



Community members lined up for a chance to taste authentic hispanic cuisine at last Saturday's Comunidad Hispania. **Tina L. Scott photos.**

Comunidad hispania celebrates with authentic food and music

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Normal Park was the place to enjoy authentic hispanic food from several different countries on Saturday, Sept. 18. Those who took advantage of the chance to immerse themselves in the Comunidad Hispania celebrations had the chance to grow more fluent in their



A customer watches as a woman puts together an authentic taco a la Peru. These aren't the Americanized version of tacos.

See **COMUNIDAD** page 2

Council President Russell steps in temporarily as acting Mayor

Mayor Derek Woellner takes personal time to grieve

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Alderman and Merrill City Council President Paul Russell stepped in as temporary acting Mayor of the City of Merrill on Tuesday, Sept. 21, in the

absence of Mayor Derek Woellner.

Woellner is taking personal time to grieve the unexpected death of his fiancée, Amanda K. Groth, age 28, who passed away on Sept. 21 after complications with col-

itis and cancer. Services for Groth were held on Tuesday, Sept. 28, at St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church in Cedarburg.

Originally from the Cedarburg area, Groth moved to Merrill 2017. She recently joined the Merrill Parks and Recreation Committee.

Russell will act as Mayor until Woellner's return, in accordance with Ch. 2, Art. IV, Sec. 2-80 of the Code of Ordinances which says, in part, the Council President shall, in the absence of the Mayor, preside at meetings of the Council and, during the absence of the Mayor, have the powers and duties of the Mayor.

See **MAYOR** page 2

17th Annual Pig Roast and Pine River Fire Department Open House

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The 17th Annual Pig Roast and Pine River Fire Department Open House drew nearly 800 attendees on Saturday, Sept. 25, according to a spokesperson for the Department. Attendees turned out for the food; to tour the fire station and see all of the emergency vehicles from various area law enforcement agencies, including the Life Link III helicopter; to meet the volunteer fire fighters and perhaps try on their gear; to enjoy the jumpy house/slide; to have a shot at winning a \$5,000 cash prize in their raffle along with about \$15,000 worth of other prizes; to dance to the live music; and to ooh and ahh over what attendees reported to be an incredible fireworks display.

The annual fundraiser serves as more than just a fundraiser, though. The event is also an opportunity to build community in Pine River and for nearby Merrill residents and surrounding areas and to help children become familiar with firefighters.

The Pine River Fire Department is a volunteer fire department, and it was volunteers who did all the planning and work to orchestrate this year's event, as well. "We want to thank everyone who came out and once again made our annual pig roast a re-



Life Link III was just one of the emergency vehicles that made an appearance at the Pine River Fire Department for visitors to see up close.

Photos courtesy of Pine River Fire Department.

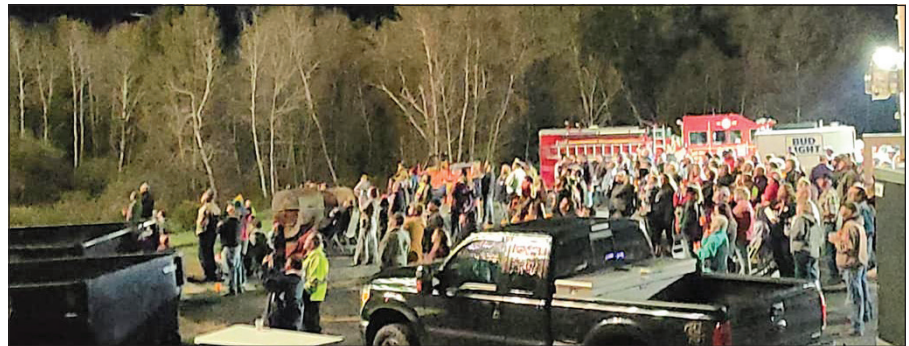


Two generations of Pine River Volunteer Fire Department firefighters pose with what could become a third generation. L to R: second generation volunteer firefighter, Brad Hartwig; Brad's son and daughter, Ben and Natalie; and first generation volunteer firefighter, Tony Hartwig.

sounding success," they said on their Facebook page. "A special thanks to the fireworks crew who never disappoints. And we cannot forget to thank the Fund Raising Committee. They meet

and plan year round to make this event what it is, and we owe all of its success to their efforts."

"Congratulations also to all of our winners!" they added.



The crowd looks to the sky to watch the fireworks at the Pine River Fire Station Saturday evening.

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Smokey Cheddar Bacon Cheese ONLY \$1.69 a lb.	String Cheese 16 oz. ONLY \$1.29	Sweet & Smokey Sausages - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$5.99
Cream Cheese 35 oz. ONLY 99¢	Stuffed Crust Pizza Meat Trio 21 oz. ONLY \$2.69	Pork Sausage Links - Frozen 12 lbs. ONLY \$5.88 a case
Garlic & Herb Cheddar Cheese ONLY 99¢ a lb.	Columbian Ground Medium Coffee 37 oz. ONLY \$4.99	Pollock Portions or Breaded - Frozen ONLY \$1.39 a lb.
Dark Chocolate Cocoa Mix 35 oz. ONLY \$1.49	Pepsi Mango Mt. Dew SA 20 oz. ONLY 25¢ each	Hickory Smoked Bacon Sliced-Frozen 48 oz. ONLY \$6.99 each
Rice Crispies Cereal ONLY \$1.79 a lb.	Cranberry Juice 48/4 oz. ONLY \$1.99	Jalapeno & Cheddar Bratwurst Patties - Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$2.99
Pumpkin Solids 29 oz. ONLY 59¢	Orange Juice 48/4 oz. ONLY \$2.99	Hashbrown Rounds Frozen 5.5 lbs. ONLY \$3.99
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COMUNIDAD

from page 1

Spanish, enjoy the music of a mariachi band from Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids, and try a variety of traditional cuisine. Who knew tacos could be so different? The tacos available on Saturday at the festival were definitely not the Americanized version.

The event drew attendees from the hispanic community throughout central Wisconsin who enjoyed the opportunity to try authentic food they were not familiar with. "I'm from Peru," one woman in attendance shared. "We don't have Mexican restaurants in Peru." She was happy to have the opportunity to try foods from other latino cultures, as well as to enjoy the traditional flavors she grew up with.

Comunidad Hispania is an annual event, held each September in Merrill.

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MAYOR

from page 1

The ordinance does, of course, specify that "he shall not have the power to approve an act of the Council, which the Mayor has disapproved, by filing objections with the City Clerk." This is standard practice for such circumstances.

Russell said Woellner may return in time for the Oct. 12 City Council meeting, but it is too early to confirm that.

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Immigrant Journeys from South of the Border [¡Mi travesía hasta Wisconsin!] exhibition comes to T.B. Scott Library

A project of the Wisconsin Humanities Council in partnership with Centro Hispano, this exhibit shares personal stories of Latino immigrants who make their home in Wisconsin today.

Immigrant Journeys from South of the Border [¡Mi travesía hasta Wisconsin!] exhibition will be open from Monday, Oct. 4, through Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021, at the T.B. Scott Free Library, 106 W. 1st St. in Merrill.

“While at the national level, immigration of people from Mexico and Central and South America is being hotly debated, here in Wisconsin many of us have had little opportunity to meet immigrants from these nations, and to add that kind of personal knowledge to our understanding of the policy discussion,” said Dena Wortzel, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Humanities Council (WHC). “The humanities help us deepen our understanding of individual lives and how each of us fits into the larger whole. That’s our goal with this exhibit, which shares stories of people whose lives may not be well understood or visible to many of their Wisconsin neighbors.”

To create the exhibit, the WHC worked with Centro Hispano who helped identify Latino immigrants willing to participate in the project. “We collaboratively invited respected journalist, Bill Berry, and photo-journalist, Gary Porter, to join the team,” said Karen Menéndez Collier, Centro Hispano Executive Director. “Together with eight immigrants, we created this powerful exhibition, called: Immigrant Journeys from South of the Border ¡Mi travesía hasta Wisconsin! We couldn’t be more excited to share this wonderful and important work with residents of Dane County and beyond.”

Eight individuals (who emigrated from Mexico, Uruguay, Honduras, and Colombia) are featured in the exhibition. The exhibition will tour statewide in 2020. Tour information is available at www.Wisconsin-ImmigrantJourneys.org.

Visitors to the exhibit have been moved by the stories. One commented, “I’m nearly in tears. Thanks for sharing these folks’ stories and messages.”

The Wisconsin Humanities Council was founded in 1972 as the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mandate is to support and create local and statewide public humanities programs



of all kinds, and to help Wisconsin residents use the tools of the humanities to thoughtfully discuss public policy issues. The WHC’s matching grant program funds locally-designed humanities proj-

ects in libraries, museums, and other community institutions. The WHC also periodically develops its own programs, such as the Immigrant Journeys exhibit, to address topics of statewide interest.

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Hamburg Cemetery Association

Town of Hamburg, associated with St. Peter Church annual meeting will be held October 19th, 2021 at 6:00 pm at St. Peter Church 135237 Cty Road A Marathon, WI 54448

All are welcome and encouraged to come. Any questions call Lyle - 715-443-2426 or Bill - 715-675-3489

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LCHD Flu Clinics
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 October 27, 8 am - 4:30 pm
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OBITUARIES



Amanda K. Groth, 28, passed away unexpectedly on September 21, 2021, surrounded by her loving family after complications with colitis and cancer. Her spirit and compassion will live on with those she loved and the many whom she touched.

Mandy was born on February 22, 1993 to Michael and Peggy (Schnell) Groth. She graduated from Cedarburg High School in 2011 and continued her education at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. In 2016 she graduated with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree and worked as an interior designer.

She moved to Merrill in 2017 to be with her true love and future husband, Derek Woellner. Their enjoyment was spending time together with their furry dog, Paisley, and in state parks surrounded by nature. Her passion for nature was fostered in her childhood years camping and traveling with family. Recently she became an active member of the Merrill Parks and Recreation Committee. Mandy's other hobbies included traveling, cooking, gardening, watching Bob's Burgers and playing competitive board games with Derek, and being with family and friends.

Our family and her friends will miss Mandy's joyful and compassionate spirit. Mandy will be deeply missed and is survived by her fiancé Derek Woellner, parents Mike and Peg Groth, brother Josh Groth (Michelle) and sister Hannah Groth (Bill). She will also be fondly remembered by her grandparents Jerome and Kay Groth and James and Marjorie Schnell, aunts, uncles, cousins, other family members, friends, and the community.

Special thanks to the caring medical staff at Froedtert Hospital & the Medical College of Wisconsin and Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

A Service of Christian Burial was celebrated at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, September 28 at St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church, 1375 Covered Bridge Road, Cedarburg, WI 53012. The Rev. Janis Kinens presided. A private interment will be scheduled at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are appreciated to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation and Wisconsin State Parks.

The Mueller Funeral Home of Cedarburg is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at www.muellerfuneralhome.com.



Florence A. 'Flo' Brazeau, 67, of Merrill, passed away Monday, September 20, 2021, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

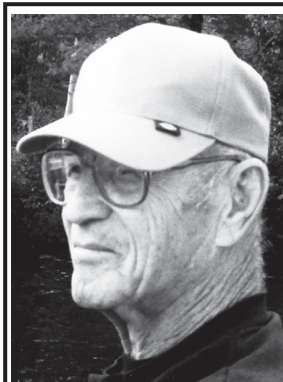
Flo was born February 13, 1954, in Chicago, daughter of the late Louis and Florence (Dombrowski) Pempek. She married Edward Brazeau on April 24, 1976, in Illinois. He survives. Flo and Ed had lived for several years in Illinois and in 1989 they moved to the Merrill area. Flo worked as an executive assistant at Church Mutual Insurance for 25 years and retired in February of 2016.

Flo loved her family especially her granddaughter, Brinlee. She enjoyed taking care of her family and the house, cooking and baking, flower and vegetable gardening, and shopping online. Flo also enjoyed playing Pinnacle every Tuesday with her friends.

Survivors include her husband, Edward 'Ed' Brazeau of Merrill; daughter, Jackie Brazeau (Kyle Badeau) of Merrill; son, Troy Brazeau (Jessie Kalwitz) of Merrill; granddaughter, Brinlee; sister, Kathy Ennenbach of Tinley Park, Illinois; brothers, Larry (Sue) Pempek of Cedar Lake, Indiana and Lou (Barb) Pempek of Manteno, Indiana; brother-in-law, Mike Malicki of Bristol, Wisconsin; many nieces and nephews; and several close relatives and friends. Flo was preceded in death by her parents, Louis and Florence Pempek; sister-in-law, Kathy Malicki; and brother-in-law, Tom Ennenbach.

A celebration of Flo's life was held from 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M., Saturday, September 25, 2021, at the Town of Merrill Town Hall, W4594 Progress Ave., Merrill. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

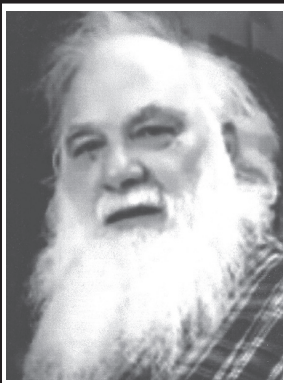


Jerry D. Bacher, of Merrill, passed away peacefully on September 18, 2021 at his home under the care of Compassus Hospice. He was born January 26, 1930, son of the late Lillian (Wenzlick) and Erich Bacher. On February 14th, 1959, he married his forever valentine, Joyce Zoellner.

Jerry graduated from Merrill High School where he played football and was elected honorary team captain for the 1948 team. He would later go on to play for the Merrill Foxes. Jerry served in the National Guard as a member of the Co. A and Headquarters Company, 1st BN, 632 armor and served during the Berlin Crisis. After retiring from the National Guard, he was assigned to the Army Reserve and retired at the rank of Major in 1983 after 33 years in both the National Guard and Army Reserve. During this time, Jerry was a supervisor at Semling-Menke, retiring in 1993 after working 45 years. He was also a member of the WIS National Guard State Pistol Team for 5 years, competing in the 5th Army Pistol Matches at Fort Riley, Kansas, and the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. Jerry was honored with the opportunity to participate in the September 2015 Honor Flight to Washington D.C., a trip he would never forget. He was a member of the Lincoln County Sports Club, the Military Officers Association of America, Silver M Club, American Legion, and he was a volunteer driver for Disabled American Veterans for 6 years, driving over 15,000 miles. Jerry enjoyed working with wood and made much of the furniture for his home and his children's homes. He loved to hunt, fish in Canada, spend time at the family cottage, travel and spend time with his grandchildren. Jerry was also a devoted Packer fan. He will be dearly missed.

Jerry is survived by his wife of over 60 years; Joyce, of Merrill; three sons: Brad Erich (Joann Peel), Merrill, Timm Arthur, Green Bay, Dale Andrew (Rhonda), Merrill; seven grandchildren: Erich, Green Bay, Lindsay, Minneapolis, Kari (Travis) De Pere, Sami (Hannah), Wausau, Sierra, Merrill, and Randy (Kelly) Belair, Minneapolis; step-granddaughter: Julie, Merrill; two great-grandsons: Mason and Elliott, Green Bay; and three great-granddaughters: Emily Marie, De Pere, Raina and Alexa Belair, Minneapolis. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Claire, two sisters, Lila Brunow and Jeann Pearson.

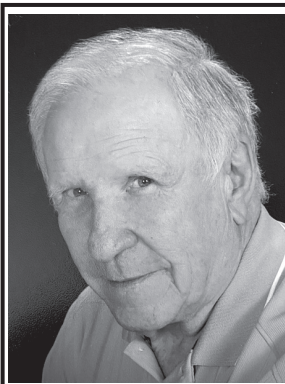
Funeral Services for Jerry and Joyce will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, October 1, 2021 at Waid Funeral Home. Pastor Mara Pehkonen will officiate. Visitation will be from 9:00 AM until the time of service, also at the funeral home. Entombment will follow in Merrill Memorial Park Mausoleum. Military Honors will be performed by VFW Post #1638. Waid Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are welcome and may be left at www.waidfuneral.com.



Joseph J. Rohmeyer Jr., 73, died September 15, 2021. He was born January 7, 1948. Joseph was married to Nancy (Bacon) Rohmeyer.

Survivors include his children, Michelle (Don) Stachovak, Joseph (Andrea) Rohmeyer III and Michael (Amanda) Rohmeyer; 21 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; one sister Gail (Dan) Dupuis and one brother Ken (Mary) Rohmeyer and 4 nieces. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Joyce Rohmeyer.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday October 2, 2021, at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 137801 County Road FF, Merrill, WI 54452. Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. until the time of services at the church.



Gerald 'Jerry' Marvin, age 77, of Merrill, passed away Saturday, September 18, 2021, at SSM Health - St. Mary's Hospital in Madison.

Gerald was born January 2, 1944, in Wausau, son of the late Charles and Eleanor (Slaminski) Marvin. He married JoAnn Plamann on May 23, 1964. She preceded him in death on November 11, 2018. Jerry had worked at Marathon Electric, Hammerblow Corp., Hartwig Manufacturing, and Fulton Manufacturing. Later, Jerry took a job working in construction with Mike Galkin Construction. He also worked in different areas of the logging industry.

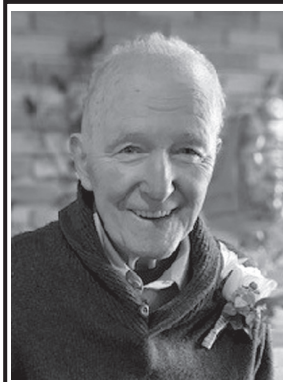
Jerry was a very active volunteer and helped at many functions that benefited the Gleason community; one of them being the ARC tournaments. He was a member of the Gleason Lions Club and bowled for many years in Gleason. Jerry was a member of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Gleason. Jerry enjoyed trips to the casino.

Jerry enjoyed spending time with his family, especially fishing in the boat the past few years. Jerry's son and his family were very important to him. After JoAnn passed away, Jay and Amy, along with their children became very close to Jerry and helped out their dad and grandpa in every way possible.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Jay and Amy Marvin of Merrill; three grandchildren, Jake Marvin, Miranda (Tyler) Kopetzky, and Desiree Marvin all of Merrill; one sister, Joan (Lawrence 'Larry') Hoffman of Weston; two brothers-in-law, Gerald Plamann (Sandra Nichols) and Arnold (Julie) Plamannboth of Merrill; several nieces and nephews; and many close friends. Jerry was preceded in death by his wife, JoAnn Marvin; and his parents, Charles and Eleanor Marvin.

A private family memorial service will be held. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Charles G. Coates, age 84, passed away at Good Samaritan Health Center, Merrill, after heroic efforts by the Merrill Fire Department at his home. He was born on March 10, 1937 in Loyal, WI to the late Gordon C. and Delana E. (Hills) Coates. On February 5, 1971, Charles and Kathy Schield were united in marriage in Waukegan, IL. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary earlier this year. He will be dearly missed.

Growing up, Charles lived in many different cities as his dad was a manager of lumber yards and was sent to different places when the job finished. He attended and graduated from Waterloo High School. Charles went on to serve in the Army Reserve then joined the Navy where he was on the drill team and served on the Yorktown aircraft carrier and had his own radio program called "Morning Melodies". When he came back home, Charles worked as a material handler for PDM Bridges. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved hunting, trapping, and fishing - he even had a small business making fishing lures. Charles had many hobbies, but his favorites were acrylic painting - landscapes and wildlife, especially-and rockhounding, where he would tumble stones until they shined. Charles was a writer as well, and charmed Kathy with several poems throughout the years. He was a passionate, strong man of faith who loved his family and loved to laugh. Charles was a forever prankster and joker who loved to entertain, cheer on the Packers and just have fun... And drink coffee! He will be deeply missed.

Survivors include his wife of over 50 years: Kathy Coates, Merrill; six children: Carissa "Carrie" (Shannon) Kraucyk, Carla (Chad) Emmer, Joshua Coates, Joel (SamiJo) Coates, Lisa (Brian) Holbrook and Jeff Jajnter; 23 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; three siblings: Calvin (Miriam) Coates, Chari Coates and Wilma Coates. He was preceded in death by his parents, nephew Harvey Scott and a sister, Bertha.

Funeral Services for Charles will be held at 11:00 on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at Hillside Church. Visitation will be from 4-8 PM Monday at Waid Funeral Home and again on Tuesday from 10 AM until the time of service at the church. Waid Funeral Home and Cremation Service is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

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Samantha Finucan
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Jaci Perra
Pre-Planning Specialist
Agent for Burial Agreements

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Central Wisconsin Polka Club to hold Fall Dance Oct. 3

The Central Wisconsin Polka Club, a not-for-profit organization, will hold its Fall Dance on Oct. 3, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Schmidt's Ballroom, 7085 County Rd. A, Wausau. Admission is \$10, and the dance will feature the music of the Sugarbush Boys Band from Luxemburg, Wis. All are welcome.

OBITUARIES



Joyce Bacher, age 88, followed her husband, Jerry, to their eternal home on September 22, 2021. She was born October 4th, 1932 to the late Arthur and Ellen (Norman) Zoellner.

Joyce attended Merrill school and moved to Milwaukee in 1951 where she worked at Allis Chambers. After returning to Merrill, she married the love of her life, Jerry Bacher on Valentine's Day in 1959. He preceded her in death by 4 days.

Joyce was employed at the Merrill Daily Herald and the Foto News, retiring in 1991. She was a member of the Swede-Finn Society, North Pines Genealogy and the Merrill Historical Society and a former member of Good Samaritan Society. Joyce enjoyed traveling, spending time at the cottage where she loved boating, fishing, and raising lupines. She also enjoyed embroidering, reading, doing family research for herself and others, and spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her three sons: Brad Erich (Joann Peel), Merrill, Timm Arthur, Green Bay, Dale Andrew (Rhonda), Merrill; seven grandchildren: Erich, Green Bay, Lindsay, Minneapolis, Kari (Travis) De Pere, Sami (Hannah), Wausau, Sierra, Merrill, and Randy (Kelly), Minneapolis; step-granddaughter: Julie, Merrill; two great-grandsons: Mason and Elliott, Green Bay; three great-granddaughters: Emily, De Pere, Raina and Alexa, Minneapolis; and three brothers: Lyndon (Laurie), Green Bay, Arthur (Barbra), Minocqua, and Allen, Showlow, AZ, and one brother-in-law: Don Paroubek, Merrill. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry, her parents, a brother Lloyd, two sisters, Alice Krueger and Doris Paroubek.

Funeral Services for both Joyce and Jerry will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, October 1, 2021 at Waid Funeral Home. Pastor Mara Pehkonen will officiate. Visitation will be from 9:00 AM until the time of service, also at the funeral home. Entombment will follow in Merrill Memorial Park Mausoleum. Waid Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be left at www.waidfuneral.com.



Roger Edward Ollhoff, age 87, died at Aspirus Wausau Hospital on September 25, 2021, following a stroke. Roger was born on April 7, 1934. He married Frances Grace Schoone on September 21, 1957, at Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill, Wisconsin.

Roger was born and raised in rural Merrill as the oldest of six children. He spent his childhood attending Copper School in the Town of Harding. Each day, he got up early and made the two-mile trek to his school of twenty children, where he was the only child in his grade. He attended school there from first through eighth grades and then went to Merrill High School where he graduated.

Roger had a strong work ethic that he proudly passed down to his children. At age fourteen, Roger worked on a farm, hauling manure for \$3 per day plus room and board. Roger served in the National Guard for six years during peacetime. His skills as a farmer landed him a job as a pea viner operator. After that, Roger worked at Wire Products Manufacturing. He then began work at ROW Assembling Plant. He continued his employment there for five years before starting his career with Wausau Papers. Roger retired there in 1996.

Roger loved the outdoors. He enjoyed working in the woods. He logged popple trees to sell to the papermill and also sold firewood for many years. He was an avid fisherman. He loved spending time fishing with his wife and family. In his earlier years, there were many family fishing trips to Canada that he especially enjoyed. Camping trips with children and grandchildren would certainly include fishing. Roger and Grace liked camping and fishing on Pine Lake. Each fishing trip included a goal to "catch their limit". Roger also spent many years hunting a variety of wildlife and game. He especially enjoyed hunting with family at his hunting shack in New Wood.

Roger had a passion for building his own homes. He built a total of five family homes in Merrill and the surrounding area. He was especially proud that he was able to build these homes without a blueprint. The plans were kept "all in his head".

In his later years, Roger enjoyed talking politics, frequently offering political advice to anyone who would listen. His recent goal was to live to see the next election. He had a special interest in topics about health, reading numerous books and magazines on the topic. Roger attributed his longevity and health to plenty of physical exercise and holistic medicine. He offered health advice to anyone who would take a moment to listen, but especially to his children and grandchildren.

Roger endured numerous serious illnesses throughout his life, several leaving him in critical condition. His strong will to live and ability to handle these illnesses while never complaining left a lasting impression of perseverance on his family. He often stated to his family that he thought he had a good chance of making it to ninety.

Roger's greatest pride was his children and grandchildren. He treasured his time spent with family. Talking about his children's and grandchildren's successes often brought tears to his eyes. Roger recently looked forward to taking his entire family to 2510 restaurant for his annual Christmas dinner. He also looked forward to celebrating his birthday there, especially knowing he would get an 88% discount this next year.

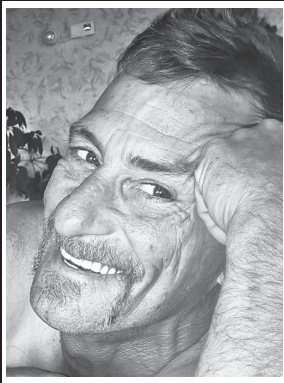
Following the loss of his wife, Grace, Roger resided at Bell Tower Assisted Living in Merrill. He lived in a room that he never wanted to give up. His ability to feed squirrels, chipmunks, birds and an occasional rabbit or deer from his patio door brought him immense pleasure, especially during the recent covid restrictions. He was determined to return to his home at Bell Tower and was anxiously awaiting his transfer to a rehabilitation facility.

Roger is survived by his children: Kathleen (Timothy) Wanless, Timothy (Cecilia) Ollhoff, David (Kathleen) Ollhoff, Shelley Hersil, and Jennifer (Chad) Schmidt. His grandchildren: Amanda (Kailie) Boehm, Joseph (Abilene) Ollhoff, Amy Ollhoff, Sara (Philip) Beck, Eric (Brittney) Wanless, Samantha (Christopher) Kraemer, Daniel Ollhoff, Hannah Ollhoff, Nathaniel Hersil, Ashley (Dakota) Lloyd, Jared Ollhoff, Elizabeth Schmidt, Michael Schmidt, Olivia Schmidt, and 15 great-grandchildren. His sisters Dorothy (William) Ballard, Elaine (Larry) Schumann and brother John Ollhoff. Roger was preceded in death by his parents, Alvin and Emma Ollhoff, and his sisters, Norma Sandbom and Margorie Goetsch.

A Funeral Liturgy will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at Waid Funeral Home. Visitation will be held from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, also at the funeral home. Father Maridas "Maria" Vallabhaneni will officiate. Burial will take place at Snow Hill Cemetery and military honors will be conducted by the Merrill VFW Post #1638.

In lieu of flowers, family request that memorials be sent to Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School in Merrill.

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.



Mathew 'Matt' W. Suhling, a.k.a. 'Choo', age 56, of Irma, passed away on Monday, September 20, 2021, after being hospitalized following an accident that happened at his home. He was born on June 2, 1965, in Merrill, WI, son to Cora Schaufelberger. Matt attended and graduated from Merrill High School. He met his soul mate and best friend, Michelle Lawrie, and the two lovingly exchanged marriage vows on April 26, 2002, in Bloomville, WI, a union last-

ing just over 19 years.

Matt was currently working for MJ Electric, where he ran the VAC truck, which he loved doing, as everyone knows, Matt liked to be in the mud! He also worked for PCA for 10 years and WAAS in Mayville, all prior to coming to MJ Electric. Everyone loved Matt, he was kind and a passionate person about the things and people that were close to his heart, like his wife and kids, motor sports, mud bogging, watching drag races, cheering for the Las Vegas Knights hockey team, or taking the weekend to go fishing, which he would do every chance he could! Whatever he did, he did it 110%, and would help anyone, and was always reliable. Matt loved life. He would push the limits, making so many fun and happy memories for his family. He also enjoyed his animals, especially his cats: 'Cindar' and 'Ringtail' but would also care for all the neighborhood strays. Matt and his wife loved to go hiking, going for walks and sitting out on the deck, watching the storms roll in. Matt's death will certainly leave a hole in many hearts.

Matt leaves behind his wife: Michelle Suhling, children: Adam Suhling and Amber (Cody) Kottke, along with their children: Aurora and Walter, mother: Cora Juedes, sister: Rebecca (Norman) Haskins, brother: Daniel Stockman, half-siblings: Lisa Currie and Bill Hunter, mother and father-in-law: George and Ginger Lawrie, sister-in-laws: Dawn Lawrie, Lori (Rodney) Engel, Brenda (Shannon "Bubba" Peterson) Lawrie and Missy (Kevin) Zajackowski, brother-in-laws: George Lawrie Jr. and Bill (Christine) Lawrie and numerous nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandmother: Rose Schaufelberger.

The funeral service for Matt was held on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 2pm at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill. Deacon Dan Towle officiated. Visitation was held on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, from 10am until the time of the service, also at the funeral home. Matt will be cremated at a later time, following the service.

In accordance with Matt's wishes, he was able to give another chance at life for other people, through organ donation. Matt lived a life of helping and giving, and even after death, he will continue.

In lieu of flowers, family requests that donations in Matt's name be directed to the Lincoln County Humane Society.

Matt's family wishes to extend their appreciation and gratitude to everyone that came to help Matt that day, along with the four bikers that stopped and assisted. Everyone's help, support and love meant the world to the family, and they will forever be touched by it. They would also like to thank the UW Organ and Tissue Donation team for the care and respect shown to Matt and his family, as well as the wonderful and supportive staff at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. Also, a special thank you to Jon and Kerri Lokemoen.

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. "FFS"

UTV crash injures driver in the Town of Bradley

TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

One person was injured following a UTV crash on County Rd. N near Heafford Rd. in the Town of Bradley. The call came in at 11:39 p.m. Saturday night, Sept. 25, according to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department. "The lead UTV reportedly struck a piece of firewood in the road and lost control," the report said.

"The UTV rolled, and the driver was ejected."

The driver was transported by ambulance to Sacred Heart Hospital in Tomahawk, as the helicopter was unable to fly due to fog, a source at the Sheriff's Department said.

The extent of his injuries is not known.

LEGAL | BIRTH

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: September 21, 2021
Electronically signed by
Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2021N39

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Lawrence F. Duginski

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 6-22-31 and date of death 7-5-21, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 2714 Glen Drive, Merrill, WI 54452.
 3. All interested persons waived notice.
 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 01-14-2022.
 5. A claim may be filed at 1110 E. Main St., Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
- Mary Duginski
2714 Glen Drive, Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-2983
Published Sept. 30, Oct. 7 & 14, 2021
WNAXLP

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Girl, Emerie Jo, born to Brittany Graap and Dustin Graap of Merrill.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Boy, Bentley Timothy, born to Ashley Turzinski and Andy Webb of Merrill.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Boy, Oliver James, born to Sarah Laes and Neil Laes of Wausau.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

Boy, Finley James, born to Nicki Rakowski and Jason Casson of Merrill.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Girl, Greya Odette, born to Christy Peterson and Luke Peterson of Medford.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Girl, Sloane Riley, born to Savannah Hoffmeister and Joe Hoffmeister of Merrill.

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HEALTH SERVICES

CMS considers Five Star nursing homes to have above average quality care. This is based on three separate categories.

Health Inspections
The health inspection rating contains information from the last 3 years of on-site inspections, including both standard surveys and any complaint surveys.

Staffing
The staffing rating has information about the number of hours of care provided on average to each resident each day by nursing staff. This rating considers differences in the levels of residents' care need in each nursing home. For example, a nursing home with residents who had more severe needs would be expected to have more nursing staff than a nursing home where the resident needs were not as high.

Quality Measures (QMs)
The quality measure rating has information on 11 different physical and clinical measures for nursing home residents. The rating now includes information about nursing homes' use of antipsychotic medications in both long-stay and short-stay residents. The QMs offer information about how well nursing homes are caring for their residents' physical and clinical needs.

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Annual Merrill Area United Way campaign now underway

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Area United Way Campaign Barometer, located at Wisconsin Public Service, 3100 East Main St. in Merrill, was set back to zero on Aug. 31 in preparation for the next annual fundraising campaign. That campaign officially started on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021, and yard signs along Merrill's major thoroughfares will serve as reminders that it is campaign time.

Area employers will also be kicking off their employee-giving campaigns. And mailers are being sent to businesses, churches, and each household in the Merrill/Lincoln County area asking them to support the United Way.

"Early indicators regarding the upcoming campaign and a somewhat vulnerable economy leaves us apprehensive about our ability to hit the level of financial support needed to help all our agencies

sustain their services," said Dee Olsen, Executive Director of the Merrill Area United Way. "With the pandemic last year, and being realistic, United Way has not increased its annual campaign goal for 2021-2022, but rather will work to sustain our prior campaign level."

"United Way expects this will be a critical fall campaign," she added. "The funded agencies depend on United Way to come through for them. They are the frontline providers of assistance to people in need of help. Now we need to assure that this year's United Way's campaign is successful."

"United Way provides the funding to the agencies in two allocation periods throughout the year," Olsen said. "The first payment goes out March 1, and the second allocation payment goes to the agencies September 1."

"During the campaign, we have a 'black out period' whereby the funded agencies are asked to forego their own fundrais-

ing, therefore, allowing the focus to be on United Way's annual request," she added. "This is a customary policy for many United Ways with a short campaign time."

"As the fall campaign is just getting started, we ask that you please give generously to offer a helping hand to your neighbors, family, and friends. The campaign dollars stay local, unless designated to a specific not-for-profit organization, which is usually less than 3-4%. Aside from that, all the dollars support local programs to help people in our area who need assistance," Olsen said.

"United Way makes a positive difference in the Merrill area. You can make a real difference, too," she added. Donations can be mailed to: Merrill Area United Way, P.O. Box 813, Merrill WI 54452.

You can also donate electronically via PayPal at the website: www.merrill-lareaunitedway.org.



The Merrill United Way Campaign Barometer was reset to zero on Aug. 31 and the new annual campaign is now underway.

Submitted photo.

AEDS in County squad cars

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Aug. 27, Lincoln County Sheriff Ken Schneider announced all Lincoln County patrol Deputies will now carry AEDs in their patrol units. An AED is short for an automated external defibrillator. According to the American Red Cross, an AED is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest by analyzing a patient's heart rhythm and, if necessary, delivering an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the

heart re-establish an effective rhythm. Early use of an AED during sudden cardiac incidents can achieve a nearly 40% survival rate according to the American Heart Association.

The AEDs were purchased using funding from federal drug seizures based on local investigations and money issued locally from the federal CARES Act, according to a press release from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department.

All Deputies were recently trained in use of the AEDs and were also recertified in CPR.

Supervisors approve funds to replace Town of Harrison communication tower

BY JALEN MAKI
MMC STAFF

A communication tower in the Town of Harrison deemed "unsafe and not repairable" will be replaced.

The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution allocating \$175,000.00 to the project during its meeting at the Lincoln County Service Center in Merrill on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

Two independent companies evaluated the roughly 40-year-old tower, and each concluded that it would be dangerous and not possible to make repairs to it.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office relies on the tower to broadcast signals on local government frequency, the resolution said.

In August, Supervisors expressed concern and surprise about how the tower had fallen into a state of disrepair. Lieutenant Timothy P. Fischer told the board last week that, going forward, the Harrison, Corning, and Tripoli towers will be inspected every two to three years, depending on the type of tower.

After discussion, the resolution was unanimously approved.

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Class of '54 Reunion

October 7, 2021

At Eagles Club

Time: Come at 2PM & Eat at 4PM

Free Appetizers & Cash Bar

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October 9th, 2021

Town of Merrill

Community Center

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for

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Classified Advertising:
11:30 a.m. Monday

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

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| OP ED |

“Be the reason a veteran wants to wake up another day”

A veteran’s mother’s plea

Editor’s Note: The views and opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Merrill Foto News, its publishers, Editor, or staff. This is an Op-Ed piece written by a central Wisconsin woman who wishes to remain anonymous. As the Editor, I have vetted the author and opted to honor her request, while sharing her plea for help. She doesn’t want to single out her veteran or her family, but she is asking for others to hear her plea.

“Thank you for your service” ... words that I’ve heard hundreds of times directed at both my husband and my son by well-intentioned people. Yet, over time I have found those words to be hollow and empty. They are just words.

My husband served in Iraq and, over the years, has managed to work with his scars from his service. My son, however, has not managed to do the same after his service as an infantryman in Afghanistan actively deployed in 2014. We send our young men, often at the tender age of 19, into war without thought as to how they will return to us. Or perhaps the general American public just does not care to think about it. That would require effort beyond mere words in passing and a Veteran’s Day tribute. Real effort is needed.

I do not fault the military. It’s what happens in war. As a family with a history of service, we knew it wouldn’t be easy. I also cannot fault the VA overall. Each of his caregivers have tried to do their best in a system that struggles to meet each veteran’s differing needs. From his amazing current primary care doctor, pain management specialist,

therapist, psychiatrist, and whole health coach, his team is working to provide the best possible treatment within the VA, as well as some outside support services. The nonprofit group that is working with him to train him and his newly-placed service dog, at no cost, deserve a million thanks, as well as our financial support to continue their mission. For all of this, we are grateful. It sounds almost ungrateful to realize it’s not enough. For him, it simply isn’t.

Who should be doing better? The American public! It is not enough to say a few words in passing or on a holiday. It’s not enough to honor them only when they have died in combat. It’s not enough to place a beer (or sadly, 13 recently) at a table in a local bar to thank them for their sacrifice.

The VA estimates 22 veterans a day – 22! – die by suicide each day. If 22 veterans dying from suicide doesn’t shock us into action, what will? How many will be enough to spur our citizens who “say” they care into showing they actually do?

What do I ask people to do to show they care? Reach out to the young veteran who is your neighbor and invite him for coffee or to simply chat in your front yard. Stop and talk to them at a deeper level than the generic surface social basics. The veteran who appears to be young and single is often lonely and frustrated, needing social interaction beyond the local bar or veterans’ organization. Introduce them to other younger people their age you may know to help them build the friendships and relationships that make life worth living. In the age of impersonal digital friend-

ships, our struggling young veterans need more. Don’t stop inviting them to feel included and valued.

Show the family caregiver who stays up at night with the veteran, misses work to attend appointments, and struggles both financially and emotionally to meet the veteran’s needs, that you care about them, as well. The amount of time and money they sacrifice to help is often unimaginable to those who are not in our position. Words are simply not enough anymore.

Action is needed. Empty words no longer work for the veterans and their families. We are tired. We feel as though no one cares about our struggle. We are exhausted, feeling as if we are doing the hard work without support beyond the VA, which focuses on only some areas for the veteran. Where did the American public that the veterans, as well as their families, sacrificed for (and continue to sacrifice for) disappear to when they returned home and left active duty?

Did we not learn our lesson from Vietnam? Should another generation of young veterans be sacrificed because we do not care enough to reach out in caring and friendship? It truly is a sad commentary on American life when a veteran says he felt more welcome in a war zone than he does at home. “Thoughts and prayers” are not enough.

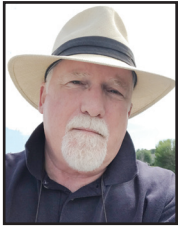
If you want to reduce veteran suicide, start reaching out. Stop the excuses. Show you care by helping to build a strong support system for a veteran before another life is sacrificed due to our apathy. Be the reason a veteran wants to wake up another day.

PUBLISHER’S LETTER

The Wager

DEAR READER,

Those who truly practice the Christian faith strive to be Christ-like in our daily living. Jesus’ two commands in the New Testament are to love God, and to love others as much as we love ourselves. Following His guidance helps us connect positively to those we meet on a daily basis – we try to accept others for what they are, help people in need, and treat others as we would have them treat us.



The question is, are His teachings true? More fundamentally, is there a God Who has found us through a speck of space and time, and does He actually give a damn? Or are we merely contriving our own religions and evolving spirituality throughout the ages to make ourselves feel good? This is the true test of faith – what to believe in the seeming absence of irrefutable evidence that we can see, hear, and feel.

If you are a betting man or woman, you might consider Blaise Pascal’s theory on this. Pascal lived and wrote in the seventeenth century and came up with a novel thought. Suppose you had to place a bet on whether Heaven and Hell exist. What happens with each half of this wager? (I use the word “wager” intentionally, because that was the name of his essay: The Wager.)

- Option 1: You bet that Heaven and Hell exist, and you live a good, moral life. If you are right, then your reward is going to Heaven – a good outcome. And if you are wrong, at least you led a good life.

- Option 2: You bet that Heaven and Hell don’t exist, and you pack your life full of sin and selfishness. If you are right, then you aren’t punished by going to Hell, because Hell doesn’t exist; but in a way you are punished, because everyone will avoid you and your evil stream of wreckage. And if you are wrong, and Heaven and Hell exist, well, guess where you are going.

It’s a good argument for doing what is right. As for the larger question of God’s existence... each of us must answer this in the quiet of our own soul. At the end of the day, perhaps we can truly believe that God is the ultimate datapoint of all universes, with infinite and universal power; that He will bring us to an electric, indescribable field of love in an afterlife that we can’t even begin to imagine now... a love so omnipotent that even Satan can’t resist.

PATRICK J. WOOD
PUBLISHER

Author of “Dear Reader” and “Tapestry of Love and Loss”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

TO THE EDITOR:

Nearly 100 years ago the Merrill City Fathers invited the Holy Cross Sisters to Merrill to build a hospital. We responded with years of dedication in the areas of healthcare, education, and care for the elderly of Merrill.

We’ve come to know and love the people of Merrill. We take pride in Merrill as our city and community. We are saddened that not even half of Lincoln County is vaccinated. The COVID virus is on the rise once again.

COVID is not a political issue, it is a major health concern. Can one be Pro-Life and not care for the health of others? The Holy Cross Sisters urge the unvaccinated in Merrill, and throughout our county, to prevent the spread of the COVID virus and its variants by getting vaccinated and wearing masks. Unity surpasses divi-

sion. Together we can prevent the spread of the COVID virus, promote the common good, and build a better, safer community.

- Sister Mary Thomas Reichl,
Sister John Marie Simien, Sister Mary Ann Rose,
and Sister Peggy Jackelen
Holy Cross Sisters
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.)
* All letters must include full name, address and phone number of the composer. Phone numbers and addresses will not be published, but will be used for verification purposes if necessary.
* Letters will be published at the discretion of the Editor. While letters on most any topic will be published, any letters deemed derogatory, inflammatory, slanderous, or involving vulgar language, will not be published.
* Letters will be published on a “first come, first served” basis. Any letters which we are unable to publish in the printed newspaper will be run online at www.merrillfotonews.com and may be printed in the paper at a later date if possible.

Rep. Callahan seeks First Responder of the Year nominations

Representative Calvin Callahan (R-Tomahawk) is currently accepting nominations for the 35th Assembly District’s 2021 First Responder of the Year Award. Our dedicated first responders, including police officers, fire fighters, and EMS personnel, work selflessly every day to keep our families and communities safe. This award will highlight one individual from each Assembly district who embodies that dedication and selflessness and recognize them at an upcoming

State Assembly Floor Session at the end of October.

Reasons for nominating a first responder could include any of the following:

- a specific heroic action,
- a significant professional achievement,
- certain community involvement over the course of their work,
- his/her body of work over time, or
- his/her length of service.

Nominations must be returned

to Rep. Callahan’s office no later than Friday, Oct. 8. Nominations can be submitted online through Rep. Callahan’s website at RepCalvinCallahan.com or by sending the name, contact information, and a brief description of the candidate to Rep.Callahan@legis.wisconsin.gov.

The 35th Assembly District includes all of Lincoln County and portions of Langlade, Marathon, Oneida, and Shawano Counties.

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

MERRILL FOTO NEWS Student of the Week



This Week’s Featured Student is **Kendell Klug**
Daughter of Joshua & Megan Klug
Kendell is in 6th grade at Trinity Lutheran School.
She was nominated by Mr. Jeff Holt.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
English is her favorite subject, for many reasons, but especially because she loves reading books.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
Kendell’s favorite part of school is hanging out with her classmates.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
She hopes to become an Air Force pilot or a firefighter paramedic one day.

Kendell not only does outstanding work, academically, she brings a smile and positive attitude to class each day. She looks for ways to encourage her classmates and goes out of her way to help a classmate who is struggling to understand a concept. Kendell models Christ’s love as she interacts with both peers and teachers.”
- Mr. Jeff Holt

Student of the Week Sponsored by:
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Merrill
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9 am -
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Low carry out prices on Booze, Beer & Ice
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DINNER SPECIALS OCT.
TUESDAY NIGHTS
Oct. 5th - Liver-N-Onions
Oct. 12th - Dressed Up Meatballs
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

FRIDAY NIGHTS
Oct. 1st - Grilled Salmon
Oct. 8th - Perch
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
CLIP-N-SAVE

CARRYOUT AVAILABLE
• MONDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
• LUNCH AVAILABLE: TUES. & FRI. 11am-2pm
WED. & THURS. 11am-9pm
Specials • Fish Fries • Homemade Soup
• DINNER MENU: TUES. 4-8pm & FRI. 4-8pm
• SATURDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
• SUNDAY: Bar Open From 11am-7pm

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Wausau Antigo
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GLEASON AREA LIONS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sunday, October 3rd • 8am-12noon
Gleason Lions Park N5179 S. Bradley St., Gleason

ALL YOU CAN EAT
ADULTS-\$9.00 • UNDER 12-\$5.00 • UNDER 5-FREE

Serving: Regular & Potato Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Applesauce, Milk and Coffee
We serve Pure Wisconsin Maple Syrup produced by Local Suppliers

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Sunday, October 3rd • 8am-12noon
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OCT. BOOZE OF THE MONTH
CROWN ROYAL
\$5.50 - 16 oz. Pint

CELEBRATING 9TH ANNIVERSARY
OCT. 8TH THRU 10TH
Details to come!

BINGO
SAT. OCT. 9TH 1:00pm
Bar open 11am
Food N Snacks
KARAOKE 8pm

HOURS: MON. - FRI. Noon - Close • SAT. 4pm - Close • SUN. Noon - 6pm

Cody Clauson Trio

Join the Cody Clauson Trio for an entertaining show, with an array of music from the past and present, including 50's & 60's, Country & Western, Jazz, Blues, Swing, Bluegrass, Ragtime and Gospel.

Sunday, November 7th, 2021 • 12:30pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
W2604 Cty Hwy P • Merrill, WI
Enjoy a concert by the Trio and a delicious catered meal in St. Paul's fellowship hall.
For tickets call Joe at: 715-297-4237 Dinner & Concert Price: \$37.50

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

Dear Evan Hansen

(Now showing in theatres)
★★★★★

Rated PG13 - For adult themes.

I need to be honest with you, dear reader. I went to see *Dear Evan Hansen* with the lowest of expectations, knowing nearly nothing about it. So why go, you ask? Because I enjoy writing reviews for you dear readers, I enjoy the feedback I get from you, and I cannot always just go see films that interest me and me alone.

So off I went to the cinema, dragging my feet, wondering how long this film would be, and not wondering if I would like

Movie Reviews

it, but wondering how much I would dislike it.

The lights dimmed, the previews ran, and the film began. Now, resigned to my fate for the next two hours and twelve minutes, I settled in and waited. Then the lead character broke into song. My skin crawled, and I breathed a deep sigh, because, you see, I had no idea it was a musical. But then something happened. I started to listen to the lyrics, and they had something to say - actually a lot to say, and my attention increased.

And then the story unfolded at an even, well-crafted pace, and I became very interested - actually enthralled. The story captured me in a way few films have in the last decade or so.

Dear Evan Hansen has something to say, and we all should listen.

The film is built around the suicide of a deeply troubled young man, still in high school, still with his entire life before him.



We see the impact of this act and the colossal misunderstanding that follows, through the eyes of Evan Hansen, another

troubled young man who feels he is on the outside, looking in at everyone else's happy lives, never realizing - due to his youth or perhaps his focus on his own life - that all of us, every last one of us, at some point felt like the outsider looking in.

As always, I wish to remain spoiler free, so I will not say much about the plot, but I will give a shout out to the cast. Ben Platt as Evan Hansen is amazing, simply amazing. Julianne Moore, Amy Adams, and Kaitlyn Dever are all spectacular in their respective roles. And Amanda Stenberg, who as an overachieving student at Evan's high school, connects with both Evan and the audience in a way that is remarkable through a truly touching song.

People that know me would never call me weepy or overly sensitive, but it would be a lie to say I did not remove my glasses to wipe my eyes once or twice during this film.

As you may have noticed, I have left my usual snark and/or sarcasm out of this review. It has no place here today, my friends. This film has something to say, and what it is telling us, is that no matter who you are, where you are, or what you are feeling, nobody is ever truly alone - none of us. We all should listen to this message and be willing to be that person for someone else.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of harming themselves, please reach out to a friend or a family member or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800.273.8255.

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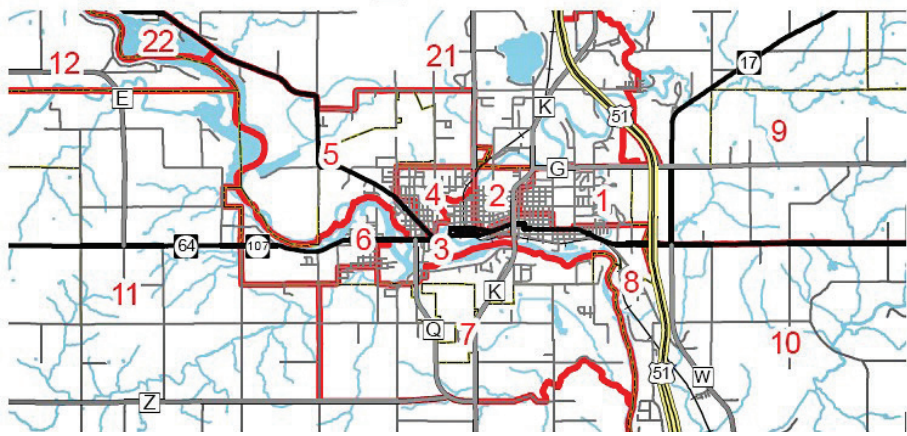
Seminars
9:00 am - Estate Planning, Hougum Law Firm, LLC
10:15 am - How your pain works, Health in Motion
11:30 am - What's Next & Plan for It, Mountain Terrace Senior Living
12:45pm - Medicare Made Clear, United Healthcare

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MERRILL Foto News



Tentative plan for Supervisory district maps gets thumbs up from County Board

Municipalities will provide feedback, draw ward maps before final approval

BY JALEN MAKI
MMC STAFF

Lincoln County's tentative supervisory district plan was approved by the County's Board of Supervisors during its meeting at the Lincoln County Service Center in Merrill on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

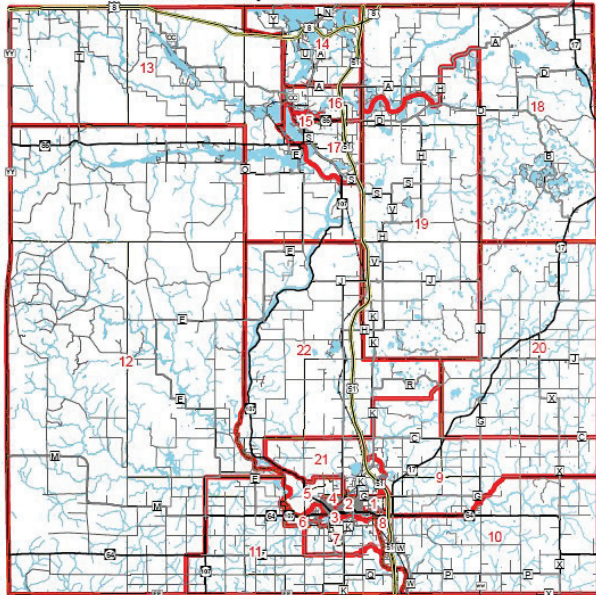
With the adoption of the tentative plan, each municipality in the County will provide feedback regarding the boundaries and draw the wards that will be used for election purposes.

The process of redrawing district lines occurs every ten years, following the completion of the U.S. Census.

According to 2020 Census data provided by Andrew Faust, Senior GIS Analyst with the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Lincoln County's total population decreased from 28,743 people in 2010 to 28,415 people in 2020, a difference of 338 residents.

2020 Census data listed

Lincoln County Tentative Plan - Draft



the City of Tomahawk's population at 3,441 people, an increase of 44 from the 2010 Census.

The City of Merrill's population went down by 314 residents, according to Census data.

The Town of Merrill's population decreased by 99 people, the largest drop in population of any Lincoln County township.

The Lincoln County municipality with the largest population increase was the Town of King, which saw its population grow by 109 residents since the 2010 Census.

"(The City of Merrill and the Town of Merrill) are the areas that you'll probably see the most shifting of your districts," Faust said.

Faust told the Board that district lines must be shifted in order to make each district as close to equal in population as possible. In Lincoln County, the goal is to have 1,292 residents, or as close to that number as possible, in each district. That number is determined by dividing the number of residents in the County (28,415) by the number of Supervisory districts (22).

Faust explained that "overall deviation" is the "difference between the highest and lowest districts from the ideal number," which, in Lincoln County's case, is 1,292 residents.

"So if the ideal district See PLAN page 16

LINCOLN COUNTY POPULATION CHANGES, 2010 CENSUS TO 2020 CENSUS

Municipality	2010 Census	2020 Census	Change	Percent Change
City of Tomahawk	3,397	3,441	44	1.30%
City of Merrill	9,661	9,347	-314	-3.25%
Town of Birch	594	570	-24	-4.04%
Town of Bradley	2,408	2,382	-26	-1.08%
Town of Corning	883	825	-58	-6.57%
Town of Harding	372	364	-8	-2.15%
Town of Harrison	833	828	-5	-0.60%
Town of King	855	964	109	12.75%
Town of Merrill	2,980	2,881	-99	-3.32%
Town of Pine River	1,869	1,874	5	0.27%
Town of Rock Falls	618	635	17	2.75%
Town of Russell	677	693	16	2.36%
Town of Schley	934	950	16	1.71%
Town of Scott	1,432	1,377	-55	-3.84%
Town of Skanawan	391	386	-5	-1.28%
Town of Somo	114	123	9	7.89%
Town of Tomahawk	416	458	42	10.10%
Town of Wilson	309	317	8	2.59%
Lincoln County	28,743	28,415	-328	-1.14%

U.S. Census Data

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\$1.99 lb.

\$1.69 lb.

\$3.59 lb.

\$12.99 lb.

\$4.99 1 lb. Pkg.

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Campbell's 10.75 oz. Cans Cream of Mushroom or Tomato Soup **5/\$5.00**

Hunts, 14 oz. Assorted Varieties Canned Tomatoes **4/\$5.00**

DAIRY

Dean's, 24 oz. Cottage Cheese **2/\$5.00**

Morning Glory, 1 lb. Cheese Chunk **\$3.79**

Crystal Farms, 8 oz. Shreds or Chunks Cheese **2/\$5.00**

Crystal Farms, 10 oz. String Cheese **2/\$7.00**

LIQUOR

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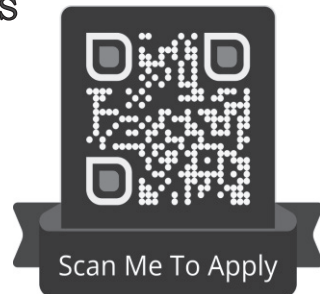
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Announcements 7005

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Multi-Family Garage Sale in Pole Shed. Fri-Sat, Oct 1-2, 9A-5P. Furniture, antiques, collectibles, Tools, Toys and much, much more. Take K South of Merrill, East on Q, to Lake Rd. South. 459 Lake Rd.

Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202

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Estate Sales 7208

CW ESTATE SALE
1815 E Crabtree Drive
Wausau WI 54401
Sat. 10/1/21 10-3pm
Sun. 10/2/21 10-3pm (1/2 off)
Fun down sizing sale by North-central Technical College!! Lots of collectibles like American Fostoria, Frankoma, vintage jars and sewing, and other vintage collectibles! Men's and women's clothing, office wares, tools, and even some kitchen wares! There's multiple bookcases, Fridge/freezer combo great for a garage, vintage floor safe, Tan colored couch, matching glass and metal coffee table and end tables, beautiful large mahogany dresser, large mahogany buffet, vintage hutch, farmhouse style table and more!! For pictures, like CW Estate Sales and Services on Facebook!

JANE'S Estate Sales 9/30-10/3/21 - Wausau
Thu 10-5
Fri 9-5
Sat 9-3
Sun 10-4

NOTICE #1 The address for this sale will be disclosed online the evening of Wednesday, September 29th, via Facebook, estate-sales.org, or email.
NOTICE #2 Go to JANE'S Estate Sales on Facebook or estate-sales.org the evening of Sunday September 26th for more details and photos.
NOTICE #3 Numbers for Thursday will be given out starting at 8:00 am
NOTICE #4 If possible, please help us out by bringing your own boxes/bags/bins for your purchased items. Greatly appreciated!

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Schmidt takes another first place finish for Lady Jays at the Smiley Meet

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Antigo meet is an uphill run

Antigo's Gartzke Flowage was the setting for the Merrill Cross Country Team's most recent meet on Wednesday, Sept. 22. "It was a beautiful, fall day for a good run," said Alyssa Swan, Head MHS Cross Country Coach. "However, the course feels as though it is an all uphill course."

"Most runners' times increase by about two to three minutes at this race," she said. "It was a challenge for our runners, but we came home with three medals!"

The Merrill Bluejay Girls came in fourth out of five teams. Elizabeth Schmidt led the Lady Jays, coming in second overall on that uphill run with a time of 20:58. Next in for Merrill Girls was Madi Crossman (25:33) and then Annie Becker (28:04), Olivia Pierce (28:25), Emma Marlow (28:50), Bre Herdt (30:17), and Brooklyn Kragenbrink (30:23).

The Bluejay Guys took third out of five teams, led by David Golisch (19:41) who came in sixth place overall and Callen Hoepfner (20:18) who came in 9th place overall. Next in for the Merrill Boys Team was Henry Reimann (22:26), fol-



The Merrill Cross Country Team spells out the word "SMILEY" at the Sept. 18 Smiley Meet at Wausau West.

Submitted photo.

lowed by Kayoda Raddatz (22:57), Kaden Schwandt (23:24), Caleb Norton (23:37), and Ian Schuetze (24:36).

Smiley Meet has Schmidt smiling after first place finish

On Saturday, Sept. 18, the Bluejay Cross Country runners were at the Smiley Meet at Wausau West High School. That meet was originally held at Tribute Golf Course, Swan said, "so this was a brand new course for us."

"It definitely had some challenging sections," she said.

"Elizabeth Schmidt blew the meet out of the water and came in first overall with a time of 18:58!" Swan said. "This included Division 1 large and small school runners."



Callen Hoepfner, Elizabeth Schmidt, and David Golisch all take medals at the Antigo Cross Country meet. Submitted photo.

Second in for Merrill was Madi Crossman (23:39), and then Annie Becker (25:01), Olivia Pierce (25:46), Emma Marlowe (25:58), and Bre Herdt (26:00).

David Golisch came in first for the Merrill

Boys Team with a time of (17:76) which also earned him a medal and an 18th place overall finish. The second in for the Merrill Boys Team was Callen Hoepfner (18:48), with Ian Schuetze (19:53), Kayoda Raddatz (21:53),



Elizabeth Schmidt of Merrill came in first place overall for the ladies at the Sept. 18 Smiley Meet at Wausau West High School.

Jim Richardson photo.

Caleb Norton (22:13), and Kaden Schwandt (22:47) following.



Elizabeth Schmidt sets a fast pace at the Smiley Cross Country meet.

Jim Richardson photo.

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Lady Jays Tennis Team takes on challengers on the courts

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Monday, Sept. 27, Lakeland Union High School took on the Merrill Bluejay Girls Tennis Team on the Merrill courts in a Varsity Dual.

Singles: 1) Angela Hinner lost to Maria Gironella 6-0, 6-0; 2) Lauren Belsky defeated Katie McMahon 6-3, 6-4; 3) Lauren Cohrs lost to Sarah Barton 7-6 (5), 6-2; and 4) Courtney Schneider lost to Sophia Myshchysyn 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles: 1) Amelia Skoviera/Tessa Wheat defeated Hailey Curtis/Phoebe Wirtz 6-4, 6-4; 2) Mariah Jacoby/Chloe Belant lost to Julianna Ouimette/Kristina Ouimette 6-2, 6-1; and 3) Sarah Rell/Madisin Jacobs lost to Malina Reynolds/Cassidy Cleveland 6-0, 6-0.

“Lauren Belsky played her best match to date winning 6-3, 6-4,” Head Girls Tennis Coach Brad Barton said. “She is going to be a force the next two years.”

“Amelia Skoviera and Tessa Wheat continued their team best record to 9-5,” he said. “They started the season not in best form, but have been turning it on now. It has been enjoyable watching the both of them use positive verbal questions to keep each other going in good times and in bad times.”

“Merrill has accumulated a 3-11 record (1-5 Conference play) this year going into

our Conference meet,” Barton said.

Box Score

Lakeland 5 @ Merrill 2

On Thursday, Sept. 23, the Merrill Bluejay Girls Varsity Tennis Team headed to Wausau East to take on the lady Lumberjacks. While Wausau East took the win, with a final score of Wausau East 6 - Merrill 1, “Don’t let the score fool you,” Barton said. “Wausau East is a really good team.”

Singles: 1) Lauren Belsky lost to Lola Berumen 6-1, 6-0; 2) Lauren Cohrs lost to Abbey Olson 6-2, 6-1; 3) Courtney Schneider lost to Samara Rezwan 6-1, 6-4; and 4) Madisin Jacobs lost to Kyra Blease 6-1, 6-4.

Doubles: 1) Amelia Skoviera/Tessa Wheat defeated Juliet Carroll/Stella Glaser 7-5, 4-6, 6-4; 2) Sarah Rell/Lydia Burrows lost to Isabella Knight/Alaina Berres 6-3, 6-0; and Mariah Jacoby/Chloe Belant lost to Maggie Winter/Elizabeth Young 6-0, 2-6, 6-2.

“Merrill played really well tonight,” Barton said. “Amelia Skoviera and Tessa Wheat played the match of their high school career to date. They are not done. They want to at least qualify for Sectionals again this year. They are 8-5 on the year (4-2) in Conference play.”

Barton described their playing as “the greatest doubles win in the last 6 years.



The Doubles team of Amelia Skoviera and Tessa Wheat battle it out on the court in a match against DC Everest Girls on Sept. 21. Colleen Skoviera photos.

Amelia Skoviera and Tessa Wheat were down 4-1 in the final set. They pumped each other up after each point and won the next five games to win the final set 6-4.”

“Madisin Jacobs played the match of her career also,” he added. “Chloe Belant and Mariah Jacoby are also peaking at the right time.”

Cohrs lost to Nina Allen 6-4, 6-4; and 4) Courtney Schneider lost to Ava Kumar 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles: 1) Amelia Skoviera/Tessa Wheat defeated Makenna Kampmann/Madison Sazama 6-0, 6-0; 2) Lydia Burrows/Sarah Rell lost to Madeline Bublik/Lola Harrington 6-1, 6-1; and 3) Mariah Jacoby/Chloe Belant defeated Julia Conway/Kaitlyn Smith 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

“Mariah Jacoby and Chloe Belant pulled out a nice come-from-behind win,” Barton said.

“Amelia Skoviera and Tessa wheat continue to impress with a record of 7-5 on the year so far. They want to get to Sectionals again this year,” he said. “I believe they will get there the way they are playing now.”

Box Score

Merrill 1 @ Wausau East 6

The Merrill Bluejay Girls Varsity Tennis Team lost to DC Everest High on Tuesday, Sept. 21, on their home courts. **Final score:** DC Everest 5 - Merrill 2.

Though they didn’t take the team win for the meet, two Bluejays doubles teams pulled off a winning performance in their matches against Everest.

Singles: 1) Angela Hinner lost to Nya Harrington 6-3, 6-4; 2) Lauren Belsky lost to Kyra Loomans 6-2, 6-0; 3) Lauren

Box Score

Merrill 2 @ DC Everest 5



The Lady Jays were stoked after the Doubles team of Amelia Skoviera and Tessa Wheat took their win.

2021 Merrill High School Fall Sports Schedule

Football (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Thursday, Sept. 30 th	Stevens Point (JV2)	Away	4:30 pm
Saturday, Oct. 2 nd	Lakeland Union (Varsity)	Home	1:30 pm
Monday, Oct. 4 th	Lakeland Union (JV)	Away	5:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 7 th	Rhineland (JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Volleyball (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Thursday, Sept. 30 th	Wausau West (JV & JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Thursday, Sept. 30 th	Wausau West (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Monday, Oct. 4 th	D. C. Everest (JV2)	Away	4:00 pm
Thursday, Oct. 7 th	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV & JV2)	Home	5:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 7 th	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Tennis (Varsity & JV)			
Thursday, Sept. 30 th	Wausau East (Varsity)	Away	9:00 am
Boy Soccer (Varsity & JV)			
Thursday, Sept. 30 th	Stevens Point (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thursday, Sept. 30 th	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 5 th	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 5 th	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Cross Country (Varsity & JV)			
Thursday, Sept. 30 th	Medford (Varsity)	Away	4:30 pm
Swimming (Varsity & JV)			
Thursday, Sept. 30 th	D. C. Everest (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 7 th	Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)	Home	5:30 pm

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK


Bailey Turenne, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS) has been named Athlete of the Week. Beginning with flag football in fourth grade and then tackle football in middle school, Bailey has been playing football for about eight years and joined the Merrill Varsity Football Team last year. He currently plays wide receiver and made some big moves in the Sept. 17 game against Hayward with his catch on a 29-yard pass to make the first touchdown of the game and scoring another in the final seconds of the first quarter. His coach described him as having “an exceptional game” that night. Bailey is also a member of the Boys Varsity Bluejay Basketball Team, as a point guard and shooting guard, since Sophomore year. He’s been playing basketball since about age five, he said, and he also plays on a traveling basketball team in the summer. At school, Bailey is a member of the Link Crew and LEAD. He works part-time for Turenne Construction. In his free time, he likes to lift weights, fish, hunt [bear, turkey, and deer - both bow and rifle], ride ATVs, and hang out with friends and family.

The son of Lisa and Jim Turenne of Merrill, Bailey has a 3.0 GPA and plans to go to college and hopefully play a sport, but doesn’t know which one yet. He plans to study business and possibly architecture.

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Bailey Turenne

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

Please direct comments or suggestions to fotonews@mmclocal.com

PLAN from page 9

was 1,000 (residents), and you had one district with 1,050 and another with 950, your overall deviation

would be 10%,” Faust stated. “Courts have determined that deviation of less than 10% is generally constitutional.”

District 11 Supervisor Hans Breitenmoser said the redrawn Lincoln County district maps achieve roughly 10% overall deviation. If the maps hadn’t been adjusted, they would have had roughly 25% overall deviation, he added.

Faust noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing Census data to be released later than they usually are, the time allotted to redraw the maps is shorter than it has been in previous years. Rather than having roughly six months to complete the process, the County was only afforded about two to three months.

“As long as the municipi-

palities and the townships define their wards and sign their resolutions on their ward plans, we should be in good shape,” Faust told the Board.

Faust said he and the Board are hoping to get the finalized ward maps back from municipalities “as soon as possible in October.”

The Board must finalize the maps before Nov. 23. After the maps receive final approval, County Clerk Christopher J. Marlowe will post a Type A notice, informing residents where the district lines lie and allowing interested individuals to complete paperwork to run for office in their respective districts.

Following further discussion, the tentative plan was approved by a voice vote.