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Merrill Police Department announces the off-duty death of Officer Riley Kurtz, due to medical complications

Community and MPD grieve the loss of young officer

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

On Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, the Merrill Police Department (MPD) issued the following statement: "It is with great sadness the Merrill Police Department announces the untimely death of active duty Police Officer Riley Kurtz, due to medical complications."

"Officer Kurtz was a three-year veteran of the Merrill Police Department and Kronenwetter Police Department," the statement concluded.

Officer Riley Benjamin Kurtz died on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. He was off-duty at the time. He was 24 years old.

A multi-jurisdictional procession of law enforcement vehicles and squad cars escorted the body of Officer Kurtz from Aspirus Wausau Hospital back to the Waid Funeral Home in Merrill early Monday evening.

A complete obituary can be found on page 4.

A celebration of life for Office Kurtz will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. and the service to begin at 2:00 p.m., both in the Merrill High School Auditorium, with Law Enforcement Honors.

The Merrill Foto News will include a tribute to Officer Riley Kurtz in next week's newspaper.



Officers and deputies prepare to move Officer Riley Kurtz's flag-draped casket. **Tina L. Scott photo.**



The body of Merrill Police Department Officer Riley Kurtz is brought back to Merrill by a multi-jurisdictional police and sheriff's department escort early in the evening on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022. **Tina L. Scott photo.**



Firefighters and paramedics with the Pine River Fire Department honor Officer Riley Kurtz as the procession escorting his body back to Merrill is seen approaching in the distance. **Photo courtesy of Pine River Fire Department.**



Officers and deputies pay their respects to Officer Kurtz outside Waid Funeral Home. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

City of Merrill and Lincoln County Spring 2022 Election candidates

February 15 Primary Election will narrow the field in one race

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

The deadline to file paperwork declaring candidacy for local offices, along with the appropriate nomination signatures, was Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

There will be some new names on the ballot in April, and some races will be hotly contested. In some cases, incumbents filed notification

of non-candidacy paperwork and will not be running for office this year, while a couple have not, so the timeframe for additional candidates to file candidacy paperwork for those positions was extended to Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., but no additional candidates stepped forward to run in those races. And, of course, a number of candidates (some new, some incumbents) are running unopposed in the Spring

2022 election on April 5, 2022.

February Primary Election

There will be a Primary Election on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022, to decide the two candidates who will face off in the April 5 Spring Election for Lincoln County Board Supervisor for District 12. Three candidates filed papers to run for office in that race. The two candidates who receive the

See **ELECTION** page 3

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Downtown Mission Church shows appreciation for Merrill Police

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Sunday, Jan. 9, was National Law Enforcement

Appreciation Day. The Downtown Mission Church decided to show their support and appreciation for Merrill's Police Department and delivered fresh muffins and scones from Polka-Dotted Pie, along with cards written out to each officer and member of the administration at the Department.

Downtown Mission Church, located next to Cosmo Theatre, just celebrated their two-year anniversary in Nov. 2021. When the congregation was asked what would be a fitting way to celebrate two years, a member suggested the church start an initiative to show appreciation for, and encouragement to, a different group in the community each month for a year.

In November, the church made cards for military veterans and their families. In December, they sang Christmas carols for the residents at Jenny Towers. In January, the muffins, scones, and cards delivered to the Merrill Police Department was their gift to show community support, appreciation, and encouragement.

"We (as a church) brought some treats and cards to the Merrill PD," said Justin Novitski, Pastor at Downtown Mission Church. "We'd like to encourage the community to do the same."

"Please consider how you can show your support and appreciation this month for the men and women in law enforcement that serve our community," Novitski encouraged.

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

Merrill paramedics equipped with new PPE: ballistic vests

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Since COVID began, most people have been accustomed to hearing the acronym PPE, short for personal protective equipment. In the case of COVID, PPE often refers to masks, gloves, plexishield barriers, and such.

Merrill Fire Department (MFD) paramedics just became equipped with another type of PPE: ballistic vests they can wear on "potentially high threat EMS calls."

MFD Chief Josh Klug explained: "Besides active shooter scenarios, there are other calls for service that could place paramedics in a dangerous situation," he said in a Jan. 10 press release. "Examples of these situations are drug overdoses, domestic violence, and physical altercations."

The need for such vests was emphasized after a tragic shooting in Appleton on May 15, 2019, when Appleton firefighter Mitch Lundgaard responded to an EMS call for a drug overdose at the Valley Transit Center in Appleton. A man was unresponsive due to a drug overdose on a bus, firefighter paramedics treated him with Narcan at which time he responded and was able to exit the bus, and police officers asked the man if they could pat him down to ensure the safety of paramedics so he could be transported for continued treatment. The man refused and ultimately pulled a .380 semiautomatic pistol and started shooting, hitting Lundgaard who later died at the hospital, as well as an Appleton police officer and a bystander.

See PARAMEDICS page 6



Tyler Mueller, Firefighter/EMT - Paramedic and Richard Sparks, Firefighter/EMT - Intermediate fit on the new ballistic vests received for the Merrill Fire Department, purchased with 2020 grant monies from the hospital.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Fire Department.

ELECTION from page 1

highest number of votes in the Primary Election will go head-to-head against one another on the April 5 ballot. The District 12 Primary Election will be held at the Town of Corning, Town of Harding, and Town of Tomahawk Town Halls, respectively.

Multi-jurisdictional race

The position of Multi-Jurisdictional Judge in Merrill/Lincoln County will be a contested race this year. Robert W. Lass is challenging incumbent Ned R. Seubert in the April 5 Spring Election for the position.

City of Merrill races/candidates

Merrill will elect a new Mayor in April. Derek Woellner, the City's current Mayor, has filed a notification of non-candidacy and will not run for re-election in 2022. Former Merrill Mayor William R. Bialecki [2010-2018] and current City of Merrill Alderman for District 2 Steve Hass are both running for Mayor in the Spring Election. Steve Hass has filed non-candidacy paperwork with regard to his position as Alderman and will not run in that race this year, giving preference to his bid to become Merrill's 37th Mayor.

Former City Clerk Bill Heideman, who resigned effective Jan. 4, 2022, has filed non-candidacy paperwork and will not run in this election. Instead, two new names in City of Merrill politics will be on the ballot: Lori L. Anderson-Malm and John Guenther are both running for election to be Merrill's next elected City Clerk.

Incumbent Paul Russell is running for District 1 Alderman unopposed.

Michael J. Caylor, Jr. is running for District 2 Alderman unopposed. Current District 2 Alderman Steve Hass is running for Mayor.

Incumbent Rick Blake is running for District 3 Alderman unopposed.

In District 4, current Alderman Steve Osness has filed non-candidacy paperwork; LaDonna Fermanich is running for the office unopposed.

In District 5, Richard "Dick" Lupton is challenging incumbent John Van Lieshout for the position of Alderman. And in District 6, Kyle Gulke is challenging incumbent Mike Rick for the Alderman position.

Incumbent Mark Weix, Jr. is running unopposed in District 7.

In District 8, incumbent Steve Sabatke will run against challenger Ann Heller on the April 5 ballot. Originally, Renea Frederick had also submitted candidacy paperwork; however, Deputy City Clerk Kathy Unertl con-

firmed on Friday, Jan. 7, that "After a formal residency challenge, Renea Frederick will not be a candidate included on the District 8 Alderperson ballot." As a result, no City of Merrill municipal races will be on the Feb. 15 Primary Election ballot as originally thought and announced on Jan. 6 on our website and the Merrill Foto News Facebook page.

Incumbent Ronald Liberty is running unopposed for the position of Street & Weed Commissioner.

Lincoln County Board races/candidates

In Lincoln County Board Supervisor races, incumbent William R. Bialecki will run unopposed for the position of County Board Supervisor for District 1.

In Lincoln County District 2, Robert Weaver has filed non-candidacy paperwork. Lori L. Anderson-Malm will run unopposed for the position of District 2 County Board Supervisor.

In District 3, incumbent Elizabeth McCrank will run unopposed for Board Supervisor.

In District 4, incumbent Joshua Wendt did not submit either candidacy or non-candidacy paperwork by the deadlines, so he will not be listed on the ballot. Steven L. Osness Jr. and Derek Woellner will be listed on the ballot and are vying for the position in the April election.

Incumbent Nathan Peterson is running unopposed in County Board District 5 for Board Supervisor.

In County Board District 6, Landis Paul Holdorf is challenging incumbent Norbert Ashbeck for the Board Supervisor position; in County Board District 7, Wallace Jay Downey is challenging incumbent Greta Rusch; and in County Board District 8, Laurie J. Thiel is challenging incumbent Christopher Heller.

Incumbent Don Friske is running unopposed for County Board Supervisor in District 9.

In District 10, Jesse Boyd is challenging incumbent Judy Woller for the Board Supervisor position; and in County Board District 11, Randal John Detert is challenging incumbent Hans Breitenmoser Jr.

The two candidates to be listed on the April 5 ballot for the County Board Supervisor position for District 12 will be decided in the Feb. 15 Primary Election. Both Julie DePasse and Jon K. Weiler are challenging incumbent Paul Gilk. The two candidates in each race who receive the highest number of votes in the Primary Election will go head-to-head against one another on the April 5 ballot.

In County Board District 13, Alan Bishop is challenging incumbent Calvin Thomas Callahan for the Board Supervisor position; and in County Board District 14, Marguerite Lyskawa is challenging incumbent Brian

Hafeman for the Board Supervisor position.

In District 15, incumbent Ann Nelson did not submit either candidacy or non-candidacy paperwork by the deadlines, so she will not be listed on the ballot. Marty R. Lemke will run unopposed on the April 5 ballot.

In County Board District 16, Sarah Ann Miller is challenging incumbent Michael Loka for the Board Supervisor position; in District 17, George Brixius is challenging incumbent Kevin Koth for the District's Board Supervisor position; in District 18, Kenneth L. Wickham is challenging incumbent Patricia Voermans for the Board Supervisor position; in District 19, Matthew Webb is challenging incumbent Julie L. Allen for the Board Supervisor position; and in County Board District 20, Angela Marie Cummings is challenging incumbent Dora Gorski for that District's Board Supervisor position.


Incumbent Eugene Simon will run unopposed for the Board Supervisor position in County Board District 21.

In County Board District 22, incumbent Timothy Panfil filed his notification of non-candidacy, so Greg Hartwig will run unopposed for the Board Supervisor position of Lincoln County's final District.


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OBITUARIES



Nancy C. Walsh, age 85, long time resident of Merrill, passed away on Thursday, December 30, 2021, at the Weston Marshfield Medical Center. Nancy was born to the late Carl and Margaret (Batchelder) Henrichs in Merrill on October 2, 1936. She graduated from Merrill High School. In 1955 Nancy met Martin Walsh at the Badger Theater in Merrill after Martin's friend set them up on a date. Marty and Nancy exchanged marriage vows on

January 21, 1956, in Merrill. He survives. Nancy was a very diverse and outgoing lady. She looked forward to playing cards with neighbors and friends as well as her annual trips with Loretta. Nancy worked at the Red Owl grocery store as a clerk and then at S&M as a receptionist in Merrill for 25 years. She was very skilled at refinishing antique furniture, liked collecting antiques and was an excellent seamstress. Nancy is remembered as having beautiful flower and vegetable gardens and would enjoy canning her harvest. She looked forward to going hunting with her husband, especially their trips out West, and fishing with him on the Wisconsin River and some smaller local lakes. She really loved ice fishing and would go whenever she was able. Nancy and her family also did a lot of camping and traveling together, memories that her family remembers fondly. She was a fabulous cook, great mother and wife and took very good care of her family. Nancy was also a meticulous housekeeper and liked things to be clean and neat...her family would often refer to her as "Fancy Nancy"! Nancy loved anything Judy Garland and The Wizard Of Oz. Nancy is remembered as a quiet and easy-going lady, but had a fun, witty sense of humor, all the way up to the end of her life. She was a member at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ in Merrill and volunteered in the medical equipment ministry. Nancy will be sadly missed, but never forgotten. Nancy is survived by her husband of nearly 66 years: Martin Walsh of Wausau, son: Greg (Dana Swindler) Walsh of Minneapolis, MN, and daughter: Chris (Donna Brickey) Walsh of Hendersonville, NC, daughter-in-law: Reghan Walsh, granddaughter: Erin, great grandchildren: Bronson, Chloe, and Collin, sister: Susan (Dennis Dengel) and sister-in-laws: Carol, Rose, and Susan, along with many nieces and nephews and long-time friends: Loretta and Floyd Smith and the entire Smith family. She was preceded in death by her parents, son: Steve, brothers: Duane, "Butch", and Robert and sister: LuEllen (Jim)

A Celebration of Life for Nancy will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, family request that monetary donations be directed to St. Stephens United Church of Christ in Merrill or to the Alzheimer's & Dementia Research Fund.

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

Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high
There's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby
Somewhere over the rainbow, Skies are blue,
And the dreams that you dare to dream,
really do come true...

Songwriters: Harburg E Y / Arlen Harold



Riley Benjamin Kurtz, age 24, passed away on Monday, January 3, 2022 at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau, WI. He was born on February 20, 1997 to Timothy Kurtz and Danielle Rothmeyer in Merrill, WI.

He earned his nickname "Smiley Riley" with his affectionate smile and welcoming personality. He was one of the good ones, kind, patient, funny, outgoing, and avid outdoorsman. He had a passion for anything outdoors including hunting, fishing, and camping. He was always there for anyone who needed anything. He truly cared for others which led directly to his life of service as a police officer.

In high school Riley would go to his dad daily to have him sign a waiver allowing him to go on police ride alongs. He loved his family and friends, especially his nephew "Bowl". He had quirky sense of humor and always had Stevia in his pocket just in case he was served a bad cup of coffee or tea.

Riley was just starting his life. He and his girlfriend Hope Knuijt had been together for two years and were planning their lives together. He was in his dream career with the Merrill Police Department. Riley will be extremely missed by all those who knew him.

Riley is survived by his parents, Tim and Danielle Kurtz, girlfriend: Hope Knuijt, sister: Madelyn Kurtz, nephew: Beau "Bowl" Riley Gillhouse, Grandma Kurtz, aunt: Missy (Brian) Krueger, uncle: Jeff (Tina) Kurtz, cousins: Kadin and Kaylene, Hopes parents: Lana and John Knuijt, his close friends: Grant, Bryce, Jimmy, Dylan and Ben, and the entire Merrill and Kronenwetter Police Department. He was preceded in death by his grandma and grandpa Rothmeyer, grandpa Kurtz, and Uncle Tony.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 2:00 pm at the Merrill High School Auditorium with Law Enforcement Honors. A visitation will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2022 from 10:00 am until the time of service also at the Merrill High School Auditorium.

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



Patrick Karl Hoffman, 82, of Lakeland, Florida (formerly of Merrill, WI) went to his heavenly home on November 30, 2021 under hospice care after a lengthy stay in the hospital after having cancer surgery.

Pat was born on November 7, 1939 in Merrill, Wisconsin to Harry Arthur Carl Hoffman and Ruth Rennabelle Hoffman. Pat graduated Merrill Senior High and Science School where shortly after he joined the Navy. He served proudly in the Navy from June 25, 1957 until he was honorably discharged on December 19, 1958.

After leaving the Navy Pat went on to work as a custodian for the MAPS school district. He did that happily for 28 years as well as working as a hospice volunteer for 18 years. On October 14, 1961 he married the love of his life Karen Ann Kriewald. They spent 60 wonderful years together. They went on many wonderful trips and had many amazing adventures. Pat would spend many joyous hours dancing with his wife, they loved traveling and playing bingo together. He also loved hunting with his two sons and fishing with his youngest son. He loved playing the drums and was even in a band in Florida. He also loved helping the Polk County Sheriff's Department during his time living in Florida. He had many joys in life, he loved going on trips and making people laugh, he earned the nickname the frog in the navy as he could make his voice sound like a frog. He loved doing voice impressions and did them quite often. He loved being a grandpa, he loved his grandkids and great grandkids, it made him so proud to be grandpa and it was such an honor to him.

Patrick is preceded in death by his mother Ruth, father Harry and his paternal grandparents. He is survived by his wife Karen Hoffman (formerly Kriewald), brother: Joe (Carolynn) Hoffman, children: Bruce Hoffman, Aaron (Leslie) Hoffman, and Heidi Krispin, grandchildren: Kyle, Paul, Nic, Nathan, Angelica, Andrew, Annette, Anthony, Katie, Kristina, Brandon, Jonathon, and Cody, 11 great grandchildren, with 2 more on the way.

He will be greatly and deeply missed by his family and the many who had the honor to know him. He was such a lively and hilarious person who knew how to make others laugh with his goof personality. His memory will live forever and the love he gave will last a lifetime. Fly high Patrick "the frog" Hoffman. We love you.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, January 21, 2022 at 12:00 pm at Waid Funeral Home. A visitation will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2022 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Waid Funeral Home and Friday, January 21, 2022 from 11:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home.



Phyllis Jean (nee Rusch, Bell) Vickers passed from this life into the arms of Jesus December 16, 2021 at the Kaiser San Jose Hospital.

She was born at home in the Maine Township, Marathon County, Wisconsin, to Alfred W. and Alice (nee Lemke) Rusch on June 8, 1929.

Phyllis married Harry Bell of Merrill, Wisconsin on August 9, 1947 at Zion Lutheran Church Maine Township, Marathon County, Wisconsin.

Her second marriage was 4 years after Harry passed away, to Aubrey Vickers at Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Cupertino, California February 14, 1987.

Phyllis enjoyed Genealogy, gardening, and spending time with her grand-children and great-grandchildren.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her son Gary and step-daughter Dawn (nee Vickers) Archambo, and sister Betty Retzlaff.

She is survived by her husband Aubrey Vickers, daughter-in-law Sherry Bell, sister Donna Buss, step-daughters Linda Loomis and Lori Vickers, four grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren, and many other family and friends.

Phyllis was a quiet, gentle soul who loved her family and we all loved her dearly. Burial took place at Mission City Memorial Park in Santa Clara, California. Memorial Services will be February 26, 2022 at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Cupertino, CA.



Lawrence Paul Walter Kleinschmidt Jr., of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on Monday, January 3, 2022 at Howard Young Hospital in Woodruff, Wisconsin. Lawrence was born on September 4, 1953 to Lawrence Kleinschmidt Sr., and Carmelita Ament in Merrill, Wisconsin.

In junior high school, Lawrence met the love of his life, Marie Lynn Klempe. They were married on June 29, 1974 in Merrill, Wisconsin.

Lawrence worked at Semco Windows and Doors as a laborer for many years and as a logger in his earlier years. He was a kid at heart. He was a character with a great sense of humor. Occasionally, he would make jokes at the wrong time, but mostly at the right time. He was a woodworker, helping to make crochet hooks that he sent around the world. He was always brainstorming things to make. He loved to fish, hunt but most of all he loved his grandkids and his dog Sophie.

Lawrence is survived by his wife of 48 years, Marie Kleinschmidt, children: Nicole (Kevin) Koelsch, Sara (John) Joyner, and Kyle (Kaila) Kleinschmidt, grandchildren: Makayla Koelsch, Kody Koelsch, and Noah Joyner, siblings: VerJean (Dennis) Schmidt, and James (Shar) Kleinschmidt, sister-in-law Dawn Kleinschmidt and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Ron Kleinschmidt, granddaughter Bailee and nephew Danny Klempe.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 12:00 pm at Waid Funeral Home. A visitation will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022 from 10:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home. Interment will take place at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.

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

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McKenna K. Meunier, Director

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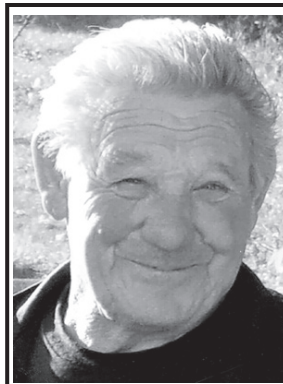
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Max Bächli, age 85, passed away on January 5, 2022 at Marshfield Hospital. He was born on October 3, 1936 to Robert and Martha (Meier) Bächli in Rafz, Switzerland.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, January 14, 2022 at 11:00 am at Waid Funeral Home. A visitation will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2022 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Waid Funeral Home and on Friday, January 14, 2022 from 10:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home.

Interment at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Please look out for a full obituary in next weeks paper. Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Nurturing the body and the soul

DEAR READER,

There are a lot of people these days that are trying to live longer. They exercise in many different ways such as walking, running, workouts, even events such as triathlons. They choose healthy foods like kale, and they control their portions and they skip meals whenever they can so that they don't put on weight. They even monitor sleeping routines and how they might add a few more years by getting on a regular schedule of sleep.



What really is the point? Why do we want to live another five or eight years beyond a normal life? Do we want to be burdens on our children and those that may have to take care of us because we are unable to take care of ourselves?

Maybe it is best to accept one's natural longevity and plan for after death by living life for others, in bodily service to those in need. Maybe we should search for wisdom beyond the usual foolishness of humanity, and nurture the soul that will carry us gracefully into that life beyond, in eternal fulfillment.

PATRICK J. WOOD
PUBLISHER

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

OBITUARIES



Sarah J. Kastner-Warren joined the heavenly angels on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at Bell Tower Residence, Merrill, under the care of her family, Compassus Hospice, and the Bell Tower Residence staff. Sarah's recent cancer diagnosis along with her Parkinson's was difficult on her body, but she fought hard.

Sarah was born on June 13, 1934, in Hibbing, Minnesota to the late William and Elfie (Strand) Parish. She married her first husband, Frederick Kastner in 1954, he preceded her in death in 2008. In 2012 Sarah married Charles Warren and he survives.

After graduating high school, Sarah went on to a secretary school. During her working years she was a secretary at a local church and was later a manager at several different banks. Sarah was a strong woman with a strong faith in God which helped her to persevere through some exceedingly difficult situations in her life. She consistently showed compassion, kindness, generosity, and selflessness throughout her actions everyday putting others first. Sarah was very nurturing, affectionate, and empathetic. She always encouraged her children to problem solve and figure things out on their own but was always there to pick them up if they needed it with her encouraging words, a beautiful smile, or a hug.

One of Sarah's greatest talents was being a seamstress; one of her joys was sewing quilts. The love she gave is wrapped in those beautiful creations through the work of her hands. Sarah's humor, sweet demeanor, and kind spirit will live on in those who knew and loved her. Sarah enjoyed reading, playing cards, crocheting, and being surrounded by family and friends.

Sarah is survived by her husband, Charles Warren of Overland Park, Kansas; her children, Bill (Gail) Kastner of Greeley, Colorado, Paul (Jill) Kastner of Sherman, Illinois, Steve Kastner of Rhinelander, Beth (Kenny) Brown of Katy, Texas, Debra (Stephen) Gardner of Appleton, and Sue (Geno) Steffen of Merrill; grandchildren, Whitney, Kyle, Tyler, Tasha, Steven, Jared, Casey, and Cole; eight great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Dorothy Parish of Virginia, Minnesota; special family member, Peggy Kastner; beloved life-long, friends Marge and Jo; and her new found friends at Bell Tower, especially her table family. Sarah was preceded in death by her first husband, Frederick Kastner; parents, William and Elfie Parish; brother, William Parish; and special friend, Ellis Erb.

A Memorial Mass was held at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Merrill. Visitation began at 12:00 P.M., Noon, Saturday at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family. The family would like to thank the staff at Bell Tower Residence, Compassus Hospice, and Deacon John from Marathon for their love and care of Sarah. They believe she is already dealing cards for contract rumi with her mother in heaven. Sarah was very loved and will be greatly missed.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Pet of the Week



I am the most beautiful boy here. Well at least I think so. My name is **Sammy** and my three siblings and I were surrendered to LCHS together. My caretakers say I am a little shy and will take a patient person to work with me to make me feel loved and help me with trusting people. *Once you earn my love I will be your best friend.* My adoption fee is \$50 and includes my neuter, up to date shots and microchip.

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Visit all the adoptable animals at Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N Memorial Dr., Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-4 PM & Sun 12-2 PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us at www.furrypets.com.

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: 01-06-22
/s/ Robert Russell, Circuit Judge
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing
Case No. 22-CV-3

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Elizabeth Jane Wiesneski
NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Elizabeth Jane Wiesneski
To: Elizabeth Meier Peterson
Birth Certificate: Elizabeth Jane Meier
IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Honorable Robert Russell
Place: Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452
Date: 2-22-22
Time: 3:45 PM

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News, a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
Published Jan. 13, 20 & 27, 2022
WNAXLP

BY THE COURT:

DATE SIGNED: December 23, 2021
Electronically signed by
Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Amended Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 2021 IN 53

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Rose Marie Plautz
Deceased

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth March 15, 1936 and date of death December 4, 2021, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with

Legals 7700

a mailing address of 1500 O'Day St. Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 4-22-2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
Bryan A. Plautz
W4962 Hillside Drive, Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-8717
Published Jan. 6, 13 & 20, 2022
WNAXLP

CITY OF MERRILL MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT NOTICE OF BID

The City of Merrill Maintenance 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 27th, 2022. Bid specifications may be obtained from the Maintenance Director at (715)-722-1127 or can be found on the City of Merrill website <http://www.ci.merrill.wi.us>.

One (1) ¾ Ton Regular Cab Truck
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.
Nick Wszalek
City of Merrill Maintenance Director
Published Jan. 13 & 20, 2022
WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Case No. 21-CV-41
COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,

v.
JOHN J. BERGMAN
A/K/A JOHN JAY BERGMAN,
WEST BEND MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,
RICHARD ALBERT RAUCHLE,
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,
Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on August 13, 2021 in the amount of \$151,689.80 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:
TIME: February 21, 2022 at 10:00 am
TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds,

Legals 7700

payable to the Lincoln County Clerk of Courts. (Personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the clerk of courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation for the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold 'as is' and subject to all liens and encumbrances.
PLACE: Lincoln County Courthouse, Main Entrance, 1110 East Main Street, City of Merrill and Lincoln County

DESCRIPTION: Real property in the Town of Schley, County of Lincoln, State of Wisconsin, and is described as follows:
PARCEL 1
Lot One (1) of Certified Survey Map No. 372, dated August 18, 1982, recorded August 19, 1982, in Volume 2 of Certified Surveys, Page 130, Document No. 269999 being a part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4 SW 1/4), Section Four (4), Township Thirty-two (32) North, Range Eight (8) East, Town of Schley, Lincoln County, Wisconsin.

Property Address: N4514 Town Hall Rd, Gleason, WI 54435
PARCEL 2
The West One-half (W 1/2) of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section Four (4), Township Thirty-two (32) North, Range Eight (8) East, Town of Schley, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, EXCEPT Lot One (1) of Certified Survey Map No. 372, dated August 18, 1982, recorded August 19, 1982, in Volume 2 of Certified Surveys, Page 130, Document No. 269999.

Property Address: 0 Heineman Rd, Gleason, WI 54435
PARCEL 3
The East One-half (E 1/2) of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section Four (4), Township Thirty-two (32) North, Range Eight (8) East, Town of Schley, Lincoln County, Wisconsin.

Property Address: 0 Heineman Rd, Gleason, WI 54435
PARCEL 4
The Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section Four (4), Township Thirty-two (32) North, Range Eight (8) East, Town of Schley, Lincoln County, Wisconsin.

EXCEPT that parcel of land described in

Legals 7700

Volume 616 of Records, page 752 as Document No. 368056.

Property Address: 0 Heineman Rd, Gleason, WI 54435
PARCEL 5

That part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section Four (4), Township Thirty-two (32) North, Range Eight (8) East, Town of Schley, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, described as follows:

Commencing at the intersection of the East boundary line of said quarter quarter section and the North boundary line of Heineman Road; thence West along the North boundary line of Heineman Road a distance of 488.4 feet to the point of beginning; thence East along the North boundary line of Heineman Road to the East boundary line of said quarter quarter section, a distance of 488.4 feet; thence North along the East boundary line of said quarter quarter section, a distance of 462 feet; thence West on a line parallel to the North boundary line of Heineman Road, a distance of 422.4 feet; thence Southwesterly a distance of 468.6 feet to the point of beginning on the North boundary line of Heineman Road.

Property Address: W1498 Heineman Rd, Gleason, WI 54435
PROPERTY ADDRESS: N4514 Town Hall Rd, Gleason, WI 54435
W1498 Heineman Rd, Gleason, WI 54435

DATED: January 3, 2022
Attorneys for Plaintiff
839 N. Jefferson Street, Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-271-5400

Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson, S.C. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a Chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt. Published Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Feb. 3 & 10, 2022
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MERRILL FOTO NEWS
Student of the Week
This Week's Featured Student is **Adalyn Schooley**
Daughter of **Colin & Jillian Schooley**
Addy is in the 4th Grade at St. John Lutheran School. She was nominated by Mrs. Breitwisch

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
Science, because I like learning new things and we get to work together in groups.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
When we do special things like going to the Fall Bazaar and Holiday Mall.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
I want to be a veterinarian because I want to take care of animals every day.

Addy really tries to be a kind person and a loyal friend. She is always willing to work with anyone in a group, and is truly liked by everyone because of this. In addition, she always tries hard to do her best and asks questions to help understand what is going on in class.
- Mrs. Breitwisch

To the dear extended family, neighbors, friends, colleagues and acquaintances of Becky (Rebecca) Skrzypchak,

Thank you for your outpouring of love, kindness, concern, and encouragement after our beloved matriarch, mother, sister, wife, grandmother and great-grandmother Becky passed away. Receiving your notes, stories, cards, flowers, meals, special gifts, letters, calls and texts continue to overwhelm us with peace and gratitude. Not only did we see how much we were loved, but we got to see firsthand how much Becky was loved by everyone who knew her. We wish we could thank each one of you in person. Your love has blessed us more than we can say. May each one of you be blessed with good health, a long life, and love that surrounds you each day.

A special thank you to the Aspirus ER doctors and staff, the Cardiac Care doctors and staff, Pastor Adam, and Taylor Stine Funeral Home.

Love,
Becky Skrzypchak's Family

Student of the Week Sponsored by:
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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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

My intent in writing this is to introduce myself to the voters of Lincoln County and primarily those within District 12, encompassing Corning, Harding, and the Town of Tomahawk.

My name is Jon Weiler, and I am running for the District 12 County Board Supervisor.

My family and I relocated to Lincoln County in 2016 just prior to retiring from the US Army. During nearly 28 years of service as an Army officer, I served in a variety of roles, including several tours in the Middle East.

Since retiring in 2017, I have served as the Executive Director of a non-profit, a substitute teacher, and a government contractor. My wife and I have been married for nearly 32 years, and we have three adult children and currently one granddaughter.

Why am I running? Our elected officials MUST be held accountable, be accessible, and do what is best for the citizens of Lincoln County. This is not happening, and change is needed. Our goal must be to positively effect Lincoln County and Central Wisconsin, so our families will be proud to call our county "home" well into the future.

We all have an opportunity to change the direction Lincoln County is going in 2022. We can and will create a better future for our children and grandchildren. That opportunity comes in the form of voting at every level.

I am asking for your vote on Feb. 15, 2022.

- Respectfully,
Jon Weiler
Candidate for Lincoln County
Supervisor
Merrill, Wis.

TO THE EDITOR:

MEDIA EMOTIONALISM is exhausting us: POLITICS! COVID! CLIMATE CHANGE! Every day we are cornered by emotional headlines everywhere we turn. The focus on emotion by news outlets, internet, and social media is obscuring our view of the factual world in which we live.

It can be argued that POLITICS "... is the human race's most magnificent achievement ... politics is good even

when it is bad ... because the only alternative is force - and somebody gets hurt." (Robert A. Heinlein: Podkayne of Mars, 1963). We need politics in our searches for solutions.

We'd love to be rid of COVID as soon as possible, like yesterday! Agreed? We have a real hope of getting there within the next year or two with a concerted collective effort.

CLIMATE CHANGE is the real challenge. It can't be solved in a year or two and its consequences are very serious. My point is that we need to use our politics constructively to put a full court press on climate change ... and media emotionalism isn't helping.

If we think COVID has been rough, we have to understand that climate change unchecked will be much worse. Small personal steps count when there are 8 billion people taking them: every tree planted, every gallon of heating oil, gas, propane, or chunk of coal saved, every bite of veg instead of meat, every bit of carbon sequestered in the new cements and steels, and biochar for farm fields. They all count. We all count.

- George Einar Busséy
Town of White River, Ashland
County, Wis.

TO THE EDITOR:

To: Sanctuary readers
Please read
2:Timothy 2:23 through 2:26
To Reader:

I do not need to address my religion, political views, education, military background, awards and honors, or attaboys I received in my lifetime. My children can release that information in my obituary if they choose.

I know where I stand in my country.
- Sincerely,
Andrew Ambuhl, Merrill, Wis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

Sing 2

(Available on demand on DirectTV for a fee and in theatres)

★★★★☆
Rated PG

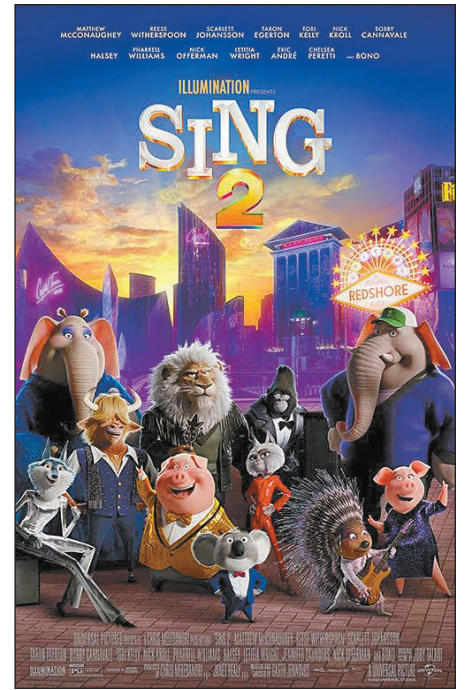
Hello, my friends. This week I bring you *Sing 2*. Yes, I know it's been out for a bit. I was felled with the dread virus and quarantined for over a week now and could not get to the cinemas for a newer film. But alas, fear not, because, folks, this is a good one.

Picking up not long after the first one ended, *Sing 2* continues to follow the adventures of Buster Moon (voiced by Matthew McConaughey) and his intrepid troupe of performers voiced by Reese Witherspoon, Scarlett Johansson, Taron Egerton, Tori Kelly, and Nick Kroll, who just kills it as Gunther the German pig.

This outing finds our band of performers traveling to their version of Las Vegas in an attempt to break into the big leagues and, of course, the wild misadventures that befall them.

There are a few subplots, from finding love, to overcoming your fears, and of course, redemption. *Sing 2* really does have a little bit of everything and a little bit of something for everyone.

One scene that had me start laugh-



ing so hard that it brought on a bout of coughing, involves a gecko, a glass eye, and a floor cleaner that's about to tip over. I know that makes no sense, but just trust me - that bit is bigtime funny.

A wonderful side story involving a Salinger-like recluse of music fame, voiced by U2's Bono, rounds out this tale that really is just fun as can be. See this one - you will not regret it.

I give this *Sing 2* four out of five stars for excellent writing, some real laugh-out-loud moments, and its ability to make me forget about how darn sick I was while watching it.

PARAMEDICS from page 3

In June 2020, the MFD received a \$6,000 grant from Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital, which allowed them to purchase four new ballistic vests, Klug said in his release. "MFD personnel took their time evaluating different products before selecting the ones that were best suited for their needs and use," he said. "Like other products, the vests were delayed due to availability. When vests and armor plates arrived in December, Merrill paramedics received training on the new PPE from Matt Krembs of Armor Express."

"Now that all staff have been through the training, the vests have been placed in service," he added.

Klug said that, while the MFD previously had ballistic vests and armor plates, they were outdated and hard to maintain.

"With the new and improved vests, they will be worn more often by paramedics,"

he said. "Pre-COVID, ballistic vests were a high priority for our department, especially after the Lundgaard incident, but funding and the pandemic slowed down our acquisition of the vests," Klug said. "It's crazy to think about all of the PPE that firefighter/paramedics need to have now. It's turnout gear, hazmat suits, wildland fire gear, PAPRS (Powered Air Purifying Respirators) and Tyvek suits for COVID, and now add ballistic vests."

Now when paramedics start their shifts, they choose from the four vests, prepare one for their use, and place it on their assigned apparatus for the shift, he said.

Klug added that future supplemental funding would allow the Department to purchase more vests for staff. Anyone interested in donating to help purchase more ballistic vests should contact the Merrill Fire Department.



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On Jan. 9, 2022, Merrill High School's Olivia Losee signed a commitment to play ball for the University of Minnesota Morris Softball Team. Losee and other members of the Central Wisconsin Edge Softball Team who have committed to continuing their sports careers in college had a signing event on that date. Central Wisconsin Edge is based out of Merrill and went 25-7 last summer. They were the 2021 Wisconsin PGF state champion and runner up at the Music City World Series in Nashville, Tennessee, last summer. This team will conclude their travel ball careers in the Kansas City Metro Area in the USSSA World Championships July 17-23, 2022.

Submitted photo.

The EMU Bluejacks play hard defensively but offense falls a bit short

DC Everest comes away with a win

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

East Merrill Newman United (EMU) Bluejacks Varsity Hockey Team played DC Everest on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022.

DC Everest's #14 Kole Ress scored two points in the first period, the first with an assist by #7 Keaton Dettinger and #2 Carson Oertel and the second unassisted. The Bluejacks landed one point in the first period, scored by #27 Nick Bodner with an assist from #3 Andrew Franken right at the 15.00 minute mark.

While second and third periods were a battle and remained scoreless for the Bluejacks, Everest was able to pick up

one point in each of those periods. In the second period, #19 Owen Bunnell scored a point with an assist from #13 Parker Neitzke and #4 Parker Hurt. Then in the third period, Everest's #12 Nolan Elgersma scored a point with an assist from #5 Eddie Zynda.

The Bluejacks' #1 and Goalie Jake Furrer put up a strong defense with a total of 38 saves in the game, and DC Everest Goalie #1 Breyden Sabatke made a total of 11 saves in the game. Despite the strong Bluejacks defense, their offense wasn't able to put forth the points needed, and the Everest offense put through enough points to come away with the win, 4-1.

Box Score
DC Everest 4 @ East Merrill Newman United 1

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SOLICITATION OF BIDS
 Jay Millenbah, Trustee of the Bonelle Millenbah Trust herewith solicits bids for the purchase of the Millenbah residence located at 1711 East Third Street in the City of Merrill, Wisconsin. The three bedroom home located on a large corner lot, has a 2 car garage connected to a large breeze-way leading to the house. The kitchen and large dining room have custom built-in cabinets. The living room features an open concept to the dining room. The office has custom shelving and built-in custom cabinets with a built-in safe. Other improvements include a new roof in 2014, leaf shield gutters, new furnace in 2021, garage door and carpeting in the office and den.
 The premises may be inspected on Saturday, January 22, 2022 from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. The premises and improvements are being sold in an **AS IS** condition without any warranties or representations of any nature whatsoever. Title to the premises shall be conveyed by Trustee's Deed.
 The Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Terms of sale: \$2,500 within five (5) days of notification of acceptance of bid and balance of bid price in cash at time of closing, with closing to be within thirty (30) days of notification of acceptance of bid. All bids shall be sealed in an envelope marked "Millenbah Trust Bid" and sent by first class mail c/o Jay Millenbah, W4503 Sunset Lane, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452.
 Bids will be examined on the 28th day of January, 2022. The successful bidder, if any, will be notified on or before the 31st day of January, 2022.
 Published January 13th & 20th, 2022 WNXALP



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering free tree seedlings to every fourth-grade student in Wisconsin as part of the department's annual Arbor Day tree planting program. **Wisconsin DNR photo.**

DNR offers free tree seedlings to Wisconsin fourth graders ahead of Arbor Day 2022

MADISON, Wis. - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering free tree seedlings to every fourth-grade student in Wisconsin as part of the Department's annual Arbor Day tree planting program.

Wisconsin fourth grade principals, teachers, and those who homeschool can now place seedling orders and coordinate delivery by completing the 2022 Arbor Day application by Mar. 15, 2022.

Planting seedlings from state nurseries is a great way to celebrate Arbor Day (April 29, 2022) which is dedicated to increasing the number of trees across the country to help improve the environment. Earlier this year, Gov. Tony Evers signed an Executive Order pledging to protect and restore Wisconsin's forestland by planting 75 million trees by 2030 as part of the U.S. Chapter of the Global Trillion Trees Initiative. By ordering seedlings, you can help.

Through its fourth grade Arbor Day tree planting program, the DNR provides interactive education to Wisconsin students around the importance of trees within our environment. Annually, the DNR provides approximately 50,000 free tree seedlings to fourth-grade students throughout the state.

Seedlings come protected to keep backpacks clean, and shipments include educational information on how to best plant and care for seedlings and trees.

"Trees provide a variety of benefits to both people

See ARBOR DAY page 11

Merrill Varsity Wrestlers grapple with competitors and illness

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Northern Exposure Tournament

The Merrill Bluejay Varsity Wrestlers competed at their own Northern Exposure Tournament here in Merrill on Dec. 28 and 29, 2021.

“Due to illness and injury, Merrill was without five Varsity wrestlers,” said Head Varsity Wrestling Coach Brian Suchocki. “The guys rallied to win two duals against Appleton West and Sauk Prairie. Even though we were shorthanded, the guys wrestled hard and did a nice job competing.”

“Austin Depies built upon his good performance at Rhinelander,

winning all seven of his matches and getting six picks,” he said. “I really was impressed with how Austin competed as a Freshman at our tournament. He had some close matches but then would end with a pin. I’m glad all his hard work is helping him with his success.”

“We had other wrestlers step in and pick up wins, such as Ian Driekosen, Brindelyn Eternicka, Bridget Steinagel, and Adeline Callos,” Suchocki said. “The entire team is working even with some of these setbacks. We are a couple weeks from getting most wrestlers back.”

Rhinelander - Hodag Scramble

On Dec. 22, 2021, the Merrill Varsity

Wrestling Team traveled to Rhinelander for the Hodag Scramble where 17 teams were competing. Bluejay Varsity Wrestlers finishing in highest place were Wyatt Bathke with a second place finish in the 195, Austin Depies with a fourth place finish in the 160, and Jon Hart with a fourth place finish in the 120.

Bathke scored 30.0 team points and won his matches in the the first three rounds, won his match in the championship bracket, but lost his first place match to a wrestler from Northwestern to end with second place. “Wyatt [Bathke] did a nice job getting to the finals in his second straight tournament,” said Suchocki. “Things are coming together for Wyatt. He is using all his experience and competing at a high level.”

“Austin [Depies] went from not placing or winning a match in his first Varsity tournament to placing fourth in this tournament,” he said. “As a Freshman, Austin is getting better each week. He has the work ethic that will continue to make him successful.”

Depies scored 16.0 team points after winning both his round 1 and quarter-final matches but lost the semifinal and third place matches.

Hart scored 11.5 team points after winning two out of three of the matches in the first three rounds but losing the championship bracket and third place matches.

“Jon [Hart] placed fourth which is great to see,” Suchocki said. “Jon is a good wrestler, and he keeps climbing. He needs



Wyatt Bathke getting the pin with teammates Brady Norton, Jon Hart, and Joey Jensen looking on. Submitted photos.

to build off this.”

“It was good to see some of our younger wrestlers placing high in a tournament this size,” Suchocki said. “All the other Merrill wrestlers competed hard. As a young team, they are learning to compete with Varsity competition.”

Other top Merrill scorers in their respective weight classes:

106: Joey Jensen placed ninth and scored 4.0 team points.

132: Brady Norton placed seventh and scored 6.0 team points.

170: Brian Ball placed

seventh and scored 4.0 team points.

195: Jordan Smukowski placed 14th.

220: Mikal Plautz placed 11th and scored 4.0 team points.

285: Kieran Hehling placed 13th and scored 4.5 team points.



Merrill Bluejays Varsity Wrestler Austin Depies is ready to grapple in a recent tournament.



Merrill's Brian Ball works hard to get the best of his opponent.

ARBOR DAY from page 10

and the planet. They give off oxygen, trap carbon dioxide, feed and provide shelter for furry forest creatures, and provide materials to build a variety of essential household items,” said Heather Berklund, DNR Chief State Forester. “This program enables us to bring forest education directly to the hands of students and teach them about the importance of trees and of managing and restoring our forests.”

Arbor Day is a holiday during which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant trees. The holiday originated in Nebraska in 1872 and is now celebrated nationally. Wisconsin's Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April and is usually linked with Earth Day.

For more ways to celebrate this important holiday, visit: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/education/arborday>.

2021-2022 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

Basketball Girls (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Fri. Dec. 3	Rhinelander (JV)	Away	5:45 pm
Fri. Dec. 3	Rhinelander (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Tues. Dec. 7	Wausau West (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Tues. Dec. 7	Wausau West (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Basketball Boys (Varsity, JV, & JV2)			
Thurs. Dec. 2	Shawano (JV2)	Away	5:40 pm
Thurs. Dec. 2	Shawano (JV)	Away	5:45 pm
Thurs. Dec. 2	Shawano (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 7	Medford (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Tues. Dec. 7	Medford (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Ice Hockey Boys (Varsity & JV)			
Fri. Dec. 3	Antigo (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 7	Marshfield (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 7	Marshfield (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 9	D. C. Everest (JV)	Away	5:30pm
Thurs. Dec. 9	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	7:30pm
Ice Hockey Girls (Varsity & JV)			
Fri. Dec. 3	Onalaska-Omni Center (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Fri. Dec. 3	Onalaska-Omni Center (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 9	ECA Stars (JV)	Away	T. B. D.
Wrestling Boys (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Dec. 2	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	6:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 9	Marshfield (JV)	Away	6:00pm
Thurs. Dec. 9	Marshfield (Varsity)	Away	7:15pm

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Troy Mootz, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Troy started playing basketball in the fifth grade, playing for the Middle School Traveling Team. He started out playing JV Basketball at MHS as a Freshman and moved up to playing Varsity Boys Basketball this year. As a Freshman, he also played football at MHS and plans to go out for Varsity Football next year.

Troy belongs to St. Francis Catholic Church where he was recently confirmed, volunteers as a reader, and helps with the annual St. Francis Fish Fries.

He can often be found at Riverside Athletic lifting weights, working out, or playing basketball with friends. In his free time, he also enjoys playing cards and video games; going fishing, including ice fishing; and hanging out with his family.

The son of Julie and Jim Mootz, Troy maintains a 3.2 GPA and is considering several different career options after graduation. He may explore becoming a landscaper, a fish biologist, or going into natural resources, he said. He is considering attending UW-Stevens Point because he heard they have a good program for fish biology and it's close to home, as well, Troy added. He plans to play basketball at college.

Troy Mootz

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Athletes highlighted in this feature are selected by the Foto News editorial staff, not by the sponsors.
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FIRST BABY of 2022



Congratulations!



Hadley Amanda Wayda is The Merrill Foto News First Baby of 2022.

Hadley was born on Tuesday, January 4th at 9:31 AM at Marshfeild Clinic in Weston. She weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz. and was 20.5" long.

Hadley's proud mom and dad are **Kaitlin Lepsch & Lucas Wayda.** Her big brother is **Lawson Wayda.**

The Foto News, along with the following Lincoln County merchants, will present the following prizes to the parents of the first baby born in the year 2022.



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