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Riverside Athletic Club installs golf simulators, under new ownership

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

With 12" of snow falling in Merrill this past weekend, it's a little too soon for area golfers to get outdoors and spend time on the local courses, but it's now possible for area golfers to start practicing their swing to be in tip-top form while they wait for the snow to melt.

Riverside Athletic Club recently installed two golf simulators in their facility on the corner of S. Center Ave. and E. Riverside Ave. in Merrill.

"Golf has always been a way to reduce stress and meet new people," said Brandon Wilde, who is co-owner of Riverside Athletic Club, along with his wife, Jenna. "Another benefit of golf is the improvement of flexibility and balance."

With the simulator, golfers can imagine themselves on courses all over the world while they await warmer weather and the real deal outdoors. "From Pebble Beach to Bay Hill, you can select from over 100 courses that are located from all over the world," he said.

Brandon explains how it works: "When you enter the area you're hitting from, it's important to feel like you have space for a natural swing. Each bay is 15 feet wide and 10 feet tall. The ball is placed under the camera before each shot, and you hit the ball into a screen. The system that was installed uses high speed cameras to simulate where the ball would land."

"After each shot, the software will analyze the ball and give you helpful data to improve your game," he said. "Information like ball speed, spin rate, direction, and distance give you a lifelike experience."

And it's not just for those looking to play 18 holes, Brandon said. Options include practicing putting, hitting from a driving range, or playing fun mini-games with friends and family.

"Golf leagues are starting," Brandon added. "Enjoy a cold beer with a buddy."

Tee times are available during staffed hours at Riverside Athletic and can be scheduled by the hour online via their website at: <https://www.riversideathletic.com/book-online>. Golf lessons are also available.

Riverside Athletic Club under new ownership

Riverside Athletic Club has been under new ownership since mid-2022.

Brandon and Jenna Wilde took over Riverside effective July 1, 2022, as part of former owner Paul Kienitz's succession plan for the Club. Brandon joined Riverside Athletic Club in 2011 at the age of 20 in member services and was promoted to manager in late 2019. He is a 2009 Merrill High School graduate with a 2014 Bachelors Degree in Business Management, and Jenna is a Registered Nurse.

"Paul and I have had this plan for a few years," Brandon said. "We've built an excellent friendship and he's shared business knowledge. I'm grateful for the opportunity he's shared."

"We both want this business to succeed for the benefit of the community and understand how important it is," he said. "Paul wanted someone with a connection to the members and community. I enjoy helping others reach their goals and cultivating a sense of home away from home."

Brandon and Jenna retained all the existing employees as part of the transition and "know that Paul is a phone call away," making the transition fairly seamless to the community and the Club's members.

The golf simulators are one of a number of new activities the Wildes are excited to bring to the Merrill community.



Kindergarten students add coins to their class collection bowl. Kelli Morgan photos.



The assembly at Kate Goodrich Elementary in Merrill where the coin collection total was announced ... \$2,221.92!

Kate Goodrich students collect coins for Merrill Food Pantry

The students of Kate Goodrich Elementary (KGE) participated in a coin drive challenge to see which class could collect the most money for the Merrill Food Pantry. Each day students collected coins to add to their grade's collection bowls and the excitement grew as the bowls filled up. The coin drive culminated in a school assembly to announce the winning grade, and the gymnasium erupted in cheers when the principal announced students had collected a total of \$2,221.92, KGE Social Worker Kelli Morgan said.

The kindergarten students raised the most money, earning them the coveted prize of an extra recess. "I like to help people!" said kindergartener Wyatt Schwartzman, who had fun collecting coins.

"The students were excited each day to bring in their coins and add them to the jars," said Stephanie Kuehl, Instructional Aide at the school. "There was often



Heather Soberg, Principal at Kate Goodrich Elementary School, and Heather Kahr, Associate Principal, present Al Crevier of the Merrill Food Pantry with a check from the school's coin collection.

talk about which grade level had the most coins, fostering a healthy competition and quality conversation. It's great to see all the students come together to raise funds to help the community."

"We see great value in providing our young students with opportunities to give back to our community. It gives a stronger connection and pride in our community," Morgan said.

"There were so many valuable lessons tied into this drive," Principal Heather Soberg said. "Most importantly was helping others to show the kindness of our students and how a little bit from everyone can go a long way!"

"This donation is amazing!" said Al Crevier, Co-Manager at the Merrill Food Pantry. "Many people don't know that between 10-12% of the residents of Lincoln County are below the poverty guideline. This donation is at the perfect time

since the financial allocation federal SNAP program has been reduced this month. Because of this, the food needs in our community will increase greatly."

Senator Felzkowski and Representative Callahan listening session in Merrill

Senator Mary Felzkowski (12th Senate District) and Representative Calvin Callahan (35th Assembly District) will hold a listening session on Saturday, March 25, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Merrill City Hall, 1004 E. 1st St. in Merrill.



A kindergarten student helps bag the coins from his class to be counted.

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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.

To the Editor
Dear Lincoln County Voters:

On April 4, 2023, voters will decide on a new justice for the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Currently the seven-person court is dominated by four conservative justices. One of the conservatives is retiring. Whoever is elected will tilt the court's balance right or left. Among the issues likely to come before the supreme court this year is whether our 1849 law, making it a five-year felony to perform an abortion, remains on the books. This is an issue of tremendous personal consequence to many Wisconsinites.

Spring elections usually are low turnout affairs no matter how important the issues may be. If you are thinking about sitting this election out, ask yourself if you really want this important decision to be made for you, by a small minority of conservative leaning political activists who vote in every Spring election. Let your voice be heard. Vote April 4th.

- Don Dunphy
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.

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Merrill Area United Way

Foto News Article
March 2023
Merrill Area United Way
Dee Olsen, Executive Director



GIVE • ADVOCATE • VOLUNTEER

Merrill Area United Way would like to thank the Merrill Foto News for the feature article they published in the 2023 Community Profile released in February. Tina Scott did a very thorough reporting of United Way operations, our history and the successes we have had through the years. 2022 was our 75th anniversary year, which focused on celebrating our growth as an organization. The article captured the activities, challenges, and successes. The success of United Way is a reflection on the community and the people that support the many programs funded by United Way. Without the community, we could not exist.

March is National Fatherhood Initiative Month. While we recognize both parents are equally important in a child's life, we also know that statistics show more fathers are not as present or active in their child's life. Fathers do not need to be superheroes. Just be a dad who is present and supportive. Let us all work together to support our children. United Way helps by supporting programs for Family Resource Center, Parkside Preschool Center, Safety Patrol, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Big Brother-Big Sisters and several more.

In April the Merrill Area United Way Board of Directors will hold its annual Planning and Goal Setting meeting. The facilitator for this session is Laura Huggins, a marketing guru with Church Mutual Insurance Company. From this meeting we expect to set goals that will continue to drive United Way forward in supporting our agencies, neighbors, and community.

It is important that our donors know their money is getting to the people who need help. March 1st the first round of agency allocation checks were sent to United Way funded agencies and program. The funds to agencies totaled \$101,800. The second round will be sent August 31st, once pledged dollars are received. Additionally, some of the agencies will receive funds specifically designated to them by a donor direct. Every year we get incredible stories on how these funds have helped people. The stories are at the heart of it all.

Each year brings change. In 2023 we are funding three new agencies – Food For Kids, Boys & Girl's Club, and the Nest (located at four schools). HAVEN has a new Executive Director, Julie Schulz. MAC Home just celebrated opening their doors 4 years ago, providing 5,500 safe nights. Some of our agencies are still dealing with a little fallout from the pandemic, but overall they are true to their missions and making an incredible difference. If you would like to know more about United Way, get our Annual Report, see additional information, please visit our website; at merrillareunitedway.org or visit us on Face Book.

Remember to help your community by Living United, helping others, volunteering, and giving financial support. Donations stay local and are always appreciated at Merrill Area United Way, P O Box 813, Merrill, WI 54452. For more information about Merrill Area United Way visit: merrillareunitedway.org or email Delores.Olsen@merrillareunitedway.org.



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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

"Nothing Gold..."

Dear Reader,
Recently I read Robert Frost's poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay." This eight-line composition reflects on the beauty and impermanence of life. Frost describes how all things dwindle with time, and how beauty fades to nothingness. The sunset you saw last night lives only in your mind; the christening of your child is only a memory; the wealth you accumulated over the years becomes value-less, since shrouds have no pockets. The poet is saying that the green of spring's birth eventually evolves to the

gold of full being in summer. But autumn winds blow through our lives, and the fleeting beauty of gold vanishes, much as the idyll of Eden gave way to the toil and pain of our current existence. Each cycle of life brings its own aesthetics, both new and familiar to the fore, as all things are limited and temporary. Being transitions into non-being over time as the body crumbles to dust. The raging priorities driven by



bodily and ego needs – the hunger for food, the search for shelter, the quest for riches, power, and prestige – these all wane to nothing. Infinity prevails throughout, and the transpersonal ideals – love, compassion, and a desire for truth and beauty – suffuse whatever reality one experiences in that future state. Most Christians, through faith, believe in a permanent afterlife with God which supersedes an impermanent physical life on earth. The afterlife is contingent on how well one handles the body and gifts bestowed on earth. If we accumulate and amass treasure, then we must give and share to alleviate the plight of our fellow travelers. If we attain power and influence, then we must leverage these forces to better the world for all of us, not inordinately for a few. Subjugating the soul in favor of the body's cravings during life may determine the final outcome; complete and ev-

erlasting loneliness instead of perpetual ecstasy. In essence, our bodily form is a temporary symbol of all that is beautiful and important, but we cannot stay in this form, for nothing here is changeless

forever. That's why recognition of the non-being of the soul is critical to how well we fare in eternity.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher
Author of "Dear Reader" and "Tapestry of Love and Loss"

MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is

Stevie Wells
Daughter of Roosevelt & Angie Wells

Stevie is in 3rd grade at Trinity Lutheran School. She was nominated by Miss Sallie Kamps.



Pet of the Week


Laid back? Check. Beautiful? Check. Smokey cat eyes? Check. **Sophie** is ready to start her new forever! She is a laid back cat that will fit in just about anywhere. She has no problems with other cats and seems to enjoy their company. She has lived with other cats and dogs in her former life. Her adoption fee includes her spay, up to date vaccinations and microchip.

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

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What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
My favorite subject is reading, because I get to challenge myself with new words. I really like magic books.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
My favorite part of school is my friends. You get to make new friends, even when you have no idea who might be your good friend.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
I would like to be a vet or a person who studies fossils and rocks. I have two cats and just love animals. I really love reading about the past and dinosaurs, so that is interesting.

Stevie always cheerfully helps out when asked and demonstrates good work habits. Stevie displays good manners, being very polite and kind to everyone who she encounters. She sets a great example for all to follow.
- Miss Sallie Kamps

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OBITUARIES



Julia "Judi" Darlene Kniess, age 82, of Gleason, Wisconsin, passed away on Monday, March 6, 2023 at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, Wisconsin. She was born to Paul and Alice (Stanke) Derogotis in Spokane, Washington on October 28, 1940. While visiting a lake in Washington, Judi met Daniel "Dan" Kniess. After Judi pushed Dan into the lake and had to jump in and save him

because he didn't know how to swim. The two fell in love and married on December 17, 1960. During her time in Spokane, she worked at JJ Newberry's and was in the Civil Air Patrol. Judi was a city girl at heart, but she couldn't resist Dan and moved to Wisconsin to live on his parents' farm. After farming for many years, Dan and Judi opened Outlaw Supper Club in Gleason, Wisconsin.

Judi was very involved in her community. She was the Secretary Treasurer for the Community Club, President of Women's Bowling, a youth bowling coach, Lioness District President for two years, volunteered at Meals on Wheels and worked in the office for Commission on Aging Site as a Site Director for over 25 years all the while raising five children. Judi enjoyed knitting, bowling, the Packers, gambling, camping, puzzles and watching old classic movies and westerns. She will be remembered for her contagious laugh and inability to recognize sarcasm.

Judi is survived by her husband, Dan Kniess, children: Kitty Lange, Kathleen (Darrell) Krzanowski, Kriss Kniess, and Kandy Walker, grandchildren: Dan (Liz) Kniess, Tasha Kniess, Derek Krzanowski, and Jesse Krzanowski, great grandchildren: Callyn and Delany Kniess, Christopher, Kaitlyn, Aiden, Bryce, Austin, Dakota, and Bridget Krzanowski, sister-in-law: Betty Derogotis, brothers-in-law: Everett (Darlene) Kniess and Ervester Kniess and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her son, Kerby Kniess, parents: Paul and Alice Derogotis, brother: Ronald Derogotis, mother and father-in-law: Erwin and Esther Kniess, son-in-law: Craig Lange, sisters and brothers-in-law: Yvonne Kniess, Dave and Labelle Klug and Edward and Elizabeth Jahns, and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 11:00 am at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Gleason, WI. Pastor Greg Laska officiated. A visitation was held on Monday, March 13, 2023 from 10:00 am until the time of service also at the church. A lunch followed at the Gleason Lion's park.

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.



Charlotte 'Charlie' R. Peters, age 97, of Merrill, passed away on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at Bell Tower Residence in Merrill, while under the care of her family and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. She was born on January 4, 1926, to the late Howard and Lessee (Pierce) Sullivan in Thomasville, NC. Charlotte attended, graduated and was the valedictorian at her high school in Thomasville, NC. She met the love of her life, Oscar 'Pete' Peters and the two

lovingly exchanged marriage vows on September 29, 1945, in Washington D.C. Sadly, he preceded her in death on September 9, 1991.

Charlotte grew up in Thomasville, NC, then moved to Merrill after marrying Oscar where they started a dairy farm just north of town. There they enjoyed the simple life while raising their young family. She always had a thirst for knowledge and challenges, she then designed their stick built home on Monroe St where they moved after selling the farm. When they moved into town she then went to work at General Telephone and finished her working life as a rural mail carrier. She enjoyed the outdoors, whether it was at their shack in Minocqua or canoeing on a small lake. Charlotte loved to travel and made numerous trips across the United States and overseas, as well as various cruises. She would often visit North Carolina just in time to see the Dogwood flowers in bloom. Charlotte was truly a "southern bell" with a kind and helpful heart. She always let the daisy's grow wild in the back yard and enjoyed all of nature's beauty in the Springtime. She was a social butterfly and would look forward to her many coffee clutches. She was very active in the community, she loved to repurpose things, including old houses to rental units. Charlotte was involved in the Merrill Concert Association, T.B. Scott Library, and was a very active and prominent long-time member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill. She will be sadly missed.

"May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

Charlotte is survived by her son: Oscar Theodore 'Ted' (Tracy Cohn) Peters of Carpinteria, CA, daughter: Tricia (Brian) Heller of Irma, WI, grandchildren: Becky (Kyle Ames) Heller of Merrill, with their children: Jaxson, Harper, Alexis, and Ross (Andrea) Heller of Merrill, WI, with their son: Prestin, as well as a few dear nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband: Oscar 'Pete' 'Ozzie' Peters, 3 stillborn infants and brother: Jack (Betty) Sullivan.

The memorial service for Charlotte will be held on Friday, March 17, 2023, at 11:00am at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill. Pastor Jess Wakefield will officiate. Visitation will be held that same day from 9:00am until the time of the service, also at the church. Burial of her cremated remains will take place at a later date at Chat Cemetery in the town of Birch.

The service will be recorded for those unable to attend and will be available for viewing under her obituary on the funeral home website.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Charlotte's name be made to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Bell Tower Activity Fund, or a charity of your choice.

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



Delores M. Walker (nee Baumhardt) (formerly Essman), 91, of Fond du Lac formerly of Eden and Merrill, died Sunday, March 12, 2023 at Lake Pointe Villa in Oshkosh after a brief illness. Delores was born on August 6, 1931, the daughter of Francis and Martha (Grah) Baumhardt. She attended school at Fond du Lac County Schools. She was united in marriage to Albert Essman. They were blessed with two

children, Cynthia "Tootie" and Larry. On November 8, 1972, she was united in marriage to Lee Walker. They enjoyed 42 years of marriage.

Delores was a member of Tabor Church in Eden. She was a very friendly woman with a quick sense of humor. She was loved by all and will be greatly missed. Delores enjoyed her special dogs and spent many hours talking about them. She loved to sit outside listening to the birds and enjoying nature. Delores knew exactly what type of bird was singing.

Survivors include her son, Larry (Linda) Essman and their son, Jered Knebel. Her step-daughters, Cindy (Ken) Dean and their children, Brady Dean and Heather LeNoble; Christine Ebert and her children, Angela Much, Jessica Norder, Tony (Mindy) Walker, Brianna Bossell, and Brittany Bossell. Grandchildren, Jacob Dudzik and Nicole (Anthony) Lane. Son-in-law, George Dvorak. Niece, Rhonda (David) Ertel. She is further survived by 12 step-great-grandchildren and 5 step-great-great-grandchildren, and other relatives and friends.

In addition to her parents, Delores was preceded in death by her first husband, Albert Essman; second husband, Lee Walker; daughter, Cindy Dvorak; grandson, James Essman; brothers, Marvin Baumhardt and Norbert (Joyce) Baumhardt and their children, Donna Thoma and Paula Baumhardt; and step-daughter, Linda (Brian) Dudzik and their daughter, Sarah.

A memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, March 18th from 9:00 to 11:30 AM at the Twohig Funeral Home, 305 Fond du Lac Ave, Fond du Lac followed by a Memorial Service at 11:30 AM at the funeral home. Rev. Jessica Graham will officiate. Private inurnment will be held at a later date at the Town of Empire Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the staff of Lake Pointe Villa and Asera Care Hospice for the loving care they gave to Delores. Memorials in Delores' name may be directed to a charity of your choice.

Twohig Funeral Home is serving the family with guestbook and condolences at www.twohigfunerals.com.



Raymond K. Knoblock, age 94, of Oconomowoc, WI, and formerly of Merrill, WI, passed away on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at Angel's Grace Hospice in Oconomowoc. Raymond was born in Schofield, WI, on September 25, 1928, to the late John and Beatrice (Colony) Knoblock. He was married to Loretta Ceplina on August 21, 1950; she passed away on December 6, 2022.

Raymond is survived by his sons, John Knoblock and Todd (Rhonda) Knoblock; and his daughters, Dorothy (Richard) Jacobson, Cindy Knoblock, and Linda Peterson. He is further survived by several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Beatrice; and his wife, Loretta.

In accordance with Raymond's wishes, no formal services will be held. Generations Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family.

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In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of
JOHN DOE
Apr. 9, 1954-Aug. 6, 2014

It's hard to believe it's been 2 years already since you left us. We think of you every day.

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Jane, Sue & Bob

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MERRILL Foto News

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715-536-7121

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- Building mutually beneficial friendships

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Then YOU are exactly what we are looking for! For your generous donation of time and talents. We provide, Free Lunches, mileage reimbursement, income eligibility stipend, and additional incentives.

AmeriCorps Seniors If Interested Call Jim at 715-536-8386 ext. 1220 or email at: James.Larkin@wisconsin.gov

Lincoln County Highway restrictions in effect

The Lincoln County Highway Department (LCHD) advises that temporary weight restrictions went into effect Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 12:00 noon.

The following roads are *not* posted: Parts of CTH K (Except CTH R North to US 51), W, Q, R, L; CTH A from the north city limits of Tomahawk to USH 8; CTH A east to USH 51; CTH S from USH 51 north to STH 86, from CTH L north to railroad tracks; CTH Y from US 8 north to railroad

tracks; CTH G west of STH 17; CTH E FROM STH 86 TO CTH O; and CTH H from CTH K to Copper Lake Rd.

All other County roads will be posted a maximum weight of 6 tons each axle, maximum gross weight limit 18 tons, except for CTH E from the intersections of Burma Rd. through the gravel portion will be posted at 6 tons each axle, 8 tons maximum gross weight.

Under Section 349.16 (3) exemptions may be made to

allow for vehicles carrying those commodities of which are used to perform necessary and vital services for the public health, safety, and welfare. In accordance with this section, school buses, vehicles transporting non-divisible perishable goods, emergency vehicles, and County maintenance vehicles are exempt from these temporary weight restrictions. Special concessions on overweight loads may be made in emergency situations on a case-

by-case basis through the issuing of single trip permits during the period of imposed restrictions.

The LCHD, in cooperation with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, will allow these authorized single trips on a restricted basis over specifically designated routes. Additional information on these single trip permits is available at the LCHD, 100 Cooper St. in Merrill or by calling 715.539.2500.

WisDOT announces weight limits for area state highways

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) North Central Region announced the seasonal posting of weight limits on area state highways. The weight restrictions are 6 tons gross load for single

axle vehicles and 10 tons gross load for tandem axle vehicles (any two axles under 8 feet apart). The maximum gross weight is 24 tons.

Weight restrictions will be effective at noon on Monday, March 20, 2023, on the

following highways:

- WIS 107, Marathon County, from Marathon County Road A to the Lincoln County line.
- WIS 107, Lincoln County, from Marathon County line to WIS 64.

- WIS 107, Lincoln County, from Matthew's Rd. to Lincoln County Rd. S.

Seasonal weight restrictions (springtime posted) See **HIGHWAYS**

page 6

Pizza & Pre-plan

Enjoy free pizza on us as we discuss how pre-planning your funeral helps ease the emotional and financial burden for you and your family.

Mon., March 27, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Sutton's Wine Bar
129 N. Prospect Street
Merrill, WI

THIS EVENT IS PRESENTED BY **WAID FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE**

Scan to RSVP

RSVP at 715-536-4646 or Scan the QR Code.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Bradyn Pieper, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Bradyn is a point guard on the Merrill Varsity Basketball Team. The team recently went to the Regional Semi-Finals, and Bradyn was named All Conference Second Team. He also played corner back and wide receiver on the Varsity Football Team and was named All Conference First Team as corner back and Honorable Mention as wide receiver. In addition, Bradyn plays second base for the Varsity Baseball Team.

At MHS, Bradyn is involved in LEAD, Friends, and DECA. He is a confirmed member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. In his spare time, Bradyn likes to work out at Riverside Athletic, play video games, and hang out with friends.

The son of Troy Pieper and Gina Pieper, both of Merrill, Bradyn has a 3.0 GPA and, after graduation this spring, he plans to play either football or basketball at the college level and graduate with a degree to pursue a career as a physical education teacher.

Congratulations from these sponsors:

PROTECTING THE GREATER GOOD | Church Mutual INSURANCE | INTERFLEX GROUP (Image is everything. Packaging defines it.)

Bradyn Pieper

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

Please direct comments or suggestions to fotonews@mmclocal.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: 3/3/23
/S/Robert R. Russell
CIRCUIT JUDGE/COURT COMMISSIONER

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Petition for Name Change for Minor Child under 14
Case No. 23-CV-32
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
James Nolan Glitz
By (Petitioner) Claire Monica Barker

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: James Nolan Glitz
To: James Nolan Barker
Birth Certificate: James Nolan Glitz
IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Honorable Robert Russell
Place: Lincoln County Courthouse Branch 2
1110 East Main St., Merrill, WI 54452
Date: 4/18/23
Time: 2:45 PM
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin.
Published: 3/16/23, 3/23/23 & 3/30/23
WNAXLP

Legals 7700

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: 3/16/23, 3/23/23 & 3/30/23
WNAXLP

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: March 6, 2023
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
David Brown
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2023 IN 10

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 10/11/1952 and date of death 2/13/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N1037 Cty Rd W, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 06/16/2023.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate.
Mason Bronson
3919 9th Ave.
Anoka, MN 55303
715-9661402
Published March 9, 16 & 23, 2023
WNAXLP

Legals 7700

2. The decedent, with date of birth 9/30/1958 and date of death 02/20/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a contact:
Lori L. Anderson-Malm - City Clerk
1004 E 1st St, Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-5594
lori.anderson-malm@ci.merrill.wi.us
Published March 16, 2023
WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Absentee Voting to be Administered at Bell Tower
8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
1500 O'Day St.
Merrill, WI 54452

Special Voting Deputies appointed by the City of Merrill will be administering absentee voting for the residents of this facility for the April 4, 2023 Spring Election at the above time and place. Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot.

Only observers from each of the two recognized political parties whose candidates for governor or president received the greatest number of votes in the municipality at the most recent general election may accompany the deputies to each facility where absentee voting will take place. The observers may observe the process of absentee ballot distribution in the common areas of the home, facility, or complex. Each party wishing to have an observer present shall submit the name of the observer to the clerk or board of election commissioners no later than the close of business on the last business day prior to the visit.

Family members of residents may be present at the time of voting. If you have further questions, please

Legals 7700

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Absentee Voting to be Administered at Pine Crest
10:30 AM
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
2100 E 6th St
Merrill, WI 54452

Special Voting Deputies appointed by the City of Merrill will be administering absentee voting for the residents of this facility for the April 4, 2023 Spring Election at the above time and place. Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot.

Only observers from each of the two recognized political parties whose candidates for governor or president received the greatest number of votes in the municipality at the most recent general election may accompany the deputies to each facility where absentee voting will take place. The observers may observe the process of absentee ballot distribution in the common areas of the home, facility, or complex. Each party wishing to have an observer present shall submit the name of the observer to the clerk or board of election commissioners no later than the close of business on the last business day prior to the visit.

Legals 7700

the City of Merrill will be administering absentee voting for the residents of this facility for the April 4, 2023 Spring Election at the above time and place. Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
PUBLICATION SUMMONS
CASE NO. 23-CV-28
HON. GALEN BAYNE-ALLISON
Money Judgment: 30301 The amount claimed exceeds \$10,000.00
Other Contracts: 30303 Wis.Stat. §810 Replevin
COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION
PO BOX 107
ANTIGO, WI 54409
Plaintiff,
v.
CIANNA R. FRICK
501 BLAINE ST.
MERRILL, WI 54452
Defendant.
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN,
To each person named above as a defendant:
You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action.
Within 40 days after the date of first publication, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street, Merrill, WI 54452, and to Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson,

Legals 7700

County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street, Merrill, WI 54452, and to Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson, S.C., plaintiffs attorneys, whose address is 839 North Jefferson Street, Suite 200, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202. You may have an attorney help or represent you.
If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
DATED at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on March 9, 2023.
GALANIS, POLLACK, JACOBS & JOHNSON, SC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
/S/Electronically Signed
Joshua J. Brady
WI State Bar No. 1041428
P. O. Address:
839 N. Jefferson Street, Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: 3/3/23
/S/Robert R. Russell
CIRCUIT JUDGE/COURT COMMISSIONER

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Petition for Name Change for Adult or Minor Child under 14
Case No. 23-CV-33
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Elizabeth Marie Glitz
By (Petitioner) Claire Monica Barker

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Elizabeth Marie Glitz
To: Elizabeth Marie Barker
Birth Certificate: Elizabeth Marie Glitz
IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Honorable Robert Russell
Place: Lincoln County Courthouse Branch 2
1110 East Main St., Merrill, WI 54452
Date: 4/18/23
Time: 2:45 PM

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: March 7, 2023
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
CHARLES D. HALL
AKA CHUCK HALL
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 2023 IN 11

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 9/30/1958 and date of death 02/20/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W7472 Mathews Rd, Merrill, WI 54452.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is June 16, 2023.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office.
Daniel Hall
W7446 Mathews Rd.

EARLY IN PERSON VOTING NOTICE

Early voting for City of Merrill Residents for the April 4, 2023 Spring Election will begin at City Hall (1004 East First Street) on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Voting hours are:
03/21 - 03/24 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
03/27 - 03/30 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
03/31 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

There is no early voting permitted on Monday, April 3, 2023.
Lori L. Anderson-Malm
City Clerk
Published March 16, 2023
WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST

Notice is hereby given that public testing of the DS200 Tabulating Equipment and the AutoMARK machines being used in the City of Merrill for the April 4, 2023 Spring Election is scheduled to begin at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, March 27th. The testing will be conducted in the Common Council Chambers, 1004 East First Street.

Lori L. Anderson-Malm
City Clerk
Published March 16, 2023
WNAXLP



HIGHWAYS
from page 5

roads) are placed on specific highways during the spring thaw period. The restrictions are added to prevent damage to the pavement structure.

In the event of unpredicted cold weather, the postings in each county may be delayed as conditions re-

quire and will become effective at the discretion of the State Highway Engineer.

For more information regarding traffic impacts and improvement projects in Wisconsin's north central region, check:
• Weight Restriction Pro-

grams: <https://wisconsin-dot.gov/Pages/dmv/com-driv-vehs/mtr-car-trkr/ssnl-wt-rsrectns/default.aspx>

• Twitter: @WisDOT-northcent
• www.511wi.gov

March 2023 Critic's Choice Movie

The Critic's Choice Movie Event at T.B. Scott FreeLibrary is on Wednesday, March 22, at 1:00 p.m. A cantankerous old farmer takes on a giant corporation in a case that makes it all the way to the supreme court. Christopher Walken stars in this epic root-for-the-underdog drama based on true events. Grab some fresh popped popcorn and refreshments while you enjoy the afternoon at the library. Merrill Transit will even give you a free ride to and from the movie. Just give them a call and say that you are going to a library event.

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GRAND PRIZE DRAWING **MARCH 25 | 9PM**

HO-CHUNK GAMING WITTENBERG

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A COMMUNITY TABLE AT SAINT STEPHENS

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

Saint Stephens
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903 E 2nd Street, Merrill.
Free will donations accepted.

Monday, March 20th Menu:
Spaghetti and Meatballs

Sponsored by: FreMarq Innovations

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310 E. 2nd St., Merrill
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SAT. 4pm - Close
SUN. Noon - Close

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\$5.00 - 16 oz. Pint

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ST. PATTY'S BINGO
Opens 11am • Starts 1pm
CASH PRIZES & CORN BEEF AND CABBAGE

S&S BAR Open Daily 9 am - Close

418 Grand Ave., Merrill

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MAR. 21ST - CHIMI'S
MAR. 28TH - LASAGNA
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

FRIDAY NIGHTS
MAR. 17TH - CATFISH
MAR. 24TH - LAKE PERCH
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
CLIP-N-SAVE

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• DINNER MENU: TUES. 4-8pm & FRI. 4-8pm
• SATURDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
• SUNDAY: Bar Open From 11am-7pm

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Manufacturing Workers Needed!

MONDAY - FRIDAY (8 hours per day)
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NO MANDATORY WEEKENDS
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Saturday, March 25th, 2023
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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FURY OF THE GODS
"PG13" (2HR 10MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

JESUS REVOLUTION
"PG13" (2HR 0MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

CHAMPIONS
"PG13" (2HR 3MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:30, 7:00 & 9:15PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:30 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM

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FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER
CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE WITH CARROTS AND POTATOES
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Closed Tues. & Wed.

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

Caylor's Annual St. Patty's Day Party
Friday, March 17 • 4:30 pm

GREEN BEER IRISH BEER SALE IRISH DINNER

THE PUB 808 E. Main, Merrill | 715.536.5780
3pm - close | Fri. - Sun. noon - close

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ALL DAY FUNDRAISER
10AM - 10PM
Thursday, March 23, 2023
DONATING 10% OF SALES
FOOD FOR KIDS OF MERRILL

ALSO A Fresh Baked Goods Sale!

FLAVOR OF THE DAY
RASBERRY CHEESECAKE

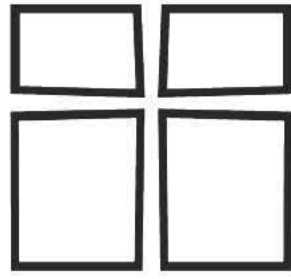
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LENT SPECIAL!
Now Thru Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023
EVERY DAY, ALL DAY!

6" Tuna \$3.99! Reg. \$5.39

SUBWAY

Antigo, Merrill, Tomahawk
Certain restrictions apply, not valid with other offers.



Holy Cross Sisters

“100 years serving the Merrill community.”

The beginning of the Holy Cross Sisters legacy in Merrill

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

It was Monday, July 23, 1923, and Mother Aniceta Regli of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, who was at present staying with the Sisters in Breese, Ill., received a letter postmarked from Merrill, Wis.

Mother Aniceta was in America to establish a formal Province of the Holy Cross Sisters in this country where, 10 years prior, the first Sisters from the Congregation had come to establish a hospital in North Dakota. Sisters had also come to manage and sponsor a school in North Dakota, an orphanage in Missouri, and two hospitals in Illinois. Now she was visiting the Sisters in their locations and currently was staying with those in Breese. But her greater mission was to establish a Province in this new world, and preferably one that felt like home, that the Sisters

could call home.

Home before that was more than 4,000 miles away, in Switzerland. Mother Aniceta and the Holy Cross Sisters went where God led them. Still, wouldn't it be wonderful if they could establish their Province in a scenic place, on a hill overlooking a body of water like the Motherhouse in Switzerland ... like the property they had heard about in Merrill? Now, here was a letter.

The letter contained an offer and a promise: “The people of Merrill are very anxious to have you come ... and one thing I am sure of is that you will get the cooperation of all the people. You will not make a mistake in making Merrill your home,” it said. The message was being relayed to her at the request of the City Council.

Mother Aniceta and Sister Fabiana Ganter did come. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Sister Anita Wolf, in 1965, wrote a booklet titled **Promised Land:**

“This was the planting of the seed from which has sprung the flowering of Holy Cross Hill. Here originated a partnership and a friendship to which the Holy Cross Sisters supplied the vigorous seed, the community of Merrill the fertile soil, and in which both have reaped the fruits of mutual benefit.”

Today we are in the 100th year that the Holy Cross Sisters have been here and serving the Merrill community. The impact of their presence here has been profoundly felt by generations and we are, indeed, reaping the fruits of the labors of the Sisters and the community that supported their efforts all these years.

Holy Cross Sisters come to America ... and to Merrill



The T.B. Scott Mansion became the Holy Cross Convent in 1923.



Sisters in Merrill 1927

All photos courtesy of Holy Cross Sisters, Merrill.

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Oct. 24, 2022, the Holy Cross Sisters celebrated the beginning of their 100th year in Merrill. But their story actually began far, far from here in another place and time.

It was 1856, some 4,370 miles away, in Ingenbohl, Switzerland, and a Capuchin priest, Father Theodosius Florentini, and Mother Mary Theresa Scherer founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross (Holy Cross Sisters), an international congregation of vowed women religious. They established their Motherhouse there and also their motto: “The need of the times is the will of God.”

Then they set about identifying and meeting the needs of the times, and in doing so, established hospitals, schools, and homes for the poor, the elderly, and the orphans who roamed the streets and lived in neglect. When Father Theodosius died unexpectedly in 1865, Mother Mary Theresa carried on with their work and their mission until her death in 1888 as Superior General. Mother Pancratia Widmer became the second Superior General.

By then, the Sisters were firmly established and their work and mission of help and healing grew far beyond the Swiss borders.

Mother Pancratia died in 1901, and Mother M. Aniceta Regli of Switzerland became the third Superior General.

By 1912, more than 5,000 Sisters

served throughout Europe and Asia, and under the leadership of Mother Aniceta, they were ready to expand their reach to America.

In 1912, Mother Aniceta sent six Holy Cross Sisters to the U.S. to staff a hospital in North Dakota and more Sisters followed to help, bringing their total number to 14. With the advent of World War I, communication and travel were greatly hampered, so that the Sisters did not move about. But in 1920, after the war ended, more Sisters came to the U.S. to meet growing needs. The Sisters staffed a school in North Dakota, an orphanage in Missouri, and two hospitals in Illinois.

The Sisters who immigrated to the U.S. were educated and skilled. Among them were nurses, administrators, teachers, hospital workers, cooks, missionaries, and those possessing other talents and gifts necessary for life in those days: sewing, gardening, bookkeeping, housekeeping. They spoke multiple languages. They came from not only Switzerland, but also from Austria, Germany, England, and Italy.

Ten years later after the first Sisters arrived in America, on July 1, 1922, Mother Aniceta, having completed a 15-year term as the third Superior General, came to the U.S. to help consolidate and inspire the development of the Holy Cross Sisters in their work in America. She was 65

See AMERICA page 3

Proud sponsor of Holy Cross Sisters celebrating 100 years:

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Holy Cross Sisters

Holy Cross Sisters: The hospital and healthcare for Merrill

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Once settled in, Mother Aniceta was faced with a daunting task: to raise half the money for and to build a hospital for the Merrill community. The Sisters weren't sure where the money was going to come from, but Mother Aniceta had faith.

And despite needing a large sum of money for this mission, the Convent never turned away the poor who found their way to their door.

In March 1924, Mother Aniceta received the answer to some of her prayers when the Motherhouse in Switzerland contacted her to say an inheritance from Sister Symphorosa Baali would be sent to help build the hospital. The inheritance was \$14,607.64 U.S. Mother Aniceta received it in May 1924 and promptly deposited it into Citizens National Bank of Merrill, where it would grow interest until needed. The late Sister Symphorosa had provided for the seed money for the new hospital.

Hospital plans begin in earnest

Merrill Mayor D. B. Reinhart appointed a Committee of seven men to help Mother Aniceta raise funds for the hospital construction and to help develop building plans. A March 13, 1925, newspaper article said contracts had been signed and the construction cost estimated at \$150,000. The notes of the Sisters say it was \$300,000, and in the end, the actual cost of the construction was listed at approximately \$275,000, so the Sisters' notes were more accurate. The notes of the Sisters also say that Mother Aniceta was presented with the architect's agreement on March 7, 1925, stepped away to pray about it in the Chapel, and then returned to say she would sign it on June 19, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In any event, trees were removed, the land was cleared, and the foundation was dug.

On Sept. 13, 1925, on a gloriously beautiful day, it is recorded, in a solemn ceremony, the cornerstone of the hospital building was laid and blessed by Rev. Gregory Reuter of Medford. Rev. O'Toole of Wausau gave the homily and closed saying, "May this hospital be a monument of love and an altar for the glory of God."

Merrill community supports hospital construction

Mother Aniceta had gone to the bank for \$15,000 base money, which came from the inheritance. But that was only a fraction of the funds needed. The City of Merrill contributed \$145,000. But members of the local community provided for the rest. Individuals made donations, factory workers arranged to give something out of each of their



Holy Cross Hospital.

paychecks, women's groups raised funds going house to house, and their generosity kept construction moving forward.

A booklet published in 1925, written in German and translated to English, listed the names of approximately 1,286 contributors who together donated a total of approximately \$145,000 for the construction of the new hospital.

Mother Aniceta stayed involved with every step of the hospital construction and the purchase of the items needed to get the hospital functional, and on Jan. 2, 1926, Mother Aniceta sent a letter to the contractors objecting to any work being done on the hospital on Sundays.

Holy Cross Hospital opens

On Nov. 11, 1926, the new Holy Cross Hospital was blessed and a special Mass dedicated the building. The hospital was five stories high with 52 beds, completed at a cost of nearly \$275,000 according to published newspaper accounts. On Friday, Nov. 12, 1926, an Open House was held for the community, with visitors coming and going all day and the local paper putting out a special edition to celebrate the momentous occasion.

Two days later, on Nov. 15, 1926, at 2:45 p.m., Holy Cross Hospital admitted their first patient, a Mrs. Paulina Boettcher, a 42-year-old housewife who lived on River St. in Merrill, who would require surgery the next day.

And on Nov. 18, 1926, the first baby was born at the new Holy Cross Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Ann Hudzinski of 611 Elm St. in Merrill, who celebrated the birth of a baby girl, Veronica.

Mother Aniceta moves on

Having succeeded in her mission to organize the Sisters and establish the Holy Cross Hospital in Merrill, Mother Aniceta was called to share her gifts in



Hospital Staff 1950.

other areas and left Merrill on May 2, 1927, to return to Switzerland. Though they knew this day would come, the Sisters and the community, particularly those closely involved in the building and development of the hospital, bid her a tearful goodbye and hoped she would one day return to Merrill for a visit. It is said she could see the white handkerchiefs of the Sisters waving as her train passed by Holy Cross Hill. At the time she left, the Holy Cross Sisters numbered 59 professed Sister, 32 more than when she had arrived in 1922, just 5 years prior.

Mother Aniceta boarded her ship on May 9, 1927, to return to Switzerland. She continued her good work for 12 more years before her death, but was never able to return to Merrill.

Holy Cross Hospital grows and evolves

The work Mother Aniceta began has born fruit through Holy Cross Hospital. Thousands of Merrill residents have been treated and ministered to over all these years.

In 1937, the Holy Cross Sisters built a new Chapel adjacent to the hospital. The Sisters also had tunnels constructed, connecting the Scott Mansion to the hospital, which made it easy to travel back and forth, no matter the weather.

As the hospital approached its 25th anniversary, overcrowding had become a serious issue. To remedy the problem, in 1951, a new wing was added to the building, providing for a total of 90 beds, a cafeteria, laboratory space, and more storage.

Over the years, the Holy Cross Sisters held many positions and filled many and varied roles at Holy Cross Hospital. They were well educated and served as administrators, nurses, medical technologists, radiological technologists, nurse's aides, anesthetists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and operating room assistants. They provided nutritional, dietary, and food services; pastoral services including sacristan; and worked in the pharmacy.

The Sisters also became home health

See HOSPITAL page 3

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Holy Cross Sisters

AMERICA from page 1

years old and was also to establish a novitiate in America, a place where those called to become Sisters could begin their time of formal discernment and preparation for religious vows. She was to start a Province in the USA, and a place for the Sisters to call home in this new land. There were 27 professed Holy Cross Sisters serving in the U.S. at that time. Though fluent in several other languages, Mother Aniceta had to learn English to fulfill her mission, at an age when many others would be retiring in order to prepare for the trip. She accepted the challenge and then traveled to the United States.

Here in Merrill

By this time, in Merrill, virgin forest had been cleared and a stately home, later to become forever known as the T.B. Scott Mansion, had been erected on the hill just south of town, overlooking the Wisconsin River, by T.B. Scott, a lumber baron, Senator, and then Mayor of Merrill. Magnificent as it was, Scott did not live to see the completion of the grand home, and the property changed hands over the years, by inheritance as one by one the occupants of the home died, or by other means, and by 1923, the home stood empty and neglected and had been donated to the City of Merrill.

The growing community lacked a proper hospital, so City of Merrill leaders proposed that if a group of Sisters could be persuaded to help build and run a community hospital, they would give them the T.B. Scott Mansion and grounds for their use and for such a purpose.

Mother Aniceta was visited the other Sisters working in the U.S. and, during this time, many towns and cities were seeking and inviting Sisters to help develop and staff hospitals, schools, orphanages, and other facilities. One such invitation came from Medford, Wis., where they were seeking Sisters to staff their hospital. Mother Aniceta traveled to Medford and determined it was not a good fit for the Sisters but



Sister Fabiana (left) and Mother Aniceta in Merrill.

then learned also of the proposal in nearby Merrill. She traveled to Merrill to learn more.

After receiving a letter from the Merrill City Council on the 23rd, she and her assistant, Sister Fabiana Ganter, traveled to Merrill and, on July 30, 1923, took measurements, met with Father Prock of Merrill, and examined the Scott Mansion building. They met with men who would present their decision to the City Council the following day. Mother Aniceta told the men plainly that the Sisters had no funds to repair the Scott Mansion but they would be willing to come and to find a way to build a hospital, with the help of the community. The next day the offer and acceptance were finalized. The City agreed to pay for half the cost of building the hospital and also committed to repairing the Mansion to become a residence/Convent for the Sisters at the City's expense, and local men began work immediately. The Sisters would sponsor the hospital, oversee its construction, and then operate the hospital for the benefit of the Merrill community. Mother Aniceta and Sister Ganter returned to Illinois to share the news, by way of a stop via train to see Bishop Pinten in Superior, and he gave his blessing to the project.

On Aug. 27, 1923, two Sisters came to Merrill to help make the Mansion liveable after repairs had been made. The people of Merrill warmly welcomed them, sharing food supplies and meals,

sending a cabinet maker to measure for tables and chairs, and gifting them statues of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. When they sent word that the house was ready, the other Sisters came to join them.

Oct. 24, 1923, is considered the foundation day of the Holy Cross Sisters in Merrill. That day Mother Aniceta, Sister Rose de Lima Taffe, and nine happy but tired postulants (who had traveled all night on the train) disembarked from the 8:43 a.m. train at the station in the middle of Merrill. They loaded their luggage on a truck, and trekked through town, over the bridge, and up the hill to the Mansion-turned-Convent. Their excitement grew with each step, and upon arrival, the Sisters and postulants took delight in exploring the 21-room Mansion including the Chapel (plus seven rooms in the basement).

Though poor and limited to the bare essentials, the Sisters brought the love of God with them to Merrill, along with a fierce determination to do God's work. In those early years, they met challenges head on, with the help of their kind neighbors and the Merrill community. And the community welcomed and embraced them. They truly felt they had found a new home in Merrill.

The Sisters lived simply and economically with few material possessions at that time. Old writings say there was only one chair for each person, so the chair was carried wherever needed—from the dining room to the classroom, workroom, parlor, and back. But the Sisters made the grand house a home, and they were rich in friends and blessings.

Soon after, the first Mass was celebrated and the sanctuary lamp lit.

The community saw to it that the Sisters were provided for. Father Prock from Merrill announced in his parish the Sisters had no organ in their chapel, and four were donated; the Sisters acquired two of those.

The Sisters treasured the simple joys and were content within themselves,

though not content to see others in need. So they focused on their mission to help remedy whatever needs they saw before them in keeping with their motto.

The Sisters held "Convent Open House Days" inviting the largely non-Catholic Merrill community to visit and get to know them. In this way, they became a part of the community.

Holy Cross Sisters in Merrill becomes a Novitiate

Mother Aniceta provided a home for the Sisters, guided and trained them in discipleship, and planted the seeds of service. When young ladies joined the Convent, they were educated and strengthened in their faith. Instruction and prayer combined with character development and education in social, intellectual, and vocational arts to prepare the new Sisters to help educate and care for the sick and needy. She also took joy in creating special little surprises for them, such as on St. Nicholas Day and Christmas Eve and in making her own Swiss candy for a treat, even sending it to the other Sisters in the U.S.

On Feb. 13, 1924, Rome, along with the Holy Cross Generalate, granted permission for the American Holy Cross Novitiate to begin in Merrill and Mother M. Aniceta became the Novice Mistress.

Mother Aniceta is said to have taught the virtues of openness, honesty, piety, simplicity, and humility and embodied those traits herself. She is credited with saying, "Always look for the good in others and do not talk about the faults and misdeeds of others." It is said she had the "right word at the right time."

That year, her motto was: "A cheerful giver loves God. Joy in the heart. Joy on the tongue. Joy in the eyes. All this radiates joy."

Her life wasn't easy, but prayer and a cheerful heart gave her the strength she needed. And she did radiate joy to those around her, according to that which was written about her. ☩

HOSPITAL from page 2

and visiting nurses. And they initiated a rehabilitation program by contracting with the Fitness Force health club to use their equipment and work with patients there.

The hospital was civilly incorporated in Wis. in 1969 and the first lay administrator was appointed for the hospital at that time; however, the hospital continued to be governed according to Roman Catholic Canon Law until Ascension sold the hospital to Aspirus.

The Holy Cross Sisters find a new sponsor for the hospital

On Feb. 23, 1987, the Holy Cross Sisters transferred their sponsorship of the hospital to Catholic Health Corporation who renamed it Good Samaritan Health Center. They simultaneously also transferred ownership of the hospitals they were sponsoring in North Dakota and Illinois to Catholic Health Corporation and to the Hospital Sisters Health System, respectively.

"The Holy Cross community just doesn't have enough

Sisters," Sister Catherine said at the time, "to continue to be as effective as we want to be in health care sponsorship. By transferring sponsorship ... we will be better able to meet other ministry and service needs."

Times were changing, and the Sisters knew they needed to change with the times. The Sisters felt good about the change, though. It was important to them to transfer the hospital sponsorship to an organization that would provide "good quality Catholic health care."

The Holy Cross Sisters who were employed at the hospital continued their work there under Catholic Health Corporation's sponsorship. Some of the Sisters also became more active with the Lincoln County Nursing Service, providing care for patients in their homes.

Since that time, the hospital in Merrill has undergone more changes, growth, and transitions.

In 1990, a new addition was added to the front of the hospital, and in 2001, a new surgery center opened. The hospital changed ownership several times. Today



1959 Hospital in Merrill. Sister Ermenfreida facing camera.

it is part of the Aspirus Health Plan network and is known as Aspirus Merrill Hospital.

While much has changed, the work the good Sisters of the Holy Cross began, continues to live on. Though it is no longer under the care and direction of a Catholic entity, the hospital will, later this year on Nov. 13, 2023, mark the occasion of 97 years serving patients in Merrill. ☩

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Holy Cross Sisters

Holy Cross Sisters expand education opportunities



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Class of 1960 OLHC Cammy Wase Yvonne Vigue and Jackie Rell.

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Mother Mericia Baumhauer, who came to the U.S. in 1926, was named Mother Aniceta's successor when she left for Switzerland in 1927. One of her priorities was to provide formal education for the candidates, postulants, and professed Sisters who had not completed their secondary education. Initially she hired a teacher to teach them at the Convent, utilizing curriculum approved by the public high school principal, but in autumn of 1929, the principal asked that the students come to the public high school (now Prairie River Middle School) for their formal education instead. From then on, "down to the [public] high school they marched" each day until they completed their education and received their diplomas.

The Holy Cross Sisters had a desire to start their own school, and in 1933, the Sisters began to make plans. In 1936, the Sisters started Our Lady of the Holy Cross (OLHC) High School open to all girls of high school age, holding classes in the parlor of the Scott Mansion/Convent where they lived. Some of the girls who wanted a Catholic high school education but lived further away came to live with the Sisters in the Convent and were educated by the Sisters, as well.

Soon the need for additional space was evident as the demand and desire for such education increased and the Mansion became crowded. Many other families in the community, and from a radius somewhat further than Merrill, expressed interest in a Catholic high

school education for their girls. While some wished to enter the religious order, many girls did not; however, their families desired they have a secondary Catholic education, and the Holy Cross Sisters made plans to expand to accommodate the need.

The construction of the chapel adjacent to Holy Cross Hospital in 1937 provided for a library for the OLHC students beneath the chapel itself in what is called the De Angelis Room.

In 1941 the Sisters undertook their next building project: The construction of a new high school for girls to the east of the Scott Mansion.

In 1942, the building was finished and christened Our Lady of the Holy Cross (OLHC) High School. Over the years, enrollment grew and the building changed to accommodate growth, and the curriculum also expanded.

The building had high school classrooms on one side of the building, dorms for resident students (called interns or dorm students, as opposed to local students who traveled between home and school each day, who were referred to as externs or day students) on the other, and a huge gym in the middle. There was also a beautiful library/study hall. (That building is now the Menard Center.)

An underground tunnel connected the high school to the Scott Mansion and the Holy Cross Hospital/Chapel. The Scott Mansion still housed the school office, so students who needed to visit the office and/or the Sisters who taught them, and those going to the Hospital Chapel utilized the tunnels to avoid going out in inclement weather.

Lest anyone think a girls Catholic high school was some type of fluffy finishing school, be assured it was not. Challenging academics included Latin, algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry, English, history, foreign languages, religion, physical education, music education, and in later years, business education and domestic science. The sisters who taught had degrees in education, library science, history, guidance and counseling, and/or religious studies.

In addition to teaching all these subjects, the Holy Cross Sisters at OLHC High School were also charged with guiding, caring for, and disciplining their pupils, many of whom lived in the dorms during the week and returned home on the weekends (dorm students). A former student described them as "wide-eyed, brash, dramatic teenage girls." It was not for the faint of heart.

Camille Wade Maurice, a class of 1960 graduate of OLHC High School, later wrote describing the Sisters there as "Sister gardeners growing a garden of girls" with "habits swish-whispering" as they tended their young charges as a gardener does ... sowing seeds, weeding, protecting the tender from frost, and praying "sometimes in despair, for a miracle that these young might become whole and holy women."

New Convent provides space for Sisters and student dorms

On Oct. 24, 1945, the Holy Cross Sisters broke ground on a building to be used as a new Convent with the third floor designated as dorms and

recreational space for the high school girls who attended OLHC High School and the fourth floor as kitchen and dining room facilities for Sisters and students, placed on the top floor so everyone could enjoy the scenic view, and of, course, connecting tunnels. It was completed in June 1947. (That building is now Bell Tower Residence.)

In 1954, the Holy Cross Sisters in the U.S. officially became a Province, with Merrill and the new Convent being the headquarters.

Over three decades, from 1936 to 1968, more than 570 young women graduated from OLHC High School. "The garden is gone now," Camille Wade Maurice wrote. "So are many of the Sister gardeners and many of the women they tended there. But the seeds of the fruit, the seeds of the flowers breeze home ... who knows where, sow themselves again and again, propagating what love grew."

High school becomes junior college

OLHC High School closed with the graduating class of 1968. The Sisters opened Holy Cross Junior College in the same building, offering a two year liberal arts program that would prepare students to complete their education, presumably to get a Bachelor's Degree, at another college. The Sisters taught some classes but also brought in other faculty to teach some courses. After a couple years, the Sisters changed the name to Menard Junior College and began offering two-year Associate Degree programs in subjects like business administration, child care and development, and commercial art.

State-funded technical colleges not far from Merrill also offered two-year programs, so ultimately the Sisters decided it wasn't financially feasible to continue, and they closed the college after the spring 1974 term.

Menard Center and Spirituality Center

The former school/college building was renamed the Menard Center and became a Spirituality Center for a short time. It was also used for employment offices and a variety of community programs. In 1980, the

See EDUCATION page 6

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Holy Cross Sisters

Holy Cross Sisters: Caring for the Elderly

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Holy Cross Sisters were primarily living in the new Convent now, and they were no longer administering the hospital and had closed the school. Without students occupying the dorms on the third floor, and utilizing the kitchen, the Sisters had room to spare.

About one-third of the Holy Cross Sisters were retired and living in the Convent in Merrill, and part of the reason the Sisters had stepped away from previous roles was because a significant number of their Sisters had retired,

From 1981 to 1990, part of Holy Cross Convent served as a Spirituality Center. Area groups and organizations were encouraged to use the space. Meetings and get-togethers for the Province were held here, and it was used for youth retreats among other things, but much of the space was under-utilized.

Hurd House repurposed for elder care

In years past, the estate of Harry Hurd had given the Sisters a home located at 700 Riverside Ave. which they called the Hurd House, and some of the Sisters took up residence there.

During this time of discernment for the Holy Cross Sisters in Merrill, they considered their own aging population and also considered what the Merrill community needed. It became obvious that elder care was needed for the community, so in Dec. 1984, the Sisters repurposed Hurd House as a supportive care home-like residence for up to 10 elderly residents. The home provided health monitoring and assistance with medications as well as prepared meals, helped with transportation and money management, and provided activities, a sense of community, and opportunities for church and social events. Residents didn't need the full care of a nursing home but benefited from living in an assisted living environment.

The Sisters continued to focus on the needs of the Merrill area in this time. Recognizing the life expectancy of Americans was longer than ever before and the over-65 population was growing faster than any other age group, the Sisters saw a need for even more care for the elderly. This was for their own aging Holy Cross Sisters and for the Merrill community in general. They also recognized that the elderly, like all adults, wanted to live with dignity and respect and as independently as



The campus on Holy Cross Hill.

possible and there was a growing need for alternative housing for older adults.

They focused on the motto that had served them well all these years: "The need of the times is the will of God."

They recognized the Hurd House alone couldn't meet the community's growing need for elder care.

Sisters build a retirement community

In Nov. 1988, the Sisters decided to renovate Holy Cross Convent to become a new retirement community to facilitate both independent living and various levels of assisted living for elderly residents. In this way, premature nursing home placement could be avoided. The estimates for total project cost were \$1.3-\$1.5 million and would provide the means for the Sisters to continue providing for their own elderly Holy Cross Sisters plus additional people from the community. The new Bell Tower Residence became the newest corporate sponsored ministry of the Holy Cross Sisters.

On Oct. 24, 1989, on their 66th anniversary of coming to Merrill, demolition and construction to transform Holy Cross Convent into Bell Tower Residence began. The Sisters had moved everything and everyone from the west wing into the east wing to prepare. Rooms now housed two or three instead of just one, with beds cramped together, and the tunnel was now storage for library books. It was orderly chaos with a mission. The Wergin Company of Wausau was selected as the general contractor of the job.

Bell Tower Residence opens

Bell Tower Residence was licensed by the State of Wisconsin and opened its doors in Sept. 1990. Another newsletter says it officially opened Oct. 1. Initially, Bell Tower began with 18 Sisters who already lived in the building and then 4 new residents from the Merrill area. A staff of 19 employees attended to their



Planning for Bell Tower Residence in 1989.

needs.

According to Sister Mary Anne Rose (spring 2013), "The living arrangements were simple-private room with shared bath or private rooms with private baths."

An open house for the public was held on Oct. 27 and 28, 1990.

"Assisted living was a new concept in our society back in 1990, and as such the public required some education in this new option of living," Sister Mary Anne Rose, R.N., wrote in 2010. "It was also a new ministry for our Sisters."

The Holy Cross Sisters embraced the new ministry with love and care, learned about State regulations, and worked with families to provide the services each new resident needed to thrive in their environment. Their goal was to provide tender loving care to each resident while also attending to their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual health, needs, and preferences. They wanted to provide a warm, loving home environment and compassionate care for every resident.

The Holy Cross Sisters served as administrators, directors, directors of nursing, nurses, holistic health leaders, resident educators, coordinators of family involvement, food service managers, kitchen/dietary staff, and

provided administrative and clerical support, as well as pastoral care, to the residents of Bell Tower over the years. The Sisters' years of experience in health care, social services, and pastoral care was a natural fit. CNAs and housekeeping staff provided vital support and exceptional cleanliness. Even after retiring, many of the Holy Cross Sisters volunteer in various capacities at Bell Tower, such as in the kitchen or visiting with residents.

Services for the residents were coordinated with the resident and their family, physicians and other health care providers, and the staff and departments at the facility. Residents could select their type of unit and size, as well as services desired or needed to be included with the rent. Independent living units with one meal a day, housekeeping services, weekly linen service, scheduled transportation, maintenance, and utilities were available. Assisted living units provided all that but included three meals a day and snacks along with personal care services. Located outside the busyness of the City but close to the hospital and clinic and just minutes from shopping, restaurants,

See **ELDERLY** page 6

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Holy Cross Sisters



Students and Sister staff at Our Lady of the Holy Cross High School, Merrill.

EDUCATION from page 4

space was renovated and rented to Lincoln County Social Services and the Lincoln County Health Care Center. In the mid 1990's, the Sisters sold the Menard Center building to Good Samaritan Health Center so they could expand services, such as providing rehabilitation services.

Grade school, catechism, youth and adult education

Over the years, in addition to the high school and college on Holy Cross Hill, the Holy Cross Sisters served as teachers, librarians, and principals at multiple local Catholic elementary schools like St. Robert's School in Merrill. They also served as teachers and principals of schools including St. Mary's School in Antigo and St. Joseph's School in Rhinelander.

They taught religious education and catechism classes to students, youth, and adults, and acted as parish religion coordinators and vocation directors for the Holy Cross Sisters. The Merrill Sisters traveled to teach religious summer school to children in parishes that did not have religion classes during the school year within the Diocese of Superior.

They served as reading buddies at local schools and mentors in the Youth Apprenticeship Program through Merrill High School.



Sister John Marie teaching at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, Merrill.

They sent annual Christmas cards to the students at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake School Juvenile Detention Center in Irma.

They also hosted student visits to their Holy Cross Sisters Lake Retreat with activities like snowshoe hikes, ice fishing, and other activities centered around nature for classes such as those from St. Francis Xavier Catholic School.

Some Merrill Holy Cross Sisters taught in colleges, technical colleges, and nursing schools. They did parish ministry and religious education at both the parish and diocesan level.

These days, while you will rarely find a Sister in the classroom, the Holy Cross Sisters continue to support Catholic education through grants, like their FAME (Formation and Ministry Enablement) Grant. ☩



Library at OLHC, now the de Angeles room at the hospital.

ELDERLY from page 5

the golf course, and a walk to the park overlooking the river made Bell Tower Residence appealing.

Residents could be seen by doctors and have lab work drawn on-site, participate in social events and activities, get assistance with housekeeping, participate in therapeutic activities, share in activities that stimulated them physically and intellectually, and join others for meals prepared on-site. They could receive assistance with medications, setting up medical and dental appointments, transportation to appointments, and have vital signs monitored. Dietary needs and adjustments were met. Even for those who are not called to the religious life, working at Bell Tower is a ministry, not a job, the Sisters stressed.

Soon, Bell Tower Residence as a "place you can call home" was much in demand as a residence for those age 55 and older.

Bell Tower celebrations

One year later, there were 58 residents living at Bell Tower Residence, and they all had a celebration. The Sisters had worried and wondered if anyone would want to come and live in a converted Convent. Now they knew.

They celebrated by ringing the new bell that had recently been hung in the bell tower, held a Chapel service, and served a special dinner to residents, area Sisters, and those who had donated the bell. Open houses, bingo, a picnic with clowns and music, refreshments, and more musical entertainment rounded out a week of celebrating.

An open house at Bell Tower Residence on April 14, 1996, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the construction of the former Holy Cross Convent, the original building they were now in. At that time, Bell Tower Residence was home to 80 elderly residents, including 12 Holy Cross Sisters.

In 1999, celebrating the 10th anniversary of Bell Tower Residence, it was noted residents came not only from the Merrill area and surrounding communities, but also from Florida, California, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota to live at Bell Tower. Having started with 19 employees, Bell Tower now employed more than 68 people, providing care for an average of 71-77 residents in 73 private units in independent and assisted living. Many volunteers also came in to help with activities, visit residents, entertain them, drive them to appointments, and/or to help with clerical matters.

More changes, more renovations

After an extensive study in 2004, the Sisters decided to renovate and

expand the elder care facility. From planning to completion, the project spanned 2004-2006, and ongoing construction and remodeling made for more than a little inconvenience. But in the end, the addition to both the east and west wings of the building and extensive renovations provided for an up-to-date facility that better met the needs of their residents. Sister Mary Anne Rose wrote in the newsletter that residents were coming to Bell Tower with greater needs and more health challenges now; they wanted to meet those needs. The new configuration also introduced the concept of "neighborhoods" and neighborhood dining rooms where residents could gather to eat, watch a television show together, or share another activity.

She also described the time as "a real test of faith" when they incurred a \$6.7 million debt to complete the project during a recession.

By 2008, Bell Tower Residence had grown to 100 employees, and in the summer of 2014, a substantial grant from the Bierman Foundation provided the mechanics and technology needed to create a safe and secure memory care unit for those with memory loss and dementia, leading to the creation of the Memory Support Neighborhood on the third floor. Soon a support group for the caregivers and family members of those with dementia was also formed.

In early 2019, the Sisters announced they had transferred ownership and sponsorship of Bell Tower Residence to Wisconsin Illinois Senior Housing (WISH). The change would not affect employees or residents but would be a smooth transition, and retired Sisters would continue to volunteer there in various capacities.

"Over the years many residents have blossomed from good care, balanced meals, and social interaction," said Sister Peggy Jackelen in the summer of 2019. "Although Bell Tower Residence is no longer 'owned' by the Sisters, we continue to support it in many ways."

"Sisters volunteer at Bell Tower to sit with, pray with, and console the residents that are at the end of their life, they lead church services, visit residents, and participate in other activities with the residents," said Sister Pam Hodgson.

To date, approximately 1,000 people have now called Bell Tower home since it first opened in 1990.

Not just Bell Tower

The Holy Cross Sisters also provided elder care to other residents in the Merrill area. Sisters regularly visited the residents at Pine Crest Nursing Home and those confined to their homes to bring comfort and encouragement and provide them with a much-needed human connection. ☩

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Holy Cross Sisters

Leading the community forward, guided by faith

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Throughout their time in Merrill, the Holy Cross Sisters have been dedicated to meeting the needs of the people. Initially their ministries were primarily focused on hospitals/health care, schools/education, and feeding the hungry. Then they shifted focus to elder care. The needs of the people were changing and the Sisters believed it was their mission to meet those changing needs.

While the big ministries with buildings to represent them garnered most of the attention through the years, the Holy Cross Sisters were also working diligently alongside other Merrill area citizens to meet other community needs. They held positions on many governing boards, dedicating their lives to the service of others and continuing to provide leadership in the community. The often just quietly did God's work as volunteers behind the scenes.

Many and various Holy Cross Sisters during their time in Merrill held volunteer positions, many as Vice-President, President, or Chair with/on:

- The Merrill Chamber of Commerce
- The governing Board of Good Samaritan Health Center
- HELP (Here Everybody Loves People) Center Board
- North Central Community Action Board
- Lincoln County Salvation Army Board
- Criminal Justice Committee of Lincoln County
- Merrill Peace Study Group
- Bell Tower Residence Board of Directors
- Merrill Ministerium
- St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Center
- Community Food Pantry
- Crop Walk
- Holy Cross Sisters Associates Program
- Comunidad Hispana

In an April 17, 1996, Wausau Daily Herald editorial, Sister Mary Thomas Reichl wrote: "Our vision statement, 'Transform the challenge of today into hope,' urges us to examine not only



Holy Cross Associates with their backpack ministry 2005.

“Our vision statement, ‘Transform the challenge of today into hope,’ urges us to examine not only ‘what is’ but what ‘could be.’”

- Sister Mary Thomas Reichl

‘what is’ but what ‘could be.’”

The Holy Cross Sisters were and still are women of possibility. They imagined what could be and then set out to make it happen, with God's help. They were actively involved with social justice ministry, working with other religious communities, and meeting the physical, spiritual, intellectual, and emotional needs of the people they encountered on their journey through life.

The Sisters have literally spent their lives enriching the lives of others, being present, and ministering to those in need. That continues today.

They have volunteered with area schools and churches, taught and read to children and listened to them read, taught catechism, served as pastoral associate in local parishes, rung the bells for the Salvation Army red kettle drive, helped organize and worked in the Community Food Pantry, visited shut-ins and residents at Pine Crest and Bell Tower, worked with handicapped and special needs children, initiated and participated in "Good Neighboring" events, worked with Habitat for Humanity, initiated and led the



2001 Good Neighboring in Merrill Sister Linda Sondy (L) and Associate Monica Talbot.

caregiver's memory support group at Bell Tower Residence, visited animals at the Humane Society, served up special meals at Bell Tower Residence, taught English as a second language, volunteered at the St. Vincent de Paul Free Clinic, helped students get their High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED), mentored students one-on-one through the Merrill Area Public Schools School to Work Program, prepared and sent Christmas cards to students at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake School in Irma, filled bags of non-perishable food to go into backpacks for disadvantaged school children to take home for the weekends, decorated and entered floats in the Labor Day Parade, helped with the "Fill the Gazebo" event, helped implement and oversee the Lifeline Program to connect homebound elderly and frail people with emergency services if needed, visited the sick, observed Earth Day, donated trees to be planted at Washington School, promoted recycling, created programs and places for youth to hang

out, served at and sponsored Merrill Area Meal Ministry "Breaking Bread" meals at the Eagles Club, prepared and served Fat Tuesday Gumbo Suppers in Assisi Hall at Bell Tower Residence, participated in Relay for Life, held and sponsored the annual Artisan's Showcase in Assisi Hall at Bell Tower Residence, spearheaded a campaign to increase awareness of and help end human trafficking, organized fundraising events and then donated funds to help financially support many of the above-mentioned organizations and others like Food For Kids, the Tornado Relief Fund, HAVEN, and Walk for Dementia ... and that is just to name some of the things they've done. It would be impossible to list all the things they have contributed and done in their 100 years of ministry to the Merrill community. There is simply too much.

As a community, we owe an incredible debt of gratitude to the Holy Cross Sisters for all that they have done for the people of Merrill. ☩

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Holy Cross Sisters

Holy Cross Sisters: Their legacy will live on



Holy Cross Associates.

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

As the Holy Cross Sisters continue serving the Merrill community for their 100th year, looking back on all they have done is apt.

Their ministries responded to and truly evolved according to the needs of the people. They built Holy Cross Hospital and cared for the sick with love, compassion, and leadership. They built Our Lady of the Holy Cross High School and taught and inspired generations of youth, both at that high school and later junior college, but also at the grade schools, area parishes, and in the greater community. They helped feed the hungry and helped organize the Community Food Pantry and help manage that today. They renovated their Convent into Bell Tower Residence, an elderly retirement community providing both independent and assisted living facilities where the elderly are cared for with dignity and love.

Beginning in the 1960's, the number of women entering the religious life declined and some left the Holy Cross Sisters. As the years passed, others retired and some died. In large part due to the declining numbers, the Holy Cross Sisters transferred sponsorship of their hospitals, including the one here in Merrill, and then later Bell Tower Residence, to other entities so the legacy they began could continue to exist and help the people. The schools were closed when it was no longer practical or feasible to continue their operation.

The Sisters continue to provide support in less institutionalized ways and in ways that are perhaps more

organic and less structured and sometimes for shorter-terms than in the past.

Holy Cross Sisters today

Today there are approximately 2,692 Holy Cross Sisters worldwide. In the United States there are just 20 remaining, all of whom are retired and live in Merrill. Of the 20, 6 sisters reside at Bell Tower Residence, 10 reside in the Sisters Housing not far from Bell Tower, and 4 reside in 2 other houses in Merrill.

"After great reflection, studies, and discussions on our aging and diminishing situation, we were prompted to identify that we are experiencing a move toward the fulfillment of our mission as Holy Cross Sisters in the USA and in Merrill," the Sisters said.

The official title of the Holy Cross Sisters is still Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross. The Congregation consists of 12 provinces. 3 vicariates and 1 House. On Oct. 23, 2021, Merrill, formerly a Province, became the USA House (canonical unit) with House offices located in Merrill. This puts the Sisters under the care of the Motherhouse and General Leadership in Ingenbohl, Switzerland, the Sisters said. Sister Linda Songy is the House Coordinator, Sister Pat Cormack is the 1st Councillor, and Sister Kathy Lange is the 2nd Councillor.

"Religious communities throughout the United States are realizing a decline in vocations to the religious life," Sister Pam Hodgson said. "Many of them have joined with other communities with similar charisms and missions. Other communities have already come to completion."

"We also felt this decline in women interested in joining the Holy Cross Sisters here in Merrill," she said. "The Holy Cross Sisters are seeing an increase in vocations in India and several other eastern European provinces."

Three sponsored ministries

Today the retired Holy Cross Sisters in Merrill devote themselves to three sponsored ministries: Anti-Human Trafficking, Prison Ministry, and the Huss Fund (which assists residents at Bell Tower). They also work with their Holy Cross Sisters Associates, lay people who have adopted the mission of the Holy Cross Sisters. The Holy Cross Sisters have 23 Associates in the U.S., with 8 located in Merrill and the rest living in Michigan, Florida, and other cities in Wisconsin.

Holy Cross Sisters: Their legacy will live on

As a result of the ministries and

buildings they built for the betterment of the Merrill area on the hill overlooking the Wisconsin River, the entire property become locally known as "Holy Cross Hill." And even though the Sisters no longer own the property, that title is a part of Merrill history, a history the Holy Cross Sisters helped make when they chose to accept the City Council's offer of the T.B. Scott Mansion and make their home here in Merrill back in 1923.

One by one, as the buildings on Holy Cross Hill were sold; the tunnels connecting the properties were closed off and then permanently sealed by the owners. Ownership of the buildings changed. The T.B. Scott Mansion, once the Holy Cross Sisters' original Merrill home and Convent, was demolished in March 2021. The Holy Cross Sisters no longer own the hill, that little piece of God's country that reminded Mother Aniceta of her homeland in Switzerland. But locals will probably still call it "Holy Cross Hill" for years to come.

The Holy Cross Sisters do still live in the Sisters' Houses on the far south side of the original property. The Sisters also own two houses on Riverside Ave. where some of the Sisters live, as well as their Lake House in Harrison Hills.

Their motto hasn't changed, but the current Vision of the Holy Cross Sisters of Merrill has had to evolve. Today it reads: "We are a Franciscan community of sisters who, together with our associates, seek ongoing conversion of heart. We embrace the mystery of the cross as we live gospel values. Faithful to the spirit of our founders we respond to the needs of the time with mercy and compassion while creating possibilities for the future."

The world changes. Community needs change. Today the buildings on Holy Cross Hill serve the Merrill people in their present-day needs. As the Holy Cross Sisters motto says: "Whatever is the need of the times is the will of God." Their legacy will live on. ☩



Sister Celine Goessl speaks about human trafficking.

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DMV offers information on obtaining an ID for voting

Ahead of the Wisconsin Spring Election on April 4, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reminds voters how to obtain identification, free of charge, that is valid for voting.

Valid identification for voting purposes includes a driver license, identification card, military or student ID card, etc. There is no separate "voter ID." A federally compliant REAL ID card is not required for voting purposes. Anyone unsure if their identification meets

the requirements should visit the Wisconsin Elections Commission website to check.

To obtain identification to show at the polls through the DMV, begin online at wisconsinidmv.gov. Required documents are listed, but if the required documents needed for an ID are not readily available, DMV has a free process, called the Voter ID Petition Process (IDPP), to obtain the necessary information. and may be used to quickly obtain a receipt valid to take to the polls for voting while the re-

maining documents or verifications are obtained.

Anyone with questions related to obtaining an ID that can be used to vote should call DMV's toll-free hotline at 844.588.1069. Questions regarding voter eligibility, poll locations, voter registration information, or other election information can be directed to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at elections.wi.gov.

To find a DMV service center, check hours, services and wait times, go to wisconsinidmv.gov/centers.

Merrill Lions to host Diabetes Alert Day information booths

The Merrill Lions Club will host informational booths locally on March 28, 2023, Diabetes Alert Day, to draw attention to diabetes. The fourth Tuesday of March has been designated as Diabetes Alert Day by the American Diabetes Association.

According to the CDC, almost 30.3 million people in the United States have diabetes. That is about 9.4% of the population. And while an estimated 23 million people are diagnosed, another 84.1

million have prediabetes.

Direct and indirect costs related to this disease total \$245 billion.

The number of people with diabetes increases by large numbers annually. Approximately 25% of people with diabetes don't even know they have it. However, the earlier diabetes is detected, the easier it is to control.

The Wisconsin Lions Foundation and local Lions and Lioness Clubs are promoting Diabetes Alert Day throughout Wisconsin.

The Merrill Lions Club will sponsor informational booths on March 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at both Dave's County Market and Walgreens in Merrill.

Stop by their booth and pick up information about the effects of diabetes and how to control it, ask questions, and leave more informed. Those unable to visit one of these booths can take the diabetes risk test at www.stopdiabetes.com/get-the-facts/risk-test.html.

Merrill Park and Rec plans Clauson Family Music Show trip

The Merrill Park and Recreation Department is organizing a trip to the Historic Barn Theatre in Coloma, Wis. The trip will take place Tuesday, April 25, 2023, and leaves the Smith Center at the Merrill Area Recreation Complex in Merrill at

10:30 a.m. via Lamers Bus. The trip will include an afternoon of entertainment seeing the Clauson Family Music Show, an opportunity to browse in the gift shop and coffee shop on site, and bus fare. All minors must be accompanied

by an adult. Food and drinks are allowed on the bus, and the bus will return between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. that evening. Call the Merrill Park and Recreation office at 715.536.7313 for more information, including cost for the trip.




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2023 Merrill High School Spring Sports Schedule

Boys Baseball (Varsity, JV & JV2)
Practice begins Monday, March 20th
First Scrimmage will be Saturday, March 25th.

Girls Softball (Varsity & JV)
Practice began Monday, March 13th
First Game will be Tuesday, April 4th.

Boys Golf (Varsity & JV)
Practice begins Monday, March 27th
First Invitational will be Tuesday, April 18th.

Girls Soccer (Varsity & JV)
Practice begins Monday, March 20th
First Game will be Thursday, April 6th.

Boys Track and Field (Varsity & JV)
Practice began Monday, March 6th
First Invite will be Tuesday, March 28th.

Girls Track and Field (Varsity & JV)
Practice began Monday, March 6th
First Invite will be Thursday, March 30th.

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



| SPORTS |

Merrill Boys Basketball ends season with loss in Regional Semi-Final

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The Merrill Varsity Boys Basketball Team made it to the Regional Semi-Finals where they played Mosinee on Friday, March 3, 2023. Unfortunately, the Bluejays lost that game, 47-78, effectively ending their 2022-2023 season.

"It was a rough night to say the least," said Troy Pieper, Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach. "They were shooting lights out and we couldn't really get anything going on offense for ourselves."

"They shot it really well from outside, and when they did miss, we struggled to keep their bigs off the offensive glass," he said. "They have a couple big guys who crash the boards aggressively."

"It's not for a lack of trying," Pieper said. "The guys were doing the best they could, but we just couldn't control the glass enough."

"I thought Bradyn Pieper (15 pts, 3 3pts, 1 ast, 1 stl) had a nice game," he said. "He probably feels he could have finished a few more drives off, but all in all, I thought he played well for his final high school game. All year we've had multiple guys in double figures every night. [In this game] Bradyn was our lone double figure scorer."

"I think Tyson Glisch (6 pts, 4 FT, 2 ast) should have got to the line multiple times," Pieper said. "He took it at their bigs and probably deserved a few more calls, but there will be nights where the 50/50 calls just don't go your

way. That's part of the game."

Troy Mootz (6 pts, 2 FT, 2 ast, 2 stl) also put up six points in the game.

"We played hard, we were ready for the moment, but sometimes you have nights where the ball doesn't fall, and tonight was one of those nights," he said. "I am very proud of the guys effort, and very proud of the Merrill community. We had an amazing turnout for the game. The place was packed and half of the crowd was wearing black and from Merrill. That was very neat to see."

**Regional Semi-Final
Merrill 47 @ Mosinee 78**

"I would like to thank my Seniors," Pieper said. "It's a very special group to me personally. I've been watching or

coaching this group since they started playing the game and coached some of them in youth baseball, as well. Each one of them are like family to me. They know if they ever need anything, they can call or text me, and I will do whatever I can to help them out. I've seen them grow into the leaders they have become, I've seen the highs and lows, I've seen the frustrations, I've seen it all on and off the court. Through everything, they never flinched, they never complained, they showed up each and every day including the summer stuff and worked hard, and showed the underclassmen what hard work and dedication looks like. I can't thank them enough for making a lasting impact on the program

and myself. It makes me emotional even talking about this group; to say I will miss them is a huge understatement. Thank you, Seniors."

"This ends my third year back coaching in Merrill," he said, "and I like the state of the program right now. A big reason for that is I have been lucky enough to have three awesome Senior groups who have been great leaders on and off the court."

"I am excited for the future of the program," Pieper said. "The youth program has great numbers and is in a great spot, as well. Again, that is a credit to the high school players and coaches for being present and helping the youth program develop, and also a huge credit to the dedicated youth coaches. The

future is very bright, and I can't wait to see what the future holds. We have some of the hardest working and most dedicated athletes in the basketball program. Hard work and dedication will bring success."

The end of this season is still fresh and still hurts, but in a blink of an eye, we will be starting summer ball and seeing who is going to step up to fill the losses of our amazing Seniors," he said. "The philosophy doesn't change: Do the 3 E's (Energy Effort Execute) at a high level each and every day, on and off the court, and great things will come. I'm very proud of this team; I will sure will miss our Seniors."



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