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Simple Safety Steps During Times of Extreme Cold

| You | Your Vehicle | Your Pets | Your Home |
|--|--|--|--|
|  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress in Layers • Cover Exposed Skin • Limit Outdoor Time • Check on Family |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Gas Tank 1/2 Full • Add a Few Blankets • Maintain Tire Pressure • Get a Safety Kit Packed • Notify Family if Traveling • Caution if Car Left Running |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit Outdoor Time • Bring Outdoor Pets Inside • Cover/Check Paws • Check Water & Food • Provide Shelter |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow Drip Faucets • Monitor Furnace • Heater Caution |

Winter is here to stay a while. Be sure the kids are bundled up—bring on the hats, mittens, and scarves—put that emergency kit in your car (see last week's paper for what to include), use common sense, and follow these simple safety steps.
 Graphic courtesy of National Weather Service.

The hidden danger: Puffy coats and car seats



This baby is snug in a carseat with warm layers, not a puffy slippery coat. Straps should be adjusted tighter to hold baby securely in the seat. Stock photos.

Grenfell celebrates 25-year milestone with Trinity in Merrill

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR



Robin Grenfell. Lifetouch photo.

On Feb. 1, 1998, Robin Grenfell began working for Trinity Lutheran School in Merrill as the school's Secretary. Now, nearly 26 years later, Robin is on the verge of completing her 25th year of working with Trinity and starting her 26th. Today she works as the Administrative Assistant at Trinity Merrill Lutheran Church, a role she assumed seven years ago. In between, Robin has also helped with the Trinity Youth program, started the Kids For Christ Youth Group for younger students, became the Youth Director for Trinity, and started Trinity School's After School Care Program. She is well known by many area children and adults for her active involvement in so many aspects of the school and church over the years. "Robin Grenfell is the cheerful face that greets you when you step into the office at Trinity Merrill Lutheran Church," said Britnee Hartwig, Director of Communications for Trinity Merrill Lutheran Church and School. "Trinity would like to truly thank Robin for her commitment as an employee for the past 25 years, for her dedication to Trinity for all her life, and for her commitment to working in God's Kingdom for His Glory," she said. "Robin takes pride in her job and enjoys what she does at Trinity in all facets," Hartwig said. "Along with working with congregational members in many capacities, creating the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters, providing assistance for funerals, weddings, and baptisms, and everything else she does

to keep the church afloat, Robin is also always there to listen, encourage, and give a hug." "Being that I am a lifelong member, I know most of our members and am excited to meet and get to know our newest members, too," Grenfell said. "I don't look at my 'job' at Trinity as a job," she said. "I take pride and enjoy what I do at Trinity in all of the facets that I have had here ...the church office is a bustling place all year long. I've had the privilege to assist and work with some of the most wonderful people through my years at Trinity." Baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grenfell attended church there with her family throughout her childhood and also attended Trinity Lutheran School for all eight grades. "This past summer I helped to organize a 45th reunion with my past eighth grade classmates from Trinity School," Grenfell said. "We are still like one big family after 45 years." She was confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church and then married her husband, Rich, at Trinity in 1983. They now have two children who also were baptized and confirmed at Trinity and went through Trinity School. "Our son Ross and his wife, Lisa, live in Thiensville, Wis., and have given us two beautiful granddaughters, Evelyn and Leona. Our daughter, Raena, married Zach Grisa at Trinity and are members of Trinity. Raena and Zach have two children, Mira and Grayden, who are baptized members of Trinity and attend Trinity School," Grenfell said. "They

See GRENFELL page 2

As the winter chill sets in, parents seek the perfect balance between warmth and safety for their little ones. Puffy coats, while a popular choice for insulation, come with an unexpected danger when combined with car seats. Aspirus Health, in collaboration with insights from Jaime Oswald, MD, Aspirus Family Medicine Physician and Safe Kids Wisconsin (SKW), aims to guide parents and caregivers in bundling and buckling their kids up securely during the winter months. Puffy coats, while they look like they are going to be really warm and keep your child safe in that regard, put a lot of space in between your child and the car seat straps. "If you think that you're cinching down those car seat straps, there's actually this big gap where the puffy coat is sitting," said Dr. Oswald. According to Safe Kids Wisconsin (SKW), a puffy coat adds four inches of slack to car seat harness straps, which Dr. Oswald says, "causes a potential for your child to slide around in their car seat in the event of a car accident, which would defeat the purpose then of the car seat." To ensure both warmth and safety during cold weather, Dr. Oswald recommends alternatives to puffy coats in car seats. Parents can opt for lighter, thinner layers such as sweaters that don't compromise the snug fit of the car seat straps. Additionally, hats, gloves, boots, and blankets provide warmth once the child is securely strapped in and can be an effective substitute for bulky outerwear. "A practical rule of thumb to use when trying to figure out if you're dressing your kid warm enough for the cold weather is that they should be wearing what you're wearing, plus a layer," said Dr. Oswald. She suggests that parents dress their children in a manner similar to themselves, plus an



This kind of puffy coat is a no-go in a carseat or booster.

additional layer. For instance, if a parent is wearing a jacket, the child can wear a jacket and a hat. This ensures that the child stays warm without compromising their safety in the car seat. Aspirus Health recommends SKW's simple coat check to ensure the security of the car seat. After strapping the child into the car seat with the coat on, parents can remove the child without adjusting the straps, take off the coat, and place the child back in the seat. Dr. Oswald says, "If the straps still fit snugly, the layer is safe. But if the straps become significantly looser, the layer is too thick and poses a risk." By adopting alternative clothing options and following safety measures, parents can ensure their little ones are snugly secured, protected from both the cold weather and the unexpected dangers of puffy coats in car seats. For more information on passenger safety, visit aspirus.org/passenger-safety.

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A Community Update on 2023
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- 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

GRENFELL from page 1

bring us so much joy. Our greatest happiness comes from our time with our grandchildren.”

“When I am not in the church office, I love spending time with my family,” she said. “My family is most important behind my God.”

“I love my time with my husband, Rich. Together we love to travel, especially by car so we can talk, laugh, and reminisce,” Grenfell said. “We also love to eat – you might say we are ‘foodies,’ we love to take side-by-side rides, and spend time at our lake cottage and time at our cabin in the woods.”

“God has truly blessed me with a wonderful life,” she said. “If I had to set a goal for myself, it would be to always be kind and loving to everyone who passes through my life.”

“You can make a difference in someone’s life by just being kind,” Grenfell said. “Always try to smile. It makes you feel better, along with brightening up the day for those that you meet.”

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

Empire Trio to perform in Merrill

Hooray for Hollywood! And Hooray for Merrill, because Empire Trio will take the stage at the Merrill High School Auditorium on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at 7 p.m. as part of the Merrill Concert Association's (MACA) 2023-24 season.

Blending the sights and sounds of Hollywood, Empire Trio will perform the most beloved and famous songs of Hollywood from the 1930s to the 1990s. Performing songs from *Casablanca*, *James Bond*, *Titanic*, and *The Wizard of Oz*, they will also share stories about the great singers who performed those songs, from Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra to Céline Dion and Barbra Streisand. Promising to take you back in time musically, this highly entertaining show is performed by a uniquely talented classical crossover ensemble, featuring piano, violin, and three vocalists.

Empire Trio's shows have it all, and they breathe new life into familiar toe-tapping favorites with their unique and innovative arrangements. New York City based Empire Trio has performed in concert halls all over the world, from Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center to The Redlands Cowl in California and Ronnie Scott's in London.

Attendance at all MACA events is open to members only, but anyone can become a member by purchasing a season membership. Membership dues help support MACA's ongoing mission to provide live performances



by professional musicians for the entertainment and betterment of our community. Call Nancy at 715.536.1903 for more information or to let her know you want to join so they can get your membership materials ready and you don't miss a minute of enjoyment the evening of the concert. Or go to merrillconcerts.org or email MerrillConcerts@gmail.com.

Friends of Council Grounds make donations to T.B. Scott Library

Friends of Council Grounds State Park (FoCGSP) recently presented the T.B. Scott Free Library in Merrill with a donation of \$250 to be used to purchase 50 day-use Wisconsin resident State Park passes for the “Check Out Wisconsin State Parks at your Library” program. Passes may be used at any State Park in Wisconsin, but of course, the Friends Group encourages people to visit Council Grounds State Park right here in the Merrill area.

The program and passes aim to expand new visitors' access to the Wisconsin State Park system by providing families with a chance to visit any Wisconsin State Park or Forest for free and introduces people to the library system and to Wisconsin State Parks. Each vehicle pass is valid for one day of the patron's choosing. Along with the daily pass, the cardholder will receive an information kit of State Park materials and maps, stickers, accessibility information, and more.



The FoCGSP also purchased and donated four pairs of snowshoes to

From L to R: Laurie Nikolai-Svetlik, Social Media Coordinator for the Friends of Council Grounds State Park (FoCGSP); Maria Pregler, Head of Adult Services at the T.B. Scott Free Library; Laurie Ollhoff, Library Director at the T.B. Scott Free Library; Sarah Gilbert Ranger at Council Grounds State Park; Paul Thomas, FoCGSP President; and Cathy Robinson, FoCGSP Treasurer. **Submitted photo.**

the T.B. Scott Free Library for child and smaller adult use. These snowshoes will enable families to enjoy the outdoors together, as the T.B. Scott Free Library already owns two pairs of adult snowshoes. All six pairs of snowshoes are now available for checkout by library cardholders from the T.B. Scott “Library of Things.”

Donation of the showshoes and funds to purchase State Park passes was approved by the members of the FoCGSP at their Nov. 2023 meeting. The group also supports park stewardship, making improvements in the park, hiring Wiscorp crews to build trails, and donations to the community with funds from membership dues, grants, donations from the public at park events, and from money earned from the sale of firewood during the camping season. Council Grounds State Park is unique in the State Park system because the Friends group is the only group in the Friends of Wisconsin State Park system where group volunteers on the Wood Crew make all the firewood sold in the park. Other State Parks must purchase firewood from outside vendors.

See **DONATIONS**

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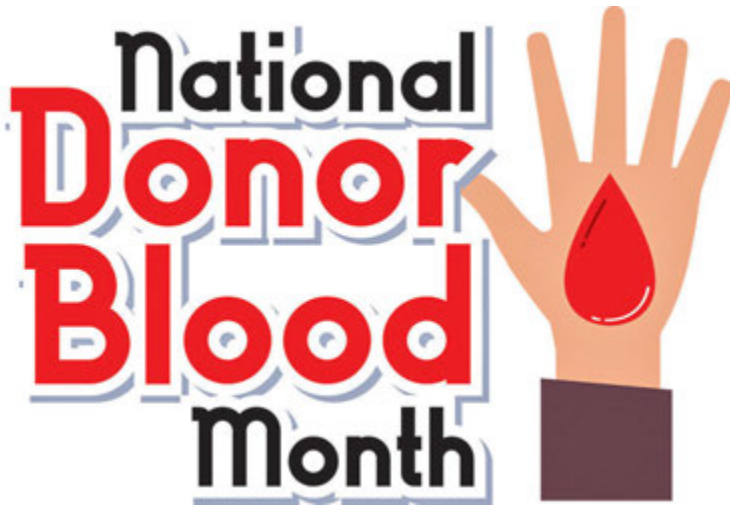
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January is National Blood Donor Month

Then President Richard Nixon first proclaimed January 1970 as National Blood Donor Month, and the tradition has endured. It's an opportunity to thank volunteer blood donors and encourage more people to donate blood for the first time.

The Community Blood Center of Appleton which serves our area shares the following statistics:

- Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion
- 65% of Americans are eligible to give blood, but only 3% actually donate
- That 3% equates to nearly 7 million people who give blood every year
- Donations from adults age 19-24 have declined nearly 32% from



2019 to 2021

A large blood supply is needed for more than unexpected emergencies like car crashes and natural disasters. Blood transfusions are also regularly needed to treat patients during and following surgery and for medical treatments such as cancer therapies, cardiovascular and orthopedic surgeries, and organ and bone

marrow transplants.

Help spread awareness about the need to increase blood donations and to diversify the community of blood donors.

The Community Blood Center's mission is to connect lives and share life through blood donations in local communities, and they thank all those who regularly donate blood. Your decision to give generously today helps save

lives and gives more people their tomorrow.

P.S. Watch next week's newspaper for an article about a great opportunity to donate blood here in Merrill, at the Giving Blood for Brandtly Blood Drive on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the Merrill Fire Station. Mark your calendar and plan to donate.

The Chiropractic Wellness Center to Celebrate ChiroKids Day with a wild week

The Chiropractic Wellness Center in Merrill will transform into a jungle paradise next week in celebration of the 9th annual Wisconsin ChiroKids Day. ChiroKids Day, led by the Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin, is a special day dedicated to the importance of pediatric chiropractic care and celebrates the "Chiro Kids" who come into offices across the state.

Starting Jan. 22, 2024, kids will have the chance to experience wild wellness when they swing inside The Chiropractic Wellness Center. They'll be able to use props and masks to go

bananas as they're photographed in front of a jungle-themed banner; their parents can then share those pictures on social media for the chance to win a roaring prize. In addition, all kids can receive a free exam and scan during the week. No lion! Festivities will wrap up on ChiroKids Day, which is celebrated on Jan. 25.

Oct. 29, 2015, marked the 1st Annual ChiroKids Day. Interviews, workshops, billboards, and other events were held all over the state to explain the value and benefit of having children adjusted. That day the Chiropractic Society of

Wisconsin united chiropractors across Wisconsin and attributes 100% of that day's success to every member who held events in their community. The continued goal is to create a positive impact throughout the state resulting in a change to the public's perception and understanding on the benefits not only of chiropractic, but chiropractic for children.

To see posts from previous ChiroKids Day events, search #wichirokidsday on Facebook and Instagram; for more information, go to: chiropracticsocietywi.org.

Weinbrenner is a finalist in 35th Annual Manufacturer of the Year Awards

A press release from Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce in Madison recently announced the finalists for the 35th Annual Manufacturer of the Year (MOTY) Awards.

Thirty-six Wisconsin manufacturers were selected as finalists in four categories based on size (small, medium, large, and mega) of the business.

Locally, Weinbrenner Shoe Company Inc. of Merrill is one of nine companies nominated in the Large Business (250-499 employees) category.

Manufacturing is the state's top industry, employing nearly half a million Wisconsinites and producing over \$70 billion in economic output each year. The finalists represent the diversity and power of Wisconsin's manufacturing industry and highlight the high-wage, family-supporting careers within the sector.

The MOTY program recognizes the state's top manufacturers of all sectors and sizes for their commitment to quality careers, good business practices, financial growth, innovative processes, and reinvestment into local communities.

Grand Award winners will be selected in each of the four categories and revealed at an awards ceremony on Feb. 22, 2024, at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. Registration for the award ceremony is now open. For more information, go to: wimoty.com.

The annual MOTY awards program is sponsored by Baker Tilly, Michael Best & Friedrich LLP and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce.

THE CLASSIFIEDS
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NOTICE OF MEETING
The Annual Meeting of the Owners of Lots, Niches or Crypts at Merrill Memorial Park Inc., will be held at the cemetery office at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2024 for the transaction of any and all business that may properly come before the meeting.
Merrill Memorial Park, Inc
Robert Schneider (Secretary)

Right: Lincoln County Humane Society would like to send a big thank you to the 2nd Grade Class at St. John's Lutheran School! They collected all of these items for the pets for Christmas! Thank you all for being so kind and thinking of the pets, staff said.



Left: Amanda B sold fudge and then spent the proceeds on supplies and sponsoring for the animals at the Lincoln County Humane Society. Thank you, Amanda!
Submitted photos.

Merrill Area United Way 75 years GIVE • ADVOCATE • VOLUNTEER

January 2024 -- Foto News Article
Merrill Area United Way
Dee Olsen, Executive Director

Our lives are built around certain expectations. During the winter we expect the highways and the street roads to be plowed. We expect the utilities to provide energy for heat in the winter, and cool in the summer. We expect our refuse to be picked up at curbside, or by a private provider. If we are sick, we expect doctors to help us. This list goes on forever. But not all people can have such expectations. There are people in our community that have no expectations, or limited expectations. Sometimes it is because they are unable to cover the costs of some of the most basic needs in their lives. Others, because of life choices they have made.

The community cannot be held responsible to ensure that everyone's expectations are met, but we certainly can get engaged to help improve those expectations for others. We have all fallen short of our own expectations at one point or another. The Merrill Area United Way felt that pang a little during this recent fall campaign. Although multiple efforts were made to try to reach our goal, we didn't meet our expectations. The ripple effects of all that has an impact on our local organizations and the 20 agencies we serve and assist with their funding needs.

Twenty-one incredible people serve on the Merrill Area United Way Board. They are strong and determined to do the best they can to seek positive, meaningful impact and outcomes in our primary areas of health, education, and basic needs. Intent on trying to meet the 2024 funding allocation requests of our agencies, the Board agreed to apply every single dollar raised from the campaign to this year's allocations funding. In addition, they supported providing yet another \$10,000 to aid in meeting that need. Clearly by doing this, there were ZERO funds applied for administration or operations. It will be a tighter budget for 2024 as reserve funds will have to support operations for 2024. We are driven to try to expand the campaign for 2024-25 by engaging in additional workplace campaigns.

Around the corner for United Way is the development and unveiling of a new website in early 2024. The United Way Annual meeting will be held on Monday, February 5th, 2024, at 5 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. This meeting will be at Incredible Bank, lower-level conference room, 3210 East Main Street, Merrill. For further information send us an e-mail. WJMT will host United Way and a chosen agency on their "Our Town" radio program on January 29th.

The 2023-2024 United Way campaign has concluded, but donations can be given all year. If you wish to support ongoing community efforts, please send your check to Merrill Area United Way today to P.O. Box 813, Merrill, WI 54452. All dollars stay local and support our twenty funded agencies and programs. For more information about the MAUW visit our website at merrillareaunderway.org or email delores.olsen@merrillareaunderway.org. Or, call 715-536-2016. Let's make 2024 great!

MERRILL Foto News

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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.

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OBITUARIES



Anne M. Torkelson, 75, of Merrill, passed away Monday, January 8, 2024, at her home under the care of her family and hospice.

Anne was born May 17, 1948, in Racine, Wisconsin, daughter of the late Carl E. and Harriet (Hotvedt) Torkelson. As a child, Anne traveled the country due to her father's career in the United States Air Force. Anne enjoyed spending her early adulthood in California. She spent 13 years in the Los Angeles and Simi Valley areas. She then resided in Rockford, Minnesota for 20 years. In California and Minnesota, Anne worked in I.T. and succeeded in a position where very few women were employed. While living out of state, Anne always enjoyed coming back to Merrill to visit family. Anne eventually moved back to Merrill and had spent the last 22 years in her hometown.

Anne was an amazing artist and had a business "Anne's Hands." She was talented in knitting, cross-stitch, and sewing. She made delicious cheesecakes, chocolates and other delicacies. Anne was a creative artist to the end. More recently she began working with wood; she enjoyed wood burning and wood carving.

Anne enjoyed her weekly Tuesday visits with her knitting group at Golden Harvest. On Mondays, Anne played 'Hand and Foot' card games at the Merrill Enrichment Center. Once a week, she would also meet with several women and play cards at their homes.

Anne was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Merrill. She was involved in the church choir and on the church board. Anne was strong in her faith. Anne was also a member of the Lion's Club and the Merrill Historical Society.

Above all, Anne loved being a mother and grandmother. Anne was proud of her daughter and her grandchildren.

Survivors include her daughter, Jennifer Torkelson of Merrill; grandchildren, Jeremy, Josiah, and Jordan; brother, Carl Torkelson of Merrill; sister-in-law, Jean Torkelson of Marshfield; brother-in-law, Tim Silvers of Chaska, MN; and nieces and nephews, Ian Torkelson, Morgan (Angie) Torkelson, Kelly Silvers, Catherine Silvers, and Matt Torkelson. Anne was preceded in death by her parents, Carl E. and Harriet Torkelson; sister, Lois Silvers; brother, Dr. Erik Torkelson; and sister-in-law, Peggy Torkelson.

The memorial service for Anne Torkelson was held at 11:00 A.M., Saturday, January 13, 2024, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Merrill. Rev. Justin Smoot officiated. The family received friends beginning at 10:00 A.M. Saturday at the church. Taylor-Stine Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the family.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com

Billy C. 'Bill' Hehling, 66, of Gleason, passed away Saturday, January 13, 2024, at his home.

Billy was born April 25, 1957, in Merrill, son of the late John Jr. and Darlene (Weinkauff) Hehling.

The memorial service for Bill Hehling will be held at 11:00 A.M., Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 A.M. Saturday at the funeral home.



Dolores Lorraine Kleinhans December 11, 1936 ~ January 9, 2024

Age ~ 87
Dolores Lorraine (Bingham) Kleinhans, 87, peacefully passed away on January 9, 2024. Born on December 11, 1936, in Las Vegas, Nevada, she shared 57 years of marriage with her beloved husband Harry Kleinhans Sr.

A Celebration of Life service is set for Saturday, January 20th, at First Baptist Church, Antigo, WI. Visitation will be held from 10:00-11:00 am, followed by the service at 11:00 am. A lunch will follow.

In lieu of floral tributes, the family kindly requests donations in memory of Dolores to AVAIL (<https://availinc.org/>) which advocates for victims of domestic and sexual abuse. It's a meaningful way to honor her legacy of caring for others in need.

To see the full obituary please visit: <https://www.hildebrandtussfh.com>



Ginger A. Peterson, 47, of Merrill, passed away on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at Woodland Court Elder Services, Merrill.

Ginger was born July 7, 1976, in Merrill, daughter of the late Randall and Jacquelyn (Block) Peterson. Ginger graduated from Merrill High School with the class of 1994. She furthered her education at UW-Oshkosh, graduating on May 16, 1998, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She worked for many years as a

graphic designer for Ministry Health Care in Weston. During her high school years, Ginger played tennis on the MHS tennis team. She also enjoyed snowboarding, hunting, and fishing.

Survivors include her brothers, Mike (Kathy) Peterson of Arroyo Grande, CA and Mark (Sue) Peterson of Minneapolis, MN; nieces and nephews, Dustin Peterson, Kayla (Zach) Hodge, Joshua Peterson (Sarah Schneider), Sarah Peterson, and Jacob Peterson; and great niece Ariana and great nephew Jayden. Ginger was preceded in death by her parents, Randall and Jacquelyn Peterson; and her grandparents, Omer & Evelyne 'Ike' Peterson and Beryl & Grace Block.

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



Jeffrey Lewis Moore, age 69, died on January 12, 2024 at Bell Tower Residence in Merrill, WI from complications of Lewy body dementia.

Jeff was born in Burlington, WI on June 12, 1954 to Jack and Joan (Pieri) Moore. He was raised in Rhinelander but graduated high school in Wisconsin Rapids after the family had moved. He attended UW-Madison, studying molecular biology, followed by four years of medical school (UW-Madison) and three years of family practice residency in Wausau.

During his undergraduate years, he met and fell in love with Carla Waller. They were married December 8, 1979, recently celebrating 44 years of marriage. They have three sons, Fredrick, Daniel, and Bradley.

Jeff had a sincere and devout relationship with God, placing his faith in Christ during college. That faith led him to pursue overseas missions, and after a year of seminary training at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois, his family moved to Pakistan with TEAM, as medical missionaries working in public health in the rural north. They returned to the US in 1988 and settled in Merrill, working with Family Medical Clinic, later Marshfield Clinic Merrill Center, until his retirement in 2018. Jeff had a strong conviction that his medical practice should serve the community and reflect his Christian faith. He made strong connections with his patients, enjoying their personal stories. He enjoyed the staff and clinicians he worked with, admiring their skill and dedication.

In addition to his career and family life, Jeff maintained several hobbies and areas of interest. He was an avid birder and member of the Wausau Bird Club. His astute observations, excellent hearing, and penchant for details led to a robust 'life list' of birds he had logged throughout the course of his life. He enjoyed playing the trombone throughout nearly his entire life, playing in the UW-Madison Marching Band, and later for the Merrill City Band until 2021. The stewardship of God's creation was vitally important to him. He wanted to reflect his Creator's design by enjoying the outdoors in ways that cared for it—hiking, biking (usually his recumbent!), canoeing—and was involved in organizations such as the Friends of Council Grounds State Park, The Nature Conservancy, and Cornell Lab. Additionally, he was medical advisor for the Lincoln County Health Department, advocating for a healthy community, and was a contributor to the published anthology Vaccine Science and Immunization Guideline: A Practical Guide for Primary Care after participating in a vaccine science fellowship with the AAFP for one year.

Jeff was a dedicated member of Bible Presbyterian Church in Merrill, and served as an elder and Mission Committee Chair, as well as teaching adult Sunday School for many years.

He is survived by his mother Joan "Toni" Moore, Delafield, sister Susan (Peter) Brandt, Delafield, brother David (Linda) Moore, Rigby, ID, wife Carla Moore, Merrill, and sons: Fred (Virginia) Moore, Verona, Dan (Paula) Moore, Wausau, and Brad (Dana) Moore, Wausau. Papa Jeff has 11 beloved grandchildren as well as cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Jack F. Moore.

Jeff will be remembered as a devoted and loving husband, father, and papa, giving richly of his time, wisdom, wit, and attention to his wife, children, and grandchildren. He will be deeply missed, but his family celebrates his release from disease and his rejoicing with Jesus, and looks forward to seeing him again.

A sincere thanks to Kindhearted Home Care, who made him laugh and feel respected during his struggle with dementia. And deep appreciation for Bell Tower Residence staff who, with concern and respect, cared for Jeff in his final months and days. Also, a thank you to Interim Hospice who gave helpful direction at the end.

A memorial service for Jeff will begin at 11:00 AM, Friday, January 19, 2024 at Bible Presbyterian Church, Merrill. The Rev. Andy Perry will officiate. Visitation will be Thursday, January 18, 2024 from 5 PM to 7 PM at the church and Friday at 10 AM before the service. Mid Wisconsin Cremation Society is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences can be made online at www.mwcs.ws.

Memorials can be directed to Bible Presbyterian Church (biblepreschurch.org), The Nature Conservancy (nature.org), Merrill City Band (merrillcityband.org), or the charity of your choosing.

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Julene H. Szulczewski, age 75, of Merrill, passed away on Saturday, January 6, 2024.

Julene was born January 1, 1949 in Wauwatosa, WI to Milo and Helen Topper. She married Patrick M. Szulczewski on Feb. 22, 1975 in Nekoosa.

Julene was a retired hostess. She enjoyed reading, gardening, and photography. She and her husband used to camp and go boating, and hanging out with friends. She loved her springer spaniels and kitties.

Her krumkake was a specialty. No matter who you were, she made you feel special.

Julene is survived by her brother, Clark Topper of Scituate, MA; brothers-in-law Daniel Szulczewski of Raleigh, NC, Jerry (Lynn) Szulczewski of Omro, WI; sisters-in-law Jennie (Greg) Ferkey of Wisconsin Rapids, Jeanne Cole of Wisconsin Rapids, Cindy Peckham of Nekoosa, Donna (Damon) Klinger of Wisconsin Rapids, Brenda Szulczewski of Nekoosa, and Sara (Gareld) Morris of Wisconsin Rapids; and numerous nieces and nephews. Special mention of her nephew Jeremy Szulczewski.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Milo and Helen Topper; husband, Patrick Szulczewski; brothers-in-law David, Robert and Richard Szulczewski; Roger Kauffman, Robert Cole, John Peckham; sisters-in-law Linda and Kathi Szulczewski.

Waid Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

OBITUARIES



Nathaleen Emma Florene (Bloch) Krueger, 87, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. Nathaleen was born May 23, 1936, in Hamburg, Wisconsin, to the late Leo and Rosie (Mootz) Bloch. She was baptized as an infant and confirmed her faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, on April 2, 1950, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hamburg. Nathaleen attended grades 1-8 at the Barney School in

Hamburg and graduated with honors from Merrill High School in 1954. After graduation she worked as a secretary at Church Mutual Insurance Company in Merrill until she was married. Nathaleen married Leroy Krueger on October 3, 1959, (her parent's 25th wedding anniversary), at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hamburg and they spent 60 years building a wonderful life and family together. He preceded her in death on August 21, 2020.

Nathaleen was a devoted stay-at-home wife and mother who also babysat many other children in their home. In the early 1970's, Leroy and Nathaleen took over the operations of Lee's ARCO and then later Lee's Mobil. They then relocated and opened Lee's Mobil Service on the corner of East Main and Center Avenue until they retired after 35 years in August 2001. Nathaleen was an important "behind the scenes" part of the service station taking care of all the bookkeeping and other integral facets of the business.

Nathaleen had a kind and generous heart who deeply loved her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Nathaleen made sure the Krueger home was always filled with love, good food, had an open door and seat at the table for everyone. She took great pride in her children and grandchildren's accomplishments, watching them play baseball and softball, and most importantly spending family time together. She was an avid Milwaukee Brewer fan. Nathaleen was the true definition of the term "family matriarch" and her children and grandchildren loved and cared for her beyond measure. She will be deeply missed by her family, but her legacy of love and togetherness will forever live on in each of them.

Nathaleen is survived by her children, Kevin (Terry) Krueger, Cindy (Jeff) Artus, Ross (Beau Singthong) Krueger, Jason (Sandy) Krueger, Hugh (Fran) Krueger, Chad (Renee) Krueger, and Ryan (Michelle) Krueger; grandchildren, Matthew (Katrina Depies) Krueger and Daniel (Emily) Krueger, Jeff (Megan Cyrtmus) Artus, Jordan (Kayle Savaske) Artus, and Emily Artus, Caleb (Kayli Petrowski) Krueger, Hailey and Madisyn Krueger, Taylor and Courtney Krueger, Kendall and Charlee Krueger, and Miley and Abbie Krueger; and great-grandchildren Henry and Josie Krueger. Nathaleen is also survived by her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Carol and Allen Koehler, and several cousins, nieces and nephews. Nathaleen is preceded in death by her husband, Leroy, her parents, Leo and Rosie Bloch; an infant sister, Nathalie Bloch, mother in-law and father-in-law, Arnold and Ruth Krueger; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law Lavern and Joanne Krueger, and many dear aunts, uncles and cousins.

Nathaleen's funeral service began at 11:00 am on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 107 N State Street, Merrill, Wisconsin. The Rev. Scott Gustafson officiated. Burial took place at St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery, in the Town of Hamburg. Visitation was from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm on Monday, January 15, 2024, at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill, and again after 10:00 am Tuesday at the church. The Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, 903 E 3rd Street, Merrill, is assisting with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstinefuneralhome.com.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY 4, 2024

Girl, Sylvia Grace Lynn, born to Jennisa Rick and Michael Rick III of Tomahawk.

JANUARY 7, 2024

Girl, Elizabeth Ann, born to Kira Stone and Tyler Stone of Aniwa.

www.merrillfotonews.com

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.

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Lorraine Alma Hertha Raddatz, age 97, of Merrill, passed away on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at Bell Tower Residence Assisted Living in Merrill, while under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services. She was born on February 25, 1926 in Wausau, WI, and was the daughter to the late Arthur and Elfrieda (Lambrecht) Porath. Lorraine married the love of her life, Victor Raddatz, on May 3, 1947 in the town of Maine. Sadly, he passed away on April 10, 2019; a union

lasting over 70 years.

When she was younger, Lorraine enjoying being a housewife, staying home to care for her three boys. She then went on to work at Weinbrenner Shoe Factory in Merrill for many years. Lorraine would also babysit children for friends and family, and enjoyed going on walks and was an excellent baker. She was a talented seamstress, and would alter clothing, as well as doing washing and ironing for friends and family. Lorraine was a giving woman that would volunteer her time with Bethesda. Later in life, she loved working on crossword puzzles and playing Samba. Lorraine was a lifelong member at Faith Lutheran Church, and served on the Altar Guild. She will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Lorraine is survived by her sons: Kenneth (Nancy) Raddatz of Merrill, WI, Jim (Jeri) Raddatz of Wausau, WI and Glenn (Mary) Raddatz of White Bear Lake, MN, 9 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, sisters: Shirley Olkives and Pearl Sabatke, both of Merrill, brother: Robert (Bernice) Porath and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband: Victor Raddatz, great granddaughter: Amber Schmidt, sisters: Grace (Arnold) Raddatz, Lavilla (Albert) Steckling and Charlotte (Roman) Labarge, brothers: Ronald (Phyllis & Veronica) Porath, Otto (Selma) Porath and Melvin (Pat) Porath and brother-in-laws: Leslie Sabatke, Clifford Sabatke and Alan Olkives.

The funeral service for Lorraine was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 11:00am at Faith Lutheran Church in the Town of Maine. Pastor Donald Love officiated. Visitation was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 from 10:00am until the time of the service, also at the church. Burial at Maple Grove Cemetery in the town of Maine immediately followed the service.

For those unable to attend, the service will be recorded and available for viewing on 1/17/24 under her obituary on the funeral home website.

In lieu of flowers, family would prefer donations in Lorraine's name be directed to Faith Lutheran Church.

Family wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation to the staff at Inlusa, Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services and Bell Tower Residence Assisted Living for all of the care and compassion shown to Lorraine and her family over the years.

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.

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Merrill Area Public Schools 2024 - 2025 Kindergarten

Parents/Guardians:
Merrill Area Public Schools recently mailed a letter and postcard to the parents and/or guardians of Kindergartners for the 2024-2025 school year asking if their child will be attending public, private or another school setting. To be eligible for kindergarten, your child must be 5 on or before September 1, 2024.

If you did not receive a mailing from Merrill Area Public Schools, please contact Sarah Fuchs at 715-536-4581, Ext. 10007 or sarah.fuchs@mapsedu.org and she will include your child in the census and put on our kindergarten roster. Thank you.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Wind Down

Dear Reader,

We all become addicted to time. We become more addicted the older we get. Hanging on and savoring the gift of another day is not another given so we push in to it with a little more heart.

Recently I attended a funeral. The life lived was long - linked with many beautiful times and people joined along the way. She had pressed the world hard for all the juices each day would give up. Those who were there were

heart-filled with joy and celebration. A tinge of sadness hung subtly in the air but the vision of spirituality shined brightly ahead.

The joy outweighed the grief knowing the ethereal paths ahead were ones of eternity where down the line we'll all be together again... He truly is a loving God.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

PAID LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

TO THE EDITOR

REMEMBER Feb. 20, 2024 Primary VOTING for the Lincoln County Board CONTESTED Races!!

Are YOU one of us who have DEMANDED that our Lincoln County Board NOT SELL the Pine Crest Nursing Home? Now is your time to vote those County Board Members OUT OF OFFICE as they are up for re-election! Here is the list of Current Board Members that either have contested opponents, not running again or no challengers!

.... I will begin with the 7 Districts who have contested
See **LETTERS** page 8

Starting **February 1st, 2024**, there will be brush cutting and trail grooming from 2 pm - 5 pm on the Prairie River Fishery Area from Dags Drive to R & H Road.

From **February 5th through February 9th**, there will be daily trail grooming done from 10 am - 2 pm on the Prairie River Fishery Area from Dags Drive to R & H Road.

On **February 10th & 11th**, the Prairie River Fishery Area from Dags Drive to R & H Road will have racers and trail officials passing through this area with dog teams and snowmobiles from approximately 11 am - 1 pm.

On **Saturday, February 10th**, there will be one further grooming on this segment between 4 pm - 5 pm.
Thank You.

MERRILL FOTO NEWS

Student of the Week

This Week's Featured Student is Hailee Lapensberg
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garrett & Bethany Lapensberg
Hailee is in 2nd Grade at Kate Goodrich Elementary School. She was nominated by Ashley Plisch.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?
Math is my favorite subject because I get to learn more problems and learn from my mistakes.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?
My favorite part of school is Art, because you get to do drawing and coloring.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?
When I grow up I want to be an artist, because I still get to do drawing. It is also fun because you can doodle and do your own thing.

Hailee is a great leader in our classroom. She is kind, respectful, thoughtful, and always willing to lend a hand. She continues to do a wonderful job following expectations each day! Hailee works hard and is committed to always trying her best. She is also very positive and always has a big smile on her face. Keep up the great work, Hailee!
~ Ashley Plisch

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MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

Mad Max: Fury Road is a miracle in filmmaking

BY JALEN MAKI

Every so often, a movie comes out and feels like an unparalleled achievement in some regard. Maybe it's a career-defining performance, or a brilliantly-written screenplay, or a deeply evocative score. Even less frequently, a film itself is both conceived and executed on a level that is simply above and beyond its predecessors.

One of those rare gems is *Mad Max: Fury Road*.

Released in 2015, *Mad Max: Fury Road* was directed and co-written by George Miller and stars Tom Hardy and Charlize Theron. The film is the fourth entry in Miller's *Mad Max* franchise, marking his return to the series 30 years after 1985's *Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome*.

I am aware that to those unfamiliar with *Fury Road*, the following description is going to sound insane. Despite this, please trust me when I say this movie might rock harder than any made before or after it.

Fury Road opens with loner and former cop Max Rockatansky (Hardy, in a role played by Mel Gibson back in the day), who is trying to survive in a post-apocalyptic desert hellscape while being tormented by recurring visions of people lost on his watch. After being captured by War Boys under the leadership of warlord Immortan Joe, he's brought to the Citadel, where he's used as a "bloodbag" for Nux, who, like all his fellow War Boys, is slowly dying of a blood-borne disease. Joe's led the War Boys to believe that if they serve him bravely, they'll be rewarded in the afterlife; in return, the brainwashed zealots do Joe's bidding without question or remorse.

While Max is having one of the Worst Times Imaginable with Nux and the gang, Imperator Furiosa (Theron), an underling of Immortan Joe, is gearing up to drive the War Rig – a big, awesome armored semi-truck monstrosity – at the head of a party tasked with trading produce grown



at the Citadel for fuel and ammunition. Unbeknownst to Immortan Joe, Furiosa has a plan: instead of bartering with Joe's allies, the People Eater (a weirdly aggressive name for a Fuel Guy) and the Bullet Farmer (a top-notch name for an Ammunition Guy), she's blowing the popsicle stand that is the Citadel and making a run for the Green Place, the paradise where she was born. This in itself would probably be pretty annoying for Joe, considering a top lieutenant committed grand theft auto with his War Rig and bailed, but it's something that he could reasonably recover from. But, Furiosa's not alone; she's also helping Joe's five wives (yes, you read that correctly) escape from his control. His spouses running out on him is simply beyond the pale, so Joe and an army of War Boys in truly bonkers vehicles set out in pursuit of Furiosa and company across the

See MOVIES page 11

Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

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

Jan. 20 - Gleason Community Club Winter Ice Oval Races in Gleason

Jan. 20 - Merrill Ice Drags Test and Tune Day

Jan. 20-21 - DNR Free Fishing Weekend

Jan. 24 - Trivia Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.

Jan. 25 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Co.

Jan. 25 - MACA Presents: Empire Trio: Hooray for Hollywood concert

Jan. 27 - Merrill School Forest Family Fun Day

Jan. 27 - Gleason Community Club Winter Ice Oval Races in Gleason

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

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January Critic's Choice free movie at the library

The January Critic's Choice free movie event at the T.B. Scott Free Library in Merrill will be a whimsical comedy based on a true story. The free movie will be at the library on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024, at 1 p.m.

Four elderly friends accidentally become huge football fans, specifically of Tom Brady of the New England Patriots. Their adventurous trip to Superbowl LI is both

hilarious and heartwarming. Mega-stars Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno, and Sally Field play the lead roles in this unforgettable tale of mischief, mayhem, and meeting the man himself. Hop on the Merrill Transit bus for a free ride to and from the library for a fun afternoon of laughs and free refreshments!

Free Fishing Weekend is Jan. 20-21

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting Free Fishing Weekend Jan. 20-21, 2024, to share the fun and excitement of winter fishing. No fishing license or trout and salmon stamps are required on those dates.

Anglers can fish in state waters where there is an open fishing season. All other fishing regulations apply, including limits on the size and number of fish that can be kept and any seasons when anglers must release certain fish species.

As a reminder, anglers cannot fish spring trout ponds during the winter Free Fishing Weekend. Please review the trout regulations and the 2023-2024 Hook and Line regulations for more information.

If you plan to keep fish, review the DNR's Safe Eating Guidelines at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/consumption to stay informed of potential consumption advisories impacting some waterbodies throughout the state.

Winter fishing reminders

Remember, no ice is 100% safe. Always tell someone where you are fishing and when you'll return before heading out on the ice. Also, check in with local bait shops for current ice conditions. If conditions are questionable, opt to cast to open water from shore.

Dress appropriately for the weather, and remember safety gear:

- Warm layers that are water-resistant
- Sturdy waterproof boots with spike-style creepers for traction

- Extra hat and gloves
- Rescue throw rope
- Ice claws

Please remember to practice responsible catch and release if you aren't keeping fish to eat. Some tips for proper release include:

- Reduce reel time with fish
- Keep fish in the water as much as possible
- Use a rubber net and wet hands or gloves (if possible)
- Keep handling time to 60 seconds or less and keep unhooking tools readily available
- Cut the line if a fish is deeply hooked
- Treat fish gently – use both hands when handling fish and place them in the water to recover before releasing

Prepare to fish

Visit the DNR's Fish Equipment for Loan webpage at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/anglereducation/loanerContacts to find a loaner site with ice fishing equipment. Locations with ice fishing equipment will have an "IF" next to their name. Essential gear is available; however, sites do not offer ice augers. Hours and available equipment vary, so contact the site in advance and create a plan to pick up the gear.

Continue the fishing fun

Continue the fishing fun after Free Fishing Weekend by purchasing a fishing license. The next Free Fishing Weekend will take place June 1-2, 2024.

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JAN. 26TH - BLUEGILLS
Dinner served: Friday 4:00-8:00 PM
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Friday, Jan. 26, 2024

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Watch for our upcoming "PASS IT ON Acts of Kindness" program starting in February!!

CAMPUS BRIEFS

UW-Whitewater announces Dean's List

A total of 3,757 students earned a spot on the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for the 2023 fall semester.

Area students named to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean's List for the 2023 fall semester include:

- Reed Dombeck
- Nicole Grawey
- Caitlynn Pehlke

These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average (GPA) of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

"Making the Dean's List is a tremendous honor. It is a recognition of our students' hard work and commitment to success," said John Chenoweth, who serves as UW-Whitewater's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "We are proud of our students and hope to see their names on the list again. Congratulations to all who were recognized!"

Burgener named to SNHU President's List

Abigail Burgener of Merrill was named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Fall 2023 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum GPA of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

UW-Stevens Point undergraduates honored for scholastic achievement

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,500 undergraduate students for attaining high GPAs during the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Full-time undergraduates who earned GPAs of 3.90 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) get the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with GPAs from 3.75 to 3.89 and honor recognition is accorded to those with GPAs from 3.50 to 3.74.

Personalized certificates of scholastic achievement are

sent to those who earned highest honors distinction.

Students from our area who received honors include:

- Alex Bloch, Athens, Highest Honors
- Lydia Carlson, Athens, Highest Honors
- Kailee Davis, Athens, Honors
- Sierra Eckardt, Athens, Highest Honors
- Cobie Ellenbecker, Athens, Highest Honors
- Andrew Hartmann, Athens, High Honors
- Connor Komarek, Athens, Honors
- Brittany Lange, Athens, Highest Honors
- Mathew Redmann, Athens, Highest Honors
- Faith Seliger, Athens, Honors
- Nathan Wolf, Athens, High Honors
- Ahna Meyer, Irma, High Honors
- Teegan Wenzel, Irma, High Honors
- Jaylen Anderson, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Samuel Bennett, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Kamryn Beyer, Merrill, Honors
- Taylor Bird, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Jennifer Bolanos, Merrill, High Honors
- Molly Dallman, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Caleb DeJong, Merrill, High Honors
- Gavin Dinges, Merrill, Honors
- Cory Gigl, Merrill, Honors
- Adeline Heisinger, Merrill, High Honors
- Catherine Herdt, Merrill, High Honors
- Callen Hoepfner, Merrill, Honors
- Trinity Kanitz, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Zachary Kriegel, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Courtney Krueger, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Hailey Krueger, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Madisyn Krueger, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Alison Leonard, Merrill, High Honors
- Sawyer Miller, Merrill, Honors
- Edwin Moore, Merrill, High Honors
- Cassandra Oelke, Merrill, High Honors
- Conor OKeefe, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Aiden Pehlke, Merrill, High Honors
- Jaiden Pillai, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Sawyer Schmitz, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Spencer Smith, Merrill, Honors
- Brenna Steinagel, Merrill, Honors
- Anna Weiler, Merrill, Honors
- Tessa Wheat, Merrill, Highest Honors
- Kaylee Wilker, Merrill, High Honors
- Nikolas Zastrow, Merrill, High Honors
- Taylor Zastrow, Merrill, Honors

Winona State University announces the graduation list for Fall Semester 2023

Two area students graduated from Winona State University in Fall 2023. Katrina Fredrickson of Marathon graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing Summa Cum Laude and a Bachelor of Science in Spanish Summa Cum Laude, and Morgan Schaefer of Merrill graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing Cum Laude.

Winona State University announced Dean's List for Fall Semester 2023

Winona State University announced area students were named to the Dean's List for Fall Semester 2023. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate enrolled full-time (at least 12 credit hours for a grade) and achieve a minimum GPA of 3.5.

Students from our area include:

- Katrina Fredrickson, Marathon
- Jaida Heinz, Merrill
- Ben Robbins, Marathon
- Camryn Sapinski, Marathon
- Morgan Schaefer, Merrill

UW-Madison announces fall Dean's List

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

- Alyssa Nielsen, Athens, College of Agricultural & Life Science, Dean's List
- Serena Reinke, Irma, College of Agricultural & Life Science, Dean's List
- Ty Bailey, Merrill, School of Education, Dean's List
- Lauren Cohrs, Merrill, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List
- Kian Garske, Merrill, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List
- Carla Higgins, Merrill, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List
- Isaac Johns, Merrill, College of Engineering, Dean's Honor List
- Carl Knaack, Merrill, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List
- Trenton Lokemoen, Merrill, School of Education, Dean's List

See **CAMPUS NEWS** page 11

Local students named to Dean's List at UW-Superior

Two local students - Destiney Wampole of Athens and MaKayla Golisch of Merrill - were named to the University of Wisconsin-Superior Dean's List for academic achievement during the Fall 2023 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, students must have completed 12 degree-seeking semester credits and achieved at least a 3.50 GPA (on a 4.0 scale).

LETTERS from page 5

challengers (chronologically) that voted to Sell Pine Crest: Districts #8 Laurie Thiel; #9 Don Friske; #10 Jesse Boyd; #11 Randal Detert; #12 Julie DePasse; #18 Kenneth Wickham; #20 Angela Cummings

These 3 District Board Members are not running for another term (2 DID vote to Sell) therefore have at least 1, 2 or more primary challengers who will be voted for:

Districts #4 Steve Osness; #13 George Brixius; & #14 Brian Hafeman

These 4 Board Members are running Unopposed but DID vote to sell Pine Crest:

Districts #15 Marty Lemke; #16 Dana Miller; #17 James Meunier; & #21 Eugene Simon

Now is your chance to RECTIFY the saving of Pine Crest, which as always, has been a wonderful home to those in their later years, and to us in our future years, from being privatized under Corporate GREED resulting in little benefit to the residents.

- Darlene Raunio
Tomahawk, Wis.

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

EDITOR from page 6

when mics were used, and you are all beautiful in person but we need to hear you. Comments submitted by: Karen

Nocco, Irene Mehlos, Don Dunphy, Sr. Kathy Lange, Sr. Celine Goessel, Linda Doerr, and Judy Woller.

- Judy Woller
Merrill, Wis.

TO THE EDITOR:

Forty-one thousand people die annually from secondhand cigarette smoke. The majority of these deaths occur in rental properties where landlords adamantly refuse to instigate no-smoking policies. Staggering!!

At the Gleason Villa apartment building, Lincoln County Housing Authority, owners of the property, rent to chronic cigarette smokers. There is no insulation between apartments, allowing secondhand smoke to poison the air in the hallway, and to waft through the ventilation system into the apartments of non-smokers. My clothes, bedding, and towels emanate the toxicity smoke. I had bronchitis during December due to breathing the miasma.

LCHA receives HUD assistance for the low-income persons who reside at the Villa. HUD's goal is for the properties who receive their assistance to incorporate non-smoking in their buildings. In their greed, LCHA desires to receive HUD funding, yet LCHA will not swallow its pride to incorporate non-smoking. HUD buildings ought to set the standard by which private rental properties do business.

Sad, isn't it, that LCHA has chosen not to do so?

- Donna Kikkert
Gleason, Wis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

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

POLITICAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY:

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

Al-Anon offers hope and recovery to all people affected by the alcoholism of a Friend or Loved One.
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Pet of the Week
Koda here, wondering if there is anyone out there who would give me a forever home? I'm around 6 years old. I love being outside and playing in the snow. I like to go for walks and play with toys. My favorite thing is to play fetch. I'm good with other dogs but I would need to meet any new dog friends first. I need a cat free home. Come on down to LCHS meet me today!
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MOVIES from page 7

desert. Nux joins the chase with his bloodbag Max in tow, but rather than being buckled into the shotgun seat like a normal passenger, Max is instead strapped onto the front of the car, a situation that'd likely be frowned upon by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

That's pretty much the entire setup of the movie. What follows is about an hour and 45 minutes of some of the most staggering, masterfully pulled off chase-and-fight sequences ever put to film. You've got pretty much everything you could want in this type of action movie: people shooting guns while climbing in and out of moving cars decked out with ridiculous armor, weird exploding spears thrown at said vehicles, motorcycles flying around all over the dang place, a guy playing a double-neck guitar in front of a colossal wall of speakers (because what's a road trip without some tunes?) and most importantly, Furiosa, Max (who eventually escapes from Nux), and the wives cruising in the War Rig, just completely wrecking shop.

There's a pretty easy case to be made that the Marvel Cinematic Universe has ushered in an era where movies are increasingly reliant on computer-generated effects. CGI can be a tremendous tool in a filmmaker's toolbox and can be downright astounding when used well (the *Avatar* movies rule, folks), but recent CGI-driven films have felt lacking in soul, particularly those under the MCU umbrella. There's a similar quandary in music: the choice between using a drum machine or a having a person play a real drum kit, and the pros and cons associated with each. You can achieve flawlessness with a computer program – perfectly syncopated notes exactly on tempo – but it's the human element that brings the heart. While truly impressive feats

can be accomplished using modern technology, and the possibilities it unlocks are almost limitless, I'd rather hear a live drummer speed up a little during the chorus or watch a real car be blown to smithereens.

In this regard – actually doing absurdly cool stuff in real life rather than just creating said cool stuff with CGI – *Mad Max: Fury Road* is simply a miracle in filmmaking. While *Fury Road* does indeed take advantage of computer-generated imagery, its utilization of practical effects is nothing short of breathtaking. The film's tactility – the assortment of vehicles, the car parts and scraps of metal sent airborne, the explosions, the fire, the smoke, the sand, the dust – further immerses the viewer in the out-of-control dystopian wasteland it's depicting. Every mammoth set piece or mind-boggling stunt makes you feel like you've watched a truly ridiculous thing that really happened ... because you did! The combination of the film's tangible nature with its pedal-to-the-metal intensity, brought to the forefront by lights-out camera work and sound design, is unrivaled. Within the action movie landscape, *Mad Max: Fury Road* sits atop the class, and is yet to be supplanted.

While the technical mastery in the filmmaking is utterly unbelievable, the storytelling is genuinely compelling. An ingenious thing about *Fury Road*, and another reason why it stands tall among its counterparts in the action genre, is that despite how straight-up weird the movie is on the whole, it's still remarkably easy to get swept up in its story and empathize with its characters. This isn't a simple task for any type of film, let alone one like *Fury Road*, where you're pretty much dropped directly into the middle of a unique plot set in a strange world and expected to get your bearings quickly before the sand and bullets start flying. *Fury Road* doesn't hold your hand; it trusts that its

audience will buy in completely, and it rewards those who do with an incomparable viewing experience. And even if you don't let *Mad Max: Fury Road* truly enfold you ... well, you'll still have watched one of the greatest action films ever made. And what a lovely day it will have been. What a lovely, lovely day.

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

CAMPUS NEWS from page 8

- Matthew Monnot, Merrill, College of Engineering, Dean's Honor List
- Eamonn O'Day, Merrill, School of Education, Dean's List
- Jordan Stoecker, Merrill, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List
- Izzy Sunby, Merrill, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List
- Lillie Sunby, Merrill, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List
- Malena Tonelli, Merrill, School of Pharmacy, Honor Roll

Two Merrill students named to Dean's List at St. Norbert College

Peter Breitwisch and Elizabeth Hartson, both of Merrill, were named to the 2023 fall semester dean's list at St. Norbert College in De Pere. A minimum 3.5 GPA is required for academic eligibility.

REPORTS

MERRILL FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS

FOR WEEK ENDING JAN. 14, 2024

Detector activation, no fire - unintentional 1

Dispatched and cancelled en route 2

Dispatched and cancelled en route(EMS) 1

EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury 50

Good intent call, other 1

Motor vehicle accident with no injuries. 1

Standby for Tomahawks E.M.S. 2

Total This Week: 58

Total Incidents/ Calls for 2024: 113

a male had struck another male and left in a vehicle. An officer located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. In the meantime, other officers spoke to the victim and witnesses and the male that had been stopped was arrested for battery, bail jumping, and operating while intoxicated. Further investigation is ongoing.

At 8:32 a.m. a crash was reported on N. Mill St. and E. 9th St. A vehicle had slid through the stop sign on E. 9th St. A vehicle on N. Mill St. took evasive action to avoid the collision and struck a fire hydrant. The driver that had slid through the stop sign was cited for driving too fast for conditions, operating without insurance, and operating without a valid driver's license. A crash report was completed.

MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

01-10-24
At 5:53 a.m. a crash was reported on Mill St. at E. 6th St. A vehicle was travelling on E. 6th St. and failed to stop at the stop sign, striking the vehicle that was on Mill St. The offending driver was cited for failure to stop at a stop sign.

At 2:11 p.m. the courthouse requested officers for a female who was causing issues. The female was arrested by Lincoln County Deputies and the female admitted to the Merrill detective that she had contraband concealed in her bra. The female Merrill detective removed a baggie containing suspected drugs. The suspected drugs were turned over to deputies.

01-11-24
At 12:55 a.m. a fight was reported outside of a tavern. It was reported

01-12-24
At 11:10 a.m. an officer took a report of a historical disorderly conduct incident that had occurred at a hotel in town. The investigation showed that a male subject will be cited for disorderly conduct.

01-14-24
At 12:05 p.m. officers were dispatched to a residence for a disorderly conduct incident. It was found that a female subject had been throwing things around the residence breaking them and other things that did not belong to her. The female was taken into custody for disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property, and bail jumping. When officers took the female into custody, she began making threats toward the officers. She was also charged with threats to law enforcement.

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Merrill Varsity Girls return to action at home versus Medford

BY RICK ARGALL
MMC STAFF

The Merrill Varsity Girls returned to action on Monday night, Jan. 15, 2024, after several cancellations due to inclement weather, to take on non-Conference opponent Medford on Merrill's home court. Merrill entered the game with an 8-5 overall record and a 1-3 mark in Conference play.

The Lady Jays got on the board first with a 2-point basket by Sophie Wendorf (12 pts, 2 FG, 2 3pts, 2 FT) in a back-and-forth seesaw affair that saw multiple lead changes throughout the game. Medford built a six-point lead midway through the first half. But Merrill rallied to tie the score at 17-17 after a Mia Ott basket (21 pts, 7 FG, 1 3pt, 4 FT) from the free throw line) at the 9:30 mark of the first half. After trading baskets, the Lady Jays finally took the lead 33-32 on a Mia Ott basket with 3:25 remaining in the half. As the clock ticked down under one minute, #21 Haley Rindt (12 pts, 5 FG, 2 FT) scored twice in the paint to close out strong and take momentum to

the locker room leading 37-34.

The second half started with a 3-pointer from Sophie Wendorf and pushed the lead to 40-37 for Merrill. Solid defense by both teams kept the scoring low as both teams kept trading baskets and the lead kept changing midway through the second half. Mia Ott hit a 3-pointer at 8:58 of the half to give the Lady Jays the lead at 53-51, prompting a timeout by Medford. The tightly-contested matchup went down to the last several minutes as Medford built a 4-point lead (60-56) with 4:02 remaining in the game. After a timeout, Grace Reimann (8 pts, 4 FG) hit a huge basket for Merrill, closing the gap to 60-58 with 1:42 left in the game. After several made free throws by Medford, the Lady Jays rallied late to get within one possession (63-60) on another basket by Grace Reimann. With 3.4 seconds remaining, Medford was able to get the ball inbound and ran out the clock as the Merrill rally came up short at the end. The scoreboard read 63-60 as the final horn sounded.

The Lady Jays were lead by Mia Ott (21



Merrill Girls huddle up during timeout to discuss strategy versus Medford in the first half. Rick Argall photos.



Mia Ott attempts a free throw during the first half.

pts), Haley Rindt (12 pts), Sophie Wendorf (12 pts), and Grace Reimann (8 pts). Merrill returns to the court on Friday Night, Jan. 19, hosting Conference rival Marshfield at 7:15 p.m.

Box Score
Medford 63 @ Merrill 60

2024 WINTER MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|------|---------|
| Fri. Jan. 19 | Marshfield (JV & JV2) | Home | 5:45 pm |
| Fri. Jan. 19 | Marshfield (Varsity) | Home | 7:15 pm |
| Tues. Jan. 23 | Wausau West (JV & JV2) | Home | 5:45 pm |
| Tues. Jan. 23 | Wausau West (Varsity) | Home | 7:15 pm |

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV, JV2 & JV3)

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|------|---------|
| Fri. Jan. 19 | Marshfield (JV & JV2) | Away | 5:45 pm |
| Fri. Jan. 19 | Marshfield (Varsity) | Away | 7:15 pm |
| Tues. Jan. 23 | Wausau West (JV & JV2) | Away | 5:45 pm |
| Tues. Jan. 23 | Wausau West (JV3) | Away | 7:15 pm |
| Tues. Jan. 23 | Wausau West (Varsity) | Away | 7:15 pm |
| Thurs. Jan. 25 | Wausau East (JV & JV2) | Home | 5:45 pm |
| Thurs. Jan. 25 | Wausau East (Varsity) | Home | 8:00 pm |

Girls Wrestling (Varsity)

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|------|---------|
| Thurs. Jan. 18 | D. C. Everest (Varsity) | Away | 6:30 pm |
| Thurs. Jan. 25 | Marshfield (Varsity) | Away | 6:30 pm |

Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV)

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|------|---------|
| Thurs. Jan. 18 | D. C. Everest (Varsity) | Away | 6:30 pm |
| Sat. Jan. 20 | Bay Port (JV) | Away | 8:00 am |
| Sat. Jan. 20 | Whitnall (Varsity) | Away | 9:15 am |
| Thurs. Jan. 25 | Marshfield (Varsity) | Away | 6:30 pm |

Ice Hockey (Varsity & JV)

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|------|----------|
| Thurs. Jan. 18 | Stevens Point (JV) | Away | 5:00 pm |
| Thurs. Jan. 18 | Stevens Point (Varsity) | Away | 7:00 pm |
| Fri. Jan. 19 | Multiple Schools (JV) | Home | 5:30 pm |
| Sat. Jan. 20 | Multiple Schools (JV) | Home | 11:00 am |
| Tues. Jan. 23 | Pacelli Catholic (Varsity) | Home | 7:00 pm |
| Thurs. Jan. 25 | WI Rapids Lincoln (JV) | Away | 5:00 pm |

The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



Merrill out-grappled by Wisconsin Rapids

Wisconsin Rapids dual

The Merrill Varsity Wrestling Team hosted Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln for a dual on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024. This was a tough one for the grapplers and, despite their best efforts, Rapids took home the win.

Individual results are:

- 126: Landyn Freeman (WRL) over Remington Skik (MERR) (Dec 3-2)
- 132: Carter Freeman (WRL) over Brett Suchocki (MERR) (TF 20-5 3:39)
- 138: Aiden Armagost (WRL) over Brady Norton (MERR) (Fall 2:45)
- 144: Callum Wheeler (MERR) over (WRL) (For.)
- 150: Chase Gethers (WRL) over Preston Schuelke (MERR) (Fall 1:40)

- 157: Bennett Weidman (WRL) over (MERR) (For.)
- 165: Cooper Meyer (WRL) over Hunter Opper (MERR) (Dec 2-0)
- 175: Mark Jeske (WRL) over Austin Depies (MERR) (MD 11-1)
- 190: Kailar Tritz (WRL) over (MERR) (For.)
- 215: Noah Klug (MERR) over Greysen Reimer (WRL) (TB-1 6-5)
- 285: Tanner Gormanson (WRL) over Mikal Plautz (MERR) (Fall 4:47)
- 106: Dustin Schmirler (MERR) over Matthew Sering (WRL) (Dec 6-2)
- 113: Deegan Armagost (WRL) over (MERR) (For.)
- 120: Gavin Jacob (WRL) over Jayden Graap (MERR) (Fall 1:30)

Box Score
Wisconsin Rapids 57 @ Merrill 12

Winter weather postpones most Merrill sports, Basketball HOF Night

Last week's winter weather postponed most Merrill sports events. The majority of games and matches have been rescheduled. Merrill Basketball's Hall of Fame (HOF) Night, and the Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball games that were scheduled for Jan. 13, 2024, were rescheduled to Saturday, Jan. 27. Please mark your calendars.

Merrill Bluejays Trap Season mandatory meetings

In preparation for the upcoming Merrill Bluejay Trap Season, coaches have set a mandatory meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the Lincoln Gun Club, N1544 Corning Rd., Merrill, for any new athlete in the MAPS district grades 6-12 who is interested in learning more.

A mandatory meeting for returning Trap athletes will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. at the Lincoln Gun Club.

Anyone with questions should email Bluejaytrapteam@gmail.com.

DONATIONS from page 2

"It is exciting and gratifying for the Friends Group to be able to help the T.B.Scott Library get families involved with nature through the donation of snowshoes to the 'Library of Things' at T.B.Scott and monetary donation for passes for the 'Check out Wisconsin State Parks at Your Library' programs," said Laura Nikolai-Svetlik, Social Media Coordinator for FoCGSP.

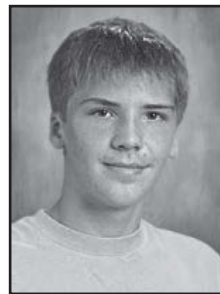
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Tyson Ott, a Freshman at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week. Tyson started playing basketball in the fourth grade on a traveling team, continued playing at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS), came on board the Merrill Varsity Basketball Team as a switch player as this season started, and was pulled up to full time Varsity on Dec. 5. He plays point guard/shooting guard and had his best game of the season so far on Jan. 5 in the game against SPASH according to Coach Troy Pieper and his basketball future looks bright as his confidence grows. Tyson also plays baseball. He started in fourth or fifth grade on Little League, progressed to playing on the traveling team and Babe Ruth at the middle school level, and plans to play for MHS this spring.

At school, Tyson's favorite class is English, and outside of school he works part-time loading flowers into delivery trucks for his dad's business, Perry Wholesale.

In his free time, Tyson likes to go to the gym to play basketball and lift weights, golf with his friends in the summer, and hang out with his friends and family. Playing board games and video games.

The son of Becky and Bob Ott of Merrill, Tyson thinks he will probably attend college but hasn't yet decided on his career path.



Tyson Ott

Congratulations from these sponsors:



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