice. She enjoyed going to casinos with family and friends. She was usually quite lucky. She resided at Bell Tower residence for the past 5 years and enjoyed being a "lady of leisure" there.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Harvey R. Hodgson, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Hilbert Hodgson, Cora Hodgson, Edna Hodgson, Chester Hodgson, Laverne Hodgson, Gene Hodgson, Lee Hodgson, Lila Hodgson, Clyde Hodgson, Shirley Hodgson, Clifford Hodgson, Mae Hodgson, Patsy Hodgson, Audrey Bloechl

Bunsen Gipple

Bunsen Gipple, 88, of Tomahawk, WI passed away Thursday, April 3, 2025 at the Meadowbrook Nursing Home in Oconto Falls. Bunsen was born January 8, 1937 in Merrill, the son of Edwin and Dorothy (Plautz) Gipple. He was united in marriage to Joan Fleischfresser January 17, 1959 in Merrill and she preceded him in death in October of 2008. Bunsen worked at the Paper Mill where he retired in 1999

Surviving are his daughter, Kim (Dean Wold) Chase, Oconto; grandchild, Brian (Katie) Chase and great-grandchildren, Molly and Nolan.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Joan; son, Kerry Gipple; brothers, Edwin "Burr" Gipple, 2 infant brothers and a sister-in-law, Marlene. Honoring Bunsen wishes there will be no services.

Online condolences for the family may be directed to www. nimsgernfuneral.com

Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral & Cremation Service is assisting the family.

In Momorams

We can assist you in finding a heartfelt way to honor and remember your loved one.

Stop in our office or give us a call. 2011 E. Main St. | Merrill | 715-536-7121

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Elizabeth "Betty"



and Peter Sarpolus.

She is survived by her son, Robert L. Hodgson, daughter, Marilyn (Tom) Tewes, daughter-in- law, Maria Hodgson, sister, Ann (Paul Vera) Sarpolus, brother, Frank/Sonny Bloechl, sister-in-law, Ginny Hodgson, grandchildren, Steve (Raina) Hodgson, Scott (Kay Stanley) Hodgson, Dan (Karen) Hodgson, Michael (Emily) Tewes, Amy (Nick) Brunette, Anthony (Kathryn) Tewes, and James (Elizabeth) Tewes, great grandchildren, Paxton (Alex Ball) Hodgson, Kasper Hodgson, Avery Hodgson, Ethan Hodgson, Caden Hodgson, Sofie Hodgson, Sean Hodgson, Norah Tewes, Hannah Tewes, Lilly Tewes, Colin Tewes, Harper Tewes and Ella Tewes, great great-grandsons, Koda Hodgson and Sterling Hodgson and many nieces and nephews.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Betty will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Francis Catholic Church in Merrill. Father Maria Vallabhaneni will officiate. Burial will immediately follow Mass and take place at the St. Francis Catholic Cemetery. A visitation will be held on Friday, April 25, 2025, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral Home at <u>301 Eagle Drive in Merrill</u>.

The Mass will be recorded for those unable to attend, and it can be found under her obituary on the funeral home website.

The family extends special thanks to the caregivers, staff, nurses, administration and pastoral care team at Bell Tower Residence for their outstanding care of Betty for the past 5 years. Also, thanks to Dr. Paul Thompson for his many years as Betty's primary care physician and to Compassus Hospice for their support and assistance during Betty's last days. Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com. Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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Legals

BY THE COURT

tion was filed.

Prohate Office

Register in Probate 1110 E. Main Street

/S/Robert R. Russel

Merrill, WI 54452

DATE SIGNED: March 25, 2025 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Vera P. Leitzke a/k/a Vera A. Leitzke Notice to Creditors

1. An application for informal administra-

2. The decedent, with date of birth March 7, 1924 and date of death March

20, 2025, was domiciled in Lincoln

County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1500 O'Day Street, Apt 126, Merrill, WI 54452.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 07-18-2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln

County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin

Published April 3, 10 & 17, 2025

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: March 31, 2025

CIRCUIT JUDGE/COURT COMMISSIONER STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 25-CV-39

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME

3. All interested persons waived notice

(Informal Administration) Case No. 2025 IN 26 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

Page 5

7700

SPRING ELECTION RESULTS Statewide and local races decided, incumbent MAPS School Board members re-elected

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Lincoln County had a strong voter turnout at the Tuesday, April 1, 2025, Spring Election. With 18,810 registered voters in Lincoln County, according to the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and 11,042 voters actually voting in the April 1 Spring Election, the county had a 58.70% turnout.

Statewide races, including the highly-publicized and hotly-contested Wisconsin Supreme Court race, was the driving force behind the large turnout, although the election also decided which three of the four candidates running for seats on the Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) Board of Education would be successful and a few local contested races, as well.

Wisconsin Supreme Court

In the race for Wisconsin Supreme Court Judge, Susan Crawford emerged winner. defeating the Brad Schimel, to secure a 10-year term on the Wisconsin Supreme Court and maintain the court's 4-3 liberal majority. While Crawford won by about a 55% to 45% margin in the state, Schimel came out on top in Lincoln County, 6,363 receiving votes compared to Crawford's 4,617

State Superintendent of **Public Instruction**

Incumbent State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jill Underly won the race against challenger Brittany Kinser. Statewide, Underly beat Kinser by roughly a 53% to 47% split. In Lincoln County, Kinser received 5,791 votes (roughly 58%), with Underly receiving 4,214 votes (about 42%).

State referendum The statewide referendum asking whether or not the requirement for voters to show identification in Wisconsin elections should be made a part of the Wisconsin State Constitution was approved by approximately a 63% to 37% margin statewide. In Lincoln County, voters strongly supported the measure, with 8,020 voters (approx. 75%) voting yes and 2,695 (approx. 25%) voting no.

Wisconsin residents have been required by state law to provide an acceptable form of photo ID at the polls since 2011, but this will now add the requirement to the state's Constitution.

MAPS Board of Education

In the race for MAPS School Board, all three incumbents were reelected, with Jacqueline Gremler (4,195 votes), Paul Proulx (3,989 votes), and Jon Smith (3,576 votes) getting the most votes, while challenger Brady Loos got a respectable 3,235 votes, but not enough to win him a seat on the Board this time around.

Town of Russell Supervisor

In the race for the Town of Russell Board of Supervisors, Lori Studinski and Marty Sosnovske emerged the winners. receiving 130 votes and 125 votes, respectively, with Ivan Dorgan getting 110 votes.

Town of Schley Chairperson

Timothy Klimek and Kelly Collins faced off in the race for Town of Schley Chairperson, and Klimek won that race with 240 votes. Collins received 111 votes.

Town of Scott Supervisor

In the race for the Town of Scott Board of Supervisors, Ron Lemmer

and Gerald Engel emerged the winners, receiving 328 and 302 votes, respectively, with Jeff Krall getting 163 votes.

Town of Rock Falls referendum

In the Town of Rock Falls, voters voted against having the positions of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer appointed by the Town Board. As to the position of Town Clerk being appointed, 174 voted no and 117 voted yes, and as to the position of Town Treasurer, 179 voted no and 113 voted yes.

City of Tomahawk referendum

In the City of Tomahawk, residents voted to keep fluoridation in the municipal water supply, with 579 voting in favor and 519 voting against.

Other school referendums

In the Prentice School District, a referendum asking for \$950,000 per year for four years was approved. Approximately 57% of voters supported the referendum compared to 43% voters who were opposed.

In the School District of Rhinelander, voters approved a referendum asking to exceed revenue limits by \$7 million per year from the 2025-2026 school vear to the 2028-2029 school year. The measure passed with approx. 54% voting in favor and 46% voting against.

|LEGALS|

DATE SIGNED: March 28, 2025 nically signed by Becky S. Byer STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT

COURT. LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SHIRLEY A. OLKIVES Amended Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration) Case No. 2025 IN 25 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed 2. The decedent, with date of birth March 24, 1937 and date of death January 24, 2025, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1500 O'Day St., Merrill, WI 54452.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

|LEGALS|

Legals

7700

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF TRUST ADMINISTRATION

7700

Legals

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY

Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims)

Case No. 2025SC000057

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE

AS DEFENDANT(S): You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of

the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following small claims court: Lincoln County

Telephone Number of clerk of court: 715-536-0319 Courtroom/Room Number: 205

Address: 1110 E. Main Street, Merrill, WI

If you do not attend the hearing, the

you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent

to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment

awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property

You may have the option to Answer

without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You

must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to

determine if there are other methods to

answer a Small Claims complaint in that

county. If you require reasonable accommoda-

tions due to a disability to participate in

the court process, please call 715-536-0319 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not

Whitney Adams-Litigation Coordinator Date: 4/1/2025

Plaintiff's/Attorney's Telephone Number

WNAXLP

provide transportation.

Published April 10, 2025

888-500-1981

on the following date and time: Date: 4/17/2025 Time: 10:00 a.m

Plaintiff(s): Heights Finance Corporation 101 N. Main St., Suite 600

Greenville SC 29601

Defendant(s): James A Burnett JR

300 Wisconsin St

Merrill WI 54452

Courthouse

54452

of property

STATE OF WISCONSIN, County of Lincoln, in the matter of the Delbert D. Lange Trust dated January 30, 2024 "Trust"): (the

1. Delbert D. Lange, with the date of birth May 5, 1933 and the date of death March 6, 2025 was domiciled in the Lincoln County, Wisconsin;

- 2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent, Delbert D. Lange, is July 27th, 2025;
- 3. All claims must include detailed
- documentation and must be submitted to the Trustee of the Trust at the following address: N8013 Wright Avenue, Gleason, WI 54435.

Date: March 19th, 2025

Delbert D. Lange Trust dated January 30, 2024.

By:/s/Nancy L. Leder

Nancy L. Leder, Trustee Craig J. Nienow, Attorney Published 3/27/25, 4/3/25 & 4/10/25

WNAXLP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: DATE SIGNED: March 19, 2025 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LOREN B. DURANCEAU

Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration) Case No. 25-IN-24

An application for informal

administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth November 7, 1940, and date of death June 8, 2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W3478 County Line

Road, Merrill, WI 54452. 3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office, before Becky Byer, Probate Registrar, on April

24, 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 July 11, 2025. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office

 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 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide

transportation. Atty. Craig Nienov N5041 County Road JJ Irma, WI 54442

715-536-7185 /Bar Number 010107 Published 3/27/25, 4/3/25, 4/10/25 WNAXLP 715-536-7185 /Bar Number 0101578

Town of Corning Annual Town Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Corning, Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, for the transaction of Town business as is by law required or permitted to be transacted at such meeting, will be held at the Corning Town Hall, N1569 State Road 64 and 107, on Tuesday April 15, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Rick Hass, Town Clerk Published April 10, 2025

WNAXI P

TOWN OF PINE RIVER

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING for the Town of Pine River, in the county of Lincoln, for the transaction of business as is law required or permitted to be transacted at such a meeting, will be held on SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025 at 1:00 PM at the Pine River Town Hall, N1647 Deer Run Ave., Merrill. Seven days prior to the meeting, the Annual Report will be posted at www.townofpineriver.com. You may also

JOB DONE

From: Dajiauna Tanyah Hetke To: Dajiauna Tanyah Jenkins IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0303 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not rovide transportation.

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three

State of Wisconsin. Published: April 3, 10 & 17, 2025

DATE SIGNED: March 24, 2025 ectronically signed by Galen Bayne-lison Circuit Court Judge STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT

COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Order and Notice for Hearing on Petition for Summary Settlement (Formal Administration) Case No. 25PR06

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Verl D. Gibbs A Petition for Summary Settlement was

THE COURT FINDS:

The decedent, with date of birth 7/2/1962 and date of death 9/23/2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County. State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N6538 Railway Street, Irma, WI 54442. THE COURT ORDERS:

The Petition be heard at the Lincoln

. ADVERTISE HERE 715-536-7121



CHANGE OF Dajiauna Tanyah Hetke By (Petitioner) Rebecca Ruth Hetke By (Co-Petitioner) Christopher Dodd NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above

WNAXLP

Birth Certificate: Dajiauna Tanyah Hetke

Wisconsin Judge's Name: Honorable Robert R. Russell

1110 E. Main St, Merrill, WI 54452 Date: May 13, 2025 Time: 1:30 PM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

(3) weeks in a row prior to the date of wspaper published in Lincoln County,

WNAXLP



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters to the Editor, a chance for members of the community to comment on issues of concern to them. All letters must be original, not duplications of letters addressed to public officials or written by others. The views and opinions expressed are those of the letter writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of this publication, its publishers, Editor, or staff. Please see our complete Letter to the Editor Policy at https:// merrillfotonews.com/letter-to-the-editor-policy/.

To the Editor:

Seventy years ago, my husband Bob and I moved to Merrill. I love and enjoy my life here. We have supported many organizations here regardless of their sponsors. I believe charity begins at home. Merrill will always be our home.

When I needed surgery for a broken hip, I was thankful for Pine Crest to recover and receive the therapy I needed. The facility was clean and the staff was pleasant and attentive. My friends visited me without leaving Merrill. I want Pine Crest to continue to serve people here in Merrill as a "not-for-profit" home.

I truly believe we need to keep Pine Crest. Pine Crest was not built for profit and should remain a not-for-profit facility.

> - Jo Ann Jones Opsahl Merrill, Wis.

 A. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 18, 2025.
 A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin. Attorney Jason Krautkramer Eckert & Krautkramer, LLC P.O. Box 1185 Wausau WI 54402-1185 715-842-0907 Bar No. 1092990 715-842-0907 Dai 100. 1092-990 Published 4/3/25, 4/10/25 & 4/17/25 WNAXLP

County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisco Room Branch 2 Courtroom, before Honorable Robert R. Russell, Court Official. on 04-29-2025. at 9:00 a.m. If you require reasonable accommoda-tions 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. Dan C. Koblitz. Attorney 2320 Parallel Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20904

301-960-5857 Bar Number: 1102710 Published 3/27/25, 4/3/25 & 4/10/25 WNAXLF

TOWN OF PINE RIVER, LINCOLN COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS BIDS REQUEST

The Pine River Town Board is accepting bids for the following 2025 road project:

Chip seal approximately 1 mile of Range Line Road (south of Center Rd. to Hwy. P) with washed 3/8" fractured aggregate stone and hot oil

Work must be completed by September 12, 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, May 6, 2025 at 7 PM at the Pine River Town Hall and can be delivered in person or mailed as: Road Project Bids, C/O Steve Uttech, N1647 Deer Run Ave., Merrill, WI 54452. Town Board reserves right to reject any or all bids.

Please Recycle	Amanda Herdt, Clerk
Published April 10 & 17, 2025	WNAXLP

contact the clerk to request a copy

Please Recycle

Published April 10, 2025

Amanda Herdt, Clerk WNAXLP

BIDS WANTED TOWN OF SCOTT

The Town of Scott, Lincoln County, is accepting bids for crushing a minimum of 20,000 tons of 3/4" road base in the Town of Scott pit. Project completion expected no later than December 31, 2025.

Sealed bids will be accepted until 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025. Bids will be opened and discussed at the town meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The town board reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Questions can Klienschmidt directed Mike be to (715) 536-9354. Please mail sealed bids marked CRUSHING BID to P.O. Box 857, Merrill, WI 54452.

Published April 10, 2025

WNAXLP

Public encouraged to "keep wildlife wild" this spring

As warmer weather approaches, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reminding the public that wild animals and their young will be on the move across Wisconsin.

Knowing what to do before you find a young wild animal can make all the difference in the moment to protect it and keep it in the wild with its parents.

"Springtime brings a flurry of inquiries from concerned residents about the wildlife they are encountering," said Jenna Fastner, DNR Captive Wildlife Health Specialist. "You can help reserve space at wildlife rehabilitation centers for wild animals truly in need by always calling the DNR or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator before assuming an animal needs help. In Wisconsin, you must have a license to conduct wildlife rehabilitation, and you should never try to care for a wild animal yourself, to protect their

health and yours."

For many species, it is perfectly natural for young wild animals to be left alone for extended periods of time. While alone, they will often lie quietly and still to avoid attracting predators. Drawing attention to a young animal's location can tip-off predators or keep its mother away longer than she would like. You can help by keeping people and pets away from the area. If you have interested children, they can learn to keep wildlife wild by observing from a safe distance.

Some common young wild animals you may encounter this spring include:

 Cottontail rabbit kits can be encountered anytime from spring through fall. They open their eyes at one week old and begin exploring outside the nest for short periods to nibble on grasses after about two to three weeks.

· Eastern gray squirrels raise their young in leaf nests, called dreys, tree cavities, and man-made structures such as attics. Litters typically consist of two to four young, called kits, and by seven weeks old, they will begin to explore outside the nest area.

• Raccoon kits are 12 to 14 inches long and capable of walking, climbing and exploring by six to eight weeks of age. When they're at the exploring stage, they can be seen active during the day without their mother.

The DNR has various resources to help determine when a young wild animal needs help and when it's best to leave them in their natural environment. Visit the DNR's Keep Wildlife Wild webpage at (dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ *WildlifeHabitat/orphan*) for species-specific tips on how to decide if a young wild animal is truly orphaned or in need of help.





EASTER BRUNCH BÚFFET \$2 OFF with 10am-2pm • ^{\$}20 (12 & under ^{\$}15) Reservation Mimosas \$4

• Broasted Chicken • Ham • Meatballs Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
 Mac & Cheese • Corn • Rolls • Salad **Reservations by April 14th** 601 Johnson St., Merrill • 715-536-5708 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Open at 4pm Mon., Thurs. & Fri. • Closed Tues. & Wed. • Open at 11am Sat. & Sun.

GRUNDY ROAD (VARIETY OF MUSIC) FRIDAY, APRIL 11 . 6PM-9PM



Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Apr. 10 - Veterans Coffee & Conversation at Pine Ridge Restaurant Apr. 10 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Company Apr. 11 - St. Francis Fish Fry Apr. 11 - Merget's Friday Fish Fry at Sawmill **Brewing Company** Apr. 11 - Luther **Memorial Church Easter** Bake Sale at Schultz's **Country Inn** Apr. 12 - Bingo at The **Creative Spirit** Apr. 12 - Motherbucket at Bubba's Pub Apr. 12 - National Scrapbook Day - All Day Crop at Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes

Apr. 12 - Yummy Thai at Sawmill Brewing Company Apr. 12 - Bingo at **Gleason Bowling Center** Apr. 12 - Grand Opening of Exhibit "Chatter from Left Field" at Merrill **Historical Society** Apr. 16 - Bingo at The Dugout Apr. 17- Veterans Coffee & Conversation at Pine **Ridge Restaurant** Apr. 17 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Company Apr. 17 - Creatives for Christ at The Gathering Table Apr. 18 - Paddygrass at Sawmill Brewing Company

Reserve Today For

Our Easter Buffet

Sunday, April 20th

Cell Now

to Reserve

Ham, Chicken, Kielbasa & Kraut,

Salad Bar, Assorted Desserts

& all the fixins!

(Serving 11am - 2pm, Dine-In O

Apr. 18 - Brewers Bus Trip/Party Night at Bubba's Pub Apr. 18 - Yummy Thai at Sawmill Brewing Company Apr. 19 - Blacklight Bingo at Bubba's Pub Apr. 19 - Yummy Thai at The Creative Spirit Apr. 19 - Easter Egg Hunt for Adults & Kids at Sawmill Brewing Company Apr. 19 - Easter Bingo at Plautz's Pub Apr. 20 - Bingo at VFW Apr. 23 - Tri-County Heroes Fair at VFW Apr. 23 - Fraud Identification and **Prevention Seminar at** Athens Fire Hall Apr. 24- Veterans Coffee & Conversation at Pine **Ridge Restaurant**

Apr. 24 - Red Wagon **Concessions at The Creative Spirit** Apr. 25-26 - Merrill **Concertina Festival at** Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes Apr. 26 - MACA Concert: Street Corner Symphony Apr. 26 - The Foxfire at Sawmill Brewing Company Apr. 26 - 9th Annual Trinity PTO Dinner & Auction Apr. 26 - Hunter Swap Shop at Lincoln County Sports Club Apr. 26 - Pommerscher Verein Central Wisconsin (PVCW) Youth Heritage Dav Apr. 26 - Yummy Thai at Sawmill Brewing Company

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



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2405 W. Main St. • Merrill • 715-536-3847 715-536-4611 SERVING FOOD COSMO KIDS • \$5.00 **DAILY TILL 8PM** Theatre SENIORS • \$5.00 HOURS in St. • Merrill ADULTS • \$8.00 MOVIES AND SHOWTIMES 4/11/25 TO 4/17/25 MONDAY • Noon - 6pm TUE. - FRI. • Noon - Close Mondays <u>All Seats \$5.00</u> SATURDAY • 11am - Close THE AMATEUR **SUNDAY** • Noon - 6pm "PG13" (2HR 2MIN) FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM **SATURDAY:** 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM APRIL BOOZE **OF THE MONTH** SUNDAY: 1:00. 3:30 & 7:00PM MALIBU MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM \$5.00 - 16 oz. Pint A MINECRAFT MOVIE SAT. ARPIL 19TH "PG" (1HR 41MIN) FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:00PM **EASTER BINGO** SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00 & 9:00PM Open 11am, Starts @ 1pm SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM **ALL CA\$H PRIZES** MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM SAT. MAY 3RD **A WORKING MAN** "R" (1HR 56MIN) **CUBS @ BREWERS** FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM **BUS TRIP** SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM Includes: Lamers Bus, Ticket SUNDAY: 1:00. 3:30 & 7:00PM & Tailgate Party With Food. MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM (Bring Your Own Drinks) www.cosmomovies.com **ONLY 8 SPOTS LEFT! \$100 PER PERSON** 715-536-4473

Participate in or volunteer for your community events!

LCHS November, **December**, January and February **Honorariums**

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank everyone who donated in honor of a loved one in November:

Therese Kufahl by Christiansen, Jennifer Carl Tuchel by Jeremy Sturm, Steven Tomajcik by Audrey Blum, Mark Star, Delores "Dee" Crowley by Richard Price, Rita Crooks, Terry & Nancy Miller, Lawrence & Deanna Hampel, Sharon Kasper by Josi Bloechl-Hurley & family, Amy Sallet, Dick & Carol Wegner, Ingrid Erickson, UW Eau-Claire: Political Science Dept. Social Fund, Joy Anderson, Joseph "Joe" Donald Day by Courtney Poja, Barbara Peterson, Phil & Cookie Drew, Marlene & Joe Thomaschefsky, Donald Kaminski by Darrel & Melissa Dengel, Sam, Mikey, & Buddy by Sharon Hansen, Erland Carlson by Janet Schaefer, Carol Vander Voort by Sew Peaceful Quilting LLC, Mikayla Daigle, and Phil Krause by Patty & Andrew Moses.

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank everyone who donated in honor of a loved one in December:

Mary Grefe by Jay Catlin Heldt. Sandi Krueger, Faye Nelson. Barb Bonnell, Marleen Lenz, Jon & Susan Jaeger, Denni Radloff, Linda Stephanie Hattlestad, Oestreich, Pete & Amy Grefe, Delores Crowley by Erin Piefer, Karen Diels by Julie Osness. Jenny Miner by Jacquelyn Schulz, Joseph "Joe" Day by Friends & Family, S.K. Beveridge, Todd & Camille Nicklaus, John & Karen Larson, Marilyn & Virgil Baumgart, Dieter Nickel, Rick Day & Deb Hale, John Anderson by Dick & Sharon Duginski, Sharon Kasper by Clint Kasper, Gene & Charlene Woller. Karen Bloechl, Allen & Jane Lillegard, Yurgen & Ruth Markewycz, Scott & Linda Doerr, Merrilee DuPlayee by Lou Ann

DupPlayee, David Raleigh by Duane Flegner & Jenny Diagostine Flegner, Max & Tucker by Linda Semling Peterson, Brian & Pam Seehafer by Kristi Seehafer, Robert & Signa Lambrecht by Dawn & Eugene Dunk, Tim & Wendy Way by Brian & Vietta Leavitt, Daisy the dog by Larissa & William Millis, Patti Stickler by Peggy Bauman, Breck Blennert by UMR Team, Hank, Irish, Festis. Bocephus by Carolyn Byer, KJ Skofronick by Trisha Skofronick, Rosie & Oscar (Ziegler) by Beatrice Lebal, Kjersten Skofronick by Lise Skofronick, Midnight by Karen Maier, Karen Sizer by Martin & Barbara Sizer, and Boris the cat by Carol Page.

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank everyone who donated in honor of a loved one in January:

Dr. Dennis Griffin by Peggy Griffin; Ian Skaar by David & Cynthia Lambrecht; Robert "Bob" Opsahl by Lois Lillie, Boyd & Dorinda Gustke, Jill & Corey Krueger, Kenneth & Judith Bashara, Melissa & Dennis Ruge, Karen Stanton, Larry & Colleen Woller, Charmaine Storm, Raymond & Eleanor Schwartz, Merrill Lion's Club, Gerald & Joan Koch, Penny Callahan, Tim & Tammy Gruling, Shelly Burnett, Gary & Arlene Schulze, Thomas & Mary Ball, Victor & Dawn Soczka, Catherine Lemay-Brown, Gregory & Susan Latzig, Park City Credit Union, Jo Ann Opsahl, Norbert & Heidi Haltinner, Donald & Sarah Litzer, Peter & Carol Engel, Richard & Joanne Yunker, Thomas & Sharon Opsahl, Arnold & Lee Ann Lindquist, Donald & Judy Evans, Jeffrey Susan Kraft, Linda & English-Kautza, Richard & Sharon Schmidt, Leah & Brian Henkelman, Dr. Lanny Tibaldo & Mary Sue Tibaldo, Yurgen & Ruth Markewycz, Maxine & Jay



The team playing as Dugout 2- Jan Quade, Ron Hahn, and Bobbie Jo Hoffman-beat out the team playing as VFW2-Brad Davis, Jeromy Hoffman, and Gene Oleson-to win the Championship in the Monday Night Pool Draw your Team Championship. Submitted photo.

Tlusty, R.A. & L.M. Reindl; Mary Grefe by Andrew Jacobson, Chad & Tami Travis; Stella Lambrecht by Julie & Alan Coss; Sharon Kasper by family & friends; Liz Larson by Jeffrey & Sarah Monti; Marilyn Sabol by Jeffrey & Sarah Monti; Betty Krause by Katie Morrison; Patsy Woller by Denvert Woller; Burt-Burt the

dog by Jeffery & Denise Radloff; Gordon Weinkauf by Kristin Van Der Geest; DuWayne Bacon by Tom & Mary Ball; and Dan Woller by Shelly Bruno.

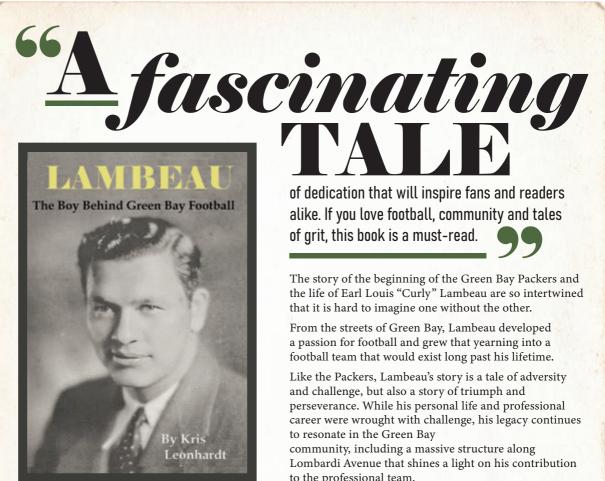
The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank everyone who donated in honor of a loved one in February:

Dale Plamann by Darin "Dewey", Kati, and Andrew

Gille; Dan "Danny" Woller by Nancy Kasper, Cherie Kultgen, Sandra & Gerald Weber, Medford Area Public School District, and Miron Construction Co., Inc; Robert "Bob" Opsahl by Doris Taylor; Shannon Barden by Chad & Renee Krueger and Larry & Colleen Woller; Elaine Marholtz by Hargrave Appliances, Tiffany Tupa,

and Liz Friedenfels; Schulz by Bernice Christine Brown; Jerel "Jay" Adams by Lenore Grosinske; Nancy Muschinske by Peggy & Bob Bauman; Jeannie Gudgeon by Marie Davis, Char Koziel, and Brian; and Harlow Jean Van Der Geest by Susan Jaeger.

Your support is greatly appreciated!



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This publication with your FULL COLOR ad will be available digitally on the Merrill Area School website, the MARC website and the Merrill Foto News website. It will also be distributed at participating advertisers and drop spots throughout Lincoln County.

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 Summer Safety Tips
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Merrill Girls Varsity and JV Soccer Team 2025.

HEAD COACH: Dan Kufahl (2nd year).

ASSISTANT COACHES: Willie Bialecki (17th season), Kyle Rothmeyer (2nd season), Tressa Bathke (2nd season), and Grace Faber (1st season).

2024 RECORD: 1-10-3 (0-8 conference).

2024 POST SEASON RESULTS: Tough road loss to #1 ranked New Richmond.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Addelyn Elliot (Honorable Mention). KEY RETURNERS: Every lady on the team is key to our success. They will be led by our two Seniors, Madi Sell and Olivia Pajtash, as well as returning Captain Addelyn Elliot.

KEY LOSSES: Anna Bowe, Reggie Lahti, Ally Hoock, and Gracie Wyma.

KEY NEWCOMERS: We have a great group of incoming Freshmen led by Claire Kufahl, Elliana Gruett, Mikenna Van De Weerd, Annabelle Lee, and Alexis Lonsdorf, among others.

2024 RECAP: The 2024 season was a season of change and growth. A change in coaches, systems, schemes, philosophy, and accountability. The ladies all took it in stride, embraced the new changes, and gave it their all for each other, each and every game, growing as soccer players and as young adults.

2025 OUTLOOK: 2025 is looking to be an exciting year! With around 40 students coming out for soccer it's one of the largest groups to ever come out for spring soccer. We're looking at roughly two-thirds of our program being either Freshmen or Sophomores this season, which is fantastic to see! Having graduated nine Seniors who all played pretty



Submitted photo.

significant roles on the 2024 squad, there is plenty of opportunity for roles and positions to be earned. This incoming group of Freshmen is one of the most talented and technically sound groups I believe the program has ever seen—and they are hungry! With such a young team, there will undoubtedly be growing pains, but it won't take these skibsters long to gel and find their groove!

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH:

For me, success is not about the wins and losses. It's about helping these young ladies be the best versions of themselves they can be, on and off the field. You better believe we're still going after those wins though! #MerrillvsEverybody





2025 SPRING SPORTS PREVIE



Merrill High School 2025 Golf Team.

HEAD COACH: Andy Plisch - 10th year with the team and 7th year as Head Coach.

ASSISTANT COACHES: Rick Wallace (7th year), Grant Dahlke (3rd Year), and Jason Wadzinski (1st Year).

2024 RECORD: 7th place in Conference.

2024 POST SEASON: 4th place at Regionals and advanced to Sectionals, 8th Place at Sectionals.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Jacob Schmeltzer 2nd Team Wisconsin Valley Conference.

KEY RETURNERS: Jacob Schmeltzer, Parker Klebenow, Chase Klebenow, Evan Elliott, and Colton Burrows, who all were on the Sectional team from last year.

KEY LOSSES: None.

KEY NEWCOMERS: We have the largest team this year, consisting of 23 golfers. Several golfers, including Konner Waid, Charles Kalinowski, Wyatt Lyon, and Elijah Hohman, have worked very hard

during the offseason and should be pushing to earn Varsity spots. This could lead to some great competition and hopefully pushes the team to be even better.

2024 RECAP: The team finished last in Conference play but advanced to Sectionals as a team for the first time in more than 10 years. The team also won the Wausau City meet for the first time in more than 10 years. Hopefully all this success can carry over into the next year.

2025 OUTLOOK: This season could be one of the best ever. Several golfers have been working hard during the offseason, and some swings are in mid-season form. This team has potential to be competitive in the Valley, and I can't wait to see how it all shakes out. I think this team has a strong chance to return to Sectionals as a team and, hopefully, we advance the team or at least some individuals to the State level.

LET'S GO BLUEJAYS!



Stop in after the game, for tasty, refreshing treats!

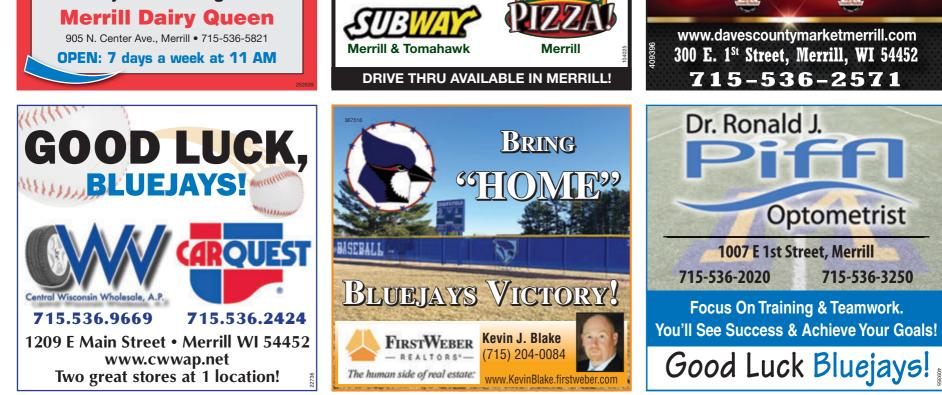


Mama DeLucas

lour Faus At Don't forget flowers for your athletes! **Check out our new Floral Department!**

Submitted photo.







2025 Merrill Baseball Team - Varsity & JV combined (Varsity selections not yet made at deadline for printing.)

Submitted photo.

HEAD COACH: Shawn Schultz, 10th year.

ASSISTANT COACHES: Rob Klug, 19 years; Troy Pieper, 8 years; Garrett Stine, 6 years; Gavin Wroblewski; and Isaak Clapper, 1 year.

2024 RECORD: 14-13.

2024 POST SEASON RESULTS: Beat Northland Pines 10-0; Hayward 5-1; Abbotsford 6-4 in Regional Championship; Lost 5-3 in 8 innings to Medford in Sectional Semifinal.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Brady Norton, 2nd Team.

KEY RETURNERS: Kaiden Henrich; Carter Kaminski; Brady Norton, 2nd Team All WVC OF; Kory Page; Ben Thom; EJ Weix; and Cooper Wendorf.

KEY LOSSES: Isaak Clapper; Brady Kanitz, 1st Team All WVC Pitcher; Sam Reimann, 2nd Team All WVC SS: Dawson Schulz; and Nick Palecek.

KEY NEWCOMERS: We haven't determined who will be asked to move up to Varsity at this point. Spring break was our first week of practice, and we had guite a few guys on vacation with their families. We had a scrimmage scheduled for March 29, which may answer some of those questions, but

without seeing many of our guys in practice, it is hard to make those decisions. We have about 40 guys signed up for 3 teams, so there are certainly opportunities for all of them to make an impact on our program. We have a group of Juniors who are ready to go: Noah Klug, Mason Bloch, Alex Koblitz, and Brett Suchocki are all working hard and looking to make their mark.

2024 RECAP: We lost a great group of Seniors from last season. Three of them were three-year starters and were all a huge part of our success. We developed into a very steady defensive team with strong pitching and timely hitting as the season progressed. It was a great run that ended in a great battle that we look to improve upon this season.

2025 OUTLOOK: Just as we lost a lot of experience, we have a great deal returning. EJ Weix returns to start on the mound and was huge for us as the year went on last year. He also brings his bat and glove and will be a consistent contributor to our lineup. Kaiden Henrich returns behind the plate. He did a great job defensively last year and had some key hits, as well. It is great to have a reliable leader behind the plate. Brady Norton started for us in the outfield and had a strong offensive season and looks



to improve on that output this year. He is a solid defender and should be a key part of our offense. Carter Kaminski will be back on the mound. He had some strong outings for us last spring, and we will look for even more this year. Carter can help us offensively, as well. Kory Page returns to patrol the outfield and can really cover a lot of ground. Ben Thom played a lot of first base and can catch and play around the infield as needed. He's working back from a hand fracture but is working hard to get back as soon as he gets cleared. Rylan Zimmerman looks to contribute at first base and the outfield and makes solid contact. Cooper Wendorf returns after playing 2B for us last season. He had some key hits throughout the year and a big home run up in Hayward-certainly a season to build on this year. Cam Wallin pitched a couple of times for us last spring and did really well. We hope that he is a regular contributor on the mound and has a chance to get his bat in the lineup, as well. All of these guys will contribute on the mound for us. EJ and Carter have the most experience, but all of them will be called upon to make up for the loss of the innings our Seniors provided last year.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: It is our last year in the Wisconsin Valley Conference. It will be a tough change to make next year, but we would love to leave the conference on a high note with a great season. We are looking forward to improving every game. We start off the season with a home game (fingers crossed) and then play two ranked teams, so we will get a pretty good read on what it is going to take to compete with anyone, and I know that we can.

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Best of Luck to

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2025 SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

MERRILL MER

GIRLS SOFTBALL



Merrill Girls JV Softball Team. Katie Hanson photos.



Merrill Girls Varsity Softball Team. Front row L to R: Miley Krueger, Mackenzie Ellenbecker, Gabby Wheeler, Abbie Krueger, and Mackenzie Herdt. Back row L to R: Dani Schielke, Kendell Klug, Grace Hoff, Lily Hoff, Olivia Barker, and Reese Kaminski.

HEAD COACH: Alison Natzke (4th year Head Coach, 5th year coaching with Merrill).

ASSISTANT COACHES: Ben Natzke (13th year) Miranda Johnson (3rd year with High School, 1 year as Middle School) Ty Belfiori (3rd year) Sophie Wendorf (1st year).

2024 RECORD: 7-17.

2024 POST SEASON RESULTS: Beat Rhinelander 11-0, Lost to New London 2-12.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: N/A.

KEY RETURNERS: Dani Schielke, Mackenzie Herdt, Grace Hoff, and Gabby Wheeler.

KEY LOSSES: Sophie Wendorf, Lexi Ollhoff, Caina Orzech, Mia Ott, Alayna Wyland, Olivia Pierce, Kayli Wirtala, and Sophie Simon.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Mackenzie Ellenbecker, Olivia Barker, Keeley Benedict, Abbie Krueger, Miley Krueger, Lily Hoff, Reese Kaminski, Emilie English, Arianna Gray, Madison Hahn, Marissa Miles, Alana Brendemuuehl, Karmen Brietzke, Kendell Klug, Jacey Lyon, Shaylee Marks, Kylie Roberge, Avalynn

Go Merrill Blueiavs

Schult, Cadence Seliger, Tenley Weix, and Cameron Wszalek.

2024 RECAP: Last year was filled with ups and downs. We had some injuries that set starters back, we had some triumphs and surprises, and all-in-all, it was a fun season that ended on a massive storm. We ended up fitting the game in about an hour window in New London, and we held on until the end of the game when they took over. We are hoping this year to use what happened to make us better. High points: Sweeping Wausau East and beating Medford.

2025 OUTLOOK: We are excited for a new season starting soon (weather permitting, of course). We have a lot of newcomers and a fairly young team, so we can't wait to see how everyone develops and grows during the season.

GOOD LUCK BLUEJAYS

From your Friends at the...

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A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: We would like to make everyone aware of our Youth Night. We will be hosting against SPASH on Tuesday, May 6. We would love to see members of the community come out for a great game and a chance to get kids excited about softball. This day will also be our Charity Night, where we are raising money for Josie Giess and her fight with CRPS. Please consider joining us to help her combat with all of the challenges she has been so strong to go through.









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Bluejay Varsity Trap Team. Top (back) row L to R: Alex Petroski, Andrew Dettmering, Jase Steinagel, Mason Meyer, Mathew Maas, and Matthew Wiederhoeft. Bottom (front) row L to R: Prestin Dashek, Ean Smith, Connor Rajek, Mitchell Zemke, Colton Smith, Layla Schmidt, and Lily Kufahl. Missing from photo: Christopher Holz, Landen Klockziem, and Bryce Bloch. Submitted photo.

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<u>2025 SPRING SPORTS PREVIE</u>

BLUEJAY TRAP

HEAD COACH: Kevin Holz, 5th year Head Coach, 13 years coaching.

ASSISTANT COACHES: Dave Lepak, Ashley Voigt, Norb Holz, John Esser, Steve & Robbin Ranta, Sarah Malluege, Rich & Julia Ashbrenner, Matt & Stacey Wallace, Eric Meyer, Landon Dalsky, and Rob Lee.

2024 RECORD: Varsity 9-0, JV 8-1.

2024 POST SEASON RESULTS: Varsity [and JV and Intermediate Entry levels] 1st place and Conference Champions. Varsity was undefeated.

[Intermediate Advanced took 3rd place,]

KEY LOSSES: 9 Seniors.

2024 RECAP: Our 2024 season we had 63 athletes (male and female) and it proved to be both safe and rewarding in the fact that our athletes showed they could contend in all our divisions as season progressed.

From our 6th graders to our Seniors, they shot in ALL types of weather and did well. We shoot every Tuesday from 4:30-7:00 p.m., often in adverse conditions-rain, snow, winds, only lightning storms shut us down. Our athletes push through and do their best. Our athletes showed respect toward their teammates and helped out where needed. Our volunteer coaching staff once again set our goals and standards high, and it showed in our program from athlete participation to fundraising and kept our program running smooth.

2025 OUTLOOK: It proves to be the start of another great season with a record 68 Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) registered athletes. We lost nine Seniors but have new shooters to fill the void. Our returning athletes seem pumped up and ready to go, defending their Championship titles. This year we will host the Conference Shoot-Out at the end of May, bringing as many as 350 athletes to Merrill and the Lincoln Gun Club, our home shooting facility. We need community support and are looking for sponsors to help with donations and raffle prizes. Please reach out if you are able to help!



Bluejay JV Trap Team. Top (back) row L to R: Caleb Thompson, Hunter Renken, JJ Klug, Xavier Hanke, Peyton Hagenbucher, and Will Kline. Bottom (front) row L to R: Max Westover, Corbin Mattson, Bradley Schmidt, Louisa Fleischman, Wyatt Calkins, Robert Giese, Nicholas Kollmer, Aydan Bergman, Otto Lee, Kaleb Staus, Lakeyn Adams, Tavin Heideman, Corbin Thomaschefsky, and Will Bretzke. Missing from photo: Maria Ashbrenner, Theo Thompson, Bennett Jacobson, and Eli Lofink. Submitted photo.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: I am looking forward to our athletes growing in maturity and respect for our sport. We have awesome parents and a coaching staff, and without them, this program would not be as successful as it is! The teams in the Great Northern Trap Conference we are in all have top-notch head coaches and staff. All are working hard to stay competitive in shooting and running their programs, with some of the matches being determined by one target! The competition is very tight, and our athletes have to show up with their "A-game" every week. Good luck to every team, and Go Merrill Bluejays!!







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Daughter of Kyle and Whitney Weaver Riley is in the 3rd grade at Washington Elementary School. She was nominated by Ms. Moran.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why? I love music because you get to learn about different instruments and get to play them.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?



I love recess because I have lots of choices of things to do with friends.

What would you like to do/become someday? I want to be a teacher someday

and teach 5th grade.

Washington Elementary School is proud to recognize Riley Weaver as our Student of the Week. Riley has shown incredible perseverance in her learning,

tacking challenges with determination and a positive attitude. Through her hard work and dedication, she has made great growth in her learning, setting a vonderful example for her peers. Congratulations, Riley.



Wisconsin Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 7-11

MADISON - Spring brings the blooming of flowers, the return of migrating birds, and an increased risk of severe weather. These storms can develop quickly and knowing what to do when severe weather comes can keep everyone safe. To encourage preparation for tornadoes, thunderstorms and flooding, Wisconsin observes April 7-11, 2025, as Severe Weather Awareness Week, along with holding statewide tornado drills on Thursday. April 10.

"It is essential people take time during this important week to ensure each Wisconsinite knows what to do when a tornado warning or severe storm is in their area," said Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator Greg Engle. "During Thursday's tornado drills, we encourage families, businesses, and schools to spend a few minutes going over their plans and identifying where to seek shelter."

Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes each year. In 2024, the National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed 45 tornadoes in the state, the third highest documented number of tornadoes. This includes 22 from the month of May, 18 of which touched down on May 21.

To stay safe during severe weather, ReadyWisconsin encourages people to do the following:

· Create an emergency plan and practice it.

• Know where designated shelters are located at home, work, and school. Be ready to go there when a tornado warning is issued.

 Have multiple ways to receive alerts about approaching severe weather. Outdoor warning sirens, NOAA Weather Radios, local media, and mobile devices are all important tools. Don't rely on any single source for important lifesaving information.

• If you have a mobile device, make sure it is enabled to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA). On many devices, that option is available in the settings menu. Find out more about WEA at https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/ be-informed/be-alert/.

 Stav weather aware by checking the daily forecast for vour area.

· Create an emergency kit for your home. Find tips for

Pet of the Week Meet Scamander! This handsome boy is looking for a home to call his own! Scamander is great with other cats and might do best in a home that is a little more on the calm/ quite side. Scamander likes to get attention and to snuggle in his bed!

Visit all the adoptable animals at . Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N Memorial Dr., Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-4 PM & Sun 12-2 PM. Optometrist 715-536-2020

making a kit at https://readywisconsin.wi.gov.

Wisconsin's annual statewide tornado drills will take place on April 10 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m., offering an opportunity to practice your tornado sheltering plans. Schools, businesses, and homes are encouraged to practice going to their nearest tornado shelter during the drills, as if there were an actual tornado warning in effect. Ideal tornado shelters can include a basement, a ground floor interior room of a building, or a specially constructed safe room designed to withstand high winds and falling debris.

During the drill times. Wisconsin's NWS offices will conduct NOAA Weather Radio tests that can be heard if you are actively listening to those devices or have one programmed to activate on test alerts. Local media outlets may also participate on the air or over social media. Some communities may also choose to test their outdoor warning sirens during the drill times. Check with local emergency management offices for information on siren testing schedules.

If there is a threat of severe weather in Wisconsin on April 10, the statewide drills will be postponed until Friday, April 11. The drills will go on in all other conditions, including non-severe weather (clouds, rain, dark sky, scattered thunderstorms, etc.). If severe weather is also expected on Friday, the drills will be cancelled. Notification of the drill status will be posted at http://readywisconsin.wi.gov by 10 a.m. on the morning of April 10.

"Staying safe from severe weather is everyone's responsibility," said Engle. "While the statewide drills provide a coordinated time to practice what they should do during a tornado, the most important thing people can do is exercise their plan when they can safely do so, even if it needs to be at a different time.'

For more information on emergency preparedness and advice on creating your own emergency plan, visit https://readywisconsin.wi.gov. You can also follow ReadyWisconsin on Facebook, X, Instagram, and Bluesky for tips on emergency preparedness throughout the year!

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On March 30, 2025, Merrill Eagles Club 584 held a Pancake Breakfast Benefit for David Leach to assist him with recovery from a catastrophic fire. L to R: Sue Heckendorf, Auxiliary representative; David Leach, receipent; and Bryan Plautz, Aerie representative. **Submitted photo.**

County receives grant to assess culverts

Lincoln County has secured a surface water grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to assess culvert crossings. This grant marks the beginning of an important initiative to evaluate public culvert crossings, with a three-phase project planned to cover the entire County.

Using the WDNR's Surface Water Data Viewer (SWDV), 573 culvert crossings have been identified across Lincoln County. The awarded grant will allow the County to begin Phase 1, which will assess 244 crossings in the Townships of Birch, Harrison, King, Merrill, Pine River, Russell, Schley, and Skanawan.

Crossings will be prioritized based on the Great Lakes Stream Crossing Inventory protocols, which consider factors such as stream constriction, erosion, fish passability, and the condition of the culverts, helping identify which ones most urgently need replacement.

Tom Boisvert, Conservation Program Manager, explained that properly functioning culverts are crucial for both infrastructure and environmental health.

"One of the most important habitat improvements on many streams in the

Northern Lakes and Forests is restoring stream connectivity," states the WDNR's Trout Management Plan. "Improperly placed culverts are often perched or set incorrectly leading to velocity barriers, depth issues, or ponding issues that impede fish passage."

The Wisconsin River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited has contributed \$2,000 to support these efforts.

Failed culverts can cause road washouts, create ongoing maintenance costs for taxpayers, and damage local streams that support fishing and recreation. This project aims to prevent these problems while creating opportunities for costsharing with townships to repair or replace problem culverts.

The Land Services Department will host a workshop to share findings and help municipalities learn about building more resilient and environmentally friendly stream crossings with representatives from Trout Unlimited, DATCP, and the WDNR's Environmental Analysis Program available to offer insights on proper culvert placement, construction practices, and potential cost-sharing opportunities.





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Ben Thom

March Youth Optimist Ben Thom, a Senior at Merrill High

Ben Thom, a Senior at Merrill High School, is the March Youth Optimist of the Month. "Ben is a soft-spoken leader whose actions tell you everything you need to know about him," said Mr. Shawn Schultz in his nomination. "In the classroom, Ben is extremely intelligent and a high achiever. He participates in class and is an asset to those around him. He is always polite, treats everyone with respect, and is a great teammate on the baseball team. He is a leader in practice and on the field—always working hard and in the right place at the right time."

"I am proud to have Ben as a member of the baseball team and my class. He is a prime example of how hard work and a great attitude make you an ideal leader," Mr. Schultz said. "No matter where Ben goes, he is always going to treat those around him with respect and work to improve himself and everyone around him."

At school, Ben is involved in National Honor Society, Link Crew, Tri-M Music ymphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Pep Band, Solo & Ensemble (most improved

Penkert Properties LTD Rock Ridge Estates tenants recently collected and donated all of these supplies and a gift card to Tractor Supply to the Lincoln County Humane Society.

Submitted photo.

brass player, 1st place rating), Symptonic Band, Wind Entschildt, 190 Band, Borld & Entschildt (indst improved brass player, 1st place rating), State Solo & Ensemble (2nd place rating), Merrill Baseball—JV, JV2, and Varsity, Merrill Post 46 Junior Legion Baseball, Merrill Post 46 Legion Baseball, Strength and Conditioning, Won 80 Sportsmanship Conference (student rep), and DECA. Outside of school, Ben volunteers for Make A Difference Day, works concession stands, helps with VFW set-up, coaches Little League Baseball, and maintains fields for the Merrill Baseball Travel Tournament.

The son of Josh and Tina Thom, after graduation Ben plans to pursue a bachelor's degree at a UW school, followed by a doctorate in physical therapy.

Kelsey Pankow, an eighth grader at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), is the March Youth Optimist of the Month. "Kelsey embodies the core values of the Optimist Creed in so many ways," said Mr. Kautzer in his nomination. "It's clear she's not only dedicated to personal success but also to helping others, showing positivity, and planning for a bright future."

"Her ability to excel in volleyball, band, dance, Girl Scouts, and maintain honor roll speaks to a strong sense of discipline," he said. "Her aspirations to play college volleyball and start her own business reflect a mindset focused on opportunities."

At school, Kelsey is on the Honor Roll, participates in Student Council, plays volleyball, and is a member of the band. Outside of school, she is involved in dance and Girl Scouts. Kelsey demonstrates a positive attitude and leadership skills in all her activities.



Kelsey Pankow

Kelsey is the daughter of Andrew Pankow and Leah Fandry of Merrill.



Optimist Clubs: "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" Merrill Noon Optimists – Wednesdays at 12:00 noon at the Eagles Club, 1205 Lake St., Merrill

Adult volunteers join Optimist Clubs to conduct positive service projects in their communities aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. Their upbeat attitudes empower youth to be the best they can be. Optimists International, with 3,000+ clubs, conducts 65,000 service projects, serving more than six million youth annually. Locally, Merrill Noon Optimists serve 3,000+ area youth, contributing or organizing events and service projects in our Merrill community.



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Lincoln County Health Department measles update

The Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) issued a press release on April 1, 2025, to provide the community with a measles update in light of a recent increase in cases throughout the U.S. According to the LCHD:

As of March 27, 2025, the Center or Disease Control (CDC) reports confirmed 483 cases measles, including of confirmed child one Multiple death. states are affected. No cases have been confirmed in Wisconsin. The latest information is available at: https://www.cdc.gov/ measles/data-research/ index.html.

highly Measles is contagious. It is caused by a virus that easily spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Measles spreads rapidly-often before any symptoms of illness are seen. It is so contagious that 90% of unvaccinated people exposed to measles will become infected. The virus lingers in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area.

typically Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, red, watery eyes, and a red, blotchy typically rash that begins on the face at the hairline, and spreads downwards. Disease complications include ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia, brain swelling (encephalitis), and potentially death.

How to protect yourself, your family, and others in the community:

The MMR (mumps, measles, rubella) vaccine is highly effective in providing immunity. Two doses of the MMR vaccine provides 97% protection against getting infected by measles and continues to protect for a lifetime.

• MMR vaccine is recommended at age 12– 15 months of age, then again at age 4–6 years of age. If vaccine status is unknown, vaccination is recommended.

• Past measles infection may provide a lifelong protection against disease. The measles vaccine was developed in 1963, so those born before 1957 likely have immunity.

Now is the time to talk to your healthcare provider about any vaccinations you may need. Contact your healthcare provider to discuss vaccine concerns, ask questions, and schedule vaccinations that are overdue. You can also look up your vaccine record on the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR): https:// www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ immunization/wir.htm

LCHD The offers zero-cost vaccinations eligible families to through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adults (VFA) programs. Learn more at https://www.co.lincoln. wi.us/health/page/ immunization-clinics.

"It is never too late to get caught up on vaccinations. Preventing disease is safer than treating disease," the LCHD said. "Reducing disease outbreaks is a community effort."

For questions on measles or immunications, contact Kristi or Deanna at the LCHD. Call 715.536.0307 or LCHealth@co.lincoln. wi.us. A measles fact sheet is available at: https://www.co.lincoln. wi.us/health.

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AUCTIONS





Marshfield Clinic Research Institute seeking ticks for second year of study

The Marshfield Clinic Research Institute is once again asking Wisconsin residents to send in ticks they find this year.

In 2024, the Research Institute launched the Tick Inventory via Citizen Science (TICS) (*www. tinyurl.com/bdfjb387*) in an effort to identify the ticks that are found in the state.

A release from Marshfield Clinic said this information can be used to assess risk of encountering a tick-borne disease and to learn more about who is being exposed and diagnosed with tick-borne diseases.

More than 6,000 ticks from nearly every Wisconsin county were submitted in 2024, according to Marshfield Clinic.

"We had overwhelming support from people who are curious and invested in helping better identify the health threats associated with ticks," said Jennifer Meece, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute Executive Director. "We

Abbotsfo

Many ticks have been submitted from Merrill and surrounding areas.

had many calls last year from people who told us about the impact tick-borne disease had on their lives."

Of the ticks collected in 2024, about 4,200, or more than 70%, were the American dog (wood) tick, and the majority of the remainder were the deer (blacklegged) tick.

Marshfield Clinic noted that much of that difference is likely due to the larger wood ticks being easier to spot than the smaller deer ticks.

"The deer tick's small size and greater likelihood of carrying illnesses like Lyme disease is what makes it critical to perform tick checks after spending time in wooded or brushy areas," said Alexandra Linz, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute Associate Research Scientist.

"Deer ticks carry pathogens that may cause diseases such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, and babesiosis," Marshfield Clinic said. "The

eston

Photos courtesy of Marshfield Clinic

large number of ticks submitted allowed the research team to detect an influx of ticks from typically warmer climates, including the lone star tick that spreads ehrlichiosis and could cause Alpha-gal Syndrome (also known as the meat allergy), and Brown dog ticks that spread Rocky Mountain spotted fever."

"With new tick species becoming more prevalent in Wisconsin, the risk for potential newly introduced diseases increases," Meece said. "We are trying to determine the extent and significance of this spread and the potential health effects."

How to request a kit

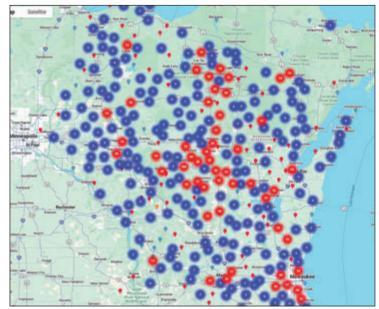
Tick collection kits are available at the George Mead Wildlife Area Education Center, Castlerock Veterinary in Marshfield, and many Marshfield Clinic locations.

For more information, or to request a pre-paid collection kit be sent to you, contact *tics@marshfieldclinic.org* or 1.715.389.7796 (extension 16462).

Parks and nature centers interested in having kits available for their visitors are also encouraged to contact Marshfield Clinic Research Institute.

"Once the tick, dead or alive, has been placed in the collection kit, just drop it in the mail to submit using the provided kits," Marshfield Clinic said. "Any tick found on people or pets is appreciated. Each kit will come with a unique identification number that people can use to look up, via an online dashboard, the species of ticks they submitted."

new this year inside the kit will be additional survey questions. Marshfield Clinic said optional questions include the types of precautions the person is taking



Pictured is map of Wisconsin showing where ticks have been collected and sent to Marshfield Clinic Research Institute for identification.

to avoid ticks, if they've ever been diagnosed with a tickborne disease, and if the Research Institute can follow up with the person for potential future studies.

"We are interested in learning more about the diseases and how they affect people," Meece said. "Tick-borne diseases are complex to diagnose, and sometimes, complex to treat. Having a better understanding of the people affected can better help us in future research."

Marshfield Clinic said tick submissions from all over Wisconsin are encouraged, regardless of if the person is a Marshfield Clinic patient.

Marshfield Clinic highlights "serious health consequences"

Symptoms of illnesses resulting from a tick bite can include rash, fever, joint pain, and fatigue. "Contact your medical provider if you have these symptoms," Marshfield Clinic said.

"Lyme disease is by far the most common tick-borne illness in Wisconsin," said Dr. Thomas Boyce, a Pediatric Infectious Disease Physician with Marshfield Clinic Health System. "Testing is important, because early treatment is highly effective in preventing later stages of the disease from developing. If you remove a deer tick that is attached and engorged, a single dose of an antibiotic (doxycycline) can reduce the risk of contracting Lyme disease ten-fold (from 3% to 0.3%)."

"To reduce the risk of tick bites, spray insecticide such as permethrin on clothing, sleeping bags, and tent fabric," Marshfield Clinic said. "Wear clothing that covers your skin. Finally, have someone help you check for ticks after time spent outdoors."



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students raised \$1,559.77 for the T.B. Scott Goodrich Free Kate Librarv during their coin drive for Read Across America Week. Second grade collected the greatest weight-54 pounds of coins throughout the week! Shown in photo. Library Director Laurie Ollhoff holds a check from Kate Goodrich Principal Heather Kahr. The school invited her to their assembly to present her with the check. Submitted photo.

Merrill, WI 54452

Forerunner: Lambeau gets jump start on Draft process

BY KRIS LEONHARDT MMC SENIOR EDITOR

GREEN BAY – "In the early 1930s there was no Draft system. It was pretty much a free-for-all, as far as free agency goes," said Packers Hall of Fame Curator Brent Hensel.

Hensel gave Packers Head Coach Curly Lambeau much of the credit for the foundation of the Draft.

"He was really ahead of the game in the Draft. He realized quickly, actually, probably by accident. He started scouting some of the college players in the All Star games as early as 1930, and what I mean by accident ... Curly liked to head out to California, out to the West Coast, and he started going to the East-West Shrine game. Just by accident, he realized, 'Hey, I can learn a lot about some great college players.' He ends up drafting them and it becomes a huge advantage for him, while others really didn't have any kind of scouting system, or (an idea of) how to look at prospects other

than when they went to the Draft," Hensel said.

"So usually on New Year's Day, he would go back and watch several major college all-star games. In fact, in 1936, Lambeau and his second wife drove out from Green Bay to San Francisco, arriving on Dec. 26, and he would watch this East-West Shrine game and it influenced his first couple of picks."

In the Jan. 19, 1951, edition of the San Francisco Examiner, Sports Editor Curley Grieve calls Lambeau the "smartest builder of pro football clubs."

"As far as the pros are concerned, I discovered the East-West game. There was a time when I had it all to myself. I came out here annually and built my team. I have missed only one game since it started," Lambeau told Grieve.

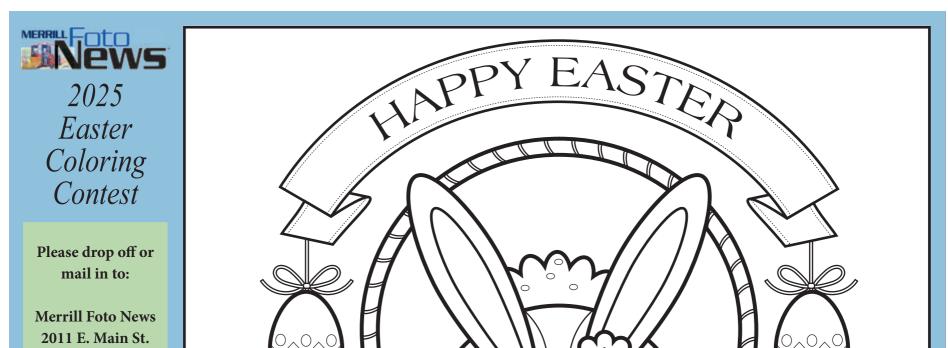
"It was back in 1925 that I signed the first of my greats—Lavvie Dilweg of Marquette. Then came a long series—players like Clarke Hinkle of Bucknell, Hank Bruder and Tiny Ingebretsen of Northwestern, Cecil Isbell or Purdue. Whatever success I had at Green Bay was due almost entirely to the East-West game. I never heard of some of the players who later starred for me until I saw them in action at Kezar. The Shrine game was—and still is—an All-America showcase. I owe my reputation to it."

Hensel said that in Lambeau's first Draft—in 1936—two of his top three choices played on the West squad.

Packers Lineman Russ Letlow—No. 1 choice and seventh overall selection in the first NFL Draft holds the distinction of being the Packers' firstever draft pick.

Packers End Bernie Scherer was the second.

Leading up to the April 24-26 NFL Draft, the *Merrill Foto News* will feature a Draft history series, based on the findings of Packer Historian Cliff Christl and Packers Hall of Fame Curator Brent Hensel.



Deadline: May 2, 2025 One winner per age group Ages: 1-4 5-7 8-10 Each winner receives a gift basket! Prizes sponsored by the Foto News		
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Merrill youth wrestlers shine at State Tournament

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Seven young Bluejay wrestlers represented Merrill at the WWF Youth Folkstyle State Championoship Tournament held March 28-30, 2025, with three bringing home State medals after qualifying at the Merrill Tournament earlier in the month. A total of 725 wrestlers competed at the qualifier on March 22 in Merrill, The seven Merrill qualifiers earned their spots at the local qualifier on March 22, where Brant Suchocki and Hovt Brendemuehl took first place. Marcus Brock finished second, and Mason Fuchs, Hunter Moore, and Rylan Brendemuehl each placed third. Evelyn Reinhardt qualified as an alternate with her fourth-place finish.

Marcus Brock dominated the competition at State, capturing a State Championship by pinning all five of his opponents. The young

grappler showed tremendous strength and was a force to be reckoned with throughout the tournament.

"Marcus was incredible, dominating all his opponents," said Merrill Boys Wrestling Head Coach Brian Suchocki. "I don't recall another Merrill wrestler with five pins on their way to a State Championship. Marcus really started putting things together this season. He is very strong and explosive."

Marcus won by fall over competitors from Elkhorn Wrestling Club, Reedsville Wrestling, Mt. Horeb Wrestling Club, Prairie Wrestling, and Nekoosa Youth Wrestling, taking his first opponent in only 21 seconds and his second in just 11 seconds.

Rylan Brendemuehl and Mason Fuchs both earned fourth-place finishes. Mason showed exceptional endurance and determination, competing in eight matches totalthe maximum possible in the tournament—going 6-2. "That is the most matches a wrestler can get in the tournament and the first Merrill wrestler I can ever remember wrestling that many," Suchocki said. "That in itself is very impressive. Mason wrestled an excellent tournament. He battled in every match he was in."

The coach also praised Brendemuehl's performance: "Rylan also had a great day wrestling and a nice season punctuated with a great performance at State. It was good to see him perform so well," he said.

Brant Suchocki went 2-2 in the tournament, falling just one match short of placing. Hunter Moore, Evelyn Reinhardt, and Hoyt Brendemuehl all gained valuable experience at the State level.

"All the Merrill wrestlers have competed and practiced hard all season," Coach Suchocki said. "It's good to see several of them do so well at State."



HighSchool eshin ahadmla Spring

Rovs Raseball (Varsity IV & IV?)

Ľ	<u>Soys Baseball (Varsity, JV</u>	(, & JV2)	
Thurs. April 10	Abbotsford (Varsity)	Away	4:45 pm
Tues. April 15	Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Tues. April 15	Stevens Point - Black (JV2)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. April 17	Stevens Point - Black (JV2)	Away	4:30 pm
Thurs. April 17	Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:00 pm
	Girls Softball (Varsity of	& JV)	
Thurs. April 10	Marshfield (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:30 pm
Fri. April 11	Pacelli Catholic (Varsity)	Home	4:30 pm
Mon. April 14	Medford (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:30 pm
Tues. April 15	Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:30 pm
Thurs. April 17	WI Rapids (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:30 pm
	Boys Golf (Varsity &	JV)	
Fri. April 11	Multiple School - Invite (Varsity)	Home	2:00 pm
Mon. April 14	Rib Mountain Course - Invite (JV)	Away	3:00 pm
Mon. April 15	River Edge Course (Varsity & JV)	Away	2:00 pm
Thurs. April 17	Fox Fire Course (Varsity)	Away	2:00 pm
	Girls Soccer (Varsity &	LIV)	
Mon. April 14	Three Lakes (Varsity)	Home	5:00 pm
Tues. April 15	Crandon (Varsity)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. April 17	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. April 17	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
В	oys Track & Field (Varsi	tv & JV)	
Fri. April 11	Wausau West (Varsity)	Away	4:00 pm
Tues. April 15	UWSP-Meet (Varsity)	Away	3:30 pm
-		5	5.50 pm
	<u> Field (Varsi & Field (Varsi</u>		
Thurs. April 10	Marshfield (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:30 pm
Tues. April 15	UWSP-Meet (Varsity)	Away	4:00 pm
Thurs. April 17	UWSP-Meet (Varsity)	Away	4:00 pm
1 million	Trap Team (Varsity High School Season Ongoing • Weekly R		
	The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by: PROTECT THE GREA		irch tual

_ETE OF THE WEEK

Mason Meyer, a Sophomore at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of April 10, 2025. Mason is a member of the Merrill Bluejay Varsity Trap Team. This is Mason's third year in the sport and he started off his season shooting a perfect 25.

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At school, his favorite class is physical science. Outside of school, Mason works part-time at his dad's business, Meyer Electric & Construction, and also helps some of his dad's friends at their construction businesses, doing wiring and other construction tasks. In his free time, he enjoys hunting deer, turkey, bear, and water fowl, as well as fishing year-round and riding four-wheelers and dirt bikes.



TOP: Marcus Brock dominated at State, bringing home a State Championship from the WWF Kids Folkstyle State Tournament. Submitted photo.

BOTTOM: Marcus Brock took first place in his division-taking the State Championship for Merrill. Submitted photo.

Bluejay Varsity Softball Team opens season with perfect weekend in Mauston

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

The Merrill Girls Varsity Softball Team kicked off their 2025 campaign in impressive fashion, going a perfect 3-0 at the annual early-season tournament in Mauston this weekend.

The Bluejays showed both skill and determination, securing three consecutive victories on the turf complex that has become a

reliable venue for Merrill's early-season games when northern fields remain unplayable.

In the opener, Merrill edged out a tight 11-10 victory. Abbie Krueger made her Varsity pitching debut, recording four strikeouts while allowing seven hits. The Bluejay offense was led by Grace Hoff's three-hit performance, while Dani Schielke, Kendell Klug, Miley Krueger, and Lily Hoff each contributed two hits.

Game two provided even more drama, with Merrill securing a 9-8 win in nine innings. Mak Herdt delivered an outstanding performance on the mound, going the distance with an impressive 18 strikeouts while surrendering just seven hits. Grace Hoff and Reese Kaminski each collected two hits and three RBIs, while Kendell Klug and Abbie Krueger added two doubles apiece. Dani Schielke made her mark with a walk-off single in the bottom of the ninth to seal the victory.

the sweep with convincing 19-6 win in the finale. Mackenzie Ellenbecker earned her first Varsity pitching start and impressed by allowing just two hits with three strikeouts and, notably, zero walks. Grace Hoff and Reese Kaminski again led the offense with three hits each, while Klug and Hoff both added two doubles.

"Our team proved this weekend that we have grit, and can continue to fight when things don't go our way," said Merrill Girls Varsity Softball Head Coach Alison Natzke. "We definitely have things to clean up and grow through, but all-in-all I am extremely proud of our first showing this weekend. Natzke praised the team chemistry and shared optimism for the season ahead: "Our team dynamic is strong, and I can't wait to see how things go from here forward," she said. "We also want to take a moment to thank our fans for making the two-hour drive and sitting out in the cold to support our athletes. We appreciate you!"



The son of Eric Meyer and Melissa Meyer, both of Merrill, Mason has a 3.3 GPA and plans to become an electrician and join the union after high school, doing an apprenticeship through NTC.

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Mason Meyer

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

> Please direct comments or suggestions to fotonews@mmclocal.com

> > The Bluejays completed



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