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**MMC**

## Armed person shot and killed by officer in Town of Pine River



This home on Shady Lane Ave. in the Town of Pine River was the site of a shooting last Friday morning, Dec. 10, 2021. Lincoln County officers, responding to a 911 call, encountered an individual armed with a knife, who was subsequently shot and killed by an officer as the incident unfolded. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

According to a press release from the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), at approximately 6:33 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 10, 2021, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call for a subject with a knife in a residence on Shady Lane Avenue in the Town of Pine River.

"Law enforcement entered the residence, encountered the armed subject and discharged their firearm, striking the subject," the release said.

Despite law enforcement administering lifesaving efforts, and EMS doing the same upon arrival, the person died at the scene. While the person's name was not released by law enforcement, family members have come forward to confirm the deceased to be 28-year-old John "Amoo" Za Moua of the Town of Pine River, Moua had listed the residence, in which the critical incident took place, as his address in 2019 court documents.

No law enforcement personnel were injured during the incident.

See **SHOOTING** page 2



The Lincoln County Courthouse sets the scene for the Christmas season. Snow began falling Friday evening, Dec. 10, 2021, and by Saturday morning, the Merrill area had accumulated between 10" and 13.5" of snow [depending on where you were located]. The City of Merrill reported about 10", W of Merrill reported 12.7", and Irma had reports of 13.5". Morning dawned on a winter wonderland. Some of the snow is likely to disappear soon though, as temperatures into the high 50's are forecast for mid-week, and area residents may be ditching their jackets and winter coats by the time they hold this newspaper in their hands.

**Michael J. Caylor Jr. photo.**



The sound of snow blowers, plows, and shovels was heard throughout the community as residents dug out Saturday morning. **Tina L. Scott photo.**



Students at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School are loving all the snow – and the snowbanks it created. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

## Fire destroys house in Town of Corning

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

On Dec. 11, 2021, at approximately 6:34 p.m., the Town of Corning Fire Department (CFD), Merrill Fire Department/EMS, and Lincoln County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a report of a house fire on Midway Rd. just north of County Rd. M in the Town of Corning, according to a press release issued on Monday.

Upon arrival, the house was fully engulfed in flames, according to those first to respond. The home's two occupants were able to safely evacuate the residence. Merrill EMS checked on the occupants, the press release said, and they reported no injuries.

The occupants told on-scene



A burned out shell is all that remains of a home that caught fire on Dec. 11, 2021, in the Town of Corning. Visible ice tells the story of firefighters' attempts to extinguish the blaze. The home's occupants are staying with family members. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

investigators a water heater began to smoke and flames began to come out of it and they attempted

to extinguish the flames with a fire

See **FIRE** page 2

**THE RIDGE... WINE, SPIRITS, BEER & MORE!**

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**Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 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**

# Jacqueline Gremler joins the Merrill Area Board of Education

At its special board meeting Thursday evening, the Merrill Area Public School Board voted to select a new board member, Jacqueline Gremler. The Board vacancy was created when Board member Jon Smith resigned from the Board of Education.

As per its policy, the Board solicited nominations from community members for the open seat. Two individuals filed their letter of interest and resumes: Paul Proulx and Gremler. After interviews and careful consideration, the Board elected Gremler as the new Board member on a majority vote.

"Having two strong candidates



step forward, hoping to fill one Board position vacancy, says a lot about the support of our community," said Dr. John Sample, MAPS Superintendent. "I look forward to working with Jacqueline as she becomes acclimated to her important role."

Gremler's limited-term will end April 2022.

The Board greatly appreciates the interest and participation of both candidates who applied.

Jacqueline Gremler is the newest member of the Merrill Area Public Schools Board of Education. **Submitted photo.**

**MERRILL AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT OFFICE**

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**  
 The MAPS Central Office will be closed  
**December 23, 2021 - December 31, 2021**  
 Regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 3, 2022.  
 Happy Holidays and the best for the New Year!

**REMINDER: Deadline for filing for School Board Candidate is Tuesday, January 4, 2022 by 5:00 p.m. to the District Office.**

## FIRE from page 1

extinguisher but were unsuccessful. They left the house and called 911.

The home is a total loss and the occupants stayed with family the night of the fire according to the CFD.

The Town of Hamburg Fire Department and Wisconsin Public Service also assisted on scene.



A home on Midway Rd. west of Merrill smolders after a blaze that destroyed the building on the evening of Dec. 11, 2021. **Photo courtesy Town of Corning Fire Department.**

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Instant Mashed Potatoes 13.75 oz. ONLY 69¢	Whole Roasted Almonds 32 oz. ONLY \$3.99 each	Soft Baked Bitterscotch Cookies 9.5 oz. ONLY 59¢
Creamy Wild Rice Soup Mix 6.5 oz. ONLY 49¢	Raisins 15 oz. ONLY \$1.39	Pork Breakfast Links w/Bacon Fully Cooked - Frozen 8 oz. ONLY 79¢
Miracle Whip 1 Gallon ONLY \$5.89	Sliced Cheddar Sharp American Cheese 5 lbs. ONLY \$6.89	Pork Chops - 2nds Seasoned-Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY \$12.99 a case
Beef Summer Sausage 48 oz. ONLY \$4.99	Sharp Cheddar Cheese 16 oz. ONLY \$2.49	French Vanilla Almond Granola 13 oz. ONLY 99¢
Hickory Smoked Summer Sausage 20 oz. ONLY \$1.69	Aged Sliced Swiss Cheese 8 oz. ONLY \$1.99	Mega Pop Popcorn & Oil Kits 36/8 oz. ONLY \$2.99 a case
Millionaires Pecan & Caramel Candy 16.75 oz. ONLY \$2.89	Colby Jack 3 Pepper Cheese 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.99 a lb.	Cranberry Juice 48/4 oz. cups. ONLY \$1.99 a case
Dark Chocolate Covered Cashews ONLY \$2.89 a lb.	Provolone Cheese Smoke Flavor 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.69 a lb.	Organic Cinnamon Crunch Cereal 9.2 oz. ONLY 59¢
Whole Wheat Flour 5 lbs. ONLY \$1.89	Mountain Dew Voo Dew Soda 12/12 oz. ONLY \$2.99	Frosted Flakes Organic Sprouted Cereal 12.7 oz. ONLY 79¢

*In-store only. We reserve the right to limit quantities.*

## SHOOTING from page 1

Officers involved in the incident have been placed on administrative assignment, which is standard department policy for an officer-involved death incident.

DCI will lead an investigation, which is also standard protocol, assisted by the Wisconsin State Patrol, Marathon County Sheriff's Department, Merrill Police Department, the Wausau Police Department, and the DOJ Office of Crime Victim Services. All involved law enforcement are fully cooperating with DCI during this investigation, the release stated.

DCI is reviewing evidence and determining the facts of this incident and will turn over investigative reports to the Lincoln County District Attorney when the investigation concludes.

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**Fuji and Gala Apples \$99 lb. \$15 1/2 bu.**  
**Honey Crisp \$1.75 lb. \$25 1/2 bu.**  
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Remembering you is easy,  
 We do it every day.  
 Missing you is a heartache,  
 That never goes away.  
 You had a smile for everyone,  
 You had a heart of gold,  
 You left the sweetest memories,  
 This world could ever hold.  
 To us you were someone special,  
 What more is there to say,  
 Except to wish with all our heart,  
 That you were with us today.

**Greatly missed by Honey and her families.**  
**Merry Christmas, Santa!**

**Uff-da!**

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Santa was at the Pine River Fire Department on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, to visit with area children. Some were bashful and shy and their minds went completely blank when asked what they wanted for Christmas; others had rehearsed the recitation of their Christmas wish lists before meeting Santa and were well prepared. A few were too scared for an individual photo with Santa, so Santa's helper took a family photo with Mr. Claus instead. One was too bashful to talk to Santa but made him a card and had his Mom give it to the man in red. A few gave Santa hugs before leaving. And many of the littlest were content to sit on Santa's lap and snuggle in for a bit. That red suit is soft and cozy and that beard feels wonderful on little fingers, too! A total of 85 children came through the firehouse to meet Santa Claus. **Tina L. Scott photos.**



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A special thank you to the following businesses  
& individuals for their Generous Support:

- |                                       |                                    |
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| Merrill Fire Department               | Courtney Odegard                   |
| Tim & Sue Finnegan                    | Karl Henrichs                      |
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| Carol Plautz                          |                                    |

Also, a SPECIAL THANK YOU to anyone that brought food and to all of our friends and family that helped out during this event.



YOU ALL HELPED MAKE IT  
A GREAT SUCCESS!

**Merry Christmas -  
Beaver & Heather Plautz**

**PUBLISHER'S LETTER**

**Atonement**

Dear Reader,

Who among us has not made mistakes in life? Dealing with our shortcomings as human beings is the focus of much thought and the source of a sizable portion of the suffering we all experience from time to time.



When we are the wrong-doer, we might ask for forgiveness and perform our own Act of Contrition. We confess and try to atone in small and large ways to those we have harmed, in the hope that we can undo the harm.

When we are the person who was wronged, it helps to remember that we are not "better" than the other person, since like everyone we too make mistakes. Sometimes it can be hard to forgive because the pain is substantial.

But forgiveness is where we need to get to, so that we don't waste our days in needless rage and bitterness. Life is too short for holding grudges.

I am reminded of a quotation from Pope Francis: "Who am I to judge?"

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
PUBLISHER

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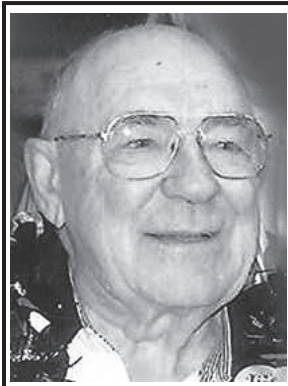
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OBITUARIES



**Donald A. Jacobi**, age 93, of Gleason, WI, passed away on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Merrill, WI. Don was born in Maywood, IL, on October 7, 1928, to the late Charles and Ruth (Behn) Jacobi. He served his country in the United States Army. Don was married to Shirley Gibson on August 10, 1951; she survives.

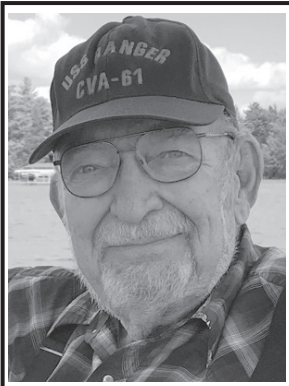
Don and his family moved from Illinois to Gleason when he was a young boy. He spent many years working on the dairy farm and also worked as a sheet metal worker for the National Sheet Metal Workers Union.

Don loved the outdoors and was instrumental in helping develop and operate the Harrison Hills Ski Area. He taught many children how to ski there and imparted a love of the sport to his own family. He was a member of the National Ski Patrol. Don was very active within his community. He was involved in many talent shows at the Midway PTA and helped with many functions as a member of the Gleason Community Club. In his younger years, Don enjoyed playing slow pitch softball. He was a lifelong member of the Lutheran Memorial Church where he sang with the choir and served the Lord in many ways. He was proud to share his passion for singing with his grandson, both being members of the Barber Shoppers. Don was also a talented woodworker who enjoyed working in his shop making many pieces of furniture to share with his friends and family. Don was a devoted family man, his children were his first priority, and his grandchildren were even more of a priority.

Survivors include his wife of over 70 years, Shirley Jacobi, of Gleason; his daughter, Lorri (Larry) Beyer, of Skwentna, AK; and his daughter-in-law, Denise Jacobi-Lange, of Tomahawk. He is further survived by his grandchildren, Jennifer, Luke, Amanda, and Stacy; and his great-grandchildren, Maddi, Kati, Rylee, Hunter, Sophie, Liam, Solomon, and Bode.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Ruth; his son, Mark; and his brother, Carl.

A celebration of life gathering for Donald Jacobi will be held at a later date. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Don's obituary and leave online condolences at generationsfuneral.com.



**John H. Renken Jr.**, age 87, of Merrill, passed away on Wednesday December 8, 2021 at Good Samaritan Hospital, Merrill.

John was born on May 12, 1934 in St. Paul, Minnesota, son of the late John and Frances (Hyland) Renken. He married Barbara L. Renken on April 4, 1981 in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. She preceded him in death on September 28, 2018. John was in the U.S Navy, which is where he spent twenty-one years of his working career. John was a proud life-long member of VFW post 3143.

John and Barb traveled yearlong in their RV for 19 years. They spent time in Arizona, Mississippi, Florida, Minnesota and Colorado. They enjoyed their visits to Mississippi the most. In the 19 years that they traveled, John and Barb put almost 500,000 miles on their RVs. In addition to this John also enjoyed going to the casino.

John is survived by his daughter, Teresa Renken; son, Timothy (Terrie) Renken; step-daughter, Beth Ann (Steve) Plautz; step-sons, Gary White, Robert (Tina) White, and Dean White; nine grandchildren; and fourteen great-grandchildren.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara L. Renken; his parents, John and Frances Renken; and step-sons, Don White and Kevin Rogers.

The family wishes to thank Compassus Hospice Care and the nurses and staff at Good Samaritan Hospital for the care they offered John and his family. A service for John will be held at a later date. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com)

**Emmit T. Winchell**, 77, Merrill, passed on December 8, 2021.

A full obituary will be submitted in the Spring, prior to the memorial. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill is assisting the family.



**Agnes M. Gianoli**, 95, Athens, died Monday, December 6, 2021, at Marshfield Medical Center-Marshfield from complications of Covid-19.

She was born May 15, 1926, in Marshfield, daughter of the late Joseph and Otilie (Klein) Burger. On April 19, 1958, she married Charles Gianoli of Genoa at St. John Catholic Church, Wuerzburg. He preceded her in death March 24, 1999.

Agnes had been employed at the Bank of Athens for 32½ years in several capacities, including that of teller and bookkeeper before her retirement on December 31, 1991. She was a member of St. Anthony's Church, where she was a lector and Eucharistic minister, St. Anthony's PCCW, St. John's Altar Society, Girl Scout Leader, Athens Women's Club, VFW Auxiliary (charter member since 1949, and Secretary for 59 years), National Catholic Society of Foresters (she was selected Forester of the Year in 1987), the Bowling Association, and the 500 Card Club for 67 years. She enjoyed playing cards, especially 500, sheephead, poker, and cribbage (bring your money and count fast), and the occasional casino trip. For many years she was treasurer of the Athens Fair Parade Fund, and was given the honor of Parade Marshal in 2012.

In 1949, Agnes became a charter member of the Athens Bowling Association and bowled on the same team (with her sisters, and eventually daughters), for 70 years. She bowled in 67 consecutive Wisconsin state tournaments and 31 national tournaments all around the country. When she was 88, she bowled a game of 216 in the Wisconsin state tournament. Agnes was an expert baker; making bread, sweet rolls, and cookies all by hand - no mixer for her! If any of the cousins needed a family recipe, they knew that aunt Ag would have it, and if they needed to know any family history, it was aunt Ag who knew it. She cut hundreds of wedding cakes at the former Trianon Ballroom. No matter what shape or size of the cakes, she always managed to make perfect slices.

She was an avid reader, having read over 2,000 books since her retirement, and an exceptionally talented knitter. If a grandchild walked into her house in the winter without mittens on, she started knitting a pair and they were done by the next day. She never missed Jeopardy, and could get very angry when contestants didn't know the answers (she knew almost every one). She taught all her daughters to swim in her brother's pool across the road even though she herself could not swim. She knew the rankings of every professional tennis player, and could pronounce all the foreign names. She had her favorites, and many whom she didn't like because they acted like "snots". She watched all the Brewers games, and if you didn't, she could tell you play by play what happened in the whole game. A diehard Packer fan as well, she wrote down the scores of every game by quarter, to continue Charlie's routine. She loved doing jigsaw puzzles and crossword puzzles - in ink - up until the day before she died. A great store of knowledge has been lost with her passing.

In 1971, when Charlie was the Athens Village President, they were invited (along with the mayors of all the cities named Athens in the U.S.) by the mayor of Athens, Greece to participate in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the modern city of Athens. They were treated like royalty for 10 days and returned with many gifts from the mayor including a key to the city.

In 2011, Agnes, along with her four daughters and over 80 of Charlie's distant relatives, traveled to Campodolcino, in the Italian Alps, to visit the homeland of the Gianoli ancestors. As the oldest member of the delegation, she was presented with the flag of Lombardy by the president of the region. While she was there, she taught many of the younger members of the group to play cribbage. She loved her family and was very proud of all her daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and their accomplishments.

Survivors include her daughters, Vanessa (Bob) McDonell - Wausau, Lisa (Romey) Wagner - Wausau, Andrea (Mike) Kulas - Athens, and Carla (Ron) Smith - Grand Rapids, Michigan; ten grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren; Vanessa & Bob's son Ian - Wausau; Lisa & Romey's children Eric (Samantha) Wagner and their children James and Reilly - Green Bay, Megan (Tucker) Legerski - Tuscaloosa, AL, and Brett Wagner - Madison; Andrea & Mike's children Quinn (Tom) Williams and their children Leyton and Isla - Somerset, Jacob (Tiffany) Kulas and their children Charlie, Brody, Kade, and Dylann - Port Edwards, Kellen Kulas and her son Gavon - Athens, Madelyn (Andy) Doyle and their daughter Sloane Agnes - Wilton, Natalie (Jeremy) Likely, and their son Henry - Tomah, and Annika Kulas - Athens. She is further survived by her siblings, Cecilia Johnson - Edgar, Theresa David - Marshfield, David (Marilyn) Burger - Marshfield, sister-in-law Lucy Lochen, brother-in-law Norbert Nowacki - both of Athens, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents and husband she was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Marla; brothers, Joseph L., George, and Leonard Burger; sisters, Marie Ellenbecker, Christine Schaefer, Sylvia David, and Janice Nowacki.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated at 1:00 p.m. Sunday December 12, 2021, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Athens. Rev. George Nelson Graham presided. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery Athens. Visitation was Saturday from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Peterson/Kraemer Funeral Home, Athens and again on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until the time of services at the church. There was a parish rosary service at 7:00 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, please honor Agnes's wish that everyone would take the initiative to receive the Covid vaccine to protect fully vaccinated, vulnerable people and make the world a safer place.

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**McKenna K. Meunier, Director**  
**Tammy Klade, Pre-Need Ins. Agent**

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



**Billy L. Marvin**, age 78, of Tomahawk, WI, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at Aspirus Sacred Heart Hospital in Tomahawk. Billy was born in Seattle, WA, on January 24, 1943, to the late Leonard and Mildred (Burgess) Marvin. He served in the United States Navy upon the USS Intrepid. Billy was married to Nancy Myers in June of 1966; she survives.

Billy moved with his family to the Tomahawk area when he was 5 years old. He returned to Tomahawk after serving in the military and entered the workforce. He retired after 20 years from the PDM Bridge Corp in Wausau, WI. Billy enjoyed his retirement spending time outdoors, painting, and cherished time with his family.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Nancy Marvin; his children, Annette (Mark) Winter, Andrew (Jennifer) Marvin, Suzanne (Jamie) Skees, Nicholas (Stephanie) Marvin, and Lindsay (Joseph) Rider; his grandchildren, Ryan Winter, Zac Stoklasa, Nathan Winter, Madison Winter, Jada Rider, Maria Marvin, Andre Rider, Mark Marvin, and Liam Marvin; his great-grandson, Hunter Rondeau; and his sister, Beverly Calhoun.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Mildred; and his brother, Leon.

A private family gathering will be held at a later date to celebrate Billy's life. Memorials are appreciated to the family and can be mailed to Suzanne Skees at 2558 Prairie Lake Road in Tomahawk. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family. You may view Billy's obituary and leave online condolences at generationsfuneral.com.

**In Memoriams**

In Loving Memory of  
**JOHN DOE**  
Apr. 9, 1954-Aug. 6, 2014



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*Love & Miss You Jane, Sue & Bob*

**MERRILL Foto News**

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OBITUARIES



**Esther J. Wegner**, age 97, of rural Merrill, passed away Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at her daughter Lorraine's home under the loving care of family and hospice services.

Esther was born June 12, 1924, in Merrill, daughter of the late Arthur and Mamie (Lentz) Welch. She married Harold Wegner March 14, 1946, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill. He preceded her in death on January 30, 2016. Esther attended teachers' college and had taught at the

former Leafy Grove School in the early 1940's. After her marriage, Esther and Harold dairy farmed in the town of Corning. Later, the couple owned and operated a bus service and Esther became a contracted bus driver for the Merrill Area Public Schools. Esther was an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, town of Corning, where she was a Bible School teacher and was a member of the Ladies League. Esther enjoyed teaching, gardening, farming, and making maple syrup.

Esther is survived by two daughters, Harriet Wegner of DuPont, Washington and Lorraine Prebeg of Merrill; six grandchildren, Dan Prebeg, Matthew (Jessica) Prebeg, Michael (Amy) Prebeg, Brent (Jennifer) Waldrop, Rebecca (Jason) Barrett, and Brian Waldrop; thirteen great grandchildren, Allison (spouse, Dakota), Ashley, Tristen, Izabella, Alyssa, Noah, Elijah, Samantha, Mark, Lucas, Olivia, Annie, and Jace; one great great grandchild, Lincoln; and a sister, Darlene 'Mitzi' Wolf. Besides her parents and husband.

Esther is preceded in death by a great granddaughter, Claire; and five siblings, Dorothy Wegner, Essie Fay Vandre, Caroline Vandre, and Arthur and Dewey Welch.

The funeral service will begin at 11:00 AM Saturday, December 18, 2021, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, town of Corning. The Rev. Joel Danner will officiate. Burial will follow in Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery, town of Corning. Due to several family commitments, the visitation will be from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 16th at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill, and again after 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 18th at the church. Online condolences may be made at [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com).

THE FAMILY OF ESTHER WEGNER REQUESTS THAT MEMORIALS BE DIRECTED TO THE WISCONSIN VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OR IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH.



**David Becker**, age 75 of Merrill, passed away peacefully on December 5th at Mount View Care Center in Wausau.

He was born and raised in southern Wisconsin, where he learned the value of hard work at an early age- one of the many qualities he instilled in his children. David was very proud to be a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving his enlisted years in Germany.

He spent his career as an electrician, most of it with 3M Company in Wausau. While working at 3M he and his wife Kathy also owned a bait shop, Becker Baits, on the west side of Merrill in the late 80's.

An avid hunter and fisherman, he was happy to share his vast knowledge with others and make new friends to enjoy those hobbies with, taking frequent trips to Canada to pursue the walleyes, as well as hunting on the same land his father and grandfather did in Hazelhurst.

After an injury sidelined him for a bit in his 50's he took that time to continue his lifetime love of learning and went back to school, attending and obtaining a degree from NTC. Upon graduation he took a job with Volm Bag Company in Antigo, where he finished out his career. He genuinely loved all the traveling he got to do within the U.S. and Canada while with Volm and sharing stories about the places and people he encountered.

He was married to the love of his life, Kathy for 53 years. They were a perfect example of living your marriage vows; people often commented on how even after all those years they still looked at each other so lovingly and cared so deeply for one another. Together they raised their children, Rebecca and Kris, sharing their mutual love of the outdoors and traveling the country with them at their sides.

In retirement they especially enjoyed trips to Laughlin, NV and Tunica, MS to gamble and see the sights. Dave loved to play cards and played for years with a group of dear friends that met weekly. He and Kathy often went to his brother Mike & sister-in-law Kay's house to 'lose Merrill nickels' or bring home 'Portage nickels', something they enjoyed no matter which way it went.

Dave was one of the most caring and accepting people you could have the pleasure of knowing. He not only enjoyed sharing his stories and knowledge with his children, but with their friends, many of whom looked up to him as a second dad. Dave was a patient teacher and mentor to anyone who needed it. He was truly our patriarch; the hole his passing leaves in our hearts will never be filled.

The lights of his life in his later years were his grandchildren and great-granddaughter. Gpa was their rock, always quick with a hug or an 'I love you' no matter what he was doing. Spending time with them was his greatest joy.

David is survived by his wife, Kathy, of Merrill, as well as his daughter Becky of Wisconsin Rapids and Son Kris (Danni Gibson) of Merrill. Also surviving are his grandchildren- Katie Roberts (David Konkol), Ashley (Matt) Renken, Emily Simon, Ally (Oscar Herrera) Roberts; Jenna Becker, Kristopher Becker and Logan Gibson, and great-granddaughter Carolina Herrera-Roberts.

He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings Dick, Mike, and Margo, as well as son-in-law John Roberts, brother-in-law Geno, and nephew Keith Becker.

The family would like to thank the VA Hospice team for their care and compassion during Dave's final weeks.

A celebration of Dave's life will be held on Saturday January 8th at the Northwoods Veteran's Post, 601 Johnson St. in Merrill from 1-4PM.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to F.I.S.H., [www.fishinginspirespecialhearts.com](http://www.fishinginspirespecialhearts.com) or Little Lakes Memories, <http://littlelakesmemories.org/>



**Jeanne Delores (Schraeder) Larkee**, 97, passed her earthly life on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at Riverview Terrace, Tomahawk.

She was born the only daughter of Arthur and Edith (Wilson) Schraeder on March 13, 1924 in Madison, Wisconsin. She married Kenneth Larkee on April 29, 1948 in Merrill, Wisconsin. They enjoyed fifty-one years together before Kennie passed in 2000.

As a young girl, Jeanne spent her early school years in Georgia. She said, "If you wore shoes to school there, you were considered rich." Since she walked, she would hide her shoes on the way to school and retrieve them again on the way back home. In the early forties she worked alongside her mother and two aunts at Fairbanks Morse Co in Beloit building airplane parts. She moved to Merrill in 1947 to work for her Aunt Tot at Steuri's Museum Tavern, where she met Kenneth. The two enjoyed going to dances and never missed the Howie Sturtz Band when they played in town.

Jeanne enjoyed doing yard work, their cabin, and crafts (especially plastic canvas). She loved anything Irish, autumn, fresh sparkly snow, and roses. She also liked sharing nostalgic memories of her childhood, growing up with grandparents, aunts and uncles, and the 'hard times' era. She of course also enjoyed having her grandchildren around.

Survivors include one daughter, Judith (Russell) Wilde of Kronenwetter; two granddaughters, Renee Wilde (Jason Cance) of Eau Claire and Rachel Wilde of Kronenwetter; one grandson, Ryan (Carlee) Wilde of Merrill; and three great-grandsons, Devonte Fisher of Madison, Connor Wilde and Davien Wilde. Jeanne was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Larkee; her parents, Arthur and Edith Schraeder; son, Jeffery Larkee; and several close aunts and uncles.

Thanks to Lakeland for their helpful assistance throughout the years, and Riverview Terrace for their care and support. Also, a special thank you to Julie Schutz for her dedicated time, caring, and assistance. Mother's life was made easier because you cared.

A private family funeral was held. Burial took place at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery in Merrill, Wisconsin.

The Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made to [www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com](http://www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com).

LEGAL NOTICES

**Legals 7700**

**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

**CITY OF MERRILL**  
 1004 EAST FIRST STREET  
 MERRILL, WI 54452  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 All persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing to be held by and before the City Plan Commission of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin, commencing at **6:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 4, 2022**, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, on the following proposed matter, to wit:  
**To attend remotely, Phone: 765-396-0188 PIN: 934 857 676**  
 1.) Mark Raymer, requesting rezoning

**CITY OF MERRILL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE OF BID**

The City of Merrill Public Works Department will accept bids for the following equipment at the Merrill City Clerk's Office, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452, until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday January 20th, 2022. Bid specifications may be obtained from the Public Works Director/City Engineer at (715) 536-5594 or can be found on the City of Merrill website <http://www.ci.merrill.wi.us>

One (1)-1 Ton 4x4 Cab and Chassis Trucks

The City of Merrill reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid they deem advantageous to the City of Merrill.

Rod Akey, PE  
 Public Works Director/City Engineer  
 Published Dec. 16 & 23, 2021  
 WNAXLP

**NOTICE**  
**City of Merrill Residents**  
**Garbage and Recycling Collection**  
**for the Christmas and**  
**New Year Holidays.**

**Christmas Eve: Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
 will be picked up in a combined collection on Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Christmas: Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**  
 will be picked up in a combined collection on Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

**New Year's Eve: Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
 will be picked up in a combined collection on Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

**New Year's Day: Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
 will be picked up in a combined collection on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

Please have your items out to the curbside by 6:00 a.m. Please contact the City Garage with any questions at (715) 536-4222.

**Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**  
 Visit the City of Merrill's web site at [www.ci.merrill.wi.us](http://www.ci.merrill.wi.us) to view garbage and recycle rules and preparation information.  
**Dustin Bonack**  
 Street Superintendent

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**MERRILL FOTO NEWS**

**Student of the Week**

**This Week's Featured Student is**  
**Elijah Hohman**  
 Son of **Paul and Theresa Hohman**  
 Elijah is in 7th grade at New Testament Church Christian Academy. He was nominated by Mrs. Schneider.

**What is your favorite subject in school? Why?**  
 Social Studies is my favorite subject. I love learning about history.

**What is your favorite part of school? Why?**  
 I like breaktime because I can talk and hang out with my friends.

**What would you like to do/become someday? Why?**  
 I want to become a Pastor one day like my dad.

Elijah is a very caring student. He is very gentle hearted and loves to help others. Elijah is a positive, uplifting student, and just enjoys life.  
 ~ Mrs. Schneider

Student of the Week Sponsored by:  
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**(715) 536-5400**

# Sowinski gets certified and Merrill Arby's location becomes National Certified Training Restaurant

### Merrill restaurant is the first single-store franchise to achieve this distinction

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

When an Arby's restaurant hires staff or opens a new location, new employees must go through significant training to become certified prior to going live in their designated location. For instance, when the Merrill Arby's opened, the staff in various positions required extensive training and certification, owner Gary Schwartz said. "The General Manager had to work eight weeks in a National Certified Training Restaurant (NCTR) and be certified."

The Assistant Manager and Shift Leaders had to do the same, and Back Kitchen Staff had to work for four weeks in a NCTR and be certified.

All of that training had to take place on location at a NCTR.

"The Merrill Arby's opened Nov. 1, 2014," Schwartz said. "It was part of a complete rebuild of the Pine Ridge Mobil complex. Arby's actually sits on the original footprint of the Pine Ridge Standard that was first built on this site and opened Aug. 2, 1976."

### Merrill Arby's sets goal to become NCTR

"General Manager Becky Sowinski decided that she wanted to become an Arby's National Certified Training Restaurant/Manager," Schwartz said. "This would be the highest distinction for performance that an individual General Manager and individual Restaurant can attain in the Arby's world."

"It is always good to have a goal, something to work towards," he said.

"I began the training process back in 2017," Becky Sowinski said. "I attended my first Certified Training Manager (CTM) class on Mar. 15, 2017. I have attended three of them. In order to become a NCTR, you must attend at least one class, go through the pre-certification



Merrill Arby's Manager Becky Sowinski proudly displays the announcement designating their location as a Nationally Certified Training Restaurant. She and co-owners Gary and Mary Schwartz are proud of her hard work, and the work of the entire Merrill Arby's team, to achieve this designation.

checklist with a 90% or better, get a triple ace on your unannounced AOR (Arbys Operational Review), and then get a triple ace on the day of certification with also a 90% or better on the certification checklist."

"Arby's has always scored very high on Eco Sure health inspections (99.5%), and Lincoln County Health Department inspections (100%)," Schwartz said. "In addition to those inspection processes, Arby's has an unannounced inspection system called an AOR. An AOR is a four-to-five-hour inspection conducted by regional Arby's corporate staff."

"So the triple ace consists of three categories: Guest Experience, Arby's Standards, and Food Safety," Sowinski explained. "You must score 90% or higher on all three. The first triple ace was Guest Experience 92.8, Arby's Standards 94.1, and Food Safety 93.2."

"The day of certification was Guest Experience 91.64, Arby's Standards 96.47, and Food Safety 96.07," she said.

Sowinski and the Merrill Arby's came through with flying colors, but it's been a four-and-a-half-year process. Along the way to earning this certification, the location picked up a few other accolades.

"In addition to all of the awards leading up to the NCTR designation, our store was also awarded the Highest Sales Gain in 2020," Schwartz said. "These awards are on display in the Arby's Restaurant."

Submitted photo.

See ARBY'S page 15

## Happy 50<sup>th</sup>

on December 19 to this kid at heart and greatly loved family man, and friend.

We love you.  
Your family & friends.



110405

## In Memory of Sandra Towle

January 23, 1944 – December 18, 2020



If roses grow in Heaven,  
Lord please pick a bunch for me,  
Place them in my Mother's arms  
and tell her they're from me.  
Tell her I love her and miss her,  
and when she turns to smile,  
place a kiss upon her cheek  
and hold her for awhile.  
Because remembering her is easy,  
I do it every day,  
but there's an ache within my heart  
that will never go away.  
*Love Your Daughter, Lori Amelse*

## In memory of Kolton G. Norman December 19, 2000



### A Note from Heaven

If I could write from Heaven,  
this is what I'd say,  
Please don't miss me too much,  
I'm with you throughout your day.  
You may not see or hear me,  
but if you're quiet and still,  
You may just feel my presence;  
because, in Heaven, there is free will.  
Don't worry for the day,  
it will come and go as planned,  
Enjoy each moment you are given,  
keep worry from your hand.  
Keep sorrow to a minimum;  
For if Heaven you could see,  
You'd know I'm safe and happy,  
I did not cease to be,  
Moments in time are brief,  
until we'll be together again,  
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our lives, they have no end.

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**Ad & News Deadlines:**  
Display Advertising:  
12:30 p.m. Monday

Classified Advertising:  
11:30 a.m. Monday

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

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# National Certified Training Restaurant

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left to right Gary Schwartz, Mary Schwartz, Shane Soyk, Ricci Petersen, Austin Born, Rebecca Sowinski, Daniel Catlin, Alissa Kracht and Tyler Schwartz

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# Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM  
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

## The Legend of 1900

(now streaming on Amazon)

★★★★☆

Rated R – for language and adult themes, but if rated today, it would be a PG-13

Well, my friends, this was a tough weekend for your intrepid movie buff, and I could not make it to the theatre to

see a new film for you. But, as always, I have one for you tucked away in the way-back machine.

*The Legend of 1900* came out in 1998, failed at the box office, won a bunch of awards, and vanished into near obscurity shortly after.

I stumbled upon this one by accident. It was on late one night, and I was wide awake, and I caught it as it started. Two hours and 49 minutes later, the credits rolled and I was stunned at what I had just watched. There are no action set pieces, no whirlwind romances to cheer for, no love triangles. There is only the story of a man named Danny Boodmann T.D. Lemon Nineteen Hundred, or “1900” for short.

Found abandoned on a steam liner in 1900 by a coal stoker, and raised as his own on the ship, 1900 grows up within the ship and among its passages, learning about the sea. And one fateful day, he sits down at a grand piano and is revealed to be a musical prodigy.

We, the viewers, learn about 1900’s story through flashbacks, as his story is being told to a music shop owner by Max Tooney, who boarded the ship in 1927 as a trumpet player in the ship’s band and who becomes 1900’s best friend.

Throughout the film, we learn about 1900 and his life and his adventures, and we are left to wonder, has he ever left the ship and walked on solid ground?

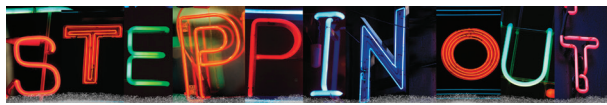
As always, to tell you more would be a disservice to you and the film. Don’t be put off by its long run time; this movie will draw you in and keep you there, and there is one sequence involving a storm and a piano that is breathtaking.

Here is another one that tanked at the box office, and that’s a shame, because we have enough slam bang movies out there and, after a while, they all become the same. But films like *The Legend of 1900* only come along once in a while, and every time they fail at the box office,



it takes longer to get another quality film back out there. These types of movies failing is evidence of why we cannot have nice things.

I give it four out of five stars. See this one out, my friends. It’s available on Amazon streaming. You will not regret it. After all, “A good story is worth more than an old trumpet.”



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99% ACCURACY  
All readings are treated w/ complete privacy and confidentiality.

**PSYCHIC SOLUTIONS by Amanda**  
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**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. 20th Menu:**  
Turkey, Stuffing, Vegetable and Cranberries

**The Eagles Club**  
1205 N Lake St. • Merrill, WI 54452  
Open to the Public • (715) 536-7471

**DINNER SPECIALS DEC.**  
**TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
Dec. 21st - Porcupine Meatballs  
Dec. 28th - Beef Tips w/ Noodles  
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**  
Dec. 17th - Catfish  
Dec. 24th and 25th Closed for Christmas  
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

**COSMO Theatre**  
Main St. • Merrill  
KIDS • \$5.00  
SENIORS • \$5.00  
ADULTS • \$8.00

**SHOW TIMES EFFECTIVE 12/17/21 TO 12/21/21**  
Mondays All Seats \$5.00

**SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME**  
"PG13" 2 Hour 28 Min.  
Everyday: 7:00 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat.: 7:00 p.m. & 9:15 p.m.  
Sat. & Sun.: 1:00 p.m. & 3:15 p.m.

**S&S BAR**  
418 Grand Ave., Merrill  
Open Daily 9 am - Close

**THIS WEEK'S DRINK SPECIAL: BACARDI**  
\$4 PINT MIXERS;  
\$2 TUB MIXERS; \$2 SHOTS

**Low carry out prices on Booze, Beer & Ice**  
Part-Time Bartender Wanted

Hall Rental Available • 715-536-4664

**ENCANTO**  
"PG" 1 Hour 39 Min.  
Everyday: 7:00 p.m.  
Sat. & Sun.: 1:00 p.m. & 3:45 p.m.

**GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE**  
"PG13" 2 Hour 4 Min.  
Everyday: 7:00 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat.: 7:00 p.m. & 9:15 p.m.  
Sat. & Sun.: 1:00 p.m. & 3:15 p.m.  
www.cosmomovies.com  
715-536-4473

**NEW! TRIVIA NIGHT**  
Thursday Nights 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
Dec. 16th, & 30th General  
Dec. 23rd Christmas

Chicken Available on Wed., Thurs., Sat. & Sun.  
Buckets for \$1.35/pc Available in 8, 12, 16 or 20pc

All You Can Eat BBQ Ribs & Chicken Every Wednesday

**MONDAY** Chicken or Shrimp Fettuccine Spaghetti & Meatballs  
**FRI FISH FRY** 2 & 3 Piece Cod Jumbo Shrimp Walleye  
**SUN BRUNCH BUFFET** 11am-3pm AYCE Adults \$12.99  
**BROASTED CHICKEN** 4 Piece with Potato for \$11.99 Available Sun./Thurs./Sat.

**THURSDAY** Wing Night  
**SATURDAY NIGHT** Steak Night

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

601 Johnson St., Merrill  
715-536-5708  
Check out our Facebook for most current menu, and More Info. for Trivia Nights!  
**NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSTIONS**

**Plautz's Pub LLC.**  
310 E. 2nd St., Merrill  
715-536-4611

**DEC. BOOZE OF THE MONTH**  
**SMIRNOFF**  
\$4.50 - 16 oz. Pint

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

**PUB'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**THUR., DEC. 23RD HORS D'OEUVRES**  
4-6 PM  
\$2 DOMESTIC BOTTLES  
6-8 PM  
**LIVE MUSIC BY JESSIE AND THE MEDICINE MEN.**  
9 PM - ?

**OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE**  
12 PM  
**OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY**  
2:30 PM

**WIN A 2022 CHEVROLET**

**TAHOE**

**DECEMBER 31 RST**

**HO-CHUNK GAMING WITTENBERG**  
N7198 US HWY 45 WITTENBERG, WI

**ADRC**  
Aging & Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin

**Uncertain about whether to get a COVID-19 vaccine and want to learn more?**

**CALL THE ADRC-CW • 1-888-486-9545**

**We serve all adults age 60 years+ and 18-59 years living with disabilities in Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, and Wood counties.**

**To schedule a vaccination, contact Wisconsin DHS at 1-844-684-1064 or go to vaccines.gov**

**We can connect you to English, Hmong, and Spanish speaking services.**



# Dave's COUNTDOWN to CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas from  
Dave's County Market!

Come to Dave's, Sat., Dec. 18th, 10am-1pm  
For Cookie Walk & to visit with Santa



Whole or Half  
**Hams**

**\$2.99** lb.

Cut Free!



Select Servings

**Chicken Party Wings**

**\$6.99** 2.5 lb. bag



Our Own Homemade

**Wildcat**

**\$4.99** lb.

## Dave's 12 ROASTS OF CHRISTMAS SALE

Call Ahead! We'll Have it Ready! 715-536-2571

<b>1</b> Bone In Center Pork Loin Roast <b>\$2.99</b> lb.	<b>2</b> 1855 Sirloin Tip Roast <b>\$5.99</b> lb.	<b>3</b> 1855 Standing Rib Roast <b>\$13.99</b> lb.	<b>4</b> 1855 Boneless Ribeye Roast <b>\$16.99</b> lb.	<b>5</b> 1855 Eye of Round Roast <b>\$5.99</b> lb.	<b>6</b> 1855 Boneless New York Strip Roast <b>\$9.99</b> lb.
<b>7</b> Boneless Pork Loin Roast <b>\$3.59</b> lb.	<b>8</b> 1855 Boneless Chuck Roast <b>\$5.99</b> lb.	<b>9</b> Semi Boneless Pork Shoulder Roast <b>\$2.29</b> lb.	<b>10</b> 1855 Boneless Rump Roast <b>\$5.99</b> lb.	<b>11</b> Boneless Ham/Cheese Pork Roast <b>\$3.99</b> lb.	<b>12</b> 1855 Top Round Roast <b>\$5.99</b> lb.

## WHOLEY EST. 1912 HOLIDAY SEAFOOD SALE

<b>Shrimp Rings</b> <b>\$5.99</b> 10 oz. ring	<b>Shrimp Rings</b> <b>\$9.99</b> 1 lb. ring	<b>26/30 Ct. EZ Peel Shrimp</b> <b>\$6.99</b> lb.	<b>16/20 Ct. EZ Peel Shrimp</b> <b>\$9.59</b> lb.	<b>8/12 Ct. EZ Peel Shrimp</b> <b>\$12.99</b> lb.
<b>16/20 Ct. Cooked Shrimp</b> <b>\$11.99</b> lb.	<b>31/40 Ct. Cooked Shrimp</b> <b>\$8.99</b> lb.	<b>41/50 Ct. Cooked Shrimp</b> <b>\$7.99</b> lb.	<b>71/90 Ct. Cooked Shrimp</b> <b>\$7.59</b> lb.	<b>Jumbo Breaded Shrimp</b> <b>\$3.99</b> 12 oz. pkg.

### PRODUCE

3 lb. Halo Clementines .....	<b>\$4.99</b>
Honeycrisp Apples.....	<b>\$1.99</b> lb.
1 lb. Sweet Mini Peppers .....	<b>2/\$6.00</b>
Iceberg Head Lettuce.....	<b>2/\$3.00</b>

Now Taking Fruit Basket Orders!

### FROZEN

Kemps, 48 oz. Candy Cane or Eggnog Ice Cream .....	<b>\$5.49</b>
Kemps, 4 Ct. Gingerbread Men Ice Cream Sandwiches.....	<b>\$4.19</b>

### DAIRY

Dean's, Half Gallon Flavored Milk .....	<b>2/\$4.00</b>
Dean's, Half Pint Whip Cream .....	<b>99¢</b>
Crystal Farms, 16 oz. Shredded Cheese .....	<b>\$4.99</b>
Crystal Farms, 6 ct. English Muffins.....	<b>\$1.25</b>

### BAKERY

Assorted Flavors Crumb Cakes .....	<b>\$3.49</b> ea.
------------------------------------	-------------------

Now is the time to order your Christmas Bakery Goodies!

### DELI

**Need a Deli Tray?**  
Large or Small, We have your Holiday Needs covered.  
Call to order your deli trays as soon as possible.  
**715-536-2571**

### LIQUOR

1.75 Liters Dixie Southern Vodka.....	<b>\$19.99</b>
1.75 Liters Canadian Mist Blended Canadian Whiskey.....	<b>\$12.99</b>
750 ML Selected Varieties Roscato Rosso Dolce Wine .....	<b>\$8.99</b>

### GROCERY

Essential Everyday Powder or Brown Sugar .....	<b>\$1.69</b>
4 lb. Crystal Sugar .....	<b>\$2.50</b>
Pillsbury, 5 lb. All Purpose Flour .....	<b>\$2.50</b>

Dave's 300 E. 1<sup>ST</sup> ST. MERRILL 715-536-2571

# County Market

WE VALUE FRESH WE VALUE FAMILY WE VALUE YOU!

Monday - Sunday • 5 AM - 11 PM

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

Prices good through Sunday, January 2, 2022  
We have the right to limit quantities and correct errors.  
No sales to dealers. Sorry no rain checks. While supplies last.

**HOLIDAY HOURS**  
Christmas Eve: Closing at 5:00 PM  
Christmas Day: CLOSED  
December 26: Open at 7:00 AM  
New Year's Eve: Closing at 9:00 PM  
New Year's Day: Open at 7:00 AM

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER ...

# State Report Card scores generated

**DR. JOHN SAMPLE**  
PROUD SUPERINTENDENT



The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by state statute (Wis. Stat. 115.385) to generate a school report card and district report card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. The report cards are intended to help schools and districts use performance data to celebrate successes and improve their efforts to prepare students for their futures. These public report cards can be found online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

The current school report card is primarily based on last year's performance during the 2020-21 school year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DPI encourages caution when interpreting scores and ratings on the 2020-21 report cards.

At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each

priority area:

**Achievement** - proficiency in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessments.

**Growth** - year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement.

**Target Group Outcomes** - outcomes for students with the lowest test scores: the Target Group.

**On-Track to Graduation** - reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education.

The priority area scores are aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed on the front page of the school or district report cards. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score is not a "percent correct" measurement. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from Fails to Meet Expectations to Significantly Exceeds Expectations, as well as corresponding one to five stars.

I want to share these results with you because they help illuminate some of our successes and help pin-

point areas of focus in our district. But as DPI stresses, these report cards are just one source of information about our district and schools.

Despite COVID-19, Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) district again met the expectations set forth by the state on the 2020-2021 report card and improved the overall score as a district.

The Bridges Virtual Academy significantly exceeded expectations this year, solidifying its status as one of the highest rated virtual schools in Wisconsin. Merrill High School and Prairie River Middle School both met expectations. And despite the challenges our district faced confronting the pandemic, for the first time ever, all four of our elementary buildings have exceeded expectations!

Washington Elementary	70.9	Exceeds Expectations
Jefferson Elementary	72.5	Exceeds Expectations
Maple Grove Charter	77.6	Exceeds Expectations
Kate Goodrich Elementary	81.1	Exceeds Expectations
Prairie River Middle School	64.0	Meets Expectations
Merrill High School	67.1	Meets Expectations
Bridges Virtual Academy	85.6	Significantly Exceeds Expectations
Merrill School District	68.6	Meets Expectations

See REPORT CARDS page 15

*Congratulations*  
*Merrill Foto News*  
**THANKSGIVING**  
Coloring Contest Winners!



**Charlotte Block**  
Age 3



**Jaxson Savaske-Simonsmeier**  
Age 6

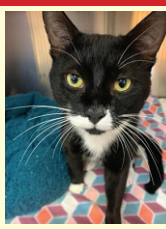


**Sharon Leinbach Hoover**  
Age 10

Contest sponsored by:  **INTERFLEX GROUP** 1401 W. Taylor St., Merrill (715) 536-5400

Each winner received a Fall Fun Gift Bag!  

**Pet of the Week**



This handsome man is **Morty**! He was brought to us as a stray after being found in someone's backyard. **Morty** is a very talkative young man! He loves to call attention to himself any chance he gets! He's quite a friendly guy, loves his cheeks and shoulders scratched and will even roll around is you really give him a lot of love! **Morty** can be a bit sassy at times with the other cats and may be better as the only cat in the home. *Come meet his handsome man soon!* Morty's adoption will include his neuter, vaccinations, and microchip.

Visit the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: MON. - SAT. 12-4 PM & SUN. 12-2 PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us on the web at [www.furypets.com](http://www.furypets.com).

SPONSORED BY **Foto News** 921 E. Main St.

**Foster Grandparents**  
Share Today. Shape Tomorrow.

You could be the one that makes a difference in a youth's life!

If you enjoy offering:

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- Making a difference in Your community
- Building mutually beneficial friendships

If you are age 55 or older, meet income criteria, and able to maintain 15 to 28 hours of service per week.

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

For your generous donation of time and talents. We provide, Free Lunches, TAX FREE MONEY, and additional incentives.

 **AmeriCorps Seniors** If Interested Call Jim at 715-539-1645 or email at: [James.Larkin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:James.Larkin@wisconsin.gov)

# BIG FINISH 2021



**BRICKNERS' PARK CITY**

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM

**NEW 2022 RAM 1500  
BIG HORN CREW & QUAD CAB**

## 7.9%

APR FOR 72 MONTHS

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Visit our web site at [www.bricknersparkcity.net](http://www.bricknersparkcity.net)

# Merrill High School 1st Quarter Honor Roll 2021-2022

## GRADE 9

**Highest Honors (4.0):** Max Black, Johanna Dahlke, Austin Depies, Alexis Doering, Mackenzie Ellenbecker, Elizabeth Herdt, Joseph Jensen, Chase Klebenow, Parker Klebenow, Caden Lemmer, Olivia Pajdash, Sarah Rell, Haley Rindt, Jake Schwandt, Mia Smith, Bailee Sommer, Benjamin Thom, Daniel Vaughn, Ahna Wilde.  
**High Honors (3.75-3.99):** Blake Asinas, Parker Blum, Lily Dallman, Haylea Drabek, Janna Jacobson, Noah Moore, Amelia White, Merin Yates.  
**Honors (3.5-3.74):** Colin Apprill, Irene Blennert, Jocelynn Broullire, Gus Chrudimsky, Megan Cordova, Ava Detert, Preston Dettmering, Kellen Duerkop, Kaitlyn Heckendorf, Katelyn Kliemek, Aiden Lonsdorf, Maya Paulus, Micah Plautz, Sara Ross, Danielle Schielke, Michael Schmidt, Lacie Sczygelski, Takiyah Sell, Carter Stingel, Elizabeth Streich, Emil Weix.

## GRADE 10

**Highest Honors (4.0):** Anna Bowe, Malaynie Dengel, Olivia Dzwonkowski, Alexa Emmer, Clayton Evans, Bobbi Ann Gerbig, Anthony Hanse, Linzee Hixon, Avery Hoff, Allison Hoock, Emerson Iwen, Brooklyn

Kraegenbrink, Regena Lahti, Bridger Lemmon, Erik Mann, Chloe McRae, McKenna Meyer, Sebastian Ollmann, Caina Orzech, Savannah Orzech, Madison Ott, Mia Ott, Michael Quong, Kaiden Ratzlaff, Alexis Rogers, Carson Schmitz, Katelyn Schult, Zachary Shimel, Nora Trojanowski, Thomas Troyer, Brock Wakefield, Sophie Wendorf, Isabel Wendt, Macy Wienke, Gracie Wyma.  
**High Honors (3.75-3.99):** Chloe Belant, Chase Brantner, Gabriel Durbin, Anna Florez, Austin Hotchkiss, William Klein, Chloe Malinowski, Olivia Pierce, Nolan Polak, Andrew Proulx Jr, Samuel Reimann, Emily Schilken, Addison Schneider, Jalie Severt, Dylan Smith, Kayli Wirtala.  
**Honors (3.5-3.74):** Carter Baade, Jaden Bush, Ayden Cantrell, Isaac Clapper, Melvin Clausen, Daniel Hogenmiller, Connor McCorkle, Ian Morgan, Alexis Ollhoff, Kekoa Schuetze, Dawson Schulz, Sommer Seefeldt, Julia Shull, Allison Wolff.

## GRADE 11

**Highest Honors (4.0):** Madison Crossman, Ryder Depies, Jessica Leander, Austin Mosher, Jaiden Pillai, Isaiah Rell, Addison Schmelzter, Greta Scomazzoni, Spencer Smith,

Jasmine Toppi, Olivia Troyer, Dafney Yates.  
**High Honors (3.75-3.99):** Jaylen Anderson, Jaxson Banser, Lydia Burrows, Ameilia Cimino, Lauren Cohrs, Breannon Herdt, Carla Higgins, Summit Hoyt, Caleb Norton, Ian Schuetze, Gabriel Small, Hunter Stadler.  
**Honors (3.5-3.74):** Brendan Blystone, Mason Borchardt, Olivia Cordova, Arin Dettmering, Madelyn Drew, Galen Franke, Dylan Henry, Catherine Herdt, Samuel Holzinger, Andrew Moses, Catherine Moyer, Morgan Polacek, Alana Polak, Alayna Pozorski, Trenton Pozorski, Drew Semling, Truman Shull, Madison Van DerGeest, James Watts, Amber Winter.

## GRADE 12

**Highest Honors (4.0):** Samuel Bennett, Kierra Boyd, Madalia Burrows, Decilyn Clark, Sarah Crockford, Jackson DeJong, Lauren Duginski, Brandon Ellerman, Riley Fritcher, Andrew Gille, Angela Hinner, Evan Jaeger, Grace Koehler, Telina Marmorat, Felicia Mayfield, Lydia McIntyre, Michael McRae, Zachary Neumann, Bailey Orzech, Tanaya Pillai, Elizabeth Schmidt, Grace Schultz, Amelia Skoviera, Draven Slewitzke, McKenna

Smith, Olivia Stevenson, Eric Stolz, Jaliona Watts, Tessa Wheat, Darrin Wiederhoeft, Tyler Wieloch, Taylor Zastrow, Laney Zuelsdorff.  
**High Honors (3.75-3.99):** Emma Boquist, Jordan Bush, Molly Dallman, Nicole Doering, Fletcher Ellenbecker, Jackson Fink, Caitlyn Geiss, Callen Hoepfner, Jack Hoock, Carter Jensen, Emma Pajdash, Jonnie Pierschalla-Zastrow, Megan Proulx, Alynn Renzelmann, Brennan Schneider, Claire Schultz, Ashton Voermans, Anthony Vogel.  
**Honors (3.5-3.74):** Wyatt Bathke, Annie Becker, Damien Benzinger, Danielle Broesch, Ayden Brown, Cali Brown, Kayla Burrow, Ella Caskey, Amanda Erickson, Cory Gigl, Hannah Glaza, Xavier Gronholm, Marissa Hoffman, Samuel Johns, Lydia Koehler, Danielle Korman, Danyelle Kottke, Madison Malm, Andrew Moyer, Eric Osterbrink, Zoey Parrett, Alexander Peacock, Adam Polak, Kayoda Raddatz, Melony Rampart, Henry Reimann, GavenReindl, Dru Sabatke, Anna Schlegel, Isaiah Scott, Brenna Steinagel, Abrehm Van Wie, Haven Wakefield, Justice Willis, MaKenna Wimmer.

# PRAIRIE RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL 2021-2022 1st quarter Honor Roll

## FIFTH GRADE

**Gold: 4.00** Aaron Collinsworth, Autumn Genisot, Jaedyn Goetsch, Lillian Jahnke, Andrew Josiger, Luke Wegner

**Silver: 3.750-3.999** Alle Bergh, William Chula, Keira Clerveaux, Bethany Crockford, Alexandria Derizzo, Areyia Franklin, Moses Gates, Jameson Gerdes, Ella Glisch, Kassandra Johnson, Mara Kautzer, Willett Knospe, Payge Osnes, Korbet Ravn

**Bronze: 3.50-3.749** Johnathan Barnett, Ella Bergh, Mason Bowman, Brianna Boyd, Ella Burrow, Henry Chrudimsky, Lydia Faber, Madilynn Geiss, Charles Geurink, Emersyn Graap, Mia Hanson, Kyla Hoffman, Brody Johnas, Lexus Kosmicki, Leo Lazare, Abigail Parks, Raiyna Perez, Karder Rampart, Aili Sayles, Michael Schreiber, Kinzie Stevenson, Matthew Woller, Nicole Zeinert

## SIXTH GRADE

**Gold: 4.00** Brooklyn Bellin, Karmen Brietzke, Brooklyn Clabots, Shane Gibson, Tiberius Giese, Megan Gustum, Kane Hanson, Mykenzie Hinz, Mylie Kufahl, Alexis Lonsdorf, Kyle Mosher, Cecillia Priebe, Karlee Ravn, Kylie Roberge, Eliza Rogers, Alicia Schneider, Broc Suchocki, Cameron Wszalek, Benjamin Zastrow

See HONOR ROLL page 16

# 2021 Christmas Season Church Services

### Ascension Episcopal Church

218 Pier Street, Merrill  
 Rev. Amy Heimerl  
 Christmas Eve: 4:00 am  
 Every Sunday: 10:30 am

### Bible Presbyterian Church

1605 County Road G, Merrill  
 Pastor Andy Perry, Youth Director Kesh Pillai  
 Christmas Eve: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 pm Our service will be live and live-streamed via [www.biblepreschurch.org](http://www.biblepreschurch.org) and Facebook: Bible Presbyterian Church-Merrill, Wisconsin.

### Calvary Lutheran Church

N365 Cain Creek Road, Merrill  
 Pastor Nicole Behnke-Welke  
 Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm Worship Service with Communion

### Christ Ev. Lutheran Church

1204 N. Sales Street, Merrill  
 Pastor Neal Behm  
 Christmas Eve: 6:30 pm  
 Christmas Day: 9:00 am  
 Christmas Day service will be livestreamed 9:00 am at <https://youtu.be/34Cbim81n70>  
 New Year's Eve: 6:30 pm

### Christ United Methodist Church

300 N. Mill Street, Merrill  
 Rev. Mara Pehkonen  
 Christmas Eve 2:00 pm & 6:30 pm  
 Services can also be seen on FACEBOOK LIVE at the service times at Merrill Christ United Methodist Church or watch on FACEBOOK any time after the service or watch it from the CHURCH'S WEBPAGE at [www.MERRILLCHRISTUMC.ORG](http://www.MERRILLCHRISTUMC.ORG)

### Downtown Mission Church

805 E. Main Street, Merrill  
 Pastor Justin Novitski  
 Christmas Eve: 5:30 pm  
 December 26: 10:00 am  
 January 2: 10:00 am

### Faith Ev. Lutheran Church

15425 South County Road K, Merrill  
 Rev. Donald Love  
 December 19: 10:15 am Children's Christmas Program and Worship Service  
 Christmas Eve: 7:00 pm Candlelight Service  
 Christmas Day: 10:15 am Worship Service with Holy Communion  
 December 26: 10:15 am Worship Service  
 No service on December 31 or January 1

### First Presbyterian Church

300 Logan Street, Merrill  
 Pastor Jessie Wakefield  
 Christmas Eve: 1:30 pm

### Highland Community Church-- Merrill Campus

508 Eugene Street, Merrill  
 Christmas Eve: 6:30 pm Candlelight service.  
 Nursery care available.

### Highland Community Church--Wausau Campus

1005 N. 28<sup>th</sup> Ave, Wausau  
 Christmas Eve: 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm  
 Candlelight Service.  
 Nursery care available at 3:00 & 5:00 pm services.

### Immanuel Lutheran Church

N1660 Leafy Grove Rd., Merrill  
 Rev. Joel Danner  
 Christmas Eve: 5:00 pm Children's Service  
 7:30 pm Candlelight Service  
 Christmas Day: 10:00 am Service with Communion

### Journey Church

1212 S. Center Ave, Merrill  
 Pastor Brad Main  
 Christmas Eve: 7:00 pm

### Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

N53302 Town Hall Rd., Gleason  
 Pastor Greg Laska  
 December 22: 7:00 pm Children's Service  
 Christmas Eve: 7:30 pm  
 Christmas Day: 10:30 am

### New Testament Church

N2519 County Rd K, Merrill  
 Pastor William Hohman  
 Christmas Eve: 12:00 Noon

### Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

300 Logan Street, Merrill  
 Pastor Pat Schutz  
 Christmas Eve: 2:00 pm, 4:30 pm & 7:00 pm  
 Please pre-register at [osclcelca.org](http://osclcelca.org)  
 Livestream on Facebook: 4:30 pm  
 Christmas Day: 9 am  
 Masks required

### Pathway Fellowship

N1769 Hwy 17, Merrill  
 Pastor Scott Huse  
 December 19: 11:00 am Christmas Program

### St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

1708 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Merrill  
 Rev. Mariadas Vallabhaneni  
 Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm  
 Christmas Day: 7:30 am & 9:00 am  
 New Year's Eve: 4:00 pm  
 New Year's Day: 8:00 am

### St. John Lutheran Church

1104 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Merrill  
 Rev. David Szeto  
 Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm Family Service  
 7:00 pm & 10:00 pm Candlelight Service  
 7:00 pm will be on Facebook  
 10:00 pm Service will be on Radio 730 AM & 96.3 FM  
 Christmas Day: 10 am

### St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church-Hamburg

134058 County Road L, Athens  
 Rev. Donald Love  
 December 19: 8:30 am Children's Christmas Program and Worship Service  
 Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service  
 Christmas Day: 8:30 am Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion  
 December 26: 8:30 am Worship Service  
 No service on December 31 or January 1

### St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

HWY 17 & HWY J, Bloomville  
 Rev. Mariadas Vallabhaneni  
 Christmas Day: 11:00 am  
 New Year's Day: 10:00 am

### St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church- Irma

N6537 Old Hwy 51, Irma  
 Rev. David J. Sutton, Pastor  
 Christmas Eve: 7:00 pm Children's Pageant, "Happy Birthday Jesus"  
 New Years Eve: 7:00 pm Divine Service  
 Regular Sunday Service time changes to 10:30 am on January 2nd.

### St. Paul Lutheran Church - Pine River

W2604 CTH P, Merrill  
 Pastor Greg Laska  
 December 19<sup>th</sup>: 6:30 pm Children's Service  
 Christmas Eve: 5:00 pm  
 Christmas Day: 8:30 am

### St. Stephens UCC

903 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Merrill  
 Rev. Michael Southcombe  
 Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm In person/Livestream  
 7PM In person/Livestream. On radio 96.3 FM

### Trinity Lutheran Church

107 N. State Street, Merrill  
 Pastor Scott Gustafson & Pastor Adam Rodriguez  
 Christmas Eve: 3:00 pm Contemporary Candlelight Service  
 5:00, 7:00 & 9:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service  
 Christmas Day: 9:30 am Traditional Christmas Service with Communion  
 New Years Eve: 6:30 pm Traditional Service with Communion

### Wildwood Chapel

W106 County Rd. C, Gleason  
 Rev. Mara Pehkonen  
 Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm

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**Auctions 7282**  
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Unit 54 Melanie McAllister: 10x20 unit containing golf clubs, dresser, ladder, toolbox, holiday items, broom, rakes, folding chairs, and much miscellaneous. Published December 15 and 16.

**Musical Instruments 7220**  
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**REPORT CARDS** from page 10

I specifically recall informing our Board, just prior to being hired, that it takes approximately five years to create significant change related to student achievement. Five years later I am very pleased with the improvement trend in our district as we have always aspired to higher levels of student performance.

"I am very pleased with the progress our district is making with student achievement. Our success is reflective of the dedication from staff and building administration. We are working hard to implement systems that enhance student success. Our recent scores are proof that we are doing the right work. Earlier plans, for virtual learning, have been successful, as evidenced by our improved School Report Cards. Merrill Area Public Schools have much to be celebrated!" commented Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

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**ARBY'S** from page 6

**Arby's trainees can now train at the Merrill location**

"Any Arby's from anywhere can choose to have their new General Manager train at any National Certified Training Restaurant," Sowinski said. "It was an eight-week training process; however, Arby's revamped the course last year. Not all people train at the same pace."

Now that Sowinski and the Merrill location are certified, the Merrill Arby's location is an option for training any new hires in the Arby's franchise system. Trainees can come from anywhere to get their required training and certification.

"When a new store or simply a new Manager starts work at an Arby's restaurant, they have to be trained and certified by a NCTR," Schwartz said.

"They will come in and train with the Manager

who was certified," Sowinski said [in this case her]. "The training Manager will have hands-on training, as well as videos to watch and a book to work in. There is a test at the end of training they will have to pass, and the Certified Training Manager will conduct a Manager observation checklist as they watch them run a shift. They must pass with a 90% or better."

Going forward at the Merrill Arby's, Sowinski will be the training Manager now that she has attained this designation.

**Teamwork makes the dream work**

"We learned, after achieving the NCTR designation, that we were the only single store franchisee to be so designated," Schwartz said. "We as a team are very proud of this accomplishment."

"I have worked very hard for a few years to get this accomplished," Sowinski said. "However, I can't do it alone. It takes a good dedicated staff to help you."

Together, they achieved one goal/dream and now the Merrill Arby's is on to new things to continue to improve on the positive Arby's experience. They will soon announce a new project "that will allow guests/customers to order their food ahead online and simply pick it up at the counter and walk," Schwartz said.

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## Bluejay Boys come up short against Medford Raiders in Boys Basketball last week

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

Tuesday, Dec. 7, the Merrill Bluejay Boys Basketball Team hit the road to take on the Medford Area High School Raiders.

"Medford is a very solid team, a well coached team, and plays very good defense," Bluejay Boys Basketball Coach Troy Pieper said. "At times we matched their energy, but at other times we struggled to get things going."

The Bluejays put up 33 points in the first half, but the Raiders topped that number by 13 with a 46-point first period. In the second, another 27 points by Merrill couldn't beat the 42 Medford put up.

#3 Bradyn Pieper (4 FG, 3 3pt, 3 FT, 1 Ast) led points scored for Merrill with 14 game points, followed by #30 Sam Reimann (3 FG, 6 FT, 1 Ast, 1 Stl) with 12 points and #35 Troy Moots (4 FG, 3 3pt, 1

Ast) with 11 game points.

"I thought Bradyn (Pieper), Sam (Reimann), and Troy (Mootz) played really well and were aggressive all night on the offensive side," Coach Pieper said. "Bradyn and Troy shot it well from beyond the arc as well."

"The positive is we found our shot a little bit, so hopefully that continues," he added. "We shot the ball better; however, we didn't take care of the ball and didn't rebound well at all for a second straight game."

Here's hoping the Bluejays bring their A-game this week! With three games scheduled - against Marshfield, Antigo, and Stevens Point - it's going to be a good time to focus on Coach Pieper's mantra: "The 3 E's: Energy - Effort - Execute." They'll need to put forth all three.

**Box Score**

Merrill 60 @ Medford 88

## Bluejays Girls Basketball Team suffers two losses last week

**BY TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

Merrill Bluejay Girls took on the Medford Raiders on Thursday, Dec. 2, losing their neutral non-conference Varsity Basketball game by a score of Merrill 33 - Medford 46.

In conference play, the Merrill Girls Basketball Team traveled to Wausau

West on Tuesday, Dec. 7. This time the Wausau West Girls put up double the points, leaving the Merrill Girls with a second loss.

**Box Score**

Merrill 31 @ Wausau West 62

The Merrill Girls face a challenging line-up for the week beginning Dec. 13 with games against Marshfield, Mosinee, and Stevens Point.

## Hanson is October Youth Optimist at PRMS

Eighth grader Sylvia Hanson has been named October Youth Optimist at Prairie River Middle School. She was nominated by Mrs. Yanke who said: "Sylvia is constantly going above and beyond academically and socially within classes. Sylvia is a self-directed learner who advocates for herself and is open to feedback when she receives it. She is very kind, helpful, and patient when working in groups and is willing to advocate for others. She



always has a bright and positive attitude, even when things get tough." Sylvia enjoys being a part of the Bluejay Swim Team and taking part in WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) and the Student Council. She has received Student of the Quarter and was chosen to be a WEB Leader. During Sylvia's time away from school, she donates to the Lincoln County Humane Society, is an Aqua Jay, plays soccer, and dances.

## Wilding is September Youth Optimist at PRMS

Eighth grader Andrew Wilding has been named September Youth Optimist at Prairie River Middle School. He was nominated by Mrs. Rindt who said: "Andrew always comes to class with a positive attitude and is ready to learn each day. He participates in class activities and discussions, asks questions, and demonstrates a good work ethic. He is always willing to share his ideas with the class. Andrew is kind, thoughtful, and helpful to others. He displays integrity and will choose



to do what is right. He is a well-rounded student who exhibits good citizenship qualities and is a great role model to others." Andrew plays golf and has been part of a bowling league since third grade. He also has taken on the role as a WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) Leader this year. He enjoys singing and being a part of choir. Andrew also participates in 4-H. During his time in 4-H, he has helped out in the community by cleaning up the highway and being a part of "Make a Difference Day."

### 2021-2022 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

Basketball Girls (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Fri. Dec. 17	Stevens Point (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Fri. Dec. 17	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Tues. Dec. 21	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Tues. Dec. 21	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Basketball Boys (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Fri. Dec. 17	Stevens Point (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Fri. Dec. 17	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Tues. Dec. 21	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Tues. Dec. 21	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Ice Hockey Boys (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Dec. 16	Stevens Point (JV)	Home	5:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 16	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 21	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV)	Away	5:15 pm
Tues. Dec. 21	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Ice Hockey Girls (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Dec. 16	Marshfield COOP (Varsity)	Ice Hawk	7:00 pm
Fri. Dec. 17	Black River Falls (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Fri. Dec. 17	Black River Falls (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 21	Rhineland (JV)	D. C. E.	4:45 pm
Tues. Dec. 21	Rhineland (Varsity)	D. C. E.	7:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 23	Fond du Lac (Varsity)	Away	5:30 pm
Thurs. Dec. 23	Fond du Lac (JV)	Away	7:30 pm
Wrestling Boys (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Dec. 16	Stevens Point (Varsity & JV)	Home	6:00 pm

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:

## HONOR ROLL

from page 11

**Silver: 3.750-3.999** Azalea Blake, Lilly Bong, Alana Brendmuehl, Austin Doering, Alex Fehr, Caleb Gennrich, Marie Hagemester, Danica Henning, Kylee Hoffman, Haley Hooch, Connor Josiger, Avery Kolinski, Claire Kufahl, Finlee Lange-Peronto, Jacey Lyon, Denver McCaskill, Zander Meyer, Irelyn Mulrooney, Penelope Primm, Ava Salter, Alina Savagian-Demoss, Olivia Schmidt, Fletcher Taleric, Vanessa Wolfe  
**Bronze: 3.50-3.749** Ian Asinas, Hayden Ballard, Kaleb Cook,

Lilee Haltinner, Lexie Hass, Makayla Hill, Madlyn Hunter, Brodie Isaacson, Annabelle Lee, Jameson Morgan, Emmanuel Ollmann, Ryan Olson, Cora Powe, Hunter Rhode, Preston Schmidt, Brianna Schmirler, Avalynn Schult, Nikolajs Schulz, Kaylee Snyder, Jennavecia Staehle, Alexa Staskiewicz, Layla Stevenson, Tayla Stieber, Mikenna Vandeweerd, Madeline Voigt, Dylan Weber, Emma Wendt, Natalia Woller, Shelby Yates

**SEVENTH GRADE**  
**Gold: 4.00** Lily Berndt, Paige Byer, Marvin Downs, Maycee Eisner, Stuart Gehris, Erik Grunenwald, Shanna Herdt, Claire Hintz, Marielle Nass, Evan Olson, Greta Peterson, Addison Pickard, Eryn Schmitz, Deylah Schulz, Kayleigh Strey, Charlotte Van Der Nest, Grace Wegner, Lauren Zuelsdorff

**Silver: 3.750-3.999** Allyson Boquist, Abigail Gauerke, Josilynn Geiss, Davin Harder, Mackenzie Herdt, Izabella Klockow, Amara Lazare, Mya Meyer, William Miemietz, Landon Mootz, Grace Reimann, Colton Ruplinger, Alyssa Schneider, Derek Schult  
**Bronze: 3.50-3.749** Blerian Alimi, Tatiana Anderson, Zachary Bacon, Alexandra Carreto, Sebastian Derizzo, Rory Gates, Peyton Hagenbucher, Xavier Hanke, Abigail Hoffman, Avery Hooch, Bryn Imhoff, Reese Kaminski, Brody Klebenow, Trenton Klimek, Mark Marvin, Marissa Miles, Carlina Nebbergall, Elayna Olson, Tyson Ott, Jackson Pierce, Vanessa Pintor, Grant Polak,

Ryker Remington, Lauren Rice, Layla Schmidt, Marcus Slagoski, Peyton Smith, Jadon Van Der Nest, Avery Voermans, Alexander Wegner

**EIGHTH GRADE**  
**Gold: 4.00** Kaylynn Allen, Adison Clark, Kaela Clerveaux, Caroline Durbin, Avery Frisch, Hazeley Gates, Sarah Hagemester, Sylvia Hanson, Brooklyn Harding, Grace Hooch, Mariah Hulce, Addison Jirovec, Brenna Jirovec, Korina Kraegenbrink, Maria Malinowski, Jenna Malluege, Brynlynn McCaskill, Haakon Murphy, Orion Pillai, Violet Radtke, Robin Schmidt, Colton Smith, Parker Wagenaar, Emily Winter  
**Silver: 3.750-3.999** Jackson Brown, Addelyn Elliott, Joshua Gustum, Claire Jirovec, Aiden Kell, Farije Kiskoski, Hannah Klinger, Sophie Koehler, Isabella Kottke, Tia Morris, Madison Robbins

**Bronze: 3.50-3.749** Keylin Allen, Cairo Amador-Gonzalez, Liberty Berndt, Adalyn Blake, Mason Bloch, Colton Burrows, Jayden Chase, Olivia Collinsworth, James Crockford, Prestin Dashek, Lillian Hagemester, Samara Kleinschmidt, Treg Knospe, Alex Koblitz, Danica Lipke, Kayln Morris, Jacob Mueller, Larissa Ollmann, Patricia Priebe, Jennifer Proulx, Zachary Schmeltzer, Preston Schuelke, Jacob Schultz, Taylor Slais, Jacob Stetz-Schleif, Wyatt Stieber, Brett Suchocki, Destiny Trevino, Ronan Vandeweerd, Keegan Waliczek, Andrew Wilding

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**Sophie Wendorf**, a Sophomore at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Sophie played basketball from the fourth through eighth grades at Trinity Lutheran School, then played for the JV team as a Freshman, and now plays on the Merrill Varsity Girls Basketball Team as a shooting guard. Wendorf is one of the leading scorers, having scored 20 points in the game against Waupaca on November 30, as one example. Sophie also plays for the Merrill Girls Varsity Softball Team since she was pulled up last year for the playoffs.

When not in school or playing sports, Sophie works part time in the office at BCC Trucking in Merrill, and she enjoys hanging out with family and friends. Shopping, driving around, going to movies, and going out to eat are a few of her favorite things to do with them. The daughter of Dan and Jenny Wendorf of Merrill, Sophie has a 4.0 GPA and is considering a career as a physical therapist after high school graduation.

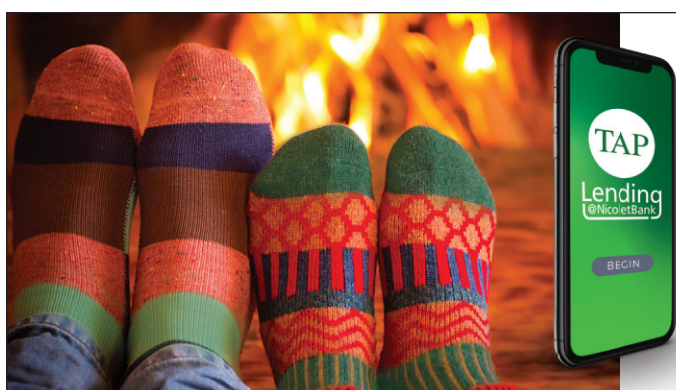


**Sophie Wendorf**

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