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Milwaukee site chosen for Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake replacement facility



A facility designated to replace the Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake youth detention center in Irma will be constructed in Milwaukee.

BY JALEN MAKI
MMC STAFF

MILWAUKEE – The site for a new Type 1 juvenile detention center that will replace the Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake facility in Irma has been selected.

Governor Tony Evers announced on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022, that the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) had chosen the site, located at 7930 W. Clinton Ave. in Milwaukee.

A release from Evers' office called the announcement of the new site "a major step in the long-obstructed efforts to close Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls, restructure Wisconsin's youth justice system, and responsibly move kids in DOC care closer to home as soon and as safely as possible."

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) recently negotiated an agreement for the acquisition of the site, and the Milwaukee Common Council

See FACILITY page 2



Tina L. Scott photo.

September is Suicide Prevention Month

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Serious national suicide statistics

In 2011, the United States had, on average, 12.3 suicides per 100,000 people, and while the rate has varied somewhat in each of the subsequent years, it has never dropped below that rate and in 2020 averaged 13.5 suicides per 100,000 people.

Comparatively, in 2011, the United States had, on average, 5.3 homicides per 100,000 people, and while that rate has also fluctuated, jumping to a high of 7.8 homicides per 100,000 people in 2020, Americans are now more than 1.73 times likely to take their own life than to die by homicide.

Nationally in 2014, suicide was the second leading cause of death among 13- to 19-year olds, second only to moving vehicle traffic accidents, and suicide in men age 85+ is the highest

of any group in the country. Middle-aged men (ages 35-64) represent 19 percent of the United States population but account for 40 percent of suicide deaths.

From 2011-2020, 440,958 people died by suicide. That is an average of 44,095 people per year over a 10-year period, and suicide was the 10th leading cause of death in that timeframe.

A single year in Wisconsin

In 2020 in Wisconsin, 866 people died by suicide. They were our friends, family, and community members. One of them was my nephew, who died at age 28 in March 2020.

Of those 866 people in Wisconsin who took their own lives in 2020:

- 11 were 10-14 years old-children and early teenagers
- 122 were 15-24 years old-older teens and young adults
- 138 were 25-34 years old-young adults

- 148 were 35-44 years old
- 142 were 45-54 years old
- 141 were 55-64 years old

Shared circumstances

Regardless of age, the problems among people who commit suicide are often similar: peer pressure, academic pressure to get great grades, workplace issues and stress, struggles with body image and fitting in, relationship problems, substance abuse, physical or sexual abuse, poverty, social isolation, physical disability, illness and pain, legal or financial issues, trauma, feeling like a failure, and/or depression and mental illness.

But no matter what the age, suicide is NOT the answer. Help is available, no matter the circumstances. Suicide is a permanent end to temporary problems. Reach out and get help. Don't let suicide be the end of the story.

See SUICIDE page 3

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12th Annual Christmas Card Art Contest

The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce is thinking Christmas already. They are looking for an artist in their 12th Annual Christmas Card Art Contest.

The winning artist will have their artwork featured and printed on the 12th Annual Merrill Christmas Card which will be available for sale during the upcoming Christmas season.

Entries must depict a Merrill Christmas scene – past or present. Contest entries are due by Sept. 15, 2022. Each contestant may submit

one entry using any of the following two-dimensional mediums: acrylic, pen and ink, watercolor, or oil. Each entry must be mounted and framed on tag board or foam core that is 12" X 18" in overall dimension. Judges will select one image which captures the essence and spirit of the Christmas season in Merrill. The winner will receive a \$250 Merrill Chamber gift certificate and have their artwork featured on the 2022 Christmas card and be used in future promotions. Submitted artwork becomes

the property of the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce and may be used in various promotional displays. All submissions must be an original work of art.

For information on contest rules and guidelines or for an application, contact the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce at 715.536.9474 or stop by their office located at 705 N. Center Ave. Information is also available on their website at www.merrillchamber.org. Deadline for entry is Sept. 15, 2022.

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Czarnecki of Merrill arrested on 16 counts of possession of child pornography

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

A search warrant was executed on Aug. 19, 2022, at the residence of Matthew A. Czarnecki, age 26, of Merrill, and Czarnecki was arrested and charged with 16 counts

of possession of child pornography, a felony. He appeared in Lincoln County Court on Aug. 22 for an initial appearance, and the court set a cash bond of \$50,000 along with restrictions that he is to have no contact with anyone under the age of 18 years old and is not to possess any electronic device.

If convicted, Czarnecki faces up to a \$100,000 fine or up to 25 years in prison or both for EACH of the 16 counts. In addition, the State asked the court to invoke the provision of Wis. Statutes Section 939.617, that upon conviction the Court impose a bifurcated sentence including a term of initial confinement of at least three years. He can also be fined an additional surcharge of \$500.00 for each image or each copy of an image, as defined in 973.042(1) Wis. Statutes, that is associated with the crime.

According to the complaint on file, law enforcement received a tip from a Cyber Tipline on May 17, 2022, that

identified an account, later identified as belonging to Czarnecki, that had been used to download and share 16 videos identified as child pornography. The probable cause portion of the document alleged Czarnecki had received the videos, which were of different female and male children, some of whom appeared to be as young as toddlers and 4-6 years old, being raped and sodomized by adults and older teens, as well as children of multiple ages being involved in other sexually explicit acts. The videos were alleged to have come via private chat messages between Dec. 5 and 11, 2021, as a result of using the kik app.

A scheduling conference has been set for Sept. 8, 2022, in this matter.

This case has not been concluded. As with all articles about ongoing court cases, the defendant is presumed innocent of all charges unless convicted in a court of law.

NOTICE

City of Merrill Residents

Garbage and Recycling Collection

Garbage and Recycling for the week of Sep. 5th through Sep. 8th will be collected one day later than usual in observance of Labor Day.

Please refer to the collection calendar that was included with your carts and is available on the city website at www.ci.merrill.wi.us

Please have your carts out by 6:00 a.m.

Please contact the City Garage at (715) 536-4222 or email us at Streets@ci.merrill.wi.us with any questions.

Have a safe Labor Day Holiday!

Dustin Bonack
Street Superintendent

190006

FACILITY from page 1

voted to provide initial support for the site, allowing the state to initiate the process toward building a new facility.

In April, Evers signed Senate Bill 520, which allocated nearly \$42 million to the construction of a facility designated to replace Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake. Under the bill, the Irma facility will be repurposed as an adult correctional institution.

The bill received bipartisan support, unanimously passing the State Assembly and the State Senate in February.

Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake history

The signing of Senate Bill 520 and Evers' announcement of the Milwaukee site's selection came after years of allegations of abuse brought by both inmates and staff at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake.

Federal investigators raided the embattled Irma facility in 2015 amid claims that staff had used excessive force. The raid preceded several lawsuits brought by youth who had been housed at the facility, and over the next four years, millions of dollars in legal settlements against the State of Wisconsin were reached.

U.S. District Judge James Peterson ruled in June 2017 that DOC would be required to restrict the use of solitary confinement, pepper spray, and restraints used on youth at Lincoln Hills.

Peterson deemed the punishments and actions at the facility "a violation of the youth's constitutional rights" and called the extended use of solitary confinement "severe and damaging."

In Oct. 2017, a female instructor at Lincoln Hills was assaulted by an incarcerated youth. The instructor, who was transported by ambulance to a medical facility after reportedly being punched in the face, later said she would not suffer permanent physical damage as a result of the assault, although she indicated she would seek counseling due to worry of developing post traumatic stress disorder.

State legislators voted

in 2018 to close the youth detention center and replace it with a total of six regional state- and county-run facilities. Evers later signed into law a July 1, 2021, deadline to shutter the facility, but the state ultimately did not meet the deadline after Legislative Republicans rejected plans to fund the state-run facilities.

In April 2019, a four-plus-year investigation into alleged civil rights violations by Lincoln Hills employees found insufficient evidence to establish that staff had violated civil rights statutes. The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Wisconsin, the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Efforts to close the Irma facility ramped up again this year with the introduction and signing of Senate Bill 520 and the selection of the Milwaukee site.

Milwaukee site

Following the enactment of the 2021-23 biennial state budget, DOC began plans to pursue converting the Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center in Milwaukee into a Type 1 facility. In Feb. 2022, DOC began evaluating other

sites after hearing concerns from stakeholders and the city of Milwaukee regarding the proposal.

The W. Clinton Ave. site was one of several suggested by youth justice advocates, legislators, and other stakeholders

According to the release, the property emerged as a viable site with a private owner open to selling. As of July 28, the Evers administration had signed an agreement for the acquisition of the site, pending completion of statutory and other legal requirements and obtaining the necessary local approval in the site selection process.

"Despite delays in funding and continued obstruction over the past three years, we've been adamant that Wisconsin needs to move as quickly as possible to build a new Type 1 juvenile facility in southeast Wisconsin so we can close Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake and get our kids closer to home as soon as we safely and responsibly can," Evers stated. "Today's important announcement means we are one major step closer to getting kids out of these facilities, and we are incredibly grateful that the city of Milwaukee recognizes the importance of moving forward to do just that."

We will be closed Labor Day

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News or press release submissions must be one week prior to pub date.

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Symonds of Tomahawk charged with first degree child sexual assault, incest, intimidating victims

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Wyatt L. Symonds, age 24, of Tomahawk, has been arrested and charged with two felony counts of first degree child sex assault-sexual contact or sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 13, two felony counts of incest with a child, and two misdemeanor counts of

intimidating a victim to dissuade reporting.

The charges of incest allege he had sexual contact with a child he knows he is related to, by blood or adoption, to a degree of kinship closer than second cousin. According to the Complaint filed in the case and probable cause, the alleged incidents happened with two separate victims in 2013, 2014, and 2015 when Symonds

would have been 14-17 years old and while he was babysitting for the victims who were then as young as age 5 or 6 and under his care and control.

If convicted, each charge of first degree child sexual assault carries a term of up to 60 years in prison; each charge of incest carries a term of up to 40 years in prison, up to a

See **SYMONDS** page 24

SUICIDE from page 1

Coping

If you are experiencing circumstances like those described above, there are things YOU can DO. Don't give up. Instead:

- Get away from social media. It's fake-people putting on an image of what they want others to think of them and snapshots of their best moments (if they're being real in those), not the total picture of their reality. No one can compete with that. And no one should compare themselves to that.

- Lower your expectations of yourself. No one is perfect. What you see when you look at others, however perfect they or their lives may appear, isn't real. Those "picture perfect" people aren't really perfect and they don't have it all. And it's OK if you aren't perfect either. You are human. Give yourself a break, and some grace for your human imperfections.

- Get away from unhealthy relationships. From fake friends to bullying to abusive partners to a toxic work environment, remove yourself from those situations. Report abuse. Get help if needed. Contact resources and authorities in your community, workplace, or school.

- Surround yourself with support. Family, friends, counselors, clergy, other professionals, a support group, and/or people you trust are necessary for human survival. No one can get through all of the challenges and struggles of life on their own.

- Practice self-care: spend time doing activities you enjoy, take time away from high-pressure situations, get adequate rest, eat healthy foods and get some exercise, spend time outdoors, learn and develop problem solving and coping skills such as meditation and breathing exercises, pray, see a therapist, and/or do whatever you need to, to take care of you.

- Ask for help. Regardless of the issue, there is someone or some resource available to help with the challenge you face. Whether that help comes from a tutor, financial counselor, a lawyer, a doctor, a women's shelter, clergy, AA, or some other source, often help with your challenges is just a phone call or an inquiry away.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



- Get help if you are experiencing depression or mental health issues. There is no shame in taking prescribed medication if it helps you. Talk to your doctor or counselor.

- If you feel like harming yourself, call 988 for help now. Don't wait!

Warning signs

Warning signs that someone may be in immediate danger of taking their own life include:

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself
- Looking for a way to kill oneself, such as searching online or obtaining a gun

- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live

Warning signs that someone may be at serious risk for suicide, especially if these behaviors are new, with increased frequency, or seem to be related to a painful event, loss, or change include:

- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain

- Talking about being a burden to others

- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs

- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly

- Sleeping too little or too much

- Withdrawing or feeling isolated

- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge

- Displaying extreme mood swings

Real life tragedy

This past weekend, Neena Pacholke, morning news anchor at WAOW-TV in Wausau and former college basketball player at the University of South Florida, took her own life. She was just 27 years old. Pretty, popular, and successful, this tragic loss of life is another that reminds the community that no one has the perfect life, no one is happy all of the time, and everyone needs someone to help them through tough times. We can't do life alone.

But Pacholke's life is just one of many that mattered

... and somehow slipped through the cracks. Now her family and friends are left to grieve, mourn, and ask questions.

Every life matters. Don't let your life, or the life of a friend or family member, slip through the cracks.

Talk to the people in your life. Ask questions. Get below the surface. Don't just ask "how are you?" and keep walking. Stop, look, listen, and connect. Ask, "how are you, REALLY? Let's talk. Let's catch up on what's going on in your life. How can I help you?" Sometimes all it takes is another human being listening so someone truly feels heard and accepted and loved to turn a life around ... and turn that life away from tragedy.

Professionals say

"Talking about mental health and suicide has progressed over the years," said Debbie Merkel, a Social Worker at Taylor County Human Services with 22-years of experience in mental health. "It still has a long way to go. Stigma and shame often get in the way of asking for help."

"We need to normalize struggles instead of putting on that 'face' for social media," she said. "It's important that we—and others—don't feel alone."

"Suicide is preventable, and everyone has a role to play to save lives and create healthy and strong individuals, families, and communities," Merkel said. "Don't be afraid to ask the question, 'Are you having thoughts of suicide?' You could actually be saving a life."

If you are in crisis

If you are in crisis, call or text the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. Support

is also available via live chat from their website: <https://988lifeline.org/>.

Sources: Suicide Prevention Resource Center, Center for Disease Control (CDC), and National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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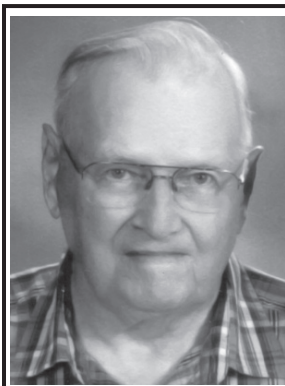
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OBITUARIES



Roland J. Hall, 93, of Merrill passed away Friday, August 26, 2022, at Our House Senior Living, Wausau with his daughter by his side.

Roland was born March 7, 1929, in Iron Mountain, Michigan, son of the late Martin and Lula (Hurd) Hall. Roland served his country in the United States Army and the United States Air Force. He enlisted in 1946 and was honorably discharged in 1951. On

June 5, 1948, Roland married Melita Weber; a union that lasted 72 years until Melita preceded Roland in death on July 21, 2020.

Roland worked in commercial construction. In his younger years, he enjoyed fishing and hunting. Roland enjoyed working on cars, taking care of both mechanical and painting projects. He enjoyed taking trips to the casino with Melita. Roland especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his daughter, Sue (Michael) Hoffman, Merrill; son, Michael (Dana) Hall, California; his former daughter-in-law, Charlene Hall, California; four grandchildren, Dionne Hall, Darcey Hall, Dayna (Chris) Mueller, and Aaron (Sara) Hoffman; twelve great-grandchildren, Christopher, Matthew, Dallas, Charles, Lindsey, Prescott, Louis, Marisol, Drew, Max, Lucas, and Benjamin; two great-great-grandchildren, Dakota and Alice; sister-in-law, Kay Hall, Merrill; brother-in-law, Bill (Shirley) Weber, Merrill; and numerous nieces and nephews. Roland was preceded in death by his wife, Melita Hall; parents Martin and Lula Hall; son, Mark Hall; grandson, Andy Hoffman; and siblings, Richard Hall, Martin 'Bud' (Jean) Hall, Everett (Margaret) Hall, Janet (Doug) Cole, Donald (Marion) Hall, and Violet Krueger.

The funeral service for Roland will be at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, August 30, 2022, at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. Michael Southcombe will officiate. Burial will take place at Snow Hill Cemetery, Town of Scott, Lincoln County. The visitation will begin at 10:00 A.M. Tuesday at the funeral home. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Roland's name may be made to St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, Merrill, or to the Lincoln County Humane Society.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Kenneth Alan "Trucker Kenny" Eggie of Gleason, Wisconsin, passed away at his home on Wednesday, August 24, 2022. He was born on November 28, 1944, to the late Herbert and Elli (Pentti) Eggie in New York City, New York.

On a blind date, Kenneth met his wife, Betty Jean Tucker. They were married on November 4, 1967. He was a cross country truck driver which allowed him to do what he loved for a quarter of a century.

Kenneth enjoyed shooting pool, being in nature and he was an avid gun enthusiast. He had a dry sense of humor, he was lighthearted, warm, compassionate, and wore his heart on his sleeve.

Kenneth loved his wife, daughter, and his beloved dog, Baron most in this world and he will be missed.

Kenneth is survived by his wife, Betty Eggie, daughter: Kristine Golden, grandchildren: Kaitlyn, Kasey, and Cierra, great grandchildren, brother: Clayton Eggie, and a niece and nephew. He was preceded in death by his parents.

No services at this time. Cremation to take place.

Memorials in Kenneth's name may be directed to the family at GoFundMe.com "Trucker Kenney - RIP".

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.



Nila Mae Oestreich, age 85, of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on Monday, August 22, 2022, in Merrill. She was born on May 2, 1937, to the late Martin and Gennie (Cole) Rehwinkel in Merrill, Wisconsin.

On November 11, 1971, Nila married Edgar Leonard Emil Oestreich at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ in Merrill. Nila was a homemaker who enjoyed bike rides in her earlier days. She loved going up to their cottage, fishing, and

playing cards. She was a Packers fan and loved eating chicken and fish.

Nila is survived by her husband Edgar Oestrich, children: David Geishart, Jean (Donald) Majewski, and Richard Koput, grandchildren: Rebecca, Kinsey and Michael, siblings: Sue Rehwinkel, Kris Rehwinkel, Rodney Rehwinkel, and Mark (Denise) Rehwinkel. She was preceded in death by her parents, and brother Dennis Rehwinkel.

A private service will be held for Nila. Interment at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.

Donations made be made to the St. Stephen's United Church of Christ Radio Ministry in memory of Nila.

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.

Geno L. Hackbart, age 86, of Merrill, passed away Sunday, August 28, 2022, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

The funeral service for Geno will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, September 2, 2022, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. Burial will take place in Snow Hill Cemetery, Town of Scott, Lincoln County. Visitation will be from 4:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. on

Thursday, September 1, 2022, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill and after 9:30 A.M. Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

BIRTHS

AUGUST 17, 2022

Girl, McKenna

ArLayne, born to Christine Jonas and Jeremy Jonas of Stratford.

Boy, Noah Oliver, born to Meghan Slott and Jamie Slott of Wausau.



David John Koepke, born January 11th, 1960 of Merrill was called home to God on July 17th, 2022 while in Arizona.

A private service including immediate family memorialized his life and passing.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/MerrillFotoNews

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

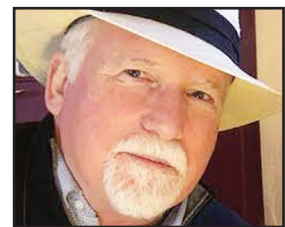
No Hard Labor On Labor Day

Dear Reader,

Back in 1894 Labor Day became an official holiday under the auspices of Grover Cleveland, who was President at the time. Originally it was recognized as a federal holiday; after the turn of the century it became a holiday for all workers. Essentially, it was an extended weekend for those working to take a rest.

Today Labor Day is a holiday celebrated by all families in the United States and Canada. It recognizes and rewards everyone's hard work and accomplishments with a day off. Most enjoy a fun weekend sprinkled with backyard picnics and parades. Unofficially, it also marks the end of summer. As we turn toward the fall and back-to-school days, we appreciate time spent together on a relaxed and peaceful weekend.

Happy Labor Day.



PATRICK J. WOOD
PUBLISHER

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

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

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Trinity to host women's retreat Oct. 1

Trinity Church of Merrill will host a women's retreat, featuring Wendysue Fluegge, on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Church, 107 N. State St. in Merrill. Sing, laugh, pray, connect, learn, and get energized with Wisconsin-based musician and speaker Wendysue. She has been touring the U.S. for over 20 years in worship services, concerts, and conventions inspiring with songs, bold living, conversing about Christ in unlikely places, and soaking up this crazy, lavish gift of God's love! Register by Sept. 15 by calling 715.536.5482. Admission is \$10 and includes lunch.

In Loving Memory
Debbie Neuwirth Bernhard

With her laughter, ringing in our memories. Her love, kindness, and generosity will always be remembered.

Join us in her remembrance:
September 10th • 4pm - 8pm
VFW • 601 Johnson St., Merrill

Celebration of Life
Joann (Nyberg) Medina
June 12, 1956 - September 10, 2021

Saturday, September 3rd, 2022
AmericInn in Merrill, WI
1:00pm - 4:00 pm

We would be honored to have you come visit with the family.

LEGAL

Legals 7700

DATE SIGNED: August 19, 2022
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
LINCOLN COUNTY**
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
ROGER J. STRELOW
DOD: 06/27/2022
**Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)**
Case No. 2022 IN 37

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth January 1, 1939, and date of death June 27, 2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W119 Hildebrand Lake Road, Rhinelander, WI 54501.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is December 2, 2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
Michael B. Winter
835 Fifth Avenue
Antigo, WI 54490
(715) 623-2905 / Bar Number 1025676
Published September 1, 8 & 15, 2022
WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: August 23, 2022
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
LINCOLN COUNTY**
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Peter T. Carlson
**Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)**
Case No. 2022 IN 38

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth August 13, 1963, and date of death January 26, 2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 809 N. Memorial Drive, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is December 16, 2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
Hougum Law Firm, LLC
305 S. 18th Avenue, Suite 200
PO Box 1516
Wausau, WI 54402
715-843-5001 / Bar # 1100219
Published September 1, 8 & 15, 2022
WNAXLP

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT LINCOLN COUNTY**
Case No. 22-CV-87
Case Code: 30201

ACUITY, A MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
2800 South Taylor Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081
Plaintiff,
and
WALT'S PETROLEUM SERVICES, INC.
5207 E. Jelinek Avenue
Schofield, WI 54476
Involuntary Plaintiff,
v.
AMANDA KOSMICKI
W469 Woodduck Lane
Merrill, WI 54452,
Defendant.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, To each person named above as a Defendant: You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The complaint, which is also served upon you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 days after August 18, 2022 you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is Lincoln County Clerk of Courts, Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street, Suite 205, Merrill, WI; and to Ron Harmeyer Law Office LLC, Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is 330 E. Kilbourn Avenue, Ste. 1070, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
Dated: August 10, 2022.

RON HARMAYER LAW OFFICE LLC
Electronically signed Nicholas J. DeStefanis
By: Nicholas J. DeStefanis
SBN 1064766

330 E. Kilbourn Avenue, Ste. 1070
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Tel: (414) 316-2500
Fax: (414) 755-7081
ndestefanis@ronharmeyerlaw.com
Published 8/18/22, 8/25/22 & 9/1/22
WNAXLP

**MERRILL
LABOR DAY**

Parade
Line-Up



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

Parade Line-up 9:00am • Parade Begins 10:00am

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. VFW Color Guard & Rifle Squad Post 1638 | 21. Merrill Fire Department | 42. St Stephan's Church |
| 2. Boy Scout Color Guard | 22. Town Of Russell Fire Department | 43. Joe Rader Towing |
| 3. American Legion Color Guard | 23. Corning Volunteer Fire Department | 44. Merrill Racers |
| 4. VFW Post 1638 Ladies Auxiliary | 24. Pine River Volunteer Fire Department | 45. Agra Industries |
| 5. Sgt. Ryan Jopeks Truck | 25. Hamburg Fire And Ems Department | 46. Lincoln Gun Club |
| 6. Jopek Semi | 26. DNR Fire Trucks And Equipment | 47. Haunted Sawmill |
| 7. Pvt. Dampier Semi | 27. Dinges For Sheriff | 48. Astro Enterprises |
| 8. Mar-Lin Post #10203 | 28. Lions Car Show (Nicklaus 27 Cars) | 49. Operating Engineers #139 |
| 9. Dav Chapter 29 | 29. Berlin-Hamburg Lions | 50. St. John Lutheran Church & School |
| 10. Amvets Pres & White Clover Princess | 30. Allan's Barber Chair | 51. Brose's Flower Center |
| 11. Lincoln County Veterans Council | 31. Aqua Jays | 52. Square Em Up |
| 12. Merrill Mayor Hass | 32. Lightning Express (3 Units) | 53. Northern Wire LLC |
| 13. Merrill City Clerk Anderson | 33. Nicklaus Tractors (Car Show: 10) | 54. Maps |
| 14. City Council Officials | 34. Zastrow The Beer Man | 55. Merrill High School Band |
| 15. Merrill City Band | 35. In The Light Electric | 56. Marching Jays Semi |
| 16. Lincoln County Board Members | 36. Lin Cty Sports Club | 57. Maps Cheer Team |
| 17. Lincoln County Sheriff Ken Schneider | 37. Polka Dotted Pie | 58. Merrill Youth Hockey & Trailer |
| 18. Lincoln County Democrats | 38. Merrill United Way | 59. North Country Riders |
| 19. U.S. Political Officials | 39. Grace & Sophie's Pumpkin Patch | 60. The Arc Of Lin County |
| 20. Lincoln County Republicans | 40. Strive For Life | 61. WI River Pro Rodeo |
| <i>SPECIAL NOTE: All Of The Fire Departments Shall Line Up On Main Street, Between State Street And Genesee Street.</i> | | |
| | 41. Kevin Eckert 1962 F-100 | 62. Merrill Riders Club |
| | | 63. Underdown Horse Club |

It Would Be Greatly Appreciated If All Units Would Enter The Parade Line-Up By Going South On State Street, Toward The Merrill Manufacturing Company Parking Lot, Entering The Lot From The West Side And Going To The East Side (Genesee Street) And Receive Instructions From A Uniformed Parade Official.

All Horses Are To Unload On The Street South Of The Merrill Manufacturing Company Parking Lot And Have Copies Of Their Coggins Report For The OFFICIAL There. Those Without Their Coggins Report Will Not Be Allowed To Participate In The Parade.

All motorized units shall line up in the Merrill Manufacturing Company parking lot and beyond. The parade starting point is at the intersection of Genesee Street and Main Street. The parade shall go East on Main Street, North on Polk Street, East on Second Street, South on Mill Street and East on Main Street. All motorized units are asked to proceed East to Sales Street, Turn North to the Fairgrounds, or may drop out of the Parade at Center Avenue (The Courthouse).

All Marching Units May Enter The Parade From Main Street, By Unloading At The Family Dollar Parking Lot And Proceeding East At The Starting Point As Directed.

All Units Not Registered May Still Enter The Parade.

Thank You For Your Cooperation.

Any Questions, Please Contact Merrill Park and Recreation At 715-536-7313.

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SEPT. 6TH - LIVER N ONIONS
SEPT. 13TH - CHICKEN OSCAR
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FRIDAY NIGHTS
SEPT. 2ND - COCONUT SHRIMP
SEPT. 9TH - WALLEYE
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
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• **DINNER MENU: TUES. 4-8pm
& FRI. 4-8pm**
• **SATURDAY: Bar Open at 3pm**
• **SUNDAY: Bar Open From 11am-7pm**
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Closed Sept. 5
Happy Labor Day!

Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

Samaritan

(Now streaming on Amazon Prime)

★★★★☆

This film is rated PG-13 – for language, adult themes, and violence

Alright, raise your hand if you are just burned out and sick of superhero movies.

(See me waving my arm over my head with vigor.)

So, when I sat down to watch *Samaritan* this weekend, I was expecting to be underwhelmed and bored with the same old,



same old.

Imagine my shock when it turned out to be ... well, pretty damn good.

Samaritan tells the story of Joe Smith, played by Sylvester Stallone (who claims to be 76 years old in real life, but I suspect he may be some sort of warlock or something, cause the man is fit as a fiddle and that just irks me to no end, as I put on my knee brace and make noise as I get out of bed in the morning).

Joe is a garbage man who likes to tinker with gadgets and fix them.

Along comes the prerequisite neighbor kid to intrude on Joe's quiet life, and one thing leads to another, and it turns out Joe is a superhero who had been thought long dead as the result of a duel with his equally-powerful superhero brother.

Along comes crazy bad guy and henchmen (acquired from orderathug.com, I'm sure, since there always seems to be a never-ending supply of them). Joe is forced to come out of the shadows, and we are off to the races.

I hate to admit it, but as far as superhero movies go, this one is above-the-fold, with a good story and real environments and real issues that any inner-city kid can tell you about. (Including me, since I grew up in New York City in the 1970's, and let me tell you, that place was nearly a gladiator academy back then.)

This one gets four out of five stars.

Streaming on Amazon Prime right now, *Samaritan* is excellent and worth the time to watch it, but be warned:

See **MOVIE** page 7

DINNER@FIVE
A COMMUNITY TABLE AT SAINT STEPHENS

Join us every Monday at 5:00PM for a community meal open to all.

**Saint Stephens
United Church of Christ**
903 E 2nd Street, Merrill.
Free will donations accepted.

**Closed for the Holiday
Monday, September 5th
Happy Labor Day!**

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TOP GUN: MAVERICK
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SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

**PAWS OF FURY:
THE LEGEND OF HANK**
"PG" (1HR 38MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:00 & 7:00PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:00 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

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SCAN ME!

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS
WISCONSIN**
BE STRONG & REBEL RIDE

**All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Wisconsin
Saturday, September 10th**

REBEL RIDE
Friday, September 9th 6:00-9:00 pm
Pre Registration ALL EVENTS
@ Weiks' Pub & Grill,
231745 CTH S, Edgar (Rib Falls)

Saturday, September 10th 8:00-10:00 am
Rebel Ride Registration @ Weiks' Pub & Grill

10:15 am – Driver Briefing
10:30 am – Ride Leaves Rib Falls,
scenic countryside route will be selected.
\$25 minimum pledge for all participants

**All participants in the Rebel Ride & Be Strong
events will receive an event t-shirt and lunch.**

*Incentive prizes for participants who raise over
\$200/\$1000 for Special Olympics Wisconsin
Special prizes for event participants
with MOST PLEDGES RAISED*

*Raffle and evening festivities
@Weiks' Pub & Grill*

PUBLIC WELCOME!

BE STRONG EVENT
Franck's Gym, Wausau
4309 Stewart Ave., Wausau
10:00 am-11:45 pm - Registration
12:00 pm SHARP - Be Strong Competition Begins

ORDER OF EVENTS:
Truck-Pull Competition – Teams of (5) & (10)
Strongman, Strongwoman, Jr. Be Strong,
Bench Press & Deadlift

For more information/pre-register at Franck's Gym or at:
<https://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/events/be-strong/>
or call Ashley at Special Olympics
715-289-6643, Colleen 715-302-3435,
Chris 715-581-5356 or Bryan at 715-212-2157

Car Show @ Franck's Gym
10:00 am - 3:00 pm Limited to the first 70 cars
Trophies awarded to the various class winners
\$10 donation to Special Olympics per car
Call Joey 715-432-7500 to register today!

More Information/pre-register at:
<https://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/events/be-strong/>
or call Special Olympics Office 715-289-6643, Colleen 715-302-3435,
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Brickers Motors - Little Chicago

Wausau Northern & Bayers Guide
Hardee's
Ways 100.5
Merrill Foto News Unit #469
FRANCK'S GYM



In many MAPS schools, new teaching staff will greet students returning to school. New MAPS educators for the 2022-23 academic year include: Front row L to R: Ryan Schroder, Business Education Teacher (PRMS); Perry Scott, Choir Teacher (MHS); Michelle Steffen, School Social Worker (PRMS); Amanda Opper, Family and Consumer Ed (FACE) teacher (MHS); Holly Hartwig, Agriculture Teacher (MHS); and Julie Oehmichen, Reading/Title Teacher (Washington). Back row L to R: Casandra Wroblewski, English Teacher (PRMS); Marissa Duginski, Grade 3 Teacher (Washington); Kacie Schultz, Instructional Coach (PRMS); Trey Seubert, Social Studies Teacher (MHS); and Isaac Buntrock, Special Education Teacher (MHS). **Tina L. Scott photo.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER...

Merrill Proud

A new school year is upon us, and I am grateful to serve our staff, students, and community as the new Superintendent of Schools. As a lifelong resident of Merrill, a Merrill High School (MHS) graduate myself, and someone who was proud to send my own children through the Merrill schools, I have always appreciated and valued the Merrill community and our fine school district.



sure that they are prepared for whatever their futures may hold. However, I encourage everyone to try not to take for granted what we have either.

The November Referendum

In 2018, the Merrill community overwhelmingly supported a four-year, \$2.5 million operations referendum to continue providing programming and opportunities for our students. In

Sometimes, however, I think we take for granted the things that we are so familiar with, and our community and schools are no exception. It's easy in our day-to-day lives to overlook the positives and only focus on the blemishes of our community and its school--this is just human nature and I, too, am guilty of doing that from time to time. However, having worked in other districts and through talking with other principals and superintendents from around the state and country, I am regularly reminded how fortunate we are in Merrill--both in terms of our community and of our schools. I wouldn't trade either for anything.

April of 2022, as that first referendum funding was coming to an end, MAPS asked voters to continue supporting our schools, staff, and students by extending that funding with a second four-year, \$2.5 million operations referendum. As you may or may not know, that referendum failed.

Feedback from voters and the community was clear: MAPS simply did an inadequate job of getting information out to voters regarding that second referendum. Many voters shared that, while they support our schools, they simply didn't know enough about the referendum to vote YES. The referendum failed, and we had to make significant budget cuts for this school year. We will not make that mistake again.

In our district, we have parents who want their children to be successful and a community that values a quality education. In Merrill, we have a supportive business community that wants our graduates to help make our businesses, industry, and community a better place. In our community, we have dedicated teachers and staff who work very hard and are committed to seeing that ALL students are reaching their potential. In Merrill, our school district has always been a good steward of our financial resources and is always, formally, categorized by the State as a low spending district. In Merrill, we still enjoy Bluejay Pride and we get behind our young people in all of their endeavors and, in Merrill, we pride ourselves on preparing students for their next steps in life--whether that's second grade or life after high school. I know that we're not perfect, and we will continue to work very hard to supply our students with the best teachers, resources, and instruction that we can possibly provide to en-

In November, MAPS is going back to the community with the same four-year, \$2.5 million operations referendum that recently ended. However, this time we are going to work very hard to inform voters of how the money is going to be used, why it is needed, and why it is needed now.

While referendums have become commonplace in Wisconsin over the past 10 years (83% of Wisconsin school districts have run a referendum over that time period), public school funding, finance, and referendums can be very complicated, multi-faceted, and are often misunderstood. So, over the next few months, you will have many, many opportunities to learn more about our financial needs and this referendum. We will be sending information in the mail, meeting with groups throughout the community, hosting information nights and a

See PROUD page 23

MOVIE
from page 6

the language is, shall we say, salty. Joe is NOT a warm and cuddly type, and the violence is graphic and brutal.

This superhero movie is not for the little ones and probably should have been rated R. If they had just tossed in a guy smoking a cigarette, it would have been, but slam a grenade into a guy's stomach, and it's cool ... PG-13 it is. We live in a very odd world.

Check us out online!
merrillfotonews.com

Pet of the Week

Meet Bird and Daisy! They are standard wire haired dachshund girls! Bird is 13 years old and Daisy is 12 years old. They are not sibling but have lived together. They ended up at the shelter because their owner had to go into a nursing home. They love to be around people and would love to find a home or homes where it is a little more laid back.

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715-536-2833

Visit the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-4PM and Sun 12-2P. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us on the web at www.furypets.com.

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Swift
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Pep's 62, 12" Cheese Fries..... **2/\$9.00**
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DELI
COME CHECK OUT OUR SUSHI
Sushi Wednesday **\$6.00**

DAIRY
Kemps, Gallons Chocolate Milk **\$3.99**
Kemps, 22 oz. Cottage Cheese..... **\$3.49**
Kemps, Quarts Half & Half **\$2.99**

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Dave's County Market
WE VALUE FRESH WE VALUE FAMILY WE VALUE YOU!
MONDAY - SUNDAY • 5AM - 11PM
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All Sales Good Through Tuesday, September 6, 2022!
Limits are in place on some items. Items based on availability. Sorry, no rainchecks.

Check Out Our Website at: www.DavesCountyMarketMerrill.com

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2022 FALL SPORTS PREVIEW



CROSS COUNTRY



HEAD COACH: Alyssa Swan, four years as Head Coach, seven years coaching overall.

ASSISTANT COACHES: Heath Seefeld, 19 years.

KEY RETURNERS: Girls: Madison Crossman, Breannon Herdt, Olivia Bares, Irene Blennert, Brooklyn Kraegenbrink, and Amber Radtke. Boys: Elliott Hanson, Ian Schuetze, Caleb Norton, Kaden Schwandt, Parker Klebenow, Logan Knospe, and Jonathan Myszka.

KEY LOSSES: Elizabeth Schmidt, Annie Becker, Emma Marlowe, Callen Hoepfner, and David Golisch.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Gracie Vanvuren, Robin Schmidt, Danielle Schielke, Allison Lange, Orion Pillai, Jacob Mueller, Treg Knospe, and Brady Eggebrecht.

2021 RECAP: Last season we had a great group of kids! Our athletes were ready to work hard and compete. We had a competitive season with multiple athlete's placing in the top 10 at multiple races. One of our athletes, Elizabeth Schmidt, made it to State, earning 14th place overall for our Division.

2022 OUTLOOK: We have a lot of returning athletes

Front L to R: Alanna Rogers, Danielle Schielke, Robin Schmidt, and Sophia Schmidt. Middle L to R: Irene Blennert, Amber Radtke, Brooklyn Kraegenbrink, Lily Greffe, Breannon Herdt, Madison Crossman, and Olivia Bares. Back L to R: Logan Knospe, Caleb Norton, Orion Pillai, Elliott Hanson, Jacob Mueller, Ian Schuetze, Brady Eggebrecht, Jonathon Myszka, Treg Knospe, and Parker Klebenow. Missing from photo: Allison Lange, Gracie Vanvuren, and Kaden Schwandt. **Alyssa Swan photo.**

See CROSS COUNTRY page 17



IT TAKES TEAMWORK



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ATHLETE of the WEEK

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HEAD COACH: Kris Krug, 24 years as the Varsity Head Coach.

ASSISTANT COACHES: Kasie Holt is in her fifth year as Varsity Assistant Coach; Lindsay Krueger is in her second season as Varsity Assistant Coach.

JV COACH: Jamie Pieper, first year.

JV2. COACH: Molly Dallman, first year.

2021 RECORD: Conference record was 8-4 which was third place.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Avery Hoff is the only person returning who was recognized as Second Team All Conference.

KEY RETURNERS: Avery Hoff and Emma Hoff return as our starting setters with Avery being our strong outside hitter. Chloe McRae and Lex Emmer return as Middle Hitters with valuable playing experience from last year. McKenna Meyer and Anna Bowe round out the front row as right side hitters. Olivia Troyer and Erica Arneson represent the Senior Class as our second outside respectively and defensive specialist. Maddy Ott saw limited playing time last year but will complement our back row nicely with her speed and agility.

KEY LOSSES: With Dani Korman, Olivia Losee, and McKenna Smith graduating, we lost that group of seasoned passers and defensive players. Molly Dallman led our team with attack kills last season, so we will miss her on offense.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Emerson Iwen and Jalie Severt will see playing time on Varsity this season with Emerson swinging right side and Jalie playing the back row.

2021 RECAP: Last season we were made up of veteran defensive players and young offensive players. I felt like we came up on the short end of every pressure situation. It was disappointing to see that we had the potential but not the grit to finish those close matches. We had the opportunity to be Conference champs but couldn't hold our composure when push came to shove. We lost out early in post-season play for the same reasons.

VOLLEYBALL



2022 Merrill Girls Varsity Volleyball Team
Front L to R: Maddy Ott, Erica Arneson, and Jalie Severt. Middle L to R: Ava Detert, Katie Heckendorf, Olivia Troyer, Avery Hoff, Emma Hoff, and Mia Smith. Back L to R: Assistant Coach Holt, Emerson Iwen, Chloe McRae, McKenna Meyer, Alexa Emmer, Anna Bowe, and Head Coach Krug. Submitted photo.

Athletes and Coaches, have a fun, safe and healthy fall sports season!



2022 Merrill Girls Junior Varsity (JV) Volleyball Team
Front L to R: Lily Dallman, Ava Detert, and Mia Smith. Middle L to R: Haley Rindt, Kaela Clerveaux, Mady Graap, Katie Heckendorf, and Mackenzie Ellenbecker. Back L to R: Breleigh Raasch, Kellen Duerkop, Hannah Hayes, Madi Skic, Fawna Byer, and Coach Pieper. Submitted photo.



2022 Merrill Girls Junior Varsity 2 (JV2) Volleyball Team
Front L to R: Maddie Robbins, Abby Johnson, and Keeley Benedict. Middle L to R: Olivia Collinworth, Grace Hoock, Gabby Wheeler, Jazlin Severt, and Hannah Bostrom. Back L to R: Manager Myah Webb, Olivia Barker, Jenna Malluege, Brooklyn Harding, GraceLee Gentile-Hull, and Coach Dallman. Submitted photo.

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GIRLS TENNIS

HEAD COACH: Brad Barton, third year as Head Coach, seventh year overall.

ASSISTANT COACHES: Morgan Wilde, third year.

2021 RECORD: 3-11, last place in Conference.

POST-SEASON: #1 doubles team of Amelia Skoviera/Tessa Wheat qualified for Sectionals.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: N/A.

KEY RETURNERS: Lauren Cohrs, Sarah Rell, Chloe Belant, and Madisin Jacobs.

KEY LOSSES: Amelia Skoviera, Tessa Wheat, Angela Hinner, Lauren Belsky, and Mariah Jacoby.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Emily Frahm, Freshman, #1 JV doubles; Rose Dornbrack, Freshman, #1 JV doubles.

2021 RECAP: We lost the most successful spot Merrill has had in the last six years in Amelia Skoviera/Tessa Wheat. They were one win away from State their Junior and Senior years. We gave it all we had last year. We beat Wisconsin Rapids twice last year, but due to every win during a match counting as two points, they accumulated more wins during the course of the year than us. They ended up ahead of us in Conference standings. We also beat DC Everest once, but they accumulated more wins than us also.

2022 OUTLOOK: It will be a different kind of year. The coaching staff and Activities Director have come to a consensus to play all nine newcomers on JV only and forfeit all three Varsity doubles spots. The JV have played very little tennis, and to bring them up properly, we all felt they need to play against people of similar ability. We truly believe that for our team to be as full and ready for Varsity as possible next year, this is the correct course to take this year. We play in a very talented and intimidating Conference (Wisconsin Valley Conference).

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: We would hope to see as many fans as possible attend our home matches to cheer our kids on. Tennis can feel very lonely at times, especially singles play.



Merrill Girls Tennis Team (Varsity and JV) Front L to R: Emily Frahm, Allison Hunter, Madisin Jacobs, and Maycie Zastrow. Middle L to R: Johanna Dahlke, Parker Wagenaar, Sarah Rell, Rose Dornbrack, and Kaytlyn Hulke. Back L to R: Lily Hagemester, Korina Kraegenbrink, Lauren Cohrs, Destiny Trevino, and Chloe Belant. **Stacy Literski photo.**

VARSITY TEAM ROSTER: Lauren Cohrs, Sarah Rell, Chloe Belant, Madisin Jacobs, and Kaytlyn Hulke.

JV TEAM ROSTER: Lily Hagemester, Korina

Kraegenbrink, Destiny Trevino, Johanna Dahlke, Parker Wagenaar, Rose Dornbrack, Emily Frahm, Allison Hunter, and Maycie Zastrow.

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FOOTBALL



2022 Merrill High School Football Team (Varsity and JV)

Front L to R: Alvis Winters, Micah Plautz, Mikal Plautz, Korbyn Brown, Aiden Lonsdorf, Ivan Amador, Kaiden Henrich, Laken Mitchell, Ian Dreikosen, Evan Fredericks, Erik Mann, Harley Hixon, Callum Wheeler, Tommy Troyer, Kyle Duley, and D'Ondre Houghton. Middle L to R: Brody Lange, Jake Schmeltzer, Ethan Ravn, Quinten Tomajcik, Jax Hanson, Aidan Houghton, Coach Plisch, Coach Mullenberg, Coach Wadzinski, Coach Hahn, Coach Heath, Coach Buntrock, Coach Zastrow, Brian Ball, Carson Woellner, Patrick Perra, Nate Brzoznowski, Cam Ross, and Braxton Bartlet. Back L to R: Deontay McDaniel, Landon Vullings, Austin Depies, James Watts, Tyson Glisch, Arin Dettmering, Tanner Folz, Logan Pagels, Johnny Handlin, EJ Weix, Kevin Wichman, Sawyer Marnholtz, Isaak Clapper, Russel Gruetzmacher, Bradyn Pieper, Ryder Depies, Joshua Riste, Carson Brooks, Conner Stockman, and Croix Woller. **KTK Photography, Katie Hanson photo.**

HEAD COACH: Jason Wadzinski, 14th year of Varsity coaching, 2nd year as Head Coach of the Merrill Bluejays.

ASSISTANT COACHES: Offensive Coordinator Alex Marx; Special Teams Coordinator Greg Thorson; Assistant Coaches Andy Plisch, Ryan Heath, Isaac Buntrock, Carey Mullenberg, Chris Hahn, Michael Augustiniak, and Chris Zastrow.

2021 RECORD: 2-7.

2021 POST SEASON RESULTS: Did not qualify.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Ryder Depies (Second Team), Erik Mann (Honorable Mention), and Brian Ball (Honorable Mention).

KEY RETURNERS: Quarterback #10 Brian Ball, Half Back #25 Nathan Brzoznowski, Offensive/Defensive Lineman #63 Ryder Depies, Middle Linebacker #9 Erik Mann, and Cornerback #3 Bradyn Pieper.

KEY LOSSES: Wide Receiver Bailey Turenne, Offensive/Defensive Lineman Aiden Pehlke, Wide Receiver/Cornerback Cayden Diels, and Offensive/Defensive

Lineman Abrehm Van Wie.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Sophomore Defensive Back EJ Weix, Junior Center Tommy Troyer, Junior Defensive Back Ethan Ravn, and Junior Defensive End Brody Lange.

2021 RECAP: The 2021 season was a year of grit and fight from a very classy group of Seniors. We fell short of our post-season goal, but with lower numbers and limited depth, we were very proud of our Bluejays and how they

See FOOTBALL page 18

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GIRLS SWIMMING



Front L to R: Patricia Priebe, Sylvia Hansen, Claire Jirovec, Addison Jirovec, and Carline Durbine. Middle L to R: Adalyn Blake, Brenna Jirovic, Emily Winter, and Olivia Pajtash. Back L to R: Bailee Sommer, Amber Winter (Captain), Mya Wilde, Caitlynn Pehlke (Captain), and Megan Miles. Missing from photo: Cassandra Kasten. **Ginger Kanitz photo.**

HEAD COACH: Kristie Winter, ninth season.

ASSISTANT COACHES: Ginger Kanitz, seventh season.

2021 RECORD: 4 wins 2 losses in the Valley.

2021 POST SEASON RESULTS: 3rd Place WVC Conference Meet; 3rd Place Division II Sectionals; and 13th place Division II WIAA State Meet.

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Amber Winter (first Team: 200 Free Relay; second Team: 200 Freestyle, 100 Breaststroke and 200 Medley Relay); Olivia Pajtash (second team: 500 Freestyle); Bailee Sommer (first Team: 200 Free Relay; second team: 200 Medley Relay).

KEY RETURNERS:

Senior Amber Winter – State Qualifier – 2019: 200 Medley Relay, 200 Free Relay and 100 Breaststroke; 2020: 200 Individual Medley, 200 Free relays and 100 Breaststroke; 2021: 200 Medley relay, 200 Individual medley, 200 Free Relay and 100 Breaststroke.

Sophomore Bailee Sommer – State Qualifier – 2021: 200 Medley Relay and 200 Free Relay.

Sophomore Olivia Pajtash – 2021: Third place at Sectionals 500 Freestyle.

Senior Megan Miles – 2021: Fourth Place at Sectionals 100 Backstroke.

KEY LOSSES: Seniors Grace and Claire Schultz both have committed to swimming at Division I colleges this fall.

2021 RECAP: We have nine Freshmen this year, but all with at least some prior swim experience. Keep an eye out for triplets Addison, Claire, and Brenna Jirovec who are

really stepping up for high school swim. Amber's younger sister, Emily Winter, is coming off a summer surgery but getting back into competition shape quickly, and Sylvia Hansen has been showing significant promise early this season.

2022 OUTLOOK: The Valley, as always, has some tough competition with much larger schools, many outnumbering us two or even three to one. Our small but mighty Merrill team of only 14 swimmers gets challenged to swim 4 events, sometimes back to back, in every meet to cover the lineup. We have a very dedicated group this year and are not going to give up any points without a fight to the finish. I expect there will be several meets where it comes down to the final relay. This team is young but very focused and improving by the day. They have a great team dynamic and push each other to be their best every day.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: The Merrill community has been a great supporter of swimming, and we have a great facility to practice and host meets. Merrill has been selected by the WIAA to host our Sectional meet this year, which is pretty exciting to be at home for this big meet. I am really looking forward to what this young team is going to be able to accomplish, not only this season but in the next four years as they mature.

TEAM ROSTER: Captains Amber Winter and Caitlynn Pehlke, Bailee Sommer, Mya Wilde, Megan Miles, Adalyn Blake, Brenna Jirovic, Emily Winter, Olivia Pajtash, Patricia Priebe, Sylvia Hansen, Claire Jirovec, Addison Jirovec, Carline Durbine, and Cassandra Kasten.

CROSS COUNTRY *from page 9*

and quite a few newcomers making up our team this year. Everyone is looking strong and seems excited to race! We're excited to have our numbers going up for cross country.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH: This year we are really focusing on learning to focus on bettering running form and working together as a team. (An aspect of cross country that is often overlooked by athletes as they only focus on their own goals.) I'm excited to see what this year has in store for us!

TEAM ROSTER: Alanna Rogers, Danielle Schielke, Robin Schmidt, Sophia Schmidt, Irene Blennert, Amber Radtke, Brooklyn Kraegenbrink, Lily Grefe, Breannon Herdt, Madison Crossman, Olivia Bares, Logan Knospe, Caleb Norton, Orian Pillai, Elliott Hanson, Jacob Mueller, Ian Schutze, Brady Eggebrecht, Jonathon Myszka, Treg Knospe, Parker Klebenow, Allison Lange, Gracie Vanvuren, and Kaden Schwandt. **NOTE:** Varsity and JV standings have not yet been determined; placing will be determined by athletes' times.



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BOYS SOCCER

HEAD COACH: Ryan Schroder, second year as Head Coach.

ASSISTANT COACHES: Zach Asmundsen, second year as Assistant Coach; Bryan Schroder, first year as Assistant Coach, Former Head Coach from 2002 - 2008.

2021 RECORD: 0-18-0.

2021 POST SEASON RESULTS: 0-1-0

RETURNING ALL-CONFERENCE: Josh Henderson.

KEY RETURNERS: Nathan Mattson, Josh Henderson, and Jonathan Kracht.

KEY LOSSES: Wyatt Grosskurth, Matthew Rydeski, Michael Nofsinger, Eddie Moore, and Mark Ladewig.

KEY NEWCOMERS: Sebastian Trevino, Sophomore, Midfielder; Clayton Evans, Junior, Defense/Midfield.

2021 RECAP: 2021 was a tough season for the Bluejay soccer team partly due to our tough Valley Conference schedule along with missed time for a number of players.

2022 OUTLOOK: Some strong points I foresee are a schedule against more similar opponents. We have been placed into Division III and will be playing against many teams from our Sectional and opponents that are closer to our actual size. We're looking forward to our non-Conference schedule for this season and our home Tournament on September 10.

TEAM ROSTER: Parker Byer, Colin Apprill, Nathan Mattson, Sebastian Trevino, James Crockford, Kekoa Schuetze, Jonathon Kracht, Angel Maldonado Nava, Drake Hoffman, Clayton Evans, Tyler Spade, Joshua Henderson, Vincent Keenan, Owen Meehan, Omar Antonio, Ryker Voecks, and Jack Moore.

Athletes and Coaches, have a fun, safe and healthy fall sports season!

FOOTBALL from page 16

fought up until the end. This football program started laying the foundation last season that we can build around and take steps towards greater success.

2022 OUTLOOK: The 2022 Merrill Bluejays will be led by a group of 20 Senior boys. This is one of the larger class sizes in recent years, and the team is looking to rebound after a two-win season last fall. The offense has a number of key returning starters, including Senior Quarterback Brian Ball and Senior Running Back Nathan Brzoznowski. The Bluejays defense will look very similar personnel wise, led by Senior Defensive Lineman Ryder Depies, Senior Defensive Back Bradyn Pieper, and Junior Linebacker Erik Mann.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COACH:

These young men have worked hard over the past year. Our commitment levels have gone up across the board, and it is a direct reflection of the leadership from this large class of Seniors. These boys want to be successful playing the game

they love. In the end, there's no greater feeling than competing in this ultimate team sport with friends who've become a family over the years. It's football season-go Bluejays!

VARSITY TEAM ROSTER: Brian Ball, Braxton Bartelt, Nathan Brzoznowski, Ryder Depies, Arin Dettmering, Ian Dreikosen, Kyle Duley, Tanner Folz, Tyson Glisch, Johnny Handlin, Harley Hixon, Sawyer Marnholtz, Deontay McDaniel, Logan Pagels, Patrick Perra, Bradyn Pieper, Cam Ross, Conner Stockman, Croix Woller, Isaak Clapper, D'Ondre Houghton, Brody Lange, Erik Mann, Mikal Plautz, Ethan Ravn, Tommy Troyer, Carson Woellner, Russell Gruetzmacher, and EJ Weix.

JV TEAM ROSTER: Ivan Amador, Carson Brooks, Korbyn Brown, Austin Depies, Evan Fredericks, Jax Hanson, Kaiden Henrich, Aiden Houghton, Aiden Lonsdorf, Laken Mitchell, Micah Plautz, Joshua Riste, Jacob Schmeltzer, Quinten Tomajcik, Landon Vullings, Callum Wheeler, Kevin Wichman, and Alvis Winters.



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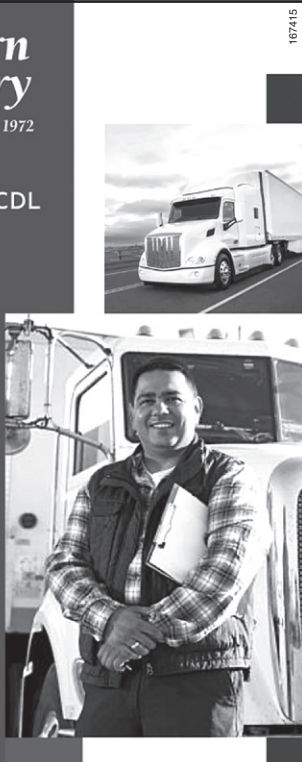
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Merrill Girls Swim Team: three meets in six days

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Girls Swim Team started out their season with three meets in six days. "We were busy," said Kristie Winter, Head Coach for the Swim Team.

Merrill Fun in the Sun

The Lady Jays hosted their "Merrill Fun in the Sun" Outdoor Relay Meet on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022, and took fifth place overall.

"The all-relay format lets our new swimmers get a taste of competitive swimming and mingle with teams from both the Valley and Great Northern Conference," Winter said. "The weather was perfect, and we had a lot of fun in this season opener."

Marshfield Chase the Tiger

On Tuesday, Aug. 23, the Bluejay Girls traveled to Marshfield for the "Marshfield Chase the Tiger" Invite and swam their way into a first place team finish. "Merrill took 1st place overall in this meet," Winter said. This was a good meet because it "gave our freshmen a chance to rate independently and continue to adapt to high school swimming," she added.

Colby Pentathlon

On Wednesday, Aug. 24, the Girls Swim Team was in Colby at their "Pentathlon" meet. "The Pentathlon is actually scored by class not by team," Winter explained.

Merrill's Amber Winter took first place for Seniors overall. Bailee Sommer took third place for Sophomores, and Olivia Pajdash took fourth place for Sophomores. Merrill's highest placing Freshman, Addison Jirovec, took sixth overall. The 200 Breaststroke Relay was Merrill's highest scoring event of the night.

"This is a great event for coaches to get some times they will use all season when determining relays and



Amber Winter gets a fast start to the 200 Breaststroke Relay, Merrill's highest scoring event of the night.

Ginger Kanitz photo.

meet line ups," Coach Winter said. Merrill had the second highest score for rankings by team at the end of the event, although that can also be attributed to Merrill having more girls swimming than some of the smaller schools.

Individual placement online

Individual placement results for all Merrill girls are available for these events on our website at: <https://merrillfotonews.com/2022/08/30/merrill-girls-swim-team-three-meets-in-six-days/>



Merrill Aerie #584 member Brad Geiss received two awards for his exemplary bowling talent. During the Eagles State Bowling Tournament Brad was declared not only the "Singles Event Champion," but also the "All Event Champion" for 2022. Presenting the plaques to Brad (on left) is Jerry Leopold, State Worthy President and Chairman of the State Bowling Tournament. Submitted photo.

PROUD from page 7

community conversation, putting information in the local media, and taking advantage of social media and our district webpage. This time, voters will know exactly what they are voting on.

One way for you to get informed is to "tune in" to our weekly Facebook Live events that begin on Monday, Sept. 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. These live broadcasts will air every Monday on the Merrill Area Public Schools Facebook page, each will focus on a specific part of the referendum, and the community will have an opportunity to submit questions. These weekly broadcasts will last about 30 minutes and will be archived on our Facebook page for those who can't catch them live.

Merrill is a proud community with very good schools, and I'm honored to say that I'm from here, that I graduated from MHS, and that my kids did the same. I am also very proud to serve as the new Superintendent of Schools. We're good, but not perfect, so we will continue to work on serving our students better, and we will be coming to the community again this fall asking for the same financial support that you have provided over the past several years. I ask that you take the time to become familiar with the issues and information as it becomes available and to please contact me with your questions by calling the MAPS central office at 715.536.4581. Go Bluejays!

Shannon Murray
Superintendent of Schools

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Merrill Bluejays take a hit on their home turf

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Bluejay Varsity Football Team took on Crandon High School in a home game at Jay Stadium last Friday, Aug. 26, 2022. Following a shutout game during their season opener against Northland Pines the previous week, the Jays were disappointed to lose to Crandon by 20 points with a final score of Crandon 32 - Merrill 12 at the end of the night.

“Crandon was a very disciplined

and well coached team,” said Jason Wadzinski, Merrill Head Varsity Football Coach. “They came out and were more physical than us, and we lost the battle up front on both sides of the ball.”

“Couple that with three turnovers and it’s difficult to come out on top of a match-up like that,” he said. “Dropping a home opener is never something you want as a team.”

“We will get back to work and let this serve as a wake-up call after our lopsided week one victory,” Wadzinski added.

In game play for Merrill, #10 Brian

Ball led the night with 109 passing yards, completing 7 of 12 attempts, racked up 25 rushing yards, and scored one of the Bluejays’ two touchdowns for the night.

#25 Nathan Brzoznowski totaled 42 rushing yards and 67 receiving yards for the game, scoring the Bluejays’ other touchdown of the game.

Crandon made the first touchdown of the night in the first quarter, picking up two more points with a conversion and did it again in the second quarter. Merrill pulled in a touchdown during the second but failed to make their two-point

conversion. Score at halftime? Crandon 16 - Merrill 6.

In the third quarter, Crandon pulled out another touchdown with a two-point conversion and Merrill failed to get any more points on the board. Merrill picked up a touchdown in the fourth quarter but failed to make the conversion and it just wasn’t enough. Crandon made another touchdown and completed a two-point conversion to wrap up the game.

Box Score:
Merrill 12 @ Crandon 32

Merrill Girls lose to Lakeland on the tennis courts

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Girls Varsity Tennis Team traveled to Lakeland Union High School on Monday, Aug. 29, 2022. Lakeland took the win with a score of Lakeland 7 - Merrill 0.

“Emily Frahm made her Varsity debut tonight as a Freshman,” said Brad Barton, Merrill High Girls Head Tennis Coach after the meet. “She has really

improved from day to day. What sets her apart is that she is naturally athletic, so her court movement is really smooth.”

Match results in singles were:

No. 1 - Sarah Barton of Lakeland defeated Lauren Cohrs of Merrill, 6-2 , 6-0 , -;

No. 2 - Maria Gironella of Lakeland defeated Sarah Rell of Merrill, 6-1 , 6-0 , -;

No. 3 - Phoebe Wirtz of Lakeland defeated Emily Frahm of Merrill, 6-0 , 6-0 , -;

No. 4 - Norah Strassburg of Lakeland defeated Kaytlyn Hulke of Merrill, 6-1 , 6-0 , -;

The Lakeland doubles teams of Julianna Ouimette/Kristina Ouimette,

Cassidy Cleveland./Hailey Curtis, and Ali Timmerman/Charley Cleveland all took the wins for their matches, as Merrill forfeited them due to not having any doubles teams this year.

Varsity Cross Country gets season off to running start in Rhinelander

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Varsity Cross Country Team traveled to Rhinelander High School Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, for a Varsity Invitational with 13 other schools to get their season off to a running start.

“It was a perfect day for a first meet, a little cloudy and rainy,” said Alyssa Swan, head Merrill High School Cross Country Coach.

Elliott Hanson led the Merrill Boys with a finish time of 21:01, followed closely by Ian Schuetze with a time of 21:15. Making up the rest of the Boys Team were: Logan Knospe (23:22), Caleb

Norton (23:25), Parker Klebenow (23:35), Kaden Schwandt (23:52), and Brady Eggebrecht (25:12).

“The Boys overall team score, or a score made by adding up the places of the runners, was 139,” Swan said.

For the Merrill Girls, Bre Herdt finished with a time of 27:13., followed closely by Madi Crossman with a time of 27:27. Making up the rest of the Girls team were: Dani Schielke and Olivia Bares (29:09), Brooklyn Kraegenbrink (31:24), Robin Schmidt (32:15), and Allison Lange (32:46).

“The Girls Team, with a score of 174, almost beat Northland Pines, whose team score was 173,” Swan said.

SYMONDS from page 3

\$100,000 fine, or both; and the intimidating a witness charges each carry a term of up to 9 months in prison, up to a \$10,000 fine, or both.

Symonds made an initial appearance in Lincoln

County Court on Aug. 24, 2022, but that appearance was adjourned to Sept. 1 to allow him to obtain an attorney. He is being held on a \$100,000 cash bond and conditions of no contact with the victims and no contact with anyone under the age of 18 years old.

This case has not been concluded. As with all ar-

ticles about ongoing court cases, the defendant is presumed innocent of all charges unless convicted in a court of law.

2022 Merrill High School Fall Sports Schedules

Football (Varsity, JV, and JV2)

Thurs. Sept. 1	Medford (JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Fri. Sept. 2	Medford (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Tues. Sept. 6	Medford (JV)	Home	5:30 pm
Thurs. Sept. 8	Antigo (JV2)	Away	5:30 pm

Volleyball (Varsity, JV, and JV2)

Thurs. Sept. 1	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV & JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Thurs. Sept. 1	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Sat. Sept. 3	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	9:00 am
Tues. Sept. 6	Marshfield-Quad (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 8	Marshfield (JV & JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Thurs. Sept. 8	Marshfield (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm

Tennis (Varsity and JV)

Thurs. Sept. 1	Wausau West (Varsity & JV)	Home	4:00 pm
Tues. Sept. 6	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:00 pm

Boys Soccer (Varsity, JV, and JV2)

Thurs. Sept. 1	Wausau West (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 8	Marshfield (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 8	Marshfield (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm

Swimming (Varsity and JV)

Thurs. Sept. 8	Wausau West (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:30 pm
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Cross Country Boys (Varsity and JV)

Thurs. Sept. 1	Multi. Schools-Nine Mile (Varsity)	Away	4:30 pm
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Cross Country Girls (Varsity and JV)

Thurs. Sept. 1	Multi. Schools-Nine Mile (Varsity)	Away	5:05 pm
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The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Nathan Brzoznowski, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Nathan is a member of the Merrill Bluejays Varsity Football Team. “I kicked a few times my Sophomore year on Varsity,” Nathan said. “My Junior year I started as the kicker, inside linebacker, and running back. Then my Senior year I switched to just kicking and running back.”

Nathan also plays Varsity Baseball for the Merrill Bluejays. “I came up before playoffs and played during playoffs my Sophomore year on Varsity as a designated hitter,” he said. “Then started my Junior year as left fielder.”

At school, Nathan belongs to the Raise Your Voice Club and is a Big Brother for Big Brothers Big Sisters. He is also in Boy Scouts at the rank of Eagle Scout.

Nathan works at Goetsch's Welding and Machine as a machinist. In his spare time, he enjoys watching races and snowmobiling in the winter. He likes to hang out with friends, tossing a football around and driving around, swimming, and going to the fairs.

The son of Tonya Brzoznowski, Nathan and his brother Jordan all live in Merrill. He plans to attend college but is undecided on his major and where he will go as of right now.



Nathan Brzoznowski

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