

## Merrill Area United Way to celebrate 75th Anniversary with Community Celebration

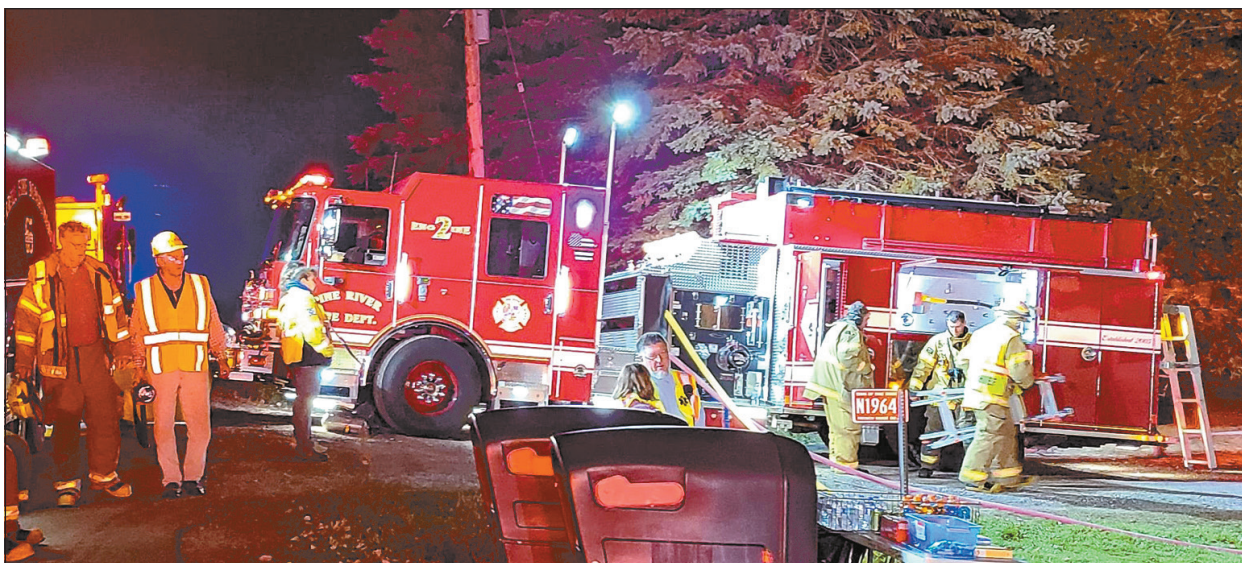
TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR



The Merrill community is invited to join the Merrill Area United Way (MAUW) for a fun-filled family-oriented Community Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Agra Pavilion, 100 S. Park St. in Merrill.

At 10:00 a.m. Mayor Steve Hass will kick off the celebration with a Mayoral Proclamation, and then families are invited to walk the River Bend Trail to receive a participation token. A juggling show featuring John Kilgust, live musical entertainment by Paul & Matt Waid and also Carl Jackson, story time, yard games, a bouncy house, face painting, Zendor the Comic Magician, free cookies and lemonade, and official Green Bay Packer door prizes will all be packed into four hours of fun for the whole family. In addition, there will be agency displays for guests to peruse,

See **UNITED WAY** page 11



Pine River Fire Department took command of a house fire and extinguished the blaze Monday night with the assistance of multiple other fire departments and agencies. No human loss of life or injuries were reported, but one family pet died in the fire.

Photo courtesy of Pine River Volunteer Fire Department.

## Monday evening fire in Town of Pine River destroys home, leaves family homeless

On Monday, Oct. 10, 2022, at 7:12 p.m., the Pine River Fire Department was dispatched to a report of a structure fire at N1964 French Ridge Rd., Merrill, in the Town of Pine River. The initial reports were that a residential structure was on fire and at least one oc-

cupant was trapped.

All residents were accounted for when law enforcement arrived; one adult female reported she leapt from a second floor window to escape the fire.

A family dog perished in the blaze; another dog was rescued unharmed

by a Pine River First Responder as it tried to re-enter the home. That dog was reunited with the family.

Firefighters arrived to find portions of the first floor engulfed in flames. Firefighters conducted an

See **FIRE** page 7

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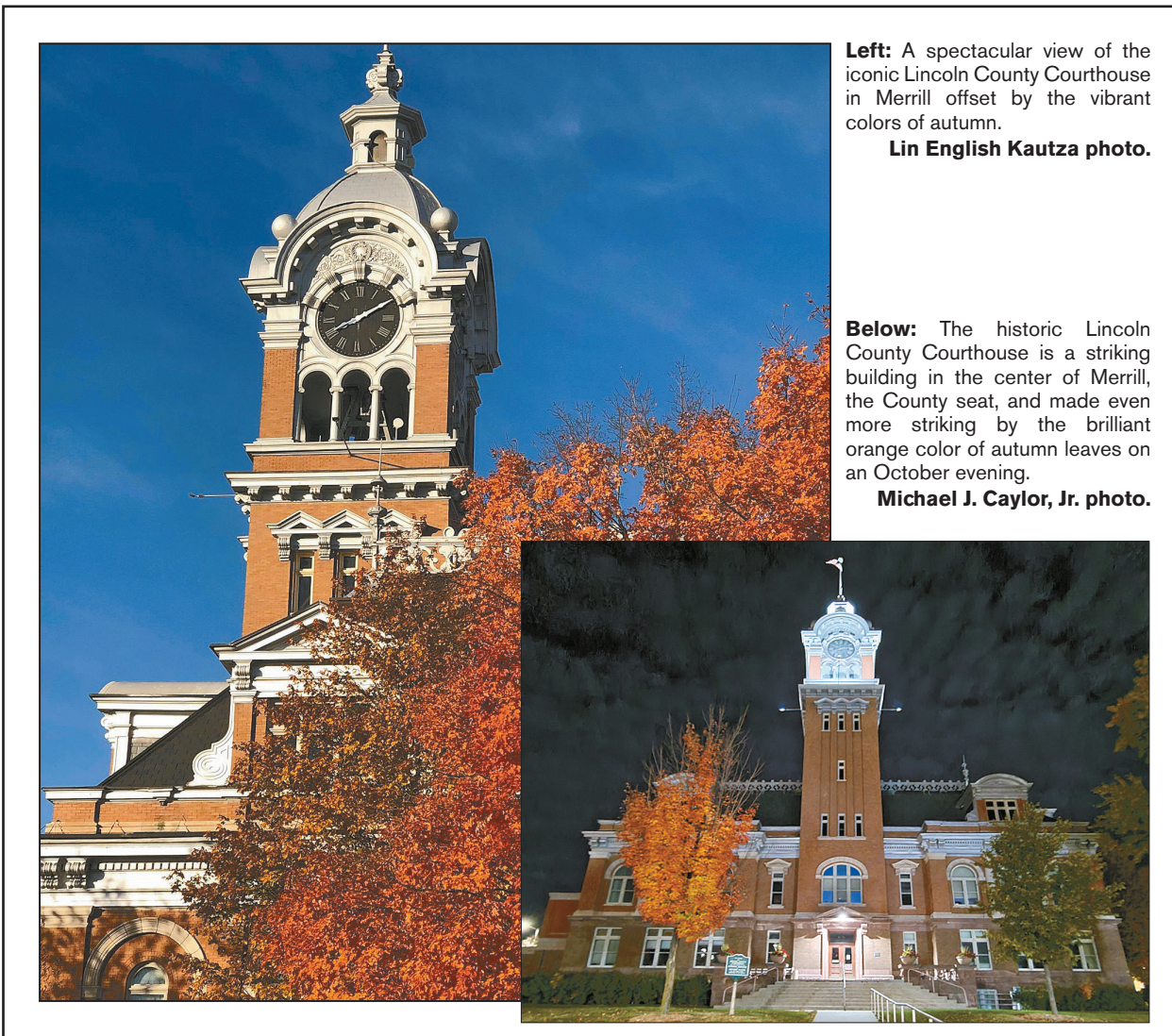
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Left: A spectacular view of the iconic Lincoln County Courthouse in Merrill offset by the vibrant colors of autumn.  
Lin English Kautza photo.

Below: The historic Lincoln County Courthouse is a striking building in the center of Merrill, the County seat, and made even more striking by the brilliant orange color of autumn leaves on an October evening.  
Michael J. Caylor, Jr. photo.

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# Candidates for Lincoln County Sheriff to appear in forum

T.B. Scott Free Library, the Tomahawk Public Library, the League of Women Voters, and the UW-Madison Extension Lincoln County will co-host a Lincoln County Sheriff Candidate Forum

on Monday, Oct. 24, 2022, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Merrill Enrichment Center, 303 N. Sales St. Merrill. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

Candidates running for the office of Lincoln County Sheriff—Garrett Dinges, Ken Schneider, and Marlyn Woodward, the latter who is running as a write-in candidate—will all be present.

The Candidate Forum will provide the public with an opportunity to see the candidates, listen to their ideas for the future of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and hear the candidates' responses to citizen concerns.

Citizens can submit questions for the candidates in advance, either in person or via the websites at both the T.B. Scott Library and the Tomahawk Public Library. Also, beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the day of the event, those attending in person can fill out a card with questions and put it into a box.

Questions will be collected and sorted by topic by moderators in order to ensure a wide range of issues are covered. Each candidate will also provide opening and closing statements as part of the Forum.

The event will be live-streamed and also recorded for watching at a later time.

Links to the live-stream and resulting recording will be available on both the T.B. Scott Free Library website and the Tomahawk Community Library website.

The fall election will be Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For more information about the Candidate Forum, contact Elizabeth McCrank (elizabeth.mccrank@wisc.edu) at the UW-Madison Extension Lincoln County Office at 715.539.1078.

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## 75 United Way

An event of Recognition for the Community  
Saturday, October 15, 2022  
AGRA Pavilion: 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Merrill Area United Way's success is because of a wonderful, giving community that has supported the efforts of United Way to aid in funding many agencies throughout the years. This celebration is about community and the incredible supporters.

**Tentative Schedule**

10:00 - Mayor Steve Hass Proclamation  
11:00 - 1:00 Blue Jay Radio Station is broadcasting LIVE

**Kids Activities**

Pumpkin Giveaway - (until gone)  
Bouncy House  
Face Painting  
Yard games such as cornhole bags, ping pong ball toss, and more  
10:15 Walk Starts - but can walk the trail later too.  
(Receive a participation token)  
10:30-11:00; 12:00-12:30, 1:15 to 1:45 - Story Telling with Mrs. Wilding,  
11:00 to 1:00 p.m. Zendor the Comic Magician - Walking, close up magic.

11:30 - 12:00 and 12:45 - 1:15 John Kilgust - Juggling show.  
John Kilgust will ride his unicycle with the walkers

**Displays**

United Way and several United Way funded agencies will have displays to provide information about their agencies and the services they provide to the community. Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Childcaring, Inc., MAC Home, Children's Wisconsin 'Family Resource Center', HAVEN, Christmas Spirit Appeal, United Way and possibly a few more.

**Entertainment**

10:30 - 11:30 Paul Waid and Matt Waid  
12:00 - 1:30 Carl Jackson

**Food**

Rich's Amazin' Blazin' BBQ  
United Way - Free Cookies and Lemonade  
St. Paul Church Food Stand - Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

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**Dan C. Koblitz Attorney & Counselor at Law**

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# Record Year for Gazebo Nights 2022

The end of summer also means the end of yet another successful Thursday concert series, as Gazebo Nights at Normal Park concluded their 12th year. Concert organizers, Gus and Val Caylor, along with Mike Mensching from MGM Entertainment, start planning the music the summer before, bringing in acts from all over the state. This year eight bands played over nine weeks with a surprise concert being held the last Thursday in August. "We had an extra Thursday this year, so we looked at the checkbook and said why not?" said Valerie Caylor.

Looking back at this year's concerts, Michael "Gus" Caylor said they were happy to see the large crowds and more importantly, the chance to give back to the community. "When we first took it over from the founders, Mike and Karen Karow, they emphasized how important it was to help the non-profits," Gus said. "At first, we found it difficult to find food vendors; however, as soon as they heard about our great bands and crowds, we had them lining up to help."

In 2022, the Lion's Club, Merrill Boys Basketball, Boy Scouts, VFW, Luther Memorial Church, and Journey Church all took turns being food providers, and the groups brought in more than \$7,000 combined.

The Merrill Bluejay Girls Tennis Team did a "tempting treat sale" weekly that brought in a total of nearly \$600 for that team.

A record year was also enjoyed by Larry and Pat Peeters and their popcorn team. That team's success started popping early when Shelby and Trevor Dzwonkowski of the Cosmo Theatre donated 100 pounds of popcorn. Turns out 100 pounds was nowhere near enough thanks to the Gazebo Nights crowds. Larry



Pictured are organizers Gus and Val Caylor and the 50-50 raffle volunteers: L to R: Front-Debbie Alvin, Kathy Marsceau; middle-Val Caylor, Katie Yutuc, Laurie Thiel; and back-Marlene Graap with Brewer, Mike "Gus" Caylor, Linda Berlin, and Nikki Krause. Missing: Carol Caylor, Cathy Robinson, Gail Curran, Dawn Folta, GiGi Heinz, Mike Mensching

and Pat ended up buying and donating \$100 for more popcorn, along with more oil and a new popper. When the season was over, they donated \$1,392 to Relay for Life, a project very near and dear to their hearts and many of ours, as well.

The biggest winner this year was the Lincoln County Humane Society. A group of organizers coordinated by Marlene Graap and Debbie Alvin sold 50/50 raffle tickets each week. The weekly collections were all well over \$1,000 before the split, with the largest amount coming in during the Rising Phoenix concert when the Humane Society netted over \$1,480. Several winners of the raffle donated a portion of their winnings back to the group. In the end, the group collected \$7,420 for the season, with 100% of the money going to help the homeless, hungry, neglected, injured, and abused animals who call the shelter their temporary home.

Now that the season is complete, Gus Caylor emphasized it could not be done without their sponsors. "Once again the great crew at Weinbrenner were our branding sponsors, and it is thanks to their financial support that we have been able to raise the bar when it comes to entertainment each week," Gus said. "We also look forward to meeting our weekly sponsors every Thursday and hearing from them and all the good they do for the community. In the end, we are proud to be able to provide great entertainment, showcase our wonderful business community, and give back over \$16,000 to our local non-profits."

"Thanks, Merrill!" Valerie said. "Once again you showed what makes our community such a wonderful play to live, work, and play!"

The 2023 concert series is already being planned with a potential theme of "Return to Riverfest."

Submitted photo.

### Pet of the Week



Meet Muffin! This older gal is looking for the perfect forever home that will appreciate that she embraces sunbathing, making blanket nests and chirping at birds. Muffin would love a home where she is the center of attention. So no other furry siblings. She is also front declawed. Are you looking for a cuddle buddy? Look no further! Come meet Muffin soon!


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# WRITE IN WOODWARD FOR SHERIFF NOV. 8TH, 2022

Authorized & Paid For By Marlyn Woodward

## Downtown Merrill scene of a small fire Monday morning

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

The contents of an open-top trailer being pulled behind a vehicle erupted into flames on Monday morning, Oct. 10, 2022, around 9:00 a.m. in Merrill's downtown shopping area. Initially, the small flames were attacked with a handheld fire extinguisher while the vehicle and trailer were parked in front of the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store on E. Main St. in Merrill. That proved ineffective.

Law enforcement responded to the scene and the vehicle and trailer were then pulled forward into the intersection of S. Poplar St. and E. Main St. to distance the fire from



The contents of an open trailer erupted into flames Monday morning, Oct. 10, 2022. Tina L. Scott photos.

buildings as the blaze in the trailer intensified and flames grew higher. The Merrill Fire Department and Ambulance responded to the scene,

helped block off traffic, and then Merrill Fire Department firefighters extinguished the blaze with water and foam.



Firefighters from the Merrill Fire Department extinguished the blaze at the intersection of Poplar and E. Main Streets.



A view of Merrill's downtown E. Main Street business district, as firefighters extinguish the blaze that caused a little extra commotion, not typical for a Monday morning on Main Street in Merrill.

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**OBITUARIES**



**Marian Louise Seidlitz**, age 90, of Merrill, passed away on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at the Aspirus Merrill Hospital. She was born on June 8, 1932, in Vernon County and was the daughter to the late Willard and Linda (Mortenson) Hoilien. Marian was baptized on July 23, 1932, at the Coon Prairie Lutheran Church in Westby, WI. She was confirmed in 1948 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Viroqua, WI. Marian graduated from Viroqua High School in 1949. She had been married to Thomas Seidlitz, father of her children and to Ellsworth Erdman both deceased.

Marian worked at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in King, WI from 1949-1952, at Milprint Company in Milwaukee, WI from 1952-1953 and with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections in Merrill, WI from 1970-1991. Most of the time, she was a stay-at-home mom and loved every minute of it! Marian enjoyed being with her family and friends and going to social gatherings, traveling, reading, doing crosswords and other puzzles and refinishing furniture. Her faith in God was an important part in her life. She was a member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, WELCA and Miriam Bible study circle, various volunteering groups, including the Good Samaritan Hospital Volunteers, the Red Hat Society, her Lake Bunco group, and a member at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill.

Marian is survived by her children: Jeff (Marilyn) Seidlitz of Merrill, WI, Shari (William) Esposito of Northford, CT and Lynn (Jon) Kretlow of Waukegan, IL, grandchildren: Ryan (Jamie) Hoeft, Patty (Kyle) DeBias, Kristina (Dave Patterson) Esposito, Natalie Kretlow, Olivia (David Porcayo) Kretlow and Gabi (Chase Acker) Minoldo, great grandchildren: Justin Schmidt, Riley Hoeft, Megan Minoldo, Mason DeBias, Lucia DeBias and Scarlett Acker, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, former husbands: Thomas Seidlitz and Ellsworth Erdman, daughters: Teresa Seidlitz and Laura Minoldo and siblings: Jean Peterson, Norman Hoilien and Wayne Hoilien.

A memorial service for Marian will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 11am at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill. Pastor Kathy Tulman will officiate. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, from 10am until the time of the service, also at the church. Burial of her cremated remains will take place at a later date at the Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.

Marian had made arrangements to have her body donated to the University of Wisconsin Medical School.

Marian wishes to extend a thank you to all her family, friends, and her "lake friends".

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Marian's name to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church or a charity of your choice.

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).



**Mark Norman Pankow**, age 72, of Merrill Wisconsin, was called to be with his Lord on, October 7, 2022, at his home with his loving wife and children at his side. Mark was born on May 27, 1950, to the late Norman and Lilamae (Ritter) Pankow in Merrill. He was a graduate of Merrill High School, class of 1969. Mark married his high school sweetheart, Carol Voigt, at St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill on

October 10, 1970, and they were blessed with 51 years of marriage.

Mark grew up on a dairy farm in the town of Scott, not too far from his soon-to-be wife, Carol. He proudly enlisted in the United States Army on December 20, 1969, graduated from NCO Academy and then went on to serve active duty in Vietnam. Mark was honorably discharged on December 19, 1975. After his service in the military, Mark worked as a journeyman sheet metal worker for over 30 years, until his retirement in 2015. He was an avid outdoorsman who was passionate about hunting and fishing with family. He loved being out in nature, especially during the Fall season, he would look forward to seeing those beautiful Fall colors. Mark was a skilled photographer who was often seen capturing family moments with his camera. He was a fun-loving man, that looked forward to family gatherings and had a heart of gold. He was always there for his children to lift them up and encourage them in tough times. Mark was an optimistic person, always telling you that "it's going to be okay; we'll figure it out". He was adventurous, resilient, a great leader and problem-solver. Mark will be sadly missed, but always in the hearts of his family and friends.

Mark leaves behind his loving wife: Carol Pankow of Merrill, WI, 5 children: Clarissa (Robert) Laak of Merrill, WI, Jessica (Nathan) Schmidt of Ogdensburg, WI, Carrie (Benjamin) Henrich of River Falls, WI, Andrew Pankow of Merrill, WI, and Amanda (Paul) Frank of Waupaca, WI, his beloved grandchildren: Katelyn, Johnathan and Matthew Schmidt, Breanna and Payton Henrich, Kelsey and Linzie Pankow and Ryan, Evan, and Owen Frank, siblings: Sharon (Norbert) Holz, Cynthia (Jerry) Buffinton, Bruce (Cindy) Pankow and Angela (Calvin) Klade, all of Merrill, along with numerous nieces, nephews and good friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother: Larrimore and sister: Corliss.

The funeral service for Mark will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2022, at 11am at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Pastor Stephen Gillet will officiate. Visitation will be held on Friday, October 14, 2022, from 4pm-8pm at Trinity Lutheran Church and on Saturday morning from 10am until the time of the service, at the church. Burial will immediately follow the service and will take place at Snow Hill Cemetery in the town of Scott. Military honors will be conducted at the cemetery by the Merrill V.F.W. Post 1638 Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family for a future memorial or scholarship fund in loving memory of Mark.

Family wishes to extend their thanks and appreciation to Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services for their care and support shown to Mark and his family in his last days.

The funeral service will be live streamed and available for viewing on Saturday, October 15, 2022, at 11am. It can be found under his obituary on the funeral home website and will 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).



**Nicholas Donato Jr.**, age 75, of Merrill, previously of Ishpeming, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at his home, while under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services, and is home with Jesus. He lived in Ishpeming, Michigan for most of his life, but moved to Merrill in April of 2021 to be closer to his family, who were blessed to be able to help him through his health trials.

Nick was born to the late Nicholas and Evelyn (Matheson) Donato on July 26, 1947. He was born and raised in Ishpeming, Michigan with 12 siblings, with fond memories of growing up and having his dad to himself to watch football games. Nick served in the U.S. Navy as a diesel mechanic for 3 years, serving 1 year patrolling along the Mekong River in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged on January 4, 1973. Following his service in the Navy, Nick was a faithful provider for his family as a civil servant for 30 years, serving as a materials handler and equipment operator at 3 different military installations, with most of his time at K.I. Sawyer Air Force base in Gwinn, Michigan. Nick enjoyed gatherings with family, cookouts, fireworks, parades and any fun event with family or crowds. He was a very kind-hearted man, and never complained, even in his last days. Nick enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, attending their sporting events, watching Packer's football, basketball, Gunsmoke and other westerns and gameshows. Nick especially enjoyed watching his grandson play football in college at Eastern Oregon University. When things got tough with his cancer, he pressed on saying, "one day at a time."

Nick is survived by his daughter: Michelle (John), son: Devon (Christa), 12 grandchildren: Ryan, Elizabeth, Zakary, Grace, Abigail, Brenna, Faith, Sarah, Samuel, Connor, Rebekah and Silas, brothers: Ralph (Helen), Rocky (Janet) and Jimmy (Barb), sister: Rosemary (Dione) and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings: Victor, Danny, David, Arthur (Connie), Irene (Gert), Mary Lou (Joseph), Stella (Bob) and Tony (Dee).

Nick will be dearly missed by his children and grandchildren who love him so much. Per Nick's request, no formal services will be held, however, there will be a family gathering, along with many cookouts, fireworks, and other events where his life will be remembered.

Although no services will be held, military honors will be conducted by the Merrill V.F.W. Post 1638 Honor Guard at Waid Funeral Home for the family and will be available for viewing via livestream under his obituary on the funeral home website.

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).

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**Barbara Ann Hull** passed away October 6, 2022 in Oconto, Wisconsin. She was born January 30, 1936 in Ladysmith, Wisconsin to Ansel and Laura Hayes. After graduating from Ladysmith High School in 1954, Barbara attended UW-Superior where she met her future husband, Roy D. Hull. Barbara and Roy were married June 6, 1956 and were together until Roy's passing in 2011. They raised two sons, Michael (Kristine) Hull of Oconto, Wisconsin and Mark (Wendy) Hull of Forest Lake, Minnesota. Five grandchildren survive: Drew Hull of Forest Lake, MN, Caitlin (Jeff) Moen of Huntersville, NC, Jamison (Amanda) Hull of St. Paul, MN, Jonathan (Robin) Hull of Marthasville, MO and Nicholas (Jessica Wright) Hull of Oconto Falls, WI, along with 4 great-grandchildren and one more on the way.

Barbara lived in Merrill most of her adult life. She worked various jobs including as bookkeeper at Citizen's American Bank, before returning to school at UW-Stevens Point where she earned a B.S. and M.S. in Education. Barbara began her teaching career, which was her passion, at St. Roberts School in Merrill, where she taught First Grade. After several years, she moved to the Merrill Public Schools where she spent many years teaching various elementary grades, working as a Reading Specialist, and acting as Principal for several years. In her free time, Barbara was an avid reader and bridge player. She also enjoyed spending time at the cottage she shared with Roy near Mercer, WI.

The Gallagher Funeral Home, Oconto, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.gallagherfuneralhome.net](http://www.gallagherfuneralhome.net)

**Dr. Jeffrey Lyle Mills DVM aka Dr. Puppy**, 64, of Merrill, WI, died unexpectedly on August 19, 2022.

He leaves a huge hole in the hearts of his family, friends & clients who were always entertained by his caring heart, stories, and hilarious sense of humor.

Jeff was born on May 11, 1958, to Robert and Anne Mills (Kupfer) in Peoria, IL.

Jeff graduated from the University of Illinois as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Class of 1985. Following graduation, he worked for a few veterinary clinics in Bloomington and Peoria, IL before he moved to Merrill, WI and opened his own veterinary hospital Countryside Animal Clinic, where Jeff has loved and served that community, clients & his patients for almost 30 years. Surgery was his specialty and his absolute love! He was the first Veterinary Surgical Laser Center in Northwestern Wisconsin. His love of animals always showed by his education to each client on their pet's best care before sending them home or personal follow up calls he made. Jeff always said, "Very few people go to work every day loving what they do, but I do!" It showed in everything he did for his patients and clients.

He also was a volunteer vet for multiple veterinary programs including IL Pug Rescue, Central WI St Bernard Rescue, Doberman Pinscher Assoc of WI, KY Pug Rescue, Lake Shore Corgi Rescue, Midwest Pug Rescue of MN, Specialty Purebred Cat Rescue of WI, Village of Maine Spay & Neuter Feral Cats Program & Fetch, Foster & Rescue Organization.

When he wasn't working, he loved fishing and hunting and was one of four people who started the McLean County and Illinois River Valley Pheasants Forever Chapters.

Jeff was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his brother Gregory (Tammy) Mills, sister Sherri Mills, four nephews, one great niece, and three great nephews.

A celebration of life will be in his hometown of Peoria, IL. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a memorial donation be made to any of the following charities: American Heart of Cancer Association or Local Animal Shelter.

Countryside Animal Hospital will be opened Monday, October 17th from 4-7 pm to pick up your pet's medical records or contact 816-207-7616 and leave a message.

Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

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

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**Veterans Services Office closed Oct. 17-21**

The Lincoln County Veterans Services Office will be closed Monday, Oct. 17 through Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, to enable staff to attend the County Veterans Service Association Fall Conference.

There will be limited availability for staff to check phone messages and emails during this timeframe; however, all communications will receive a response the following week when staff return to the office on Monday, Oct. 23.



**OBITUARIES**



**Oliver Schemehorn**, 81, of Weston, passed away Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at Care Partners Assisted Living in Weston.

Oliver was born December 20, 1940, in Merrill, son of the late Raymond and Josephine (Ditsworth) Schemehorn. Oliver had worked at a candy factory and foundry in the Milwaukee Area. When he moved back to the Merrill area, he worked at Prehn's Quarry, Wausau Lumber Sales, and Consumer's Co-op. Oliver enjoyed hunting, fishing, photography, and videography. He loved spending time with his grandchildren and watching their sporting events. He enjoyed watching the Green Bay Packers.

Oliver is survived by two daughters, Jo Ann (Keith 'Harvey') Meyer of Merrill and Diana (Dan) Trumbly of Merrill; two sons, Ricky Schemehorn of Merrill and Ted Kniprath; nine grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; one great-grandchild on-the-way; and two sisters, Lydia Henke of Merrill and Consuelo 'Connie' Kriha of Milwaukee. Oliver was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Josephine Schemehorn; former spouse, Delores Schemehorn; infant son, Raymond Oliver Schemehorn; and siblings, Donald, Clayton, Alman, Marlin, William, and Ramona Schemehorn, Lucille Stoltz, Barbara Reifschneider, Geraldine Cressy, and an infant sibling.

The funeral service for Oliver will be held at 11:00 A.M., Friday, October 14, 2022, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. Greg Laska will officiate. Visitation will begin at 10:00 A.M. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will take place at Chat Cemetery, Town of Birch, Lincoln County. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

The family would like to thank Care Partners Assisted Living in Weston for the great care they gave Oliver. They would also like to thank Compassus Hospice for their care and support.

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

**Check us out online!**  
[merrillfotonews.com](http://merrillfotonews.com)

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**Legals 7700**

**BY THE COURT:**  
**DATE SIGNED: September 20, 2022**  
Electronically signed by Robert R. Russell, Circuit Court Judge

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DANNY M. THOMAS

**Order Setting Time to Hear Petition for Special Administration (Formal Administration)**  
Case No. 2022 PR 33

A Petition for Appointment of a Special Administrator was filed.

**THE COURT FINDS:**  
The decedent, with date of birth 08/07/1969 and date of death 05/07/2022 was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 411 N. Prospect Street, Merrill, WI 54452.

**THE COURT ORDERS:**

1. The petition be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Branch 2, before Robert R. Russell, Court Official, on 11/09/2022 at 9:00 a.m.

**You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.**

2. Notice by publication is required. Publication of this notice is to any interested persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

The names or addresses of the following interested persons (if any) are not known or reasonably ascertainable: Devin Thomas, Dyllin Thomas and Dalie Thomas.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0342 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

**Please check with person named below for exact time and date.**

Attorney Timothy B. Melms  
7520 Hwy 51 S., Suite A  
Minocqua, WI 54548  
715/365-1008 /Bar #1021201  
Published 9/29/22, 10/6/22 & 10/13/22  
WNAXLP

**Legals 7700**

**DATE SIGNED: September 22, 2022**  
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS R. BERNDT

**Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration)**  
Case No. 2022IN47

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 4/18/1959, and date of death 10/23/21, was domiciled in King County, State of Washington, with a mailing address of 2908 S. 216th Street, Seatac, WA 98198.

3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office, before Becky Byer, Probate Registrar, on October 26, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

**You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.**

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 6, 2023.

5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.

6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0342 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

**Please check with person named below for exact time and date.**

Attorney William A. Grunewald Jensen, Scott, Grunewald & Shiffer, S.C.  
128 W. Division Street  
PO BOX 426  
Medford, WI 54451  
715-748-2211/Bar #1008196  
Published 9/29/22, 10/6/22 & 10/13/22  
WNAXLP

**TOWN OF PINE RIVER, LINCOLN COUNTY**

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 6:45 p.m. at the Pine River Town Hall **A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS** will be held to approve the 2022 town tax levy to be collected in 2023. The monthly Town Meeting will follow. To view the proposed budget, see postings at the Pine River Town Hall, The Pine River Fire Department, Bill's Bar or [www.townofpineriver.com](http://www.townofpineriver.com). Please Recycle Amanda Herdt, Clerk  
Published October 13, 2022 WNAXLP

**Budget Publication 2022-23**  
**Required Published Budget Summary Format**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the qualified voters of the Merrill Area Common Public School District comprised of the City of Merrill, Towns of Birch, Corning, Harding, Harrison, Merrill, Pine River, Rock Falls, Russell, Schley, Scott and such parts of Ackley and Vilas as are in such district, that the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing of said district for the transaction of school business and the approval of the tax levy for the 2022-23 school year will be held in the Merrill High School Auditorium (1201 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin - please enter the building at Door #16) on Monday, October 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Detailed copies of the budget are on the MAPS website or available in the office of the Superintendent of Schools.

GENERAL FUND	Audited 2020-21	Unaudited 2021-22	Budget 2022-23
Beginning Fund Balance	6,095,562.63	6,442,249.26	8,642,979.50
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>6,442,249.26</b>	<b>8,642,979.80</b>	<b>8,642,979.50</b>
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>			
Transfers-In (Source 100)	0	0	0
Local Sources (Source 200)	10,828,966.07	10,257,093.74	7,273,316.16
Inter-district Payments (Source 300 + 400)	7,309,316.22	6,634,951.00	6,281,595.00
Intermediate Sources (Source 500)	210,747.07	337,622.15	144,404.00
State Sources (Source 600)	20,724,038.45	21,985,866.57	21,789,433.00
Federal Sources (Source 700)	1,254,915.13	2,199,022.37	3,642,096.05
All Other Sources (Source 800 + 900)	278,523.36	853,134.73	144,500.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES &amp; OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	<b>40,606,506.30</b>	<b>42,267,690.56</b>	<b>39,275,344.21</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER FINANCING USES</b>			
Instruction (Function 100 000)	17,213,274.68	17,393,756.13	16,129,608.71
Support Services (Function 200 000)	15,937,959.72	15,875,619.18	16,459,102.20
Non-Program Transactions (Function 400 000)	7,108,585.27	6,797,584.71	6,686,633.30
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER FINANCING USES</b>	<b>40,259,819.67</b>	<b>40,066,960.02</b>	<b>39,275,344.21</b>

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2020-21	Unaudited 2021-22	Budget 2022-23
Beginning Fund Balance	1,259,839.48	1,505,448.43	1,537,429.90
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,511,407.89</b>	<b>1,545,587.06</b>	<b>1,509,134.15</b>
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>			
	7,754,553.71	7,876,668.07	7,791,807.46
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER FINANCING USES</b>			
	7,502,985.30	7,836,529.44	7,820,103.21

DEBT SERVICE FUND	Audited 2020-21	Unaudited 2021-22	Budget 2022-23
Beginning Fund Balance	23,798.41	20,694.75	0
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>20,694.75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>			
	571,156.18	1,154,560.87	110,925.38
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER FINANCING USES</b>			
	574,259.84	1,175,255.62	110,925.38

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2020-21	Unaudited 2021-22	Budget 2022-23
Beginning Fund Balance	190,839.69	1,990,997.71	1,880,947.65
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,990,997.71</b>	<b>1,880,947.65</b>	<b>1,156,334.65</b>
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>			
	1,800,158.02	988.6	275,401.00
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER FINANCING USES</b>			
	0	111,038.66	1,000,014.00

FOOD SERVICE FUND	Audited 2020-21	Unaudited 2021-22	Budget 2022-23
Beginning Fund Balance	162,020.88	307,410.47	535,546.49
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>307,410.47</b>	<b>535,546.49</b>	<b>534,387.45</b>
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>			
	1,205,552.46	1,561,242.72	1,372,418.00
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER FINANCING USES</b>			
	1,060,162.87	1,333,106.70	1,373,577.04

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND	Audited 2020-21	Unaudited 2021-22	Budget 2022-23
Beginning Fund Balance	0	24,869.95	10,339.54
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>142,819.05</b>	<b>183,860.07</b>	<b>151,395.49</b>
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>			
	175,752.50	184,330.75	184,000.00
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER FINANCING USES</b>			
	32,933.45	25,340.63	42,944.05

PACKAGE & COOPERATIVE PROGRAM FUND	Audited 2020-21	Unaudited 2021-22	Budget 2022-23
Beginning Fund Balance	0	0	0
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>			
	0	0	0
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER FINANCING USES</b>			
	0	0	0

**Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses**

ALL FUNDS	Audited 2020-21	Unaudited 2021-22	Budget 2022-23
<b>GROSS TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>49,430,161.13</b>	<b>50,548,231.07</b>	<b>49,622,907.89</b>
<b>Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>3,660,904.71</b>	<b>3,535,389.96</b>	<b>4,007,574.56</b>
<b>Refinancing Expenditures (FUND 30)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>45,769,256.42</b>	<b>47,012,841.11</b>	<b>45,615,333.33</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE INCREASE - NET TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR YEAR</b>		<b>2.72%</b>	<b>-2.97%</b>

**PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY**

FUND	Audited 2020-21	Unaudited 2021-22	Budget 2022-23
General Fund	10,690,224.00	9,960,417.00	7,032,143.96
Referendum Debt Service Fund	0	0	0
Non-Referendum Debt Service Fund	570,760.00	546,603.00	0
Capital Expansion Fund	0	0	0
Community Service Fund	166,135.00	166,000.00	225,000.00
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY</b>	<b>11,427,119.00</b>	<b>10,673,020.00</b>	<b>7,212,143.96</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE INCREASE - TOTAL LEVY FROM PRIOR YEAR</b>		<b>-6.60%</b>	<b>-32.43%</b>

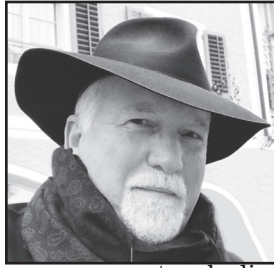


PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Integrity

DEAR READER,

Vince Lombardi, arguably the Packers' greatest coach of all time, once said that "Winning isn't everything; it's the only thing." But I am sure that had he been asked, he would have added one important word: Fairly.



tough climbs.

his titles were vacated and he was banned from cycling for life after his extensive doping was discovered. There also is some question about whether he used a small electric motor to give his bicycle extra juice on the

Recently an American Grand Master chess player admitted to cheating in previous matches. While disclosing his wrong clears up a few artificial wins he may have stolen from the true winners, it doesn't restore his integrity, nor does it convince anyone he would never again cheat to win.

Winning when cheating is not really winning. The cheaters, both in sports and in life, are the real losers, regardless of whether their wrong is exposed.

PATRICK J. WOOD PUBLISHER

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

At times we see attempts to cheat in football. For example, a receiver tries to cover up the fact that he really didn't catch the ball, or a defender acts as if he didn't interfere with an offensive player's opportunity to make a reception. Fortunately the replay cameras don't lie and those individuals usually don't get away with it. But we all bear the scars of some incredibly bad calls against the Packers (like against Seattle).

Other would-be cheaters use drugs to enhance their performance, thus camouflaging their true ability. Lance Armstrong, one of the world's best-known cyclists, comes to mind. All of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters to the Editor, a chance for members of the community to comment on issues of concern to them. All letters must be original, not duplications of letters addressed to public officials or written by others. The views and opinions expressed are those of the letter writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of this publication, its publishers, Editor, or staff.

TO THE EDITOR:

Keep UW-Extension Funding in 2023 County Budget

We represent the Active & Aware Citizens of Merrill, Inc. Our mission is to create a stronger Merrill area community. We are very alarmed over action being considered by the Lincoln County Board to eliminate \$208,000 to fund the UW-Extension in the 2023 Lincoln County Budget.

If the proposal to eliminate all of the UW-Extension funding passes, the UW-Extension office in Lincoln County will close and all programs offered by and administered through the UW-Extension will end. Programs lost would include:

- County mental health education/

awareness for youth and adults

- 4-H
- StrongBodies strength training for adults
- Organizational assistance for non-profits
- Agricultural support with crop and soil research
- Nutrition education for youth and adults

Elimination of funding for the UW-Extension is short-sighted. It will have long-term severe detrimental consequences for young and old, especially the loss of mental health resources to deal with the growing crisis of drug and alcohol abuse and deteriorating adolescent mental health.

Instead of ending UW-Extension funding, we implore the Lincoln County Board to find 2023 funding by reprioritizing department budget needs, using unallocated monies from the unassigned general fund, and using available monies from the American Rescue Plan Act. Long-term resources to maintain future UW-Extension

See LETTERS page 9

PAID LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR

Food for Kids Requests Community Support

This year six schools will be participating in the Food For Kids program: Pine River Little Learners, Washington Elementary, Kate Goodrich Elementary, Prairie River Middle School (grades 5 and 6 only), Northern Achievement Center, and Trinity Lutheran School. Also this year we have opened our program to any families who may be struggling and have a need to receive meals on the weekends.

For the last several years the Food For Kids committee at St. Stephens UCC has provided all of the necessary aspects of the program: purchasing and storage of the food as well as coordinating the bagging and distribution to each of the participating schools. We will continue to do this for the 2022/23 school year.

In this last year, an average of 245 children participated in the program at a total cost of \$33,000. Assuming the same number of children and recognizing the increased cost of food, we are estimating that the total costs for this coming year will be approximately \$40,000.

Food For Kids was started by the Merrill Ministerium and continues as a

community ministry. The program has received excellent support from grants and private donations from local churches, charitable organizations, businesses, and individuals. This support will again be necessary if the program is to continue. We would also welcome Board members from other churches and civic organizations. We are, therefore, asking each church, each charitable organization, each business, and every individual to find a way to lend your support. Donations can be sent directly to:

Food For Kids St. Stephens UCC 903 East 2nd St., Merrill, WI 54452

Thank you. - The Food for Kids Committee, St. Stephens UCC, Merrill, Wis.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above Letter to the Editor is considered a Paid Letter to the Editor because it exceeded 250 words, and the authors paid for the cost of printing the additional text to have the letter printed in its entirety.

The cost for Paid Letters to the Editor is \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words, plus \$10.00 per additional 50 words, and must be prepaid prior to printing.

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Governor Evers takes a common sense approach to the challenges facing our state – finding solutions and delivering results that work for everyone in Wisconsin.

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- Gov. Evers is committed to providing high-speed and affordable internet access to every home in Wisconsin
- ✓ During Gov. Evers' first term, nearly 5,000 miles of roads and nearly 1,500 bridges have been fixed
- ✓ Gov. Evers funded public schools at their highest level in two decades, improving Wisconsin schools to the top 10 in the nation
- ✓ In his first term, Gov. Evers helped over 6,000 small businesses open or expand in vacant storefronts

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the qualified voters of the Merrill Area Common Public School District comprised of the City of Merrill, Towns of Birch, Coming, Harding, Harrison, Merrill, Pine River, Rock Falls, Russell, Schley, Scott and such parts of Ackley and Vilas as are in such district, that the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing of said district for the transaction of school business and the approval of the tax levy for the 2022-2023 school year will be held in the Merrill High School Auditorium (1201 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin – please enter the building at Door #16) on Monday, October 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Detailed copies of the budget are on our website, on file in the office of the Superintendent of Schools and at most Merrill financial institutions.

Published October 13 & 20, 2022

WNAXLP



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**FIRE** from page 1

exterior attack and then an aggressive interior attack knocking down the majority of the fire.

As a part of MABAS Division 155 [Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, a mutual aid measure that may be used for deploying fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel in a multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency response], Pine River Firefighters requested and received mutual aid from surrounding area Fire Departments including the Towns of Corning, Hewitt, Russell, and Texas, along with the City of Merrill Fire Department who also provided an ambulance to check the four people who occupied the home when the fire broke out, all of whom declined medical transport.

Due to the home's construction, a clam truck from the Lincoln County Highway Department was needed and called to the scene to remove a metal roof; this exposed a large portion of the fire which had extended to the attic of the home.

The home is a complete loss. No dollar estimate pertaining to the loss is available at this time; however, the homeowner indicated the home was not insured.

According to the Pine River Fire Department, it is believed that at least six adults and a two-year-old child had resided in the home and were now left homeless. They have all been assisted by the American Red Cross.



A Lincoln County Highway Department clam truck was required to remove part of the metal roof on the home to enable firefighters to attack the blaze that had spread to the attic. Photos courtesy of Pine River Volunteer Fire Department.



Multiple crews battled a blaze Monday night that displaced a family from their Town of Pine River home. The home was a total loss.

The Salvation Army and the Pine River and Town of Russell First Responders provided assistance to firefighters on the scene.



## Foster Grandparents

Share Today. Shape Tomorrow.

Looking for Volunteers to make a difference in a youth's life!

If you enjoy offering:

- One-to-One Guidance and Companionship to youth ages 14-17 in a Supervised Setting
- Are you interested in tutoring, mentoring and/or healthy social interaction?
- Building mutually beneficial friendships

If you are age 55 or older, meet income criteria, and able to volunteer a minimum of 5 hours a week or more.

**Then YOU are exactly what we are looking for!**

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 **If Interested Call Jim at 715-536-8386 ext. 1220 or email at: James.Larkin@wisconsin.gov**




### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

**Randy Lee Maschke**  
Born February 24, 1959  
Passed September 20, 2022

Come celebrate Randy's life. On October 22, 2022 from 12pm to 4pm at the Eagles Club 1205 Lake Street Merrill WI.

Randy fought for over 4 years to be with us but he fought a long and hard fight. He kept beating the odds and showing the doctors that he was going to stay around a bit longer. We would like to extend an invitation to friend and family to join us at Eagles Club for a celebration of Randy's life. We'll be sharing our favorite stories and pictures of Randy.



## Marlene "Marcie" Luedtke

7/6/41-10/10/21

MISS YOU MOM

A thousand words could not bring you back... I know because I tried.

A thousand tears could not bring you back... I know because I cried.

I really miss you Mom, Tell me:

I miss you Mom, although your soul is at rest, and your body free from pain, the world would be like heaven if I had you back again.

You're always in my thoughts no matter where I go, always in my heart, because I love you so.

However long my life might last, whatever land I view, whatever joy or grief is mine, I still remember you. I really miss you Mom.

Sadly missed by:

Jerry & Tammy, Mike & Judy,  
Steve & Tina, Norm & Linda,  
Grandchildren &  
Great Grandchildren



## The Hanging Flower Basket Committee gratefully acknowledges all individuals, organizations and businesses for their support of the 2022 Hanging Flower Basket Project.



Also, our thanks for assistance from Merrill's Street Department, Park and Rec Department, the Chamber Foundation, Cheryl Skoug, Dave Barney, Steve Drew and our waterers, Jerry Burnett and Gregory Radke.

<p><b>EXEMPLARY DONATIONS</b></p> <p>Anonymous Woodland Court and Elder Services Steve &amp; Laurie Wolf-Dahm Merrill Tool &amp; Water Jet In Memory of Harriet Henrich</p> <p><b>DOUBLE POLE &amp; BASKET DONATIONS</b></p> <p>Culver's of Merrill</p> <p><b>DOUBLE POLE</b></p> <p>ABG Masonry INC Jim Blair Edward Jones - Kevin Cohrs Glenn &amp; Barb Hartley Nancy Priebe Courtside Furniture Tomahawk-Merrill Community Bank Westside Market Merrill Police Association Evelyn Bjorklund</p> <p><b>POLE DONATION</b></p> <p>Don &amp; Judy Evans In Memory of Geraldine MacSawin Butkiewicz James &amp; Pamela Bjorklund</p> <p>Mary Jo Schnur Kathleen Swope Helene &amp; Jack Ader Carol and Bill Weber</p>	<p>Kimmons Roofing LLC Holy Cross Sisters Grant Peterson Bill &amp; Kathy Wulf Maxine &amp; Jay Tlusty Norman Weisenfeld Plautz's Pub Carol Finanger Pioneer Transportation Ltd Central Carpet &amp; Flooring, INC Kris &amp; Randy Ullmer Greg Spoehr Nicolet National Bank Denise &amp; Jeff Radloff Nancy Dabbert Sally Hacker Comfort Gallery LLC Merrill Eagles Auxiliary Shirley Engel Wheeler's Chevrolet of Merrill Gary &amp; Marilyn Wright Chips Hamburgers Kent &amp; Sue Johnson Irma Stine Merrill Eagles Club John &amp; Kim Sample Karen Karow Lindy &amp; LeeAnn Lindquist Cordova Insurance Agency</p>	<p>Faye Semling Century 21 Best Way Realty Lise Skofronick Merrill Ice Draggers Kay &amp; David Smith Park City Credit Union Sarah Ritter In Memory of Jerry Plautz &amp; Joel Heckendorf Brooke's School of Dance Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe/ Aunt Lu's Antiques Jane ann Savaske Richard A Mamer CPA SU S.C. Swiderski LLC Gary &amp; Arlene Schulze Bob &amp; JoAnn Opsahl Ed &amp; Sharon's Food Truck Johnsons of Merrill TB Scott Free Library Staff Dieter Nickel Craig &amp; Jeanne Nienow Merrill Foundation Dennie &amp; Terri Fey</p> <p><b>BASKET DONATIONS</b></p> <p>Dave &amp; Marcy Barney VFW Auxiliary Post 1638 Linda Becker &amp; Greg</p>	<p>Eichelkraut Rezin Optical LLC Park Street Properties LLC NAPA Auto Parts of Merrill Dale &amp; Linda Janisch Scott &amp; Kim Voigt Gloria Ziolkowski Joe &amp; Marlene Thomaschfsky Eppie Gruling Phillip &amp; Marge Kamke Jan Perry Marie Rein Brad &amp; Micki Krueger Brickners Park City INC Nancy Strand Carla Moore Mary Bauman Dee Olsen Merrill Sheet Metal Riverside Athletic Club Bruce &amp; Jean English Merrill City Band WJQ Radio In Memory of Judi BeVier-North Oak Park Dental-Merrill LLC XI ALPHA NU Preceptor Alpha Beta The Chiropractic Wellness Center</p>	<p>Merrill Smiles Dental Ken &amp; Barb Adams Bea Lebal Sid &amp; Eva Sukow Wisconsin Phi Master Laureate Alpha Delta Linda &amp; Bryan Plautz</p> <p><b>OTHER DONATIONS</b></p> <p>In Memory of Judy Erno In Memory of Arlo Berndt Holly Henrich Lynn Henrich Dave &amp; Theresa O'Brien Gene &amp; Karleen Bebel Elaine Simon Dave &amp; Sue Pyan Carol Plautz Gary &amp; Jill Mosser Jean Henrich Lynette Bloch In Memory of Carol Severt</p> <p><b>OUR THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT! THE COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>Jane ann Savaske, Chr Helene Ader Ginny Drew Marcy Barney Nancy Dabbert Darrel Dengel</p>
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# Wallace bikes from Green Bay to St. Louis to raise money and awareness for Hope Pregnancy Resource Center

## Biking for Babies: Wallace raises \$5,147

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

Erich Wallace, age 32, from Merrill loves to bike, loves to compete, and unashamedly loves to talk about his God, his faith journey, and his pro-life stance. So when



On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, Clyde Nelson presents a \$1,200 check for Biking for Babies to Erich Wallace to support his fundraising efforts for Hope Resource Center in Wausau.

**Tina L. Scott photo.**

he learned of an opportunity to combine all of those things, well, he was in like Flynn, as the saying goes.

The cause that combined all of these elements? Biking for Babies.

Wallace chose to become a 2022 biking missionary for a national event to raise money and awareness for a cause near and dear to his heart and selected Hope Pregnancy Resource Center in Wausau to be the recipient of his personal fundraising efforts.

"Biking for Babies is a life-affirming organization that seeks to change our culture into a culture of life, one pedal stroke at a time, by raising awareness for pregnancy resource centers and the services they provide, raising funds for those pregnancy resource centers, and offering physical sacrifice up, spiritually, for women, babies, and families in crisis pregnancies," Wallace said.

Fundraising and awareness combine in the organization's annual National Ride event, "where 52 missionaries from all over the U.S. ride around 600 miles in 6 days from 6 different starting points which converge in St.

Louis for a Celebration of Life," he said.

Wallace chose to participate for a multitude of reasons, and his commitment to participating began long before the actual National Ride July 11-16, 2022.

"I began training in March with some weight lifting and indoor biking, but got outside as soon as the weather permitted," Wallace said. "I would bike 3-4 nights per week, with shorter rides of about 16 miles during the weekdays, and a longer ride on Saturdays." All of this was after working a full day doing construction projects.

"There were mileage benchmarks we had to complete along the way in order to be safely prepared for the National Ride, which averages about 100 miles a day, 6 days in a row," he said.

"I was on the Wisconsin Route that traveled from Green Bay, Wisconsin, to St. Louis, Missouri," Wallace said. For the actual event, he biked about 575 miles in 6 days, he said. But with all the practice, he definitely biked well over 1,000 miles in the months leading up to the event.

"My goal was to raise \$5,000 for Hope Pregnancy Resource Center in Wausau," Wallace said, "And with the generous support of many people within the Merrill community and some outside of it, including a large donation from the Knights of Columbus of \$1,200, I was able to raise \$5,147."

"Praise be to God!" he said.

"Raising funds for a cause bigger than oneself is a humbling experience," Wallace said. "People are so much more generous than I could have imagined when they believe what they're doing will make a difference. I am so grateful for all those that contributed!"

Though it was an incredible undertaking to prepare for physically, mentally, and spiritually in less than six months, he started with the end in mind.

"I decided to take on this mission because I do believe that every human life has dignity, from conception to natural death, and I recognized that in order for other people to recognize this truth, I needed to do something to show I'm more than just talk when it comes to this cause," Wallace said. "I needed to act to support women and babies in crisis, and there is really no argument against raising money for a center that provides totally free services for women such as pregnancy testing, STD

See WALLACE page 10

MERRILL FOTO NEWS

### Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is **Sierra Jannusch**  
Daughter of **Kevin & Julia Jannusch**  
Sierra is in 2nd Grade at Kate Goodrich Elementary School. She was nominated by Mr. Michael Klapperich.

**What is your favorite subject in school? Why?**  
I really like art because we do fun crafts, and I like doing fun crafts. Soon, we'll be working on pumpkins. It's cool because there can be three pumpkins in the picture and there are three grades in our school. I'm excited because we might get to use paint.

**What is your favorite part of school? Why?**  
I like coming to school because I can play with my friends during recess. I also like that there are smart teachers to help me learn, especially math.

**What would you like to do/become someday? Why?**  
I want to be a veterinarian. I really like pets and mostly want to take care of animals that could be your pet.

From the first day of school, Sierra has shown excitement and enthusiasm for learning and exploring new ideas. She works hard on everything she does and has shown her ability to overcome challenges when something new comes along. Sierra meets our SOAR expectations (Show Respect, Own your actions, Act safely, Rise to the challenge) on a daily basis. I'm very proud of the work she's done so far and am excited for her ambitious plans for the future. Keep up the great work, Sierra!

- Mr. Michael Klapperich

Student of the Week Sponsored by:

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Patrick Wood, Publisher, MMC

"I'm looking forward to seeing the beauty of the French Riviera and getting to know our readers up close and personal."  
Kris Leonhardt, GM / Sr. Editor MMC

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DAY BY DAY			
<p><b>DAY 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board your transatlantic flight</li> </ul> <p><b>DAY 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrive in Cannes and transfer to your hotel</li> <li>Remainder of day at your leisure</li> </ul>	<p><b>DAY 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakfast at your hotel</li> <li>Cannes, Antibes, and Sophia</li> <li>Antipolis</li> <li>Full day of touring</li> </ul> <p><b>DAY 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakfast at your hotel</li> <li>Grasse excursion</li> <li>Optional excursion to St. Paul de Vence</li> </ul>	<p><b>DAY 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakfast at your hotel</li> <li>Day at leisure</li> </ul> <p><b>DAY 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakfast at your hotel</li> <li>Day at leisure</li> <li>Optional excursion to Monte Carlo, Villefrance and Eze</li> </ul>	<p><b>DAY 7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakfast at your hotel</li> <li>City tour of Nice</li> <li>Remainder of the day at leisure</li> </ul> <p><b>DAY 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakfast at your hotel</li> <li>Transfer to airport for flight home</li> </ul>

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# Merrill City Administrator Johnson retires

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022, Dave Johnson spent his last day serving Merrill as City Administrator, and on Oct. 5, he joined the ranks of the retired.

Prior to being appointed to serve in Merrill in 2012, he had served as County Administrator in Wabasha County, Minn.; City Administrator in Valley City, N. Dak.; Operations & Maintenance Director for the Metropolitan Sewer District of Louisville & Jefferson County, and Administrator of Storm & Wastewater Maintenance for Indianapolis, Ind.

In his capacity as City Administrator, Johnson's responsibilities included providing administrative management services to support the Merrill Mayor and Common Council and also serving as the City's Human Resources Director.

Born and raised in Wausau, Johnson currently resides in Merrill. He has a bachelor's degree in Political Science and History from the University of Wisconsin, a master's in American Government/Planning from Purdue University, and a master's



On Oct. 4, 2022, Dave Johnson retired from being Merrill's City Administrator for the last 10 years. Well wishers gathered for a party that evening to wish him all the best.

Submitted photo.

in Public Administration from Indiana University.

He has a passion for history, collecting artifacts, and particularly mining history and Old Copper Culture; has developed three websites on mining history and one on Old Copper Culture; and has written 50+ articles on these topics, published in the U.S., England, Germany, and France. He also enjoys outdoor activities and world

travel.

Until the City of Merrill Personnel & Finance Committee and Common Council are able to recruit and identify an appropriate replacement to fill the City Administrator position, Merrill Police Chief Corey Bennett and Public Works Director City Engineer Rod Akey are working together to serve as interim co-administrators for the City.

## LETTERS from page 6

partnerships could be accomplished by reinstating the wheel tax or asking County citizens to endorse a referendum that would allow the levy limit to be exceeded. Don't end the successful partnership between Lincoln County and the UW-Extension!

Respectfully,

– Mike Ravn, President; Jay Tlusty, Vice President; Renea Frederick, Treasurer; and John Greenwood, Secretary  
Active & Aware Citizens of Merrill, Inc.  
Merrill, Wis.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

\* Letters must be 250 words or less. (There will be no exceptions to this. Any letter longer than 250 words will not be printed.)

\* The writer must include their full name, complete address, and a phone number where he/she can be easily reached for verification. Phone numbers and street addresses will not be published, but will be used for verification purposes, if necessary. Letters must be signed and the name, city, and state will be printed.

\* Letters may be edited for style, grammar, and length. Form letters or those we determine to be libelous or slanderous will not be accepted. Any letter deemed derogatory, inflammatory, or involving vulgar language will not be published. We reserve all rights to reject material submitted to this publication.

\* Letters will be published on a "first come, first served" basis. Any letters which we are unable to publish in the printed newspaper may be run online at [www.merrillfotonews.com](http://www.merrillfotonews.com) and/or may be printed in the paper at a later date.

\* In fairness to all, and due to space constraints, there is a limit of two letters per year from an individual writer. Additional letters may be submitted to our Paid Letters to the Editor column and will require payment in full prior to publication at the same rate as Political Letters to the Editor (see policy below).

### POLITICAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

All letters submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum, or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words in length. Longer political letters will be accepted but will be charged \$10.00 per additional 50 words. All political letters must be prepaid prior to printing. Letters to the Editor will not be accepted from candidates running for election or representatives of an organization endorsing their own referendum, as these are clearly advertisements and not opinion letters; those submissions will be referred to our Advertising Department to be run as paid ads.

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# Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM  
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

## Mr. Harrigan's Phone

(Now streaming on Netflix)

★★★★☆

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

*Mr. Harrigan's Phone* is the latest adaptation from a novella written by one of our generation's most prolific writers, Stephen King. The film is now streaming on Netflix.

First appearing in Mr. King's 2020 novel, *If It Bleeds*, this is a throwback to some of King's earlier works.

As a huge fan of Stephen King, specifically his earlier works, I am always interested in just how badly filmmakers adapt his works. And let's be honest, for a man who has written roughly 17,562 books, novellas, and stories, his film adaption success rate is pitiful.

*Mr. Harrigan's Phone* succeeds, if only, by being a middle-of-the-road entertaining story. But with the track record of his adaptations, this one can be called a success.

The premise is simple and creepy. Young boy befriends mean old man, mean old man takes liking to young man, old man dies, kid puts cell phone into old man's coffin, and suddenly kid can communicate with dead mean old man, and spooky things and death follow.



As I said, basic but entertaining. The standout for me was watching Donald Sutherland, who can convey both creepy and kind with a simple glance, grace the screen once again. He really is one of the greats.

Everyone does a good job in this one. No performance in it invoked my snark or wrath. But sadly, it is forgettable. However, since it is Halloween season and spooky is the proper tempus, I do suggest you check this one out. Pop some popcorn,

dim the lights, and enjoy a good story on these cold nights. At the very worst, it's better than whatever slasher movie will hit the screens this month, whether that be *Halloween* part 87, *Friday the 13th* part 64, or the abomination that is *Hocus Pocus 2*.

Three out of five stars for this one, but if you are looking for a fantastic Stephen King adaptation, may I suggest *The Green Mile*? It's three hours long, but you will never notice. It's that good.

## WALLACE

from page 8

testing, ultrasounds, parenting classes, clothes, car seats, food, etc. ... and then biking a crazy amount of miles to gain people's attention and kind of suffer in solidarity, in some small way, with these women."

Will he do it again? "I am currently thinking and praying about participating again next year," he said. He urges others to "Consider it!"

"The 2023 Biking for Babies missionary applications just opened, and if you're between the ages of 18-39 and think you might be interested in taking on this beautiful challenge, or donating to the organization, go to [biking-forbabies.com](http://biking-forbabies.com) to find out more!" Wallace said.

And if you have a bit of a competitive streak like him, as well as a passion for the cause, maybe 2023 will be the year Merrill has more biking missionaries "Biking for Babies" at the National Ride than any other city in the U.S. It could happen. Challenge issued.

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SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:20PM  
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM  
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

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"PG" (1HR 46MIN)  
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October 22, 2022 4-9 pm

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**UNITED WAY** from page 1

WJMT Bluejay Radio will be doing a live broadcast, and food will be available on the grounds from Amazin' Blazin' BBQ and a hot dog stand.

It's a day guaranteed to be a lot of fun for the families that attend, and after 75 years of serving the Merrill community, such an exciting celebration is warranted.

The Merrill Area United Way (MAUW) was officially founded on Oct. 27, 1947, according to Dee Olsen, current Executive Director of the Merrill Area United Way, Inc. Most of us can't remember a time when the MAUW wasn't a quiet but essential part of our community, working to provide assistance to other agencies at many levels.

"What would our community look like if United Way didn't exist and help our agencies?" Olsen said. "The agencies would struggle, and some may not exist. We could see more impoverishment, more crime, more shoplifting, more childhood delinquency, more children undernourished or going to school hungry."

The MAUW has been instrumental in supporting many agencies that exist to serve the Merrill area community in a wide variety of ways. Their fundraising efforts have, in turn, impacted the lives of many people within our community, for four generations.

"Since just 2010 to 2022, with the generosity of our community, United Way has disbursed just over \$2.1 million to partner agencies as they serve the local community," Olsen said.

The needs in the community continue to grow. "This year United Way is anticipating receiving three new agency applicants," she said, from the "Boys and Girls Club, The Nest, and Food For Kids." All three agencies provide support to area children in a variety of ways, from providing necessities to high school students, to food for children to eat on the

weekends when hot school lunches are not available, to after-school activities to engage youth in positive ways.

"United Way focuses on the basic building blocks for a good life – a quality education that leads to stable employment, a solid income to support a family through retirement and meet cost of living standards, and good health with available and affordable health care," Olsen said. "These aren't always achievable, but our agency support helps."

United Way stepped up and was one of two major organizations raising dollars to help the tornado victims in 2011, she added, working along with the Chamber of Commerce Foundation. "United Way raised over \$100,000 to help people," she said.

More recently, "When COVID 19 hit, United Way assessed the impact on our agencies, their services, and their funding and made eight additional agency grants to assist them," Olsen said.

Then, "affected by COVID 19, in 2020, Merrill's Christmas gift giving for children and families in need was in jeopardy."

"Within a matter of 6-7 weeks United Way developed a 'Children's Christmas Project' and quickly raised \$38,000.00 to provide a drive-through Christmas to help 133 families, totaling 360 children," she said.

"United Way also organized and operated the first homeless shelter for two years during the winter months," Olsen said. "United Way held community conversations regarding homelessness and, with the help of Habitat for Humanity and Robbie and Trina Johnson, was the impetus for getting the current MAC Home established. MAC Home is its own operation now."

Untold numbers of people in the Merrill community have been positively impacted by the Merrill Area United Way over the course of 75 years. Come on down to celebrate with the United Way this Saturday.

# Dave's

# APPLE FEST SALE

<p><b>Dave's Angus Ribeye Steak</b> <b>\$9.99</b> lb.</p>	<p><b>Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast</b> <b>\$2.99</b> lb.</p>	<p><b>Certified Angus Boneless Chuck Roast</b> <b>\$4.99</b> lb.</p>
<p><b>80% Lean Big Pack Ground Beef</b> <b>\$2.99</b> lb.</p>	<p><b>OUR OWN Homemade Apple Cinnamon Breakfast Patties</b> <b>\$3.99</b> lb.</p>	<p><b>Spring Hill Boneless Ham</b> <b>\$2.49</b> lb.</p>

**PRODUCE**

Michigan Tote Bag, McIntosh Apples ..... **99¢** lb.

Michigan Tote Bag, Cortland Apples ..... **99¢** lb.

Honey Crisp Apples ..... **\$1.49** lb.

Half Gallon Apple Cider ..... **\$3.99** ea.

Marzetti, 13.5 oz., Assorted Caramel Dips... **\$3.99** ea.

**Carving Pumpkins**  
**\$3.99** ea.

**GROCERY**

Hunts, 20 oz. Ketchup ..... **5/\$5.00**

Chicken of the Sea, in water, 5oz., Tuna ..... **75¢**

Hunts, 14.5 oz., Assorted Variety Diced Tomatoes ..... **5/\$5.00**

Campbells, 10.5 oz. Cream of Mushroom or Chicken Soup ..... **99¢**

Essential Everyday, 16 oz. Saltine Crackers ..... **2/\$3.00**

**DAIRY**

Kemps Tru Moo, Half Gallon, Chocolate Milk .. **2/\$3.00**

Kemps, Pints Whip Cream ..... **\$2.99**

Kemps, 22oz. Cottage Cheese ... **\$3.49**

Essential Everyday, 8 oz. Deli Slices ..... **2/\$5.00**

Essential Everyday, 16 oz. Sour Cream .... **2/\$4.00**

Essential Everyday, Dozen Large Eggs ..... **2/\$5.00**

**BAKERY**

Assorted Flavors, 2 ct., Cream Puffs ..... **\$4.49**

**DELI**

Apple Crisp ..... **\$4.99** lb.

Mrs. Gerry's German Potato Salad ..... **\$4.99** lb.

**FROZEN**

Angelo's, 12" Pizza ..... **\$8.99**

All Sales Good Through Tuesday, October 18th, 2022! Some Items based on availability. Sorry, no rainchecks.

# Dave's County Market

**WE VALUE FRESH WE VALUE FAMILY WE VALUE YOU!**

Monday – Sunday • 5 AM – 11 PM

**300 E. 1<sup>ST</sup> ST. MERRILL • 715-536-2571**

Check Out Our Website at: [www.DavesCountyMarketMerrill.com](http://www.DavesCountyMarketMerrill.com)

**"It's more important now than ever to elect someone that will support the **FREEDOM** for women to be in charge of their own healthcare decisions."**

**TODD FREDERICK**

**STATE ASSEMBLY**

**DISTRICT # 35**

Paid for by Friends of Todd Frederick

# Fall Tire Sale

*Best Prices of the Season!*

**\$1 TIRE!**

**WHEN YOU BUY 3 October thru November**

\*Some Brands Excluded

**Also, ask us how to save \$100.00\* and get 6 months 0% financing on tires or service!**

\*\*Must be approved through FCA Financing, by 11/30/22

**We perform no charge wheel alignment checks with every oil change!**

**Brickners Park City, Inc.**

3000 EAST MAIN STREET, MERRILL

PHONE: 715-536-2833 • TOLL FREE 800-499-JEEP (5337)

LOCATED 1/2 MILE WEST OF HWY. 51-64 INTERCHANGE

Visit our web site at [www.bricknerfamily.com](http://www.bricknerfamily.com) - Email: [Parkcityservice@bricknerfamily.com](mailto:Parkcityservice@bricknerfamily.com)





No appointment necessary

### Talent Tuesdays

Tuesday, October 18, 3 PM - 5 PM

Marshfield Medical Center - Weston

3400 Ministry Pkwy, Weston, WI 54476

(Entrance 4 off of Birch Street)

Stop in and talk with recruiters and connect with hiring managers.

Positions range from patient care, both acute and clinical, to non-patient care, entry-level to management, and much more!

••• Featured positions may be eligible for a Sign On Bonus ••• Ask recruiter for details!

- Research Coordinator - Clinical Epidemiology & Population Health
- Biomedical Equipment Technician I, II, III
- Surgical Technologist
- Critical Care Transport EMT
- Registered Nurse
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Social Worker
- Care Team Coordinator
- Dermatology Tech

Where your work matters.



Marshfield Clinic Health System

For more information visit: [marshfieldclinic.org/careers](http://marshfieldclinic.org/careers)

Marshfield Clinic Health System is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, age, or any other characteristic protected by law.

204946

## EMPLOYMENT



WINDOWS & DOORS

We're for the visionaries.®

### Seeking Full Time 1st Shift Production Team Members

No Experience Required

Now Offering a Three-Day Work Week!

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 5am-5pm

\$20.55 per hour

OR

We Also Offer a Four-Day Work Week!

Monday thru Thursday, 5am-3pm

\$18.50 per hour

Excellent benefits package, including an on-site clinic

Apply online at

[www.kolbewindows.com/careers](http://www.kolbewindows.com/careers)

EOE

158179

# We are Hiring!

JOIN OUR TEAM



## Entry Level Manufacturing Positions

- 1st shift starts at \$18.65
- 2nd shift starts at \$20.15
- Flexible Part-Time
- New Attendance Bonus Program Earn up to an additional \$1.50/hr
- Excellent Low-Cost Benefits: Individual: \$69/Month Spouse: +\$110/Month Child: +\$33/Month

2022 Monthly Rates

### APPLY IN-PERSON

Two Merrill Locations:  
605 N. Ohio St. | 1815 Water St.

Questions? Call: 715-722-1884

[SPI-IND.COM/CAREERS](http://SPI-IND.COM/CAREERS)



Sierra Pacific is an (EOE) Equal Opportunity Employer, including those with a disability and veterans.

179440

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FRESH?

# WE'RE HIRING!

### Maintenance Tech's (Millwrights)

Our Water Street location is looking for qualified Millwright Maintenance techs. Knowledge of electricity, hydraulics, pneumatics, pumps, motors, & gears is required.

\$26.96 to \$29.08

- Excellent low-cost health benefits

Employee: \$69/Month

Child: +\$33/Month

Spouse: +\$110/Month

Deductible: \$250/Ind. \$500/Family



SIERRA PACIFIC WINDOWS

If you are qualified and would like to join our team please send a cover letter referencing the position and resume to:

**SARAH EVANSON**

**1815 WATER STREET, MERRILL, WI 54452**

**715-722-1884 OR VISIT: [SPI-IND.COM/CAREERS](http://SPI-IND.COM/CAREERS)**

SIERRA PACIFIC IS AN (EOE) EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER, INCLUDING THOSE WITH A DISABILITY AND VETERANS

184377





# CLASSIFIEDS

**Deadline:** Monday at 11:30 a.m.  
**Phone:** 715-536-7121  
**Fax:** 715-539-3686

**General Employment 7110**

**WE'RE HIRING!**

**Full Time Food Service Prep \$13.84 per hour:** We are currently hiring for 12 Food Service Prep employees with full-time availability from 6am to 2:30pm. This full-time position pays \$13.84 per hour located in King, WI. (301) 687-2285 or jjones@athenaconsultingllc.com

**Professional and Technical 7135**

**KEMPS®**  
SINCE 1914

*Good Comes Around™*

**Drivers Needed! \$6,000 Bonus:** Kemps has immediate job openings for dependable CDL-A delivery truck drivers. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and every other Saturday. 3:30am start time. \$24.95 per hour, \$6,000 sign-on bonus! 401K, Health, Vision & Dental Insurance Kemps.com or 262-546-2932

**Wanted: Retired Truck Driver.** Drive local Tomahawk to Rothschild 1 to 2 times a day. Call Steve 715-218-5351 Badger Evergreen.

**Professional and Technical 7135**

**NO WAITING LIST** to Train for your CDL. Call SCDTI 715-942-2700 ext 102

**OTR TRUCK DRIVERS FT/PT** Competitive wages & full benefits. Mileage, Drop pay, Paid weekly Home weekends, NO east/west coast, 28 central states. Van & Hopper Division. Agriculture experience a plus. Fox Valley company since 1958 Call Frank 920-788-6242 or 920-858-0238. Van Groll Trucking, Kaukauna

**THINKING ABOUT CHANGING JOBS?**

**Great Northern Cabinetry is the place for you!**

We take your current service into account for vacation purposes! Friendly people, great benefits, and a place where you can build your career for your future!

**COME JOIN US!**

**Great Northern Cabinetry** Distinctive Cabinetry Since 1972

Apply on our website at [www.greatnortherncabinetry.com/careers](http://www.greatnortherncabinetry.com/careers), by email at [HR@gnci.net](mailto:HR@gnci.net), or in person at 749 Kennedy Street, Rib Lake, WI

**Seasonal Help Wanted**

Now accepting applications for the upcoming fall Xmas season. Full time & part time positions available. Opportunities to make up to \$20 per hour!

Apply in person or Call 715-536-9465

**WE ARE BUYING BOUGHS STARTING 10/10/22**

**Balsam & Fraser**  
Paying Top Prices!

**Go to: The Old Chipper Mill**  
1001 S. State Street, Merrill

715-536-9465 Ask for Don  
Hours: M-F 7am-5pm, Sat. 8am-4pm

**J.W. Perry, Inc.**  
Phone 715-536-9465

North Central Health Care

**IT'S AN EXCITING TIME TO JOIN OUR TEAM!**

**BRAND NEW POSITIONS AVAILABLE INCLUDING:**

**Residential Care Assistant II**

Are you CNA-certified and looking for a flexible, independent, feel-good opportunity to advance your skillset? Consider joining the North Central Health Care team as a Residential Care Assistant II! This position is responsible for the general operation of a group home or supported apartment for adults with developmental disabilities and/or chronic mental illness. Your time spent here will truly make an impact on those most in need.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**  
 \$17-\$19 per Hour  
 15 Shift Differential  
 Flexible Shifts  
 Full or Part Time  
 Premium Benefits  
 Wausau Locations

[NORCEN.ORG/CAREERS](http://NORCEN.ORG/CAREERS) | **APPLY ONLINE**

**EMPLOYMENT**

**SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST**

The City of Merrill is looking for a part-time Social Media Specialist to develop social media content that engages audiences, and identifies creative online marketing strategies to attract residents, workers and visitors to the City. For the complete job description and instructions on how to apply, visit <http://www.ci.merrill.wi.us/employment>. Applications must be received by Nov. 4, 2022.

**TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHILD CARE** Apply today!

**Trinity Merrill Lutheran Child Care is hiring!**

**child care staff**

\$16/hour  
Flexible hours, up to 30 per week

Call 715-722-0523 to join our friendly, Christ-centered team!

201 Stange St., Merrill, WI  
[www.trinitymerrill.com](http://www.trinitymerrill.com)

**Pioneer Transportation, LTD.**

**Attention Drivers!**

**Company Drivers Earn .60 - .64/mile**  
**Conestoga Drivers Earn .65 - .69/mile**

**As Always Home Weekly \* Paid Weekly**

*If you are looking for a change, check us out!*  
*If you've been here before and left, come on back!*

We have regional and OTR positions available. Full-time, part-time, and occasional.

Class A CDL and 2 years experience required.

Contact Jody (715) 536-9789 x 2  
[jlkemoen@pioneertrans.com](mailto:jlkemoen@pioneertrans.com)  
[www.pioneertrans.com](http://www.pioneertrans.com)

**PIONEER TRANSPORTATION LTD.**  
MERRILL, WI

**Graphic Packaging INTERNATIONAL**

**Are you looking for a manufacturing career?**

- Excellent Pay! Starting at \$20.00/hour + Shift Differential!
- High Earnings Potential. Up to \$70,000 in your first year!
- 401(k) Match up to 4%! Plus Annual Raises!
- 10 Paid Holidays + 2 Paid Personal Days Per Year!
- Medical, Dental, & Vision Coverage after 60 days!
- Advancement Opportunities!
- Take pride in making packaging for world reknown food brands!
- Find your next career at GPI, and check us out on our website!

**\$2,000 Retention Bonus**

GPI is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Apply Online at [GRAPHICPKG.COM/CAREERS/](http://GRAPHICPKG.COM/CAREERS/)

Plant Location:  
200 Central Bridge St.  
Wausau, WI 54401

**Polywood FABRICATION, INC**

**WE'RE HIRING**

Polywood Fabrication is the perfect job if you want great pay, promotion opportunities, job flexibility and more.

Check out our careers site for all current openings. Apply online at [CareersPF.com](http://CareersPF.com)

**STARTING PAY \$17**

**BENEFITS & PERKS**

- High Starting Pay
- Employee Bonuses
- 401K Retirement Plan With Employer Matching Program
- Flexible 4-Day Work Week
- Medical Benefits
- Life & Supplemental Insurance

**CareersPF.com**

**APPLY TODAY**

400 North 72nd Ave, Wausau



# NEED TO ADVERTISE? CALL 715-536-7121

**Announcements 7005**

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit [dorranceinfo.com/ads](http://dorranceinfo.com/ads)

**Announcements 7005**

**WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications** review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact **The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)**

**Estate Sales 7208**

**Merrill:** Friday, 10/14, 12 p.m.- 6 p.m., Saturday, 10/15, 8 a.m.- 6 p.m., Sunday, 10/16, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. **ESTATE SALE** of former Grainery Goodies Antique Shop. Antiques, collectibles, and vintage. Too many items to list. No early sales. 14355 N 60th Ave

## EMPLOYMENT



### Come Join Our Team We're Hiring!

**• Production**

(FT Only, 1st Shift, \$19.06-\$20.14 per hour, 90 day probation, OT)

**• Maintenance Technicians**

"Seeking quality people to make a quality product."

For additional information visit [lincolnwindows.com/Careers](http://lincolnwindows.com/Careers)

Lincoln Wood Products-Employment Office

Apply In-person at 1400 W Taylor Street or Email resume to [gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com](mailto:gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com)

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.



### Senior Accountant

Superior Diesel located in Rhinelander, a well-established value-added distributor of diesel engines, is excited to announce an opening for a **Senior Accountant**. Responsibilities include frequent use of Excel, reviewing financial information, reconciling G/L accounts, costing, assisting in audit preparation, A/R credit review and collection. Experience with JD Edwards ERP platform, Enterprise One, is a plus.

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting

Send work history to: [emma.stroede@sdiesel.com](mailto:emma.stroede@sdiesel.com)

We offer competitive wages and benefits. Superior Diesel provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or veterans status.

**Rummage Sales This Week 7200**



### GARAGE SALE KITS NOW AVAILABLE!

Let Garage Sale Gail help you with your next sale!

**Kit includes:**

- 2 garage sale signs
- 144 pricing stickers
- 3 balloons
- 1 pen
- 1 inventory sheet
- How to Have a Successful Garage Sale Pamphlet
- 1 coupon for \$3.50 off your next classified ad!

**ONLY \$5.00 PER KIT!\***  
With the purchase of a classified ad.

Available at Merrill Foto News 921 E. Main St., Merrill

**Auctions 7282**

### AUCTION

#### Pientka Auction

Saturday, October 22nd -9:00AM  
Inspection Friday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM & 8:00 AM

day of auction

Peddler's Collective, 1901 Post Rd Plover WI. 54467

Very nice variety of

**Antiques & Collectibles items**

**Awesome Knives:** 3 Camillus "The American Wildlife Series" knives, many Remington, Winchester, Case, Buck, Germany, etc all USA made. **Vtg. Toys:** very nice selection of 1950s-0s Tonka, Structo, Ny-Lint trucks & other vtg toys, folk art child's rocking horse, 20 Marvel McDonald superhero toys, Harley Davidson Hog Rider, Two **FANTASTIC** large doll houses with all furnishings inside and out (have to see) w/min., Disney 101 Dalmatian's

(McDonalds happy meal complete collection w/coa display case (Great Item) **Items of Interest:** Vtg wood & other fishing baits, fishing poles, reels, ice fishing tip-ups, tackle boxes w/baits, many fishing pamphlets, Political buttons, Lladro pieces, African Tribal art ebony pieces, Robbian gas can, vtg small flags from other countries, Bristol Silver teapot w/ creamer & sugar, Marlboro Big Sky radio lantern, vtg Olts game calls, Planar Merino felt hat, American Girl Molly fashion design portfolio NIB, Ken dolls, Vtg baseball figurine, many nice Christmas ornaments, and misc items, Halloween items, many prints, pictures & frames, Ducks unlimited unframed prints, Miller Beer mirrors, Budweiser light display, IKA light system NIB, US Army Brigade patches, Reading apple parer NIB, Stoneware Swastika pitcher, Winchester scraper plane, misc. tools, Mastercraft rotary tool kit NIB, Califone phonograph, Bristol silver teapot, creamer/sugar, belt

buckles, 8 Beam Decanters, some full, 240+ LP's & 45 records, CD's, wood display cases, unique small countertop wash tub & ringer, galvanized square wash tub, Humpty Dumpty egg crate, Budweiser wood crate & others, Art glass lamp, many music, cook, antique, Nancy Drew & misc books, 1922 Montgomery Wards catalog, vtg Remington, Winchester & Browning magazines, many various beer labels, Federal Amo counter mats, international silverware set in case, 3 covered brass urns, many cabinet hinges NOS, Ohaus check-o Bram scale, marble top cribbage board bench, antique large wood pulley, Girls Trek & boys Schwinn bike, deer horn decors. **Furniture:** Oak cane rocker, Maple cane chair, leather reclining sofa w/lights, reclining love seat, white dresser highboy & lowboy w/mirror, nightstand, glider rocker, flat screen tv w/stand, primitive wood bench, nice poker table, smoking stand, up to 106 stacking banquet chairs, w/min, plus much, much more.

**TERMS:** cash, check & credit cards (with 4% fee) valid driver's license required to register for bidder number. Announcement's day of sale take precedence over printed materials. Auctioneer and staff are not responsible for accidents or loss. Everything is sold "as is" condition. No warranties. Food available.

Col. George Pientka, RWA#2068-52, [geoanddoe@charter.net](mailto:geoanddoe@charter.net), 715-341-8076 or 715-570-0806, [www.pientkauction.com](http://www.pientkauction.com)

# WE'RE HIRING!

## FreMarq Innovations Inc. Commercial Window Manufacturing

Required to stand for extended periods. Occasionally required to lift or move up to 50+ pounds.

### • GENERAL LABORER • MACHINIST

Excellent benefits package, including:

- Paid Vacation Time
- 401 K Match
- HSA Employer Contribution
- Quarterly Profit Sharing
- Furnished Lunch Daily
- Medical- Employer Paid Premium
- Dental- Employer Paid Premium

APPLY IN PERSON OR ONLINE



[www.fremarqinnovations.com](http://www.fremarqinnovations.com)  
1101 N Mill Street Merrill, WI 54452

# ABX

INNOVATIVE PACKAGING SOLUTIONS

## Now Hiring

We are seeking a **Maintenance Technician** to perform all maintenance and repairs for ABX.

**Responsibilities**

- ✓ Performs routine maintenance on ABX's property.
- ✓ Performs snow removal through use of trucks, snowplows, and snow blowers.
- ✓ Install and maintain equipment, troubleshoot, and repair their mechanical, electronic, pneumatic, and hydraulic systems.
- ✓ Diagnose failures, repair and follow-up on problem solution procedures related to equipment; maintain and troubleshoot issues with controls in various machines.
- ✓ Ensure that preventive maintenance, troubleshooting and repairs, and facilities maintenance, are addressed on a proactive basis.

**Qualifications**

- ✓ Ability to determine work priorities and schedule repair, maintenance, and installation of machines, tools, and equipment.
- ✓ Associates Degree in Industrial Maintenance or a related field and three to five years of related experience; or a combination of education and experience.
- ✓ Ability to effectively resolve maintenance problems by often discussing matters with management and quality control personnel.
- ✓ Ability to use effective communication skills with all maintenance staff for the overall operation of the department.
- ✓ Must be able to meet the physical demands of the job including climbing ladders, bending, stooping, and standing for long periods of time. In addition, individuals must be able to reach above shoulders and lift a minimum of 35 pounds.

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

If you are interested, please apply online at [www.abxpackaging.com/about/careers](http://www.abxpackaging.com/about/careers) or contact Bria Gordon at [bria.gordon@abxpackaging.com](mailto:bria.gordon@abxpackaging.com).



## LOOKING FOR PART TIME WORK?

STUDENTS, PARENTS, RETIREES LOOKING TO EARN SOME EXTRA INCOME!

**FLEXIBLE HOURS DURING DAYS OR WEEKENDS ARE AVAILABLE.**

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Full Time Opportunities:</b> | <b>Benefits Included:</b> |
| • Maintenance                   | • 8 Paid Holidays         |
| • Material Handler              | • 401K Opportunity        |
| • Production                    | • Safety Program          |
|                                 | • KPI Bonus               |

Fill out an application online at: [mitchellmetalproducts.com/about/career-opportunities](http://mitchellmetalproducts.com/about/career-opportunities)

**Mitchell Metal Products**  
905 South State Street, Merrill, WI 54452



### NOW HIRING

AirPro Fan & Blower Company is a **100% employee-owned** company headquartered in Rhinelander, WI. We design and manufacture a complete line of industrial-duty centrifugal fans, blowers, and accessories for OEM and end-user customers around the world.

We are growing because our market likes what we do and how we do it. We are expanding and as a result are looking for the following:

- Industrial Painter**
- Assembly**
- Final Assembly/Ship Prep**
- Programmer**
- Welder/Metal Finisher**

We have a fast paced, production environment where we design our products for our customers on a per job basis.

If this is something you're interested in, please apply at <https://airprofan.com>.

Direct inquiries to [HR@airprofan.com](mailto:HR@airprofan.com)

All open positions are listed on <https://airprofan.com>  
Inquiries to [HR@airprofan.com](mailto:HR@airprofan.com)

## STAND OUT from the Crowd!



Advertise your business to thousands of potential customers each week

**715-536-7121**



**Auctions 7282**



**Trust Built on Integrity**  
**Thursday, Oct. 13th thru**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 19th**  
**Live On-Site & Online Sale**  
**9 AM Start**

Heavy Equipment, Forestry Equipment, Dump Trucks, Semi's, Trailers & Much More!

**NEW FOR 2022**  
**Consign Now with**  
**BUY - IT - NOW!**

Skid Steer Attachments, Shop Equipment, Tools, Unused Tool Boxes, Implements and Much More!

**N295 Tree Lane,**  
**Merrill, WI 54452**  
 Phone: 715-443-5000  
 www.integritysales.com  
 Ross Landes RWA#3017  
 Integrity Sales & Auction LLC  
 RWAC#517  
**Consign Now! Low Fees!**

**Tickets 7040**

Discount air travel. Call Flight Services for best pricing on domestic & international flights inside & from the US. Serving United, Delta, American & Southwest & many more. Free quote! Have travel dates ready! 844-951-2014

**Antiques and Collectibles 7214**

**Antiques on Spirit**  
 3 E. Spirit Ave, Tomahawk, WI  
 715-453-4085 Open 11-2 Daily  
 1. Fine Art 30% Off  
 2. Sets of China 50% Off  
 3. Antique books & magazines 30% off  
 4. Artistic Oriental Carpets

**HUGE ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLE SALE**

Cleaning out the warehouse in **Iola**. Over 50 advertising signs (Pabst, Hamms, Point, Miller & neons). Phillips 66 sign, 8 boat motors, Railroad items, 3 button accordions, lots of jewelry, Clydesdale mugs, oil paintings, Winchester guns. Way too much to list. See pictures on Facebook/Marketplace. Corner of Townline Rd & West State St.

**Iola**. Look for signs. Fri. & Sat. Oct 14-15. 8-5.

Huge "PIG" figurine collection to include delft blue, antique, glass, ceramic, porcelain, and stuffed. Over 200 pieces in collection. Only serious inquires please call or text. Mon-Thur 8am-3pm CST. 1-715-218-5942

**Computers and Electronics 7216**

Put on your TV Ears & hear TV w/unmatched clarity. TV Ears Original - originally \$129.95 - now w/this special offer only \$59.95 w/code MCB59! 1-888-805-0840

**Jewelry 7218**

Paying top cash for men's sport-watches! Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. Call 833-603-3236

**Musical Instruments 7220**

**TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS!** 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg & Gibson Mandolins/Banjoes. 844-262-6174 (WCAN)

**Furniture and Home Decor 7236**

**UPDATE YOUR HOME** with Beautiful New Blinds & Shades. **FREE** in-home estimates make it convenient to shop from home. Professional Installation. Top Quality - Made in the USA. Call for free consultation: 877-544-2415 Ask about our specials! (WCAN)

**Firewood 7244**

**DRY OAK & Hard Maple**, \$250/cord. Over 15 mi is extra. Have hard wood in wood shed over a year old. Clean & no bark. 715-351-1888 or 715-873-4196.

**Mixed firewood:** oak and maple. \$60 face cord, seasoned 1 year. \$75 from woodshed, seasoned 2 years. Bone dry. 715-253-2060 No delivery.

**Guns 7264**

Revelation Model 225 Bolt Action Rifle 222 Caliber 4-16 Scope & 9 Boxes of Shells \$600; Winchester Model Two 70 Pump Action 22 Caliber Rifle with 1000 Rounds of Ammo \$550 LEAVE MESSAGE 715-219-5080

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# Extension letter to Lincoln County board lays out potential impacts of proposed funding elimination

BY JALEN MAKI  
MMC STAFF

Employees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension last week sent a letter to each member of the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors regarding a proposal to eliminate funding for Extension in Lincoln County in 2023, which would affect 4-H and other programs.

The letter, signed by Area Extension Director Art Lersch and Assistant Dean Jason Hausler, highlights the potential effects of the proposed slashing of Extension dollars in next year's County budget.

The letter references statements made by Board Chair Don Friske during the County Board's Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, meeting. Friske said he had spoken with UW-Extension, and an agreement had been reached that would maintain the County's 4-H program.

No details on the agreement were provided during the meeting.

On Friday, Sept. 23, Lersch said he had not spoken to Friske personally regarding an agreement and was not aware of an agreement having been made in writing.

Hausler said on Friday, Sept. 23, that as

of that date, there was no written agreement or contract in place, but Extension was aware of a "verbal agreement on behalf of" Friske to "allocate the funding in the Extension budget for 2023 to keep 4-H going."

### Letter aims to provide "clarifying information"

The letter from Lersch and Hausler said they had been approached by constituents "confused about the status of UW-Extension funding for 2023 based upon statements made at the Board meeting on Sept. 20."

"As such, we want to provide you, and all other Lincoln County constituents that we work with and serve, clarifying information," the letter stated.

The letter explained that although Extension funding had been eliminated in the budget proposal presented to Supervisors last month, Extension is aware of a "verbal commitment" by Friske to "provide \$45,000.00 in funding to the UW-Extension budget for the purposes of supporting the 4-H program."

The funding would also maintain the FoodWise program, a nutrition education program for low-income residents, the letter said.

"As you have heard at previous County Board meetings, we provide valuable educational services to the residents, schools, communities, and organizations of Lincoln County in partnership with Lincoln County," the letter stated. "We wanted to take a moment to inform you that should Lincoln County decide to eliminate funding for the Extension office, important programs and services you have heard about will no longer be available to the residents of Lincoln County."

### Services, programs, organizations facing possible impact

The letter stated that if the proposed Extension budget is not amended, 4-H and youth services will discontinue.

Extension said that without funding, it would need to "wind down education services and programming" for County residents by the end of the year. (2022) A number of areas would be affected, including Health and Well-Being programming in partnership with the Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD) and County school districts, as well as organizational and business development assistance for non-profit organizations.

Crops and soils research and farmer assistance, StrongBodies fitness program-

ming for seniors and "overall office assistance to help stakeholders find answers to a wide variety of questions," would also be impacted by a lack of funding, the letter said.

"Additionally, without a co-investment from Lincoln County in those program areas, the ability to access regional and state Extension specialists will be lost, given the level of demand from counties continuing to make co-investments," the letter stated.

The letter laid out a multitude of programs that would be subject to elimination if the Lincoln County Board chooses to exclude Extension funding from next year's budget.

Initiatives that may cease to exist in the County include Raise Your Voice, which focuses on high school mental health awareness; alcohol and other drug abuse education; the Social Norms Information Campaign, which seeks to reverse adult perceptions about youth behavior; We Cope, which assists in stress and depression reduction, and Focus on Wellness training; organizational development with the Board of Directors for the National Alliance on Mental Illness

See **FUNDING** page 20

## Merrill Common Council bans e-cigarettes and vaping in public places, places of employment

### Definition of smoking updated to include the use of electronic smoking devices

The City of Merrill Common Council voted unanimously to approve an amendment to the City's smoking ordinance on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at the recommendation of the Health and Safety Committee. The amendment added electronic cigarettes and vaping devices to the definition of smoking within the ordinance. Thus, under the amended ordinance, the use of electronic smoking devices is prohibited in public places and places of employment, along with cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and synthetic nicotine.

"Smoke-free indoor spaces is an important public health practice that helps protect the health of all people by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke," said Shelley Hersil, Director of the Lincoln County Health Department. "Amending the ordinance strengthens that practice by including electronic smoking devices in the clean indoor air ordinance".

The Northwoods Tobacco Free Coalition (NWTFC) is focused on advancing health equity by decreasing prevalence rates and preventing initiation among those who are most disproportionately impacted by com-

mercial tobacco.

"This ordinance supports a comprehensive approach to tobacco prevention and control efforts throughout the state," said Shelby Moore, NWTFC Coordinator. "An ordinance like this is one layer of the inclusive strategies that addresses the youth vaping epidemic, and works to change the social norm where commercial tobacco is less desirable."

To learn more about commercial tobacco prevention efforts in the Northwoods, contact Shelby Moore at [smoore@co.oneida.wi.us](mailto:smoore@co.oneida.wi.us) or at 715.369.6115.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER...**

# A Good Start

We're off to a great start to the school year at MAPS and things are settling in quite nicely. Even the road construction delays on Third Street by the middle school have been manageable and everyone is adapting to that temporary setback. I want to thank everyone in the district and community for making me feel so welcome in my new role this summer and fall, and I look forward to serving our great community, families, staff, and students!



**Referendum Update**

MAPS is going to the voters on November 8th asking them to approve a 4-year, \$2.5 million non-recurring operations referendum--a repeat of the one that voters approved in 2018 (that expired this summer). In any referendum, voters want to know two things. First, why does MAPS need to pass a referendum? The short answer is this: State-imposed revenue limits in Wisconsin have not kept pace with increased costs in public schools. In fact, in 6 of the last 8 years,

there have been no revenue limit increases for schools in Wisconsin. As a result, 82% of Wisconsin public schools have gone to referendum in the past 10

years; and, in the spring of 2022, 92% of those referendums were approved by local taxpayers. Referendums have clearly become a part of the Wisconsin public school landscape, and this referendum provides MAPS an opportunity to MAINTAIN programming and services at a level that our community has come to expect and that our students deserve.

The second question voters deserve to have answered is "what will the funds be used for?" This referendum will provide funds for the following for the next four years: Maintain class sizes at an acceptable level; reinstate budgets for textbooks, resources, school improvement efforts and professional development (those budgets were greatly reduced as a result of this spring's failed referendum); maintain student technology budgets; maintain school safety technology and equipment; attract, retain, and grow high quality staff; reinstate courses and programs that were eliminated as a result of the recent failed referendum and from previous budget cuts; replenish career and technology education budget (including the Fab Lab budget); address maintenance projects that have been deferred, including roof repairs, parking lot and sidewalk repairs, technology infrastructure, (etc.); and, provide funding for increased costs of fuel, diesel, and natural gas.

Again, these are short answers as space is limited in this column. However, there are many ways to learn more and to get informed. Visit the MAPS webpage at [www.mapsedu.org](http://www.mapsedu.org) and click on the red referendum bar at the top. You will find a wealth of information there. Also, join me every Monday at 5:30 p.m. for Facebook live broadcasts regarding the referendum at the Merrill Area Public Schools Facebook page. If you

miss the live broadcast, simply scroll down the timeline and you can find every episode that you might have missed.

In April, after the failed referendum, we heard over and over again from residents that they simply did not know enough about the referendum and did not have enough information to support it. Our community has a history of supporting our schools, so this time we are making sure that is not that case and that people know exactly what the referendum is all about. Mailers, meetings, a Community Conversation, community presentations, information nights, a regularly updated website, weekly Facebook Live broadcasts, articles and ads in the Foto News, (etc.) help make this referendum as open, informative, and transparent as possible. Please take the time to get informed on why the referendum is needed and what the money will be used for. If nothing else, give me a call at 715.536.4581, ext 10002, and I would be happy to tell you all about it!

**A Successful Community Conversation**

I want to thank everyone for joining us at the Community Conversation that took place on September 15th. 75 people from throughout the district and community got together to help us establish priorities for MAPS moving forward and to help establish action plans to help us meet our goals for our students. It was great to hear different perspectives from a variety of people in our community about what is important to them when it comes to our schools. One thing was clear throughout the evening - our community wants what's best for kids and wants them to be successful!

Shannon Murray

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## St. John Annual Bazaar to be held Oct. 19

The St. John Ladies Aid and Mother's Club at St. John Lutheran Church and School will hold their Annual Bazaar on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the school gym at 1104 E. 3rd St. in Merrill.

Ladies Aid will have all the usual goodies available including handcrafted items, scarves, mittens, plants, homemade baked goods, jelly, jam, and garden produce.

See **BAZAAR** page 20



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\*Source: St. Vincent de Paul Outreach  
\*\*Source: endhomelessness.org

## ATTENTION HUNTERS

DO YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR HUNTING MEMORY OR EXPERIENCE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

How about a particular photo of that trophy Whitetail Buck or other game? If so, we want to hear from you!

Please send your submissions to  
Merrill Foto News Editor Tina Scott at  
[tscott@mmclocal.com](mailto:tscott@mmclocal.com) by Wednesday, Nov. 2.

Your submission(s) may be featured in the Merrill Foto News' Annual Hunting Guide in mid-November!

\*Any hunting-related submission is welcome, regardless of how new or old. While e-mailed submissions are preferred, in-person submissions may be dropped off at the Merrill Foto News Office (921. E. Main Street) between regular business hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.



# MHS Cross Country Team "Runs the Ball" for Homecoming, brings home seven medals from DCE dual

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

## Homecoming Run the Ball

On Friday, Sept. 30, 2022, the Merrill Cross Country team ran the Homecoming ball 24 miles, from Tomahawk to Merrill, to start the Homecoming Assembly.

"Each athlete is required to run the ball for at least one mile," Head MHS Cross Country Coach Alyssa Swan said. "However, most athletes ran two or more miles each."

"The weather was perfect for the day, and the athletes had a great time!" she said. "We've been doing this tradition for the last four years to get the Cross Country Team more involved with Homecoming activities."

"It's a fun experience that the athlete's enjoy that day!" Swan said. "We end the run as a team with a police escort to the school from Prairie Trails and run a complete lap around our football field before running the ball into the Homecoming Ceremony."

## DCE dual

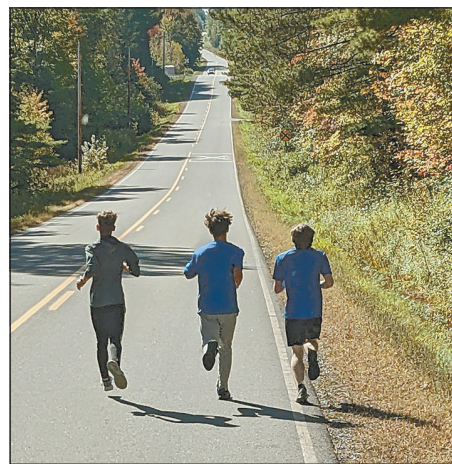
The Merrill High School (MHS) Cross Country Team ran a two-mile dual meet against DC Everest (DCE) High School at DCE on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022.

"We came home with seven medals, which was really exciting for the team!" Swan said.

Ian Schuetze led the Merrill Boys Team in and got a seventh place overall finish with a time of 12:29. Merrill's Kaden

Schwandt was next in for the Merrill Boys and got a ninth place overall finish with a time of 13:09. Following him for the Merrill guys, Jacob Mueller came in at 13:11, followed by Logan Knospe (13:16), Brady Eggerbrecht (13:18), Caleb Norton (14:08), Anton Countryman (14:20), and Treg Knospe (14:22).

For the Merrill Girls, Alanna Rogers came in fourth place overall with a time of 14:51, followed by Breannon Herdt with a fifth place overall finish at 14:51. Merrill's Madi Crossman finished in 8th place overall (15:52), Danielle Schielke took 9th place (16:12), and Olivia Bares took 10th place (16:25). Next in for the Merrill Girls were Irene Blennert (17:23) and Gracie VanVuren (17:36).



Cross Country runners take turns "running the ball" for at least one mile of the trip from Tomahawk to Merrill. Most ran at least two miles each.



The Merrill High School Cross Country Team "Runs the Ball" from Tomahawk to Merrill High School on the Friday of Homecoming Week, a tradition that started four years ago to get Cross Country more involved in celebrating Homecoming.

Alyssa Swan photos.



The Cross Country Team made it all the way to Jay Stadium with the Homecoming 2022 game ball, and their arrival at MHS helped kick off the Homecoming Assembly.

## Powderpuff Game correction

In our Homecoming Powderpuff Game coverage in last week's newspaper, we erroneously identified the Senior and Junior girls as wearing the

wrong colors. The Senior Girls should have been listed as wearing blue, while the Junior Girls were wearing black. We apologize for the error.

# Merrill Girls Varsity Tennis Team wraps up their year

Jacobs has her best match of the year and earns Merrill a point in the Wisconsin Valley Conference

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

At the Wisconsin Valley Conference meet on Sept. 29, 2022, the Merrill Girls Varsity Tennis Team battled hard.

## Singles results:

No. 1 singles- Sarah Rell lost to Stevens Point's Tatum Thielman 6-0, 6-0. Then Sarah lost to Wisconsin Rapid's Corinne Sazama 6-1, 6-4.

No. 2 singles- Chloe Belant lost to Wausau East's Abbey Olsen 6-0, 6-0. Then Chloe lost to Marshfield's Lucy Luedtke 6-0, 6-0.

No. 3 singles- Madisin Jacobs lost to Stevens Point's Addison Jandrain 6-0, 6-0. Then Madisin forfeited her second round match due to injury.

No. 4 singles- Emily Frahm lost to Wausau West's Lily Witwer 6-0, 6-0. Then Emily beat D C Everest's Sophie Ellis 6-0, 6-2.

"Then Emily lost to Wisconsin Rapid's Julia Krueger 6-1, 6-1," Merrill Girls Tennis Coach Brad Barton said. "Emily's win versus DC Everest in the second round was the first point Merrill received all year in the Wisconsin Valley Conference. We worked too hard this year to not get any points."

"Merrill's normal number one player, Lauren Cohrs, was absent due to illness. Everyone had to move up one spot in the lineup," Barton said.

On Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, the Merrill Girls Tennis Team traveled to Rhinelander for a match against the Hodags.

## Singles results:

No. 1 - Lauren Cohrs beat Wisconsin Rapids Corinne Sazama 6-1, 6-1.

"Lauren then lost to Wausau West's Mia Bailey 6-0, 6-0," Barton said. "Lauren finished with 4 wins at No. 1

See **TENNIS** page 20

## 2022 Merrill High School Fall Sports Schedules

### Football (Varsity, JV, and JV2)

Thurs. Oct. 13	Mosinee (JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Fri. Oct. 14	Mosinee (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm

### Volleyball (Varsity, JV, and JV2)

Thurs. Oct. 13	Wausau West (JV & JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Thurs. Oct. 13	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm

### Tennis (Varsity and JV)

Please check out [wiaawi.org](http://wiaawi.org) for exact playoff schedules.

### Boys Soccer (Varsity, JV, and JV2)

Please check out [wiaawi.org](http://wiaawi.org) for exact playoff schedules.

### Swimming (Varsity and JV)

Thurs. Oct. 13	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:30 pm
Thurs. Oct. 20	Marshfield (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:30 pm

### Cross Country Boys (Varsity and JV)

Sat. Oct. 15	Marshfield-Conference (Varsity)	Away	10:00 am
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### Cross Country Girls (Varsity and JV)

Sat. Oct. 15	Marshfield-Conference (Varsity)	Away	10:00 am
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### FUNDING from page 17

(NAMI), Northcentral Wisconsin chapter; and Merrill Area United Way strategic planning.

#### Numerous other programs may be on the chopping block without Extension funding.

The letter said Lincoln County housing and day care businesses planning throughout the County; town and County rural broadband expansion planning; a youth tractor and machinery certification course; nitrogen enhancement product research plots and nutrient management education for farms, which aim to increase crop yields and protect the environment; nitrogen and sulfur rate effects on winter wheat yield research plots; and Community Health Assessment planning, coordinated with LCHD, could also be affected.

Volunteers who assist with a variety of programs would no longer be supervised by Extension and would not be covered by UW-Madison liability and insurance policies, should the County slash Extension dollars.

Without funding, the County's Extension office would not be staffed by a front office support professional, forcing it to close to the public, which would result in a "drastic reduction in services to Lincoln County residents, even if funding is reallocated to maintain the 4-H program in 2023," according to the letter.

Along with services and programs, the letter highlighted more than 20 organizations throughout the

County that would be impacted by the elimination of Extension funding.

The Tomahawk and Merrill school districts, police departments, libraries, and Aspirus hospitals would feel an affect from a lack of Extension funding, according to the letter.

Kinship of Tomahawk, Tomahawk Main Street Inc., the Tomahawk Senior Center, HAVEN, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Merrill Chamber of Commerce, Parkside Preschool Center in Merrill, the Merrill Enrichment Center, Breitenmoser Farms, LCHD, Lincoln County Social Services, the Lincoln County Land Conservation Department and "many more (organizations) too many to mention" would also be impacted.

"We have been working closely with (the organizations) to communicate the situation," Extension stated.

#### Future partnership

Should the Board move forward with eliminating Extension dollars from the 2023 County budget, the County would have the option to renew a partnership with Extension down the road.

However, this may not be easy, according to the letter. "The University has budget limitations that will not allow it to guarantee that Extension resources can be re-allocated to Lincoln County in the future," the letter explained. "Demands for Extension resources are great throughout the state, and thus we must carefully allocate them where counties are committed to the co-investment."

### Supervisors invited to discuss "potential consequences"

In the letter, Lersch and Hausler invited Supervisors to reach out to them to discuss the "potential consequences of the decision" before them.

"We value greatly our 102-year partnership with Lincoln County, serving the residents of the County," the letter stated.

### BAZAAR from page 18

Mother's Club will have items for all ages including potted plants, crafts, cards, napkins, and loads of delicious sweets.

Chili, chicken soup, hot beef and chicken salad sandwiches, and homemade pie will be served in the church basement from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or until they are sold out. Carry outs are available.

Call the church office at 715.536.4722 for more information.

### TENNIS from page 19

singles this year. That is a lot of wins at No. 1 singles. Mia Bailey has a chance to win State this year."

"I was happy to see Lauren beat Corinne Sazama, as this is the fourth time she has played her this year (Lauren went 3-1)," Barton said.

No. 2 singles - Sarah Rell lost to Marshfield Lucy Luedtke 6-2, 6-0.

No. 3 singles - Chloe Belant lost to Marshfield Sonia Dissanayaka 6-2, 6-0.

No. 4 singles - Madisin Jacobs beat DC Everest Mila Publik 6-3, 2-6, 11-9.

"This was Madisin's best match of the year by far," Barton said. "She dug so deep in the third set tiebreaker, she overcame being down three-points in the tiebreaker to eventually win it 11-9."

"Madisin lost to Wausau West's Lilly Wittwer 6-0, 6-0 in the second round."

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**D'ondre Houghton**, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. D'ondre is a safety (defense) on the MHS Varsity Football Team. This is his second year on Varsity, having started for Merrill on JV2 as a Freshman, and before that played football for Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) in seventh and eighth grades. Prior to moving to Merrill in the sixth grade, D'ondre played tackle football for his school in Portland, Oregon, starting in the fourth grade. D'ondre also plays basketball and thinks he will be on the MHS Varsity Basketball Team this year. He played on JV as a Sophomore, JV2 as a Freshman, and in seventh and eighth grades at PRMS.

This past summer, D'ondre worked in the warehouse at Weinbrenner Shoe Company. In his free time, he likes to play video games, fish, play sports, and work out at Riverside Athletic Club.

The son of Vanessa Houghton of Merrill, D'ondre has a 2.3 GPA and said he will probably attend college after high school graduation, but he is undecided about his future career.



D'ondre Houghton

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

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