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Council Grounds State Park Annual Amateur Photo Contest about to open for submissions

TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

The 2022 Council Grounds State Park Annual Amateur Photo Contest will begin taking submissions of photographs that were actually TAKEN within the boundaries of Council Grounds State Park between Aug. 1, 2020, and July 31, 2022 (a two-year period). Color images must be submitted between July 1 and July 31, 2022, as high resolution .jpeg files emailed to: cgphotos@hotmail.com. No panoramic or digitally altered photos, and tall, narrow photos from phones

See **CONTEST** page 6



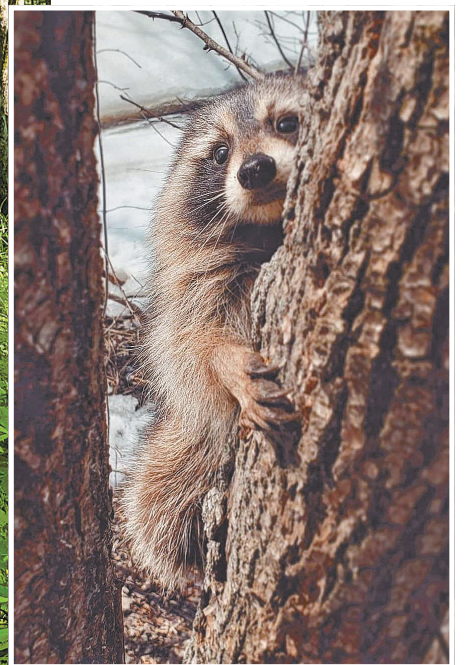
2021 first place winner of Council Grounds Annual Photo Contest – Landscape category: Northwest Trail by Ginny Bigback of Stevens Point.



2021 first place winner of Council Grounds Annual Photo Contest – Plants category: Mushroom and Moss by Ethan Kearns of Merrill.



2021 first place winner of Council Grounds Annual Photo Contest – People Using the Park category: Snowshoe Hike by Lynn Marrier of Merrill.



2021 first place winner of Council Grounds Annual Photo Contest – Wildlife category: Raccoon by Daniel Hinz of Merrill.

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Authorities search Hwy. 86 property for Tomahawk-area man missing since Nov. 2021

BY JALEN MAKI
 TOMAHAWK LEADER EDITOR

Authorities are continuing their search for a Tomahawk-area man who has been missing since late last year.

According to a release from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, on Wednesday, June 22, an "extensive search" of a property on State Hwy. 86 west of Tomahawk was launched. The Sheriff's Office said the property was the last location David Lee Strahota, age 61, described as being 5'4" tall and weighing 200 pounds, was seen.



David Lee Strahota

See **STRAHOTA** page 2

Tomahawk man facing charges related to thefts, burglaries, drug activity

BY JALEN MAKI
 TOMAHAWK LEADER EDITOR

MERRILL – A Tomahawk man is facing charges related to thefts, burglaries and drug activity.

According to a release from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Zachary Huston, 38, was arrested on Thursday, June 16 following the execution of a search warrant by the Sheriff's Office, the Central Wisconsin Narcotics Task Force, the Taylor County Sheriff's Office, the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, the Marathon County Sheriff's



Huston

See **HUSTON** page 5

Neff retires from Merrill Chamber of Commerce

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Ken Neff retired from the Merrill Chamber of Commerce on June 22, 2022, after almost three years

serving the Merrill community as a Member Services Representative. In less than six months, he had completed his mission to meet with every member of the Chamber and updated the Chamber database.

Then he started helping with the Chamber office face-lift and refresh (painting, organizing, rearranging).

But he came into more frequent visibility to Chamber members and others, ironically enough, when COVID struck and people were being isolated more than ever before. It was during this time that he initiated creating "Member Moments" and "Merrill Moments" videos that were distributed to Chamber members, posted on the Chamber website, and uploaded to social media. "That was something that took me out of my comfort zone and became something I really enjoyed doing," Neff said. "It gave me a chance to get an inside look at many of our Chamber members' businesses and kind of showcased some of the really cool things our members do and some of the really neat things happening in the city of Merrill throughout the year."

"I even tried to throw in some of my sometimes corny sense of humor," he said. "This was accomplished thanks to the input of many people, including my co-worker Cheryl. Some of the ideas came from some of our 'younger' Chamber Board members and ambassadors, such as Lora Bladow and my successor, Sarah Sturm."

Prior to working for the Chamber, Neff had retired from his first career on March 13, 2017, as a Merrill police officer and Merrill's Police Chief after 35 years of serving the community. During his tenure at the Merrill Police Department (MPD), he created the first School Resource Officer position in Merrill High School and Prairie River Middle School, brought "Eros," the first MPD K-9 officer to the community, worked closely with Crime Stoppers, and fostered a positive relationship between law enforcement and the public.

My wife, Lori, and I moved to Merrill in 1982 as I began my career," Neff said. "We loved the Merrill community and raised both our children, Sarah and Ryan, here."

"It was a great 40 years!" he said. "The Merrill com-

munity offered us so much ... It was a great place to live and grow in!"

Over the years, Neff was involved in the Merrill Optimist Club (including two terms as President), Eagles Club, and Lions Club. He also worked with DARE, Youth Optimist Club, Just Say No Club, and other groups for youth. "I enjoyed my involvement with some incredible young people, who likely now have their own young people of that age," Neff said.

After being so active, after his first retirement, he "enjoyed a relaxing retirement at home for just over a year, until my wife decided I needed something different to occupy my time," he said. Neff likes to tell people that Lori basically kicked him out of the house!

"The timing was perfect, because I noticed a job opening for a part-time position at the Merrill Chamber," Neff said. This position, which probably kept him busy a little more than part time, allowed him "to reconnect with many people in the community, and it was an enjoyable way to make a little bit of money at the same time."

"Now Lori is about to retire from her business as a daycare provider in our home, and we plan to move to our cabin in the UP of Michigan," he said. "Our cabin in the UP has been our family getaway for about 10 years, so we are looking forward to relaxation and enjoying many of the recreational activities we enjoy in the Northwoods."

"At the same time, we plan to chase after our six grandkids who are very much involved in school activities and sporting events," Neff added. "We have two grandsons in the Hudson area and a grandson and three granddaughters in the Appleton area. We are looking forward to spending more time with them, as well, and not having to get back home for work responsibilities!"

"We will very much miss many of the people and things we love about Merrill, and perhaps when we are tired of all the excitement of living and recreating in the UP, we will return to Merrill ... some day??" It's a thought, but Neff isn't making any promises. Hopefully, he'll pop in to area events to enjoy some of Merrill's recreational opportunities for a visit now and then.

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STRAHOTA

from page 1

The Sheriff's Office said in April that Strahota was

last heard from around Nov. 17, 2021, when he told friends he was "going hunting down south for a couple of weeks." At that time, the Sheriff's

Office said Strahota had been vague about his exact location and who, if anyone, he would be with, noting he could have potentially gone to the Fox

Valley area in eastern Wisconsin.

Strahota did not have a cell phone at the time he went missing and left his vehicle at his residence, which is not out of the ordinary because he usually rides with others, according to the Sheriff's Office. His home and property were searched, but no leads to his location were discovered, the Sheriff's Office said in April.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ), the Merrill Police Department, the Tomahawk Police Department, the Tomahawk Fire Department, and K-9s from Canine Search Solutions LLC assisted the Sheriff's Office in the search.

The investigation in ongoing.

No new information had been released as of press time.

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“Wait, that’s LEGO?”

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

LEGO’s have changed a LOT over the years! No longer just the square and rectangular blocks and tiny little people figures, the ideas for what can be created with LEGO pieces is endless these days, and the LEGO interlocking pieces themselves now come in a huge array of colors, shapes, and sizes, enabling designers to create works of art from those LEGO pieces. The world of LEGO is limited only by one’s imagination.

To create many of the new and innovative creations using LEGO pieces, many LEGO fans start with kits. Beyond that, they can disassemble the original creation and then use the pieces to create something entirely new if they so choose.

Locally, Tim and Dawn Dunbar are huge LEGO fans with a huge [and growing] collection. They participate in a worldwide LEGO collection tracking database and currently have the 10,859th largest collection of LEGO’s in the world. But even more notable is their collection of 576 different LEGO kits they have purchased, assembled, and have on display in their home, utilizing nearly



This piece of construction machinery is created using LEGO pieces.

Submitted photos.



A globe made entirely of LEGO pieces.

400,000 individual LEGO pieces.

The T.B. Scott Library’s Beyond Books Community ArtShare Program will feature a diverse and colorful exhibit of some of the completed kits in the Dunbars’ collection during the months of July and August.

The couple began purchasing LEGO sets as gifts for their daughters in the late 1980’s, and it turned out they liked assembling them. A new hobby was born and a collection begun. Soon their hobby turned into purchasing and assembling dozens of new sets each year. Tim said they really enjoy spending time together as-

sembling the kits, so he considers it more of a hobby than a collection, but there is no denying the number of completed sets now puts it firmly into the category of a collection.

The Dunbars will display a wide assortment from their LEGO collection ... from flowers and typewriters, to Batmobiles and globes.

Viewers are invited to vote for their favorite for a chance to win their very own LEGO Architecture San Francisco kit. And as they examine the collection on display, they will also likely find themselves saying, “Wait, that’s LEGO?”



This typewriter looks absolutely real and usable, but it’s a model of a typewriter created with LEGO pieces, just one piece in Tim and Dawn Dunbar’s LEGO collection.

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Church Mutual president, CEO announces retirement plans

FOR THE FOTO NEWS

MERRILL – The president and CEO of Church Mutual Insurance Company will step down in 2024. The Board of Directors announced Rich Poirier will retire in early 2024, after 13 years with the company.

According to a press release, the Board is conducting a CEO search with the assistance of an executive recruiting firm. The process includes internal and external candidates. The company is on track to name a president and CEO-elect in late 2022 or early 2023. From then, Poirier will continue to serve as CEO until his retirement to ensure a smooth leadership transition.

“I’ve had the privilege of being CEO of this very special company for the past eight years,” Poirier said. “Leading Church Mutual has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I have had the honor to know and work with a wonderful team. I am very grateful to



Rich Poirier

our Board of Directors for the confidence and trust they placed in me to lead this company.”

“Rich has had a distinguished career in the insurance industry and with Church Mutual,” said board chairman John (Jay) B. Williams. “We are thankful to Rich for his outstanding leadership and transformation of the company over the past several years. Rich is a servant leader who has worked tirelessly to serve our clients, policyholders and employees. He created an inclusive and diverse culture as the company continued to transform and grow.”

In addition to his work at Church Mutual, Poirier has served on the Board of Governors of the American Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (APCIA) and as chairman of the board for Aspirus Healthcare System, along with many other philanthropic organizations.

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY
CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

OBITUARIES

Arlene Ann Polak, age 72 of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on Friday, June 24, 2022, at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau, Wisconsin. She was born on July 29, 1949, to the late Frederick and Fern (Schneider) Polak in Merrill, WI. Arlene was a factory worker most of her life. She worked at West Bend Company in West Bend for 16 years, C & H Packaging in Merrill for 14 years, and Hurd Windows and Doors in Merrill for 9 years. She was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill for over 35 years. Arlene enjoyed fishing and picking strawberries and blueberries in the summer. She was a very friendly and generous woman who loved her three nieces dearly. She was devoted to her family and cared for her mother for a very long time. Arlene will be missed by those who knew her. Arlene is survived by her siblings; Sue (Warren) Myhre and Jane Helminski, best friend; Darlene Rethaber, nieces; Julianna Helminski, Kim Reed, and Sue Lynn Myhre and three grand nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother-in-law Bill Helminski. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 1:00 pm at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill, Wisconsin. Officiated by Pastor Pat Schutz. A visitation was held on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, from 11:30 am until the time of service also at the church. Interment at Luther Memorial Cemetery in the Town of Schley. 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.



Lois Loraine "Boots" Seeliger (nee Hansohn), born in Merrill Wisconsin on June 29, 1930; died peacefully on June 12, 2022 at Zilber Hospice in Wauwatosa WI. She is survived by her brothers David (Lynn) Wallin and David (Carol) Hanson, children Curt (Jana) and Karen, grandchildren Eilif (Claire) Knutson and Kelsey (Dominic) Knutson, and great grandchild Boone Rasmus Di Laurenzio, along with several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased

by her husband, William B. Seeliger, in 2015. Lois cared passionately for family, friends, and strangers. Her career as an RN allowed her to demonstrate this care towards her many patients, who would often respond with letters and gifts of gratitude. Her creative side was evident in her pottery, sewing, knitting, and counted cross-stitch: the more complex the pattern the better. Her personality was quiet, but she hid a mischievous sense of humor that gave everyone around her reason to giggle. She loved animals, flowers, and a good glass of sweet German wine.

Just as she found joy and flourished as a wife and mother, she also found fulfillment in new pursuits as her life evolved. After moving back to the Milwaukee area, she discovered renewed meaning in the people she met and the new ideas she encountered. Life was greatly enhanced by the friends she was introduced to in these last seven years, as well as the medical and companion care she came to trust and enjoy.

We will miss the many ways she showed her love to us, as well as returning that love, and support to her. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Zilber Hospice or Canine Cupids. Prasser-Klecza Bay View Chapel www.pkfuneralhomes.com 414-483-2322



Judith "Judy" Ann Paszek (Prentice)
Our dear, sweet mother Judith "Judy" Ann Paszek (Prentice) of Fernandina Beach, FL went home to Jesus on June 19, 2022, at the age of 76. Judy was born to John & Myrtle Prentice (Sawyer) on October 11, 1945 in Tomahawk, WI. She grew up in Merrill, WI & as a child Judy always showed kindness & deeply cared for other people. Judy had two daughters, Tammy & Angie. She worked

so hard to give her daughters a wonderful childhood & continued to support them throughout their adult lives as they grew families of their own. She always bragged about how proud she was of them & their accomplishments. Judy's family was everything to her. Although humble by nature, Judy had many of her own accomplishments too. She had a very strong work ethic, to the point where she took on two jobs for most of her life to provide for her two girls.

She was a wonderful mother who was kind, sweet, and giving. Despite her physical limitations, she was fiercely proud of her independence for many years. Judy enjoyed making things "pretty" & had a talent for home décor. She enjoyed camping, gardening & animals of all kinds. Judy lived in Wisconsin until 2009, when she then moved to Florida where she resided until the Lord called her home.

Previously departed loved ones include mother & father Myrtle & John Prentice; Brothers Jerry Prentice Terry Prentice (Debbie Krahn) & Art Prentice; brother in law Jeff Annis; her beloved dog Coco.

She left behind her siblings John Prentice Jr. (Beverly), Rick Prentice (Sharon), Linda Annis, David Prentice (Tyler); sister in law Karen Prentice; daughters Tammy Heil (Craig Viergutz) & Angela Aragon (Roland); granddaughters Ariana Aragon (Aidan Augustin) & Samantha Gilpatrick (Dillon); grandsons Joseph Aragon & Jacob Radmer; great granddaughter Marlee Aragon; many nieces and nephews, especially Gayle Abrosini; dear friend of many years Rita Wendt (Johnson); her wonderful caregiver Alicia Kinney.

Thank you God for letting us have such a loving and caring mother. Her celebration of life will be held in October 2022 in Wisconsin.



Ronald Clarence Reid, age 58, of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away at his home on Friday, May 27, 2022. He was born on May 2, 1964, to Clarence Reid Jr. and Marian Hashburger in Detroit, Michigan.

Ron worked as a cook for many different restaurants while he travelled the United States. He loved listening to music, he had a great sense of humor and loved his dog "Bugs" who misses him dearly. Ron is survived by his girlfriend Kathy Barnes, father; Clarence Reid Jr., stepmother; Freda Reid, siblings; Bob (Jenny) Reid and Nancy Jean Ried, and long-time friend Shawn Igl. He was preceded in death by his mother Marian Pierce.

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.



Sharon Rae Degner, age 78 of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away at her home on June 25, 2022. She was born on September 10, 1943, to the late Leslie and Loretta (Speas) Krahn in Merrill, Wisconsin.

On April 9, 1998, Sharon married Gerald Degner in Hawaii on the Big Island. Sharon was very bossy and Gerlad loved her that way. For most of Sharon's life, she worked at the Weinbrenner Shoe Company. She enjoyed her word search puzzles and loved hanging out

with her grandchildren and visiting her family in Arizona. She will be missed dearly by her family.

She is survived by her husband Gerald Degner, children: Timothy Hintze and Scott Hintze, step children: Penny Marie Ullenbrauck and Gerald Eugene Degner, grandchildren: Shantelle Megariz, Shaynah Hintze, Shannon Hintze, Shayla Richard, Jessica Keeran, and Justine Godwin, step grandchildren: Zach Degner and Nikki Sanders, great grandchildren: Elaina Megariz, Dylan Megariz, Hailey Meza, Zoey Meza, Mason Keeran, and Jaxon Keeran, siblings: Kathy Hanrahan, JoAnn Benzinger, Detta Kleinschmidt, and Gary Krahn. She was preceded in death by her parents, siblings: Debbie Prentice, Larry Krahn, and Terry Krahn.

No services 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.

Debra 'Deb' A. Neumeier, age 65, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at the Aspirus Merrill Hospital. Deb was born on September 24, 1956, in Green Bay, WI and was the daughter to the late Eugene and Margaret (Lantzas) Neumeier. She attended and graduated from high school in Green Bay and went on to college to further her education.

Deb was an underwriter for Church Mutual Insurance Company for many years, which would allow her to travel all over the states. She was very good with numbers and very detailed. Deb looked forward to her trips out to their family cabin in Townsend, WI, where she would enjoy peace and quiet, as well as fishing. She enjoyed going to casinos, basket weaving, stained glass, and woodworking projects, as well as watching the Packers win! Deb was an animal lover; her dogs were her pride and joy. She is also remembered as a very talented baker and a strong-willed and honest lady. She will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Deb is survived by her sister: Cathy Neumeier, brother: Ken (Cindy) Neumeier, nieces: Amanda (Brian), Kate (Steve) and Emily (Landon) and her beloved fur-babies: Makayla and Aero. She was preceded in death by her parents.

No services will be held. A Celebration of Deb's Life will take place at a later date. 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.



Yvonne Leone (Vorpapel) Koch passed away in her sleep in the early morning hours of Wednesday, June 15th, 2022, of natural causes. She was 86 years old.

Yvonne was born on February 18th, 1936, in Merrill, WI and dedicated her life as a grade school and special education teacher in Wisconsin and California for 44 and 1/2 years, retiring in 2001. She was married to James W. Koch for almost 60 years, after 3 years of dating. She resided in WI until 1967 before moving to Sacramento, California until her passing. Yvonne loved cats and enjoyed reading and doing yardwork, especially with flowers. She was a lovely and patient wife and mother and was loved by everyone.

Yvonne was preceded into heaven by her parents Herman & Frieda (Zimmerman) Vorpapel and her brother, William (Bill) Vorpapel, Lincoln County's first Korean War service member KIA in 1950. She is survived by her husband, Jim, two daughters, Kathy, and Karen, 3 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, a number of cousins, nieces, and nephews, and her sole surviving brother of Merrill, Daniel Vorpapel.

Yvonne was a positive thinking, kind, considerate, and loving woman who was loved by her husband, family, and 11-year-old cat. She was always very considerate and helpful to many others. She also helped diligently with her husband in various extra activities over their years of marriage.

Yvonne had a Funeral Mass on Tuesday, June 28th, 2022, at 11:00am at St. Francis Catholic Xavier Church in Merrill, WI. Following Mass, there was a private viewing for family from 12:30pm -1:30pm, and public viewing from 1:30pm -3:30pm at Waid Funeral Home. She was buried on Wednesday, June 29th, 2022, at St. Henry's Cemetery in Watertown, WI.

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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Samantha Finucan, Licensed Funeral Director
Megan King, Office Manager

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UW-Madison Division of Extension highlights credit report changes coming July 1

WISCONSIN – Educators from UW-Madison Division of Extension are reminding area residents that beginning Friday, July 1, there will be multiple changes in the way that information will appear on credit reports.

“Staying on top of what’s in your credit report can help you spot errors and possible instances of identity theft,” a release from the Extension said. “Additionally, a positive credit history helps you access housing and financial products, and to get the best interest rate when applying for loans, insurance, and more.”

Extension said many of the changes are “designed to benefit consumers, and others serve as good prompts to be aware of how you are making your purchases.”

Buy Now, Pay Later to appear on credit reports

Many online retailers have begun offering shoppers the option of paying for their purchases in installments rather than all at once at checkout.

“This option has proven attractive to some consumers because it comes without the finance charges that are levied by credit cards,” Extension stated. “Starting July 1, this buy now, pay later (BNPL) activity will begin showing up on credit reports and could impact your credit score

because these BNPL accounts are considered short-term loans. Even if you pay off your BNPL on time, your score could go down because the average age of your overall credit history could decrease. Each time you take on a new credit obligation, that lowers the average age of your credit history.”

Most medical debt coming off credit reports

Three major changes that impact how medical debt appears on credit reports are coming soon.

“Beginning July 1, consumers will have one year to resolve billing or insurance issues before unpaid medical debts show up on their credit reports,” Extension said. “Currently, the period is six months.”

Also starting July 1, any medical debts that were sent to collections and later paid off will no longer appear on credit reports. Starting in 2023, the credit bureaus will not report medical debt under \$500.00.

“These measures will lead to the removal of 70% of medical collection debt from consumers’ credit reports, providing some respite for the millions of people carrying more than \$88 billion in medical debt,” Extension stated.

Free credit reports available weekly through Dec. 31

During the pandemic, the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) switched from each providing a free copy of a consumer’s credit report once every year to once each week. This temporary measure was set to expire in April 2022 but has been extended through the end of the year, to Dec. 31, 2022.

Extension said the quickest way to access your credit report is via www.annualcreditreport.com.

“The secure site allows consumers to complete a short form and request a report from one, two, or all three of the credit bureaus,” Extension stated. “By choosing the online option, you can get your report right away.”

Other ways to get your report are by calling 1.877.322.8228 or by mailing a request to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, Ga., 30348-5281.

Extension noted that if requesting by mail, a request form found on the site must be printed, or one may be requested through the Oneida County Extension office.

To receive reminders to check your report three times per year, visit www.bit.ly/3QEqt4G.

Questions or requests for additional information may be directed to Terri Kolb, HDR Educator, at 715.365.2756 or terri.kolb@wisc.edu.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

Annual Meeting
Calvary Trinity Perpetual Care Cemetery Association, Inc.
6:00 PM - Thursday, 7/7/2022
Calvary Lutheran Church
N365 Cain Creek Road
Merrill, WI
Published June 30, 2022
WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: June 21, 2022
Electronically signed by
Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2022 IN 22
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
ELAINE SUKOW
DOD 05/05/2022
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 06/15/1924 and date of death 05/05/2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2100 E 6th St., Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 10/14/2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
James Wedemeyer
204 N. Van Rensselaer St.
Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-8135 Bar Number 1004552
Published June 30, July 7 & 14, 2022
WNAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF SCOTT
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Scott, Lincoln County, WI, has received an Original Alcohol Beverage License Application to sell fermented malt beverages and/or intoxicating liquor within the limits of the Town of Scott, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, for the period beginning July 12, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023 from the following individual:
Andre Galella, Owner Operator
Italian U-Boat, LLC, d/b/a Outskirts
N1469 Tannery Road
Merrill, WI 54452
Said application will be reviewed and acted on at the Regular Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Scott Town Hall, N563 Lake Road, Merrill, Wisconsin.
Dated this 27th day of June, 2022.
BY: Becky Byer,
Clerk of the Town of Scott
Published July 30, 2022
WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
LINCOLN COUNTY
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Legals 7700

Case No. 22-CV-55
Code: 30301 (Money Judgment)
30404 (Foreclosure)
INCREDIBLEBANK
Plaintiff,
v.
ESTATE OF MARY LOU PETERSON
c/o Attorney Mark N. Mathias,
Special Administrator, and
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
Defendants.
By virtue of and pursuant to a Judgment entered in the above-entitled action on May 24, 2022, in the amount of \$75,303.51, I will sell at public auction at the main entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin in said county on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., all of the following described mortgaged premises, to wit:
Lot Three (3) of Lincoln County Certified Survey Map No. 1884 recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Lincoln County, Wisconsin, on June 10, 2005 in Volume 9 of Certified Survey Maps on Page 217, as Document No. 442309; being a part of the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 and the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section Six (6) and the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 and the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section Five (5), Township Thirty-one (31) North, Range Seven (7) East, in the Town of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin.
Tax Parcel No.: 014-3107-064-9948
Property Address: W4550 County Rd. G,
(the "Property")
TERMS OF SALE:
1. This is a cash sale. A certified check or bank draft in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the amount bid must accompany the bid, with the balance due upon confirmation of sale by the Court.
2. Sale is subject to all unpaid real estate taxes and special assessments.
3. Purchaser shall pay any Wisconsin real estate transfer fee.
4. The Property is being sold on an "as is" basis without warranties or representations of any kind.
5. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the Property. You are notified that we are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Dated _____, 2022.
Ken Schneider, Sheriff
Lincoln County Sheriff

John D. Leary
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
Royal Credit Union
RUDER WARE, L.L.S.C.
402 Graham Avenue
Post Office Box 187
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54702
Telephone: 715.834.3425
Facsimile: 715.834.9240
Published June 16, 23 & 30, 2022
WNAXLP

HUSTON from page 1

Office and the Tomahawk Police Department in the Town of Bradley.

The Sheriff’s Office said the search warrant was executed “as a result of extensive investigations involving drug activity, thefts, burglaries and other significant criminal acts,” adding that additional charges were requested for other involved persons through the Lincoln County District Attorney’s Office.

“These individuals are linked to numerous storage unit break-ins, as well as other thefts and burglaries in Lincoln, Price, Oneida, Marathon and Taylor Counties,” the Sheriff’s Office stated. “Numerous stolen items were recovered during the search warrant and were connect-

ed to cases spanning multiple jurisdictions.”

Charges sought in connection to the investigations include burglary, theft, maintaining a drug trafficking dwelling, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, possession of THC, bail jumping, removing major vehicle components and operating motor vehicle without owner’s consent, according to the release.

The Sheriff’s Office said Tomahawk residents Taylor Blanchard and Matthew Dittmer were arrested on scene for unrelated arrest warrants.

“Although the search warrant has been completed, this is an ongoing investigation, and no further information can be released at this time,” the Sheriff’s Office stated.

TOWN OF MERRILL
MERRILL, WISCONSIN

BID NOTICE

The Town of Merrill, Lincoln County Wisconsin Will be accepting sealed bids for sealing of cracks on individual listed roads: Lone Pine, North Star, Schiller & Norwegian The work shall consist of furnishing all proper materials, equipment, labor for routing, cleaning, sealing & covering of all cracks & joints in asphalt pavement. Contractor to provided certificate of insurance showing liability & workers comp. coverage. Sealed bids can be submitted to the Town of Merrill W4594 Progress Ave, Merrill, WI 54452 Bids will be opened on July 11, 2022 at town board meeting. The Town of Merrill reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid deemed to be in the best interest of the town.

TOWN OF MERRILL BOARD
Published June 23 & 30, 2022 WNAXLP

NOTICE

City of Merrill Residents

Garbage and Recycling Collection

Garbage and Recycling for the week of **July 4th** through **July 7th** will be collected one day later than usual in observance of Independence Day. Please refer to the collection calendar that was included with you carts and is available on the city website at www.ci.merrill.wi.us

Please have your carts out by 6:00 a.m.

Please contact the City Garage at (715) 536-4222 or email us at Streets@ci.merrill.wi.us with any questions.

Have a Safe and Happy July 4th Holiday!

Dustin Bonack
Street Superintendent

TOWN OF MERRILL
MERRILL, WISCONSIN

BID NOTICE

The Town of Merrill, Lincoln County Wisconsin Will be accepting sealed bids for ditch mowing all town roads (Approx 81 miles) & Approx 25 miles of brush cutting & tree side trimming within road right of way. Brush cutting & tree side trimming area is Cty Hwy K East to Town of Merrill line North of Cty Rd. G to Town of Merrill line. Contractor to provided certificate of insurance showing liability & workers comp. coverage. Sealed bids can be submitted to the Town of Merrill W4594 Progress Ave, Merrill, WI 54452 Bids will be opened on July 11, 2022 at town board meeting. The Town of Merrill reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid deemed to be in the best interest of the town.

TOWN OF MERRILL BOARD
Published June 23 & 30, 2022 WNAXLP

TOWN OF MERRILL
MERRILL, WISCONSIN

BID NOTICE

The Town of Merrill, Lincoln County Wisconsin will be accepting sealed bids for removal of logs, slash & grubbed materials from D.N.R. designated wetlands within Black Alder Road right of way. The work shall consist of furnishing all equipment & labor. Removal operation shall meet D.N.R. standards. Contractor to provided certificate of insurance showing liability & workers comp. coverage. Sealed bids can be submitted to the Town of Merrill W4594 Progress Ave, Merrill, WI 54452 Bids will be opened on July 11, 2022 at town board meeting. The Town of Merrill reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid deemed to be in the best interest of the town.

TOWN OF MERRILL BOARD
Published June 23 & 30, 2022 WNAXLP

TOWN OF MERRILL
MERRILL, WISCONSIN

BID NOTICE

The Town of Merrill, Lincoln County Wisconsin will be accepting sealed bids for 172' of road repair 2.5 tenths of a mile north of State Hwy 107 North on South End Rd. Area to be repaired is marked w/ orange paint & arrows on pavement. The work shall consist of furnishing all proper materials, equipment & labor to Dig out road boil areas & Pavement, re-gravel, compact & pave within 60 days.

All work will consist of Class B Highway requirements. Contractor to provided certificate of insurance showing liability & workers comp. coverage. Sealed bids can be submitted to the Town of Merrill W4594 Progress Ave, Merrill, WI 54452

Bids will be opened on July 11, 2022 at town board meeting. The Town of Merrill reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid deemed to be in the best interest of the town.

TOWN OF MERRILL BOARD
Published June 23 & 30, 2022 WNAXLP

TOWN OF MERRILL
MERRILL, WISCONSIN

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Town of Merrill, Lincoln County Wisconsin Will be accepting sealed bids for Approx. 1500 cubic yard 1 ¼" road base w/ binder & Approx. 500 cubic yard ¾" road base w/ binder To be placed on various town roads provide a minimum of 3 truck hauling & spreading. Contractor to provided certificate of insurance showing liability & workers comp. coverage. Sealed bids can be submitted to the Town of Merrill, W4594 Progress Ave., Merrill, WI 54452 Bids will be open

TOWN OF MERRILL BOARD
Published June 23 & 30, 2022 WNAXLP

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Precious Gift of Freedom

DEAR READER,

What did you do today?
What did you do yesterday?
What will you do tomorrow?

By virtue of living in the United States of America, we can do, think and say just about anything we please, as long as it doesn't diminish the rights of our neighbors - who also are doing as they please.



Why? Because our forefathers fought and died to make our Country independent of tyranny and oppression. As we all know, Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence and it was ratified by the original 13 colonies on July 4th, 1776. Then they set to work defending the principles it contained against an invading aggressor.

John Adams, sensing the historical significance of this event wrote to his wife Abigail that it "will be celebrated by the succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival (and that the celebration should include) pomp and parade...games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other."

So rejoice and celebrate our freedom in this world. We can be grateful that we do not live in Russia, China, North Korea, or Iran, countries that are ruled by tyrannical despots who disregard the rights of men and women to exist peacefully. And while you're at it, say a prayer for all those in our armed forces who fought or are currently serving. They deserve our gratitude for their sacrifices.

Happy Independence Day.

PATRICK J. WOOD
PUBLISHER

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

CONTEST from page 1

don't work well either. Send photos that could be reprinted as 4x6" or 8x10" prints.

The photo contest is divided into categories: Plants (wildflowers, trees, shrubs, fungi, etc.); Wildlife (includes animals, birds, insects, etc.); People Using the Park (do not include photos of easily identifiable people); and Landscapes (broadview scenes, sunsets, sunrises, river, etc.).

Each entrant may only submit one photo in the category of their choice.

The annual photo contest is organized by the Friends of Council Grounds State Park. Complete contest rules are available at: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/councilgrounds/photocontest

First place winners in each category will receive a 2023 Wisconsin State Park vehicle sticker, and second place winners will receive Council Grounds merchandise or a gift certificate valued up to \$15. Public voting to determine the winning photographs will take place by email between Aug. 15 and Sept. 15, 2022, and finalist photos will be available for viewing on the Friends of Council Grounds State Park Facebook page at that time, as well as at the actual Council Grounds State Park contact station and at the T.B. Scott Library.

Winners will be announced and notified in October 2022.

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

The 710 Smoke Shop

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The 710 Smoke Shop in Merrill opened its doors in the lower unit of an apartment building in the 200 block of E. Second St. on June 1, 2021 and held a Grand Opening celebration on July 10, 2021.

Then, less than six months after opening the business, disaster struck: an unexpected fire that started in the stairwell to the apartment above the business in the wee hours of Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021, threatened to put them out of business just as quickly as they had launched their new venture.

Once the fire was out, owner and sole proprietor John Aumend waited for word from his landlord and the insurance company as to what would become of his shop.

He soon learned he would need to vacate the premises, and that left Aumend looking for a new place to set up shop. As luck would have it, he learned of a retail space that was being vacated about that time, connected with the landlord, and has since leased 110 N. Prospect St., Suite #1, in Merrill where he has been running his retail store. It is a work in progress, Aumend said, as he gets his display cases set up the way he wants them and renovates the property to better reflect his brand, rather than that of the previous tenant [a clothing boutique], and his personal style.

What it is and what it isn't

Contrary to what one might think based on the name of the business, The 710 Smoke Shop isn't a place to buy cigarettes, tobacco, or cigars. Rather, the business sells vaping products, cartridges, cartridge batteries, vaporizers, trays, water pipes, glassware, rolling papers, oils, hemp and hemp-derived products, and a wide variety of similar products. "For tobacco use only" is their disclaimer, as some of these products might also be used for smoking marijuana which is not legal in Wisconsin, though it is legal in nearby Michigan and Illinois for both recreational and medical use.

Dreams and plans change and evolve, and all roads led to here

"I've always wanted to own my own retail location," Aumend said. "But in my head, it was a shoe store. I managed at a few shoe stores early in life and have always been a little bit of a shoe fanatic."

"However, after my release from prison in 2010, I started working in the kitchen at Applebees," he said, "and ended up with the company for 10 years as an extension of the training department."



John Aumend, owner of The 710 Smoke Shop, now located at 110 N. Prospect St., Suite #1, in Merrill enjoys the laid back atmosphere of owning his own business and knowing he can just relax and be himself. Tina L. Scott photos.

Close to three years ago, "I went through, and am dealing with the fallouts of, a pretty nasty divorce and separation in which I left my job of 10 years and lost absolutely every penny and every piece of personal belongings I had," Aumend said.

His plan was to go back into the service industry due to his experience there and lack of experience elsewhere, "mixed with my criminal record," he said. "I always felt that may be my best and only option."

"Then I went to Colorado, slipped on some ice, and ended up stuck in a bed for months and had a limp for about a year afterwards," Aumend said.

"At that point, I didn't think that I would be able to go put 10 to 16 hours a day on my legs in a restaurant, so I started brainstorming and doing research."

"I had started smoking weed again right before my separation, after not smoking for almost 15 years. Smoking helped me unintentionally overcome a pill habit, so I turned into a heavy smoker and frequented all the shops around and would make it a point to stop at new ones when I traveled," he said.

"It's obviously something that I enjoyed, so I looked into it, and the standard rule in the industry is to double what you paid for something [wholesale price x 2 = retail price] and put it on the shelf."



An employee at The 710 Smoke Shop prepares to show a customer one of the handcrafted glass pipes from the display case.

"To my knowledge, there aren't many industries where you are almost guaranteed to double your money on your products, so it was an easy decision from there," he said.

"Doing further research, we have found that as [marijuana] prohibition slowly ends across the country, in every legal state, a couple years after legalization, the glass industry booms." Aumend currently carries several lines of glass products in his shop.

"I guess you could say that since my criminal record will put me out of play for owning a [marijuana]

See SMOKE SHOP page 8

Lincoln County Humane Society Donation Drive. Merrill Foto News is collecting donations for the Lincoln County Humane Society. Drop off at 921 E. Main Street, Merrill. Wish List: Floor Cleaner, Canned Dog Food, Catnip & Cat Toys, Canned Cat Food, Cat Litter (Non-Scoopable), Latex Gloves (any size), Paper Towel & Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent & Dryer Sheets, Garbage Bags (13 Gallon with Drawstring Preferred).

Engagement Parks - Oestreich. Michelle Parks and Daniel Oestreich both of Merrill announce their engagement and upcoming Wedding. The bride to be is the daughter of Lloyd & Darla Parks, Athens. The future groom is the son of Mr. Chris Oestreich and Mrs. Julie Neubauer. Michelle is a 2009 graduate of Merrill High School and then went on to NTC and currently is working as a CNA at Wausau Manor. Daniel is a 2011 graduate of Loyal High School and is currently working at Marth Wood Shaving. The Wedding is being planned for July 16, 2022.

Thank You. To the friends, relatives and all who knew Larry, for their prayers, visits, cards & memorial gifts. A special thank you to the Doctors & Nurses at Aspirus Wausau Hospital who helped care for him during this time; your kindness and compassion will always be remembered. Thank you to Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home for assisting the family. The family of Larry D. Mahn

Dave's 4th of JULY Sale

Closing at 8pm on July 4th!
Have a Safe & Happy Independence Day!



Natural Casing Wieners, Brats, Cheddar Links, Polish
\$5.99
18-24 oz. bag



Family Pack Pork Steak
\$2.69
lb.



Whole Pork Spare Ribs
\$3.29
lb.

DAVE'S Picnic Packs

- 8** ¼ Lb. Burgers 
 - 8** Natural-Casing Wieners 
 - 8** Fully-Cooked Brats 
- \$20.00**
each



80% Lean Big Pack Ground Beef
\$2.99
lb.



Big Pack Chicken Leg Quarters
99¢
lb.



Dave's Angus Ribeye Steak
\$9.99
lb.



Our Own Homemade 85% Lean Ground Beef Patties
\$4.59
lb.



T-Bone Steak
\$10.99
lb.

PRODUCE

- Snow White Cauliflower **\$1.49** lb.
- Fuji Apples **\$1.49** lb.
- 5 lb. Red Potatoes **\$3.99**

GROCERY

- Select Varieties, 15.5 oz. Red Gold Salsa **2/\$3.00**
- Irresistible Toilet Paper or Paper Towel **\$3.99**
- Skippy, 16.3 oz. Creamy or Chunky Peanut Butter **2/\$3.50**

DELI

- Whole Rotisserie Chicken **\$6.99** ea.
- Mustard Potato Salad **\$3.99** lb.

DAIRY

- Kemps, Half Gallons True Moo Chocolate **2/\$5.00**
- Kemps, Gallons Orange Juice **\$5.49**
- Kemps, UHT, Half Pints or 6.5 oz. Aerosol Whip Cream.. **2/\$4.00**

FROZEN

- Marie's, 13 oz. Italian Fest Frozen Pasta **\$2.50**

LIQUOR

- 1.75 Liter Canadian Mist Whiskey **\$14.99**
- 1.75 Liter Cherry or Raspberry UV Vodka **\$13.99**
- 1.75 Liter Jack Daniels Whiskey **\$35.99**

BAKERY

- 6 ct. Brat Buns **2/\$5.00**

Dave's County Market

WE VALUE FRESH WE VALUE FAMILY WE VALUE YOU!



Sale
Prices good through Tuesday, July 5, 2022. We have the right to limit quantities and correct printing errors. No sales to dealers. **SORRY, NO RAIN CHECKS. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.**

Monday - Sunday • 5 am - 11 pm
300 E. 1ST ST., MERRILL
715-536-2571

Check Out Our Website at: www.DavesCountyMarketMerrill.com



DINNER @ FIVE
A COMMUNITY TABLE AT SAINT STEPHENS

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

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

Monday, July 4th Menu:
NO DINNER ON JULY 4TH.

ZURKO'S SUPER HOLIDAY FLEA MARKETS

FRIDAY - July 1
~ANTIGO~ FAIRGROUNDS

SAT & SUN - July 2 & 3
SHAWANO FAIRGROUNDS

Hours: 7 am - 4 pm / \$2 • Treasures!
www.zurkopromotions.com
VENDORS WELCOME • 715-526-9769

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

SHOW TIMES EFFECTIVE 7/1/22 TO 7/7/22
Mondays All Seats \$5.00

MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU
"PG" (1HR 27MIN)
FRIDAY: 1:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00 & 9:00PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM
TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM

ELVIS
"PG13" (2HR 39MIN)
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM
TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM

LIGHTYEAR
"PG" (1HR 40MIN)
FRIDAY: 1:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00 & 9:00PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM
TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM

www.cosmomovies.com
715-536-4473

Plautz's Pub LLC.

310 E. 2nd St., Merrill
715-536-4611

HOURS
MON. - FRI. Noon - Close
SAT. 4pm - Close
SUN. Noon - Close

JULY BOOZE OF THE MONTH
SUMMER HUMMERS
\$4.50 - 16 oz. Pint

JULY SPECIAL
CARBLISS BUCKET SPECIAL
MIX & MATCH ANY FLAVOR
5/\$20

LOOKING FOR BARTENDERS
NIGHTS & WEEKENDS FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

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

DINNER SPECIALS JULY
TUESDAY NIGHTS
JULY 5TH - LIVER & ONIONS
JULY 12TH - PRESSURE FRIED CHICKEN
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

FRIDAY NIGHTS
JULY 1ST - BREADED SCALLOPS
JULY 8TH - SHRIMP
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
CLIP-N-SAVE

CARRYOUT AVAILABLE
• MONDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
• LUNCH AVAILABLE: TUES. & FRI. 11am-2pm WED. & THURS. 11am-8pm
Specials • Fish Fries • Homemade Soup
• DINNER MENU: TUES. 4-8pm & FRI. 4-8pm
• SATURDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
• SUNDAY: Bar Open From 11am-7pm
Visit our Website! 584.localfoewi.com
HAPPY HOUR: TUESDAY-THURSDAY • 3-6PM

Now opening Mondays 11am for lunch • New menu items

Stop in for our Amazing Saturday Prime Rib Special!

Open at 11am Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat. & Sun.
Closed Tues. • Open at 3pm Wed.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
601 Johnson St., Merrill
715-536-5708

NORTHWOODS VETERANS POST
PUB 1638

NOW HIRING! P/T - KITCHEN, WAIT STAFF • BARTENDERS

S&S BAR
418 Grand Ave., Merrill

Open Daily 9 am - Close

THIS WEEK'S DRINK SPECIAL:
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS BRANDY
\$4 PINT MIXERS;
\$2 TUB MIXERS; \$2 SHOTS

Low carry out prices on Booze, Beer & Ice

Hall Rental Available • 715-536-4664

B'S NEST

Come in Friday, July 1st
Celebrating 6 mo. in business
Live Music 7-10pm
J-me Baptist

Bar hours:
Monday 2-9
Tuesday-Thursday 11-9
Friday and Saturday 11-11
Sunday 11-7

Serving Brick Fire Pizza
Saturday 4-9pm
July 2nd
Kitchen closed Sunday

1404 West Main Street • 715-722-1211

Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

Spiderhead

(Now streaming on Netflix)

★☆☆☆☆

This film is rated R – for language, violence, sexual situations, and for making the assumption that the viewer is an idiot

Wow, just wow, folks! I have seen some stinkers – some I have even warned you off of, but *Spiderhead* really takes the cake.

Gleaning its title from an experimental prison facility, *Spiderhead* is a film that just goes there. Where, there? Where “there” may be, I have no idea, because following this incomprehensible mess takes more brain power than I possess.

Somewhere lost in the mess that is this film is a thin story line about

a mad pharmaceutical executive experimenting on prisoners with a series of drugs that make them either unbelievable hungry, very violent, self-loathing, or shall we say, very, very randy (if you know what I mean).

Meanwhile, we – the viewers – begin to get a sinking feeling that it may well be us being experimented on: Will we turn it off? Will we watch until the end? Who knows? ... Wait, I do. I watched this entire clunker, but fear not, I am here to save you from the torment I suffered.

Fair warning, this movie is now streaming on Netflix and stars Chris Hemsworth (Thor in the *Marvel* universe) and that is how they get ya. Big star, cool trailer, but bad movie. Very bad.

I have nothing else to say about this one except it does have a great soundtrack, and that’s why it got



one star instead of no stars out of five stars.

One star, folks. One. Avoid this mess with the greatest of intent.

Connexus Credit Union donates \$15,000 to HAVEN

Connexus Credit Union of Wausau, through their philanthropic program, Connexus Cares, recently donated \$15,000 to HAVEN, Inc. of Merrill.

HAVEN, Inc. is a Merrill shelter dedicated to serving those who have been impacted by abuse and violence, such as domestic and dating abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, sexual abuse and assault, and human trafficking. Services include a 24-hour phone line, advocacy, peer counseling, information and referrals, temporary shelter when needed, and support groups. The \$15,000 donation has been designated to the area of greatest need.

“HAVEN is extremely honored to receive financial support from foundations like Connexus Cares. We



Pictured: Staff from HAVEN Inc.; Boyd Gustke (center back), Connexus Credit Union; and Bailey Sleeper (far right), Connexus Credit Union.

Submitted photo.

will continue to provide hope and healing to survivors experiencing interpersonal abuse along with promoting a healthy future through education and collaboration with com-

munity partners,” said Kim West, Executive Director for HAVEN Inc. “Your ongoing support is what makes the difference. Thank you!”

“The need for a place to take shelter away from unsafe living conditions is a real concern in the Merrill community, and as one of our neighbors, Connexus Cares made the recent \$15,000 donation to HAVEN because of their work to create stability and improve the quality of life for local families,” said Boyd Gustke, Connexus President & Chief Executive Officer. “We believe this donation can help individuals and families take the next step to rebuild their lives by providing consistent and reliable support. Together, we can make a difference in the great city of Merrill.”

SMOKE SHOP from page 6

dispensary at some point, I’ll settle for being the guy selling the gold miners picks and shovels during the gold rush, so to speak,” Aumend said.

“For now, there are loopholes and grey areas in the hemp laws, and we are going to remain 100% compliant, but we have spoken with the City, and we have every intent to take advantage of those loopholes until they change.”

Business is doing better than expected

“The 710 is doing amazing and way better than expected this early in the game, especially considering we’ve moved locations six months into doing business,” Aumend said.

“You would never know by looking at our sales trends.”

“I think we only did a couple hundred dollars in sales the first couple months,” he said, but not long after moving to his new location, he had \$15,000 in sales three months consecutively.

“The Merrill community has really welcomed us with open arms,” Aumend said. “We have a ton of regular customers that frequent the place, and those who aren’t in often are happy that we’re saving them a 30-minute drive to Wausau.”

“So far it seems to be a very beneficial relationship for both us and the Merrill community,” he said.

A laid back kind of business

“I think at least one of my favorite things about running this business, in particular, is that people expect us to be laid back and comfortable,” Aumend said. “There is no fake customer service smile or voice with us. We legit get to wake up everyday, dress however we want, and then go sit around and talk to people about getting high all day.”

“Its not exactly a high stress environment, and if we don’t know something, we can simply say that,” he said.

“I don’t know that there is anything special about our store other than the fact that we are the first ones to do it in Merrill without trying to be quiet about it,” Aumend said.

“We understand that there are some criticisms and other things surrounding the industry, so we really believe that if we’re the first ones to do it in the area, we treat people right so they know we’re doing good business, and we do it all through the right channels and remain compliant, then the sky is truly the limit for us as a business.”

Of course, every business has some challenges

“The hardest thing is the constant updating and changing rules and regulations around the tobacco, vape, hemp, and cannabis laws,” Aumend said when asked about the most challenging thing of running his business.

And “the shipping companies’ constant modifications to keep up and our adjustments to those, along with staying familiar with the ever-changing Pact ACT,” he said.

Regardless of the challenges, Aumend is focused on maintaining and growing a steady business for the present and with an eye toward the future, and his business filled a vacant storefront on Prospect St. where he felt welcome. He’s happy to be building his life and his business in the Merrill community.

www.merrillfotonews.com

Pet of the Week



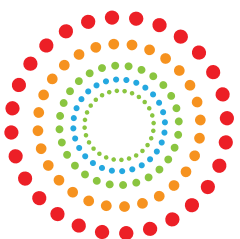
Sheldon came to the shelter as a stray in pretty rough shape. After spending some time in our med room being pampered by his shelter staff **Sheldon** has made his way to the adoption floor. He is super sweet but will probably do best in a quiet, relaxed home with no small children. **Sheldon's** adoption fee includes his neuter, up to date vaccinations and microchip.

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Rummage Sales This Week 7200
Schwoch Annual Sale: Machine shed full - barn wood, hand hewn beams, barn antiques, tools, motor mount, like new clothing, new 215/50R-17 tires, like new grills, old cupboards, Old marble slabs, Misc. furniture, etc. N1850 Highway 17, Merrill. 6/30, 7/1 & 2, 8-5.

Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202
Huge Sale: July 7-8-9 8am-5pm Large Inventory of fishing items, fishing stands, trailer stands, tools, antiques 164963 Hwy 52, Wausau. 2 miles east of Nutterville 715-432-9052

Thursday 6/23, Friday 6/24 and Saturday 6/25. 8 am - 4 pm. Antiques, furniture, Antique Full-size Bedroom set, Home and Kitchen goods, Home decor. 247351 Cty Rd W Merrill.

Flea Markets 7210
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PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE
Price County Health and Human Services Department

Price County is accepting applications for the position of **Public Health Nurse**. This is a professional position within the Public Health Unit of the Price County Health and Human Services Department. Work is focused on population-based as well as individual services and is guided by standards and principles of Public Health Nursing practice. Work focuses on clinic and community-based health assessments and health maintenance services, assisting individuals, families and the community to understand health needs with an emphasis on disease prevention and health maintenance. Position has extensive contact with the public, other service providers in the community and other employees in the department. Position functions are performed in an office, client home, and community setting. Position is under the direct supervision of the Public Health Unit Manager/Health Officer and the general supervision of the Health and Human Services Director.

This is a full-time, non-exempt position with a starting hourly rate of **\$24.65**, and full benefit package. Benefits include Wisconsin Retirement System with employer match, health insurance (up to 90% of the premium paid by employer) with employer HRA reimbursement, 10 days of vacation after 3 months, 10 paid holidays, paid sick leave, employee lifestyle enhancement perk, and paid maternity/paternity leave. Dental/vision, flex spending, WI Deferred Comp, life, short-term disability, accident, and cancer/critical illness coverages are available. A full description of minimum requirements and application instructions can be found on the Price County website's employment opportunities page at www.co.price.wi.us, by emailing a request to hroffice@co.price.wi.us or by calling 715-339-5131.

Completed applications must be received by the Price County Office of Administration no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

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Jennifer Ingman celebrated her birthday on June 14. Her husband surprised her with a visit to the shelter AND a truck load of supplies for the animals calling the Lincoln County Humane Society their temporary home in honor of her birthday. "Jennifer was so excited to support a good cause on her special day since she's always been a huge animal lover," said Liz Friedenfels of LCHS. "Happy Birthday, Jennifer!"
Submitted photo.

LCHS Honorariums

The Lincoln County Humane Society would also like to thank everyone who donated in honor of a loved one from January-April 2022:

Patricia "Pat" Woller by Nancy Kasper, Jane Chapleau, Matt & Kim Leder, Lisa & Jeffrey Viegut, Rhonda & Christopher Nowak, Susan McKinney, Julie Chartier, Andrew & Krista Zelinski, Sandra & Gerald Weber, Fred & Karen Bruckert, Dan Woller, Thomas & Marsha Peterson, Carl & Mary Moscherosch, Christine Moravec, Anonymous, and Nancy Kasper; Betty White by Gale Wolff, Kristin Van Der Geest, Marlene Kirk, Anonymous, Ronald & Beth Kautz, Nadine Appel, Barb Ament, Deena Rathbun, Jane Schulz, Brian & Peggy Morren, Barbara Dalsky Dern, Dawn & William Folta, Denise & James Humphrey, Carl Bergman & Deborah Ristau, Nichole Miller, Laura Norton, Norman & Cheryl Moeller, Matt Burish, Judy Hall, Renee Meyer, Ursula & Michael Stearns, Kevin Podeweltz, Paul Miller, Tabitha Krueger, Pamela Asche, John & Kristi & Jack & Ryan Zentner, Debbie Starnes, Larissa Crawford, Lisa Petrack, Kaelyn Stafford, Heath Garihee, Shannon Staskiewicz, Jeanne Binder, Tara Burkhart, George Schroeder, Tiffany Hansen, Melanie Lepak, Mary Emma Parks, Sam Yeskis-West, Julie Stevenson, SuAnn Pagel-Rast, Denise Rehwinkel, Debbie Huber, Wendy Knospe, Renee Luedtke, Dianne Belling, Nancy Kasper, Linda & Alan Tetzloff, Carol Wyma, Kristine Ziegler, Linda Weege, Scott & Alicia Gomoll, Bob's Mowing Service, Daniel & Jane Schuller, Michael & Carrie Baumgart, Jim & Pat Brimacombe, Mark & Catherine Krupinski, Troy & Heather Brownell, Ingrid Erickson, Peggy Jaeger, Lyle & Cindy Dahlke, David & Dorothy Jorgensen, Karen Lynch, Rick & Judith Lombard, Michael & Nancy Specht, Elizabeth Olmstead McBride, Scott & Linda Doerr, Lawrence & Ruby Schoone, Greg Eichelkraut & Linda Becker, Lynn Little, John Loesel, Kathryn & Lylas Oestreich, John Loesel, and Lynn Little; Benny the cat by Noreen Salzman; Adam Smith by Polly Polak, Lisa & Steve Hass, and Todd & Angelia Johnson; Gordy Jaworski by Laurie & John Gering; Delores Burrow by Grant Peterson, Judy Lokemoen, Todd & Angelia Johnson, Mike Waszkiewicz & Theresa Stiernagli, Patti & Brian Knetter, Toby & Julie Teschmer, Anonymous, Jane Schulz, Marlene Graap, Dawn & William Folta, Denise & James Humphrey, Ingrid Erickson, Cal & Jacqueline Forsberg, Michael & Joy Burrows, Carl Bergman & Deborah Ristau, Dean & Debra Lemke, and Judith Wery; Veronica "Boots" Zwirchitz by Jeri Kavanaugh, Glen & Mary Raddatz, Rich & Jane Poirier, Stephen & Linda Blake, and Julie & Alan Coss; William Heideman by Anonymous; Deanna Koebe by Mike & Vonya Ellsworth and Todd & Angelia Johnson; Sarah Kastner-Warren by Gwen Schmidt; Mr. Higgins by Barb Ament; Johanna Osnes Hoerstmann's Birthday by Julie Ossness Thorson; Tilly by Larisa & William Millis; Gloria by Laurie Bergh; Jo Lee Wendt by Victor Ledesma; Kristine Anderson by Charmaine Hamilton; Annie by Renee Luedtke; Ruth Wengeler by Dianne Belling; Gertrude Lamphier by Kristine Ziegler; Briggs by Scott & Alicia Gomoll; Robert & Signa Lambrech by Julie & Alan Coss; Mrs. Nierode by Julie & Alan Coss; Riley Kurtz by Andrew & Jennifer Bonnell; Art Ahlgrim by William Hudson; Wanda's Birthday by Kathryn & Lylas Oestreich; Esther Dittmar by Beverly Dietz and Larry & Lois Woller; Harold Hopp by Larry & Lois Woller, Jean & Joe Folta, and Jason & Deana Jankowsky; and Michigan the bearded dragon by Angel Heineman.

Esther Dittmar by Darlene Mattson, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Scott & Linda Doerr; Rose Bolling by Alger & Connie Julson, David Julson, Friends of the Family, Greenheck Employees, Beverly Dietz, Gloria Wagener, Cathy Mueller, Kim Borchardt, Jennifer & Matthew Herbert, Barbara & Daniel Adams; Chester the cat by Diane Erickson; Harold Hopp by Jerry & Diana Petruzates, Linda Weege, Kristine Smith, Chipper & Sandy Mosser, Louis & Vernetta Heuser; Patricia Woller by Dave & Rita Bonnell, Nancy Kasper, Shirley Mae Engel; Sarah Kastner-Warren by Robert & Diane Zwieg; Delores Burrow by Timothy Burrow; Dawn Sus by American Legion; Lorraine Litzer by Amy & Jeremy Krueger; Donna Thompson by Ivan & Terry Pick; Betty White by John & Julie Shelley, Mark & Barbara Crapster-Pregont, Cynthia Prueser; Carol Engel by Shirley Mae Engel; Edward Leavitt by USW Local 2-631; JoLee Wendt by Patrick & Jane Severt; Donna Thompson by Rick Ament, Penny Callahan, Erin McCarthy, Thursday Night Pool Team, John & Maureen Hick, Jack & Cyndi Baguhn, Michael & Nancy Specht, S.K. Beveridge; Robert "Bob" Kultgen by Nancy Kasper, Lester Jones, Dave & Linda Voelz; Darren "Burd" Burdock by Family & Friends; Marlene Aschbrenner by Diane Thompson, Steve & Jennifer Noto, Friends & Family; Linda Schmidt by Sean Palenik; Ava (the Radloff's Great Dane) by Tom & Linda Tompach; Donald Ashby by Todd & Angelia Johnson; Ellen Gilliard by Aimee Knospe; Donald Klebenew by Robert & Cynthia Koehler; and Tim Rossi by Thomas Rossi.

Rose Bolling by friends & family; Bob Kultgen by Cherie Kultgen, Wayne & Kathleen Bruno, Energenecs, Inc., Scott & Julie Olund, Mary & David Absey; Patricia Woller by Jeffrey Heath; Judy Locke by Colleen Woller & Liz Friedenfels, friends & family; Sally Tupa's Birthday by Lora Reichelt; Terri Babcock by Richard Denny, W.L. & Mary Fisher; Harold Hopp by Sandra Oestreich, T.L. & B.J. Wardall, John & Joyce Lee, Anthony Baumann; Bill Frazier by Sherry Frazier; Ralph Voigt by Gerald & Dawn Schmidt, friends & family; Lester Leavitt by Janice Fredrickson, Roger Plautz, Edward Smola, Barbara Neumann, Barbara Burger, Marshall Wiedeman, Brian & Vietta Leavitt, Dianne Belling, Richard & Jean Olson; Roger Meunier by Jolene Callahan, Mathew Boyle, W.L. & Mary Fisher, Karen Caylor, Penny Callahan, Diane Belter; Robert Jensen by Robert & Corliss Jensen; Lydia the dog by Scott & Julie Olund; Chloe the dog, beloved dog of Greg & Amanda Hildgendorf by Gary & Joan Hildgendorf; and Sarah Kitchen-Lange by Paige Sanders.

Gary Smith by Gerald & Dawn Schmidt; Don Ashby by Bonnie Ashby & Family; Darlene Graap by Mike & Vonya Ellsworth, Bonny & Donny Graap; Lester Leavitt by Carol Leavitt, Edward Gruett, Richard & Becky Lokemoen, Kris & Jim Lokemoen, David & Cynthia Lambrecht, Dawn Mork, Michele & Richard Moyer; Sarah Kitchen Lange by Arnold Lange, Frederic & Heidrun Lefferts, Gregory Hinz, William & Kathleen Wulf, Kevin & Tammy Cohrs, Emily Edmund & Mary Lutzke, Barbara Rambo-Hartley, Dennis & Gail Abegglen, Gary & Holly Rauen, Nancy Dabbert, Linda Stevens, Paul & Karen Cournaya, Steven Lange; Judy Esser by Stephen & Linda Blake, Robert Snowden Ficks & Mary Briggs Ficks, Darrel & Melissa Dengel, Bonny & Donny Graap, Nicole Marcell, Barb Cummings, Carrie Vanden Boom, Darla Sann-Koenig & Tim Koenig, Scott Gilbertson Family & Friends; Ralph Voigt by Maxine & Jay Tlusty; Judith Elliott by Deb Richardson; George Foehringer by Julie & Alan Coss; Kathy (Kat) Simon by Julie & Alan Coss; Roger Meunier by Janet Beyer-Thums; Pat Myers by Ingrid Erickson; Rick Osness by Carol Osness; Dolores Lonsdorf by Laurie Lonsdorf; Betty White by Brenda Mueller; Don Simpson by Kimberly Fullerton; Barbara Nordall by Jane Hart; Mommy (the cat) by Beatrice Lebal; Bette Baumann by Stephen & Eunice Mann; Marlene Aschbrenner by Shopko Optical Team 79; Gary Juedes by Michael & Joy Burrows; Ann Bauer by Julie & Alan Coss; Bob Jensen by Thayer & Judith Davis; Alex & Max by Peggy & Bob Bauman; Hilda Bukovic by Peggy & Bob Bauman, Bonnie Pophal, Gary & Patti Stickler; and Norris Hattlestad by Linda Hattlestad.

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

Area students named to 2022 UW-Oshkosh Dean's List, Honor Roll

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh released the names of students who qualified for the Dean's List and Honor Roll in Spring 2022 across its three campuses (Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Oshkosh). The term grade-point average (GPA) requirement for University Honor Roll is 3.3; the term GPA requirement for Dean's List is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0. To qualify, a student must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. There can be no individual grades below a "C" and no incomplete or non-reported grades at the time the process is run.

- Kenya Kaldunski, Athens, Dean's List
- Kamille Ament, Merrill, Dean's List
- Jordyn Henrich, Merrill, Dean's List
- Elizabeth Iribarren, Merrill, Honor Roll
- Dana Kalepp, Merrill, Honor Roll
- Taylor Korman, Merrill, Dean's List
- Kate Steckbauer, Merrill, Honor Roll
- Quinn Steckbauer, Merrill, Dean's List
- Molly Weix, Merrill, Dean's List

Area students named to Dean's List for spring semester at UW-Eau Claire

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire announces the names of area students named to the Spring 2022 Dean's List. Eligibility criteria can be found online at: <https://www.uwec.edu/news/news/spring-2022-dean-s-list-5200/>.

- Kole Kaldunski, Athens, College of Business
- Kaitlyn Riehle, Athens, College of Business
- Michael Casper, Merrill, College of Arts and Sciences
- Gina Graveen, Merrill, College of Education & Human Sciences
- Alicia Humphrey, Merrill, College of Education & Human Sciences
- Emma Jaeger, Merrill, College of Arts and Sciences
- Jordyn Londerville, Merrill, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- Madisen Weix, Merrill, College of Education & Human Sciences
- Gwenyth Wheat, Merrill, College of Arts and Sciences

Prairie River Middle School 2021-2022 fourth quarter Honor Roll

FIFTH GRADE
Gold: 4.00
 Jaxson Ames, Alle Bergh, Ella Bergh, Brianna Boyd, Ella Burrow, Keira Clerveaux, Aaron Collinsworth, Bethany Crockford, Alexandria Derizzo, Areya Franklin, Moses Gates, Autumn Genisot, Jameson Gerdes, Jaedyn Goetsch, Cassandra Johnson, Andrew Josiger, Mara Kautzer, Willett Knospe, Mathew Mueller, Payge Osness, Kelsey Pankow, Korbet Ravn, Cadence Stutting, Luke Wegner

Silver: 3.750-3.999
 William Chula, Madilynn Geiss, Ella Glisch, Lenoira Kent, Abigail Parks, Makaylynn Roehl, Kinzie Stevenson, Nicole Zeinert

Bronze: 3.50-3.749
 Calleigh Berlik, Darby Bonnell, Henry Chrudimsky, Wil Detert, Lydia Faber, Emma Hempel, Kyla Hoffman, Brody Johnas, Raiyna Perez, Evalynn Robertsen, Easton Romatoski, Michael Schreiber, Robert Woller

SIXTH GRADE
Gold: 4.00
 Karmen Brietzke,

Kaleb Cook, Austin Doering, Brady Genisot, Caleb Gennrich, Shane Gibson, Danica Henning, Charlene Hunt, Noelle Iverson, Mylie Kufahl, Kylie Roberge, Brianna Schmirler, Adriana Schram, Broc Suchocki, Fletcher Talerico, Cameron Wszalek, Benjamin Zastrow

Silver: 3.750-3.999
 Madisyn Anderson, Brooklyn Bellin, Azalea Blake, Brooklyn Clabots, Megan Gustum, Lilee Haltinner, Mykenzie Hinz, Kylee Hoffman, Haley Hoock, Connor Josiger, Avery Kolinski, Claire Kufahl, Finlee Lange-Peronto, Annabelle Lee, Alexis Lonsdorf, Denver McCaskill, Karlee Ravn, Eliza Rogers, Jackson Roggenbuck, Ava Salter, Avalynn Schult, Nikolajs Schulz, Madeline Voigt, Natalia Woller

Bronze: 3.50-3.749
 Ian Asinas, Alana Brendemuehl, Elsie Burrows, Norah Elliott, Alexis Fehr, Tiberius Giese, Marie Hagemeister, Kane Hanson, Lexie Hass, Makayla Hill, Marihanna Hulce, Brodie

Isaacson, Ava Latzig, Jacey Lyon, Zander Meyer, Emmanuel Ollmann, Alina Savagian-Demoss, Jordan Scheuermann, Olivia Schmidt, Preston Schmidt, Jennavecia Staehle, Leia Strey, Mikenna Vandeweerd, Tenley Weix, Vanessa Wolfe

SEVENTH GRADE
Gold: 4.00
 Zachary Bacon, Lily Berndt, Paige Byer, Marvin Downs, Maycee Eisner, Abigail Gauerke, Stuart Gehris, Erik Grunenwald, Xavier Hanke, Mackenzie Herdt, Shanna Herdt, Claire Hintz, Mya Meyer, Marielle Nass, Carlina Nebbergall, Evan Olson, Greta Peterson, Addison Pickard, Evyn Schmitz, Derek Schult, Deylah Schulz, Peyton Smith, Isabella Stutting, Charlotte Van Der Nest, Grace Wegner, Lauren Zuelsdorff

Silver: 3.750-3.999
 Josilynn Geiss, Reese Kaminski, Brody Klebenow, Izabella Klockow, Amara Lazare, Mark Marvin, William Miemietz, Colton Ruplinger, Layla Schmidt, Kayleigh Strey

Bronze: 3.50-3.749
 Allyson Boquist, Jayden Graap, Davin Harder, Trenton Klimek, Danika Kuehl, Marissa Miles, Jackson Millard, Elayna Olson, Tyson Ott, Jackson Pierce, Vanessa Pintor, Grace Reimann

EIGHTH GRADE
Gold: 4.00
 Kaylynn Allen, Jackson Brown, Adison Clark, Kaela Clerveaux, James Crockford, Rose Dornbrack, Addelyn Elliott, Avery Frisch, Sylvia Hanson, Grace Hoock, Mariah Hulce, Brenna Jirovec, Kamryn Klade, Hannah Klinger, Isabella Kottke, Korina Kraegenbrink, Danica Lipke, Maria Malinowski, Jenna Maluege, Haakon Murphy, Orion Pillai, Violet Radtke, Colton Smith, Parker Wagenaar, Emily Winter

Silver: 3.750-3.999
 Adayln Blake, Caroline Durbin, Hazeley Gates, Joshua Gustum, Addison Jirovec, Farije Kiskoski, Brynlynn McCaskill, Kalyn

See HONOR ROLL page 20

Merrill High School 4th Quarter Honor Roll 2021-2022

GRADE 9
Highest Honors (4.0)
 Max Black, Johanna Dahlke, Lily Dallman, Austin Depies, Elizabeth Herdt, Olivia Pajtash, Sarah Rell, Haley Rindt, Mia Smith, Benjamin Thom, Daniel Vaughn, Amelia White, Merin Yates.

High Honors (3.75-3.99)
 Irene Blennert, Anna Hintz, Chase Klebenow, Parker Klebenow, Katelyn Klimek, Caden Lemmer, Lacie Sczygelski.

Honors (3.5-3.74)
 Anton Countryman, Ava Detert, Kellen Duerkop, Mackenzie Ellenbecker, Kaiden Henrich, KaytlynHulke, Janna Jacobson, Maddox Lammerding, Aiden Lonsdorf, Noah Moore, Maya Paulus, Micah Plautz, PrincetenPyan, Sara Ross, Danielle Schielke, Jacob Schmeltzer, Jake Schwandt, Takiyah Sell, Matthew Spear-Frick, Emil Weix, Ahna Wilde, Brock Wilson.

GRADE 10
Highest Honors (4.0)
 Anna Bowe, Chase Brantner, MalaynieDengel, Elexa Emmer, Anna Florez, Abigail Gutenberger, Anthony Hanse, Linzee Hixon, Avery Hoff, Daniel Hogenmiller, Brooklyn Kraegenbrink, Chloe Malinowski, Chloe McRae, McKenna Meyer, Sebastian Ollmann, CainaOrzech, Savannah Orzech, Madison Ott, Mia Ott, Olivia Pierce, Michael Quong, Alexis Rogers, Katelyn Schult, Sophie Wendorf, Isabel Wendt, Macy Wienke, Gracie Wyma.

High Honors (3.75-3.99)
 Olivia Dzwonkowski, Clayton Evans, Bobbi Gerbig, Emma Hoff, Allison Hoock, Emerson Iwen, Regena Lahti, Erik Mann, Kaiden Ratzlaff, Carson

Schmitz, Dylan Smith, Nora Trojanowski, Kayli Wirtala.

Honors (3.5-3.74)
 Chloe Belant, Gabriel Durbin, Grace Faber, Nevaeh Hendrickson, Brody Lange, Bridger Lemmon, Alexis Ollhoff, Emily Schilken, JalieSevert, Alayna Wyland.

GRADE 11
Highest Honors (4.0)
 Jaxson Banser, Olivia Cordova, Ryder Depies, Carla Higgins, Tayler Neal, Jaiden Pillai, Isaiah Rell, Addison Schmeltzer, Greta Scomazzoni, Spencer Smith, Amber Winter, Dafney Yates.

High Honors (3.75-3.99)
 Jolene Bentz, Lauren Cohrs, BreannonHerdt, Samuel Holzinger, Jessica Leander, Morgan Polacek, Brendan Schultz, Olivia Troyer, Madison Van DerGeest.

Honors (3.5-3.74)
 Jaylen Anderson, Branden Brandenburg, Nathan Brzozowski, Lydia Burrows, Madison Crossman, Arin Dettmering, Summit Hoyt, Erin Kreamsreiter, Alana Polak, Alayna Pozorski, Trenton Pozorski, Ian Schuetze, Drew Semling, Hunter Stadler, Macey Jo Weix.

GRADE 12
Highest Honors (4.0)
 Emma Boquist, Kierra Boyd, Cali Brown, Decilyn Clark, Molly Dallman, Fletcher Ellenbecker, Brandon Ellerman, Andrew Gille, Angela Hinner, Evan Jaeger, Grace Koehler,

Felicia Mayfield, Michael McRae, Bailey Orzech, Emma Pajtash, Tanaya Pillai, Anna Schlegel, Elizabeth Schmidt, Claire Schultz, Grace Schultz, Isaiah Scott, Amelia Skoviera, McKenna Smith, Ashton Voermans, Anthony Vogel, Tessa Wheat, Tyler Wieloch, Taylor Zastrow, Laney Zuelsdorff.

High Honors (3.75-3.99)
 Samuel Bennett, Damien Benzinger, Tristan Brewington, Kayla Burrow, Madalia Burrows, Jackson DeJong, Lauren Duginski, Hannah Glaza, Marissa Hoffman, Cordelia Jaeger, Danyelle Kottke, Madison Malm, TelinaMarmorat, Lydia McIntyre, Andrew Moyer, Zoey Parrett, Jonnie Pierschalla-Zastrow, Megan Proulx, Ariana Raddatz, Kayoda Raddatz, Melony Rampart, AlynnRenzelmann, Brennan Schneider, Olivia Stevenson, Eric Stolz, Levon Van Der Geest, Darrin Wiederhoeft.

Honors (3.5-3.74)
 Brenna Allen, Anika Bartz, Wyatt Bathke, Annie Becker, Danielle Broesch, Ayden Brown, Sarah Crockford, Nicole Doering, Caitlyn Geiss, Cory Gigl, Emily Hintz, Callen Hoepfner, Jack Hoock, Carter Jensen, Samuel Johns, JerrickKonyn, Danielle Korman, Elizabeth Leander, Jordyn Leopold, Jacob Lueck, Emma Marlowe, Paige Plautz, GavenReindl, Daniel Ricci, Brenna Steinagal, Isaac Stevenson, Evalina Zavala.

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St. Francis Xavier Catholic School announces 2021-2022 fourth quarter Honor Roll

HIGHEST HONORS 3.75 - 4.00
 Theodore Johnson (4.0)
 Robert Hoffman (4.0)
 Samantha Homan
 Raphael Gerbig
 Kaylana Vickery
 Emily Raymer
 Lilly Hoffman

Hannah Rell (4.0)
High Honors 3.50 - 3.749
 Jacob Shimel
 Cecilia Gerbig
 Louisa Fleischman
Honors 3.25 - 3.499
 Owen Meehean

Slater Kalenske
 Lauren Hoffman
Honor Roll 3.00 - 3.249
 Joseph Ruffi
 Max Kuhn
 Michael Creel
 Matthew Burkhardt
 Anthony Galella

Congress just delivered major postal reform legislation, so why is the US Postal Service ignoring it?

BY KEVIN YODER

After the massive mail slowdowns and postage hikes of 2021, Congress took action to financially stabilize the U.S. Postal Service by passing a historic, bipartisan postal reform bill. The bill freed the Postal Service from an unreasonable 2006 law demanding that it pre-fund retiree health benefits 75 years in advance—a requirement that put billions of dollars on the Postal Service's balance sheet each year and motivated it to keep hiking postage rates while reducing services.

Congress passed the 2022 postal reform legislation with the intent to strengthen this critical service and help the Postal Service avoid additional large rate increases and service cutbacks. However, Postal Service

leadership has seemingly decided to stamp Congress's message "return to sender."

The very same day President Biden signed the monumental postal reform legislation, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy announced his plans to increase postage prices at an "uncomfortable rate" for some time to come. Specifically, DeJoy and the Postal Board of Governors intend to increase stamp prices again in July, again next January, and as often as twice each year after that. And they can, thanks to a recent Postal Regulatory Commission ruling giving DeJoy the power to initiate postage rates that outpace inflation.

In just a decade, Americans could be paying well over \$1 to mail a single letter. Unless Congress takes action

again to hold the Postal Service accountable, let's just say we should all be buying "Forever Stamps" while they are still somewhat affordable.

As a businessman and a fellow Republican, DeJoy should know that raising prices generates fewer customers and can lead to less revenue. The same holds true for unnecessary postage increases. They will not only deter individuals from using the mail, but will also drive away businesses, newspapers, nonprofits, and charities—all of which generate more than half of all postal revenues.

The Postal Service already anticipates losing 42% of mail volume over the next decade, driven partly by

See **POSTAL SERVICE** page 20

LCHS donors

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank the following donors for their support in December:

Laura Lussier-Lee; Meghan Stevenson; Ken & Sally Tupa; Angela Schellenberger; The Benevity Community Impact Fund; Michael & Tracy Gengalo; Margo Pophal; Mary Bauman; Kayla Rohmeyer; Park City Credit Union; Robert Richards & Virginia Jach Richards; Monica Fenhaus; Larry & Julie Wenning; Patricia Oelke & Barbara Ringwelski; Darlene Raunio; Nadine Appel; Allen & Stephanie Ashbeck; Cecil Ballou; Rick Arall; Candice Jacobson; John Schaffer; Ruth James; Kelsey Coffman; John Kilgust & Vicki Leistikow; Church Mutual Insurance Company; D.C. Everest School - FCCLA Club; Cris Luebbe; Edward Gruett; Rick & Judith Lombard; Jeffery Jaeger; Kent Rinne; AmazonSmile; Janet Selnes; Pamela Welch; Edward Raasch; Richard Serafin; Riverside Athletic Club - 10am Water Class; The Community; Nicole Johnson; Dick & Gay Baumgart; J.W. Austin Associates LLC; Roger Martens; Al & Jenny Miner; Susan Wokatsch; P. Lamontagne; Russell & Nancy Putnam; Ashley Ziegelbauer; Town of Tomahawk; Maureen Sanford; The Blackbaud Giving Fund; Dan Lara; Kendra Hawley; Louis & Vernet Heuser; Network for Good (facebook); G.D. & C.A. Wick; Larry & Joann Benzinger; Ivy Catlin; Divine Digits Much Kneaded Massage; Linda Semling Peterson Fund; James Blair; Sandra & William Lussenhop; Tasha Wassink; Sharayah Lee; Michael & Sally Young; Bethany & Ryan Martinovici; Amy Hameister; Health in Motion; Brandon DeSimons; David & Lora Reichelt; Michele Gryskiewicz; Greater Twin Cities United Way; Kenneth & Lois Britt; Richard & Brenda Mamer; Bonnie Kolar; Arnold Gennrich; David & Mary Brand; Mike & Vonya Ellsworth; Edward Locke; Joanne Marty; and Chad Jirovec.

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank the following donors for their support in January:

Meghan Stevenson; Kathleen Swope; Robert & Karen McDonald; J.F. & V.M. Romanski; Joanne Myre (John the Muffler Man, Inc.); Julane Schulist; Lawrence & Susan Wisen; Sandra & William Lussenhop; Karen Townsend; Richard & Marilyn Johnson; Cecil Ballou; Donna Schulz; Sue Mueller & Robert Brennan; Mary Jaax; Jeffrey & Debra Kiefer; Cherie & Andrew Krueger; Kerry Hass; Jane Elizabeth Parsons; Tomahawk Main Street; Kathy Healey; Nancy Kasper; Anonymous; Jeri Kavanaugh; Ruth James; The Benevity Community Impact Fund; Nadine Appel; Angeline Marquis; Red Eye Brewing Company; Cris Luebbe; Lynn Wisniewski; Darlene Raunio; Mary Leyk; Pamela Welch; Janet Selnes; Sarah Wolff; Debra Duncan; Lynn Stocksick; Paul Lockwood; Nora Craven; Roxanne VanDeWeerd; Scott Steele; Susan Stefanich; Ashley Hammon; Maya Sigl; Laura Ellenbecker; Norma Young; Shannon Kadlec; Veronica Vitler; Constance Semling; Jill Kasper Krueger; Bradley Teige; Debra Selnes; Kathleen George-Bol; Mark Schubring; Bridgette Hassel; Debra Calabrese; Therese Devine; Robyn Krueger; Matthew Rueth; David Leiskau; Kelly Jankowsky; Shirley Shook; Dan Lara; Kendra Hawley; Peggy Kautza; Liza Sternitzky; Stephanie Madden; Patricia Kloske; Barbara Gibson; Melody Callahan; E.M. & P.L. Berg; Borregaard USA, Inc; Bill Palubicki; Ivy Catlin; Rhonda Bacher; Sharayah Lee; Tasha Wassink; Paul & Michelle Werner; Mark & Janet Abell; Pledgeling Foundation; K. Krajenka; Amy Hameister; Sandra Shearier; Network for Good; Givinga Foundation, Inc; Bruce & Janis Krueger; Dennis Greffe; Kay & Rodney Berg; Barbara Dalsky Dern; Christina Bennington; Moments Foster Care; Emily Grams; and Kathy Cappel.

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank the following donors for their support in February:

Chip's Hamburgers; Meghan Stevenson; Lost Dogs of Wisconsin; Frontstream; Patrick Washburn; Timothy & Debra Martin; Cecil Ballou; Irene Faber; Trisha Skofronick; Ruth James; Linda Hudzinski; Sherri Pickett; Nadine Appel; Darlene Raunio; The Benevity Community Impact Fund; Ricky Ingersoll; Angeline Marquis; Courtney Kaiser; Rick & Judith Lombard; Janet Selnes; Pamela Welch; Dana & Michelle Sharp; Tomahawk Middle School Student Council; Misty Kreamsreiter; Kendra Hawley; Dan Lara; Joyce Johnson; Premier Touchless Drying System; Ivy Catlin; Abigail Miklaszewicz; Sara Crum Faber; Givinga Foundation, Inc.; Network for Good (facebook); Sharayah Lee; Tasha Wassink; ORS Impact; Faye Semling; Jane Parsons; Amy Hameister; Elaine Kryshak; Patricia Oelke; Dolores Slizewski; and Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club, Inc.

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank the following donors for their support in March:

Meghan Stevenson; Dean Barker (with a matching donation from Johnson & Johnson); Frontstream; Harley Davidson; Nadine Appel; Heidi Hock (with a matching donation from Michelle Sharp); Borregaard USA, Inc.; Michael and Tracy Gengalo; Cecil Ballou; The Community; Tina Larson; Keri Martin; Brent & Susan Nyberg; Ruth James; David Freed; Dawn Gourlie; Ricky Graap; Judy Hall; Kerry Hass; Candice Jacobson; Michael Kufahl; Mark Mesarch; John Schaffer; Linda Schuster; Diane Witscheber; Jerry & Susan Zastrow; Bonnie Kolar; Thomas & Heather O'Neill; Amazon Smile; S&S Bar; Blair Otterholt from Edward Jones through the Tomahawk Star Foundation, Inc.; The Benevity Community Impact Fund; Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club, Inc.; Karen Olson; Andrea Teske; Giving Foundation, Inc.; Russell & Nancy Putnam; Rick & Judith Lombard; Darlene Raunio; Janet Selnes; Pamela Welch; Katie Mierer; Rita Yaeger; Darla Sann & Tim Koenig's Wedding; James Schneider; Rose Lynd; Dan Lara; Kendra Hawley; Ivy Catlin; Heather Malueg; Patricia Oelke & Barbara Ringwelski; Joy Anderson; Colleen Sniezewski; Sharayah Lee; Tasha Wassink; Town of Schlay; Stacey Witucki; Mary Hofele; Paypal Giving Fund; Ashley Gass; Karen Elliott; Jane Parsons; and Amy Hameister.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

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The Merrill 10U traveling team goes back to back weekends winning the Championship. After winning their own tournament on June 10-12, they headed to Antigo on June 17-19 where they would win the Championship again. They defeated Antigo 19-0, then beat the Wausau sluggers 2-0, and beat Gladstone, MI. 4-3 in the finals. Pictured, L to R, first row: Ayden Adams, Shaban Kiskoski, James Cordova, Jack Seliger, and Oliver Kahr. Second row: Parker Simon, Charles Graap, Ben Schmeltzer, Cameron Thom, Colton VanLieshout, Taylor Timm, and Coaches Chris Simon, Tom Schmeltzer, Zach Schmeltzer, John VanLieshout, and Paul Timm. Submitted photo.

Merrill Baseball Hall of Fame to induct new members July 8

On July 8, 2022, Coach Tom Cornelius, player/contributor Kent Reinhardt, and player Steve Dahm will be added to the Merrill Baseball Hall of Fame at Merrill's Athletic Park. Their names will be engraved on the Hall of Fame plaque at Merrill's Athletic Park. The formal awards ceremony will take place at approximately 6:30 p.m., after the first of two games to be played at the

American Legion Baseball Invitational Tournament that night.

The 1976 and 1977 Merrill High School Bluejay Baseball Teams who competed in consecutive State Tournaments will also be honored. Members of those two teams are invited to come to be a part of this ceremony. All previous Hall of Fame inductees are also invited to come to be honored.

HONOR ROLL from page 18

Morris, Madison Robbins, Robin Schmidt, Preston Schuelke, Kaprice Strey, Ronan Vandeweerd
Bronze: 3.50-3.749
 Keylin Allen, Tori

Amelse, Liberty Berndt, Colton Burrows, Chase Charbarneau, Jayden Chase, Olivia Collinsworth, Brady Eggebrecht, Evan Elliott, Gracelee Gentile-Hull, Zoe Geurink, Tyler Goetsch, Ryleigh Golisch, Luke Gregor, Benjamin

Gruett, Xander Hanke, Claire Jirovec, Aiden Kell, Samara Kleinschmidt, Treg Knospe, Alex Koblitz, Aiden Koebe, Sophie Koehler, Peyton Kucirek, Jacob Mueller, Jace Olson, Patricia Priebe, Jacob Stetz-Schleif, Keegan Waliczek, Andrew Wilding



Held Tuesday, June 7, through Thursday, June 9, the 2022 Bluejay Baseball Camp had 60 players from grades 3-8 in attendance. Put on by the Merrill Bluejay coaching staff, the kids worked hard on fundamentals all three days and had a lot of fun, Merrill Varsity Boys Baseball Coach Shawn Schultz said. In this photo, grades 5-6.

Submitted photos.



Grades 3-4.



Grades 7-8.

2022 Merrill Summer Baseball Schedule

Merrill Rangers

Thursday, June 30	WI Rapids	Away	7:00 pm
Thursday, July 7	Everest	Home	7:00 pm

Merrill Post 46

Friday, July 1	WI Rapids	Away	7:00 pm
Tuesday, July 5	Plover	Away	7:00 pm
Wednesday, July 6	Marshfield	Home	8:00 pm

Junior Legion

Thursday, June 30	Medford (DH)	Away	6:00 pm
Friday, July 1	Marathon (DH)	Away	6:00 pm
Wednesday, July 6	Marshfield	Home	5:00 pm
Thursday, July 7	Antigo (DH)	Home	7:00 pm

Merrill 13U Jr. Babe Ruth-Blue

Tuesday, July 6	League Championships	Higher Seed Hosts	6:00 pm
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Merrill 13U Jr. Babe Ruth-White

Tuesday, July 6	League Championships	Higher Seed Hosts	6:00 pm
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The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



POSTAL SERVICE

from page 19

massive rate increases. Additional unnecessary postage hikes could lead to a huge loss in revenue that will jeopardize the survival of the Postal Service itself and its workforce of 650,000 Americans, many of whom are veterans.

Whether it brings something as special as a handwritten card or something as necessary as medication, the U.S. Postal Service is the only institution capable of going the last mile to reach, serve, and tangibly link every American. Some claim that private couriers like FedEx and UPS could replace the U.S. Postal Service, but that's simply not true.

The Postal Service is unique in that it's obligated to serve every American. It processes more than 425 million pieces of mail (not including packages) each day, delivering them to and from a staggering 163 million delivery points in all of the country's more than 41,000 zip

codes. The Postal Service goes the last mile, no matter how rural or remote the address—and that's something no private courier could, or would, do.

What can be done to right the ship? First and foremost, the recently passed postal reform legislation can't be ignored by Postal Service leaders. There are new members of the Board of Governors who should push to challenge DeJoy's plans. At the same time, the Postal Regulatory Commission needs to review the freedom it gave to the Postal Service to raise rates.

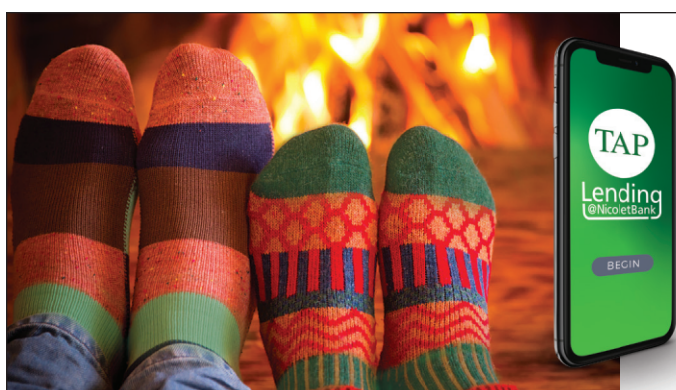
But if none of these things happen, Congress needs to step in and take action.

Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat will stop the Postal Service, but excessive rates and reduced service just might.

Former Congressman Kevin Yoder (R-Kan.) is executive director of Keep US Posted, an alliance consisting of consumer interests, newspapers, nonprofits, industry groups and businesses advocating for a strong, affordable, reliable Postal Service. This article was originally published by The Hill.

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