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Celebrating Godzilla's birthday and great attendance



The dinosaur crew at Washington School celebrating great attendance: “We ROAR for great attendance!”
Kelly Masters Morgan photo.

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Washington Elementary School students were treated to some special visitors last Friday as part of an innovative approach to improving school attendance.

The school held a “Godzilla’s Birthday” celebration on April 11, 2025, marking another creative milestone in a year-long attendance initiative spearheaded by school social worker Kelli Masters Morgan.

“It was more than just a fun day. It was part of a larger, year-long effort I’ve been leading to help our third graders understand the importance of consistent school

attendance,” Morgan said. “Ever since COVID, truancy rates across the state have skyrocketed. Students are missing more school than ever before, which has a direct impact on their ability to learn and make academic progress.”

Morgan has employed several creative approaches throughout the school year to engage students around attendance.

“To help reverse this trend, I’ve been using creative, playful approaches to make the message stick with our younger learners,” she said. “In addition to Godzilla, I’ve dressed up as the ‘Attendance Fairy’ complete with tutu and wings, crowned ‘Attendance Royalty,’ and even introduced surprise visits

from the 'Polar Pals' who magically moved around the building reminding students of the benefits of excellent attendance."

The “Polar Pals” initiative also selected students with strong attendance habits to become “Attendance Elves,” adding peer recognition to the program, she said. Morgan believes these playful approaches are making a difference with the elementary students.

The Friday celebration came after students tracked classroom attendance throughout the month, working toward earning the special birthday party for

See **GODZILLA**
page 3



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Smith Automotive Repair LLC opens on E. Second St.

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Matt Smith officially opened Smith Automotive Repair LLC at 601 E. Second St. in Merrill on April 1, 2025, after purchasing the building in December 2023 and spending approximately 10 months renovating the space.

“We painted the exterior. We did new siding. I did all new drywall, all new installation, all new electrical, all new HVAC,” Smith said. His father, who sold one of his homes to help Smith with renovation costs, has been instrumental in helping to get the business off the ground.

"I bought the building myself, but all the renovations and everything he helped me out with," Smith said.

The building, which was previously a storage facility used by Hargrave Appliances but was long ago a Buick dealership, now houses Smith's automotive repair shop, complete with a welcoming waiting area for customers that he is in the process of setting up for comfort. A lifelong passion



Matt Smith, owner of the new repair shop, poses beside his El Camino, on display in the waiting area. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

for vehicles is evident in the waiting area, where his El Camino—a vehicle with special significance to him—sits proudly on display.

"I've had [it] since my graduation from high school," Smith said. "It was my daily driver my senior year of high school." The vehicle has additional significance because Smith began rebuilding the engine after his best friend passed

away. "I started rebuilding it kind of for him," he said. The back window displays a memorial to his friend.

Smith brings eight years of automotive experience to his business, having worked at various dealerships including Breman Merrill Ford, Wheeler Chevy, and Kocourek Chevy, as well as at independent shops in Milwaukee.

After years of working for others, Smith decided it

was time to venture out on his own in search of more opportunity for financial advancement. "I can do this myself. It doesn't seem too hard, so might as well give it a shot," he said.

As a Napa Auto Care Center, Smith Automotive Repair offers a wide range of services, with a special focus on “suspension,

See **SMITH** page 2

<p>TOM CAT NEUTER CLINIC</p> <p>Saturday, April 26th</p> <p>from 8:30am - 11:30am at</p>	 <p>Please call ahead to reserve a spot on our schedule. Must be current on rabies vaccine or have one given at an additional charge.</p>
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PUBLISHER’S LETTER

The Meaning Of Easter

Dear Reader,

Easter is upon us, a time of great celebration for Christians around the world. It is the day we proclaim, Christ is risen!—a moment of triumph over death, of hope restored, and of love eternal. But what does this truly mean? It means embracing faith—not just in the historical event of the Resurrection, but in the promise that, just as He rose, He will come again. It is a reminder that life is more than what we see before us, that there is a deeper purpose, and that goodness, love, and faith lead to something far greater.

For children, Easter is often marked by the joy of waking up to baskets filled with candies, chocolates, and bright-colored treats. They search eagerly for hidden eggs, trusting with pure hearts that the Easter Bunny has come, just as he does every year. Their delight is simple and beautiful, a reflection of the wonder and innocence of childhood.

But for adults, Easter carries a weightier significance. After the solemn season of Lent—a time of fasting, reflection, and sacrifice—Easter is a moment of renewal. It is a time to rejoice in the promise of redemption, to embrace the idea that goodness on this earth matters, and to reaffirm that our choices have eternal significance.

If you believe, then know this: the good you do in this world is not in vain. Love, kindness, and faith shape not only our lives but also our eternity. Easter reminds us that beyond the struggles, beyond the sacrifices, there is the promise of everlasting joy. It is a celebration not just of an event from long ago, but of the hope that guides us today and always.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Easter.

PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher

Author of “Reflections” a new book now available on Amazon.

Pet of the Week

Looking for an energetic companion? CJ just might be the girl your looking for! CJ is a 2.5 year old, lab mix with loads of energy! We are told CJ does great with everybody, especially children! We are unsure how CJ does with cats and dogs, but we would cat test and dog meet with any approved application!

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Smith Automotive Repair LLC is now open for business on E. Second St. in Merrill, in what was a Buick dealership many years ago.

Tina L. Scott photo.

SMITH

from page 1

alignments, tires, basic maintenance, breaks, and regular maintenance,” Smith said.

Being a Napa Auto Care Center offers advantages, enabling Smith to offer a more competitive price on parts and on services like oil changes. The shop features two work bays, with a primary bay for most work and a larger bay with an 18,000-pound lift for trucks and alignment work. Smith has plans to expand in the future, and the building has plenty of room for growth.

There is a lot of additional space available in the back where he hopes to grow the business, an area currently used for storage.

Smith’s next business goal is to hire a service writer to handle scheduling and phone calls, allowing him to focus on repairs. “Answering phones, scheduling things so I can just keep working,” he said.

The shop is currently open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and otherwise by appointment.

Smith is working to increase his business visibility with upcoming plans for a website through Napa Auto Care that will eventually allow customers to order tires online through him, as well as more signage. “I’ll have a big 12-foot-wide Napa Auto Care sign that’s going to be going above the garage doors,” he said. He plans to have the sign installed by the end of May.

Smith said his family has deep roots in the Merrill business community. Matt’s grandfather, Stuart Smith, previously owned ITC Trucking, and his uncle, Doug Smith, owns KFC Taco Bell in Merrill.

Smith Automotive Repair LLC is currently accepting new customers and welcomes walk-ins during business hours. For more information or to schedule an appointment, customers can stop by the shop at 601 E. Second St. in Merrill during business hours or call 715.722.0104.

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GODZILLA

from page 1

the famous movie monster.

“On Friday morning, they were greeted by the dinosaur crew,” Morgan said. “During lunch, we had birthday cake and played a hilarious ‘Go Go Godzilla’ music video featuring cameos from our third grade students.”

The festivities continued throughout the day with Godzilla visiting classrooms to praise excellent attendance before the “entire dinosaur crew waved goodbye to send the message home” at dismissal time.

“The kids had so much fun—and I believe the pro-attendance message really landed,” Morgan said.

“My goals are simple: to get students’ attention, educate them about attendance expectations, and celebrate attendance success,” she said. “Hopefully these efforts will help build long-term attendance habits to support learning and achievement.”



Mrs. Morgan visits classrooms riding a dinosaur.
Photo courtesy of Washington Elementary School.



More photos online
merrillfotonews.com



“Bye! Have a great weekend!” the dinosaur crew wishes students a roaring great weekend at the end of the day.
Kelly Masters Morgan photo.

LEFT: Captured! ... in a dinosaur hug!
Blue Sky Photography/ Peter Tesch photo.

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MAPS Head Start has openings for the 2025-2026 school year.

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To enroll go to the MAPS website enrollment page. For more information or for help enrolling, please call Pine River School for Young Learners at 715-536-2392.

452496

| OBITUARIES |

Doreen Kay Pockat-Viesselmann



Doreen Kay Pockat-Viesselmann, 78, of Merrill, formerly of Sheboygan, passed away Monday, April 7, 2025, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. Doreen was born October 19, 1946, in Merrill, daughter of Arnold Bushar Sr. and Patricia (Brown) Bushar. Doreen was raised in the Merrill area and graduated from Merrill High School in 1964. Shortly after graduation, she moved to Sheboygan and lived there for over fifty years. She worked at the Borden Company for over fifteen years. Doreen married David Viesselmann on June 21, 2017, in Grafton. They eventually moved back to Merrill. Doreen enjoyed knitting and sewing, reading, and cooking. She loved her dog, Bella. Doreen is survived by her husband, David Viesselmann of Merrill; daughter, Ann (Richard) Koeller of Sheboygan; grandson, Gregory (Jillian) Koeller of Sun Prairie; step children, Andrew Viesselmann of Anna, Texas and Jessica Anderson of Lacey, Washington; step grandson, Arthur Anderson of Lacey, Washington; sisters, Lynn (Jim) Wolff of Gleason, Dawn Winchell of Merrill, Pamela Wopp (Jim Banasik) of Merrill, Mary (David) Fredrick of Owen, Peggy Bowen of Merrill, and Holly Bushar of Merrill; brother, Bruce Bushar of Merrill; and sister-in-law, Cindy Bushar of Nashville, Tennessee. Doreen was preceded in death by her parents, Arnold Bushar Sr. and Patricia Bushar; and brother, Arnold ‘Arnie’ Bushar Jr. The memorial service for Doreen was held at 11:00 A.M., Monday, April 14, 2025, at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation – 301 Eagle Dr., Merrill. Deacon Jim Arndt presided. The family received friends beginning at 10:00 A.M. Monday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, the family will be establishing a memorial fund in Doreen’s name to benefit the music department at Fall River High School, Fall River, WI. Doreen’s grandson, Gregory, is the school’s Band Director, Play Director, and Musical Director. Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com.

Warren G. Little

Warren G. Little, age 96, passed away on Friday, April 4, 2025, at Renaissance Assisted Living in Weston, WI. He was born on March 20, 1929, in Tomahawk, WI to the late Emmett and Calista Little. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com.

Michael J. ‘Mickey’ Dietzler



Michael J. ‘Mickey’ Dietzler, 83, of Merrill, passed away Friday, April 11, 2025, at his home. Mike was born October 17, 1941, in Rhinelander, son of Alexander and Virginia (Haenel) Dietzler. After graduating from Rhinelander High School, he enlisted in the United States Army on August 4, 1960 and was honorably discharged on August 2, 1963. Mike married Karen Johnson on March 6, 1965. Karen passed away on April 7, 2011. Mike worked for more than thirty years as a heavy equipment operator at the Merrill Street Department. Mike was a jokester and had a great sense of humor. He loved playing cribbage and had several perfect hands. He also enjoyed bowling and had a few perfect games. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing, and spending time at his cabin in Parrish. Mike also liked gardening and in younger years, spending time with his family on the island on the Wisconsin River. He enjoyed golfing and woodworking. Mike was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagle’s – Merrill Aerie #584. Mike was also a member of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Merrill. Survivors include his children, Jay (Heidi) Dietzler, of Wausau and Beckie (Blake) Kufahl of Wausau; grand-children, Jayson Dietzler, Jordyn (Missy) Dietzler, Alexia Kufahl, Alivia Kufahl, and Brock Kufahl; great grand-children, Jaymes, Dawson, Howard, and Elaine; siblings, Dan Dietzler of Rhinelander, Sue Krook of Green Bay, Marlene Heath of Rhinelander, Cindy (Vern) Lowther of Rhinelander, Doreen ‘Dory’ (Roy) Moor of Colorado, and Kathy (Dave) Matthews of Fort Collins, Colorado; and his in-laws, Bonnie (Jim) Gass of Neenah and Florida, Marian Gatterman of Merrill, Judy Johnson of Eau Claire, Robert (Trina) Johnson of Merrill, and Peter (Nancy) Johnson of Mountain. Mike was preceded in death by his wife, Karen Dietzler; siblings, Joyce Kolb and Kenny Dietzler; brothers-in-law, Howard Krook and Bill Heath; and Karen’s siblings, Darlene (Marvin) Hinz, Lucille (Bruce) Zander, Randy Gatterman, and George Johnson. The funeral service for Mike will be held at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, April 24, 2025, at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Merrill. Rev. Justin Smoot will officiate. Burial will take place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Graveside military rites will be conducted by V.F.W. Post 1638 – Merrill. The visitation will be from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation – 903 E. Third St., Merrill, and after 10:00 A.M., Thursday, April 24, 2025, at the church. Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation, Merrill, is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com

James Bloechl



On April 4, 2025, we said goodbye to James Bloechl — a devoted husband, beloved father and grandfather, proud veteran, and true son of Merrill. He was 89 years old when he passed away peacefully at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau. Jim was born on February 23, 1936, to Louis and Anna Bloechl. A lifelong Merrill native, he graduated from Merrill High School in 1954, where he served as a senior class officer and made a name for himself on the football field. He continued his education at UW-Stevens Point and later at UW-Whitewater, where he was recruited by Hall of Fame coach Forrest Perkins, who once declared he “needed an offensive guard” and knew just the man for the job. In 1957, Jim answered another call to serve, this time to his country. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and proudly served two years of active duty. On May 31, 1963, he married the love of his life, Geraldine Weaver. Together, they raised three sons — Thomas, Peter, and Andrew — filling their Merrill home with laughter, adventure, and the occasional chaos that comes with raising three rambunctious boys. Their marriage, filled with deep love, unwavering support, and shared joy, spanned 55 wonderful years until Jerri’s passing in 2019. Jim carried on the family legacy as co-owner of Bloechl Motors, taking the reins from his father and proudly running the dealership for decades. After Bloechl Motors was sold to the Brickner Family in 1988, Jim continued to work as Service Manager, ensuring the tradition of hard work, honesty, and friendly service carried on. He was a man of quiet strength, sharp wit, and a dry sense of humor that could catch you off guard — and leave you laughing long after. Jim valued integrity, family, and the simple pleasures in life: a cold drink on a warm day, a well-played ballgame, and time spent with people he loved. After the loss of his beloved Jerri, Jim was fortunate to find companionship again with Fran Heckendorf. Together they shared many good days — scenic drives, fish fries at the Eagles Club, the occasional lucky hand at a casino, and countless Brewers games, which they watched with devoted loyalty. Jim was a loving and proud father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He is survived by his three sons: Thomas (Sheila) Bloechl, of Green Bay; Peter Bloechl, of Wausau; and Andrew (Sue) Bloechl, of Milwaukee; four grandchildren: Jacob (Ali) Bloechl, Rachel (Jordan) Yanke, Alexander Bloechl, and Angela Bloechl; and two great-grandchildren: Jackson and Wade. Jim was preceded in death by his wife Geraldine and his grandchild Garth. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Jim’s name to the Silver M Club of Merrill. A private celebration of Jim’s life will be held at a later date. Dad...your chair’s still there, the Brewers are playing, and there’s a spot for you at the table. We’ll carry your stories forward — and yes, we’ll keep the oil changed and the thermostat down. We love you. Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com.

MERRILL AREA BIRTH

MARCH 27, 2025

Girl, Aurora Grace Maddix, born to Carissa Howe and Dyllon Maddix of Merrill.

Ray, born to Kaitlyn Boyce and Brandon Boyce of Merrill.

APRIL 3, 2025

Boy, Wyatt Lane, born to Rebecca Good and Stephen Good of Wausau.

APRIL 4, 2025

Boy, Levi Riley, born to Kayla Gabler and James Gabler of Merrill.

APRIL 1, 2025

Girl, Ruby Louise, born to Morgan Nofsinger and Myles Nofsinger of Weston.

APRIL 2, 2025

Twin boys, Cameron William Charles and Carter Christopher

MERRILL MEMORIAL PARK, INC. 2025 SPRING CLEAN-UP

All decorations must be picked up before April 21, 2025, No Exceptions! Anything left will be removed and destroyed. All Spring/Summer decorations may be placed after May 2nd, 2025. Please keep decorations out of isles & between monuments. Shepherd Hooks only allowed by approval of superintendent.

For additional information or for rules regarding placement of decorations, please call the office at 715-536-2297

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Youth Heritage Day set for Berlin Center

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Pommerscher Verein Central Wisconsin will host its Youth Heritage Day on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Berlin Center Gym, located at 243240 Berlin Ln. in Hamburg/Athens.

The event, designed for children in grades 1-6, offers hands-on cultural activities including pretzel making, German script writing, weaving, and traditional Maibaum

(May Pole) celebrations, weaving long ribbons by dancing around a May Pole. Participants will explore Pomeranian heritage and culture and all are welcome, regardless of their ancestry.

Cost is \$2 per child or \$5 per family. Pre-registration is required by April 18. Registration forms should be mailed to PVCW, Inc., Attn: Rosanne Schleif, W3364 Hillview Rd, Merrill, WI 54452.

For questions, contact Rosanne at 715.820.3092.

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OBITUARIES

LEGALS

Shirley “Jean” (Hoffman) Mootz



Shirley “Jean” (Hoffman) Mootz, 83 of Merrill, passed away on Sunday April 6, 2025, at Aspirus Merrill Hospital in comfort care. She was born on November 18, 1941 to Herman and Ivy (Gartmann) Hoffman. Jean was united in marriage to David Mootz on December 15, 1962 to her high school sweetheart. Jean was a lifelong member of St. Stephen’s Church in Merrill. Jean devoted her life to her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Nothing brought her more joy than family gatherings. Her home was the hub for holidays, birthdays, and other occasions throughout the year. Her grandkids have so many wonderful memories from time spent at Grandma Jean’s, including sleepovers, chicken bingo, art projects, and outdoor activities. As they got older, she faithfully attended all of their school and sporting events. They’ll forever remember her sitting in the front row at their games, cheering them on, but mostly looking forward to hugs after their game was over! Anyone who knew Jean would agree she had a big personality! She truly loved getting out and living her life. She always had a story to share and definitely kept people entertained and laughing. Everyone was always welcome to come to her home for a visit. Her fun-loving spirit will truly be missed! Surviving are her husband Dave, son Jim (Julie Semling) Mootz, and daughter Christy Dresen. Grandchildren: Jourdyn (Sam) Koebe, Nick (Sydney) Mootz, Chaz Mootz, Zach Mootz, Connor Mootz, Bryce Dresen, and Troy Mootz. Great-grandchildren: Quinn Koebe, Stella Mootz, and Jace Koebe. Sister-in-laws Sandy (Harvey) Hoffmann and Mary Downing, brother-in-laws Eugene Mootz and Alan (Butch) Diels and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents Herman and Ivy Hoffman, brother Harvey Hoffman, sister Karen Diels, Sandy Spears, Sue Hoffman, and son-in-law Rob Dresen. Mother-in-law Marie (Schult) Mootz, father-in-law Reno Mootz, sister-in-laws Sandy Mootz, Charlotte Mootz, and brother-in-laws Leroy Mootz, James Downing and Ron Spears. Nephew Clark Downing. The family would like to thank the Aspirus Hospital Merrill nurses and doctors for their care, compassion, and support while Jean was in their care.

Donald "Don" Scheu



Donald “Don” Scheu passed away peacefully on Friday, April 4, 2025, at the home of his daughter Debra in Branson, Missouri, where he had resided for the past eleven years. Born on August 24, 1934 in the Township of Corning, Wisconsin to Alvin and Helena (Moehrer) Scheu, Don spent his early years in Wisconsin before moving to Watersmeet, Michigan, for high school. There he lived at a logging camp owned and operated by his parents. On August 5, 1952, Don married Sandra Chiochios in Kirksville, Missouri. They eventually settled in Merrill, Wisconsin, where they raised their two children, Debra and David. Don and Sandra shared 46 years of marriage before her passing in 1999. Don took great pride in his work as a heat and frost insulator, and later served as a business agent for Local 127. He and Sandra enjoyed many summers camping at Indian Shores and Foxfire Campgrounds in the Wisconsin Northwoods. Don enjoyed visiting casinos, playing cribbage, and cheering on Wisconsin sports teams. He will be fondly remembered for his quick wit and sense of humor. He is survived by his daughter Debra (Warren) Latzig and son David (Clarice) Scheu, seven grandchildren: Todd (Rebecca) Latzig, Caryn Franzen, Courtney (Eric) Petruzates, Rebecca (Jake) Becker, Justin Scheu, Jason Scheu, and Andrew (Shannon) Scheu; thirteen great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife, Sandra; an infant daughter, Terry Lynne; his brother Leslie (Dolores) Scheu; sisters Lorna (Lester) Neumann, Sylvia (Jim) Madson, and Eleanor (Harold) Neumann; and longtime companion, Norma Rigoni. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Leanne K. Andzeyewski (Graap)



Leanne K. Andzeyewski (Graap), age 69, of Merrill, passed away on Wednesday, March 26, 2025. She was born on April 23, 1955 to Rinehardt and Shirley (Schneck) Graap, in Merrill. Leanne is survived by her daughter: Ashley (Shaun) Burlingame of Black River Falls, 3 granddaughters, fiancé: John Bell of Merrill, 2 brothers: Gabriel and Geoffrey, both of Merrill, 3 sisters: Louwenda Peterson, Lana Graap and Lonna (Josh Pickard) Graap, all of Merrill, sister-in-law: Marlene Graap of Merrill and several nieces and nephews. Leanne was preceded in death by her son: Jeremy Graap, her parents, 5 brothers: Garland, Gerhardt, Gregory, Gareth and Galen, 2 sisters: Lorraine Hutchens and her twin sister: Lesley Graap, nephew: Corey Peterson and great nephew: Grayson Robertson. Per family request, no services will be held for Leanne. Taylor-Stine-Waid Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.taylorstinewaid.com.

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

SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

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DATE SIGNED: March 28, 2025
Electronically signed by [Becky S. Byer](#)
Probate Registrar
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.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 18, 2025.
5. 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
Published 4/3/25, 4/10/25 & 4/17/25 WNAIXLP

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: March 31, 2025
/s/Robert R. Russell
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 CHANGE OF
Dajiauna Tanyah Hetke
By (Petitioner) Rebecca Ruth Hetke
By (Co-Petitioner) Christopher Dodd Jenkins
NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Dajiauna Tanyah Hetke
To: Dajiauna Tanyah Jenkins
Birth Certificate: Dajiauna Tanyah Hetke
IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
Judge's Name: Honorable Robert R. Russell
Place: Lincoln County Courthouse, Br 2 1110 E. Main St, Merrill, WI 54452
Date: May 13, 2025
Time: 1:30 PM
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 provide transportation.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
Published: April 3, 10 & 17, 2025 WNAIXLP

DATE SIGNED: April 7, 2025
Electronically signed by [Becky S. Byer](#)
Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GARY ALLEN SHOLUND
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 2025-IN-27
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 11/26/1935 and date of death 11/7/2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 504 E. Riverside Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 18, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate. Atty. Craig J. Nienow N5041 County Road JJ, Irma, WI 54442 715-536-7185 Bar No: 01015178
Published 4/17/25, 4/24/25 & 5/1/25 WNAIXLP

Z-Best Storage, W4717 White Birch Rd, Merrill WI 54452 will hold a Public Sale Saturday, May 3 at 12:00 p.m. Preview at 11:50 a.m. on the day of sale. Bidding is on the complete contents of storage unit rented by Jeremy Lincoln of Merrill WI. Includes: furniture, Harley parts, camping, Honda motor, misc. Contact 715-536-0649 on Friday, May 2nd to confirm sale will proceed as scheduled.

NOTICE
CITY OF MERRILL TAXPAYERS
The Board of Review for the City of Merrill will meet on, Wednesday, May 7th, at 3:30 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers. This meeting is a statutory meeting to hear appeals from the Assessment Roll of the City of Merrill. The Board of Review will meet for a minimum of two hours. Anyone wishing to appear before the Board of Review may obtain an objection form from the Clerk's office at City Hall. Objection forms should be completed and returned to the Clerk's office by Friday, May 2nd. An appointment to appear before the Board of Review will be scheduled for all persons returning a completed objection form.
No person shall be allowed to appear before the Board of Review, to testify to the board by telephone or to contest the amount of any assessment of real or personal property if the person has refused a reasonable written request by certified mail of the assessor to view such property.
After the first meeting of the Board of Review and before the board's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the Board of Review may contact, or provide information to, a member of the board about that person's objection except at a session of the board.
No person may appear before the Board of Review, testify to the board by telephone or contest the amount of any assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the board or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed under sub. (3) (a), that person provides to the clerk of the Board of Review notice as to whether the person will ask for removal under sub. (6m) and if so which member will be removed and the person's reasonable estimate of the length of time that the hearing will take.
When appearing before the board, the person should specify, in writing, the person's estimate of the value of the land and of the improvements that are the subject of the person's objection and specify the information that the person used to arrive at that estimate.
No person may appear before the Board or Review, testify to the board by telephone or object to a valuation; if that valuation is made by the assessor or the objector using the income method; unless the person supplies to the assessor all of the information about income and expenses, as specified in the manual under s. 73.03 (2a), that the assessor requests. The municipality or county shall provide by ordinance for the confidentiality of information about income and expenses that is provided to the assessor under this paragraph and shall provide exceptions for persons using the information in the discharge of duties imposed by law or of the duties of their office or by order of a court. The information that is provided under this paragraph, unless a court determines that it is inaccurate, is not subject to the rights of inspection and copying under s. 19.35(1).
City Clerk – Lori L. Anderson-Malm
The Merrill City Hall is accessible to the physically disadvantaged. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the Merrill City Hall at 715-536-5594.
Published April 17, 2025 WNAIXLP

BY THE COURT
DATE SIGNED: March 25, 2025
Electronically signed by [Becky S. Byer](#)
Probate Registrar
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 (Informal Administration)
Case No. 2025 IN 26
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
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.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
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, Probate Office. Register in Probate 1110 E. Main Street Merrill, WI 54452
Published April 3, 10 & 17, 2025 WNAIXLP

NOTICE
CITY OF MERRILL TAXPAYERS

The City Assessor will be available, Wednesday, April 30, 2025, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., in the City Assessor's Office at City Hall. Anyone seeking additional information regarding their assessment may contact the City Assessor, Kitt Koski, at 715-577-1875 to set up an appointment or discuss their assessment.

The Board of Review for the City of Merrill will meet on, Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. This meeting is a statutory meeting to hear appeals from the Assessment Roll of the City of Merrill. The Board of Review will meet for a minimum of two hours. Anyone wishing to appear before the Board of Review shall obtain an objection form from the City Clerk's or Treasurer's Office at City Hall. Objection forms should be completed and returned to the City Clerk's or Treasurer's Office by, Friday, May 2, 2025. An appointment to appear before the Board of Review will be scheduled for all persons returning a completed objection form.

Lori L. Anderson-Malm
City Clerk

The Merrill City Hall is accessible to the physically disadvantaged. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the Merrill City Hall at 715-536-5594.
Published April 17, 2025 WNAIXLP



TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING?

List your garage/rummage sale or items for sale in the classifieds.

MERRILL Foto News

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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
Published April 10 & 17, 2025

Amanda Herdt, Clerk
WNAIXLP

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MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student
of the Week



This Week's Featured Student is
Ezabel Gordon
Daughter of
Lacian Gordon

Ezabel is in the 4th grade at Trinity Lutheran School. She was nominated by Mrs. Handlin.

What is your favorite subject in school?
Why?

I like art because I like drawing a lot.

What is your favorite part of school?
Why?

Recess, because I get to play with my friends.

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

Teacher because I like teaching, an art teacher.

Ezabel is kind, helps her friends, and takes care of the classroom.
~ Mrs. Handlin

Student of the Week Sponsored by:

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1401 W. Taylor St.,
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MAPS Great Speaker Forum: Beckman focuses on reclaiming human connections

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Merrill Area Public Schools will host nationally-recognized youth speaker Joe Beckman at this year's Great Speaker Forum on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 9 a.m. in the Merrill High School Fieldhouse.

Beckman, co-founder of Till360, has spoken at more than 2,000 schools worldwide, reaching over one million students, educators, and families. His mission focuses on "reclaiming human connections" in school communities through live events, videos, and his best-selling books, "Just Look Up" and "Just Look Back."

"We are pleased to welcome Joe as this year's Great Speaker Forum presenter," said Shannon Murray, MAPS Superintendent. "We encourage members of the community to attend and experience firsthand the incredible impact our guest speakers have on students."

Since 1978, the Merrill Great Speaker Forum has brought presenters to address topics including self-esteem, personal growth, goal-setting, resilience, and navigating societal challenges like substance abuse and teen mental health. The annual event is funded through donations from local businesses and community members, with contributions ranging from \$25 to \$1,500. The following individuals and businesses donated funds to help pay for this year's speaker—Prairie River Properties, LLC \$500; Merrill Optimist Club \$500; Merrill Lions Club \$300; Rose Skic \$200; Kay Nicklaus \$150; Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce \$150; St. John's Lutheran School \$150; Reindl Printing \$100; Eagles Aerie 584 \$100; Eagles Ladies Auxiliary #584 \$100; Kiwanis Club of Greater Merrill \$100; Merrill Wrestling Club \$100; Taylor Insulation Co. \$100; Baumgart Waste Removal \$50; Schmitt Manecke Donner VFW Auxiliary 1638 \$50;

Brad and Tammy Woller \$25; and Hugo's Pizza Shop, Inc. \$25.

This year's speaker was selected by the Great Speaker Forum Committee, which includes students who begin serving in sixth grade and continue through their senior year. Student committee members researched potential speakers and made the final selection based on message relevance.

The committee includes staff members, community volunteers, and students Avery Clark, Aaron Collinsworth, Corbin Hanson, Brooklyn Harding, Orion Hill, Josie Geiss, and Maya Paulus.

Joe Beckman is a passionate advocate for student well-being and human connection. Based in Minnesota, he lives with his wife, Jess, and their four children. His work with Till360 focuses on equipping students and educators with tools to foster meaningful relationships and build a positive school culture.

FFA MEMBER OF THE MONTH


Tavin Heidemann, a Freshman at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named FFA Member of the Month for March 2025. A first-year FFA member, Tavin has already taken part in the National FFA Convention, World Dairy Expo, and a Career Development Event (CDE) Judging competition. "I joined FFA because I am very involved in agriculture outside of school," said Tavin.

He has raised and shown beef cattle at the Lincoln County Fair since third grade and helps with his family's cow-calf operation. "I've been around cattle most of my life," said Tavin.


In addition to FFA, Tavin has been part of the trap shooting team for four years and works at both Duley Family Farms and Skaar Family Farm. "Working on the farms keeps me learning and involved in ag," said Tavin.

Outside of school and work, he enjoys being outdoors. "I like spending time driving tractors and my three-wheeler," said Tavin.

The son of Dirk and Jessica Heidemann of Merrill, Tavin has a 3.0 GPA. As far as plans for after high school graduation, "I have no definite plan, but would like to see agriculture as a part of my future," Tavin said.



Tavin Heidemann



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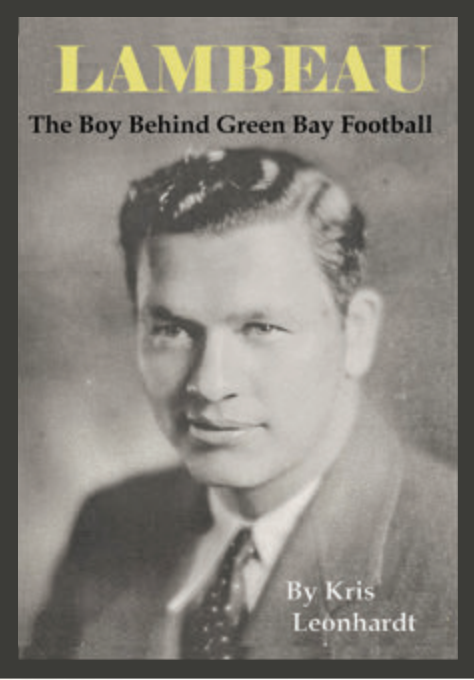
Gail Abegglen
715-551-8016
2402 E. Main St., Merrill

FFA Members highlighted in this feature are selected by the Executive Committee of the FFA, not by the sponsor.

450063

“A fascinating
TALE

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



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

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

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

AVAILABLE AT:

Bosse's News Depot, De Pere
Neville Public Museum of Brown County, Green Bay
Janke's Book Store, Wausau
Bookcellar, Waupaca
Amazon: <https://a.co/d/fj1A3NE>
Shop MMC: <https://shopmmclocal.com/product/lambeau>



The Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS) is deeply grateful for the generosity of Don and Doris Paroubek, who chose to leave a legacy gift to LCHS through their will. “Don and Doris Paroubek’s commitment to our mission will ensure that we can continue helping animals in need,” LCHS staff said. “Please take a moment to honor Don and Doris for creating a legacy of kindness that will live on.”

Submitted photo.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

- John 3:16

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Easter Season

2025 EASTER CHURCH SERVICES

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL

218 Pier St., Merrill
Rev. Amy Heimerl, Priest
Maundy Thursday: 6:00 pm Service
Good Friday: 12:00 pm at
St. Ambrose in Antigo
Saturday: 7:00 pm Easter Vigil Service
Easter Sunday: 10:30 am Service

ATHENS ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

220 Kreutzer St., Athens
Pastor Craig Diedrich
Good Friday: 6:30 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 8:30 am
Free Breakfast
9:45 am Easter Service

ATHENS CHRIST UNITED CHURCH

712 Pine St., Athens
Rev. Teri Hanson
Holy Wednesday: 7:00 pm Service
Good Friday: 2:00 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 9:00 am Service

BIBLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1605 County Rd. G, Merrill
Rev. Andy Perry
Good Friday: 7:00 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 10:30 am Service
Free Easter Breakfast 9:00 am

CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

1204 N. Sales Street, Merrill
Pastor Neal Behm
Maundy Thursday: 6:30 pm Service
Good Friday: 6:30 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 9:00 am Service
10:30 am Breakfast

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 N. Mill Street, Merrill
Pastor Mike Zahn
Good Friday: 6:30 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 10:30 am Service

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

15425 County Road K South, Merrill
Pastor Donald Love
Maundy Thursday – observed
Wednesday: 11:00 am & 6:30 pm
with Holy Communion
Good Friday: 1:00 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 10:15 am Service
with Holy Communion

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH – MERRILL

508 Eugene St., Merrill
Pastor Dan Shiels and
Pastor Adam DeBroux
Good Friday: 6:00 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am
Services

HILLSIDE CHURCH

1501 N. Pier St., Merrill
Pastor Brandon Wade
Good Friday: 6:30 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 9:30 am Breakfast
10:00 am Easter Service

IMMANUAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

N1660 Leafy Grove Rd., Merrill
Rev. Joel S. Danner
Maundy Thursday: 6:00 pm Service
with Holy Communion
Good Friday: 7:30 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 7:00 am
Sunrise Service
10:00 am Service with
Holy Communion
Breakfast following 7:00 am Service

JOURNEY CHURCH

1212 S. Center Ave., Merrill
Pastor Brad Main
Good Friday: 6:00 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 9:39 am Service
Like us on facebook for live stream

LUTHER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

N5302 Town Hall Rd., Gleason
Pastor Greg Laska
Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm Service
Good Friday: 1:30 & 7:00 pm
Services
Easter Sunday: 6:30 & 10:30 am
Services
Easter Brunch 7:30-10:30 am

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

N2519 County Rd K, Merrill
Pastor William Hohman
Good Friday: 12:15-12:45 pm
Service
Easter Sunday: 9:30 am Service
8:30-Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt
(2-11)

OUR SAVIOUR’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 Logan St., Merrill
Pastor Justin Smoot
Maundy Thursday: 6:00 pm Service
of the Meal
Good Friday: 11:00 am Service
Easter Sunday: 9:00 am Service
Online on YouTube

SAINT STEPHENS UCC

903 E. 2nd Street, Merrill
Rev. Michael Southcombe
Maundy Thursday: 6:00 pm
Service in Fellowship Hall
Good Friday: 6:00 pm
Tenebrae Service
Easter Sunday: 6:30 am &
9:00 am Services

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

1708 E. 10th Street, Merrill
Holy Thursday: 7:00 pm Service
Good Friday: 1:00 pm Service
Easter Vigil: 8:30 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 7:30 & 9:00 am
Services
Divine Mercy Sunday: April 27th
at 3:00 pm Service

ST. JOHN EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

1104 E. Third Street, Merrill
Rev. David Szeto
Maundy Thursday: 10:00 am &
6:00 pm Services
Good Friday: 1:00 & 7:30 pm
Services
Easter Sunday: 6:00 Sunrise,
8:00 & 10:30 am Services

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN - HAMBURG

134058 County Road L, Athens
Pastor Donald Love
Maundy Thursday: 6:30 pm Service
with Holy Communion
Good Friday: 6:30 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 8:30 am Service
with Holy Communion

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Corner of HWY J & Hwy 17,
Bloomville
Easter Sunday: 11:00 am Service

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH - HAMBURG

244526 Grass Creek Ln., Hamburg
Rev. Joel S. Danner
Maundy Thursday: 7:30 pm Service
with Communion
Good Friday: 6:00 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 8:30 am Service
with Communion

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

W2604 City Rd P, Merrill
Rev. Greg Laska
Maundy Thursday: 5:30 pm
Service with Communion
Good Friday: 5:30 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 6:30 Service &
8:30 am Service with Communion
Easter Breakfast Between Services

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

N6537 Old HWY 51, Irma
Rev. David Sutton
Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm
Divine Service
Good Friday: 7:00 pm
Tenebrae Service
Easter Sunday: 6:00 am Sunrise
Service & 8:30 am Divine Service
Easter Breakfast Served After
Both Service

THE GATHERING TABLE

925 E. Main St., Merrill
James and Johanna Doyle
Maundy Thursday: 5:30 pm
Worship, Scripture Reading,
Feet Washing, & Communion
Good Friday: 6:00 pm Dinner &
Worship
Easter Sunday: 9:30 am Table
Meeting – Reading Scripture
Together

TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 N. State St., Merrill
Pastor Scott Gustafson
Maundy Thursday: 1:00 pm &
6:30 pm Services
8:00 pm (First Communion Service)
Good Friday: 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm
Services
Easter Sunday: 6:00 am, 7:30 am &
9:00 am Traditional
10:30 am Contemporary Service

WILDWOOD CHAPEL

W106 CTH C, Gleason
Pastor Mike Zahn
Good Friday: 4:00 pm Service
Easter Sunday: 9:00 am Service

This page brought to you by



New child care platform from Lincoln County native set to launch this summer

On April 9, 2025, Lincoln County native and former candidate for Wisconsin’s 7th Congressional District announced the upcoming launch of a new child care platform in the Badger State.

Elsa Duranceau is the founder of the Child Care Coalition of Wisconsin (3CWI), which, according to a release from the organization, is a nonprofit established in 2023 to “address the child care industry crisis, with a mission to reinforce the Wisconsin workforce by supporting child care professionals to meet the demands of Wisconsin families through innovative programs and partnerships.”

The release said the new platform from 3CWI is “designed to create a sustainable new revenue stream for child care providers across the state.”

“Set to pilot in Lincoln, Langlade, and St. Croix counties in August 2025,



this innovative system will function as a reservation platform for future available infant care slots, allowing families and employers to plan ahead and providers to stabilize income through forward booking,” the release said.

“Wisconsin child care providers are facing the potential end of the Child Care Counts program with no safety net,” Duranceau said. “Our goal is to provide some support to providers and more

financial predictability while offering employers a practical solution to a major workforce issue. This is just the beginning of what we believe will be a game-changer for the child care industry in Wisconsin.”

The release said the platform will initially be available to area employers as members, with plans to open access to families as the system expands.

“Following the pilot, 3CWI plans to grow the platform throughout the St. Croix

Valley and into Marathon and Oneida counties by Jan. 2026, with full statewide rollout projected by the end of 2026,” the release said.

3CWI said the initiative “would not be possible without the generous support of local partners.”

“3CWI extends heartfelt thanks to the Lincoln County government, the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation, the Our Way Foundation, and St. Croix Economic Development Corporation,” the organization said. “Their leadership and commitment to child care innovation have been instrumental in bringing this project to life.”

For more information, or to participate as a regulated child care provider, contact Elsa Duranceau at director@3cwi.org or 715.527.0486.

To learn more about 3CWI, visit 3cwi.org.



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EASTER EGG HUNT 10AM - 2PM

457226

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Apr. 18 - Paddygrass at Sawmill Brewing Company

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 Day

Apr. 26 - Yummy Thai at Sawmill Brewing Company

May 3 - Bar Bingo at Bubba’s Pub

May 3-4 - Brooke’s School of Dance Annual Dance Show

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and the life...

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REAL ID required for air travel in May 2025

Wisconsin DMV encourages travelers to update their driver license/ID ahead of May deadline

Airline travelers will face new identification requirements to board their flights for air travel starting May 7, 2025, when enforcement of the REAL ID Act begins.

Regular Wisconsin driver licenses or IDs will no longer be accepted as valid identification for domestic air travel or to enter a federal building or military base. Travelers will need to present a REAL ID-compliant driver license or state ID card or another acceptable form of identification (such as a passport).

Wisconsin's driver licenses and ID cards have been REAL ID compliant since Jan. 14, 2013. With renewals required every eight years, all Wisconsin residents have had the *option to convert to a REAL ID*. Anyone who hasn't taken advantage of that option thus far should do so now in advance of the May 7 implementation, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) encourages.

"Under state law, Wisconsin DMV provides both options," WisDOT DMV Administrator Tommy Winkler said. "Those who want the REAL ID designation should start now. Visit wisconsindmv.gov/REALID to learn about what documents are required to present at a DMV, start the application online, and make an appointment for service to make your trip as quick and convenient as possible."

To date, 62% of Wisconsin's driver license or ID cards currently display the REAL ID star indicating they are federally compliant. In 2005, the federal REAL ID Act was passed by Congress to standardize state-issued driver licenses and ID cards to enhance security and prevent identity fraud.

Costs and requirements to get a REAL ID

Those who already have a driver license or ID may obtain a REAL ID-compliant card for \$14 (the cost of a replacement driver license) or \$16 for an ID card. There is no additional fee if the upgrade takes place at the same time as the renewal.

To obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver license or ID card, individuals must visit a Wisconsin DMV and bring the following original documents or a certified copy (not a



Sample REAL-ID compliant Wisconsin driver's license. Wisconsin Department of Transportation photo.

- photocopy, fax, or scan):
- Proof of Name and Date of Birth
 - Proof of Legal Presence in the U.S.
 - Proof of Identity
 - Proof of Name Change (if applicable)
 - Proof of Social Security number
 - Proof of Address
- For a complete list of acceptable documents, visit wisconsindmv.gov/REALID.
- For a personalized checklist of the required documents needed to bring to the DMV, check out the interactive Driver Licensing Guide. It also allows customers to pre-fill any required application(s), print and bring the forms, or submit them electronically (if eligible). Customers are also able to print a checklist of required documents to bring.

- ### Quick facts:
- Wisconsin offers both REAL ID-compliant and non-compliant driver licenses and ID cards. The cards look similar:
 - REAL ID-compliant cards are marked with a symbol as shown in the photo.

Happy Easter

During this hopeful time of year, We wish you and yours the best this Easter.

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Wishing Everyone A

Happy Easter!

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- Non-compliant cards do not have the star or are marked "NOT FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES."
- People may use other forms of ID, such as a passport, to meet the new requirements. TSA offers a list of acceptable alternative identification cards: TSA.gov/REAL-ID.
- Wisconsin has more than 3 million REAL ID driver licenses and ID card holders and nearly 1.9 million non-compliant cards.

REAL ID-compliant cards will have of one of the following markings on the upper top portion of the card. If the card does not have one of these markings, it is not REAL ID-compliant and won't be accepted as proof of identity in order to board commercial aircraft.



Critic's Choice Movie Event at T.B. Scott Free Library

The T.B. Scott Free Library will hold their April Critic's Choice Movie Event on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 1 p.m., an event that is free and open to the public. The April film is described as a heartwarming family comedy-drama about a married couple with no children and the three siblings they decide to foster. The Wagners, played by Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne, are thrown into the chaotic life of parenting a rebellious teenager and troubled siblings. When things finally settle down, the children's mother returns from prison and the movie showcases the drama that ensues with this development.

Fresh popcorn and refreshments will be provided.

Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood

Rev1:5

He has Risen!

Blessings to you and your family this Resurrection Sunday!

the gathering table

925 E. Main St. Merrill

Happy Easter

Christ's empty grave is proof that no matter how bad things may seem, there is always hope for a new day.

May God revive all your dreams and hopes this Easter. Rejoice in Easter.

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Prairie River Middle School 2024-2025 Third Quarter Honor Roll

EIGHTH GRADE

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SILVER 3.750-3.999: Jaxson Ames, Ella Burrow, Moses Gates, Madilynn Geiss, Jameson Gerdes, Jacob Hanson, Andrew Josiger, Willett Knospe, Mathew Mueller, Makaylynn Roehl, Kinzie Stevenson, Cadence Stutting, Caylinn Van Der Nest

BRONZE 3.50-3.749: Calleigh Berlik, Mason Bowman, Brianna Boyd, Keira Clerveaux, Wil Detert, Emersyn Graap, Mia Hanson, Samuel Hart, Kyla Hoffman, Logan Klug, Leo Lazare, Jacob McCorkle, Khloe Olson, Kelsey Pankow, Raiyna Perez, Korbet Ravn, Easton Romatoski, Draven Sangster, Brayden Weisman

SEVENTH GRADE

GOLD 4.00: Parker Hannemann, Payten Nelessen,

Connor Savagian-Demoss, Cooper Schwartzman, Hunter Staskiewicz

SILVER 3.750-3.999: Emma Daley, Charles Gerbig, Preston Hannemann, Trevor Kniess, Carter Schmidt, Aiden Schultz, Taylor Timm

BRONZE 3.50-3.749: Caelyn Belant, Mason Fuchs, Aaron Haltinner, BreElla Hoffman, Lillian Johnson, Oliver Kahr, Charlee Krueger, Addilyn Mulrooney, Emma Myers, Kyle Yingling, Claire Ziebell

SIXTH GRADE

GOLD 4.00: Emily Austin, Natalie Barnett, Aubrie Brandenburg, Jannakay Bushar, Avery Clark, Peyton Corroo, Kennedy Gerdes, Lily Glisch, Adelia Hanson, Claire Hooch, Brooklyn Johnas, Drew Kaminski, Logan Koehler, Jazalyn Lee, Scarlett Lee, Brea Neubauer

SILVER 3.750-3.999: Aaron Crockford, Hadley Fisher, Zachary Gennrich, Emily Grunenwald, Lucas Hagenbucher, Maddyn Jahnke, Alexis Jannusch, Willow Kultgen, Cameron Neumann, Bentley Wyland

BRONZE 3.50-3.749: William Frisch, Bentley Graap, Wesley Gronke, Camaro Haddeman, Kennedy Hess,

Devon Johnson, Adele Kahr, Logan Learman, Carter Madden, Aaron Marturano, Kane Poitra, Owen Rhode, Braylee Schimelpfenig

FIFTH GRADE

GOLD 4.00: Bentley Blake, Saylor Gates, Makyla Klingsmith, Evelyn Koehler, Kendra Kohnhorst, Braelyn Lau, Joseph Lechmaier, Lance Patterson, Matthew Quednow, Kelsey Rindt, Ailyn Roberge, Kynlee Wyland

SILVER 3.750-3.999: Lincoln Berndt, Jase Coates, Grace Gibson, Graycen Graap, Samuel Graveen, Christian Isaacson, Bennett Martinovici, Bristol Orchard, Renlee Schwartzman, Owen Smith

BRONZE 3.50-3.749: Kenzingtyn Adams, Aydreanna Ament, Kylee Bogdonovich, Liliana Boquist, Sophia Brandt, Greyson Bushar, Liem Christian-Lee, Benjamin Hartwig, Olivia Klade, Hailey Masterson, Olivia Mootz, Raya Osness, Linzie Pankow, Jasmine Staples, Harrison Thiel, Piper Vanlieshout

Merrill High School Third Quarter Honor Roll 2024-2025

GRADE 9

HIGHEST HONORS (4.0): Brooklyn Clabots, Brady Genisot, Shane Gibson, Sawyer Grubb, Marie Hagemeister, Lilee Haltinner, Noelle Iverson, Kendell Klug, Claire Kufahl, Finlee Lange-Peronto, Alexis Lonsdorf, Kylie Lutzke, Denver McCaskill, Hannah Rell, Eliza Rogers, Decklin Schotz, Broc Suchocki, Fletcher Talerico, Mikenna VanDeWeerd, Evan Voigt, Cameron Wszalek, Shelby Yates

HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99): Brooklyn Bellin, Kaleb Cook, Austin Doering, Orion Hill, Annabelle Lee, Cecillia Priebe, Karlee Ravn, Jackson Roggenbuck, Brianna Schmirler, Dylan Weber

HONORS (3.5-3.74): Ian Asinas, Azalea Blake, Alana Brendemuehl, Peyton Brown, Jennavecia Conrad, Izabella Erickson, Alexis Fehr, Caleb Gennrich, Cecilia Gerbig, Megan Gustum, Kane Hanson, Lexie Hass, Kylee Hoffman, Haley Hooch, Connor Josiger, Avery Kolinski, Mylie Kufahl, Ava Latzig, Jacey Lyon, Jameson Morgan, Kylie Roberge, Alina Savagian-Demoss, Charles Schmidt, Avalynn Schult, Madeline Voigt, Otto Waldburger, Emma

Wendt, Anna Whited, Vanessa Wolfe, Benjamin Zastrow

GRADE 10

HIGHEST HONORS (4.0): Tatiana Anderson, Maycee Eisner, Stuart Gehris, Samuel Hagemeister, Shanna Herdt, Grace Hoff, Lily Hoff, Abbie Krueger, Miley Krueger, Danika Kuehl, Mya Meyer, Marielle Nass, Evan Olson, Layla Schmidt, Evyn Schmitz, Remington Skic, Charlotte Van Der Nest, Grace Wegner, Lauren Zuelsdorff

HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99): Lily Berndt, Allyson Boquist, Emilie English, Erik Grunenwald, Kinsey Literski, Landon Mootz, Tyson Ott, Addison Pickard, Vanessa Pintor, Grant Polak, Derek Schult, Jacob Shimel, Peyton Smith, Kayleigh Strey, Isabella Stutting

HONORS (3.5-3.74): Paige Byer, Marjorie Freitag, Rory Gates, Abigail Gauerke, Arianna Gray, Xavier Hanke, Mackenzie Herdt, Claire Hintz, Avery Hooch, Reese Kaminski, Brody Klebenow, Trenton Klimek, Izabella Klockow, Justice Kunze, Ivan Lee, Eduardo Martinez, Mason Meyer, William Miemietz, Greta Peterson, Emily Raymer, Grace Reimann, Hunter Renken, Colton Ruplinger, Alyssa Schneider, Deylah Schulz, Caleb Thompson, Kaylana Vickery, Morgan Wienke, Laci Wirtala

GRADE 11

HIGHEST HONORS (4.0): Olivia Barker, James Crockford,

Evan Elliott, Avery Frisch, Benjamin Gruett, Brenna Jirovec, Hannah Klinger, Korina Kraegenbrink, Alexis Kropp, Lilyann Kufahl, Jenna Malluege, Orion Pillai, Jazlin Severt, Parker Wagenaar, Cooper Wendorf

HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99): Kaylynn Allen, Cairo Amador-Gonzalez, Adalyn Blake, Adison Clark, Kaela Clerveaux, Caroline Durbin, Brady Eggebrecht, Addelyn Elliott, Liberty Fuchs, Ryleigh Golisch, Grace Hooch, Addison Jirovec, Theodore Johnson, Samara Kleinschmidt, Noah Klug, Alex Koblit, Colton Smith, Keegan Waliczek

HONORS (3.5-3.74): Keeley Benedict, Hannah Bostrom, Samantha Catlin, Chase Charbarneau, Hazeley Gates, Gracelee Gentile-Hull, Raphael Gerbig, Luke Gregor, Joshua Gustum, Sarah Hagemeister, Sylvia Hanson, Brooklyn Harding, Mariah Hulce, Farije Kiskoski, Danica Lipke, Tia Morris, Jacob Mueller, Patricia Priebe, Madison Robbins, Mason Shimel, Landon Sowinski, Jacob Stetz-Schleif, Kaprice Strey

GRADE 12

HIGHEST HONORS (4.0): Max Black, Johanna Dahlke, Austin Depies, Haylea Drabek, Mackenzie Ellenbecker, Kaden Hannemann, Elizabeth Herdt, Aidan Houghton, Priscilla Ibarra, Janna Jacobson, Joseph Jensen, Dylan Kraegenbrink, Aiden Lonsdorf, Madison McCoy, Kory Page, Olivia Pajtash, Samuel Schneider, Mia Smith, Benjamin Thom, Sebastian Trevino, Daniel Vaughn, Ahna Wilde, Merin Yates

HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99): Irene Blennert, Gus Chrudimsky, Margaret Cordova, Lily Dallman, Kaiden Henrich, Anna Hintz, Carter Kaminski, Chase Klebenow, Parker Klebenow, Marley Krueger, Maddox Lammerding, Maya Paulus, Sarah Rell, Haley Rindt, Takiyah Sell, Carter Stingel, Elizabeth Streich, Mariah Swan, McKenna Thomas, Emil Weix

HONORS (3.5-3.74): Ivan Amador-Gonzalez, Bryce Bloch, Kellen Duerkop, Kaytlyn Hulke, Lily Kerins, Jonathan Myszka, Micah Plautz, Breleigh Raasch, Danielle Schielke, Jacob Schmeltzer, Jake Schwandt, Madilyn Sell, Kyrie Tucker, Nicholas VanDeWeerd, Amelia White, Brock Wilson, Rylan Zimmerman

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Street Corner Symphony to perform in Merrill

The Merrill Area Concert Association (MACA) will host a performance by Street Corner Symphony on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Merrill High School Auditorium.

Street Corner Symphony is a male a cappella group based in Nashville, Tenn. The ensemble gained national attention as a runner-up on NBC's Sing Off in 2010. Their music spans several genres, including gospel, rock, and pop.

Since their national debut, the group has recorded multiple albums and performed throughout the U.S. and internationally. They have also collaborated with well-known artists such as Ben Folds, Alison Krauss, and Claude McKnight of Take 6.

More information about the group, including a video preview, is available at alliedbooking.com/2425-street-corner-symphony.

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President Mike Honerlaw and lead Hunter Safety instructor Tim Fischer with the winner of the raffle held after Hunter Safety. Submitted photo.

Lincoln County Sports Club—promoting safety, conservation, and family-friendly activities

BY KATHY YAHR AND TINA L. SCOTT

The mission statement of the Lincoln County Sports Club (LCSC) is to promote conservation, the responsible uses and handling of firearms, shooting sports, and participation in outdoor activities; and to educate youth and adults in the wise use of our natural resources. In keeping with this, LCSC holds Hunter Safety classes each year, offers a summer “Learn to Shoot Trap” series, and much more. Two of the spring hunter safety classes are now complete, with another offered in September. Interested participants should register on the Wisconsin DNR website.

Club members love being part of the community in Lincoln County, and three of the Club’s Directors are trained as instructors and volunteer time to teach archery at Trinity School for two weeks each year. Just last month, four students

from Trinity demonstrated the skills they had learned at the Club’s monthly meeting. This year, LCSC also participated in the Children’s Festival held at the MARC on April 5, with furs and pelts to touch and a giant teddy bear to win!

On Opening Day for the ranges—April 26—the LCSC will continue with this commitment to developing family-friendly activities, with the inclusion of events like the Teddy Bear Hunt for 3-12 year olds, which kicks off at 9 a.m. Equipped with wooden “rifles” and accompanied by a mentor, children will scour the 240-acre LCSC property looking for their very own trophy—a teddy bear. Once found, it will be registered with a warden and the hunt will be complete. The Teddy Bear hunting season will end at 11:00 a.m. to make way for more events for all family members.

From 11 a.m.-3 p.m., an equipment swap will take place inside the

Clubhouse. While no guns will be sold, there will be something for everyone! The LCSC will have at least nine vendors selling new or gently-used equipment, including hunting clothes, decoys, and stands, as well as archery and fishing equipment. Also at 11:30 a.m., the shooting range will open for the year. There will be several demonstrations of RimFire events, including the opportunity for anyone to try it for themselves. Firearms and ammo will be provided by the Club. If you haven’t yet seen the new pistol range with a multi-station shooting house or the new RSO (Range Safety Officer) building, this is a great day to check it out. The shooting range closes at 3 p.m., but is open again on Sunday, April 27, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. From then through fall, the regular range schedule will be 12-4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays, and 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on

See SPORTS page 13

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SPORTS

from page 12

Fridays. Additional hours will be added in September. The Lincoln County Sports Club was recognized by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) as the Wisconsin Conservation Club of the Year, receiving this award based on all the programs and support given to the communities in Lincoln County. President Mike Honerlaw accepted the award on behalf of the LCSC at the WWF’s annual convention on April 12.

The last general LCSC meeting of the year will be April 24 and will feature a presentation by Operation Horses Heal. As always, the public is invited and a light meal will be served. Monthly meetings will then end until September, but there is still a lot going on for the summer. LCSC will participate with a booth at Food-A-Palooza in May, hold the annual learn-to-shoot-trap Tuesday evenings in June, and partner with Merrill Parks and Recreation to offer Hunter Safety for special needs youth. They are excited to host and provide volunteers for the special needs youth—a Learn To Shoot/Hunt program focusing on hunter safety with bows, crossbows, shotguns, and rifles, emphasizing safety while learning shooting and hunting techniques for deer and turkeys.

Later in the summer, the annual LCSC Open House Day will be held on Sunday, Aug. 3, with activities for the entire family. Visit the Lincoln County Sports Club, check it out, and get involved.



ABOVE: Students practicing shooting positions with Hunter Safety instructors.



RIGHT: Shooting on the new ranges at Lincoln County Sports Club.

BOTTOM: Warden Kurt Butler explaining regulations to Hunter Safety students.

Submitted photos.



The bidding war behind the NFL Draft

BY KRIS LEONHARDT
MMC SENIOR EDITOR

GREEN BAY – On May 19, 1935, the NFL club owners approved a plan for a college player selection process, now known as the NFL Draft.

“The players were free to sign with any team before this,” said Packers Hall of Fame Curator Brent Hensel, “and then, Bert Bell, who at the time was the Eagles owner but would become the future NFL commissioner, called for teams to select players in inverse order of how they finished from the previous season.

“The NFL owners would adopt this college draft with altruistic intentions in mind. Basically, the decision was driven by the high-price bidding war that would take place over one player, a player from Minnesota named Stan Kostka.”

Stanislaus “Stan” Kostka was the son of Polish immigrants, born in St. Paul in July 1912.

“The six-foot-tall, 220-pound, blonde, fullback initially played at Oregon but transferred home to Minnesota for his sophomore year,” recalled the Minnesota Golden Gophers The Daily Gopher in April 2017.

“Kostka had a monster college career. In his first game as a Gopher, Stan scored four touchdowns in the first half. Over his three seasons in ... he averaged 6.8 yards per carry. After going undefeated in 1934, Kostka’s junior year, the

Big Ten announced that Stan had used all of his eligibility. The eligibility committee had decided to retroactively count his year on the freshman football team at Oregon. Despite Bernie Bierman’s protests in the offseason, Stan had no choice but to turn pro.

“As soon as the end of Stan’s college career was announced, each NFL franchise contacted the Minnesota Golden Gophers star. All nine teams in the NFL attempted to sign Stan. Rumors spread that various teams were close to signing Kostka, but the two teams with the most resources to throw at him were the Brooklyn Dodgers (the football team) and the Philadelphia Eagles. Kostka had an interesting negotiating tactic, ‘A team would send me a wire and say they’d give me \$3,500,’ he recalls. ‘I’d send a wire back and say Green Bay or the Chicago Bears said they’d give me \$4,000. I kept that up.’”

“The Philadelphia Eagles were so angry about missing out on Kostka that they convinced the NFL of the need for the Draft. Instead of letting players go to the highest bidder, the draft would level the playing field by granting the worst team from the previous year the first pick.”

Kostka only played one season of professional football.

He later coached several seasons with North Dakota State and served as a Navy lieutenant during World War II.



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Girls Bowling Team claims second consecutive State Championship

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill-Tomahawk Girls Bowling Team captured their second straight State Championship at the Division 2 Girls Bowling Tournament held March 8-9, 2025.

“The girls bowled 15 baker-style games, rolling a total of 2,820 pins during the tournament,” said Head Coach Melissa Wilke. “That is an average of 188 a game.”

In baker-style bowling, five or six team members collaborate on a single game. For the Merrill-Tomahawk squad, four girls bowled two frames each and two girls bowled one frame each per game, Wilke explained.

The Championship team is a

cooperative effort between schools, featuring five Merrill-area students (Peyton Smith, Marley Krueger, Avery Frisch, Bella Kottke, and Izzy Scheffler) and one Tomahawk-area student (Jayden Dellinger). They faced off against 11 other teams to claim the title.

After completing their qualifying rounds, the Merrill-Tomahawk team was in the lead. “When all was said and done, Saturday evening the girls were seated in first place by 60 pins over the second place seat,” Wilke said.

While the Merrill-Tomahawk team awaited Sunday’s Championship match, teams placed second through fifth competed in roll-offs to determine who would face the top-seeded squad.

Watertown’s Girls Team emerged as the finalist.

In Sunday’s Championship round, “the girls bowled two games against Watertown’s Girls Team. For finals; it is two games in baker style and total pin fall wins,” Wilke explained. The Merrill-Tomahawk team posted scores of 184 and 171 for a combined 355, enough to secure their second straight Division 2 State Championship.

“I am beyond proud of these girls,” Wilke said. “They have grown in skill and camaraderie. It has been my honor to coach these girls through another Championship.”

Wilke acknowledged the crucial role of parental support in the team’s

See **GIRLS** page 15

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The smiles on the girls' faces and the sign at Les 'n Jim's Lincoln Lanes tell the story.
Submitted photo.

GIRLS

from page 14

success and shared how the community rallied around the champions upon their return home. Les 'n Jim's Lincoln Lanes changed their sign to celebrate the team's success and "When we got to town, the Merrill Fire Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and the Merrill Police Department honored the girls with a parade/escort from McDonald's to Lincoln Lanes. That was so nice of

them." Other local businesses joined in celebrating the team's achievement. "A&W gave our girls root beer floats as a gift and their show of support for our girls!" Wilke said. After team photos, "Humphrey's Gin Mill in town showed their support by throwing a welcome back and congratulations get-together, giving the girls 'Bluejay Tails,' a twist on the kiddie cocktail, only blue for Bluejays, and they ordered in pizzas for us! A huge thank you to them for their support!"

Looking ahead, Coach Wilke is optimistic: "The future for all these girls is bright, and I look forward to seeing what it holds for all of them!"

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Merrill Citywide Rummage Sale Map

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Kendel Klug at bat, passing on a called ball.

Blue Sky Photography/Peter Tesch photos.



Miley Krueger catching a pop up with Lily Hoff backing her up.

Merrill Girls Varsity Softball Team comes from behind to defeat Wausau West

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

The Merrill Bluejays Varsity Softball Team continued their winning streak Tuesday, April 8, 2025, coming from behind to defeat the Wausau West Warriors 6-4 in their first Conference match-up of the season.

Despite frigid temperatures, the Merrill Bluejays showed their resilience and determination, battling back from a 4-2 deficit in the final inning to secure the victory.

According to Head Coach Alison Natzke, the Merrill Varsity Softball Team “got behind early with a dropped third strike that allowed Wausau West to score.”

“Merrill was making contact, but hits weren’t dropping in for us. Wausau’s defense was doing their job,” Natzke said.

The Bluejays Girls broke through when they “got our first runs on the board that started with a single from Kendell Klug, followed by a single by Mackenzie Herdt, placing runners on first and second,” said Natzke. “Grace Hoff came up with an RBI single to center that scored Kendell. Miley Krueger had a quality at bat resulting in moving the runners to second and third. Then Abbie Krueger hit an RBI ground-out to the third baseman that scored Mackenzie,” giving the Merrill Bluejays a 2-1 advantage.

Coach Natzke noted that “West came back and scored in the following inning by stealing third, and then subsequently taking home on a throwing error,” tying the game 2-2.

The Warriors then took command “in the bottom of the 5th, Claire Calmes hit a two-run home run, pushing West up by 2,” making the score 2-4.

The Merrill Bluejays’ comeback began in the “top of the 7th,” when “Miley Krueger worked a five-pitch walk, followed by Abbie Krueger hitting into a fielder’s choice where both runners were safe at first and second. Reese Kaminski then grounded into a fielder’s choice where again all runners were safe with the throw to third being off. We had bases loaded, and no one out, and Lily Hoff up to bat,” Natzke said.

“Lily ripped a double to left that scored Abbie and Miley, Reese advanced to third,” tying the game 4-4. “After a strikeout, Dani Schielke ripped another double to center, scoring Reese and Lily,” giving Merrill a 6-4 lead.

“Then our defense was able to hold West off to a 1-2-3 bottom of the seventh,” securing the win.

“Abbie Krueger started on the mound for Merrill. She threw really well, faced 19 batters, gave up four hits, two walks, one earned run, and struck out three,” Coach Natzke said. “Mackenzie Herdt was the reliever and faced 13 batters, gave up three hits, one walk, one earned run, and struck out four.”

“These girls fight back, and they have grit,” Natzke said. “We also want to thank all the fans that came out to support us on a cold Tuesday in Wausau; we appreciate you!”

The victory starts the Girls Varsity Softball Team’s Conference record out at 1-0 and suggests a promising season.

2025 Merrill High School Spring Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)			
Thurs. April 17	Stevens Point - Black (JV2)	Away	4:30 pm
Thurs. April 17	Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Sat. April 19	Lakeland Union (Varsity & JV)	Home	11:00 pm
Sat. April 19	Double Header (Varsity & JV)	Home	1:00 pm
Sat. April 19	Double Header (Varsity & JV)	Home	3:00 pm
Mon. April 21	Wausau West (JV2)	Away	5:00 pm
Tues. April 22	Wausau West (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. April 24	Wausau West (JV2)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. April 24	Wausau West (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Girls Softball (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. April 17	WI Rapids (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:30 pm
Tues. April 22	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:30 pm
Thurs. April 24	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:30 pm
Boys Golf (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. April 17	Fox Fire Course (Varsity)	Away	2:00 pm
Tues. April 22	Tribute Course - Invite (JV)	Away	3:00 pm
Thurs. April 24	Indianhead Course (Varsity)	Away	2:00 pm
Girls Soccer (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. April 17	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. April 17	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Tues. April 22	D. C. Everest (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Tues. April 22	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Boys Track & Field (Varsity & JV)			
No Scheduled Events For This Week.			
Girls Track & Field (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. April 17	UWSP-Meet (Varsity)	Away	4:00 pm
Trap Team (Varsity)			
High School Season Ongoing • Weekly Rounds			

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Abbie Krueger, a Sophomore at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of April 17, 2025. Abbie plays on the Merrill Girls Varsity Softball Team, her first year on Varsity, where she pitches and plays third base. She started with t-ball, progressed to the Merrill Youth Traveling Team, and played on the Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) 8th grade Softball Team before joining the Merrill Girls Softball Team in high school.

Abbie also plays Volleyball, playing on the JV team this year. Her volleyball journey began with Junior Jays at Kate Goodrich in fourth grade, and she played on the Trinity Volleyball Team (the Hawks) from fifth through seventh grade.

At school, Abbie’s favorite class is math, and she’s involved in the Junior Optimist Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. In her free time, she likes to fish year round; hunt deer, bear, and turkey; go up to the family cottage, and go to the movies or out to eat with friends.

The daughter of Michelle and Ryan Krueger of Merrill, Abbie has a 4.0 GPA and is undecided about her plans after high school.

Congratulations from these sponsors:

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



Abbie Krueger

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