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Dr. Travis Klug adjusts a patient in his new office at Merrill Chiropractic. He opened the practice in August 2021.
Tina L. Scott photo.

Merrill Chiropractic: Klug opens E. Main St. office

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

A new chiropractic office opened east of Center Ave. in Merrill on Aug. 2, 2021. Located at 1219 E. Main St. in the building that was formerly a pawn shop, Travis Klug, DC, now owns and operates Merrill Chiropractic. Currently, he is the only doctor practicing in the office, but the business also employs chiropractic assistant, Kasey Haskins. Everyone loves her, Dr. Klug said. "She has such a welcoming personality and she keeps everything running smoothly at Merrill Chiropractic."

Why chiropractic?

"I grew up going to the chiropractor quite often as a kid, and this grew my interest in the profession at a young age," Dr. Klug said. "I was fascinated by how the human body works and how it has this amazing ability to heal when given the proper tools. I also came to the realization that there are far too many drugs and unnecessary surgeries in the United States."

"I knew that I wanted to help others, and to me, chiropractic just made sense," he said. "Chiropractic

See **CHIROPRACTOR** page 7

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Weiler and DePasse will face off in April County Supervisor race

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

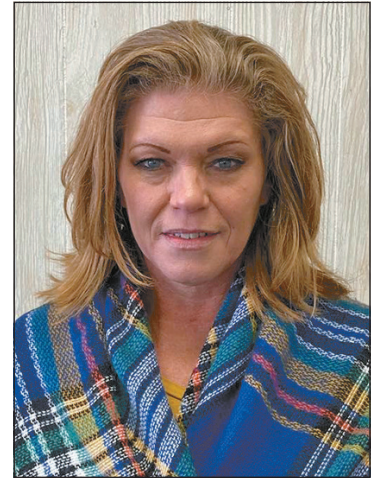
In the Feb. 15, 2022, Primary Election, Jon Weiler and Julie DePasse faced off against incumbent Paul Gilk to determine the two candidates who will go on the April 5, 2022, Spring Election ballot.

In District 12, 124 voters cast their ballots, resulting in Weiler and DePasse garnering the two highest number of votes.

Voters cast their ballots as follows:

- Julie DePasse 86
- Paul Gilk 38
- Jon Weiler 69

Weiler and DePasse will now face off against one another in the April 5 election to determine the new Lincoln County Board Supervisor for District 12.



Jon Weiler and Julie DePasse will be on the April 5, 2022, ballot competing for the position of Lincoln County Board Supervisor for District 12.

REBOOT offers hope and healing to Veterans and First Responders

REBOOT Combat/First Responder Recovery Mission #3 to begin in Merrill

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

REBOOT Combat/First Responder Recovery Mission #3 will begin in Merrill on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at the Northwoods Veterans Post, 601 Johnson St., Merrill. The program will run once a week on Sunday evenings through June 5, 2022, beginning with a meal at 5:00 p.m. and then class from 6:00-7:00 p.m. There is no cost to participate, and childcare can be provided if requested in advance.

REBOOT Recovery is a faith-based trauma healing program. Veterans, First Responders, corrections staff, and spouses are invited to overcome trauma together.

Where other therapies and medications have failed to help, REBOOT offers a 12-week, faith-based, peer-led course to help people overcome service-related trauma through healing courses, practical teaching/training, and supportive community so they can



find hope and healing to move forward with their lives.

"Each week, you'll progress through our trauma healing curriculum with a lesson guided by your local leader. It's not a lecture. It's a conversation," the program emphasizes. "Every participant plays a part in helping one another."

The program is safe, private, and outcomes-driven, utilizing a "unique blend of clinical insight and Christian faith-based support."

Trauma experienced in the line of duty as a combat Veteran, First Responder, or corrections officer can leave scars, cause nightmares, affect relationships, and result in post traumatic stress disorders, leading to feelings of brokenness, loss of control, and hopelessness.

"Trauma is the root cause of suicide," the REBOOT website cites, "and the existing solutions aren't

working. REBOOT delivers healing from trauma that actually works."

"A suicide attempt happens every 22 seconds in the U.S. One life is lost to suicide every 11 minutes. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death among ages 18-39."

REBOOT is making a difference with their Combat Recovery program which launched in 2011, followed in 2018 with a First Responders program, and has helped more than 10,000 people "overcome the trials, tragedies, and traumas of their past." Nearly 300 course locations span 34 states and 7 countries, making REBOOT Recovery the largest peer-led trauma healing program in the world.

REBOOT can help participants experience hope, healing, and a brighter future.

Here in Merrill, the program began in 2019 with Mission #1 with 12 participants. Mission #2 was postponed in 2020 due to COVID and ran in 2021. Now Mission #3 is set to begin, and Veterans, First Responders, corrections staff, and spouses are invited to join. Register at REBOOTRecovery.com.

Contacts for the Merrill program are Corey Dornbrack 715.218.3537 and Tracy Jopek 715.302.8896. Questions can also be emailed to: RebootMerrill@gmail.com.

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Kurtz family receives dream vacation thanks to Wausau Firefighters Charities

MICHAEL J. CAYLOR JR
CONTRIBUTOR

On Monday, Feb. 21, 2022, Tim and Danielle Kurtz met with Chief Corey Bennett at the Merrill Police Department to discuss what they thought would be the details of an upcoming benefit. The benefit, which is being held on March 5 at the Northwoods Veterans Post in Merrill, will benefit the Merrill Police Department Benevolent Association and a local conversation project.

However, that was actually the last thing on Chief Bennett's mind as he led the Kurtz's to the City Council chambers. There, members of the Wausau Firefighters Charities were waiting with a big surprise.

Valerie Caylor, a paramedic with LifeLink III air medical, introduced the group to the Kurtz's. She explained how she and fellow LifeLink III paramedic, Matt Tormohlen, had been discussing the Kurtz family and the untimely early January death of their son, Riley, at the age of 24, and that Riley had been an active member of the Merrill Police Department. Matt, formerly a firefighter paramedic with the Wausau Fire Department, told Valerie he was still a member of the Department's charity group - Wausau Firefighters Charities - and thought Riley's family would be eligible for a charitable gift. Caylor reached out to Det. Sgt. Logan Lange, a former co-worker and friend of Riley's, asking him to write a letter to the charity to explain the loss the family was experiencing. And that led up to the Feb. 21 surprise announcement.



L to R, members of the Wausau Firefighters Charities Executive Board with the Kurtz's: Corey Parsch, Chris Berndt, Danielle and Tim Kurtz, Matt Tormohlen, and Jeremy Kopp.

Submitted photo.

After careful consideration, Wausau Firefighters Charities, which was formed by the Wausau Firefighters Local 415, selected the Kurtz family for an all-expense paid, 11-day vacation to Alaska. There, the family will spend six nights on the Kenai River in Coopers Landing, Alaska. They will take the Bridal Veil Waterfall kayak tour and experience its beautiful ghost forest and the breathtaking Bridal Veil Waterfall. The trip also includes a boat tour of the icy blue waters of Resurrection

See VACATION page 5

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Pet of the Week



Hi there, I have been named **Kelly** by the staff here. I came in as a surrender as I was living outside at someone's house along with Nemo and a few kittens. I am a bit shy and nervous but I am doing my best to be brave as I wait to find my forever home. The shelter staff give me lots of pets and it does feel good to be given attention and so far I have enjoyed being warm, fed and safe at the shelter. My adoption fee will include my spay, up to date vaccinations and microchip. *Won't you stop down and meet me and my little surrendered family today?*

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Ader named as Emeritus Director of Merrill Area Concert Association



Helene Ader was recognized with a plaque honoring her for 45 years of service to the Merrill Area Concert Association and to the Merrill community.

Submitted photo.

At a March 2, 2022, Merrill Area Concert Association (MACA) event, Merrill resident Helene Ader was presented with a plaque honoring her for 45 years of service to the Concert Association and to the Merrill community. In recognition of her years of service, Helene has been named as an Emeritus Director of MACA, with all the rights and privileges of that honor.

After receiving the award, Helene said, "First of all, I want you to know how pleased I am with the award. To be recognized for contributions to MACA is wonderful, but to also acknowledge other contributions over the years was very special."

In addition to her service with MACA, Helene was on the Board of Bell Tower Residence for nine years and worked on their capital campaign. She also spent several years on the Good Samaritan Hospital Board. Helene has been a member of St. John's Church for more than 50 years, singing, accompanying, and directing the church choir.

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Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is **Rayah LaCrosse**
Daughter of **Scott & Lindsay LaCrosse**
Rayah is in Kindergarten at New Testament Church Christian Academy. She was nominated by Pastor Paul Hohman.



What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
Purple word building is my favorite because I like the stories.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
I like chapel because we learn about God. I also like break time because we get to play outside.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
I want to be a veterinarian because I like puppies.

Rayah is very tender hearted. She is full of joy and compassion. She brightens the classroom with her beautiful smile. She is very eager to learn and always willing to help. Rayah is very quick witted and loves telling jokes to help people laugh.

- Pastor Paul Hohman

Student of the Week Sponsored by:
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Merrill Parks and Rec. Department receives \$140,000 grant for purchase of 70 acres to expand Memorial Forest

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, Gov. Evers announced more than \$20 Million in Tourism Capital Investment Grants for projects across the state, including a \$140,000 grant to the City of Merrill Parks and Recreation Department.

The City will receive the grant to purchase 70 acres of land that is immediately adjacent to their 950-acre Memorial Forest.

“The Merrill Memorial Forest is located at W3259 Heineman Road (where Hwy. R and Spring Lake Rd. meet up and turn into Heineman Rd.),” said Dan Wendorf, Merrill Area Parks and Recreation Director.

The land being purchased “is immediately adjacent to our Memorial Forest so it is a very good natural fit for the property to add that piece,” Wendorf said. “We are working on the purchase now, it will take a bit working with the grant to finalize, but hopefully within the next month or so we will make it official.”

Merrill Memorial Forest is a 920-acre wildlife habitat area with walking trails for those who want peace and solitude, and it is also a public hunting ground.

The park includes an 80-acre wetland area, recently named the Don Manthei Recreational and Wetland Area.

In recent years, the City of Merrill has invested in multi-use pedestrian and bike trails which has increased visitors to the park, the Governor’s press release said. “The additional 70 acres of land will allow them to extend and expand their pedestrian and bike trails to accommodate more visitors.”

Wendorf confirms that, adding that the grant “will benefit the tourism industry by allowing us to continue to develop more bike and pedestrian trails to our already extensive network at the Memorial Forest.”

“We wrote a few grants a few years ago and received funding to create more bike trails at the Memorial Forest and have seen our usage increase steadily ever since,” he said. “The silent sports industry is growing, and we have the perfect location to capture some of that right here in Merrill. We also connected our trails to the Underdown trails, giving us one of the best networks of bike trails in all of Northern Wisconsin. And because of that, we have been able to host some nice bike races and events and the list is grow-

ing, and are hoping more will follow.”

For example, the Merrill Area Parks and Recreation Department hosted the Badger State Games Fat Tire Bike Races at the Memorial Forest on Feb. 19, 2022.

“We are fortunate to have amazing partners that have helped us develop these trails,” Wendorf said.

Chris Schotz, a local resident whose passion is biking and trail development, has been instrumental in partnering with us on all of these projects, he said.

“The City of Merrill Parks & Recreation Department is thrilled to be chosen to receive the Tourism Grant to purchase this property to continue to add to the rich recreational diversity we offer,” Wendorf said. “The purchase of this 70-acre parcel will allow us to continue to invest in an area where we are seeing tremendous interest and growth, not only within our own community, but with visitors into our beautiful community. It is another

way to continue to make the Merrill Area a destination!”

Created and announced by Gov. Evers in August of 2021, the Tourism Capital Investment Grant Program was funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act, and grants could be used to build, expand, or maintain buildings, travel-related infrastructure, or public attractions. The application period ran from Oct. 7 to Nov. 19, 2021. The grants awarded range from \$29,000 to the maximum of \$3.5 million, and due to significant interest in the program, additional funding was allocated to support more projects across the state, the Governor’s press release said.

“I know this investment will make a big difference for communities that rely on tourism dollars to thrive,” said Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) Secretary-designee Kathy Blumenfeld, the department that administered the grant process.

World Championship Merrill Ice Drags Week 2

On Feb. 5, 2022, it was People’s Choice Day at the World Championship Ice Drags in Merrill. It was a cold start with temps below zero at 8:00 a.m. for setup but they rose to a balmy 15 degrees by the end of the day. That didn’t stop this group of diehard ice draggers. And it still drew racers from as far away as Fulton, Ill., for the third time this season.

“Record class entries and many new racers prove there is still great interest in this legendary one of a kind, home-grown event! Thank you to all who sponsor, spectate, and race!” said Cindy Opichka, President of Merrill Ice Dragers Inc.

2WD	#1 Linda Krebsbach	MPH 43.61
	#2 Keegan Lawrie	
4X4	#1 Scott Ullman	MPH 103.75
	#2 Andy Nehrbass	MPH 108.75
11.0 Sec	#1 Scott Ostrowski	E.T 11.36
	MPH 59.03	
	#2 Erin Dombek	E.T 11.69
	MPH 59.19	
10.0 Sec	#1 Mike Degner	E.T 10.48
	MPH 57.10	
	#2 Ryan Dewar	E.T 10.29
	MPH 59.34	
9.0 Sec	#1 Travis Arndt	E.T 9.11
	MPH 69.77	
	#2 Kevin Lallemond	E.T 9.13
	MPH 78.07	
8.5 Sec	#1 Jacob Bloechl	E.T 8.66
	MPH 64.22	
	#2 Duston Koenig	E.T 8.74
	MPH 80.42	
Easy Street II	#1 Aaron Schnabl	E.T 9.68
	MPH 79.83	
	#2 Kevin Pophal	E.T 9.03
	MPH 78.95	
8.0 Sec	#1 Jacob Bloechl	E.T 8.29
	MPH 74.55	

Week 2 Results:

#2 Austin Willis	E.T 12.92
MPH 43.61	
Ultimate Street	
#1 Dusty Nielsen	E.T 7.
MPH 103.75	
#2 Austin Willis	E.T 7.49
MPH 108.75	
7.0 Sec	
#1 Mike Bohman	E.T 7.54
MPH 100.82	
#2 Stephan Pophal	E.T 7.55
MPH 104.52	
Modified	
#1 Ruthie Redeker	E.T 6.46
MPH 114.70	
#2 Dusty Nielsen	E.T 8.38
MPH 75.75	
Altered	
#1 Ryan Podeweltz	E.T 7.29
MPH 109.69	
#2 Mike Bohman	E.T 8.14
MPH 74.20	
Open Door	
#1 Ruthie Redeker	E.T 6.76
MPH 120.11	
#2 Ryan Podeweltz	E.T 8.25
MPH 86.26	
Outlaw	
#1 Ryan Blake	E.T 7.28
MPH 80.98	
#2 Ruthie Redeker	E.T n/a
MPH n/a	

World Championship Merrill Ice Drags Week 3

The World Championship Merrill Ice Dragers Inc. Memorial Race 2022 was run Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, with the Ice Dragger families and friends sharing stories of three legendary Ice Dragers who unfortunately passed away this year: Lon Woller, Denny Gruenwald, and Wild Bill Frazier. These were three amazing car builders, racers, fathers, brothers, uncles, and friends. The Merrill Ice Drags wouldn’t be what it is today without them. “They will be missed!” Opichka said. “In honor of Lon, Denny, Bill, and all our racers that are no longer with us, this week’s for you!”

This year the traveling trophy for Modified win goes to Ryan Blake. E.T 7.295 MPH 110.

2WD	#1 Linda Krebsbach	24.374
	#2 Mike Trudell	27.145
4X4	#1 Scott Ullman	16.076
	#2 Matt Wendricks	18.695
11.0 Sec	#1 Harley Hixon	E.T 11.266
	MPH 51.44	
	#2 Scott Ostrowski	E.T 11.111
	MPH 63.70	
Easy Street II	#1 Kevin Pophal	E.T 8.883
	MPH 79.77	
	#2 Jeremy Karau	E.T 10.895
	MPH 60.13	
10.0 Sec	#1 Travis Arndt	E.T 10.061
	MPH 57.49	
	#2 Adalyn Blake	E.T 10.283
	MPH 62.53	
Ultimate Street	#1 Austin Willis	E.T 7.396
	MPH 110.11	
	#2 Cody Ladowski	E.T 7.995
	MPH 103.18	
9.0 Sec	#1 Travis Arndt	E.T 9.049
	MPH 90.75	
	#2 Eugene	E.T 9.474
	MPH 76.08	
Modified	#1 Ryan	E.T 7.295
	MPH 110.05	

Week 3 Results:

#2 Zach Runge	E.T 8.660
MPH 86.29	
8.5 Sec	
#1 Pat Weix	E.T 8.656
MPH 82.28	
#2 Duston Koenig	E.T 8.785
MPH 81.67	
Altered	
#1 Ryan Podeweltz	E.T 7.633
MPH 109.33	
#2 Mike Bohman	E.T 8.173
MPH 85.97	
8.0 Sec	
#1 Jacob Bloechl	E.T 8.068
MPH 93.35	
#2 Cody Ladowski	E.T 7.950
MPH 102.85	
7.0 Sec	
#1 Stephan Pophal	E.T 7.748
MPH 101.29	
#2 Cj Durbin	E.T 8.070
MPH 106.40	
Open Door Slammer	
#1 Ryan Blake	E.T 7.760
MPH 82.55	
#2 Dusty Nielsen	E.T 11.338
MPH 46.28	
Outlaw	
#1 Ryan Blake	E.T 7.247
MPH 109.54	
#2 Kyle Bohman	E.T 9.411
MPH 73.89	

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Bacon Cheddar Beef Patties Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$5.99	Assorted Milk & Dark Chocolate Candies 9.4 oz. ONLY \$1.89	Crispy Creamy Peanut Butter Wafers 6.5 oz. ONLY \$0.49
Turkey Burgers Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$4.99	Milk Chocolate Candies - w/Strawberry Creme Filling 8.4 oz. ONLY \$1.89	Sparkling Sangria Cocktail 25.4 oz. ONLY \$1.69
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OBITUARIES



Alma Jean 'Jean' Schulz, 92, of Tomahawk passed away on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at Milestone Senior Living. She was under the care of her family, the Milestone Senior Living staff, and Compassus Hospice Services.

Jean was born on December 27, 1929, in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. She was the first born of the late Bruno and Ella (Nyberg) Kahle. Jean grew up on the family farm and graduated from Tomahawk High School in 1947. She married

the love of her life, Donald Schulz, on October 11, 1952, at First Presbyterian Church in Merrill. They shared fifty wonderful years together, forty-five in Irma and five in Tomahawk prior to his death in 2002.

Jean worked for Hufschmid Bros. in Tomahawk in her earlier years. Later on, she worked as a bookkeeper and secretary for Van Der Geest Livestock, Nicklaus Enterprises Inc., and part-time at Tomahawk Sports Center. In addition to this she was also the Town of Birch Treasurer for twenty-eight years. Jean enjoyed gardening, traveling with her late husband, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Jean is survived by her daughters, Kathy Schulz, Cindy (Chuck) Medinger, and Judy (Chris Bonin) Schulz; grandchildren, Joelle Olson, Tana Evans, Stacy Maner, and Cole Brooks; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Rita Hilgendorf; and brother, William 'Bill' Kahle. Jean was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Schulz; parents, Bruno and Ella Kahle; daughter, Susan Schulz; and brother, Norm Kahle.

A private funeral service will be held and burial will take place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, assisted the family.

The family would like to thank Milestone Senior Living and Compassus Hospice Service for their compassionate care for mom.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Fred D Henkelman, 89, died peacefully at home on Thursday, February 17th, 2022. He was born on July 27, 1932 in the Town of Hewitt, son of the late Fred Sr & Margaret (Raasch) Henkelman. On July 10, 1954 he married Gerda Grosskurth at Peace Lutheran Church in Antigo. She preceded him in death on September 23, 2008.

Fred owned and operated the family dairy farm in the Town of Hewitt. He also did mason work, roofing, logging, and cut and hauled firewood. Fred was a volunteer on the Town of Hewitt Fire Department for over 25 years, served as a town supervisor and as the town chairman. He was also very active at church serving on the church council, and managed the softball and dartball teams. He enjoyed playing and watching baseball, polka dancing, pool league, trapping, cutting boughs, making wreaths, playing BINGO, and hunting, especially out West.

Survivors include his children: Dennis Henkelman, California, Tom (Marka) Henkelman, Merrill, Terry Caldwell, Virginia, and Faye DeLosh, Merrill; eight grandchildren: Jaime (TJ) Gooden, Dana (Eric) Woller, Lauren Henkelman (Matt Clawson), Cheyenne Caldwell, Katelynn DeLosh, Kurtis DeLosh, Cole Henkelman (Ally Geurink) and Wyatt Howard; six great-grandchildren: Allison, Caleb, Jayden, Evan, Nora, and Zach; brother-in-law Karl (Janice) Grosskurth, sisters-in-laws Thea Lee and Rosemary Grosskurth, along with cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Besides his parents and wife, Gerda, he was preceded in death by an infant daughter, brother Lawrence (Marianne) Henkelman, sister Esther Dittmar, sister-in-law Irmgard (Ervin) Bunge, brothers-in-law Ernest, Werner, and Siegfried Grosskurth.

Visitation will be from 9AM-11:30AM on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at Calvary Lutheran Church, Town of Pine River. Services will begin at 11:30AM. The Reverend Ted Gulhaugen will officiate.

The family would like to thank the staff at Interim Health-care for their extensive knowledge, loving kindness, and compassion. You are all very much appreciated.

Online condolences may be expressed at <http://www.petersonkraemer.com>



James D. Otto, age 66, of Harshaw, WI, passed peacefully at Marshfield Medical Center in Minocqua, WI, on February 14, 2022. He was greeted at heaven's Valentine's party by his sweet granddaughter, Elise, who passed on February 14, 2010; his mom and dad, James A. and Lorraine Otto; his brothers, Thor Otto, Terry Otto, and John Otto; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Leon and Frankie Sailer; and other family members and friends who have been waiting

for him.

Jim was born on September 30, 1955. He married Sherry (Sailer) Otto on August 21, 1976. Jim and Sherry are blessed with a wonderful family including their son, Jim (Kelly) Otto; daughter, Jacquie (Eric) Bohne; granddaughters, Alena and Adalyn Bohne (aka his nurses/therapists). We made a great team and fought the tough fight, but Gramps got tired. Jim is also survived by his brother, Jeff (Cathy) Otto; his sisters-in-law, Teresa Otto, Karen Otto, and Donna Otto; and other relatives and really good friends.

Jim was a truck driver and loyal Teamster. He made lifelong friends at Roundy's, Holland, Merrill Sand & Gravel, and a few other trucking companies along the way. He was the proud chair of the National United Committee to Protect Pensions, Minocqua/Wausau Committee. This nationwide committee was successful in preserving the hard-earned pensions of Teamsters. In his earlier days, Jim was an avid snowmobiler and president of the Harshaw Wanderer's Snowmobile Club. His summer love was the Hodag Country Festival. Jim was the campground organizer, and this event has turned into a family tradition. Happy Hodag!

Graveside services for James Otto will be held on Friday, February 25, 2022, at 10:30 AM, at the Union Grove Cemetery in Harshaw. A celebration of life gathering will follow at Rondele Ranch located at 8959 County Highway K in Harshaw and will conclude at 3:00 PM. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Jim's obituary and leave online condolences at generationsfuneral.com.



Michelle Patricia Polacek, age 43, of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on February 18, 2022, in Merrill, Wisconsin. She was born on January 31, 1979, to Patrick Lee Willis and Patti Mary Romatoski in Merrill, Wisconsin.

Her affectionate smile caught the eye of Gregory Matthew Polacek and they were married on September 21, 2019 in Merrill, Wisconsin. It was love at first sight. Together they opened Overboard Bar & Grill. Michelle was a Green Bay

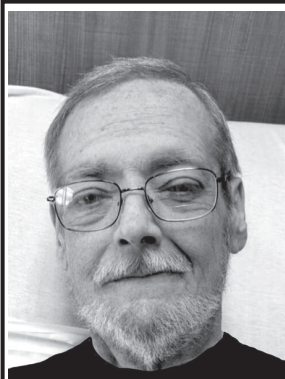
Packers fan, lover of blue grass music, and the life of the party. She was funny, stubborn, and extremely generous. Her and Greg have held many benefits at their bar and grill including Toys for Tots, Humane Society, and other various charities.

Michelle was incredibly strong willed. She had the best laugh and will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Michelle is survived by her husband, Greg Polacek, children: Dakota Willis, Brianna Taylor, and Owen Taylor, step-daughter: Samantha Taylor, her grandbaby Elikai Taylor who was the light of her life, siblings: Kim Willis, Brent (Carrie) Clark, Seth (Sara) Clark, and Kelly (Chris) Clark, and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Mary Romatoski, father, Patrick Willis, and stepson Brandon Polacek.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at 2:00 pm and Waid Funeral Home. A visitation will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2022, from 11:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home. A Celebration of Life and luncheon will follow the service at the Overboard Bar and Grill.

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



Edmund A. Winchell, age 65, of Merrill, passed away Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at Marshfield Medical Center - Marshfield.

Ed was born July 20, 1956, in Merrill, son of the late Stillman and Cornelia (Amelse) Winchell. Ed had worked at Northern Specialty, CWA as a truck driver, and Kolbe & Kolbe Windows. He also worked for Chub Van-DerGeest's cattle company. Ed enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, and having fires. He

loved spending time with his grandchildren; his family was the most important thing.

Survivors include his daughter, Celina Lee (Eric Hanson) of Merrill; step-daughter, Rachel Huey (Ryan Reifschneider) of Hartford, WI; grandchildren, Raelyn, Amaya, Maliki, Lorek, and one grandchild on-the-way; sisters, Sandra 'Sandy' Winchell of Merrill and Anna Winchell (Clarence 'Chum' Hayek) of Wausau; brothers, Levi Winchell of Merrill, Gerald (Nancy) Winchell of Mayville, Gerard Winchell of Rothschild, and Louis (Mary Ann) Winchell of Hatley; sister-in-law, Donna Winchell; and many nieces and nephews. Ed was preceded in death by his parents, Stillman and Cornelia Winchell; and his siblings, infant Agnes Winchell, Carol Winchell, Susan Winchell, and Emmitt Winchell.

A memorial service for Ed will be held at a later date. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Janean B. Hass, age 87, of Merrill, passed away on Friday, February 4, 2022, while under the care of Agrace Hospice Care in Madison. She was born on October 28, 1934, to the late Helmuth and Erna (Hass) Haehlke. Janean attended and graduated from Athens High School. Soon after high school, Janean met the love of her life, Roger Hass, and the two exchanged marriage vows on April 6, 1958, in Athens, WI. Sadly, Roger preceded her in death

on October 29, 2021.

Janean worked as a hair stylist during her younger years, as well as working in the nearby cranberry marsh. Later in life, Janean enjoyed her time at home as a homemaker, wife, and mother. She loved to cook and bake, was very talented at playing the accordion and enjoyed going polka dancing with Roger. Janean was also an avid Green Bay Packers fan and looked forward to playing cards with family and friends, especially Sheepshead. She also enjoyed playing the dominos game, Mexican Train. Janean is remembered as having a strong faith in God, a beaming smile and loved her animals! She was also known for being a prankster and telling jokes. Janean was a member at Immanuel Lutheran Church in the town of Corning. She will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Janean is survived by her daughters: Lauren (Garth) Yeazel and Kimberly (Ryan) Schmid and nieces and nephews: Sherry, Jerry, Nancy, Rick, Todd and Cammie. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband: Roger Hass, son: Darrell Hass, sister: Karen Baumann and brother-in-laws: Clifford (Barbara) Hass, Carlos (Carol) Hass and Ronald (Ira) Hass.

A Memorial Service for Janean will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022, at 12pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church in the town of Corning, with a visitation from 11am until the time of the service. Pastor Joel Danner will officiate.

For those unable to attend, the service will be recorded and available for viewing under her obituary on the funeral home website.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Janean's name may be directed to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lincoln County Humane Society, Agrace Hospice Care in Madison, or Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services in Wausau.

The family wishes to sincerely thank the staff at both Agrace Hospice Care and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services for their support, attention, and care that they showed to both Janean and her family during her final days.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

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OBITUARIES



Joyce R. Woller, 85, of Merrill, passed away on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff.

Joyce was born on January 30, 1937, in the town of Corning, daughter of the late Florian and Bertha (Wittwer) Zogg. She married Leroy Woller on September 14, 1957, at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ in Merrill and they recently celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary. Joyce was homemaker for most of her life, in her earlier years she was a part of the 'Sweet Adaline's' singing group

worked at Holy Cross Hospital and Ward Paper. She was proud of her Swiss heritage, and her farm. Joyce also enjoyed music, gardening, bird watching, and her cats.

Joyce is survived by her husband, Leroy Woller of Merrill; daughters, Lynn (Dave) Wegner of Merrill, Cindy (Darrell) Steen of Dorchester, and Laurie (Scott) Wegner of Merrill; sons, Evan (Dawn) Woller, and Marlon (Robyn) Woller both of Merrill; nine grandchildren, Adam (Stephanie) Wegner, Amber Wegner, Neil Duranceau, Justin (Nikki) Duranceau, Breanna (Kyle) Hoffman, Katelynn Woller, Cordell Woller, Grant Woller, and Elena Woller; ten great-grandchildren; sister, Alice (Ervin) Steen of Rib Lake; and brothers, Andrew Zogg of Merrill, and Paul Zogg of Avon, Montana. Joyce was preceded in death by her parents, Florian and Bertha Zogg; sisters, Elizabeth Lipka and Mary Stahel; and niece, Lynette Zogg.

The funeral service will begin at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, February 26, 2022, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Town of Berlin. The Rev. Andrew DeGier will officiate. Burial will take place in Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, Town of Berlin. Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m. Saturday at the church. The Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill is assisting the family.

Special thanks to the staff at Woodland Court (Merrill) and Howard Young ICU (Woodruff).

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



Ronald William Hirte, age 81, peacefully and quietly passed away on February 14, 2022, in Marshfield, WI.

Shortly before passing Ron was visited by his 3 sons, Dan, Adam, Brad, and loving granddaughter Amanda. We, his sons, would like to believe hearing us boys laughing and swapping stories and laughing even more about our different experiences with our father over the years reminded him how much he meant to ALL of us and the impact he has left

upon all of our lives... Hearing our laughter and love, forever the family protector, his mind was finally at peace knowing we were ALL going to be all right, he was finally able to drift off and enter Jesus's Arms.

Rest in the Peace you so rightly deserve...AMEN

He was born on June 23, 1940, to the late Harold and Pearl (Barr) Hirte in Pembine, Wisconsin.

On September 10, 1960, Ronald married Patricia "Pat" Ann Beyer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Ron battled dementia near end of life, yet he always knew who the love of his life was, often referring to her as "Granny."

Ronald joined law enforcement because of a strong desire to help people. He graduated from the Milwaukee Police Academy and started his law enforcement career as a beat cop, eventually transferring to Harbor Patrol. While living in Milwaukee Ron was also a Licensed Charter Boat Captain.

Looking to return to his country roots, Ron eventually packed up the family and moved to Lincoln County where he would spend the balance of his law enforcement career on the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department. Ron enjoyed competitive shooting with the department. He was one of the founders of the Special Response Team (SRT) in Lincoln County. After 40 years in law enforcement, Ronald retired from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department as a Detective Lieutenant. Ron maintained in contact with his fellow law enforcement partners after retirement enjoying getting together with members to catch up and reminisce often over coffee and breakfast.

Ronald was a hard worker with a diverse work knowledge, a bit of "Jack of all trades." He was always there whenever family needed him regardless the project or task. Ron enjoyed fishing, hunting/shooting, reloading his own ammo, and reading any gun book/magazine he could get his hands on. Ron grew up around horses, so it was only natural he loved caring for horses. At one point, Pat and Ron had 21 Arabian horses on their "hobby" farm. Ron always had some sort of project going on be it cleaning out box stalls, to prepping/ working on his 27' boat for fishing the Great Lakes. Ron and Pat both enjoyed many years of getting away to their timeshare at Christmas Mountain, down in the Wisconsin Dells, where Ron enjoyed time relaxing in the hot tub. Ron also enjoyed getaways to visit Family and Friends.

Ronald is survived by his beloved wife of 61+ years, Patricia Hirte and children: Daniel Hirte, Adam (Julie) Hirte, Dawn (Jerry) Brown, Linda Hirte, and Brad Hirte, grandchildren: Andy, Amanda, Ronald, Shawn, Nya, Dakota, Drake, and Destiny, great grandchildren: Terrell, and Adella, siblings: Richard (Margaret) Hirte, and Sandy (Jim) Metzger. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Beverly Zbacnik, and parents-in-law, Clarence "Jack" and Viola Beyer.

Per Ron's wishes, no services are scheduled at this time. Cremation to take place.

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



Patricia Ann Garnett, age 86, passed away on February 11, 2022, at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, Wisconsin. She was born on January 28, 1936, in Manitowoc, Wisconsin to the late Arthur and Velma (Pierce) Neuenfeldt.

On November 11, 1966, Patricia married Oscar William Garnett at the courthouse in Ashtabula, Ohio. Oscar had 6 children, 3 of which are surviving: Wendy, Bonnie and Janice. He preceded her in death on August 1, 2005. She had been

previously married to John W. Creamer, who also preceded her in death in 1999. John and Patricia had 4 children together: Barbara, Julie, Cynthia, and John.

Back in the day, Patricia loved to crochet, read, and bask in the sun. She especially enjoyed music, the beach, and playing the card game, Pinnacle. She was a huge Bingo fan and loved going out to breakfast with a friend and her sister.

During her lifetime, she faced many hardships, but she never complained. She will be missed dearly by those who knew her.

Patricia is survived by her children: Barbara (Jimmy) Xedos of LA, Julie Gilbert of PA, Cynthia Schmidt of WI, John (Sarah) Creamer of PA, Wendy Huston of PA, Bonnie Garnett of OK, and Janice DiGiacomo of OH, 23 grandchildren, many great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. She is preceded in death by her parents, children: Rose Newman, Danny Garnett, and Linda Noble, son-in-law: Mark Schmidt and siblings Joanne Mushel, and Arthur Neuenfeldt.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 11:00 am at Waid Funeral Home. A visitation will be held from 10:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home. Inurnment at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Pine Crest Nursing Home in memory of Patricia Garnett.

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



Robert 'Bob' Lee Kultgen, age 70, of Merrill, passed away on Sunday, February 13, 2022, at the Marshfield Medical Center-Weston. Bob was born on September 6, 1951, to the late Edward and Amanda (Simon) Kultgen in Waukesha, WI, and was the youngest of his 3 siblings. He attended and graduated from Port Washington High School with the class of 1969. Bob bravely and proudly enlisted in the United

States Army on June 26, 1970, and was honorably discharged on January 10, 1972. He served in Korea on the DMZ. Bob continued to serve his country in the Army Reserves until 1976. He then met the love of his life, Cherie Heath, and the two lovingly exchanged marriage vows in Merrill on March 4, 1978. She survives. Bob worked at the Tomahawk Paper Mill for over 30 years, the majority of that he was a machine operator. He was also a beef farmer and spent many years farming with his uncle, Bill Schupp. Bob loved to travel, especially out West and to Arizona. He was an avid NASCAR fan and enjoyed being outdoors hunting deer or bear or going fishing for the day. Bob also enjoyed his trips to the casino, and always had his Westerns on. He enjoyed having pets and animals around and had some favorites over the years. Bob was fortunate enough to have a kidney transplant in 2008, which prolonged his quality of life. He was a hard-working man, that was dedicated to his family and would help where needed. Bob was a member of St. Stephen's United Church of Christ in Merrill. He has left memories in the hearts and minds of his loved ones.

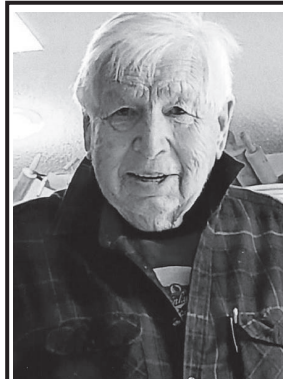
Bob will be sadly missed by his wife: Cherie Kultgen of Merrill, son: Aaron (fiancé Brook, with her children: Gracie and Tanner) Kultgen of Merrill, daughter: Shelly (Tony) Bruno of Blaine, MN, 3 grandchildren: Simon, Willow and Laney, brother: Larry (Barb) Kultgen of Cedar Grove, WI, sister: Linda Marciniak of Cedarburg, WI, along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his father and mother-in-law: Duane and Ruth Heath, brothers-in-law: Russ Marciniak and Greg Heath and sister-in-law: Pat Woller.

In lieu of flowers, family requests that donations in Bob's name be made to either the Never Forgotten Honor Flight or the Lincoln County Humane Society.

Bob's family would like to thank the Prairie River Davita dialysis clinic in Merrill for their support, care and concern for Bob and his family, as well as the Marshfield Medical Center-Weston for their kindness and efforts in Bob's last days.

A Celebration of Life for Bob was held on Saturday, February 19, 2022, from 11am until 2pm at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill, with military honors being performed at the funeral home at 2pm.

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



Arvin H. Zastrow, 85, died Wednesday, February 16, 2022 surrounded by his family.

He was born December 10, 1936 in Wausau, son of the late Reno and Elmira (Brandt) Zastrow. On May 23, 1958 he married Kathleen Strassman at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Wausau.

Arvin worked in the construction field prior to retirement and enjoyed riding around with family pointing out the various jobs he completed.

After retirement, Arvin and his wife owned Little River Antiques, an antique store north of Tomahawk, that allowed them to enjoy their hobby of treasure hunting.

Arvin spent many weekends searching out the perfect garage sale, flea market, auction and estate sale to find unique items for his store. He may have even kept an item or two for his own personal collection of belt buckles and beer steins.

He especially loved visiting with the many tourists and locals who came into the store repeatedly. After closing the store, Arvin decided to downsize the business and move his hobby to a booth in the antique mall in Minocqua.

Arvin and Kathy also took many road trips together, visiting small towns in Wisconsin and neighboring states, to appreciate the countryside and hunt for more collectibles.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Kathleen Zastrow; daughters, Terri (Robby Alvis) Zastrow and Kelly (Shawn) Fischer. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral Services was held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, February 20, 2022 at Peterson/Kraemer Funeral Home, 1302 Sixth Street, Wausau. Rev. Eric Hauan officiated. Visitation took place Sunday from 1:00 p.m. until the time of services all at the Sixth Street funeral home.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.petersonkraemer.com

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VACATION from page 2

Bay along with its glaciers, snow capped mountains, and dramatic cliffs. The trip will include plenty of time to fish, and the last few days in the Last Frontier will culminate with a guided fishing trip for large Alaska salmon with Coopers Landing fishing guides.

Wausau Firefighter Corey Parsch told the Kurtz family that when they learned of Riley's deep affection for hunting and fishing, they felt this trip was ideal for them. Wausau Firefighters Charities awarded the first such trip to the family of Det. Jason Weiland from the Everest Metro Police Department, who died in the

line of duty in 2017. Parsch said the charity feels that no matter how an emergency responder passes, deaths such as Riley's affect everyone. The purpose of the vacation is to provide downtime for the family so they may reflect on the loss of their loved one and the memories of the time they had together.

Tim Kurtz said a vacation to Alaska was a dream he never thought he would see, but now he will be able to enjoy it with his family, knowing that Riley will be watching over every cast they make.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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Advertisement for Electronic Bids For Construction at Merrill Municipal Airport, Merrill, Wisconsin. Project no. RRL1002 (AIP-12) **THIS PROJECT WILL BE ELECTRONICALLY BID. Paper bids will NOT be accepted or allowed. Sealed ELECTRONIC proposals for the work described herein will be received until 2:00 p.m., local time, Thursday, March 17, 2022,** by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics, on behalf of the Secretary, authorized agent for The City of Merrill, in accordance with Wis. Stat. §114.32(3). Bids will be unsealed (electronically opened) as provided above and will be publicly read. The bid opening will be broadcast live via Teams. The correct meeting and call-in information for the bid opening is: Microsoft Teams meeting. **Join on your computer or mobile app.** Click here to join the meeting. **Or call in (audio only) +1 608-571-2209, 926244708#**United States, Madison. Phone Conference ID: 926 244 708#. This contract is federally funded with an established DBE goal, dollar values will not be shown until after the 24-hour supplemental information timeline has expired for DBE documentation submission and bid responsiveness has been determined by the Department. Bids determined to be non-responsive will not have results posted. The bid results will be posted to the Bureau of Aeronautics' website and BidExpress.com here: <https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/doing-business/aeronautics/airports/arpt-bidinfo.aspx> <https://bidexpress.com/businesses/5167> **Electronic Bid submission:** Bids must be submitted via the bidexpress.com bidding service. **No paper bids will be accepted.** Bids will not be accepted past the established deadline for the close of bids. **Description of work:** Base Bid: Pavement Maintenance. Alternate Bid #1: T-Hangar Drainage Improvements. Alternate Bid #2: Apron Expansion. **Estimate of major quantities:** Base Bid: Painting, White, Waterborne, Type I 16,000 SF; Crack Filling Asphalt Pavement (Mastic) 7000 LF; Crack Filling Asphalt Pavement (Poly Fiber) 75,000 LF; Asphalt Surface Treatment 114,000 SY. Alternate Bid #1: Excavation Common 3,000 CY; Base Aggregate Dense, 1 1/2-Inch 700 CY; Select Crushed Material 1,400 CY; Asphaltic Surface 450 TON; Mulching, Method B (Wood Fiber) 1,800 SY; Sawing Asphalt 350 LF. Alternate Bid #2: Base Aggregate Dense, 1 1/2-Inch (Undistributed) 500 CY; Prepare Foundation for Asphaltic Paving 1 LS; HMA Pavement 3MT 58-43 S 750 TON; HMA Pavement 4MT 58-34 H 960 TON; Mulching, Method B (Wood Fiber) 2,000 SY; Sawing Asphalt 400 LF; Medium Intensity Taxiway Light, L-861(L) 4 EA; Aircraft Tie Downs 10 SET. DBE Goal: 6.10% Contract Completion Time: 24 working days. **Proposals:** Proposal forms are included with the plans and specifications, and are subject to the provisions of Wis. Stat. §66.0901(7). **Plans and specifications:** Plans and specifications can be obtained free of charge and at the following site: <https://bidexpress.com/businesses/5> **Proposal ELECTRONIC Submission:** This contract is **being electronically bid.** The bid template within BidExpress.com platform established for the project includes all elements required to be submitted with the contract. Required fields are established within the template. Automatic checking of the bid proposal will identify if any required fields are missing and alert the bidder to complete the missing information prior to final submission. Submission of an incomplete bid will result in the bid not being opened, and/or rejected as non-responsive. **Plan holder registration required:** Plans and specifications are available to anyone after completing a simple registration. **There is NO cost to obtain a registration.** Registration is required to be recorded as a plan holder. Registered plan holders will be notified of important project information such as issuance of addendums or other critical information. Only the prime or general contractor selecting to submit a bid is required to obtain additional Digital ID credentials. Please see the BOA website notice 2 for information on how to register. Bureau Transition to Electronic Bidding - Notice 2 (wisconsin.gov). **Bidder Digital ID Required:** Firms who select to submit a bid **MUST also obtain a free digital ID in addition to registering.** Obtaining a digital ID is relatively quick, however it may take a couple of days to complete the process. Please request and obtain registration and digital ID's as early as possible to not jeopardize your ability to submit a bid. **There is NO cost to obtain a digital ID.** Please see the BOA website Notice 2 for information on how to obtain a digital ID. Bureau Transition to Electronic Bidding - Notice 2 (wisconsin.gov). **Cost to bid:** There are two options for bidders to submit bids: A cost of \$35 per project, or a monthly subscription wherein the bidder is able to submit bids for all projects in bidexpress.com system for \$50 per month. Subscriptions can be turned on

Legals 7700

and off at any time by the registered user. Only the prime or general contractor submitting a bid are responsible for payment. **Proposal guaranty:** A bid security in the amount of 5% of the total amount of the bid is required for the contract. Each proposal must be accompanied by a bid bond, certificate of annual bid bond, a certified check, bank's draft, bank's check, or postal money order made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary by 5% of the total amount bid. The electronic template will allow the following options for meeting the proposal guaranty. E-Verify bid bond (Surety2000 & SurePath), uploading a copy of the bid bond or certificate of annual bid bond, certified check, bank draft, or money order. Any bid security, other than a E-verified bond or certificate of annual bid bond is provided, the department will require that the apparent two lowest bidders to mail or hand-deliver the original bond, certified check, bank draft, or money order to the Bureau of Aeronautics by close of business two business days following the close of bids and must be received by the Bureau of Aeronautics no later than 5 days from the posting of the bid results. **Qualification of bidders:** IMPORTANT: **A paperhard copy prequalification is required to be submitted PRIOR to the bid opening.** The proper prequalification form must be sent to the DOT to establish prequalification and remain valid prior to the deadline for prequalification indicated below. Prequalification's submitted after the deadline will be processed but a bid from that firm will not be opened for any project where the deadline has been exceeded. The following prequalification is required for this contract: The Bureau of Project Development "Prequalification Statement" (AKA: "Highways") will apply. The proper forms can be found at: <https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/doing-business/contractors/hcci/prequal.aspx>. Bid proposals will be opened only from those firms that have established their qualifications for the work being bid upon. If a prospective bidder has previously submitted hold a current and valid (not expired or revoked), proper statement and received prior approval from the department, a re-submission for this project is not required. Any prospective bidder who has not previously established their qualifications must file a pre-qualification statement on the proper forms and be received by the department no later than 12:00 noon, local time, Friday, March 4th, 2022. Only prime or general contractors submitting the bid need to be prequalified; subcontractors do not need to be prequalified. The qualification statement is a sworn statement and consist of information relating to financial ability, equipment, and experience in the work prescribed in this proposal. The statement shall be in writing on the proper standard form furnished by the department. The department will evaluate the statement and determine acceptability prior to bid acceptance. Failure to establish prequalification as stipulated will result in the bid not being opened and/or rejected. **Federal Requirements:** This project is federally funded and federal provisions and requirements apply. Federal provisions made part of, but not limited to this contract include: Buy American Preference, Federal Tax Certification, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Affirmative Action, Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension, Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace, **Hours of labor and minimum wage rates:** Pursuant to regulations provided by applicable federal and/or state laws, the hours of labor and minimum wage rates are set forth in the proposal. **Affirmative action:** The department hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award. **Affidavit of non-collusion:** A required affidavit of non-collusion will be incorporated as part of the proposal for each prospective bidder. Failure to complete and sign the sworn statement makes the bid non-responsive and ineligible for award consideration. By completing the electronic signature and submitting the proposal, each bidder by or on behalf of the person, firm, association, or corporation submitting the bid, certifies that such person, firm, association, or corporation has not, either directly or indirectly, entered into agreement, participated in any collusion, or otherwise taken any action, in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with the submitted bid. This sworn statement shall be executed and sworn to by the bidder before a person who is authorized by the laws of the state to administer oaths. **Pre-bid conference:** A pre-bid conference will be held on Monday, February 28th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Airport Terminal, Merrill

Legals 7700

Municipal Airport. The purpose of the meeting will be to familiarize all concerned persons with the project and conditions at the airport. A teleconference line will also be available during the pre-bid conference. The call-in number is 888-204-5987, access code is 1548866. For further information, contact Karl Kemper at 715-551-5507, email kkemper@becherhoppe.com. City of Merrill, Wisconsin. Represented by Craig Thompson, Secretary. Department of Transportation. Sponsor's Authorized Agent. Published Feb. 24 & Mar. 3, 2022 WNAIXLP

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: February 3, 2022
Electronically signed by
Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 22 IN 06

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Harold Fay Hopp
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 8-7-36 and date of death 1-22-22, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 506 E. 6th St., Merrill, WI.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 05-13-2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, WI Probate Office.
Bert L. Hopp
704 Rio Grande Dr., Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-8199
Published Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2022 WNAIXLP

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: February 4, 2022
Electronically signed by
Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2022IN000008

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Judine Schield
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 02-26-1939 and date of death 01-21-2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of W1771 County Road P, Merrill WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 05-13-22.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
Kristen Schefdore
1808 River Street, Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-9464
Published Feb. 17, 24 & Mar. 3, 2022 WNAIXLP

CITY OF MERRILL
1004 EAST FIRST STREET
MERRILL, WI 54452

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing to be held by and before the City Plan Commission of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin, commencing at **6:00 p.m., on Tuesday, March 1, 2022**, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, on the following proposed matter, to wit:
1.) City of Merrill requesting a Planned Unit Development per M.M.C. Sec. 113-66 to 113-69 on Webster street between Eugene and Alexander Streets, for the purpose of constructing duplexes. Approximately 4.3 acres on the east half of Lot 3 of Certified Survey Map #2855, City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin.
2.) Johanna and James Doyle requesting a Conditional Use for a church occupancy at 925 E Main Street per M.M.C. Sec. 113-100 located in the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. Legally described in pin# 251-3106-123-0297.
Anyone having any questions regarding the hearing should contact Zoning Administrator, Darin Pagel at 536-4880.
Dated: February 4, 2022
CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN
By: Katherine Unerl
Deputy City Clerk
Published Feb. 17 & 24, 2022 WNAIXLP

DATE SIGNED: February 4, 2022
Electronically signed by
Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Amended Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2022 IN 04

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF John T. Crowley
DOD: 03/17/2021
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 05/19/1930 and date of death 03/17/2021, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 2800 Thielman St., Unit 7B, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 05-27-2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
Robyn J. De Vos
531 Washington St., P.O. Box 1184
Wausau, WI 54402-1184
715-842-2291 Bar Number 1057278
Published Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2022 WNAIXLP

ISSUED BY:
DATE SIGNED: February 4, 2022
Electronically signed by
Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice of Estate
Administration Deadlines

Legals 7700

Case No. 2022IN000005
In the Estate of Amanda Kay Groth
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. The inventory of the estate assets at the date of death must be filed or exhibited by August 3, 2022. The inventory must be filed for formal administration, or filed or exhibited for informal administration, within this time frame.
Note: The statutory filing fee of .002 of the net value of the property subject to administration must be included with the Inventory.
2. In order to achieve State of Wisconsin benchmarks, administration of the estate should be completed by April 2, 2023.
3. If the deadlines cannot be met, the personal representative and attorney, if any, shall petition the court for an extension of the deadlines. The court may grant an extension of time to file if you provide the court with a completed Petition for Extension of Time (PR-1833) form.
4. Failure to meet any deadline established by this notice, or any extension granted by the court, will result in the personal representative and attorney, if any, being required to appear in court to show cause as to why the personal representative and/or attorney should not be removed or other sanctions imposed.
DISTRIBUTION:
Court
Henry Ben Levy, Service Type: Electronic
Peggy M. Groth, Service Type: None
Michael M. Groth, Service Type: None
Joshua P. Groth, Service Type: None
Hannah M. Groth, Service Type: None
Published Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2022 WNAIXLP

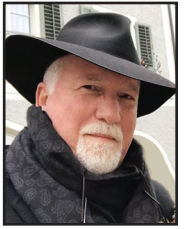
Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
January 26, 2022 – Minutes
The meeting was called to order by Blake at 5:30 PM in the MHS Auditorium.
Board members present: Gremler, Krueger, Liberty, Osness, Volpe, Woller, Yingling and Blake. Board members absent: Ashbeck. Others Present: Dr. Sample, MAPS Administrators, Rell and Skoviera, staff and public and Recorder Woller.
MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to approve the revised teacher contract for the 2022-2023 fiscal year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Woller, second by Liberty to approve the creation of full-time sub pay rate of \$175/day for full-time student teachers interested in subbing for MAPS after their fall student teaching placement has ended. MOTION by Woller, second by Volpe to CALL THE QUESTION. Motion carried. The motion to approve the creation of full-time sub pay rate of \$175/day for full-time student teachers interested in subbing for MAPS after their fall student teaching placement has ended carried with Blake abstaining from the vote.
MOTION by Volpe, second by Woller to approve the leave of absence policies as presented for policy numbers 3430, 3161, 4430 and 4161. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Liberty, second by Volpe to approve the Board budget priorities for planning related to the 2022-2023 fiscal year as presented. Motion carried.
MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to approve the audited financial statements and supporting documents from CLA as presented for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Osness, second by Woller to approve the 2022-2023 MAPS Head Start Five-Year Strategic Goals. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve the 4K contracts as presented with any follow up information with background checks for FY23. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Osness, second by Krueger to approve the Head Start Transportation Waiver for 2022-2023. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 School Calendars. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Volpe, second by Krueger to approve the revised BVA contract as presented for a five-year cycle commencing on July 1, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to approve Policy 8510 Wellness as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Osness, second by Krueger to approve the classroom capacity for open enrollment purposes and to not deny students with disabilities based on space, for the 2022-2023 open enrollment period. Motion carried unanimously.
MOTION by Osness, second by Krueger to approve consent agenda items a through e, which includes the second reading of Policy 9700.01 Advertising and Sponsorship in Schools; minutes of the December 9, 2021, December 15, 2021, and January 12, 2022, meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$1,187,534.80; the personnel report as presented, contingent upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable; and, donations totaling \$8,443.09. Motion carried with Gremler abstaining from the December 9, 2021 minutes; and, Blake abstaining from the part of the personnel report that refers to his daughter.
MOTION by Volpe, second by Yingling to adjourn at 7:23 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Ronald Liberty
Board Clerk
RL/tlw
(The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin.)
Published Feb. 24, 2022 WNAIXLP

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The sweetness of love

Dear Reader,

There is a feeling that comes when you love someone and they just look out for you with every little detail that they know you like. They put the towel on the bathroom floor to keep your feet from getting cold after a shower, or put oranges in your tea to give you that spicy flavor you like. They start the car in the cold winter mornings so that you can go to work in a warm car. They sprinkle pepper just right on your favorite omelette.



We need to look up from whatever we are doing that we think is important and focus on the unimportant. There is a sweetness in these little things, almost invisible in our lives of raging chaos. We need to give something to the tiny acts of kindness that are out there, if only they can be noticed.

My parting thought is that we might all be sensitized to those we love and offer that sweetness and forethought of service to them.

PATRICK J. WOOD
PUBLISHER

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Merrill Foto News, its publishers, Editor, or staff.

TO THE EDITOR:

I sincerely support Steve Hass as our new mayor to the city of Merrill. He has always listened to my issues and I know that he's budget minded. I know that he is a supporter of responsible development and will again bring the voice of the citizens back to city government.

– Nancy Arndorfer
Merrill, Wis.

TO THE EDITOR:

Voters of Lincoln County!

I noted a letter last week that questioned whether Governments can be run like businesses. It claimed that Act 10 was mostly at fault for our current financial situation for Governments. Act 10 was a signal to Local Governments around the State of Wisconsin That they NEEDED to "TIGHTEN their BELTS." They were advised they needed to be more VIGILANT about how they spend taxpayer funds no matter where they came from, local, state, or federal sources!

Every Department in Lincoln County needs to "Tighten their Belts" and be very sure what is spent is spent wisely. Which is EXACTLY what businesses and hard working families MUST do these days in order to survive in this world today.

Folks it is time to elect County Board Supervisors who will look into various Department Budgets and demand justification of spending and not just APPROVE them without knowing What, When, Why, and How they are spending taxpayer funds. It's as simple as that!

Appreciate your time.

Regards,

– Chuck Bolder
Merrill, Wis.

TO THE EDITOR:

Voter turnout in Primary elections are typically low. I was particularly disappointed in outcome of District 12 County Supervisor race. Fact that Incumbent Paul Gilk was ousted in election results surprised me given his impeccable integrity and years of quality service to Merrill and Lincoln County. I remember Paul with spouse Susanna organizing two dozen Loaf & Ladle concerts that benefited nonprofit organizations such as Haven & Habitat for Humanity. Some years back Paul & Mark Mehlos organized local support in preserving Bill Cross Rapids Wildlife Area in public domain from being sold off to private developers. Paul was a key supporter in TB Scott Library's acquisition of energy efficient solar panels. He personally organized several panel discussions at the library for civic discussion including midwifery (home birthing), benefits of reviving small scale farming, and 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation attended by numerous faith groups with standing room only. Paul helped steer two additions (rehabilitation and memory care) to Pinecrest Nursing Home and was instrumental in its financial stability in keeping it from being sold. Paul partnered with fellow county supervisors in passing three county wide referendums in regards to legalizing medical marijuana, promoting fair election maps in guarding against gerrymandering, and in accepting Federal medicaid funding. These are just some of his achievements over the years.

– Allan Crevier
Town of Harding, Wis.

See **LETTERS** page 7

TOWN OF PINE RIVER
LINCOLN COUNTY, WISCONSIN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Town of Pine River Board along with the Town Plan Commission will hold a **Public Hearing on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Pine River Town Hall, N1647 Deer Run Ave., Merrill WI to take testimony on the following: **TOWN OF PINE RIVER PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCES.** Written and oral testimony will be entered into the record and considered. All interested persons wishing to be heard are invited to be present or give written testimony at or prior to the hearing. To view the proposed Zoning Ordinances go to www.townofpineriver.com or contact Clerk Herdt at 715-536-7687 to view the file.
Please Recycle. Amanda Herdt, Clerk
Published February 17 & 24, 2022 WNAIXLP

Wolves in Wisconsin back on Endangered Species List

DNR to refund \$10 application fee for 2021 fall wolf harvest permit or preference point



Wolves are back on the Federal Endangered Species List in Wisconsin and the other lower 48 states. **Stock photo by Bev McConnell.**

MADISON, Wis. – On Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced it will refund the \$10 application fee to customers who applied for a wolf harvest permit or preference point for the Fall 2021 Wolf Harvest Season. The department will restore all customer's wolf preference point records to their Fall 2021 pre-application status.

Following a federal court ruling on Feb. 10, 2022, wolves in the lower 48 states

were returned to the Federal Endangered Species List. (The ruling excludes wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains re-

gion.) Under Wisconsin law, if the wolf is listed on the federal endangered list, the state is not authorized to implement a wolf harvest season.

As a result of this change, the Wisconsin DNR will be refunding the \$10 application fee and updating wolf preference points on customer records. The \$10 refund check will arrive by U.S. mail. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Other immediate implications of this ruling include the following:

- Permits allowing lethal removal of wolves issued to landowners experiencing wolf conflicts are no longer valid. The department has contacted permit holders directly.
- The department is not authorized to use lethal control as part of its conflict management program. Non-lethal tools

remain available.

- The training of dogs to track and trail wolves is not allowed. Dog hunters may no longer pursue wolves for training purposes.

The DNR remains committed to assisting individuals that experience conflicts with wolves through an interagency cooperative agreement with USDA-Wildlife Services for abatement and control.

If you suspect wolves in the depredation of livestock, pets, or hunting dogs, or if wolves are exhibiting threatening or dangerous behavior, contact USDA-Wildlife Services staff immediately. In northern Wisconsin, call 1.800.228.1368 or 715.369.5221.

For more on wolves in Wisconsin, visit the DNR website at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/wolf/index.html>.

CHIROPRACTOR from page 1

is the tool that helps ensure our bodies can heal more effectively and efficiently by restoring proper nervous system function."

Success stories: making a difference

Dr. Klug said he really appreciates hearing patients' success stories after chiropractic care.

"We love meeting new people and getting to know a little bit about their lives, and how they have been able to enjoy their lives more after starting care!" he said. "We have a patient here that just started a few weeks ago and he used to walk all the time and enjoys being outdoors. About a year and a half ago, he began to have extreme hip pain, and his hips kept locking up to the point where he could barely walk up and down his stairs."

"This week he walks into our office and is ecstatic that he has no problem walking up and down his stairs anymore, and he literally starts jumping in our office to show his progress."

"Those are the things that I love the most about our business," Dr. Klug said. "It is a great feeling knowing we are making a difference in someone's life and ultimately improving the community."

Tailored care plans

"At Merrill Chiropractic, we really focus on individually tailored and affordable care plans for our patients," he said. "We give people the ability to see what is causing their pain or condition and offer them a solution."

"In many cases, they have tried other forms of treatment, including medications or getting ready for surgery. Chiropractic offers people hope for getting back to a pain-free life," Dr. Klug said.

"One challenge in the chiropractic community is helping the public, and patients, understand that healing takes

time," Dr. Klug said. "Often, people come into our office with an ailment that has been giving them trouble for several months to years with an expectation that they will be 'fixed' after the first visit. When in reality, the longer someone has been dealing with a condition, the more damage has been done and time is required to heal."

"We take the time to educate and help people understand that healing is a process," he said. "We like to go over x-rays with patients to show them the problem and how long it has been there. This helps patients understand the process it took to get there and the process it will take to heal and get them better."

"Our goal is to always provide the best care to as many people in this community as possible," Dr. Klug said. "We have been staying very busy at Merrill Chiropractic, which we love! Our patients really enjoy coming to Merrill Chiropractic, and our number of referrals are growing each month, which is ultimately the greatest compliment we can receive."

"Although we hope you choose Merrill Chiropractic, we ultimately want our community to get the help they need by seeking care with someone they are comfortable with in the chiropractic community," he said. "We enjoy giving people the opportunity to come in and see what we have to offer, tell us about their conditions or concerns, and then putting a plan together to help them reach their goals."

"On occasion, we refer patients out to other providers in the community because they may be a better fit for them, or they have a specific therapy or table that will better assist them in reaching their health goals," Dr. Klug said.

Special therapies and plans for the future

His office offers some special chiropractic therapies. "Aside from chiropractic adjustments, we also offer intersegmental traction, which is a table that

the city of Merrill has been working to increase the property tax base, to spread out the expense so that taxes do not keep increasing and may actually decrease over time as more tax dollars come in from new development. Increasing the property tax base is the key to a better future for the city and county and this IS being accomplished through the TIF investment program.

– Heather O'Neill
Town of Harding, Wis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

*Letters must be 250 words or less (There will be no exceptions to this. Any letter longer than 250 words will not be printed.)
*All letters must include full name, address and phone number of the composer. Phone numbers and addresses will not be published, but will be used for verification purposes if necessary.
*Letters will be published at the discretion of the Editor. While letters on most any topic will be published, any letters deemed derogatory, inflammatory, slanderous, or involving vulgar language, will not be published.
*Letters will be published on a "first come, first served" basis. Any letters which we are unable to publish in the printed newspaper will be run online at www.merrillfotonews.com and may be printed in the paper at a later date if possible.



Chiropractic assistant Kasey Haskins and chiropractor Dr. Travis Klug can be found at Merrill Chiropractic, 1219 E. Main St., Merrill. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

helps to stretch and mobilize the spine," he said. "Our patients absolutely love this!"

He hopes to be able to add additional therapy tables to help with an array of conditions in the near future. "This will allow us to offer more to the community

and give us the ability to serve more people," Dr. Klug said.

He is also planning to grow his office staff. "Soon we will be hiring another staff member for our front desk to help us accommodate the growing number of patients we are seeing," he said.

Maple Grove Charter School

K-5th grade • 715-257-2199

Part of the School District of Athens

Stop by to check out our
FREE local charter school opportunity
at our open house & family night.
Wednesday, March 9 • 5pm - 7pm

Activities Include:

- Luminary walk on our Forest Trails
- Olive Garden Soups & Breadsticks
- Crafts
- Face Painting
- Photo Booth Selfie
- Tour the school and meet the staff

Apply online

SCAN ME

Find our Foundation on
Facebook

facebook.com/maplegrovefoundation

Open Enrollment available to all
area students through April 29, 2022

LETTERS from page 6

TO THE EDITOR:

Property tax is higher here than average. Why is this? First of all, people should be aware that property tax is THE main source of income for the city and county. When all of the tax money from the previous year is collected, it goes to four main sources; MAPS, Northcentral Technical College, the city of Merrill and Lincoln County, with the most dollars going to MAPS. After tax dollars are distributed to the city and county, they are then spent on necessary services for the community. That is property tax in a nutshell, but WHY the higher rate? This answer is also simple—a lack of tax base growth, which WAS the case in Merrill until 10 years ago. Prior to 2012, there was no growth of the tax base and no new development.

Expenses increase over time and having a small tax base, the city and county had NO choice but to continue to raise property taxes for income, thus the higher rate today. However, since 2012,

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BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

Movie Reviews

Dog

(Now showing in theatres)

★★★★☆

Rated PG-13 – for adult themes

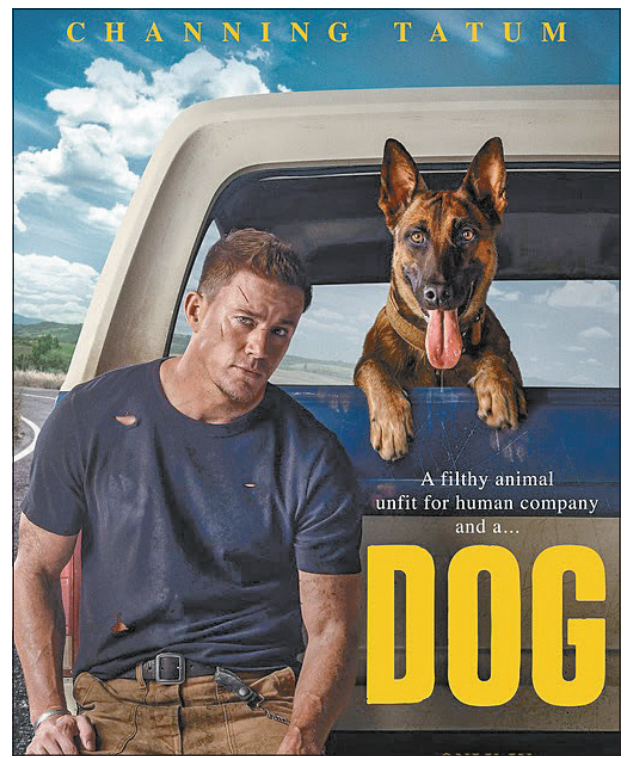
The first thing you need to know about this week's film, *Dog*, is that the marketing people behind the advertising of this film have completely misrepresented what it is.

Marketed as a comedy, *Dog* is a drama. Yes, there are funny moments, but I assure you, it is not a comedy.

Channing Tatum plays Briggs, a former U.S. Army Ranger who, while in combat, sustained a serious brain injury, as well as multiple gunshot wounds. Ignoring the side effects of his injury and his PTSD, he is desperately trying to get back into security work for diplomatic travel. To secure the position, he needs his former commanding officer to sign off on his health. In order to get that sign off, he is forced to escort his recently-deceased former squad member's combat dog to the funeral.

The dog, named Lulu, is also suffering from PTSD and lashes out at all that approach her.

This film is about healing, common ground, and understanding that erasing trauma is not in the cards, but healing can be. There is a strong message here, folks, about how we treat our Veterans after their service is completed. The last two decades of war have left far too many scarred, both externally and internally, and this film shows us that fact.



There are lighthearted moments, including a scam to get a free hotel room, but the majority of the movie focuses on Briggs and Lulu and their slow journey to trusting again.

Three out of five stars for this one, because it is a very well done film about an important topic. It is well worth the price of admission.

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The Merrill area needs more child care. If you're considering a career change, information sessions can answer your questions about providing child care in your home. **Stock photo.**

Start your career in child care

Do you enjoy helping young children? Are you a stay-at-home parent who could care for other children too? Do you want to transition to being your own boss? If you are excited about committing to a career that includes making a difference in the lives of young children and families, child care could be your next career path.

"Running an in-home child care business has many benefits," said Mariah, a licensed family child care provider. "I enjoy being able to be with my children every day, while watching them develop friendships with the other children in my care. I love seeing each child's different personality and helping them learn and grow. I have a steady income and I get to work from my home."

Childcaring is offering FREE virtual information sessions, facilitated by Childcaring Certifier/Pre-licensing Technical Consultant Gayle Schizsik:

- Tuesday, March 1, 12:30-2:30 p.m. (Register by Tuesday, February 22) - OR -
- Thursday, May 12, 12:30-2:30 p.m. (Register by Thursday, May 5)

Information sessions will answer questions like these: How many children can I legally care for? What are the benefits to becoming regulated? What classes or training do I need to get started? What would I charge the families?

These sessions will be presented virtually through RingCentral. To achieve optimal experience, a reliable internet connection and technology that supports video and audio are required. A link to log into the session will be sent via email prior to the start date.

Start-up grants for new child care providers are available. Eligible providers have used startup grant funding to purchase equipment, materials, and classes required to obtain regulation (i.e., safety gates, developmentally appropriate materials for a variety of age groups, smoke detectors, etc.).

To support Wisconsin's early care and education community, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) has launched an updated Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program. Regulated child care providers are eligible to receive monthly payments through 2023,

providing the financial stability they need to stay open, to recruit and retain qualified staff, and to continue providing high-quality care for children. A total of \$351 million in funds will be available over the next 18 months and will be distributed through two programs targeting the challenges early care and education providers are facing. More information about this program can be found at: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/childcare/payments> - Note: Payment amounts are subject to change based on available funding and applications received.

To learn more about providing child care or to register for a free session, contact Childcaring, your local child care resource and referral, at: 1.800.628.8534 or visit: www.childcaring.org for more information.

Childcaring's mission is to enhance and support a quality early childhood education system by providing resource and referral services to families, child care programs, and communities in Adams, Clark, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette, Portage, Taylor, Waushara, and Wood Counties. You can also find Childcaring on Facebook @ChildcaringInc.

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Pine River Fire Chief John Uttech accepts a check from Kelly Zagrzebski, Local and Governmental Affairs Leader for WEC-Energy Group. Photo courtesy of Pine River Fire Department.

Pine River Fire Department receives WPS Foundation grant

Pine River Fire Department applied for a grant through Wisconsin Public Service Foundation for a Rewarding Responders program this past summer. WPS has awarded over \$350,000 of support to local responders through the Foundation since its inception.

During the 2021 application period, Pine River was awarded \$2,000 for scene safety equipment.

The grant provides collapsible high visibility signs, personal safety vests, and cones to better mark the scene of emergencies. Pine River provides life safety coverage to a large portion of

State Rd. 64 along with parts of State Rd. 17 and a five-mile stretch of US Hwy. 51.

Capt. Mike Caylor wrote the successful grant application, stressing the importance of scene safety for responders after a couple of close calls over the last few years. "When we work in low light conditions, or during ice and snow events, we stress the importance of safety for our firefighters, our emergency responder partners, and those involved in the incident. Any help we can get to alert motorists to an emergency scene or responder locations can only save lives."

Lincoln County students place in Conservation Contest



TOP ROW: Area students display their ribbons in the Local Conservation Poster Contest. Left: Spencer Smith, a Junior at Merrill Highschool, won second place in the Lincoln County Conservation Poster Contest (Category - Grades 10-12). Middle: Mel Rampart won first place in the Lincoln County Conservation Poster Contest (Category - Grades 10-12). Middle right photo: Shelby Vega, Iona Oates, and Emily Lucas won first, second, and third places in the Lincoln County Conservation Poster Contest (Category -Grades K-1). Far right photo: Lily Boquist won first place in the Lincoln County Conservation Poster Contest (Category - Grades 2-3). BOTTOM ROW: Area Contest winners display their trophies, from L to R: Mel Rampart, Liliana Boquist, and Shelby Vega. Submitted photos.

Students and educators from Lincoln County schools participated in the Annual Conservation Contest hosted by the Lincoln County Conservation Program. The Conservation Contest encourages students to submit posters that illustrate the conservation theme of the year. For 2022, the Conservation Contest theme is "Healthy Soil: Healthy Life."

Soil is often the foundation for not only our natural world, but also our modern day society. Healthy soil has impacts on growing food sources, maintaining healthy forests, prairies, and other habitats, promoting high water quality, and so much more. Because of this, a student's creativity could drift in countless ways to display the 2022 theme. And without a doubt, all students that participated provided unique posters that helped promote the importance of conservation.

The Conservation Contest is an excellent opportunity for students to expand their appreciation for the environment, conservation, and become involved with numerous Wisconsin Academic Standards. Educators that have been involved with the contest found this connection to standards helpful, and have enjoyed the opportunity to promote con-

servation within the classroom. Aubrey Nycz, First Grade Teacher at Tomahawk Elementary said: "As someone that cares about conservation personally, it was great to see that the kids enjoyed this contest at a young age. They were able to learn about soil health and had fun while doing so!"

The Conservation Contest has several stages of competition, and winners from each stage advance to the next. The contest begins at the Local level (Lincoln County) and then proceeds to an Area Contest which includes nine counties, a State Contest, and even a National Contest.

Local competition

At the local level (Lincoln County), in the K-1 category, three students in Ms. Nycz's first grade class at Tomahawk Elementary School - Shelby Vega, Iona Oates, and Emily Lucas - won first, second, and third places respectively.

Lily Boquist, a student in Mr. Klapperich's second grade class at Kate Goodrich Elementary, won first place in the grades 2-3 category.

A Senior at Merrill High School, Mel Rampart, won first place in the grades 10-

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Announcements 7005



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High Honors (3.75-3.99): Parker Blum, Chase Klebenow, Parker Klebenow, Katelyn Klimek, Jonathan Myszka, Haley Rindt, Merin Yates.
Honors (3.5-3.74): Blake Asinas, Brody Benedict, Alexis Doering, Mackenzie Ellenbecker, Kaiden Henrich, Janna Jacobson, Joseph Jensen, Aiden Lonsdorf, Noah Moore, Danielle Schielke, Michael Schmidt, Emil Weix, Amelia White.

GRADE 10
Highest Honors (4.0): Anna Bowe, Chase Brantner, MalaynieDengel, Elexa Emmer, Clayton Evans, Anna Florez, Anthony Hanse, Linzee Hixon, Avery Hoff, Allison Hoock, Emerson Iwen, Brooklyn Kraegenbrink, Bridger Lemmon, Erik Mann, Chloe McRae, McKenna Meyer, Sebastian Ollmann, CainaOrzech, Savannah Orzech, Madison Ott, Mia Ott, Olivia Pierce, Kaiden Ratzlaff, Katelyn Schult, Nora Trojanowski, Sophie Wendorf, Isabel Wendt, Macy Wienke, Kayli Wirtala, Gracie Wyma.

High Honors (3.75-3.99): Gabriel Durbin, Olivia Dzwonkowski, Bobbi Gerbig, Regena Lahti, Chloe Malinowski, Michael Quong, Alexis Rogers, Zachary Shimel, Thomas Troyer, Brock Wakefield.
Honors (3.5-3.74): Carter Baade, Jaden Bush, Ayden Cantrell, Emma Frazier, Emma Hoff, Austin Hotchkiss, Connor McCorkle, Alexis Ollhoff, Andrew Proulx Jr, Ethan Ravn, Samuel Reimann, Emily Schilken, Morgan Schmidt, Carson Schmitz, Dawson Schulz, JalieSevert, Julia Shull, Allison Wolff.

GRADE 11
Highest Honors (4.0): Jaxson Banser, Lauren Cohrs, Madison Crossman, Ryder Depies, Carla Higgins, Jaiden Pillai, Isaiah Reil, Spencer Smith, Olivia Troyer, Dafney Yates.
High Honors (3.75-3.99): Jaylen Anderson, Lydia Burrows, BreannonHerdt, Catherine Herdt, Jessica Leander, Caleb Norton, Addison Schmeltzer, Hunter Stadler, Macey JoWeix.
Honors (3.5-3.74): Brian Ball, Mason Borchardt, Olivia Cordova, Arin Dettmering, Ian Dreikosen, Mason Evans, Samuel Holzinger, Summit Hoyt, Alana Polak, Trenton Pozorski, Greta Scomazzoni, Drew Semling, Gabriel Small, Amber Winter.

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Highest Honors (4.0): Kierra Boyd, Madalia Burrows, Decilyn Clark, Sarah Crockford, Molly Dallman, Jackson DeJong, Brandon Ellerman, Riley Fritcher, Andrew Gille, Angela Hinner, Evan Jaeger, Grace Koehler, Danyelle Kottke, TelinaMarmorat, Felicia Mayfield, Michael McRae, Bailey Orzech, Emma Pajdash, Tanaya Pillai, Megan Proulx, Elizabeth Schmidt, Claire Schultz, Grace Schultz, Amelia Skoviera, Olivia Stevenson, Eric Stolz, Tessa Wheat, Darrin Wiederhoeft, Taylor Zastrow, Laney Zuelsdorff.
High Honors (3.75-3.99): Annie Becker, Samuel Bennett, Emma Boquist, Lauren Duginiski, Fletcher Ellenbecker, Jackson Fink, Hailey Gerbig, Hannah Glaza, Marissa Hoffman, Lydia McIntyre, Jonnie Pierschalla-Zastrow, Adam Polak, AlynnRenzelmann, McKenna Smith, Levon Van Der Geest.
Honors (3.5-3.74): Anika Bartz, Damien Benzinger, Danielle Broesch, Cali Brown, Kayla Burrow, Nicole Doering, Jack Hoock, Carter Jensen, Samuel Johns, Lydia Koehler, Danielle Korman, Andrew Moyer, Paige Plautz, Kayoda Raddatz, Melony Rampart, Anna Schlegel, Brennan Schneider, Isaiiah Scott, Draven Siewitzke, Devin Sperber, Brenna Steinagel, Abrehm Van Wie, Ashton Voermans, Anthony Vogel, Jaliona Watts, Tyler Wieloch, MaKenna Wimmer.

Prairie River Middle School 2021-2022 2nd quarter Honor Roll

Fifth Grade
Gold: 4.00: Alle Bergh, Ella Bergh, Keira Clerveaux, Alexandria Derizzo, Areyia Franklin, Autumn Genisot, Jaedyn Goetsch, Kassandra Johnson, Andrew Josiger, Willett Knospe, Kelsey Pankow, Korbet Ravn, Cadence Stutting, Luke Wegner
Silver: 3.750-3.999: Jaxson Ames, Brianna Boyd, William Chula, Aaron Collinsworth, Moses Gates, Jameson Gerdes, Mara Kautzer, Payge Osness, Abigail Parks, Michael Schreiber, Matthew Woller
Bronze: 3.50-3.749: Ella Burrow, Henry Chrudimsky, Bethany Crockford, Lydia Faber, Madilynn Geiss, Ella Glisch, Mia Hanson, Samuel Hart, Kyla Hoffman, Mathew Mueller, Raiyna Perez, Aili Sayles, Robert Woller

Sixth Grade
Gold: 4.00: Karmen Brietzke, Alexis Fehr, Shane Gibson, Tiberius Giese, Megan Gustum, Claire Kufahl, Mylie Kufahl, Alexis Lonsdorf, Jacey Lyon, Denver McCaskill, Jameson Morgan, Cecilia Priebe, Karlee Ravn, Kylie Roberge, Alina Savagian-Demoss, Olivia Schmidt, Brianna Schmirler, Broc Suchocki, Fletcher Talerico, Madeline Voigt, Dylan Weber, Cameron Wszalek, Benjamin Zastrow
Silver: 3.750-3.999: Brooklyn Bellin, Azalea Blake, Lilly Bong, Brooklyn Clabots, Kaleb Cook, Caleb Gennrich, Marie Hagemeister, Lilee Hal-

tinner, Danica Henning, Mykenzie Hinz, Kylee Hoffman, Haley Hoock, Finlee Lange-Peronto, Eliza Rogers, Alicia Schneider, Adriana Schram, Jennavecia Staehle, Shelby Yates
Bronze: 3.50-3.749: Madisyn Anderson, Ian Asinas, Alana Brendemuehl, Peyton Brown, Austin Doering, Bryanna Doerr, Brady Genisot, Kane Hanson, Lexie Hass, Marihanna Hulce, Madlyn Hunter, Avery Kolinski, Nicholas Kollmer, Addisyn Krause, Ava Latzig, Annabelle Lee, Penelope Primm, Hunter Rhode, Jackson Roggenbuck, Levi Schmidt, Avalynn Schult, Nikolajs Schulz, Mikenna Vandeweerd

Seventh Grade
Gold: 4.00: Tatiana Anderson, Zachary Bacon, Lily Berndt, Paige Byer, Stuart Gehris, Erik Grunewald, Shanna Herdt, Claire Hintz, William Miemietz, Marielle Nass, Evan Olson, Greta Peterson, Addison Pickard, Grace Reimann, Eryn Schmitz, Marcus Slagoski, Charlotte Van Der Nest, Grace Wegner, Lauren Zuelsdorff
Silver: 3.750-3.999: Marvin Downs, Maycee Eisner, Josilynn Geiss, Peyton Hagenbacher, Davin Harder, Mackenzie Herdt, Brody Klebenow, Izabella Klockow, Amara Lazare, Mya Meyer, Carlina Nebbergall, Colton Ruplinger, Alyssa Schneider, Derek Schult, Deylah Schulz, Peyton Smith, Avery Voermans, Laci Wirtala
Bronze: 3.50-3.749: Landan Blaubach, Allyson Boquist, Natalee Clifford, Abigail Gauerke, Jayden Graap, Xavier Hanke, Reese

Kaminski, Mark Marvin, Mason Meyer, Landon Mootz, Elayna Olson, Tyson Ott, Vanessa Pintor, Kayleigh Strey, Isabella Stutting
Eighth Grade
Gold: 4.00: Kaylynn Allen, Jackson Brown, Adison Clark, Kaela Clerveaux, Caroline Durbin, Liberty Fuchs, Grace Hoock, Mariah Hulce, Brenna Jirovec, Kamryn Klade, Hannah Klinger, Korina Kraegenbrink, Orion Pillai, Colton Smith, Parker Wagenaar, Emily Winter
Silver: 3.750-3.999: Brady Eggebrecht, Adelyn Elliott, Hazeley Gates, Gracelee Gentile-Hull, Joshua Gustum, Sarah Hagemeister, Sylvia Hanson, Addison Jirovec, Isabella Kottke, Jenna Malluege, Brynlynn McCaskill, Jacob Mueller, Violet Radtke, Madison Robbins, Robin Schmidt, Taylor Slais, Keegan Waliczek
Bronze: 3.50-3.749: Keylin Allen, Cairo Amador-Gonzalez, Liberty Berndt, Colton Burrows, James Crockford, Prestin Dashek, Avery Frisch, Zoe Geurink, Ryleigh Golisch, Lillian Hagemeister, Brooklyn Harding, Claire Jirovec, Charles Kalinowski, Farje Kiskoski, Samara Kleinschmidt, Alex Koblitz, Sophie Koehler, Danica Lipke, Maria Malinowski, Haakon Murphy, Landon Neumann, Larissa Ollmann, Patricia Priebe, Jennifer Proulx, Roman Rampart, Jacob Schultz, Jocyie Scott, Jacob Stetz-Schleif, Wyatt Stieber, Destiny Trevino, Ronan Vandeweerd, Myah Webb



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Merrill Girls Basketball Team plays hard but loses two

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, the Merrill Girls Basketball Team headed to Wausau East High School where the Lady Jays took on the Wausau East Lumberjacks.

Alayna Pozorski (3 FG, 2 3pt, 1 FT, 2 ast, 4 stl) was the high scorer for Merrill with 9 points, followed by Laney Zuelsdorff (2 FG, 3 FT, 2 ast) with 7 points and Brenna Steinagel (2 FG, 1 FT, 1 stl) with 5 points. Unfortunately, Merrill was down by seven points at the end of first period (15-22) and despite scoring 23 points in the second period, they couldn't quite recover and lost to the Lumberjacks.

Box Score:

Merrill 38 @ Wausau East 47

On Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, the Merrill Girls Basketball Team played the girls at DC Everest High School. Merrill Girls put up points, but Everest had them on the defense early in the game. At halftime, Everest was up 17 points with Merrill at 23, and Everest at 40. In the second half, the Everest girls also took the lead, putting up 34 points to Merrill's 29. In the end, Everest came away with the win, 74-52.

Merrill's Maddie Drew (5 FG, 5 3pt, 2 FT) was the high scorer for the Lady Jays with 17 points, while Mia Ott (1 FG, 9 FT) came in with 11 points and Sophie Wendorf (3 FG, 2 3pt, 2 FT, 2 ast) was on her heels with 10 points for the game.

Box Score:

Merrill 52 @ DC Everest 74



Above: Merrill Girls played Wausau East on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022. **Angelina Frederick photos.**



Right: Merrill's #14 Mia Ott has control of the ball as the Lady Jays battle the Wausau East Lumberjacks on the court.

Merrill Varsity Wrestlers grappling hard for end-of-season wins

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Wisconsin Valley Conference

On Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, the Merrill Bluejay Varsity Wrestling Team went down to compete in the Wisconsin Valley Conference Meet in Marshfield.

"Ryder Depies led the way by winning the Conference Tournament," said Merrill Varsity Wrestling Head Coach Brian Suchocki. "Ryder put together a great day by defeating two state-ranked wrestlers. Ryder is wrestling well, and he works hard in practice. He is a great leader for us and is doing everything he can to improve."

"Wyatt Bathke took second place at the conference. Wyatt is working through some things so he sat out the finals," he said. "He will be back at the Regional Wrestling Tournament. Wyatt is wrestling well and has positioned himself well going into the final weeks."

SPASH Dual

On Thursday, Feb. 3, the Merrill Varsity Wrestling Team hosted SPASH and also celebrated Parents Night at their final home



Ryder Depies emerges with a win for Merrill.

Submitted photo.

match of the season.

"The meet went down to the wire, making for a very exciting dual," Suchocki said. "Starting off for the Bluejays was Dominic Roper. He pinned his opponent, setting the tone. It was the second dual in a row Dominic earned a pin."

"Wyatt Bathke and Ryder Depies followed with two pins of their own, building the lead 18-0," he said. "Kieran Hehling fell to the number two ranked wrestler in the state."

"Joey Jenson and Evan Frederick were able to get us back on track with two pins," Suchocki said.

"These pins were huge because we were forfeiting three weight classes and SPASH had many highly experienced wrestlers left to compete."

"Brady Norton and Callum Wheeler both put us in position to get the win by pinning their opponents," he said.

"Four Freshman getting wins for us was outstanding, Suchocki said.

"The meet ended up falling on Brian Ball's shoulders. If he gave a pin, we would have lost the dual meet," he said. "For any

See **WRESTLING** page 16

2022 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

Basketball Boys (Varsity, JV, & JV2)

Thurs. Feb. 24	Wausau West (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Thurs. Feb. 24	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Tues. March 1	Ashland (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm

Ice Hockey Girls (Varsity & JV)

Fri. Feb. 25	Sectional Final (Varsity)	D. C. E.	7:00 pm
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Wrestling (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. Feb. 24	Individual State (Varsity)	Kohl Center
Fri. Feb. 25	Individual State (Varsity)	Kohl Center
Sat. Feb. 26	Individual State (Varsity)	Kohl Center

Please go to www.wiaawi.org for the latest playoff schedules and brackets.

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The Nitemare II Racing Team won the People's Choice Award during the first race of Merrill Ice Drags with their 1965 Mustang. Submitted photo.

CONTEST from page 9

12 category, and Spencer Smith, a Junior at Merrill High School won second place in that category. Both are students in Ms. Wagenaar's Art class.

Area competition

Winners from Lincoln County's Local Contest advanced to the Area Contest which was held on Jan. 28, 2022. There was some tough competition considering that posters were submitted from nine other counties in Northcentral Wisconsin and, amazingly, all Lincoln County students that advanced placed in the Area Contest. Congrats to our

Lincoln County winners!

Shelby Vega, of Tomahawk Elementary, won first place in the K-1 Division. Since she won first place in this division, her poster will now move on to the State competition this March with the potential to move on to the National competition.

Liliana Boquist, of Kate Goodrich Elementary, won third place in the grades 2-3 Division, and Mel Rampart, of Merrill High School, won second place in the grades 10-12 Division.

For more information about the Annual Conservation Contest, contact Tom Boisvert, Conservation Program Manager, at 715.539.1054.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Brady Norton, a Freshman at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Brady is a member of the Merrill Varsity Wrestling Team and has been wrestling since he was in kindergarten. He also played on the Merrill High School JV2 Football Team last fall and will play on the Merrill High School Baseball Team this spring.

Brady enjoys lifting weights, training, and working out – at the high school and at home – as well as listening to music and hanging out with friends playing some type of sport. “Just being active and working out is one thing that really is fun for me,” he said. “I also really like going to the middle school and helping out the middle school students with wrestling practice. I think that’s really fun.”

The son of Molly Norton and Jason Norton of Merrill, Brady has a 2.6 GPA and hopes to go to UW-Stevens Point following high school graduation, where he hopes to play baseball and possibly become a physical trainer working with injured athletes.



Brady Norton

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On Jan. 16, 2022, the Merrill Eagles #584 held a Pancake Breakfast Benefit to assist Dennis Behnke Sr. with expenses associated with his medical condition. Dennis Behnke Sr. (left) accepts a check from the benefit from Bryan Plautz of the Merrill Eagles #584.

Submitted photo.

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World Championship Merrill Ice Drags Week 4: Championship Race

The weather held up and so did the ice for the final run of the World Championship Merrill Ice Drags held on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022. Top speed of the season goes to Keith Krueger at a chilling 133.57 MPH! This season was a great experiment and a great success on many levels. Any organization that has been around for 57 years should be expected to improvise, adapt, and overcome! And in true Ice Dragger fashion, that is just what happened this year. A few cars went into a snowbank and a few unfortunately rolled over, organizers said, but all were ok and will race another day! These men and women are some of the most dedicated hard core racers and all around good people you'll ever meet. "The Merrill Ice Dragers Inc. are the family we choose; it's in our blood, sweat, and tears; and it showed this season," organizers said. "Great racing, everyone! We'll see you all next winter!"

Week 4 Results:

2wd	#1 Matt Wendricks.....E.T 18.779	#2 Ryan PodeweltzE.T 7.333 MPH 110.61
	#2 Keegan LawrieE.T 28.965 MPH 33.72	8.5
		#1 Zach DegnerE.T 8.373 MPH 83.27
4X4	#1 Linda Krebsbach..... E.T 26.346 MPH 43.04	#2 Jacob BloechlE.T 8.351 MPH 75.49
	#2 Scott Ullman.....E.T 20.606	Altered
11.0	#1 Scott OstrowskiE.T 11.283 MPH 61.52	#1 Ryan Blake.....E.T 6.789 MPH 113.93
	#2 Dakota Pingel.....E.T 11.456 MPH 54.96	#2 Troy WalkerE.T 7.835 MPH 95.29
Easy Street II	#1 Kevin Pophal..... E.T 8.933 MPH 79.84	8.0
	#2 Jeremy KarauE.T 10.223 MPH 68.83	#1 Jacob BloechlE.T 8.615 MPH 63.28
10.0	#1 Harley HixonE.T 10.398 MPH 57.95	#2 Justin Peterson.....E.T 8.476 MPH 94.71
	#2 Dakota Pingel.....E.T 10.256 MPH 73.25	7.0
9.0	#1 Travis Arndt..... E.T 9.180 MPH 76.48	#1 Troy WalkerE.T 7.477 MPH 75.80
	#2 Duston Koenig.....E.T 9.400 MPH 76.11	#2 Jimmy BarteltE.T 7.659 MPH 102.54
Modified	#1 Ryan Blake.....E.T 6.893 MPH 111.64	Open Door
		#1 Ryan Blake.....E.T 7.569 MPH 90.70
		#2 Ryan PodeweltzE.T 7.294 MPH 114.94
		Outlaw
		#1 Keith KruegerE.T 5.930 MPH 127.01
		#2 Jimmy BarteltE.T 11.079 MPH N/A

WRESTLING from page 15

wrestler, that is a lot of pressure, but Brian is a leader for us, and he wrestled a solid match that ended up giving us the win.”

“It’s nice to have our leaders showing the younger wrestlers how to compete for each other;” Suchocki said. “The team as a whole came together and put together a great match against a solid opponent. We are wrestling the best we have all season and need to continue that moving into the final weeks.

Box score:
SPASH 39 @ Merrill 42