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The "Keep the Wreath Green" wreath on the side of the Merrill Fire Station is a reminder to be safe this holiday season. Limit the number of lights plugged in together, don't overload extension cords or breakers, keep space heaters away from all other objects to avoid combustion and fire, don't leave lit candles unattended, and be sure to have working smoke detectors in homes (with fresh batteries), especially near bedrooms and sleeping areas. The two red bulbs on the Christmas wreath are indicators that already this holiday season, there have been two fires in the Merrill area. Each time the MFD responds to another building fire call, a red bulb replaces a green bulb on this wreath. The goal is to keep the wreath green, and keep our community safe.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Fire Department.



Merrill's Holiday Decorating Contest and Tour of Lights Bus Ride

Merrill announced a First Holiday Decorating Contest for homes and businesses, as a joint effort between the City of Merrill and the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce. Homeowners and businesses who wish to be entered should contact the appropriate office to register and start decking their halls and their yards and buildings, too. On North Center Ave. in Merrill, the Bares' home already features a giant Frosty the Snowman, as well as a nativity and lights.

Joseph Frederick photo

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Make Merrill's small-town charm sparkle this holiday season! The City of Merrill and the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce are partnering to hold Merrill's First Holiday Decorating Contest. This contest is open to City of Merrill residents and businesses located within the city limits. Prizes will be awarded from first to third place, with awards given for the top three in the home decorating category and also

the top three in the business decorating category.

To have an opportunity to win a prize, homeowners should call the Merrill Transit office at 715.536.7112 (open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) to indicate they are entering the contest. This will ensure their home is entered on the map for the Tour of Lights. Business owners should call the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce

at 715.536.9474 to indicate they wish to enter the contest. The deadline to call to enter is Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

The judges of the contest will be riders on Merrill's Tour of Lights Bus Ride on Dec. 14, 2022.

"In an effort to make Merrill's Tour of Lights Bus Ride more exciting, we thought hosting a city-wide holiday decorating contest

See CONTEST page 2

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Third annual Santa in the Firehouse in Town of Pine River

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Pine River Volunteer Fire Department will host their third annual Santa in the Firehouse at the Pine River Fire Station, N1622 Range Line Rd., Merrill, in the Town of Pine River East of Merrill this Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

"Santa will be on hand to hear your Christmas wish list, pose for pictures, and hand out treat bags," organizers at the Pine River Fire Department said.

There is no cost, there will be cookies and treats, and in addition, there will be a drawing for kids to win. "Two lucky boys and girls will go home with brand new bicycles."

Perhaps the biggest surprise is that Santa will arrive at 1:00 p.m.



A little girl tells Santa her Christmas wishes at the second annual Pine River Fire Department's Santa in the Firehouse event in 2021. Santa will be back at the Firehouse this Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, from 1:00 to 4:00 to visit with children, and it's anticipated he may arrive by helicopter!

Tina L. Scott photo.

by air. With our low snowfall totals so far this year, he won't be able to land his sleigh on land that day, so instead, Santa will fly in and arrive at the Pine River Fire Station by helicopter!

Before or after visiting with Santa, organizers encourage locals and visitors alike to make a visit to the Town of Pine River an annual tradition. "Make it a day in Pine River," organizers say. "[There are] plenty of places to buy the perfect tree from our local farms." At least three well-known area Christmas tree farms are located either on Center Rd. or Hwy. 64 in Pine River with options for pre-cut or cut-your-own Christmas trees; wreaths, kissing balls, and other evergreen decor available for purchase; and fun family festivities on site.

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INCOMPLETE VEHICLES \$150/NT

Holy Cross Sisters celebrate the beginning of their 100th year in Merrill

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, Mayor Steve Hass joined the Holy Cross Sisters of Merrill and their associates in the Clare Center gathering room at the Sisters' residence at 1600 O'Day St. in Merrill near Bell Tower Residence. The Sisters were gathering—along with Sister Dorothee Halbach, a member of their International Leadership Team who traveled from Ingenbohl, Switzerland, for a three-week visit—to kick off their celebration marking the beginning of the Holy Cross Sisters' 100th year in Merrill, Wisconsin.

Mayor Hass read a proclamation on behalf of the

City of Merrill recognizing and noting the many achievements and acts of service the Sisters have performed during their tenure in the community and the many aspects of community life they have worked to improve for Merrill residents through the years.

Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross proclamation

The proclamation read by Mayor Hass reads:

WHEREAS, the Holy Cross Sisters came to Merrill, Wis., on Oct. 24, 1923, at the invitation of the City fathers to start a hospital; and

WHEREAS, in 1923 the Scott Mansion was deeded to the Holy Cross Sisters to be used as the Holy Cross Sisters Convent and Novitiate, and in 1926, the newly-constructed Holy Cross Hospital in Merrill was completed and ready for occupancy, and in 1937, a new chapel was built adjacent to the hospital, and in 1942, a new building for Our Lady of the Holy Cross High School was constructed, and in 1946-1947, a new convent and chapel—Holy Cross Convent and Holy Cross Chapel—was built on the same hill; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, responding to a rising need for



L to R: Sister Dorothee Halbach, Sister Linda Songy, Sister Kathy Lange, and Sister Pat Cormack listen as Mayor Steve Hass reads a proclamation from the City of Merrill recognizing the Sisters for their service and contributions to the Merrill community over the last 99 years. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

elderly care, the Holy Cross Convent and Chapel was converted into an assisted-living facility and renamed Bell Tower Residence where they provide the highest quality senior care to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Holy Cross Sisters have committed themselves to pastoral care, health care, and elder care for the Merrill community; elementary education at St. Robert Bellarmine/St. Francis Xavier Catholic School(s), secondary education at Our Lady of the Holy Cross High School and Merrill High School, and

See **SISTERS** page 3

<p>Apples Cortland, Fuji, Jonagold & Yellow Delicious 99¢ lb. \$4.95 5 lb. \$12 ½ bu. Honey Crisp \$22 ½ bu.</p>	<p>DELI SPECIALS WI Munster Cheese \$3.99 lb. Corned Beef \$6.99 lb. <i>We have over 20 kinds of low-priced, high-quality cheese!</i></p>
<p>Fresh-pressed Apple Cider \$6.49 gal. \$3.49 ½ gal.</p>	<p>Candy Making Supplies Coating Chocolates Coating Wafers, Sprinkles and Sanding Sugars Cookie Cutters</p>
<p>Homemade Fruitcake \$8.95 ea. We also have the supplies to make your own!</p>	<p>Beautiful, Queen size Fleece Blankets \$55 ea. 10 styles!</p>
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<p>PRAIRIE PINES 715-873-4840 STOP IN AND ENJOY OUR FRIENDLY, AGREEABLE SERVICE!</p>	



Front row (seated), L to R: Sister Kathy Lange, Sister Pat Cormack, Sister Celine Goessel, Sister Joelle Mauer, Sister Mary Angela Sackmann, Sister John Marie Simien, Sister Mary Thomas Reichl, Sister Dolores Hrdina, Sister Carol Crosby, Sister Loretta Schreiber, and Sister Mary Michael Smits. Back row, L to R: Barb Johnson, Ric Johnson, Sister Mary Anne Rose, Russ Mancl, Carol Mancl, Susanna Juon-Gilk, Sister Kathy Wiesneski, Mayor Steve Hass, Sister Linda Songy, Sister Mary Zita Klimek, Sister Peggy Janchel, Sister Dorothy Niemann, Sister Dorothee Halbach (International Leadership), and Sister Pam Hodgson. **Tina L. Scott photo.**

34th Annual Tour of lights
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"We pick you up at your door and take you home."
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5:30 to 7:30pm FREE!
We want to see your decorations Call 715-536-7112 to add your home to our route.
Merry Christmas from your staff at: **MERRILL GO-ROUND**

CONTEST from page 1

would encourage more people to decorate their homes and businesses, and make it more fun for riders by having them be the judges," said Brad Brummond, Merrill Transit Administrator.

Each year, the Merrill-Go-Round picks up riders at their homes, or a location within the city of Merrill, and takes them on a bus ride to tour the city of Merrill, to see the homes and businesses that are decorated for the

holidays. The duration of the tour is usually two hours or less. The Tour of Lights Bus Ride is free for the public to ride and is fun for all ages.

This year's Tour of Lights Bus Ride will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. and reservations are required.

To reserve your seat on the Tour of Lights Bus Ride, call Merrill Transit at 715.536.7112. A limited number of seats are available, so reservations should be made as soon as possible.

If you love to decorate for the holidays, this contest is the perfect reason to deck your halls with lights indoors and out and to help Merrill sparkle!

If decorating is not your thing, reserve your seat on the Tour of Lights Bus Ride on Dec. 14 and be a judge in Merrill's First Holiday Decorating

The City of Merrill & Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce presents

Merrill's Holiday Decorating Contest & Tour of Lights Bus Ride

Make Merrill's small-town charm sparkle this holiday season — and win a prize! Enter your house or business in the holiday decorating contest. If decorating isn't your thing, reserve a seat on the Tour of Lights Bus Ride and be a judge. Call Merrill Transit at (715) 536-7112.

Tour of Lights Bus Ride
TIME: 5 p.m.
DATE: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022

Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce 705 N. Center Ave. Merrill, WI 54452 (715) 536-9474
City of Merrill Transit 1004 E. 1st St. Merrill, WI 54452 (715) 536-7122
For more information, visit the City's website or Facebook page!

Contest! Bring your friends or family—or come alone and leave with friends—and see Merrill's small-town charm shine this holiday season.

Merrill Golf Club 1604 O'Day St. Merrill 715-536-2529

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY **CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL**

Christmas craft shows; Christmas Spirit seeks cash donations for books

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Christmas Craft and Vendor events will be held this weekend at three locations in Merrill on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Merrill Eagles Club, 1205 Lake St.; Les and Jim's, 1208 N. Center Ave.; and VFW Post 1638, 601 Johnson St., will all play host to hundreds of area crafters, vendors, boutiques, and small businesses. Individual booths will feature hand-crafted and one-of-a-kind items, including jewelry, home decor, clothing, holiday decorations, and gift items; baked goods; books; and home goods for purchase, as well as some raffle baskets for fundraisers.

Food will be available for purchase at most locations, so shoppers can stop for lunch while they're out shopping.

Christmas Spirit Book Drive

New this year, the Christmas Spirit Lincoln County United Giving Tree Program is requesting book donations for their families in need that can be used to supplement other gift items area children in the program will receive. To participate, "Shoppers can pick a tag off of the tree located at Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes in the back bar area of their banquet hall during Saturday's event," said Laura Bares, one of the event coordinators and representative for Usborne Books. Shoppers select a tag and then make a donation in the amount of the tag selected. "Tags are in the amounts of \$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20, and the money will be used to



Christmas Spirit is requesting help with purchasing books for area children as a part of their Christmas gifts. Stop down at Les & Jim's on Saturday to donate in the amount of a gift tag on the little tree at the Usborne Books booth.

Tina L. Scott photo.

purchase new children's books for children in need," Bares said.

"Reading is a wonderful way to spend quality time with little ones and fosters strong communication and academic skills," she adds. "If you missed your opportunity to pick a tag from a tree throughout the community to purchase a gift for a child, this is another way you can help!"

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• Mini M&M's 16 oz.....	\$1.80
• Sweetened Coconut Flakes 16 oz.....	\$1.75
• Swiss Miss Hot Cocoa Flavored Cake Mix 15.25 oz.....	\$1.10
• Corn Chex Cereal 12 oz.....	\$1.00
• Honey Comb Cereal (Big Bites) 6 oz.....	50¢
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Steve Hass, Mayor and Mitten Tree Coordinator, with area Girl Scouts, some holding posters they made to promote the collection of hats, mittens, scarves, and socks, near the 2022 Mitten Tree at Miller Home Furnishings.

Tina L. Scott photo.

Mitten Tree at Miller Home Furnishings ... warming area children for 41 years

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

This year, 2022, marks 41 years Miller Home Furnishings in Merrill has been warming the hands, heads, and hearts of area children with their Mitten Tree.

In truth, the tree collects more than just mittens. Area residents and Girl Scout Troops, along with Miller's customers, collect and cover the tree with hats, scarves, and socks, in addition to mittens.

Knitted, crocheted, sewn, or purchased, new donations of these items are welcomed and appreciated and can be brought to the Mitten Tree and hung on its evergreen branches during normal business hours. Community members are invited to help by purchasing needed

items and bringing them to Miller Home Furnishings, 120 N. Prospect St., in Merrill. The Mitten Tree is visible through the front window.

As the tree's branches fill with donations, Steve Hass, Merrill Mayor and this year's Mitten Tree coordinator, will divide the donations up and take the items to area schools, both public and parochial, so teachers can distribute them as they see a need, ensuring children in the Merrill community will be warm this winter.

Miller Home Furnishings owner Wally Smith, along with Mayor Hass, a 30+ year employee at the store, say they are proud to sponsor the Mitten Tree. "We'll make sure it stays for as long as we're here," Hass said.

Originally sponsored by Merrill's

West Side Merchants and Smith, the Merrill Area Girl Scouts [including Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Scouts in the area] have taken on advertising and promoting the project, as well as collecting needed items for the tree. They make and put up posters in the community to publicize the Mitten Tree and the need for donations.

It ends up being an entire community project, and the girls work together, focused on being a sisterhood, rather than differentiating between troops, leaders say. They work together as one big collective for the Mitten Tree.

For more information, contact Steve Hass, the Mitten Tree Coordinator, at 715.536.5922 at Miller Home Furnishings.

SISTERS from page 2

post-secondary education at Holy Cross/Menard Jr. College; and continued to expand, serving on numerous community boards and volunteering with programs to minister to those in need and promoting social consciousness to environmental protection, domestic violence, and anti-human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the Merrill commu-

nity is deeply appreciative for the humanitarian services provided through the past 100 years by the Holy Cross Sisters through their numerous ministries to the residents of the City of Merrill,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven Hass, Mayor of the City of Merrill, Wisconsin, do hereby extend sincere congratulations to the Holy Cross Sisters and urge all citizens to join me in this expression of our appreciation for their unselfish

dedication to the welfare of our community and extend our best wishes upon the occasion of the beginning of their 100th year in Merrill.

The Holy Cross Sisters and their associates are planning events throughout this coming year to continue their celebration until they can officially declare 100 years in Merrill next year on Oct. 24, 2023!

You are invited to
St. John Lutheran Church
1104 E. Third Street, Merrill • 715-536-4722

Saturday, December 10 • 5:30 pm
Living River Quartet
Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 11 • 8:00 & 10:30 am
Nine Lessons and Carols
with brass quintet, organ,
and St. John adult choir

Cookie Walk after all services

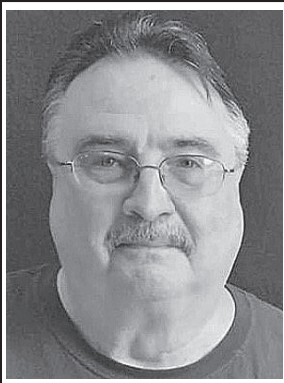
Yes! It's True!!

Mrs. Claus and her Incredible Elves will be stopping in Merrill! She is anxious to visit with all the local children and adults.

When: Saturday, Dec. 17th, 2022
Time: Noon to 3 PM
Where: St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store
1004 E. Main Street, Merrill

Sponsored by incrediblebank and St. Vincent de Paul.

OBITUARIES



Gary Earl Christie "Pops", age 70, of Merrill, formerly from California, passed away on Saturday, November 26, 2022, at the Marshfield Medical Center in Weston, after a long illness and complications from COVID-19. Gary was born on September 23, 1952, to the late Earl and Marge (Aldred) Christie in Patterson, CA. He attended and graduated from high school in California. He met the love of his life, Ann Hill, and the two exchanged marriage vows on September

14, 1986, in Nevada. She survives. Gary had a passion for cooking and made it into a job very early on in his life. He enjoyed cooking, whether it was his famous stir-fry or the best Mexican dishes, he had a knack for it. Gary also worked for Hurd in Merrill, as a glass cutter for many years. He retired in 2011. He looked forward to the next trip that he and Ann would take, but he especially cherished his cruise to the Bahamas with his grandson, Noah. Gary and Noah had a very special bond and were attached at the hip. They would build Lego creations and model cars together and would find time to toss the football around. Gary also loved trains and he would go see them every chance he had. Gary's family and friends remember him as truly the nicest man you will ever meet! He was an excellent caregiver, always kind and had a calming demeanor. He was also a "Bingo-holic" as his family called him and was always up for a game. Gary will be sadly missed but has left his mark on his family and friends.

Gary is survived by his loving wife: Ann Christie of Merrill, sons: John (Sara) Joyner of Merrill, Bill (Shae) Criswell of Missouri and James (Ashley) Joyner of Pennsylvania, grandchildren: Paula Blair and Reno, Noah, Randall and Melody Joyner, 3 great grandsons and 1 great granddaughter, as well as numerous nieces and nephews and his loyal dog: "Faith". He was preceded in death by his parents, stepmother: Jean Christie, special friend and mentor: Louis and 3 dogs.

Gary was a selfless and giving person, even in death. He was a donor and will graciously give many people a second chance at life.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Merrill Fire Department and the Merrill Police Department for their efforts to save Gary, to the nursing staff at North-central Healthcare - Northwinds Vent Community, the Minocqua Howard Young ICU staff in the COVID unit, the nursing staff at Marshfield Medical Center ICU in Weston and the UW Organ & Tissue Donation organization in Madison. All involved with Gary's illness and his passing were very respectful and kind, and that will forever stay with the family.

A Celebration of Life for Gary will take place at a later date. Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.



Donald "Don" R. Petrowski, age 77, of Merrill, passed away on Thursday, December 1, 2022, while being cared for at Homme Home in Wittenberg. He was also under the care of Compassus Hospice. Don was born on April 14, 1945, to the late Alex and Emma (Janda) Petrowski in the town of Vilas, Langlade County. He grew up and attended school in the town of Vilas. In 1965, Don found the love of his life, Donna Yonke, and the two exchanged marriage vows on

July 10, 1965, at St. John Lutheran Church in Merrill. They enjoyed many polka dances together over the years, Don loved his polkas! Sadly, Donna passed away on November 13, 2007.

Don drove truck for many years, and truly loved his job! He worked for several companies, including Prinzel for 7 years and Hanz Construction for 13 years. Later in life, Don owned and operated Petrowski Trucking. He always said, "If you have a CDL, you will always have a job". When he wasn't trucking, he looked forward to going to Darin's cabin during the Fall and deer season. Don attended the Eagle River Snowmobile Races every year, for many years, something he always was excited to do. He was a sociable and friendly person that liked to be with his friends and family, just having a beer and talking. He is remembered as a pleasant man, not only by his family, but by his caregivers as well. Don loved and cherished his time spent with his grandchildren and great granddaughter. He will be sadly missed by his friends and family.

Don is survived by his daughter: Donita (fiancé, Dan Folta) Petrowski of Merrill, son: Darin (Terry) Petrowski of Irma, grandchildren: Lindsey (Logan) Kluck of Merrill and Kayli, Kendra, and Alex Petrowski, all of Irma, great granddaughter: Lexi Kluck, sister: Patsy Doucette, in-laws: Marilyn Burgener, Roger Yonke and Shirley Yonke, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death his parents, wife: Donna, sisters: Verna Teal and Ethel Zupon, brother: Raymond Petrowski and many in-laws.

Funeral Services for Don will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 11am at Waid Funeral Home, with a visitation starting at 9am, also at the funeral home. Pastor Greg Laska will officiate. Interment at Forest View Cemetery in the town of Vilas will immediately follow the service.

Family would like to thank all of those that were involved with his care. The care and support shown to Don and his family is appreciated beyond words.

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



Helen M. Osimitz (Rezutek), age 89, passed away on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, while residing at Country Terrace in Tomahawk, and while under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. She was born on June 28, 1933, to the late Peter P. and Mary M. (Labanz) Rezutek in Rib Lake, WI. She was the second youngest of 11 children. Helen attended Mud Lake & Fawn Valley grade schools and graduated from Rib Lake High School in

1950. She met Donald L. Osimitz, and the two were married on March 13, 1954, in Crown Point, IN. Sadly, he passed away in 1981. She worked in Milwaukee at Perfox. Helen and her husband then moved to Chicago and were blessed with 5 children. Later, they moved to Wausau. Helen greatly enjoyed growing her own vegetables, canning those vegetables, and tending to her beautiful flower gardens. Camping and fishing at Broken Bow Campground in Lac Du Flambeau were a few of her favorite hobbies that she looked forward to every year. Helen was a fantastic cook and baker! At Christmastime, she enjoyed baking her family's favorite cookies and her holiday specialty was her famous Pierogi! At Easter, her special dish to prepare was borscht ~ a breakfast delight. Helen was a previous member of the "Woman of the Moose" in Wausau. She was a wonderful homemaker and mom, and she will never be forgotten.

Helen is survived by her loving and devoted children: Joseph (Cathy) Osimitz of Marathon, WI, Debra (Richard) Sillars of Bozeman, MT, Don (Zoa) Osimitz of Citra, FL, Robert (Laurie) Osimitz of Lake Tomahawk, WI, and Greg (Linda) Osimitz of Merrill, WI, 17 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren, 2 special nieces: Jean Gerstberger and Peggy Katzfey, along with many other nieces and nephews. She will also be sadly missed by her fur-babies: "Boo", "Lizzy", and "Shawnee". She was preceded in death by her parents, husband: Donald L. Osimitz, 1 great grandson and 10 brothers and sisters, as well as their spouses.

A Celebration of Life for Helen will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 12:30 pm at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill. Father Louis Maram Reddy will officiate.

The family is very grateful for the caregivers at Country Terrace and their love and attention shown to them and Helen during her stay there.

In lieu of flowers, please direct donations to RAD (Rescue, Adopt and Donate) at 134523 Skye Falls Drive, Marathon, WI, 54448 or the New Life Pet Adoption Center at 125 Cattail Ave, Marathon City, WI 54448. Pets were always very near and dear to Helen's heart.

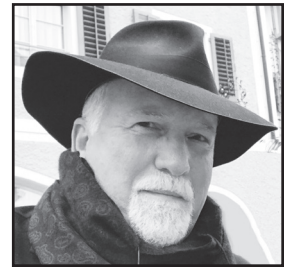
Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Altered States

DEAR READER,

Our minds are altered or adjusted every day as we explore new worlds and the characters residing within. We meet someone hailing from a country we haven't visited, who teaches us a new and noble purpose, one we had not known before.



In some way the mind undergoes a paradigm shift - all for the good. This can happen only if we are open to climbing to a higher level of being. Once we understand something new and are enlightened by it, our past ways of seeing, thinking, and judging are no longer relevant. We constantly strive to shed the old skins to perfect all the imperfections inherent with being human: there's always a better version of ourselves, like a new robe ready to try on.

When life is hard, some choose another path to alter the mind. Alcohol, drugs, and other tempting crutches can pull us back to the lumps of clay we once were. These are two distinct doors that because of free will, we control.

One can rationalize either decision, but it is important to think it over carefully. It's a choice that we ourselves make and ultimately have to live with. Joys and sorrows are a part of each direction. Ultimately it comes down to choosing how we want to live our lives, and to being true to who we are and who we want to become.

Once we make the choice, it is time to pull out the compass and head out on the journey.

PATRICK J. WOOD
PUBLISHER

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Megan Klug
Office Manager

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Lila Matsche, in the early morning of November 29, 2022 Lila Mae, age 92, passed away peacefully at Applegate Terrace with her sister Ruth by her side. Lila was born in Merrill Wisconsin on May 8th, 1930 to the late Fred and Tena Fromfeld. Lila attended school in Merrill, graduating from Merrill High. After graduating she worked at the Hanson Glove factory. Then moved to Chicago to work at an insurance company. She became homesick for her family and moved back to Merrill and worked for Employers Mutual Company of Wausau for 17 years, then took a break for a couple of years. Returned to work for Mason Insurance for another 17 years working until she was 70 years old. She met her husband Charles, on a blind date with a co-worker. A year later they would become husband and wife. They traveled to Alaska, Europe and Hawaii, took some cruises. Traveled to Branson and Florida, Arizona. They enjoyed Polka dances. She was an amazing cook checking out new recipes in Taste of Homes books. Always enjoyed having family over for her wonderful meals. One of her most loved to do things was babysitting for nephews and nieces. She baby sat for Archie from birth to graduating from grade school. She enjoyed growing some amazing flowers she keep over from her gardens. Lila is survived by sisters; Myra Genovaldi, Betty Sell; Ruth Henkelman, brother Charles (Joyce) Fromfeld, Sister-in-Laws; Mable Fromfeld, and Nathalie Fromfeld. Preceded in death by her parents, husband Charles, brothers; Dennis, Fred, Paul Fromfeld. A sister Esther Golds. Brothers-in-laws; Henry Genovaldi, John Golds, William Sell, and David Henkelman. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 A.M., Friday, December 9th, at Saint Matthew Catholic Church, Wausau, with Father Sebastion officiating. Friends and family may visit on Friday at the church from 9 AM until the time of service. Helke Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements. You may view the obituary on their web site. Please sign our family guestbook at Helke.com. A heartfelt work of appreciation goes to the nurses and staff of Applegate Reflections and Interim Health Care Services for their compassionate care for Lila.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: 11/29/2022
 /S/HON. GALEN BAYNE-ALLISON
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, BR I
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 Notice and Order for
 Name Change Hearing
 Case No. 22CV166
 IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME
 CHANGE OF
 THEO JOHN KAHALEWAIKE
 By (Petitioner) ELLEN MAUREEN
 BUHRMANN

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
 A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
 From: THEO JOHN KAHALEWAIKE
 To: THEO JOHN BUHRMANN
 Birth Certificate: THEO JOHN BUHRMANN

IT IS ORDERED:
 This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
 Judge's Name: Galen Bayne-Allison
 Place: Lincoln County Branch 1 Courtroom
 1110 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452
 Date: January 18, 2023
 Time: 8:45 AM

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
 Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
 Published: December 8, 15 & 22, 2022
 WNAXLP

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: December 5, 2022
 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
 Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 George Hanson
 deceased

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
 Case No. 2022IN60

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 04/12/1952, and date of death 09/30/2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N4380 Kellys Lane, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 03/17/2023.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
 Ryan Hanson
 N2603 Snow Rd
 Merrill, WI 54452
 920-948-3763
 Published December 8, 15 & 22, 2022
 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: November 11, 2022
 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
 Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 KENNETH M. ELLENBECKER
 DOD: 01/25/2020

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
 Case No. 2022 IN 58

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 12/25/1982, and date of death 01/25/2020, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1502 River Street, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March 17, 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 11/24/22, 12/1/22 & 12/8/22
 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: November 18, 2022
 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
 Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
 PATRICIA GARNETT

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
 Case No. 2022 IN 59

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth January 28, 1936, and date of death February 11, 2022, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2100 E. 6th St., Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 03-24-2023.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main St., Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
 Atty. Miranda M. Lamb
 Nolan & Defner Legacy Law
 1803 Stewart Ave.
 Wausau, WI 54401
 715-842-0888 /Bar # 1112872
 Published 11/24/22, 12/1/22 & 12/8/22
 WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: November 21, 2022
 Electronically Signed by
 Thomas S. Barker, Clerk of Court

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 Amended
Summons and Complaint
Small Claims-Replevin
 Case No: 2022SC000308

Legals 7700

Small Claims, Replevin 31003
 PARK CITY CREDIT UNION vs.
 LINDSAY M HERSHEY

Plaintiff:
 PARK CITY CREDIT UNION
 501 S PINE RIDGE AVE
 Merrill, WI 54452

Defendant:
 LINDSAY M HERSHEY
 N10799 COUNTY ROAD H
 Gleason WI 54435
 THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, to the said defendant(s):

The plaintiff(s) named above has commenced an action to recover possession of the following property:
 If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

SUMMONS
 This claim arises under a consumer credit transaction under which you are alleged to be in default, as described in the attached complaint.

IF YOU ARE NOT IN DEFAULT OR HAVE AN OBJECTION TO THE PLAINTIFF'S TAKING THE PROPERTY LISTED ABOVE, YOU MAY ARRANGE FOR A HEARING ON THESE ISSUES BY APPEARING AT THE TIME AND PLACE STATED IN THIS SUMMONS. IF YOU DO NOT APPEAR AT THAT TIME, JUDGEMENT WILL BE RENDERED AGAINST YOU FOR DELIVERY OF THE PROPERTY TO THE PLAINTIFF.

When to appear/File an Answer
 Date: 12-29-2022 Time: 1:00 pm
Place to Appear/File an Answer
 Lincoln County Courthouse
 1110 E. Main Street, Suite 205
 Merrill, WI 54452
Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner
 Galen Bayne-Allison
 Published December 1 & 8, 2022
 WNAXLP

PUBLIC NOTICE: The First Riverside Presbyterian Church in Merrill, WI is declared closed and the corporation dissolved effective August 28, 2022, by the action of its parent body: the Winnebago Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), at its Stated Meeting on September 22, 2022. Any and all parties that have outstanding business related to the First Riverside Presbyterian Church or any unsatisfied claims for resolution are to notify the Winnebago Presbytery before December 21, 2022, at its corporate office located at: 181 E. North Water St., Neenah, WI 54956, Attn: Stated Clerk. (920)886-3598
 Published Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2022
 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN
 CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
 Case No. 20CV24
 Code No. 30404
 Foreclosure of Mortgage
 Dollar Amount Greater Than \$10,000.00
WISCONSIN HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 ROUDY R. ARNDT and UNKNOWN SPOUSE of Roudy R. Arndt; and TARA LYN STAHNKE and UNKNOWN SPOUSE of Tara Lyn Stahnke; and WISCONSIN HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
 Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on March 25, 2020, in the amount of \$183,350.34, the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:
TIME: January 5, 2023 at 10:00 o'clock a.m.
TERMS: 1. 10% down in cash or certified funds at the time of sale; balance due within 10 days of confirmation of sale; failure to pay balance due will result in forfeit of deposit to plaintiff.

2. Sold "as is" and subject to all legal liens and encumbrances.
 3. Buyer to pay applicable Wisconsin Real Estate Transfer Tax, costs of recording and all costs of sale within 10 days of confirmation of sheriff's sale.
PLACE: Main entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse, located at 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, WI

DESCRIPTION:
 Parcel 1:

The North One-half (N1/2) of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4 NE 1/4), Section One (1), Township Thirty-one (31) North, Range Four (4) East, Town of Corning, Lincoln County, Wisconsin; AND
 Parcel 2:
 The North One-half (N1/2) of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW 1/4 NE 1/4), Section One (1), Township Thirty-one (31) North, Range Four (4) East, Town of Corning, Lincoln County, Wisconsin.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: N2481 Wegner Road, Town of Corning
TAX KEY NO.: 006-3104-011-9995 and 006-3104-011-9993
 Ken Schneider
 Sheriff of Lincoln County, WI
 O'DESS AND ASSOCIATES, S.C.
 Attorneys for Plaintiff
 1414 Underwood Avenue, Suite 403
 Wauwatosa, WI 53213
 (414) 727-1591
O'Dess and Associates, S.C., is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

If you have previously received a Chapter 7 Discharge in Bankruptcy, this correspondence should not be construed as an attempt to collect a debt.
 Published December 8, 15 & 22, 2022
 WNAXLP



Above: A vintage truck and Christmas tree decorated with lights sits on the lawn of Janssen Heating & Cooling on E. Main St. in Merrill. **Left:** The Christmas tree in Banker's Square on Merrill's Main Street in the downtown business area is now lit and plays Christmas music for shoppers, employees, and business owners in the area to enjoy. A visit to Banker's Square is a great way to get into the holiday mood. Winter picnic in the park, anyone?

Tina L. Scott photos.



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 merrillfotonews.com

FACEBOOK:
 www.facebook.com/merrill.fotonews




A big shout out to everyone who helped put up the Christmas tree in Bankers Square. It is amazing the time people take out of their busy schedules each year to give back to the community.

Thanks to the efforts of Chris Kalifce (Merrill House of Music), Tony Kusserow, Noel Bushor, Bryce Jirovec, Jordan Meyer (Courtside Furniture), Tyler Lestikow (RTL Electric), Ron Kulawinski, Clyde Nelson (Merrill Chamber), and James Schult, the Christmas tree was assembled lit up and music added for passers' by to enjoy. It takes about 8 hours for 4 people to assemble and erect the 18 foot Christmas tree. When it's time to put the tree away, we are very fortunate to walk less than 100 feet to store the Christmas tree in the lower level of Merrill Crossbridge Community Bank. A special thank you to Chris Kalafice for his efforts each year, Dan Prebig (RTL Electric) for providing a lift each year, Carrie Cordova for sending out posts' on facebook, Mark Zulliger for providing a place to store the Christmas tree each year, and Clyde Nelson finding help to assemble the Christmas tree. The downtown is very fortunate (and grateful) for the many monetary donations bringing the Christmas tree to life.

Have a blessed Holiday season.
 Tony Kusserow

Pet of the Week



This sweet girl is **Nirvana**. She came to LCHS with her kittens as a stray. Her kittens are all grown up and she is ready to find a loving family of her own. **Nirvana** seems to do ok with other cats. Her adoption fee includes her spay, microchip and up to date vaccinations.

Visit all the adoptable pets at the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours by appointment only. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us at www.furrypets.com.

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Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is **Tryden Soberg**
Son of **Eric Soberg & Nicole Soberg**
Tryden is in 4K at St. John Lutheran School. He was nominated by Mrs. Sue Catlin.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
My favorite subject in school is learning about the ABC's.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
My favorite part of school is Coloring, because I like making pictures.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
Tryden's in 4K, so this was a hard question for him, so we focused on what he likes to do now. He likes going for walks in the woods and seeing deer.

Tryden models kindness and helpfulness to his classmates. He is always respectful and has a wonderful sense of humor. He is also very artistic.
~ Mrs. Sue Catlin

Student of the Week Sponsored by:
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Catholic Diocese of Superior releases abusive clergy list - sexual abuse of a minor

Former Tomahawk and former Merrill priests, both now deceased, are on that list

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Two former area priests, both now deceased, are on the list of clergy with substantiated allegations of child sexual abuse, released on Nov 22, 2022, by the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Superior.

In an effort to promote transparency and healing, on Nov. 22, 2022, the Most Rev. James P. Powers, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Superior, publicly released the names of clergy with substantiated allegations of child sexual abuse within the Diocese. The list is the result of three separate clergy file reviews (including security consultant firm Defenbaugh & Associates), more than a year of meetings, multiple sessions with the Diocesan Review Board, and much prayer and discernment, according to Bishop Powers.

The Diocese of Superior includes the City of Superior and the Counties of Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Lincoln, Oneida, Price, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor, Vilas, and Washburn in northern Wisconsin. Its episcopal see (administrative center of operations) is Superior, and the Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior is its mother church. The Diocese of Superior includes 103 parishes, 14 Catholic schools, and more than 23,000 households. Powers has been the Bishop of the Diocese since 2014.

"Since the Diocese of Superior was established on May 3, 1905 by Pope Pius X, several hundred priests have served the parish communities within its territory," a prepared statement from the Diocese said. "Among the total number of priests who have served, 23 priests have had a substantiated allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor made against them. Of this number, 20 are deceased, and it should be noted that there is no priest on the list that is currently active in ministry."

Former Merrill priest and former Tomahawk priest on the list

Two former area priests, James Kraker and David Malsch, both now deceased, are on the list of clergy with substantiated allegations of child sexual abuse, and both were removed from ministry well before their deaths.

James Kraker formerly served as a priest at St. Robert Bellarmine parish in Merrill from July 1984 to June of 1992. [Subsequent to that time, St. Robert Bellarmine parish and St. Francis Xavier parish, both of Merrill, combined to form a single parish under the name St. Francis Xavier parish which resides in the building once called St. Robert Bellarmine.] Kraker died on Dec. 8, 2013, at the age of 77. He was ordained on May 29, 1965, and was removed from ministry on Nov. 28, 2001. The list from the Diocese said Kraker had multiple substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor that occurred during the 10-year period from 1988 to 1998 when he served in Hammond and Merrill.

David Malsch formerly served as a priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Tomahawk. He was ordained on May 27, 1967, and was removed from ministry on Oct. 26, 1993. The list said Malsch had multiple substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor that occurred between 1987 and 1991 when he served in Tomahawk.

Prior to that time, Malsch was also accused of several instances of sexual abuse of a minor elsewhere in the Diocese. Previously published articles, primarily released in the Tomahawk Leader, documented the charges and outcomes. Malsch received treatment for alcohol and sexual problems prior to being transferred to Tomahawk. Following the allegation made while Malsch was in Tomahawk, he was ultimately prosecuted and, after a series of court proceedings, was given a five year sentence which was stayed, probation, community supervision after violating that probation, and ultimately his probation was revoked in May 1997 and he served time at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution. He was registered as a sex offender and relocated to the Wounded Brothers Recon Facility, a treatment center for troubled former clergy in Robertsville, Missouri, in Jan. 2001. While there, he was found in possession of child pornography and on Nov. 7, 2003, was indicted by a grand jury on those charges. He pleaded guilty in federal court in St.



DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

Louis, Missouri, in Feb. 2005. He was then sentenced to nine years in federal prison on Dec. 9, 2005, and fined \$12,500. However, in Sept. 2011, he began residing at a supervised release facility in Mauston, Wis., and was released from that facility on June 19, 2019, and began residing in Lincoln County. He died on May 20, 2022, at the age of 83.

Bishop acknowledges the sin, the pain those sins caused, and prays for healing

"As this list is made public, I want to express my deepest apology and sympathy to all victims, survivors, and the family members who suffered with them," Powers said.

"While most of the allegations in the list are more than 30 years old, I know that the wounds caused by abuse are as fresh as if the abuse happened yesterday. I understand that the publication of this list may reopen those wounds, and I sincerely apologize," he said. "It is my hope and prayer that making this list public will bring healing."

The complete list can be found on the Diocesan website at www.catholicdos.org/abusive-clergy-list.

Diocese committed to protecting children

"I wish we could go back in time and undo all of the hurt and pain, the sins of the past. But we cannot," said Powers.

"What we can do is learn from the past and do everything in our power to never repeat the abuse. I firmly believe that the Diocese of Superior is clearly on the right path in protecting our children," Powers said.

"The Diocese of Superior remains committed to the protection of minors. Its policies include immediately reporting an abuse allegation to local law enforcement and placing the clergy on administrative leave pending an investigation," he said. "The Diocese would pursue permanent removal from ministry of any clergy who has a substantiated allegation of abuse of a minor."

All clergy, employees, and volunteers in all parishes, schools, and Diocesan offices are required to undergo mandatory background checks and complete training on keeping children safe, Powers said.

"Over the past 35 years, starting with our 1988 Morals and Ethics Policy, we have implemented the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and we have established our Diocesan Safe Environment Office," Powers said. "Through the efforts and guidance of this Office, more than 15,000 adults have been background checked and trained to recognize abuse, the grooming behaviors of abusers, and that all abuse of minors must be reported to law enforcement. This number includes some 300 clergy, volunteers, and all adult employees. What began as 'Safe and Sacred' training for children (now Circle of Grace) has trained thousands of children. Our children now have a greater sense of their own sanctity and how valuable they are in the eyes of God."

Local church responds

"There is no way I can defend the indefensible, which is the sinful sexual abuse of minors by clergy," said Jim Arndt, Deacon and Parish Life Coordinator for St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Merrill and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Bloomville (near Gleason).

"The horrible things that some clergy and others have done while serving the Catholic Church causes all of us great sadness and sorrow," he said. "My hope and the hope of the Diocese is that we can all continue to work together to prevent horrid events like these from ever happening again."

Report abuse

"Again, I extend my deepest apology and sympathy to victims, survivors, their family members, and all the faithful of the Diocese of Superior," Powers said. "As a Diocese, we are committed to openness and transparency. I strongly urge all victims of clergy abuse to report their abuse to local law enforcement and to Kathy Drinkwine, our Diocesan Coordinator of Assistance, at 715.718.1110 (cell) anytime, 715.394.0216 (office), and via email: kdrinkwine@catholicdos.org."

Movie Reviews

BY CHRISTOPHER STAMM
GUEST MOVIE REVIEWER

Violent Night

(Now showing in theatres)

★★★★★

This film is rated R – for action, peril, blood, and gore

There are many things I can say about *Violent Night*, but few that I can say on these pages. What I can say is this: Go see this film!

I have not laughed so hard at a film in years. The absolute mayhem and insanity in this film is staggering.

Here is the down and dirty on this one. Santa is bummed the Christmas spirit is fading and kids no longer appreciate the things they get, they always want more, the Naughty List is long, and Santa has taken to drinking between visits to

homes.

On one of his stops, he stumbles into a home invasion. The bad news for the robbers is that one of the kids on the Good List lives in that house.

Santa decides to come to the rescue, and from there, complete insanity is the name of the game.

To be crystal clear, and heed my warning, this film is NOT for kids. Nope, not even a little. So leave the kiddos at home for this one. It includes everything from explosions to *Home Alone* inspired booby traps to a sledgehammer, and all are put to good use.

I saw this one with my wife, my sister-in-law, and her boyfriend, and all four of us howled with laughter and delight at the mayhem that unfolded upon the screen.

Don't get me wrong, there actually is a message here about the Christmas spirit, even if it is driven home by a foul-

mouthed, violent Santa who is essentially sick of humanity's nonsense.

Mary and I have already decided this will join the ranks of Christmas movies we will view yearly.

A full five out of five stars for *Violent Night*. This film is not for everyone, but boy oh boy, it's a hoot and a holler of good gory fun.

Also, a word for the wise: Santa hates skim milk and store-bought cookies, loves bourbon, and you really, really want to stay off this Santa's Naughty List. Trust me on this.



On the evening of Thursday, Dec. 1, the Merrill High School Marching Jays Band provided Christmas music for the official lighting of the outdoor Trinity Merrill Christmas tree at the corner of W. Main and State Streets. **Joseph Frederick photos.**



Grace Wegner

PRMS October Youth Optimist

The Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) October Youth Optimist of the Month is **Grace Wegner**.

Grace excels academically, as well as athletically, and is currently a straight A student at PRMS. Grace participates in school and club volleyball.

She treats everyone she meets with respect and works to bring out the best in, not only herself, but also those around her. She is a true team player on the court and in the classroom.

Grace is very self-motivated and perseveres through all tasks until she has reached success. She goes above and beyond to help those around her to experience that same success. Not only is she a leader, but she is an advocate for her own learning, as well, asking for help

when needed.

Grace brings with her a smile and a genuine love for those around her. When faced with adversity, she rises to the challenge and meets it head on, setting a great example for others.

The daughter of Erik and Michelle Wegner, Grace would like to possibly attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue a degree in business administration and become a future entrepreneur.

MHS October Youth Optimist

The Merrill High School (MHS) October Youth Optimist of the month is **Spencer Smith**. Mrs. Marcella Cordova nominated him, saying, "I had Spencer in Freshmen PLT, and he frequently signs into the library for Flex. He was also an active member of the Anime Club, where I was the advisor. He brought a positive attitude to the club and made others feel welcome. I'm currently working with him to set up a volunteering position at Washington Elementary in the library, as they have been short-handed."



Spencer Smith

"Spencer is always a very pleasant and mature person at school," she said. "He is very respectful when interacting with both students and staff. I feel Spencer contributes in many ways to making our community a better place. He is hardworking and has great attention to detail, which will make him a fantastic asset in the library."

"Spencer is a leader in the GSA Club, which gives LGBTQ+ students a safe place to be themselves and get support. I was really impressed when Spencer and his mom were willing to share his story with our staff during training on working with LGBTQ+ students," Mrs. Cordova said. "He was very honest with what he went through; I think that really helped staff see things in a new way, which will improve how they work with LGBTQ+ students. I don't think I would have been that brave in high school."

Spencer has also been active with the Computer Science Honors Society, Book Club, Art Club, Star Wars Club, Student Council, Raise Your Voice, National Honors Society, Link Crew, Tech Club, FFA, Honor Roll, and dual credit classes. Outside of school, Spencer has volunteered with 4-H (Camp and counseling), our local soup kitchen, and the Humane Society. The son of Angela and Jeremy Smith, after graduation, Spencer plans to attend UW Stevens Point for history education.



Optimist Clubs: "Bringing Out the Best in Kids"
Merrill Noon Optimists – Wednesdays at 12:00 noon at the Eagles Club, 1205 Lake St., Merrill
Adult volunteers join Optimist Clubs to conduct positive service projects in their communities aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. Their upbeat attitudes empower youth to be the best they can be. Optimists International, with 3,000+ clubs, conducts 65,000 service projects, serving more than six million youth annually. Locally, Merrill Noon Optimists serve 3,000+ area youth, contributing or organizing events and service projects in our Merrill community.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

THANK YOU

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all who assisted during our barn fire. To all the Fire Departments, Volunteer Fire Departments, First Responders, Sheriff's Department, Town of Scott, Lincoln County Highway Department, Chad Schmidt, and the Salvation Army. To our Family, Neighbors, and Friends for all your help and support. To all who helped corral, load, and haul our cattle. To all who made room for them in their barns. To all who provided food and support. To Pastor Love for your support and prayers. There were so many generous people who came to help us and for that we are grateful. We apologize for anyone we may have missed. Although our loss seems great, we have a lot to be thankful for.

Sincerely,
Craig, Chris, Steven, and Jessica

2022-2023 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedules

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV, and JV2)			
Fri. Dec. 9	Wausau West (JV2)	Away	5:30 pm
Fri. Dec. 9	Wausau West (JV)	Away	5:45 pm
Fri. Dec. 9	Wausau West (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Tues. Dec. 13	Medford (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Tues. Dec. 13	Medford (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Girls Basketball (Varsity & JV)			
Fri. Dec. 9	Wausau West (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Fri. Dec. 9	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Tues. Dec. 13	Northland Pines (JV)	Away	5:45 pm
Tues. Dec. 13	Northland Pines (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Boys Hockey (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs. Dec. 8	Wausau West (Varsity)	Greenheck	5:30 pm
Sat. Dec. 10	Marathon Cup-TBD (Varsity)	TBD	7:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 13	Marathon Cup-TBD (Varsity)	TBD	7:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 15	WI Rapids Lincoln (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 15	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Girls Hockey (Varsity and JV)			
Fri. Dec. 9	Multiple Schools (Varsity)	UW Milwaukee	5:00 pm
Sat. Dec. 10	Multiple Schools (Varsity)	UW Milwaukee	12:00 pm
Boys Wrestling (Varsity and JV)			
Thurs. Dec. 8	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	6:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 15	Wausau East (Varsity)	Away	6:00 pm
Girls Wrestling (Varsity)			
Thurs. Dec. 8	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	7:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 15	Wausau East (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



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

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SMIRNOFF
 \$4.50 - 16 oz. Pint

SATURDAY DEC. 10TH
CHRISTMAS BINGO
 Open 11am Starts 1pm
DOUBLE CASH PRIZES

SATURDAY DEC. 10TH
KID'S CHRISTMAS BENEFIT
 7pm

SATURDAY DEC. 17TH
KARAOKE 8pm

FRIDAY DEC. 23RD
CHRISTMAS PARTY HORS D'OEUVRES
 6pm
LIVE MUSIC-TOM BURT
 8pm

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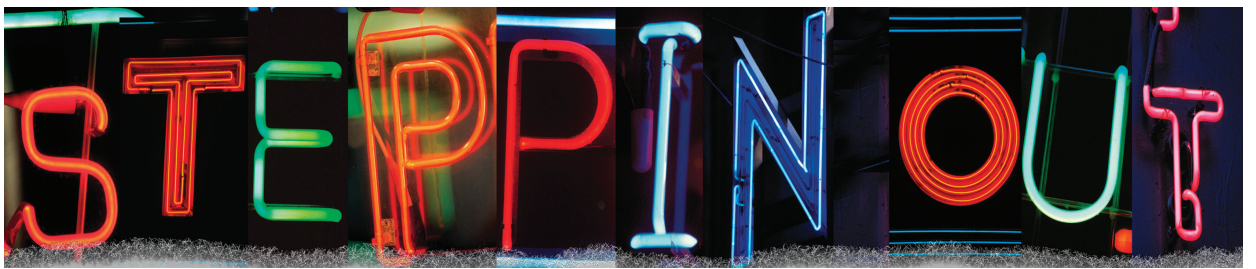
ELF (2003)
 "PG" (1HR 37MIN)
 SATURDAY DEC 10TH: 10AM ONLY
 FREE ADMISSION

VIOLENT NIGHT
 "R" (1HR 41MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:00PM
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00 & 9:00PM
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

DEVOTION
 "PG13" (2HR 18MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:00PM
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:00PM
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

STRANGE WORLD
 "PG" (1HR 42MIN)
 FRIDAY: 7:00PM
 SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

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DEC. 20TH - PORK CHOPS
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FRIDAY NIGHTS
DEC. 9TH - SHRIMP
DEC. 16TH - CATFISH
 Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
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The complete job description and the required City Application form may be obtained from the Merrill City Clerk's Office at 1004 E First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452, telephone (715) 536-5594, or downloaded from <http://www.ci.merrill.wi.us/>. Merrill is an equal opportunity employer.

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Office 7155

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Announcements 7005

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Announcements 7005

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Estate Sales 7208

AUCTION
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VINTAGE TOY COLLECTION SELL OFF + AMAZING COLLECTORS ESTATE OUT OF GREEN BAY; Early 1900s to present toy vehicles; Tonka trucks, vtg matchbox & diecast cars, farm toys, railroad items, many model car, truck & motorcycle kits. Items of Interest: Vtg Star Wars, video games, action figures, fisher price, vtg board games & puzzles, vtg comics, 1950s-60s sports cards, beer items: signs and mirrors from the 1950s to present, beer trays, beer tap handles, rare large Budweiser store display, beer pitchers, 1950s large coke sign, railroad stock certificates, postcards, postage stamps, US currency, fractional gold, railroad memorabilia, vtg fishing lures, large travelers upright trunk, vtg Christmas decorations, automobile and transportation collectables, vtg metal advertising signs, Green Bay Packer items: binder of vtg packers cards (1960s-70s) including autographed packer pictures on calendar, vtg bobbleheads, framed packers pictures, large signed and numbered prints, autographed 8 x 10 photos, programs, books, sports collectables: pennants, autographs, signed baseballs, tobacco cards & magazines sports related, framed pictures, vtg. catchers mask, WWI doughboy helmet, 2 vtg violins, some jewelry, antique dresser set in orig. display, plus many more great items being unpacked every day.
TERMS: cash, check & credit cards (with 4% fee) valid driver's license required to register for bidder number. Announcement's day of sale take precedence over printed materials. Auctioneer and staff are not responsible for accidents or loss. Everything is sold "as is" condition. No warranties, food available.
Col. George Pientka, RWA#2068-52, geoanddoe@charter.net, 715-341-8076 or 715-570-0806, www.pientkaauction.com



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Estate Sales 7208

JANES'S Estate Sales
12/9-12/11/22
3266 Howard Ave Steven's Point
Fri 12-5, Sat 9-3, Sun 10-1

- 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.

Fantastic sale! Loads of crafting supplies, Women's clothing (2X-3X) and shoes (10), Men's clothing (XL) and shoes (11), many Miche bag covers, electronics including tablets, Nintendo DSXL, Playstation One, printers, NIB electronics, office supplies, linens, 15 gal Red Wing crock, Wapak Indian Head cast iron skillet, small furniture pieces, quality kitchenware, loads of Christmas and Christmas Village sets, Generac generator, tools, lawn & garden, Yard Machine snow blower, Dixon ZTR lawn mower, storage bins, Maytag refrigerator, Snow Joe snow thrower, Kenmore 3/4 serger, vintage toys, vacuums & floor cleaners, many office chairs, shelving units and so much more. The place is packed. Go to JANE'S Estate Sales on Facebook or estatesales.org for photos.

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Wood Chipper
 The City of Merrill reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to accept any proposal they deem advantageous to the City of Merrill.
 Dustin Bonack
 Street Superintendent
 Published December 8 & 15, 2022
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Miscellaneous Merchandise 7266
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Incredible Bank employees and their families are ready to brave the cold on their wagon decorated with wreaths, lights, and garland at the Merrill Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 3. **Lisa Hass photos.**



Andrew Hass (left) and Mayor Steve Hass stand beside their entry in the Merrill Christmas parade, held last Saturday evening, as they await the beginning of the parade. A large inflated snowman and Christmas lights make the Mayor's truck a Merry and Bright entry sure to make the kids smile.

Sunday garage fire in Merrill's Sixth Ward related to use of space heater, overloaded extension cord



The scene of a Sunday afternoon garage fire in Merrill's Sixth Ward. **Photo courtesy of Merrill Fire Department.**

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022, at 2:37 p.m., the Merrill Police Department (MPD) and Merrill Fire Department (MFD) responded to a report of a garage fire at 200 N. Pine Street, on the corner of N. Pine and W. First Streets, in Merrill's Sixth Ward.

In his fire report, Battalion Chief Tadd Wegener of the MFD indicated "Fire personnel were informed that MPD had deployed a portable fire suppression device without success," and "Initial 360 drive around with the engine showed heavy smoke."

The engine was set up on the First Street side of the property and fire was seen coming from one side of the building. The fire was attacked from the outside of the building, during which time it was determined that "the seat of the fire

was an ATV that had magnesium components on it" which "reacted violently when water came into contact with it."

"A space heater and a battery charger were being actively used on the ATV for approximately four hours according to the owner/occupant," Wagener's report said. "After the fire, I asked the occupant/owner to show me the heater and charger that were both being used on one extension cord running from the house. It was apparent that the space heater was placed right next to the ATV and very likely caused the plastic components to reach their ignition temperature and ignite."

"While inside with the owner/occupant, he admitted that it was too close," the report continued. "I asked if I could go into the home and look at their breaker box and look for any tripped breakers. There was a tripped breaker that fed the extension cord."

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Nine Merrill Varsity Wrestlers place in the top six at Kimberly Papermaker Invitational Tournament

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

2022 Papermaker Invitational Wrestling Tournament

The Merrill Bluejay Varsity Wrestlers competed at the 2022 Papermaker Invitational in Kimberly, Wis. on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022, and Merrill took 6th out of 16 teams.

Nine Merrill wrestlers placed in the top six for the Varsity Team at the 2022 Varsity Papermaker: Ryder Depies (second), Brian Ball (second), Jon Hart (fourth), Allison Hunter (fourth), Callum Wheeler (fifth), Brady Norton (fifth), Joey Jenson (sixth), Austin Depies (sixth), and Noah Klug (sixth).

"This was a good start to our season," said Brian Suchocki, Merrill Varsity Wrestling Head Coach. "Seniors Brian and Ryder led the way for the team. These two are great leaders and did a great job on the mat Saturday."

"Brian has become more explosive this season," he said. And "Ryder is constantly looking for ways to improve."

"Unfortunately, he gave up a quick five points in the opening seconds of his finals match against a returning State finalist," Suchocki said. "Ryder kept fighting back, but it was too much to overcome."

"Jon and Allison made the semi-finals and had really good showings," he said. "Allison gained some confidence, and Jon is able to compete at a high level."

"All the Merrill wrestlers did a nice job doing the things we are working on, and I felt we were in good shape to start the season," Suchocki said. "One of the



Ryder Depies working to get the upper hand in a match.

Submitted photos.

things our coaching staff is looking for is that wrestlers do what we are doing at practice. We accomplished that."

"Now we need to work on refining our technique and being able to chain wrestle," he said. "We have a big dual against Wausau West on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022."

2022 Papermaker Invitational Results for Merrill with weight class:

106: Allison Hunter (2-3) placed fourth and scored 11.0 team points. (Lost in Championship bracket and third place matches.)

120: Joey Jenson (3-2) placed sixth. (Lost in fifth place match; won in consolation bracket by fall.)

120: Jon Hart (3-2) placed fourth and scored 33.0 team points. (Lost by decision in both third place match and Championship bracket.)

138: Brady Norton (4-1) placed fifth and scored 33.5 team points. (Won by fall in both fifth place match and consolation bracket.)

145: Callum Wheeler (4-1) placed fifth and scored 33.5 team points. (Won by fall in both fifth place match and consolation bracket.)

170: Brian Ball (4-1) placed second and scored 43.5 team points. (Won by fall in Championship bracket and lost by fall in first place match.)

182: Carson Brooks (3-2) placed seventh. (Won by fall in seventh place match and lost by decision in consolation bracket.)

182: Austin Depies (3-2) placed sixth and scored 27.5 team points. (Lost by fall in fifth place match; won by

decision in consolation bracket.)

195: Ryder Depies (4-1) placed second and scored 44.0 team points. (Won by fall in Championship bracket and lost by decision in first place match.)

220: Noah Klug (3-2) placed sixth and scored 29.5 team points. (Lost by decision in fifth place match and won by fall in consolation bracket.)

285: Mikal Plautz (1-4) placed 14th. (Lost by decision in 13th place match and won by fall in consolation bracket.)

285: Ian Dreikosen (2-3) placed 10th and scored 17.0 team points. (Lost by fall in ninth place match; won in tie breaker in consolation bracket.)

Team Scores:

1. Coleman 484.5
2. Freedom 476.0
3. Kimberly 386.5
4. Sun Prairie 305.0
5. Ashwaubenon 275.5
6. Merrill 272.5
7. Appleton North 234.5
8. Kewaunee 219.5
9. Menasha 216.0
10. Grafton 153.5
11. Sturgeon Bay 135.0
12. Princeton 131.0
13. Dodgeand Juneau 129.0
14. Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah/Howards Grove 104.5
15. Manitowoc Lincoln 100.0
16. Berlin 79.0



Ian Dreikosen with an overtime victory at Kimberly.



Brian Ball focused on wrestling his way to the championship.

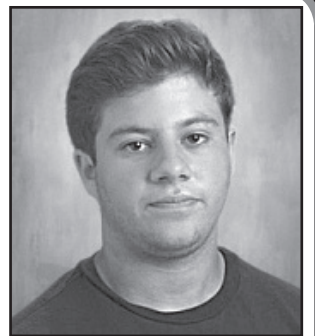
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Sergei Wunsch, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS) has been named Athlete of the Week. This is his third year as a member of the EMU Bluejacks Hockey Team, although his recent game, in which he was one of the four-point/high scorers was the first game he's actually been able to play in two years, he said. He plays left wing. As a Freshman, Sergei played football, but he broke his hand, requiring multiple surgeries, so that ended his football time and also set him back in hockey. Sergei has been playing hockey for 12 or 13 years, he said, beginning with Merrill Youth Hockey.

At school, Sergei is involved in the Youth Apprenticeship program and in DECA Club. Sergei and his brother, Roman, own their own business, called Two Boys and a Lawn Mower, doing lawn care and snow removal. He also works part-time at Salvo's, for about the last year.

In his free time, Sergei enjoys working out in the weight room, playing video games, working on their family's cottage with his dad, and just hanging out with family and friends. He also spends time advertising and building the lawn care business and learning about other ways to earn money (stocks, etc.), he said.

The son of Patrick and Jessica Wunsch of Merrill, Sergei has a 2.0 GPA, and after high school, he may take a few business classes to get him the knowledge he needs as he endeavors to take the business to the next level, he said. He also aspires to own rental properties and become part owner of various franchise businesses.



Sergei Wunsch

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Merrill Boys Basketball Team kicks off season with a loss and a win

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The first game of the Merrill Varsity Boys Basketball season was scheduled for Nov. 29, 2022, at Lakeland but was postponed due to bad weather and will be made up on Jan. 26, 2023.

For the second scheduled game, but first game actually played, the Merrill

Bluejays traveled to Mosinee to take on the Indians on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022. "It was a rough start getting down double figures early, we couldn't really get going and didn't build enough stops to get back in the game," said Troy Pieper, Merrill Head Boys Basketball Coach.

"Mosinee is an experienced team and brought back the majority of their team from last year, so they are picking up

where they left off last year, while we have a lot of new Varsity guys who are trying to get used to the speed of the game and find their role. Sometimes this can take a few games before we find our rotations and everyone becomes fully comfortable. Tonight we just didn't match their energy consistently," he said.

"I thought offensively we got shots we wanted to get. I liked our patience on the offensive end; we just didn't get shots to fall. However, on the defensive side of things, we need to improve—we need to execute on that end a little better, and I'm confident we will."

"I thought Bradyn (Pieper) had a nice start to the year on the offensive side," Coach Pieper said. "He let the game come to him, as they had their best defender on him, but he didn't force it and just let things come to him. I'm guessing he'd probably want to shoot a little better, but he led us tonight with 16, and I liked how he let the game come to him."

Leading scorers for the game were Bradyn Pieper with 16 points, Troy Mootz with 12 points, and Tyson Glisch with another 12 points.

Ultimately, Mosinee celebrated a home-court win.

Box Score Merrill 51 @ Mosinee 79

On Saturday, Dec. 3, the Merrill Boys traveled to play LaCrescent Hokah (Minn.) at Just A Game Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells and brought home a narrow but well-earned, energetic, and exciting victory.

"I loved the energy we started with," Coach Pieper said. "We were patient on offense and getting great looks, and our defense was locked in. We forced them to match our energy at the start. We got out to an 18-4 lead early."

"One thing we will focus on in practice is staying consistent with getting great shots," he said. "I thought after our fast start we started to rush some shots and force things a little bit, and it allowed them to get back in the game. We were up 22-14 at the half."

"Tonight our defense for the most part, from start to finish, was as good as we've been on that end in the three years since I've been here," Pieper said. "We were really playing good team defense, and for having less height, we did a very good job limiting their second chance points. Our defense kept us in this game."

"In the second half, we really couldn't get much going on the offensive end, but our defense was key to giving us a chance, and we executed great down the stretch to find a way, and the final possession the guys executed perfectly out of the timeout. Tyson (Glisch) set a high screen for Bradyn (Pieper), and Bradyn made a great read and hit Troy (Mootz) in the corner for the game winning three."

"Tyson got us going early," he said. "He hit three 3's early to sort of get us going, his energy and effort on defense all night was what made me most proud tonight, and he really did a great job on the glass."

"Croix Woller played his best game of his Varsity career," Pieper said. "He was aggressive on both ends of the floor. I really liked how he played tonight. He shot it well, and he battled on the boards and limiting their big guy on the defensive end, too."

"Troy (Mootz) did a great job attacking all night. It was a pretty physical game, and most games I think he would have been on the free throw line a lot more on a normal night, but they let a lot go, and I was proud how he played through the contact and didn't get frustrated. And because he just kept playing, he stayed confident and hit the game winning three. Like Tyson, I think Troy's defense was off the charts great tonight. We don't win if he doesn't play like he did on the defensive end tonight. He shut down their best player and really got him frustrated. Their leading scorer from last year could only manage nine points, and it was mostly because of Troy's defense tonight."

Leading scorers in the game were Tyson Glisch with 13, Croix Woller with 12, and Troy Mootz with 10.

Box Score Merrill 42 @ LaCrescent Hokah 41

EMU Bluejacks Varsity Hockey racks up second win of the season, again against Chequamegon

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

For the second game of the season, the East Merrill Newman United (EMU) Bluejacks Varsity Hockey Team traveled to Chequamegon High School/Price Ice Arena, for a rematch against the Chequamegon/Phillips/Butternut (S.E.a.L.) Varsity Hockey Team during another non-conference game, on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022.

The Bluejacks scored two in the first period with #8 Connor McCorkle of Merrill getting a score on the board at 12:52 minutes in, with an assist from #27 Nick Bodner. Less than four minutes later, #18 Kaeden Grusnick landed a goal with an assist from #4 Owen Reeves and #27 Bodner.

In the second period, the Bluejacks #27 Bodner scored with an assist from #18 Grusnick. less than four minutes in, and at the end of the second, Merrill was up by three and Chequamegon had yet to score.

Just over three minutes into the third period, Chequamegon's #10 made their team's first score, with an assist from their #13, and set the tone for a fast-paced final period. Bluejacks #8 McCorkle countered with a goal of his own, with an as-

sist from #24 Vincent Newman-Knuckles three minutes after that, and three minutes later, Chequamegon's #10 with an assist from their #3, scored again.

Bluejacks #17 Zach Pagel countered with another goal at 15:39, with an assist from #21 Sergei Wunsch, and then Bluejacks #24 Newman-Knuckles wrapped up the night with an unassisted goal at 16:29 for a Bluejacks second win of the season.

Chequamegon had two penalties in the game, one each for slashing and boarding, while the Bluejacks also had two penalties, one each for roughing and tripping.

Goalie for the Bluejacks, Truman Shull of Merrill, made a total of 11 saves in the game, with 3 in first period, 1 in the second, and 7 in the last.

Chequamegon's two Goalies made a combined 13 saves during the game.

Highlights of the game: "Connor McCorkle had two goals, and Nick Bodner had a goal and two assists. Truman Schull recorded his first Varsity win in net," Assistant Coach Greg Glovinski said. "It is a great start to the season, but there is still room for improvement."

Box Score East Merrill Newman United 6 @ Chequamegon 2

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