

Woman rescued from apartment fire

Multiple families and a business displaced, one pet dies

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Neighbor calls 911

In the wee hours of the morning on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021, Jessica Mahn was asleep in her bed. "My dog kept going up and down off the bed and nudging me," Mahn said. "I assumed she had to go to the bathroom, so I took her outside."

That's when she looked to her left and saw flames and smoke shooting out of an apartment building just half a block away. Mahn said she didn't hear any sirens. Instead, she heard crackling and "instantly called 911." Seconds afterward she heard sirens and "heard someone screaming from there."

"I was in a panic," Mahn said.

See **FIRE** page 7



Merrill Fire Department and surrounding agencies fought a fire in the 200 block of E. 2nd St. in Merrill, that began in the stairwell of one apartment building and spread to the adjacent apartment building in the early morning hours of Nov. 30, 2021.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Fire Department.

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Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas



The lack of snow at Saturday evening's Christmas parade made it a lot easier to ride a unicycle for this elf.



Santa Claus, riding atop Merrill Fire Department Engine 63, was the highlight of the parade for area children.
Rose Skic photos.



At the Lincoln County Fair, visitors can see real pigs. At the Christmas Parade, visitors can see pigs that light up and ride on Christmas floats.



Some parade floats were lit with hundreds of lights, others carried employees, family, and friends ringing in the season, and many featured both.
See more photos on page 2

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CHRISTMAS PHOTOS
from page 1

Merrill's Annual Christmas Parade is a magical awe-filled experience for many of the area's youngest parade-goers.



Christmas is for kids ... and so is a Christmas Parade ... for kids from 1 to 99 ... **Rose Skic photos.**



A red classic convertible makes a perfect entry in the Christmas Parade, decked out in holiday decor and filled with smiling faces from Merrill's Sunset Hollow Ranch.

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Christmas Hymn Sing
EVERYONE WELCOME!
Friday December 17th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Join us for an evening of worship - a capella singing, a message, and refreshments.
Hosted by the Gleason Mennonite Church
Location: the Gleason Community Lions' Park
N5179 Bradley Street, Gleason, WI 54435



Snowmobilers can't always count on a lot of snow for riding, but a snowmobile float in the Christmas Parade can count on showcasing lots and lots of Christmas lights.



It's not everyday the Merrill community sees Uncle Sam riding by in a giant bubble, but this float in Merrill's Christmas Parade combined the holiday season with a tribute to the red, white, and blue.



Merrill's Annual Christmas Parade included some floats with community members as an integral part of their float to celebrate the season.



Riding on a Christmas float that shoots fire into the night air is one way to stay warm during the Christmas Parade.

DELI SPECIALS

- Muenster Cheese **\$3⁹⁹** lb.
- Hickory Smoked Bacon **\$5⁸⁹** lb.
- NEW! Poppy Seed Butter **\$3⁹⁹** lb.
- Double Smoked Bone-in Hams **\$3⁸⁹** lb.
- Whole Smoked Turkeys **\$4²⁹** lb.

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SANTA AT THE FIREHOUSE!

Saturday, December 11th • 1pm - 4pm

Pine River Volunteer Fire Department
N1622 Rangeline Rd., Merrill

- Enjoy Light Refreshment & Visit With Santa
- Take Your Own Pictures On Site.
- Sign Up To Win One Of Two Gifts.
- Each Child Gets A "Swag Bag" Filled With Fire Safety Info, Coupons & Last Minute Gift Ideas For The Adults.

Sponsored By Pine River Volunteer Fire Dept.

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

December hours:
Dec 9 thru Dec 18th • Thursdays - 9 AM to 2 PM
Fridays - 9 AM to 2 PM • Saturdays - 9 AM to 2 PM
Thursday, Dec 23 - 9 AM to 2 PM
Friday, Dec 24 - 9 AM to 12 PM
Closed from Dec 25th thru January 5, 2022.

"Have a Very Merry Christmas Season!"

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Thick Sliced Hickory Smoked Bacon - Frozen 64 oz. ONLY \$12⁹⁹	Columbian Ground Coffee Medium 24.5 oz. ONLY \$3⁹⁹	Sliced Cheddar Sharp American Cheese 5 lbs. ONLY \$6⁸⁹
Hams Deli Style Smoked & Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY \$1⁶⁹ a lb.	Hawaiian Fruit Punch 1 gallon ONLY \$1⁵⁹	Co-Jack Cheese Horns 13 lbs. ONLY \$1⁹⁹ a lb.
Pork Chops - 2nds Seasoned-Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY \$12⁹⁹	Cherry Juice - NSA 48 oz. ONLY \$1⁷⁹	Swiss Cheese Sliced ONLY \$2²⁵ a lb.
Italian Meatballs Frozen 14 oz. ONLY \$1⁹⁹	Organic Honey Graham Crackers 14.4 oz. ONLY 69¢	Sliced American Cheese 8 oz. ONLY 75¢
Graham Toasters Cereal 12 oz. ONLY 89¢	Original Pretzel Splitz 11 oz. ONLY 69¢	Cream Cheese 35 oz. ONLY 99¢
Honey Almond or Cranberry Almond Cereal 15 oz. ONLY 89¢	Doritos Roulette Nacho Chips- Maybe Hot Maybe Not! 9 oz. ONLY 99¢	Cherry Pie or Berry Shortcake Ground Coffee 11 oz. ONLY 49¢
Chocolate Lucky Charms Cereal 19 oz. ONLY 99¢	Organic Brown Basmati Rice 32 oz. ONLY 69¢	Anniversary Blend Whole Bean Coffee 5 lbs. ONLY \$5⁸⁹
Trail Mix Granola Bars 6.7 oz. ONLY 49¢	Light Tuna In Water 43 oz. ONLY \$2⁸⁹	Seattle's Best Portside Ground Coffee 18/2 oz. ONLY \$1⁸⁹
Corn Chex Cereal 12 oz. ONLY \$1⁴⁹	Stove Top Stuffing - Sage 6 oz. ONLY 79¢	Mini Marshmallows 32 oz. ONLY \$1²⁹

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Mitten Tree at Miller Home Furnishings warms area children for 40 years

Hull hands the reins over to Hass after 40-year-run

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

For 40 years, Miller Home Furnishings in Merrill has been home to the Mitten Tree, a Christmas tree that displays mittens, hats, scarves and socks donated by the community for distribution to area children through the schools. New hats, mittens, scarves, and socks that are knit, crocheted, sewn, or purchased can be brought to the Mitten Tree and hung on its evergreen branches at Miller Home Furnishings, 120 N. Prospect St., in Merrill during normal business hours and donations are currently being accepted.

As the tree's branches fill with donations, the Mitten Tree coordinator will take the items to area schools so teachers can distribute them as they see a need, ensuring children in the Merrill community will be warm this winter.

"Warm their hands, warm your heart," Sandy Hull, who has been the Mitten Tree coordinator for these past 40 years, likes to say.

Originally sponsored by Merrill's West Side Merchants and Wally Smith, owner of Miller Home Furnishings, the Mitten Tree was Hull's pet project. "39 years ago, I actually had a Girl Scout Troop, and I got into the Mitten Tree, and one of the ladies stepped forward and suggested the Scouts make the posters to promote it," Hull explained. Merrill Area Girl Scouts, including Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Scouts, helped make posters to publicize the Mitten Tree and the need for donations throughout the community this year, and the Girl Scouts have been making the posters since the project first began.

"Since it's such a whole community project, it's just really good for the girls to be one sisterhood," said Jessica Murray, one of the Merrill area's Girl Scouts troop leaders, who helped organize the Girl Scouts' collection of hats, mittens, socks, and scarves from area troops and the poster making this year.

"For this project, it is Merrill area Girl Scouts

See **MITTEN TREE** page 17



Some of the Merrill area Girl Scouts met up at Miller Home Furnishings to decorate the Mitten Tree with collected mittens, hats, socks, and scarves, and to showcase some of the posters they created to publicize this year's tree as they kick off this year's Mitten Tree collection event. Girl Scouts pictured, from L to R, front row: Brielle Dorger, Makenzie Badeau, Linzie Pankow, and Tenley Badeau; back row: Paige Spoehr, Lily Allen, Chloe Carstensen, Evie Murray, Spirit Parratta, and Kelsey Pankow. Adults on the right: Jessica Murray, Merrill area Girl Scout troop leader; Sandy Hull, 40-year Mitten Tree coordinator; and Steve Hass, 30-year employee of Miller Home Furnishings and new Mitten Tree coordinator. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

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108503	Giabatta Rolls Gluten Free , 7 oz.....	\$1.70
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John Piotrowski

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Sunday, December 12 • 8:00 am
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55" QN55QN90AAF	Retail \$1,999.99	\$1,699.00
55" QN55QN70AAF	Retail \$1,599.00	\$1,270.00
55" QN50QN80AAF	Retail \$1,599.00	\$1,285.00
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M/W/F 13th, 15th, 17th 8 am - 7 pm

M/W 20th, 22nd 8 am - 7 pm

Sat., 11th, 18th 9 am - 2 pm

Christmas Eve..... 9 am - 2 pm

OBITUARIES



Nila Arlene Koeller, 88, died Thursday, December 2, 2021 under the care of Compassus Hospice at the House of Dove, Marshfield.

She was born December 30, 1932 daughter of the late Edward and Esther (Weise) Hoge. She was raised on the family farm outside of Athens, attended Trinity Lutheran School all 8 grades and then Athens High School. Nila was baptized, confirmed and married all at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens. On June 30,

1951 she married Frank Koeller and he preceded her in death on December 20, 2020.

Nila's first job was at Athens Drug Store until marriage and after having 4 children she worked for 2 years at Hansen Glove Factory and then at the Athens Co-Op for 38 years. She was a member of the Athens Old Timers Band, Trinity choir, the VFW Auxiliary, Red Hatters and a bowling league. She bowled 53 years in the pin busters. Nila also enjoyed making quilts, crafts and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Gerald, Karen (Joe) Weiler, Dale (Lynnette) Koeller and Sandra Koeller; special friend of the family Helen, 7 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, sisters, Violet (Roland) Golz and Luann Thurs.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister and brother-in-law, Norma and Sylvester Heier, and brother-in-law, Gordon Thurs.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 10, 2021 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens. Rev. Mark Schwalenberg will officiate. Burial will be in Salem Lutheran Cemetery, town of Hamburg. Visitation will be on Friday from 9:00 a.m. until the time of services all at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.petersonkraemer.com



Bruce E. Schield, age 69, of rural Merrill, passed away on Monday, November 29, 2021, at Froedtert Memorial Hospital in Menomonee Falls after a courageous battle fighting the Covid virus.

Bruce was born on May 17, 1952, in the Town of Scott, Lincoln County son of the late Edgar and Leona (Schult) Schield. He married Judine 'Judy' Kroll on July 21, 1979. She survives. Bruce was a 1970 graduate of Merrill Senior High School and had

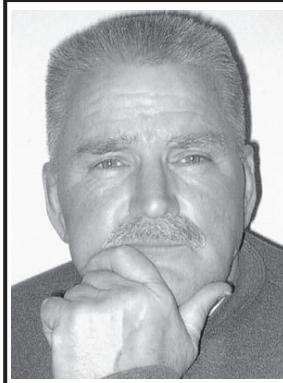
attended North Central Technical College. He was the manager of the former 'Western Store' in Merrill and had sold new and used cars for several years. At the time of his retirement, Bruce was a project manager for Menards in Antigo. Not one to sit idle in retirement, Bruce was currently working with Lange Auction Sales. Bruce was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. Bruce was well known in the community, active in his church, Faith Lutheran Church, Village of Maine and loved by his church family. At home Bruce loved to garden and he enjoyed sharing his harvest with family and friends. Bruce was an avid Packer fan and was proud to have attained season tickets after a long wait. He also enjoyed NASCAR.

Bruce is survived by his loving wife, Judy Schield of Merrill; two daughters, Sarah (Matt) Thomas of Chanhassen, Minnesota, and Kristen (John) Schefeldore of Merrill; two sons, John Thiel of Irma and Michael Thiel of Wausau; his grandchildren Ben, Madison, Nate, Owen, Katie, Brian, Terra, Jason, Jesse, Caryn, and ShyAnne; his great grandchildren Alphonse, Miles, Conner, Hanna, Lexi, Evalynn, Rosie, Anthony, Harrison, and Charlotte; his brother and sister in law, Dennis and VerJean Schield and their son, Brent, all of Tomahawk; and other relatives and friends including his cousin, Jeff Schult. Besides his parents, Bruce is preceded in death by a grandson, Mitchell Freund, and his cousin, James Schult.

The funeral for Bruce E. Schield was held at 1:00 PM Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at Faith Lutheran Church, Village of Maine, Marathon County. The Rev. Donald Love officiated. Burial followed in Faith Lutheran Church Cemetery West, Town of Scott, Lincoln County. Visitation began at 10:00 AM Wednesday, December 8th at the church.

The Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made to www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested that memorial donations be directed to Faith Lutheran Church or the charity of your choosing.



Robert Feiner was born to Lilian and Henry Feiner on November 26, 1940 in St. Paul MN and died at the age of 81 on December 3rd of 2021, in his home, of Covid. He was the second to the youngest son, in a family of seven.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father, and four brothers; Larrance, Henry, Joe, and Rich; one sister, Corrine and a daughter Doreen.

Surviving him is his wife, Karen of Dorchester; brother Jack Feiner (Pam) of St Paul MN, four children Jay (Dawn) Feiner of St. Paul, MN, Matt Feiner of Colby WI, Dan Feiner of Dorchester WI, and Heather Goldman (Dan) from Mass. He is further survived by 15 Grandchildren and 20 Great-Grandchildren.

Bob graduated from Johnson High School in St Paul MN in 1959, and took, two years of schooling for welding. For his work he traveled around the U.S. and Canada.

He loved his job of welding; he welded on Water tower's, storage tanks, and Nuclear power plants. Through the years, he worked for American Hoist, Chicago Bridge and Iron. PDM, Heely Ruff Corp. In the year 1972 he became one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Then in 1982, he married his wife Karen, so, he began to work locally, so he could stay home. He had jobs at J.I. Case and Merrill Iron and Steel. He retired in 1990, from his welding career. To start a career that allowed him to use his welding skills, to work for Jehovah's Witnesses, not only locally but also in foreign countries, on many building projects, and to use his time to help others to learn about Jehovah in the door-to-door ministry, and conducting Bible studies with interested ones.

He also loved to hunt, do wood working projects, and building many things, like different types of bird houses, and he was known for painting many things (Feiner blue). He was a man who liked people, he would talk to anyone he met, he would always help his neighbors, any way he could.

Family and friends may express condolences online at www.maurinaschilling.com.



Barbara Jean 'Barb' Spoehr, age 63, of Merrill, passed away on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Barb was April 13, 1958, in Merrill, daughter of the late Lester and Doris (Mattson) Freund. She married Greg Spoehr on October 25, 1997. He survives. Barb had been a school bus driver for Wendorf Bus Service in Merrill for 18 years. She also assisted her husband Greg with his tax service business. Barb enjoyed

baking and cooking, especially around Christmas her favorite time of the year. She also enjoyed canning and flower gardening. Barb's family was especially important to her. She adored her nieces and nephews, and the annual 4th of July Family Fireworks was always a special event in her life.

Barb is survived by her husband, Greg Spoehr; three sons, Allen (Karen) Spoehr, Patrick (Julia) Spoehr, and Jason (Holly) Spoehr; three grandchildren; her siblings, Brian (Peggy) Freund, Peggy Klammer, Alice (Terry) Prueser, Sally (Louis) Yellstrom, DeeDee Freund, Janet Wardall, and Lucy Callahan; and her beloved nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, Barb is preceded in death by three brothers-in-law, Wayne Klammer, Jesse Callahan, and Lee Wardall; and a nephew, Mitchell Freund.

Barb's memorial service will begin at 6:00 PM Saturday, December 11, 2021, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. The Rev. David Szeto will officiate. Visitation for family and friends will held from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM on Saturday, December 11th at the funeral home. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com.



Rose Marie (Luedtke) Plautz, 85, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on December 4, 2021 under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice at Bell Tower Residence in Merrill. Rose was born March 15, 1936 in the township of Berlin. Rose attended grade school at Adams School-Town of Berlin. She graduated from Wausau High School in 1954. Rose married Arthur Plautz on January 14, 1956. Was employed at Merrill Candy until

her marriage and then became a stay at home mom. Rose was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill and a member of the Ladies Aid. Rose enjoyed playing cards and trips to the casino. She also enjoyed watching Wisconsin sports especially the Packers and Brewers. Rose was an avid reader and spent many hours at the library. She enjoyed daily lunches with her McDonald's group and an occasional dinner at the Loading Zone. Her favorite TV channels were Hallmark and the Game Show Network. Rose and Art enjoyed many trips touring the United States.

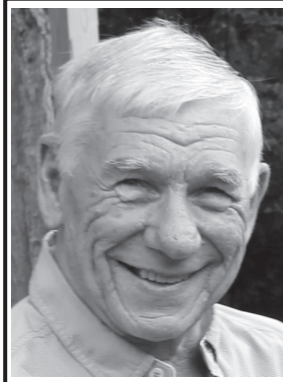
Rose Marie is survived by her twin sons, Bryan A. (Linda) Plautz of Merrill, WI and Bruce R. (Marcia) Plautz of St. Cloud, MN, grandchildren: Brandon (Jody) Plautz of St. Cloud, MN and Briana (Tina Weaver) Plautz of Kansas City, MO, great grandchildren: Aubrey and Kinzley Plautz of St. Cloud, MN, Kellyn and Quinn Plautz-Weaver of Kansas City, MO, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by husband, Arthur Plautz and sisters, Elvira (Ervin) Hoelt and Bernice (Norman) Wettrau.

Rose's family would like to thank the Bell Tower staff and Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice for the wonderful care given to their mother.

In lieu of flowers, please direct memorials to Trinity Church or Trinity radio broadcast. Rose listened to this all the time and it was a blessing for her to have it.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 11:00 am at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. A visitation will be held on Monday, December 13, 2021 from 9:00 am until the time of service also at the church. Interment at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.

Waid Funeral Home and Cremation Service is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are welcomed and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.



Donald August Winkelman, age 80, passed away on December 2, 2021. Don was born in Merrill to August and Martha Winkelman on October 14, 1941. He was received into God's kingdom of grace through the waters of Holy Baptism at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill, on November 15, 1941, attended Trinity School, and was confirmed at Trinity on April 3, 1955. He graduated from Merrill High School in 1960. He served three years in the Army National Guard, and was called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis of 1963. Tacoma, Washington was his home until 1981 when he moved to Togiak, Alaska, where he spent 21 years. In 1993, he met the love of his life, Kathy Yahr. They were married in Eagle River, Alaska in 2000. Upon his retirement as a charter boat captain and commercial fisherman in 2002, he returned to Merrill.

Don had a unique sense of adventure and love of the outdoors. He was a life member of the National, Alaska, and Wisconsin Trapper Associations. Hunting, fishing, camping, and trapping were not hobbies: they were passions. One of his proudest accomplishments was getting his pilot's license and acquiring a Cessna 180, which he used from 1989 until selling it in 2005. During the winter months, he put skis on the plane, and there always was a twinkle in his eye when he said, "Now the whole world is my airport." He built a trapping cabin in the Alaskan wilderness and spent several winters there. His charter boat service, "Don's Round Island Boat Tours," took visitors from around the world to an island 35 miles offshore to view and photograph walrus. Upon moving back to Wisconsin, Don was active in the Lincoln County Sports Club, serving for 15 years as a board member and vice-president. He taught Hunter Safety, Trapper Education, and Archery in the Schools, and mentored many young trappers and turkey hunters. From spring to fall, he could often be found fishing, especially on the Willow Flowage. His travels across the entire country were extensive, including traveling to Maine to eat lobster to the Grand Canyon and other National Parks, western hunting trips, NASCAR races, and visiting family from Washington to Florida.

Don is survived by his wife, Kathy, his 4 children, Ken (Leah) Winkelman, Bob (Kristy) Winkelman, Jeff (Shannon) Winkelman, and Lisa Markovich; his stepdaughter, Shay (Sean) Haberberger; 14 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren (soon to be 8), and 3 siblings, Darlene (Robert) Collings, Harlan Winkelman, and Diann (Bernie) Losengard. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Dennis.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill on Friday, December 10, 2021 at 11:00 am. A visitation will be held on Friday, December 10, 2021 from 10:00 am until the time of service also at the church. Memorials can be made to Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Merrill, or the Lincoln County Sports Club. The family would like to thank Aspirus Comfort and Care Hospice and Kindhearted Home Care for their loving support. Waid Funeral Home and Cremation Service is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are welcomed and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

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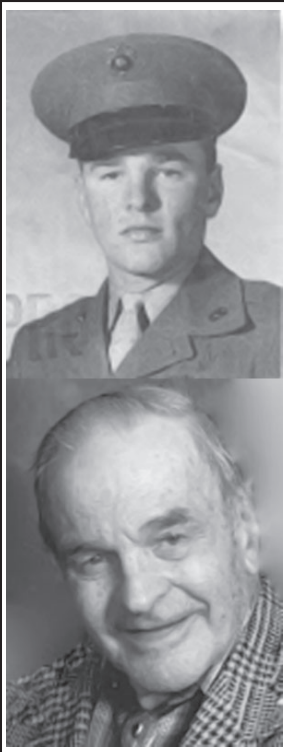
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Please send announcements, news briefs, photo submissions and letters to the editor to: tscott@mmclocal.com

OBITUARIES



Donald John Litzer, 89, of the Town of Emmet, Marathon County, Wisconsin, died at his home early on Sunday, November 28, 2021 after a long illness under the care of family and Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services. Don was born on October 15, 1932, west of Kelly in the Town of Weston, Marathon County, on the family farm of his parents, Edward J. and Gertrude (Schneider) Litzer. His parents' farm included the property on which Phillips Scout Camp is now located. Don was a member of the Weston 4-H Club and a 4-H alumnus.

Don attended local schools and graduated from Wausau Senior High School in 1950. In August 1949, Don moved with his parents to Glandon in the Town of Hewitt, Marathon County, where Ed and Gertrude had purchased a tavern, store and dance hall they named Litzer's Store and Tavern. In 1949-50, Don commuted to school in Wausau with several other students, including Nancy Seymour, daughter of William E. and Elsie (Weden) Seymour, who became his sweetheart. Don and Nancy were engaged in December 1951 and were married at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Wausau on April 6, 1953.

A week after his 18th birthday, Don enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. From March 1952 to February 1953, Don served with George Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines on the U.N. Main Line of Resistance—the first line of defense against a possible Chinese and North Korean invasion. He went into Korea as a corporal and left as a sergeant, earning the Purple Heart for wounds in a raid on Chinese positions in January 1953. Don returned to the States in March 1953 and was honorably discharged in October 1953.

After Don & Nancy returned from the service, they farmed in several locations in the Town of Hewitt until March 1957, when they moved to the Kammenick farm in the Town of Emmet. Don dairy farmed for several years, then briefly raised veal calves until his brother-in-law George Lonsdorf's barn burned in August 1966, at which time Don milked George's Guernsey herd until they had a new home. Don then bought a herd of Jerseys and, with the addition of some Holsteins and one of George's Guerneys, he dairy farmed until his son Carter took over in 1988.

In 1995, Don was reunited with Marine buddies he hadn't seen since the mid-1960s, and he and Nancy subsequently attended several G-3-1 reunions around the U.S. Don was a G-3-1 Korea Association and Disabled American Veterans member, and was honored in 2013 to experience the Never Forgotten Honor Flight with his daughter Pam. Don's service has been recognized at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, and a chronicle of his service, compiled by his son Don, is online at https://www.genealogycenter.info/military/koreanwar/search_donaldlitzer.php

In Don's retirement, he and Nancy built a home in the woods at the back of their property. They enjoyed travelling, seeing plenty of country on casino trips, and made two trips to Canada to visit Don's cousins in western Quebec. Don loved working in his woods, logging and making firewood, and enjoying the wildlife that cohabited with Don & Nancy in their woodland retreat.

Don was a member of Farm Bureau from 1953 until his death, serving as a Marathon County Farm Bureau director and on several committees. Don was a longtime leader of the Cassel 4-H Club, and for years served as Assistant Superintendent of Open Class Grains, Grasses, Vegetables & Fruit at the Wisconsin Valley Fair. He enjoyed going to the World Dairy Expo, Farm Technology Days and the Edgar Steam Show.

Don was a faithful member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Parish in the Town of Cassel, Marathon County for over 60 years. He was a member of Sacred Heart's Holy Name Society and, in 1969, served as the treasurer for the building fund which culminated in the parish's present church structure.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Paula Fry, brother Edward R. Litzer, sister Dolores Lonsdorf, brother-in-law George Lonsdorf and sons-in-law John Doyle and Gerald Wendlandt.

Don is survived by his beloved wife of 68 years, Nancy, daughter Julie Litzer-Doyle of Wausau, daughter Jannette Litzer-Wendlandt of Marathon, son Donald S. (Sarah) Litzer of Merrill, daughter Pamela (Ray) Welch of Wausau and son Carter (Rosalie) Litzer of the Town of Emmet. He is further survived by nine grandchildren, Jessica Fry (Jacob Strauss) of Sherburn, Massachusetts, Jared (Jennifer) Fry of Trophy Club, Texas, Danielle Fry of Irving, Texas, Brittany Doyle of Denver, Colorado, Patrick Doyle of Wausau, Rebecca (David) Alexander of Maine, William Litzer of the Town of Emmet, Amy Litzer of Wausau and Toni (Andrew) Grulkowski of Eau Claire, two great-grandchildren, Hudson Fry and Logan Alexander, two step-great-grandchildren, Gavin Alexander and Vanessa Alexander, sister-in-law Lorraine (Vercimak) Litzer of Weston, son-in-law Douglas Fry of Sierra Vista, Arizona, and 19 nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass will be held for Don at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in the Town of Cassel. The Rev. Joseph Nakawa will officiate. Burial of his remains will follow in the parish cemetery. Full military honors will be conducted by the American Legion Post No. 469, Marathon. Visitation for family and friends will be at the church from 9:00 a.m. until the time of services. The family requests that those in attendance please wear a mask.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be directed, in Don's name, to the Church Bell Restoration fund at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in the Town of Cassel. Peterson/Kraemer Funeral Home, 1302 Sixth Street, Wausau, is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be expressed at www.petersonkraemer.com.



Terry Travis It was November thirteen when my dear husband, Terry Travis fell asleep in death. We were married fifty years and have three wonderful children, Eric, Dustin, and Terrell, along with two beautiful grandchildren Alyza and Rylee.

Terry was born September 25, 1952 in Merrill, WI to Ronald and Joyce Travis. He was the youngest of nine children and is survived by his twin brother Michael Travis of Wausau, WI, and a sister Karen Finner of Dorchester, WI. Terry was preceded in death by his parents and sisters, Kathy, Nancy, Marg and brothers, Dave, Ronnie and Dan.

You may remember Terry and his brother Mick who made up Travis Brothers Painting. They worked in the area of Central Wisconsin and may have painted or stained your home or cottage. They worked together for thirty years.

In December of 1970 Terry became one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Perhaps you remember him visiting your home and talking with you about God's Kingdom and the many blessings it will bring to the human family. It will establish true peace on the earth.

Terry enjoyed fishing, pontooning and spending time with family and friends. He had a humorous side and could make people laugh by his use of jokes, stories, one liners and the way he told them.

He was an optimistic person and a spiritual thinker. He enjoyed creation and would share what he had learned about it.

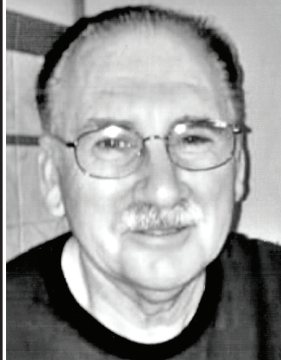
Terry would often look at the stars and the vastness of the universe and be in awe.

How do you convey someone's worth and what they meant to you and others in only a few words?

Terry loved life! He was very kind, loving, funny and thoughtful. For us who knew and loved him, he will be missed.



Arliss Joseph Munro, age 75, of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on November 29, 2021 at the Pine Crest Nursing Home. He was born on May 17, 1946 in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin to Lloyd and Lena (Harkner) Munro.



Arliss worked at Semling-Menke Company, Inc. as a woodworker and machine operator for over 47 years.

Arliss enjoyed tending to his garden, hunting, and fishing. He was an incredible pool player, a big Green Bay Packers' fan and liked playing poker. Most of all he loved spending time with his family and raising his chickens, rabbits, ducks, and geese on his hobby farm.

His wonderful sense of humor will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Arliss is survived by his son, James (Sara) Munro; grandchildren: Brianna (Trevor) Lepak; great grandchildren: Huxley and Harper Lepak; brothers: Ervin Munro, Floyd Munro, and Donald (Sue) Munro. He was preceded in death by his parents, former wife (Carol Wanda Yanda) and daughter (Julie Munro); brothers: Harold, Eugene, Earl, and Lloyd Jr. Munro.

Visitation was held on Sunday, December 5, 2021 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Waid Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Merrill, Wisconsin, followed by a funeral service. Interment took place at the Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery on Monday, December 6, 2021.

Waid Funeral Home and Cremation Service is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are welcomed and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.



Nancy Lynn Hagedorn-Woller, 63, of Plover, passed away Wednesday, December 1, 2021, while at Aspirus St. Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point.

Nancy, the daughter of Richard and Dolores (Wegner) Hagedorn, was born in Merrill on March 15, 1958. Nancy was baptized at St. James Lutheran Church in the Town of Pine River and confirmed at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill of which she is a member.

Nancy was raised on the family farm in the Town of Pine River and attended Pine River Elementary School, Merrill Junior and Senior High School graduating in 1976. She then attended UW Marathon Center and UW Stevens Point graduating in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in art education and fashion merchandising. In 1978 while attending college she moved to Stevens Point and became a part time employee of United Parcel Service (UPS) from 1978-2008. After graduation besides working at UPS Nancy was employed at Milwaukee Screen Printing shop and was the assistant manager at Newport Sportswear store. She also worked at various restaurants and bar and grill establishments.

On November 16, 1996, Nancy married Philip E. Woller at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill. They moved to Plover, WI after their marriage.

At a young age Nancy's grandmother taught her the basic techniques of sewing- the sewing tools, basic stitches and construction processes. Through the years Nancy designed and sewed many of her clothes and did special sewing projects for her family and friends. While in college she was awarded a trip to New York City to visit headquarters for fashion design and merchandising.

Being raised in a family of musicians Nancy's interest and musical talent flourished. She played clarinet in the Junior and Senior High School bands and Merrill City band and tenor saxophone in the jazz band. She spent many years playing in the Dick Richen's Orchestra performing at public and private dances, weddings, anniversaries, and church polka services in Merrill and surrounding areas.

Nancy was very creative and enjoyed all aspects of art. Her specialty was pencil and chalk drawings in which she excelled. She was also a designer- craftsman using her training as an artist to help her produce handicrafts. She always created original designs for her craft items which made them unique. Both her artwork and handicrafts were displayed at the Lincoln County fair and craft fairs in the vicinity.

As a diversion from daily activities Nancy liked playing league darts and bowling, polka dancing, traveling, playing cribbage, both card and board games, sudoku, watching TV especially football, professional wrestling, and comedies.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Philip Woller of Plover; her sister-in-law, Joan Hagedorn of Madison; her nephew, Richard (Hannah) Hagedorn III of Monroe; as well as other relatives and friends. Besides her parents, Nancy is preceded in death by three brothers, Richard Hagedorn, Jr. and Mark and Dan Hagedorn.

The funeral service will begin at 11:00 AM Saturday, December 11, 2021, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Merrill. The Rev. Patricia Schutz will officiate. Burial will take place in St. James Cemetery in the Town of Pine River. Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM Saturday, December 11th at the church. The Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NOVEMBER 12, 2021**
Boy, Mateo Michael, born to Michele Hulce and Marshall Hulce of Merrill.
- NOVEMBER 16, 2021**
Boy, Jett Wilfred, born to Brittany Dvorak and Zachary Dvorak of Eland.
- NOVEMBER 17, 2021**
Boy, Eli David, born to Taylor Dye and Mitchell Dye of Wausau.
- NOVEMBER 21, 2021**
Boy, Bentley James, born to Leesha Kleinschmidt and Trevor Robida of Colby.

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LEGALS

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: November 18, 2021 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2021IN47

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES MYRON HARTSON d/o/d 10/01/2021

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 05/12/1937 and date of death 10/01/2021, was domiciled in LINCOLN County, State of WISCONSIN, with a mailing address of W694 County J Gleason, WI 54435.

3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March 4, 2022. 5. A claim may be filed at the LINCOLN County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office. Steven P Hartson 622 W Lowell Dr San Tan Valley, AZ 85140 602-515-5257 Published Nov. 25, Dec. 2 & 9, 2021 WNAXLP

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: November 29, 2021 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2021IN51

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Michael D. Wangerin

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 10-23-82 and date of death 11-1-21, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of W5777 Diana Cir Dr., Merrill.

3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March 25, 2022. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office. David & Pamela Wangerin W5777 Diana Circle Dr. Merrill, WI 54452 715-493-2888 Published Dec. 2, 9 & 16, 2021 WNAXLP

First Snowfall

DEAR READER, That first snow of the winter season is magical, especially if the flakes are light and fluffy. It's like watching thousands of tiny feathers fall to the earth only to disappear, the brush of angel wings purifying the earth for the holidays.

Christmas and Hanukkah embody many traditions that express goodness, wonder, and joy among all men and women. The warmth of celebrating with family and friends tightens the bonds for some of the more potentially difficult times we face in the months ahead. Together we can enjoy all of the mirth and merriment this season brings and add yet another golden set of memories to the mind-bank.

Happy Holidays. PATRICK J. WOOD PUBLISHER

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



DECA Club members.

Submitted photo.

DECA the Halls December

Business Club is helping MHS get into the holiday spirit

TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

It's DECA the Halls December at Merrill High School (MHS). Students in Business Club/DECA are decorating for Christmas and helping spread holiday cheer. They've organized special dress-up days for everyone for each Friday school is in session through the month of December.

Dec. 3 was Pajama Day, Dec. 10 is designated "Anything but a Back Pack" Day, Dec. 17 will officially be Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, and Dec. 22 [which is a Wednesday but the last day of school for the month] is Christmas Spirit Day. Attire for these special days will be judged in the Field House, and students can win prizes.

"MHS Business Club/DECA spreads holiday spirit throughout December with surprise visits to students and staff by a pack of can-



DECA Club members are getting into the holiday spirit at Merrill High School.

dy cane-wielding inflatable Santas," said Olivia J. Dachel, Business & Computer Science Educator at MHS and the Club's Advisor.

The club also decorates the staff lounge for the holidays, hosts a staff

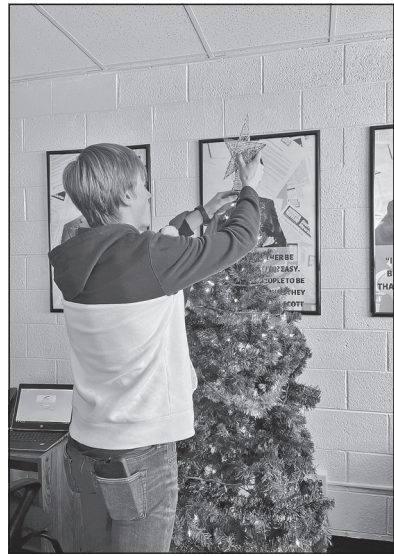
brunch, and coordinates the distribution of 400+ gloves and snacks to students and community members through the Warm Hearts, Warm Hands project, Dachel said.

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CITY OF MERRILL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS The City of Merrill Public Works Department will accept proposals for the following equipment at the Merrill City Clerk's Office, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452, until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 16th, 2021. Specifications may be obtained from the Street Superintendent at (715) 536-4222 or can be found on the City of Merrill website http://www.ci.merrill.wi.us. One (1) -- Wheel Loader The City of Merrill reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to accept any proposal they deem advantageous to the City of Merrill. Dustin Bonack, Street Superintendent Published December 2 & 9, 2021 WNAXLP

CITY OF MERRILL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS The City of Merrill Street Department will accept proposals for the following equipment at the Merrill City Clerk's Office, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452, until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday January 5th, 2022. Proposal specifications may be obtained from the Street Superintendent at (715) 536-4222 or can be found on the City of Merrill website http://www.ci.merrill.wi.us. Roll Out Garbage and Recycling Carts The City of Merrill reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to accept any proposal they deem advantageous to the City of Merrill. Published December 2 & 9, 2021 WNAXLP

Merrill Area Public Schools 2022-2023 Kindergarten Parents/Guardians: Merrill Area Public Schools recently mailed a letter and postcard to the parents and/or guardians of kindergartners for the 2022-2023 school year asking if their child will be attending public, private or another school setting. To be eligible for kindergarten, your child must be 5 on or before September 1, 2022. If you did not receive a mailing from Merrill Area Public Schools, please contact Lori Ugolini at 536-4581, Ext. 10007 and she will include your child in the census and put on our kindergarten roster. Thank you.



A student helps decorate for Christmas.



DECA Club members participate in the Warm Hands Warm Heart program and prepare to distribute gloves as a part of that project.



One area family enjoys Breakfast with St. Nick at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church on Sunday, Dec. 5, coordinated by the Knights of Columbus. Tina L. Scott photos.



St. Nicholas sits ready to visit with children at the St. Francis Xavier Breakfast with St. Nick event on Sunday morning, Dec. 5. He had oranges for the children, reminiscent of a simpler time. St. Nicholas is the precursor to our modern day Santa Claus.

Vantage Mechanical Assets Online Auction Ends Tuesday, December 14, 2021 Bid Now at IggysAuction.com! Metalworking, Fabrication, SS & CS Material, Tools, Semi-Trailer, Building Supplies, Welding, Tractor and More! Preview: Monday, December 13th (2pm - 6pm) Or Any other Day by Appointment, (715)305-2475 Location: 8161 Jefferson Street, Pittsville, WI 54466 IggysAuction.com for Pictures - Details - Sale Terms - Register - Bid Now! Iggys Auction House | Wisconsin Registered Auction Company #421-53 | Marshfield, WI 54449 (715)650-2475 OR (715)305-2475 Registered Wisconsin Auctioneer: Chris Ignatowski #2709-52

FIRE from page 1

Firsthand account from woman trapped in fire

"I was sleeping on my couch and the smoke alarms went off," said Emily "Emy" Finette Peterson, age 40. "I saw some smoke by the kitchen and walked to see what was smoking and saw all the flames outside my front door in my stairwell."

Peterson lived in an upstairs apartment at 213 1/2 E. 2nd St. in Merrill.

"I called 911," she said. "I got my dog and ran into my son's room since the window was farthest away and faced the street. The Fire Department got there, put the ladder up for me, and I climbed down and ran across the street."

Peterson was safe, and so were her husband and son, because she was sick and had recently been tested for COVID, so she was isolating in the apartment and her family members were staying elsewhere for the night.

Still, "It was terrifying and heartbreaking," Peterson said, "because I knew by that point, my dog was gone and everything I've had that was important to me was going up in flames."

Ironically, her dog's name was Smokey. "It's a surreal feeling," she said. "You can't believe what you're seeing with your own eyes."

Merrill Fire Department responds

The Merrill Fire Department confirmed that on the morning of Nov. 30, just after 2:30 a.m., they were dispatched to a reported structure fire at 213 1/2 E. 2nd St. 63-Truck, Engine-61, and Med-62 responded immediately from the Fire Station.

"Dispatch informed fire units that an occupant was trapped on the second floor," Merrill Fire Chief Josh Klug said in a press release later that day. "Upon arrival, Merrill firefighters located a female resident at an upstairs window and used a ground ladder to rescue her."

"Crews then battled the fire which had spread to the apartment building next door [215 E. 2nd St.]," the release said. "The fire was eventually contained, but only after significant damage to the buildings. While all occupants escaped and no one was hurt, one dog [Peterson's dog, Smokey] died from the fire."

After investigation, the fire likely started in the upper stairwell of the apartment and was unintentional in nature; however, the official cause of the fire is undetermined at this time, according to the Nov. 30 release.

"The fire originated in 213 1/2 E. 2nd St. and spread to 215 1/2 E. 2nd," Klug confirmed. "The residents in all four of the apartments plus the business (Smoke Shop) were displaced. One of residents was not home at the time of the fire. The residents of the other three units were

temporarily relocated to the AmericInn that morning with assistance from the Red Cross."

"The fire scene was released back to the building owner after completion of the fire investigation, so it will be up to residents to work with him and his insurance company on when and how they are allowed back into the building," he added. "215 is a partial loss, and I'm not sure how the insurance company will classify the loss to 213. The upstairs received heavy damage."

"Mutual aid [came] from Corning, Pine River, and Wausau Fire Departments, and Tomahawk EMS assisted at the incident. The Merrill Fire Department was also supported by Merrill Police, Water, and Street Departments, and Wisconsin Public Service," the release said.

Smoke detectors save lives

"If it hadn't been for the smoke detectors, I'd have never known," Peterson said. And she might not have made it out alive. "I couldn't smell the smoke due to the loss of my smell from COVID."

"I had actually gone that afternoon to be re-tested," Peterson said, "because the first test the day before was negative, and I knew I had it, due to loss of smell and taste. (They confirmed it was positive a few hours after the fire.) My husband and my little boy were gone due to my belief it would be positive."

"I also can't stress how important it is to have working smoke detectors in your home, because seconds, not minutes, matter when you have a fire," Klug said.

"The outcome of this fire could have been much different if Merrill didn't have a full-time staffed fire department," he added. "With our quick response and actions, we were able to save a woman's life that morning."

"In our fire prevention program, we teach people who are trapped by fire to shield themselves by closing a door and going to a window for help, which is exactly what the resident did that morning," Klug said.

Gratitude to firemen and community

Peterson said she has a place to stay and her son is staying with her mother due to her being in quarantine with COVID. Friends, neighbors, and the community were quick to respond with donations and support.

"Right now I think we are ok for items needed," she said. "The outpour from the community has been astounding. I honestly did not expect the outpouring of support we are getting. Everyone is having a hard time due to the economy and COVID outbreaks, but they have come out for all of us so strongly, and I can't thank everyone enough. There aren't enough words for my gratitude."

Peterson's neighbor in her same building is staying at the AmericInn and will



The view from Jessica Mahn's yard when she took her dog out, after calling 911 when she saw the fire. **Jessica Mahn photo.**

likely need clothing, furniture, toiletries, and other household items, as her apartment was also a total loss. Peterson said she isn't sure about the neighbors in the building next door.

"I am so thankful for the community I grew up and live in," she emphasized. "And I appreciate everyone! We have a FANTABULOUS little town that I'm proud to be a member of."



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Real Rewards Checking is available for consumer deposits only. Annual Percentage Yield ("APY") is accurate as of 3/1/2021. Real Rewards Checking is a variable rate account. Your APY may change at any time after your account is opened, at the discretion of Nicolet National Bank. This is a tiered rate product. If qualifications are met for the qualification cycle, Tier 1: The portion of your balance that is equal to or less than \$10,000 will earn 3.00% APY. Tier 2: Interest rate of 0.01% will be paid on the portion of your balance that exceeds \$10,000. The APY for Tier 2 will range from 0.26% to 3.00%, depending on the balance in your account. If qualifications are not met for the qualification cycle, 0.01% APY applies to the entire balance. You must enroll in online banking and e-statements in order to qualify. Transactions required each qualification cycle: At least ten posted and cleared debit card transactions (ATM-processed transactions do not count as qualifying debit card transactions), and at least one posted and cleared direct deposit of payroll or social security. Fees and withdrawals of interest will reduce earnings and APY. All Nicolet National Bank checking accounts are subject to credit approval. Additional terms and conditions apply. See Nicoletbank.com for details. Member FDIC.

In memory of
three that we lost at the end of 2016
and the one at the end of 2017

Brother/Uncle
Michael J. Fechtner,
Sept. 27, 2016

Sister-in-law/Aunt
Nancy A. Kunkel (nee Pankow),
Oct. 25, 2016

Wife/Mother/Grandmother
Marlene S. Fechtner (nee Pankow),
Dec. 8, 2016

Brother-in-law/Uncle
Roger E. Kunkel, Nov. 19, 2017

You will be in our thoughts and hearts for years
to come; mostly the wife of 51 years.

*The Fechtner and
Schopper families*

MERRILL Foto News

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Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-7121
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11:30 a.m. Monday

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY
CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

Sen. Ron Johnson announces mobile office hours in Lincoln County

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) announced that his staff will be available for mobile office hours in Lincoln County on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at Merrill City Hall, 1004 E 1st St., Merrill.

These office hours allow constituents to meet with the Senator's staff to request assistance with a federal agency or regarding other federal matters.

Don't be late with your Classified Deadline **Mondays at 4:00 pm**

MERRILL FOTO NEWS Student of the Week



This Week's Featured Student is **Tavin Heidemann**

Son of **Dirk and Jessica Heidemann**
Tavin is in 6th grade at St. John Lutheran School. He was nominated by Mrs. Koch.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
Science, because I love the building and STEM activities we get to do.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
Our hot lunches, because they are really good, and mostly homemade.

What would you like to do/ become someday? Why?
I want to be a farmer, because I really like driving tractors, taking care of animals, and working outside.

Tavin is a helpful student! He enjoys being busy. Each day he organizes our breakfast items in our classroom. Tavin readily volunteers to read, answer questions, and take on extra safety patrol duties. As a virtual student, he proved himself very responsible too.

- Mrs. Koch

Student of the Week Sponsored by: **INTERFLEX GROUP**
1401 W. Taylor St., Merrill
(715) 536-5400



Downtown merchants began assembling the Christmas tree on Banker's Square in the pocket park on E. Main St. in Merrill in late November this year with a little mechanical help. The boom truck with a bucket made their work a bit easier. **Jennifer Gartmann photo.**

The Christmas tree on Bankers Square was lit as a part of Merrill's Annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 4. Visitors can enjoy the lights and sounds of Christmas in downtown Merrill through the holiday season. **Rose Skic photo.**



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Pet of the Week
This easy going, old soul is **Ralphie**. He has some skin issues and takes meds every day, but were hoping it won't last forever. **Ralphie** doesn't seem to mind though. He just loves life and wants to find his forever person to share it with. *Come and meet him soon and you'll surely fall for him!* Ralphie's adoption will include his neuter, vaccinations, and microchip.
SPONSORED BY **Dr. Ronald J. Piffa** Optometrist 715-536-2020
Visit all the adoptable animals at Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N Memorial Dr., Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-4PM & Sun 12-2PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us at www.furrypets.com.

CHIPS HAMBURGERS
CHARBROILED BURGERS • DRIVE THRU

Merrill Christmas

COLORING CONTEST, 2021
Name: _____
Age: _____
Phone: _____
Please Drop Off At Or Mail To:
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921 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452
Entries Must Be Received By Friday, Jan. 7th, 2022
3 Grand Prizes, One Per Age Group
Age Groups Are: 1-4 • 5-7 • 8-10
Each Grand Prize Winner Will Receive A Holiday Gift Basket!
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Great Christmas gifts & stocking stuffers
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584
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Merrill, WI 54452

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WED. & THURS. 11am-8pm • 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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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
*SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

Date Issued _____ Expiration Date _____

This Certificate Entitles _____
To a Gift Valued At \$ _____

This Gift is Presented by _____

This certificate will be accepted in payment for merchandise at the address show above. Not redeemable as currency.

Authorized Signature _____



BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

Movie Reviews

Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Rated R – for language, gore, and violence

Well, *Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City* is what it is, a reboot of the film franchise that is based on the wildly popular video game series and, as mentioned, it is what it is.

Evil pharmaceutical corporation (aren't they all?) does evil experiments on orphans and creates an evil super-nasty serum that makes people turn into flesh eating super zombies.

Ya, I feel ya. I feel dumb-

er for even watching this film. Seriously, as the film progressed, I could feel my IQ dropping.

As to a plot, well, at least they made a half-hearted, if not misguided, attempt to have a plot, but let's be honest, this film is made solely for the gore factor. And plot holes? Oh, ya, let me tell you true – I could drive a semi-truck through some of those bad boys, they were so big.

Cast with impossibly pretty actors doing their best to justify getting paid for doing this movie, there really isn't much to talk about with this one.

One star [out of five stars] for this one, folks. Take a hard pass and go watch paint dry. It will be more entertaining.

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418 Grand Ave., Merrill

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CHRISTMAS BINGO SAT., DEC. 11TH
Open at 11:00 AM 1:00 PM Snacks, Double Cash & Prizes

8TH ANNUAL X-MAS FOR THE KIDS SAT., DEC. 11TH
7:00 PM
\$20 donation gets you food, free beer and in the raffles! Music all night will be provided by Travis Spoehr

KARAOKE SAT., DEC. 18TH
8:00 PM

PUB'S CHRISTMAS PARTY THUR., DEC. 23RD
9:00 PM to ?
Live music by Jessie and the Medicine Men

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Open to the Public • (715) 536-7471

DINNER SPECIALS DEC.

TUESDAY NIGHTS
Dec. 14th - Broasted Chicken
Dec. 21st - Porcupine Meatballs
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

FRIDAY NIGHTS
Dec. 10th - Shrimp
Dec. 17th - Catfish
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-8pm Specials • Fish Fries • Homemade Soup
- DINNER MENU: TUES. 4-8pm & FRI. 4-8pm
- SATURDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
- SUNDAY: Bar Open From 11am-7pm

Visit our Website! 584.localfoewi.com
HAPPY HOUR: TUESDAY-THURSDAY • 3-6PM

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Thursday Nights 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Dec. 9th TV Sitcoms
Dec. 16th, & 30th General
Dec. 23rd Christmas

Chicken Available on Wed., Thurs., Sat. & Sun.

All You Can Eat BBQ Ribs & Chicken Every Wednesday

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MONDAY Chicken or Shrimp Fettuccine Spaghetti & Meatballs
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SUN BRUNCH BUFFET 11am-3pm AYCE Adults \$12.99
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SATURDAY NIGHT Steak Night

GREEN BAY GAME TAILGATE SPECIALS
Watch all the games in December on our HUGE 14ft TV Screen • Touchdown Shots

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Check out our Facebook for most current menu, and More Info. for Trivia Nights!

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Fri. & Sat.: 7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.
Sat. & Sun.: 1:00 p.m. & 3:15 p.m.

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715-536-4473

DINNER@FIVE
A COMMUNITY TABLE AT SAINT STEPHENS

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

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

Monday, Dec. 13th Menu:
Beef and Noodles, Vegetable and Fruit

Women connecting
Eagles's Club, 1205 Lake St. Merrill, WI
Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Delores Liesner
"From Mayhem to Miracles - Finding Purpose Despite an Abusive Past"

Delores shares how she found purpose and her identity

Featuring:
Merrill's Vocal Jays
\$13.00 at the door

Includes meal, tip, and program
Menu: Broasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and vegetable & X-mas Cookies

For Reservations
Please call by December 9
Jan: 715-536-9816

Women Connecting is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries

MAPS accepts Nov. donations

The following donations were approved and/or accepted at the Nov. 17 Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) Board of Directors meeting:

Funds from Bob, Janet, Nick, Caroline, Chris, Sarah, Alex & Ty Grunenwald valued at \$18,039.00 for a fence for the high school baseball field; a check from Hoff Brothers LLC valued at \$260.00 for PRMS PBIS;

cash from Hollie Senzig valued at \$300.00 for the MAPS Boys Soccer Team; 12 pumpkins from Alex & Tricia Crockford valued at \$36.00 for a MAPS NAC fall craft; an HP LaserJet E400 Printer from Merrill Aqua Jays Swim Team valued at \$498.98 for the MHS Girls' Swim Team; a cash donation from Taves Construction LLC valued at \$100.00 for PRSYL's Color Run Family Event; fruit, snacks, and drinks from Golden Harvest Market valued at \$75.00 for the PRSYL's Color Run Family Event; a cash donation from Mary Jo Diels/Studio 500 valued at \$50.00 for the PRSYL's Color Run Family Event; a cash donation from Paula Lemke-Hunt valued at \$50.00 for PRSYL's Color Run Family Event; and, a percentage of team picture sales from Stacy Literski Photography valued at \$85.00 for the Merrill High School Tennis Team.

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PERFORMANCES
Friday, Dec. 10 at 7:30pm
Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7:30pm
Sunday, Dec. 12 at 2:00pm

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\$18 Srs., College, Military
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GROUP RATES AVAILABLE
\$3 MORE PER TICKET AT DOOR

By Charles Dickens - Adapted for the stage by Romulus Linney

Tickets available at the Grand Theater, 715-842-0988, online at grandtheater.org and at the door one hour before performance starts

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merrillfotonews.com



There was no snow for the Christmas Parade Saturday evening, but ice and snow blew into the area in the early hours of Sunday morning and stayed into Monday, creating slippery road conditions and putting snow removal on the agenda for Merrill residents. Scraping ice and snow shoveling and blowing were the sounds of the season. **Tina L. Scott photo.**



Two girls stare in wonder at one of the round ice globe luminarias they saw on this year's luminiaria tour in the Bell Tower area on Saturday evening. These round ice globes were made by Deb Keller and Mark Vaughan. **Melanie Hagemeister photo.**



A snowy Sunday is the perfect day for picking out a Christmas tree. This family selects a tree from the St. Francis Xavier tree lot. **Tina L. Scott photos.**



St. Francis Xavier Church is one of several area churches offering Christmas trees for sale or for a free will donation.

Cold Temp... Hot Prices, at Dave's



**Big Pack
Chicken
Leg
Quarters**
99¢ lb.



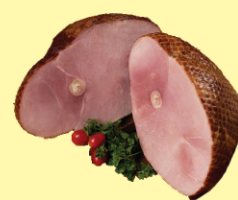
**96% Lean
Family Pack
Ground
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\$4.99 lb.



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**Select Servings
IQF Chicken
Wings**
\$6.99 2.5 lb. bag

PRODUCE

- Snow White Cauliflower **\$1.49** lb.
- 8 oz., Whole White Mushrooms **2/\$4.00**
- 5 lb. Red Potatoes **2/\$5.00**

DAIRY

- Dean's, Half Gallon Lactose Free Milk ... **\$2.99**
- Dean's, Gallon Chocolate Milk **\$3.49**

FROZEN

- Culinary Circle, Rising Crust Pizza **2/\$9.00**

LIQUOR

- 1.75 liters Windsor **\$14.99**
- 1.75 liters Gentleman Jack... **\$48.99**

BAKERY

- 2 ct. Éclairs..... **\$3.29**

DELI

- Kretschmar Turkey Off The Bone **\$7.99** lb.
- Chicken or Pork Egg Rolls **99¢** ea.
- Cowboy Caviar..... **\$3.99** lb.

GROCERY

- Campbell's, 10.5 oz. Can Cream of Chicken or Mushroom Soup **99¢**
- Geisha, 15 oz. Can Mandarin Oranges... **99¢**
- Semi-Sweet, Milk Chocolate or Semi Sweet Mini Nestle Toll House Morsels **2/\$6.00**

Prices good through Sunday, December 12, 2021. We have the right to limit quantities and correct printing errors. No sales to dealers. **SORRY, NO RAIN CHECKS. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.**



Dave's County Market

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WE VALUE FAMILY
WE VALUE YOU!



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JOB FAIR



DECEMBER 10, 2021
11 AM - 3 PM
108 S. POLK STREET, MERRILL



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MERRILL Foto News CLASSIFIEDS

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Fax: 715-539-3686

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Professional and Technical 7135
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 WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)

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HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES Rocking W Stable, Eagle River WI DEC 11 thru JAN 1; Beautiful Trails! Great Family Fun. Can Handle All Size Groups & Private Parties! Info 715-617-6779 northwoodsattractions.com

Auctions 7282
(2) ABSOLUTE AUCTION SALES - Stevens Point Area -SATURDAY, DEC. 18. SITE 1: 10AM - 43.87+/- Acres w/large bar/reception area. 1.43+/-Acre bldg. lot. SITE 2: 1PM - 190.7+/- Acres of rec land offered in 2 parcels or as a whole. www.nolansales.com for details. Conducted by **NOLAN SALES LLC**, Marion, WI 715-754-5221 Reg. Auctioneers Lic# 142 & 165 (WCAN)

Antiques and Collectibles 7214
HOLIDAY GIFT, ARTIST & CRAFT SHOW Sat Dec. 11th 8-5pm FOX CITIES EXHIBITION CTR, 355 W. Lawrence Ave. APPLETON \$5 715-526-9769 zurko-promotions.com

OVER 100 HALLMARK TREE ORNAMENTS Also tree lights, bulbs & figurines. Also dolls. 715-536-7274

Musical Instruments 7220
TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg & Gibson Mandolins/Banjoes. 844-262-6174 (WCAN)

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WALK IN WEDNESDAYS

On the spot interviews from 12:30 to 3:30 every Wednesday

- Get a plant tour • Ask questions
- Fill out application • Turn in a resume

Weekly drawings for a \$25 gift card just for stopping in for a plant tour.

Shifts available to meet everyones schedule!
 2nd shift Monday-Friday,
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No manufacturing experience, no problem, we will train you!
 Starting wage \$17.00/hour
 \$1.00 Shift differential for 2nd & 3rd shifts!
 Overtime available • Paid vacation after 90 days!
 401(K) with company match • Full benefits package
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More than just making high end kitchen and bath cabinets, we are committed to our awesome team who make dreams come true for homeowners nationwide.

2 weeks vacation your first year
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Excellent full benefits package
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Or apply in person - 749 Kennedy St., Rib Lake
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North Central Health Care

New Year, New Career Opportunity!

Get paid while becoming CNA certified in only a few weekends!



North Central Health Care is offering a brand new, weekend only, accelerated **Certified Nursing Assistant Class at no cost to you!** This exciting and flexible opportunity allows you to become a paid NCHC employee NOW while completing your CNA class requirements and your clinicals on-site at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill exclusively on weekends. The next class begins in early 2022 and is filling up quickly. **Applications due by December 23.**

Visit norcen.org/CNAprogram for additional information or to apply!

JOIN OUR TEAM! MACHINE OPERATORS

Press Operator, CNC Technician, Line Rack Operator

GENERAL FUNCTIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES, EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

- Operate equipment to form wire parts.
- Use measuring equipment to maintain identified tolerances.
- Maintain minimum operating rate.
- Perform variety of tasks such as counting, cleaning, returning gauges and fixtures, transferring parts.
- Adaptable to cell and team concepts as well as cross-training.
- Knowledge of the manufacturing process is helpful, but not required.
- Ability to follow ISO procedures and work instructions.
- Blueprint reading capabilities or ability to learn.
- Two years of Machine Tool Techniques or equivalent is preferred.
- High School Diploma/GED. Must be 18 years or older.
- Sign-on bonus.
- Referral bonus.

Machine Operators start at \$16.00 / hour
 Skilled positions starting pay is based on experience.
 1st & 2nd Shift Opportunities • 2nd Shift Differential \$2.00/hour
 Regular full-time 4-10's- Monday-Thursday, Friday OT, if required.
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Medical, Dental, Vision, 401(k) with company match,
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Stop in to complete an application or send cover letter and resume to:
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 1100 W. Taylor Street, Merrill, WI 54452 • nwhr@elginfasteners.com

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11/15/21 - 12/15/21. Payout \$500 after 90 days and \$500 after 6 months. Transfers are included.

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EMPLOYMENT

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TOWN OF CORNING**

**IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
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- Applicant must possess a valid CDL class B drives license or be able to attain within six months.
- The position will operate Town equipment including grader, truck with plow, front end loader, excavator, and manual labor.
- There will be some weekend and overtime for weather related incidents.

Applications will be accepted until position is filled.
Please contact John Kudick with questions, 715-539-2993

For application contact Rick Hass, Phone 715-536-3432,
Address: N1428 Strawberry Lane, Merrill, WI.
Email: rhasstoc@fontier.com

**Baumgart Waste Removal
is looking for Drivers with
A Class B CDL License for**

**Full time & Part time
Monday thru Friday**
Please APPLY in person at
1304 Cotter Ave., Merrill, WI
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**PROPANE DELIVERY DRIVER/
SERVICE TECHNICIAN**

River Country Co-op is hiring now for a Propane Delivery Driver/ Service Technician! Come join our energetic team loading, transporting and delivering propane to customers in a safe and timely manner.

You will also be performing service work as needed throughout our company and customers.

- Qualifications include:**
- CDL Class B with Tanker and Hazmat Endorsements and Medical Card.
 - Must Pass an Employment Drug Test.
 - Physical Demands include working outdoors in adverse conditions and being able to lift 50 lbs.

Benefits include: Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance, PTO, 401K savings plan, paid holidays, etc.

Apply online at rivercountrycoop.com or on our Indeed page!

**RiverCountry
CO-OP**
1080 W River Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
For questions call Dave Hartley at 715-723-2828

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**Production (Full or Part-Time)
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Day Shift Only. Start time at 6:00am.
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lincolnwindows.com/Careers

Lincoln Wood Products-Employment Office

Apply In-person at 1400 W Taylor Street
or Email resume to Amanda at
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We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Furniture and Home Decor 7236

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

Lumber 7242

Wanted: Basswood Timber Will log with Horses. Good prices. Paid for quality Timber. Call 715-678-2273

Firewood 7244

DRY OAK & Hard Maple- \$240/cord. Over 15 miles, extra. Have hard wood in wood shed over year old. Clean and no bark. 715-351-1888 or 715-873-4196.

CLASSIFIEDS
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Firewood 7244

Firewood DRY OAK & Hard Maple- \$240/cord. Over 15 miles, extra. Have hard wood in wood shed over year old. Clean and no bark. 715-351-1888 or 715-873-4196.

Snow Equipment 7252

NEW & USED SNOWBLOWERS USED STARTING AT \$150 Large selection serviced by us and ready to blow! **North Central Power Equipment** 2803 Emery Dr., Wausau, just 1 mile north of Fleet Farm 715-370-3002

Miscellaneous Merchandise 7266

2020 JOHN DEERE E120 42" 20 hp lawn tractor, 44" snow blower, tire chains, weights & weather enclosure, 17 hours, \$3,500. Call 715-282-5218.

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(MARATHON CITY, WI)**

River Country Co-op is hiring now for a Lube Oil Delivery Driver, based out of Marathon City, WI. Come join our energetic team loading bulk lubricants, reviewing orders, and delivering to customers in a safe and timely manner.

We offer a competitive wage, with benefits.

- Qualifications include:**
- CDL Class B with Tanker endorsement, Medical Card, and preemployment drug test.
 - Physical Demands include be able to lift 50 lbs.

Benefits include: Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance, PTO, 401K savings plan, paid holidays, etc.

Apply online at rivercountrycoop.com or on our Indeed page!

**RiverCountry
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1080 W River Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
For questions call Dave Hartley at 715-723-2828

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We are an Equal Opportunity Employer offering a competitive salary and benefits package.

To apply for this position, send your resume to Lincoln Wood Products, Attn: Human Resources, 1400 W Taylor Street, Merrill, WI 54452 or email Amanda at alreidinger@lincolnwindows.com.

**Lincoln Wood Products-
Employment Office**
1400 W Taylor Street, Merrill, WI 54452
Mon-Fri, 7:00AM - 3:30PM or by appointment
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Now Hiring!

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- Product Development Engineer

To view the job duties please visit our website at lincolnwindows.com.

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Reminder: Black bear harvest authorization applications are due Dec. 10



The DNR reminds the public that 2022 black bear harvest applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 10, 2021.

Photo Credit: iStock/Lynn_Bystrom

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds the public that 2022 black bear harvest applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 10, 2021.

Hunters can purchase applications for permit drawings online through Go Wild, the DNR's license portal, or at an authorized license agent.

Preliminary estimates show that hunters harvested more than 3,800 bears during the 2021 black bear season. Final harvest totals will be available at a later date. In the meantime, DNR staff and the Bear Advisory Committee are currently determining the 2022 harvest quotas.

With growing interest in bear hunting in Wisconsin and a limited number of licenses, the DNR encourages the public to review management zone boundaries and license wait times while making hunting plans.

Last year's bear drawing results and zone-specific wait times are available at: https://widnr.widenr.net/s/m9wl-nrv2hs/2021_summary.

Bear permit applicants must apply at least once during any period of three consecutive years to retain their accumulated preference points; otherwise all accumulated preference points will be lost. If an applicant is select-

ed in the drawing, their preference points will be reset to zero, even if they do not purchase the harvest permit. Applicants must remain aware of drawing status.

Applicants selected in the drawing are notified by mail shortly after the drawing and may purchase their 2022 Class A bear license beginning in March 2022. Applicants may also check their status online through their Go Wild customer account.

Applicants are reminded of the recently updated bear management zone boundaries, as their usual hunting grounds may be within a different zone.

The current zones are part of the Wisconsin Black Bear Management Plan, 2019-2029, developed by the DNR Bear Advisory Committee and approved by the Natural Resources

Board in May 2019. The new bear management zones are designed to address bear conflicts and manage desired population levels effectively.

The season structure for the 2022 bear hunt is as follows:

- **Zone C, E and F** (dogs not permitted):
- **Sept. 7 to Oct. 11** - with the aid of bait and all other legal methods not using dogs.
- **Zone A, B, and D:**
- **Sept. 7-13** - with the aid of bait and all other legal methods not using dogs
- **Sept. 14 to Oct. 4** - with all legal methods, including bait and dogs
- **Oct. 5-11** - with the aid of dogs only

For more information on bear hunting in Wisconsin, visit the DNR bear hunting webpage: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/bear>.

THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ACROSS

1. Pilgrim's destination
6. Make a scene
9. Rubik's puzzle
13. Hawaii environs
14. Toothy fish
15. Cone-shaped dwelling
16. White Swan in "Swan Lake" ballerina
17. ____-Wan Kenobi
18. *Decorate with wreaths and holly, e.g.
19. *Either dessert or source of heat (2 words)
21. * ____ Day, or second day of Christmastide
23. Land parcel
24. Strauss of denim fame
25. Broadband access overseer, acr.
28. Clarified butter
30. Acute one and obtuse one
35. Southeastern Asian country
37. Joust's breastplate
39. Shrewdness
40. Caspian basin river
41. *Pasadena's Tournament of ____
43. Tel ____, Israel
44. Native American emblem
46. "Why not?"
47. Hitchhiker's quest
48. Omits when speaking
50. Hard to find
52. Bear's winter quarters
53. Hoodwink
55. Scepter's partner
57. *Number of days in Christmastide
60. *"Ugly" holiday party garb?
64. Prepare a letter
65. "Bingo!"
67. Hunger for
68. Pass-the-baton race
69. *Cranberry sauce sometimes comes from it
70. Same as tori
71. Raise the roof
72. German river
73. Stall sound

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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5. Not digital
6. Bug-eyed
7. Not Uber
8. Social group
9. Ghana monetary unit
10. Second word of many fairytales
11. Cause of Titanic's demise
12. Poetic "even"
15. Burdensome
20. Not this or that
22. Lab eggs
24. Time off
25. *Champagne holder
26. *Wassailing composition
27. Raccoon's South American cousin
29. Feeling of superiority, pl.
31. ____ gum, food additive
32. Furiously angry
33. Exclude or omit
34. *Number of candles in kinara, Kwanzaa
36. *Troika vehicle
38. "Will be," according to Doris
42. Asian goat antelope
45. Potpourri
49. Chevy Suburban, e.g.
51. Builds
54. *Popular holiday wish
56. Munchausen's title
57. *Bedecked arbor
58. Shakespeare, to his friends?
59. And others, for short
60. Minus
61. Tropical edible root
62. Anon's partner
63. Take a load off
64. Like some humor
66. *Traditional main holiday dish

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Clyde Nelson selected as new Executive Director for Chamber of Commerce

Former bank President comes out of retirement to give back to the Merrill community

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR



Clyde Nelson
 Tina L. Scott photo.

The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed Clyde Nelson as their new Executive Director on Sept. 27, 2021. The Chamber Board of Directors selected Nelson for the position based on his extensive business experience and involvement in the Merrill community.

Born and raised in Green Bay, Clyde graduated from high school and then attended UW-River Falls, graduating with a degree in Agricultural Education. He took a job teaching agriculture in Lomira, Wis., a small town of about 500 residents located south of Fond du Lac.

In 1980, he began working in the banking industry for Farm Credit System where he was employed for 18 years, combining his aptitude for agriculture along with an aptitude for finance.

Bank here in Merrill beginning in 2014 until the bank was purchased by mBank in 2018. Clyde retired from Lincoln Community Bank on Dec. 1, 2018, and was promptly rehired on a temporary basis on Feb. 4, 2019, by mBank to help them with marketing to some clients in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, making the word retirement little more than a teaser in his vocabulary. He worked for mBank through the end of 2019.

Jan. 1, 2020, marked the official beginning of Clyde's "real retirement." But that was relatively short-lived, as well. Nineteen months later he was back in an office behind a desk earning a paycheck.

Clyde's love for and involvement in the Merrill community found him considering the urging

See **NELSON**
 page 19



Above left: Decorated and lit trees, wreaths, and gift baskets made for a magical setting at O'Tannenbaum. Each of the items was raffled off Sunday afternoon to lucky area winners who got to take the entire decorated tree home, lights, decor, and everything under the tree included except the tree stand. **Above right:** Snowmen and snowflakes, Christmas lights and lanterns, Santa and more ... all combined to set the scene for the O'Tannenbaum festival of trees this past weekend. **Left:** The volunteers that coordinate the annual O'Tannenbaum event, located in the lower level of St. Stephens Church in Merrill, transform the church's lower level into a magical Christmas scene with props and decorations. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

MITTEN TREE
from page 3

[rather than differentiating any particular troop],” Murray said. “We work as one big collective for the Mitten Tree.”

“This is just the kick off to the Mitten Tree with the Girl Scouts, and then the community is welcome to come to add their donations,” she added.

This year, there will be one change to the Mitten Tree: Hull is handing over



The Mitten Tree at Miller Home Furnishings is a 40-year Merrill tradition, where Girl Scout troops and the community collect and donate mittens, hats, scarves, and socks to keep area kids warm this winter.



Sandy Hull has been coordinating the annual Mitten Tree project in Merrill for 40 years. Going forward, Steve Hass will step into that role. **Tina L. Scott photos.**

the reins to her pet project to Steve Hass, a 30-year employee at Miller Home Furnishings and Merrill resident who has been actively involved in the community throughout the years, most recently as one of the Aldermen for the City of Merrill.

“We’re proud that the Mitten Tree is going to stay here,” Hass said, “and we’ll make sure it stays for as long as we’re here.”

As donations are collected, “They divide up all of the hats and mittens to all of the schools in the area,” Murray said.

“I delivered six bags of items today [to the schools],” Hass said on Monday, Dec. 6. “Donations have been great already.”

Hull wants to extend a great “thank you” to Wally

and Millers for providing the tree at the store, without which none of this would be possible throughout the years.

And ... “On behalf of all the children and Wally and myself,” Hull said, “We wish to say this community has always been such a sharing and caring and supportive community of the Mitten Tree. And it is with a big, heartfelt ‘Thank you’ to you that the project has been a success all these years. This means so much to the children whose heads, hands, and feet won’t be cold this winter.”

“I would like to thank the Foto News for their help in promoting the Mitten Tree for the past 40 years,” she added.

The items from the tree are made available to the

children who need them through the Merrill area schools, both public and parochial. For more information, contact Steve Hass, the new Mitten Tree Coordinator, at 715.536.5922 at Miller Home Furnishings.

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Bluejay Boys Basketball Team breaks even with a home game win and then a loss last week

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Thursday, Dec. 2, the Merrill Bluejay Boys Basketball Team headed to Shawano to play Shawano Community High School and came home with a loss, by 33 points. Coming off of a home game win on the 30th, it was a tough loss.

"Sometimes you have nights that you really can't explain," said Bluejay Boys Basketball Head Coach Troy Pieper. "This was a great example of that. We were flat for most of the game, we didn't shoot it well, and they shot it well and had energy. That pretty much sums it up."

"I said after game one, that in that first game, all of our new Varsity players sort of went through everything you can in just the first game. Well, the one thing they didn't experience in that first game is a game like tonight, where you just have one of those nights and get it handed to you pretty good," he said. "Now we have that under our belts, and we will see how we rebound on Tuesday against a very good Medford team."

"I know my guys, and I'm very confident we will bounce back in a positive way this week," Pieper said. "There are a lot of very good leaders in our locker room. We will learn from this, we will remember how these defeats feel, and we will find a way to try and not let it happen again this year."

"When you look at the stats and you see 4-25 from the three point line, and see that we turned the ball over more than shots made, you'd think it's hard to find many positives," he continued. "However, there were some positives. The guys didn't quit, they played hard the entire game, also we got to see some more players we will need this year get some of their first Varsity minutes, and they didn't look scared - they played hard and with a lot of energy."

"Sam Reimann (4 FG, 4 FT, 1 Ast) led the way for us with 12 points, and Bradyn Pieper was our only other player in double figures with 10 (3 FG, 2 3pt, 2 FT, 2 Ast). I thought both of them were very aggressive and didn't back down."

"Sam attacked the basket well all night, and probably could have got to the line more if he got a few more calls, but some nights the games will be a little more physical and you have to play through it, and I thought Sam did a good job of that."

"Bradyn shot it pretty well, he made two of our four three-pointers, shooting 50% from beyond the arc. He's starting to gain confidence with every minute on the floor," Pieper said. "As one of our best shooters, he needs to continue to shoot it with confidence to open up things for our guys who attack the basket."

Michael Mcrae (3 FG, 1 3pt, 1 FT, 1 Ast) also put up 8 points in the game.

"We have a tough week coming up - two tough road games. After a hum-

bling loss like this, we will find out a little more about where we are at by the end of the week. The guys are up for the challenge," Pieper said.

Box Score

Merrill 54 @ Shawano 87

The Merrill Bluejay Boys Varsity Basketball Team took on the Lakeland Union High School Thunderbirds on Nov. 30. The home game had a lot of energy and the guys really showed their skills in front of the hometown crowd, ultimately bringing home a 77-74 win for the Bluejays.

"It was a great crowd," said Pieper. "It was so nice having the community back in the gym for our games; we gave everyone an exciting game to watch. Lakeland played really well in the first half and put us in an 11-point deficit at halftime."

"Giving up 46 points in the first half is not how I envisioned the first game to start," he said. "However, I have to give credit to my players. They took the adjustments we made at halftime and executed great on the defensive side in the second half. We held them to just 28 in the second half."

"A big chunk of our rotation is new to Varsity, cutting their teeth at the Varsity level last night, and I think they all handled it great - no fear, no panic, they all looked comfortable and confident the entire game, and our execution down the stretch was pretty awesome, with it being our first game and having so many new varsity players. It was a great character win," Pieper said.

"A lot of guys made big contributions for us to complete the comeback. Bailey Turenne (29 total points-9 FG, 3 3pt, 8 FT, 3 Ast, 5 Stl) and Troy Mootz (20 total points-6 FG, 2 3pt, 6 FT, 2 Ast, 2 Stl, 1 Blk) had really nice games and led us in scoring. I was really impressed with how Mootz played right out of the gate; he was really aggressive and in the first half he sort of carried us until Bailey could get going."

"Bailey sort of took over in the second half, and it was really impressive," Pieper added. "He scored 24 in the second half, and simply put, took over the game. He refused to allow us to lose. He had a couple huge steals as well down the stretch."

"We had key contributions off the bench, as well. Jordan Bush's energy on the defensive side of the ball in the second half gave us a big spark down the stretch when he had back-to-back steals that helped ignite our final run down the stretch."

"I also think Sam Reimann had great minutes off the bench, as well," Pieper said. "He was aggressive on both ends of the court and showed that he belongs to be playing Varsity basketball even though he's just a Sophomore."

Box Score

Lakeland 74 @ Merrill 77



Mia Ott and Sophie Wendorf go after a loose ball with Waupaca's Rachel Thobaben during Merrill's nonconference win over the Comets Nov. 30 in Waupaca. **Greg Seubert Photos**

Bluejays Girls Basketball Team gets first win

BY GREG SEUBERT
MMC STAFF

The Merrill Girls Basketball Team traveled to Waupaca Nov. 30 where they used a big second half to pick up a non-conference road win over Waupaca.

The Bluejays outscored the Comets 32-20 in the second half and returned home with a 54-42 win.

It was the first win of the season for the Bluejays, who opened the season with losses to Lakeland, Wittenberg-Birnamwood, and Medford.

Merrill led by as many as eight points in the first half, but the Comets answered with a 15-7 run to tie the game at 22-22 at the break.

The Comets scored the first seven points of the second half to take their biggest lead, but Sophie Wendorf connected on three of her five-three-pointers to help the Bluejays take the lead for good at 32-31.

Wendorf led all scorers with 20 points, while Mia Ott added 9 and Maddy Ott and Alayna Pozorski chipped in with 8 each.

Josie Nickel led Waupaca with 17 points.

• *Greg Seubert is the sports editor of the Waupaca County Post, New London Press Star, and Clintonville Tribune-Gazette.*



Merrill's Lydie Burrows battles for a rebound with Waupaca's Josie Nickel.



Waupaca's Macie Studzinski drives by Merrill's Monica Lane.

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East Merrill Newman United Bluejacks come up short in Dec. 3 & 4 hockey games

Eagle River game against Northland Pines goes into overtime

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

East Merrill Newman United Bluejacks Varsity Hockey Team played a non-conference game at the Eagle River Sports Arena against the Northland Pines Eagles High School Varsity Hockey Team on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021. The Eagles scored two points in the first period, the first of which was less than two minutes into the game. But the Bluejacks' #17 Zach Pagel also scored a point in the first, with an assist from #11 Eli Pagel and #18 Kaeden Grusnick.

In the second period, the Eagles scored another two points, but the Bluejacks made another point, as well. #17 Zach Pagel made the score with an assist from #11 Eli Pagel.

Third period saw the Bluejacks taking back the game with #17 Zach Pagel making a point with an assist from #11 Eli Pagel and then #8 Connor McCorkle of Merrill landing a second point with an assist from #18 Koeden Grusnick and #6 Parker Klebenow of Merrill.

That put the game into overtime. Ultimately the Northland Pines Eagles landed the final and winning point, ending the game with a score of 5-4.

"The boys played great," East United Bluejacks Coach Nate Pagel said. He described the game as a "nail biter in OT" even though it was ultimately a loss. Other highlights, the Coach said, included a "First start for Freshman Connor Burton in the net. Had over 90% save percentage." and "Connor McCorkle scored

his first high school goal."
"It was a great team effort," Coach Pagel said.

Box Score

Northland Pines 5 vs. East Merrill Newman United 4

On Dec. 3, the East Merrill Newman United Bluejacks played against the Antigo Red Robins High School Varsity Hockey Team in a non-conference game at the Langlade County Multi-Purpose Building in Antigo.

Antigo scored two points in the first period and another six points in the second period. Also during the second period, #12 Brody Trantow scored the single point for the Bluejacks with an assist from #6 Parker Klebenow of Merrill. Antigo went on to score another point in the third period, clinching the win for the Red Robins.

Box Score

East Merrill Newman United 1 vs. Antigo 9

East Merrill Newman United Bluejacks Varsity Hockey Team played a non-conference game at the rink in Tomahawk's Sara Park against the Tomahawk Hatchets Varsity Hockey Team on Tuesday, Nov. 30.

The Tomahawk Hatchets scored two points in the first period, another four points in the second period, and two points in the third. The Bluejacks scored their solo point of the game during the second period. Bluejacks #27 Nick Bodner made the score, with an assist from #11 Eli Pagel.

Box Score

East Merrill Newman United 1 vs. Tomahawk 8

NELSON

from page 16

of community members and business associates who suggested he would be a great fit to fill the Chamber's need for an Executive Director, a position that has been vacant since late 2020. He considered it. He applied. He interviewed. And the rest, as they say, is history. He was hired.

"Lincoln Community Bank was an active member of the Chamber," Clyde recalled. In that role, he very much recognized the importance of the Chamber of Commerce to the Merrill community. And he enjoys being a part of the community, he added, having been actively involved in many aspects of the Merrill community since moving here in 2014.

He and his wife, Wendy, have always enjoyed living in small (10,000 to 15,000 or smaller) communities, he said. Living and working in a small community allowed him to get involved at a more personal level. He cited his involvement in various community organizations, church coun-

cils, and coaching ball with the kids when they were younger, over the years.

Now the kids are grown, and the Nelsons consider Merrill their home. Clyde and his wife, Wendy, have three grown children - a married daughter who lives in Skandia, Mich., a married son in Kingsford, Mich.; and an unmarried son in The Plains, Ohio - as well as eight beautiful grandchildren.

Since moving to Merrill, Clyde has become active in his church - he and Wendy are members of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill - serving on the Finance Council, as a member of the Knights of Columbus, and this year Clyde is the Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus. He is a former member of the Rotary Club, currently serves on the United Way Board and Habitat for Humanity Board, and volunteers at the Merrill Community Food Pantry. He is also Chairman of the Redevelopment Authority Committee for the City of Merrill.

At the urging of friends

and associates, Clyde considered coming out of retirement to apply for the position of Executive Director because he and those associates recognized the need for someone to be in that position to coordinate things, to help represent the business community, and to "steer the ship," so to speak, to ensure everyone is headed in the same direction. The Chamber wasn't floundering, Clyde said. "It just needed somebody ... so that the Executive Board isn't the one managing the ship."

"God has blessed me with many talents," he said. Clyde described the three facets of being a good steward: "Time, talent, and treasures."

"I'm not the richest person in the world, so if I can give of my time and

See **NELSON**
page 20



All Conference Honorable Mentions from the Merrill Varsity Football Team, from L to R: Abrehm Van Wie, Aiden Pehlke, Ryder Depies, Bailey Turenne, Brian Ball, and Erik Mann with Head Football Coach Jason Wadzinski.

Submitted photos.



Named to Second Team All Conference from the Merrill Varsity Football Team, shown with Head Varsity Football Coach Jason Wadzinski, are, from L to R: Ryder Depies, Cayden Diels, and Bailey Turenne.

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2021-2022 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

Basketball Girls (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Fri. Dec. 10	Marshfield (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Fri. Dec. 10	Marshfield (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Tues. Dec. 14	Mosinee (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Tues. Dec. 14	Mosinee (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Basketball Boys (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Fri. Dec. 10	Marshfield (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Fri. Dec. 10	Marshfield (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Tues. Dec. 14	Antigo (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Tues. Dec. 14	Antigo (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Ice Hockey Boys (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Dec. 9	D. C. Everest (JV)	Away	5:30 pm
Thurs. Dec. 9	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	7:30 pm
Thurs. Dec. 16	Stevens Point (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 16	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Ice Hockey Girls (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Dec. 9	ECA Stars (JV)	Hobbs	T. B. D.
Fri. Dec. 10	Multiple-UW MIL (Varsity)	UWM	5:00 pm
Sat. Dec. 11	Multiple-UW MIL (Varsity)	UWM	12:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 14	Green Bay E. (Varsity)	D. C. E.	5:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 14	Green Bay E. (JV)	D. C. E.	7:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 16	Marshfield COOP (Varsity)	Ice Hawk	7:00 pm
Wrestling Boys (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Dec. 9	Marshfield (Varsity)	Away	6:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 9	Marshfield (JV)	Away	7:15 pm
Thurs. Dec. 16	Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)	Home	6:00 pm

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Avery Hoff, a Sophomore at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Avery started playing Merrill Girls Varsity Volleyball as a Freshman and this year received an award for Most Assists. She was also named to Second Team All Conference for Volleyball in the Wisconsin Valley Conference. Avery started out playing volleyball from the fourth to the eighth grades at Trinity Lutheran School. Last year she played Basketball on the JV team, as well, but she said she is not planning to play this year.

At school, Avery is in LEAD and on a team in Link Crew. In her free time, she likes hanging out with friends and family.

The daughter of Molly Hoff-Davis and John Davis of Merrill, Avery thinks she may pursue a career in the medical field after high school graduation because she really likes science. She has a 4.0 GPA.



Avery Hoff

Congratulations from these sponsors:



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

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Ascension Medical Group – Merrill patients will now be seen at Aspirus Merrill Clinic

As Aspirus Health continues to onboard the clinics and hospitals they acquired from Ascension, they also continue to evaluate the best ways to provide the best care to all patients.

Ascension Medical Group – Merrill (3430 E. Main St.) patients are now being seen at Aspirus Merrill Clinic (3333 E. Main St.) effective Dec. 1.

Aspirus Medical Group (AMG) - Merrill's level of

care is expanding, as they will now have access to an onsite lab, as well as mammography.

All current providers at AMG – Merrill will be seeing their patients at Aspirus Merrill Clinic; patients do not need to do anything further. Providers and staff are excited to welcome AMG patients to their new clinic.

Anyone with questions may call 715.539.5600.

NELSON from page 19

my talent, then I feel I'm giving back to the community," he said. "And that's one of the reasons for doing this, too."

"Yes, they are paying me to do this – it's not a volunteer thing – but it's just ... [the community needs someone] to go out

and be an advocate here for the businesses within the community," he said. "Somebody needs to speak up for them at times."

Businesses interested in joining the Chamber or individuals who wish to speak with Clyde can reach him at the Merrill Chamber office at 715.536.9474.



Stay healthy. Live joyously.

Aspirus Health is committed to providing exceptional care to even more people in the Merrill area.

Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital is now **Aspirus Merrill Hospital**
Ascension Medical Group - Merrill is now **Aspirus Merrill Clinic - E. Main Street**

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- 8 ounces of Pine River all natural cheese spread
- Top it all off with a mini Cow Pie Candy which consists of crunchy pecans and buttery caramel drenched in smooth milk chocolate.



CHEESE LOVERS BOX

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- 12 oz. hand wax sealed chunk of Mild Cheddar Cheese
- 12 oz. hand wax sealed chunk of Colby Cheese
- 12 oz. hand wax sealed chunk of Colby Jack Cheese
- One half pint bottle of Schleif Sugar Bush 100% Pure Maple Syrup
- 8 ounces of Pine River all natural cheese spread
- Top it all off with a mini Cow Pie Candy which consists of crunchy pecans and buttery caramel drenched in smooth milk chocolate.

