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Gleason man dies in Friday night accident while looking for deer

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

84-year-old James Hartson of Gleason died Friday night, Oct. 1, after being struck by a vehicle on State Road 64 near Range Line Road in the Town of Pine River, according to a media release from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. A 911 call came in to the Dispatch Center at 8:02 p.m. that a pedestrian had been struck by a vehicle. The Pine River Fire Department and first responders were one of the first agencies on the scene. They immediately rendered care to the two victims and one witness, including assisting with CPR, however, life saving efforts were unsuccessful. Highway 64 was shut down for more than five hours as a result of the crash.

Hartson had been looking for a deer he had struck with his own vehicle moments prior to the incident according to the Sheriff's Office release.

See **HARTSON** page 6



Erik Mann, Tanner Folz, Brian Ball, and Carson Woellner break through the homecoming banner after the starting defense was announced. **Katie Hanson photo.**

Merrill community mourns the loss of 16-year-old MHS student

Bluejays Homecoming football game becomes a chance to honor Owen Cordova

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

Saturday, Oct. 2, was Homecoming weekend for Merrill

High School (MHS), following an eventful Homecoming Week. But tragedy also marked Homecoming Week 2021 when Owen T. Cordova, a 16-year-old Junior at MHS, died the morning of Sept. 30, 2021. "Owen was traveling way too fast on his way to school when he lost control on a corner resulting in a terrible collision with multiple trees," his obituary reads.

The Lincoln County Dispatch Center received a radio call from the Lincoln County Highway Department advising of the one-

vehicle crash that occurred on State Rd. 107 near Tug Lake Ave. in the Township of Rock Falls at approx. 7:25 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 30. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, Merrill Fire Department and EMS, and the Lincoln County Coroner all responded to the scene, but it was too late to save Owen.

The crash remained under investigation as of Sept. 30, according to a press release from the Sheriff's

See **CORDOVA** page 18

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River District Development Foundation hosts 10th Anniversary celebration

Music, food, raffles, and candlelight walk planned

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

The Friends of the River Bend Trail (RBT) are hosting an event to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the River District Development Foundation. The event, which is open to the public and will be held rain or shine, begins at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 13, at the Agra Pavilion, 404 S. Park St. in Merrill.

"A social will kick off the event with music provided by Mark Robl," a press release said. "Food and drinks will be served, followed by a candlelight walk. To add to the

See **DISTRICT** page 5



The River Bend Trail continues to develop and grow, a continuing work in progress that began as a dream with the creation of the River District Development Foundation 10 years ago, then joined by the Friends of the River Bend Trail, and countless volunteers and donors. A 10th Anniversary celebration will kick off at the Agra Pavilion on Oct. 13. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

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Benefit for the Bloch Family to help pay medical bills due to COVID, blasto, emergency delivery, NICU

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

When Justin and Elizabeth (Engel) Bloch learned they were pregnant with their third child in 2020, they could never have imagined how the end of that pregnancy would unfold. In early December 2020, Elizabeth became ill.

This came on the heels of ongoing medical issues with their second daughter, Raina, who had come down with a bad case of the chicken pox and then a lengthy three-month bout with ecoli that doctors think began when she fell face down in a creek near the family's home [alongside a cow-pasture], likely causing her to ingest bacteria that caused the illness. Even in December, Raina was still struggling to recover.

But Elizabeth's illness



Elizabeth Bloch poses with one of her primary caretakers at the UW-Madison Hospital. "We were so blessed to have her there and all their great care!" the family said. "They went above and beyond, even spending some of their own off time with her! Can't say enough gratitude to them." Submitted photo.

wasn't ecoli. On Dec. 15, 2020, a rapid COVID-19 test came back negative, but Elizabeth was diagnosed with pneumonia and the COVID culture was sent out for further

testing. Two days later, she received the news that she was positive for COVID-19 and she was told to stay home until she couldn't breathe.

Hospitalizations, and the fight for Elizabeth's life, begin

On December 25, now in her third trimester, Elizabeth was taken to Aspirus Wausau Hospital's Emergency Room by ambulance. The following day she was transferred by helicopter to Meriter Hospital



Baby Jennifer Bloch, born by c-section at just 31 weeks gestation while her mother was on a ventilator battling COVID-19, is shown here home from the hospital and being adored by her two big sisters. Her mother was still hospitalized in Madison, still on the ventilator, when Jennifer was released from the NICU to come home. Submitted photo.

Madison and put in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). She had difficulty breathing, severe back pain, a high heart rate, and a high temperature.

Kim Engel, Elizabeth's mother, documented the journey of her daughter's illness and her granddaughter's birth. "Baby Jennifer started flailing in the womb, so an emergency C-section was performed, and she

was delivered at 31 weeks [gestation], not breathing, at 11:56 a.m. weighing 4 pounds, 1 ounce, and measuring 17.5 inches long." Medical personnel were able to get Jennifer breathing and immediately moved her to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Elizabeth has no recollection of the birth. "I was put on the ventilator on Dec. 29th. Jennifer Lynn Bloch was born on Dec. 29th at 11:56 a.m.," Elizabeth said. "Born c-section while I was on the ventilator."

"Justin first was able to see and hold Jennifer on Dec. 30," she added.

Baby Jennifer's story is a positive one and seemed to unfold more smoothly than her mother's. While Jennifer was in the NICU "from the day she was born 'til the day she came home" on Jan. 18, 2021, "She never had COVID or any health issues," Elizabeth said.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth continued to fight for her life and family, friends, and the Merrill and Athens communities Elizabeth and her family called home wrapped Elizabeth and Jennifer in equally strong prayer battle for their lives and health.

On Dec. 29, the day Jennifer was born, Elizabeth was transferred by ambulance to UW Madison Hospital to be put on an ECMO machine, Engel said. "There she was found to have blastomycosis, as well." Baby Jennifer remained

See BLOCH page 13

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In my free time, I enjoy golfing and bike riding in the summer and curling in the winter. I have an older sister as well as other family in the area with whom I enjoy spending time."

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THE FOTO NEWS (ISSN 0191-8958) is published weekly by Multi Media Channels LLC, N2919 County Road QO, Waupaca WI 54981. Subscription price by mail: \$100 per year; domestic U.S. Mail only, nonrefundable but transferable. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE FOTO NEWS, 921 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452.

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY

Homelessness in Merrill: It can happen to anyone

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Homelessness in our area can affect individuals and families who never thought the word homeless would ever apply to them. That's the thing about becoming homeless. It isn't something most people plan for, expect, or even see coming in many cases.

Where would you go?

What if the house or apartment you were renting was suddenly sold and you were given a notice to vacate, not because of anything you did or didn't do, but because the new owners have a different plan for the property? And then, you couldn't find affordable housing in the area to move into. Where would you go?

What if you got hurt or sick for an extended period of time, or lost your job, and didn't have income to pay your rent or mortgage, or not enough income to pay all your bills and had to choose between other necessities or paying the rent or mortgage ... so that eventually you lost your home due to an eviction or foreclosure? Where would you go?

What if your family situation changed, due to a divorce or separation, an argument, a death, or some other unforeseen circumstance, and you suddenly had to find somewhere else to live. Where would you go?

These are just a few of the reasons people have found themselves homeless ... with no place to live ... sometimes with little or no warning.



Calvary Lutheran Comm and Youth Group collected and donated socks and underwear for clients at MAC Home. "MAC Home is truly blessed to have such a supportive community," said Executive Director Theresa Anthony. **Submitted photo.**

"MAC Home has always believed that homelessness can happen to anyone and that's why we exist, to give people a hand up in their time of need," said Theresa Anthony, Executive Director at the MAC Home, 407 W. Main Street in Merrill.

An increase in local homelessness

Both the MAC Home and St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Office have seen an increase in homelessness in the Merrill area. St. Vincent de Paul works hand-in-hand with the MAC Home and HAVEN, the local shelter for those dealing with domestic violence situations.

"Recently we have noticed an increase in the homeless population in this area," Anthony said. "MAC Home has received many calls from people that have to move due to their rental homes being sold and they cannot find affordable housing. We try to assist people before they have to come to us, but we are always here to take people in."

"The one thing I am no-

ting about our homeless is that those in shelters or lodging are staying much longer than ever before due to the lack of affordable housing in our area," said Sue Norenberg, Outreach Manager at St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP).

So far in 2021, in just 10 months, the MAC Home has provided 922 safe nights of shelter to 51 individuals, Anthony said. "This includes men, women, and children in both our warming center and our transitional living area."

Providing shelter and lodging

Anthony explains the difference between the MAC Home warming center and the transitional living area, both located in the same facility, two options for the homeless in our area seeking shelter and lodging.

"Our warming center has a full kitchen area for clients to cook in, and our cupboards are fully stocked. We also have shower facilities and laundry facilities for clients to use. The warming center

is for adults only. Our warming center opens at 7:00 p.m., and we do intake until 9:00 p.m. If someone needs shelter after 9:00 p.m., they must have a police escort. Clients leave our warming center at 8:00 a.m."

"Our transitional living is for adults and children. It has four rooms, with three beds in each room. The transitional living also has a full kitchen, laundry facilities, two bathrooms, living room area, and dining room," she said. "When staying in transitional living, you must have goals set and meet with the Executive Director weekly to assess those goals. There is a 90-day limit when staying in transitional living."

But what happens if the MAC Home is full?

"Since Jan. 1, 2021, our agency has helped with lodging (providing shelter at a motel) for a total of 57 homeless adults and 17 homeless children at a cost of \$17,056," Norenberg said. These costs were incurred when St. Vincent de Paul was unable to get them into any of the area homeless shelters because they were full or due to other specific circumstances.

See **HOMELESSNESS** page 6

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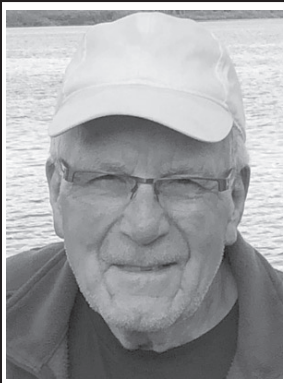
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OBITUARIES



James M. Hartson went to go meet his Lord and Savior on October 1, 2021 in Merrill, Wisconsin. He was born on May 12, 1937 in Wausau, Wisconsin to Robert and Pearl (Finch) Hartson.

James worked at Lincoln Windows for over 30 years, he was long-haul semi-driver for over 15 years, and was employed as a deputy sheriff for 15 years with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department.

He enjoyed the simple pleasures in life, mowing his lawn,

and sitting on the back patio reminiscing about the good old days with his family. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He enjoyed hunting, the outdoors, and working on old cars. James was a hardworking man who spent his life dedicated to God, family, and his community.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy (Hochstetler) Hartson in 1991 and his son James Hartson in 2000.

James is survived by his children: Angela Hartson of Merrill, WI, Steve (Renae) Hartson of San Tan Valley, AZ, grandchildren: Kurt Hartson of Merrill, WI, Cammie Schram of Merrill, WI, Brian Rowe of Merrill, WI, Jamie Hartson of Wausau, WI, Madison Hartson of San Tan Valley, AZ, and Emily Hartson of San Tan Valley, AZ, great-grandchildren: Adriana Schram of Merrill, WI, Riley Schram of Merrill, WI, and Braylee Rowe of Merrill, WI, siblings: Robert (Joan) Hartson of Merrill, WI and Evelyn (Butch) Chrusniak of Mosinee, WI, and sister-in-law, Donna (Hochstetler) Kasper of Rockford, IL.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, October 7, 2021 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Waid Funeral Home and again on Friday from 10:00 AM until the time of service also at the funeral home. The funeral service will be held on Friday, October 8, 2021 at 11:00 AM at Waid Funeral Home. Interment at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.



Owen Thomas Cordova 4-24-2005. Our world was blessed and forever altered on April 24th, 2005 when God gifted us Owen and forever altered again the morning of September 30th, 2021. Owen was traveling way too fast on his way to school when he lost control on a corner resulting in a terrible collision with multiple trees. God and his grandmother Lynn immediately wrapped their loving arms around him and welcomed him to his eternal home.

Kind, generous, respectful, and slow to anger, were just a few of his many amazing qualities. Owen's personality and sense of humor from the moment he learned to talk was so outsized he could not help but share it with everyone around him, often to the dismay of his teachers throughout the years.

Owen started fishing as soon as he could hold a pole with a metal washer tied to the line. As a very small child he would stand on the end of our dock and cast for hours. Whether it was fishing the Wisconsin River in front of his home, saltwater in the gulf or the hard water in the winter it remained his passion. Through his short but amazing life Owen also enjoyed hunting of all kinds, playing football, wrestling, snowmobiling and within the last year "hitting the weights". His greatest sports passion however was baseball. He loved the game and his teammates. In the last year Owen worked often on his hitting and pitching and was determined to be at his best for the 2022 baseball season.

Owen often spoke of serving his country after high school and his natural mechanical aptitude and strong work ethic would have served him well in any future pursuits.

Anyone who ever met Owen Thomas Cordova will miss him but none will feel the loss more keenly than the large family he loved who will carry his memories forever. Owen is survived by parents Jeremy and Carrie (Kulawinski) Cordova and his beloved sister Lily. Grandparents Joe Cordova and Lynn (Bogenhagen) Cordova - deceased. Grandmother Nancy Teal and family. Grandparents Ron and Cher (Woller) Kulawinski. Uncle Rick Kulawinski. Uncle Joshua and Marcella (Robl) Cordova, cousins Hunter and Maggie. Uncle Jacob and Andrea (Toburen) Cordova, cousins Ethan and Olivia. Aunt Jennifer Cordova, Jeffrey Jehn, and cousins Aidan and Brendan Blystone. Uncle Joe and Hilary (Janeczek) Cordova cousins Willow and Quinn. Uncle Jamie and Sarah (Patrick) Cordova, cousins Teagan and Delilah. In addition to his immediate family Owen had many great uncles, great aunts, and over 100 cousins that will all miss him greatly.

In Owen's case it is only too true that the brightest lights burn for the shortest time.

Any gifts received in memory of Owen will go to benefit both Merrill Baseball and Merrill Wrestling associations.

A memorial visitation for Owen was held from 5:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at the Merrill High School Auditorium, 1201 N. Sales St., Merrill. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Lorraine Anna Plamann, 97, was called to her heavenly home on October 3, 2021, under the care of Compassus Hospice at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill.

Lorraine was born February 24, 1924, in the Town of Schley, Lincoln County, daughter of the late August and Metha (Lowenhagen) Loesel. On September 11, 1943, Lorraine married Edgar Plamann.

Lorraine was a farm wife and homemaker. She loved farming, running the farm machinery and the cattle. Each cow had a name. Her passion was farming, and she was also a very good cook.

She was a member of the ladies aid Dutch Corners Lutheran Church, Schley. Lorraine would go pick up children that would live too far from school so they wouldn't have to walk. She was a member of a bowling team at the Gleason Bowling Center and was one of the first members of the L&L Snowmobile Club as well as the Tree Dodger Club. Lorraine and Edgar were the first winners of the January thaw contest put on by Merrill local in 1988 where they won a week-long trip to Orlando, Florida.

Her cat was her companion for 8 years, "Miss Kitty" who now has found a wonderful new home.

Survivors include her children, Shirley (Roger) Yonke and Duane (Val) Plamann, both of Merrill; six grandchildren, David Yonke, Daniel Yonke, Andrew 'Andy' Plamann, Renee (Rob) Koebe, Kimberly (Brad) Nett, and John Ollhoff; thirteen great-grandchildren, Leah, Larry, Lacy, Mathew, Jaycee, Hannah, Thomas, Cody, Alex, Jacob, Austin, Justin, and Kaitlin; and seven great-great-grandchildren, Dayton, Kayson, Kelly, Brayton, Bryce, Jameson, and Samuel; and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents and husband, Edgar, Lorraine was preceded in death by a daughter, Bonnie Randell; son, Roger Plamann; brother, Willis Loesel; sister, Betty June Spears; brother-in-law, Robert Spears; granddaughter, Christy Langbecker; great-granddaughter, Stephanie Yonke Boehm.

The Funeral Service for Lorraine was held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. Mike Southcombe officiated. Burial will take place in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery-Dutch Corners, Town of Schley, Lincoln County. Visitation began at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers donate please make donations to the Gleason Lutheran Memorial Church Cemetery Fund in memory of Lorraine.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com.



James Otis Hehling passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at age of 80.

Devoted father of Thomas, Timothy, Patrick (Margarita) Hehling. Grandfather of Christopher (Faith), Yolotzin, Andres and Angel. Brother of Al Hehling, Sally Bell and Linda Wilson. Further survived by other relatives and friends. Preceded in death by his parents Herbert and Louise (nee Payne) Hehling.

Jim was an Engineer at General Electric for 39 years, where he enjoyed working with his hands. He was a very smart, caring and friendly man who will be dearly missed by many.

Celebration will be held privately.



Lois D. Jaeger, age 92, of Merrill, passed away Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Lois was born November 29, 1928, in Merrill, daughter of the late Harry and Hertha (Zastrow) Pfaff. She married Norman "Butch" Jaeger on January 26, 1949, at the former St. Luke's Church in the Town of Pine River. He preceded her in death on October 29, 2007. Lois and Butch farmed until 1969. Lois also worked as a CNA at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill, for 25 years. She was a lifelong member of Calvary Lutheran Church, Town of Pine River, and served as the secretary of the Church Council for ten years. Lois also was the secretary of Women of the ELCA from 1997 until 2019.

Lois enjoyed traveling, quilting, playing cards and bingo, and taking casino trips. She adored her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren and loved spending time with all of them. She also enjoyed watching the Milwaukee Brewers and Green Bay Packers and being involved with school and church activities.

Survivors include her daughter, Judith Kleinschmidt of Merrill; sons, Randal (Sharon) Jaeger of Merrill and Lyle (Gary Thorn) Jaeger of Minneapolis; grandchildren, Julie (Corey) Maschke, Jennifer (Brad) Borchardt, and Theresa (Derek) Micke; grandson-in-law, Mike Loucks; nine great grandchildren, Patrick Kleinschmidt, Eric Kottke, Jennisa Strand, Madison Strand, Andrew Loucks, Allie Maschke, Hudson Micke, Hannah Micke, and Holland Micke; step great grandsons, Zach Borchardt, Ethan Borchardt; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Joyce Pfaff of Chippewa Falls, Dorothy Jaeger, Lydia and James Goetsch, Caroline Krause, and Dale and Ruth Jaeger; and many nieces and nephews. Lois was preceded in death by her husband, Norman Jaeger; parents, Harry and Hertha Pfaff; two infant children; son-in-law, Wayne Kleinschmidt; grandson, Eric Jaeger; granddaughter, Sandra Loucks; brothers, Earl Pfaff and Vern Pfaff; brother-in-law, Milfred Jaeger and sister-in-law Lucille Nass Pophal. The funeral service for Lois was held at 11:00 A.M., Monday, October 4, 2021, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. Susan Christian officiated. Burial took place in Calvary Lutheran Cemetery, Town of Pine River. Visitation began at 9:00 A.M. Monday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Calvary Lutheran Cemetery Fund or to the Jaeger family to be used as a memorial to be designated later.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Homelessness

Dear Reader,

Have you ever been hungry – I mean really hungry, when you hadn't had a meal all day or even longer?

Have you ever had food insecurity – wondering whether you will have enough food to last between now and the next time you have money to buy more?

How about shelter – have you ever wondered where you would sleep at night? Not in the adventurous "let's wander the countryside" way; more of the "I don't have anyplace to go and it's getting dark" way.

Homelessness and food scarcity are real concerns in Wisconsin. There are over 4,500 Wisconsinites without a home right now. We are a strong and prosperous State,



we have adequate resources, and we are smart people. We need to come together to solve the homelessness problem in Wisconsin.

Please help by buying a homeless person a \$25 Badger Pack. This survival kit contains necessities that will help a person down on their luck. While it may not solve the problem entirely, it will help ameliorate the suffering in the short term.

You can make a contribution by going to The Go Fund me titled Wisconsin Newspapers Supporting Homelessness. 100% of your gift will go to supply resources to homeless people. I hope you can join us in this important and worthy effort.

PATRICK J. WOOD
PUBLISHER

Author of "Dear Reader" and "Tapestry of Love and Loss"

DISTRICT from page 1

fun, area businesses and organizations have provided raffles for this event."

The event will also include a special dedication of Rotary Park, the trailhead of the River Bend Trail which was made possible by Rotary Club of Merrill, and a campfire will be provided in case attendees wish to bring supplies and equipment for smores, the release said.

According to the release, "The River District Development Foundation was formed in 2011 with its mission to provide resources that allow all Merrill area citizens to take part in the enrichment and enjoyment of the precious spaces along the community's beautiful river corridors. In the last 10 years, with the leadership of the River District Development Foundation of Merrill, three phases of the River Bend Trail have been completed, providing 5.5 paved miles of trail highlighting the beautiful Wisconsin River and providing a paved pathway through the City of Merrill."

A large portion of the trail follows the path of an abandoned railroad track. "Thankfully a group of Merrill citizens had a vision for the abandoned railroad, and now we have a gem of a trail for all to use and enjoy our amazing riverfront," said John Kohn, River District Development Foundation President. "The River District Development Foundation, Friends of the River Bend Trail, and donors have worked extremely hard to achieve something special. Our thanks to all."

The 10th Anniversary celebration was organized via a partnership between the Friends of the River Bend Trail and Merrill High School (MHS) DECA and business classes. MHS Senior Elizabeth Schmidt, who is the DECA/Business Club President and a Student Board Member for the Friends of the River Bend Trail, served as the event's Project Manager. This involved developing the event plan, marketing, soliciting donations, organizing volunteers and activities, and collabor-

ating with community partners to make the event successful, she explained.

Other students provided support designing and creating maps, donor banners, and recognition materials, as well as 10th Anniversary RBT merchandise. In addition, they designed and created marketing materials and worked with community partners, such as Steve Resnick, General Manager of Sunrise Broadcasting, LLC, to write and record radio advertisements for the event.

The partnership gave students practical, hands-on experience in skills they learned about in Marketing, Principles of Sales, and Intro to Business classes and allowed students to earn dual credit through both MHS and Northcentral Technical College.

Students also donated handcrafted items for raffle and door prizes.

"We'd like to thank all the sponsors over the years and those who made this event possible," organizers say. "Come join us at the event to truly celebrate a community united to creating a Merrill landmark 10 years in the making."

To learn more about supporting the trail and to receive updates on trail activities, visit www.riverbendtrail.org or look for the River Bend Trail page on Facebook.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: September 21, 2021
Electronically signed by
Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2021IN39
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Lawrence F. Duginski
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 6-22-31 and date of death 7-5-21, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 2714 Glen Drive, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 01-14-2022.
5. A claim may be filed at 1110 E. Main St., Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
Mary Duginski
2714 Glen Drive, Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-2983
Published Sept. 30, Oct. 7 & 14, 2021
WNAXLP

Legals 7700
James S. Schult
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth August 19, 1974 and date of death September 12, 2021 was domiciled in Marathon County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 14941 N. 4th Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. The application will be heard at the Marathon County Courthouse, Wausau, Wisconsin, Room Probate, before Kim Uttech, Probate Registrar, on November 10, 2021 at 9AM.
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 January 5, 2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Marathon County Courthouse, Wausau, Wisconsin, Room Probate.
6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address 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.
Attorney Katherine A. Young
Anderson O'Brien, LLP
1257 Main Street, P.O. Box 228
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 344-0890 Bar Number 1087888
Published Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 2021
WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: September 29, 2021
Electronically signed by
Kim Uttech, Register in Probate
Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT,
MARATHON COUNTY
Notice Setting Time to Hear
Application and Deadline
for Filing Claims
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 21-IN-133
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Pet of the Week



This goofy two year old girl is **Thistle!** She is so sweet and loves to get attention and play! She is OK with some other cats. She loves to run around and play with her toys and take long naps in the sun. Her adoption includes her spay, rabies, distemper & microchip. Stop in and meet **Thistle** soon!

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

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6. Hospitality, Lodging, Tourism and Restaurant
7. Information Technology (IT)
8. Manufacturing
9. Marketing
10. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
11. Transportation, Distribution and Logistics/Supply Chain

Qualified students earn one credit per semester and would be excused up to two periods per day during school hours to go to their worksite if their class schedule allows.



For more information about the program contact Linda Murray, Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator
Linda.murray@mapsedu.org | 715-536-4594 Ext. 18039



NOTICE TO TOWN OF RUSSELL RESIDENTS

TOWN RECYCLING is the First Saturday of each month between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. by the Grader Shed on Bayer Street

Please Note: If there is a holiday, the modified recycling date will be posted. If the dumpsters are closed, you should **NOT** leave your recyclables on the ground. This costs the town time and money for clean-up.

Additional recycling information can be found on our website: townofrussellwi.com/recycling

Published October 7, 2021

WNAXLP

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- Chris and Ty Marlowe
- Ron and Kay Nicklaus Farm
- Park City Credit Union
- Park and Rec
- Peterson Sand & Gravel
- Preceptor Alpha Beta
- Reindl Printing Inc
- The Livingroom-Lori Stine & Chris Hull
- Tomahawk Community Bank-Merrill Branch
- Wisconsin Phi Master
- Russ Zoellner

A special thank you to everyone who contributed to memorials honoring:

- Jared Severt
- Pat Hommerding
- Wendy Malinowski (B.F. Golf Outing)
- Mercia Kaupp
- Vivian Knospe
- Peggy Trantow
- Patsy Woller

2021 Volunteer Workers

- Nancy Arndorfer
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- Malaynie Dengel
- Missy Dengel
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- Jean Hall
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- Greg Hartwig
- Peggy Hull-Johnson
- Linda Huss
- Joyce & Jack Kasper
- Marj Krause
- Bill Kriegel
- Cindy Latzig
- Amanda Mathis
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- Ann Stoeckman
- Mike & Jayne Thiel
- Mary Vandehey
- Terry Vander Heiden
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- Lynn Zentner

We apologize if we inadvertently left someone out. For more information, contact Ginny @ 715-536-9605

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MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is
Henry Haltinner
 Son of Jason and Athena Haltinner
 Henry is in 8th grade at New Testament Church Christian Academy. He was nominated by Ms. Zimmerman.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
 My favorite subject in school is word building because spelling words comes easy to me.

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

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
 I enjoy studying fossils so someday I would like to be a paleontologist.

Henry is a fun, talented student. He brings much joy to everyone around him.
 ~ Ms. Zimmerman

Student of the Week Sponsored by:
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Let's hear more about the homeless

OUR VIEW: Candidates for governor should prioritize stable housing for desperate people

BY THE WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARD
 Abortion.
 The pandemic.
 Crime and policing.
 Wisconsin's economy and worker shortage.

Lots of important issues are getting attention from the candidates for governor as they launch their 2022 election campaigns.

Today we add another big challenge to the list -- one that neither Gov. Tony Evers, the Democratic incumbent, nor his leading GOP challenger, Rebecca Kleefisch, addressed in their campaign announcements: Homelessness.

The problem hasn't improved much in recent years since the state launched an unprecedented yet largely unfinished effort to ensure stable housing for thousands of desperate people across Wisconsin, including many children.

The human misery from not having a safe place to sleep, eat or study for school is intense and traumatic. At the same time, the tragedy of homelessness costs taxpayers more in social and emergency services

than adequately addressing the problem would.

That's why the candidates for governor -- along with municipal leaders, state lawmakers and members of Congress -- must do more. And now is the time for our political leaders to outline their plans and commitments as the 2022 election cycle approaches, and as World Homeless Day arrives Oct. 10.

The good news is that Evers and Kleefisch understand this difficult issue and have tried to address it in the past.

Evers sought \$70 million in his latest two-year state budget for affordable housing, shelter grants and other programs aimed at assisting homeless individuals in the state -- most of which Republicans rejected. Instead, the GOP increased housing assistance programs by just \$1.2 million and suggested the governor steer more federal stimulus money to the cause.

Kleefisch chaired the Interagency Council on Homelessness when she was lieutenant governor in 2018. The council's strong work led to eight homeless bills clearing the GOP-led state Assembly. Unfortunately, the Republican-controlled Senate approved only one of those measures, adding \$1 million in support for emergency homeless shelters.

The problem isn't going away.

In Madison, more than 65 people have crowded Reindahl Park on the Far East Side, turning it into a makeshift campground of tents that has led to violence and frequent calls

for emergency responders. The city hopes to move the homeless campers from the park to a safer location using \$2 million in federal coronavirus relief money. The city also is pursuing a permanent and modern shelter with robust services to steer people to better lives. A developer and social service agency want to convert a hotel into affordable housing.

In Oshkosh, advocates are pushing for a larger, full-time shelter and more affordable apartments. The city's vacancy rate is less than 2% -- a much tighter market than in past years, the Oshkosh Northwestern recently reported.

Near Green Bay, the Oneida Nation used federal COVID relief money to renovate a tribal building into a shelter, the Green Bay Press-Gazette reported.

In Milwaukee, more than 90 people living in a "tent city" under the Marquette Interchange have received help finding apartments, transitional housing or moved in with family members, according to WISN-TV (Ch. 12).

Wisconsin needs to step up its search for lasting solutions as winter approaches, and as the coronavirus pandemic continues to limit how many people can be housed indoors together.

What will the candidates for governor do for the homeless, and how will they get it done? We want to know. We'll be asking them for their ideas and commitments in the coming year. Voters should demand answers, too.

HOMELESSNESS from page 3

Local stories show homelessness has no demographic

Most people, when they hear the word "homeless" conjure up an image in their mind of what that looks like. But regardless of what that image looks like in each reader's mind, readers would probably be surprised to see what many of the homeless really look like.

"We help many individuals and families from all walks of life," Anthony said.

"Recently, we had a client that stayed with us who was working full time but became homeless due to a family dispute. While staying at MAC Home, our client was able to work and save money, as all of our services are free of charge, to then get into an apartment of their own. Unfortunately, while staying at MAC Home, our client suffered the death of her son."

"Our staff was available 24 hours a day to our client to help her with resources."

Ultimately, "This client was able to get an apartment," Anthony said. "When she left MAC Home, we were gifted with handmade afghans and scarves that the client made while staying with us."

In just the past nine months, Norenberg said SVDP has also seen a wide cross-section of clients which further demonstrates homelessness can happen to anyone, given the right set of circumstances.

"We provided help with a month of lodging so a young, single working gal could obtain an apartment with her own money," she said.

"SVDP helped several family units with lodging this past summer when their apartment building had a major fire and they needed to be in lodging for a period of time."

"A young man just out of jail needed one night lodging before he could catch his bus back to his home in Milwaukee," Norenberg said, offering another example.

"We helped one elderly gentleman with a few days lodging until his Social Security check came in so he could get into his new apartment," she said. And in another instance, "A family of five moved from Florida up to Wisconsin to live with family. The situation didn't work out and lodging was needed for a short period of time until they got into local subsidized housing."

To reach the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Center for more information, whether you need help or can offer help, call 715.539.2666. To reach the MAC Home, which is staffed 24/7, call 715.722.1200.

HARTSON from page 1

Firefighters from Pine River also assisted with shutting down State Rd. 64 around the crash scene to allow emergency responders to operate safely and investigate the crash. Pine River Engine 2 provided much-needed lighting on the scene to assist with the rescue and investigation.

The operator of the vehicle that struck Hartson was also injured in the crash and later sought medical atten-

tion. That driver, an Antigo area woman, is cooperating with law enforcement as they continue to investigate the crash. Alcohol and speed do not appear to be factors in the crash, according to the release.

In total, Pine River firefighters diverted traffic for over five hours while the Wisconsin State Patrol Technical Reconstruction Unit worked to reconstruct the crash, the Pine River Fire Department said. The incident was cleared and Highway 64 reopened at 2:46 a.m. on Oct. 2.

The Merrill Fire Department also assisted at the scene.

FFA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Grace Collinsworth, a Sophomore at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named FFA Member of the Month for September 2021. Grace joined FFA last year "to learn more about agriculture and get involved in the community," she said. "I have lived on a farm my entire life, and I've been raising animals ever since I was little. We raise pigs, beef, and chickens. I have taken two agriculture classes, Large Animal Science and Dairy Science. My agriculture classes showed me that FFA is for everyone and I wanted to learn more." Over the summer, Grace helped at the Dairy Breakfast and the Rodeo. She participated in FFA meetings but said that due to COVID, there have been fewer opportunities to be active.

This year Grace also joined MHS Volleyball and is a middle hitter. In the past, she played softball as a right fielder. In her spare time, she enjoys hunting and fishing with her family, working on her truck, and working on the farm.

Grace is the daughter of Chad and Amy Collinsworth of Gleason. She has a 3.0 GPA and plans to attend UW-River Falls for Animal Science after graduation.



Grace Collinsworth

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



Welcome to the Aspirus Health Family.

We're excited to announce that Merrill area Ascension hospitals and clinics will begin using their Aspirus names on December 1, 2021.

Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital will become **Aspirus Merrill Hospital**
Ascension Medical Group - Merrill will become **Aspirus Merrill Clinic - E. Main Street**

Learn more about all medical locations at:
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 Oct. 12th - Dressed Up Meatballs
 Oct. 19th - Chicken Alfredo
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FRIDAY NIGHTS
 Oct. 8th - Perch
 Oct. 15th - Catfish
 Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM

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OCT. 10TH

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- \$3 Crown Apple Shots
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OCT 9TH

- Bar opens at 11 am
- Bingo starts at 1 pm (Cash prizes)
- \$3 White Claws
- 5/\$10 bucket special (3 pm-close)
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- Snacks all Day
- \$3 Bombs (Cherry & Jagger)

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HO-CHUNK GAMING WITTENBERG

Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM
 GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

Addams Family 2

(Now showing in theatres)

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

Rated PG - For some reason that totally escapes me.

The 2019 *Addams Family* animated film was fantastic. It was fun, zany, and had a solid original story explaining much of the Addams' background. It was a real treat to see how they came to be.

For the adults, *Addams Family 2* succeeds in really only one area: It has managed to suck the fun out of animated features.

The plot is paper thin, and too much time is devoted to Cousin It (Snoop Dog).

There are a few bright spots. Wednesday Addams (played by Chloe Grace Moretz) has some really good moments, one of which includes a parody on

kiddie beauty pageants which in themselves are disturbing enough, so adding Wednesday Addams to the mix makes this sequence very, very funny (which is how this film managed to get its second star).

Essentially, my friends, this film does nothing new, has no inspiration, and kinda just plods along doing its own thing. Thankfully, there is enough to keep the adults' attention while the kiddos enjoy this outing, and enjoy it they will. Pixar is known for its ability to write their films on two levels - one for the kids and one for the adults - so that equal enjoyment can be had. With this movie, not so much ... but all is not lost. As I mentioned, there is just enough there to keep parents from being bored to death and, as mentioned, the kiddies will love it.

Two out of five stars for *Addams Family 2*, and you can thank a twisted kids beauty pageant for that second star. Meanwhile, *Dune* is only 15 days away.

Grampa's Farm is open for one more weekend

Grampa's Farm, located at N2613 Norwegian Rd., north of Merrill, will be open for its final weekend of the 2021 season Oct. 9 and 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$12 which includes all activities and a free pumpkin. Children age 2 and under and Veterans are Free.

Grampa's Farm was started in 2009 by Jim Severt (1951-2014) of Merrill, still known to many as "Grampa." Many years ago, most kids had a relative with a farm where they could visit, interact with animals, and learn where their food comes from. However, those small family farms were becoming fewer and



Carla Moore with some of her grandchildren and their corn cob dolls. At Grampa's Farm, children can learn about the history of corn cob dolls and make their own, starting with shelling the corn from the cob all the way to completing their own corn cob doll to keep.

fewer. When Jim's first grandchild was born in 2001, he knew that he wanted all children to be able to experience what

life was like in the past and on the farm. The idea of Grampa's Farm began.

When Jim passed away in 2014, his family and friends continued to believe in his dream and wanted the legacy to continue. More recently, his son, Jered Severt had been managing the farm. When Jered tragically passed away in April 2021, the family again had a decision to make. Even with the loss of their loved ones, they knew Grampa's Farm should continue. It has been healing to see guests smiling, having fun, making memories, and grateful - exactly what "Grampa" and Jered both enjoyed seeing so much.

For a few weekends each fall, the dream continues to come true. Now in its 12th year, Grampa's Farm is a place where children can dress up in bonnets, dresses, or bibs to wear while they play in the one-room schoolhouse or do laundry "the old fashioned way" using a washboard and wringer. The children get to shell a cob of corn and use fabric to turn it into a corn cob doll just like Laura Ingalls did long ago. Other old-time experiences include milking a cow by hand, stamping their initials into a piece of wood to take home, as well as seeing how apple cider, ice cream, and butter are made and tasting all three. Lessons in history aren't the only activities

See FARM page 17

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BLOCH from page 2

at Meriter Hospital in the NICU.

On Jan. 8, 2021, baby Jennifer was transferred to the NICU at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, closer to the rest of the family. And on Jan. 18, her daddy brought her home.

Elizabeth's journey continued and involved a tracheotomy and ultimately the removal of the ventilator. On Feb. 25, Elizabeth was transferred to Select Specialty Resources for rehab in Milwaukee, which coincided with the removal of the ventilator. She still had her trach until Mar. 9.

Mar. 12, 2021, the family celebrated Elizabeth's homecoming when she was released from the hospital. But that didn't mean she was completely well. She continued numerous prescription medications and required constant oxygen. She had not yet kept any food down.

Elizabeth attended her first doctor appointment as an outpatient on Mar. 15 with weekly visits scheduled through the end of April. Then on Mar. 16, she was hospitalized again, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, for several days, during which time she had an ultrasound on her liver and gallbladder and doctors discovered she had an infected gallbladder. She was treated for that and released to continue recovering at home.

On Mar. 22, Elizabeth attended another doctor appointment and reported she was still unable to keep food down. The next day she was again admitted to Aspirus Wausau Hospital where she had an endoscope and gallbladder scan and ultimately had gallbladder surgery on Mar. 25. She was released from the hospital on Mar. 26.

It was not to be her last hospitalization on this road to recovery.

On Apr. 16, Elizabeth and Justin's wedding anniversary, she was again hospitalized in Wausau to be treated for dehydration and low magnesium where she stayed until she was released Apr. 19. Just two days later, she was again taken by ambulance to Aspirus Wausau Hospital where she was again treated for dehydration and low potassium. She was able to come home again the same day.

Elizabeth celebrated a win on Apr. 22 when she was finally able to keep food and drink down, but that was a short-lived celebration because she was again hospitalized the following day where she remained for three nights.

Despite her release from the hospital, Elizabeth remained on oxygen and medications as she tried to recover at home. It was not until June 30 that she could go half a day without supplemental oxygen. She had been trying to wean herself, and she continued to do that during the day, except during the night while sleeping.

Eventually, as the summer wore on, Elizabeth was able to come off the oxygen completely and now only uses an inhaler as needed. "We pray she will eventually get complete healing and be taken off her medications," Engel said.

Engel tried to document her daughter Elizabeth's journey but "there were so many set backs and hospital trips and visits, not all may even be included here," she said as she shared her notes.

Elizabeth is equally foggy about the specifics because there were so many.



Elizabeth and Justin Bloch take a moment to cool off and relax in the early evening with their three healthy daughters at nearby Amco Park after the Athens Parade in August with family. It was a fun, simple, relaxing, perfect weather evening with family! Just what Elizabeth said she was needing and enjoying.

Kim Engel photo.

"I had roughly six hospital visits after I came home," she said. "Two of them were a couple-night stays. She is more focused on regaining her complete health and looking to the future than documenting the past, very difficult 10 months.

Family and friends plan benefit

All of those hospitalizations, ambulance and helicopter transports, ICU and NICU, and ongoing medical appointments and treatments, have left the Bloch family with a mountain of medical bills, not to mention the difficulty maintaining stable income with all of the health issues, a brand new baby, and one of the family members in and out of the hospital for months.

Family and friends have organized a benefit to help the Blochs with those bills. The Medical Benefit for the Bloch Family will be held this Saturday, Oct. 9, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Town of Merrill Community Center, W4594 Progress Ave., Merrill. Music will be provided by Mobile Music, and there will be food, beer, and beverages, along with gun raffles, 50/50 raffles, gift baskets, silent auctions, a cornhole contest, and more. All are invited.

Prayers answered

More than anything, Elizabeth and Jennifer's family want the community to know: "We continue to give all glory, honor, and praise to God for all of our answered prayers and for bringing Elizabeth and Jennifer home to their family."

"We especially are so very, very grateful to all the hospitals, doctors, and all medical professionals who so skillfully, compassionately, and willingly gave their committed, exhausting, hard work, love, and care for our daughter, Elizabeth, and her baby, Jennifer, during their stays with you," her parents wrote. "We will forever be thankful to all whom had a part in their survival and healing and we will keep you all in our prayers."

"Lastly," the family said, "we graciously thank each and every one of you powerful prayer warriors who were right there with us continuously keeping us in your thoughts and prayers and getting us all through this with your Godly loving support! May God bless you as you have blessed us."

"We love you all!"

Former Ascension properties to get new names

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Area properties formerly owned by Ascension, such as Good Samaritan Hospital in Merrill, will be renamed effective Dec. 1, 2021. "All locations will continue using their existing names until Dec. 1, 2021, at which time they will switch to using their new names," a press release from Aspirus said. In the meantime, temporary signage will be added to existing signs to help the community prepare for the change.

Those properties, along with their old and new names, in our area include: Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital in Merrill will become: Aspirus Merrill Hospital
Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital in Tomahawk will become: Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital
Ascension St. Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander will become: Aspirus Rhinelander Hospital
Ascension St. Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point will become: Aspirus Stevens Point Hospital
Howard Young Medical Center will keep their name: Howard Young Medical Center
Ascension Medical Group in Merrill will become: Aspirus Merrill Clinic - E Main Street
Ascension Sacred Heart - Tomahawk (Clinic) will become: Aspirus Tomahawk Clinic

And in addition, some other facilities, formerly owned by Ascension, will change names, including: Ascension Good Samaritan Health Foundation will become: Aspirus Merrill Hospital Foundation
Ascension Medical Group will become: Aspirus Medical Group
Ascension Spirit Medical Transport will become: Aspirus MedEvac

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Announcements 7005
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Rummage Sales This Week 7200
 N1394 Hwy W., Merrill. 3/4 mile South of KFC/TACO BELL
 Oct. 7, 8 & 9 • 9am-5pm
 Tools, Crafts, Fall & Xmas Décor. Much more

Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202
108 S. Prospect St Merrill Oct 7th - 9th. Thur - Fri 3-6 & Sat 8-3. Jet skis w/trailer, Antiques, projects, Sporting, household, some teen girl clothes. Many items are free.

1413 Cotter Avenue Merrill, 10/7 & 10/8 9-4 pm, 10/9 9-12pm, six family garage sale. Lots of clothes, Furniture, Queen size bed, 25 horse Evinrude Outboard, Household items, Antique dishes, no reasonable offer refused.

Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202
N2258 Airport Road Merrill Garage Sale Friday 10/8 8-3pm, Saturday 10/9 8-5. Too much to list. Something for everyone. Pellet Stove, household, men's, misc. etc.

Estate Sales 7208
RH- 113 S. Oneida Ave. Estate Sale Thurs-Sun., Oct. 14-17, 8-6. Antique furniture, glassware, unique items including Duncan ceramic kiln & molds, vintage xmas ornaments from Germany & Poland, antique Grindmaster store coffee grinder, antique violins, guitar, ornate antique cedar chest, bronze statues, crystal, silver tea set, punch bowl set & candelabras, numerous pictures & paintings, jewelry, wicker set, antique mirrors, Hummels, Fenton, Precious Moments, Nippon, Delf, Roseville, B&G Denmark, Norman Rockwell, Wedgwood, Frankoma, Red Wing, Lefton, Fostoria, Fire King, nesting bowls, Depression glass, milk glass, ruffled glass, cups & saucers, sets of dishes, Spode xmas dishes, bells, cookie jars, tea sets, dolls, oil lamps, vinyl records, beer items, antique cast iron duck lanterns, crocks, antique cans & bottles, train set, rooster collection, antique lamps, furs, knickknacks & wall hanging, washer, dryer, stove, fridge, dishwasher, hide-a-bed, hutch, queen sz. bed, rugs, office chairs, air conditioners, heaters, bookshelves, dining set, tables, chairs, hat rack, clocks, swivel rockers, antique day bed, wooden globe, shelves, antique malt maker & coffee grinder, pole lamps, cookbooks, vacuums, games, blankets, linens, towels, bedding, seasonal items, blender, conventional oven, Nesco's, copper ware, cast iron pans, pressure cooker good dehydrator, rosters, pots, pans, kitchen utensils, sets of silverware, tools, TVs, cupboards, skis, cleaning supplies, many more items too numerous to mention.

Auctions 7282
Auction Auction on the property of several living estates at Rib River Ballroom 135739 State Hwy 29 Marathon, WI Saturday, Oct. 16th 9:00 am Beer memorabilia; old car parts; silver coins 1940's to 70's; diff. prints & paintings; Tonka Toys - metal; post cards; Tin signs-various sizes; Coke memorabilia; Treasure Chest comics; old fishing equipment; many Griswald No. skillets; vintage toys; framed artwork; vintage Mad Magazines; Iron pot; Compound & Recurve Bows -Bear & Kramer; 50 framed artworks -Vintage comic & Disney; Hay Wake theatre chair; vintage hand tolled saddle. Many more items listed on web site: 1-bid-2-com
 Terms: Cash or good check, Wilichowski Auctions Ron R.W.A. #146 715-281-3171 or call for bill. 11038th St. Marathon, WI 54448

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Saturday, Oct. 16th 9:00 am Beer memorabilia; old car parts; silver coins 1940's to 70's; diff. prints & paintings; Tonka Toys - metal; post cards; Tin signs-various sizes; Coke memorabilia; Treasure Chest comics; old fishing equipment; many Griswald No. skillets; vintage toys; framed artwork; vintage Mad Magazines; Iron pot; Compound & Recurve Bows -Bear & Kramer; 50 framed artworks -Vintage comic & Disney; Hay Wake theatre chair; vintage hand tolled saddle. Many more items listed on web site: 1-bid-2-com
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 Published Sept. 30th & Oct. 7th, 2021 WNAXLP

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FARM from page 8

happening on Grampa's Farm. Families take a wagon ride out to the pumpkin patch where each person chooses a pumpkin to take home. Children also are able to play in sandboxes full of corn, climb a giant haystack, and take a walk through the soybean maze (new this year).

In the petting zoo, children can pet the goats, a calf, and a cow. Holding the bunnies and chicks is a favorite of many.

"Grampa" knew that money can be tight while raising a family, so there are no additional charges once people enter. He didn't want parents to have to say "no"

to any activity that their child would like to experience. Once families are in the gate, the only extra cost would be to purchase food or snacks, such as treats available from the Red Shed. All proceeds from the caramel apples, cotton candy, popcorn, and pie being sold go to the group running it that day. For instance, one weekend this fall it was run by some of Jered's wrestling family, and the proceeds from the Red Shed sales that day will go toward a wrestling scholarship being established in Jered's memory.

The Broken Spoke Cafe also offers fresh cooked food at a reasonable cost. Visitors to the farm are also welcome to carry in a picnic lunch if they prefer.

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CORDOVA from page 1

Department that also said speed was believed to be a factor.

Honoring Owen

While Homecoming events continued, including the Friday night bonfire, the traditional Homecoming Parade on Saturday, the football game Saturday afternoon, and the dance Saturday evening, it cast a sadness over otherwise happy festivities for the community. Many students decided this event also provided an opportunity to both mourn the loss of their classmate and to honor him. They spread the word to wear red for Homecoming to honor Owen, and word spread quickly. Many students walking in the parade or riding on floats in the parade wore red, as did many of the people lining the streets to watch this year's Homecoming Parade go by as it traveled the route from Normal Park to MHS. Many of the fans at the Homecoming football game also wore red to honor Owen.

The Merrill Bluejay Football Team also decided to honor Owen. A team member, Arin Dettmering, approached Head Coach Jason Wadzinski, along with Jill Schmidt, the parent of a MAPS student and shared an idea ... that Schmidt would make and donate red wings [small decals] in memory of Owen that the football players could put on their helmets. Coach Wadzinski worked with her to be sure the decals were the proper size and Schmidt delivered them Saturday morning in time for all the players to put them on the back of their helmets. "Having Owen with us meant everything to our boys on Saturday," Wadzinski said.

"I personally didn't know Owen, as I never had him as a student, nor did he play either of the sports that I coached," he added. "It wasn't hard to tell what type of person he was though. He must've had an infectious personality for this to mean so much to our players."

More than just a Homecoming game

"Saturday, Oct. 2, the Merrill Bluejays took on the Lakeland Thunderbirds for a Homecoming clash!" Wadzinski said. "It was a defensive battle for the ages.



Above: A large number of Bluejay fans turned out for Saturday's Homecoming football game dressed in red to honor Owen Cordova, a Merrill High School Junior who died tragically in a car accident two days prior. **Inset:** The Merrill Bluejay Football Team paid tribute to the memory of classmate, Owen Cordova, by putting red wings with Owen's name on them on the back of their helmets for Merrill's Homecoming game last Saturday.

Joseph Frederick photo.
Jason Wadzinski photo.



Even the Merrill Cheer Team added red shirts to their normal blue and white attire to honor and remember Owen while cheering on the Bluejays at the Homecoming game.

Joseph Frederick photo.

Brian Ball blew it open for Merrill with an 80-yard scamper to the endzone early on. The Thunderbirds battled back and tied it up late in the game 12-12."



Following a prayer at half-time, some friends and family released red balloons in memory of Owen Cordova.

Joseph Frederick photo.

"Junior Arin Dettmering had a crucial interception late and also came up with a quarterback pressure in the opponent's end zone resulting in a safety late in the fourth. That 2-point play gave the Bluejays the 14-12 advantage which they held onto for the remainder," he said.

The Merrill Bluejays scored a Homecoming win for Owen.

"Our boys were playing with a heavy heart after the loss of a classmate this week," Wadzinski added. "We as a staff are so incredibly proud of their effort."

"This was more than just a game to the community," he said. "Sure, it was Homecoming, but it was also a chance for a community to rally behind a family who suffered a tragedy. My hope is that Saturday provided some respite from those in pain, if only for a few hours. I know it meant everything to our boys."

During halftime at the game, a prayer was said and friends and family members released red balloons into the air.

The boys are currently sitting in fourth place in the Great Northern Conference with a 2-3 conference record.

Community love and support

Within the Merrill community, some individuals and businesses are embracing the idea the students started during Homecoming with the color red to also honor Owen and show love and support for Owen's family. Red hearts are popping up in businesses and in windows.

"As a local organization, Park City Credit Union (PCCU) felt compelled to scatter paper hearts all around our buildings in Merrill and Tomahawk as a way to show support to the family, our members, and our community that are feeling the impact of Owen's passing," said PCCU CEO Val Mindak, one of the businesses that is doing so.

Many people throughout the community will wear red to show their love and support on Wednesday, Oct. 6, the day of Owen's memorial visitation, which will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Merrill High School Auditorium, 1201 N. Sales St. Merrill. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family. Owen's complete obituary may be found on page 4.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Merrill Girls Varsity Tennis Doubles Team **Amelia Skoviera and Tessa Wheat** have been named Athletes of the Week. Both Seniors at Merrill High School. Amelia started playing Varsity as a Freshman, and this is her second year playing Doubles, both seasons with Tessa, while Tessa is in her second year of Varsity Tennis. "I believe we are such a strong team because we are close friends," Amelia said. "We always support and communicate with each other to stay positive and never give up on the game." "Amelia and I are best friends on and off the court, and no matter what happens on the court, win or loss, we have each other's backs," Tessa said. She is stronger serving and at the back of the court, where I am stronger at the net, volleying, but our positive energy and attitude is what helps us come out with our wins."

Daughter of Colleen Skoviera and Aaron Skoviera of Merrill, Amelia has a 4.0 GPA and plans to attend UW-Eau Claire, majoring in Elementary Education.

Daughter of Kelly Wheat and John Wheat of Merrill, Tessa has a 4.0 GPA and plans to attend UW-LaCrosse or UW-Stevens Point after high school to become a Recreational Therapist, with a minor in Art Therapy.



Amelia Skoviera & Tessa Wheat

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

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2021 Homecoming Princesses, from L to R: Sophomore Allison Hook; Freshman Gracie Lessor; Senior Danielle Broesch; Senior Decilyn Clark; Senior Monica Lane; Junior Prayla Pyan; and Senior Zoey Parrett. **Submitted photo.**

Powder Puff results could be a matter of perspective

Likely all but Senior girls' Coach Josh Wilson would probably agree the Juniors had a landslide victory

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

In what has become a Merrill Homecoming tradition since 1975, the Merrill High School (MHS) Senior girls faced off against the Junior girls in a game of flag football on Wednesday, Sept. 29, at 7:00 p.m. Known as the Powder Puff game, Jay Stadium was the site to see a team of guys leading the cheerleading while the Lady Jays took to the football field.

The Junior girls in black, coached by Carey Mullenberg and Scott Arneson as lead coaches, led the action against the Senior girls in blue, coached by Josh Olson, Brian Zoromski, and Josh Wilson.

"The Juniors won by a landslide," one spectator said. He lost track after they had scored their 40th point.

Josh Wilson, one of the coaches for the Senior girls had this to say:

"Meeting on the hallowed field of Bluejay Stadium, the Merrill High School Juniors were lucky to escape with a victory at the hands of a far superior Senior women's football team, 42-0. While the Senior girls allowed the Junior team to narrowly win the game, the graduating class of 2022 will be remembered for their athleticism and academic aptitude. Clearly, the vast majority of the fans in attendance were cheering for a Senior victory, and left disap-



The Junior girls had a great game at Wednesday's Powder Puff against the Senior girls. **Joseph Frederick photos.**



These girls are "all in" as the Seniors (blue) take on the Juniors (black) during Homecoming Powder Puff 2021.

pointed and saddened by the loss. The good people of the Merrill community deserved a Senior victory and are welcome to express their frustration and general discontent to the Junior coaching staff."

"Admittedly, I may be a bit biased as a coach of the Seniors," Wilson said, "But I think this expresses the general sentiments shared by all in attendance."

On the other hand ... "My wife said that I should have just said the following: The Seniors lost 42-0. There was a great crowd in attendance that raised money for

a wonderful charity. After the cancellation of the 2020 Powder Puff game, it was great to see so many people on a beautiful Wednesday evening," Wilson added.

His wife might be onto something there in terms of accuracy and ensuring journalistic integrity.

On the other hand, Coach Wilson's [largely imagined] account was more entertaining, if not entirely factual.

Box Score

Class of 2023 Junior Girls 42 -
Class of 2022 Senior Girls 0



Above: The Merrill High School Band plays and marches in the Merrill Homecoming Parade on Saturday, Oct. 2. **Rose Skic photos.**




Right: MHS Senior Danielle Broesch and 2021 Homecoming Queen rides in the Homecoming Parade.



The Merrill Future Farmers of America (FFA) has a float in the Homecoming Parade.



Class floats were one of the highlights of the Homecoming Parade.



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2021 Merrill High School Fall Sports Schedule

Football (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Thursday, Oct. 7 th	Rhineland (JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Friday, Oct. 8 th	Rhineland (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Monday, Oct. 11 th	Rhineland (JV)	Home	5:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 14 th	Medford (JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Volleyball (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Thursday, Oct. 7 th	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV & JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 7 th	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Saturday, Oct. 9 th	Tournament (Varsity)	Home	10:00 am
Tuesday, Oct. 12 th	Stevens Point (JV & JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 12 th	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Thursday, Oct. 14 th	Marshfield (JV & JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 14 th	Marshfield (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Boy Soccer (Varsity & JV)			
Monday, Oct. 11 th	Medford (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Monday, Oct. 11 th	Medford (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 12 th	D. C. Everest (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 12 th	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Thursday, Oct. 14 th	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:00 pm
Cross Country (Varsity & JV)			
Saturday, Oct. 9 th	Invitational (Varsity)	Home	9:00 am
Swimming (Varsity & JV)			
Thursday, Oct. 7 th	Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 14 th	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:30 pm

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