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# Nationwide natural gas price spike expected to mean higher heating bills this winter

## WPS donates \$4 million to help customers in need

GREEN BAY, Wis. — As we head into winter, Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) is letting customers know that their heating bills will likely rise as the temperatures fall — it's due to a nationwide spike in natural gas prices.

The price of natural gas has more than doubled this year and currently sits at the highest level in a decade. This increase is mainly due to tight supplies

See **GAS** page 2



For those who prefer the taste of wine, multiple wineries were in attendance, such as the O'Neil Creek Winery. Mary Stamm of Merrill considers the selection of wines available from this winery. **Tina L. Scott photos.**

# 13th Annual Lincoln Lager Barleyfest caters to both beer and wine lovers

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
 EDITOR

The Merrill Parks & Recreation Department hosted their 13th Annual Lincoln Lager Barleyfest in the Smith Center at the Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC) on Saturday, Oct. 2. For the price of admission, attendees received a glass and a scorecard and the opportunity to sample and vote for their favorite beer and wine from among those represented. Nearly 30 breweries and wineries were represented with more than 100 beers and wines available for sampling including microbrews, craft beers, IPAs, sweet wines, dry wines, and other spirits, as well. While multiple breweries had IPAs or their own version of an Oktoberfest beer, others had more unique names like Fuel Cafe, Batshit Crazy, Coffee

Bender, Louies Demise, Kick in the Berries, Walleye Oughta, Catch the Buzz, Falling for Chocolate Wine, and Mikey Likes It, making them harder to forget, unless, of course, attendees had one too many samples too close together.

More than 300 people attended, according to Dan Wendorf, Parks & Recreation Director. "We were pleased with our event again this year. After a year off last year due to health concerns, to bounce back with strong numbers and support says a lot about our event and our community."

"Barleyfest has become a destination event that draws people from outside of our community and allows us to showcase all that Merrill has to offer," he said.

Next year's 14th annual event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022.



Those with a fondness for beer had an opportunity to sample some of the Midwest's finest microbrews and craft beers, such as the options presented by the Mosinee Brewing Company at this year's Barleyfest.

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# Michael Dickman of Merrill receives Hometown Hero Award in Madison

At the start of the Sept. 28, 2021, State Assembly floor session in Madison, Representative Calvin Callahan (R-Tomahawk) presented a local Merrill student, Michael Dickman, with the Assembly's Hometown Hero Award. This program provides the opportunity for state representatives to identify and recognize individuals from their Assembly Districts who make a difference in their communities and in the lives of the people around them.

"Michael is a truly courageous constituent of mine whose actions saved another person's life," said Rep. Callahan. "I am proud to present him with the Hometown Hero Award and encourage him to continue being the brave, young role model for others that he is today."

One severely cold morning in February 2019, Michael was walking to school when he heard cries



Peggy Williams (Michael's mother), Michael Dickman holding his award, Rep. Calvin Callahan (R-Tomahawk) holding Michael's certificate, Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester), and Kaitlyn Dickman (Michael's sister). **Submitted photo.**

for help. He found Lonnie Strauss, who had fallen off a loading dock behind a remote building and had become trapped in the snow. After

trying to free Strauss from the deep snow, Michael realized more

See **HERO** page 4

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# Saint Stephens to host Living River in concert

Saint Stephens UCC, 903 E. 2nd St. in Merrill, will host a Living River concert on Saturday evening, Oct. 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. A free will offering will be taken, and the proceeds from the concert will help fund one of the church's mission ministries. The community is welcome to attend.

Living River Quartet has been singing together for more than 30 years, sharing their love of God through their musical ministry.

"As Jeff [a member of the quartet] once put it, this is like their bowling night, being out and singing together. It's something they enjoy, and their music definitely shows

it," said Debbie Seeger, one of the concert's organizers. "I could listen to them sing two concerts in a row, identical line up, but each concert would be as different and individualistic as they are."

Anyone with questions can contact St. Stephens at 715.536.7322.

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## GAS from page 1

as well as a worldwide increase in demand for natural gas.

An analysis done by WPS predicts the typical residential customer will pay \$40 more a month this winter compared to last year. The analysis

assumes typical winter weather.

Natural gas is a pass-through expense. WPS does not earn a profit on the gas it purchases for its customers.

### Working on behalf of customers

WPS uses a proactive, multi-pronged approach

to make sure customers have the reliable and affordable energy they need, while limiting the impact of sudden price changes. The company buys and stores gas when it is typically lower priced, locks in guaranteed natural gas contracts at fixed prices

and purchases gas in the market. This approach is estimated to lower this winter's gas costs for WPS customers by 25%.

### Assistance available

In order to help customers in the greatest need, WPS donated \$4 million to the Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund this year. This program provides direct financial assistance to help qualifying customers pay their utility bills.

Significant federal assistance is also available. Congress recently authorized \$3.7 billion of federal funding to help low-income customers this winter.

Customers can go to <https://www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/payment-bill/wi-assistance> for more information on energy assistance.

### Managing energy use

Customers can take steps to manage their energy use by turning down their thermostats, sealing gaps around windows and doors, and scheduling an annual furnace tuneup. For more low and no cost energy-saving tips, go to <https://www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/savings/tips/default>.

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49¢ lb.

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Baked Beans w/Bacon 115 oz. ONLY \$3.89	Strawberry Preserves 32 oz. ONLY \$2.49	Cherry Pie or Berry Shortcake Ground Coffee 11 oz. ONLY 99¢
Mini Granola Bars Chocolate Chips 96 bars ONLY \$1.99	All Purpose Cooking Spray 17 oz. ONLY \$1.49	Columbian Ground Coffee - Medium Roast 37 oz. ONLY \$4.99
Salad Olives 10 oz. ONLY 49¢	Pringles Roasted Garlic & Parmesan 5.5 oz. ONLY 69¢	Peppermint Bark Ground Coffee 16 oz. ONLY \$1.59
Grated Parmesan Cheese 8 oz. ONLY \$1.89	Skippy Peanut Butter 25 lbs. ONLY \$28.99	Extra Virgin Olive Oil 2 liter ONLY \$9.89
Dill Pickle Spears 26 oz. ONLY \$1.39	Marshmallows 10 oz. ONLY 59¢	Popcorn 5 lbs. ONLY \$3.89
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MERRILL FOTO NEWS

**Student of the Week**

This Week's Featured Student is **Piper VanLieshout**  
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John and Katie VanLieshout  
Piper is in the 2nd grade at Kate Goodrich Elementary School. She was nominated by Ms. Ashley Plish.

**What is your favorite subject in school? Why?**  
My favorite subject in school is Math because I love numbers and they go on forever.

**What is your favorite part of school? Why?**  
Math class because it is fun and we get to solve fun problems.

**What would you like to do/become someday? Why?**  
I want to be a math teacher because I really love math.

Piper is very positive and always has a smile on her face. She continues to work very hard and always tries her best. Piper is helpful, responsible, and a great leader in the classroom. She is always respectful and kind to her classmates. Keep up the fantastic work, Piper!  
- Ms. Ashley Plish

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# Merrill Police and Fire Departments benefit from Race to the Taps

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

The Sawmill Brewing Company's 5th Annual Race to the Taps 5K event on Sept. 11, 2021, "was our most successful one yet, as we had over 300 participants!" said Zach Kubicek, co-owner of the Sawmill Brewing Company. That attendance was in large part due to the family-friendly activities and the 2-Mile Family Walk, in addition to the traditional 5K run. It may also have been because it fell on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and because this particular event earmarked proceeds to go to local Fire/EMS and Police programs.

"We raised \$10,000, which we split between the Merrill Fire Department for a behavioral health training and the Merrill Police Department for their K9 unit!" Kubicek said.

"It takes a crew to put on a community event like this, and I would like to thank our amazing staff and volunteers that made it happen," he added. "It would not have



**Left:** Zach Kubicek, co-owner of the Sawmill Brewing Company, presents a check for \$5,000 to Josh Klug, Merrill Fire Chief. The check represents one-half of the funds raised from the Race to the Taps 5K event on Sept. 11. **Right:** Corey Bennett, Merrill Police Chief, accepts a check for \$5,000 from Zach Kubicek, co-owner of the Sawmill Brewing Company. The check represents one-half of the funds raised from the Race to the Taps 5K event on Sept. 11.

**Submitted photos.**

been possible without all of the countless hours spent leading up to, and on, race day."

"Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual Race to the Taps on Sept. 10, 2022," Kubicek added.

## Public invited to take part in MAPS Great Speaker Event

### Youth speaker Brad Hurtig to present at Middle and High Schools on October 18

MERRILL, Wis. — The Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) will welcome popular youth speaker Brad Hurtig to the District Oct. 18, and local community members are invited to attend.

The event is part of the Merrill Great Speaker Forum, a 42-year-old program that brings in high-quality speakers to present to MAPS middle school and high school students on a yearly basis.

The Great Speaker Forum Committee consists of community members, School District personnel and students. The last time the Committee met, the following students participated on the committee: Evelyn Blennert, Dawson Dengel, Ben Freyer, Emily Hanson, Ahna Meyer, Logan Seeger and Josh Watzka. The students researched potential speakers and ultimately made the decision based on the relevancy of the message the speaker brings to the students. Students serve on the committee beginning in sixth grade and remain active through their Senior year. Community members

serving on the Committee are Renea Frederick, Lynne Reindl, Sarah Sturm and Jay Tlusty.

Brad was originally set to speak to students in the Spring of 2020, but had to be rescheduled due to COVID safety measures. "We are pleased to welcome Brad as this year's Great Speaker Forum presenter," said Dr. John Sample, Superintendent of MAPS. "We encourage members of the community to attend and witness the value our outstanding guest speakers bring to our students."

Brad Hurtig was a student-athlete in a small town in Northwest Ohio. Only days after finishing his Sophomore year of high school, a devastating accident resulted in the amputation of both of Brad's hands. Through hard work and determination, Brad soon rejoined his high school football team. In his senior year, Brad led his team defense, recording 111 tackles and received all-state honors all while playing with no hands. Brad's inspirational story of triumph quickly captured national headlines. (Source - bradhurtig.com)

Since 1978, the Merrill Great Speaker Forum has attracted numerous engaging speakers to the School District, focusing on subjects like self-esteem, self-

worth, dignity of person, pride in self, goals and achievement, patriotism, and coping with societal problems like drug abuse and teen pregnancy. The series is completely funded by donations from throughout the Merrill business community, with individual contributions, ranging from \$25 to \$1,000.

The last time the Committee did fundraising, the following individuals and businesses donated funds to pay for this year's speaker: CoVantage Credit Union, \$250.00; Ron & Kay Nicklaus, \$200.00; Gerald & Charmaine Whitburn, \$100.00; Don & Judy Evans, \$100.00; Kiwanis Club of Greater Merrill, \$100.00; Merrill Teachers Association, \$100.00; Reindl Printing, \$100.00; Weinbrenner Shoe Company, \$100.00; Park City Credit Union, \$100.00; Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 584, \$100.00; Gress

Chiropractic Clinic, \$100.00; Schmitt Manecke Donner Auxiliary Post #1638, \$50.00; Ladies Auxiliary #584, \$50.00; Riverside Athletic Club, \$25.00; Dr. Ronald Piffl, \$25.00; Jay & Maxine Tlusty, \$25.00; Gleason Area Lions Club, Inc., \$25.00; Oakpark Dental, \$25.00; Hugo's Pizza, \$25.00; and, Center Attractions, \$25.00.

"We continue to appreciate the support the Great Speaker Forum has received from local businesses and members of the community," said Dr. Sample. "Our partnership with the community is vital, and we thank you for supporting our students!"

This year's Great Speaker Forum will take place Monday, Oct. 18, in the Prairie River Middle School at 9:00 a.m. and then at the Merrill High School Fieldhouse at 1:00 p.m.

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### Ethyn Greg Nowack

joined the United States Marine Corp June 6, 2021. He graduated from Basic Training on September 10, 2021 at Marine Corps Recruiting Depot in San Diego, CA. He is starting his career in Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Specialist training at Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, TX. He is the son of Greg and Kellie Nowack.

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## | OBITUARIES |



**Lloyd 'Bud' Schmitz**, 95, Merrill passed away on Friday, October 1, 2021, at Our House Assisted Living, Wausau.

He was born August 12, 1926, in Tomahawk, son of the late Adam and Elsie (Heiser) Schmitz. Bud attended Whittier School in Tomahawk and then moved to Merrill. Bud graduated from Merrill High School prior to enlisting in the United States Navy in 1944.

He was honorably discharge in 1946. On June 24, 1950, Bud married Grace Neumann at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill. She preceded him in death on May 7, 2001.

In 1949, Bud bought the Rapid Delivery Service then expanded to City Transfer which he ran for 17 years. After that, he drove semi-truck for 16 years for Northern Door and Semco Co. He then drove school bus for Wendorf Bus Service for 17 ½ years. After driving school bus, Bud drove for Meals on Wheels until he suffered a minor stroke.

Some of Bud's favorite pastimes included bowling, spending time at their cottage on Lake Nokomis, deer hunting, which he did until 2010. After he was discharged from the Navy, he became a member of VFW Post 1638 - Merrill. He was a life member of both the VFW and the honor guard. He served three years as post commander and many state assignments.

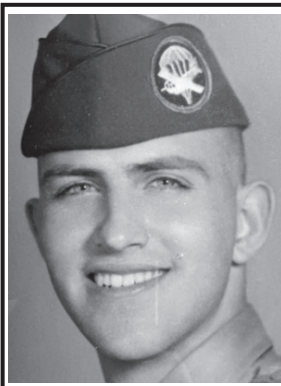
In 1970, Bud and several friends started the Merrill Polka Festival drawing thousands of Polka lovers to Merrill. One of the biggest bands they drew was Father Kapoun Band. Bud also did several Polka shows on the local radio.

Survivors include his children, Gary Schmitz, Merrill and Sandy (Robert 'Skip') Schulz, Ontanogan, MI, special friend and loving companion, Donna Grell, three grandchildren, Tanya (Jason) Kleinschmidt, Tammy (Adam) Haugen, Theresa Blake, seven great grandchildren, Amber (Bryce) Dombroski, Michael Kleinschmidt, Matthew (Stephanie) Kleinschmidt, Tate and Aidan Haugen and Adalyn and Bentley Blake, and four great great grandchildren, Madison and Owen Dombroski and Isabelle and Oaklynn Kleinschmidt.

Bud was preceded in death by his wife, Grace; his parents, Adam and Elsie Schmitz; his daughter-in-law, Barbara Schmitz; a great-great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Dombroski; two brothers, Lyle Schmitz and Marvin Schmitz; and one sister, Lucille Jost.

Funeral services were held at 12:00 p.m., Noon, Friday, October 8, 2021, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill. The Rev. Adam Rodriguez officiated. Burial took place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery, where full military honors were conducted. Following the burial, a lunch was served at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill. Visitation was held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 7, 2021, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill, and again on Friday from 11:00 a.m. until the time of services at the church.

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



**Charles 'Chuck' Troupe**, age 79, met his Lord on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. He was born on August 29, 1942, to the late Mark and Renee Taloums-Troupe in Goshen, Indiana. Later, he and his mother moved to Pennsylvania where Chuck attended high school and eventually joined the US Army and served as a paratrooper, after being honorably discharged. He met and fell in love with Patricia Elaine

Pearce. They eloped to west Virginia and exchanged wedding vows on May 29, 1964. They later started a family and had two sons and a daughter; Chuck loved his family immensely.

Chuck and Elaine were team cross country semi drivers for 20 years. The couple enjoyed competitive dancing, bowling, and traveling by motorcycle. He also achieved his instrument rating pilots license. In his free time also enjoyed drag racing his Camaro! After about 15-20 years they moved to Arizona and later resided in California.

He embraced his love with his family, as he often spent time with them camping resorts, fishing, picnics, and amusement parks. He encouraged his children to become athletic as he participated as a coach to his son's football teams and loved to play golf. He always enjoyed sports and was a Pittsburgh Steelers enthusiast! After retirement Chuck and Elaine traveled across the US and eventually ended up in Wisconsin. He is remembered as a fun-loving husband and father that meant the world to his family and will be dearly missed!

Chuck is survived by his loving wife Elaine, her brother Danny, his first-born son, Jeff, son Curt of Arizona, and daughter Michelle of California. Lastly, his four beautiful grandchildren, Desiree, Stephanie, Zachary, and Benjamin.

Per family request, no services will be held for Chuck.

Patricia Elaine wishes to give a heartfelt thank you to all her friends and family that helped her through this difficult time, and to Jeff and Anna for taking such good care of Chuck in the days leading up to his death.

If anyone would like to extend a burial benefit fund to the family, along with condolences, we encourage these to be made at the online address listed below.

Waid Funeral Home  
301 South Eagle Drive  
Merrill, WI 54452

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).



**Gladys F. Case**, age 97 of Merrill, passed away peacefully on Tuesday October 5, 2021. She was born August 11, 1924, to the late Michael and Genevieve (Slusarski) Ross. She graduated from St. Francis School in 1938 and then from Merrill High School in 1942. On October 23, 1943, Gladys married John Case at St Francis Church in Merrill.

Gladys was a member of AARP and a homemaker. She enjoyed traveling, playing cards, going to casinos, and above all her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Gladys and John made 6 trips to Australia to visit their daughter. They made many other trips that included Tahiti, New Zealand, Hawaii, Tasmania, and many Army Reunions around the United States. She was a lifelong member of St. Francis Church.

Gladys was preceded in death by her parents; Michael and Genevieve Ross, 8 brothers and sisters; Alex Ross, Paul Ross, Joe Ross, Alice (Leo) Duginski, Virginia (George) Eberhart, Mary Ann (Frank) Case, Janet (Clifford) Zortman, and an infant sister, husband; John Case, son; Raymond Case and daughter-in-law; Debra Case. Gladys was the last member of the Ross Family.

Gladys is survived by her daughters; Shirley (Dave) Schmidt of Wausau and Betty Ozols of Tongala Australia, 5 grandchildren; Robbin Schmidt, Lisa (Mike) Holen, Peter (Kim) Ozols, Elyce Ozols, and Jennifer Case, 5 great grandchildren; Ashley, Simon, & Julian Ozols, Cassandra (Adam) Schact, Zachary Schmidt, 3 step great grandchildren; Lisa Holen and Haley and Joe Hamilton and 1 great-great-grandchild; Liam Schact. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. It is with grieving hearts we say goodbye to a superb Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Great-Great-Grandmother, and Friend. Until we meet again.

A visitation was held in memory of Gladys at Waid Funeral home in Merrill Wisconsin the morning of Wednesday, October 13th, 2021, from 9:00 AM -10:45 AM. The Mass of Christian Burial followed at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at 11:00 AM with luncheon at the church following the interment at the St. Francis Catholic Cemetery. Father Maria Vallabhaneni officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Francis Church, Diabetes research, or the charity of your choice. The Mass will be live streamed and available for viewing at 11:00 AM under her obituary on the funeral home website. It will then be posted as a recording for future viewing.

Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at [www.waidfuneral.com](http://www.waidfuneral.com).

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



**Kenneth Krueger**, 85, died Monday, October 4, 2021, under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services at Bell Tower Residence, Merrill. Ken was born December 8, 1935, in Merrill, son of the late Reinhardt and Ella (Pruesser) Krueger. In 1962 he married Delores Fearheller who preceded him in death in 1989. On September 19, 1992, he married Dionne "Mitzi" Spears. She survives.

Ken enlisted in the United States Navy on January 11, 1955. He was honorably discharged on February 18, 1971. Ken worked as an electrician while serving in the Navy and was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1638, Merrill. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and anything that had to do with ships or nautical themed. Above all, he loved spending time with his grandchildren and family.

Survivors include his wife, Dionne "Mitzi" Krueger; sons, Bill (Melissa) Krueger, Russell Krueger, and Mark Rethaber; step-children, Mary Weissahahn, Cindy (Jim) Waldburger, and Brenda (Del) Nicholson; 13 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and 1 great great-grandchild.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Reinhardt and Ella Krueger; step son-in-law, Bill Weissahahn; step daughter-in-law, Janet Rethaber; siblings, Donald Krueger, Dorothy Hommerding, Janet Somi, and Leonard Krueger.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 9, 2021, at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. Michael Southcombe will officiate. Entombment will be in Merrill Memorial Park Mausoleum with graveside military rites conducted by V.F.W. Post 1638. Visitation will be Friday, October 8, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and again on Saturday beginning 10:00 a.m. all at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill.

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



**Barbara J. Klade**, age 83, of Merrill, passed away October 7, 2021 at Pine Crest Nursing Home under the care of Compassus Hospice. Barb was born on July 26, 1938 in Merrill to the late Lawrence and Martha Hope (Ward) Euler. She and William "Bill" Robert Klade were united in marriage on November 12, 1960. They just celebrated their 52nd anniversary before he passed on September 28, 2013.

Barbara graduated from Merrill High School. Over the years she worked at various factories. Barbara and Bill farmed together for many years. She enjoyed all sorts of crafts, liked to cook and especially enjoyed the Holidays. Barb absolutely loved her 6 grandkids and 12 great-grandkids and cherished time spent with them. She was a very fun loving person and enjoyed her flowers and gardening especially her sun flowers. She also enjoyed feeding the birds.

Barb was survived by her children: Billy Klade, Liane (Mark) Katzenberg, Deena (Tim) Rathbun and Justin (JoAnn) Klade; six grandchildren: Daniel (Jacqueline) Katzenberg, Lindsey (Ken) Roth, Michael (RaeAnne) Rathbun, Tiffany (Ken) Tupa, RJ (Samantha) Klade & Christi (Seth) Sczygelski; 12 great-grandkids; and three brothers: Willy, Jimmy, and Mark Euler. She was preceded in death by her husband, William "Bill" Klade, her parents, great-grandson, two brothers and one sister.

Donations may be made to the Lincoln County Humane Society in memory of Barbara Klade.

Funeral services for Barb will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at Waid Funeral Home. Rev. Mike Southcombe will officiate. Visitation will be from 4-8 PM Friday, October 15, 2021 and again from 10 AM until the time of service, Saturday, all at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Merrill Memorial Park. Waid Funeral Home and Cremation Service is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are appreciated and may be made at [www.waidfuneral.com](http://www.waidfuneral.com).

*Thank You*

We think it often but don't say it enough.  
Thank you to all clergy, for your contributions to our community.  
Your work truly is a blessing to us all.

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WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT. MATTHEW 25:21

### HERO from page 1

help was needed. He tried to flag down near-

by motorists, but when nobody would stop, he ran to a building close by and called 911. The Merrill Fire Department

responded and freed Senator Mary Strauss, who had been in the snow for over two hours with an outside temperature of 4 degrees.

Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma), then Rep. Felzkowski, originally nominated Michael for the award in 2019 for his selfless actions that had been deemed lifesaving. Nominations from legislators are submitted to Majority Leader Steineke (R-Kaukauna) for consideration and award winners are invited as a special guest to an Assembly floor session at the State Capitol.

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### OBITUARIES

## Trinity Lutheran Church Blood Drive



**Mary Ann Romatoski**, age 88, of Merrill, passed away on Thursday, October 7, 2021, at her residence. She was born on August 18, 1933, to the late Joseph and Jennie (Falkowski) Kleman in the town of Bevent in Marathon County. Mary graduated from Mosinee High School with the class of 1951. She met and married the love of her life, John B. Romatoski, and the two enjoyed 67 years together. They were married on May 22, 1954, in the town of Bevent.

Mary worked in the claims department at Church Mutual Insurance Company for 18 years. She received an Award for Academic Excellence as well as her Associate in Insurance Services Designation (AIS). Mary loved genealogy and would scrapbook everything! Her family will forever cherish those keepsakes. She also enjoyed bowling, speed reading (hundreds if not thousands of books), and enjoyed doing puzzles. Mary also liked brain teasers and playing card games with her grandchildren. She was very involved with her family and was so proud of them. Mary is remembered as a kind and giving lady, with a great sense of humor, and a strong faith in God. She was a member of the Homemakers Club in Mosinee, Gray Ladies, and St. Francis Catholic Church in Merrill. Mary will be lovingly remembered by her friends and family.

Mary is survived by her husband: John B. Romatoski, children: Larry (Julie) Romatoski, Jeff (Donnabelle) Romatoski, Patti ("Tiny") Clark, Ron (Jean) Romatoski, Rick (Heidi) Romatoski and Kurt (Christy) Romatoski, grandchildren: Mike (Carey), Scott (Melissa), Shawn, Becky (Bobbie), Zack, Kelsey, Michelle (Greg), Kim, Brent, Seth (Sara), Kelly, Trina (Paul), Bryce (Kara), Samantha (Nolan), Rachel (Trevor), Bailey, Taylor (Dominique), Emily (Brandon), Maddie and Trevor, 27 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandson, brother: Leroy Kleman, Jimmy (Debbie) Kleman, sister: Dolores Wanta and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers: Daniel and Eugene Kleman.

The funeral service for Mary will be held on Friday, October 15, 2021, at 12 noon at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill. Reverend Sue Smaalund will officiate. Visitation will be held on Friday, October 15, 2021, from 10am until the time of the service, also at the funeral home. Burial will immediately follow the service and take place at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, family requests that donations be made in Mary's name to the Merrill Food Pantry.

Special thanks to Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital in Merrill, for the care that they provided for Mary, especially Jennifer.

The service will be recorded and available under her 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).



**Marlene M. 'Marcie' Luedtke**, age 80, of Merrill, passed away on Sunday, October 10, 2021, at her home under the care of her loving family and hospice services.

Marcie was born July 6, 1941, in Merrill, daughter of the late George and Mabel Langbecker. She married Robert Luedtke on July 9, 1960. He preceded her in death in 1987. Marcie had been a homemaker and in home daycare provider. Marcie was a fan of both Elvis Presley and Danny O'Donnell. She enjoyed socializing with family and friends, attending the 4th of July parties at her brother Larry's home, babysitting, and watching the Green Bay Packers. Most of all, Marcie enjoyed the company of her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Marcie is survived by three daughters, Tammy (Jerry, Jr.) Harmon, Judy (Michael, Sr.) Pagel, and Tina Luedtke (Steve Frick), all of Merrill; one son, Norm (Linda) Luedtke of Merrill; eleven grandchildren, Sheila, Savanna, Duell, Andy, Samantha, Michael, Dustin, Derek, David, Allison, and Paige; thirteen great grandchildren, Landon, Brantley, Madelyn, Kaylynn, Jase, Lily, Dylan, Jackson, Mason, Drake, Dexter, Viktor, and William; and her siblings, Leila Marnholtz (Bert Poi, Jr), Karen (Jerome) Christian, and Myron 'Mike' (Jean) Langbecker, all of Merrill, and Rick Langbecker of Wausau. Besides her parents and husband, Marcie is preceded in death by her brother, Eugene Langbecker, her brother and sister-in-law Larry and Chris Langbecker, her brother-in-law, Louie Marnholtz, and sister-in-law, Karen Langbecker.

The Funeral will be at 11:00 AM Saturday, October 16, 2021, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill. The Rev. Adam Rodriguez will officiate. Burial will follow in Merrill Memorial Park, Merrill. Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM Saturday at the church. The Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com).

Marcie's family would like to thank the many people who provided care to their mother in her final days, especially Ann Berry and Karen Christian.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 107 N. State St. in Merrill, will hold a blood drive on Sunday, Oct. 17, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. While not required, advance registration is preferred to space donors out. To schedule your life-saving donation, please call Jean at 715.536.4715. This blood drive is held in partnership with The Community Blood Center.

## BIRTHS

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**  
Girl, Hazel Evalynn, born to Asheley Swanson of Merrill.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2021**  
Girl, Bear Phyllis, born to Beth Plisch and Brian Plisch of Athens.

### Craft, Gift & Bake Sale

BENEFITS THE LINCOLN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2021**  
9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Pine River Town Hall  
N1647 Deer Run Avenue  
Take Hwy. 64 East to Deer Run Ave.  
Turn Right on Deer Run to N1647  
Questions: Call 715-966-3545



MASKS REQUIRED

### In memory of Michael (Mike) Renken




It's hard to believe you are gone 1 year already. Your life was a blessing to all of us. Your memory a Treasure You are loved beyond Words When someone you love becomes a Treasure. Sadly missed and Loved by Chris and family Jenna and family Missy and family Mom and Dad Alan and family Pam and Bill And a wonderful friend Alice




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### BIRTH

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

Girl, Aria Kim, born to Stephanie Kufahl and David Moon of Stevens Point.

### LEGAL NOTICES

<b>Legals 7700</b>	<b>Legals 7700</b>
--------------------	--------------------

**BY THE COURT:**  
DATE SIGNED: October 11, 2021  
Electronically signed by  
Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar  
STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY  
Notice to Creditors  
(Informal Administration)  
Case No. 2021 IN 45  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
Brian J. Kingsley  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**  
1. An application for informal administration was filed.  
2. The decedent, with date of birth 11/19/1970 and date of death 09/09/2021, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of N2717 E. Shore Dr., Merrill, WI 54452.  
3. All interested persons waived notice.  
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 28, 2022.  
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.  
Sarah Ross  
1717 Plover St.  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-340-4561  
Published Oct. 14, 21 & 28, 2021  
WNAXLP

**DATE SIGNED:** September 29, 2021  
Electronically signed by  
Kim Uttech, Registrar in Probate  
Probate Registrar  
STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT,  
MARATHON COUNTY  
Notice Setting Time to Hear  
Application and Deadline  
for Filing Claims  
(Informal Administration)  
Case No. 21-IN-133  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
James S. Schult  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**  
1. An application for informal administration was filed.  
2. The decedent, with date of birth August 19, 1974 and date of death September 12, 2021 was domiciled in Marathon County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 14941 N. 4th Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452.  
3. The application will be heard at the Marathon County Courthouse, Wausau, Wisconsin, Room Probate, before Kim Uttech, Probate Registrar, on November 10, 2021 at 9AM.  
**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 5, 2022.  
5. A claim may be filed at the Marathon County Courthouse, Wausau, Wisconsin, Room Probate.  
6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.  
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.  
Attorney Katherine A. Young  
Anderson O'Brien, LLP  
1257 Main Street, P.O. Box 228  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(715) 344-0890 Bar Number 1087888  
Published Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 2021  
WNAXLP

**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. 2021IN39  
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

## MERRILL AREA CONCERT ASSOCIATION

### We're back!!! Four Fantastic Events!



Sunday, February 6th 2022  
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Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022  
**Kassia String Quartet with Mary Elizabeth Bowden**

A unique combination of string quartet and trumpet offers an interesting and classy sound with a program of classical favorites.



Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 2022  
**Crocodile Rockin' / Elton John Tribute by Jim Witter**

Ready - Steady - Go! Jim Witter's Crocodile Rockin' will take you for this rollicking romp through the wonders of Elton John and Bernie Taupin's unmatched catalogue of iconic musical hits.



Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**Veritas**

This powerful male vocal quintet bridges the gap between classical precision and popular culture. Enjoy Veritas as they perform legendary hits from Broadway to sacred, pop to classical, and opera to rock n'roll.

If "Covid" related circumstances cause the 2022 concert season to be disrupted or canceled, you may elect to donate to the association, or receive a credit toward a renewal of your membership fee to MACA for the following season.

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web: [MerrillConcerts.org](http://MerrillConcerts.org)

Out the CLASSIFIEDS

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We're excited to announce that Merrill area Ascension hospitals and clinics will begin using their Aspirus names on December 1, 2021.

Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital will become **Aspirus Merrill Hospital**  
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**3400 Ministry Pkwy, Weston, WI 54476**  
**(Entrance 1 off of Cranberry Boulevard)**

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**DINNER SPECIALS OCT.**

**TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
Oct. 19th - **Chicken Alfredo**  
Oct. 26th - **Meatloaf**  
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**  
Oct. 15th - **Catfish**  
Oct. 22nd - **Walleye**  
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM  
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**TRIVIA NIGHT**

Oct. 14th .... NO TRIVIA  
Oct. 21st ..... WI Sports  
Oct. 28th .... Halloween

Nov. 4th ..... Merrill History  
Nov. 11th .... Military

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**MONDAY** Fettuccine AYCE Spaghetti  
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**SUN BRUNCH BUFFET** 11am-3pm AYCE Adults \$12.99  
**THURSDAY** Chef's Choice Sandwich Special  
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# Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM  
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

## The Healer

(Available on most Streaming services)

★★★★☆

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**HALLOWEEN BINGO**  
**SATURDAY, OCT. 30TH**  
1pm  
More Details to Come!

Not rated, but suitable for the whole family.

Well, like so many others out there, due to the staffing shortages at my job, I had to go in and help out this weekend. So I wasn't able to hit the cinema to see a new film to review for you fine folks this week.

But since I am, and always will be, a movie buff, I still had a great one on deck to suggest to you.

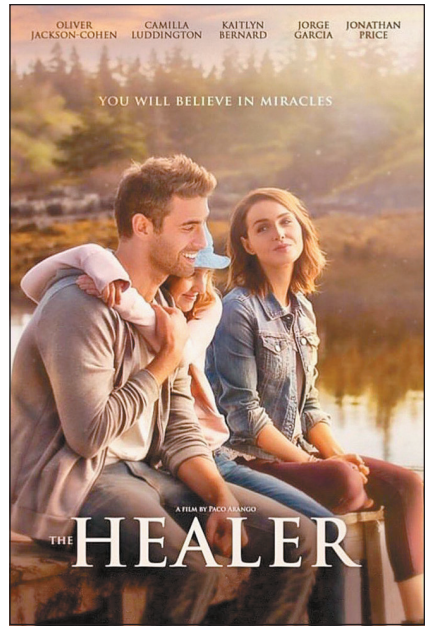
This week allow me to introduce you to a great little film that skimmed by briefly back in 2016: *The Healer*.

*The Healer* tells the story of Alec Bailey: a gambler, a womanizer, a man deeply in debt to the wrong sort of people, a man who is about to lose his business, and one who is adrift in his life. One day a man arrives in Alec's life, a man who claims to be his long lost Great Uncle and makes him an offer. He will clear all of Alec's debts on one condition: He must leave England for one year and live in the small town of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

After a not-so-gentle prodding from those a fore mentioned "wrong sort of people," Alec takes the offer.

From there, the story unfolds. It would be easy to assume this would be just another fish-out-of-water kind of story, but there is more to it than that. There is some romance, some quirky characters that move in and out of Alec's orbit, and just a little bit of magic – not too much mind you, but just enough to kindle our shared deep desire to believe there is still a little magic out there in this world.

Honestly, there are no big stars in this one. Sure, some familiar faces pop up, but that's all. It really is just not that kind of movie, and it's all the better for that lack of star power.



Four stars for this one – three because it's a film with decency, in an age when decency seems to be hard to come by, and I added the fourth because all proceeds from this film went to [and still go to] The Paul Newman Foundation for children with cancer.

\*By the time you read this, *Dune* will only be eight days from its release date. My ever-suffering wife longs for that day so I will just shut up about it already.

## 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:

Long ago a Man named Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee when he caught sight of two men named Simon Peter and Andrew. They had just cast their net into the water, for they were fishermen. Jesus called out to them, "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men!" Jesus did not say to them, "Drop that net and do what I say or I'll seize your possessions and have you punished!" Those men followed Jesus of their own free will because he was a Man of kindness, compassion, and leadership.

When I read the recent letter from the Holy Cross Sisters, I was shocked. The

current occupant of the Oval Office and his administration have displayed none of the qualities that Jesus had. That's why so many do not wish to trust or follow them. Many of these deceivers threaten us and openly mock God. They revel in perversions of all sorts. They fight for the right to have innocent children murdered. The experimental chemicals they say we must take have proven to be of dubious value. The ineffective masks they force us to wear ring with a symbolism of those who once wore the swastika armband. They fight to take our God given freedoms away. Perhaps the good Sisters should re-evaluate who they are really serving, Almighty God or Joe Biden. Thank you and God bless America.

-Jeffrey Krall, Merrill, Wis.

See **LETTERS** page 9

**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@mmlocal.com by Monday, Nov. 1.

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.

**WAUSAU AREA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION**

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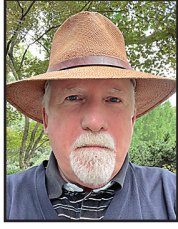


**PUBLISHER'S LETTER**

**The Purpose Of Time**

Dear Reader,

Lucius Annaeus Seneca the Younger – that's quite a name, isn't it. He was a great statesman and philosopher in ancient Rome, and he usually went by a shortened version of his name: Seneca. Around AD 49 he wrote



and water, shelter, medical care, etc. But for many of us, these needs are amply met, giving us precious time to "really live," as Seneca puts it. Ironically, while we guard our wallets and purses closely, we liberally dollop out large chunks of time on false ambitions and nothingness. When all is said and done, one must let go of the titles and trophies, let go of everything and surrender to the great darkness.

a book called "On The Shortness Of Life". In it he writes "The part of life we really live is small. For all the rest of existence is not life, but merely time."

What he seems to be saying is that in general, we have a decent amount of time to spend living but we sometimes don't invest it wisely. We're too busy trying to impress others by accumulating money and power. The trade-off is that there is little left in the day for ourselves.

The struggle for survival tends to focus one's attention on the basics: Food

and water, shelter, medical care, etc. But for many of us, these needs are amply met, giving us precious time to "really live," as Seneca puts it. Ironically, while we guard our wallets and purses closely, we liberally dollop out large chunks of time on false ambitions and nothingness. When all is said and done, one must let go of the titles and trophies, let go of everything and surrender to the great darkness.

The question then is, If these trinkets are not worthwhile, what is? That is a question each of us needs to decide for ourselves – but if we consider those we love, and the time we spend with them, it shouldn't be hard to find the answer.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
PUBLISHER

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

**LETTERS from page 8**

**To the Editor:**

Last week I tried to attend an Active and Aware Citizens (AAC) meeting at the T.B. Scott Library. It was a brainstorming session on how to spend tax payer dollars on a possible "Recovery Grant" for Merrill. NOWHERE in the email sent out did it mention masks would be required to attend, but the Library staff were quite insistent based on their policy.

This meeting should be considered discriminatory in that it was not held in a facility where ALL active and aware citizens could freely participate and the AAC should be looking for a different location to hold future meetings. It appears that based on policy or location, we now have entities telling us they really don't want ALL active and aware citizens to participate in this type of meeting; only those willing to comply with this level of government overreach in the first place. I'm sure any recommendations coming forth will be very one-sided.

While this may have been a simple oversight by the AAC group to inadvertently exclude citizens with different thoughts on the pandemic response, I feel it is a very slippery slope we are traversing as a society.

As to the library masking policy, the facility is funded by tax payer dollars. It should be freely and equally accessible to all citizens. I expect that it won't be long before one will need more than a library card to check out a book here!

- Extremely Frustrated Citizen  
LaDonna Fermanich, Merrill, Wis.

**To the Editor:**

**Re: The Concept "Stigma"**

Many times in history we have been imposed upon to say there is a stigma, and many times we have complied. Told to direct a stigma at rape, for generations we did, stopping when our consciousness was raised to the harm we were doing. For a brief and terrible time, we were instructed to direct that term at AIDS. Far too many of us complied. Before we stopped, far too many people died.

Today we are being urged to direct that same prejudice at mental health issues, and again, far too many of us are complying, far too many people are being hurt. It is time to stop again. Personally and editorially, it is time to stop.

- Harold A Maio, retired mental health editor, Ft. Myers, Fla.

**To the Editor:**

Three years ago, the GOP in Madison failed to eliminate the office of Treasurer in a landslide of voter protest. Now, they are trying to remove the citizens voice in choosing our own government. They have proposed "eliminating elections" for three positions they wish to control. Rep. Sortwell, co-author, claims they are "not eliminating anything" with their proposal to eliminate elections. They want these elected positions to become Cabinet appointments which GOP legislators would have the power to approve or deny. This is an attempt to eliminate your right to vote. The GOP wants to take away your choice and make it theirs. Sen. Roth, co-author, stated, "We are

See **LETTERS** page 15

# Dave's

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**Pork Spare Ribs**

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Noon on October 20, 2021

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October 19, 715-536-0311

Beef Tips w/Mushrooms

Noodles

Carrots

Diced Pears

Fudgy Black Bean Brownie

Anyone age 60 or older (their spouse or domestic partner who dines with them) is welcome. Suggested Contribution \$3.75. No Eligible person is denied a meal due to inability to contribute.



# CLASSIFIEDS

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Fax: 715-539-3686

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# Lady Jays host Volleyball Tournament, Losee breaks school record

On Saturday, Oct. 9, the Merrill Varsity Volleyball Team won their home Conference Tournament match against Wausau East Lumberjacks by a score of 3-1. That same day they also lost their match against the D.C. Everest Evergreens by a score of 3-1.

During the Tournament, #8 Olivia Losee broke a school record, serving eight aces in a single match!

On Oct. 7, the Lady Jays won their home match against Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln Red Raiders by a



On Oct. 9, 2021, Olivia Losee broke a school record, serving 8 aces in a single match. Congratulations, Olivia!

Source: Merrill Volleyball Facebook page



The Merrill Girls celebrate a small victory in the game against D.C. Everest. While the Evergreens would ultimately win the match, the Bluejays had some great high points, as well. Joseph Frederick photo.

score of 3-2.

“Last night Varsity had an exciting win over WI Rapids!” the team’s Facebook page said on Oct. 8. “It was also Staff Appreciation Night! We have so much love for our teachers and staff that support our players on and off the court - thank

you all for all that you do!”

The Merrill Girls Volleyball Team is now 21-10 overall, with a .68 win percentage. In the League, they are running 6-2, currently running third in the Wisconsin Valley Conference.

# Merrill Bluejays Tennis season wraps up at Sectionals

“Merrill’s #1 Doubles team of Tessa Wheat/Amelia Skoviera lost to Eau Claire Memorial’s Kimberly Harvey/Katie Rentzepis 6-0, 6-0 today,” said Merrill High School Girls Tennis Coach, Brad Barton, on Wednesday, Oct. 6. “We drew the 1 seed and perennial powerhouse Eau Claire Memorial. They were the best team Amelia and Tessa met this year. Amelia tried to match them with her power groundstrokes and serves. Tessa tried to match them with her length and quickness at the net, but experience outlasted Merrill in the end.”

“Tessa and Amelia had a great season though, finishing with 11-8 record,” he said.

This concludes Merrill’s season.

# Merrill Bluejays take a hit from the Rhinelander Hodags

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

In the Friday night, Oct. 8, football game, the Merrill Bluejays headed to Mike Webster Stadium in Rhinelander to take on the Rhinelander Hodags. Rhinelander scored two touchdowns in the first quarter and another two in the second, leading against Merrill 28 to 0 at halftime. Rhinelander picked up another touchdown in each of the next two quarters, making a clean sweep against Merrill by game end.

“The Bluejays dropped a game Friday night against a tough opponent up in Rhinelander,” Head Merrill Football Coach Jason Wadzinski said. “The Hodags ground attack was formidable and difficult to slow down. After going down early, the Merrill defense stiffened up in the second half, but couldn’t overcome the deficit. Bailey Turenne and Erik Mann had interceptions in the game for the Bluejays, and Brian Ball also put together a nice game defensively.”

Bluejay top players for the game were #5 Bailey Turenne with 51 pass yards, #25 Nathan Brzoznowski with 15 rush yards, and #3 Bradyn Pieper with 24 receiving yards.

“Merrill will look to rebound this Friday at home against Medford,” Wadzinski said. “If Merrill can squeeze out one more victory, they will be on the play-off bubble with a chance of continuing on. Friday night in Merrill will be Senior Night as well as the ‘Tackle Cancer’ fundraiser and awareness game. The Bluejays will be sporting pink special home jerseys for the event.”

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Merrill High School Junior, **Brian Ball**, has been named Athlete of the Week. Brian is the running back and outside line backer on the Merrill Varsity Football Team. He has been playing football since elementary school and made the Varsity team as a Sophomore. Brian also started wrestling in Pre-K and joined the Bluejay Varsity Wrestling Team as a Freshman. In addition, he runs Track and Field, which he started in middle school, and he made Varsity his Sophomore year. At school, Brian is a member of the Link Crew, National Honor Society, LEAD, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He belongs to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and is a member of the St. Francis Youth Group. He also works part time at Dave’s County Market. An avid athlete, Brian enjoys playing sports even in his free time and also likes to golf, go fishing with friends, and hang out with family.

The son of Tom and Mary Ball of Merrill, Brian has a 3.7 GPA and plans to attend college for Business and Finance after high school.



Brian Ball

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The Merrill Boys gave it their all but Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln had the upper hand in the game. Source: Merrill Bluejay Soccer Facebook.

## Merrill Bluejay Boys Soccer Team holds Senior Night/Teacher Appreciation Night

On Tuesday, Oct. 5, at the last home game of the season, the Merrill Bluejay Boys Soccer Team held a Senior Night and Teacher Appreciation Night prior to their game against Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln. Some of the team's favorite teachers were recognized. Then Class of 2022 Seniors Wyatt Grosskurth, Michael Nofsinger, Matthew Rydeski, and Edwin "Eddie" Moore, along with Manager Olivia Stevenson, were recognized mid-field.

The Merrill Boys Soccer Team traveled to Medford on Monday, Oct. 11, to take on the Red Raiders. They scored one goal but the Red Raiders were on top of their game



A scene from the Merrill Varsity Soccer Team home conference game against Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln. Source: Merrill Bluejay Soccer Facebook.

and came up with eight.

### Box Score

Merrill 1 @ Medford 8.

The Merrill Varsity

Soccer Team played hard but lost their home conference game against Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln by a score of 10-0.

### LETTERS from page 9

giving the choice to the people," as he proposed legislation that will take the choice away from the people.

Listen to their words. Both Rep. Sortwell and Sen. Roth claim they are "not eliminating anything" and "are giving voters a choice" as they propose legislation eliminating elections and taking away your choice. They stand in public and say this with a straight face. Apparently, they are quite confident in

the gullibility of their constituents.

This would affect every voter in the state, regardless of viewpoint. The GOP has tried, and failed, to challenge the legitimacy of elections. That didn't work. Now, they are trying to eliminate the elections entirely so that they don't even need to challenge the results.

Madison conservatives consistently work to dismantle the system by which we are governed. They should be able to lie better.

- Doug Curtis, Gleason, Wis.

## 2021 Merrill High School Fall Sports Schedule

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

Thursday, Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Medford (JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Friday, Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Medford (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Monday, Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Medford (JV)	Away	5:30 pm

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

Thursday, Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Marshfield (JV & JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Marshfield (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm

### Boy Soccer (Varsity & JV)

Thursday, Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	4:00 pm
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### Cross Country (Varsity & JV)

Saturday, Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Meet-Nine Mile (Varsity)	Away	10:00 am
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### Swimming (Varsity & JV)

Thursday, Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Wausau East (Varsity & JV)	Away	5:30 pm
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Please go to [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org) for latest up to date playoff schedules.

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



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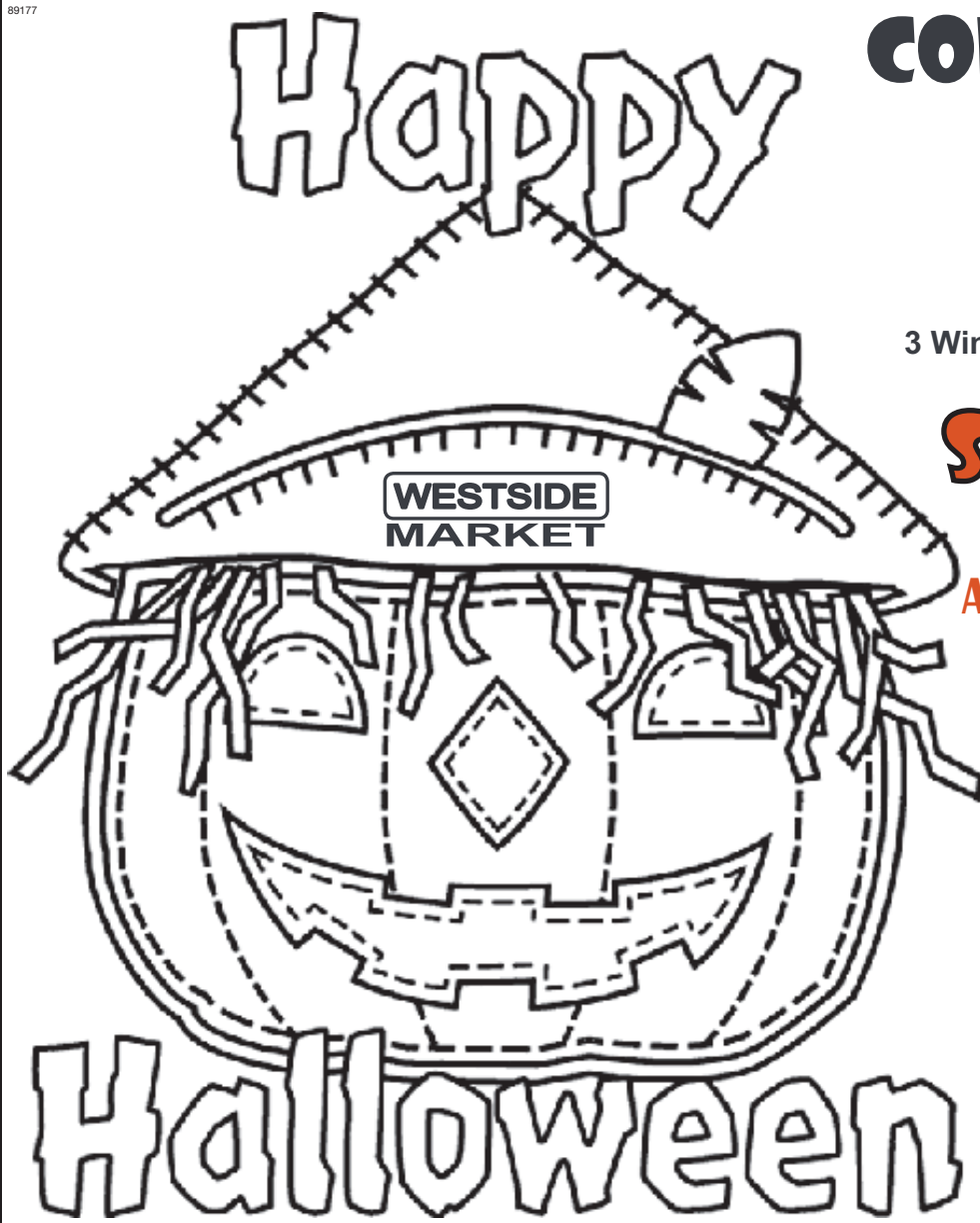
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