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Is it Christmas? No it's Grinchmas at Halloween!



This little guy is all smiles! It's a safe bet he got a treat and not a trick. Joseph Frederick photos.

Trunk or Treat

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

It's like trick-or-treating, but it's within a set area, usually a parking lot, and it involves children going between decorated vehicles instead of homes. It's called trunk-to-trunk treating, or trunk or treat, or some variation of this, because the vehicle trunks are generally opened up and decorated, with vehicle owners sitting nearby - often also in costume to fit the theme of their vehicle's trunk - to hand out candy. Of course, it doesn't have to be a car with a trunk. It might be an SUV with

the back hatch open or a truck bed backed up and decorated - which often works better.

Trunk-or-treating events began some years ago and are often sponsored by area churches, schools, or non-profit organizations as a way to make trick-or-treating safer and to create a fun Halloween-themed event for the entire family.

In Merrill, several area churches held trunk-or-treating events this year, including St. Stephens Church, with their event being held on Halloween Day, and Trinity Lutheran

See **TRUNK OR TREAT** page 3

Trick or treat!

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Despite much colder temperatures than in previous weeks and a dreary, rainy day, children throughout Merrill donned their Halloween costumes, many dressed as their favorite movie or cartoon character, animal, or ghoul, to knock on doors and declare "trick or treat" in residential neighborhoods last Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024. Inflatable dinosaurs and giant pigs, tigers and Dorothy from the

See **TRICK OR TREAT!** page 2



"Trick or treat!" Tina L. Scott photos.

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Merrill community goes all out for Halloween!



Photo 1. Strange creatures lurk in the dark shadows of the night in Merrill around All Hallows Eve. **Photo 2.** What in the name of creepy is this menagerie? Entering this house at night is not for the faint of heart! **Photo 3.** Larger than life scythe wielding terror awaits in this yard. **Photo 4.** Haybales, pumpkins, and scarecrows ... autumn is here! **Photo 5.** The collection of inflatables in this yard creates an inviting, kid-friendly night-time scene. Joseph Frederick photos.

More photos online merrillfotonews.com

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Eight ways to honor veterans this year

Millions of people make considerable sacrifices to protect the freedoms of their fellow citizens. According to the Pew Research Center and data from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Census Bureau, there are currently more than 18 million living veterans in the United States.

The term veteran refers to a person who served in the active military, naval, air service, or space service and was discharged or

released under conditions other than dishonorable. In the U.S., there are actually five types of protected veterans, according to the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974. Under VEVRAA, a veteran may be classified as a disabled veteran, recently separated veteran, active duty wartime or campaign badge veteran, or Armed Forces service medal veteran.

Veterans deserve respect and admiration all year



Stock photo.

long, but also get their own holiday each November. Veterans Day celebrates veterans' patriotism and willingness to sacrifice and serve. This Veterans Day, people can consider these eight unique ways to honor the veterans in their community.

1. Attend events. Organize or participate in local Veterans Day celebrations, such as parades and ceremonial events.

2. Get involved with veterans' affairs. Support veterans by volunteering with organizations that assist them, such as the VA, local veteran's groups, VA hospitals, or charities dedicated to veteran services.

3. Petition for veteran speakers. Reach out to schools, scout troops, or other groups and arrange

opportunities for veterans to share their stories and contributions. Learning about the sacrifices these men and women made can heighten individuals' appreciation for veterans.

4. Support the families of veterans. Reach out to veterans' families, who also must make sacrifices and concessions. Anything from shopping, babysitting, doing chores, or making a meal can help the families of veterans.

5. Make a donation. If finances allow, make contributions to reputable charities that provide services for veterans like those that offer mental health counseling or job placement services. If there isn't a charity that fits with your vision, start one.

6. Hire veterans to work. If you are a business owner or hiring manager, consider hiring veterans for open positions at your company. It can be challenging to re-enter the workforce after service, so make it known that your firm welcomes veterans.

7. Offer personal acknowledgements. Take the time to speak to veterans and thank them for their service. If possible, when dining out, ask the server if you can pay for the meal of a veteran who also is dining that day.

8. Don't forget the fallen veterans. Although Memorial Day is designed to honor those who lost their lives through military service, people still can honor the fallen veterans on Veterans Day by sharing stories or placing flags at veteran cemeteries.

Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11, marking an opportunity to express one's gratitude and support for the scores of veterans who have served honorably.



More photos online merrillfotonews.com

A line of trick-or-treaters approach while others get ready to head to the next house. Tina L. Scott photos.



A group of trick-or-treaters is all smiles, except for the child peering out from inside the dinosaur costume.



As darkness begins to fall, the light from a front porch lends an eerie glow to these two tricker-or-treaters.

TRICK OR TREAT! from page 1

Wizard of Oz, princesses and sunflowers, witches and skeletons, cowgirls and Cookie Monster, hunters and clowns, Mickey Mouse and more roamed the community collecting bags of candy.

Despite the weather, the turnout seemed typical, and many parents and kids were just thankful they didn't have to trick or treat in snow like some years in Wisconsin.

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Patrick J. Wood
Publisher
publisher@mmclocal.com

Tina L. Scott
Editor
tscott@mmclocal.com

Heidi Schult
Front Office Manager/CSR

Heidi Griebel
Customer Service Representative

Tim Schreiber
General Manager
tschreiber@mmclocal.com

Jennifer Gartmann
Sales Consultant
jgartmann@mmclocal.com

Niki Piechota
Graphic Designer

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More photos online merrillfotonews.com

Trinity Lutheran Church had vehicles with open trunks for "Trunk or Treat" creating a perimeter around their parking lot, and costumed children were making their way from trunk to trunk looking for treats. **Joseph Frederick photos.**



A fun Christian-campfire-fall-themed booth uses cute decorations and a play on words and volunteers get ready to hand out candy.



A strong police presence helped keep things orderly at the annual church-sponsored event.

TRUNK OR TREAT from page 1

Church, with their event being held the Saturday before on Oct. 26, 2024.

Trinity reportedly had a turnout of more than 1,000 people who came to their church parking lot on the corner of W. Main St. and State S. in Merrill, to either volunteer or enjoy the day. Volunteers created 29 car/trunk displays and also coordinated a contest for the best decorated vehicle/trunk, door prizes, refreshments, and a prayer station inside.

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Better Half

Dear Reader,

In the first half of life, many people are driven by a desire for achievement, status, and wealth. Their energy is focused outward, fueled by ambition, competition, and the pursuit of tangible rewards. They define success in terms of material gain and recognition from others—feeding the body and self-image, often in a restless quest for more. Their essence becomes intertwined with the identity they construct through aggressive actions and societal expectations.



their focus to things of lasting value—relationships, legacy, inner peace, and wisdom.

Like travelers who have returned from an epic journey, they no longer feel the same urge to conquer new territories. Instead, they are content to "be" in the moment, to observe and reflect rather than to push and assert. They are less concerned with leaving a mark on the world, for they have come to understand that true contentment lies not in chase but in the arrival.

But as they enter the second half of life, the tide shifts. The outer world, with its demands for money and power, loses its grip. These individuals have achieved much—perhaps too much—and now they begin to hear the quieter call of the soul. It's a transition from external striving to internal reflection, a shift from "doing" to "being."

They may still seek adventure, but it's a different kind—one that nurtures the soul rather than the ego. This phase of life is not about acquiring more, but about letting go, about finding peace in simplicity and embracing the richness of the present moment. The second half of life is about becoming whole, about uniting the outward success with inner serenity. They are no longer climbing the mountain; they are sitting on the summit, taking in the view.

In this phase, the emphasis on material things, titles, and accolades fades. They realize that no matter how much they accumulate, it can never fully satisfy the deeper hunger for meaning and fulfillment. So, they turn inward, seeking to nourish the soul instead of the body, shifting

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OBITUARIES

Margaret 'Peggy Savaske' Jameson



Margaret 'Peggy Savaske' Jameson, of Stevens Point, passed away on Thursday, October 24, 2024, at the age of 69.

Peggy, a double lung transplant recipient nearly eight years ago, recently faced complications from organ rejection. Despite her resilience, this final battle proved to be too much.

Born on December 14, 1954, to Robert W. and Janet (Mathison) Savaske, Peggy grew up in Merrill, Wisconsin,

and graduated from Merrill High School in 1973. She married Michael 'Mike' Jameson, with whom she had two sons, Ryan and Charles. The two later divorced but remained friends.

Peggy settled in Stevens Point, where she became the original owner of Subway restaurants on the north side and in Plover. She loved working alongside her sister, Amy, and together they created a thriving business. In 2000, Peggy sold her last Subway store and pursued a new career in real estate – a field where her outgoing personality truly flourished. She joined a local brokerage and quickly earned a reputation as a dedicated and personable agent, winning the admiration of clients and colleagues, many of whom became her closest friends.

Peggy was a familiar face at many of Plover's baseball fields, whether on the sidelines, in the bleachers, or volunteering at the concession stands. She never missed a chance to watch her sons play baseball and was always there to support them in every sport they pursued. Her enthusiasm extended to her niece, Madi, whose volleyball games she also attended with pride.

Peggy deeply cherished her friends, neighbors, and family. She adored being involved in the lives of her nieces, who made her feel hip and cool, and she never missed an opportunity to share her pride in the remarkable young women they had become. In retirement, Peggy found joy in the spring and summer seasons, dedicating time to her garden, which became her favorite pastime as it brought her closer to the friends and neighbors she cherished. She loved her neighborhood where everyone looked out for one another – a place filled with warmth and old-fashioned charm.

Peggy also enjoyed reading and playing games like Words With Friends, Scrabble, and Cribbage, but above all, she loved hosting her friends for dinner and drinks. She was known for her famous ribs, twice-baked potatoes, and lasagna (IYKYK). Peggy had a playful spirit, loved to dance, and never took herself too seriously. She will be remembered as a loving mother and friend who was generous, funny, progressive, and candid. She will be dearly missed by everyone who knew her, but we find comfort in knowing she is reunited with loved ones who passed before her.

Peggy is survived by her son, Ryan Jameson; sister, Amy (Kent) Laabs; sister-in-law, Jane Savaske; other siblings, Dan, Kandy, Mary, and Pat; nieces and nephews, Cassie and Madi Laabs, Stacy Blattner, Robert Savaske Jr., along with many others; cousins, Tammy (Keith) Enzor and Matt (Amy) Storm; along with many other friends, neighbors, and extended family members who will miss her dearly.

Peggy preceded in death by her son Charlie Jameson; brother, Robert 'Bob' Savaske Sr.; parents, Robert and Janet Savaske; "in-laws", Charles 'Bob' and Demetria 'Tulie' Jameson.

Honoring Peggy's wishes, no service will be held. In lieu of donations, please consider registering to be an organ donor. By doing so, you can help give others the gift of life and hope, just as Peggy received years ago.

Sign up to be an organ donor here: <https://www.organdonor.gov/>

Paul Deron Kudick



Paul Deron Kudick, age 58, of the town of Scott, passed away unexpectedly at home on Monday, October 28, 2024. He was born on May 20, 1966 to the late Ralph Kudick and Virginia Henrichs in Merrill. Paul attended and graduated from Merrill High School, which is where he met and fell in love with his high school sweetheart, Kathy Biller. They were united in marriage on April 8, 1986 in Merrill. She survives.

Paul enlisted in the United States Air Force and proudly served his country until his honorable retirement from the military, serving almost 22 years. He was a patriotic man that loved his country.

Paul was a journeyman at Mitchell Metals, and was currently an engineer at Merrill Tool and Water Jet. He was a skilled woodworker and was proud of his brand, Grain Bin Wood Crafting, where he would design and craft ink pens out of all types of materials, including antlers. They were unique and thoughtful gifts that he would share with his family and friends. You could always find Paul out in his workshop working on something; he was always busy! He was a perfectionist, a strong-willed man and was well-loved by many. Paul was an animal lover and enjoyed his cats. He was an active member of the V.F.W. Post 1638 in Merrill, serving as a past junior vice commander and he enjoyed being the Bingo caller. Paul will be missed, but his love and memories will remain forever.

Paul leaves behind his wife: Kathy Kudick, sons: Andrew Kudick (Shelby) and Nicholas (Heather) Kudick, grandchildren: Oliver and Elowyn and his brother: Robin (Martha) Kudick, as well as many good friends and neighbors. He is preceded in death by his parents: Ralph Kudick and Virginia Henrichs, grandparents that helped raise him: Alfred and Alvina Kudick and sister: Kathryn Smith.

The memorial service for Paul was held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill. Traci Fick officiated and offered support to the family. Visitation was held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. until the time of the service, also at the funeral home. Military honors immediately follow the service.

Family wishes to express their thanks and gratitude to the medical personnel and first responders that came to assist Paul. Their efforts and kindness were appreciated.

In lieu of flowers, please direct donations in Paul's name to the local V.F.W. Post 1638.

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.

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

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Amy Jo Reichert

Amy Jo Reichert, age 50, passed away on Monday, October 28, 2024, at the Rib Lake Health Services facility, while under the care of Hope Hospice. Amy Jo was the daughter of Carol Reichert and was born in Merrill on November 7, 1973. She attended Merrill High School.

Amy Jo was the primary care giver for her mother, Carol, until she died on March 22, 2020. She cherished her time spent with family and friends and her kitty, "Tac". Amy Jo enjoyed spending time in a good book or watching movies. She was a very thoughtful and generous person that would look forward to getting gifts for everyone, especially during Christmas. Amy Jo will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Amy Jo is survived by some aunts, uncles, cousins and of course, her kitty "Tac". She was preceded in death by her grandparents, mother and some aunts.

No services will be held. A private interment will take place at a later date at the Luther Memorial Cemetery in the town of Schley.

Amy Jo's family would like to extend a sincere thank you to the staff at Rib Lake Health Services and Hope Hospice for their care, compassion and comfort they had shown to Amy Jo during her last days.

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.

Glen M. Simonis



Glen M. Simonis, 78, of Merrill, passed away Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at his home under the care of his wife and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services.

Glen was born November 6, 1945, in Wausau, son of C. Dean and Gladys (Leitermann) Simonis. Glen was raised in Mosinee and graduated from Mosinee High School. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1964 and spent four

years on U.S.S. Vogelgesang (DD-862) a Gearing-class destroyer. He was a Machinist Mate 3rd Class MM3. He crossed the equator and became a shellback. Glen did a tour to Vietnam that lasted one year. He also did a Mediterranean Cruise with his brother, Chuck, prior to being honorably discharged from service in 1968. More recently, Glen was able to join the honor flight to Washington D.C.

Glen worked as a senior underwriter at Church Mutual Insurance for 29 years and retired in 2006. Glen married Lori Heckendorf on May 1, 1987, at St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Merrill. She survives. Glen and Lori enjoyed traveling, especially visiting the west coast and taking multiple trips to Mexico. Glen was an avid reader. He and Lori enjoyed the technology of a Kindle so they didn't have to bring a suitcase full of books along on their vacations.

Glen enjoyed working on various craft projects including counted cross stitch. He won an award for his entry at the Lincoln County Fair. He also enjoyed woodworking and making tie blankets. Glen's favorite holiday was Christmas: he enjoyed shopping, wrapping gifts, and decorating. He liked bow hunting and rifle hunting. Glen was a Green Bay Packer and Wisconsin Badger fan.

Survivors include his wife, Lori Simonis of Merrill; son, Dean Simonis of Wausau; brothers, Charles 'Chuck' Simonis of Denver, Colorado and John (Linda) Simonis of Mosinee; brother-in-law, Mark (Beth) Heckendorf of Merrill; and several nieces and nephews. Glen was preceded in death by his parents, C. Dean Simonis and Gladys Simonis Giacalone.

The memorial service for Glen was held at 11:00 A.M., Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Merrill. The Rev. Michael Southcombe officiated. Military funeral honors took place immediately following the memorial service at church and were conducted by V.F.W. Post 1638, Merrill. The family received friends beginning at 9:00 A.M., Wednesday at church. Taylor-Stine Funeral & Cremation, Merrill, is assisting the family.

The family recommends you wear you Packer or Badger gear or come in something more comfortable.

Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstine.com

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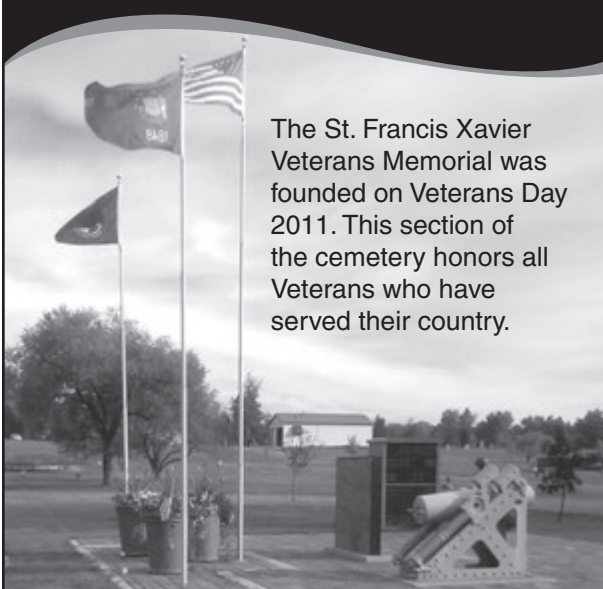
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Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Nov. 7 - Bingo at St. Francis School
Nov. 7 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Company
Nov. 8 - Free Swing Dance Basic Lessons at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Nov. 8 - Murder at the Murder Myster - Merrill Theatre Jays play at Merrill High School Auditorium
Nov. 9 - Murder at the Murder Myster - Merrill Theatre Jays play at Merrill High School Auditorium
Nov. 9 - Annual Merrill Area Fall Craft & Vendor Sales: Multiple sales at various locations
Nov. 9 - The Real Writers group at T.B. Scott Library
Nov. 10 - Bingo at the VFW
Nov. 13 - Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Company
Nov. 13 - Turkey Time Music Party at Agra Pavilion [Kids event sponsored by Merrill Area Park & Rec]
Nov. 14 - MACA Concert: Jeremy Stolle: No More Talk of Darkness
Nov. 14 - Merrill Chamber Business After Hours at Ballyhoo's
Nov. 14 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Company
Nov. 16 - Poker Run
Nov. 16 - Devils Creek Stump Jumpers Snowmobile Club Sportsmen's Dance and Raffle at Kathy & Cal's
Nov. 17 - Scott Heidemann Chili Cook-off at Calvary Lutheran Church
Nov. 21 - "Soup's On" Cook-off fundraiser at Nicolet Bank
Nov. 21 - Cover to Cover Book Club at T.B. Scott Free Library
Nov. 21 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Company
For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/events or contact the event sponsor.



Last year's craft show included multiple vendors selling handmade fresh evergreen wreaths, kissing balls, and arrangements, perfect for Christmas decorating. 2023 photo. Tina L. Scott photo.

Merrill's Craft & Vendor Extravaganza is this weekend

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

On Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, Merrill will host vendors and crafters from around the area and beyond at craft shows around the city at Merrill's Citywide Craft & Vendor Extravaganza. "We have 10 locations this year," said Laura Bares, who helps organize the event. The locations will include area schools and churches, businesses, and non-profit organizations, each with their own specific hours, and some locations have extended their hours to include Friday.

The annual event draws crowds from Merrill and beyond, to the benefit of the entire community, and is the perfect place to kick off Christmas shopping to find and purchase special handcrafted gifts and to discover unique items to decorate for the holidays. Grab a coffee and something sweet at one of the area coffee shops before shopping, pit stop at a local restaurant for lunch in between locations, and enjoy a day of exploration and shopping in Merrill.

Merrill's Citywide Craft & Vendor Extravaganza will include the following locations, also all conveniently detailed on a map at MerrillEvents.com/map:

- Merrill Expo Center (Fair Grounds), 303 N. Sales St., Merrill - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes, 1208 N. Center Ave., Merrill - 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- St. John's School Gymnasium, 1104 E. Third St., Merrill - 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- St. Francis Xavier Church, 1708 E. 10th St., Merrill - 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Merrill High School Fieldhouse, 1201 N. Sales St., Merrill - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- New Testament Church, N2519 Cty. Rd. K, Merrill - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- VFW Post 1638, 601 Johnson St., Merrill - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Kate Goodrich Elementary School, 505 W. 10th St., Merrill - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Holiday Market - Lange Machine Building, 11580 S. Co. Rd K, Merrill - Friday 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Vintage & Uniques - Agra Pavilion, 404 S. Park St., Merrill - 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. both Friday and Saturday

Merrill's City Wide Craft & Vendor Extravaganza

Hundreds of Crafters & Vendors at 10 Locations!
Saturday, Nov. 9th
Different Crafters & Vendors at Each Location!

St. John's School Gymnasium 8:30am to 3pm 1104 E 3rd St.	Merrill High School Fieldhouse 9am-3pm 1201 N Sales St
Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes 8:30am to 3pm 1208 N Center Ave.	St. Francis Xavier Church 8:30am-3pm 1708 E 10th St
New Testament Church 9am-3pm N2519 Co Rd K	VFW Post 1638 9am-3pm 601 Johnson St.
Holiday Market Fri 3:30pm to 6:30pm Sat 9am to 4:30pm Lange Machine Building 11580 S. Co. Rd K	Vintage & Uniques Fri & Sat 7am-4pm Agra Pavilion 404 S Park St.
Kate Goodrich Elementary School 9am-3pm 505 W 10th St.	Merrill Expo Center (fairgrounds) 8am-3pm 303 N Sales St.

Easily find all locations with our easy online map at MerrillEvents.com/map or scan the QR code

SCAN ME



The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to send a big thank you to Diana Hanneman and Taylyn Brooks. They put together a craft event at Sola Salons in Wausau the weekend of Aug. 24, 2024, and raised \$900 for the pets at the shelter from 20 raffle baskets. Thanks to Sola Salon, crafters, El Mezcal, Starbucks, Bath & Body Works, Five Guys, Jersey Mike's, Gloss, Dollar Tree Merrill and Rib Mountain, Panda Express, Fazoli's and JoAnn's Fabric for all donating items for raffle baskets. Submitted photo.



Costumed little ones go from table to table collecting treats at Pine Crest Nursing Home on Halloween afternoon.

Hannah Davis-Reid photo.



Rose Wendorf and her therapy dog, dressed as a triceratops. Hannah Davis-Reid photo.

Trick-or-treaters visit Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill

BY HANNAH DAVIS-REID
WXPR

Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill was busy on Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024, as trick-or-treaters collected candy from residents for Halloween.

Diana Zimmerman's father, John Sladek, is a resident at the nursing home.

"It's such a nice thing that the Pine Crest Nursing Home does, they open it up and people donate candy throughout the whole community, and

then they let it open up for the kids to come through. It's entertainment for the residents that live here, and then also all the kids can go around collecting candy," she said.

Her father talked about the benefits of trick-or-treating at the nursing home.

"They all could be in one place. Don't have to worry about them going off by themselves, and you never know what street they're going to go on this way, they're all here. They're watching, they're taken

care of, and they get all the candy they want," said Sladek.

One trick or treat explained that her mom works at Pine Crest and every year, she trick-or-treats here with her family.

"I'm dressed up as a clown," she said.

Another trick-or-treater was dressed up as Sully from Monsters Inc.

"We will go to have candy," he said.

One family was dressed up like the family from the Incredibles, Violet and Jack-Jack included.

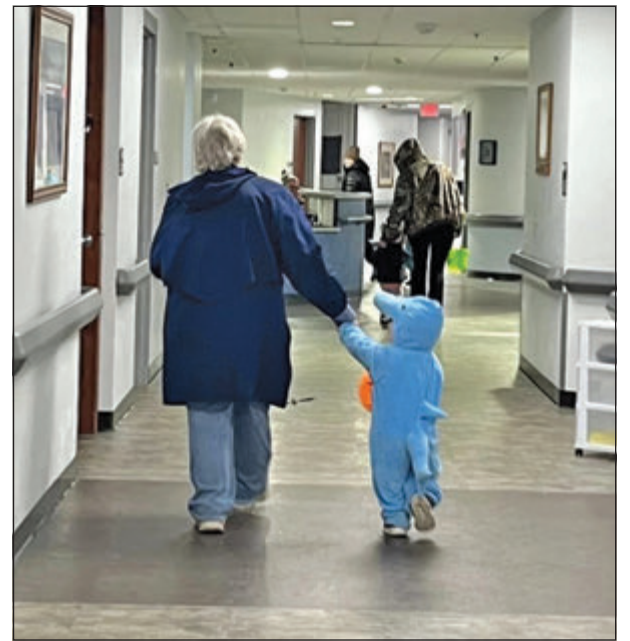
"It's been in the community for a while, so we like to come here, especially when it's gross outside," said a trick-or-treater.

Last Thursday night, the temperature was in the 40's and rainy, so many trick-or-treaters said they were finding respite from the bad weather at Pine Crest.

"We're gonna stop here for our last stop and hopefully get a couple more pieces of candy before we melt in the rain," a trick-or-treater said.

Rose Wendorf is a member of the Alliance of Therapy Dogs and brought her therapy dog, dressed as a triceratops, to visit family and trick-or-treat.

"It's a little more crowded than I figured it was going to be," said Wendorf.



Trick-or-treaters walk down the halls at Pine Crest Nursing Home. Hannah Davis-Reid photo.



Tomahawk Ace Hardware held a brat fry fundraiser during the Fall Ride and donated all proceeds to the Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS). Shown, a representative from both Tomahawk Ace Hardware and the LCHS hold a check representing the \$341 donation. Submitted photo.



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- ◆ Longshots Pearson Smokehouse
- ◆ Eric Dayton
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- ◆ Bubba & Karen Yellstrom
- ◆ Ben & Karie Jo Debroux

Also, thanks to the hundreds of other donors who gave \$10 to ride with us and to benefit so many local organizations which helped us raise over \$25,000 for our community! We couldn't have done it without you!

How you can help older veterans

According to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs, surveys from the Pew Research Center, and the U.S. Census Bureau, 72% of the 18 million living military veterans in the United States [as of the end of 2023] are age 50 and older, and many served during wartime, and 37% of living veterans are age 70 and older.

These brave individuals must face the challenges of aging, as well as some - including chronic injuries - that might be traced to their time in the military. That makes helping aging veterans an especially worthy endeavor, and those interested in doing just that can consider the following ideas.

- **Offer your expertise free of charge.** Working professionals can help aging veterans by providing advice or services free of charge or at steep discounts. For example, accountants can offer to prepare and file aging veterans' tax returns free of charge or, if the returns are complicated, at steep discounts. Financial advisors can visit a local veterans hall or home and speak to members or residents about managing money after retirement.



Stock photo.

- **Invite veterans over for special events or gatherings.** The Department of Veterans Affairs reports that veterans who served in the last 30 years make up the largest number of living veterans. Though there are still plenty of veterans who served prior to 1994, they may no longer have extensive social networks as more and more aging veterans pass away. Social connections are vital to long-term health, and researchers at the Center for Healthy Aging at Penn State University found that adults between the ages of

70 and 90 who reported more frequent, pleasant social interactions exhibited improved cognitive performance in the ensuing days. Individuals who want to help aging veterans can invite them over for special events, such as game watches, holiday gatherings, or even weekly family meals.

- **Pitch in around the house.** Whether they suffered injuries during their time in the service or not, many aging veterans face the same physical limitations as others approaching or past retirement age. Offer to help aging veterans around the house. Mobility issues can make it hard to mow a lawn, tend to a garden, or clean the interior of a home. Such tasks are made much easier when others pitch in, and these gestures can be a great way for families to show their appreciation to the brave individuals who protected the freedoms Americans enjoy each day.

There's no shortage of ways to help aging veterans, many of whom could use a helping hand as they navigate their golden years.

The roles of the of the U.S. military

Veterans Day is a great time to learn more about the branches of the U.S. military.

ARMY

The U.S. Department of Defense notes that the Army is the largest and oldest service in the country's military. The Army provides the ground forces that protect the United States. Members of the Army are trained to defeat enemy ground forces and to seize and control enemy lands and resources. Army also are trained to control and interact with the general population in countries where members are stationed.

MARINE CORPS.

It might surprise some to learn that the Marine Corps is a component of the Department of the Navy. That's one reason why it maintains amphibious and ground units for contingency and combat operations. The Marine Corps is divided into four groups: the operating forces that fight; the headquarters for leadership; the supporting establishment that provides logistical support; and the Marine Corps Reserve.

NAVY

The Navy protects America at sea. Despite its massive land mass, the United States is a maritime nation, which underscores how important a strong Navy is to the safety of the country and its residents. The Navy works alongside American allies and partners to keep the seas open and free.



Stock photo.

AIR FORCE

The Air Force has five core missions: air superiority; global strike; rapid global mobility; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and command and control. The Air Force defends the country and its residents in air, space, and cyberspace and is capable of delivering forces anywhere in the world within hours.

SPACE FORCE

The existence of the Space Force may come as a surprise to many Americans. Organized under the Department of the Air Force and established in 2019, this branch of the military organizes, trains, and equips space forces in order to protect the interest of America and its allies in space.

COAST GUARD

During peacetime, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security. In times of war, it operates under the Navy. The Coast Guard provides

law and maritime safety enforcement as well as environmental protection. In addition to promoting national security, border security, and economic prosperity in the maritime environment, the Coast Guard saves those in peril on the sea.

NATIONAL GUARD

The National Guard is comprised of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The National Guard has a diverse array of responsibilities that range from supporting combat missions to responding during domestic emergencies to assisting in humanitarian efforts and more.

The U.S. military is made up various branches, each with its own unique missions and responsibilities. Veterans Day marks the perfect occasion to celebrate the many individuals who have served and continue to serve in the U.S. military.

Jimena was selected as Student of the Week because she is always kind and goes out of her way to help others. She consistently tries her best in everything she does and loves to make others smile! Her efforts and cheerful attitude make her a wonderful role model for others! ~ Mrs. Hahn

MERRILL VETERANS DAY



Monday, November 11, 2024

11:00 AM

Park VFW Post 1638 Ceremony at WWI Memorial

THANK YOU VETERANS!

*We salute your service, and wish you
a happy Veterans Day.*

**We are again celebrating Veterans Day. Following are the schools
at all veterans and friends of veterans are invited to attend:**

Monday, November 11: Kate Goodrich School - 8:30 AM

Monday, November 11: Merrill High School - 9:10 AM

Monday, November 11: Washington School - 2:00 PM

Monday, November 13: Prairie River Middle School - 1:30 PM

Monday, November 13: St. John Lutheran School - 10:00 AM

**(Following the program, lunch for all veterans
and families/friends will be served)**



THANK YOU, VETERANS!



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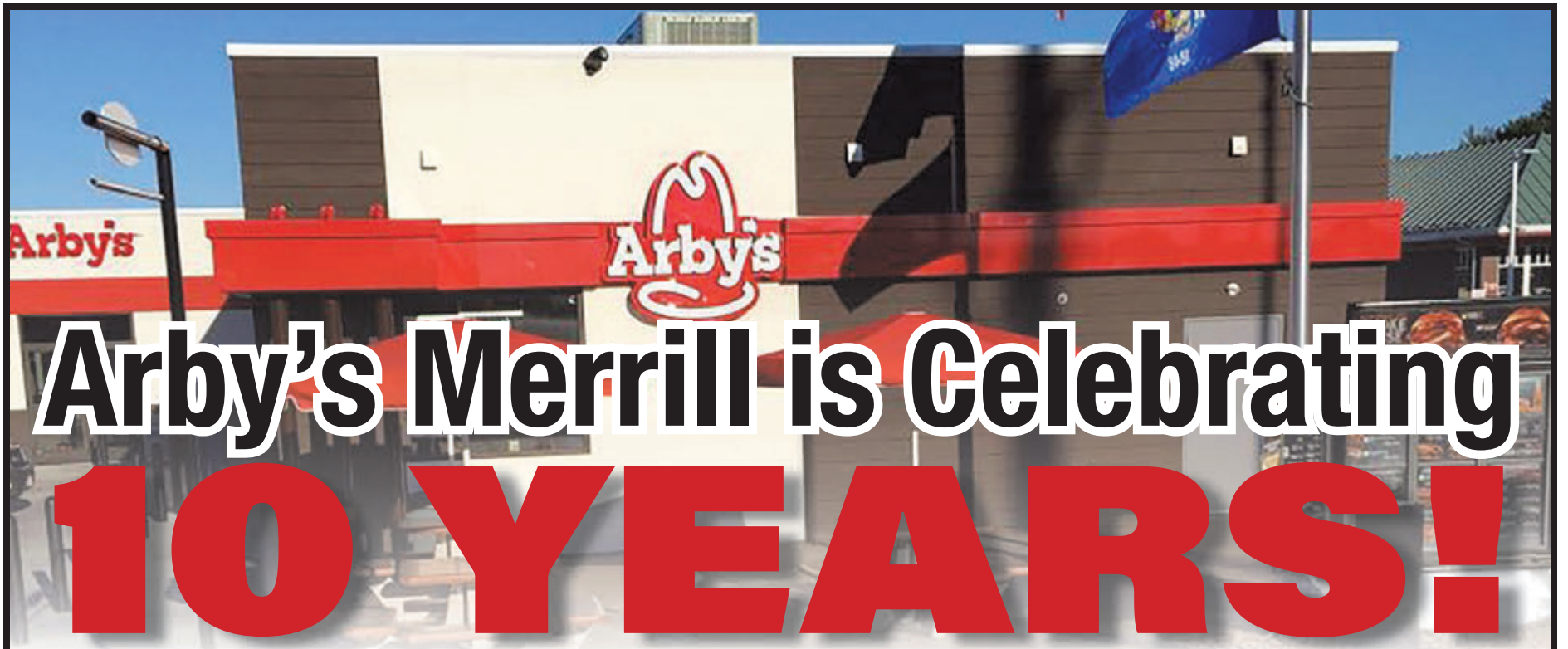
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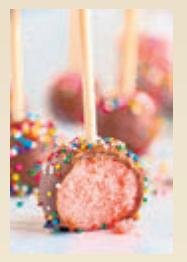
Friday, November 8th – Sunday, November 10th

All weekend long – 10% OFF all purchases



Saturday, November 9th

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 A 4-pack of all day indoor water park passes to Chula Vista Resort in WI Dells!



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 Each manager has a donation bucket, and the one with the most will win a "Pie In The Face" and some great prizes!



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- **2019** To current we received Triple Ace scores on our Arby's Operational Review Inspections.
- **2020** We received an award for having the Highest Comp Sales increase in our division of 400+ stores.
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CLASSIFIEDS

General Employment 7110

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Classifieds Rock
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Announcements 7005

Christmas Bazaar
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 235 N. Stevens St. Rhinelander
 Saturday, November 9, 10am-2pm

Featuring Trinity's famous Lefse, delicious bakery, beautifully handcrafted items including Christmas wreaths and decorations, collectables and fun White-Elephant items.

Women of Trinity are preparing a delicious luncheon consisting of several soup choices, BBQ sandwich w/chips, homemade pies, and beverages. Enjoy our "warm welcome" coffee/tea and Christmas cookies served 9am-10am while you wait for the event to open. Christmas Bazaar is sponsored by WELCA Women and money will be used for Lutheran World Relief Mission projects.

You've Got It! Somebody Else Wants It! Check The Classifieds.

Rummage Sales This Week 7200

Sale of storage contents. Washer-dryer set, kayak, and lots of misc. Lighthouse storage W. 2nd Street, Merrill, Saturday November 9, 8-4.

Estate Sales 7208

Moving Sale by V&J Estate Sale
 232488 Sandy Ridge Lane, Wausau, WI
 Nov. 9th and 10th
 Sat. 10-3 and Sun. 10-2

King size bed w/mattress, dressers, nightstands. Platform queen bed w/mattress. Side chairs, roll top desk, file cabinet, two leather reclining sofas, table and chairs, televisions, entertainment centers, women's clothes size lg. Men's clothes size XXL. Crafting supplies, stain glass, beading looms, beads, felting, knitting. 2005 400 4x4 ATV with plow. Lawn cart, leaf sweeper, camping supplies, ladder, RV mattress, lawn tools, mini fridge, luggage, kitchen items, helmets.

Please be mindful of neighbors' driveways and mailboxes. Dress appropriately for the weather, sign-up sheet out by 9am.

Adaptive Equipment 7230

For Sale: Vive 3-wheel mobility scooter, model MOB1025, \$600. Spitfire 4-wheel scooter, model SFSscout 4, \$600. Silver Spring scooter & wheelchair carrier, model SC500V3, \$100. Call 715-359-0914, 8am-9pm.

Furniture and Home Decor 7236

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Wanted to Buy 7268

COLLECTIONS OF OLD BASEBALL & FOOTBALL CARDS. From the 1950s, 60s, 70s & older. Vintage sport memorabilia autographs bobbleheads & Packers/Braves items. Check your attic, basement & closets. We pay in CASH call Jeff 608-438-7702

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Dogs 7272

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AUSSIE DOODLE PUPS Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$700-\$900 715-255-2661 (#269146)11/4)

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CLASSIFIEDS

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REAL ESTATE



SOLICITATION OF BIDS

The Estate of Michael J. Howland solicits bids for the purchase of the residence located at N2542 County Road JJ in the Town of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. The home will be sold with approximately two (2) acres of land. This 1544 square foot three (3) bedroom, two (2) bath ranch home features an attached two (2) car garage.

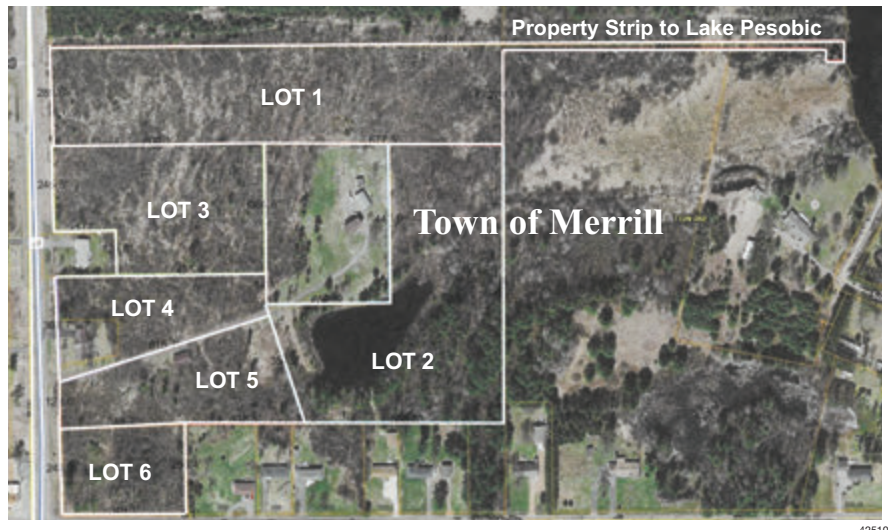
bid contingent upon an inspection. Title to the premises shall be conveyed by Personal Representative's deed except restrictions, reservations, easements, agreements, covenants and rights-of-way of record.

Five (5) additional vacant land parcels are available ranging in size from two (2) to eight (8) acres; including one parcel that has a well, septic system and garage, and another parcel that includes a strip of land with frontage extending to Lake Pesobic.

The Personal Representative reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid or combination of bids he deems most satisfactory in his sole discretion. Terms of sale: \$2,500 within seven (7) days of notification of acceptance of bid and balance of bid price in cash at time of closing, with closing to be within thirty (30) days of notification of acceptance of bid. All bids shall be sealed in an envelope marked "Howland Estate Bid" and sent by first class mail to Attorney Craig J. Nienow, N5041 County Road JJ, Irma, WI 54442.

The premises may be inspected on **Saturday, November 16th from 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.** The premises and improvements are being sold in **AS IS** condition without any warranties or representations of any nature whatsoever. All bidders are encouraged to thoroughly inspect the premises and may make their

Bids will be examined on the 27th day of November, 2024. The successful bidder, if any, will be notified on or before the 4th day of December, 2024.



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 It's Hard To Stop A Trane?

New program aims to expand access to driver education courses for low-income Wisconsin teens

Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) last week announced the launch of Wisconsin's new Driver Education Grant Program.

A release from Evers' office said the program "aims to reduce barriers for low-income students to take driver education courses and become licensed drivers, while promoting safe driving and safer roads."

Last year, Evers signed 2023 Wisconsin Act 86 into law, creating a driver education grant program to pay the costs of driver education courses for certain low-income eligible students at approved driver education providers. Funded by \$6



million set aside in the governor's 2023-25 biennial budget, the program covers a driving school's fees for 30 hours of classroom time, 6 hours of observation, and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel driver training, according to the release.

The release said the tuition will be paid directly to the driving school. The funds will be made available to eligible applicants on a first-come,

first-served basis until the available funds are depleted.

"WisDOT's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) developed a streamlined process to deliver this program," the release said.

Teens who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch can apply to have their classroom and behind-the-wheel driver training paid for by the state, according to the release. Students receiving grants may enroll in any driver education program offered by an authorized provider, such as a public school, CESA program, Tribal or private school, or DMV-licensed driver training school.

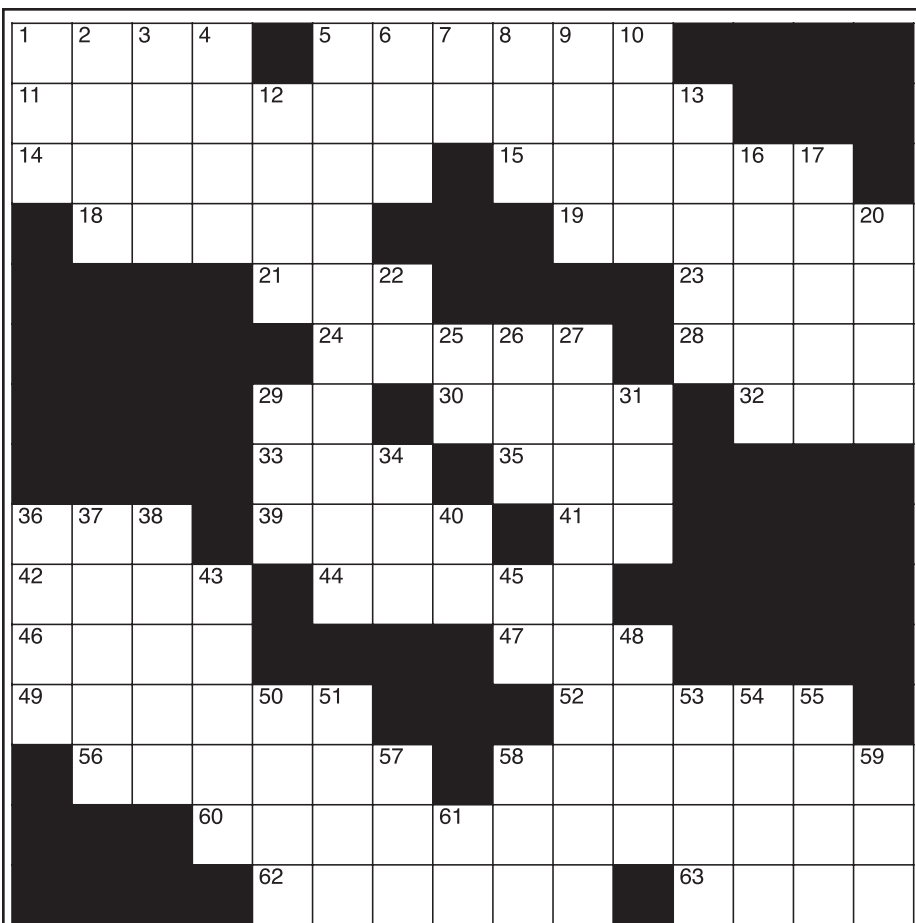
Enrolled students will receive a confirmation email with a coupon code

that they will then provide to the driver training school. The school enters the coupon number with the student record, and the driving school will be reimbursed for the course fee.

"Expanding access to driver education for students across the state makes our kids and drivers safer, our streets safer, and our communities safer," Evers said. "Tackling reckless

and dangerous driving across our state has been an important priority for our administration, and I'm glad it's an issue that finally received bipartisan attention and support last session. This program will help take the financial burden out of providing kids with quality driver education for low-income families and ensure we are setting them up for success by becoming licensed drivers."

"Affordable driver training is a tool in our toolbox to help us improve safety on our roads," said WisDOT Deputy Secretary Kristina Boardman. "This innovative program gives more of our young people the vital education they need to become safe drivers. We've made the enrollment process easy for the student and straightforward for the authorized driver training provider."



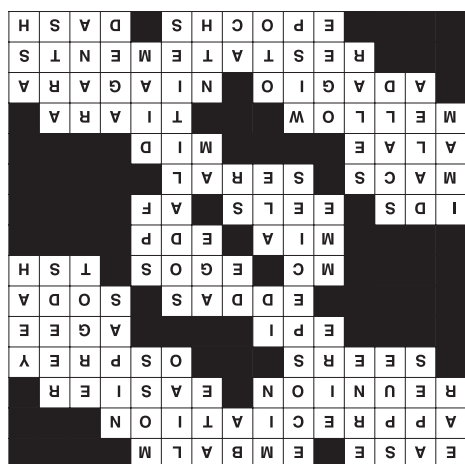
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Absence of effort
- 5. Preserve a dead body
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. The act of coming together again
- 15. Simpler
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Large, fish-eating bird
- 21. Indicates near
- 23. Former CIA agent and critic
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. "Hammer" is one
- 30. Senses of self-importance
- 32. Thyrotrophic hormone
- 33. Not around
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Licenses and passports are two types
- 39. Snakelike fish
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Popular computers
- 44. Of a withered nature
- 46. Wings
- 47. Used in combination
- 49. Laid back
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. ___ Falls
- 60. Assertions made again
- 62. Periods of history
- 63. Hyphen

- 2. Mimics
- 3. Expel large quantities rapidly
- 4. Sea eagle
- 5. A type of subdivision
- 6. Variety of Chinese
- 7. Mr. T's name on "The A-Team"
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL great Randy
- 12. Ireland
- 13. Palm trees with creeping roots
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Impressionable persons
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. Instinctive part of the mind
- 25. "The First State"
- 26. A way to develop
- 27. Fraternities

- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Beer
- 36. Spiritual leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Junior's father
- 43. Ray-finned fishes
- 45. Morning
- 48. Line passing side to side through the center (abbr.)
- 50. Double curve
- 51. A small bundle of straw or hay
- 53. Got older
- 54. Crater on Mars
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Relating to the ears
- 58. "To the ___ degree"
- 59. Residue of a burned product
- 61. It cools a home



CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body part



Tim & Jess Seeger of Merrill recently got married and asked guests to bring items for the pet at Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS) in lieu of the traditional gifts. They collected all of the items shown in this photo, plus \$291 and a Tractor Supply gift card! "Thank you so much for thinking of the shelter on our special day!" LCHS staff said.

Submitted photo.

New online tool for analyzing water quality of lakes, streams now available

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) last week announced the release of the Wisconsin Water Explorer, a web-based tool that can help Wisconsin residents address concerns about the quality of water in their local lakes or rivers.

The tool is available online at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/WEx.html.

A release from DNR said answering water quality questions requires sophisticated computer software and extensive datasets.

"The Wisconsin Water Explorer tool makes scientific data analysis accessible to the public by automating the process of finding and analyzing data," DNR said. "The tool provides insights into current conditions and trends through graphs, maps, and automated reports."

DNR said the Wisconsin Water Explorer tool also consolidates several water quality tools into one platform. For example, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network volunteers can now access and share



Taken in Washburn County, Wisconsin.

Jen Tepp Photo.

automated annual reports summarizing data from their respective lakes.

Paul Skawinski, statewide educator for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, said he appreciates the Wisconsin Water Explorer tool's ease of use.

"Both volunteers and staff use Wisconsin Water Explorer to quickly generate and download PDF reports and graphs to understand how a lake's water quality has changed over time," Skawinski said. "It's very easy to print these files or share them with other interested people around the lake."

The Wisconsin Water Explorer includes an updated version of the Wisconsin Lake

Modeling Suite to help non-technicians analyze whether a lake adheres to water quality standards, identify likely sources of pollution, and determine the necessary level of improvement for restoration.

Those interested in participating in water quality monitoring in their area are encouraged to join the DNR's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network or Water Action Volunteers or to reach out to their local water quality biologist.

For additional information regarding water quality activities at the DNR, visit the Water Quality Bureau's Surface Water webpage at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/surfacewater.



Members of the Ozaukee Guzzlers North M.C. present a donation for \$2,500 to Betty Stillman with the Nokomis food pantry.

Submitted photo.

Fall Memory Cafe soft opening at T.B. Scott Library

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

The T.B. Scott Free Library in Merrill will hold a soft opening for their new Memory Cafe event on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. in the Community Room at the library [106 W. First St. in Merrill].

Staff at the T.B. Scott Free Library are working together with Compassus, a service that provides individuals with in-home health care for a variety of circumstances, to provide this opportunity.

Memory Cafés are for those experiencing early

stage dementia, mild memory loss, or cognitive impairment and their care partners, family, or friends, a press release from the library said.

“The idea of a Memory Café was created in 1997 in the Netherlands as a way of breaking through the shame of a subject that was rarely talked about - Alzheimer’s Disease,” said Maria Pregler, Head of Adult Services at the T.B. Scott Free Library. “Our idea for the Memory Café program was prompted by a growing community need. The library often sees caregivers and their loved

ones coming in looking for ways to stimulate memories and conversation, which is where the Memory Café may help.”

“We envision bringing people together who are facing the same challenges with dementia, either as the person with the disease or the individual who cares for the person, in the hopes that the program fosters relationships that continue to grow outside of the Memory Café,” she said. “We will offer crafts, games, entertainment, and snacks, as well as other library and community resources that can assist in making their

lives a little easier.”

The T.B. Scott Free Library intends the Memory Café to be a monthly event facilitated by volunteers who are trained in dementia care and related issues.

“Have some fun, socialize, and be yourself,” organizers invite. This first November Memory Café will have a Thanksgiving theme, enable attendees to get to know one another, and allow attendees to make a sweet treat turkey to take home.

Registration is required. Call 715.536.7191 for more information or to register.

| BRIEFS |

LCHS August Donors

The Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS) would like to thank the following donors for their support in August:

UnitedHealth Group; Judith Anderson; Sara Schenzel; Meghan Stevenson; Dean Barker; Jonathan Kuehn; Nadine Appel; Cecil Ballou; Elise Lang; Bobb Bergman; United Parcel Service Oasis Supply; Jo Ann Brandenburg; Edwin Burr Gipple; Dawn Gourlie; Marlene Graap; Diane Witscheber; Pamela Welch; Janet Selnes; Merrill Movieland Event; Donna Schneider; Darlene Raunio; Russell & Nancy Putnam; Kendra Hawley; Mark Smith; Ivy Catlin; Hy-da Way Bar; Anonymous; Mary Jaax; John Lazarz; William Rose; James & Jane Parsons;

Michael & Jill Oemichen; Tasha Jaeger; Sharayah Lee; Amy Marthenze; Taylyn Brooks; Diana Hannemann; Ryan & Shelly Schilling; Barbara Dalsky Dern; Denvert Woller; Linda Tompach; Paypal Giving Fund; Kent & Sue Aschbrenner; Charities Aid Foundation America; and Hilary Scully.

The Lincoln County Humane Society would also like to thank the following donors for sponsoring adoption fees in August:

Mary Austin; Megan Proulx; Becky Riiser; Stephanie Terpstra; Scott Olson; Barbara Dalsky Dern; Kathleen Tobin; and Jennifer Kreft.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

LCHS August Honorariums

The Lincoln County Humane Society would like to thank everyone who donated in honor of a loved one in August:

Phyllis Fausch by anonymous; KC the cat by Kathryn & Randy Pophal; Bailee by Jo & Bill Kolar; Sarah Jean Lange Kitchen by Linda Shimek; Jan Evert by Rick & Judy Lombard; Joan Sodini by Steve & Jessica Thomaschefskey, Penny Callahan, Julie & Al Osness, and Vicki Davis; Carol Mishler by Church Mutual Insurance Company; Shiloh by John & Madelyn Natzke and Beatrice Lebal; Myssa by Mary Austin; Jenny Grattinger by Rachel Zblewski, Edward & Mary Lee Steigerwaldt, and Thomas & Sarah Galloy;

Karen Jaeger by Brad & Tammy Woller and June Gempler; Harlow by Terri; Estelle Klemp by Jane Chapleau and Linda Hass; Val Grunenwald by Daniel & Jane Schulz, Sam & Gene Krause, and Vonya Ellsworth; Karen Thielig by Peggy Bauman; Eugene Rowe by Mary Ann Kufahl, Harvey & Terri Thomaschefskey, Ronald & Mariann Allen, and Jane Rowe; Judy Kaminski by Darrel & Melissa Dengel; Pete Lokemoen by Mariann & Steve Hanig; Scott Pfaff by Gerald & Dawn Schmidt; Jeff Radloff by Peggy & Bob Bauman; CJ by Peggy & Bob Bauman; and Wayne Bondioli by Bruckert Family.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

2024 P.E.O. Flower Sale

In May 2024, P.E.O. Chapter AA of Merrill hosted a flower basket fundraiser. P.E.O. is a Philanthropic Educational Organization, where women celebrate the advancement of women and contribute to the education of women through scholarships, grants, loans, awards for continuing education, and stewardship of Cottey College. P.E.O. was founded in 1869 as a seven-member sorority at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and strives to motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations. The organization was originally rooted in the philosophy and institutions of the Methodist Church, which actively promoted women’s rights and education in America during the 19th century.

The sisterhood today aims to serve women worldwide and welcomes women of all races, religions, and backgrounds.



Members of the P.E.O. Chapter AA of Merrill with some of their flower baskets. Submitted photo.

It has evolved into a diverse, community-based organization with 5,632 chapters and approximately 197,000 members in each of the 50 United States,

District of Columbia, and in six Canadian provinces.

For the past three years local P.E.O. members have sold flower baskets as their primary fundraising effort to generate support for their projects.

Members said they had a fun day sharing the beauty of the flowers and P.E.O. with the Merrill area community and raised approximately \$2,200.

Over the years Chapter AA has assisted local women with awards of various amounts for various purposes.

“We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who has supported P.E.O. through the years,” P.E.O. members said. For more information, go to peointernational.org or contact any of their local Chapter officers: Kathy Spencer, President; or Kay Smith, Carolyn Saunders, Cheryl Schultz, Kelly Purmal, Mary Owens, or Laurie Johnston.

Check us out online! merrillfotonews.com

DNR: Source local firewood this fall to help protect Wisconsin’s forests

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is urging Wisconsinites and state visitors to think twice before giving invasive species or harmful hitchhikers a ride in their firewood this fall.

As part of National Firewood Awareness Month, the DNR is asking the public help prevent the spread of invasive pests and harmful insects by making smart firewood choices.

“Tree-killing hitchhikers often lurk on or inside firewood,” DNR said. “These include the spongy moth, emerald ash borer, the fungus that causes oak wilt, and many other invasive insects and fungi. Your firewood choices are important, and with good practice, you can help slow the spread of these tree-killing pests and diseases.”

When untreated firewood is transported away from the tree where it was harvested, those pests and fungi can later emerge to attack trees

at the new location. This can happen whether that new location is in the next town or hundreds of miles away.

DNR said the risk of spreading spongy moth on firewood remains high this fall.

“Although infestation rates in 2024 were not as high as the record-setting summer of 2023, many areas in the state still saw high caterpillar numbers,” DNR stated. “That means increased numbers of egg masses and an elevated risk of spreading those egg masses to less-infested areas through firewood.”

Wisconsin has laws to help prevent the movement of spongy moth, focusing on the risk posed by firewood, DNR noted.

• A state spongy moth quarantine prohibits the movement of firewood and other products that can carry spongy moth eggs to counties on and near Wisconsin’s western border

or other states where the pest is not established.

• Uncertified firewood from more than 10 miles away is prohibited from entering state parks, state forests or other DNR properties. The DNR’s Firewood Rules and Resources webpage (dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/firewood) explains firewood regulations.

• County, federal and private campgrounds may have similar firewood restrictions. If moving firewood to or through tribal properties in Wisconsin, contact the tribe and follow its policy on allowable firewood.

The Don’t Move Firewood website (dontmovefirewood.org/) urges people to “buy local, burn local.”

“That means purchasing firewood for your camping trip on-site instead of bringing it from home or picking it up along the

way,” DNR stated. “It’s also strongly recommended that campers leave any unused firewood behind. It’s not worth bringing a pest home to infest your property. The same guidelines stand for those who use wood to heat their cabin or home. Closer is better. You don’t want to put the trees on your property at risk from hitchhiking insects or fungi.”

However, firewood that has been treatment-certified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is safe and legal to take anywhere in the state.

All staffed state parks and forests with campgrounds offer local firewood for sale, and firewood is often available for purchase privately nearby. To find local firewood sellers and vendors of certified firewood, visit the Firewood Scout website at firewoodscout.org/.

SUDOKU grid with some numbers filled in. Level: Intermediate

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Completed 9x9 Sudoku grid.

MOVIES YOU GOTTA SEE

Why 'The Other Guys' belongs on the Will Ferrell Mount Rushmore

BY JALEN MAKI

There are few comedic actors working today who are more iconic than Will Ferrell. He's one of the greatest Saturday Night Live cast members of all-time, and he's starred in some of the most beloved comedy movies of the last 20-plus years. One Ferrell film that kind of flew under the radar, yet deserves the same praise as his classics, is *The Other Guys*, Adam McKay's 2010 buddy cop action comedy.

Before we dive too deep on Ferrell, here's a quick setup of *The Other Guys*: Allen Gamble (Ferrell) and Terry Hoitz (Mark Wahlberg) are NYPD officers. The film is aptly named, because they're also, well, the other guys: while hotshot detectives P.K. Highsmith (Samuel L. Jackson) and Christopher Danson (Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson) are out on the streets, breaking cases open, making headlines, and generally just being super cool, Allen and Terry are stuck in the office. Allen's a mild-mannered accountant, so desk duty's right up his alley, but Terry's a former up-and-comer on the force who's been partnered with Allen as punishment because he accidentally shot and mildly wounded New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter during the World Series (the story is depicted with the help of a great Jeter cameo and rehashed in a hilarious group therapy scene where Terry's Yankee fan colleagues could not be less supportive of him). When Highsmith and Danson meet one of the most baffling yet hilarious movie demises ever, there's a power and coolness vacuum within the precinct, and Terry wants to seize the day by doing some real police work. Allen, however, very much does not want to do that, but they soon (and somewhat accidentally) find themselves on a major case: What started as a simple scaffolding permit violation turns out to be a much bigger scandal, and it's up to Allen and Terry to save the day, despite pressure



to drop the case from numerous sources, including their Captain, Gene Mauch (the unbelievable Michael Keaton, who we'll get to later).

Ok, back to Ferrell. Although it was underappreciated when it first came out, *The Other Guys* has seemingly grown on people as years have passed, and for Ferrell fans, it's now considered by many to be in or near the upper echelon of his filmography. I'll take it a step further: I believe *The Other Guys* belongs on the Will Ferrell Mount Rushmore.

If you're putting together a collection of Ferrell's four greatest films, I think there are three locks, and folks, I love these dang movies. The first is Todd Phillips' 2003 frat comedy *Old School*, because Frank the Tank is a legendary Ferrell character; 2004's *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*, also directed by McKay, is one of the most influential comedies of the 21st

century, and a favorite movie of mine; and McKay's 2008 film *Step Brothers* is adored by Ferrell fans and has more than earned a spot on the monument.

In looking up and down Ferrell's filmography, there are a few cases you could make for the fourth and final spot on the monument. If you're counting out *The Other Guys*, then *Elf* and *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby* are probably the front runners here. Real Ferrell Heads might even try to sell you on 1998's *A Night at the Roxbury* or 2007's *Blades of Glory*. But the goal of a comedy is to make the audience laugh, and I think *The Other Guys* is simply funnier than all of these movies.

When you boil it down, *The Other Guys* is really just a nonstop series of top-tier bits, and it's hard to believe 1.) The rate at which they're cranked out; and 2.) How many of them not only work, but *crush*. It seems like every 30 seconds, there's a joke that's possibly the funniest thing ever said in a film. With the movie being chock full of great goofs, it's super rewarding to revisit, because there's always a different bit that stands out. The one that killed me on my most recent rewatch involves Allen and Terry going to an Irish pub, where Allen joins a group of men in singing an unbelievably morose shanty (or maybe it's just a song? Not sure of the correct genre definition here). When Terry asks Allen if he enjoys signing such depressing tunes, Allen replies matter-of-factly, "I do. They're full of rich history." For one, the song is hysterical, and two, Allen's response to Terry's question is so brilliantly and hilariously simple, and it captures the kind oddness of his essence with laser-focused precision. It's one of probably 30-plus lines that are just completely tailor-made for Ferrell to deliver. By this stage in their creative partnership, McKay and Ferrell were in a groove, and it absolutely shows throughout *The Other Guys*. The depressing Irish pub song scene is one of many that proves this.

Speaking of McKay and Ferrell, *The Other Guys* is their fourth film team-up, following *Anchorman*, *Talladega Nights*, and *Step Brothers*. These are three hilarious, cherished movies. McKay and Ferrell could've easily phoned it in and cashed a check on their fourth time around, but they each take their respective craft seriously. The writing is as strong in *The Other Guys* as any other film they've done together, and Ferrell's turn as more of a

straight-man rather than a goofball is one of his best. McKay and Ferrell were one of comedy's premier partnerships of the 2000s and the 2010s, and *The Other Guys* is more than just another feather in their caps: it's among their best collaborations.

The final reason why *The Other Guys* belongs on the Will Ferrell Mount Rushmore can be summed up in two words: Michael Keaton. My god, what a performance this man delivers. It's just astoundingly funny. I'm not being hyperbolic when I say it is one of the greatest comedic performances I've ever seen. Everything Keaton does as Mauch is talent and genius personified: his physicality, his line deliveries, his facial expressions, heck, his entire demeanor. Another A+ bit is how Mauch, while in serious conversations with Allen and Terry, quotes lyrics from TLC, the '90s R&B group. When he tells Terry and Allen, "Don't go chasin' waterfalls" while discussing the case, they're sort of taken aback, and they're even more confused when, after some understandable questioning about what just happened, Mauch tells them he doesn't even know who TLC is or what they're talking about. This happens several times in the movie, and it's never clear whether Mauch is quoting TLC by accident or intentionally. It's an incredibly silly running joke, and it certainly could've been a whiff, but Keaton is a master, and with the character he's created, it somehow makes perfect sense. It's just a god-tier performance. Without Keaton, I'm not sure *The Other Guys* quite has the juice to claim the fourth Ferrell Mount Rushmore spot, but his turn as Mauch gets it over the hump and onto the monument.

Taking a step back and looking at Ferrell's four best films, they truly are some of the funniest in recent memory. Few of Ferrell's contemporaries' Rushmores could stand up to his, which is testament to his skill and adoration. Ferrell's legacy will endure for decades to come, and it's due in no small part to *The Other Guys*. I truly believe it's one of Ferrell's greatest films; I didn't include it on the monument on a whim. Because when it comes to the Will Ferrell Mount Rushmore, I don't want no scrubs.

Jalen's columns, "Movies You Gotta See" and "The Free Play," can be found online at www.medium.com/@jalenmaki.

Follow Jalen on Letterboxd at www.letterboxd.com/jalenmaki182/ to see what he's been watching.

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Top Photo: David and Carmen Taggart did a motorcycle ride fundraiser around Lake Michigan and raised money for the pets at the Lincoln County Humane Society (LCHS)! "Such a fun idea!" the staff and volunteers at LCHS said. "Thank you so much for thinking of LCHS and your continued support!" The Taggarts said, "We raised \$863 on Facebook. \$50 donation in our name from Chelsea R., a dog bench, and \$100 in cash. We rode our motorcycle around Lake Michigan, 1,073 miles in under 19 hours on Sept. 7.

We asked that people donate a penny per mile. Some donated much more. We were wanting to raise \$300 and ended up earning \$1,000. Carmen and I were so happy we could help. I suffer from severe PTSD from combat and my time as a cop in North Carolina. Though we have three cats, I come in once a week to play with the cats. It calms me and is very therapeutic." **Bottom Photo:** David and Carmen Taggart on their motorcycle ride fundraiser for LCHS.

Submitted photos.



Four honorary street signs erected and dedicated in 2024

BY TINA L. SCOTT AND MICHAEL CAYLOR, JR.

The City of Merrill Historic Preservation Committee considered nominations for individuals who made significant contributions to the Merrill community during their lifetimes and selected five individuals to be recognized in the community with an honorary street sign. Four such honorary street signs were erected, dedicated, and unveiled thus far in 2024, and the fifth has been postponed to 2025 so that surviving members of the honoree's immediate family who live out of state can make arrangements to attend.

Roger "Budda" English

On Monday, Aug. 26, 2024, an honorary street sign was dedicated to Roger "Budda" [bud-ah] English at the intersection of W. Main and Wright St. in Merrill.

Budda English worked at the Lincoln County Bank – which was formerly located nearby at the corner of W. Main St. and S. Prospect St. – for more than 42 years. His family chose this intersection, as he would have passed by it nearly every day walking to and from work and home for lunch, they said. His path on the west side was cemented in the work he accomplished for the citizens of Merrill and his country.

After graduating from Merrill Senior High School, Budda – always a proud Pointer – attended UW-Stevens Point for two years before he was called into service for the country. Budda served in the United States Army during the Korean War, stationed in Germany. Active in his church, Trinity Lutheran, and the church's school, Budda was also Alderman of the 5th District for more than 25 years.

An outstanding athlete, Budda was also a member



A close-up view of the honorary street sign honoring Robert "Bob" Gruling.



Robert J. B. Klug. Historical photo.

of the Silver M Club, having received both his Silver M and Golden M. Budda was also the very first recipient of the Silver M's Most Valuable Player Award. He served as a past president of the club, and was named Honorary Co-Captain of the team, along with his brother John, during Homecoming of 2006.

Lavern "Chuck" Summers

On Monday, Sept. 16, an honorary street sign was dedicated for Lavern "Chuck" Summers at the intersection of E. 5th St. and Logan St. in Merrill.

The score/broadcast booth at nearby Athletic Park is named in honor of Summers, and the family felt it most fitting to select the nearby corner in front of the historic ball park as the location for a street sign in his honor.

Chuck Summers came to Merrill in 1948 to be an announcer on the new radio station that was about to hit the airwaves, WLIN, and soon became the legendary "Voice of the Merrill Rangers". The station was owned by former congressman Alvin O'Konski who also started what is now known as WJFW TV in Rhinelander. O'Konski hired Summers, as he was able to provide play-by-play for local baseball games. Summers initially recorded the games and then rushed back to the studio to re-broadcast them. Summers called the infamous Merrill Rangers vs Eau Claire Bears game in 1952 when a young standout from Mobile, Ala., took the field at Athletic Park - Hank Aaron. Aaron went 0-3 that day, and Merrill beat Eau Claire by a score of 3-1 during a game called early due to fog. (Summers' family still has the original score card from that game.) Summers, who passed

away in 2007, also worked for WSAU radio and WJMT in Merrill. Besides the Rangers, he was also very involved with calling high school athletic contests during his broadcasting career.

Robert "Bob" Gruling

On Wednesday, Sept. 25, an honorary sign was dedicated to honor Merrill educator, Robert "Bob" Gruling. The sign, located at the corner of E. 6th St and Hope St. in Merrill, is also located right in front of Washington School where Bob was the principal for many years until he retired in 1990.

Born in 1931 in Hamburg, Bob was one of 20 children. He went to high school in Athens and then attended UW-Stevens Point where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in elementary education. He furthered his studies at UW-Madison where he received a Masters in guidance and administration.

Bob worked his entire career in education with the Merrill School District. He was first assigned as a teacher at the former Franklin School, then went on to be principal at Pine River, Lincoln, and then Washington School.

Bob was very active in the community, having served in leadership roles for the Merrill Historical Society, Century Farm Project of Lincoln and Marathon Counties, Marathon County Genealogy Society, the Brickyard School House, Lincoln County 4-H, and the River Bend Trail.

In addition to city representatives and family members, school children, teachers, and administrators also came out for the dedication of Bob's honorary street sign.

Robert Klug

On Saturday, Sept. 28, an honorary street sign was dedicated to pay tribute to Robert Klug, who served as city clerk for 32 years – the longest tenure in city history. The sign, located at the intersection of E, 1st St. and Cleveland St. stands near the old Merrill City Hall building which has since been turned into unique apartments.

Robert was first elected to the Merrill City Council in 1946 before becoming City Clerk in 1950. He served until 1982 when a sudden heart attack led to his death while attending a Wisconsin Clerks and Finance Convention in Oshkosh.



Surviving family members gather around the honorary street sign for Robert Klug who served as City Clerk of Merrill for 32 years. It is located at the corner of E. First St. and Cleveland St.

Submitted photos.

Besides his work for the city, Klug was a member of several state organizations for clerks, finance, and municipalities. He was also treasurer and chairman for the March of Dimes and the Lincoln County Chapter of the National Foundation and was very active in his church, St. John's Lutheran.

His family chose that particular day for the sign dedication because it was Homecoming weekend in Merrill. Klug was the founder and former president of the Wisconsin State Football League and coached the Merrill Foxes from 1940 to 1953. He also coached numerous baseball

teams, from slow pitch to Little League.

Generations of Robert Klug's family have previously and continue to serve the City of Merrill in various capacities, from committee members to our current fire chief.

A fifth sign to come

A fifth person who made a significant impact on Merrill was selected to be honored in 2024; however, the installation and dedication of that sign has been postponed until 2025 to allow family members to travel to Merrill. That honorary street sign will honor Ralph "Fata" Voigt,

the longest serving Mayor in the history of Merrill. Some of Ralph's surviving family members will be traveling to attend from out of state.

Nominees for 2025 honorary street signs

In March 2025, Merrill's Historic Preservation Committee will begin accepting nominations for those who wish to nominate a person who made a significant impact in the Merrill community for the distinction of having an honorary street sign named for that person and erected in his/her honor.



Chuck Summers' surviving family members pose for a photo at the honorary street sign placed at the corner of E. 5th St. and Logan St. in his memory.



The family of Roger "Budda" English were there to celebrate the dedication of an honorary street sign that bears his name at the corner of W. Main and Wright St.

2024-2025 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

Practice begins Monday, November 18th

Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & JV2)

Practice begins Monday, November 11th

Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV)

Practice begins Monday, November 18th

Girls Wrestling (Varsity)

Practice begins Monday, November 18th

Boys Hockey (Varsity & JV)

Practice begins Monday, November 11th

Girls Hockey (Varsity & JV)

Practice begins Monday, November 18th



The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:



Merrill Mayor Steve Haas, MAPS Superintendent Shannon Murray, and teachers and students gather for a photo in front of Washington School after they came out to witness the unveiling of the street sign erected right in front of their school at the intersection of E. 6th St and Hope St. in honor of former Washington School Principal Bob Gruling.



This folk Santa is another in Pregler's collection. Submitted photos.



This Santa figurine's head actually turns and the lantern is lit. He is Joan Pregler's current favorite in her collection, a gift from her mother-in-law years ago.



One of Joan Pregler's collection of Santa's, this figurine and others will be on display at the T.B. Scott Free Library in the "Sleigh of Santas" exhibit in November and December.



Another Santa figurine in Pregler's collection.

Two holiday exhibits featured at T.B. Scott Library

BY TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

The T.B. Scott Free Library in Merrill will feature two holiday exhibits as part of their Beyond Books Community ArtShare program in November and December.

The first exhibit, titled "A Sleigh of Santas" includes a group of Santas, called a "sleigh." Joan Pregler, a life-long resident of Langlade County, will share her collection of Santas which started 55 years ago when her sister-in-law gave her a Santa as a Christmas gift. That was the beginning of Pregler's love for everything related to Santa, and she typically buys one or two new Santas each year. At one point she had more than 210 statues, although she has trimmed her collection a bit since then. Her collection also includes Santa prints, pictures, and ornaments from around the world with Santas dressed in unique attire that represents that country. Her favorite Santa is a light up lantern in Santa's hand and his head turns, a gift she received from her mother-in-law many years ago.

The second exhibit, "Wild for Christmas Cards," will feature the original artwork of Ann Ruder, who began creating original sketches and paintings of wildlife for Christmas cards 20 years ago. Ruder continued her passion by creating a different wildlife creation every year, and

friends have commented that they "saved every card over the years as a collection."

In high school, Ruder received scholarship awards for her art work and a First Place in Wisconsin for her Hallmark Art Talent Contest entry. She studied art at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. She has received "Best in Shows" and Golden

Pallet Knife awards for her artistic ability and has sold many of her pieces over the years.

Ruder is an Art Director at an area printing firm and has also received awards for her graphic art work in that capacity. She also continues to enjoy sketching,

painting, pen and ink, and working with watercolors, oils, acrylics, and pastels.

Both exhibits will be located on the second floor in the historic Carnegie Wing in the library beginning Nov. 4 and will continue through the month of December.



An owl graced the front of the 2012 Christmas card. Submitted photos.



The "Wild for Christmas Cards" exhibit features the original artwork of Ann Ruder, like this cougar card.



The 2014 Christmas card featured a rendition of a bobcat.

Court settlement reached in 2021 Devil Creek fish kill

TINA L. SCOTT
EDITOR

On Oct. 1, 2024, Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul

announced a settlement has been reached with the previous owners/operators of Morning View Dairy - Morning View Dairy, LLC,

Erich W. Roth, the Erich Roth Living Trust, Heinz Roth, and Heinz Roth Living Trust - near Merrill. Wisconsin Department

of Justice (DOJ) Public Protection Unit Assistant Attorney General Emily M. Ertel represented the State. Lincoln County

Circuit Court and the State legislature's Joint Committee on Finance approved the settlement on Sept. 26 wherein "the defendants agreed to pay \$70,000 to resolve violations related to a fish kill in Devil Creek caused by the dairy in 2021," a press release from AG Kaul said. \$50,000 of the \$70,000 settlement will be paid to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the fish killed, and the remainder includes forfeitures and surcharges, as well as court costs and attorney fees.

"The State alleged that a leaky valve on the dairy's manure storage facility allowed manure to escape and flow into Devil Creek," the release said. "DNR first received a report of contamination in Devil Creek on June 9,

2021. On June 10, 2021, DNR fisheries staff observed distressed, dying, and dead fish in Devil Creek from the dairy downstream to the creek's confluence with the Wisconsin River. The manure caused the dissolved oxygen in the creek to drop to near zero and resulted in a complete kill of all species and sizes of fish over 3.8 miles of the creek."

"The public can help ensure that violations of our water laws are addressed," Kaul said. "Thank you to the person who provided the tip that led to the investigation in this case." To report water contamination or a fish kill anonymously, call the DNR Tip Hotline at 1.800.TIP.WDNR (1.800.847.9367).

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Emily Winter, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of Nov. 7, 2024. Emily started swimming at age 6 for the Merrill Aqua Jays and this is her 12th season swimming competitively, her 3rd on the MHS Girls Varsity Swim Team. Her favorite event is the 100 breaststroke, but she also swims distance freestyle and competes in relay events. After healing from surgery to remove a bone tumor "and with help from my teammates," Emily is now back up to a high level of training "which built my confidence and speed in the pool," she said. Emily also dances lyrical, jazz, and hip hop, this year in four group routines, at Brooke's School of Dance.

Part-time work also keeps Emily near the pool. She works at the Aquatic Center at the MARC in summer and year round at the Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) pool. She was recently promoted to head lifeguard at PRMS, is a water safety instructor, and also teaches swim lessons in the summer. At school, her favorite class is Injury and Sports Management. Emily plans to become a nurse, "so this class allows me to get hands-on work and learn about nutrition and other things in the medical field." She is an officer for Fellowship of Christian Athletes and belongs to the National Honor Society, and she volunteers helping at the Pine River School for Young Learners and at Trinity Lutheran Church.

In her free time, she likes to hang out with friends and family, visit her sister at college, shoot target archery, and do fun things like going to the Haunted Sawmill.

The daughter of Kristie and Chris Winter of Merrill, Emily has a 3.7 GPA and plans to either go into the Coast Guard or attend NTC to further her goal of becoming either an ER nurse or a flight nurse.



Emily Winter

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