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# April 4-8 is Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week

## Drills planned for Thursday, April 7

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
 EDITOR

April 4-8, 2022, is Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin. According to a press release from ReadyWisconsin, Wisconsin averages 23 tornados per year, and the National Weather Service confirmed 41 tornados touched down in Wisconsin in 2021.

Most residents are accustomed to tornado and severe weather warnings in the late spring and summer months, but tornados can happen any month, and in December of last year, Wisconsin had 10 tornado

See **WEATHER** page 3



## Maple Grove's 52-year tree tapping tradition continues

Maple Grove School principal, Robin Hanson (in center of photo in black/pink jacket) instructs a class of students before they head into the woods with adult volunteers to tap their own trees. For the first year, each and every student in the school tapped two trees and will be responsible for collecting the sap from those trees. The students will also collect and utilize various data from the experience as a part of their classroom study.



**Left:** A student hangs a sap collection bag on the tap he just "tapped" into the maple tree under the guidance of adult volunteer, Peter Fromm Wade. **Right:** Peter Fromm Wade (himself an alum of Maple Grove School and also a descendant of the Fromm Brothers who generously supported Maple Grove School throughout the years) is one of a group of volunteers who came out to help students find healthy maple trees, determine the best location for tapping, drill the holes, and then assist students with tapping the trees and hanging the sap collection bags. (School principal, Robin Hanson, is in the background in the black hat assisting other students.)

Tina L. Scott photos.

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# Lincoln county residents can help get broadband in their communities

## Taking a simple internet speed test will identify areas of need

Access to broadband is vital for the economic health and growth of Wisconsin. Yet many homes and businesses have no broadband access or internet service speeds that fall below FCC standards.

State and federal grants are available to bring broadband to under-

served areas around the state, but in order to tap into those grants, the state must identify those areas of greatest need.

The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors has formed a special interest committee of County Board Supervisors, IT and GIS professionals, and members of the public to gain a better understanding of broadband needs and the resources available for its development. They have partnered with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)

and surrounding counties and entities in order to expand broadband access throughout the region. The first step is rolling out a simple internet speed test for everyone in Lincoln County to take to establish where support is needed.

"Access to broadband will help Wisconsin attract companies and workers, and broadband is critical for those working or doing school-work from home or trying to access services online," said Missy Hughes, WEDC Secretary and

See **BROADBAND** page 2

**April BIG Sale**

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# Gov. Evers visits Pine Crest, announces \$5 million telehealth investment

On Wednesday, March 30, 2022, Gov. Tony Evers held a press conference at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, accompanied by Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Deputy Secretary, Deb Standridge. Lincoln County Board Chair, Kevin Koth; North Central Health Care (NCHC) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Robert Gouthro; and NCHC Board and Lincoln County Board member, Cate Wylie, also attended.



Gov. Tony Evers held a press conference at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill on March 30, 2022, to announce a \$5 million investment in telehealth services. Submitted photo.

**Easter Hymn Sing**  
 Everyone Welcome!  
 Friday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.  
 Join us for an evening of worship – a capella singing, an inspirational message, and refreshments.  
 Hosted by the Gleason Mennonite Church  
**Event Location: The Gleason Community Lions' Park**  
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*Thus saith the Lord; Again there shall be heard in this place ... The voice of joy, and a voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the Lord of hosts: for the Lord is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.*  
 Jeremiah 33:10, 11

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 Kurt & Valerie Z.

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*"Although our process is primarily remote, in-person appointments are also available intermittently throughout the year. Please call or email us for more details!"*

of Health Services (DHS) Deputy Secretary, Deb Standridge. Lincoln County Board Chair, Kevin Koth; North Central Health Care (NCHC) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Robert Gouthro; and NCHC Board and Lincoln County Board member, Cate Wylie, also attended.

Gov. Evers, together with the Wisconsin DHS, announced a \$5 million investment to make telehealth services, including mental and behavioral health services, more accessible by bolstering child psychiatry telehealth services and establishing neighborhood telehealth access points.

"The past two years have challenged our kids in more ways than we ever could have imagined, from the loss of a loved one to changes in routines and social connections. We know they are struggling perhaps now more than ever," said Gov. Evers. "And they aren't the only ones – many adults are working to overcome substance use disorders and mental health challenges, as well. This investment in telehealth services is critical, as telehealth can bridge the gaps between patients and providers by offering more flexibility and convenience in accessing healthcare, reducing the stigma, and increasing the availability of mental and behavioral health services, and ensuring folks can meet with a healthcare professional no matter where they live."

Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, DHS will use \$2.5 million to create a new grant program for hospitals and health systems to expand and enhance child psychiatry telehealth services. This program will build on the governor's efforts to support child mental health, including his Get Kids Ahead Initiative which will provide \$15 million for schools to invest in school-based mental health services for kids. Through this \$2.5 million program, up to five one-year grants of approximately \$500,000 will be awarded to hospitals and health systems across the state. Applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 6, 2022, and more information is available online at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dcts/memos/202204actionmemo.pdf>

The remaining \$2.5 million of this investment will be used for a grant program for providers to partner with community organizations to establish neighborhood telehealth access points at food pantries, homeless shelters, libraries, long-term care facilities, community centers, and schools for people with limited access to technology and reliable internet service. One-year grants of up to \$100,000 each will be awarded to between 25 and 50 providers across the state. Applications are also due by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 6, 2022. Application information is available online at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dcts/memos/202205actionmemo.pdf>

## BROADBAND from page 1

CEO. "But we can't do this without the help of Wisconsinites statewide. We need as many of us as possible to take a very easy internet speed test." The test will help de-

termine where internet speeds are below FCC standards and where the state needs to focus on building the broadband infrastructure. To take the test, you simply need to visit the Lincoln County website (<https://co.lincoln.wi.us>) from your home or work

location by June 15, 2022. It will only take a few moments and personal information is always protected and never shared. Even those residents without internet access can help by logging onto the site from a friend's home, the local library, or from their cell phone. Click on "Enter an address with No Available Service" to complete the survey.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) leads economic development efforts for the state by advancing and maximizing opportunities in Wisconsin for businesses, communities, and people to thrive in a globally competitive environment. Working with more than 600 regional and local partners, WEDC develops and delivers solutions representative of a highly responsive and coordinated economic development network. Visit [wedc.org](http://wedc.org) or follow WEDC on Twitter @WEDCNews to learn more.

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# Our favorite spots in Merrill – A study in scale

Beyond Books: Community ArtShare presents a unique perspective of Merrill and surrounding areas during the month of April at the T.B. Scott Library.

Students in fifth through eighth grades at Trinity School worked on a project to showcase their favorite spots in Merrill. They started by drawing grids over their resource pictures and their 4" x 4" canvases to practice sketching in proportion (which is a great exercise in working with ratios). Once their drawings were finished, they were given a set of acrylic paints and a color blending chart so they could mix the colors they needed for their pictures. Then they got to work painting their tiny masterpieces!

All materials were donated by T.B. Scott Library through the Youth Services programs. Every year Youth Services chooses a different local group and provides a special project for them to complete. This year it was art related and fit in nicely with the Community ArtShare exhibits. The students' art will be displayed at the T.B. Scott Library during the month of April.



A student works on an art project now showcased in the Artshare Exhibit for April at the T.B. Scott Library. Submitted photo.

## WEATHER from page 1

touchdowns reported in a single day, the release said.

In addition to tornados, other hazardous weather conditions can accompany severe thunderstorms including torrential rains, hail, flooding, and damaging winds.

Planning for severe weather in advance can help residents stay safe when severe weather does strike.

- **Create an emergency plan for home, work, and school.** Talk about and practice that plan with your family. Most schools conduct drills and talk about their safety plans, but families may not always prepare in advance and communicate a plan with their family members.

- Identify designated shelter locations at home, work, and school; talk about where to go/what to do if the family is driving; and be ready to go to a safe location when a tornado warning is issued.

- Enable your cell phone to get Wireless Emergency Alerts. On many devices, this is an option in the Settings menu, typically under Notifications, possibly at the very bottom.

- In addition to cell phone alerts, be alert to outdoor warning sirens, stay tuned to local television or radio stations for alerts, and consider purchasing a NOAA Weather Radio. Using multiple sources helps ensure you will get alerts in time to take potentially life-saving action.

- Check the weather daily to stay abreast of the forecast and possible severe weather developments in advance.

- Create an emergency kit and place it in the designated tornado shelter area at home. Consider the needs of your family and pets in the event of a tornado disaster if emergency personnel cannot reach you immediately and electricity and water

is cut off. Plan for a three-day supply of required items like food, water, and medication, including snacks and formula for children and infants. A first-aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable foods, a can opener, utensils, flashlights and batteries, a battery-operated radio, medications and a list of required medications, and a list of emergency contact phone numbers are just a few of the basic items to include. For children, don't forget extra diapers and wipes; formula, water, bottles, and a pacifier; snacks; a few books or toys; and a stuffed animal or blanket for comfort purposes. More information about preparing for emergencies and making an emergency kit is available at: <https://readywisconsin.wi.gov>.

- Consider making a similar emergency kit to place in vehicles, as well.

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Official Announcement of Park City Credit Union's

## 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Park City Credit Union Members RSVP by phone, email, or website and then will be given a virtual link.

The annual meeting is held for the purpose of conducting general business of the credit union. We will celebrate the financial strength of our organization, our achievements in 2021 and future plans for the credit union.

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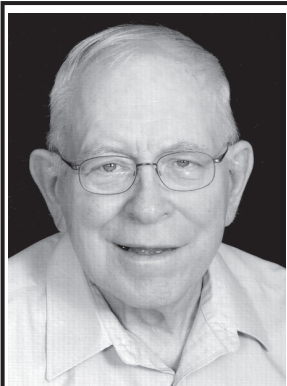


**Kathy Sue Simon, a.k.a. "Kat"**, age 65, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Thursday, March 24, 2022. Kathy was born on October 27, 1956, to Dick and Gladys (Earls) Levy in Chula Vista, CA. Her mother, Gladys, survives. She met Chuck Simon, and the two exchanged marriage vows on November 12, 2003, in California. Sadly, he preceded her in death on October 27, 2019.

Kathy worked in the food industry most of her adult life and had retired from the bakery department at County Market. She loved baking and was very good at it! Kathy and Chuck would grow vegetables in their garden and harvest them for canning. She was also an animal lover, especially horses and cats. Her fur baby, Jumper, will be lost without her, as Jumper was her loving companion after losing Chuck. Kathy's family lovingly referred her to their "beloved kat". She will be sadly missed, but always in the hearts of her family and friends.

Kathy is survived by her mother: Gladys (Calvin) Melton, children: Chris, Brian (Jackie) and Nick (Kristen) Simon, grandson: Oliver, sister: Vicki Bright, brother: Michael (Karen) Levy, sister-in-law: Jeanne (Randy) Lambrecht and nephews: Dustin and Michael Herzog. She was preceded in death by her father: Dick Levy, husband: Chuck Simon, brother: Allen Levy and in-laws: Richard and Beverly Simon.

Per family request, no services will be held. 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](http://www.waidfuneral.com).



**Patrick 'Pat' J. Myers**, age 79, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at his home, while surrounded by his loving family and supported by Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. He was born on February 22, 1943, to the late Jerome and Louise (Michalski) Myers in Milwaukee, WI. Pat moved to Merrill and attended Merrill High School, graduating with the class of 1961. He proudly enlisted in the U.S.

Army National Guard in 1960. Pat was called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis of 1961 with the Red Arrow Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. He was honorably discharged in 1966. Pat had worked at the Lincoln Hills Detention Center for 31 years, retiring as a supervisor. Pat volunteered at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church working with the high school students in their religious classes. He also taught hunters safety for 40 years. He looked forward to mule deer hunting out West and was an avid fisherman, he truly loved the outdoors. Pat was even able to go on a wild boar hunt in Tennessee, which was an amazing experience! He and Gloria enjoyed traveling to all the beautiful areas in Wisconsin whenever they could. Pat was a lifetime member of the American Vets #2000, (helping with fundraising for the Northwoods Veterans Post), Company A Reunions with the 32nd Division of the Army National Guard and the "Old Timers Group" of Merrill. Pat was honored to be able to go on the Never Forgotten Honor Flight for Veterans in 2017, a trip that meant so much to him. Pat liked to play Farkle with his family and friends and looked forward to spending quality time with his family. Pat is remembered as a witty, classy man, that had a 'silver tongue', but very soft-hearted, his faith was a big part of his life as well. Pat will be missed dearly, but never forgotten.

Pat met the love of his life, Gloria Sauer, and the two exchanged marriage vows on April 25, 2015, at St. Francis Church in Merrill.

Pat is survived by his wife: Gloria Myers, father & mother-in-law: David (JoAnn) Sauer Jr., sister: Michele (Richard) Moyer, step-daughter: Krystal Brock, step-son: Matthew (Stephanie) Brock, with their children: Marcus and Elania, sister-in-laws: Julia (Jon) Wicke and Darcia (Bert) Hopp, Nieces and Nephews: Lynn (Vernon) VonRuden, Julie (Marc) Ertl and Sheila (Todd) Olson, Jeremy (Molli) Wicke, Justin Wicke (Symone Pero), Eric Hopp (Jackie Kunze), Kristina (Michael) Brown, Great nephews: Alex (Allison) Paulson, Ian Ertl, Jack Ertl, Mia Wicke, McKenzie Wicke, Jacob Wicke, and great great nephew, James and friend, Francis Mischke. He was preceded in death by his parents.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Pat will be held on Friday, April 8, 2022, at 11:00 AM at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill. Father Maria Vallabhaneni will officiate. Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2022, from 4:00 PM to 7:00PM at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill, and again on Friday, April 8, 2022, from 10:00 AM to 10:45AM, also at the funeral home. Burial at the St. Francis Cemetery in the Veteran's Section will immediately follow Mass. Military honors for Pat will be conducted at the cemetery.

The Mass will be live streamed and available for viewing at 11:00am on Friday, April 8, 2022, and can be found under his obituary on the funeral home website. It will then be posted as a recording for future viewing.

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](http://www.waidfuneral.com).



**Loretta Alice Hulke**, age 82, arrived at her heavenly home on April 1, 2022 at Aspirus Wausau Hospital with her family by her side.

Born to the late Arnold and Lucy Wyland in Merrill on August 5, 1939, Loretta "Pudgie" was the 8th of 10 children. She was a loving sister, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. A precious gift from God.

Loretta married her husband of 59 years, Ronald Hulke, on June 1, 1957. She enjoyed golfing, crocheting, fishing, and playing games on her tablet. She loved playing cards (quite competively) and having Sunday brunch with her friends. She especially loved following the Wisconsin Badgers and Milwaukee Brewers. She was a true blessing and will be greatly missed.

Loretta is survived by her Children: Theresa (Harlan) Schubring, Steven (Oliva) Hulke, Michelle (Scott) Carpenter, and Amy Hulke (EJ Wright); Brothers: Allan (Doris) Wyland and Arnold (Carol) Wyland; Sister: Sandra (Fran) Doering; Grandchildren: Aaron (Jenna) Munz, Ashley (Austin) Knox, Melissa Hulke, Andrew (Emily) Hulke, Amber Hulke, Ryan Busse, Brittany Busse (Kyle Nicolazzi), Logan (Sarah) Lauer, Paige Lauer, Jessica Sawtell, Ethan Wright, Brianna (Ruben) Castanuela, Lindsay (Angel) Torres and Nick Carpenter; and 10 great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Ronald Joseph Hulke, Son Kirby Lee Hulke, and 7 sisters.

Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 6205 Alderson St., Weston. The Rev. Lance Hoelscher will officiate. Visitation will take place from 10:00 AM until the time of service at the church on Saturday.

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- Cremation in a Columbarium
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For more information contact St. Francis Xavier parish office at 715-536-2803.

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**Memory Bear Workshop**

Please join us for a time of healing as we create huggable bears from your loved one's clothing. This event will be held at Waid Funeral and Cremation Service, 301 Eagle Drive, Merrill, WI.

**CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO FREE SESSIONS:**  
**Friday, April 22, 2022 • 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.**  
or  
**Saturday, April 23, 2022 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Refreshments will be served on both days. Each day will start punctually as it takes the entire scheduled time to design, cut and sew the bears. One bear per family will be made at this event. We do have volunteers who can create additional bears outside this workshop. Contact Anna Winningham for more details.

To reserve your spot, RSVP before April 8 by calling 715-536-4646.

**Ruth Ferree Nesmith**, 95, of Gleason, Wisconsin, formerly of Carmichaels, Pennsylvania, was received into Glory on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at her daughter's home in Gleason. Ruth was born February 6, 1927, in Nemaconlin, Pennsylvania, daughter of the late George Reed Ferree and Emma Frances (Nedley) Ferree. Ruth graduated from the former Cumberland Township High School in 1946. She married William R. Nesmith on August 3, 1947. He preceded her in death on January 23, 1988. Ruth was a member of The Church of Christ. She loved the Lord, enjoyed driving her car, exploring anything she came across while on her travels and taking many pictures.

Ruth is survived by her children, Cynthia (Terry) Lokemoen of Gleason, Wisconsin and William Alan (Emily) Nesmith of North Kingstown, Rhode Island; two grandchildren, Jason (Siobahn) Nesmith and Joshua Nesmith of Narragansett, Rhode Island; and four great-grandchildren, Lindy, Jason, Colin, and Ethan. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, William R. Nesmith; parents, George Reed Ferree, Sr. and Emma Frances Ferree; and siblings, Frances Kahl, Lola Nichols, Caroline Deaver, and George Reed Ferree, Jr. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Pennsylvania. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com)

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OBITUARIES



**Norris O. Hattlestad** of Merrill passed away Tuesday March 29, 2022, at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill. Born on May 16, 1938, in Decorah, Iowa, he was the son of the late Nels and Winifred (Thompson) Hattlestad. He received numerous awards for his athletic achievements in football, wrestling, and baseball at Decorah High School and received athletic scholarships in wrestling and football at Iowa State University. He received a BS degree at Iowa

State and a master's degree from Winona State University.

Norris wrestled four years at Iowa State, and following graduation, began teaching and coaching in Durant, Iowa. After one year there he moved to Richland Center, Wisconsin where he served as assistant football and head wrestling coach. His Richland Center wrestlers consistently won conference championships and numerous state-wide honors over the next nine years. As a consequence, Norris was aggressively recruited to coach at several schools and chose to accept the head wrestling and assistant football position at Merrill, Wisconsin, where he served with distinction for the next ten years. There he met and married Linda Sandberg on October 8, 1982, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

During his years as head wrestling coach at Richland Center and Merrill, Norris' teams won 243 dual meets while losing only 23. His teams won 13 conference championships, as well as 17 regional and 11 sectional titles. Thirty-eight of his wrestlers were place winners in the Wisconsin state wrestling tournament, and four were state champions. Fellow coaches across the state elected Norris to serve as president of the Wisconsin Wrestling Coaches Association. The sport of wrestling was in its infancy when Norris relocated to Wisconsin in 1963; accordingly, he was frequently invited to share his knowledge and skills at coaching clinics across the state. Norris was also in high demand as a wrestling official at schools and colleges throughout the state. He was inducted into the Richland Center Athletic Hall of Fame, the Merrill Wrestling Hall of Fame, the Wisconsin Wrestling Hall of Fame, and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Norris is survived by his wife, Linda Hattlestad of Merrill; daughters, Diane (Frank Canino) Goldy of Arvada, Colorado, Janet (Charlie Augello) Hattlestad of Golden, Colorado, and son, Bradley (Sandra) Hattlestad of Weston; step daughters, Lorri Weix of Merrill, and Susan (Jon) Jaeger of Merrill; eight grandchildren, Samantha Hattlestad, Gavin Hattlestad, Emmaline Hattlestad, Chloe Hattlestad, Margaret Hattlestad, Michael Goldy, Megan Goldy, and Alden Hattlestad; three step grandchildren, Sara Weix, Patrick Weix, and Mitchell Jaeger; one great-grandchild, Sterling Hattlestad; one step great-grandchild Greyson Bushar; and brother Neil (Jackie) Hattlestad of Conway, Arkansas. Norris was preceded in death by his parents, Nels and Winifred Hattlestad; sons, James 'Jamie' Hattlestad, Timothy Hattlestad; and Step son-in-law, John Weix.

Memorials may be directed toward the Richland Center High School Wrestling Club, the Merrill High School Wrestling Club, or the Lincoln County Humane Society. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com)



**Sherry Simon** was born March 28, 1949 in Merrill, Wisconsin to Paul and Lorraine Simon. She died peacefully at home on March 29, 2022 surrounded by family and friends.

After graduating from Merrill High School in 1967, she attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point graduating in 1971 with a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education. She completed her education with a Master's Degree at the University of Wisconsin-

Oshkosh.

Sherry's teaching career began and ended at Little Chute High School. Initially she taught Physical Education, however, she wore many hats; that of a highly regarded Track, Softball, and Volleyball coach, a Driver's Education Instructor, LSHS At Risk Coordinator, and helped to create many other student leadership and mentoring programs. She made an astounding impact on so many of her students. As a result, in 1999, Sherry received the prestigious Teacher Fellowship Award by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation.

Sherry was a loving, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. Her love of God and her church kept her faith unyielding and she never faltered. She loved music (especially the sound of the loons), sports, the outdoors, especially deer hunting and fishing. She was a very avid football fan, and truly enjoyed watching the Packers as long as they played their best. Sherry was extremely generous, compassionate, and touched many hearts and lives! Whether it was career, family, friends, or her many sports related interests, she lived her life to its fullest and beyond.

Sherry is survived by her dog: Shiloh; brother: Paul J. (Patty) Simon; sister: Janice (Martin) Krebs; Nieces and Nephews: Lisa (Brian) Stoffel, Jody Simon, Andrea Krebs, Amy (George) Henrich; Great Nieces and Nephews: Derrick Simon, David Simon, Tyler (Emma) Stoffel, Amanda (fiancé, Josh Brown) Stoffel, Allyson Krebs, Colin and Taylor Jacobson, Aaron Doody; Great Great Nieces and Nephews: Ella Simon; Azalea, Alora, and Alaina Stoffel; Elliot Krebs; Nephew-dog: Radar Krebs.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Paul and Lorraine Simon; special friend: Dawne Cramer and their dog Sadie.

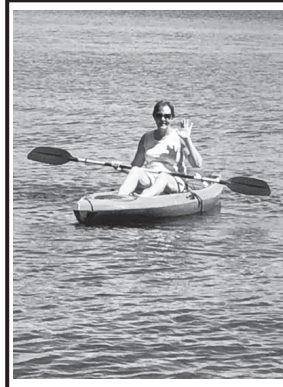
Sherry's celebration of life will be held at the First United Church of Christ in Green Bay on Thursday, April 7, 2022. Visitation starts at 9:00 AM, followed by the service at 10:30 AM. Interment will be private. Newcomer Cremations, Funerals & Receptions has been entrusted with arrangements.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Unity Hospice for their extremely compassionate care. Also, we know that Sherry would like to thank family members and all of her amazing friends for their extraordinary care, love and support.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH 16, 2022

Boy, Mateo John, born to Annie Befort and Bryce Befort of Merrill.



**Susan J. Hinz** was welcomed into heaven on March 26th, 2022. Sue was born June 4th, 1961, to Hobart and Joan (Edbauer) Hinz. She was so deeply loved by her family and will be sadly missed by all.

Sue spent most of her career as a CNA at Pine Crest, always caring for others in the most compassionate way, retiring just last year. More recently, she worked at Wal-Mart in Merrill. Sue was always happy and made friends easily.

Sue enjoyed spending time outside, taking long walks in the sun, being on the lake, playing cards and games, as well as the challenge of a good puzzle, but especially Sue loved spending time with her family.

Sue is survived by her mother, Joan Hinz, her siblings: Sherry Riddle, Joleen (Bryan) Buehler, her twin Scott Hinz, Steve Hinz, Greg Hinz, Tammy (Kevin) Cohrs, and Dan Hinz, as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father Hobart Hinz, and her nephew Jordan Buehler.

A Mass of Christian burial was held on Thursday, March 31st at 1:00 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Arrangements were handled by Waid Funeral Home in Merrill.

*"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned: he has crossed over from death to life."*  
John 5:24

We WILL see you again Susie!

Please send announcements, news briefs, photo submissions and letters to the editor to: [tscott@mmclocal.com](mailto:tscott@mmclocal.com)

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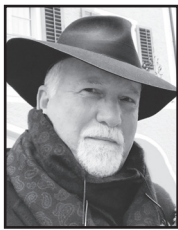
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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Happy Son-In-Law Day

DEAR READER,

One of the greatest blessings parents can have is a good and true son-in-law. I've witnessed my three wonderful daughters choose mates that are exceptional human beings. This is such a gift - the value-added goodness and greatness in those guys only serves to strengthen the bonds of family and puts living one's life



on an elevated course. The same would go for those who have good and true daughters-in-law.

Happy Son-In-Law Day... a day to give thanks to those beautiful and welcome additions to one's family that nurture and guide the next generation forward.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
PUBLISHER

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

Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week

Do at least one thing to prepare

BY SEPTEMBER MURPHY  
LINCOLN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

April 4-8, 2022 is Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin. Lincoln County Emergency Management is encouraging every resident to take time during the severe weather awareness week to do at least one thing to prepare yourself or family.

Recommendations to prepare for disasters can seem overwhelming with the price hikes with the economy and our busy schedules. But here are a few practical ideas to help prepare:

- Replace batteries in your flashlights.
- Keep an old pair of shoes where you

seek shelter from a tornado in your home.

- Extra sanitizer around from COVID? Store one in your emergency kit.
- Keep the mini toothpaste/brush from the dentist for your emergency kit.
- Keep/store expired water bottles to use to help flush the toilet when the power goes out.
- Keep old children's stainless steel cooking sets; they can be used on a rack over a campfire, if power is out.
- Fill spray bottles to keep you cool in the heat.
- Purchase flameless candles or glow sticks.

See AWARENESS page 14

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MERRILL Foto News

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11:30 a.m. Monday

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# LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

**DATE SIGNED: March 23, 2022**  
 Electronically signed by  
 Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY**  
**Notice to Creditors**  
**(Informal Administration)**  
 Case No. 22IN16  
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
 Janean B. Hass  
 DOD: 2/4/2022  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**  
 1. An application for informal  
 administration was filed.  
 2. The decedent, with date of birth  
 October 28, 1934 and date of death  
 February 4, 2022, was domiciled in  
 Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with  
 a mailing address of W8076 Joe Snow  
 Rd., Merrill, WI 54452.  
 3. All interested persons waived notice.  
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against  
 the decedent's estate is July 22, 2022.  
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln  
 County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main St.,  
 Merrill, Wisconsin, Room 2nd Floor.  
 Attorney Chantelle M. Ringe  
 Hill Glowacki, LLP  
 5250 E. Terrace Dr., Ste. 130  
 Madison, WI 53718  
 608-244-1354 Bar Number 1058136  
 Published Apr. 7, 14 & 21, 2022  
 WNAXLP

Legals 7700

alleged to be in default, as described in  
 the attached complaint.  
 IF YOU ARE NOT IN DEFAULT OR  
 HAVE AN OBJECTION TO THE  
 PLAINTIFF'S TAKING THE PROPERTY  
 LISTED ABOVE, YOU MAY ARRANGE  
 FOR A HEARING ON THESE ISSUES  
 BY APPEARING AT THE TIME AND  
 PLACE STATED IN THIS SUMMONS.  
 IF YOU DO NOT APPEAR AT THAT  
 TIME, JUDGEMENT WILL BE  
 RENDERED AGAINST YOU FOR  
 DELIVERY OF THE PROPERTY TO  
 THE PLAINTIFF.  
**When to Appear/File an Answer**  
 Date: 04-21-2022  
 Time: 02:30 pm  
**Place to Appear/File an Answer**  
 Lincoln County Courthouse  
 1110 E. Main Street, Suite 205  
 Merrill WI 54452  
**Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court**  
**Commissioner**  
 Name: Jay R. Tlusty  
 Published: Apr. 7 & 14, 2022  
 WNAXLP

Notice To Creditors 7735

**DATE SIGNED: March 17, 2022**  
 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer  
 Probate Registrar  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**CIRCUIT COURT**  
**LINCOLN COUNTY**  
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
 PETER J. TURNER  
 DOD: 10/19/2021  
**Notice to Creditors**  
**(Informal Administration)**  
 Case No. 2022IN15  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**  
 1. An application for informal administration  
 was filed.  
 2. The decedent, with date of birth May 15,  
 1962 and date of death October 19, 2021,  
 was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of  
 Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N3352  
 Elm Road 107, Merrill, WI 54452.  
 3. All interested persons waived notice.  
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the  
 decedent's estate is July 8, 2022.  
 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln  
 County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street,  
 Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Register in  
 Probate Office.  
 Mary M. John  
 Eaton Jon Overbey Jackman, LLP  
 513 Grant St., Wausau WI 5440  
 715-843-6700  
 Bar No. 1019515  
 Published 3/24/22, 3/31/22 & 4/7/22  
 WNAXLP

**DATE SIGNED: March 24, 2022**  
 Electronically signed by  
 Thomas S. Barker, Clerk of Court  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY**  
**Summons and Complaint Small**  
**Claims-Replevin**  
 Case No.: 2022SC000082  
 Small Claims, Replevin 31003  
 PARK CITY CREDIT UNION vs.  
 BRIAN B JAROCKI II  
**Plaintiff:**  
 PARK CITY CREDIT UNION  
 501 S. PINE RIDGE AVE.  
 Merrill, WI 54452  
**Defendant:**  
 BRIAN B. JAROCKI II  
 N2542 DAYTONA DR  
 Merrill, WI 54452  
 THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, to the  
 said defendant(s):  
 The plaintiff(s) named above has  
 commenced an action to recover  
 possession of the following property:  
**SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS**  
 If you require reasonable  
 accommodations due to a disability to  
 participate in the court process, please  
 call at least 10 working days prior to the  
 scheduled court date. Please note that  
 the court does not provide  
 transportation.  
**SUMMONS**  
 This claim arises under a consumer  
 credit transaction under which you are

# WVOA awards Irma student \$5,000 scholarship

The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WVOA) announced UW-Stevens Point Forest Management student, Sydney Ellis of Irma, was named one of the two \$5,000 WVOA Forestry Leader Scholarship recipients for 2022. Ellis plans to graduate in May of 2023. The other recipient is Garret Dament of Berlin.

Ellis's strong motivation and desire to be a successful forester is what allowed WVOA to see the potential she has in her future, a press release from the organization said. "Because of being in the woods so much throughout my life, I have gained such a respect and love for our forests, and it is an absolute dream of mine to work as a forester making sure our forests are managed and enhanced to the best of my abilities," said Ellis. Ellis embodies what WVOA strives to support in an up-and-coming natural resource professional, the release said.

WVOA's Forestry Leader Scholarship was established in 2017. The intention of this scholarship is to help carry forward WVOA's educational mission of educating future generations on the value of sustainable forestry and to ensure private woodland owners will always have access to well-trained and educated foresters. Learn more about the scholarship at wisconsinwoodlands.org/scholarship/.



Paul Kienitz surprised Sydney Ellis of Irma at her workplace with a \$5,000 scholarship from the WVOA. Submitted photo.

WVOA is a nonprofit, educational association assisting Wisconsin's private woodland owners in creating a legacy through sustainable woodland management. Learn more at wisconsinwoodlands.org.

# Merrill Noon Optimists honor protective services with bakery



L to R: Sharon Schmidt of the Merrill Noon Optimists delivers fresh bakery to the Merrill Police Department. Police Officer David Clark, Police Chief Corey Bennett, and Officer Josh McCaskill accept the donation on behalf of the Department.

Sharon Schmidt of the Merrill Noon Optimists said some of the club's mission is to honor law enforcement. "In the past, we have had a yearly protective services banquet for law enforcement," Schmidt said.

"This year we are donating quarterly bakery goods from Polka Dotted Pie to the Merrill Police department, Lincoln County sheriff Department, and Merrill Fire Department," she said.



Lincoln County Sheriff's Department Deputies accepted a bakery donation from the Merrill Noon Optimists. L to R: Deputy Reed Lezard, Sharon Schmidt from the Optimists, and Deputy Ethyn VanCamp. Submitted photos.



Happily accepting bakery for their Merrill Fire Department crew, from L to R: Firemen/paramedics Bryson Cruise, Nick Phelps, Daylan Enkers, and Battalion Chief Phil Skoug.



**TOWN OF PINE RIVER**  
 Notice is hereby given that the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** for the Town of Pine River, in the county of Lincoln, for the transaction of business as is law required or permitted to be transacted at such a meeting, will be held on **SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022 at 1:00 PM** at the Pine River Town Hall, N1647 Deer Run Ave., Merrill. Seven days prior to the meeting, the Annual Report will be posted at [www.townofpineriver.com](http://www.townofpineriver.com). You may also contact the clerk to request a copy.  
 Please Recycle Amanda Herdt, Clerk  
 Published April 7, 2022 WNAXLP

**TOWN OF BIRCH ANNUAL MEETING**  
 Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting for the Town of Birch, Lincoln County, for the transaction of Business as is by law required or permitted to be transacted at such meeting, will be held at the Birch Town Hall, Irma, in said town on **Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 6:30 PM**. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.  
 Cynthia Lokemoen, Clerk  
 Published April 7, 2022 WNAXLP

**TOWN OF MERRILL MERRILL, WISCONSIN**  
**TOWN OF MERRILL BID NOTICE**  
 The Town of Merrill is seeking bids for the mowing and trimming of the Town Hall lawn. Bids will be accepted until **April 15, 2022**.  
 Please send bids to:  
**Merrill Town Hall**  
 W4594 Progress Ave.  
 Merrill, WI 54452  
**RECYCLE www.townofmerrill.net RECYCLE**  
 KAY TAUTGES, CLERK  
 Published April 7, 2022 WNAXLP

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- Driveways
- Patios

**NOTICE**  
**City of Merrill Residents**  
**Garbage and Recycling Collection**  
 Garbage and Recycle Collection for the City of Merrill for **Good Friday, April 15th, 2022**, will be picked up in a combined collection on **Monday, April 18, 2022**.  
 Please have items out to the curbside by 6:00 a.m.  
 Please contact the City Garage with any questions at 715-536-4222.  
 Dustin Bonack  
 Street Superintendent

Thank you to all the Aspirus Hospice caretakers and especially Chaplain Natalie Bassett, for the wonderful and compassionate care you gave to my father, Elroy Lemke and me in his final days. Special thanks and love to Dody Neubauer, for all the love, companionship, and joy you brought to my father's life these past years.  
 Thank you also to the staff at Taylor Stine Funeral Home for your assistance.  
 Thank you to the community, to the many, many friends, fellow veterans, veteran's auxiliary members, quilt makers, neighbors, and extended family - who came out to share their stories and love of my dad, the many you all affectionately known as "Heinie." It was so heartwarming to hear and know how much he was loved in our Merrill community by everyone whose lives he touched in some way.  
 I'm sure dad is smiling down from heaven and reassuring us that "I lived a good life, a very good life" and that he will be waiting to greet us one day, joyfully laughing at the reunion.  
 May God bless you all!  
 Kathy (Poots) Timmerman



# Legion/Livingston Building named Merrill Historic Property under newly-revised ordinance

The Schultz Building was replaced with a pole building, the Lincoln Hotel replaced with a modern building, the Wistein-Krueger Funeral Home (the original T.B. Scott home on 3rd Street) replaced with a parking lot, the T.B. Scott Mansion replaced with ... an empty lot. If one Merrill resident has her way though, at least one Merrill icon won't end up the same way.

On Feb. 18, 2022, Merrill resident Elizabeth McCrank, a Mayoral appointee to the City's Historic Preservation Committee, paid the \$75 nominating fee and proposed that the Hermien Livingston American Legion Building, also known as the Legion Building or the Livingston Building, located across First St. from the T.B. Scott Free Library, be accorded Historic status by the City of Merrill's Historic Preservation Committee. At the March 16 meeting of the Committee, the nomination was unanimously approved. According to the recently revised City ordinance covering historic structures, such status means that the City may not issue a demolition permit – even to itself – without first giving the public notice and then getting approval from the Historic Preservation Committee.

The Livingston Building was designed by noted Wausau architect, Irving Obel, and constructed in 1929. McCrank argued in her nomination that the building was a mainstay of Merrill life for many years and represented generations of Merrill events. Residents tell of attending junior proms and weddings, as well as enjoying fish fries and socializing on Friday evenings. One resident recalled sitting at the bar and watching Walter Cronkite give his final news broadcast. The American Legion Chapter of Merrill eventually disbanded for lack of membership, the restaurant and bar closed, and the building reverted to the City of Merrill. The Merrill Historical Society purchased



The former American Legion building, also known as the Livingston Building, is currently owned by the City of Merrill after ownership reverted to the City when the Merrill Historical Society vacated the property in 2021. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

the building with a gift from the estate of Hermien Livingston, widow of Cliff Livingston Sr., and in gratitude, they appended Mrs. Livingston's name to the building. For nearly two decades it was used by the Historical Society for off-site storage of artifacts. The Historical Society returned the building to the City in 2021 after building a state-of-the-art storage facility at their Museum and Culture Center now located in the former Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Third Street.

The building's architect, Irving Obel, was trained in Norway and began his architectural career on the East coast, later moving to Chicago and then Wausau. Besides the Livingston Building, Obel designed the Merrill Vocational School, the Scott Memorial Methodist Church, the Anson-Gilkey factory, Merrill Buick Co., the Galipeau Bowling Alley, the Robarge Theater, and the Merrill Manufacturing Company. He also designed and built homes for the Gilkeys, the Kinzels, the Stanges, the Knudsons, the Wenzels, and Dr. L. J. Bayer – some of the most prominent families in Merrill's history. Of the 25 buildings credited to Obel here in Merrill, at least 13 are no

longer standing. Obel died in 1953.

The loss of the Scott Mansion reminded people of the challenges facing historic preservation in the city and the danger to buildings like the Legion/Livingston Building. The hands of the Historic Preservation Committee were tied over the T.B. Scott Mansion, McCrank explained, because it was privately owned. Following the vote in favor of the Livingston nomination, she said, "We have a healthy respect for private property, even on the Historic Preservation Committee, but when a structure comes into the hands of the public, we gain many more tools for protecting that structure. Getting City ownership of the building here was crucial to this nomination." The Legion/Livingston Building's designation is the first test of the newly-revised ordinance's ability to protect landmarks and give the public a say in their fates.

The real challenge for the Legion/Livingston Building now, says McCrank,

is adapting it to the sort of use that generates maintenance. "Adaptive re-use is a more powerful tool for preservation than almost any other strategy." Under adaptive re-use, a building or structure's facade is preserved and maintained, but the inside can be altered to fit new needs and uses. The City is currently paying for utilities for the building, while the Parks and Recreation Department uses it for storage. But a use that generated some income or payback to cover those utility and maintenance costs would go a long way toward keeping the building for posterity.

The City is open to suggestions and offers for using the building – preferably from non-profit organizations. "It's got a commercial kitchen layout – so why not a cooking school, a business incubator, or a work-sharing space?" McCrank said. She encourages people to attend meetings of the Historic Preservation Committee to learn about the possibilities and to have input into the use of the building going forward.

"Now that the Scott Mansion is gone, the Legion/Livingston Building rises to the status of city icon – one of those things you see every time you drive into and through the city, and that reminds you of our history, whether you know what is going on inside or not. Those icons are what make our city unique – what make this our home," McCrank said.

One thing is for certain: with the Legion/Livingston Building's new, protected status as a Historic Merrill Structure, Merrill residents won't wake up one day to find that they have lost another iconic structure. For now, this one is staying put.

## Rodeo Queens wanted!

The Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo (WRPR) is accepting applications for the 2023 WRPR Queen and Princess. The contest is open to any single ladies ages 16-24, who reside within 60 miles of the Lincoln County Line. Contestants are judged in five areas: ticket sales, horsemanship, personality, speech, and a written test on rodeo knowledge. Participants earn great rewards and the pride of representing the amazing sport of Rodeo. Visit <https://wrpr.org/queen-contest/> for more information. Application deadline is April 15, 2022.

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Chicken Breast Frozen - Sliced Fully Cooked - Sriracha 2 lbs ..... only <b>59¢</b> a lb.	Mozzarella Cheese w/M.L.M. 5 lbs ..... only <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b> a lb.	Peanut Butter Mini Chips ..... only <b>\$1<sup>79</sup></b> a lb.
Breaded Haddock Fillets - Frozen ..... only <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> a lb.	Cheese Trims Cheddar, Co-Jack, Muenster, Swiss 35 lbs ..... only <b>\$1<sup>89</sup></b> a lb.	Semi Sweet Chocolate Chips ..... only <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b> a lb.
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Meatballs Italian Style Frozen 14 oz ..... only <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>	Roast Beef Seasoned Angus - Frozen 5 lbs ..... only <b>\$2<sup>89</sup></b> a lb.	Coffee Ground - Hawaii Coconut Cream 11 oz ..... only <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b>
Bacon - Frozen Hardwood Smoked 16 oz ..... only <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b>	Sweet & Spicy BBQ Sausages Frozen 19 oz ..... only <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b> each	Coffee Whole Bean - Pikes Place, Verona 18 oz ..... only <b>\$3<sup>49</sup></b>
Black Forest Ham Uncured - Frozen 2 lbs ..... only <b>\$1<sup>89</sup></b> a lb.	Bacon Ends & Trims Hickory Smoked - Frozen ..... only <b>\$1<sup>89</sup></b> a lb.	Coffee Ground - Peppermint Mocha 17 oz ..... only <b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b>
Chicken Breast Chipotle - Fully Cooked Frozen 5 lbs ..... only <b>\$1<sup>19</sup></b> a lb.	Ground Beef 80-20 - Frozen ..... only <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> a lb.	Corn Nuts - Ranch ..... only <b>99¢</b> a lb.
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# It's maple syrup season!

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

It's maple syrup season! Maple syrup operations typically start in February when it is still cold but spring is on the horizon and trees are tapped and buckets, bags, or modern plastic pipelines are connected to the taps in anticipation of when the sap will begin to run.

The sap begins to run when temperatures rise above freezing during the day and then drop down below freezing at night. This is prime-time for sap to run and for sap collection. Temperatures vary each spring, and the maple syrup season is entirely dependent on the right weather and temperatures to produce a good and abundant sap flow.

Then begins the process of cooking the sap down to remove all of the water and to produce delicious pure, sweet maple syrup. Because of the high water content, it takes an average of 40 gallons of sap to cook down to one gallon of maple syrup.

Maple syrup season typically ends in mid-April when nighttime temperatures no longer dip below freezing.

# Leafy Grove Maple of Merrill hosts WMSPA First Tree Tapping event

Alice in Dairyland, Maple Ambassador, and State Representative attend

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

The 2022 Wisconsin Maple Syrup Season and Maple Month (March 15 – April 15) officially kicks off when the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association (WMSPA) holds their First Tree Tapping event. This year that kick off was held at Leafy Grove Maple, N602 Leafy Grove Rd., just outside of Merrill on March 19, 2022, and Julia Nunes, Wisconsin's 74th Alice in Dairyland was there to tap the official first tree. 2021-2022

See TAPPING page 9



Julia Nunes, Wisconsin's 74th Alice in Dairyland, taps a maple tree at Leafy Grove Maple. Owner Ray Melander stands behind her holding the drill. Maple Month (March 15 – April 15) kicked off at the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association (WMSPA) First Tree Tapping event held on March 19 at Leafy Grove Maple, Merrill.

Joseph Frederick photo.

# Schleif Sugar Bush donates syrup to MAPS Students enjoy a sweet treat with pancakes and French toast

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

"I always try to do a farm-to-school project each year," said Laura Krause-Zastrow of Taher, Inc., and the Food Service Director for Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS). "This year I thought maple syrup would be a good idea. We reached out to the Schleif family, and they gracefully donated four gallons of syrup."

As a result, students at all MAPS schools were treated to real maple syrup in December. One gallon was used at each elementary school with their French toast, and it was served with pancakes at Merrill High School and Prairie River Middle School, Krause-Zastrow said.

Schleif Sugar Bush began in 1984 when Dennis and Joan Schleif tapped 25 maple trees on their Town



Schleif Sugar Bush produces pure maple syrup that is sold locally and has also been shipped to all 50 states in the U.S. over the years.

Submitted photo.

of Pine River property, collecting the sap in buckets with covers, and then cooked the sap down in an open flat pan in their backyard. Over the years, they increased the size of their operation to 750 trees and upgraded to cooking sap in a wood-fired evaporator.

In 2015, their son, Darrin, and his wife, Chelsey, took over the maple syrup business and grew the business into a larger industrial operation, installing a tubing and vacuum system instead of traditional buckets on the 40-acre parcel, upgrading to a new propane-fueled evaporator, adding a reverse osmosis system (which separates water from the sap prior to cooking to reduce the time it takes to boil down the sap by 75-85%), increasing their own tree tapping to 1,350 trees, and buying sap from

See SYRUP page 9

## Pet of the Week



**Mayla** is a beautiful girl who was brought to the shelter as a stray. She is shy at first but loves to be brushed and told she is pretty by the staff here. **Mayla** would probably be best in a home with older children. **Mayla** seems to tolerate other cats, but would probably be best as only cat. **Mayla** came to us front declawed. Her adoption fee includes her spay, up to date vaccinations and microchip.

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Visit all the adoptable animals at Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N Memorial Dr., Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-4 PM & Sun 12-2 PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us at www.furrypets.com.

## Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is

**Bernice Belgram**  
Daughter of  
**Eric & Ginger Belgram**

Bernice is in Kindergarten at Kate Goodrich Elementary School. She was nominated by Mrs. Stacy Kleinschmidt.



**What is your favorite subject in school? Why?**  
I like math because I like learning about number bonds.

**What is your favorite part of school? Why?**  
My favorite part of school is lunch because I get to eat yummy food with my friends.

**What would you like to do/become someday? Why?**  
Some day I want to be a teacher so I can teach fun stuff to the class like reading books.

Bernice is always smiling and ready to learn. Bernice is kind, considerate, and helpful to her classmates. She has made great academic progress this school year. She is a great role model and always does her best in the classroom.  
~ Mrs. Stacy Kleinschmidt

Student of the Week Sponsored by:

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In Memory of  
**Cris "Wackey" Gapko**  
who passed away  
**April 5, 2021**

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but precious memories  
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Love you, miss you  
**Deb Stadler - Gapko**

In Loving Memory

Please join us for a  
*Celebration of Life*  
Saturday, April 30  
12-4 pm  
Merrill Town Hall  
W4594 Progress Ave  
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**John A Burgener**  
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## FFA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

**Alex Green**, a Freshman at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Future Farmers of America (FFA) Member of the Month for March 2022. Alex is new to FFA this year. "I have enjoyed helping with the 'Thank A Farmer' event and just being around a community that has some of the same interests as I do. I joined FFA because it seemed fun and I wanted to make more friends and get involved with FFA." He enjoys helping with fundraisers and hopes to be an FFA officer in the future.

Alex's experience with agriculture began in his childhood. "My uncle has a small family farm, and I have enjoyed going out there ever since I was young," he said. "On our farm, we raise cows, and we also harvest corn, soybeans, and hay."

Alex attends Mount Olive Church in Weston and enjoys helping a lot. "I help ushering on Sunday morning," he said. "Also on Sunday morning I have started teaching Sunday school. On Wednesday I work wherever they need help." In his free time, he enjoys four wheeling and spending time with family and friends.

Alex is the son of Jackie Patrie of Marshfield and Jon Green of Merrill. He has a 3.0 GPA and, following high school graduation, plans to attend NTC to take some agriculture coursework and also to become licensed to drive school bus.

**Alex Green**

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



# Polak achieves international fame in the maple syrup industry

## Merrill man inducted into the NAMSC Maple Hall of Fame

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

At the Annual Joint Conference of the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) and the International Maple Syrup Institute, held on October 24, 2019, in Duluth, Minn., it was announced that Merrill area resident, Joe Polak, owner of Maple Hollow, W1887 Robinson Dr., Merrill would be the 2020 recipient of the industry's highest honor. He was scheduled to be inducted into the NAMSC Maple Hall of Fame in 2020, an honor reserved for just one American and one Canadian each year. Polak was named the American inductee.

Due to COVID, the annual meeting and conference and award ceremony for 2020 was canceled and the official recognition postponed to 2021. In 2021, the annual meeting and conference, along with the award recognition, was held virtually. Though it took a while, Polak now has his official award, and his portrait will hang in the NAMSC Maple Hall of Fame at the International Maple Museum Centre located in Croghan, [upstate] New York. The purpose of the award and the Hall of Fame is "to recognize those who have excelled in research, development, and leadership in the North American maple industry." This is the highest honor afforded by the maple syrup industry.

Polak has been active in the maple syrup industry nearly all his life.

Born in 1952 into a northern Wisconsin family that has always been very involved in the outdoors, Joe, the youngest of four children, began making maple syrup with his family. His father, John, was a farmer and logger and his mother, Lena, was a cook at a logging camp and helped on the farm. Originally, Joe's grandfather owned the family's maple syrup operation. In 1971, it passed to his father and became known as Maple Hollow. Joe worked for his father and then purchased the business from him in 1985. He then



Joe Polak was inducted into the North American Maple Syrup Council and the International Maple Syrup Institute Hall of Fame. Tina L. Scott photo.

added maple equipment sales to the business and his father was the primary salesperson and delivery man until he retired.

In 1998, a new sales room and canning facility was built, new websites were added, and an online store was established. Today, Joe and his wife, Barbara, own Maple Hollow and continue to sell pure maple products and maple making equipment. "We are a distributor, wholesaler, and retailer of maple products," Joe said. "We sell pure maple syrup in a variety of

grades, maple sugar, maple crème, maple butter, whiskey barrel aged pure maple syrup, cinnamon maple, cherry maple and cranberry maple syrup, local honey, and special order gift boxes, in addition to maple related gift items, maple root beer, and maple cookbooks. We also sell maple making equipment to encourage others to make maple syrup."

"Barbara has been part of the business since our marriage," he said. "This award is due to her support."

"Pretty good for a California girl," Joe added with a smile.

He is a member of the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association and has been President, Vice President, Director, and Editor of the newsletter, the Wisconsin Maple News. He currently is a member of the Marketing Committee and has held the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the North American Maple Syrup Council since 2003. A MHS graduate with a degree and previous experience as an educator, his educational background prepared him well, as he now promotes pure maple syrup and gives many educational seminars and classes on making maple syrup at county and state association meetings, as well.

His two older brothers both have maple operations of their own, and his sister owns and operates a gift shop in southern Wisconsin, which sells Maple Hollow products.

### TAPPING from page 8

Wisconsin Maple Ambassador, Michelle Stangler, and Calvin Callahan, Wisconsin State Representative for Assembly District 35, were also there to support the maple syrup industry.

Following the First Tree Tapping Ceremony, Leafy Grove Maple offered tours, demonstrations, and maple-inspired refreshments.

Established in 1997 by Ray and Pam Melander when they purchased a 40-acre sugar bush property, Leafy Grove Maple has grown from 200 maple trees tapped their first year in spring 1998 to more than 1,350 trees tapped this season. Initially the Melanders collected sap with plastic buckets they got from a local bakery and Perkins Restaurant. Now their 1,350 trees are on a custom-built vacuum system similar to a dairy vacuum pump and milk pipe line receiver system to gather the incoming sap, instead

of the traditional labor-intensive process of collecting and emptying buckets hung from the trees.

Like most maple syrup operations that started small and then grew, the Melanders also started out cooking sap into syrup in an open pan over a wood fire. Today they process the sap into syrup in their newly-built sugar house using a 2x6" oil-fired evaporator and then bottle the syrup in the bottling room. They then sell their pure Wisconsin maple syrup locally.

According to Leafy Grove Maple, Wisconsin ranks fourth in the nation for maple syrup production, with 265,000 gallons produced in 2020. Leafy Grove Maple collected 19,500 gallons of sap in 2020, which resulted in approximately 485 gallons of sap for the year.

For more information or to purchase maple syrup directly from Leafy Grove Maple, contact Ray or Pam Melander at 715.536.3114.

### SYRUP from page 8

neighbors to bring their total production to cooking sap into syrup from 3,000 taps.

The third generation of Schleifs is also involved in the maple syrup business. Darrin and Chelsey's three young children (McCoy, Mayvree, and Lincoln) are the official taste-testers, and nine-year-old Lincoln taps 35 trees at his grandparents' house next door, collecting the sap

in bags, then dumping it into buckets in a sled he pulls behind his four-wheeler, and hauling it to the sugar shack, to earn some money of his own.

Schleif Sugar Bush produced 1,100 gallons of maple syrup in 2021 and sells their product in bulk and also locally at Clark's Cup & Cone, Heartland Coop/convenience store, and County Market in Merrill, as well as direct to customers. For more information, call Darrin at 715.218.7294.

# Merrill High School students win Wisconsin NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

On March 29, 2022, Merrill High School (MHS) announced two MHS students – Kiana Jahnke and Amber Winter – have received the Wisconsin NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing (AiC). The award, powered by the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT), recognizes students in grades 9-12 as part of an effort to encourage a diverse range of students to choose careers in technology.

Award recipients were selected from more than 3,500 applicants from all 50 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, U.S. overseas military bases, and Canada for their outstanding aptitude and aspirations in technology and computing as demonstrated by their computing experience, computing-related activities, leadership experience, tenacity in the face of barriers to access, and plans for post-secondary education.

Each recipient will receive recognition and prizes: induction into the AiC Community of more than 22,000 women, gender-queer, or non-binary technologists; access to resources, scholarships, and internship opportunities; and more.

"Encouraging all students' interest in technology careers is critical: our workforce needs their creativity and unique perspectives to produce technology that is as broad and innovative as the population it serves," said NCWIT CEO and Co-founder Lucy Sanders.

"We are proud that two of our own students received this prestigious award," said Oliva Dachel, MHS Computer Science and Business Educator. "Merrill High School continues to offer computing as part of its curriculum, recognizing its value to students' future success."



Amber Winter

Amber Winter is a Junior at MHS. In her free time, she participates in Merrill swim, track and field, and figure skating. Outside of school, she enjoys going camping, water skiing, hiking, and working out. At school, Amber takes Computer discovery classes, AP CS Principles, Code Cafe, and involves herself with DECA. Amber first discovered her love for technology when her mom introduced it to

her in the ninth grade; the following year she took her first class in computer discovery. From there she continued

See AWARDS page 14

## St. John Lutheran School announces 2021-2022 third quarter Honor Roll

### HIGHEST HONORS - 4.0

Keeley Benedict - 8th Grade  
Addelyn Ineichen - 6th Grade  
Alexis Kropp - 8th Grade  
Lilyann Kufahl - 8th Grade  
Siobhan Schuetze - 6th Grade  
Joanna Szeto - 5th Grade  
Evan Voigt - 6th Grade

### HIGH HONORS - 3.76 - 3.99

Izabella Erickson - 6th Grade  
Tavin Heidemann - 6th Grade  
Corbin Mattson - 6th Grade

Rye Wilson - 6th Grade  
Jordis Woodie - 6th Grade  
Caylinn VanDerNest - 5th Grade  
Lola Klug - 5th Grade  
Tyler Scott - 6th Grade  
Max Westover - 6th Grade

### HONORS 3.5 - 3.75

Elia Boehm-Wendt - 5th Grade  
Logan Klug - 5th Grade  
Hailey Ratzlaff - 5th Grade  
Samantha Catlin - 8th Grade

The MHS Class of 1982 is Looking For You!

40<sup>th</sup> CLASS Reunion

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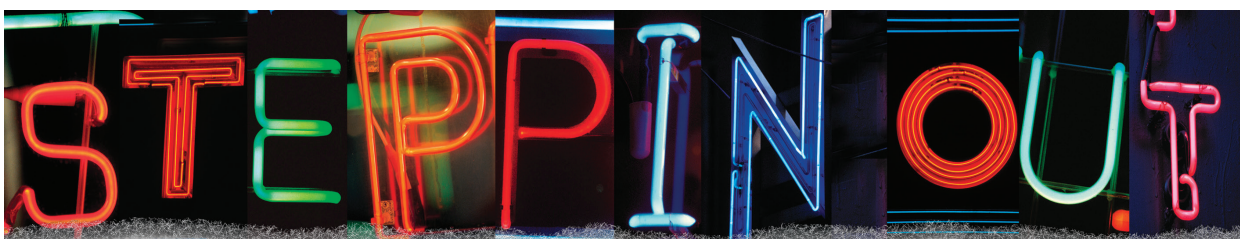
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On March 28, 2022, Merrill Eagles #584 donated a check to the Eagles State Project. Traditionally, Eagles Aeries from around the State donate to this project. The sum total is then donated to an organization of the State President's choice. This year, State Worthy President Fran Jorasz selected the Wisconsin Badger Camp to be the recipient of the funds. The Wisconsin Badger Camp (https://www.badgercamp.org) is a non-profit organization providing summer camp programs for adults and children with special needs. In photo: State Worthy President Fran Jorasz (left) and Eagles Aerie #584 Worthy President Gabe Palmer.

Submitted photo.

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1:00PM & 3:30PM

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## Ice Age Trail Alliance invites the public to eagle presentation

Dan Goltz, DNR Biologist, will be doing a presentation on DNR Eagle Surveys, health issues, monitoring projects, food items, and nest characteristics of eagles at the Tuesday, April 19, 2022, Annual Meeting of the Northwoods Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. The public is invited, and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Lincoln County Service Center Building, 801 N. Sales St., Merrill, with a brief Chapter Annual Business Meeting, followed by the Eagles Program. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Ice Age Trail as well as eagles. For more information, contact Ruby Jaecks at 715.551.1118 or brjaecks@outlook.com.

## Plautz's Pub

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THURS., APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>  
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FRI., APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>  
KARAOKE  
8PM

SAT., APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>  
BINGO 1PM  
FOOD, DRINK  
SPECIALS, &  
CASH PRIZES  
BAR OPENS 11AM



# Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM  
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

## The Lost City

(Now showing in theatres)

★★★★☆

Rated PG-13 – for language, adult themes, and some violence

Hi, everyone! Well, I am back from vacation in Southern California. (Did ya miss me?) And I headed right to the Cosmo to see a new film to review for you fine folks.

Luckily, I saw *The Lost City*, starring the always-enjoyable Sandra Bullock and Channing Tatum doing the best comedic performance of his career.

While not strictly a remake, it does share some story lines with the great 1984 film *Romancing the Stone* and, honestly, I did not expect to enjoy this one as much as I did.

The plot is simple: Romance novelist with dreams of being more gets kidnapped by Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliff for you Muggles out there) to help him find the Lost City of D and a priceless artifact, and the cover model for her romance series decides it's a good idea to tag along with a mercenary (played by Brad Pitt who looks like he is having a grand old time in this one) to go and save her.

My friends, this is a really good film. It's funny and it's sweet and it is perfect for a date night, as there is enough comedy and action for the guys and enough



romance and comedy for the ladies.

The language is mild, and the banter is quick and smart. Bullock and Tatum have excellent chemistry. Bottom line, this film works all the way around.

Mary and I saw this on Saturday night at the Cosmo in a nearly full auditorium and everyone, EVERYONE was laughing and getting into the fun that is this picture.

I give *The Lost City* four solid stars out of five for its performances, writing, and leaches. Trust me: Go grab your significant other, buy some popcorn, and tune out the world's noise and nonsense for this seriously fun film.

# Crocodile Rockin' coming to Merrill



Entertainer Jim Witter has been entertaining for more than 30 years, delivering a lively and engaging tribute to Sir Elton John and performing many of Elton John's most popular songs. His tribute, titled *Crocodile Rockin'*, will be at the Merrill High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2022, and is a part of the 2022 Merrill Area Concert Association lineup.

Roslyn Witter photo.

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

The Merrill Area Concert Association (MACA) will present *Crocodile Rockin'*, an Elton John tribute show, at the Merrill High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2022. Featuring Jim Witter, an entertainer who delivers Elton John's most popular songs from throughout the years, including *Crocodile Rock*, *Rocket Man*, *Tiny Dancer*, *Don't Let the Sun Go Down On Me*, *Candle In The Wind*, and *I'm Still Standing*, just to name a few, Witter performs a lively and dynamic show that makes it easy to confuse him with the real Sir Elton John.

Witter also engages the audience and invites them to sing along with many of Elton John's best-known songs.

While attendance is limited to MACA members only, it's easy to become a member, and purchasing a season membership opens the door to attending MACA's other concerts and live profes-

sional music events during the year, as well.

Currently, season memberships cost \$45 for adults, \$18 for students, and \$105 for families, and while memberships can be purchased at any time, buying a membership early provides the best value, as members can then attend all of the season's performances for that one price, because the cost of membership is the same whether members attend one or all of the concerts. As MACA says: Your membership is your ticket to the performance.

MACA was formed in November 1967 with the purpose of bringing professional performances to the greater Merrill community and they still exist to do exactly that. MACA also has a reciprocal arrangement with the Medford and Antigo Concert Associations.

For more information or to join, go to [www.merrillconcerts.org](http://www.merrillconcerts.org), email [MerrillConcerts@gmail.com](mailto:MerrillConcerts@gmail.com), or contact Diane at 715.722.3401.

[www.merrillfotonews.com](http://www.merrillfotonews.com)

# Early Easter Savings

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All Sales Good Through Tuesday, April 12, 2022!  
We have the right to limit quantities and correct printing errors. No sales to dealers. Sorry, no rain checks. While supplies last.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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**Fax: 715-539-3686**

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Multi Media Channels, the parent company of this local publication, which offers effective marketing impact through print publications and distribution, digital marketing and cutting-edge communications technology, is seeking a detail-oriented, motivated individual with strong customer service skills to assist our customers and be a part of our team.

Responsibilities include processing ads, organizing and proofing customer ad materials and copy, inputting classified and retail advertisement, corresponding with customers by email and phone, and a variety of other support functions. The right candidate must have extensive computer and data entry skills, great telephone manners, excellent grammar, and the ability to work well in a fast pace, deadline-oriented environment. High school diploma or equivalent is required. Will train the right candidate.

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### General Employment 7110

**17 SCOOPS ICE CREAM AND SANDWICH SHOP: NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS.** Located in Gleason, we are looking for upbeat, energetic, responsible individuals for part time positions. Food service experience is a plus but not required. Must be at least 16 years old and available nights and weekends. Apply online [17scoops.com](http://17scoops.com) or call Andrea 715-846-1089

**CONSTRUCTION LABORER/ROOFER-** Immediate openings, pay based on experience. Must have valid driver's license and transportation. Must be able to lift 80 pounds. Call 715-612-3781.

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### Health Care 7115

**URGENTLY NEEDED!** Part-time in home caregiver for elderly gentleman in wheelchair. Located in Merrill. Willing to train. **SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY.** Immediate start. Call Michele at 715-921-0790.

### Agricultural Employment 7125



#### Full-time Agriculture Equipment Operator & Laborer

**Job Description:**  
 Full-time equipment operator and laborer will oversee the operation of seed potato and grain crop production, including planning, growing, harvesting, storing, and shipping these crops.

**Responsibilities:**

- Directly supervise and coordinate the operations necessary for crop production.
- Help manage the scheduling of fertilizer applications, irrigation, and chemical applications.
- Operate heavy machinery, including potato planter, potato harvester, warehouse equipment, etc.
- Equipment maintenance and repair.
- Any other duties needed to maintain farm operations.

#### Job Qualification Requirements:

- Highschool diploma or equivalent
- Good leadership, decision-making, and communication skills
- Possess the ability to work individually or as part of a team
- Basic mechanical skills
- Wisconsin Driver's License
- Ability to obtain/maintain pesticide applicator's license
- Farm equipment operation

#### Preferred Qualifications:

- Potato farming experience 3+ years
- Experience in agronomic management practices
- Mechanical and repairing skills
- Precision agriculture proficient
- Previous experience with employee management

#### Physical Duties:

- Climb stationary ladders and climb in and out of machinery
- Lift and move 50-100 pounds repeatedly
- You use your hands to fix and replace machinery parts
- Able to perform laborious tasks daily
- Hand-eye coordination to operate machinery and harvest crops

#### Compensation and Benefits:

- Salary based on experience
- Health Insurance or reimbursement
- Paid vacation
- Retirement matching plan

Send resume to N4653 Chillee Rd Antigo, WI 54409 or email to [spudseed@outlook.com](mailto:spudseed@outlook.com)

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 Located in Antigo Wisconsin, this family farm can offer a unique job opportunity for the right individual. Guenther Farms Inc. is a respected Wisconsin Certified seed potato farm growing potato and grain crops on 500+ acres. As a full-time employee at this small, highly successful farm, you'll enjoy many benefits, including the opportunity for growth and investment in your future.

### Professional and Technical 7135

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### Announcements 7005

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### Rummage Sales This Week 7200

**Heated garage moving sale:** April 7, 8, & 9, 9a-5p. 2021 motor scooter w/14 actual miles; dishes, clothing, dressers. Lots of items, too many to mention. 2409 Sherwood Ave., Schofield.

**HUGE ABC KIDS SPRING & SUMMER CONSIGNMENT SALE!** THOUSANDS OF ITEMS! CLOTHES SIZES 0-18, TOYS, BABY FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT, BOOKS, MOVIES & MORE! APRIL 14: 7AM-8PM. APRIL 15: 9AM-8PM. APRIL 16: 8AM-2PM (MOST ITEMS 50% OFF SAT. Items marked ND are not) Central WI Convention & Expo Center ROTHSCCHILD. [www.abc-consign.com](http://www.abc-consign.com)

**Kronenwetter: Multi-family Garage, Farm, Antique Sale!** April 7, 8, 9, Thursday 8 to 6, Sat 8 to 4 at 2080 Old Hwy 51 (1 1/2 mile south of Cedar Creek Mall)  
**GARAGE:** household, glassware, kitchen, clothing, hunting, fishing, holiday, kids, pet supplies, collectibles (incl My Little Pony), plus much more.  
**FARM:** tools, nuts, bolts, nails, western saddles and tack, gates, waterers, feeders, fencing, plus much more.  
**ANTIQUES:** glassware, tools incl handmade, saw blade, linens, curtain stretcher, Heston belt buckles, plus much more.  
 See pictures on Craigslist. 715-359-4184

**Part #1 of 2 HUGE Rummage Sales.** The first Thurs-Fri-Sat, is April 7-8-9 from 9-4. Lots of Antiques, Books, Housewares, Tools, Furniture, Old Crates, Toys. After we clean out, Sat, we will refill with new items. The Part 2 Sale will be Thurs-Fri-Sat, April 21-22-23 from 9-4. Way too much for 1 sale! Come and Enjoy! 606 E. 6th St. Merrill

### Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202

**Garage Sale:** 301 North State St. April 13th Noon- ? April 14th 8-4. Crafts, Stamping, Scrapbooking, Kids clothes, Books. Most items 25¢

### Craft Sales 7204

**SPRING FLING CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW:**  
 Sat. April 9th 9am-3pm Cabaret Cove 1540 Pueblo Dr. Rhinelander. Vendor space going fast!! Call: (920) 676-1063 Email: [debra.razzi@gmail.com](mailto:debra.razzi@gmail.com)

### Estate Sales 7208

**JANE'S Estate Sales 4/8-4/10/22**  
 150805 N Mountain Rd - Rib Mountain (corner of N Mountain and Raven)

Notice #1: We DO NOT give out prices or information prior to the sale. Please do not text, call or email requests.  
 Notice #2: First come, first served. Deli style numbers will be given out starting at 11:00am on Friday. Limited to 25-30 persons in the house at one time.  
 Fun Sale! Vintage cameras, firearms, kitchenware, small appliances, office supplies, women's clothing, books, Country music CDs and LPs, tools, vintage knick-knacks, holiday, toys (some vintage), vintage bumper pool table, mini refrigerator, small furniture pieces, sewing machine, full size beds, costume jewelry, garage & basement items, and loads more. We are still uncovering. Go to JANE'S Estate Sales on Facebook or [estatesales.org](http://estatesales.org) for photos. SEE YOU THERE!

**MOVING SALE:**  
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 805 N Prospect St., Merrill Sat., April 9 • Noon -5PM  
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### Antiques and Collectibles 7214

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**GUN SHOW TOMAH, WI** Fairgrounds April 8, 9 & 10th Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9-5pm, Sun 9-3pm Info 563-608-4401 Marv Kraus

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Wants to purchase minerals and other oil and gas interests. Send details to P.O. Box 13557 Denver, CO 80201

**Cats 7270**

7 Pruebred Siamese kittens. 4 female, 3 male, born Feb. 3, 1st shots 3/31. Vet checked. \$300 females, \$200 males. Raised indoors. N8511 Cty. Rd. B, Wittenberg, 54499 call 715-219-8178

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### AWARDS from page 9

taking more AP computer science classes and joined DECA. Amber hopes to attend a four-year college where she can swim, and wishes to study computer science and STEM.



Kiana Jahnke

**Kiana Jahnke** is a Senior at MHS with a natural talent for art across many mediums, and she is passionate about ways to incorporate her art into coding technology. Programs offered at the high school have given her the opportunity to learn about numerous STEM fields that she can pursue in the future as she moves forward beyond high school. Kiana has dreams of creating video games and apps that allow her to intertwine her artistic and technological passions.

### AWARENESS from page 5

Memorize important phone numbers or addresses; many of us are lost if we lose the charge to our phones. Get to know your neighbors and exchange phone numbers. Conduct emergency drills at home and in the workplace. On Thursday, April 7, 2022, a statewide mock tornado drill will take place at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. The Wisconsin statewide drills no longer include a test of the Emergency Alert System, which means there will be no alerts triggered on weather radio and broadcast TV/radio stations. These are times to exercise a tornado drill at both work/school and home. Take pictures and share how your family drills on social media.

Here are a few tornado safety tips to remember as you practice your own safety drills:

- Tornado Safety Tips:**
  - Go to a safe room, basement, or storm cellar.
  - If there is no basement, get to a small interior room on the lowest level.
  - Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.
  - If outside, get to a sturdy building.
  - Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You're safer in a low flat location.
  - Watch for flying debris that can cause injury or death.
  - Use your arms to protect your head and neck.
  - Stay informed. Monitor local weather reports.

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Eleven Merrill area wrestlers qualified to go to the State Youth Tournament. Front row, from L to R: Brant Suchocki, Willow Bathke, Remington Skic, Emersyn Graap, Madlyn Hunter, and Mason Fuchs. Back row, from L to R: Jayden Graap, Noah Klug, Joshua Gustum, Kendell Klug, and Bennett Jacobson.

Submitted photo.

## WWF Youth Folkstyle Merrill Qualifiers go to State

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

On Saturday, March 19, 2022, 19 Merrill wrestlers competed at the Merrill Qualifier, hosted by the Merrill Wrestling Club, for a chance to make it to the Wisconsin Wrestling Federation (WWF) State Youth Folkstyle Wrestling Tournament at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison on March 25 and 26. The top three from each weight class moved on. The 4th place wrestler became an alternate.

### Merrill qualifiers

This year 11 area wrestlers qualified for the State Tournament. Brant Suchocki, Jayden Graap, Noah Klug, Willow Bathke, Emersyn Graap, and Madlyn Hunter all went as first place finishers. Mason Fuchs and Remington Skic qualified as second place finishers. Bennett Jacobson, Joshua Gustum, and Kendell Klug all qualified as alternates.

"Merrill is the second largest of eight qualifiers with 511 wrestlers. We have one of the stronger qualifiers, so getting 11 wrestlers to State out of the 19 we had competing was very good," said Josh Klug, Board Member of the Merrill Wrestling Club. "All the wrestlers competed hard regardless of whether they qualified for State or not. We are proud of all our Merrill wrestlers for all their hard work and effort they put into preparing for this Tournament. The State Tournament is another step for the wrestlers and will be a great opportunity."

### Merrill wrestlers place at State

Of the 11 wrestlers who qualified and went to the WWF State Youth Folkstyle Wrestling Tournament in Madison on March 25 and 26, five of Merrill's up-and-coming wrestlers placed at State. Madlyn Hunter and Jayden Graap each took home a fourth place finish, Emersyn Graap and Brant Suchocki each took fifth in their weight/age class, and Kendell Klug placed sixth.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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Merrill Wrestlers holding all of their awards. From L to R: Ian Dreikosen, Brian Ball, Wyatt Bathke, Adeline Calos, Callum Wheeler, Brindelyn Eternicka, Allison Hunter, and Ryder Depies. Submitted photos.

# Merrill Wrestling Banquet

On Monday, March 7, 2022, the Merrill Wrestling Team held their High School Wrestling Banquet at the Northwoods Veterans Post.



From L to R: Frank Sus, Reinhold Lenz, Wyatt Bathke (Legion Award Winner), and Reinhold Lenz.

“The Wrestling Banquet was a great event to recognize all the wrestlers,” Head Varsity Wrestling Coach Brian Suchocki said. “It is a great way to look back on all the accomplishments.”

Athletes received 2021-22 Wrestling Awards, as follows.

**OGRE AWARD** – Awarded to the Senior who gets the most out of their ability, gives 100%, and leads by example: Wyatt Bathke

**LEGION AWARD** – Awarded to the Senior who that displays citizenship, leadership, sportsmanship, competitiveness, and value to the team: Wyatt Bathke

**Outstanding Varsity Wrestler** – The Charles Gustin most valuable wrestler: Ryder Depies

**Most Improved Upper Classman (11 -12):** Brian Ball

**Most Improved Lower Classman (9-10):** Callum Wheeler

**Most Dedicated to Sport and Team:** Ryder Depies

**Coaches Award (Jered Severt Memorial Award given to an upperclassman who displays best what it means to be a Merrill Wrestler):** Ian Dreikosen

**Most Pins Rod Genrich Memorial award:** Wyatt Bathke - 24

**Most Team Points:** Wyatt Bathke - 169

**Most Takedowns:** Ryder Depies - 37

**Merrill Female Wrestling Leadership Award** – The leader of the team taking into account academics, character, role model, work ethic, and practice: Brindelyn Eternicka

**Merrill Female Wrestling Bluejay Award** – Awarded to the wrestler who gets the most out of her ability: Adeline Callos

**Merrill Female Outstanding Wrestler Award** – Awarded to the wrestler with the best skill level: Allison Hunter

**Merrill Female Most Improved Wrestler Award** – Awarded to the wrestler who most improved during the season: Brindelyn Eternicka



# BLUEJAYS 2022

## TRAP

**HEAD COACH:** Kevin Holz; 8th year, 2nd as Head Coach

**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Dave Lepak, 8th year; Norbert Holz, 2nd year; Robbin Ranta, 4th year; John Esser, 4th year; Rich Ashbrenner, 4th year; Julie Ashbrenner, 2nd year; Ashley Voigt, 3rd year; Matt Wallace, 2nd year; Stacy Lipke, 2nd year.

**KEY RETURNERS:** Seven returning Varsity shooters, six Varsity Seniors

**KEY LOSSES:** Six Varsity shooters

**2021 RECAP:** We had great athletes, and lost some great athletes.

**2022 OUTLOOK:** We have a total of 63 athletes this year, 54 males and 9 females, a 6:1 ratio. Forty-three are returning and 20 are newcomers.

What we are really doing out here is safe gun handling while having fun and participating in an individual/team sport. We struggled with the weather in the first few weeks of the season and practice, but even when it was cold and rainy, our athletes still toughed it out and shot their practice rounds to get ready for the season.

**A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH:** Getting ammunition is hard, and the weather we play in is hard. We still have 63 athletes. Many are great returning athletes who will pass on their success to the newcomers. We PRIDE ourselves on safety and we are happy to have a coed sport that everyone can feel welcome and safe participating in.

Our biggest goal for this year is to do fundraising to be able to build a fourth trap to help support our growing team.

**HEAD COACH:** Andy Plisch – 7th year with the team and 4th year as Head Coach

**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Rick Wallace and Adam Yirkovsky – both in their 4th year

**2021 RECORD:** 7th Place in Conference

**2021 POST SEASON:** 8th place at Regionals

**RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE:** No returning all-conference golfers

**KEY RETURNERS:** Allie Maschke, Jaylen Anderson, Mason Borchardt, Arin Dettmering

**KEY LOSSES:** Erin Murray and Drew Polak

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** We have the largest team I have ever coached consisting of 20 golfers. We are just starting our practice, so it is really tough to tell who will be stepping up. We are starting



## BOYS GOLF

to see some nice potential though.

**2021 RECAP:** Last year was a bit rough, as we finished last in the valley. We did, however, improve the team score by 67 strokes which was

phenomenal. It does still leave some room to build on.

**2021 OUTLOOK:** This season is shaping up to be a great one with lots of new faces this year. We have the potential to do great things, but staying

consistent is a very tough thing to do in golf. If we can master consistency and do the little things right, the sky is the limit. We also have a lot to build on from last year, which makes me super excited.

**HEAD COACH:** Kyle Hahn, 5th season

**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Will Bialecki, 14th season; Erich Wallace, 1st season

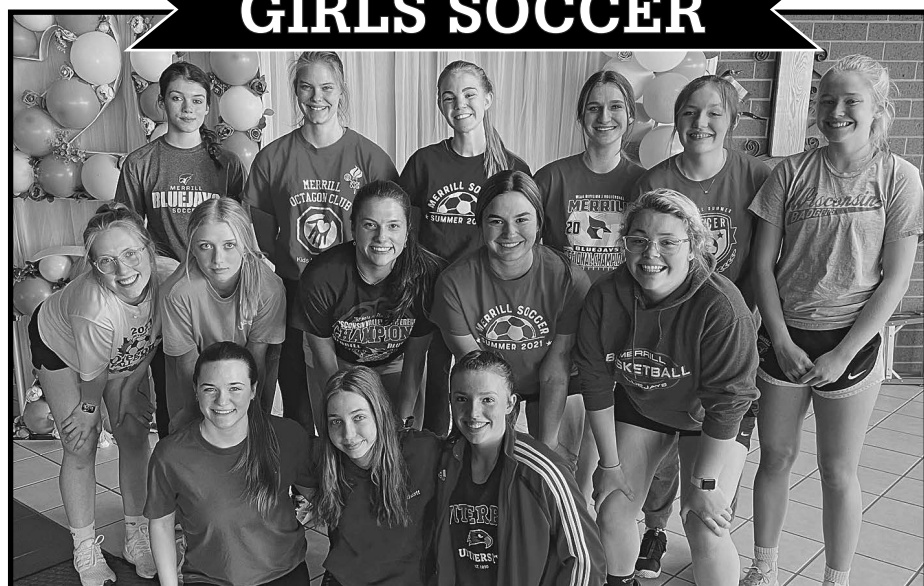
**2021 RECORD:** 0-13-0

**2021 POST SEASON RESULTS:** Regional semi-final @ Sauk Prairie, lost 0-10

**RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE:** McKenna Smith - Honorable Mention

**KEY RETURNERS:** McKenna Smith, Olivia Stevenson, Amelia Skoviera, Alissa Kracht, Anna Bowe

**KEY LOSSES:** Vanessa Bayer, Alex Johnson, Kate Steckbauer, Kelly Page, Rebecca Rell, Audrey Ladewig



## GIRLS SOCCER

Front, L to R: Reggie Lahti, Elizabeth Leander, Olivia Stevenson, Middle row, L to R: Morgan Polacek, Faith Zdroik, McKenna Smith, Ally Hooch, Grace Faber, Back L to R: Gracie Wyma, Alissa Kracht, Tessa Wheat, Telina Marmorat, Morgan Schmidt, Anna Bowe, Missing: Amelia Skoviera, Evalina Zavala, Alayna Boyd, Chloe Malinowski Submitted photo.

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Gracie Wyma, Alayna Boyd, Reggie Lahti, Grace Faber, Ally Hooch

**2021 RECAP:** While the win column eluded us in a highly-condensed season last spring, the girls put in the work, stayed positive, and never gave up. We played perennial conference powerhouse DC Everest well, limiting them to only three goals in both conference contests when they were averaging four+ goals a game against other conference opponents. We had a few tight losses against Wausau East (0-2) and SPASH (0-1, 0-1), and

achieved a much better result the second time around against Marshfield (1-4). We also played tough in our lone non-conference game of the season against Rhinelander (0-2) who ended up being the three-seed in our playoff sectional.

**2022 OUTLOOK:** Returning to our normal March start means we have more opportunities to play non-conference opponents. We started off our competitive schedule against Mosinee, Waupaca, and Antigo

See SOCCER page 20

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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Allison Hunter, a Sophomore at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Wrestling since second grade citywide and statewide, Allison has wrestled folkstyle for all nine years and freestyle for the last five years, and made it to the Wisconsin Wrestling Federation Youth State every year except 2020 due to COVID and 2021 due to injury. Despite a sprained UCL earlier this year, as a member of the MHS Girls Varsity Wrestling Team, Allison went to the first ever WIAA-sanctioned Girls State Wrestling Tournament in Jan. 2022. She also wrestles nationally and has trained with some notable female wrestlers, including an Olympic silver medalist and at the Olympic Training Center. She will travel to Texas in early May for the Women's Nationals and aspires to compete in Women's Wrestling at the Olympics.

Allison lives on a farm, raises and shows pigs at the fair, and is active in FFA and the President of the Prairie River Eagles 4-H Club. She also works part-time at Geiss Meat Service stocking the retail store.

The daughter of Becky Hunter and Brandon Hunter of Merrill, Allison has a 2.8 GPA and is passionate about agriculture. She plans to attend UW-Platteville or UW-River Falls to get a degree in teaching for agriculture education.



Allison Hunter

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

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# SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW



**HEAD COACH:** Alison Krohn, 1st year

**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Ben Natzke, Trey Seubert, Brett Seubert, Cassandra Casper

**2021 RECORD:** 14-11

**2021 POST SEASON RESULTS:** Regional Champs, Sectional Runner-ups

**RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE:** Olivia Losee

**KEY RETURNERS:** Olivia Losee, Dani Korman, Addy Schmeltzer, Laney Zuelsdorf, Lauren Duginski, Nicole Doering, and Brenna Steinagel

**KEY LOSSES:** Kendall Krueger (2nd Team All WVC), Hannah Losee (HM All WVC), Courtney Krueger (HM All WVC), Nicole Zoellner, Zoe Berna, Brea Pieper, Kennedy Berndt

**KEY NEWCOMERS:** Sophie Wendorf, Sophomore; Erica Arneson, Junior; Olivia

Pierce, Sophomore

**2022 OUTLOOK:** We are very excited for our upcoming softball season. We have a group of girls who are willing to work hard and come together to reach our goals. I am excited to explore skill sets and different positions this year with our roster. This season will obviously be difficult to some extent, as we navigate a new coaching staff lineup, relationships, and team chemistry. This is a challenge that we are excited to tackle and take head on. Our keys to success will be our work ethic and our adaptability. We are in a tough conference, but we expect to compete and be a major player as we have been.

**A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH:** I first just want to say how excited I am to be the new Merrill Head Coach.

This job comes with many new challenges, but I am more than excited to grow alongside wonderful student athletes. I am excited for spring to arrive and to be able to see the community out at the MARC supporting us!

**VARSITY ROSTER:** Olivia Losee, Senior; Sophie Wendorf, Sophomore; Kayli Wirtala, Sophomore; Macey Weix, Junior; Laney Zuelsdorf, Senior; Lauren Duginski, Senior; Olivia Pierce, Sophomore; Dani Korman, Senior; Erica Arneson, Junior; Cassy Kreamsreiter, Junior; Brenna Steinagel, Senior; Nicole Doering, Senior; and Addison Schmeltzer, Junior.



Merrill High School Girls Varsity Softball Team 2022.

Molly Dallman photo.

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**HEAD COACH:** Shawn Schultz (7 years)(Varsity); Troy Pieper (3 years)(JV)

**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Garrett Stine (3 years); Jared Schmeltzer (1 year)(JV); Rob Klug (15 years) and Grant Dahlke (1 year)(both JV2)

**2021 RECORD:** 11-10 losing to Medford in the second round of the playoffs

**KEY RETURNERS:** This year we have five Seniors: Michael McRae, Jack Hoock, Henry Reimann, Zach Neumann, and Fletcher Ellenbecker. All five saw some Varsity action last year and look to be the leaders of the team in 2022.

**2021 RECAP:** We look to build on the success of last year's team with a bunch of guys that gained valuable



2022 Merrill High School Boys Baseball Team.

Submitted photo.

experience last season. Twenty-three players saw time in Varsity games last year which should be a great asset as we replace last year's Senior group, which included one 2nd team All State player, a 3-year starter at shortstop, and two others who earned Wisconsin Valley Conference honors.

**2022 OUTLOOK:** Michael McRae, Jack Hoock, Henry Reimann, and Fletcher Ellenbecker all look to contribute on the mound this year.

Henry started opening day last year, battled some injuries in the middle of the season, but came back and pitched well for us at the end of the season. He is looking forward to a big Senior season on the mound and wherever he ends up playing in the field - he has worked in the infield and the outfield in the past and will do whatever he can to help the team win. Michael battled some arm

issues on the mound last year but played well for us in the outfield and really improved at the plate as the year went on. He is also looking to finish his high school career on a high note.

Zach is an outfielder with a good stick. He got a few opportunities last spring and hit the ball pretty well.

Fletcher has worked hard to improve on the mound and in the field. I think that he is in a position to really contribute on the mound. He pitched well for the Legion team last summer and just gets better and better as he works out.

Jack is also a pitcher and infielder and has the versatility to play multiple spots and will certainly get opportunities to help on the

mound. Really feel like these guys have worked hard to make this year a success.

We also have a solid Junior class. Connor Cortright was our starting catcher, and along with fellow Junior Ryder Depies and Sophomore Erik Mann, forms a great trio behind the plate. We have a couple of younger catchers who look strong early on, as well. You have got to have a solid catcher, and I believe we have a great deal of talent and depth at that position. Bradyn Pieper got some time at second base last season when Alex Mann pitched and did a nice job.

Nathan Brzozowski came up at the end of the season and really provided a strong bat in a short stretch, and he has shown the ability to play

the outfield as well as some third base. Ryder also played some outfield and got some experience on the mound. Lucas Reist has a nice stick and will compete for time on the infield along with Tyson Glisch. Sam Reimann, Erik Mann, Brady Kanitz, and Isak Clapper got some opportunities as Freshman last year and took advantage. Sam pitched some really nice games as a Freshman and played a solid third base. He has a lot of ability on the mound and at the plate and looks to improve on the success he had last year. Erik continues to catch and is working on improving his versatility to help out any way he can. Brady pitched a couple of games for us last spring with a big win against Rapids, and he has gotten stronger over the winter. Isak came up and started a game against Rapids that got rained out and looked great in that outing and threw a lot of innings last summer.

We have a lot of pitching depth in the Sophomore class with Braiden Voigt, Dawson Schulz, and Carter Baade all looking for their opportunities to contribute. We have a solid group of Freshman, as well.

**A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH:** We have worked the past few years to develop

a winning culture and work ethic. The guys have really bought in to working as a team and now have to build on what they started last season. We need to improve our production at the plate. We have the ability to score runs, but we need to cut down on strikeouts and make hard contact more consistently. In the field we need to continue to improve. Our outfield defense was greatly improved last season, so we must continue to work on routes and take away hits from the opposition. On the infield, we have worked a great deal on improving our throwing and footwork so that we can be a consistent defense. Every day in practice we need to work to get better. Pitching should be a strength. We have guys returning that have shown the ability to be good high school pitchers. Sam, Henry, Ryder, Michael, and Brady all showed the ability to get hitters out at the Varsity level. The other guys I mentioned have done the same at different levels and certainly will get a chance to prove themselves this season. We have had a solid start to practice, only a few days in at this point, so there is a long way to go. All of the players and coaches are looking forward to a great season.



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**HEAD COACH:** Alec Oestreich, 1st year as Head Coach

**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Jason Wadzinski, Ryan Heath, Bethany Martinovici, Heath Seefeld, Devan Arntson

**KEY RETURNERS:** State qualifiers in 200m Madi Crossman, 800m/1600m Liz Schmidt, and 4x400 relay team of Olivia Troyer, Madi Crossman, and Liz Schmidt

**2021 RECAP:** It was great to see some young athletes compete for the first time after COVID. We took a good number of athletes to Regionals and Sectionals. The Girls team made it to State in three different events.

**2022 OUTLOOK:**

**GIRLS:** We're looking to build off our season from last year on the Girls side. We have a lot of key returners and a great group of young athletes to fill in some gaps. The team has a strong sprint squad and will look to take advantage of that come Regionals/Sectionals and will hopefully get another sizable group to State.

**BOYS:** We battled a few injuries late last year, and were competitive in



Merrill High School Track and Field Team 2022.

Katie Hanson photo.

Regionals and Sectionals, but unfortunately weren't able to take anyone to the State meet. We'll look to add to our core group of guys with some talented underclassmen and strive for some State qualifiers in a heavy hitting Regional/Sectional competition.

**A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH:** I'm excited to be a part of Merrill's Track and Field program and look forward to gaining community support through home meets we host this year. Our annual Otto Bacher meet will take place May 6, and we are also hosting the Wisconsin Valley Conference meet on May 17. We'd love to see more families and

friends support our athletes for these two highlighted events.

**TRACK ROSTER:** Molka Alimi; Brian Ball; Omarion Banks; Adam Bares; Olivia Bares; Annie Becker; Max Black; Carson Brooks; Adeline Callos; Christian Candler; Acazia Clayton; Olivia Cordova; Tony Countryman; Madison Crossman; Alexa Emmer; Brindelyn Eternicka; Clayton Evans; Galen Franke; David Golisch; Xavier Gronholm; Russell Gruetzmacher; Jax Hanson; Elliott Hanson; Breannon Herdt; Catherine Herdt; Elizabeth Herdt; Cal Hoepfner; Janna Jacobson; Carter Jensen; Joey Jensen; William Klein;

Logan Knospe; Brooklyn Kraegenbrink; Maddox Lammerding; Jessica Leander; Aiden Lonsdorf; Emma Marlowe; Deontay McDaniel; Megan Miles; Jonathan Myszka; Caleb Norton; Micah Plautz; Mikal Plautz; Kayoda Raddatz; Amber Radtke; Isaiah Rell; Haley Rindt; Josh Riste; Bray Schmidt; Elizabeth Schmidt; Carson Schmitz; Ian Schuetze; Kekoa Schuetze; Jalie Severt; Mia Smith; Hunter Stadler; Boden Strombom; Aiydyn Tiffany; Olivia Troyer; Madison Vandergeest; Ashton Voermans; AJ Vogel; Callum Wheeler; Amber Winter; Carson Woellner; Dafney Yates; and Merin Yates.

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### SOCCKER

*from page 16*

the first week of March and have games against Amherst, Lakeland, and Rhinelander sprinkled in throughout the rest of the season. When it comes to conference play, DC Everest, Wausau West, and Wisconsin Rapids will all likely be an uphill battle. but I'm excited to see if we can make some noise in our games against Marshfield, SPASH, and Wausau East.

**A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH:** I'm looking forward to watching this group grow and develop, both as individual athletes and as a collective team. We're pretty green with only a few Varsity regulars from last season returning, but there's plenty of up-and-coming talent vying for open spots. Overall, I anticipate an abundance of opportunity for movement and contribution across the board this spring.

For students, staff, and the community alike, I

encourage you to head on over to Jay Stadium and help cheer us on this season! In addition to our regular WVC schedule, we'll be renewing some of our more localized rivalries with home games against Mosinee and Antigo early in the season. We also host Portage/Poynette on Saturday, May 21, in a game that will directly impact our post-season seeding. So come watch some exciting high school girls soccer action, and don't forget to enjoy our top-notch concessions!

## 2022 Merrill High School Spring Sports Schedule

| Baseball-Boys (Varsity, JV & JV2)  |                                  |      |          |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|----------|
| Thurs. April 7                     | Medford (Varsity, JV, & JV2)     | Away | 5:00 pm  |
| Mon. April 11                      | Stevens Point (JV2)              | Home | 4:00 pm  |
| Tues. April 12                     | Marshfield (Varsity & JV)        | Home | 4:30 pm  |
| Thurs. April 14                    | Marshfield (Varsity & JV)        | Away | 4:30 pm  |
| Softball-Girls (Varsity & JV)      |                                  |      |          |
| Thurs. April 7                     | WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity & JV) | Away | 4:30 pm  |
| Mon. April 11                      | Stevens Point (JV2)              | Home | 4:30 pm  |
| Tues. April 12                     | Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)     | Home | 4:30 pm  |
| Thurs. April 14                    | Wausau East (Varsity & JV)       | Away | 4:30 pm  |
| Soccer-Girls (Varsity & JV)        |                                  |      |          |
| Thurs. April 7                     | Waupaca (JV)                     | Away | 4:30 pm  |
| Thurs. April 7                     | Waupaca (Varsity)                | Away | 6:30 pm  |
| Sat. April 9                       | Antigo (Varsity)                 | Home | 11:00 am |
| Tues. April 12                     | Marshfield (JV)                  | Away | 5:00 pm  |
| Tues. April 12                     | Marshfield (Varsity)             | Away | 7:00 pm  |
| Thurs. April 14                    | WI Rapids Lincoln (JV)           | Home | 5:00 pm  |
| Thurs. April 14                    | WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)      | Home | 7:00 pm  |
| Track & Field-Boys (Varsity & JV)  |                                  |      |          |
| Tues. April 12                     | Multiple Schools (Varsity)       | UWSP | 3:30 pm  |
| Thurs. April 14                    | Wausau West (JV)                 | Away | 4:00 pm  |
| Track & Field-Girls (Varsity & JV) |                                  |      |          |
| Thurs. April 7                     | Marshfield (Varsity & JV)        | Away | 4:30 pm  |
| Tues. April 12                     | Multiple Schools (Varsity)       | UWSP | 3:30 pm  |
| Thurs. April 14                    | Marshfield (JV)                  | Away | 4:30 pm  |
| Golf-Boys (Varsity & JV)           |                                  |      |          |
| No Scheduled Events For This Week. |                                  |      |          |

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