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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 ■ VOLUME 69, ISSUE 22

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Joseph Frederick photos.

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Some gave all

Paying tribute to those who sacrificed everything

BY TINA L. SCOTT **EDITOR**

Memorial Day was designated as a federal holiday in 1971, observed on the last Monday of May each year, for Americans to pay tribute to those in the U.S. military who made the ultimate sacrifice, dying while in service to their country.

Waterloo, New York, is credited as holding the first memorial day on May 5, 1866, which became an annual, communitywide event that included decorating the graves of soldiers with flags and flowers. However, other communities in the north and south were also paying tribute to their fallen Civil War soldiers in similar ways that first spring, a year after the end of the Civil War, and some in the south perhaps much sooner. Many communities independently paid tribute to their fallen





Though often a day filled with cookouts and early summer activities, the fundamental reason for Memorial Day is a solemn occasion. Joseph Frederick photos.



Flowers and flags in Merrill's cemetery mark the graves of soldiers who died in service to their

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Historic Preservation Committee designates first 2 of 10 historic honorary street signs in Merrill

BY TINA L. SCOTT **EDITOR**

Mayor Steve Hass and members of the City's Historic Preservation Committee came out to dedicate the first of a series of honorary historic street signs in Merrill on Monday, May 29, 2023. In this case, it was only fitting that these particular signs be dedicated on Memorial Day.

The first of 10 honorary historic street signs to be erected in Merrill was dedicated at the corner of Merrill St. and N. Prospect St. This sign honors the life of Merrill resident, Sgt. Grant Dampier, who was killed in action in Iraq in 2006 while serving in the U.S. Army. Members of Dampier's family gathered in the 300 block of Prospect St., the street he and his wife Heidi and their three daughters called home at that time. Dampier's voungest daughter was only one year old when her father was killed, and she had the honor of revealing the street sign honoring her father

The second honorary historic street sign was unveiled and dedicated a short time later at the corner of E. Main St. and N. Sales St. in honor of Sgt. Ryan Jopek of Merrill, across the street from the home he grew up in. Jopek was only 20 years old when he was killed in action in Iraq on Aug. 2, 2006, while serving in the Wisconsin National Guard. He was just two weeks shy of the end of his tour of duty when he was killed. His family gathered for the sign dedication ceremony on Monday.

"A third member of the military will also be recognized this fall," said Michael Caylor, Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee. "Lt. Robert Russell was a member of the Army Air Corp when he lost his life in action during WW II. He is

See **SIGNS** page 5

St. Grant Dampier gather around the honorary historic street sign his youngest daughter unveiled in his honor.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Historic Preservation Committee

The daughters and wife of Merrill's





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Sunday, June 4th • 10:15 am

Optimists and Good News Project to hold E-cycle Event

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

The Merrill Noon Optimists will hold their Second Annual E-cycle Event with the Good News Project on June 2 and 3, 2023, at the Merrill Festival Grounds (times were not yet finalized as of this writing). (Email merrillnoonoptimist@gmail.com to schedule a time or for more information.)

This is the opportunity for area businesses and residents to get rid of old and outdated electronics, and funds raised during this event will be used by the Merrill Noon Optimists to help organize, sponsor, and/or fund events for local youth. In the past, the Merrill Noon Optimists

helped with/sponsored the free winter movie event, after graduation party, Make a Difference Day, Food For Kids, Law Fair, the scholarship program, the backpack project, and the Normal Park All-Access Playground and security cameras.

Last year's Merrill E-cycle Event collected 34,602 pounds of e-waste.

Electronics is the fastest growing segment of waste and it is projected 57.4 million tons of e-waste was generated in 2021 with only 17.4% of that being properly recycled. E-cycling, or proper recycling of electronics, is important because it enables rare materials used in electronics to be harvested for re-use and it also keeps harmful materials out of our landfills.

There is a cost to e-cycle properly. Please plan accordingly.

• Smoke detectors that contain radioactive material (ionization is shown on unit) are a flat \$15 each to e-cycle at this event.

The Merrill Optimists/ Good News Project E-cycle Event charges 45 cents per pound and accepts/ collects/recycles the following electronics:

- Computer towers, laptops, printers, keyboards, fax machines, external hard drives, flash drives, mice, speakers, etc. (anything you can plug into a computer), as well as computer parts
- Cords, Christmas lights, A/C adapters, surge protectors
- Microwaves and toaster ovens
- Stereo equipment and speakers, including car stereos
- GPS units, e-readers
- Video game systems, DVD players, VCRs, cable boxes
- Landline telephones and answering machines
- Outdated cell phones and chargers
- Vacuum cleaners, fans, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners
- Blow dryers, toasters, coffee makers, and other small household appliances
- Dorm size refrigerators
- Televisions of all sizes, computer monitors, intact or disassembled (limit two at this price if disassembled)
- Fluorescent light ballasts only (no bulbs)
- "Just about anything with a circuit board and/or electric cord that is smaller than a large appliance"

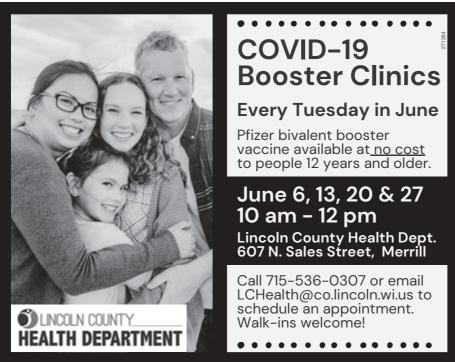
Please note: This E-cycle Event **CANNOT** accept large appliances (call Yaeger Auto Salvage at 715.359.3606); light bulbs or batteries (call Batteries Plus Bulbs at 715.355.9201); toner tubes or cartridges or ink cartridges (call OfficeMax/Office Depot at 715.359.9961); CDs. DVDs, video game disks/ cartridges, cassettes (these can be put in with your regular garbage); or liquids, paints, and chemicals.

MERRILL AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT OFFICE SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Mondays - 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tuesdays - 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Wednesdays - 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Thursdays - 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Fridays - CLOSED

These hours are effective June 5, 2023. Regular office hours are planned to resume on Monday, August 21, 2023.







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New outdoors-based charter school eyes a fall 2024 opening

The founders of a new outdoors-based charter school are looking for a fall 2024 opening; but the Wausau School District's restructuring plan is leaving things a bit up in the air.

Dr. Meghan Hughes last year announced that she was looking to open an outdoors-based charter school, Red Granite Charter School, similar to a successful one in Amherst that focused on the outdoors as part of the learning process. Its founder is helping to develop the new charter school.

The school district and the charter school are close to hashing out the details of the contract, hopefully in time to apply for federal grants that will help fund the school.

But, the location is up in the air. The board still needs to make some decisions around the district's restructuring plans that could affect what space is available for the charter school. There is the possibility of having temporary classrooms for the first year while that's sorted out.

The plan is to open the school with four classrooms to start, adding a classroom each year until there are nine total classrooms, Hughes told the Wausau School Board this past week.



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Sunday, June 4 th 7:00 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Abbotsford	Midwest Sidewalls James Weideman 213 Circle Dr., Curtiss, WI 54422	6 and older – \$5.00 5 and under – free
Sunday, June 4 th 7:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Stratford	Country Aire Restaurant 118600 County Road P, Stratford, Wisconsin	Adults-\$8 Children 6-11-\$4 Children 5 and under- Free
Sunday, June 4 th 7:00 a.m 12:30 p.m.	Granton	Mark & Julie Kayhart Family Farm W1225 Granton Rd Granton, WI 54436	11 and over – \$8.00 6 to 10 – \$4.00 5 and under – free
Saturday, June 10 th 11:00 a.m 2:00 p.m.	Portage County	Feltz's Dairy Store 5796 Porter Drive, Stevens Point, Wisconsin	
Saturday, June 10 th 7:00 - 11:00a.m	Pittsville	Butch Gardner Cold Storag 5616 Cranberry Lane Pittsville, WI	\$7- 13 & under \$3- Age 12-5 4K & under Free
Sunday, June 11 th 8:00 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Merrill	MARC 1100 Marc Dr., Merrill, WI 54452	Adults-\$8 Children 6-11-\$4 Children 5 and under- Fr
Sunday, June 11 th 6:30 - 12:00pm	Taylor County	Taylor County Fairground Corner of Hwy 13 & 64 Medford, WI 54451	\$7.00 per person 5 & under Free
Sunday, June 11 th 7:00 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Edgar	Scott & Marie Miller Farm 121603 Leroy St., Fenwood, WI	Adults: \$9.00 Under 8: Free
Sunday, June 11 th 7:00 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Neillsville	Clark County Fairgrounds Livestock Building 1121 E Division St., Neillsville,WI 54456	11 and over – \$7.00 6 to 10 – \$4.00 5 and under – free
Saturday, June 17 th 7:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Owen Withee	Withee Lions Pavilion	10& up - \$9.00 5-9- \$5.00 4& under- Free
Sunday, June 18 th 7:00 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Loyal	Dave Jr. & Ashley Clintsman N10776 Cty Rd K Loyal,WI 54446	13 and over – \$8.00 6 to 12 – \$4.00 5 and under – free
Sunday, June 18 th 7:00am - 12:00am	Marshfield	Heiman Families 10898 US Hwy 10 Marshfield, WI 54449	\$10.00- age 12 up \$5.00- age 5-11 Free- age 4 & under
Saturday, June 24 th 8:00am - 12:00pm	Auburndale	Auburndale High School 10629 N Rd, Auburndale, WI 54412 \$8 per person	\$8 per person
Saturday, June 24 th 8:00 - 12:00	Marathon County	Redetzkes' No Joke Dairy 216601 Wescott Ave Stratford WI 54484	\$10.00 – Adult \$5.00- Ages 5-11 Free- Ages 4 & under
Sunday, June 25 th 7:00 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Colby	Harmony Holtsteins Todd & Jessica Ertl W1455 County Rd K, Unity, WI 54488	\$6.00 per plate
Sunday, June 25 th 7:00 a.m 1:00 p.m.	Greenwood	Ed Krultz Farm N10334 Sidney Ave Greenwood, WI	13 and over – \$7.00 5 to 12 – \$4.00 4 and under free

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William J. Litzer





|OBITUARIES|



Sheridan John Johnson, 81, of Merrill, was granted rest from his suffering following several months of illness on April 25th, 2023. He died peacefully in his home surrounded by family.

Sheridan was born on June 29th, 1941, to Sharidan and Agnes (Pitsch) Johnson in Appleton, Wisconsin, during World War II. Soon after, his father entered the air force, which meant that little Sherry was without a dad and often

without both parents for the 1st four years of his life, which led to a special relationship with his grandparents, James and Lulu (Ferguson) Johnson, and his uncle Gwen.

In his teen years, Sheridan attended Wisconsin Academy in Columbus, Wisconsin. It was there that he met his high school sweetheart, Doris Klug. They were married on December 25th, 1960. The couple were blessed with a daughter, Sharon Ann, in 1964, and a son, Robert James, in 1966. Sheridan worked in construction to support his family until a back injury hindered him in the late 1970s. After that, he spent a couple years in a factory before becoming a truck driver in the 1980s. Sheridan and Doris built a log cabin in Irma by hand, which had been a dream of Sheridan's, in the early 1990s

When Sheridan's back started to plague him again, Sherry and Doris retired to White Pine, Michigan, where Doris died in 1999. They enjoyed 39 years of marriage.

In 2001, Sheridan married Cheryl Magray of Green Bay, who he had met at Seventh Day Adventist camp meeting. They lived in Upper Michigan, and then in Merrill, Wisconsin, until his demise. They were blessed with 21 years of marriage and enjoyed camping almost every summer weekend. Sheridan often cooked for Cheryl.

Sheridan had many hobbies. He loved Lake Superior, where he enjoyed hunting for agates, watching the waves, and camping almost his entire life. He also liked to supply food for the family by hunting, making maple syrup, picking apples and making applesauce, and even baking bread.

Sheridan is survived by his wife, Cheryl, his brother James (Linda) Johnson of Cedar Lake, Mi, his daughter, Sharon (Gary) Geurts of Menasha, his son, Robert (Peggy) Johnson of Merrill, stepson Tim (Holly) Ladwig of Green Bay, stepdaughter Tarina Luecke of Coleman, stepson Trenton (Missy) Ladwig of DePere, grandchildren and step grandchildren Robert, Zack, Julian, Thoren, Jonathan, Makayla, Emily, Lucas, Dylan, Logan, Cameron, and Ella, and great grandchildren and step great grandchildren Riley, James, Kinsley and Madison. He will be missed.

Services will be held at Tomahawk Community Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1529 E. Somo Ave, Tomahawk, WI 54487 on Sunday, June 4, 2023 with Visitation from noon until the time of service at 2 p.m. A meal will follow in the fellowship hall.

Mid Wisconsin Cremation Society is assisting family at this time. Online condolences may be expressed at MWCS.WS

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





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Ralph Buch 84, of Merrill, went to be with his Lord and Savior on May 23, 2023, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Ralph was born December 16, 1938, to Willie and Ella (Moeck) Buch. He graduated from Wausau East High School in 1957. Ralph joined the Army Reserves and spent six long months in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He couldn't wait to get back home to farm with his grandpa Buch. Ralph married Phyllis 'Phyl' Osness

on October 3, 1970, and they farmed together for thirty years before retiring in 2000. After selling the cattle, Ralph worked in the woods with his brother, Allen, logging and making firewood. He also drove bus for Harold's Charter and worked a milk hauling route for Art Krause and Wilbert Voelz. Ralph was a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Village of Maine, and he enjoyed being involved in church. He was President and Elder for many years. He and Phyl were chairmen of the church Fund Raising Committee, collecting newspapers and cardboard and holding chicken bar-b-q's and chili dinners.

One activity Ralph and Phyl enjoyed was bowling in two couples' leagues with their friends Don and Elaine Hoff. They also enjoyed playing Poker, Sheepshead, Samba, and Cribbage with many dear friends to this day. After his stroke in 2021, Ralph called this time spent with friends "therapy". They played poker for over 50 years with Don and Elaine Hoff and Wilbert and Mavis Voelz. They enjoyed playing Sheepshead for 40 years and continued to play with Willie and Karen Schult, Roger and Darlene Bade, and Ethel Natzke. They played Samba (similar to Canasta) with many other couples. Ralph decided to develop a "score card' to keep track of each group (boys against girls). You got a "fence post" if you won and the topic of conversation was "Who's ahead!"

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis 'Phyl' Buch of Merrill; brothers, Jerome (Judy) Buch of Irma, and Jeff (Sandy) Buch of Merrill; sisters-in-law, Phyllis Buch of Merrill, Betty Latzig of Merrill, Elayne (Richard) Ollmann of Merrill, Janet Beyer-Thums of Merrill, Darlene Osness of Wausau, Carol Osness of Merrill, Carol Osness of Merrill; nephew, Chris Buch; and nieces, Amy Krenz, Audrey Voigt, Jarrah Buch, Megan Ek, and Lindsey Steinagel.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, Willie and EllaBuch; and brother, Allen Buch.

The funeral service for Ralph will be held at 11:00 A.M., Saturday, June 3, 2023, at Faith Lutheran Church, Village of Maine. Rev. Donald Love and Rev. Allen Behnke will officiate. Interment will take place at Faith Lutheran Church Cemetery- West, Town of Scott, Lincoln County. The visitation will be from 4:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M., Friday June 2, 2023, and after 9:00 A.M. Saturday, June 3, 2023, all at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefune ralhome.com



Don J. Trantow, 91, died on May 23, 2023, in Braselton, Georgia. He was born July

29, 1931, in Merrill, Wisconsin, to Ralph and Geneva (Chauvin) Trantow. He married Marie Blando in Chicago June 30, 1956. She preceded him in death on April 13, 1995. A 1949 graduate of Merrill High School, he served with the US Air Force in Korea in 1952 as an announcer with the Armed

Forces Radio Service. He retired as a staff manager at AARP in Washington, D.C. in 1995. Survivors include a son, Michael (Katherine) Hoschton, Georgia; two daughters, Carrie (Walt) Soderman, Bonaire, GA, and Marcia (Chris) Weese, Lilburn, GA; three grandsons, Kevin Soderman, Eric Weese, and Carter Weese; two sisters, Marge Johnson, Wausau, and Carol Jean Stewart, Salt Lake City, Utah; and a brother, James, Merrill . Burial will be at Andersonville National Cemetery in Georgia. Memorial Park Braselton, Georgia 30517 is in charge of arrangements. Send on-line condolences to www.memorialparkfuneralhomes.com.

Please send announcements, news briefs, photo submissions and letters to the editor to: tscott@mmclocal.com



EMAIL US: merrillmonument@gmail.com STORE HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 9am - Noon & 1pm - 4pm

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Custom Cemetery Work



Rita L. Koch, 92, of Merrill passed away Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at Marshfield Medical Center-Weston.

Rita was born December 1, 1930, in Antigo, daughter of the late Frank and Katherine (Krugel) Steinfest. Rita was raised on a farm north of Gleason. She married Norman Koch on June 28, 1952, in Merrill. She worked for several years at the former Merrill Candy and Hanson Glove. When her children were

grown, she worked for a cleaning service for many years. Rita was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and was involved in the church choir. She enjoyed sewing, embroidery and latch hook; vegetable and flower gardening; playing the piano and organ; and spending time in the woods riding 4-wheelers and making firewood. Rita loved spending the weekend dancing with Norman at local dance halls: together they enjoyed polka, fox trot, jitter bug and waltzes. Rita was a wonderful cook and baker and always packed goodies for the grandkids when they went back to college.

Rita was always there for her children and grandchildren. She babysat the grandchildren often and loved spending time with them. Rita was always willing to help and never spoke poorly of anyone. She always did everything for the sake of others, and she was the one that everyone should have lived their life like.

Survivors include her husband of 70 years, Norman Koch of Merrill; children, Steve Koch of Merrill, Cheryl (Ryan) Plautz of Merrill, David (Lisa) Koch of Wausau, and Dawn (Steve) Hintze of Merrill; grandchildren, Ashley (Steven) Sanford, Andrew (Amber) Plautz, Jacob (Olivia) Hintze, Ben (Nicole) Hintze, and Kaitlin Koch; great-grandchildren, Aidan, Addison, and Anderson Plautz, Avery, Chase, and Blade Hintze and Sebastian and Stella Sanford; and her inlaws, Tom (Jean) Koch of Virginia, Jerry (Joan) Koch of Merrill, Kathleen Paral of Green Bay. Rita was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Katherine Steinfest; her brother, Eugene Steinfest; and father-in-law and mother-inlaw, Norman and Edna Koch; and her brother-in-law, Richard Koch.

The funeral service was held at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Father Mariadas Vallabhaneni presided. Entombment will take place in Merrill Memorial Park Mausoleum.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefune



Matthew E. Semling, 65, of Merrill, passed away Monday, May 2, 2023, at Aspirus Merrill Hospital. Matt was born March 29,

Matt was born March 29, 1958, in Merrill, son of the late Donald and June (Germain) Semling. He graduated from Merrill High School with the class of 1976. Matt married Sarah Wold on October 31, 2003, in Merrill. She survives. Matt had worked for many years as the delivery driver for Johnson Pharmacy, Merrill.

Matt was an avid golfer and loved watching golf. He was also a Green Bay Packers fan and enjoyed many trips to Lambeau Field. Matt liked listening to the Beatles and was a Sci-Fi buff. He loved spending time with his family and enjoyed the company of his three cats, Charlie, Pearl, and Sweetie

Survivors include his wife, Sarah Semling of Merrill; mother-in-law, Lois Wold of Merrill; sisters, Donna Hertel of Merrill, Sara Semling (Tom Horsley) of Sister Bay, WI, and Connie Semling (Lee Patnode) of Wausau; brothers, Steve (Sharon) Semling of Whitestown, IN, Andy (Renee) Semling of Merrill, and Dave (Peggy) Semling of Burnsville, MN; sisters-in-law, Sandy (Mike) Prain of Gleason and Donna Frisch of Merrill; and several nieces and nephews. Matt was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and June Semling; brother, Daniel Semling; father-in-law, Donald Wold; and brother-in-law, John Frisch.

The memorial visitation for Matt will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M., Noon, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Private inurnment will take place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Matt's name may be made to the Lincoln County Humane Society.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefune

More photos online merrillfotonews.com





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| OBITUARIES |



Donald "Don" Oglesby, age 81, of Merrill, Wisconsin passed away on May 24, 2023 at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill, Wisconsin. He was born on August 11, 1941 to the late William and Dorothy (Russell) Oglesby in Illinois.

Don grew up in Waukegan, Illinois. After coming to Christ Dan as a young man moved to California. After some education in nursing, he switched to education and worked with special needs children. This led

to a life long love and interest in helping young teen boys to know Christ. Eventually he returned to Waukegan and worked for Honeywell. He loved Native American Culture and collected eagle paraphernalia of all kinds and was a

Don is survived by his niece and nephew: Billy William Oglesby and Kimberly Oglesby Morgan and other nieces and nephews and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and four brothers.

A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 11:00 am at Waid Funeral Home. Pastor Andy Perry will officiate. A visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 from 10:00 am until the time of service also at the funeral home. Interment will immediately follow at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bible Presbyterian Church in Merrill in memory of Donald Oglesby. Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is as sisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are

encouraged and may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.



Deanna Marie Pilecky age 53, of Merrill, died unexpectedly on Mon, May 22, 2023 at her home. She was born on Aug 22, 1969 in Antigo, a daughter of Roger and Sharon (Robinson) Pilecky of Deerbrook.

She graduated from Antigo High School in 1987. She received her Associates Degree in Accounting from North Central Technical College in

Deanna was employed at Haven, Inc. in Merrill for the past 18 years. She started

working the crisis line, then became the office manager from 2006 to 2019 and was currently the finance manager.

She had a deep love for her family and friends. She was a proud Aunt who was a role model teaching her nieces and nephews how to be independent and the importance for bringing family together. She enjoyed time with family and friends which led to her planning and coordinated many gatherings. She also enjoyed watching science fiction

Survivors include her parents; sister, Julie Pilecky of Wausau and Dawn Pilecky of Merrill; brothers, Roger (Mary) Pilecky of Windsor, Richard (Karen) Pilecky of Deerbrook, and Joe (Melissa) Pilecky of Merrill; and nieces and nephews, Megan, Michael, Anna, Zachary, Lydia and Evelyn. She is also survived by special friends, Dee Puyleart, Adam Rustick, and Nick Welnetz; and her God parents, Bob and Betsy Pilecky.

She was preceded in death by a special friend, Roy Rustick. A celebration of Deanna's life will be held on Sat, June 10, beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the farm, N4795 Ackley Road, Deerbrook, WI 54424

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Haven, Inc., 1106 E. 8th Street, Merrill, WI 54452.

Online obituary and condolences at www.bradleyfh.com.

Access to **Foto News** office affected June 5 and 6

BY TINA L. SCOTT **EDITOR**

The City of Merrill has contracted with Struck & Irwin Paving, Inc., to resurface a portion of E. Main Street in front of the new Foto News office location at 2011 E. Main St. They will be working on the street on Monday, June 5, 2023, and Tuesday, June 6, weather permitting.

The resurfacing work will take place on E. Main Street from Stuyvesant St. to S. Memorial Dr. and may go into the side streets a little bit. The limits of the work area have been marked with white spray painted arrows on the street. Travel along E. Main St. won't be closed in its entirety-at least one lane of travel in each direction should remain open at all times.

However, the work requires segments of E. Main St. to be closed for a time, and access into and out of the Foto News parking lot will be affected by the work. Please plan to approach the business address from River St. and to park on Cooper St. as space is available, to access

SIGNS from page 1

the only resident of the City of Merrill who is listed as Missing in Action from that war. The Russell sign will he dedicated on Veteran's Day when surviving family members will be available.'

Additional signs honoring late City residents will be dedicated in the coming weeks, Caylor said.

Merrill's honorary historic street signs

Preservation Committee first began to entertain the idea of paying homage to the memory of notable Merrill residents with honorary historic street signs in the community back in mid 2021. Over a series of months, they identified names to be considered, worked with the City regarding the new logo and how that would be integrated on the signs, notified surviving family members of the people who would be so honored, and also worked with other City of Merrill departments to fully develop the idea, design the signs, and get them ordered, with a

schedule to erect the signs. Initially the Committee identified 10 people to be posthumously honored with the signs and reduced that number to five. However, at the request of City of Merrill Common Council President Paul Russell and Mayor Hass, at the May 2022 meeting the Historic Preservation Committee reconsidered and decided all 10 people nominated will now be honored with the new historic street signs in 2023.

It should be noted that the historic, honorary street sign designations will NOT be used for address purposes. Residents living along the streets with the honorary street signs will not change their postal address, and these street names will not be recognized by GPS systems. They are for community preservation historic purposes only, to honor the lives of some of Merrill's most remarkable citizens, and to increase the public's awareness of Merrill's rich history and Merrill citizens who made their mark on Merrill and on the world.

Street signs honor the people who made Merrill history

In addition to the three veterans whose lives commemorated by are honorary historic street signs, the following individuals rounded out the list of those to be honored with honorary street names and signs to be erected in 2023: Mrs. Natalie Scribner, Captain Elmer Krueger, Lt. Thomas Beckman, Tiny Krueger, Andrew Warren. Hans von Kaltenborn, and Riley Kurtz.

- Mrs. Natalie Scribner was the longest serving director of the T.B. Scott Free Library, from 1922 -1948, and was instrumental in expanding the library's collection and services significantly during her tenure.
- · Captain Elmer Krueger. Captain of the patrol of the Merrill Police Department,



The family of Sgt. Ryan Jopek gathers around the honorary street sign erected and dedicated in his honor. Photo courtesy of Merrill Historic Preservation Committee.

was shot and mortally wounded in the line of duty on July 12, 1952, in an incident on the north side of the Lincoln County Jail. He is the only Merrill Police Officer to be killed in the line of duty.

- · Lt. Thomas Beckman was a firefighter on the Merrill Fire Department who, while off-duty on Jan. 3, 1978, responded to a house fire on Mill Street. While working the fire, he was overcome by smoke and collapsed, later dying. He left behind a wife and two small children and made significant contributions to the firefighting community during his tenure.
- · Clifford "Tiny" Krueger was a Merrill resident who ran away with the circus and became known as the "Fat Boy" for the Seils-Sterling Circus. However, he is most noted for being elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 1947 at the

age of 28, serving until 1955, and then being reelected in 1957 and serving until 1983 when he retired. Krueger championed the north woods of Wisconsin, especially Merrill, and was known in Madison as a leader of the Republican Party, although he labeled himself as a progressive.

- Warren Andrew bought a tract of land at the juncture of the Wisconsin and Prairie Rivers, assembled a crew of workmen, and built a sawmill and a dam. He also built log cabins to house the men, and Jenny Bull Falls, later to be called Jenny, was born. He is credited as being one of the founding fathers of Merrill.
- · Hans von Kaltenborn was born in Milwaukee but raised in Merrill, until he ran away from home to fight in the Spanish American War and to provide stories for his hometown



Merrill Department workers erect the first of 10 historic honorary street signs to be placed in the City in 2023.

Photo courtesy of Merrill **Historic Preservation** Committee.

newspaper, the Merrill Advocate. He subsequently offered live commentary live broadcasts from the war and then a king's coronation and in subsequent years reported on the Munich Agreement and other significant historical stories. was recognized for his significant contributions to journalism and broadcast radio. While his name is not widely known in the community, he was one of the most famous people to come from Merrill.

• Riley Kurtz, a Merrill Police Officer who died while serving the city of Merrill in Jan. 2022 at the age of 24, was the fourth active police office to die while serving the city and the youngest. He will be the final Merrill resident to be honored with an historic honorary street sign this

Nominations for future honorary street signs will be considered by the Preservation Historic Committee this fall, Caylor

|LEGAL NOTICES|

TOWN OF BIRCH APPLICATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following application for a retail license to deal in malt intoxicating liquors has been filed with

ne town cierk:

COMBINATION CLASS A

Susan Holly McMullen, N6528 Cty. H,

Irma, WI 54442 d/b/a Gwynedd Saddlery at Irma Hill COMBINATION CLASS B
Danny Lee, W4349 Monument Trail, Irma WI 54442

Irma WI 54442 d/b/a Crystal Creek Bar If anyone knows any reason why these licenses should not be granted, please contact the Town of Birch Clerk, Megan (phone 920-723-0673) prior to June 12, 2023.

Megan Webb, Clerk Town of Birch Published June 1, 2023 WNAXLP

TOWN OF MERRILL MERRILL, WISCONSIN

BID NOTICE

The Town of Merrill, Lincoln County Wisconsin will be accepting sealed bids for ditch mowing all town roads (Approx 81 miles). Contractor to provided certificate of insurance showing liability & workers comp. coverage. Sealed bids can be submitted to the Town of Merrill W4594 Progress Ave, Merrill, WI 54452. Bids will be opened on June 12th, 2023 at town board meeting.

The Town of Merrill reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid deemed to be in the best interest of the town. TOWN OF MERRILL BOARD

Published May 18th, 25th & June 1st, 2023

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Heidi Griebel

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Classified Advertising: 11:30 a.m. Monday

News or press release submissions must be one week prior to pub date.

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

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MEMORIAL from page 1

soldiers in their own ways.

May 30, 1868, was designated as Decoration Day, just three years after the end of the American Civil War, when General John A. Logan, the leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans called for the holiday. "Designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land," he said when calling for







Speakers from local military organizations gave tribute to those fallen soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

More Americans died in the American Civil War than in any other conflict or war in U.S. history.

That first officially designated Decoration Day in the north included a speech by General James Garfield at Arlington National Cemetery, and it is said 5,000 participants decorated the 20,000 graves of the Civil War soldiers buried there.

As the years wore on and the United States military became involved in even more conflicts and wars, Decoration Day evolved to become known as Memorial Day and also become a day to honor more than just fallen Civil War soldiers. It became a day to honor the sacrifice of every American soldier who paid the ultimate price, sacrificing their life for their country.

Whether in the Civil War, World War I or II, The Korean War, The Vietnam War, or the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, regardless of the conflict, on Memorial Day we pay tribute to the soldiers who gave everything in service to their country.

In 1992, Billy Ray Cyrus wrote and recorded a song called "Some Gave All." The song resonated with listeners and put Cyrus on the record charts, but its lyrics also resonate on Memorial Day and give meaning to the reason for the parades, the ceremonies, and the flags, flowers, and wreaths on gravestones:

"Love your country and live with pride,

And don't forget those who died, America, can't you

All gave some and some gave all,

And some stood through for the red, white, and blue, And some had to fall.

And if you ever think of me,

Think of all your liberties and recall ... Some gave all."



NTC Alternative High School Students Design and Weld Sculptures for Sara's Storybook Garden

WAUSAU - Six butterfly benches, three coneflowers, and other metal botanical sculptures found their home in Sara's Storybook Garden at Monk Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. These pieces are the result of a partnership with the Northcentral Technical College Alternative High School (NTC AHS).

NTC AHS students designed, welded, and painted these whimsical metal pieces. The project incorporated welding classes, cross-curricular hands-on activities, and service-learning.

Sara's Storybook Garden is currently under development and honors the memory of Sara Quirt-Sann, a local attorney who lost her life in 2017 due to a domestic violence tragedy. The husband of Dianne Look, another community member whose life was also cut short that day, donated a book written by his late wife to Sprouts Garden Preschool, a nature-based preschool

In Loving Memory of

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but not from our hearts

See **SCULPTURES** page 11



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TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

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Visit the Lincoln County Humane Society, Park City, Inc. 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: Mon-Sate 3000 E. Main St., 12-4PM and Sun 12-2PM. Call the shelter at • 715-536-3459, or visit us on the web at •

This Week's Featured Student is

Landon Smith

Son of Floyd Smith Jr. & Sierra Smith Landon is in 2nd grade at St. John Lutheran School. He was

What is your favorite subject in school?

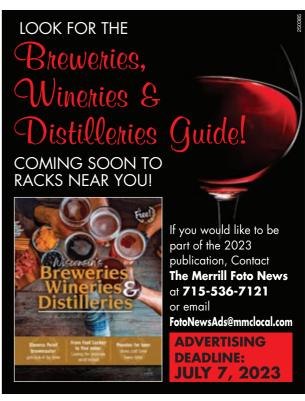
What would you like to do/become someday?

When I grow up I want to be an artist because I love art.

andon is a conscientious student and product. The works stated to accomplish school goals. Landon's friendship is valued by his classmates and his siblings. He encourages them to do their best and make good decisions. Landon's love for the Lord can be seen in his actions.











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Pictured are representatives from Harley-Davidson Tomahawk Operations, WaWui, the Tomahawk Chamber and Wanderin Wisconsin with the 2023 Anniversary Edition Harley-Davidson Heritage Classic Cruiser to be raffled during this year's Northwoods Fall Ride.

Photos courtesy of the Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce

Bike raffle returning to 2023 Northwoods **Fall Ride**

TOMAHAWK - The Tomahawk Regional Chamber of Commerce, on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, announced that nonprofit Chamber member Wa Wui LLC is bringing the bike raffle back to the 2023 Northwoods Fall Ride.

This year's Northwoods Fall Ride will be held in Tomahawk from Thursday, Sept. 14, through Sunday, Sept. 17.

"Fall Ride attendees greatly missed the bike raffle the past couple of years, and it is (Wa Wui's) pleasure to be able to offer a bike raffle again this year," the Chamber stated in a release.

The motorcycle to be raffled is a 2023 Anniversary Edition Harley-Davidson

See RAFFLE page 8

Rep. Tiffany considering U.S. Senate bid

BY JALEN MAKI MMC STAFF

Representative Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.) is considering a run for the United States Senate in

According to a statement from his media team, Tiffany will "make a decision this summer" on whether or not he will launch a campaign, which would likely be against current Democratic Senator Tammy Baldwin.

Tiffany has purchased the domain name www. tomtiffanyforsenate.com, which currently redirects



Tiffany

to his website, www. tomtiffany.com.

Tiffany was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in May 2020 after defeating Democrat Tricia Zunker in a special

election that was called following the resignation of former Republican Rep. Sean Duffy.

Tiffany defeated Zunker again in Nov. 2020 and emerged victorious over Democrat Richard "Dick" Ausman on his way to reelection in Nov. 2022.

Prior to his election Congress, Tiffany represented Wisconsin's 35th Assembly District from Jan. 2011 to Jan. 2013 and represented the state's 12th Senate District from Jan. 2013 until his May 2020 election to the U.S. House of Representatives.

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Cheddar Cheese 89¢ **Gogurt Tubes** Strawberry - Mixed Berry **\$3**49

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

A Simple Feeding

Dear Reader,

I'm no expert on taking care of babies... not by a long shot. Upon hearing that I had recently changed a diaper, my sonin-law comically responded, "3 kids, 7 grandchildren, 1 diaper 👋 🍎 🍎 🍎 Well done!!!" When our three daughters were born and raised some time ago, my wife Mary shouldered the lion's share of the day-to-day childcare responsibilities as I worked outside the house to financially support our family.

Today we have grandchildren and recently with the last granddaughter born in March, I've jumped into the fray after basically skipping a generation. No, I'm not retired but I have things a little more under control these days as an entrepreneur than when I was in the corporate rat race.

As I take a more hands on approach to supporting the everyday subsistence of a baby, I am reminded of the little things that bring contentment. Just in feeding my granddaughter a bottle, I find the simple things like a bottle of warm milk, a shoulder to snuggle into, and the sound of a loved one singing goes a long way.



While each day little Maddie's world gets a little bit bigger and her needs grow in conjunction with this expansion. there's something to be said for these basic elements embedded into the process of a good bottle feeding. In many ways, these basic steps that fulfill the needs of an infant are not entirely unrelated to what can fulfill ours. After all there's nothing like a good meal, a warm hug, and the sound of song from loved ones.

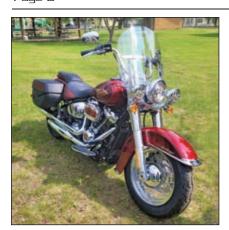
> PATRICK J. WOOD Publisher

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





weekend long at Bubba's Campground, 2777 Olson Rd. For more information go to www.tomahawkfallride.com.



RAFFLE from page 7

Heritage Classic Cruiser, number 1,434 of 2,000. The Chamber said the bike is slated to appear around the state before Fall Ride.

Northwoods Harley-Davidson of Arbor Vitae delivered the bike to the Tomahawk Chamber on Wednesday, May 24. Members of the Chamber, Harley-Davidson Tomahawk Operations and Wa Wui were on hand for the reveal, and the public was invited to join for a sneak peek.

The Chamber noted that it will also feature a 50/50 cash raffle at this year's

motorcycle rally. The first prize winner will take home 30% of total receipts, while the second prize winner will receive 10%. Third and fourth prizes will receive 5% each.

Tickets for the raffles are one for \$10.00 or three for \$25.00 and are available at the Tomahawk and Merrill Chambers of Commerce and Northwoods Harley-Davidson offices during business hours.

Tickets will also be available on-site during the Fall Ride and will not be sold online or via the postal service.

The cash raffle drawing will be held at the SARA Park Arena, 900 W. Somo Ave., Tomahawk, on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 4:45 p.m. The bike raffle will follow at 5:00 p.m. Raffle ticket buyers are not required to be present to win.

"Proceeds from the Bike Raffle will go to Wa Wui, who maintains the SARA Park Arena building and promotes youth and adult sports and the center," the Chamber stated. "Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will further promote the Chamber's mission and future promotion of Northwoods Fall Ride activities."

For more information about Northwoods Fall Ride, visit www.northwoodsfallride.

Deadline: Monday at 11:30 a.m. Phone: 715-536-7121 Fax: 715-539-3686

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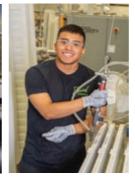
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Rummage Sales This Week

609 E 7th St, Merrill. (in alley). Thurs Jun 1 Fri June 2 9-6 Sat Jun 3. 10-2. New & used items, too much to list. Something for everyone. All cothing BOGO (kids &

DEB'S UNIQUE BOUTIQUE & Garage Sale: good quality clothing, purses, shoes, yarn, household, jewelry, antique hope chest on legs, jewelry armoire, vintage curio cabinet, cane-seat chairs, (2) Giant Revive bikes (semi-recumbent), camping items, and a table just for the guys. Come shop this amazing sale! 2023 Greenbud Rd, Kronenwetter. TH 6/1 & FRI 6/2 8a-5p; SAT 6/3 8a-12p

Large 9 Family Sale: N1305 Deer Run Ave, Merrill. Everything you can imagine and more to furnish or household, display stands, Large items, solid furni-ture, Sunday - Saturday 9am-5pm, weather permitting.

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Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202



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Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202

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FFA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Danielle "Dani" Schug, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named FFA Member of the Month for May 2023. Dani joined FFA as a Freshman because she thought it would be fun. She has participated in the Homecoming Parade and on Tractor Day (although she brought her horse!), and enjoys helping with everything related to FFA. She joined because she is a farmer and she barrel races. Dani is also running for Rodeo Queen this year.

Dani works for Gold Medal Trailer Sales as a mechanic.

In her free time, she enjoys riding horses, four wheeling, and hunting.

She lives with her parents, Bob and Sherri Beyer, in the country. Dani has a 2.5 GPA and plans to spend her first year after high school graduation out in the workforce and then attend UW-River Falls to become an animal nutritionist.



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Danielle Schug

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PCCU reports "strong finish" to 2022, sets sights on future growth following annual meeting

FOR MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Park City Credit Union (PCCU)'s annual meeting was held in April, where members were informed about the credit union's successes in 2022, as well as its future plans.

In a release, PCCU said it had a "successful year in 2022, reporting total assets of \$329.1 million, representing a 2.75% growth in assets since 2021."

"The credit union serves 23,845 members and growing and has nearly 100 employees across 4 branches and 10 communities," PCCU stated.

PCCU CEO Val Mindak attributed the credit union's success to "its dedication to its members and the communities it serves.'

"2022 was an amazing year for the credit union as we helped our members achieve their financial goals and worked to foster even stronger relationships with all of you," Mindak said. "We've continued to make investments in technology to be able to meet you wherever you are, and whatever you may be doing so that banking with us is easy and enjoyable."

PCCU noted that during the meeting, the credit union donated \$500 to the Park City Cares Foundation, which supports the local communities financially through grants and scholarships as well as volunteer

"As the credit union looks to the future, it is committed to continuing to grow and expand its services, while maintaining



Pictured, from left: Park City Cares Foundation President Jack Mikunda and PCCU Board Chair Jim Richardson.

Photos courtesy of PCCU

its commitment to its members and the communities it serves," PCCU said. "PCCU is proud to be a supporter of each and every community it serves and is committed to helping its members achieve their financial goals. To that end, the credit union has made significant investments in technology to ensure that banking with them is easy and convenient."

Park City Credit Union is a memberowned financial cooperative providing financial services to approximately 22,000 members who live, work, or own land in Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Price, Rusk, Taylor, or Vilas counties. To learn more, visit www.parkcitycu.org.

Park City Credit Union has offices in Tomahawk, Merrill, Minocqua, and Rhinelander and in Dave's County Market in Merrill.

SCULPTURES

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from page 6

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Pictured are PCCU employees holding ribbons representing the "many individuals the credit union has assisted to make a positive impact in their lives, and the ribbons are interconnected to form a strong chain." PCCU said the theme of this year's meeting and annual report was "Our members are the heart of everything we do," something PCCU said is reflected in this photo "symbolizing the love and care the credit union has for its members."

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The Lincoln County Retired Educators' Association (REA) recently named member Terry Derleth as the group's Volunteer of the Year. A release from the Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association (WREA) said Lincoln County REA members contributed 2,626 volunteer hours this year, valued at \$73,186.62, serving more than 24 organizations in local communities. Statewide, WREA members logged a total of 137,944.75 volunteer hours, valued at \$3,844,520.18, serving 1,236 organizations, the release said. WREA has served as a professional organization representing Wisconsin's retired educational community since 1951. Today, WREA has more than 9,000 members and 56 local chapters. To learn more about the Lincoln County REA, contact Terry Derleth at 715-453-5116.

Photo courtesy of Nancy Herbison

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Merrill wrestlers compete at US Open

On April 29, 2023, two Merrill wrestlers stepped onto a big stage in Las Vegas, Nev., in the Junior (20u) Greco-Roman Division at the US Open.

Ryder Depies, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), and his brother, Tanner Depies, a 2021 gradute of MHS made the trip to Vegas with the help and support of many members of the Merrill community, Tanner said.

Ryder wrestled in the 87 KG bracket and Tanner competed at 60 KG. They both finished with 1 win by



Merrill brothers Ryder Depies (left) and Tanner Depies (right) competed in the Junior (20u) Greco-Roman Division at the US Open.

Submitted photo.

Technical Superiority (8+ point Victory) and 2 losses.

"The tournament was an incredible experience, not only to watch some of the highest level wrestlers in the world, but to be able to compete alongside them and observe their expertise was super valuable," Tanner said. "The growth I have made from training, competing, and spectating at the US Open has not only grown my wrestling abilities, but also elevated my coaching abilities. This trip has also helped me create a plan to compete again in June, and for years to come."

"I'm grateful for the journey we experienced at the US Open," Ryder said. "There's always something to appreciate when competing against the best wrestlers in the nation, even when you don't win every match. The time spent on the mat at the US Open helped me win a Greco State Championship one week later and will help me prepare for college wrestling next year."

The brothers said they also want to thank the businesses, friends, and family that sponsored their training, travel, and competition. "This unforgettable opportunity was made possible by the outstanding support of Gold Medal Trailer Sales, Dug Out Bar, Geiss Meat Service, Z's Fork Horners, Depies Masonry, Depies Shady Lane Dairy, Bob's West 64, SGS Environmental, Outskirt's Bar, Ed and Sharon's Restaurant, Green Lawn Underground Sprinklers, Merrill Wrestling Alumni Club, Eddie's Bar, and many other amazing individuals!" they said.



Ryder Depies (on right) faces off against one of his opponents in Las Vegas. Submitted photo.



Tanner Depies shakes hand with his opponent on the mat at the US Open competition. Submitted photo.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Alayna Boyd, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Alayna is a forward on the Merrill Varsity Girls Soccer team, having started on the JV team as a Freshman and advanced to Varsity her Sophomore year. She also enjoys dancing and dances at Brooke's School of Dance. She's been involved with dance on and off for about seven years and this year focused on hip hop.

At school, Alayna enjoys English. She belongs to Trinity Lutheran Church in Merrill. And she works part time at Culvers year round and seasonally at Helene's Hilltop Orchard.

Alayna likes to hang out with friends in her free time, going shopping, going out to eat, and baking cookies. She enjoys boating with family and said she really loves swimming.

The daughter of Ashley and Jesse Boyd of Merrill, Alayna has a 2.1 GPA and wants to go to cosmetology school to become a hair stylist after high school graduation.

Church Mutual Congratulations from these sponsors:

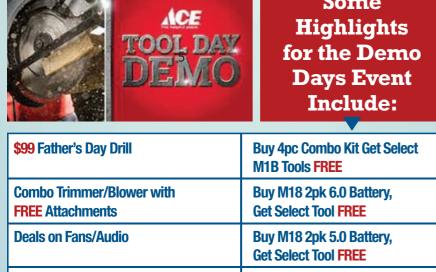




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