


HAPPY NEW YEAR! READY TO SELL?
Looking for a New House?
Give Me a Call I can Help You!
Kevin J. Blake
 (715) 204-0084
 www.KevinBlake.firstweber.com




PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 MERRILL, WI
 PERMIT NO. 35

POSTAL CUSTOMER
 ECRWSS



Merrill Basketball Hall Of Fame Night is this Saturday

BY TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

This Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, is Merrill Basketball Hall Of Fame (HOF) Night. Both the Boys and Girls Merrill Basketball Teams will play that day, with the JV teams playing at Merrill High School (MHS) at 2 p.m.; the Boys JV2 team playing at Prairie River Middle School at 2 p.m., the Girls Varsity team at 3:30 p.m. at MHS; and the Boys Varsity team at 5 p.m. at MHS.

Merrill Basketball HOF inductees will be recognized at halftime of the Boys Varsity game, with four new inductees entering the HOF this year:

- Player - Melissa Yuska
- Player - Rory Osnes
- Coach - Tom Andreska
- Friend of the Program / Lifetime Achievement - Kate Knott

A social will be held at Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes after the Boys Varsity game concludes.

"This is one of the best days of the year," said Merrill Varsity Basketball Team Head Coach Troy Pieper. "It's so awesome celebrating the great history of Merrill Basketball, so much history that needs to be celebrated."

"This year is a little extra special for me," he said. "Each person going in has had a big impact on me as a player and/or coach. Coach Andreska was my coach, and he and Coach English made me want to go into coaching and made a big impact on me through my high school years. Melissa Yuska was a year older than me, and she and I would check into her dad's (Coach Bob Yuska) room during study hall and go to the gym and shoot every day pretty much. She was a very good friend."

"Rory Osnes was my 'hero,' if you will. He was the one that I looked up to when I was young and wanted to play like when I was in high school," Pieper said. "Every youth player has that HS player they want to be like. Rory was mine, and we've become good friends after high school."

"Kate still makes an impact on me each and every day, I'm lucky enough to see her every day and joke around," he said. "She makes me smile, makes me laugh, and she will put me in my place when needed. It's an honor to call her friend and pretty cool to call all of these inductees friends."

"This year it's pretty cool, too, that both the Boys and Girls Teams will play for HOF night. Moving forward that will continue to be the way we do it. It's going to be a great day, and I can't wait to get these awesome people officially inducted into the Merrill Basketball HOF."

"Please come out and support all of these inductees and watch a day filled with basketball and come to the social at Les and Jims after the games," Pieper said. "It will be a great day."

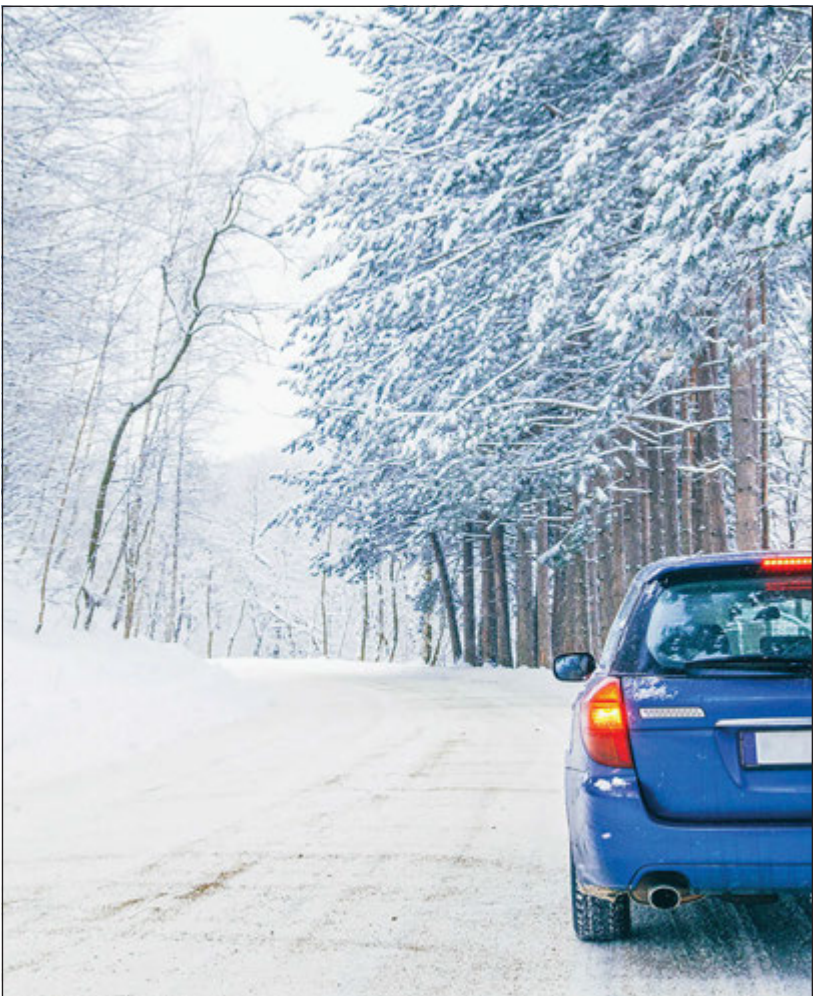
Measureable winter snow reminds drivers to plan ahead, use precautions

BY TINA L. SCOTT
 EDITOR

As measureable winter snow finally arrived in Lincoln County earlier this week, drivers are reminded that their approach to driving in winter should be adapted to weather and road conditions. Winter storms can definitely impact travel plans. Road conditions and visibility can deteriorate quickly based on precipitation and blowing winds.

Utilize an app on your phone to stay abreast of changing weather conditions or watch the news for weather forecasts from the National Weather Service. A press release earlier this week from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) reminded drivers to be weather aware and "know before you go" with 511 Wisconsin at 511wi.gov or via the mobile app. This allows travelers to monitor winter road conditions and view live videos from traffic cameras along their route. Locally, there are also Facebook Groups dedicated to keeping area residents abreast of rapidly changing road conditions based on their personal experience, such as the "Road Conditions - Marathon County Highways 29/51" Facebook Group which is updated frequently.

See **DRIVING** page 7



Sue Dierksen of Gleason appointed to AARP Wisconsin Executive Council

FOR THE MERRILL FOTO NEWS

MADISON – AARP Wisconsin, on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, announced three appointments to its all-volunteer Executive Council and two additional staff members.

"We are thrilled to be diving into the new year with an AARP Wisconsin team of staff and volunteer leaders who are excited to work together on legislation and community-enhancing engagements that will make life better not only for those 50 and over, but all Wisconsinites as they age," said AARP Wisconsin State Director Martha Cranley.

Among the appointments to the Executive Council, which assists in establishing goals, strategies, and tactics for efforts that help the more than 800,000 AARP members in Wisconsin, is Sue Dierksen of Gleason.

"As an RN with a Master's Degree in public health, Sue spent her career with two major corporations, developing and managing employee health and wellness programs which integrated with employee health



benefits," AARP said. "In 2018, she joined the team of AARP Wisconsin volunteer advocates, supporting legislation affecting Wisconsinites age 50-plus. In this work, she has connected with elected officials on issues such as reducing the cost of prescription drugs, quality high-speed internet, and support for caregivers."

AARP added that Dierksen is a 2022 alumnus of the Wisconsin Women's Network Policy Institute, which increased her knowledge of the legislative process and connections with lawmakers.

Dierksen has been an AARP member since 1996 and has lived in the Northwoods for 17 years.

Joining Dierksen on the Executive Council are Terrence Moore of Milwaukee, who will serve as AARP Wisconsin's inaugural Vice President; and Sue Miller of Waupaca.

Two staff members – David

Bowen of Milwaukee and Martin Hernandez of Middleton – have also joined the AARP Wisconsin team to lead the state office's efforts around advocacy, campaigns, and volunteer management.

"All of these staff members and volunteers are committed to being strong and capable voices for carrying out AARP's mission here in Wisconsin, which is to make life better for all of us," Cranley said. "We are so very pleased to have them leading our statewide efforts."

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with a membership of more than 37 million that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities, and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment security, and retirement planning, they say.

"We advocate for consumers in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services," AARP said.

ALTER TRADING CORPORATION
125TH ANNIVERSARY
ALTER
 1898-2023

+3¢
Alum Cans over regular price thru 2/29/24

Mon - Fri 7:30 AM - 3:45 PM
 2900 SHERMAN WAUSAU, WI (715) 298-9330

Resolved to eat better this year? Easy!
GRASSWORKS CATTLE CO.
FOR SALE: 100% Grassfed Angus Beef
 Selling by the quarter, half, or whole
 Raised in Gleason
 Processing dates available immediately at Red Barn Meats in Gleason

Call Leslie Derstine at 715-216-4595
 Email: grassworkscattle@norcell.us

BUSINESS PROFILE
A Community Update on 2023
You are the community's future!

- What would you like all of the community to know about your business from 2023?
- How long have you been a part of the community's success?
- What's in your plans for the future?
- What makes your company a good place to work?
- Would you like to recognize your employees' contributions to your success?

The Merrill Area Dining Guide will now be in the Profile Magazine and inserted into the paper. The Foto News is mailed to all addresses in the Merrill area. That's over 14,600 papers!

Share your success and plans with the people of the area.
Contact the Merrill Foto News office to be a part of the Business Profile.

MERRILL Foto News (715) 536-7121

DOR reminding Wisconsin residents to check property tax bills for lottery, gaming credit

FOR THE MERRILL FOTO NEWS

WISCONSIN – The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) is reminding Wisconsin residents to check their

current property tax bill for the lottery and gaming credit.

In a release, DOR explained that the credit provides direct property tax relief to qualifying taxpayers on their property tax bills.

Lottery proceeds are paid into a separate segregated state fund. The lottery credit is displayed on tax bills as a reduction of property taxes due.

“To qualify for the lottery and gaming credit, you must be a Wisconsin resident, own a dwelling, and use it as your primary residence as of the Jan. 1 certification date of the year the property taxes are levied – in this case, Jan. 1, 2023,” DOR said. “If an owner is temporarily absent, typically for a period no longer than six months (ex: hospital, vacation, incarcerated), the primary residence is the home where the owner returns. Principal dwelling means any dwelling the owner of the dwelling uses as their primary residence.”

To receive the credit, an eligible property owner must file an application with the county treasurer where the

property is located or with the city treasurer if the property is located in a city that collects taxes under state law. A property owner may claim only one primary residence.

“You cannot claim the lottery and gaming credit on business property, rental units, vacant land, garages, or other property that is not the owner’s primary residence,” DOR said.

If a property owner is eligible for the credit as of Jan. 1, 2023, but their property tax bill received in Dec. 2023 does not show the credit, they may claim the credit by applying to the municipal (town, village, or city) treasurer where the property is located, by Jan. 31, 2024; or file a late claim application (if the Jan. 31 deadline is missed) with DOR by Oct. 1, 2024.

Lottery and gaming credit applications forms are available at revenue.wi.gov/Pages/Form/lottery-home.aspx.

NEED HELP STAYING IN YOUR HOME?
 We have an exceptional caregiver available in the rural/Merrill area.
A 1 Home Health Care LLC
 715-432-0911 or 715-359-8160

Happy 60th Anniversary
 January 17th, 1964 – January 17th, 2024



David and Roxie Johnson
 From Shannon & Orin III

ATV/UTV riders beware of winter conditions

Ride sober, slow down, wear a helmet

FOR THE MERRILL FOTO NEWS

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is urging ATV/UTV riders to be mindful of potentially dangerous winter conditions when operating recreational vehicles during the extended riding season.

Many of the state’s trails have yet to be covered in snow, but just because a winter road or trail is legally open for riding doesn’t mean it’s safe. Frost, ice, and fresh snow can cause slippery conditions. UTVs and ATVs may have great traction off roads, but that can change when they are driven on roadway routes in winter.

“Be extra careful, especially when slowing down and approaching turns,” said Lt. Warden Jacob Holsclaw, DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Administrator. “Nothing stops fast on slippery pavement, and these machines do not handle the same as a car or a truck.”

In 2023, there were 32 fatal ATV/UTV crashes in the state, the most recent of which happened on Dec. 31 [in the Township of Scott in Lincoln County].

The consumption of alcohol or drugs, excess speed, driver inexperience, and operator error are the leading causes of fatal crashes.

A few safety tips to keep in mind when operating an off-highway vehicle in the winter include always wearing a DOT-approved helmet, using a seatbelt, letting someone know where you’re going and when you’ll return, and dressing for the weather and carrying a lifejacket, ice



The DNR urges ATV/UTV riders to be careful operating in winter conditions. **Stock photo.**

picks, and dry clothes when operating on the ice.

Wisconsin law requires ATV and UTV operators born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, who are at least 12 years old for an ATV and at least 16 years old for UTV must complete an ATV safety certification course to operate in Wisconsin. An exception is on private property owned by operator’s immediate family. These safety courses can be taken online or in person. A list of approved safety education classes is available on the DNR Safety Education webpage.

Wisconsin law also requires every operator involved in a crash incident to report the incident without delay to law enforcement officials. Operators must submit a written report to the DNR within 10 days of the incident.

Foster Grandparents
 Share Today. Shape Tomorrow.

Looking for Volunteers to make a difference in a youth’s life!

If you enjoy offering:

- One-to-One Guidance and Companionship to youth ages 14-17 in a Supervised Setting
- Are you interested in tutoring, mentoring and/or healthy social interaction?
- Building mutually beneficial friendships

If you are age 55 or older, meet income criteria, and able to volunteer a minimum of 5 hours a week or 260 hours per year. **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

MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week’s Featured Student is **Evelyn Hohman**
 Daughter of Paul & Theresa Hohman
 Evelyn is in 7th Grade at New Testament Church Christian Academy. She was nominated by Mrs. Schneider.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
 Science is my favorite subject in school. I like learning about plants, animals and the human body. I like knowing how they can live and how to stay alive.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
 School Lunch. My favorite part of school is going to lunch. I like to eat, and we have a good cook.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
 I would like to be a librarian. I like to read books and I like going to the library.

Evelyn is a very creative girl. She enjoys giving people her artwork to brighten their day. Evelyn is a good spirited, bright young lady.
 ~Mrs. Schneider

Student of the Week Sponsored by:
INTERFLEX GROUP
 1401 W. Taylor St., Merrill
 (715) 536-5400

Dan Bushar
 5/7/66 – 1/9/09

They say there is a reason,
 They say that time will heal,
 But neither time nor reason,
 Will change the way we feel,
 For no one knows the heartache,
 That lies behind our smiles,
 No one knows how many times,
 We have broken down and cried,
 We want to tell you something,
 So there won’t be any doubt,
 You’re so wonderful to think of,
 But so hard to be without.

Mom, Karen Bushar;
 Son, Eric (Jaime) Bushar;
 Grandkids, Issac, Janna Kay & Xena;
 Brother, David (Jackie) Bushar;
 Sister Amy (Terry) Baumann &
 the rest of the family

Closed on Tuesdays Jan-March

DEALS!

Super Pricing on Schwan’s Products

Supreme Pizzas \$4.99 each or 3/\$12	Roasted Turkey & Vegetables \$3.25 12oz.
Homestyle Meatloaf & Mashed Potatoes \$3.25 10.9oz.	Spaghetti & Meat Sauce \$3.25 12oz.
	Meat & Four Cheese Lasagna \$3.50 16oz.

Most prices are 1/2 of normal retail prices.

New Everyday Pricing on Sunflower Seeds
 Only \$19.95 50lb.

Pine Wood Heating Pellets
 \$6.49 40lbs.
 \$325 a ton (50-40lb. bags)

WINTER HOURS: WED. & SAT. 8AM-5PM. MON., TUES., THURS., & FRI. 8AM - 5:30PM

Located in Gleason. All prices subject to change. While supplies last.

PRAIRIE PINES
 715-873-4840
 STOP IN AND ENJOY OUR FRIENDLY, AGREEABLE SERVICE!

FFA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Jacob Shimel, a Freshman at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named FFA Member of the Month for December 2023. Jacob joined FFA at the beginning of this school year “because I figured it would be a good way to meet new people and I was interested in going to all the events such as the World Dairy Expo,” he said.

He did attend World Dairy Expo and said, “I had a lot of fun on that trip, and I really enjoyed tasting all the cheeses there.”

He has also been involved in FFA fundraising activities and said he enjoys getting together with his friends at the monthly meetings and also enjoys the snacks!

Jacob lives on a small family farm in the town of Cornish which has been in their family for 103 years. “We raise beef and farm just under 300 acres,” he said. “We also do a good amount of custom combining. I have a lot of experience doing work in tractors and have done pretty much every job that you can think of in a tractor other than spraying. My favorite job is combining corn.”

“I also rented out my own seven acres this year and planted my first year of crops,” Jacob said.

In the fall, Jacob plays soccer on defense. He is an alumni of St. Francis Xavier Catholic School and a member at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.


“In my free time I enjoy snowmobiling, riding four wheeler, building with lego technic, and playing farming simulator,” Jacob said. “I spend a lot of my time just doing random stuff with my three younger brothers and helping my dad with his list of jobs every weekend.”

The son of Kate and Jon Shimel, Jacob plans to farm after he graduates high school. “There might be a couple years in there where I do something else to get some money. I might go to a farming college or to the tech for a different trade,” he said.

Congratulations from this sponsor:
Gail Abegglen
 715-551-8016
 2402 E. Main St., Merrill

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

COLDWELL BANKER ACTION
 Independently Owned and Operated



Jacob Shimel

International ski event to bring hundreds to Rhinelander

Snow or no snow, 2024 Ski for Light is a go

BY EILEEN PERSIKE
EDITOR

More than 200 cross-country skiers will descend upon Rhinelander the end of the month for the 2024 Ski For Light International Week. It's the 49th such event that brings together visually- or mobility-impaired participants, sighted guides, and volunteers from across the United States and several countries to cross country ski, to better their skills, compete, and have fun. Local Ski For Light (SFL) volunteer guide and board member Michael Evelo said it's a special week for the skiers.

"For many of them this is the only time all year they get on snow," Evelo said. "And it gives them a sense of freedom. It's the only time where they can move at any speed without being attached to a cane or somebody's elbow."

"Monday through Friday, we'll be teaching and advancing the skills of the skiers and then on Saturday is the race rally. By the end of the week, they get to see how they do against each other," Evelo added.

Ski For Light is an all-volunteer non-profit organization founded in 1975. Its mission is to "enhance the quality of life and independence of visually or mobility-impaired adults through a program of cross-country skiing." The event takes place Jan. 28-Feb. 4, 2024, and will be headquartered at the Quality Inn in Rhinelander. Skiing, provided there is adequate snow, will take place at the Northwoods Nordic Trails adjacent to the Northwood Golf Course.

Having snow-covered ski trails is ideal, but Evelo emphasized the event will take place even if Mother Nature does not cooperate. He has been volunteering with SFL since 2015 and began advocating for a Rhinelander-based event the following year. In 2015 he was selected to speak at the awards banquet. He was curious who else from the Rhinelander area was there.

"I was quite embarrassed," Evelo recalled. "The closest guide was over 100 miles away from Rhinelander. And I made a pledge to the group that I was going to change that. And that was a lot of my motivation to bring this event to Rhinelander."

Evelo said he was pleased to see that there will be 40-some skiers and guides and volunteers from Wisconsin at the event in Rhinelander; 27 of them attending SFL for the first time.

Volunteers needed

An event of this undertaking requires a number of volunteers – something Evelo still seeks. More than two dozen community volunteers are needed to help with an activity night at the Hodag Dome Feb. 1. Basketball and



Checking out the Northwoods Nordic Trails last winter are from left, Rhinelander volunteer and guide Michael Evelo, Bob Hart, Bonnie O'Day, and Don Evans. Hart and O'Day are visually impaired skiers from Alexandria, Va. and Evans is a volunteer guide from Merrill. All four will be participating in Ski For Light in Rhinelander Jan. 28-Feb. 4. **Submitted photos.**



Visually impaired skier Krista Erickson, left, is guided by Julie Coppens at the 2023 ParaBirkie. Ski For Light is now the presenting sponsor of that event. Erickson, from Chicago, is the vice president of SFL. Coppens, from Cincinnati, Ohio, is the SFL president.

wheelchair basketball, blind soccer, bocce ball, giant jenga, and axe and lawn dart throwing are just a few of the activities to be offered.

"That's going to be one of the highlights of the week," Evelo said. "There are activities they can't participate in outside of this type of setting."

Sign up to volunteer at tinyurl.com/SkiForLight or email Evelo@sflcharter.net.

The community is encouraged to attend the race rally Saturday, Feb. 3, at the ski trails to cheer on the skiers. The opening ceremony begins at 10 a.m. For more information, visit sfl.org.

JOIN NOW! \$1 JOINING FEE!!



Tom St. John

Here's what Tom St. John has to say about our club:

"I've been running my entire life. It's what I enjoy doing." After a setback of 8 years, Tom has been working on his strength at RAC to get back to what he loves.



SPORTS • FITNESS • FRIENDS
Established in 1981

536-2481 www.riversideathletic.com

NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

DHS encouraging testing of homes, childcare centers, other properties for odorless, radioactive gas

FOR THE MERRILL FOTO NEWS

WISCONSIN – As part of National Radon Action Month, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging home and building owners, along with childcare providers, to test their properties for radon.

In a release, DHS said radon, an odorless, radioactive gas naturally present in the ground, is found across Wisconsin and enters buildings through their foundations.

Approximately 1 in 10 Wisconsin homes has elevated radon levels, according to DHS.

"The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s action level for safety is 4 picocuries per liter (4 pCi/L)," DHS said. "Last March, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) enacted rule changes which require licensed family and group child care providers to test for radon and install a mitigation system if radon levels exceed the EPA action level."

"Reducing radon exposure is a top environmental health concern," said Paula Tran, State Health Officer. "DHS applauds DCF for taking this important step toward

protecting all Wisconsinites from exposure to radon by putting children, and their caretakers, first."

DHS said radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer, and it is estimated to cause over 21,000 deaths each year in the United States. Approximately 962 of these deaths are in Wisconsin.

High radon levels are especially dangerous for people who smoke, according to DHS. Their risk of lung cancer is 10 times higher than non-smokers.

"Fortunately, this cause of lung cancer is largely preventable, and the first

step is to test your house, apartment, or business location for radon," DHS said.

DHS noted that the cost of mitigation can be a barrier

See **GAS** page 6

St. John Lutheran School

Preschool/PreK/Kindergarten

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, Feb. 6th • 4:30-6pm

1104 East Third Street, Merrill

Come see what our school is all about. Visit classrooms and meet our teachers.

For families interested in enrolling children ages 3-5 for Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, or Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Pre-Kindergarten is M, W, F
- Preschool is T, TH
- Full day and half day options are available for preschool programs
- Kindergarten is in session M-F full days

For more information, please contact the school office at 715-536-7264 or email schooloffice@stjohnmerrill.org

Patrick J. Wood
Publisher
publisher@mmlocal.com

Tim Schreiber
General Manager
tschreiber@mmlocal.com

Rick Argall
Circulation Manager

Sue Schroeder
Graphic Designer

Tina L. Scott
Editor
tscott@mmlocal.com

Dinah Schneider
Sales Consultant
dschneider@mmlocal.com

Jennifer Gartmann
Sales Consultant
jgartmann@mmlocal.com

Heidi Schult
Front Office Manager/CSR

Heidi Griebel
Customer Service Representative

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mailing Address:
Foto News
2011 E. Main Street
Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-7121
Fax: (715) 539-3686

Ad & News Deadlines:
Display Advertising:
12:30 p.m. Monday

Classified Advertising:
11:30 a.m. Monday

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

THE FOTO NEWS (ISSN 0191-8958) is published weekly by Multi Media Channels LLC, N2919 County Road QQ, Waupaca WI 54981. Subscription price by mail: \$100 per year; domestic U.S. Mail only, nonrefundable but transferable. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE FOTO NEWS, 921 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452.

© Copyright Multi Media Channels LLC 2024. All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication or any of its contents may be reproduced, copied, modified, or adapted without the prior written consent of Multi Media Channels LLC.

Merrill Fastpitch hosts

1st Annual January

JAMBOREE

• Food & Beer • Games • Skating • Sledding •

Merrill Area Recreation Center - MARC

1100 Marc Drive, Merrill, WI 54452

• January 13, 2024 •

11am - 3pm

Join us for a day of WINTER GAMES!

Game cost: \$2/play - INSTANT CASH prizes available!

All proceeds from this winter event benefit Merrill Fastpitch.

OBITUARIES



Allen B. Olkives, 89, of Chippewa Falls, died peacefully on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, under the care of Joseph's Hospice, at the WI Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls.

On December 3, 1934, Allen was born to Joseph and Iva (Rice) Olkives and raised in the Gleason/Merrill area of Wisconsin. He started on his own as a farmhand at the age of 14. By the age of 18 he completed his GED and signed up as a Jet Engine Mechanic in the US Air Force. While stationed in Florida he met his wife Carolyn and spent many years traveling together with their 3 children to various Air Force bases where he was stationed.

In addition to serving in the Vietnam War (deployed twice), he was stationed in Eau Claire, WI as an Air Force recruiter. After serving over 20 years in the military, he continued to work for the City of Eau Claire Bus Company. Finally, after many years, he "retired"; although, he continued to keep busy. Throughout the years, he enjoyed volunteering for many organizations including the VFW, American Legion, churches, volunteer fire department, helping veterans, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts. Family and friends will remember his smile, his sense of humor, and willingness to always lend a helping hand where needed. As well as his good home cooking. Allen will also be remembered for his honesty, integrity, humbleness, friendly nature, and hard work ethic.

Allen is survived by his current wife, Shirley; children, Michael Olkives; Sharon (Robert) Greene; Lyle Olkives; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; brother, Arnold "Arnie" (Betty) Olkives; sister-in-law, Isabel Olkives; along with multiple nieces, nephews, and cousins throughout the United States.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Carolyn; brother, Neal Olkives; and daughters-in-law, Lynn Olkives and Christine Olkives.

The visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel, 44 E. Columbia St., Chippewa Falls.

The Funeral Service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 12, 2024, at Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel, with a visitation one hour prior to the service. The interment will be in the Northern WI Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Rural Spooner with Military Honors Conducted by the local Patriotic Council.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the donor's choice.

For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed/recorded and available to view at www.pedersonvolker.com/obituaries/allen-olkives

Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel & Cremation Services, Chippewa Falls is serving the family. Please share your memories and condolences online at pedersonvolker.com



Chad "Cleatus" Glaze, 48, of Merrill, WI, was tragically taken from this life on Sunday, Dec. 31st, 2023, in a UTV accident.

Chad was born February 23rd, 1975 in Appleton Wisconsin to Jerry and Ila Glaze. He was their treasure. He lived in Nevada for a number of years, where his love for the western lifestyle emerged, before moving back to the Midwest.

Chad graduated college from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, with a degree in Broad Area Agriculture. Ask him to see his business card sized diploma- he carried it in his wallet for proof! He was a proud member of the rodeo team riding broncs and breaking his collarbone in the process! He and his friends founded the Boar's Nest Country Club, spending their time making mischief and attempting to 'avoid' trouble.

He married Kristin Barth, the love of his life, on October 19, 2001. Together they raised two amazing kids, ran a successful business, and kept the home and farm of their dreams. They made their life together everything they'd wanted. Kids, cows, horses, llamas, land and love. What else could they want?

He was an entrepreneur at heart and started Vine Vest North and more recently 4G Family Farms and farm supply. Vine Vest was a labor of love. His customers became friends and his philosophy of always doing what's right for them always earned him respect. Chad attended the Missouri Auction School, the Harvard of Auction Schools, after which he started working as an Auctioneer for Wausau Sales. He obtained his real estate license and was soon selling real

estate at auction, which gave him a lot of satisfaction. He simply loved being at an auction.

One of his other talents was being a Rodeo Announcer. He announced the River Falls college rodeo for several years. He passed his love for rodeo onto Katy, delighted when this past year she was crowned Wi River Pro Rodeo Princess.

Chad was the past President of the Partnership for Progressive Agriculture, Past President of the Market Animal Sale Committee, board member for the NTC Agricultural Center of Excellence, 4H leader and announced the market animal sale for many years. In 2023 he ran for and was elected Chairman for the Town of Berlin. He was quickly learning many things about local government and, we believed, was destined to run for higher office. He enjoyed the challenge of improving the organizations, that thought process led him to join many different boards, often dragging Kris along with him. If he joined it, so did she.

Chad was larger than life, in so many ways. He had an unbelievable smile and a contagious laugh. He would laugh so hard, tears would leak from his bright blue eyes. When the story telling started and his eyes started to twinkle you couldn't help but feel good and want to be in his presence. Many a night was spent telling stories in the card room, built specifically for Chad to entertain their friends.

Chad absolutely loved to hunt. Spending time at the hunting shack in Ogema or on the annual hunting trip to Montana brought so much joy to his life. The people he met along the way soon became family to all of us. Sometimes we thought he enjoyed the planning process almost as much as the trip!

Being an avid fisherman, he knew every lake in Wisconsin and exactly what fish you could catch there. He loved going to Canada to fish, he had just started an 'annual' trip to Bluffy Lake and was so excited to have Jase join him this year on the adventure of the year.

Being a self-proclaimed Foodie, he was always on the search for the best prime rib. Just try to go somewhere that didn't have Prime Rib on a Saturday night and you'd be met with the 'are you sure you want to go THERE to eat' question. Before long you'd be headed to his favorite prime rib restaurant, and you'd be happy about it because you'd made him happy. If you named any town in Wisconsin, he could tell you not only the best place to eat, but the best thing on the menu.

His love for his family was all consuming. Chad's family "was his everything" and he would do anything to help Kris, Jase and Katy achieve their goals. If you said you wanted to do it, he'd say, 'make it happen' and he'd help you do just that. He often told Kris that everything he did was for them. Everything. And he was right. One of the highlights of his year was being able to ride along with Jase in the big rig. His love for his kids was an amazing thing to witness.

For him family was the company you keep. The friends in our lives are the best. They are truly the family we got to choose. Not a day went by that Chad wasn't talking, laughing with or planning some adventures with his friends. If you said you needed something, Chad was there to help you. If you were a friend of his, you were a friend for life. More than 25 years after leaving River Falls, he could still walk into Mel's and someone would know him, calling out to their old friend Cleatus.

There was often talk of holding a class on his absolute favorite movie, Lonesome Dove. After all, according to Chad, everything you needed to know in life could be learned from Lonesome Dove. Most of the recipients of these lessons would be the kids' friends. He freely imparted life lessons to the young adults that were often in the house. They'd greet him with a hello Father Chad, Chadwick, Chadweiser, Papa Cleatus, and he'd beam with pride.

'It's been quite a party ain't it?'

Thank you to everyone who's stopped, called, messaged, fed us, offered and gave assistance and sent us love as we maneuver through these days without our beloved husband, father, son and friend. Our love for him and you is unending.

Preceding him in death are his mother, Ila Glaze; cousin, Ryan Ruesch; brother-in-law, Bobby Schuma; uncle, Tony Baranowski Jr.; aunt, Dian Schmidt; and maternal grandmother, Esther Kirkeide.

Chad is survived by his love, Kris Glaze; son, Jase; and daughter, Katy, all of Merrill. His father, Jerry Glaze; mother & father-in-law, Barbara & Brian Barth, of Casa Grande AZ; grandmother, Lorene Baran; aunts & uncles, Jim & Mary Lou Glaze, Rex & Barb Ruesch, Rod & Paula Ruesch, Reno & Patti Ruesch, Ray Ruesch, Larry Schmidt, and Stacy Baranowski; and many cousins, nieces & nephews.

He'd expect cowboy hats, boots and Western wear at his service. As Chad would say, "Is this Ranchy enough?"

A funeral service was at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5304 North 44th Avenue, Wausau (Village of Maine), with Rev. Maggie Westaby officiating. Visitation began on Friday, January 5 at 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Peterson/Kraemer Funeral Home, 3400 Stewart Avenue, Wausau, and continue at the church on Saturday beginning at 9:00 a.m. until the time of service. Private burial will take place at a later date. Online condolences may be expressed at www.petersonkraemer.com.

Memorials may be directed to the family for a scholarship fund that will be established.



Dale 'Sonny' Peterson, 93, of Merrill, passed away Friday, December 29, 2023, at Pine Crest Nursing Home.

Sonny was born November 16, 1930, in Merrill, son of the late Otto and Elizabeth (Nelson) Peterson. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1951 and was honorably discharged in 1954. Sonny married Geraldine 'Dolly' Kimmons January 6, 1951, at the former Bethany Lutheran Church in Irma. Dolly passed away November 8, 2022. Sonny and Dolly moved to Beloit in 1965. Sonny had worked at the Chrysler Corporation Assembly Plant in Belvidere, Illinois. Upon retirement in 1991, they returned to the Merrill area. In retirement, Sonny and Dolly enjoyed wintering in Arizona and Texas.

Sonny loved golfing, deer hunting, grouse hunting, and watching football and baseball. He had played baseball for many years; he played while he was serving in the Air Force, and he also played for the 'Irma Kids' team. Sonny enjoyed fishing, especially Bass fishing. He was a longtime member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Irma.

Survivors include his children, Cheryl (Jim) Losey of Irma, Cindy (Mike) Meier of Irma, Dale W. 'Pete' (Diane) Peterson of Corpus Christi, TX, and Bruce (Debbie) Peterson of Beloit; grandchildren, Matthew, Joel, Sarah, Josh, Lisa, Ryan, Liz 'Myrt', Chad, Michelle, and Shannon; twenty-one great grandchildren; five great great grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Shirley Martin of Bakersfield, CA and Judy Kimmons of Irma; and many nieces and nephews.

Sonny was preceded in death by his wife, Dolly Peterson; his parents, Otto and Elizabeth Peterson; siblings, Vivian Peterson, Mahlon (Leola) Peterson, Elizabeth (Harold) Peeters, Arlie (LeRoy) Schuetz, Mildred (William) Lutzke, Royal 'Nunny' (Shirley) Peterson, Lyle (Doris) Peterson, Marlene (Robert) Powell, and Otto 'Butts' (Alice) Peterson; and brothers-in-law, Charles Searl and Jim Martin.

The visitation for Sonny Peterson was held from 3:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M., Monday, January 8, 2024, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. The memorial service will be held at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, January 11, 2024, at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Irma. Rev. David Sutton will officiate. Visitation will begin Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. at the church. The interment will take place at Bethany Cemetery, Town of Birch, Lincoln County, with graveside military rites conducted by V.F.W. Post 1638, Merrill. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Doris R. 'Dori' Smith, 83, passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 24, 2023, while under the care of St. Croix Hospice at Bell Tower, in Merrill WI.

She was born April 22, 1940, in Merrill, daughter of the late Edward and Marion (Braun) Rostal. On February 27, 1960, she married Stanley Smith. He preceded her in death in 2013.

Dori was a proud homemaker and mother. She enjoyed cooking and baking and hosted many family holidays.

In the summer, you could find her driving the boat on Mayflower Lake while her kids water skied. Early on, she worked as a lifeguard and instilled a love of swimming in her children. When the snow flew, Dori and her daughters could be found on the slopes. Downhill skiing was another passion.

Dori was an excellent seamstress. She challenged herself by learning to hand quilt, do counted cross stitch and hardanger. She was a regular at her stitching group. Everyone admired her work.

Travel was something Dori and her husband Stan enjoyed together. France, Spain, Germany and Alaska were some of their bigger adventures. Later in life, they regularly wintered in Florida. Dori enjoyed combing the beaches for shells. She found a rare one and won a blue ribbon at a shell show.

Doris Smith is survived by daughters Kaye Smith and Sandra (Ricardo) Giorgis, both of MN and Anne (Mark) Simon, MI. Surviving grandchildren include Avery, Jonathan, Mackenzie, Camryn and Shailee.

Besides her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Judy Smith, in 2014.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, January 14, 2024, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. The Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. Visitation will begin at 12:00 P.M., Noon, on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at the funeral home.

Online condolences can be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Will your family know what you wanted?

We can help you record your wishes so they won't have to wonder. Call today.



WAID FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE

301 Eagle Drive

Merrill, WI

(715) 536-4646

www.WaidFuneral.com

Email: info@waidfuneral.com

Taylor & Stine
Funeral Home and Cremation Services

Leah D. Reist
Licensed Director/Licensed Pre-need Insurance Agent

McKenna K. Meunier
Licensed Director

Tammy Klade
Non-Licensed Support Staff Licensed Pre-Need Insurance Agent

903 E. 3rd Street • Merrill • 715-536-6244
www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Remember, and be remembered with a granite memorial from

TOMAHAWK MONUMENT CO.

Specialists in Pre-Needs Planning

FROM SELECTION TO DESIGN TO SETTING, ALL OF OUR WORK IS PROUDLY DONE IN - HOUSE

20 N. 2nd St., Tomahawk, WI • 715-453-6523
 Visit us at: www.tomahawkmonument.com
 Email us at: contactus@tomahawkmonument.com

OBITUARIES



Susan "Sue" K. Pfantz, a.k.a. "Boots", age 74, passed away on Monday, January 1, 2024, at her home in the town of Pine River, with her family and friends by her side and under the care of Compassus Hospice. She was born on October 19, 1949 to the late Edwin and Bette Jane (Litke) Hahn in Merrill. After graduating high school, Sue went on to further her education by taking some accounting courses. She met her soul mate, Ronald Pfantz, and the two exchanged marriage vows on October 7, 1972 in Merrill. He survives.

Sue worked at M&I Bank in Wausau, before working in payroll and as an accountant with the Las Vegas Police Department for many years. She and Ron were "snowbirds" after their retirement, and made many trips to Las Vegas during the winter months, and back to their home in the town of Pine River, during the summer months. While out in Las Vegas, Sue and Ron would take in a lot of shows and concerts. She was also an avid Bingo player! She always looked forward to coming back to Wisconsin, though, as she was able to spend time with her family and her precious grandchildren. In her younger years, Sue enjoyed bowling. She was a fun person that was very passionate and determined. She was a member at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the Town of Pine River. Sue will be deeply missed, but will remain in the hearts of her family and friends forever.

Sue is survived by her husband: Ron, daughters: Sara (John) and Molly (Gus), grandchildren: Gabriel, James, Avery, Christian, Asher and David, sisters: Chris and Sherri (Robert), brothers: Todd (Kim) and Tim and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers: Alan and Jack.

Per family request, no formal services will be held. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date.

No flowers please, family suggests any donations in Sue's name be directed to the Merrill Historical Society, <https://discovermerrillhistory.org/donate>.

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.



Rosalie Mae Naef, age 68, of Merrill, passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2023, at her home, while surrounded by her loving family and while under the care of Interim Hospice. She was born on March 3, 1955, to the late Frederick and Rozella (Wolfe) Ohlmann in Merrill, WI. Rosalie attended and graduated from Merrill High School, with the class of 1973, earning a gold tassel. She met the love of her life, Robert Naef when her old Road Runner Snowmobile broke down. The two were united in marriage on August 2, 1975. He survives.

Rosalie began working early in life, beginning with babysitting as a teenager, then later worked at Semling-Menke in Merrill for several years, as well as helping her husband on the family dairy farm, but she enjoyed being a homemaker and a housewife the most. In her younger years as a mother, she was active in the Hewitt-Texas PTO, as well as a leader for the school's Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, she also helped with Vacation Bible School and Sunday School when her children were younger. She looked forward to doing seasonal work at Badger Evergreen, where she did garland roping and made wreaths to earn extra money for the holidays. She also looked forward to taking family trips to Canada and Upper Michigan to go fishing and camping. Rosalie was a very skilled seamstress and made crafts. She later worked for the Marathon County Talent Shop as the volunteer coordinator and store manager. She was very passionate about the volunteers and her time there. Another pastime Rosalie enjoyed was making rag rugs on her rug machine with her friend Jane Govek and selling them at craft fairs. Rosalie loved her past dogs and had a special connection with Bud and grand-puppy Emma. She was also a wonderful cook and enjoyed babysitting her grandchildren. Rosalie liked to make some trips to casinos with her siblings and would enjoy the occasional scratch-off tickets! She is remembered as a loving, caring, selfless, and funny woman who was very dedicated to her husband and children. She was extremely proud of her granddaughters. Rosalie was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. She will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Rosalie is survived by her loving husband: Robert Naef, son: William Naef, daughter: Kelly (John) Kraegenbrink, granddaughters: Brooklyn and Korina Kraegenbrink, all of Merrill, siblings: Judith Woller, Caroline Welk, Frederick (Pat) Ohlmann, Rodney (Stephanie) Ohlmann, in-laws: Herbert (Sheri) Naef, and Geradine Koenig as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, mother-in-law: Leona Naef, brothers: William and Ronald Ohlmann, and her dear friend: Jane Govek.

The funeral service for Rosalie was held on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the town of Pine River. Pastor Greg Laska officiated. Visitation was held on Friday, January 5, 2024, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., and again on Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 10 a.m. until the time of the service, at the church. Burial at Springbrook Cemetery immediately followed the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Rosalie's name be directed to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The family wishes to extend their thanks and appreciation to Interim Hospice for their care and support shown to Rosalie and her family, as well as Home Medical in Merrill for their long-term service to the family.

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.



Michael J. Galkin, 72, of Merrill, formerly of the Gleason area, passed away Saturday, December 30, 2023, at Pine Crest Nursing Home, Merrill.

Mike was born March 7, 1951, in Merrill, son of the late Arthur 'Archie' and Audrey (Henrich) Galkin. He was born during a snowstorm that was so bad that his mom rode to the hospital in the county snowplow. Mike was born with a fondness for snow removal.

Mike graduated from Merrill High School with the class of 1969. During high school, he participated in Cross Country and earned his varsity letter. Due to farm chores, he was unable to train with the team in Merrill after school. Mike convinced the coach to let him train by running home, from Merrill to Gleason. He always made it home in time for chores.

Mike worked as a mason tender at the age of 16, speaking highly throughout his life of his mentor Al Genrich. Mike graduated from Wausau Tech having studied Architectural Drawing and Drafting. He bought the masonry business after graduating from Wausau Tech, naming it Galkin Construction. Masonry was his first love and favorite part of construction. He owned and operated Galkin Construction LLC for many years and was immensely proud to have built more than three hundred homes in towns north of Merrill.

Mike was a descendant of Gleason as his great-great-grandfather was Salem Gleason. He was very proud of his Latvian heritage and eventually became a caretaker of the Latvian Cemetery in the Town of Schley, Lincoln County.

Mike was a member of the Town of Russell Fire Department. At his retirement, he served as the Captain. Mike was a lifelong member of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Gleason, where he served on the Board of Elders.

He enjoyed watching the Green Bay Packers. He was a season ticket holder of the Wisconsin Badgers and attended many football games with his best friend, Denis DeBroux. Mike also enjoyed golfing, downhill skiing, and deer hunting. He loved Arizona and traveling to visit family, especially his Aunt Irene and Uncle Dick.

Mike loved to dance and enjoyed listening to country music. His favorite holiday was Christmas. He enjoyed various snacks including pretzel sticks, red licorice, jolly ranchers, mints, popcorn, and vanilla ice cream. He also enjoyed adding horseradish to many of his favorite foods.

His family was especially important to him. Mike was a kind man who was very sentimental. He had an outstanding work ethic and would bend over backwards for anyone.

Survivors include his sweetheart, Mary Cooper of Gleason; children, Michele (Clark) Ambrose of New Zealand, Leah (Richard) Pellicane of Wausau, Dale (Kay) Schroeder of Hong Kong, Andrea (Nathan) Roggenbuck of Gleason, and Ryan (Katy) Galkin of Colorado; grandchildren, Clara, Lucy, Marcus, River, and Forest; sister, Bonnie Galkin of Merrill; brother-in-law, Brian Latzig of Gleason; Mary's daughters, Jamie (Josh) Wojan and their children, Robbie and Theo and Cheri Cooper (Lee Hardenbrook); and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur 'Archie' and Audrey Galkin; and sisters, Diana Latzig and Patricia 'Patty' Wiedenhoft.

The funeral service for Mike began at 11:00 A.M. Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Gleason. The Rev. Greg Laska officiated. The burial will take place in the Latvian Cemetery, Town of Schley, Lincoln County. Visitation began at 9:00 A.M. Tuesday at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Sally Ann Behncke (formerly of Fennimore), age 87, found her eternal peace on Thursday, December 28, 2023. She was born on January 9, 1936; the daughter of Walter E. and Carol Behnke. Sally had one brother, Maynard (Judy) Behncke, who was her best friend and a sister, Joan (Bob) Bald. From a young age, Sally was a self-taught artist. She dabbled in painting and carving, but her specialty was pencil drawings. She created over 4,000 pencil drawings of people, pets, and buildings. Sally painted a 175-foot mural depicting the history of Fennimore for the Fennimore Sesquicentennial. It covered the entire side of the old Fennimore Lumber Company building.

Sally also wrote a book titled "Soaring Like an Eagle - One day at a time". This autobiography told of the many struggles she endured throughout her life. Despite her many struggles, Sally always found a way to maintain her positive attitude. She enjoyed fishing, hunting, building, and garage saling. She also went on many trips to the "boat" with her mother. In her later years, Sally enjoyed spending time with her daughter, Jody and her husband Joe and her son Charlie and his wife Sandra. They spent many summer evenings attending concerts in the park and going on strolls through the neighborhood.

Sally is survived by three children: Alan (Sally) Millin, Charles (Sandra) Slaght, and Jody (Joe) Malsack; 17 grandchildren; 9 great grandchildren; and brother, Maynard (Judy) Behncke. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Curt Millin; and sister, Joan Bald.

Sally will be laid to rest in Prairie Cemetery, next to her mother. A short memorial service will be held graveside from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 13, 2024. Larson Funeral Home in Fennimore is assisting the family. For online condolences, please visit: www.larsonfuneralhomes.com.

Keene A. Warren, Born to Keene and Wilma Warren: July 28, 1939. Passed away December 11, 2023. There is no Funeral Service.

Scott L. Engman, 67, of Wausau, passed away Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Scott was born April 23, 1956, in Wausau, son of the late Anton and Gertrude (Kobak) Engman. He enjoyed watching the Packers, racing, playing pool, and darts.

Scott is survived by his daughters, Heather (Matt) Hoock and Hope Engman both of Merrill; grandchildren, Jack, Ally, Avery, Aisla, and Natalie; sister, Elaine; friend, David Newman; and the mother of his children, Linda Engman. Scott was preceded in death by his parents, Anton and Gertrude Engman; and siblings, Roger, Tony, Phyllis, Evelyn, Donald, LeRoy, and Angeline.

Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com



Harriet Torkelson, 103, of Merrill, passed away Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at Bell Tower Residence, Merrill.

Harriet was born December 20, 1920, in the Town of New Hope, Portage County, daughter of the late Johan 'Eddie' and Mabel (Ellingson) Hotvedt. She married Carl E. Torkelson on May 11, 1946. He preceded her in death on January 8, 1998.

Although Harriet didn't speak English until school, she graduated from high school and eventually received her teaching degree. By the time she was nineteen years old, Harriet was teaching grades 1-8 in a one room schoolhouse.

Harriet and her husband Carl lived in many places due to his career in the United States Air Force. As a Lieutenant Colonel, Carl had a demanding position in the military. There were many times that he was gone from home for months on end and multiple times that he was sent on remote assignments for over a year. During these times, Harriet ran the household and raised the four children on her own. She was an admirable military wife and devoted mother.

Harriet was a member of the Sons of Norway and the Lion's Club. She was a longtime member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Merrill, and was very involved in the church. Harriet was strong in her faith and church was an important part of her life. She was an organist/pianist and played for many church events. In earlier years, Harriet had also played in a traveling band with her sister.

Survivors include her daughter, Anne Torkelson of Merrill; son, Carl Torkelson of Merrill; daughter-in-law, Jean Torkelson of Marshfield; son-in-law, Tim Silvers of Chaska, Minnesota; six grandchildren, Ian Torkelson, Morgan (Angie) Torkelson, Jennifer Torkelson, Kelly Silvers, Catherine Silvers, and Matt Torkelson; three great-grandchildren, Jeremy, Josiah, and Jordan; and many nieces and nephews. Harriet was preceded in death by her husband, Carl E. Torkelson; parents, Eddie and Mabel Hotvedt; daughter, Lois Silvers; son, Dr. Erik Torkelson; daughter-in-law, Peggy Torkelson; sisters, Maryann (George) Garbrecht and Lila Hotvedt; brother, John (Audrey) Hotvedt; and many sisters and brothers-in-law.

The funeral service for Harriet will begin at 11:00 A.M. Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Merrill. The Rev. Justin Smoot will officiate. The burial will take place in Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 10:00 A.M. Tuesday at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Merrill, is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Check us out online!
merrillfotonews.com

Thank You
Merrill Baseball Boosters Meat Raffle
\$2,625

Plutz's Pub • Geiss Meats
Interflex • Hoff Private Wealth

MERRILL AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN WHO RESIDE IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Merrill Area Public School District offers students a variety of educational options to children who reside in the District. We are focused on student achievement, community partnership and future success for all students. Merrill Area Public Schools is focused on meeting the individual needs of students and preparing them for life after graduation.

The District's primary educational pathway and instructional program for students involves a progression from 4-year-old kindergarten through 12th grade, leading to a high school diploma.

The District's schools, and each school's most recent state-assigned performance category (if available), are listed below:

Elementary Schools (grades Headstart, 4K* - 4):	Middle Schools (grades 5 - 8):	High Schools (grades 9 - 12):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pine River School for Young Learners* Kate Goodrich Elementary School (Gr. K-2) Washington Elementary School (Gr. 3-4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prairie River Middle School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrill High School
District-affiliated (instrumentality) charter schools:	District-affiliated (instrumentality) virtual charter schools:	District Alternative Schools:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridges Virtual Academy (Gr. 4K-12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridges Virtual Academy (Gr. 4K-12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merrill Adult Diploma Academy GEDO2 Northern Achievement Center

* Note: The District offers its 4K program at one or more community-based locations other than the elementary school(s) that are listed above.

Some of the specific education programs offered to eligible students who are enrolled in and attending the District's schools include the following:

- Early childhood special education (for students who are at least 3 years old but not yet school-age), ie Headstart.
- Special education for students with disabilities (ages 3-21)
- English language learner/bilingual-bi-cultural education
- Gifted and talented education
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs
- Work Based Learning Options - Certified Co-ops, Employability Skills, and Youth Apprenticeship
- Individualized program and curriculum modifications
- Alternative education program(s)
- At-risk education (e.g., for students identified as being at-risk of not graduating from high school)
- Summer school programming

The full version of the District's most recent school and school district accountability report, as issued by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction under section 115.385 of the state statutes, can be accessed at: <https://apps2.dpi.wi.gov/reportcards/>.

Educational options for students who are enrolled in the Merrill Area Public School District that involve part-time attendance at an educational institution other than a school of the Merrill Area Public School District include the following:

1. The **Start College Now** and **Early College Credit Programs**, which:
 - a. provide opportunities to apply for approval to take courses at certain institutions of higher education; and,
 - b. is available only to students who are enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade.

Additional educational options for children who reside in the District that involve full-time enrollment/attendance at a school, program, or other educational institution that is not a school or instrumentality of the Merrill Area Public School District include the following:

1. High school students meeting certain age and other eligibility requirements may be permitted to attend a technical college or certain other programs for the purpose of completing a program leading to the student's high school graduation or to a high school equivalency diploma.
2. Full-time Open Enrollment involving physical attendance in a public school of a nonresident school district or attendance through a virtual charter school that is associated with a nonresident school district.
3. Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, a child with a disability who meets the program's specific eligibility requirements may apply to attend an eligible, participating private school under a scholarship awarded through the state's "Special Needs Scholarship Program," as established under section 115.7915 of the state statutes.
4. Enrollment in a non-instrumentality public charter school that was authorized by the School Board of the Merrill Area Public School District. The following charter schools are located within the District's boundaries and each school's most recent state-assigned performance category is provided, if available:
 - o No non-instrumentality public charter schools have been approved by the School Board of the Merrill Area Public School District as of the 2023-24 school year.
5. Enrollment in an independent public charter school (i.e., a school with no District authorization or affiliation) that is open to students who are District residents. The following independent charter schools are located within the District's boundaries and each school's most recent state-assigned performance category is provided, if available:
 - o No independent public charter schools are operating within the Merrill Area Public School District's boundaries as of the 2023-24 school year.
6. Enrollment in a private school participating in the Wisconsin parental choice program. The following participating private schools are located within the District's boundaries and each school's most recent state-assigned performance category is provided, if available:
 - o Saint John Lutheran School
 - o Trinity Lutheran School
7. Enrollment in a private school of the family's choosing (at the family's own cost, as applicable).
8. Enrollment in a home-based private educational program as provided under state law.

Educational options for children who reside in the Merrill Area Public School District but who are enrolled in and attending a private school or home-based private educational program include the following:

1. Such students have the opportunity to attend summer school classes/programs offered in the District.
2. Private school students in the high school grades have the opportunity to apply for approval to take up two courses per semester in a District school, pursuant to section 118.145(4) of the state statutes.
3. Students who are enrolled in a home-based private educational program have the opportunity to:
 - o Apply for approval to take up two courses per semester in public schools as provided under section 118.53.
 - o Participate in District interscholastic athletics and other District extracurricular activities as provided under section 118.133.

For more information about any of the educational options listed in this notice, please contact the District's main administrative office at 715-536-4581 or the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Published January 11, 2024

WNAXLP

343034

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Dream Avatars: Navigating the Uncharted Realms of Self

DEAR READER,

In the realm of dreams, a fascinating phenomenon unfolds – our dream avatars, alternate expressions of ourselves, embark on extraordinary adventures. As we sleep, these avatars traverse uncharted landscapes with friends and acquaintances, weaving tales that linger in our waking consciousness.



Consider the notion that each nocturnal escapade contributes to the richness of our being. The dream avatar, a vessel of our desires and subconscious whispers, returns with memories that transcend the boundaries of the dream world. These experiences, though born in the realm of slumber, leave an indelible mark on our waking selves.

Imagine a night where your dream avatar engages in a grand adventure, surrounded by familiar faces and unknown landscapes. The emotions felt during these dream exploits linger upon waking, infusing your reality with a newfound sense of fulfillment. It's as if your dream self has unlocked hidden dimensions within you, enriching the tapestry of your existence.

Exploring this concept further, one can't help but wonder how these dream avatars shape our identities over time. Could they serve as a reservoir of untapped potential, influencing our choices and perspectives as we navigate the waking world? Perhaps, in

the silent hours of the night, we are not merely passive observers of our dreams but active participants in the ongoing narrative of self-discovery.

Dream avatars, with their ephemeral existence, beckon us to question the boundaries between the conscious and the subconscious. What if

the lessons learned and memories forged in the dream realm are not confined to the night but seep into the daylight, altering our perception of reality?

As we delve into the enigma of dream avatars, we find ourselves standing at the intersection of who we were, who we are, and who we aspire to become. The dream world becomes a canvas where the threads of our past, present, and future are woven together, creating a tapestry of enriched life experiences.

In embracing the concept of dream avatars, we invite a profound exploration of the self that transcends the limitations of waking existence. For in the dance between dreams and reality, we discover that our nocturnal odysseys are not mere escapades but transformative journeys that help mold us into the architects of our destiny.

PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher

Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.

BIRTHS

DECEMBER 17, 2023

Girl, Everley Raye, born to Molly Shouweiler and Thomas Schouweiler of Merrill.

DECEMBER 18, 2023

Girl, Brynli Kay, born to Bobbi Wimmer and Steven Renn of Tomahawk.

DECEMBER 18, 2023

Boy, Emmett Matthew, born to Amanda Adams and Matthew Adams of Kronenwetter.

DECEMBER 28, 2023

Girl, Natalee Rayne, born to Ayla Karau of Merrill.

DECEMBER 29, 2023

Girl, Ada Ann, born to Christine Budnik and Adam Budnik of Wausau.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legals 7700

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: 12/26/23
/S/Robert R. Russell
CIRCUIT JUDGE/COURT COMMISSIONER

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing
Case No. 23CV161
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF
Deborah Kay Raymer

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: Deborah Kay Raymer
To: Deborah Kay Mielke
Birth Certificate: Deborah Kay Mielke

IT IS ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Honorable Robert R. Russell
Place: Lincoln County Courthouse BR II 1110 East Main St., Merrill, WI 54452
Date: 2/12/24
Time: 9:50 am

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Foto News a newspaper published in Lincoln County,

Legals 7700

State of Wisconsin,
Published: 1/4/24, 1/11/24 & 1/18/24
WNAXLP

DATE SIGNED: December 15, 2023
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DAWN EILENE EVENSON (f/k/a Dawn Eileen Hoffman)
D.O.D. 04/17/2023
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 2023 IN 50

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 06/15/1963, and date of death 04/07/2023, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 706 E 8th St., Merrill, WI 54452.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 04/19/2024.

5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room 202.

W. Erich Scherr
1029 E. Main St., PO Box 176,
Merrill WI 54452
715-526-8371

Bar No. 1031423
Published 12/28/23, 1/4/24 & 1/11/24
WNAXLP

CITY OF MERRILL Water/Wastewater Utility

NOTICE OF BID

The City of Merrill Water/Wastewater Utility will accept bids for the following equipment at the Merrill City Clerk's Office, 1004 East First Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452, until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 8th, 2024. Bid specifications may be obtained from the Utility Manager at (715) 536-6561 or can be found on the City of Merrill's website <http://www.ci.merrill.wi.us>.

One (1) Jet-Vac Sewer Machine

The City of Merrill reserves the right to reject any or all bids or accept any bid they deem advantageous to the City of Merrill

Gabe Steinagel
Utility Manager

Published January 11 & 18, 2024

WNAXLP

344024

GAS from page 3

for some families and businesses. State residents can visit lowradon.org to find Radon Information Centers (RIC) in Wisconsin or speak with local public health department radon experts by calling 888-LOW-RADON to discuss available options.

Reduced-cost test kits are available through RICs, and test kit promotions are happening throughout January.

"Any house or building can be at risk for high radon levels, including apartments and commercial buildings," DHS said. "Landlords have a responsibility to provide safe living and working conditions to their tenants and should work with a certified radon testing and mitigation contractor to get started on addressing the issue for their tenants."

DHS maintains a list of certified radon professionals that can provide radon measurement and mitigation and encourages homeowners and property owners to prioritize using a certified contractor. View the list at dhs.wisconsin.gov/radon/radon-proficiency.htm.

More information about radon is available at lowradon.org.

MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

The Midwestern perfection of Fargo

BY JALEN MAKI

Fargo, the 1996 black comedy crime film directed by brothers Joel and Ethan Coen, takes place in the Upper Midwest – more specifically, Minnesota and North Dakota. The film focuses on several characters, one of them being Jerry Lundegaard (William H. Macy). Jerry makes a few key and ultimately not great choices that set in motion an increasingly chaotic and heinous chain of events, which eventually pull Brainerd Police Chief Marge Gunderson (Frances McDormand) and a pair of lowlife criminals, Carl Showalter (Steve Buscemi) and Gaear Grimsrud (Peter Stormare), into their orbit.

I won't dive too deep into the plot, because I believe *Fargo's* story should be

experienced with knowing as little about it as possible going in. But there are a few smaller facets to the film that make it feel like it's a key Midwestern text.

It might not seem like it, but the Midwest has had a pretty decent share of representation in film, relative to its counterparts from other corners of the country. This is owed in large part to legendary director, producer, and screenwriter John Hughes, whose string of films from the mid-'80s into the early '90s is maybe the most insane run anyone has gone on in the history of film. *Sixteen Candles*; *The Breakfast Club*; *Pretty in Pink*; *Weird Science*; *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*; *Planes, Trains & Automobiles*; *The Great Outdoors*; *Uncle Buck*; and *Home Alone*

all take place in the Midwest. However, most of these movies admittedly don't "feel" particularly Midwestern, at least in comparison to *Fargo*; they just happen to be set somewhere like a Chicago suburb.

Meanwhile, watching *Fargo* feels like I am catching a glimpse into the lives of people who could reasonably be living down the street from me, and the chief contributing factor to this is the characters' accents.

The dead-on folksy-ness of its Midwest-speak stands out among myriad reasons why *Fargo* is excellent. I suspect the Coen brothers intentionally wrote the script in a way that would make the character's pronunciations and intonations of words catch the viewer's ear. They dial up all the hokey hits: Yah; oh yah; yah, no; ya know?;

heck yah; I tell ya what; you betcha; oh for Pete's sake. They're all there. Also among the highlights are several instances in which a man is referred to as a "fella." And, if he's large in stature, you bet he's a "big fella."

The Coens' injection of the characters' down-home dialects into deeply distressing situations goes a long way in selling *Fargo's* dark humor. Among my favorite scenes involves Marge and fellow cop Lou investigating the scene of a crime that had taken place along a wind-whipped and salt-stained stretch of highway the night before. Marge describes to Lou her interpretation of what she believes happened and wraps up her breakdown by describing a multiple-homicide as "this execution type-

See MOVIES page 10

DRIVING from page 1

According to the Wisconsin State Patrol and the WisDOT, winter weather contributed to nearly 19,000 crashes in Wisconsin last season (Oct. 2022 to May 2023). Those incidents led to 39 deaths and 3,799 injuries. Most of those crashes happened in December and January when winter conditions typically begin to ramp up. This year winter weather is a little late to arrive, so a few annual reminders are timely now.

Advance preparation before winter travel

A lot of winter driving stress, inconvenience, potential accidents, and even motor vehicle deaths and injuries can be minimized or avoided altogether with advance planning.

- Carry a Winter Emergency Vehicle Supply Kit in your car
- Bring along extra water, transported in the passenger area of your vehicle and remove it if/when your vehicle will be sitting outside for long periods of time to prevent freezing
- Keep your cell phone fully charged before and during traveling
- Fill the windshield washer fluid, check the oil, and fill the gas tank before leaving or at the start of your trip
- Check weather forecasts and road conditions as outlined above
- Leave early and allow extra time for traveling to avoid rushing
- Clear all snow and ice from your vehicle before you start out
- Tell others where you are going and when you are leaving, along with the route you plan to travel and expected travel and arrival times

Especially while traveling in winter ...

The Wisconsin State Patrol and WisDOT contributed to the following winter driving tips.

- **Phone down**, eyes on the road (Set your phone so it doesn't alert you to calls and messages while driving). Every trip, every time.
- **Stay focused** on driving and eliminate any distractions such as a loud radio, etc.
- **Always wear your seatbelt** and be sure children are also properly restrained in age-appropriate car seats or booster seats. Be sure all passengers are also buckled up.
- **Be patient** and expect to encounter snowplows and other possible delays.
- **Snow means slow.** Many winter crashes and slide offs are caused by drivers going too fast in hazardous conditions. Speed limits are set for when roads are clear and dry, so it may be too dangerous to drive the speed limit in slippery conditions.
- **Be cautious** on bridges, overpasses, and entrance and exit ramps.
- **Increase following distance.** Stay farther back from all vehicles to allow more time to stop if needed.
- **Don't be overconfident** in four-wheel or all-wheel-drive vehicles. All vehicles require additional time and distance to stop in adverse conditions. And all vehicles are rendered fairly ineffective on glare ice.
- **Don't use cruise control** in winter conditions.
- **Leave room** for maintenance vehicles and snowplows. Stay at least 200 feet behind a working snowplow. (Wisconsin State Law requires vehicles to stay at least 200 feet behind a working snowplow on a road with a posted speed limit more than 35 mph and at least 75 feet behind a working snowplow on a road with a posted speed limit under 35 mph.) Make sure that you can see the plow's mirrors to ensure the driver can see you.
- **Move over or slow down** for stopped emergency vehicles and carefully navigate around other vehicles that may have crashed, slid off the road, or become stranded or inoperable.
- **In case of a crash or slide off or if you get stranded**, stay buckled up in the vehicle, turn on the hazards/flashers, call 911 for help, and move vehicle(s) out of



WINTER EMERGENCY VEHICLE SUPPLY KIT

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR KIT:

- Blanket(s), hat(s), mittens or gloves for everyone traveling
- Prepackaged hand warmers and foot warmers
- Winter boots
- First aid kit
- Ice scraper, snow brush, and possibly a small shovel
- Non-clumping kitty litter or bag of sand (for traction if you get stuck)
- Flashlight(s) with extra fresh batteries (check them seasonally)
- Multi-tool
- Jumper cables
- Cell phone, cell phone charger, and adapter
- Non-perishable snacks

traffic if possible. Getting out of the vehicle is very dangerous, especially in winter weather.

Snowplow courtesies

The Wisconsin State Patrol urges caution as we head into winter weather, to ensure snowplow drivers are able to clear roads safely throughout the season. Highway departments spend hours working to clear the roads for safe travel after every snowfall, plowing nearly 115,000 miles of roads across the state. There were nearly 300 crashes involving snowplows in Wisconsin last year.

Crews are often working when other drivers are also on the roads, which can lead to dangerous conditions, and snow plows

must travel slowly to effectively clear the roads. In addition to the laws cited above requiring drivers to stay at least 200 feet behind a working snowplow on most roads, avoid trying to pass a snowplow. Instead, just be patient and maintain the appropriate distance. Plows often create a cloud of snow that can obscure visibility. Plus, road conditions ahead of a plow are likely worse.

If you do decide to pass, use extreme caution and keep as much distance as possible. The snowplow's wing blade can extend up to 10 feet beyond the width of the truck. Many snowplow wing blades are hit each season by vehicles attempting to pass a snowplow, the Wisconsin State Patrol and WisDOT said.

CLOVERDALE COUNTRY STORE

STORE HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 6:30 pm • Sat. 8:30 am - 4 pm • Closed Sunday
2 miles South of Curtiss on Hwy. E 715-223-4797
We accept: SNAP/EBT Cards

Chicken Breast Tenderloins Skinless, Boneless - Frozen 2.5 lbs. ONLY \$2.99	Bacon Thick Cut Hardwood Smoked - Frozen 24 oz. ONLY \$3.89	Pork Roll John F. Martin 8 lbs. ONLY \$2.99 a lb
Pizza Thin Crust Cheese - 4 ct. - Frozen 52 oz. ONLY \$4.99	Pizza Crispy Pan Pepperoni - Frozen 26 oz. ONLY \$3.49	Yogurt Original - Blackberry 12-6 oz. ONLY \$2.99

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30-6:30 • SATURDAY 8:30-4:00

Hot Dogs Bun Size - Frozen 48 oz. ONLY \$2.99	Butter Salted - Whipped 8 oz. ONLY \$1.49	Saltine Crackers 16 oz. ONLY 89¢
Bacon Sliced Apple Cider - Frozen 12 oz. ONLY \$1.49	Cream Cheese 1/3 Less Fat 8 oz. ONLY 69¢	Sandwich Cookies Original 19.1 oz. ONLY 89¢
Bologna Thick Sliced Frozen 12 oz. ONLY 69¢	Muenster Cheese Trims 35 lbs. ONLY \$1.89 a lb	Cherry Pie Filling 21 oz. ONLY \$1.49
Fish Sticks Breaded Ready to Cook Frozen 10 lbs. ONLY \$1.59 a lb	Provolone Cheese Sliced 8 oz. ONLY \$1.29	Chips-Pretzels-Puffs Variety Pack 28-1 oz. ONLY \$9.99
Brats Beef - Original Fully Cooked, Smoked Frozen 12 oz. ONLY \$1.69	Co-Jack Cheese Half Moon 7 oz. ONLY 99¢	Fruit Snacks Mixed Flavors 65 oz. ONLY \$5.99
Smoked Sausage Fully Cooked Beef w/Cheeddar - Frozen 12 oz. ONLY \$1.89	American Cheese E-Z Melt 5 lbs. ONLY \$4.99	Prunes - Pitted 3 lbs. ONLY \$2.49 a lb
Chicken Breast Uncooked - Frozen Stuffed w/Broccoli Cheese 3 lbs. ONLY \$2.49 a lb	Reddi-Whip Non-Dairy 15 oz. ONLY \$1.29	Peanuts Dry Roasted Sweet & Spicy 16 oz. ONLY 99¢
Sausage Pork- Bacon Frozen 12 oz. ONLY 99¢	Cocktail Smokies Fully Cooked Frozen 48 oz. ONLY \$4.49	Shortening Butter Flavored 48 oz. ONLY \$5.99
Chicken Fries Fully Cooked - Frozen 5 lbs. ONLY \$8.99	Hashbrowns Shredded - Frozen 6 lbs. ONLY \$7.99	Bath Tissue 230 Sheet 2 Ply 24 Rolls. ONLY \$8.99

In-store ONLY. We reserve the right to limit quantities. 341686



Halle Green

PRMS December Youth Optimist

Halle Green, an eighth grader at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), is the December Youth Optimist of the Month. "I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Halle Green for the Youth Optimist of the Month for December," PRMS science teacher Todd Kautzer said in his nomination. "Halle is an outstanding student who excels in various aspects of her life, both academically and personally."

"Halle's dedication to her extracurricular activities is commendable," Mr. Kautzer said. "She actively participates in the school band, demonstrating a commitment to the arts. Additionally, her contributions to the softball team showcase her athletic prowess and team spirit. Halle's involvement in dance further underscores her versatility and passion for creative expression."

"Beyond her involvement in organized activities, Halle possesses a unique set of personal qualities that set her apart. Her artistic abilities shine through in her love for art and writing, demonstrating a keen intellect and a creative spirit. Halle's enthusiasm for these pursuits not only enriches her own life but also contributes positively to the school's artistic community."

"Halle is not only a dedicated student but also a responsible and caring individual at home," Mr. Kautzer said. She willingly takes on responsibilities such as babysitting, laundry, and cleaning, showcasing her maturity and sense of responsibility. This commitment to both her academic and personal life is truly commendable."

Halle "embodies the spirit of optimism and dedication," he said. "I am confident that Halle will continue to make positive contributions to her school and community."

She is the daughter of Danielle Wilcenski of Merrill and Danny Green of Medford.

MHS December Youth Optimist

Brooke Rudie, a Senior at Merrill High School (MHS), is the December Youth Optimist of the Month. "Brooke is a very cheerful and energetic person to be around," said Mrs. Trisha Kubichek in her nomination. "Brooke is actively involved in many clubs and activities at MHS. She is very motivated and dedicated to making a difference and is continuously making choices that are positive for her future."

"Brooke is kind and compassionate towards others and encourages prosocial behaviors among her peers," she said. "She is successful in motivating others to achieve their goals. She truly excels as a role model and celebrates the unique talents and abilities of others."

"Brooke is passionate about people uniting together to accomplish a more compassionate and less divisive environment," Mrs. Kubichek said.

"One of the most impressive qualities about Brooke is her ability to communicate with adults in settings that make most people her age uncomfortable," she said. "For example, she is the 2024 class representative tasked with communicating with the School Board. She speaks out a written report and makes herself available for any questions or clarifications the Board may have, all with ease, composure, and confidence."

At school, Brooke is active in Link Crew (A team), Junior Optimist Club, LEAD, Leadership Club (secretary), and as School Board representative for the class of 2024. She is also a Great Speaker committee member.

Within the community, Brooke is also involved with the Lincoln County Humane Society, as the leader of her church's One Way Club, and at youth baseball games.

The daughter of Robin and Ryan Rudie, after graduation, Brooke plans to attend a post-secondary college to get her master's degree in counseling to work primarily with young children.



Brooke Rudie

Optimist Clubs: "Bringing Out the Best in Kids"

Merrill Noon Optimists - Wednesdays at 12:00 noon at the Eagles Club, 1205 Lake St., Merrill

Adult volunteers join Optimist Clubs to conduct positive service projects in their communities aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. Their upbeat attitudes empower youth to be the best they can be. Optimists International, with 3,000+ clubs, conducts 65,000 service projects, serving more than six million youth annually. Locally, Merrill Noon Optimists serve 3,000+ area youth, contributing or organizing events and service projects in our Merrill community.

Sponsored by:



(715) 551-8016
Gail Abegglen
CONGRATULATIONS!

P3TIPS 715-536-3726

Crime Stoppers
Lincoln County

1004 East First Street, Merrill, WI 54452

REWARDS OF UP TO **\$1,000**

Celebrating over 25 Years

Holiday Packages
Scampaign

3 quick tips to make you smarter than the scammer:

- 1) Be wary of texts, voicemails, or emails about package shipments. They may claim an update about the delivery date, track the package location, ask about your payment preferences, provide delivery instructions, or request you pay a shipping fee
- 2) Don't call, email, or text back and if you do, never give out information. Commonly a scammer will ask you for the card information from your purchase, a legit company will have that information from a real purchase.
- 3) If you received a missed delivery notice, make sure to double-check the number or contact information.

Crime Doesn't Pay...But Crime Stoppers Does! Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County just paid out \$500 for a tip that lead to an arrest. Keep your community safe, and get some cold hard cash! Up to \$1,000 for rewards!

Identity Theft
Scampaign

3 quick tips to make you smarter than the scammer:

- 1) Sadly, identity theft is most likely to happen among family members, co-workers, neighbors, and others close (or those whom the victim believes are close) who see an opportunity to take advantage.
- 2) Yes, people can steal your wallet or purse, but most identity theft happens online. Be leery of anyone who asks for SSN or any type of account number, especially if they seek you out and you were not setting up the interaction yourself.
- 3) If it happens, immediately visit identitytheft.gov where you can put together a quick plan of action to lessen the possible effects of identity theft.

Always-If it sounds too good to be true... it probably is.

Authentication
Scampaign

3 quick tips to make you smarter than the scammer:

- 1) Scammers utilize bots - automated programs that deceive people into sharing authentication information to them via text or email from a legitimate source (or from companies such as Amazon, etc.)
- 2) Bots will make a robocall or send a text message that appears to come from a bank, asking for authentication information, then it asks you to enter a code you've just been sent via text or email to your phone. It's actually the bot that is trying to access your bank account.
- 3) Never share authentication information, in response to a robocall or text.



CROSSBRIDGE
COMMUNITY BANK

*info source

THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISERS & THE FOTO NEWS

Drive thru service.
Hugo's Pizza
CELEBRATING 31 YEARS!
We love our customers.
Thank you so much for your continued support!

CENTRAL
Carpet & Flooring, Inc.
Carpet • Vinyl • Wood
Luxury Vinyl • Area Rugs
Ceramic • Window Coverings
1320 E Main Street • Merrill
715-536-1411
12 MONTHS NO INTEREST WITH APPROVED CREDIT

ONE WAY
Collision Center
There's Only ONE WAY
for Collision Repair
2602 E Main St.,
Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-6511
www.onewaycollision.com

PROTECTING THE GREATER GOOD
Church Mutual
INSURANCE
3000 Schuster Lane
Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-5577
www.churchmutual.com

KRUEGER
PLUMBING LLC
715-536-3617
1600 W Taylor St, Merrill
Quality plumbing services you've trusted for years!
MP #252751
WDNR Pump #7054
HVAC #267488

Celebrating Over 40 Years
CHIPSHAMBURGER
"Home of the Bluejay Burger"
1203 E. 3rd St.
Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-3333
chipshamburger.com

L
LINCOLN WINDOWS
LINCOLN WOOD PRODUCTS, INC.
1400 W TAYLOR ST
MERRILL, WI 54452
715-536-2461
www.lincolnwindows.com

Merrill Area Chamber
of Commerce & Information Center
www.merrillchamber.org
705 N Center Ave.
Merrill, WI 54452-1275
(715) 536-9474

Edward Jones
David S Purmal,
AAMS®
Financial Advisor
100 S Mill St
Suite 101
Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-5060
edwardjones.com

NAPA AUTO PARTS
www.NAPAonline.com
Merrill Store
1010 E. Main, Merrill WI 54452
715-536-8336
Mon.-Fri. 7-6
Sat. 7-4
Sun. 8-12
Tomahawk Store
1513 N. 4th St. Tomahawk, WI 54487
Formerly Car Quest
715-453-5534
Hours: M-F 7:30-5:30
Sat. 8:00-3:00 • Sun. Closed

Greg's Gruett's Appliance
715-536-4545
414 W. Main St., Merrill
www.gruettsappliance.com
Sales • Services • Parts
Service with Pride!

WOODLAND ELDER SERVICES
Assisted Living
715-536-3333
1102 S. Center St.
Merrill, WI 54452
www.woodlandelder.com

BREAMAN Merrill Ford
1301 N. Center Ave.,
Merrill, WI 54452
(Hwy 51, Exit 211 then south 1.5 miles)
Sales: (715) 536-4542
Parts/Service: (715) 536-3039
www.breamanmerrillford.com

The Eagles Club
1205 Lake St., Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-7471
Proud Crime Stoppers Supporter!

AUGIE'S COLLECTIBLES
WE ARE ALWAYS BUYING...
• Old U.S. coins, proof sets & paper money.
• Also buying gold & silver jewelry, watches & diamonds.
• No Collection too SMALL or LARGE
715-453-3141
11 South 2nd Street, Tomahawk, WI 54487

Dave's County Market
300 E. First St.,
Merrill, WI 54452
Open 6am to 10pm
715-536-2571
DavesCountyMarketMerrill.com

MERRILL ACE HARDWARE
Open early... Open late...
7 days a week
Mon.-Fri. 7am-7pm • Sat. 8am-5pm • Sun. 9am-3pm
920 East Main Street • Merrill
715-536-5822
www.acehardware.com

mer
Experience
1004 East First Street
Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-3333
ci.merrillwi.gov
Sponsored by the City of Merrill



Is the P3 app anonymous?

The multi-lingual P3 Tips App is a secure, anonymous, and efficient means of safely communicating with Crime Stoppers.

When to call 911 vs. reporting to Crime Stoppers - When someone is in immediate danger, a drunk driver, active criminal activity happening **CALL 911**. Time is of the essence in such matters. When you are aware of criminal activity or have details about a crime, you can send the tip through to Crime Stoppers either through the P3 app or a phone call to the anonymous line.

Below are some scams that have been reported in Lincoln County recently:

- **Lost Dog Scams on Social Media** - Don't be too quick to share the post about a lost dog. This type of post pulls at your heartstrings. You think you're helping, but it's likely a scam. Once you share the post, the scammers change the post to something else, often with a malicious link. Always check the profile of the original person that posted the lost dog, car for sale, moving sale, etc. Often there isn't much there.
- **Grandparent Scam** - You receive an urgent call from a loved one indicating they are having some type of trouble and need immediate help. They are in a foreign country and have been arrested. They were in an accident and need money immediately. You want to help, but need to be wary. According to the FBI you should **Resist the pressure to act quickly**. Try to contact your grandchild or another family member to determine whether or not the call is legitimate. Never wire money based on a request made over the phone or in an e-mail... especially overseas. Wiring money is like giving cash—once you send it, you can't get it back.

Scam Campaign

you smarter than

Automated programs to authentication codes sent from financial institutions (Amazon).

Send a text that appears to authorize a transaction. Enter the authentication code if the transaction isn't trying to log into your

codes, or provide other information in an unsolicited phone call

See the FTC

Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County, Inc Donation Form

Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County is a non-profit entity, solely supported by local donations, which pay for the organization's activities, rewards, and operating expenses, including the P3 Intel. Fill out this form and send it in with your donation to Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County 1004 East First Street, Merrill, WI 54452 to receive your FREE We Support Crime Stoppers of Lincoln County window sticker!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Donation Amount: _____

CRIME STOPPERS ALSO GAVE AWAY \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

NEWS

CRIME STOPPERS JINGLE
 GOT SOMETHING STRANGE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? WHO YA GONNA CALL? CRIME STOPPERS!
 KNOW ABOUT A CRIME, CAN'T GET INVOLVED? WHO YA GONNA CALL? CRIMESTOPPERS!

Over 50 Years!
PS
BURGERS
 of the "burger!"
 rd St.,
 54452
6-6532
 smerrill.com

TREASURE CHEST STORAGE LLC
 Call for Availability
715.297.6912
10 x 20 Units

INTERFLEX GROUP
 Image is everything. Packaging defines it.
 1401 W. Taylor St.,
 Merrill, WI 54452
 715-536-5400
 www.interflexgroup.com

Kevin J. Blake
FIRSTWEBER REALTORS
 The human side of real estate.
(715) 204-0084
 www.KEVINBLAKE.FIRSTWEBER.COM

ANTENNA SYSTEMS, SUB-PUMPS, REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS... WE HAVE YOU COVERED!!
SALES • DESIGN • INSTALLATION • SERVICE
MERRILL HOUSE OF MUSIC
 Service and Sales Since 1946
& HOME ENTERTAINMENT
 Home Electronics Musical Instruments Custom Audio/Video
 912 E. Main St., Downtown Merrill
715-536-5352

COURT SERVICES, LLC
 Living
 -3399
 nter Ave.,
 I 54452
 ourtelder.com

WAID FUNERAL HOME
 & Cremation Service
 Providing prearranged funerals and affordable services.
 301 Eagle Drive
 Merrill, WI 54452
 (715) 536-4646

WE DO STUMP GRINDING
 Free Estimates
 Licensed & Insured
 wedostumpgrinding.com
715.302.3151
 Mark & Tina Scott, Merrill - Owners

JOIN US Shine a Light on HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Holy Cross Sisters & Associates

RIVERSBEND REALTY GROUP LLC
 Tina 715-297-6912
 tina.riversbendrealty@gmail.com
 Jess 715-574-5377
 jess.riversbendrealty@gmail.com
 1201 E. 3rd St., Merrill

AUTO JOCKEYS
 400 E. 2nd Street
(715) 536-1900
SALES • SERVICE DETAILING
 • FREE Pick up / Delivery
 • All Makes & Models
 Mon. - Fri. • 7:30am - 5:00pm
 www.autojockeys.com

ill
 more to life!
 irst Street
 I 54452
 5-5594
 l.wi.us

LINCOLN COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

3 WAYS TO TIP
 Tap the App: P3 Tips (Search "P3 Tips" in the Apple Store or Google Play)
 Type: Submit a tip online at www.p3tips.com
 Talk: Call 715-536-3726

TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME

STEPPIN OUT

MOVIES

from page 7

deal," which sounds like something your middle school friend's great-aunt would declare from behind a front-page horror story.

The accent is also, to me, what really drives home the idea of "Midwest nice," and it's displayed throughout *Fargo*. Even with his life quite literally falling apart around him, Jerry tries his hardest to maintain his kind, Average Joe disposition. His half-baked, boneheaded scheme could catastrophically melt down at any moment, almost certainly destroying everything he holds dear, yet the last thing he wants to do is be rude. A true Midwesterner!

I would like to add a disclaimer here: I am aware that the Coens ratcheted up the accents a little, and not all Midwesterners sound like the characters in *Fargo*. I think it's safe to assume this is the case for films set in other parts of the United States. I mean, there's no way *every single Bostonian* sounds like Matt Damon in *Good Will Hunting*, right? But hey, for what the

filmmakers were going for in their respective movies - to immerse the audience in the setting - they were necessary exaggerations.

Also among the brilliant choices made by the Coens was to have the tale take place in the dead of winter. There have been many films in which Old Man Winter reigns supreme, but *Fargo* captures the season's bleak dreariness which such detail and accuracy it could reasonably elicit a negative emotional response from those who've experienced Jack Frost's worst. There's a scene in which a beleaguered Jerry trudges across an empty, snow-covered parking lot to his car. The shot, taken from above, is absolutely tremendous, showing nothing but vast whiteness broken up by only a few trees, some light posts, Jerry's footprints and his vehicle. Jerry, who is unequivocally Going Through It at this juncture in his life, arrives at his car to find the windshield iced over; his subsequent freakout while scraping away the ice is exceedingly relatable. In the face of the harsh and relentless awfulness of winter, even the smallest problems seem

at least 30% more severe; going through a DEFCON 1-level event like Jerry's while it's also 15-below and windy would be all but unbearable.

The Coens and company paid special attention to other details peppered throughout the film. The interior design is impeccable; I think I've seen the Lundegaards' kitchen cabinets in at least four different homes in my lifetime. Everyone is dressed like they're straight out of a mid-'90s family photo album. The names in the movie sound like the Coens pulled them from a Northwoods phonebook - there's a nonzero chance I've had a beer with a Wade Gustafson or a Norm Gunderson in a tavern once or twice.

Additional disclaimer: I do not want to misrepresent *Fargo* as simply a lighthearted, cozy tale. I cannot stress enough that this is not a movie where you gather the kids around the TV, pop in the DVD (do people still do this?), make some popcorn, and share a collective laugh or two. The film features a pretty substantial amount of vulgarity, the culmination of its violence involves an unlucky fellow and a gas-powered yard cleanup tool. While most of *Fargo's* characters are Midwest nice, the story itself, on the whole, is not. Despite this, does *Fargo* still feel like home? You betcha.

Follow Jalen on Letterboxd at letterboxd.com/jalenmaki182/ to see what he's been watching, and read more at medium.com/@jalenmaki.

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Jan. 11 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.

Jan. 13 - Gleason Community Club Winter Ice Oval Race: Wisconsin Kids Snowmobile Racing Association event

Jan. 13 - 1st Annual January Jamboree (Food & Beer, Games, Skating, Sledding) at the MARC

Jan. 13 - The Foxfire Affair - Sawmill Brewing Company, Merrill. Celtic, maritime, alternative & folk. 6 pm.

Jan. 17 - Trivia Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.

Jan. 18 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.

Jan. 20-21 - DNR Free Fishing Weekend

For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/ events or contact the event sponsor.

Plautz's Pub LLC.
310 E. 2nd St., Merrill
715-536-4611
SERVING FOOD DAILY TILL 8PM

HOURS
MON. - FRI.
Noon - Close
SAT. 11am - Close
SUN. 11am - Close

JAN. BOOZE OF THE MONTH
SOUTHERN COMFORT
\$5.00 - 16 oz. Pint

SUNDAY JAN. 14TH
GREEN BAY VS DALLAS
3:30pm
FOOD, DRINK SPECIALS

SATURDAY JAN. 20TH
BINGO
Open 11am, Starts 12 Noon
CASH PRIZES, SNACKS, DRINK SPECIALS

SATURDAY JAN. 27TH
CRIBBAGE
Open 11am, Starts 12 Noon
FEW SPOTS LEFT, \$40 TEAM, LUNCH INCLUDED

RED GRANITE BAR AND GRILL
EST. 1933
FOR A GOOD OLD TIME

11420 S. County Rd. K, Merrill WI
715-536-9391
Sun. 7am-2am, Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-2am, Fri. 11:30am-2:30am, Sat. 7am-2:30am, Dine-in • Takeout
NO Delivery

Saturday & Sunday
Breakfast 7am-11am
Mimosas & Bloody Mary's

Mondays
\$5 Burger & Home Fries

Sunday & Tuesday
Roasted Chicken 12 Noon-8pm

Friday
Fish Fry 12 Noon-8:45pm

Red Granite Bar & Grill
Order Online - Check wait times or just stop in!
Find us on [f](https://www.facebook.com/redgranitebarandgrill)

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

MOVIES AND SHOWTIMES
1/12/24 TO 1/18/24
Mondays All Seats \$5.00

MEAN GIRLS
"PG13" (1HR 52MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00 & 9:15PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

ANYONE BUT YOU
"R" (1HR 43MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:15PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00 & 9:15PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

MIGRATION
"PG" (1HR 32MIN)
FRIDAY: 7:00 & 9:00PM
SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM
SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:00 & 7:00PM
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

www.cosmomovies.com
715-536-4473

The Eagles Club
1205 N. Lake St. • Merrill, WI 54452
Open to the Public • (715) 536-7471
NO FOOD SERVED: Sat., Sun., Mon.-Only Special Events

DINNER SPECIALS JAN.
TUESDAY NIGHTS
JAN. 16TH - CHIMP'S
JAN. 23RD - SPAGHETTI & MEATSAUCE
Dinner served: Tuesday 4:00-8:00 PM

FRIDAY NIGHTS
JAN. 12TH - SHRIMP
JAN. 19TH - CATFISH
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
CLIP-N-SAVE

CARRYOUT AVAILABLE
• MONDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
• LUNCH AVAILABLE:
TUES. & FRI. 11am-2pm
WED. & THURS. 11am-8pm
Specials • Fish Fries • Homemade Soup
• DINNER MENU: TUES. 4-8pm & FRI. 4-8pm
• SATURDAY: Bar Open at 3pm
• SUNDAY: Bar Open From 11am-7pm

Visit our Website! 584.localfoewi.com
HAPPY HOUR: TUESDAY-THURSDAY • 3-6PM

Saturday February 3, 2024
Time: 6 - 9 PM
Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes
1208 N Center Ave, Merrill

Rotary Club of Merrill
Uncorked

Enjoy a selection of wine and, craft beer from Sawmill Brewing Company, and heavy appetizers. Music provided by pianist and solo artist Amanda Anderson.

Raffle prizes, games, and your entry ticket will give you a chance to win a door prize! Wine pull sponsored by Westside Market.

Cost: \$70 per person presale, \$130 per couple, presale \$75 per person at door, \$140 per couple at door
Theme: Black & White

Proceeds from this event benefit the Rotary Foundation which comes back to our community for local projects.

Yes! I/We would love to attend. Enclosed is my reservation:
Name(s): _____
Mail/Email Address: _____
Total Enclosed: _____
Make Checks Payable to: Rotary Club of Merrill
Mail Prepaid Reservations to: Rotary Club of Merrill, PO Box 101, Merrill, WI 54452

WEEKLY BRIEFING - JANUARY 11TH - 17TH
THURSDAY - NO MAN'S LAND POUTINE
FRIDAY - FISH FRY CATFISH
SATURDAY - PRIVATE EVENT
SUNDAY - BROASTED CHICKEN
MONDAY - SPAGHETTI

BINGO 4PM STARTING SUNDAY, FEB. 4TH!

Conference Room & Hall Rental Available
Open at 4pm Mon. & Thurs. • Open at Noon Fri.
Open at 11am Sat. & Sun. • Closed Tues. & Wed.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
601 Johnson St., Merrill • 715-536-5708
NOW HIRING! P/T - KITCHEN

WE SELL FLAGS!

PET OF THE WEEK

This stunner is **Nimbus**. She is a sweet girl who is good with other cats. She loves to take long naps and get attention. **Nimbus** has been with us since early September and would love to find a forever home that she keeps hearing so much about! If you aren't able to adopt a pet, please consider sponsoring the adoption of a furry friend. Contact LCHS for details.

Visit the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: Mon. - Sat. 12-4PM; Sun. 12-2PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, visit us on the web at www.furypets.com.

SPONSORED BY
RiverCountry CO-OP
Merrill Country Store
1400 Logan Ave.
Merrill • 715-536-2491

Merrill Area Dining Guide

Now Inserted into over 14,600 papers!

The dining Guide will now be in the Merrill Profile magazine and inserted into all 14,616 papers. The Foto News is mailed to all addresses in the Merrill area!

To advertise in this publication, contact the Merrill office at (715) 536-7121

MERRILL Foto News

Congratulations CHRISTMAS Coloring Contest Winners!

Claire McLenithan - Age 4
Myia Johnson - Age 7
Brinlee Brazeau - Age 9

This contest sponsored by:

CHIPSHAMBURGERS
"Home of the Bluejay Burger!"
1203 E. 3rd St., Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-6532
www.chipshamburgersmerrill.com

Each winner received A HUGE gift basket of Fun Christmas games, toys, and snacks.

MERRILL Foto News



Happy New Year!

Let's kick 2024 off right by saving you money!

DON'T PAY BIG BOX STORE PRICES

SAVE WITH US!

WESTSIDE MARKET

DISCOUNT GROCERY • LIQUOR



SLIMFAST MEAL REPLACEMENT BAR
\$2.99
WALMART PRICE \$14.95



SLIMFAST KETO FAT BOMBS
\$2.99
AMAZON PRICE \$14.50



STOVE TOP SLIMFAST SNACK BAR MINIS
\$2.99
WALMART PRICE \$14.95

EVERYDAY LOW PRICES! NOT JUST SALE PRICES!

HYDRATION

- MIO 1.62 oz \$1.99 or 2x \$3.00
- Drink Mix Sticks 21 FLAVORS!.....\$1.49
- Crystal Light decaf tea 4pk\$1.99
- Organic India Tea 18 bag box.....\$1.99
- V8 fruit juices 46 fl oz\$2.69
- GOLD PEAK zero sugar sweet tea 89 fl oz...\$2.69



JUICY JUICE
BERRY LEMONADE
.99¢
59 FL OZ

SNACKS



ratio KETO
12 ct GRANOLA BARS
\$4.99

- Baja Jerky 4 flavors 2.5 oz\$4.99
- PLANTERS Cashews 5 oz\$2.99
- Ocean Spray FIBER blend Fruit Medley 5oz\$2.99
- YOU NEED THIS grain-free tortilla chips 5oz.\$2.49
- JACK LINKS "The Big Stick" 3 flavors\$1.49

DAIRY

- Yoplait 8 pk french vanilla\$2.99
- LAND O LAKES 8oz butter balls.....\$2.49
- SMART BALANCE Omega-3 spread 15oz.....\$1.99
- KRAFT string cheese 16 ct\$3.99
- Chobani flip 4 pk cups.....\$2.89
- ratio KETO yogurt drink mixed berry 7oz..... 99¢



The Laughing Cow
SPREADABLE CHEESE WEDGES - 8CT
\$1.99

CHECK OUT OUR FREEZER SELECTION!



DEAL OF THE WEEK!
BIG SHOULDERS SMOKEHOUSE
BABY BACK PORK RIBS
IN BOURBON BBQ SAUCE
\$7.99
24 OZ

- BOSTON MARKET Meals for Two Chicken ...\$3.99
- Healthy Choice ZERO Carne Asada bowl.....\$3.69
- Lean Cuisine Caulibowls 9oz\$1.69
- 5lb bags Shoestring or Crinkle Cut Fries\$8.49
- Bagel Bites 12ct bagel dogs\$3.29
- Good & Gather Angus Beef patties 6ct\$6.99
- TYSON 8lb Chicken nugget Dill flavored...\$19.99
- THE BETTER FISH Barramundi 12oz\$8.99
- Molly's Kitchen Battered Cauliflower 2lb ...\$7.99
- HORMEL Black Label Apple Cider Bacon ...\$2.99

DESSERTS

- Pepperidge Farm Apple turnover 4ct..... \$3.69
- Cedar Crest 1.5 qt Ice cream all flavors..... \$5.69
- HALO TOP Pineapple fruit pops 6ct \$3.99
- YELLOW! Apple & Berry Blossoms 16 oz\$5.99



Sara Lee PIES!
CHERRY PIE
CHERRY CHEESECAKE
COCONUT CREME
KEY LIME
\$4.99



MARK'S BOURBON CORNER

You bourbon believe it with Mark!

BOURBON FUN FACTS

- Bourbon starts out as "white whiskey" or "white dog" before it goes into the barrels and is technically legal moonshine.
- Bourbon has no aging requirement.
- Bourbon is only made in charred oak barrels.
- All bourbon is whiskey, but not all whiskey is bourbon.
- Bourbon barrels can only be used once! After the whiskey inside has been emptied, they are usually sold to age other spirits like Scotch and Irish whiskey.



WE HAVE OVER 300 BOURBON CHOICES TO PICK FROM!

WESTSIDE

MARKET

DISCOUNT GROCERY • LIQUOR

Bringing business back to Merrill's Westside!!

1504 W Main Street • Merrill • 715-722-0304

Mon-Fri 9A-7P Sat-Sun 10A-5P • WE ACCEPT CREDIT, DEBIT & EBT

→CHECK OUT THE DELI!←

OUR SIDES ARE HOMEMADE RECIPES! NOTHING OUT OF A BUCKET!
FRESH SOUP MADE DAILY! ASK US TO CATER YOUR NEXT EVENT!

→\$5 LUNCH EVERYDAY!←

WE ARE YOUR LOCAL
U-HAUL
RENTALS
DEALER!

Junderson
FAMILY COMPANY
We are the ONLY
drycleaning drop off in Merrill

YOUR ONLY VETERAN OWNED LOCAL MOM & POP GROCERY STORE! • CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE www.westsidemerrill.com

NEW YEAR

NEW CAREER



WINDOWS & DOORS

We're for the visionaries.®

Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork Company, Inc. is recognized throughout the industry as a leader in the manufacturing of custom, superior quality windows and doors that can be found in some of the most visionary residences and commercial projects in North America.

The Kolbe story began 77 years ago after the Kolbe brothers began repairing and building window frames. As the business grew, maintaining a closely held family business was the priority, along with understanding the important role a large company plays in the community. Those commitments remain intact and have greatly influenced the success of the company. We hope you will consider joining the Kolbe team!

Seeking Full-time 1st Shift Production Team Members No Experience Required

Four-day work week, 5am-3pm, Monday through Thursday.
\$18.50 per hour.

Three-day work week, 5am-5pm, Thursday, Friday, Saturday.
No required over-time. \$20.55 per hour.

Part-time, work 24-28 hours during first shift hours. \$20 per hour.

Excellent benefits package, relaxed and safe working environment.

Apply online at
www.kolbewindows.com/careers.

EOE

231737



Pine Crest

SICK OF WINTER DRIVING?

Consider working a little closer to home!



Join our team in Merrill as a CNA, LPN or RN!

A FEW OF THE PERKS:

- Competitive Wages
- Flexible Online Scheduling
- Tuition Reimbursement
- WRS Pension Plan with 6.9% Match
- Health, Dental, and Vision Coverage
- Retention & Referral Incentives
- Fun & Supportive Work Environment
- A Short Drive to Work!

Learn more or apply online at www.norcen.org/Careers



Graphic Packaging
INTERNATIONAL



Looking to advance your manufacturing career?

- Pay starting at **\$22.55**/hour + up to \$2/hour Shift Differential!
- 1 Week of Vacation after 120 days and 2 Weeks after a Year!
- 6.5% Match/Company Contribution to a 401(k)
- 12 Paid Holidays/Personal Days per Year!

GPI is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Apply Online at
GRAPHICPKG.COM/CAREERS/

200 Central Bridge St, Wausau

342593

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Announcements 7005

Hay Art and Marilyn!!!
Lost Art's Phone #
Call Mark in Missouri
573-244-****

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

Antiques and Collectibles 7214

***FLEA MARKET* SATURDAYS** through March. SHAWANO COMMUNITY HALL 115 East Division St Zurko **715-526-9769**

Computers and Electronics 7216

SWITCH & SAVE UP TO \$250/YEAR on your talk, text & data. No contract & no hidden fees. Unlimited talk & text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more info, call **1-844-883-1477 (WCAN)**

Firewood 7244

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

Lawn and Garden 7250

New & Used Lawn & Garden Equipment
Servicing all brands.
Full service small engine repair. Snowblowers, tillers, mowers, chainsaws, log splitters & more. North Central Power Equipment
4001 Dixie Ave, Wausau
1 mile north of Fleet Farm off Hwy K, east on Emery Dr. to South on Dixie
715-370-3002

Miscellaneous Merchandise 7266

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO SELL? ... GET RESULTS! Affordable advertising that fits your budget! Reach OVER 300,000 homes! Place your ad in MANY weekly Wisconsin Shoppers & Buyers' Guide papers for as low as \$36.00 **Call today! Publishers Development Service, Inc. (PDS, Inc.) 1-800-236-0737 www.pdsadnet.com**

Wanted to Buy 7268

A LOCAL COLLECTOR IS PAYING CASH FOR OLD GUITARS & TUBE AMPLIFIERS Looking to buy guitars & amplifiers, microphones from the 70's and older. Open to any brands such as Gibson, Gretsch, Fender, martin, National, Kay, Mosrite, Silvertone, Harmony, Teisco. also interested in steel guitars and other stringed instruments. Thanks for your help! Please call Matt at 920-915-1592

PAYING CASH FOR GUNS, AMMO & RELATED Any amount or condition. Collections & Estates Welcome. **715-229-9148 or cell 262-853-3853**

Dogs 7272

8 Goldendoodle: puppies. 3 males, 5 females, shots & wormed, 8 wks. old, \$350. 3 Merle Aussie/Poodles-1 female, 2 males., shots & wormed, 13 wks. old, \$175. **715-754-2930.**

AKC Black and Yellow Labs
1 female black and 1 male yellow are available, 9 weeks old, \$800. AKC Champion bloodlines, both parents are on premises, & amazing family pets. Puppies are dewormed, and ready for their forever homes. Call or text Sandy at **715-966-0932** for more info.

AKC REG COCKER SPAN PUPS
Holiday Special: 2for1 WOW!
Sweet Adorable Pets Shots 920-563-3410 mornings #268588 (WCAN)

AKC REG KING CHARLES CAVALLIER PUPS 2 Males Vet/shts Ready Now \$600 **715-701-2066**

AUSSIE DOODLE PUPS
Shots/Wormed/VetChkd Can Divr \$300-\$400 **715-255-2661 (#269146)**

CAVAPOO PUPS looking for a new home, Loveable & playful **\$700 715-669-3360**

COCKAPOOS & POO-SHON PUPS Born 11/25/23 Variety Colors Cute & Cuddly **715-758-6759**

MINI COCK-A-POOS Hypo-allergenic, Non-shed, shots/vet F-\$600, M-\$500; PUREBRED REG COCKER SPANIEL PUPPIES **715-758-2433**

MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPPIES Ready to go shots/worm/dew/vet Males \$400 **715-229-2942**

MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPS 8 wks old GOLDEN RETRIEVERS 6 Wks old; shots/wormed, \$650 Family raised **715-255-3267**

Dogs 7272

MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPS Will be 20 pounds. Cute and Cuddly. **715-409-0533**

PUREBRED GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES shots/vet/wormed, M-\$300, F-\$400, **715-223-5663 No Sun Calls**

PUREBRED GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS Shots/Wormed, Vet Ckd M-\$300, F-\$350 cash only **715-267-6370 No Sunday Calls**



Purebred Jack Russell Terrier puppies. First shots and dewormed. \$400 each. Call or text **715-921-2930**

REG COCKER SPANIEL PUPS dewes, shots, vet checked, wormed **READY TO GO!!! \$500 715-536-0697 or 715-316-2522 (WCAN)**

SHELTIE PUPPIES shots/vet checked M-\$250 F-\$300 Ready to Go **715-218-2670**



Teddybear, Maltipoo, CavaPoo, ShihMalt, Bichon-Poo: Puppies. Non-Shed Girls and Boys. Vaccinated, dewclaws removed, vet checked. \$500. **715-823-2165 or DHK Kennel-LLC@gmail.com - Clintonville Licence 268597-DS**

Livestock 7284

HOME GROWN BEEF No Impants, 1/4s \$2.80/lb 1/2 \$2.75/lb Mar Process **715-470-0458**

Agriculture Services 7292

Hand Crafted Garden & Storage Sheds, Garages & Cabins. Many Styles and Options. Sizes from 8' x 8' up to 15' x 40' are available. Call **BAKER BARN, LLC 715-873-3338** mile North of Gleason, Hwy 17

Farms for Rent 7415

FOR RENT: 150 ACRES CERTIFIED ORGANIC CROP LAND with possibility of 70 additional organic acres. Marshfield, WI **715-316-7766 (WCAN)**

Vacation For Rent 7421

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get FREE informational package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! FREE consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. **CALL 844-374-2565 (WCAN)**

Homes For Sale 7454

FOR SALE BY OWNER- 3 BD, 1 BA house, full basement, back deck. Tomahawk, 117 Prospect St. **715-360-2078 or 432-557-6875.**

Motorcycles 7502

BUYING SALVAGE MOTORCYCLES-ATVs-WATERCRAFT 920-850-9299
Local Dealer Free Pickup!

Collector and Antique 7534

1966 Chevy Impala convertible - Ohio car. \$3,500. 1965 Impala convertible - Wisconsin car. (started restoration) \$3,500. 1951-1971 Full size Chevy parts cars. Parting out over 600 cars. For more information call **920-982-5871.**

Trailers 7552

Trailer Cattle/Horse 16ft. Heavy Duty, side door, older, dualaxle, travels + poles great. \$2,500 OBO. **715-610-5071 David**

Vehicles Wanted 7554

DONATE YOUR CAR, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at **1-844-406-2647 today! (WCAN)**

GET YOUR DEDUCTION AHEAD OF THE YEAR-END! Donate Your Car, Truck or SUV to assist the blind & visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup & secure a generous year-end tax credit. Call **HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND today at! 844-374-3067 (WCAN)**

Office 7155

WANTED: Full-Time Office Manager for small, Family Owned Trucking Company. Duties include: Dispatching, DOT Compliance & Payroll for Drivers. Previous experience preferred. Hours: M-F 7AM - 4:30PM. Please send resume to **AZCHV350@MSN.COM** Or Call **715-536-3253** with questions.

Insurance 7308

DENTAL INSURANCE. From Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for (350+) procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Don't Wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! **855-807-9516 www.dental50plus.com/wicommunity #6258 (WCAN)**

UP TO \$15,000 OF GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral & other final expenses. Call **Physicians Life Insurance Company 844-433-5898** or visit **www.Life55plus.info/wcp (WCAN)**

Health Care Services 7310

MobileHelp, America's Premier Mobile Medical Alert System. Whether you're home or away, for safety and Peace of Mind. No Long Term Contracts! Free Brochure! Call Today! **1-855-491-0732 (WCAN)**

Health Care Services 7310

STROKE & CARDIOVASCULAR disease are leading causes of death, according to the AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION. Screening can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact **Life Line Screening** to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149! Call **1-888-675-5048 (WCAN)**

Internet 7318

CONNECT TO THE BEST WIRELESS home internet with EarthLink. Enjoy speeds from 5G & 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, & data plans up to 300 GB. Call **844-223-7265 (WCAN)**

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & Handling. Call Maxisp Telecom today! **1-855-454-6827 (WCAN)**

HughesNet Satellite Internet: 25 mbps starting at \$49.99/mo! Get More Data, FREE Off-Peak Data. FAST download speeds. Wifi built in! FREE Standard Installation for lease customers! Limited Time Call **1-844-829-5070 (WCAN)**

Satellites and Antennas 7324

DIRECTV OVER INTERNET Get your favorite live TV, sports, & local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max & Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call **IVS 1-833-574-1746 (WCAN)**

DIRECTV Sports Pack 3 Months on Us! Watch pro & College sports LIVE. Plus over 40 regional & specialty networks included. NFL, College Football, MLB, NBA, NHL, Golf & more. Some restrictions apply. Call **DIRECTV 1-888-925-9452 (WCAN)**

Switch to DISH Get up to a \$300 gift card! Plus get the MultiSport pack included for a limited time! Hurry, call for details: **1-844-897-8523 (WCAN)**

Home Building Supply 7358

DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call **AmeriGlide today! 1-888-686-1458 (WCAN)**

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL Can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're waiving all installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/31/23 **1-833-224-4977 (WCAN)**

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a GENERAC home standby generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-year warranty w/qualifying purchase*. Call **1-877-626-1009** today to schedule a free quote. it's not just a generator. Its a power move. **(WCAN)**

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments & No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. **BCI Bath & Shower.** Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call today! **1-877-651-1850 (WCAN)**

THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING A NEW SHOWER? American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call **1-844-479-1327** today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit **www.newshowerdeal.com/wcp (WCAN)**

Roofing and Siding 7370

REPLACE YOUR ROOF w/the best looking & longest lasting material, steel from **Erie Metal Roofs!** 3 Styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% OFF Installation + Add'l 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders) Call **Erie Metal Roofs 1-877-845-6606 (WCAN)**

Your Community Your News Your Paper
MERRILL Foto News

AUCTIONS

ALange Auction & Realty Saturday, January 13, 2024 10:00 AM

RON & VEENIE HORNISCHER PROPERTY
EXPO Center, 303 N. Sales St. Merrill
See Website for Directions. WATCH FOR SIGNS!

Antique 2 Section Cabinet • Oak Table W/6 Chairs • NEW Couch & Matching Love Seat • Large Dresser W/Side Shelves & Mirror • Matching Nightstands • Oak Dresser W/ Folding Wings & Mirrors
• Oak Highbay • Gun Cabinets • Quality Pictures • Desk • Kitchen Items • Set of 6 Lawn Chairs
• Smoker • Table & Lawn Chairs • Snowblower • Leaf Blower • Fishing Poles • New Tool Boxes
• Shop Tools • Bench Grinder • Vice • Tree Stand • Wicker Baby Scale • Antique Train Set • Milk Box
• Records • Blue Jars • Jar of Buttons • Jar of Marbles • Guns and Ammo, and Much, Much More!

Visit our website for pictures, details, terms, conditions & buyer's premium at: **www.alangeauctionrealty.com** or Call Arnold at: **715-574-2258**
Registered Wisconsin Auctioneer • Col. Arnold H. Lange, Manager/Broker, WI Lic. #230 & Deb Woller, WI Lic. #3081

OVER 50 YEARS OF TRUSTED EXPERIENCE

HUGE Vintage & Classic Snowmobile Collection Auction

75+ Meticulously Maintained Snowmobiles, Snowmobile Trailers & Jackets!
Featuring: 1978 Yamaha SSR 440 Snowmobile & 1982 Ski-Doo Sno Pro Rotax 340 Liquid Cooled Oval Racing sled

ONLINE AUCTION ENDS JANUARY 23
BID NOW!

Open House: Wednesday, January 17 from 10:00am-2:00pm
W3664 Archer Avenue, Pine River, WI 54965

For More Information Call **715-539-6295**

HANSEN AUCTION GROUP
Terms: 10% Buyers Fee, Bryce Hansen, Registered WI Auctioneer #225.

BID NOW AT HANSENAUCTIONGROUP.COM

New year... New Building!

If your New Year's Resolution is getting a new building, make it come true with a new Northland garage or storage building!

50 YEAR SNOWLOAD WARRANTY!

Northland Buildings Inc.

Local Sales Rep **Steve Thompson, Aniwa** **1-800-736-4510**
northlandbuildings.com

NEW YEAR NEW CAREER

Lincoln Windows

Come Join Our Team We're Hiring!

- 1st Shift Full-Time Production Workers
- Draftsperson/Technical Illustrator
- Maintenance Staff up to \$35/hr

To Apply:

- Go to **www.indeed.com**
- Apply in person at **1400 W. Taylor Street (employment office - SW corner)**
- Or Email your resume to **gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com**

We are an equal opportunity employer.

BUSINESS PROFILE

A Community Update on 2023

You are the community's future!

- What would you like all of the community to know about your business?
- How long have you been a part of the community's success?
- What's in your plans for the future?
- What makes your company a good place to work?
- Would you like to recognize your employees' contributions to your success?

Share your success and plans with the people of the area.

Contact the Merrill Foto News office to be a part of the Business Profile.

MERRILL Foto News
(715) 536-7121

Merrill wrestlers take fifth at Bluejay Challenge, win SPASH dual

Bluejay Challenge
On Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, Merrill hosted the Bluejay Challenge Wrestling Tournament. Boys Teams came to compete from Abbotsford, Adams-Friendship, Amherst, Antigo, Athens, Barron Area Schools, Boyceville, Chetek-Weyerhaeuser, Chippewa Falls High

School, Colby/Abbotsford (Coop Team), Crandon, Edgar, Elcho, Lakeland Union High School, Marathon, Menominee Indian, Neillsville, Nekoosa, Rhinelander, St Croix Central, Stanley-Boyd, Three Lakes, Tomahawk, Tri-County, Wausau West, and Wittenberg-Birnamwood. Teams

competing in the Girls Division came from Adams-Friendship, Almond-Bancroft, Amherst, Antigo, Athens, Barron Area Schools, Boyceville, Chetek/Prairie Farm, Chippewa Falls High School, Colby/Abbotsford (Coop Team), Crandon, Edgar, Lakeland Union, Marathon, Menominee

Indian, Neillsville, Pulaski, Rhinelander, Saint Croix Central Elementary/St Croix Central, Stanley-Boyd, Three Lakes, Tomahawk, Tri-County, Wausau West, and Wittenberg-Birnamwood. Wrestlers were there to compete at multiple levels in both Divisions. From all those teams



Merrill's Callum Wheeler.

Photo courtesy of Merrill Wrestling Program.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFESSIONAL AND RELIABLE SERVICE DIRECTORY

Wisco Spray Foam, LLC
N16465 Bachelors Ave,
Thorp, WI 54771
Commercial Residential & Agricultural
Free Estimates
Call Jerry at 608-696-8617

Get results finding the right person for the job!
Merrill Foto News 715-536-7121

Joseph Thorne Fully Insured
THORNE CONSTRUCTION LLC
715-432-5197
Your Dream Builder
• Build & Remodel • Shop-Sheds
• Complete Remodels • Concrete/ICF Walls

NORTHERN WISCONSIN'S LARGEST RARE COIN & PRECIOUS METALS COMPANY IS ALWAYS BUYING
• Old U.S. coins, proof sets & paper money.
• Also buying gold & silver jewelry, watches & diamonds.
• Old sports cards - 1969 & earlier. Currently paying top prices.
• No Collection too SMALL or LARGE
• Sports Wear & Memorabilia Headquarters
Augie's Collectibles
11 South 2nd St. • Tomahawk, WI 54487
Open Mon. & Tues., 10am - 5pm or by appointment.
(715) 453-3141

PODEWELTZ
Repair Service, LLC
Heating • Cooling • Sheet Metal

TRANE W2810 Hwy. C, Merrill
(715) 536-6791
It's Hard To Stop A Trane?

SCRAP METAL
We'll Pick it Up
• Clam Truck Service
• Dumpster Service
• Buying Cars & Trucks
Serving Central & Northern WI for over 80 years
Prompt Service • Fair Prices
Cousineau Recycling
Hwy. 45 South, Antigo • Toll Free 866-330-3730 or 715-623-2372

BADGER STATE STEEL ROOFING
FREE ESTIMATES!
Tired of re-roofing your house?
TRY A STEEL ROOF!
• Snaplok (hidden fastener) • Can Be Installed Over An Existing Roof • 40 Year Factory Warranty • 4-Star Hail and Fire Resistant • Ventilated At Peak • Energy Star Efficient • 28 Colors Available
Jerry Stutzman Do it Once, Do it Right! 715-314-2295

and schools competing at the Bluejay Challenge, the Merrill Varsity Wrestling Team came away with a fifth place team.

"The Bluejay Challenge was a very competitive mid-season tournament," said Merrill Varsity Wrestling Team Head Coach Brian Suchocki. "We had some wrestlers do really well. Overall we competed hard, even though some of the results weren't quite what we wanted as a team."

"Standing out for us were Callum (Wheeler) and Allison (Hunter) taking second place each, Callum on Varsity and Allison in the Girls Division," he said. "Callum wrestled well all day. He is competing at a high level. He had a great chance in the finals."

"Callum is coming out aggressive and using solid technique," Suchocki said. "I really like how he is working in practice and he continues to get better. I know he wanted to get the win, but he will stay motivated and driven."

"Allison had another good performance," he said. "She lost in the finals to a familiar and tough opponent. At one point she tied up the match with a nice technique. Going forward I think this is a tournament Allison can build off of."

"Noah (Klug) and Remington (Skic) each took third place. Both finished the day strong with great performances," Suchocki

said. "Remington really got after it and eventually pinned his opponent. I'm impressed with Remington's consistency and work ethic each and every day."

"Noah is continuing to grow throughout the season," he said. "Noah was very aggressive in all his matches. Both wrestlers are setting themselves up for future success."

"Austin (Depies) and Dusty (Schmirler) both took fourth," Suchocki said. "Dusty had a nice tournament. You can see he is getting better in some positions, and his technique continues to improve."

"Austin is right there," he said. "Austin did a great job getting into the semi-finals. He is working to clean up some things moving forward."

"All Merrill wrestlers competed so that was nice to see them all at the same tournament," Suchocki said. "Our JV's did a nice job, too. We had a few Champions - Caden Parham Stevenson, Yandel Carillo Vidal, and Noah Clifford."

"The tournament was a good marker for us moving later into the season," he said.

- 2024 Bluejay Challenge individual results for Merrill:**
- 106 - Dustin Schmirler (24-5) placed 4th and scored 31.5 team points.
 - 114 Girls - Allison Hunter (19-3) placed 2nd.
 - 120 - Jayden Graap (14-3) placed 10th and scored 18.0 team points.
 - 126 - Remington Skic (25-4) placed 3rd and scored 38.0 team points.
 - 132 - Brett Suchocki (19-10) placed 12th and scored 14.0 team points.
 - 138 - Brady Norton (16-8) placed 8th and scored 22.0 team points.
 - 144 - Callum Wheeler (24-5) placed 2nd and scored 42.0 team points.
 - 150 - Will Miemitz (3-9) placed 19th and scored 2.0 team points.
 - 152 Girls - Gemma Malone (1-7) placed 6th.
 - 157 - Ben Gruett (7-11) placed 12th and scored 12.0 team points.
 - 165 - Hunter Opper (23-7) placed 7th and scored 26.0 team points.
 - 175 - Austin Depies (22-7) placed 4th and scored 33.0 team points.
 - 190 - Abrahm Norton (9-6) placed 18th and scored 4.0 team points.
 - 215 - Noah Klug (23-6) placed 3rd and scored 36.0 team points.
 - 285 - Mikal Plautz (22-7) placed 9th and scored 22.0 team points.

SPASH dual

The Merrill Varsity Wrestling Team hosted a dual against SPASH on Jan. 4 and were happy to kick off 2024 with a victory.

"This was a great dual for us to start the new year," Suchocki said. "We overcame some adversity in our line-up. It was good to see the wrestlers Come out strong. Even in the matches we struggle, we fought hard

See **WRESTLING** page 15

NEW 2024 JEEP Grand Cherokee
Official Vehicle of Winter

10% REBATE*

START SOMETHING NEW SALES EVENT

Plus tax, title and service fee to qualified buyers. See dealer for details. Expires 1/31/2024.
*For gas engines only, not on PHEV models.

Brickners Park City, Inc. 3000 EAST MAIN STREET MERRILL
Phone: (715) 536-2833 • Toll free 800-499-JEEP (5337)
LOCATED 1/2 MILE WEST OF HWY. 51-64 INTERCHANGE
Visit our web site at www.bricknersparkcity.net

Merrill Varsity Lady Jays fall to SPASH

BY RICK ARGALL
MMC STAFF

In a much-anticipated Conference matchup between Merrill and Stevens Point Area Senior High (SPASH) the fans were treated to a fast paced, high scoring game. Merrill entered the game riding a current three-game winning streak and looked to continue their winning ways on Friday night. While Merrill had the home-court advantage at last Friday night's game, a Merrill win just wasn't in the cards this go-round.

Stevens Point jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead that prompted Head Coach Michael Debuhr to use an early time out and regroup. After trailing 9-0, The Lady Jays got on track offensively behind the three-point shooting from Sophie Wendorf, Mia Ott, and Maddie Ott to close the gap to 28-27 late in the first half. But then the Panthers closed the half on a 10-2 run to take a 38-29

halftime lead to the locker room.

In the second half Stevens Point went to a full-court zone press on defense and was able to force some turnovers, pushing their lead to 46-30 at the 13:48 mark. Consecutive three-pointers from SPASH and another three-point field goal for Mia Ott bumped the score to 55-33 at the 8:52 mark of the second half.

The Lady Jays battled down the stretch and competed hard, trailing 74-47 with 3:09 left in the game, but came up short in the end, falling 80-52 in a fast-paced, entertaining game.

Senior Mia Ott led the Merrill Varsity Girls with 25 points, while Senior teammate Sophie Wendorf added 13 points. Jada Seubert led all scorers with 26 points for Stevens Point.

The Merrill Varsity Girls will take on the Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln Red Raiders (WRLHS) in their next game on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at home in Merrill.



Above: Mia Ott sinks a free throw to add to her team leading 25 points. Right: The Merrill Dance Team performs during halftime at the Merrill Girls Basketball game against SPASH. Rick Argall photos.



Merrill Varsity Boys lose to Point on the basketball court

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

Last Friday, Jan. 5, the Merrill Boys Varsity Basketball Team traveled to Stevens Point for a game and knew they were in for a challenge.

"SPASH is about as legit as it gets right now in our conference," Merrill Boys Varsity Basketball Head Coach Troy Pieper said. "They and Marshfield are well oiled machines."

"We were without Sam (Reimann), one of our starters, as he was out with an illness which has been making its way through the school and team lately," he said. "That didn't help matters, not having his athleticism, but in the end Point just couldn't miss from the three-point line to start the game, and we got down big in a hurry."

"The thing with them is they have many shooters and are very unselfish," Pieper said. "They made the extra pass all night and that led to them hitting 14 threes on the night."

By halftime, Merrill was down 13-42. And in the second half, while Merrill more than doubled their points on the board,

it just wasn't enough because Point was piling it on, too. Final score: A Merrill loss 31-75.

"We are in a bit of a rough stretch right now losing three in a row," Pieper said, "But we have a big week coming up. We go to Rapids on Tuesday [Jan. 9], another team that when they are shooting it well from the outside can be a very dangerous team. Then we host Everest on Friday, and on Saturday we have our Hall of Fame Game against Ashland, so all we can do is pick ourselves up, learn from the game, and move on."

And let's take a look at the positive. "I thought Tyson Ott (7 pts, 2 FG, 2 3pt, 1 FT, 2 stl) had his best game of his young high school career," he said. I've been waiting to see that *aha* moment, and for him to have that against one of the best teams in the state is a good thing to see. I could see him gain more and more confidence and have a big second half of the season."

Carter Baade (11 pts, 4 FG, 2 3pt, 1 FT, 1 ast, 1 stl) was the Merrill team's high scorer, but Ott was right behind him. EJ Weix (6 pts, 2 FG, 2 FT, 2 ast) also scored 6 points for Merrill.

WRESTLING from page 14

and made comebacks in the match."

"It was great for Austin (Depies) to get us started with a solid performance getting us the pin," he said. "Noah (Klug) followed suit with getting a pin."

"Jayden Graap wrestled his first Valley Conference Varsity match and wrestled well for us. It was good to get him in the line-up," Suchocki said. "Remington (Skic) put in another dominate performance."

"Brett (Suchocki) found himself down late in the match but got a reversal followed by the pin. He did a nice job staying in the match and when the opportunity came, he took it," he said. Brady (Norton) went out and pinned his opponent

with some solid technique."

"Hunter (Opper) finished the dual out with a nice win," Suchocki said. "Hunter is wrestling well." Dusty Schmirler and Allison Hunter received forfeits.

- High scorers for Merrill:**
 190 - Austin Depies (Merrill) over Roc Pecore - 6
 215 - Noah Klug (Merrill) over Connor Skarsten - 6
 106 - Dustin Schmirler (Merrill) over Unknown (For.) - 6
 113 - Allison Hunter (Merrill) over Unknown (For.) - 6
 120 - Jayden Graap (Merrill) over Camden Mayek - 3
 126 - Remington Skic (Merrill) over Will Mlsna - 5
 132 - Brett Suchocki (Merrill) over Jake Roberts - 6
 138 - Brady Norton (Merrill) over Sam Riddle - 6
 175 - Hunter Opper (Merrill) over Dominik Urrutia - 4

"We need to keep this momentum and take it to the next matches," Coach Suchocki said. "We face number three state ranked Wisconsin Rapids Jan. 11."

That match will be held in the Merrill High School Fieldhouse, and wrestling fans are invited to come and cheer on the Merrill wrestlers.

2024 WINTER MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)			
Fri. Jan. 12	D. C. Everest (JV and JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Fri. Jan. 12	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Sat. Jan. 13	Adams-Friendship (JV)	Home	2:00 pm
Sat. Jan. 13	Adams-Friendship (Varsity)	Home	3:30 pm
Mon. Jan. 15	Medford (JV)	Home	5:45 pm
Mon. Jan. 15	Medford (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV, JV2 & JV3)			
Fri. Jan. 12	D. C. Everest (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Fri. Jan. 12	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Sat. Jan. 13	Ashland (JV & JV2)	Home	2:00 pm
Sat. Jan. 13	Ashland (Varsity)	Home	5:00 pm
Tues. Jan. 16	Medford (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Tues. Jan. 16	Medford (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Girls Wrestling (Varsity)			
Thur. Jan. 11	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Home	6:30 pm
Thur. Jan. 18	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	6:30 pm
Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Jan. 11	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Home	6:30 pm
Sat. Jan. 13	Wausau West (JV)	Away	10:00 am
Thurs. Jan. 18	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	6:30 pm
Ice Hockey (Varsity & JV)			
Thurs. Jan. 11	D. C. Everest (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. Jan. 11	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Fri. Jan. 12	Multiple Schools (Varsity & JV)	Home	T. B. D.
Fri. Jan. 12	Multiple Schools (Varsity)	Home	6:00 pm
Sat. Jan. 13	Multiple Schools (Varsity & JV)	Home	T. B. D.
Sat. Jan. 13	Multiple Schools (Varsity)	Home	11:00 am
Tues. Jan. 16	WI Rapids Lincoln (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Thurs. Jan. 18	Stevens Point (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs. Jan. 18	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



PROTECTING THE GREATER GOOD



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Jayden Graap, a Freshman at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Jayden started wrestling in first grade and has moved up through the ranks since; he is now a member of the MHS Varsity Wrestling Team and has been increasing his number of pins and wins on the mat.

In addition, Jayden started playing football at Prairie River Middle School in seventh grade and this past fall played on the MHS JV2 Football Team as a safety and wide receiver. He also plays baseball, having started on the Merrill traveling team in sixth grade, and plans to play for the MHS Baseball Team this spring; he typically plays centerfield.

At school, Jayden's favorite class is history, and in his free time, he likes to hunt (deer, turkey, and this year he just shot his first bear) and fish. He also goes camping almost every weekend in the summer with his family and enjoys jet skiing, boating, and snowmobiling.

The son of Candace and James Graap of Merrill, Jayden has not yet decided what he would like to do after high school graduation.



Jayden Graap

Congratulations from these sponsors:



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



Real Rewards Checking

THOUSANDS HAVE EARNED \$20 MILLION

IN THE LAST 12 YEARS! READY TO BE ONE OF THEM?

Nicolet NATIONAL BANK

NicoletBank.com | 800.369.0226

Real Rewards Checking (Real Rewards) is available for consumer deposits only. Annual Percentage Yield ("APY") is accurate as of 1/1/2023. Real Rewards is a variable rate account. Your APY may change at any time after your account is opened, at the discretion of Nicolet National Bank. Real Rewards is a tiered rate product. If qualifications are met for the qualification cycle, Tier 1: The portion of your balance that is equal to or less than \$15,000 will earn 3.00% APY. Tier 2: The portion of your balance that is over \$15,000 will earn 0.01% APY. The APY for Tier 2 will range from 0.40% to 3.00%, depending on the balance in your account. If qualifications are not met for the qualification cycle, your entire balance will earn 0.01% APY. You must enroll in online banking and e-statements in order to qualify. Transactions required each qualification cycle: At least ten posted and cleared debit card transactions (ATM-processed transactions do not count as qualifying debit card transactions), and at least one posted and cleared direct deposit of payroll or social security. Disclosed APY assumes all interest remains on deposit. Fees and withdrawals of interest will reduce earnings and APY. All Nicolet National Bank checking accounts are subject to credit approval. Additional terms and conditions apply. See Nicoletbank.com for details. Member FDIC.

FIRST BABY

of 2024



Congratulations!



Sylvia Grace Lynn Rick is the Merrill Foto News First Baby of 2024.

Sylvia was born on Thursday, January 4th at 2:35 PM at ASPIRUS Hospital in Wausau.

She weighed 8 lbs 6.4 oz and was 20 inches long.

Sylvia's proud mom and dad are **Jennisa & Michael Rick III.** Her big sister is **Raelynne Rick.**

The Foto News, along with the following Lincoln County merchants, will present the following prizes to the parents of the first baby born in the year 2024.



Treat Yourself!
Giving a Shampoo, Cut & Style!

Lashes • Facials • Body Waxing
715-536-1345

\$25⁰⁰
Gift Certificate
Good for
SUBWAY
Merrill & Tomahawk
or **PIZZA**
Merrill

MERRILL ACE HARDWARE

OPEN EARLY... OPEN LATE... **\$25 GIFT CARD**

Mon.-Fri. 7am-7pm • Sat. 8am-5pm • Sun. 9am-3pm
920 East Main Street • Merrill
715-536-5822
www.acehardware.com

Eagles Club
1205 N Lake St.
Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-7471

\$25 GIFT CARD

Open To The Public

\$25.00 GIFT CARD

AUTO JOCKEYS
400 E. 2nd Street
(715) 536-1900
SALES • SERVICE
DETAILING
www.autojockeys.com

1 Free Oil & Filter Change

(Some restrictions apply. Diesel & Synthetic extra.)

Brickners Park City, Inc.
3000 E. Main Street, Merrill
715-536-2833
www.bricknersparkcity.net

CHIPS
HAMBURGERS/ICE-CREAM
1203 E. 3rd Street, Merrill
715-536-6532

A Certificate for One **FREE Value Pack**, Also a **10% Discount Card** Good For 1 Year.

\$25 Gift Certificate

Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce & Information Center

www.merrillchamber.org
705 N Center Ave.
Merrill, WI 54452-1275
(715) 536-9474

\$50 Gift Card

GOOD AT **Pine Ridge CONVENIENCE STORES** **OPEN 24/7**

Mobil 715-536-3455
OR
715-722-0645
Open 10am-10pm
7 Days A Week
Arbys
Hwy 51/1 39 & Hwy 64 Interchange, Merrill, WI