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## Local referendums on Nov. 8 ballot

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

Depending on precisely where residents live in Lincoln County or the Merrill area, one or more referendums may appear on their Nov. 8, 2022, ballots. Here are the issues on the ballot posed in the form of referendum questions that will affect some or all local residents.

**MAPS District Operational Referendum (MAPS District voters)**  
Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) is asking  
See **ELECTION** page 3

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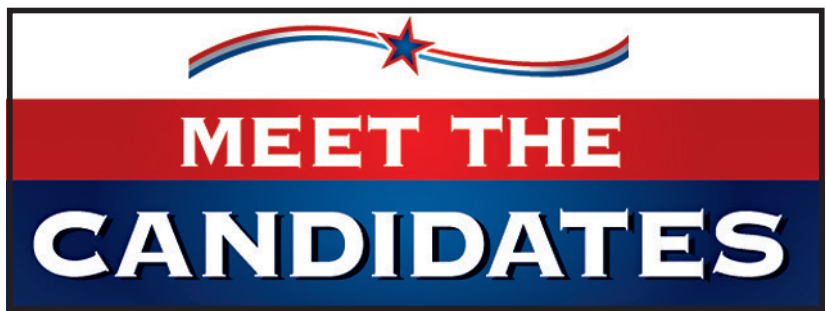
Costumed children and families converged on the parking lot at Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022, for Trunk or Treat festivities. Multiple churches in the area offered trunk or treating for community kids to have a safe, fun "trick or treating" experience during daylight hours over the weekend.  
**Joseph Frederick photos.**

## Local candidates in contested races for Sheriff, 35th Assembly District

Statewide, voters will elect Governor/Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and congressional legislators

TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

**Statewide races**  
On Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, voters will head to the polls to elect Wisconsin state Governor/Lieutenant Governor. Republican Tim Michels is challenging incumbent Democrat Tony Evers for the position of Governor.  
Voters will also choose between incumbent Democrat Josh Kaul and Republican challenger Eric Toney for Wisconsin Attorney General and between four candidates for Secretary of State: Doug La Follette (Democrat), Amy Lynn Loudonbeck (Republican), Neil Harmon (Libertarian), and Sharyl R. McFarland (Wisconsin Green



Party). The race for State Treasurer will be decided between Aaron Richardson (Democrat), John S. Leiber (Republican), and Andrew Zuelke (Constitution).  
Congressional Representatives are up for election. For U.S. Senate representing Wisconsin, incumbent Republican Ron Johnson is being challenged by Mandela Barnes (Democrat), and in the House of Representatives for the 7th Congressional District, Democrat Richard Ausman is challenging incumbent Republican Tom Tiffany.  
**Race for Lincoln County Sheriff**  
Three candidates are vying for the votes on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, in the race for Lincoln County Sheriff. Incumbent Ken Schneider, who won the Republican party Primary in

August, will face off on the ballot against Garrett Dinges, who is running as an Independent. A third candidate, Marlyn "Corky" Woodward is running as a Write-In Candidate.  
**SHERIFF KEN SCHNEIDER**  
(Incumbent, Republican)  
Age: 58  
Family: Four adult children, five grandchildren.  
Employment/position: Current Sheriff Lincoln County, employed at Lincoln County Sheriff's Office 32 years.  
Past or present elected offices held, dates served: Lincoln County Sheriff 2019 - present  
Membership in religious, service, fraternal, etc., clubs or organizations, and offices held,  
See **CANDIDATES** page 14

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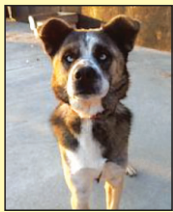
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# The future of Jefferson School

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**TINA L. SCOTT**  
EDITOR

As residents consider Merrill Area Public Schools operational referendum request for \$2.5 million per year for four years on the ballot for the second time in less than a year, some residents are wondering about the status and future of the Jefferson School building and property in Merrill's Sixth Ward.

Prior to the 2018 operational referendum that was on the ballot that year, MAPS developed a reconfiguration plan that would involve the closing of Maple Grove and Jefferson Schools, redistributing students among the other MAPS elementary schools, in the event that that referendum had failed. When it passed, many MAPS residents assumed the passing of the referendum secured the future of Maple Grove and Jefferson Schools. Temporarily, at least, it seemed it had.

But back in 2018, prior to the election that passed that referendum, then MAPS Superintendent John Sample had said that even if the referendum did

pass, the District would still make the necessary cuts to be fiscally responsible in the face of continued declining enrollment.

In March 2021, after legal battles with MAPS, resi-

have been largely unused, except for storage, very infrequent inservices or new teacher orientation, or professional development activities. There are no permanent or ongoing

the people that provided the greatest savings in closing the school, he said.

Driving past the property, it looks like the property is still being used as a school. "As it should," Murray said, "because we want to be good stewards to our neighbors out there." No one wants an abandoned building in their neighborhood, he said, so it's important that the building and grounds are cared for so that it doesn't look like the eyesore most abandoned buildings become. MAPS doesn't consider the building abandoned at this time, but merely vacant.

While some residents have suggested selling Jefferson School might eliminate the need for the operational referendum on the Nov. ballot, Murray said, that isn't the case. Any proceeds from such a sale (which based on the prior sale of MAPS school properties is unlikely to be substantial) would be unlikely to make a dent in the operational dollars needed annually and would be a single payment.

The District won't hold onto an empty building that isn't being used for the long term, but Murray said it's also important to consider the entire big picture prior to selling the property. Because, "When it's gone, it's gone," Murray said.

"MAPS has essentially two options for the build-keep it and repurpose it, or dispose of it (likely by selling it)," he said. He said anything would be considered at this point.

But ... "Prior to doing either, MAPS wants to understand how Jefferson fits into the larger facility needs of the District and will be studying that subject this year," Murray said. "It is important that the building isn't sold only to find out it was needed, for example, five years from now."

"MAPS currently houses operations in District buildings that are exceeding, or have exceeded, their useful life, such as the Northern Achievement Center which is located in outdated buildings that were intended for a more temporary use. In addition, the District also rents space from the City of Merrill to house the Merrill Adult Diploma Academy. These factors, as well as many others, need to be studied in order to ensure that the correct decision regarding Jefferson is made."

Discussion about consulting with a firm to provide a facility needs assessment is on the MAPS Facilities Committee Meeting Agenda for their Nov. 2, 2022, meeting.

"MAPS has been approached by members of the public with suggestions for potential future use of Jefferson Elementary and by parties who have in-

“When it’s gone, it’s gone.”

- Murray

dents of Hamburg and the part of the Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) district that included Maple Grove Charter School, petitioned the MAPS Board of Education (BOE) to detach from the MAPS District and attach to the Athens School District, the BOE approved, and the issue of Maple Grove School was resolved for MAPS.

Then Sample announced the MAPS BOE had approved the reconfiguration of MAPS elementary schools for the 2021-2022 school year, moving kindergarten through second grade to Kate Goodrich Elementary School and third and fourth grades to Washington Elementary School, eliminating all classes at and resulting in the closing of Jefferson

staff, operations, or offices operating out of that building, but MAPS still owns the property and still pays to heat the building and maintain the property.

"We've been carrying that building empty for just over a year now," said Shannon Murray, current MAPS Superintendent, in an Oct. 19, 2022, interview. "But we can't carry it empty forever."

"It is costing us just under \$48,000 to keep that building open this year (heat, lights, snow removal, lawn mowing, etc.)," he said.

The cost savings on closing that building is still very substantial, Murray said. "The savings associated with closing Jefferson (staff, teachers, admin, custodians, maintenance, etc.)

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School. Since then the building and grounds was just over \$600,000 annually," he said. It's really

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**ELECTION from page 1**

voters to approve a \$2.5 million per year operational referendum, for each of the next four years, granting voters' permission to add that amount to their property taxes to fund District expenses until the conclusion of the 2026-2027 school year.

MAPS Superintendent Shannon Murray said the District is not asking for funding beyond the four years at this time, but if this one is approved, it is likely another referendum will follow this one when it expires, similar to how this referendum is following the expiration of the last four-year referendum that expired at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. He said it is becoming commonplace and the norm for districts to go to voters for operational funding of schools because State funding doesn't go far enough and that, while this particular referendum is non-recurring (meaning it expires at the end of the four years), some districts are passing recurring (ongoing with no expiration) referendums, so that could also be a possibility for MAPS at some point in the future.

For now, though, Murray said the four-year term for the referendum provides more accountability to the community for how funds are spent, and this is the wording of the current referendum that appears on the Nov. 8 ballot. The exact language on the ballot reads:

*Question: Shall the Merrill Area Common Public School District, Lincoln and Langlade Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,500,000 per year beginning with the 2023-2024 school year and ending with the 2026-2027 school year, for non-recurring purposes to fund District operational and maintenance expenses?*

Vote: Yes or No.

**Lincoln County Referendum (All County voters)**

The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approved the following referendum question to be posed to voters on the Nov. 8 ballot:

*Question: Should the State of Wisconsin prohibit election officials from soliciting or using private funds, technology, or services from special interest groups, people, or other private entities for the purpose of administering elections and referendums?*

Vote: Yes or No

**Rhineland School District Operational Referendum (Town of Harrison voters)**

The Rhineland School District is asking voters in their District to approve a \$4 million per year referendum for non-recurring purposes, similar to the

MAPS referendum, except that theirs is not specified as an operational referendum. Town of Harrison voters in the Rhineland District will find this question on their ballots. Their referendum question reads as follows:

*Question: Shall the School District of Rhineland, Oneida, Lincoln and Langlade Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$4,000,000 per year beginning with the 2023-2024 school year and ending with the 2026-2027 school year for non-recurring purposes?*

Vote: Yes or No.

**Town of King Referendum (Town of King voters)**

Town of King voters are being asked to help the Town Board establish policy pertaining to the Town Clerk position. The question on their ballots reads:

*"Shall the person holding the office of Clerk in the Town of King be appointed by the town board?"*

Vote: Yes or No.

**JEFFERSON from page 2**

quired about purchasing it," he said.

"The District facilities study will include input from the community," Murray said, "particularly those who live in that part of the community."

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State funding and revenue limits have not kept pace with costs over the past 10 years in Wisconsin and MAPS, like many school districts, has had to bring a referendum to the local community to support their schools.

**Facts At A Glance**

- ★ MAPS is asking voters to support their schools through a 4-year, \$2.5 million per year operational referendum beginning in the 2023-24 school year.
- ★ This is a continuation of the same referendum that voters approved in 2018 and that expired this summer.
- ★ The funds will be used to MAINTAIN programming and operations at their current levels for our students. Specifically, funds will be used to keep class sizes at acceptable levels, protect courses and programs such as the arts and tech ed courses, attract and retain high quality staff, provide opportunities to stay on top of scheduled maintenance, safety repairs, and upgrades throughout the district, pay the rising costs of fuel, maintain the Fab Lab, etc.
- ★ A failed referendum will result in courses and programs being cut, class sizes increasing, deferring needed maintenance projects, staff reductions, textbook and resource purchase delays, etc., starting next school year.

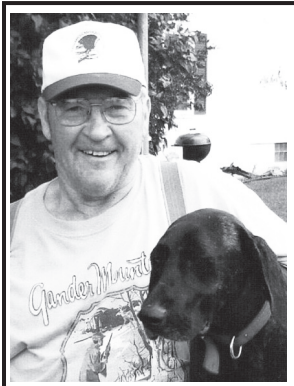
**Learn More**

- ★ Visit the MAPS webpage at [www.mapsedu.org](http://www.mapsedu.org)
- ★ Checkout the Superintendent's Chat videos on the Merrill Area Public Schools Facebook page.
- ★ Call 715-536-4581, ext. 10002 with questions
- ★ **Check out the Superintendent's Corner in this week's Foto News for more information**

211720

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**OBITUARIES**



**David R. Renken**, age 85, of the Town of Pine River, Lincoln County, passed away Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at Marshfield Medical Center – Marshfield. David was born August 16, 1937, in Merrill, son of the late Ulrich and Adela (Dengel) Renken. After graduation from high school, David served in the National Guard. He married Theresa Wiannecki on October 18, 1958, at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in

Schofield. She survives. David worked at Mosinee Paper Mill then took a job with Bosio Construction. He worked 11 years at Wausau Paper Mill-Brokaw. He worked in the Chicago area in a lumberyard and driving school bus for the Willmet, Illinois school district. David also dairy farmed in the Town of Pine River for 28 years. David and Terry's farm was called 'Da-Ter Farms' and had all registered cattle.

David loved hunting and was an avid bear hunter. He also hunted bobcat, coyote, and deer. He was a founding member of the Lincoln County Sports Club and founding father of bringing bear hunting into the area. David also brought bluetick hounds into bear hunting. He loved his hunting dogs. He was also a founding member of the Pine River Volunteer Fire Department. David enjoyed watching Texas Stars and Chicago Blackhawks hockey. He also enjoyed watching the Green Bay Packers.

Survivors include his wife, Theresa 'Terry' Renken of Merrill; children, Pam (William 'Bill') Switalski of Des Plaines, Illinois and Alan (Doreen) Renken of Merrill; grandchildren, Jenna (Zach) Lezotte of Merrill, Chris Renken (Robyn Marinelli) of Merrill, Matt (Ashley) Renken of Rogers, Minnesota, Anthony (Becky) Renken of Merrill, Melissa (Jesse) Tessmer of Milwaukee, and Heather Young of Madison; great-grandchildren, Mason, Caden, Emberly, Lexi, Braxton, Jersey, Hunter, Harley, Erik and Kira; sister, Mae Eckardt of Brookfield; sisters-in-law, Pat Laehr of Wausau; Rose Windorski of California; Rosemary Wiannecki of Eagle River; Carol Scheel of Wausau; and Sharon (Lenny) Koziel of Wausau; brothers-in-law, Ray (Betty) Wiannecki of Mosinee and Marvin (Donna) Hartwig of Merrill; and many special friends including Alice Penegor of Merrill.

David was preceded in death by his son, Michael Renken; parents, Ulrich and Adela Renken; sisters, Janice (Jim) Framke, Joyce (Jack) Bitcon, and Lorene Renken; brother, John P. (Barbara A.) Renken; brothers-in-law, Donald Eckardt, Ray Windorski, Joseph Wiannecki, and Stanley Wiannecki; and nephew, Rick Renken.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M. Friday, November 4, 2022, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill. The Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. Burial will take place at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery with graveside military rites conducted by V.F.W. Post 1638 Honor Guard. Visitation will be held from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Thursday, November 3, 2022, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill and again at the church after 10:00 A.M. Friday. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

The family requests that any memorials be given to the Pine River Volunteer Fire Department in memory of David Renken.

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

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**Nancy Lea Wilde** passed away on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. Nancy was born to Michael and Helen (Langhoff) Ringwelski. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband Jerome (Porkie) Wilde. Funeral Service was held on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at Grace United Church of Christ, 535 S. 3rd Ave., Wausau, WI 54401. Burial will take place at Restlawn Memorial Park, Wausau.



**Patrick "Pat" L. Zimmerman**, age 82, of Merrill, passed away on Monday, October 24, 2022, at Woodland Elder Services in Merrill, while under the care of Interim Hospice. He was born on September 18, 1940, to the late Harold and Minnie (Mittlesteadt) Zimmerman in Merrill. Pat grew up in the Merrill area, attending and graduating from Merrill High School with the class of 1958.

In 1960, Pat enlisted in the Army National Guard and served his country during the Cuban Crisis. He was honorably discharged. On October 7, 1961, Pat married his best friend and soul mate, Kathryn Craven, in Merrill, a strong and loving union lasting 61 years.

In 1962, Pat worked at Merrill Cooperative as a plumber, then worked as a master plumber at Weaver & Sons Plumbing, ending his plumbing career with Krueger Plumbing. Pat and Kathy purchased Champs Restaurant in Merrill in 1977, operating it for the next 18 years. Pat enjoyed that job, as he was able to meet and talk with all types of people and reaching out a helping hand when needed. He truly had a servant's heart. He had also previously served on the board for Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Pat looked forward to going out to his cabin every chance he had, whether it was to deer hunt, transplant trees all over his property or just enjoy nature; he was an avid outdoorsman. He was very active in Bible study groups, participating on the various boards and teaching Sunday school. Most recently, he attended Highland Community Church. Pat's faith in God was a priority in his life, and he lived each day to the fullest. He was very close with his grandchildren and instilled his values and ethics in them, teaching them life lessons and giving practical advice. Pat is remembered by his children as wise, supportive, a great storyteller, caring and a jokester. He will be sadly missed by all his friends and family, but never forgotten.

Pat leaves behind his wife: Kathryn Zimmerman of Merrill, WI, sons: Tim (Brenda) Zimmerman of Schofield, WI, and Rod (Michelle) Zimmerman of Menominee Falls, daughter: Chris (Matt) Eder of Merrill, WI, his grandchildren, whom he adored: Bryce, Ally, Mike, Nick, Sydney, and Mia. He is further survived by nieces and nephews. Pat was preceded in death by his parents and sister: Sue Gallup.

The memorial service for Pat will take place on Sunday, October 30, 2022, at 4:00pm at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill. Rev. Arni Jacobson will officiate. Visitation will take place on Sunday, October 30, 2022, from 1:00pm until 3:45pm. Military honors will be performed by the Merrill Honor Guard Post #1638 immediately following the service. Inurnment at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery will take place at a later date.

For those unable to attend in person, the service will be live streamed on Sunday, October 30, 2022, at 4:00pm and will be available for viewing under his obituary on the funeral home website. It will then be posted as a recording for future viewing.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the staff at Woodland Elder Services, Kind-hearted Home Care and Interim Hospice for the care given to their dad and for the support shown to the family.

In lieu of flowers, please direct donations to the Merrill City Band, as it was very important to both Pat and Kathy, and they enjoyed it for many years together.

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).

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**Arlene Marie Voigt**, 77, of Merrill, Wisconsin was welcomed into heaven on Wednesday, October 19 after passing away unexpectedly at her home. Arlene was born on November 13, 1944, to Leo Uekert and Gladys Beyersdorff. She enjoyed her time on the family farm and made many memories there with her parents, brother/sister-in-law, nieces, grandparents, and uncles. Arlene liked playing with her cats, dog, and friends in her farm neighborhood and also

spent many hours picking berries with her mother. Arlene graduated from Marathon High School at the top of her class and liked hanging out with friends at Sam's Pizza in Wausau. After high school, Arlene worked at Employers Insurance and also in the office at the Merrill Cannery. Arlene went on a double date to the fair where she met her future husband; Arlene married Ralph D. Voigt on September 11, 1965, and they were married for 56 years, living at the same house in Merrill their entire married life. Arlene and Ralph eventually added a daughter and a son: Carmen and Ralph Leo. Arlene dedicated her life to taking care of her family, and she did a fantastic job. Arlene never was a fan of mops, and she still was scrubbing her linoleum floors by hand. She was a fantastic cook and made the best chili, pizza hot dish, creamed rice, apple pie, chocolate chip cookies, and rice krispy treats. When she was younger, Arlene canned peaches, pears, beets, and pickles. Sundays and holidays were always important to Arlene. Arlene's light was always on for Halloween, sometimes even having to send Ralph to the store on Halloween, so they wouldn't run out of candy. For years, Thanksgivings were spent with the family of her close friend Phyllis. Arlene loved decorating for Christmas and made hundreds of Christmas cookies every year. Everyone always looked forward to her sour cream cutouts, and she put a lot of thought and effort into the family's Christmas presents. Arlene's kids will never forget the amazing Easter baskets or when she would tap an umbrella on the bathroom window pretending it was the Easter bunny. No birthday was ever celebrated without a cake. For years, Sunday suppers were spent with her parents, and Arlene cherished conversations with her mom and dad. Arlene did babysitting for many years, and Ben, Samantha, Tim, Melanie, Michelle, Dominic, and Miles became part of her extended family. Arlene loved taking family vacations; some of her favorites were Crandon, Great America, Milwaukee to see the Bucks and Brewers, Yellowstone, and the U.P. Arlene was a shopper and cherished these times with her daughter, granddaughter, and daughter-in-law and found great joy in buying gifts for others more than herself. Rarely did a day go by when Arlene didn't speak with her daughter on the phone. Arlene visited her son/daughter-in-law often and spent numerous hours taking care of their cats and dogs. She always brought plenty of dog/cat treats for all of the pets, as well as a few Hugo's pizzas. Arlene and Ralph were fans of the Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Bucks, Milwaukee Brewers, and the Badger basketball and football teams. Many years ago, Arlene hosted a card club for Ralph's Aunt Molly and her friends. Arlene liked to help others, including her sister-in-law Virginia and brother-in-law Wayne at craft shows. Arlene enjoyed attending her granddaughter Molly's dancing performances and going out to eat with her many friends and sister-in-laws. Having her hair done by her sister-in-law Dawn (visiting too) and going to live music performances with her sister-in-law Darlene were things she also looked forward to. Arlene was fond of listening to music, especially Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, the Beach Boys, and Jan and Dean. Nothing was more important to Arlene than her family and friends, and Arlene would proudly share any interactions she had with her nieces and nephews. Arlene was well known for sending cards to countless family members and friends for birthdays and holidays. She also loved receiving cards and notes and was especially fond of a card and note from her Grandma Beyersdorff. If you had a problem or were stressed out, Arlene was always a great listener and very sympathetic. Arlene really was willing to do anything to help a family member or friend. She took care of Ralph for many years after his dementia diagnosis. Arlene had a number of health challenges over the past few years and was also heartbroken after the passing of Ralph in early March. Arlene spoke of her husband Ralph daily and how much she missed him. We are so sad that Arlene left this world so suddenly, but our hope is that she no longer has any physical pain, and her heart is whole once again after being reunited with her husband. Arlene was a wonderful mother, wife, sister, and friend; life will not be the same without her.

Love your son and daughter, Ralph Leo and Carmen  
 Arlene is survived by her daughter Carmen (Dave), her son Ralph Leo (Tina), and her granddaughter Molly (Nick). She is also survived by her sister-in-laws Dawn (Gerald) Schmidt, Darlene (David) Herdt, Phyllis Voigt, Carol Pankow, and Shirley Hopkins; brother-in-laws Wayne Voigt (Virginia), Laverne (Linda) Voigt, and Mike Voigt. She is further survived by many special nieces, nephews, and friends. Arlene was preceded in death by her husband, parents, brother and sister-in-law Donald and Carol Uekert, grandparents, in-laws Ralph Otto Voigt and Ernestine Kleinschmidt, and brother-in-laws Gene Voigt, Mark Pankow, and James Voigt.

A memorial service for Arlene and Ralph will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, November 12, 2022, at St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill. The Rev. David Szeto will officiate. Visitation will begin at 10:00 A.M. at the church.

**It's Not Rocket Science**  
 It doesn't take a genius to figure out our classifieds section is one of the best places to look for available jobs!  
[classifiedsMMC.com](http://classifiedsMMC.com)

# Faith Lutheran celebrates 40 years of flipping pancakes

Faith Lutheran Church, 15425 S County Rd. K, Merrill, will host their 40th annual all-you-can-eat Pancake Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022, serving from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Homemade potato pancakes and buttermilk pancakes will be served, along with breakfast sausages, locally produced maple syrup, applesauce, cheese, and several dessert options.



Tickets are available at the church in advance or at the door: \$10 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6-12, and children age 5 and under are free. Carryouts are also available, and all are welcome. A bake sale sponsored by the Evening Women of Faith will be held before church and during the pancake dinner, as well.

A press release from Faith Lutheran provided the following trivia about the infamous pancake: The existence of the pancake was first recorded in 600 BC in ancient Greece in poetic writings. Later, pancake day became a traditional way to use up dairy products before Lent.

In 1100 AD, the pancake breakfast was born.

In 1445, villages in the United Kingdom started a famous pancake race in Olney, Buckinghamshire.

Over the years, fresh snow had been used to seemingly make pancakes light and fluffy. These days milk and sometimes cream became the preferred liquid for pancake batter, replacing brandy and wine which were first common.

In the late 1870s, the pancake became known as a flapjack in America, with maple syrup becoming the preferred topping of choice.

In 1995, the largest pancake ever flipped was also in the United Kingdom. It measured 16.4 yards across and weighed 3 tons. Certainly more than a frying pan was needed to flip it over.

In 2009, Aldo Zilli set a world record for flipping a single pancake 117 times in 60 seconds.

Several years later, 890 people set a world record for the most people tossing pancakes – 930 people tried, but 40 flippers were disqualified for dropping their cakes.

*We welcome letters to the Editor, a chance for members of the community to comment on issues of concern to them. All letters must be original, not duplications of letters addressed to public officials or written by others. The views and opinions expressed are those of the letter writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of this publication, its publishers, Editor, or staff.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TO THE EDITOR:

Every two years we have an election. Every two years we have the frustrating, demoralizing experience of watching the political ads that bombard our television screens. These temporary prima donnas campaigning for some political office don't spend their time discussing the issues confronting everyday Americans. Rather, they spend their time ridicul-

ing and bashing their opponent with twisted exaggerated lies. Some are so vulgar and so poor it's not something we would want our young children to watch or hear. Imagine the impression we provide our youth. Fox news voices their opinions to support those on the right. CNN twists their views to support the candidates on the left. The media doesn't focus on issues

See **LETTERS** page 16

## PAID LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*We welcome letters to the Editor, a chance for members of the community to comment on issues of concern to them. All letters must be original, not duplications of letters addressed to public officials or written by others. The views and opinions expressed are those of the letter writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of this publication, its publishers, Editor, or staff.*

and then working years as a night shift Deputy. His leadership ability was recognized, and over the next years he was an Active Shooter Instructor, Firearms Instructor, the Dispatch Lieutenant, Detective Lieutenant, Patrol Lieutenant, SWAT Team Member, Team Leader, and then SWAT Commander, and is now serving as your Sheriff.

You don't last 32 years in the same law enforcement agency, especially in the County that you were born in and grew up in, if you're incompetent. But that is what his opponent, the man who is trying to take Ken's job, is claiming. A wise man once told me, if you hear someone talking down about someone else, consider the source. Ken is by far the most experienced

and best choice to continue serving and protecting you.

Please join me in voting for Ken Schneider for your Sheriff.

– Donna Plautz  
Merrill, Wis.

*The cost for Paid Letters to the Editor is \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words, plus \$10.00 per additional 50 words, and must be prepaid prior to printing.*

### TO THE EDITOR:

During elections, candidates often utilize buzzwords designed to incite strong emotions in voters. One phrase I've heard lately is "good ol' boys." Candidates promise to rid us of the "good ol' boys" (in this case, our incumbent Sheriff) and thus save the citizens from old-fashioned thinking. And after 32 years with the Department, I guess you could say Sheriff Ken Schneider is a little old-fashioned.

Take his morals, for example. Ken grew up on a farm right here in Lincoln County, and he still believes in digging his hands into the soil and being satisfied by a hard day's work. He believes that a leader guides by example, by knowing every aspect of his job at every level, and that people should be judged on their actions rather than hearsay. He knows how to work without waste, how to use the tools at his disposal to create innovative solutions built on decades of experience. He respects the value of community and has stayed here rather than going elsewhere, where his talents and expertise could earn him more pay (go ahead and add loyalty to his list of "old-fashioned" faults). He is invested in helping our County grow, in keeping us safe, in planning ahead.

So yeah, maybe Ken can be old-fashioned.

Maybe that's exactly what we need.

Please join me in voting for Ken Schneider for Lincoln County Sheriff on November 8. Old-fashioned values and experience are the roots this community needs.

– Rachael Waldburger  
Merrill, Wis.

### TO THE EDITOR:

Your current Sheriff has been called incompetent by his opponent. Think about this a moment. Ken Schneider has been with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office for 32 years, the last 4 as your Sheriff. That's 32 years beginning in corrections at the Jail

"The districting maps are continuously being redrawn to give one party or the other an advantage in almost all state elections. This is **NOT** what a democracy looks like."

**TODD FREDERICK**  
STATE ASSEMBLY  
DISTRICT #35

Paid for by Friends of Todd Frederick

## OBITUARIES



**Norman L. Saxby**, 80, of Merrill, passed away Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at his home under the care of Compassus Hospice surrounded by his family.

Norman was born on May 21, 1942, in Vernon County, son of the late George and Minnie (Kleinschmidt) Saxby. He married Joyce Oestreich on June 2, 1962, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Norman "Red" worked at Semco Windows and Doors for 46 years, he began by working

in the plant, then drove semi-truck across the country for 25 years, and eventually became the Plant 1 Manager until his retirement in 2007. Norman was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, snowmobiling, trips to Canada in which he camped and fished, spending time with his grandchildren, and playing concertina in his earlier years.

Norman is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joyce Saxby of Merrill; daughters, Debra Saxby of Medford and Sharon (Eugene) Willfahrt of Mosinee; grandchildren, Jason (Ashley) Thiel, Jesse Thiel, Caryn (Jeremy) Thiel, Joshua (Tia) Daley, Nikole (Troy) Knight, Andrew Moser, Jackie (Mark) Willfahrt, Kraig Willfahrt, and Kandie (Scott) Schmidt; great-grandchildren, Tony, Harrison, Caleb, Charlotte, Jaden, Brett, Taylor, Lexi, Evalyn, Elijah, Sawyer, August, Bennett, Chris, Savannah, Draven, Rhianna, Kaitlin, and Ashley; and sister, Margy Seeger of Cottonwood AZ. Norman was preceded in death by his parents, George and Minnie Saxby; sisters, Virginia (Fred) Roum, Ione (Marvin) Lemmer, Elaine (Roy) Kleinschmidt, and Baby Leila Jean Saxby; and brother-in-law, William Seeger.

The funeral service for Norman was held at 11:00 A.M. Monday, October 31, 2022, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. Burial followed in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 9:00 A.M. Monday at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

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

**Poker Run Resurrected**  
Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 will be resurrection of our 22<sup>nd</sup> Poker Run in the Merrill Community.

November 12th, watch for the Poker Run, City wide craft festivals spread throughout the community, Merrill Historical Society Book Signing, and St. Francis Xavier church featuring treats and crafts.

Can you believe it! The Poker Run has reached 22 years bringing the Merrill community unique and fresh Christmas ideas for the coming season. This year fifteen Merrill Businesses will bring the Poker Run to the community with over \$900.00 in prizes of gift certificates that can be used at any of the participating sponsors. There is a grand prize of \$500.00, a 1<sup>st</sup> prize of \$150.00, a 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of \$120, a 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of \$90.00 and a prize offered for the worst poker hand.

**The 15 sponsoring downtown businesses are:**  
Westside Market, Victoria's Floral, 710 Smoke Shop, Miller Home Furnishings, Ballyhoos, Merrill Historical Society, Auntie Ray's, Polka Dotted Pie, Hargrave Appliance Center, Merrill Ace Hardware, VIP Office Products, Courtside Furniture, Merrill Sheet Metal, and St. Francis Church working together creating fun events for our community.

**How does the Poker Run work?** Go to any of the 15 participating businesses and pick up a game card the day of the Poker Run. Proceed to each business and receive a stamp (no purchase necessary). At 2:00 P.M. or later, turn in your game card to Courtside Furniture **only** (must have a minimum of 5 stamps from 5 businesses to be in the drawing). Get dealt a hand (based on the amount of stamps you have collected; e.g. 5 stamps equal 5 cards and 15 stamps equal 15 cards). The dealer will help you receive a poker hand with the possibility of getting a Royal Flush.

Each business has Poker Run Specials displaying Christmas items, in-store specials and tasty treats. St. Francis Xavier School is putting on their Christmas bazaar & Fund Raiser with baked goods and for those with a sweet tooth; candy by the pound.

See you at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Merrill Poker Run Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Check with the participating 15 businesses for more information or watch the Foto News, listen to WJMT, or call the Merrill Chamber of Commerce at 715-536-9474.

Budget Publication 2022-23
Published Budget Summary Format

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of Wisconsin Statute 65.90(5)(a), that the School Board of the Merrill Area Public Schools, on October 24, 2022 adopted the budget as follows.

Table with 4 columns: GENERAL FUND, Audited 2020-21, Unaudited 2021-22, Budget 2022-23. Rows include Beginning Fund Balance, Ending Fund Balance, REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, and EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES.

Table with 4 columns: SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND, Audited 2020-21, Unaudited 2021-22, Budget 2022-23. Rows include Beginning Fund Balance, Ending Fund Balance, REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, and EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES.

Table with 4 columns: DEBT SERVICE FUND, Audited 2020-21, Unaudited 2021-22, Budget 2022-23. Rows include Beginning Fund Balance, Ending Fund Balance, REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, and EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES.

Table with 4 columns: CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, Audited 2020-21, Unaudited 2021-22, Budget 2022-23. Rows include Beginning Fund Balance, Ending Fund Balance, REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, and EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES.

Table with 4 columns: FOOD SERVICE FUND, Audited 2020-21, Unaudited 2021-22, Budget 2022-23. Rows include Beginning Fund Balance, Ending Fund Balance, REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, and EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES.

Table with 4 columns: COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND, Audited 2020-21, Unaudited 2021-22, Budget 2022-23. Rows include Beginning Fund Balance, Ending Fund Balance, REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, and EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES.

Table with 4 columns: PACKAGE & COOPERATIVE PROGRAM FUND, Audited 2020-21, Unaudited 2021-22, Budget 2022-23. Rows include Beginning Fund Balance, Ending Fund Balance, REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, and EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES.

Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses

Table with 4 columns: ALL FUNDS, Audited 2020-21, Unaudited 2021-22, Budget 2022-23. Rows include GROSS TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS, Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - ALL FUNDS, Refinancing Expenditures (FUND 30), NET TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS, and PERCENTAGE INCREASE - NET TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR YEAR.

PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Table with 4 columns: FUND, Audited 2020-21, Unaudited 2021-22, Budget 2022-23. Rows include General Fund, Referendum Debt Service Fund, Non-Referendum Debt Service Fund, Capital Expansion Fund, Community Service Fund, TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY, and PERCENTAGE INCREASE - TOTAL LEVY FROM PRIOR YEAR.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: 10/10/22 /S/ ROBERT R. RUSSELL CIRCUIT JUDGE/COURT COMMISSIONER STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 22-CV-148 IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF Nikole Marie Houghtaling By (Petitioner) Nikole Marie Houghtaling NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Nikole Marie Houghtaling To: Nikole Marie Albert Birth Certificate: Nikole Marie Albert IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin: Honorable Robert R. Russell Lincoln County Courthouse 1110 E. Main Street Merrill, WI 54452 Date: November 15, 2022 Time: 11:15 AM If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call (715) 536-0319 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin. Published: 10/20/22, 10/27/22 & 11/3/22 WNAXLP

BY THE COURT DATE SIGNED: October 25, 2022 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF John W. Peters Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2022 IN 48 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth 6-17-47, and date of death 6-2-22, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W4872 Spruce Road, Merrill, WI 54452. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is February 24, 2023. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office. Jesse Peters 102 Kelvington Dr. Sun Prairie, WI 53590 920-296-7696 Published November 3, 20 & 17, 2022 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: October 10, 2022 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DARLENE V. MARCHESE DOD: 09/16/2022 Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 2022IN50 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth 02/14/1966, and date of death 09/16/2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 801 Cottage Street, Merrill, WI 54452. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is February 3, 2023. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office. Andrew W. Schmidt SCHMIDT & SCHMIDT, S.C. PO BOX 146 Wausau, WI 54402-0146 715-845-9621 /Bar #1030985 Published 10/20/22, 10/27/22 & 11/3/22 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: October 17, 2022 Electronically signed by Kelly Schremp Clerk of Court STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, MARATHON COUNTY Amended Summons and Complaint Small Claims Case No: 2022SC001247 Sm Claim, Claim Under \$ Limit 31001 Wisconsin Auto Finance Inc Dba CNAC

Legals 7700

of Wausau vs. Rebecca Lyn Dautermann et al Plaintiff: Wisconsin Auto Finance Inc Dba CNAC of Wausau 2600 N 20th Ave Wausau WI 54401 Defendant: Rebecca Lyn Dautermann 106 E 1st St Merrill WI 54452 Defendant: Jordn John Dauterman 106 E 1st St Merrill WI 54452 If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-261-1300 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation. SUMMONS To the Defendant(s): You are being sued as described on the attached complaint. If you wish to dispute this matter: You must appear at the time and place stated. If you do not appear or answer, the plaintiff may win this case and a judgment entered for what the plaintiff is asking. When to Appear/File an Answer Date: 11-16-2022 Time: 10:00 am Place to Appear/File an Answer Marathon County Clerk of Court 500 Forest Street Wausau WI 54403 Date Summons Issued: 10-17-2022 Published November 3, 2022 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: October 24, 2022 Electronically signed by Kelly Schremp Clerk of Court STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MARATHON COUNTY Amended Summons and Complaint (Small Claims) Case No: 2022SC001286 Sm Claim, Claim Under \$ Limit 31001 Wisconsin Auto Finance Inc Dba CNAC of Wausau vs. Tiffany Marie Braunel Plaintiff: Wisconsin Auto Finance Inc Dba CNAC of Wausau 2600 N 20th Ave Wausau WI 54401 Defendant: Tiffany Marie Braunel N826 County Rd W Merrill WI 54452 If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-261-1300 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation. SUMMONS To the Defendant(s): You are being sued as described on the attached complaint. If you wish to dispute this matter: You must appear at the time and place stated. When to Appear/File an Answer Date 11-23-2022 Time 10:00 am Place to Appear/File an Answer Marathon County Clerk of Court 500 Forest Street Wausau WI 54403 Date Summons Issued 10-24-2022 Published November 3, 2022 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: October 26, 2022 Electronically signed by Thomas S. Barker Clerk of Court STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY S.C. Swiderski, LLC vs. Jameel S Redvine Amended Summons and Complaint Small Claims Case No: 2022SC000281 Small Claims, Eviction 31004 Plaintiff: S.C. Swiderski, LLC 401 Ranger St Mosinee WI 54455 Defendant: Jameel S Redvine Apt 64 2401 W Jackson St Merrill WI 54452 If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0319 at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation. SUMMONS To the Defendant(s): You are being sued as described on the attached complaint. If you wish to dispute this matter: You must appear at the time and place stated. -- Or --

MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT

Firewood Bid

The City of Merrill will accept bids on twenty (20) separate piles of wood located at the Merrill City Garage, 315 E. First Street, Merrill Wisconsin. You can bid on these piles of wood on the Wisconsin Surplus website, www.wisconsin surplus.com. To learn how the site works, click on "How to Bid". To bid, you must first click on the "Register to Bid" tab. You will be able to bid on as many piles as you want. The bidding will end on November 10, 2022. You will be notified by email if you have won an auction item. Payment is done thru the website also. The wood must be removed from the Merrill City Garage lot by December 8, 2022.

Dustin Bonack Street Superintendent Published November 3, 2022 WNAXLP



# Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM  
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

## Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

(Available on several streaming channels)

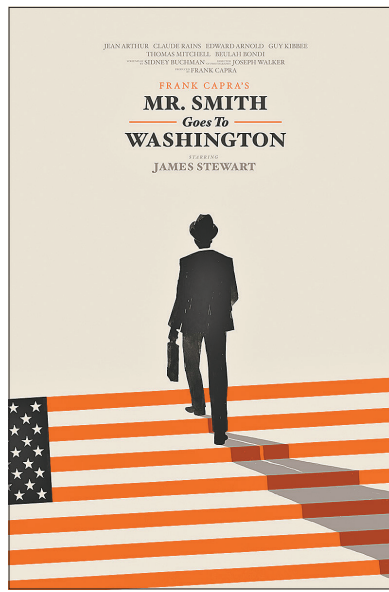
★★★★★

*This film is not rated but is suitable [and should be required watching] for everyone*

My friends, after all the noise, nonsense, and hyperbole leading up to the

2022 mid-terms, I came to the conclusion that—as we all get ready to head to the polls next Tuesday—we need a reminder to inspire us to be better. A reminder to show us a better way to be better Americans. A reminder of the promise of what can and should be.

So, that being said, I decided to go way, way back to 1939 for a film that can help us all with that. Back to a time when we, as American citizens, stood together, and listened to each other's opinions without hating. Back to when our leaders inspired faith and trust instead of harsh hyperbole. When we knew our neighbors' names and genuinely cared about a common



future.

*Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* is another of Frank Capra's masterpieces of Americana, the reminder of who we are or were and what we should strive to be again.

We, the viewers, watch as a truly good man, Jefferson Smith—played by the late and great Jimmy Stewart—becomes, ever so reluctantly a United States Senator. We witness his faithful and true desire to serve those he represents and watch as he discovers the dark underbelly of the American political system, and we feel his despair.

We rejoice as we see Jefferson Smith raise his voice up to the corrupt bureaucracy and shout "No More!" as it desperately tries to destroy him, recognizing the threat that a decent man presents to its survival.

We feel a sense of decency and morality shine through and fill us with a hope that we no longer have in our leaders, as we watch him fight back. And as he does, it awakens a deep yearning for a leader who can inspire us as Jefferson Smith does as he fights the machine. And we weep as we watch the damage that is done to him by the powers his nobility threatens in the process.

If you have never seen *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, do so post haste. It should be required viewing in all civics classes (if they still existed).

Five full stars out of five possible stars for this cinematic masterpiece. It's out there, folks. Find it and watch it before November 8 and compare our choices to Jefferson Smith. Then despair.

May God bless and keep safe the United States of America.

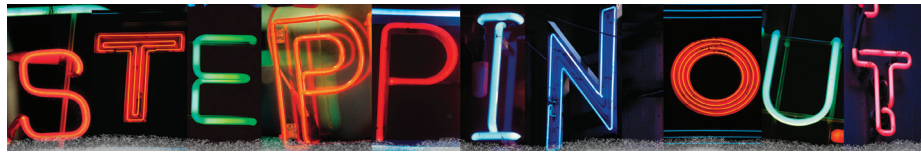
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Sponsored by: Merrill Foundation



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MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

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\$4.50 - 16 oz. Pint

**SATURDAY NOV. 19TH**  
BAR OPEN 11am  
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KARAOKE 8pm

**THURSDAY NOV. 24TH**  
THANKSGIVING DAY  
MUSIC BY  
NORTHWOODS SKITCHERS  
10am

**SATURDAY NOV. 26TH**  
MUSIC BY TOM BURT 8pm

**ST. PAUL'S 8th ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR**

Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022  
10 am - 2 pm  
W2604 Cty. Rd. P, Merrill

Lunch and Bake Sale by St. Paul's Ladies Aide

Handcrafted items, knitting, crocheting, Christmas wreaths, jewelry, maple syrup, small quilts, mittens and much more!!!

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TUESDAY NIGHTS  
NOV. 8TH - CHICKEN CASSEROLE  
NOV. 15TH - CHIMI'S  
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**  
NOV. 4TH - COCONUT SHRIMP  
NOV. 11TH - WALLEYE  
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM  
CLIP-N-SAVE

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418 Grand Ave., Merrill

**THIS WEEK'S DRINK SPECIAL:**  
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\$4 PINT MIXERS;  
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Low carry out prices on Booze, Beer & Ice

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All You Can Eat  
**PANCAKE DINNER and BAKE SALE**

Sunday, November 6  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Homemade Potato Pancakes and Buttermilk Pancakes served with Breakfast Sausage

Adults - \$10 Children 6-12 - \$4  
5 years old and under - Free

Carryouts available

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
15425 Highway K South - Merrill

**GLEASON AREA LIONS PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
Sunday, Nov. 6th • 8am-12noon

Gleason Lions Park N5179 Bradley St., Gleason

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BELGIUM WAFFLE WITH TOPPING • UNDER 5 - FREE

Serving: Regular & Potato Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Applesauce, Juice, Milk or Coffee  
We serve Pure Wisconsin Maple Syrup produced by Local Suppliers

**LUTHER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BAKE SALE**  
Sunday, November 6th • 8am-12noon  
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COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE • 8:00am-12:30pm  
Walk-ins welcome, or call for an appointment,  
Toll Free at 1-800-280-4102. You will get a Ticket For FREE breakfast when you donate blood.

**Ellen Gilliard**  
1930-2021

It's been one year since the Lord took you in his arms! The love doesn't go away you walk beside us every day unseen unheard but always near still loved still missed and very dear, We will see you in our dreams and hold onto your memories! Miss you dearly

Loving you, Family, Friends and Chester

**MERRILL FOTO NEWS**

**Student of the Week**

This Week's Featured Student is  
**Owen Schwab**  
Son of  
**Corey and Melissa Schwab**  
Owen is in 6th Grade at St. John Lutheran School. He was nominated by Mrs. Sherry Koch.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?  
My favorite subject is History. I like to learn about places and their cultures.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?  
My favorite part of school is switching class periods, because we get to get up and move around before we start our next class.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?  
Someday I would like to be a farmer. My family has always run farms and I want to do the same thing.

As a student who is new to our school this year, Owen has easily become part of the St. John family. He shows enthusiasm for life through his smile and kind manner. He has also devoured many AR books!  
- Mrs. Sherry Koch

Student of the Week Sponsored by:  
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**SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER...**

**A crash course on the upcoming Merrill Schools referendum**

One of my goals entering this November's school referendum was to make sure everyone had as much information as possible heading into the election to make an informed decision. To that end, I have presented to many, many groups, have held information nights, have sent mailers home, have kept our webpage updated with all of the latest referendum information, and even did weekly Facebook Live broadcasts over the course of the last nine weeks. We will continue to provide information right up to election day, so there is plenty of information out there for those that want to know why MAPS needs a referendum and what the funds will be used for.



a new 4-year, \$2.5 million referendum—a continuation of the 2018 referendum that was set to expire. That referendum failed at the polls (although it was close).

• Feedback from voters is that they simply did not have enough information or an understanding of the issues to vote yes. When I started as Superintendent this July, I asked our Board to bring the question back to voters in November, with the understanding that we would do a much better job of informing voters about the issues this time.

to voters in November, with the understanding that we would do a much better job of informing voters about the issues this time.

• Some background: State revenue limits (the amount that determines each school district's budget every year) went into effect in 1993 and were based on what a district spent in 1992. Merrill has been at the lowest level of state funding ever since. In fact, Merrill receives the lowest amount of revenue allowed by the State and much less than many of our neighboring districts. Doesn't seem fair, but it is our reality.

• The reason MAPS needs this referendum is simple: State funding and revenue limits have not kept up with costs. In fact, in six of the last eight years there have been no revenue limit increases provided to schools from the State. This is not a sustainable formula for our District (and many others).

This Superintendent's Corner will probably be my last chance to reach *Foto News* readers before the election, so I thought I would provide a condensed version of everything you need to know about the upcoming referendum in one easy-to-read list. Think of it as the MAPS Referendum version of Cliffs Notes or a Reader's Digest Condensed "Novel" if you will. So, here goes:

• In 2018, voters approved a 4-year, \$2.5 million operations referendum to maintain programs, support operations, and provide maintenance of the school district facilities. That referendum expired this past summer.

• In April of 2022, MAPS asked voters to renew that expiring referendum with

See **SCHOOL** page 13



**AUSMAN FOR CONGRESS**

**You need someone to represent YOUR best interests!**

**Tom Tiffany voted AGAINST the following bills or issues, they ALL passed the House with BIPARTISAN support:**

- The Affordable Insulin Now Act
- Honoring our PACT Act to help with the medical needs of our veterans who were exposed to toxins
- A recent bill to help our veterans with their hunger and nutritional needs
- Medicare negotiating prescription drug prices
- Invest to Protect Act - a community policing bill that helps to retain and hire law enforcement officers
- Infrastructure and Jobs Act – expanding rural broadband internet access and rebuilding our roads and bridges
- Infant Formula Supplemental Appropriations Act
- Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act
- Right to Contraception Act
- Respect for Marriage Act
- Inflation Reduction Act - providing additional offshore drilling of oil in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska
- Protecting our Gold Star Families Education Act
- Aid for Ukraine
- The Great American Outdoors Act

Tom Tiffany is co-sponsoring a bill to repeal the Pittman-Robertson Act. Since 1937 revenues generated from these excise taxes have gone to state wildlife agencies for their conservation efforts, hunter education programs, and operation of archery and shooting ranges.

**In the 116th Congress Tom Tiffany missed almost 350% more votes than the average representative.**

**MY PRIORITIES IN MY FIRST TERM ARE:**

**Healthcare is a right.** I believe in a Medicare-for-all single payer health system. 58% of all American debt is medical debt. We can do better for our children and their children.

**Social Security can be fixed immediately and easily by eliminating the cap on contributions.** When a person makes \$147,000 in a year why do they stop contributing? **Tom Tiffany wants to privatize Social Security.**

**Help our veterans.** 3 states and 82 communities have announced an end to Veteran homelessness, let's replicate that success throughout the U.S.

I am a gun owner who believes in common sense gun safety laws, I believe it is a woman's right to choose, and the Equal Rights Amendment has been ratified and it is time for it to be added to our Constitution.

**Send me to Washington D.C. to show up and work for YOU!**

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Bacon Hardwood Smoked - Frozen 22 oz. ONLY \$3.99	Butter Quarters Salted - Twin Pack 32 oz. ONLY \$6.49	Brownie Brittle Mix 14.4 oz. ONLY 59¢
<b>OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30-6:30 • SATURDAY 8:30-4:00</b>		
Smoked Sausage w/Cheddar Cheese - Frozen 14 oz. ONLY \$1.79	Cream Cheese 8 oz. ONLY 89¢ each	Cake Bars Birthday 6.78 oz. ONLY 99¢
Smoked Sausage Gluten Free Fully Cooked - Frozen 11 lbs. ONLY \$9.99	case - 36 ct. ONLY 79¢ each	Moose Munch (Popcorn w/Chocolate) 10 oz. ONLY \$1.79
Hot Dogs - Beef Organic - Fully Cooked Frozen 14 oz. ONLY \$1.69	American Cheese Sliced 5 lbs. ONLY \$8.99	Pickles Baby Dill 32 oz. ONLY \$1.49
Pizza - Pepperoni 6 ct - Frozen 68 oz. ONLY \$4.99	Shredded Cheese Cheddar/Monterey Jack 5 lbs. ONLY \$12.89	Walnuts 16 oz. ONLY \$3.49
Bacon Thick Cut Frozen 16 oz. ONLY \$2.89	Farmer Cheese Horns 3 lbs. ONLY \$2.59 a lb	Ketchup 23 oz. ONLY \$1.29
Cheddarwurst Fully Cooked - Frozen 6 lbs. ONLY \$9.99	Pizza Four Meat Frozen 13 oz. ONLY \$1.89	Ranch Dressing 16 oz. ONLY 99¢
Black Forest Ham Thin Sliced - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY 99¢	Cocktail Smokies Turkey - Frozen 14 oz. ONLY 89¢	Pretzel Pieces Cheddar Cheese 12 oz. ONLY \$1.69
Pork Sausage Link Fully Cooked - Frozen 9.6 oz. ONLY 89¢	Cotto Salami Sliced - Frozen 16 oz. ONLY \$1.29	Baked Beans Maple 28 oz. ONLY \$1.29
Pork Sausage Regular - Frozen 32 oz. ONLY \$2.99	Chicken Tenders Fully Cooked - Frozen ONLY \$2.29 a lb	Pear Halves 15 oz. ONLY 69¢
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Announcements 7005

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605 N. Ohio St. | 1815 Water St.  
Questions? Call: 715-722-1884

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- Excellent low-cost health benefits  
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If you are qualified and would like to join our team please send a cover letter referencing the position and resume to:  
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**Announcements 7005**

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN**  
(Never known to fail)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my Mother.

Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request).

There are none that can withstand your power O Mary, conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times).

Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (three times)

Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

Grateful thanks

**WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications** review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact **The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)**

**Rummage Sales This Week 7200**

**Ringle INSIDE SALE:** 163905 River Rd. Fri. 11/4: 12-5, Sat. 11/5: 10-3. Downsizing! Antiques, glassware, vintage, housewares, linens. **NO EARLY SALES!!!**

**Craft Sales 7204**

Craft Fair  
Nov. 12 9am-3pm Wittenberg Town Hall. Hand crafted items. For more info email townhallchristmas@gmail.com

**Estate Sales 7208**

**JANE'S Estate Sales**  
11/4-11/6/22  
105 S 52nd Ave - Stettin  
Fri 12-5, Sat 9-3, Sun 10-1

- Please be advised that this house had cats.

- NO EARLY SALES. We DO NOT give out prices or information prior to the sale. Please do not text, call or email requests.

- First come, first served. Deli style numbers will be given out starting at 11:00am on Friday.

**INCREDIBLE LIVING ESTATE SALE!**  
ELECTRONICS - video game systems including Wii, Wiiu, PS2, PS3, Nintendo DS, Nintendo 3DS, Flashback 6, XBOX 360 and Atari, Bose Wave music system 4, bluetooth boombox, 1993 Bladwin upright piano, many TVs, Yamaha YPT-210 Keyboard.  
JEWELRY - including Lia Sophia, Pandora, sterling silver rings  
WOMEN'S CLOTHING & WINTER COATS - size SM-L. All name brands including Under Armor, The North Face, Adidas, Nike, Pink/Victoria Secret, Calvin Klein, Columbia - many, many new with tags.  
SHOES/BOOTS - size 7-8 - Nike, UGG, Bearclaw, Sperry, Vans, Timberland. Jeans size 0-14 - Vigoss, Silver, Missme. Name brand handbags. CHRISTMAS - Nutcrackers, hand blown glass ornaments, Christmas decor and so much more.  
FITNESS EQUIPMENT - Total Gym, Nordic Track, Weider 9300 Pro, Gold's Gym elliptical, MMA bag & stand, tanning bed. TOYS - Build-a-bear (bears & tons of accessories), Barbie, Monster High, Disney Princess, American Girl, Hot Wheels.  
OUTDOOR - Snapper lawn mower, Simplicity snow blower, Generac pressure washer, patio furniture sets, garden wimpy, tools, dog/cat toys, food, gates, pet supplies.  
Electrolux front loading washer & dryer, home decor. Kitchenware, Kitchen Aid mixer, Air Fryer, blenders, pressure cooker. Many name brand vacuums. Health and beauty aids.  
**YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS ONE TO BELIEVE IT!** Go to JANE'S Estate Sales on Facebook or estatesales.org for photos.

**Estate Sales 7208**

**Tomahawk, WI:** Friday, 11/4-Sunday, 11/6, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. Living Estate Sale! Furniture pieces, Plaid couch set, antique tables and dressers, gold medal chairs, Queen Log Bed with a very nice mattress, duck decoys, hunting items (no guns), handmade quilts, seasonal decorations, large solid dining table, dishes, lamps, books, tools, garage and yard items, 2 row boats, pictures info available on Facebook @ S&S Estate Cleanout Service Sales page N10707 Mail Rte Rd

**Auctions 7282**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Sat. Nov. 5, 9am Preview  
10:15am Auction  
Coins, Old Comics, Vintage Toys, Pop Culture, Stamps & Collectibles  
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**!!OLD GUITARS WANTED!!** GIBSON, FENDER, MARTIN, etc. 1930's to 1980's. TOP DOLLAR PAID. CALL TOLL FREE 1-866-433-8277

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**Firewood 7244**

**DRY OAK & Hard Maple,** \$250/cord. Over 15 mi is extra. Have hard wood in wood shed over a year old. Clean & no bark. 715-351-1888 or 715-873-4196.

**FOR SALE** Firewood for sale in 12 cord loads. Will deliver. Price may vary depending on distance from Antigo. 715-623-7636

**Mixed firewood:** oak and maple. \$60 face cord, seasoned 1 year. \$75 from woodshed, seasoned 2 years. Bone dry. 715-253-2060 No delivery.

**Heating and Cooling 7246**

**FOR SALE:** Jotul cast iron wood burning stove, never used. 12"W x 19"D x 41"T (incl. 10" legs). Will need to be moved from basement. \$450 obo. Mosinee. 715-693-4144

**Guns 7264**

**BOND ARMS DERRINGER AND BULK AMMO FOR SALE:** For pickup or delivery in Central WI. Call/text for pics or questions.

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**REFERUNDUM**  
from page 1

**dates served:**

- Badger State Sheriffs Association
- Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association
- The Association of SWAT Personnel
- Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo.

**Why have you chosen to run for the office you seek:** I was born and raised in Lincoln County. I raised my family in Lincoln County. For the last 32 years I have been employed at the Lincoln County Sheriff's

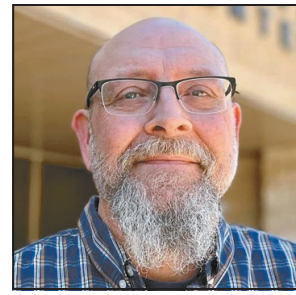


Schneider

Office. In 1990 I started as a Corrections Officer. I was then hired as a Patrol Deputy. I was promoted to Sergeant and then Lieutenant. Four years ago, I was elected Sheriff. During this time, I was a Negotiator, I was a member of the Special Response Team.

I was then chosen as Team Leader and then Team Commander. The Special Response Team is called out for all high-risk or dangerous types of calls, warrants, and searches. I led the team at these high-risk calls. I was a Firearms Instructor, a Less Lethal Weapons Instructor, a Taser Instructor. I instructed classes for both officers and the public in what to do in the event of an active shooter. During my career, I was a Patrol Supervisor, a Dispatch/911 Supervisor, and a Supervisor for the Detective Bureau. I have

worked in or supervised almost every part of this agency. For 32 years I have dedicated myself to the safety of the people of Lincoln County. It has always been my belief that the most important responsibility of Law Enforcement is the safety of the people. This means the safety of their persons, their property, and their rights. I have served the people of Lincoln County for the past 32 years. On Nov. 8, please vote Ken Schneider for Sheriff and allow me the honor of continuing to serve and protect you.



Dinges

**GARRETT DINGES**  
(Independent)

**Age:** 50

**Family:** In 1984, my parents Ed and Sharon, along with my brothers Eddie and Bill, moved from Kenosha to Merrill. They bought a tavern in Merrill and called it "Ed and Sharon's." I have been married to my love of a lifetime, Amy, for 25 years. We have one son, Gavin, who is enrolled at UW-Stevens Point. My father was instrumental in getting the Corning Volunteer Fire Department off the ground, along with Bob and Stan Wendt and Gene Kleinschmidt. In 2003 my dad passed away unexpectedly, and every day since then I have tried to be half the man that he was, and I try to pass his influence on to my son. I received all of my values from my parents, and that's what made me who I am today.

**Employment/position:** I began as a psychiatric technician working for North Central Health Care. I was then employed as an Emergency Medical Technician in Tomahawk. I was a Lincoln County Deputy Coroner.

I have been employed with Lincoln County for over 24 years. I worked in law enforcement for the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office as a Correctional Officer for 20 1/2 years. I currently work for Lincoln County Social Services as an Economic Support Specialist. I have learned much from these diverse experiences, and the knowledge I will bring to the Sheriff's office from those lessons learned will have a positive impact on our community.

**Past or present elected offices held, dates served:** --

**Membership in religious, service, fraternal, etc., clubs or organizations, and offices held, dates served:** Saint Stephen's United Church of Christ

**Why have you chosen to run for the office you seek:** The time is right for new leadership and direction for the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. I believe it is a privilege, and not an entitlement, to be Sheriff. Every citizen of Lincoln County deserves to live in a safe community and to be served by a law enforcement agency that is held accountable to the same standards and rules as the community they serve.

Lincoln County residents are concerned with taxpayer dollars being misused. They are concerned with the poor communication between

law enforcement, social services, and other local agencies. And, along with other issues, there is concern with the lack of consistency when it comes to the 911 center.

As Sheriff, I will examine every line item of the budget to make sure that the taxpayers get the quality service they deserve. I will restore relationships by having clear lines of communications with local law enforcement agencies and social services. I will reestablish accountability, evaluate the lack of consistency in the 911 center, bring a much-needed change to the organization, end the Good ol' Boys Network, and bring a new perspective and style of leadership that will help bring transparency at all levels.

While out talking with, and listening to, the residents of Lincoln County, the most important thing to them was that they wanted to be heard. They want someone to listen to them! To be a great leader, you have to be a great listener.

It is time that Lincoln County has a leader that listens and can think outside of the box for our community.



Woodward

**MARLYN "CVORKY" WOODWARD**

(Write-In Candidate)

**Age:** 68

**Family:** We have four children: Denny, Penny, Joseph, and Dustin.

**Employment/position:** I am currently retired.

**Past or present elected offices held, dates served:** I served for two years in Vilas County. Was Hired in Kansas as Undersheriff and later was elected Sheriff. Served in that capacity for three years as Sheriff.

**Membership in religious, service, fraternal, etc., clubs or organizations, and offices held, dates served:** I am Lutheran and a Member of DAV American Legions and many other organizations. I'm certified in Wisconsin, Kansas law-enforcement. Graduate of Kansas University Criminal Justice along with many other certificates too numerous to mention.

**Why have you chosen to run for the office you seek:** I've watched this election from the start hoping for candidates asking how the community can help the Sheriff's Department and what more can we do for the community. Instead, I hear no mention of the people working with the community or County Board Supervisors. That is why I

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• Law-enforcement basic training course

• State of Kansas law enforcement training commission

• Kansas Association of law enforcement planners charter members

• Graduated University of Kansas criminal justice

• Basic recruit training program Kansas

• Kansas law enforcement training school

• Capital major case investigation

• Graduated from federal branding commission

And many more certificates too numerous to mention.

**Race for Wisconsin State Assembly Representative for 35th District**

Two Lincoln County candidates are running to represent the 35th Wisconsin State Assembly District which comprises all of Lincoln County, western Langlade County, and portions of Marathon, Oneida, and Shawano Counties. Incumbent, Calvin Callahan, who has represented the 35th District since 2021, is being challenged by Todd Frederick, who is running as an Independent.



Callahan

**CALVIN CALLAHAN**  
*(Incumbent, Republican)*

**Age:** 23

**Family:** No children/ Not married

**Employment/position:** Wisconsin State Representative

**Past or present elected offices held, dates served:**

• Wisconsin State Representative, current

• Lincoln County Supervisor, current

• Town of Wilson Supervisor, past

• Board Member of North Central Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, past

• Lincoln County Republican Party Chairman, past

**Membership in religious, service, fraternal, etc., clubs or organizations, and offices held, dates served:**

• The National Rifle Association

• Somo Fish and Game Club

• The Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association

• Wisconsin Trappers Association

• Somo ATV Club

• Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association

• Lincoln County Republican Party

• Marathon County Republican Party

• Langlade County Republican Party

**Why have you chosen to run for the office you seek:** I first ran for State Assembly because we needed new fresh ideas in Madison. We needed to continue to build on the economy we had, continue to create new jobs, and continue to create opportunities for the businesses we had and have now to grow. It was also my goal to ensure that there was no reason why your kids, grandkids, and great-grandchildren couldn't raise their families here at home, in northern Wisconsin.

We have made tremendous strides towards that goal. The last two years, it was not only my honor and privilege to serve you in Madison, but I was proud to deliver the most significant tax cut in state history, millions in broadband expansion money for rural Wisconsin, and road and transportation funding to fix our roads; I was also proud to support the most significant increase in public education funding and policies to further rural healthcare which resulted in Wisconsin rural hospitals being rated #2 in the country.

This next session, there is more work to be done; I would even argue the most work ever needed to get done in a long time. Because of our failed State and National Administrations, we are unfortunately suffering from record-high inflation, out-of-control gas prices, crime running rampant in our state's cities, and constant dysfunction. With my experience in the legislature, my voting record, and my dedication to the people of this great district, I can assure you that resolving these issues will be a top priority.

I have the experience and tools needed to build a better Wisconsin, a Wisconsin that will promote job growth and raising families here at home in Northern Wisconsin. My candidacy has been endorsed by many other state and local officials, organizations such as but not limited to; The NRA, Wisconsin Tavern League, National Federation of Independent Business Owners, The Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Wisconsin Dairy Business Association, Wisconsin Right to Life, and many more. They have seen the determination and work ethic I put into serving the people. With your vote, we together will create a future for your families for generations to come, right here in Northern Wisconsin.

There's more work to be done. Are you with me?  
 I ask for your vote on Nov. 8.



Frederick

**TODD FREDERICK**  
*(Independent)*

**Age:** 61

**Family:** --

**Employment/position:** Owner/President of FreMarq Innovations in Merrill

**Past or present elected offices held, dates served:** --

**Membership in religious, service, fraternal, etc., clubs or organizations, and offices held, dates served:** --

**Why have you chosen to run for the office you seek:** I chose to run for the 35th Assembly seat as an Independent because I do not feel our district has been represented in Madison by either party. As an Independent I will represent the voters, not a party. The current two-party system is not working. They refuse to work together, so nothing really gets done. Yes, we have representation for hunting, fishing, tourism, and other outdoor activities (these are important issues that support a portion of our Northwoods and issues I strongly support), but these are not the only issues important to the Northwoods.

Our smaller towns like Tomahawk, Antigo, and Merrill, rely on year-round employment that provide living wages. These are jobs that come from manufacturing and agriculture. I created and have maintained a manufacturing company for the last 26 years and not once has a representative contacted me to see what is important to me and my company.

I have created hundreds of jobs over that 26 years and am certain my company could provide important feedback to our legislative representative regarding the local economy, employment situation, banking issues, and supply-chain issues. I believe a broader range of knowledge would help make impactful decisions. Unfortunately, I am not the only company

this has happened to. It is clear to me and others, that if they believe you did not vote for them, they ignore you.

Aside from manufacturers, this same lack of representation has happened throughout our district to retailers, farmers, and individuals that need services like broadband. It is not just one party or the other; both parties act this way. How can anyone be represented when representatives act like children and will not even talk to each other. Both sides think they have all the answers and the other side has none. It is win at all costs. Well, neither party has all the answers, and nobody is winning ... especially us, the citizens.

Owning a business for 26 years and creating jobs

takes leadership. I want to use my leadership skills to lead the discussion on how to:

• Bring affordable broadband to all our rural communities.

• Bring tech ed back into our high schools to give our students an opportunity to gain experience and skills that are necessary to fill positions in our local industries that will provide living wages.

• Work to overturn the current 1849 law on abortion to ensure women will have the right to make their own decisions on their reproductive healthcare.

• Work to bring fair redistricting maps to our state that do not favor only one party.

• Support community small and startup

businesses here in the Northwoods by providing resources that can help find funding and assistance with all areas like insurance.

• Work to reduce healthcare costs for everyone.

If elected, I will have listening sessions in every town and city to hear your concerns. I will take those concerns to Madison so your voice will be heard. I would be honored to have your vote on Nov. 8. Together we can make change.

**Other races unopposed**

In other area races, Valerie Caylor is running for Lincoln County Coroner, unopposed, and Thomas Barker is running for Lincoln County Clerk of Circuit Court, unopposed.

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**FFA MEMBER OF THE MONTH**

**Olivia Collinworth**, a Freshman at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named FFA Member of the Month for October 2022. Olivia joined FFA this year.


"I joined FFA because my family has a history of being involved in this club, and I wanted to continue that on," Olivia said. "Growing up, my family bred pigs, and we also had cows, steers, chickens, cats, dogs, and bunnies." "So far I have participated in Rodeo help, the June Dairy Breakfast, Grandpa's Farm, and the World Dairy Expo," she said. Olivia is also involved in Merrill Volleyball, Raise Your Voice, and Student Council. During her free time, she enjoys "practicing volleyball, fishing with her grandpa, and watching lots of movies."

Olivia is the daughter of Chad and Amy Collinworth of Gleason. After college, "My dream currently is to go to the University of Wyoming for volleyball," Olivia said.



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**Olivia Collinworth**

FFA Members highlighted in this feature are selected by the Executive Committee of the FFA, not by the sponsor.



Merrill's creepiest Halloween entertainment venue, the Haunted Sawmill at 700 Hendricks St., cleaned up some of the blood and gore and invited younger kids to a "Children's Matinee" on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022, at the Haunted Sawmill. Trick-or-Treating through the fully-lit haunt with guides, lots of candy, face painting, games, and non-scary characters provided Halloween fun for the whole family without any of the terror the venue dished out in large doses at other events through the past month, such as "Clown Night," "Blackout Night," "Bloody White Wedding," and more. **Joseph Frederick photo.**

# Veterans Day ceremonies

Merrill public and parochial schools will participate in Veterans Day ceremonies and recognition, along with community members and Bell Tower Residence. Veterans and friends of veterans are invited to participate. Contact individual schools for specific information on their particular events and procedures.

- Monday, Nov. 7, 2022 - Trinity Lutheran School @ 2:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022 - St. John Lutheran School @ 10:00 a.m. (Following the program, lunch for all Veterans and families/friends will be served.)
- Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022 - Bell Tower Residence @ 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022 - Kate Goodrich School @ 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022 - Washington School @ 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 11, 2022 - Prairie River Middle School @ 8:30 a.m.
- Friday, Nov. 11, 2022 - Cenotaph Ceremony @ 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, Nov. 11, 2022 - Merrill High School @ 11:00 p.m. and @ 2:15 p.m. (approximate)

All Veterans organizations are invited to attend and show their colors.

## LETTERS from page 5

confronting us, but rather, on counting seats in the House and Senate for those on the right and on the left to determine who's in the majority. They do so because, as we all know, those in power will vote along party lines regardless of how the issue may affect you and I. It gets increasingly worse every election. It has become so bad and divided that the words "Civil War" are on the lips of many. I hope, for the sake of all those who gave their lives, for the sake of this

country and the free world, that the madness stops before it's too late. Nikita Krushchev once stated to his communist supporters "not to concern themselves with America for we will destroy ourselves from within." We are busy fulfilling his prophecy.

- Mike Closser  
Merrill, Wis.

### TO THE EDITOR:

I read an article WXPB.org published August 19, 2022, in which Superintendent of MAPS, Shannon Murray, stated that due to federal monies, "We've created some positions based on those"

and "we've done some different things based on that money."

One of the reasons for the proposed referendum is to cover the costs of these created positions and different things when, as Shannon Murray stated, "those federal monies go away."

In other words, the taxpayer is being asked to fund (over and above their typical taxes) in order to keep afloat, "created positions" and "different things" because federal monies will dry up.

Since late 1990's/early 2000's to today, MAPS has a

staggering number of less students and building closures, yet the school budget ballooned from about \$28,000,000 back then to now almost \$50,000,000.

One must be asking if the district is utilizing the taxpayer monies they have been entrusted with wisely.

- Karen Cournaya  
Merrill, Wis.

### TO THE EDITOR:

The State requires an annual count of students attending class on the third Friday of September, which is used to determine the per pupil funding schools are eligible to receive. September 2022 data was released on October 19 at the MAPS Board meeting and is publicly available at the Administration office.

The "Third Friday Count" report includes: PK special-ed at Head Start and Early Childhood; 4K children attending New Testament; Parkside Preschool, St. Francis, and Head Start 4K; Bridges Virtual Academy; and MADA. However, none of these students physically attend the district's K-12 school facilities.

Let's compare MAPS "Third Friday Count" data from the 2022-2023 and 2012-2013 school years just for K-12 students actually attending classes at district buildings:

K-4 elementary: 2012-2013 - 875; 2022-2023 - 604

5-8th grades: 2012-2013 - 739; 2022-2023 - 594

9-12th grades: 2012-2013 - 1,004; 2022-2023 - 801

Totals: 2012-2013 - 2,618; 2022-2023 - 1,999

Over the past decade, MAPS lost 619 students in K-12 classrooms, a decrease of 24%.

Peak enrollment was 3,473 in 1999 and has steadily declined. MAPS had a loss of 1,474 students since then, yet, even with elementary building closures, we are funding the heating, upkeep, maintenance, and staffing of buildings designed to hold 3,742 students.

Is this a wise use of limited resources?

How much will the proposed referendum cost you? At the bottom of your 2021 real estate tax bill, look at "Merrill School - Total Additional Taxes Applied to Property."

Regards,  
- Loretta Baughan  
Merrill, Wis.

### TO THE EDITOR:

SHINING A LIGHT ON THE SERVICE OF LOCAL VETERANS

In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day, calling on the nation to "solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us re-consecrate ourselves to the

task of promoting and enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

Now more than ever, our veterans and their families need our support. That's why this year, Lincoln County is launching Operation Green Light for Veterans, a National initiative designed to shine a light on the service of our veterans.

As part of Operation Green Light for Veterans, Lincoln County is illuminating County buildings in green, beginning on Nov. 7th, 2022, to remind the veterans and their families in our community that we are here for them.

We encourage individuals and businesses to join us by changing one light bulb in the entryway of your home or business to a green bulb. By shining a green light, you let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported. While this event is focused on the week of Veterans Day (Nov. 7-13), we encourage individuals to continue to shine the light year-round.

This Veterans Day, join us in shining a light of hope and support for over 2,700 veterans who call Lincoln County home. Join Operation Green Light and let's turn Lincoln County green this Veterans Day.

-John Olson, Veterans Services Office  
Merrill, Wis.

## 2022-2023 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedules

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

Practice begins Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Girls Basketball (Varsity & JV)

Practice begins Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Boys Hockey (Varsity and JV)

Practice begins Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Girls Hockey (Varsity and JV)

Practice begins Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Boys Wrestling (Varsity and JV)

Practice begins Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Girls Wrestling (Varsity)

Practice begins Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**Aiden Lonsdorf**, a Sophomore at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Aiden is a wide receiver and safety on the Merrill Varsity Football Team. He started playing football in sixth grade for Prairie River Middle School, advanced to JV 2 as a Freshman, and started as Varsity this year. Coach Wadzinski recognized Aiden's hard work and dedication this season, and he is an asset to the Varsity Team. In the spring, Aiden is also on the Merrill Varsity Track Team where he started at the Varsity level as a Freshman.

When not in school or playing sports, Aiden works part time at Merrill Ace Hardware. In his free time he lifts weights at the high school and enjoys playing Madden, and hanging out with friends talking about sports. He said a large part of his life revolves around sports right now.

The son of Sara and Matt Lonsdorf of Merrill, Aiden has a 3.5 GPA, and plans to go to a four-year college after graduation. He hopes to begin working in the FAB Lab at MHS after he completes another graphic design class, and he is considering studying graphic design or a related field in college.

Congratulations from these sponsors:



**Aiden Lonsdorf**

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

Please direct comments or suggestions to [fotonews@mmlocal.com](mailto:fotonews@mmlocal.com)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

- \* Letters must be 250 words or less. (There will be no exceptions to this. Any letter longer than 250 words will not be printed.)
- \* The writer must include their full name, complete address, and a phone number where he/she can be easily reached for verification. Phone numbers and street addresses will not be published, but will be used for verification purposes, if necessary. Letters must be signed and the name, city, and state will be printed.
- \* Letters may be edited for style, grammar, and length. Form letters or those we determine to be libelous or slanderous will not be accepted. Any letter deemed derogatory, inflammatory, or involving vulgar language will not be published. We reserve all rights to reject material submitted to this publication.
- \* Letters will be published on a "first come, first served" basis. Any letters which we are unable to publish in the printed newspaper may be run online at [www.merrillfotonews.com](http://www.merrillfotonews.com) and/or may be printed in the paper at a later date.
- \* In fairness to all, and due to space constraints, there is a limit of two letters per year from an individual writer. Additional letters may be submitted to our Paid Letters to the Editor column and will require payment in full prior to publication at the same rate as Political Letters to the Editor (see policy below).

### POLITICAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

All letters submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum, or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40.00 per letter of up to 250 words in length. Longer political letters will be accepted but will be charged \$10.00 per additional 50 words. All political letters must be prepared prior to printing. Letters to the Editor will not be accepted from candidates running for election or representatives of an organization endorsing their own referendum, as these are clearly advertisements and not opinion letters; those submissions will be referred to our Advertising Department to be run as paid ads.

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