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One person injured in Town of Merrill house fire on Sunday

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

On Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021, just after 8:30 a.m., the Merrill Fire Department (MFD) was dispatched to N3340 County Rd. K in the Town of Merrill for a possible chimney fire. Merrill Engine-61, Tender-65, and Medic-62 responded immediately and, “while en route to the scene, Lincoln County Dispatch notified responding units that smoke was coming from the attic and was likely a structure fire,” a press release from the Merrill Fire Department stated.



The Merrill Fire Department, as well as many surrounding departments, responded to a structure fire on Hwy. K north of Merrill. **Andy VanderGeest photo.**



A Sunday morning fire in a home on Hwy. K sent one person to the hospital with injuries. The cause of the fire is under investigation. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

At that point, and prior to the arrival of the units en route, the Merrill Fire Department Incident Commander requested mutual aid from Corning, Pine River, Russell, and Wausau Fire Departments.

The lone occupant of the house and his dog were out of building prior to the arrival of the Merrill Fire Department, however, the occupant was transported by MFD ambulance to Aspirus Merrill Hospital for treatment of injuries received from the fire. His dog was unharmed.

at the fire as well as staff other Merrill Fire and EMS units.”
 The Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office, Merrill Police Department, Wisconsin Public Service, and Lincoln County Highway Department also assisted with the incident, according to the MFD release.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. “This is the second

red bulb on the Merrill Fire Department’s Keep the Wreath Green fire prevention campaign wreath,” Klug said. “Each red bulb represents a structure fire in our jurisdiction from Thanksgiving through New Year’s Day.” The wreath hangs on the outside of the Merrill Fire Department building at the corner of Pier and E. Second Streets.



In the banquet hall, Laurie stands ready to serve a hot meal to families whose homes are without power. **Photo courtesy Les & Jim’s Lincoln Lanes.**

Les & Jim’s hospitality to area residents without power warms hearts

Area business provides meals, entertainment for the kids, and warmth that extended beyond a heated building

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

“Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.”

This catchy phrase has often been attributed as a quote from St. Francis of Assisi, although many sources now dispute that.

Nonetheless, it is an easy way to remember that the Bible, in both the New Testament Gospels and the Old

Testament, implores people who have much, to give to those who do not. Whether giving food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, or providing shelter to the homeless, action is needed. Words aren’t enough.

Many businesses support charities and fundraisers that seek to do those very things, but one Merrill business took matters into their own hands this past week. When the Thursday/Friday windstorm swept through Wisconsin, it left thousands of homes without power. Those homes without generators were then left without heat. Finding a way to stay warm became a real issue for many.

In the Merrill area, more than 1,000 homes were affected, school was canceled on Friday, and while Wisconsin Public Service and work crews focused on removing trees and fixing downed

See **LES & JIM’S** page 16

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71-year-old Pine River man dies in house fire

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

William H. Ohlmann, age 71, died in a house fire at his home in the Town of Pine River early Friday morning. On Dec. 17, 2021, just before 6:00 a.m., the Lincoln



This home in the Town of Pine River is a total loss as the result of an early morning fire last Friday, Dec. 17, which also took the life of one occupant of the home. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

County Dispatch Center received a 911 call advising of a house on fire at W185 State Rd. 64 in the Town of

See **FIRE** page 2

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- RED CRAB CLAW
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- AND MUCH MORE

New Item!

Wagoner Shell 604 S. Center Ave Merrill, WI Thursday 12/30 11am-3pm
 Kracker Barrel N11790 Cty Rd, Tomahawk, WI Wednesday 12/29 11am-3pm



Craig Nienow photo.

This huge pine tree was uprooted by the high winds last Thursday evening, Dec. 16, falling on the Nienow Law Offices building across from the Lincoln County Courthouse. The top of the pine snapped off during the storm and lays on the ground beside the building. The storm with high winds was responsible for uprooting trees, snapping off trees and power lines, and blocking roads across Lincoln County. However, our area fared better than other areas of Wisconsin, with at least two confirmed tornados elsewhere in the state.



Tina L. Scott photo.

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A view of the sunset west of Merrill on Dec. 12, 2021.

Tim Schreiber photo.

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<p>Amish Country Roll Butter \$4.49 1lb. roll \$8.49 2lb. roll</p> 	<p>Fresh Oranges and Grapefruits have just arrived from California! Call for pricing.</p> 
<p>REDUCED! Double Smoked Bone-in Hams \$3.29 lb. Whole Smoked Turkeys \$3.29 lb.</p> 	<p>18 Cookbooks compiled by Amish and Mennonites. 100's of old fashioned recipes!</p> 

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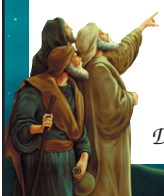
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All of us at Prairie Pines Country Store are deeply grateful to all who patronized our store in 2021.

It is our intent to give you the best service possible. We pray that all of you will have joy in worshipping the Savior this Christmas and experience a prosperous New Year.

Let us strive to live by Godly principles so that integrity and moral virtues will be a shining star to guide others to the right path.

Luke & Lela, Matthew & Judith, Miriam, Deborah, Karen, Rosie, Rachel, Becca and Janae.



"Everyone needs a little help sometimes"

Thank you for allowing us to be the ones to help you this year.
 Wayne, Marion, Kathy, Sarah, Rich and Chris!



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Ascension Christmas Eve service time

The Christmas Eve service at Ascension Episcopal Church, 218 Pier St., Merrill, will be at 4:00 p.m., not 4:00 a.m., as mistakenly printed in last week's Foto News.

FIRE from page 1

Pine River east of Merrill, a press release from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office said.

"Upon arrival of Sheriff's Office personnel and the Town of Pine River Fire Department, flames were seen coming out of the windows of the residence," the release said.

Ohlmann was located inside the residence and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Rural Fire Control of Antigo, the Town of Hewitt Fire Department, the Town of Texas Fire Department, the Lincoln County Coroner, the Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation State Fire Marshall's Office, and the Salvation Army also responded to the scene.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, as of the Sheriff's Office release on Friday.

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In-store only, we reserve the right to limit quantities.

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign needs more bell ringers

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Since its inception in 1891 in San Francisco, Calif., each year the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign has grown throughout the nation and become a visible holiday reminder that there are many people in need. Volunteers ring bells near the hanging red kettle to raise funds that are used in local communities throughout the year. In years past, this has often become a fun annual event for individuals and for families and friends to ring the bells as a group and even sing carols to encourage donations. The bell ringers add an extra note of holiday cheer and encourage smiles from busy shoppers. It's part of a holiday tradition to keep a little cash or change on hand to put into the red kettle.

Typically, the Foto News runs a photo of a local volunteer or a group of volunteers ringing the bell. But this year, the Red Kettle Campaign is lacking volunteer bell ringers, and the absence of those bells ringing could result in a significant drop in donations this holiday season.

In the entry way to



A Salvation Army Red Kettle stands ready for donations in the entry way to the Merrill Walmart, but without a bell ringer to draw attention and elicit smiles, it stands virtually unnoticed.

Tina L. Scott photo.

the Merrill Walmart on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021, the red kettle stood ready for donations, but without the cheerful greetings of a bell ringer, no one was putting any money into the kettle when this writer walked by.

At Dave's County Market on Sunday, Dec. 19, the other Merrill lo-

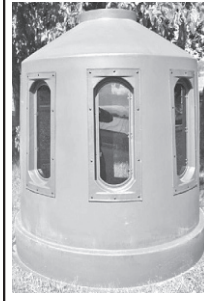
cation where bell ringers have historically been stationed for this annual fundraiser, all was quiet, and the empty red tri-pod appeared to be awaiting a volunteer to hang the kettle and ring the bells.

A Monday morning check of the Register to Ring website, where volunteers can sign up to

ring bells locally, indicated there were still quite a few available one-hour shifts in need of volunteers to ring the bells at both locations in Merrill. If you'd like to ring the bells to raise funds for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, sign up here: <https://www.registering.com/shifts-select.aspx>.

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

- Christmas Eve: Friday, December 24th** will be picked up in a combined collection on Thursday, December 23rd
- Christmas: Monday, December 27th** will be picked up in a combined collection on Tuesday, December 28th
- New Year's Eve: Friday, December 31st** will be picked up in a combined collection on Thursday, December 30th
- New Year's Day: Monday, January 3rd** will be picked up in a combined collection on Tuesday, January 4th

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 to view garbage and recycle rules and preparation information.

Dustin Bonack
Street Superintendent

MHS CLASS OF 1992 We Want You!



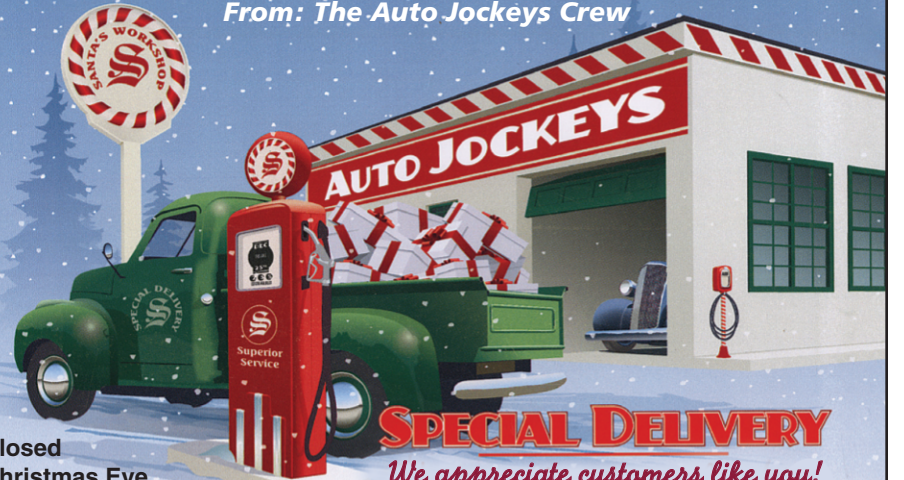
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We also wish to send a special thanks to Thorogood a
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We could never provide such great entertainment in the park
if it was not for our sponsors, performers and those who come out
each and every week, rain or shine, to enjoy all that Merrill has to offer.

We have already started booking bands for 2022, and cannot wait to
open up the Gazebo in July.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

OBITUARIES



Isabelle M. 'Issie' Hoff, age 91, of Merrill, passed away on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

In 1947, she met the love of her life, Robert Hoff at a wedding dance at Hackbarth's Hall. They married on October 1, 1949, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Merrill, Wisconsin. They lived together almost inseparable for over 70 years. They lived on the farm and together raised five children, residing there for over 40 years. Together they enjoyed dancing,

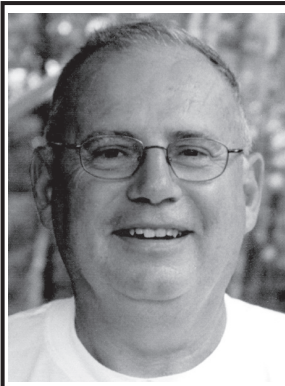
roller skating, country music festivals, Mollie B polka parties and camping in their RV. Prior to retirement, they sold their property and homes in the Town of Scott and moved to the city of Merrill where they continued to live independently.

Issie is survived by her children, Sharon (Randal) Jaeger of Merrill, Pamela (Donald) Wiegel of Oconomowoc, WI, Steven (Sandy) Hoff of Merrill, Renae (Paul) Wiesneski of Merrill, and Michael (Suzy) Hoff of Merrill; grandchildren Jennifer (Brad) Borchardt, Theresa (Derek) Micke, Sharisa (Joe) Wetherell, Aaron (David) Chavez (Wiegel, Breigh (Shawn) Voigt, Nathan (Jess) Hoff, Chelsey (Darrin) Schleif, Michael (Spring) Wiesneski, Nick (Stefanie) Wiesneski, Molly Hoff, Danno (Amber) Hoff, Derek (Kim) Hoff, Drew Hoff, and Desirae Hoff; great-grandchildren, Jennisa, Madison, Hudson, Hannah, Holland, James, Aida, Lewis, Ivan, Ashley, Isabella, Nolan, Lincoln, Mayvree, McCoy, Anna, Amaris, Emily, Ivy, Ginny, Emma, Avery, Grace, Lily, Maya, Zoe, Harper, Violet, and Kide; step great-grandchildren, Zach and Ethan. She is further survived by brother, Louis Langhoff Jr.; sisters, Marion Simon, Shirley Borchardt, and Clarice Boehm; and a host of nieces and nephews and other beloved relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Hoff; her father and mother, Louis and Viola Langhoff; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ernest and Ada Hoff; two grandsons, Eric Jaeger and David Hoff; siblings, Margery (William) Klammer, Vernetta (Milton) Kleinschmidt, Jean (Lawrence) Bubolz, and Florence (David) Langhoff; sister-in-law, Geraldine Langhoff; and brothers-in-law, LaVern Borchardt and Richard Simon.

The funeral will be at 11:00 A.M. Thursday, December 23, 2021, at St. John Lutheran Church, Merrill. The Rev. David Szeto will officiate. Burial will be in Snow Hill Cemetery, Town of Scott, Lincoln County. Visitation will be from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Wednesday at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill, and after 9:30 A.M. Thursday at the church.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com.



Herbert, "Herb," Albert Falk, Jr., 74, passed away at his home surrounded by his family on December 15, 2021 under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services after a long struggle with heart disease.

Herb was born on September 9, 1947 to Herbert A. Falk, Sr. and Lilamae F. Hommerding in Merrill, Wisconsin.

While attending Merrill High School, Herb met his sweetheart, Mary Louise Schubert. They were married on July 12,

1969 at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ in Merrill. Mary is his true love. They travelled often, especially to escape Wisconsin Winters for warmer weather down South.

At the time of his retirement, Herb was a lathe operator at Marathon Electric in Wausau, Wisconsin. He was a "jack-of-all trades" and could fix anything. In his younger years, Herb enjoyed hunting and fishing. His hobbies included camping, eating at his favorite restaurant CHIPS, and woodworking. He enjoyed teaching woodworking and leather crafts to 4-H children. He was a member of the Lincoln County Fair Board for many years.

He loved spending time with his family, friends, and camping family. He was an avid reader of Louis L'Amour westerns and handyman magazines.

Herb will be remembered for his funny, happy-go-lucky personality and will be dearly missed by all those who knew him.

Herb is survived by his wife, Mary Falk; children: Shane (Becky) Falk, and Holly (Ryan) Hoffman; Grandchildren: Taylor Pitel, Morgan Falk, Dorsey Falk, Sydney Hoffman, Payton Hoffman, and Rainan Falk; Sisters-in-Law: Eunice Schubert, Bonnie Mueller, Virginia Schubert, and Sherry Schubert, and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Brothers-in-Law: Lawrence Schubert, Kenwood Schubert, William Mueller, Dale Schubert, and Jack Schubert, Sister-in-Law: Y-Vette Karpinski and nephew Robert Mueller.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 11:00 am at St. Stephens United Church of Christ in Merrill. A visitation will be held on Monday, December 20, 2021 from 9:00 am until the time of service also at the church.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested that memorial donations be directed to St. Stephen's United Church of Christ (Merrill) or the charity of your choosing.

The service will be live streamed and available for viewing on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 11:00 am and can be found under his obituary on the funeral home website. It will then be posted as a recording for future viewing.

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

J'Ette Emily Buck was born on March 2, 1926 in Merrill, WI to Emil and Esther (Karau) Buck. She received her education in the Merrill Public School District, graduating with the class of 1944. J'Ette continued her education by receiving her RN degree in Nursing from Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Milwaukee, WI. She worked at Deaconess Hospital in Milwaukee for a time before moving to California. While there, she worked at Los Angeles County Hospital, rising to the position of Nursing Supervisor of the LA County Surgical Department. After her retirement, she moved to Los Banos, California, where she lived until May of 2019. J'Ette then relocated to Waukesha, Wisconsin, where she resided until shortly before her death on December 11, 2021, at the age of 95.

J'Ette is survived by cousins, nieces and nephews, and many dear friends. Her parents and her brother, Rev. Earl Buck, preceded her in death. Also predeceasing her were her pets, Babe, BeBe, and Missy.

As per her wishes, she was cremated and no services were held. Memorials may be directed to the donors' choice.

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Merry Christmas

The best Christmas gift of all was not wrapped in shiny paper but in swaddling clothes in a manger in Bethlehem.

City Clerk Bill Heideman

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May Christmas Bring Happiness and Peace to you & your Family this Holiday Season!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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LEGAL NOTICES

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CITY OF MERRILL
1004 EAST FIRST STREET
MERRILL, WI 54452-2586

AN ORDINANCE:
Re: Amending Chapter 14, Article V, Section 14-123 through 158 Environment

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-19
Introduced: December 14, 2021
1st Reading: December 14, 2021
2nd Reading: December 14, 2021
3rd Reading: December 14, 2021
Committee/Commission Action:

RECOMMENDED FOR PASSAGE

AN ORDINANCE
The Common Council of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 14, Article V, Section 14-123 through 158 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Merrill is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 14-123. Statement of policy and applicability.

(a) *Intent and purpose.* It is the policy of the city to regulate and establish policy for the control of planting, removal, maintenance and protection of trees and shrubs, in or upon, all public areas and terrace areas to eliminate and guard against dangerous conditions which may result in injury to persons using the streets, alleys, sidewalks or other public areas; to promote and enhance the beauty and general welfare of the city; to prohibit the undesirable and unsafe planting, removal, treatment and maintenance of trees and shrubs located in public areas; and to guard all trees and shrubs, both public and private, within the city against damage and the spread of disease, insects or pests.

(b) *Application.* The provisions of this article shall apply to trees and shrubs growing, or hereafter planted, in or upon public areas and terrace areas, and also to all trees and shrubs, growing or to be planted, in or upon any private premises which shall threaten the life, health, safety or welfare of the public or of any public areas.

Sec. 14-124. Definitions.
The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
Board means the board of parks and recreation commissioners as constituted under this Code.

Boulevard or terrace areas mean the land between the normal location of the street curbing and sidewalk. Where there is no curb and gutter, the area four feet from the curbline shall be deemed to be a boulevard for the purpose of this article. The term "boulevard" has the same meaning as the term "terrace." Where there are no sidewalks, the area four feet from the curb shall be deemed boulevard areas under this article. Or as determined by GIS mapping.

Clear-sight triangle means a triangle formed by the existing or proposed curblines of two or more intersecting streets, roads or alleys and, a third line connecting specified points on those curblines in order to provide vehicular traffic an unobstructed view at intersections.

Evergreen tree means any woody plant, normally having one stem or trunk and bearing foliage in the form of needles and crowns which extend from ground level throughout its entire height.

Forester means a person appointed by the common council to serve as city forester and administrator of this article. Unless otherwise provided, the city forester shall be the parks and recreation director.

Maintenance and protection means and includes all operations of trimming, pruning, spraying, injecting, fertilizing, treating, bracing, doing surgery work and cutting any tree or shrub above or below ground.

Major alteration means trimming a tree beyond necessary trimming to comply with this article. Crowning 30 percent or more of natural growth is considered a major alteration.

Person means a person, firm, association or corporation.

Public areas means and includes all public parks and other lands owned, controlled or leased by the city, except the terrace areas.

Public nuisance means any tree, shrub or part thereof which, by reason of its condition, interferes with the use of any public area; is infected with a plant disease; is infested with injurious insects or pests; is injurious to public improvements, or endangers the life, health, safety or welfare of persons or property.

Public trees and shrubs means all trees and shrubs located, or to be planted, in or upon public areas.

Shrub means any woody vegetation or a woody plant having multiple stems and bearing foliage from the ground up, reaching a height of less than 12 feet.

Tree means any woody plant, normally having one stem or trunk bearing its foliage or crown well above ground level to heights of 12 feet or more.

Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) is defined as the minimum area beneath a tree that must be undisturbed in order to preserve a sufficient root mass to give a tree a reasonable chance of survival. The tree protection zone will typically be represented by a concentric circle centering on the tree's trunk.

Sec. 14-125. Abatement of tree diseases and public nuisances.

(a) *Declaration.* The common council declares any of the following to be a public nuisance and therefore subject to abatement:
(1) Any tree, shrub or part thereof, located upon any public or private property which by reason of its condition, interferes with the use of a public area, is infected with an infectious plant disease, is infested with injurious insects or pests, is injurious to public improvements, or endangers the life, health or safety of persons or property.
(2) All trees, hedges, billboards, or other obstructions, which prevent persons driving vehicles (to include ATVs, UTV's, or bicycles) on public streets, alleys, or highways from obtaining a clear view of traffic when approaching an intersection or pedestrian crosswalk.
(b) *Abatements.*
(1) *Public areas.* Whenever the city

forester shall find on examination that a public nuisance exists upon any public area except in any area zoned conservancy, he shall immediately cause such nuisance tree or shrub to be treated, trimmed, removed, or otherwise abated in such a manner as to destroy or prevent the spread of the nuisance. The manner in which the nuisance shall be abated shall be determined by the city forester.

(2) *Private premises.* If the city forester shall determine, with reasonable certainty upon inspection or examination, that any nuisance tree or shrub exists in or upon any private premises within the city, he shall notify the owner of such premises, or his agent, in writing, that said nuisance tree or shrub must be treated, trimmed, removed or otherwise abated. Said written notice shall specify the nature and exact location of the nuisance, the manner in which the nuisance shall be abated, and the time limit in which the nuisance shall be abated, which shall not be less than 15 days after issuance of said notice, unless the city forester shall determine that immediate action is necessary for the public safety.

(3) *Abatement by city.* If the owner of private premises, or his agent, shall refuse or neglect to comply with the terms of the written notice within the time specified, the city forester shall cause the public nuisance to be abated and shall report the expenses thereof to the city clerk who shall enter it as a charge against the property upon which the tree or shrub is located. No damage shall be awarded to the owner for the destruction of trees or shrubs pursuant to this section.

Sec. 14-126. Regulations regarding public trees and shrubs.

(a) *Clear-sight triangle.* No tree, shrub, hedge, or other growth exceeding 30 inches in height above street grade shall hereafter be planted in any clear-sight triangle within the city. The limits of each clear-sight triangle shall be determined by measuring 30 feet each way at the corner of the street intersection.

(b) *Obstruction of signs, signals, travel.* All trees and shrubs located upon any public way, or upon any private premises adjacent to the public way, shall be kept trimmed so that the lowest projecting branches provide a clearance height of not less than 14 feet above the public street, and not less than nine feet above the public sidewalk. The city forester may waive the provisions of this section for newly planted or naturally low-profile trees, if he determines that they do not interfere with public travel, obstruct the light of any street light, obstruct the view of any traffic sign or signal, or endanger public safety.

(c) *Violations.* Any tree, shrub or part thereof, found to be in violation of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, shall be declared to be a nuisance and shall be subject to abatement as set forth in section 14-125.

Sec. 14-127. Planting public trees and shrubs.

(a) *Requirements.*
(1) *Permit required.* No person shall plant, remove, maintain, or protect any public tree or shrub, or cause such work to be done, without obtaining a written permit from the city forester.

(2) *Application and approval.* Any person desiring to plant, remove, maintain, or protect any public tree or shrub shall apply in writing to the city forester for a permit to do such work. Such application shall specify the location and description of the proposed work. If the city forester determines that the proposed work is necessary and in accordance with the purposes of this article, taking into account the safety, health and welfare of the public, location of utilities, public sidewalks, driveways and street lights, general character and aesthetic quality of the area in which the tree or shrub is located or proposed to be located, and the soil conditions and physiological needs of the tree or shrub, he shall issue a permit to the applicant.

(3) *Conditions of approval.* The size, genus, species and variety of trees and shrubs to be planted in terraces, tree banks and boulevards and the manner of planting shall be submitted to the city forester for approval before commencement of such work. All planting, maintenance and trimming of trees in terraces shall be the responsibility of the individual property owners. No trees, except the types named in this section, shall be planted in or upon any public street or place. They shall be planted, only after written permission has been received from the city forester, which permit shall state the name of the applicant, his address, the property on which the trees are to be planted and the type to be planted.

(4) *Permit form, expiration, compliance, inspection.* Permits shall be issued by the city forester on a standard form and shall include a description of the work to be done and shall specify the genus, species, variety, size, grade and location of trees or shrubs to be planted, if any. Any work done under such permit shall be performed in strict compliance with the terms thereof. The city forester may inspect all work performed pursuant to this section. Permits issued under this section shall expire three months after issuance.

(b) *Approved standard trees.*
(1) Only the following named standard trees shall be planted in the streets of the city with a six-foot terrace: Maple species should be avoided due to overstocked numbers. . . Ash species should be eliminated due to EAB. These lists will be changed quite dramatically and be referred to Arboricultural Specifications Manual that will be developed.
a. Schwedler maple (Acer platanoidesschwedleri).
b. Red or Scarlet maple (Acer rubrum).
c. Burgundy Belle Maple (Acer rubrum "Magnificent Magenta")
d. Matador Maple (Acer x freemanii "Bailston")
e. Northwood Red Maple (Acer rubrum "Northwood Red")
f. Inferno Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum "Jeferno")
g. Firefall Maple (Acer x freemanii "AF#1")
h. Autumn Blaze Maple (Acer x

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freemania 'Jeffersred')
 i. Sienna Glen Maple (Acer x freemania 'Sienna Glen')
 ej. Norway maple (Acer platanoides).
 ek. Sugar maple (Acer saccharum).
 el. American elm (Ulmusamericana).
 fm. Moline elm (Ulmusamericana var. moline).
 n. Princeton Elm (Ulmus Americana 'Princeton')
 o. Regal Elm (Ulmus 'Regal')
 p. New Horizon Elm (Ulmusamericana 'New Horizon')
 q. St. Croix Elm (Ulmusamericana 'St. Croix')
 gr. Scarlet oak (Quercuscoccinea).
 hs. Pin oak (Quercuspalustris).
 t. Northern Pin Oak (Quercuselipsoidalis)
 u. Red oak (Quercusrubra).
 v. Heritage Oak (Quercusobur x macrocarpa 'Clemons')
 w. Swamp White Oak (Quercus bicolor)
 x. Prairie Stature Oak (Quercus x bimundorum 'Midwest')
 y. Bur Oak (Quercusmacrocarpa)
 z. Regal Prince Columnar Oak (Quercus x warei 'Long')
 aa. Majestic Skies Northern Pin Oak (Quercuselipsoidalis 'Balskies')
 bb. Ironwood (Ostryvirginiana)
 cc. White ash (Fraxinusamericana).
 kdd. Crimson King Norway maple.
 ee. Schwedler's Norway maple.
 fff. Moraine seedless honey locust.
 ggg. White birch.
 hh. Yellow Birch (Betulalutea)
 ii. Heritage River Birch (Betulanigra 'Cully')
 jj. Parkland Pillar Birch (Betulaplatyphylla 'Jefpark')
 kk. Whitespire Birch (Betulapopulifolia 'Whitespire')
 ell. Crimean linden (type of basswood).
 mm. American Linden (Tiliaamericana)
 nn. American Sentry Linden (Tiliaamericana 'McK Sentry')
 oo. Greenspire Linden (Tiliacordata 'Greenspire')
 pp. Ginkgo (ornamental, slow growing) (male only).
 (2) The city forester may allow planting of hybridized species of the hardwood trees listed in subsection (1) of this section. All trees planted shall have a diameter of not less than 1 1/4 inches at a point three feet above the ground.
 (c) **Approved trees.** The following named trees are hereby approved for planting where the terrace shall be at least four feet wide:
 (1) Japanese tree lilac (Syringamurensis-japonicareticulata).
 (2) Snowdance Japanese Tree Lilac (Syringareticulata 'Ballance')
 (3) Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac (Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk')
 (4) Miss Kim Lilac (Syringapatula 'Miss Kim')
 (25) Washington hawthorn (Crataegusphaenopyrum).
 (26) Mountain maple (Acer spicatum).
 (47) Scanlon red maple (Acer rubrumconicascanlon).
 (68) Rancho sargent cherry (Prunussargentcolumnare).
 (69) Pyramidal european ash (Fraxinus excelsior pyramidalisvink).
 (710) Globe Norway maple (Acer platanoidesglobosum).
 (811) Globe single seed hawthorn (Crataegusmonogynainermis).
 (12) Thornless Cockspar Hawthorn (Crataegus crus-galli var. inermis).
 (913) Hop hornbeam (Ostryvirginiana).
 (4014) daholocust.
 (15) Northern Acclaim Honey Locust (Gleditsiatriacanthos var. inermis 'Harve')
 (16) Vanilla Strawberry Hydrangea (Hydrangea paniculata 'Renhy')
 (147) Hawthorne.
 (128) Flowering crabs.
 (129) Pyramidal european hornbeam.
 (4420) Oakleaf european hornbeam.
 (4521) Improved columar maple.
 (4622) Little leaf linden (European basewood).
 (4723) Black Norway maple.
 (4824) Erect Norway maple.
 (4925) Cleveland Norway maple.
 (286) Crimson king Norway maple.
 (27) Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry (Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance')
 (28) Blue Beech (Carpinuscaroliniana)
 (d) **Planting location; objects in terrace.**
 (1) There shall be a distance of 50 feet (or proportionate to the size of the trees at maturity) between terrace area trees depending upon the size of the tree and other factors. Terrace trees shall be planted with equal distance between the sidewalk or proposed sidewalk and back of the curb or proposed back of curb. In terrace areas less than three feet wide, planting will not be permitted. Terrace area trees shall be a minimum of 2530 feet from an intersection.
 (2) Trees to be planted must be offset 25 feet from under any utility wires that are less than 35 feet from the ground. Trees may not be planted within 25 feet of utility or light poles. Tree species selection for the area around overhead utilities must be appropriate size at maturity.
 (3) Evergreen trees or shrubs shall not be planted in a terrace area.
 (4) It shall be unlawful to plant or maintain shrubby, ground cover or other plants not considered to be an approved deciduous leaf tree within terrace areas whose growth is in excess of 24 inches in height above the top of the nearest curb, or where no curb exists, above the existing road grade.
 (5) No plants shall be planted in the terrace islands where two sidewalks intersect.
 (6) An application for a permit to plant in terrace areas shall be obtained by the property owner at the city clerk's office or the parks and recreation department office and shall be approved or disapproved by the city forester.
 (7) Terrace areas must not include noxious weeds or noxious grasses; and all lawns and grasses must not exceed eight inches as regulated in section 14-36(b).
 (8) No foreign objects shall be allowed to enhance the area in or around the terrace areas including, but not limited to, landscape timbers, blocks, rocks, bricks and similar items.
 (9) If at any time the city, or a utility operating in the city, deem it necessary to do work in a terrace area, they bear no responsibility for damage to plants in

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the terrace areas. Persons doing work in terrace area must take every reasonable precaution to protect plants in terrace.
 (10) Tree grates or cut out areas shall be provided for terrace trees surrounded by concrete by the adjacent property owner and shall be level with adjacent concrete.
 (e) **Cottonwood and box elder trees prohibited.** No person shall plant or maintain within the city any female tree of the species Populusdeltoidea, commonly called the cottonwood, or any tree commonly called the seed-bearing box elder or Acer negundo, which may now or hereafter, become infested with box elder bugs, and such trees are hereby declared a nuisance. Any person having any such trees on his premises shall cause the same to be removed.
 (f) **Unlawfully planted trees.** Trees, plants or shrubs planted within any terrace or planting easement without the authorization and approval of the city forester may be removed. The city forester shall notify the abutting owner in writing, listing the unlawfully planted trees, plants or shrubs, ordering their removal, and establishing a reasonable time within which such removal shall be accomplished. In the event that removal is not accomplished within the time specified, the city may remove such trees, plants or shrubs and assess the costs thereof to the owner.
 Sec. 14-128. Removal of trees and shrubs.
 (a) **Standards.** In cutting down trees located in public and terrace areas, the tree shall be removed with the root stump grubbed out, or ground out to a depth of at least nine inches below grade measured in a straight line with the normal grade of sidewalk to top of nine inches below grade measured as a straight line, normal grade of sidewalk to top of curb. All wood and debris must be removed from the street prior to the end of each working day and all holes shall be filled to normal grade level with topsoil as soon as practicable. The abutting property owner shall have a right of first refusal to keep the wood, provided such wood is not diseased.
 (b) **Private removal.** No person, firm, organization or corporation shall plant, injure, trim, remove or destroy any tree or shrub located in or upon any public place, until a permit shall have been issued by the city forester. Such permit shall be issued only when the removal, trimming or cutting of the tree or shrub is necessary, as determined by the city forester, because of disease, damage, hazardous condition, and/or location, or its location is such that substantial detriment is done to the property upon which the tree or shrub stands, or property abutting the same. Such permit shall expressly state the premises upon which the tree stands and the location of the tree thereon.
 (c) **Disposals.** If any trees are removed from either private property or from public property adjoining private property, pursuant to law, the city forester shall do the following: Notcutting of oak species is allowed between April 1st & October 1st. The purpose of this regulation is to try and limit spread of oak wilt.
 (1) Arrange for the removal of said tree and/or stump, either through the city street department or by private bid contracts.
 (2) Any such trees which have fire wood value shall, after being cut into removable lengths, first be offered free to the adjoining landowner, if any; said right of the adjoining landowner shall belong to that landowner alone, and not to other citizens, and the landowner so electing to take said wood shall expressly waive any actions or causes of actions against the city or any employee thereof, resulting from in any way the removal of said trees or wood.
 (3) The said landowner shall be given written notice of his right to remove the wood lengths from the boulevard within 48 hours.
 (4) If the adjoining landowner does not remove said wood, then said wood shall remain the property of the city, and be removed by the city for sale on the open market: should be for urban wood re-utilization - where and when applicable.
 a. Said wood is to be organized at least annually by the city, and the city shall advertise said wood for sale publicly.
 b. All such wood shall be sold to the highest bidder by sealed written bids, the wood must be removed by the buyer within 20 days of acceptance of the bid.
 c. Sorting of wood shall not be permitted by the buyer, and the buyer shall remove all wood so purchased; that further, any elm wood shall be disposed of by the buyer no later than April 1, of each year to help prevent the spread of Dutch elm disease.
 Sec. 14-129. Prohibited acts.
 (a) **Damage to public trees.** No person, business, or contractor shall, without the consent of the owner, in the case of a private tree or shrub, or without written permits from the city forester, in the case of a terrace-area tree, public tree or shrub, perform or cause to be performed by others any of the following acts:
 (1) Secure, fasten or run any rope, wire sign, unprotected electrical installation or other device or material to, around or through a tree or shrub.
 (2) Break, injure, mutilate, deface, kill or destroy any tree or shrub or permit any fire to burn where it will injure any tree or shrub.
 (3) Permit any toxic chemical, gas, smoke, oil or other injurious substance to seep, drain or be emptied upon or about any tree or shrub or place cement or other solid substance around the base of the same.
 (4) Remove any guard, stake or other device or material intended for the protection of a public tree or shrub, or close or obstruct any open space about the base of a public tree or shrub designed to permit access of air, water and fertilizer.
 (5) Attach any sign, poster, notice or other object on any tree, or fasten any guy wire, cable, rope, nails, screws or other device to any tree; except that the city may tie temporary no parking signs to trees when necessary in conjunction with street improvement work, tree maintenance work or parades.
 (6) Cause or encourage any fire or

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burning near or around any tree.
 (7) Place any earth fill, rock, trash, or other material within the tree protection zone of any public tree or shrub which material may compact or prevent the entry of air and water to the root zone.
 (b) **Excavations.** All trees on any parkway or other publicly owned property near any excavation or construction of any building structure or street work shall be sufficiently guarded and protected by those responsible for such work as to prevent any injury to said trees. No person shall excavate any ditches, tunnels or trenches, or install pavement within a radius of ten feet from any public tree without a permit from the city forester. Contractors are responsible for any/all damage to any tree on publicly owned property.
 (c) **Interference with city forester prohibited.** No person shall:
 (1) Interfere with or prevent any acts of the city forester, or his agents or employees, while they are engaged in the performance of duties imposed by this section.
 (2) Refuse to permit the city forester, or his duly authorized representative, to enter upon his premises at reasonable times to exercise the duties imposed by this section.
 (3) Permit any public nuisance to remain on any premises owned or controlled by him when ordered by the city forester to abate such nuisance.
 Sec. 14-130. Appeal from determinations or orders.
 Any person who receives a determination or order under this article from the city forester, and objects to all or any part thereof, shall have the right to appeal such determination or order, subject to the provisions of this chapter, to the parks and recreation commission within seven days of receipt of the order and the parks and recreation commission shall hear such appeal within 30 days of receipt of written notice of the appeal. After such hearing, the parks and recreation commission may reverse, affirm or modify the order or determination appealed from and the grounds for its decision shall be stated in writing. The parks and recreation commission shall, by letter, notify the party appealing the order or determination of its decision within ten days after the hearing has been concluded. The parks and recreation commission shall file its written decision with the city clerk.
Section 2. Severability. In the event any section, subsection, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance. It is the legislative intent of the Common Council that this ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal provision had not been included or any illegal application had not been made.
Section 3. Repeal and Effective Date. All ordinances or parts of ordinances and resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. This ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage and publication.
 Moved by: Alderman Van Lieshout
 Adopted: December 14, 2021 8-0
 Approved:
 Derek Woellner, Mayor
 Attest:
 William N. Heideman, City Clerk
 Published Dec. 23, 2021
 WNAIXLP

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**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
 WNAIXLP

**Merrill Area Public Schools
 Regular Board of Education Meeting
 November 17, 2021 - Minutes**
 The meeting was called to order by Blake at 5:30 PM in the MHS Auditorium.
 Board members present: Ashbeck, Krueger, Liberty, Osness, Volpe, Woller and Blake. Board members absent: Yingling. Others Present: Dr. Sample, MAPS Administrators, Rell, Skoviera, approximately 18 people from the staff and public and Recorder Woller.
 MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to approve the MHS course description book for 2022-2023 school year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
 MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve the FY22 pool overhead cost rate of \$25.32 per hour for audit purposes. Motion carried unanimously.
 MOTION by Woller, second by Krueger to approve the FY23 budget development calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
 MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to approve consent agenda items a through e, which includes minutes of the October 26, 2021, October 27, 2021, with the revised personnel report attached to it, November 2, 2021 and November 10, 2021 meetings; second reading of Policy 7300 Disposition of District Property; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,775,130.42; the personnel report as presented, contingent upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable; and,

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donations totaling \$19,484.98. Motion carried with Ashbeck abstaining from the October 26, 2021 minutes; Krueger and Volpe abstaining from a portion of the October 26, 2021 minutes; and, Volpe abstaining from a portion of the November 2, 2021 minutes.
 Blake called for a MOTION to adjourn into executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under Section 19.85(1)(c); (e); (f) except where par. (b) applies; (g). The purpose of the closed session is for discussion of and potential action on approving a leave of absence for two employees; consideration and potential action of a mid-year retirement proposal for a professional staff member; the Superintendent evaluation initial dialogue/prep; and, to conduct specified public business which for competitive or bargaining reasons requires a closed session, to wit, the consideration and discussion of the sale of personal and real property associated with Maple Grove School, and the division of assets and liabilities between Merrill Area Common Public School District and Athens School District, which may occur as a result of granting petitions for detachment of property in the Town of Hamburg, and to take action regarding the same. The Board may reconvene to open session and may take action upon the matters discussed during the closed session portion of the meeting. MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Volpe to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.
 MOTION by Osness, second by Volpe to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously.
 MOTION by Osness, second by Volpe to approve an unpaid leave of absence for Amy Dinges and Robin Hein through January 31, 2022 with a re-evaluation in January, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.
 MOTION by Osness, second by Volpe to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.
 Respectfully submitted,
 Ronald Liberty
 Board Clerk
 RL/tw
 (The official minutes in their entirety are available by calling (715) 536-4581, by visiting www.mapsedu.org, or by visiting the MAPS District Office at 1111 N. Sales Street, Merrill, Wisconsin.)
 Published Dec. 23, 2021
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**STATE OF WISCONSIN
 CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 Notice to Creditors for
 Summary Assignment
 (Formal Administration)**
 Case No. 2021 IN 36
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 Carl Edward Mahn, Jr.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
 1. A Petition for Summary Assignment was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth 06-16-1933 and date of death 01-29-2017, with a mailing address of 702 E. 7th Street, Merrill, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
 3. The right of a creditor to bring an action terminates three months after the date of publication of this order. Creditors may bring an action by A. filing a claim in the Lincoln County Circuit Court before the property is assigned.
 B. bringing a suite against the assignee(s) after the property is assigned.
 4. The property may be assigned to the creditors and interested persons after 30 days have elapsed following the publication of this notice.
 Thomas E. Mahn
 702 E. 7th Street, Merrill, WI 54452
 temahn@yahoo.com
 715-526-5232
 Published Dec. 23, 2021
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TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING?
 List your garage/rummage sale or items for sale in the classifieds.
Merrill Foto News
 715-536-7121

PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF THE MERRILL WATER UTILITY

The Merrill Water Utility has filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to increase water rates. The increase is necessary due to a 21.1 percent increase in gross plant investment and a 30.9 percent increase in operating expenses since the last water rate case was completed in 2013.

The total increase in water revenues requested is \$302,521 which will result in an estimated overall rate increase of 19.8 percent over the water utility's present revenues. If the request is granted, the water bill for an average residential customer with a 3/4-inch or 1/2-inch meter who uses 1,100 cubic feet of water per quarter will increase from \$66.03 to \$84.45, or 27.9% (including the public fire protection charge).

A telephonic public hearing on the application has been scheduled for Friday, January 7, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. This hearing has no physical location. Parties and Commission staff appear by audiovisual connection over the internet. Parties and Commission staff may use the audio-only telephone connection as a backup, or if no practicable internet connection exists. Members of the public attend by audiovisual connection over the internet, or by audio-only telephone connection.

Join by audiovisual connection at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/my/pscheatings>

To join by telephone:
 1. Dial: +1 312 626 6799
 2. Enter: 809 513 2930 # (Meeting ID)

Each participant shall provide their name, and status as either a party representative, Commission staff, or a member of the public. Each participant using the internet connection shall provide this information in the "Join Meeting" dialog screen, or by renaming the participant's screen name after gaining admittance to the hearing. Each person connecting by telephone shall provide this information immediately after gaining admittance to the hearing.

Upon connecting to the hearing, each participant will enter a waiting room and await admittance to the hearing. Before commencing the hearing, the ALJ will admit each participant who connected before the designated start time. The ALJ will admit each participant who connects after the hearing begins at the earliest opportunity that does not disrupt the hearing. Each member of the public shall remain muted until the ALJ invites that person to comment.

The Commission will livestream the audio of this hearing on its website. The livestream allows anyone to listen to the hearing without connecting to it as described above. To access the livestream, go to the Commission's website at <http://psc.wi.gov>, and select "Live Broadcast" button. The live broadcast webpage provides neither: (1) an opportunity to make a comment, nor (2) closed captioning.

A person may testify in this proceeding without becoming a party and without attorney representation. A person may submit this testimony in only one of the following ways:

- Web Comment.** File a comment on the internet. Go to the Commission's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>, click on "File a Comment". On the next page select the "File a comment" link that appears for docket number 3610-WR-105. Web comments shall be received no later than Tuesday, January 11, 2022.
- Oral Comment.** Speak over the telephone during the public session. The Administrative Law Judge may receive an oral comment from any member of the public in attendance after the close of any party and Commission staff testimony. The Administrative Law Judge will receive an oral comment by unmuting each phone connection one at a time and inquiring into the each caller's desire to comment.
- Mail Comment.** Send a comment by U.S. Mail. All comments submitted by U.S. Mail shall be received no later than Tuesday, January 11, 2022 and shall be addressed to: Attn: Docket 3610-WR-105 Comments, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854.

All documents in this docket are filed on the Commission's Electronic Records Filing (ERF) system. To view these documents: (1) go to the Commission's E-Services Portal at <http://apps.psc.wi.gov>, (2) enter "3610-WR-105" in the box labeled "Quick Single Docket Search," and (3) select "Documents".

If you have any questions, please contact the Merrill Water Utility at (715) 536-6561.

Published December 23 & 30, 2021 WNAIXLP

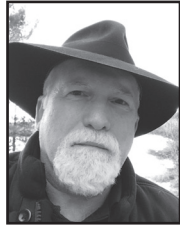
PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Wonders of Christmas

DEAR READER,

When I think of Christmas I reminisce on the wonders as seen through the eyes of a child...the lights, the Christmas tree, the snowman, that special present, the garlands, the pageantry of events leading up to Christmas Day. A childlike wonder bypasses the commercialization and materialistic notions because of the simplicity and purity a child processes within the context of an uncomplicated life.

Let's stop for a moment; let's find peace through the darkness. Let's embrace the joys of this holiday season apart from the chaos and frenzy of mostly self-induced obligations. After all, if you're a Christian, the hope of it all began with a child in a manger long ago and far away.



PATRICK J. WOOD PUBLISHER

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor:

There seems to be some frustration about Pine Crest in the community, specifically that it's not financially self-sustaining and has reduced the number of beds. The new rehabilitation wing has helped stabilize the finances, but the anticipated "silver tsunami" of Baby Boomers was diverted by various government programs that help keep the elderly at home. And COVID has been (and continues to be) a huge problem.

There are three basic levels of revenue at Pine Crest: private pay, Medicare, and Medicaid. Medicaid pays the least and never covers the actual cost of care. That's why private nursing homes don't want Medicaid residents. That's why not-for-profit facilities like Pine Crest end up with 70% or more of people on Medicaid. The only way to cover the deficit is from the tax levy.

In the end, it comes down to a matter of public morality: Do we take care of those folks who need nursing home care but who don't have the means to cover the cost? I believe the answer is yes. If we don't, who will?

- Paul Gilk Merrill, Wis.

of how a City works, that money must be invested, that property tax dollars are THE main source of revenue for a City, TI Districts and TI Funding, and yet are able to vote on such matters. I have seen this lack of understanding at various City meetings and I believe THIS to be the main source of feuds within the City of Merrill.

Sincerely, - Heather O'Neill Town of Harding, Wis.

To the Editor:

The holidays are a good time to say "Thank you" and count your blessings. On Oct. 29, we had a terrible tornado do a lot of damage in Pine River on County Rd. P and Shady Ln. That night we had caring neighbors checking if everyone was safe and clearing roads of trees and debris. Wisconsin Public Service came and got our power back on in two days.

The next day Christian Aid had many local Mennonites cut trees and clean up brush at no cost. Area fire departments and road crews came to clean up.

During the summer, family, friends, and neighbors spent days putting our neighborhood back together. Contractors, electricians, painters, and many others did good work at a fair price to help us out. Insurance agents and companies worked hard and fast to get our needs met.

It will take another summer or two to put us back together. Many of us will have to plant trees and flowers after construction is done, while the friendships we've formed will continue to grow.

"Thank you" and "God bless you" to all who worked together.

- Gail Westberg Merrill, WI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

*Letters must be 250 words or less (There will be no exceptions to this. Any letter longer than 250 words will not be printed.) *All letters must include full name, address and phone number of the composer. Phone numbers and addresses will not be published, but will be used for verification purposes if necessary. *Letters will be published at the discretion of the Editor. While letters on most any topic will be published, any letters deemed derogatory, inflammatory, slanderous, or involving vulgar language, will not be published. *Letters will be published on a "first come, first served" basis. Any letters which we are unable to publish in the printed newspaper will be run online at www.merrillfotonews.com and may be printed in the paper at a later date if possible.



The Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS) would like to thank the D.C. Everest FCCLA for partnering with Adventer Care to create a supply drive for LCHS! We are so grateful for the incredible generosity! Pictured: Jori Buckmaster, Emily Hoppe, and Kaitlynn of LCHS.

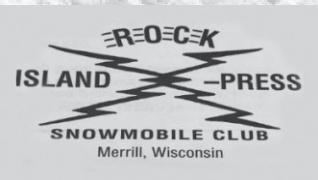
Submitted photo.

To the Editor;

I am writing in regards to the occasional feuding that takes place between the City Government and the City Council. To begin with, those that are hired for key City positions must have certain qualifications; namely education and experience. These people must have an understanding of how various City departments work together to serve the community and to problem solve. They must also understand that a City should be run like a business, efficiently, responsibly, and with an eye toward the future. A City must spend money to make money—this means investing in the areas that grow a City, such as expanding the property tax base, which results in more property tax, leading to City improvements and maintenance. On the other hand, those that run for City Council are NOT required to have the qualifications of City employees. All that is required for a seat on the Council is to live in the City and to earn enough votes. As a result, the Councilmen that are elected often do NOT have an understanding

After 30 years, Rock Island X-Press Snowmobile Club has made the decision to disband. We would like to thank our landowners, all our club members, our many donors, and supporters. Our ability to serve this community would not have been possible without your hard work and contributions!

We encourage your continued support for local snowmobile trails, clubs and volunteers in Lincoln County. We are proud to be able to donate over \$44,000 to the local community.



See our Facebook page for a list of the organizations we supported as a result of our dissolution. Thank you again and happy trails!

LINCOLN COUNTY SPORTS CLUB

Effective Friday, December 17, 2021, the Lincoln County Sports Club will be closing all gun ranges indefinitely. The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for January 27 at 7:00pm, where we will be discussing this situation as well as the Spring projects for range improvements. We welcome all members to join us for the discussion as we value your input. More details can be found on our website at lcscsportsclub.com.

MERRILL Foto News

Early Deadline for the December 30th Issue DISPLAY & CLASSIFIEDS: Thur. Dec. 23rd by 3 PM

Our office will be closed on Friday, December 31 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From everyone at the Merrill Foto News



TIME TO PLACE AN AD?

PHONE:

715-536-7121

EMAIL:

fotonewsads@mmlocal.com

ADDRESS:

921 E. Main Street Merrill, WI

WEBSITE:

merrillfotonews.com

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/merrill.fotonews



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IN LOVING MEMORY Tyler Holbach



8-19-97 — 12-29-17

Your life was a blessing, Your memory a treasure, You are loved beyond Words and missed beyond measure.

If you or someone you know needs help now, you should immediately call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or call 911. YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

MERRILL Foto News

GET RESULTS FINDING THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB!

715-536-7121



'Tis the season for Christmas concerts and the joyful sounds of children singing. In these photos, children from St. John Lutheran School presented their carols and the story of Jesus as The Brightest Star on Sunday, Dec. 19.

Tina L. Scott photo.



Habitat for Humanity recently made a donation to His Hands Extended Food Pantry. "We would like to thank Habitat for Humanity for blessing the community with their generous donation," Elizabeth Hohman said. Shown, L to R: Dennis L. Grefe (President of Habitat for Humanity), Pastor Paul Hohman, and Theresa Hohman. Submitted photo.

Merry Christmas Merrill!

Worship with us at Trinity this Christmas!

TrinityMerrill.com/Christmas

Services on 12/24 are in person and online at 3:00PM, 5:00PM, 7:00PM, and 9:00PM

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR, Happy Holidays!

images Hair - Merrill

715-536-1345 • 1005 E. Main St., Merrill

Kelly, Cassie, Emily, Sandy (Owner), Jancy, Debbi, Mariah, Mary, Leah, Sue

THE BIRTH OF Christ

AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRSTBORN SON, AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN. LUKE 2:7

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
1104 East Third Street, Merrill

From Start to Finish

Decorating Merrill Downtown

Thanks to the efforts of Chris Kalifice (Merrill House of Music), Tony Kusserow, Bryce Jirovec, Andy Ahrendts (Courtside Furniture), and Tyler Lestikow (RTL Electric), the Christmas tree was assembled lit up and music added for passers' by to enjoy.

The tree is put together in stages from the bottom up. The base is laid out, bolted, and leveled before the next stages can be assembled. In years past, the tree topper has been extremely challenging. This year (with RTL Electric's bucket truck) the tree topper went up and together in much, much less time.

Once the steel tree skirt is assembled and bolted, four cable ties anchor the tree to the ground to secure the 18 plus foot Christmas tree. Chris Kalifice had the job of turning the 3 foot stakes into the ground for the cable ties to attach.

Next come the green panels which are hung from the top down. The panels are hung and zip tied to the steel tree skirt to keep them from falling off and blowing away. After all the panels are secured, the tree lights are plugged in and checked for burnt out bulbs.

Once all the lights are checked, an outdoor speaker & MP3 music player is hung inside the Christmas tree (thanks Steve Resnick & Blue Jay Radio), connected to the MP3 player and plugged into a power source the tree is lit (thanks to the City of Merrill).

When it's time to put the tree away, we are very fortunate to walk less than 100 feet to store the Christmas tree in the lower level of Merrill Community Bank. Mark Zulliger and Carrie Cordova have been very supportive of the Downtown Christmas tree project with storage and assembly help.

The downtown is very fortunate (and grateful) for the many monetary donations bringing the Christmas tree to life.

Have a blessed Holiday season



Nativity Scenes

Around the Merrill community, in churches and in homes, on front steps and on front lawns, nativity scenes depict the true meaning of Christmas. From full displays with shepherds, animals, three kings, and hay to simpler scenes with just Mary, Joseph, and the Christ child ... and some scenes that are absent the baby Jesus until he will be placed in the manger scene on Christmas Eve ... each depicts a representation of the season for the season. See more photos on page 9.

Tina L. Scott photos.



Merry Christmas
from all of us at
ZBEST Car Wash!

ZBEST car wash
3456 E. Main St., Merrill
715-536-2005
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Open 24 Hours

Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and a wonderful
New Year!

Merrill Chamber
of Commerce
705 N Center Ave., Merrill, WI 54452-1275
(715) 536-9474 • www.merrillchamber.org

Closing at noon on Christmas Eve,
Closed Christmas Day & Monday, Dec. 27th
Closing at noon on New Year's Eve,
Closed New Year's Day & Monday, Jan. 3rd

Pet of the Week

Hi there. My name is **Bali** and I am 2 years old. I am a big beautiful tuxedo (black and white) boy that likes to snuggle up and love your attention. I also like my freedom to explore. I am super friendly and loving and would love a home where I could lay in the sun all day and claim a bed of my own. My adoption fee is \$50 and includes my neuter, up to date on shots and microchipped. Please come down and play with me for a bit and maybe even take me home today.

SPONSORED BY
Dave's County Market
300 E. First St.
Merrill, WI

Visit all the adoptable pets at the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours MON-SAT 12-4PM & SUN 12-2PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us at www.furypets.com.

I closed just under 100 transactions and \$20 million in sales for 2021!

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May the Glory and Beauty of the Season stay with you throughout the New Year!

Wishing our friends and customers a very
Merry Christmas!

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Ford

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Closed on New Year's Day

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www.merrillsheetmetal.com

May the spirit of the holidays warm your heart & home!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From Everyone At
Brickners Park City, Inc.

Jeep CHRYSLER DODGE RAM

OPEN till Noon Christmas Eve • CLOSED Christmas Day
OPEN till 4pm New Year's Eve • CLOSED New Year's Day

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1/2 mile W. of Hwy. 51-64 Interchange
Visit our web site at www.bricknersparkcity.net



Tina L. Scott photos.

Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

Elite Carriers LLC

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715-536-4664

110805

Seasons Greetings

to all and **PEACE** in the **New Year!**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • Closed Dec. 24th, 25th & 26th

Check us out on

715-536-5708

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601 Johnson Merrill WI

Behold, the Greatest Gift of them all.

Wishing Everyone a Blessed Christmas and Peace in the New Year

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110443

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year. We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2022.

Closing at noon on Christmas Eve, and Closed Christmas Day.

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MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is **Braelynn Burkam**
Daughter of Amber Kinningham & Richard Burkam
Braelynn is in Kindergarten at the Kate Goodrich Elementary School. She was nominated by Ms. Schaeztl.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
Reading because some of the books are funny.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
Gym because there is fun stuff to do.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
A veterinarian because you can feed pets and take care of animals.

In school, Braelynn does her best every day. She comes to school with a smile on her face every day and is kind to all she sees. Braelynn is a positive role model and rises to any challenge she faces!
- Ms. Schaeztl

Student of the Week Sponsored by:

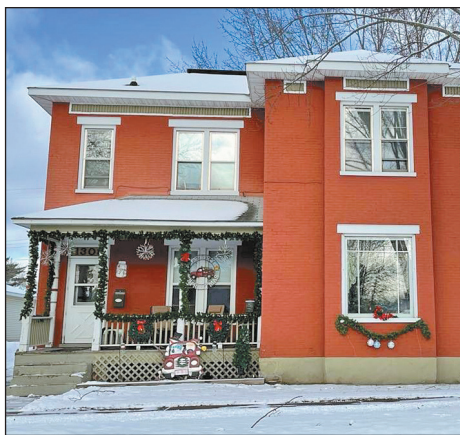
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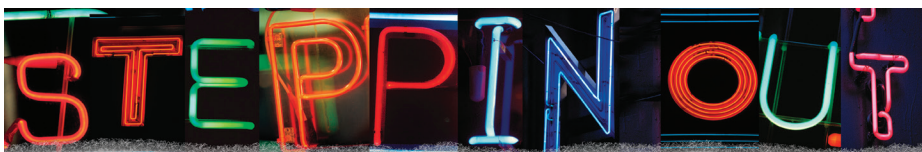
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Clarice, making doe eyes at one another, also make an appearance on this snowy lawn. **Tina L. Scott photo.**



Tina L. Scott photo.



Trinity Lutheran Church and School greets Merrill residents and visitors with a warm "Merry Christmas Merrill" at the corner of West Main and State Streets. **Tina L. Scott photo.**



Merry Christmas
from your friends at
THE TROPHY

808 E. Main, Merrill | 715.536.5780
3pm - close | Sat. & Sun. noon - close
Merrill's Home for Sam's Original Pizza

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/MerrillFotoNews



Santa and his reindeer greet passerby at the intersection of Third St. and Center Ave. in Merrill. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

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. 27th Menu:
Pancakes, Eggs, Ham, Sausage & Fruit.

S&S BAR Open Daily 9 am - Close

418 Grand Ave., Merrill

THIS WEEK'S DRINK SPECIAL:
JIM BEAM RYE

Low carry out prices on Booze, Beer & Ice

\$4 PINT MIXERS; \$2 TUB MIXERS; \$2 SHOTS

Part-Time Bartender **Wanted**

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Main St. • Merrill

SHOW TIMES EFFECTIVE 12/22/21 TO 12/30/21
Mondays All Seats \$5.00



The Crooked Queen, a Merrill-area gift market in the Town of Pine River, was open for Christmas shoppers on Saturday, Dec. 18. The shop holds seasonal markets throughout the year on the farm property utilizing farm outbuildings and is also open by special appointment. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

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

DINNER SPECIALS DEC./JAN.

TUESDAY NIGHTS
Dec. 28th - Beef Tips w/ Noodles
Jan. 4th - Liver N Onions
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

FRIDAY NIGHTS
Dec. 24th and 25th Closed for Christmas
Dec. 31st - Bluegills
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
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- SATURDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
- SUNDAY: Bar Open From 11am-7pm

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HAPPY HOUR: TUESDAY-THURSDAY • 3-6PM

Merry Christmas
from the Members and Staff at the Merrill Eagles Club!

SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME
"PG13" 2 Hour 28 Min.
Wed., Thurs., Sat.-Thurs.: 7:00 p.m.
Closed Christmas EVE
Christmas Day: 7:00 p.m. Only
Sunday: 1:00 p.m. & 3:45 p.m.
Mon. 12/27 & Wed.: 12/29: 1:00 p.m.

SING 2
"PG" 1 Hour 52 Min.
Wed., Thurs., Sat.-Thurs.: 7:00 p.m.
Closed Christmas EVE
Christmas Day: 7:00 p.m. Only
Sunday: 1:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.
Mon. 12/27 & Wed.: 12/29: 1:00 p.m.

THE MATRIX RESURRECTIONS
Wed., Thurs., Sat.-Thurs.: 7:00 p.m.
Closed Christmas EVE
Christmas Day: 7:00 p.m. Only
Sunday: 1:00 p.m. & 3:45 p.m.
Mon. 12/27 & Wed.: 12/29: 1:00 p.m.

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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



Tina L. Scott photo.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

New Year's Eve Dec. 31
Live Music 7:30 pm-12:30 am
Country-Variety Band Bear Creek

TRIVIA NIGHT
Thursday Nights 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Dec. 23rd Christmas
Dec. 30th General

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

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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

THURSDAY Wing Night

SATURDAY NIGHT Steak Night

BROASTED CHICKEN 4 Piece with Potato for \$11.99 Available Sun./Thurs./Sat.

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1:00 pm

Sing 2 "PG"
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Tina L. Scott photo.

MERRILL Foto News
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Your Paper



Tina L. Scott photo.



Santa's sleigh is full of toys and features Christmas angels, too, in this display at the Stonebridge Apartments complex on West Main St. Tina L. Scott photo.



Tina L. Scott photo.



The Christmas tree in the gazebo, decorated by the Caylor family, has become a Merrill Christmas tradition, first lit on the evening of the annual Christmas parade and then for the remainder of the holiday season. Tina L. Scott photo.



Tina L. Scott photo.

At Waid Funeral Home, we appreciate the trust and friendship that families extend to us when we care for their loved ones. As you gather this holiday season, may you cherish each other and create precious memories.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
from our family to yours.

WAID FUNERAL HOME
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www.WaidFuneral.com




Happy Holidays.



Warm wishes for the holiday, from our family to yours.


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**• MERRY •
CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



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(715) 536-6791

Holy Cross Sisters

Christmas Blessings



Holy Cross Sisters and Associates

LCHS October Honorariums

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank everyone who donated in honor of a loved one in October:

Roger Ollhoff by Gwen Schmidt; Matt Suhling by Ervin & Kimberly Bruesewitz, Kathleen Echterling, The Community ;Barbara Klade by Nestle Corporation, Debby Stock, Gerald & Diane Bauman, Sandra Euler, Albert & Ruth Schumacher, Chester & Linda Rhinehart, Ken & Sally Tupa, Carol Page, Bryan Haase, The Rowe/Klade Family, The Community; Greg Heath by Barbara Rambo-Hartley, Thomas & Mary Ball, Tim & Tammy Gruling; Darlene Madden by Bonita & Barbara Zank, Tammy & David Marone, Jeffrey & Ann Verdoorn; Brian Kingsley by Brian & Sarah Ross, Pesobic Lake Association, Inc.; Jim Nikolai by Tom & Linda Tompach; Pat Sams by Toby DuPlayee; Phyllis Fehr by Laurie Bergh; Jack Crowley by Scott & Thersa Swiechowski; and Ellen Clifford by Holly Finnell.

Your support is greatly appreciated!



The Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS) would like to thank the Merrill Community Bank and Tomahawk Community Bank for their recent support of their shelter. Both banks held a "Giving Thanks" event for the shelter, collecting a wide variety of items that LCHS was in need of. Thank you, Merrill Community Bank and Tomahawk Community Bank! Pictured from L to R: Chasity Conrad, Liz from LCHS, Kelsey Coffman, Gabrielle Opper, and Angie Harris. **Submitted photo.**



May we all remember the real reason for this Holiday season

It's easy to get wrapped up with all the extra activities during the holidays. Take time to enjoy what's really important with your family and friends.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Trust in Tomorrow:

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Merry Christmas!
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Wishing Our Friends and Family a Joyous Holiday Filled with Peace, Love and Prosperity.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
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 Phone 715-536-7313
 www.merrillparkandrec.com

May the **Joy** of Christmas fill your hearts this season and throughout 2022
SUBWAY Merrill & Tomahawk
Mama DeLuca's PIZZA! Merrill

Merry Christmas!
 Dan, Coy, Josh, Kerry, Logan, Tyler, Meredith, Sue, Shatara
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Regular scheduled work week is Monday through Thursday 6:30 am to 4:30 pm with on call and overtime opportunities. CDL required within 6 months of hire date.

Starting Wage is \$18.22 per hour. Positions are eligible for the Lincoln County benefit package including health, dental, vision, life, LTD, vacation, sick leave, holiday pay and Wisconsin Retirement System.

Job description, duties, responsibilities, and application are listed on the Lincoln County web page at www.co.lincoln.wi.us (career opportunities) or applications can be picked up at the Lincoln County Service Center at 801 N. Sales Street (upper level) Merrill, WI. John Hanz, Highway Commissioner, may be reached at 715-539-2554 if you need additional information or have questions.



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BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM
 GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

It's a Wonderful Life

★★★★★

Rated PG – but it's suitable for the whole family

In 1946, America was – after having defeated the Axis Powers with its Allied partners, at great cost – at last, at peace.

The American people were in need of a reminder of exactly what the fight was for: friends, family, a sense of unity despite differences, and at its core, a fundamental love of country and community.

It's a Wonderful Life is Frank Capra's 1946 masterpiece of Americana, reminding us even 75 years later of who we are at our core and who we strive as a people to be. It gives us a glimpse of the best of



American ideals and of small town life and morality.

We all know the story of George Bailey, a fundamentally decent man at his core. A man of principles and

sense of fair play, of loyalty to friend and family, and we all have seen the moment when a good man becomes despairing.

We, the viewer, know about George Bailey and his life, because God and St. Peter decide a man such as he, who has impacted so very many and asked for nothing in return and is unaware of his impact on those around him, deserves to gain that knowledge and, as such, send an angel (second class) to stop a good man from making the worst decision one can make.

It's a Wonderful Life shows us what we were and what we can be again. We see glimpses of it every year at this time when Christmas brings out the best in many of us. *It's a Wonderful Life* shows us how one man, one action, one dance, and one walk home can change the course of a hundred – no, a thousand – lives for

See MOVIE page 17

LES & JIM'S from page 1

power lines, the owners and employees of Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes/Center Grill in Merrill focused on meeting the immediate needs of their local community.

The business opened their banquet hall, restaurant, and bowling lanes and invited the community inside. At 9:12 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 17, they posted on Facebook: "Is your power out and your house is getting cold? Les & Jim's is open and warm. Please come on over and warm up with us. We will also be providing free lunch today and free bowling for the kids to keep the kids busy. And we have internet."

"General manager, Kevin Jacoby, had lost power and came up with the idea of opening up so people could stay warm," Les & Jim's co-owner Mark Bares said. "I threw in that we should offer free bowling and lunch since families with no power would have nothing for the kids to do and they would have no way of making a meal."

"When we heard that people were going to be out of power for a while, we quickly decided to do a buffet supper too ..."

At 1:39 p.m. they added a new post: "Does your house have no power and you can't cook supper?!? Warm up here at Les & Jim's | The Center Grill ... FREE coffee & hot cocoa, FREE bowling (until 4pm), FREE supper (4pm to 7pm), FREE internet, CHARGE your phones. We have plenty of space in our banquet hall. Bring a board game. Stay as long as you like! (We close at 10pm)"

And at 4:32 p.m., they posted: "If you or someone you know is still without power tonight, stop on down for a free dinner and a chance to warm up. We are ready to serve until 7:00 and offer hot coffee and hot chocolate, as well."

Bares said about 100 people came for lunch and bowling, with about 50 people there for supper.

"Then we decided to offer meals for people without power throughout the

weekend," he added.

On Dec. 18 at 10:07 a.m., they updated their Facebook message to say: "Les and Jim's and Center Grill would like to extend our offer for those still without power. If you would like to come in and warm up, charge your devices, or use our WiFi, please do anytime we are open. Let us buy you a cup of coffee or a hot meal while you are here, as well. Please, if you know anyone who could benefit, let them know as well!"

Spontaneous and selfless, the owners of Les & Jim's weren't out to make a profit or get positive PR from their actions. "People were in need, and we were in a position to help," Bares said. That's it.

But the community took notice, and that kind of generosity in today's world warmed more than just bodies in need of a heated building. The efforts of the Bares, Arndt, and Jacoby families, and all of the Les & Jim's staff, warmed a lot of hearts, as well.

One grateful community member posted: "Come check out Les and Jim's Lincoln Lanes. They are offering free bowling and free lunch to kids who don't have power! It's been great for us to keep warm and have a little bit of fun. Thank you so much Mark and staff ..."

"We so much appreciated your kindness and food and warmth when we were without power. Thank you," another Facebook post said.

Still other posts echoed similar sentiments. Here are just a few:

"Mark, even though we no longer live in Merrill ... [we] are very proud of you and your family and staff for what you're doing for the community."
 "This post warms my heart. Thank you for being good human beings and helping your neighbors when they need it the most. I hope others will pay it forward. I know I will."

And, "Just another GREAT example why our small town is wonderful! Thank you!"

In The Lite Electric thanks veterans

On Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021, Sasha Everett, Communications Director from the Merrill company "In The Lite Electric," presented 25 Denny's gift cards to the Veterans Weekly Cup-of-Coffee group at Denny's in Rothschild. The company is celebrating their 20th year in business and is completing 20 "Acts of Kindness." The gift cards are their 16th Act of Kindness and they decided this was one way they could thank area veterans for their service and sacrifice for our country.

The gift cards will be given to veterans and their spouses to have a meal at Denny's over the holiday season. This will be a part of the group's ongoing meals program for veterans in need.

The Veterans Weekly See **VETERANS** page 20



L to R: Don Kozlowski, Sasha Everett, and Mike Heilmann. Submitted photo.

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The long-awaited week has arrived. All four candles have been lit on the advent wreath. Christmas will soon be here and with it, many Christian churches around the world will celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Tina L. Scott photo.

MOVIE from page 16

the better.

It is a reminder of what we all should strive to be – a good spouse, a loyal friend, a dedicated parent and child, and a loyal citizen.

It's a Wonderful Life is one of the great-

est films ever made, and it is worthy of a yearly viewing at Christmas with your entire family, as a reminder of what we all can and should be.

We should all strive to be George Bailey, and we should all lasso the moon.

Merry Christmas, everyone!



The Spirit Of Christmas

Gather 'round the radio as BLUEJAY 96.3, AM 730, streaming on bluejay963.com and smart speakers fills your Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with 34 hours of Christmas Church Services, encore concerts, encores of Merrill area school Christmas presentations, delightful stories, and traditional Christmas choral and instrumental music selections

Christmas Eve

- 10:00am The Spirit Of Christmas Presented by Richard Mamer, CPA
11:00am The Spirit Of Christmas Presented by Red Roof Mini Storage
12:00pm Red, White & Blue Air Force Christmas Show Presented by Merrill Eagles Club
1:00pm Trinity School Christmas Concert Presented by VIP Office Products
2:00pm Merrill High School Choir Concert Presented by Chips Hamburgers
3:00pm Sing For Joy Christmas Special Presented by Our Saviour's Church
3:30pm Christ Evangelical Church Christmas Message Presented by Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
4:00pm Alleluia Ringers Presented by Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service
4:30pm Lullabies Of Christmas Presented by Merrill Manufacturing
5:00pm Trinity Lutheran Church Live Service Presented by Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service
6:00pm Merrill Elementary Schools combined concert Presented by Merrill Park and Recreation Department
7:00pm St Stephen's United Church of Christ Live Service Presented by St Stephen's United Church of Christ
8:00pm Merrill High School Band Concert Presented by West Side Market
9:00pm The Spirit of Christmas Presented by DC Motors
10:00pm St John's Lutheran Church Live Service Presented by St John's Church
11:00pm Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Service Presented by Our Saviour's Church

Christmas Day

- 12:00am The Spirit Of Christmas Overnight Presented by Mitchell Metal Products
6:00am The Spirit Of Christmas Presented by Merrill Sheet Metal Works
7:00am The Spirit Of Christmas Presented by Holy Cross Sisters
8:00am The Spirit Of Christmas Presented by AmericInn in Merrill
9:00am The Littlest Angel Presented by Merrill Manufacturing
9:30am Trinity Lutheran Church Live Service Presented by Trinity Lutheran Church
10:30am Trinity Festival of Carols Presented by Taylor and Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services
11:30am Christ Evangelical Church Christmas Message Presented by Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
12:00pm St Stephens Choir Concert Choir Presented by St Stephen's United Church of Christ
1:00pm Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Service Presented by Our Saviour's Church
2:00pm Prairie River Middle School Holiday Concert Presented by Mitchell Metal Products
3:00pm The Spirit Of Christmas Presented by Bluejay 96.3
4:00pm The Spirit Of Christmas Presented by One Way Collision Center
4:30pm The Spirit Of Christmas Presented by Merrill Monument
5:00pm The Spirit Of Christmas Presented by Baumgart Waste Removal
6:00pm The Spirit Of Christmas Presented by Merrill Police Association
7:00pm Red, White & Blue Air Force Christmas Show Presented by Merrill Eagles Club



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

May the miracle of this season bring you joy and hope.



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28409 R8-21

Large holiday-themed graphic with cartoon avatars of Jennifer, Tim, Bob, Dinah, Tina, Kurt, and Heidi. Text includes 'HAPPY Holidays', 'From All Of Us At The MERRILL Foto NEWS', and a truck icon.

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Merrill's downtown is a festive place to shop in the late afternoon/early evening hours after the sun has gone down. Tina L. Scott photos.

Wishing you
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Merrill Varsity Wrestling Team takes on the Tigers and Depies takes second in Tournament

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Bluejays wrestle some Tigers

On Thursday, Dec. 16, the Merrill Bluejays traveled to Marshfield to take on the Marshfield Tigers in the Marshfield High School Fieldhouse. The Merrill wrestlers had a tough adversary in the Marshfield team.

"We wrestled hard against the sixth state ranked Marshfield Tigers," Merrill High School Head Wrestling Coach Brian Suchocki said. "We were able to pick up four individual victories on Varsity. Joey Jensen started us off with a nice victory for his first time wrestling on Varsity. Joey hasn't wrestled in a few years but he is doing well regardless. Joey is a great team wrestler and

works hard in the wrestling room."

"Jon Hart was able to pick up a forfeit," he added.

"Ryder Depies had the only pin in a very dominant performance," Suchocki said. "Ryder is doing a nice job out on the mat."

"Lastly, Kieran Hehling did a nice job in his match. Kieran hasn't wrestled since his Freshman year, but he did the things we worked on in practice, and that helped him get the win."

"Wyatt Bathke and Brian Ball had hard fought matches, as well," he added. "With the young team, our older wrestlers are asked to lead and show the way. Everyone is working hard to make improvements each week."

Box Score
Merrill 18 @ Marshfield 55

2021 Papermaker Invitational Wrestling Tournament

The Merrill Bluejay Varsity Wrestlers competed at the 2021 Papermaker Invitational in Kimberly, Wis. on Saturday, Dec. 4.

"At the first tournament of the year, Merrill placed 11th out of 16 teams," Suchocki said. "5 of the 6 wrestlers competing placed in the top 10."

"Leading the way was Ryder Depies (4-2), taking second place," he said. He scored 44.0 team points. "Ryder did a nice job getting to the finals. In the finals, he faced the Division 2 Returning

State Champion. Ryder is at a new weight class this year, and he is adjusting to it. Ryder works extremely hard, and this was a solid tournament for him."

"All wrestlers competed hard and were able to pick up their first win of the season," Suchocki said. "This was a great first tournament to measure ourselves. Three of the teams in the tournament have won State titles in the last two to three years."

Other top Merrill scorers in their respective weight classes:

John Hart (2-4) placed eighth and scored 22.0 team points.



Merrill Varsity Wrestler Ryder Depies took second place at the Paper Invitational in Kimberly on Dec. 4. Submitted photo.

Brian Ball (3-3) placed sixth and scored 25.5 team points.

Dominic Roper (2-4) placed 14th and scored 10.5 team points.

Wyatt Bathke (3-3) placed seventh and scored 26.0 team points.

Kieran Hehling (2-4) placed 10th and scored 19.0 team points.



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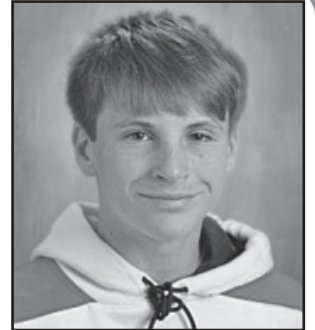
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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Bradyn Pieper, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Bradyn started playing basketball in second grade with the Merrill Little Dribblers. From fourth through eighth grade, he was on the Merrill Traveling Basketball Team. As a Freshman, he played JV 2; as a Sophomore, he played JV; and this year, he is on the Merrill High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team as a point guard. In the spring/summer, Bradyn also plays on the Varsity Boys Baseball Team, and in the fall, he plays Varsity Football. He moved up to Varsity in both sports his Sophomore year.

At MHS, Bradyn is involved in LEAD and Friends. He was recently confirmed at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. In his spare time, Bradyn likes to lift weights, work out at Riverside Athletic, and play basketball, football, and baseball with friends.

The son of Troy Pieper and Gina Pieper, both of Merrill, Bradyn has a 3.15 GPA. He is undecided about career plans following high school.



Bradyn Pieper

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2021-2022 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

Basketball Girls (Varsity, JV, & JV2)

Tues. Dec. 28	Menomonie-Multiple (Varsity & JV)	Away	11:00 am
Wed. Dec. 29	Menomonie-Multiple (Varsity & JV)	Away	11:00 am

Basketball Boys (Varsity, JV, & JV2)

Tues. Dec. 28	WI Dells-Multiple (Varsity)	Away	1:00 pm
Wed. Dec. 29	WI Dells-Multiple (Varsity)	Away	1:00 pm

Ice Hockey Boys (Varsity & JV)

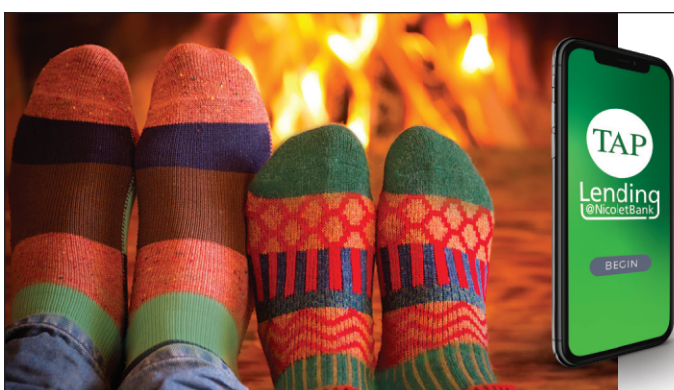
Tues. Dec. 28	Waupaca Expo-Multiple (JV)	Away	10:00 am
Wed. Dec. 29	Waupaca Expo-Multiple (JV)	Away	10:00 am
Thurs. Dec. 30	Waupaca Expo-Multiple (JV)	Away	10:00 am

Ice Hockey Girls (Varsity & JV)

Thurs. Dec. 23	Fond du Lac (Varsity)	Away	5:30 pm
Thurs. Dec. 23	Fond du Lac (JV)	Away	7:30 pm
Tues. Dec. 28	Madison-Culver's Cup (Varsity)	Away	T. B. D.
Wed. Dec. 29	Madison-Culver's Cup (Varsity)	Away	T. B. D.
Thurs. Dec. 30	Madison-Culver's Cup (Varsity)	Away	T. B. D.

Wrestling Boys (Varsity & JV)
No Scheduled Activities for this Week.

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



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VETERANS
from page 16

Cup-of-Coffee group meets every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Denny's restaurant and

consists of more than 560 Veterans. The group offers information of interest to veterans and sup-

port for each other. All Veterans are welcome and are invited to come, grab a chair, and say hello and

to like their group page on Facebook.

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