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Owner Rachel Travis, "Auntie Ray," serves up a hot specialty coffee at her new Coffee House on Dec. 1, 2021, during her business's Grand Opening celebration. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

## Auntie Ray's Coffee House is Merrill's newest coffee shop

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

Auntie Ray's Coffee House, 812 E. First St., opened on Dec. 1, 2021, with a Grand Opening celebration to become Merrill's newest coffee shop.

Offering all of the specialty and traditional coffee drinks small independent coffee shops have become known for, Auntie Ray's also offers delicious fresh bakery (from bars and cupcakes to cookies, muffins,

See **AUNTIE RAY'S** page 6

## Town of Pine River and Merrill Fire Departments team up to perform silo rescue

48-year-old man is Medevac'd by helicopter

On Monday, Feb. 7, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., the Pine River Fire Department and First Responders along with Lincoln County Deputies and Merrill EMS were dispatched to an emergency on a farm in the Town of Pine River where a man was injured inside a silo. According to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, the man was 48 years old. The address of the Pine River property is registered as Mathis Farms.

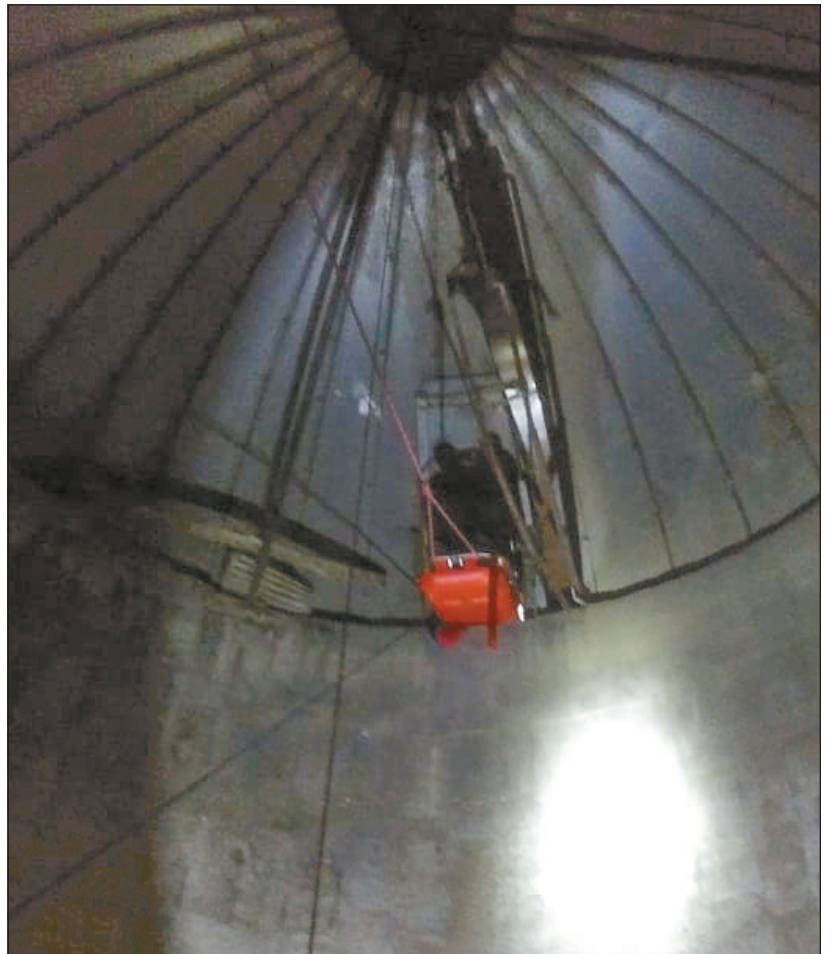
Initial reports were the man, who had been doing routine maintenance inside of the silo, had been caught in the auger and was injured and trapped approximately 30 feet above the ground.

Upon arrival, the Pine River incident commander conducted a size-up and requested additional resources, including a ladder truck from the City of Merrill to gain access through the top of the 50-foot silo.

This mutual aid was provided thanks to the MABAS Box Alarm system as a part of division 155, the Pine River Fire Department explained.

EMS also requested a medical

See **RESCUE** page 2



A photo captured by a firefighter inside the silo, once emergency personnel were able to get inside to assess the man's condition, after widening the opening so they could utilize a Stokes basket to extricate him.

Photo courtesy of Pine River Fire Department.

## MACR Sleds 'N Jams Snowmobile Ride and Poker Fun Fundraiser to benefit McCaskill family



**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

This Saturday, Feb. 19, Merrill Area Community Rides (MACR) will host their 6th Annual Sleds 'N Jams Snowmobile Ride and Poker Run Fundraiser at Kathy & Cal's Club 64, 2405 W. Main St., in Merrill. Poker run cards will be distributed beginning at 10:30 a.m. (\$10 donation per card requested)(50/50 payback) and a guided snowmobile ride will depart at 11:00 a.m. sharp (\$30 donation per vehicle requested). Don't have a snowmobile? No worries. ALL vehicles are welcome and encouraged to participate in the poker run.

Seven stops will be on this year's route - including Overboard Bar, Hydaway Bar, Dugout Bar, Hub Inn, Z's Fork Horners, and Gleason Bowling Center - and participants are free to visit them in whatever order



Proceeds from this year's event will be donated to the McCaskill family of Merrill to assist with medical expenses for their two sons who were recently diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Glycogen Storage Disease Type 9a (GSD IXa).

Submitted photo.

they choose, then returning to the final stop, Kathy & Cal's Club 64, by 6:00 p.m. Poker run drawings, music by Firsthand High (6:00-10:00 p.m.), and prizes and cash raffles will begin at that time and continue throughout the evening.

See **BENEFIT** page 2

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**RESCUE** from page 1

helicopter respond to the farm due to potential lengthy extrication. The 911 center then sent Aspirus Medevac to the scene; they landed in a nearby field and waited during the extrication process.

Pine River Firefighters and a paramedic from the Merrill Fire Department were able to gain access to the man who was stuck on top of the silage, and determined

his injuries were severe. Due to the size of the opening, a Stokes basket could not be immediately lowered into the silo; firefighters then used saws to widen the opening to allow access.

It took nearly an hour and a half to safely extricate, secure, and remove the victim from the silo and bring him down where additional paramedics were waiting on the ground.

The victim was medically stabilized and then transferred to the waiting helicopter. He was then flown to the trauma center at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Pine River Fire Department Chief John Uttech noted that over a dozen volunteer and career firefighters were on the scene, four of whom are certified fire instructors. None of them had ever seen, much less had ever heard of, an actual recovery of a viable patient from an incident such as this. Uttech said if it were not for the tremendous teamwork on the scene, this would have never had a positive ending.

“The Pine River Fire Department wishes to extend our continued prayers for the recovery of the victim, and we are grateful for all of our partners in making this incident a successful rescue,” they said in a press release.



A ladder truck from Merrill Fire Department was requested to get access into the 50-foot silo to perform the rescue of a man injured inside at a farm in the Town of Pine River.

Photo courtesy of Pine River Fire Department.

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**Pet of the Week**

Nutmeg was surrendered to LCHS with his housemates Sugar Bee and Spice. Nutmeg is extremely shy but we can tell she wants love! Her owner who surrendered her said she was a good house cat so we believe with the right family Nutmeg can grow back into her old self. Her favorite thing to do here at the shelter is curl under her super soft, fluffy blanket. She will allow humans to touch, pet and with a little coaxing hold but Nutmeg will need the right owner who has the patience to get her to come back out of her shell. Nutmeg is spayed, up to date on shots and microchipped! Nutmeg is ready to find a home that will give her the love she sorely misses and deserves!

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

**BENEFIT** from page 1

Kathy & Cal's opens at 4:30 p.m. that day, but is asking anyone who wishes to dine-in Saturday to make reservations no later than Friday, Feb. 18.

Proceeds from this year's event will be donated to the McCaskill family of Merrill to assist with medical expenses for their two sons who were recently diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Glycogen Storage Disease Type 9a (GSD IXa). This specific rare form affects the liver and, if not managed properly, can enlarge the liver which could ultimately lead to irreversible liver disease (cirrhosis)

and can also slow growth and development.

Symptoms presented as hypoglycemia and lethargy when both Denver McCaskill (now age 12) and Cameron McCaskill (now age 9) were as young as 2, their mother, Kimberly McCaskill said, but it took many years, hospital visits, and a mother's determination to finally get that diagnosis. And it's been a rough ride for the family, with Kimberly getting up multiple times throughout the night for many years, to wake the boys to eat to keep their blood sugars regulated, long before they were finally diagnosed. Along the way, they've discovered other challenges and limitations and ways to help the boys cope.

Denver and Cameron cannot take too hot of showers and tend to overheat easily, causing nausea and vomiting, Kimberly said. Neither can tolerate too much vigorous exercise. ("That's fun to monitor at school," their mom said.)

Both require a snack before bedtime consisting of a complex carb and protein, regular snacks at school, and regular blood sugar checks. And "both boys need to take extra precautions with illness because it can easily end up causing acidosis, which can be fatal," Kimberly said.

"The diagnosis finally came after our youngest, at age 8, was ambulated to UW American Family Children's Hospital in Madison," she said. "At this time, very few doctors specialize in treatment for it. We have a

care team through UW and now most recently will be having to travel to Chicago."

Kimberly explains what she's learned about this rare disease both of her sons inherited: "Glycogen builds up in the liver. When the body needs more energy, normally enzymes break down glycogen into glucose and send it out into the body. When someone has GSD, they are missing one of the enzymes (or it's low performing) that breaks it down and therefore, it builds up in the liver."

"Both of our boys struggle to keep their sugars balanced. They have to constantly monitor stress (as best we can in this household!), exercise, body temperatures, hydration, food intake, etc.," she said. They especially cannot go long periods without eating.

"Further research is needed to completely understand long-term complications of the disease progression into adulthood," Kimberly said. "For now, they receive annual echocardiograms and liver ultrasounds to monitor things. Meticulous adherence to a dietary regimen may reduce liver size, prevent hypoglycemia, and allow for proper growth and development."

"We have to always be conscious of diet and activity levels and hydration for them," she said. "In fact, Cameron was recently in the ER again with blood sugars in the 50's, and we may have to treat him with evening doses of cornstarch. For now, I wake him at 3:00 a.m. to eat."

"Every family has their

own struggles," Kimberly said. "Many are actually dealing with way more extreme health issues."

"But our story is important to me and because of this being an inherited gene, I want to be a resource for our family."

She is also willing to be a resource for others if they have questions or are curious about anything and invites them to reach out to her. "I have had years of studying!" she said.

The McCaskills said they are very humbled that their family was chosen to be the recipient of this year's fundraiser. "The money raised will help with the ongoing costs associated with the travel and treatment we will have to continue for the boys," Kimberly said. "For Cameron, who has begged for a dog for years, he would prefer the money go towards the training of a canine able to detect blood sugar drops."

"We cannot begin to express how grateful we are for the continued outpouring of support from the Merrill community and abroad," said MACR Board Chair and Co-Founder Jeremy Ratliff.

"Our sole goal as a charitable organization - founded and focused in the Merrill community - is to help and support our neighbors in need. As we have grown as an organization over the years, so has attendance at our events and the financial support we have been able to provide to our support recipients. We could not do what we do, without the amazing, generous support of our neighbors and the Merrill small business community!"

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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.

### TO THE EDITOR:

The City of Merrill's financial situation is better than it has been for over 50 years, due mainly to projects carried through by the City Administrator, former Mayor Bialecki, current Mayor Woellner, and City Department Heads. DESPITE opposition by certain citizens and Aldermen, this is a FACT. Merrill has many expenses, big and small. Like any city, personnel is the biggest expense, but to cut good personnel is to cut the services that we all depend on. So the main concern has been to increase THE source of city revenue, the property tax base. This has been done through investment; loans and Tax Incremental Funding and Districts. Merrill has an EXCELLENT credit rating and IS paying off project debt with money earned from investments. TID also invests in the future. Per the WI Department of Development, the equalized value of TID's in Merrill in 2013 was \$9,819, 800.00. In 2021, the value increased 518% to \$60,700,700.00, which realizes, in just 8 years; a tremendous investment.

For 2022, MORE such investment projects are in the works; Fox Point, Champagne Street subdivision, and the Webster Street subdivision. Also, a Request for Proposal for new housing has been sent out for the former Anson Gilkey property along the River Bend Trail. Merrill city government does NOT need "change." What DOES need change is for those who are against positive growth and development to finally come on board. Merrill is on the right path, so why not start working TOGETHER?

– Heather O'Neill  
Town of Harding, Wis.

### TO THE EDITOR:

It has been over a year since the Presidential Election was held and, by every recount and by all State and Federal court rulings, Joe Biden has been duly elected and legally certified as the President of the United States. Yet, despite all of the evidence to the contrary, former President Trump and many of his followers continue the mantra that somehow the election was "rigged" and that Mr. Trump is still the President.

The only way that an election can be "rigged" is by the total malfeasance and dereliction of duty by each one of the thousands of municipal and township election committees throughout the country ... and I refuse to believe this. Every election committee

in the nation is composed of citizens who have recognized a civic calling and have volunteered to be an important part of the election process. These committee members are our friends ... our neighbors ... our relatives ... and our fellow citizens who have volunteered their time to learn their local election laws and be instrumental in the entire election process. We all need to recognize and appreciate this. The least that we owe them is our respect and our thanks for accepting this civic responsibility.

Please remember this when discussions of "rigged or stolen" elections occur ... and please consider volunteering yourself for future elections.

Sincerely,

– Bill Weber  
Irma, Wis.

### TO THE EDITOR:

Random Acts of Kindness week is Feb. 13 to 19. If you're ever down and you want to lift yourself up, go do something kind for somebody. People often forget that kindness is free. A person becomes 10 times more attractive, not by their looks, but by their acts of kindness, respect, honesty and the loyalty they show.

– Jan Leschke  
Rhineland, Wis.

### TO THE EDITOR:

A recent letter stated that our county government must be run like a business, and if income does not cover expenses, the owner must make changes. First, our government has a responsibility to the public and must provide for the Common Good. A business does none of this. Second, in 2011, then Governor Scott Walker and the Republican Legislature passed Act 10, the "Wisconsin Budget Repair Bill," which froze the amount that local districts could collect in property taxes and constricted funding to local governments. Although the property tax levy was increased to .9% eight years ago, this was limited to net new construction, which is minimal in Lincoln County and did not keep up with higher costs due to inflation. Those caps imposed by our legislature on property taxes have offered Wisconsinites cheaper government and lower taxes, but meant that local governments have been forced to find alternate revenue sources. Due to state statutes, counties are limited in what they may do to implement new revenue sources: a referendum, a fine on delinquent

See **LETTERS**  
page 11

## PUBLISHER'S LETTER

# Know Thyself

### DEAR READER,

"Know Thyself" is one of three maxims inscribed in the forecourt of the Temple to Apollo at Delphi, Greece. It has been attributed to over half a dozen ancient Greek writers – Plato, Pythagoras, Thales, Heraclitus, and so on. The essence of this directive is that we should better know ourselves and our place in the great order of things.

When we search for meaning outside of ourselves, we may latch on to the latest shiny object and think "there, nailed it." Not so. Meaning comes from within, and it is there we must look and listen. For many of us, discovery comes from letting the Voice of the Holy Spirit guide us in



our prayer life and meditation practice. We all have a purpose and a meaning in the grand scheme of things. That North Star is inscribed in our hearts, and once we discover it for ourselves our lives take on more meaning.

After we reach this higher state, we don't have anything to prove anymore. Why should life be a struggle when it can be an experience of inner peace and outer joy? Finally we can admire and love our friends for who they are, and rest easy in the knowledge of our own purpose.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
PUBLISHER

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**ROSE PLATTA** 2-27-2021

### MERRILL FOTO NEWS

## Student of the Week



This Week's Featured Student is  
**Lily Schultz**  
Daughter of Katarina Miller & Paul Gironda and Jonathon & Krissi Schultz  
Lily is in the 3rd Grade at St. John Lutheran School.  
She was nominated by Mrs. Gipple

What is your favorite subject in school?  
Why?

Art because I like painting and drawing.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?

Lutheran Education Week, because there are so many fun activities and we get to dress up every day.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?

I'm not really sure yet, but I want to do something where I get to use my creativity.

Lily is a very responsible 3rd grader. She is organized and always completes her work on time. She strives to do her best when given any task. She is also a kind friend, and many of the students in the classroom appreciate her friendship.

– Mrs. Gipple

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Merrill Area  
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February 2022  
Merrill Area United Way  
Dee Olsen, Executive Director

February is the month of love. February is also the perfect month to rekindle positivity. Reflect on the people and things you love. Did you notice there is not a month or day to celebrate hate? Why, because it should not exist. In this world of bad attitudes, expressed hate, bullying, bashing, negativity, disasters – either spurned by humans or natural disasters, COVID-19, cruelty to humans (or animals) -- we need to find peace and love in our lives again. Help put a stop to everything hateful or negative. Valentines Day is known for love. We need to bring that sense of love into all aspects of our lives. Love should be what we are about all the time with our expressions of care, concern, and friendliness to other human beings, loving our family, our community, our faith. It is easy to get lost in all the negativity in our society today, but it is time to turn things around.

Through United Way we work hard to build a stronger community a positive community, a loving community, a community that cares about our fellow humankind, our neighbors, family, people we know and do not know. You can show your support and help through giving, supporting, mentoring, and volunteering. Let this message continue throughout the entire year. Let it be amplified during February, but then carry it forward throughout the entire year.

This spring the Merrill Area United Way Board will hold its Annual Planning and Goal Setting Session. We will look for areas to improve upon and ways to do so to make our organization and community stronger.

As 2022 gets underway, watch for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary messages brought to you by our local media partners. We hope to highlight the agencies we have supported through the years. We will provide messages from our former and current Executive Directors. We will have a heightened presence in the community in 2022. Plus, we will have a United Way Day as a community celebration in October of 2022; so please watch for details on this.

The Merrill Area United Way just held its Annual Meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board received the 2021 Annual Report. The report identifies the significant role United Way plays in the community by supporting 19 programs to help people with, health, education, basic needs, and financial stability.

The Annual Report highlights the activities, challenges, and successes of 2021. The Annual Report is available to the public via our website; at [merrillareaunderway.org](http://merrillareaunderway.org) or visit us on Face Book. If you prefer having a copy mailed or e-mailed to you, just send a request to [Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunderway.org](mailto:Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunderway.org).

We hope that our ongoing messaging will help raise your awareness about the social needs and the social diversity in our area. Help us by Living United, helping others, volunteering and by giving financial support.

Donations stay local and are always appreciated at Merrill Area United Way, P O Box 813, Merrill, WI 54452. For more information about Merrill Area United Way visit: [merrillareaunderway.org](http://merrillareaunderway.org) or email [Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunderway.org](mailto:Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunderway.org).



**OBITUARIES**



**Lenore Marie Ripczynski**, age 84, of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, Wisconsin. She was born on September 6, 1937, in the Town of Weston, Wisconsin to Herman and Lou (Spangle) Costa.

On October 15, 1982, Lenore married Jeffrey "Jeff" George Ripczynski in the Town of Weston at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Lenore and Jeff loved spending time together and enjoyed the time the spent building their log cabin.

She was a member of the Watkins President Guild, and a Sunday School Teacher for Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Weston.

Lenore enjoyed just about anything involving the outdoors. She loved hunting, fishing, and gardening. She especially loved hummingbirds, her children, grandchildren, and her great grandchildren.

Lenore had a great sense of humor and was able to persevere through anything. She will be dearly missed by those who were close to her.

Lenore is survived by her husband, Jeff Ripczynski, children; Todd Steifand Jerilyn Landrum, stepchildren; Greg (Nicole) Ripczynski, and Christien Su Copes, grandchildren; Andrew and Austin, step-grandchildren, Olivia, Ashley, Jayden, and Evan, great-grandchildren; Logan and Liam, and brother Tom (Diane) Costa. She was preceded in death by her parents, cousin Bob Costa, Aunt Mary, Aunt Irma, and Uncle Adolf.

No services are scheduled at this time. Cremation to take place.

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



**Gregory J. Jaeger**, 72, of Merrill, passed away peacefully with his wife Jean Marie and daughter Miranda by his side on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at his home under the care of his family and Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services.

Greg was born on January 17, 1950, in Merrill, son of the late Alfred and Helen (Severt) Jaeger. Greg was a graduate of Merrill High School, class of 1968. He married Jean Marie Jarvensivu on May 27, 2004, in Merrill. She survives. Greg worked as a welder up until the time of his retirement from Mitchell Metal Products in 2013. At the beginning of Greg's career, he worked for Anderson Johnson Quarry, Drott Manufacturing, Lo-Ed Corporation, band Wausau Iron Works. Greg enjoyed fishing, especially trout fishing and Canadian fishing trips, he was a fan of the Wisconsin Badgers, Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers, and he really enjoyed watching Badger basketball on TV. Greg was a grill and smoker master and will always be remembered for his homemade brats and homemade sausage.

Greg was a devoted husband; they celebrated their weekly wedding anniversary, making each other homemade cards and handwritten notes each Thursday since the day they were married; When he passed away Thursday morning, it was their 921st week anniversary.

Greg is survived by his wife, Jean Marie Jaeger of Merrill; daughters, Miranda (Kyle) Steliga of Prentice and Mallory Freeman of Goodyear, Arizona; his daughters from a previous marriage, Karla (Mark C.) Spoehr of Merrill, Tammy (Kevin) David of Merrill, and Sara (Jeremy) Hall of Wausau; twelve grandchildren, including: Lexi Freeman (Dylan Rohde), Byndi Castaneda, Braxtyn Castaneda, Kristina (Ryan) Lofink, Kayla Norman, and seven others; four great-grandchildren, including: Eli Lofink and three others; sisters, Pam Kufahl, Barbara (John) Pophal, Mary (David) Gryskiewicz, and Terri (Steve Sr.) Strand, all of Merrill; brothers, Alan (Karen) Jaeger, Jeff (Tracey) Jaeger, and Rodney Jaeger, all of Merrill; and mother-in-law, Carol Jarvensivu of Brantwood. Greg is further survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and his godchildren, David Jaeger and Dawn Young. Greg was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred and Helen Jaeger; his father-in-law, Jack N. Jarvensivu; grandsons, Kolton Norman and Dawson David; and nephew, John Pophal.

A memorial service for Greg will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home in Merrill, with Rev. Andy Perry officiating. The family will receive friends beginning at 9:00 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

The family wishes to extend a special thank you to the nurses and staff at Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services for their professional and compassionate care of Greg.

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



**Marlene Janice Aschbrenner**, age 79, of Merrill passed away surrounded by her family on Sunday, February 6, 2022.

Marlene was born on January 15, 1943, to Lester Sr. and Myrtle (Pagenkopf) Krueger. She graduated from DC Everest High School in 1961. She was united in marriage to Kenneth Aschbrenner on November 14, 1964, at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Schofield. She loved antiques and collectibles and had her own business called Grainery Goodies for many years. She enjoyed going to auctions, garage, and estate sales hunting for the next big treasure. Marlene took great pride and joy into refinishing and restoring furniture and her work showed how talented she was.

Marlene loved watching the Green Bay Packers, NASCAR, Brewers, and Badgers. In her younger years Marlene was on a bowling league and part of a homemakers club where she enjoyed making crafts and flower arranging. In her spare time she enjoyed watching birds, especially cardinals and hummingbirds, watching westerns, and listening to country music.

She is survived by her husband, her children; Sue Genosky, Darin (Pam) Aschbrenner, Kent (Sue) Aschbrenner, Brad (Jessica) Aschbrenner, and Heidi Aschbrenner. Her grandchildren; Amanda (Zach), Megan (Tanner), Ethan (Ashley), Morgan (Jordin), Nathan (Laney), Missy (Andre), Samantha (Ryan), Brittany, Jon, and Justin (Emily). Her great grandchildren; Maverick, Mila, Jase, Cole, Levi, Logan, Allyson, Brant, Julian, Ella, Joey, Braxton, and Sterling. Her siblings; Harland (Pat) Krueger, Virginia (Bill) Stein, in-laws Enid Krueger, Bill Clark, and Jean Krueger. Along with many in-laws on Kenneth's side. And her furbabies Hazel and Beau.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her siblings, Carol Simon, Robert Krueger, Phyllis Clark, and Lester Krueger.

A celebration of her life will be taking place at a later date. Helke Funeral Home, Wausau is assisting the family. You are welcome to share memories and condolences to the family at [www.helke.com](http://www.helke.com)

For those of you that would like to make a donation on the behalf of Marlene and her family, you may select a humane society or animal rescue of your choosing.

**Alma Jean 'Jean' Schulz**, 92, of Tomahawk passed away on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at Milestone Senior Living. She was under the care of her family, the Milestone Senior Living staff, and Compassus Hospice Services.

Jean was born on December 27, 1929, in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. She was the first born of the late Bruno and Ella (Nyberg) Kahle. Jean grew up on the family farm and graduated from Tomahawk High School in 1947. She married the love of her life, Donald Schulz, on October 11, 1952, at First Presbyterian Church in Merrill. They shared fifty wonderful years together, forty-five in Irma and five in Tomahawk prior to his death in 2002.

Jean worked for Hufschmid Bros. in Tomahawk in her earlier years. Later on, she worked as a bookkeeper and secretary for Van Der Geest Livestock, Nicklaus Enterprises Inc., and part-time at Tomahawk Sports Center. In addition to this she was also the Town of Birch Treasurer for twenty-eight years. Jean enjoyed gardening, traveling with her late husband, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Jean is survived by her daughters, Kathy Schulz, Cindy (Chuck) Medinger, and Judy (Chris Bonin) Schulz; grandchildren, Joelle Olson, Tana Evans, Stacy Maner, and Cole Brooks; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Rita Hilgendorf; and brother, William 'Bill' Kahle. Jean was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Schulz; parents, Bruno and Ella Kahle; daughter, Susan Schulz; and brother, Norm Kahle.

A private funeral service will be held and burial will take place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, assisted the family.

The family would like to thank Milestone Senior Living and Compassus Hospice Service for their compassionate care for mom.

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

**Robert 'Bob' L. Kultgen**, age 70, of Merrill, passed away on Sunday, February 13, 2022, at the Marshfield Medical Center - Weston.

A Celebration of Life for Bob will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2022, from 11am until 2pm at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill.

The full obituary will be in next week's 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](http://www.waidfuneral.com)



**Terry Gene Prentice**, age 67 of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on Saturday February 5th at Aspirus Merrill Hospital. Terry loved spending time with Debbie, his children and his grandchildren. He also loved working on his old cars. As the grandchildren would say "If grandpa can't fix it no one can" Terry will be greatly missed by many family members and friends

Terry is survived by the love of his life Debra Krahn of Merrill, his children Timothy (Khloe) Prentice of Merrill and Travis (Amanda) Prentice of Merrill. Grandchildren Skyler of Green Bay, Tapanga, Madison, Jordan, Jayden and Aubrey all of Merrill, Brothers John Prentice Jr (Bev) of Merrill, Richard (Sharon) Prentice of Merrill and David (Tyler) Prentice of Merrill, Sisters Judy Paszek of Florida and Linda Annis of Merrill.

Terry was preceded in death by his parents, John Prentice, Sr and Myrtle (Irmischer) Prentice and brother Jerry Prentice There will be a Celebration of Life for Terry at the Merrill Town Hall, W4594 Progress Ave, on Saturday February 19th, from 11:00am-3:00pm

Memorials can be sent to 820 N Prospect Street, Merrill WI 54452. Mid-Wisconsin Cremation Society is assisting family at this time. Online condolences may be expressed at [Mid-WisconsinCremationSociety.com](http://Mid-WisconsinCremationSociety.com)



**Don Dale Ashby** of Gleason, WI passed away on February 9, 2022 at The Bay at Eastview at the age of 86.

Don was born on February 5, 1936 in Coggon, IA to the late Donald and Daisy (Chismore) Ashby. Don graduated from Coggon High School. He went on to serve in the United States Air Force for 7 years from 1954 to 1961. On June 2nd, 1956, he was united in marriage to Margerit "Bonnie" Jean in Iron River, MI. Bonnie survives and resides in Gleason.

Don owned and operated a dairy farm, and later in life he was a owner-operator truck driver. He was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Neva. He was a lifetime VFW member and took part in the Honor Flight in 2018. He volunteered his time in the community as a past president of the Gleason Community Club and was a lifetime member of Lions Club, serving as a Past District Governor. He was also on the board of directors at the WI Lions Camp for 7 years. He was active in the Boy Scouts and was a member of the Order of the Arrow. He loved hunting, fishing, bowling, playing card games, golfing, snowmobiling, motorcycling and spending time with his grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, Don is survived by daughter Rose Marie (Denny Parkhill) of Amboy, WA, sons Scott (Beverly) Ashby of Merrill and Kevin (Barbara) Ashby of Gleason, 9 grandchildren: Amy (Dan), Jason, Andrew (Niki), Karter, Dustin (Chelsea), Rochelle (Andrew), Derek, Jesse, Desiree, and 19 great grandchildren: Reece, Cora, Ashtynn, Peyton, Jordan, Christopher, Kaitlynn, Aiden, Bryce, Austin, Dakota, Bridgett, Katherine (Calvin), Jennifer (Jared), Sarah, Khristina, Isabelle, Wyatt, Andrew, Jr., 2 great-great grandchildren: Calvin Jr., and Adelyn, sister-in-law Casey, niece Kim and nephew Shawn. Don was preceded in death by his parents, a son Donald Ashby, a daughter Christina (Ashby) Mikrut, and brother Craig Ashby.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 19th from 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Neva. The memorial mass will follow at the church at 11:30 AM. Father Joel Sember will officiate. Military honors will take place at the church following mass.

Strasser-Roller Funeral Home is assisting the family. Friends may visit online at [strasserrollerfuneralhome.com](http://strasserrollerfuneralhome.com).

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

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**OBITUARIES**



**Elvera A. Neumann**, age 80, of Wausau passed away on Friday, February 11, 2022, at Wausau Aspirus Hospital.

Elvera was born on September 24, 1941, in Merrill, WI daughter of the late Norman and Leona (Baumann) Schmidt. She was united in marriage to William "Peanuts" Neumann in the Town of Corning on January 31, 1959.

Elvera was employed as a school bus driver for Trinity Lutheran School and Northland Lutheran High School.

She was very active in the Trinity Lutheran Church and participated in many volunteer activities there. She was also a 4-H leader and enjoyed doing ceramics.

Survivors include her seven children and their families, son, Dean (Sue) Neumann and their family, Jenna (Matt) Robinson, Daniel (Sarah) Neumann and their children Jameson, Bentley and Lincoln; son, Darryl Neumann; son, Dale (Leilani) Neumann and their family, Luke, Ariel, Evan (Vivian) Neumann and their son, Julien; daughter, Dannelle (Andrew "Butch") Gunseor and their family Cheyenne and Casey; son, DeWayne (Kelly) Neumann and family, Sam and Max; daughter, Dinah (Jeff) Schneider and family Chloe and Sam; and daughter Doreen (Vincen) Collins; brother, Earl (Linda) Schmidt; and sister, Lorraine (Fritz) Stevenson, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband William, son Darrin, grandchildren Hannah Krahn and Kara Neumann, and sister and brother-in-law Diane (Rod) Pichelmann.

Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 Stewart Ave., Wausau. Rev Tim Smith will officiate. Burial will take place at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in the Town of Corning. Visitation will take place from 9:00 AM until the time of service at the church on Saturday.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Trinity Lutheran Church or St. Jude.

The family would like to thank the staff of Aspirus Palliative Care and ICU for their care of Elvera.

You may view the full obituary and sign the online guest-book at [www.helke.com](http://www.helke.com)

**Lane is December Youth Optimist at MHS**

Monica Lane has been named December Youth Optimist at Merrill High School (MHS). She was nominated by Ms. Katherine Holz, who commented, "This young lady has a special way with people. She can see the positive about everyone she comes in contact with. When she has disagreements with peers, she can have a mature conversation about a topic with style and grace. She is empathetic, hard-working, and a giver."

"Monica has a rigorous course load, is a two-season Varsity athlete, is an officer in school groups, has two after-school jobs, and still makes time to support her classmates in sports and activities," Ms. Holz said. "She is a mature, dependable student, who listens and makes people feel awesome!"

Monica has been involved in Raise Your Voice (Treasurer), Junior Optimist, National Honor Society, L.E.A.D., Student Council, Link Crew,



Monica Lane is the December Youth Optimist at MHS.

Submitted photo.

Basketball (Team Captain, Letter M), Soccer (Team Captain), FRIENDS, and Selected for Leadership Club by Coaches at MHS.

When not in school, Monica volunteers keeping scores, books, and working concessions for both basketball and volleyball tournaments, Hoops for Health, and is a ball runner for soccer. She also rakes leaves for community members, makes Valentine's Day cards for nursing homes, participates in Tyler's Playground projects and Christmas for kids, coaches soccer, is involved with the Black Squirrel Scurry, and gives private basketball lessons.

Following graduation, Monica plans to attend UW Stevens Point to become an Occupational Therapist. She is the daughter of Robin and Shannon Lane.

**Winter Craft and Vendor Sale is Feb. 19**

A Winter Craft and Vendor Sale will be held at both Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes in Merrill and the Merrill Eagles Club on Saturday, Feb. 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

"Over 65 unique crafters, vendors, boutiques, and small business will fill up Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes (1208 N Center Ave.) and the Merrill Eagles Club (1205 Lake St.)," said Laura Bares, one of the organizers. "Shoppers will find unique, one-of-a-kind items like jewelry, hand crafted items, crafts, boutique clothing, books, baked goods, home decor, gift items, and so much more! There's something for everyone. Plenty of parking and no fee to shop."

Lunch items will be offered at both locations, she said.

For those who like to plan ahead, the Spring Craft and Vendor Sale will be March 26 at both locations.

**BIRTHS**

**JANUARY 27, 2022**

Boy, Ruben Daniel, born to Bonnie Krueger and Daniel Krueger of Wausau, AND

Girl, Breanna Joan, born to Bonnie Krueger and Daniel Krueger of Wausau.

**FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

Boy, Asher Scott, born to Ryleigh Weiler and Cody Weiler of Edgar.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**Legals 7700**

**BY THE COURT:** DATE SIGNED: February 3, 2022

Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 22 IN 06

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Harold Fay Hopp

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:** 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth 8-7-36 and date of death 1-22-22, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 506 E. 6th St., Merrill, WI. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 05-13-2022. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, WI Probate Office. Bert L. Hopp 704 Rio Grande Dr., Merrill, WI 54452 715-536-8199 Published Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2022 WNAXLP

**Legals 7700**

Merrill, Wisconsin, commencing at 6:00 p.m., on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, on the following proposed matter, to wit:

1.) City of Merrill requesting a Planned Unit Development per M.M.C. Sec. 113-66 to 113-69 on Webster street between Eugene and Alexander Streets, for the purpose of constructing duplexes. Approximately 4.3 acres on the east half of Lot 3 of Certified Survey Map #2855, City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. 2.) Johanna and James Doyle requesting a Conditional Use for a church occupancy at 925 E Main Street per M.M.C. Sec. 113-100 located in the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. Legally described in pin# 251-3106-123-0297. Anyone having any questions regarding the hearing should contact Zoning Administrator, Darin Pagel at 536-4880. Dated: February 4, 2022 CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN By: Katherine Unertl Deputy City Clerk Published Feb. 17 & 24, 2022 WNAXLP

**Legals 7700**

the decedent's estate is 05-27-2022.

5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office. Robyn J. De Vos 531 Washington St., P.O. Box 1184 Wausau, WI 54402-1184 715-842-2291 Bar Number 1057278 Published Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2022 WNAXLP

**ISSUED BY:** DATE SIGNED: February 4, 2022

Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice of Estate Administration Deadlines Case No. 2022IN000005

In the Estate of Amanda Kay Groth

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:** 1. The inventory of the estate assets at the date of death must be filed or exhibited by August 3, 2022. The inventory must be filed for formal administration, or filed or exhibited for informal administration, within this time frame. Note: The statutory filing fee of .002 of the net value of the property subject to administration must be included with the inventory.

**Legals 7700**

2. In order to achieve State of Wisconsin benchmarks, administration of the estate should be completed by April 2, 2023.

3. If the deadlines cannot be met, the personal representative and attorney, if any, shall petition the court for an extension of the deadlines. The court may grant an extension of time to file if you provide the court with a completed Petition for Extension of Time (PR-1833) form. 4. Failure to meet any deadline established by this notice, or any extension granted by the court, will result in the personal representative and attorney, if any, being required to appear in court to show cause as to why the personal representative and/or attorney should not be removed or other sanctions imposed. DISTRIBUTION: Court Henry Ben Levy, Service Type: Electronic Peggy M. Groth, Service Type: None Michael M. Groth, Service Type: None Joshua P. Groth, Service Type: None Hannah M. Groth, Service Type: None Published Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2022 WNAXLP



**Delores M. Bunge**, 84, passed away at home with her husband by her side on February 9, 2022.

She was born to the late Hattie and Wilhelm Falk on May 24, 1937. Delores married Alvin E. Bunge January 3, 1954.

She is survived by her husband Alvin; daughter Lynda (Gary) Swan; 4 grandchildren; and 5 great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her son Scott Alan Bunge.

A private family gathering will be held.

To share condolences and memories with the family, please visit [www.brainardfuneral.com](http://www.brainardfuneral.com).

Remember, and be remembered with a granite memorial from **TOMAHAWK MONUMENT CO.** YOUR FAMILY'S PERSONAL MEMORIALIST Tomahawk Monument Co. Specialists in Pre-Needs Planning FROM SELECTION TO DESIGN TO SETTING, ALL OF OUR WORK IS PROUDLY DONE IN - HOUSE 20 N. 2nd St., Tomahawk, WI • 715-453-6523 Visit us at: [www.tomahawkmonument.com](http://www.tomahawkmonument.com) Email us at: [contactus@tomahawkmonument.com](mailto:contactus@tomahawkmonument.com)

In memory of: **Harvey "Hobber" Hoffman** 7-12-1939 - 2-14-2008 A million times we've thought of you, A million times we've cried. If our love could have saved you, You never would have died. For you hold a place within our hearts, No one could ever fill. When nothing else can make us smile, We know your memorise will. Greatly missed by his wife, SANDY, Daughters Becky & Vicky Sons Jesse & Brion, Family & Friends

**BY THE COURT:** DATE SIGNED: February 4, 2022

Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2022IN000008

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Judine Schield

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:** 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth 02-26-1939 and date of death 01-21-2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of W1771 County Road P, Merrill WI 54452. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 05-13-22. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office. Kristen Scheffore 1808 River Street, Merrill, WI 54452 715-536-9464 Published Feb. 17, 24 & Mar. 3, 2022 WNAXLP

**CITY OF MERRILL** 1004 EAST FIRST STREET MERRILL, WI 54452

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

All persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing to be held by and before the City Plan Commission of the City of

**CITY OF MERRILL** ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02 - Synopsis: Amending Chapter 16, Section 16-1 and Chapter 38, Sections 38-40 through 38-152, Utilities Chapters 16 and Chapter 38 - Water Rates were amended on February 8, 2022 per the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Water Rate Order effective March 1, 2022. The complete Ordinance is available on the City of Merrill website: <https://www.ci.merrill.wi.us/> Katherine Unertl, Deputy City Clerk Published Feb. 17, 2022 WNAXLP

**DATE SIGNED: February 4, 2022**

Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Amended Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2022 IN 04

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF John T. Crowley

DOD: 03/17/2021 **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:** 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth 05/19/1930 and date of death 03/17/2021, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 2800 Thielman St., Unit 7B, Merrill, WI 54452. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against

**TOWN OF PINE RIVER LINCOLN COUNTY, WISCONSIN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Town of Pine River Board along with the Town Plan Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., at the Pine River Town Hall, N1647 Deer Run Ave., Merrill WI to take testimony on the following: **TOWN OF PINE RIVER PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCES.** Written and oral testimony will be entered into the record and considered. All interested persons wishing to be heard are invited to be present or give written testimony at or prior to the hearing. To view the proposed Zoning Ordinances go to [www.townofpineriver.com](http://www.townofpineriver.com) or contact Clerk Herdt at 715-536-7687 to view the file. Please Recycle. Amanda Herdt, Clerk Published February 17 & 24, 2022 WNAXLP

The Merrill Foto News VALENTINE'S DAY GET-AWAY WINNER Congratulations, Kevin Baneck of Athens! Kevin won a King Spa Suite at the AmericInn by Wyndham, Two 60 Minute Massage Gift Certificates from Much Kneaded Massage, 1 Dozen Roses & a box of candy from Victoria's Floral, and \$25 Gift Certificate from Kathy & Cal's Club 64! Sponsored by Merrill Foto News, AmericInn BY WYNDHAM, Much Kneaded Massage, Victoria's Floral, Kathy & Cal's CLUB 64 We would like to thank all the participating businesses: AmericInn by Wyndham • Auto Jockeys, LLC Brickner's Park City, Inc. • Kathy & Cal's Club 64 Klug's Country Gold • Much Kneaded Massage River Country Co-op • Sweeter Times • Victoria's Floral



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DOORS OPEN AT 7PM | SHOW STARTS AT 8PM

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FEB. 22ND - CHOP SUEY  
MARCH 1ST - LIVER N ONIONS  
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**FRIDAY NIGHTS**  
FEB. 18TH - CATFISH  
FEB. 25TH - 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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Drinks available

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Adults \$9.00 • Children (6-10 years) \$5.00  
Children 5 and under are FREE (Carry-Out Available)

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1708 East Tenth Street, Merrill

**FRIDAY LENTEN FISH FRIES**  
4:30-7:30 P.M. **Dine In Available!**

Starting 1 Week Earlier Than Usual: February 25  
March 4, 11, 18 & 25 and April 1 & 8 (Not Serving Good Friday)

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Deep Fried Shrimp  
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**Movie Reviews**

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM  
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

**Death on the Nile**

(Now showing in theatres)  
★★★★☆

Rated PG-13 – for mild language, overt sexual innuendo

Agatha Christie was arguably one of the greatest mystery writers of the 20th century, with multiple works having been

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A COMMUNITY TABLE AT SAINT STEPHENS

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United Church of Christ  
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Free will donations accepted.

Monday, Feb. 21st Menu:  
Chili with Cornbread

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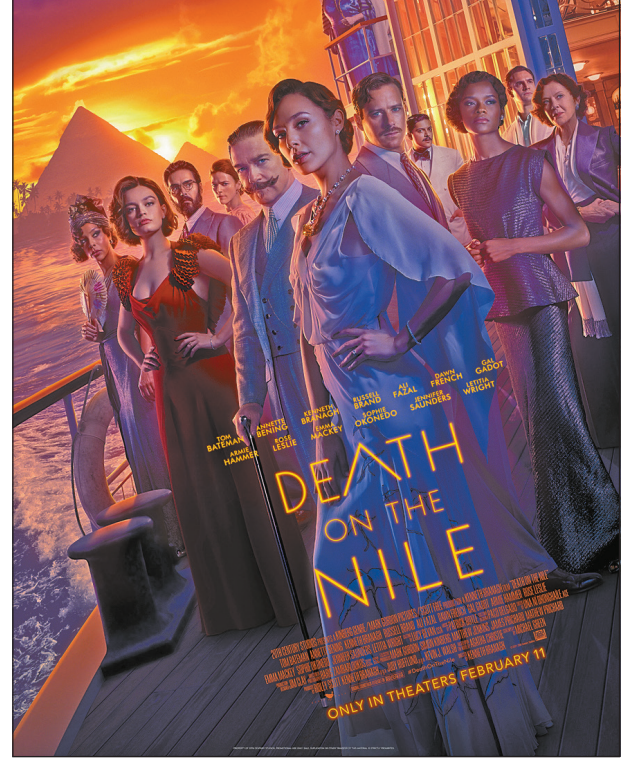
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is Branagh's mustache, which nearly steals the movie. Seriously, it's captivating and mesmerizing to behold.

Taking place in 1937, the premise is nothing new: Rich people gather, old scores are revealed, murder most foul, then the whodunit.

But that's the fun. We are along for the investigation, and the twists and turns are well crafted and help keep us viewers on our toes. The standout for me was the visuals. This film

is so very well-filmed and directed. It was a pleasure to watch. Well worth the price of admission.

Death on the Nile gets three solid stars but then it gets a bonus star for that mustache bringing it up to four out of five stars. Man, I am telling you that mustache is something to see and marvel at!

Mary (my wife) has already informed me that she will not allow me to grow one just like it, which is a real bummer, cause as stated that things rocks!

**AUNTIE RAY'S** from page 1

and more) along with soups and sandwich options perfect for lunchtime. As the business grows, the owner is continually changing things up and adding appealing new options to the menu.

The business is owned by Rachel Travis of Merrill. And the business name ... "My little nieces call me Auntie Ray," Travis said. Her nieces are one and two years old (and she has a nephew on the way). So it just seemed like a natural fit.

When she opened her business, Travis had one full-time and four part-time employees. Since then, business has been booming, and she has hired six more part-time employees.

"It has always been my dream to open a business in Merrill!" Travis said. "I

saw it [the building] up for rent, and I took the chance."

"I learned it was available beginning of October and looked at the space on Oct. 7," she said.

She "started making it mine on Nov. 1" and just 30 days later, opened the door to her new coffee house.

When asked if her dream was always to own a coffee shop, Travis said: "I never had a certain business in mind. I threw a few different ideas out there at different times, but I was never quite sure! I just knew I wanted to be in downtown Merrill, as I love the history and older buildings of our city."

Auntie Ray's Coffee House is open M-Th 5:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Fri 5:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., and Sat-Sun 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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<p><b>Big Pack Bone In Split Chicken Breast</b>  <b>\$2.89</b> lb.</p>	<p><b>Select Servings Party Wings</b>  <b>\$6.99</b> 2.5 lb. bag</p>	

<p><b>PRODUCE</b></p> <p>5 lb., Wisconsin Russet Potatoes .. <b>2/\$4.00</b></p> <p>Grape Tomatoes ..... <b>2/\$5.00</b></p>	<p><b>LIQUOR</b></p> <p>1.75 Liters Kessler American Whiskey ..... <b>\$15.99</b></p> <p>1.75 Liters Korbel Brandy .. <b>\$17.99</b></p> <p>1.75 Liters Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey ..... <b>\$37.99</b></p>
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<p><b>DELI</b></p> <p>Tyson Chicken Tenders <b>\$5.99</b> lb.</p> <p>Mrs. Gerry's Cheddar Broccoli Pasta Salad .... <b>\$5.99</b> lb.</p>	

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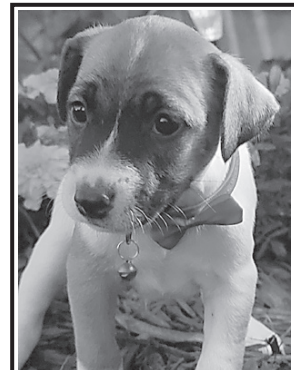
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# Inaugural Merrill Basketball Hall of Fame

## Six inductees named to the Hall of Fame

**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

Merrill's Basketball Program now has their own Hall of Fame.

On Friday, Feb. 4, during the Varsity Boys Basketball game, two players and one coach from the Girls Basketball Program and two players and one coach from the Boys Basketball Program were recognized and inducted into the Inaugural Class of the Merrill Basketball Hall of Fame (HOF).

"It was a special night," said Troy Pieper, current Merrill Boys Basketball Head Coach and one of the organizers. "So many people came out to show their support for this inaugural HOF Class; I couldn't have asked for it to go any better than it did. It was just an awesome night celebrating some Merrill Basketball history."

### Boys Basketball Program inductees

From the archives of Merrill Boys Basketball history, players Jim Langenkamp (Merrill Bluejay Player 1961-1965) and Paul Jespersen (Merrill Bluejay Player 2007-2011) and Coach Don Kerr (Merrill Bluejay Boys Basketball Coach 1965-1973) were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Langenkamp, described as "arguably the best player to ever play for Merrill," passed away on Mar. 6, 2021, at the age of 74. Former teammates, Gary Zimmerman and Virgil Baumgart, accepted the posthumous award on his behalf.

Kerr, who was also inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006 as a Friend of Basketball, was also given the Merrill award posthumously, having passed away on Apr. 6, 2010, at age 74. His family accepted the award on his behalf.

Jespersen, described as "the most decorated



Left: The Kerr family accept in honor of Coach Don Kerr. Middle: Janet (Fruend) Wardall and Lisa (Bonnell) Handlin (blue jacket) accept in person. Right: Gary Zimmerman and Virgil Baumgart accept the plaque in honor of their teammate, Jim Langenkamp. Submitted photos.



Then and now. Left: Lisa Handlin when she played basketball for the Wisconsin Badgers and Janet Wardall when she played college basketball for Purdue University. Right: A current photo of Lisa and Janet.

player in Merrill basketball history," will accept his award at the upcoming Feb. 18 basketball game. He is currently a player development coach for the Atlanta Hawks.

### Girls Basketball Program inductees

From the archives of Merrill Girls Basketball history, players Janet (Fruend) Wardall (Merrill Bluejay Player 1979-1983) and Lisa (Bonnell) Handlin (Merrill Bluejay Player 1980-1984) and Coach Bob Yuska (Merrill Bluejay Girls Basketball Coach 1981-2003) were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Among Wardall's athletic achievements, she went on to play college ball for Purdue University. Wardall returned to Merrill to teach in the Merrill School District for more than 30 years before retiring in 2021. Wardall was there that night to accept her award.

Likewise, Handlin played college basketball

for four years, but for the Wisconsin Badgers at UW-Madison, and also garnered many awards. She was inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Hall of Fame as a player in 2015. She has been a teacher in the Merrill School District for many years and is also currently the Merrill Boys JV Basketball Coach. Handlin accepted her award in person.

Yuska, who began coaching in Merrill as an Assistant Coach in 1977 before taking the lead as Head Coach in 1981, and who was inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Hall of Fame in 2008 as a Coach, will accept his award at the upcoming Feb. 18 basketball game.

### LETTERS from page 3

taxes (which was implemented), or a "wheel tax," which applies to vehicles of 8,000 pounds or less. In the last years, the county highway department was drastically behind on road maintenance; the "wheel tax" was the only way whereby our highway department would have a sustainable revenue source. There was not a single member of Lincoln County Board of Supervisors who felt good about and wanted to pass the "wheel tax." But they had no choice.

Respectfully submitted,  
- Catherine G. LeMay-Brown  
Merrill, Wis.

### TO THE EDITOR:

I would like the City of Merrill to consider working with the DNR to extend the archery deer season in the city of Merrill through the month of January. About 30 other counties in southern and western Wisconsin have extended seasons due to high deer numbers and CWD reduction efforts. We don't have high deer numbers in Lincoln County,

but we do in Merrill. There are several areas in Merrill like Riverside Avenue where illegal feeding is getting out of hand causing artificially high numbers of deer. If you drive on Riverside, you can see deer at any time of the day or night when deer move from food pile to food pile. I have seen as many as three dozen deer by the two houses on West Riverside that illegally feed in addition to bears feeding on those same piles. My wife and I saw a sow and four cubs feeding there three years ago. We live just off of Riverside and have a deer trail through my yard that looks like a cow path as the deer move between the neighborhood food piles. My hometown worked with willing homeowners who were tired of deer eating their gardens, shrubs, and flowers and set up safe blinds for hunters to safely reduce the population in the city. I don't doubt we would have some willing homeowners in Merrill and maybe some willing hunters that would like to help them out. Please consider. Thanks.

- Thomas Huftel  
Merrill, Wis.

## 2022 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

### Basketball Girls (Varsity, JV, & JV2)

Thurs. Feb. 17	Wausau East (JV)	Away	5:45 pm
Thurs. Feb. 17	Wausau East (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Tues. Feb. 22	Medford (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm

### Basketball Boys (Varsity, JV, & JV2)

Fri. Feb. 18	Wausau East (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Fri. Feb. 18	Wausau East (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Thurs. Feb. 24	Wausau West (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Thurs. Feb. 24	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm

### Ice Hockey Boys (Varsity & JV)

There are no scheduled events for this week, see WIAA for playoff information.

### Ice Hockey Girls (Varsity & JV)

There are no scheduled events for this week, see WIAA for playoff information.

### Wrestling Boys (Varsity & JV)

Sat. Feb. 19th	Individual Sectional	Eau Claire North	8:00 am
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**Please go to [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org) for the latest playoff schedules and brackets.**

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**Dominic Roper**, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS) has been named Athlete of the Week. He has been wrestling since he was in the sixth grade at Prairie River Middle School. He then wrestled JV, and this is his first year on the Merrill Bluejay Varsity Wrestling Team. Dominic also played football this year as a member of the Merrill Bluejay Varsity Football Team.

At school, Dominic is involved in the GEDO program. "My primary focus is to ready myself for life," he said. He plans to go into masonry and will be apprenticing this spring with his uncle through Norcon Corporation in Schofield.

In his free time, Dominic enjoys ice fishing; fishing in the summer; deer, squirrel, and rabbit hunting; ATVing; snowboarding with friends; and both working on and racing "anything with a motor," he said. He races a custom built mud rail at the mud bogs, races four wheelers and dirt bikes, and is hoping to race in the Merrill Ice Drags next year.

Dominic is the son of Larry and Crystal Roper of Gleason.

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**Dominic Roper**

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