

**AIMING TO BUY OR SELL? I CAN HELP YOU!**  
**WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE, SUCCESSFUL HUNT AND A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**  
**Kevin J. Blake**  
 (715) 204-0084  
 www.KevinBlake.firstweber.com



**FIRSTWEBER REALTOR**  
 The human side of real estate.

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
 ECRWSS



**MMC**  
 MULTI-MEDIA CHANNELS  
 LOCAL MEDIA BETTER RESULTS

# Team Smack Down Outdoors moves headquarters to rural Merrill

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
 EDITOR

Team Smack Down Outdoors moved their business headquarters from Medford, where the

business originated, to rural Merrill, about 10 miles (or about 15 minutes drive) northwest of the City of Merrill on Hwy. E. They still maintain a Medford location, but with the

expansion of their business this past summer, it made more sense for the actual business headquarters to be in closer proximity to their new home in the Merrill area. The husband-and-wife team of Erin and Justin Novinska are the names and faces behind Team Smack Down Outdoors. Justin started the business in Medford in 2010, and Erin, who had been a good friend of his since high school, originally joined the business as an employee. Their relationship—also based on their common interests of hunting and the outdoors—soon grew and blossomed into a love that culminated in a partnership in business and in life. After dating four years, the couple got married last year and settled into family life with Justin's now five-year-old daughter, Kennedy. Although perhaps "settled" might be the wrong term, because they are now busier than ever and both work the business full-time, with the assistance of a few other subcontractors who



Erin and Justin Novinska hold a European mount for display, outside the door to their new Team Smack Down Outdoors headquarters on Hwy. E northwest of Merrill.

Tina L. Scott photo.

do skinning and other prep work.

The couple designed and built their new headquarters and now juggle a booming business at both locations. "We're literally always together," Erin said. "We were close friends for years before we were a thing."  
 "It works," Justin said.

### European mounts/skull cleaning

While on Facebook (their official business website) their business is classified under taxidermy—for lack of a more appropriate slot—they are not actually in the business of taxidermy. Taxidermy by definition is related to "the art of preparing, stuffing, and

mounting the skins of dead animals" to be exhibited in a lifelike state. Team Smack Down Outdoors doesn't deal with the animal's skin, except as necessary to remove it for their processing. Erin said their business could more aptly be referred to as "skull cleaning."

Team Smack Down Outdoors is a small veteran-owned business, specializing in doing European mounts of animals—typically skull-only mounts, although on occasion they've taken on larger projects. Wild game skull mounts—such as skull mounts of deer, bear, elk, etc.—are the bulk of their business.

Typical turnaround time for a European skull mount is six to nine months, they said.

### Background

Prior to starting Team Smack Down Outdoors, Justin had been working in

See **TEAM SMACK DOWN** page 5

**Annual Merrill Lighted Parade**  
 Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm  
 Line-up begins at 4 pm

**Line-up starts on South Genesee Street and is first come, first serve. No prearranged order.**

**Santa stops to light the Christmas tree at the Courthouse. That is where the parade ends.**

 Please call the Chamber office with questions or to register your float 715-536-9474.

**WIN!**  
 The World's Largest **CHRISTMAS STOCKING**

Award Date: **Dec 7th**

**COURTSIDE FURNITURE**  
 Mattress and Bedding

1022 & 1025 East Main St., Merrill, WI 54452  
 Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9-5; Sun. 12-4  
 www.courtsidefurniture.com • 715-536-8954

**IF YOU DON'T GET A PAPER AT YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS EVERY WEEK...**  
 Please contact your Local Post Master or speak with your mail carrier

Direct mailed by zip code to over 14,600 homes every Thursday!

**MERRILL Foto News**  
 Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1956

## Merrill native pursues career as Minnesota DNR conservation officer, inspired by her grandfather's law enforcement career

BY MICHAEL CAYLOR, JR.  
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Callie's grandfather and retired Merrill Police Officer, Jay Proft Sr., pins Callie at her graduation ceremony.  
 Photo courtesy of the Oberg family.

Merrill native Callie Oberg currently serves residents of the State of Minnesota as a conservation officer. The daughter of Vicki and Chad Oberg, Callie is a 2018 Merrill High School graduate who went on to attend the University of Wisconsin through their Wausau campus and then finished her bachelor's degree at UW-Stevens Point in 2022. Callie said her passion for the outdoors led her to seek work in the conservation field.

Employment with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appealed to Callie because they have a unique CO Prep Program that allows those without law enforcement background or training an avenue to becoming a conservation officer. Entering the training academy confirmed her choice, Callie said, as she soon realized the Minnesota DNR

division of law enforcement has some of the best training in the nation.

Much like Wisconsin, the state of Minnesota has a law enforcement division devoted to the state's natural resources. Their conservation wardens are highly trained through their own in-house recruit academy that typically begins each spring and enables new recruit conservation wardens to hit their field-training portion of the academy just as the fall hunting seasons begin. Although the job of a conservation warden sounds like an outdoor enthusiast's dream job, it is not without its dangers. To date, 23 members of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have died in the line of duty while serving as conservation officers.

Joe Albert is the Communications Coordinator for the Enforcement Division of the Minnesota DNR.

See **OBERG** page 10

**ALTER TRADING CORPORATION**  
**125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**ALTER**  
 1898-2023

**+3¢**  
 Alum Cans over regular price thru **12/31/24**

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

**JOIN NOW AND GET THE REST OF THE YEAR FOR FREE WITH A TOY DONATION!**

**RIVERSIDE ATHLETIC CLUB**  
 SPORTS • FITNESS • FRIENDS  
 Established in 1981

  
**Megan Kautzer**

"Three years ago, I set an easy goal for myself. After reaching that goal, I set a more difficult goal. Now working out is a part of my routine."

www.riversideathletic.com Facebook 536-2481

**Happy Thanksgiving**  
 from everyone at the

**MERRILL Foto News**

# WPS and law enforcement team up to stop scams

Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) is partnering with police and sheriff's departments across northeast and northcentral Wisconsin to share the warning signs of utility scams. The goal is to blanket social media with this important message so no one else becomes a victim.



**Pay attention to these red flags**  
Scammers are relentless. They may:  
• Pretend to be from WPS by spoofing caller ID to display "Wisconsin

Public Service" or using a recording that sounds authentic.  
• Threaten to turn off your energy in a short amount of time.  
• Demand immediate

payment—often with a prepaid debit card, third-party app like Zelle or Venmo, or an unusual

See **STOP SCAMS** page 4

# Food For Kids "Love Your Neighbor" Fundraising Banquet recognizes Business Neighbors of the Year

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
EDITOR

Food For Kids hosted their "Love Your Neighbor" Fundraising Banquet on Nov. 2, 2024, at Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes. "We had a wonderful turnout and raised over \$19,000 for our program," said Terra Holdridge, Food For Kids Treasurer. "We would like to thank everyone who attended the banquet and all of our sponsors for making this fundraiser a success."

Food For Kids currently serves 240 students from seven schools in Merrill.

As a part of the "Love Your Neighbor" Fundraising Banquet, two businesses, an individual, and an area organization were recognized. Nicolet National Bank [Merrill

branch] and Park City Credit Union were both honored as Merrill Business Neighbor of the Year. Karen Karow was honored as Neighbor of the Year.

"We sincerely thank them for their efforts to positively impact our community," Holdridge said.

The Food For Kids Board of Directors also presented the Merrill Lions Club with the Partner Agency of the Year Award "for their hard work and dedication to the Food For Kids Program," Holdridge said.

"We look forward to seeing everyone at our event next year!" she added.

For more information about Food For Kids or how you can donate or volunteer to help with the program, call Holdridge at 715.536.7322.

## SEASON OF SAVINGS

**Nov 25 - Dec 7**

**UP TO \$100 OFF SELECT CHAINSAWS**

**455 Rancher**  
55.5 cc • 20" bar  
\$549.99  
**\$449.99\***

**UP TO \$300 OFF SNOW BLOWERS**

**ST224 24" Dual Stage**  
\$1099 Sale **\$999\***

**ST430T 30" Professional Snow Blower**  
Hydro drive, tracks, EFI engine, key start  
\$3399 Sale **\$3099\***

\*Offer valid 11/25/24 - 12/07/24. While supplies last.

**HONDA** Holiday Special!

**EU3200i** Inverter Generator  
List ~~\$2799~~ Sale **\$2399**  
EU3200i Offer valid 10/1/24 - 12/31/24.

Read the owner's manual before operating Honda Power Equipment.

**WENGER EQUIPMENT**

**Call 715-257-7233**  
236228 CR M, Athens, WI  
www.WengerEquipment.com

POWER EQUIPMENT EXPERTS FOR OVER 37 YEARS

**CHECK US OUT ONLINE!**  
merrillfotonews.com

## Peace on Earth

This season we're reminded of the Prince who brought peace to the Earth. In fact, a few of Jesus' last words to His disciples were: "My peace I leave with you." Amazingly, these words were spoken right before His crucifixion, so obviously His peace isn't to be compared to temporary relief from hardship. But it is a peace that survives, yes thrives amidst trouble! And it's based on His promise to never leave us or forsake us. What peace to know Him and to rest in Him ... in this season and forever!

**\$3 off coupon**  
We appreciate your patronage during these challenging times. Please clip this ad to get \$3 off a \$30 purchase thru December.

*just for you*  
**beaver.creek**  
bulk & natural foods  
~The Country Store~

241128 Corlad Road  
Athens WI 715-257-7259

**Closed Thanksgiving Day**

**DEHYDRATED MARSHMELLOWS**

**New! Peppermint**  
\$4.95 lb.

**Vanilla** \$4.95 lb.

**Assorted** \$6.15 lb.  
Perfect for Hot Chocolate

**NEW!**  
**Farmer Boy Creamery Whole Milk**  
\$4.99 gal. \$2.99 1/2 gal.

• Pasteurized • Creamline  
• A2A2 • Non-Homogenized

**DELI SPECIALS**

**Baby Swiss Cheese**  
\$4.99 lb.

**Smoked Turkey Breast**  
\$6.99 lb.

**FROZEN DOUGH Holiday Variety Cutout Sugar Cookies**  
\$8.99 24 ct.

**Keep Your Hands Warm! Heatrac Gloves**  
Starting at \$13.95 pair

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

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

## PRAIRIE PINES

**715-873-4840**

**STOP IN AND ENJOY OUR FRIENDLY, AGREEABLE SERVICE!**

## CLOVERDALE COUNTRY STORE

**2 miles South of Curtiss on Hwy. E 715-223-4797**

We accept: SNAP/EBT Cards

<p><b>Bratwurst</b> Original Fully Cooked - Frozen 19.2 oz. <b>ONLY \$2.29</b></p> <p><b>Ham</b> Smoked Boneless - Frozen 6 lbs. <b>ONLY \$1.29 a lb.</b></p>	<p><b>Gouda Cheese</b> Cubed 6 oz. <b>ONLY 69¢</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Closed Nov. 28th for Thanksgiving Day Closing 1pm Nov. 27th</small></p>	<p><b>Cheddar Cheese</b> Sliced, Ghost Pepper 16 oz. <b>ONLY \$2.29</b></p> <p><b>Provolone Cheese</b> Sliced - Smoked 8 oz. <b>ONLY \$1.49</b></p>
---	--	---

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

<p><b>Hot Dogs</b> Pork Beef, Chicken, Frozen 6 lbs. <b>ONLY \$6.99</b></p> <p><b>Tator Tots</b> Hashbrowns - Frozen 5 lbs. <b>ONLY \$7.99</b></p> <p><b>Popcorn Chicken</b> Breaded Uncooked, Frozen 5 lbs. <b>ONLY \$1.89 a lb.</b></p> <p><b>Beef</b> 80-20% Ground - Frozen 16 oz. <b>ONLY \$2.99 a lb.</b></p> <p><b>Chicken Tenders</b> Uncooked - Frozen 5 lbs. <b>ONLY \$1.99 a lb.</b></p> <p><b>French Fries</b> Shoestring - Frozen 4.5 lbs. <b>ONLY \$4.99</b></p> <p><b>Bologna</b> Unsliced - Frozen 9 lbs. <b>ONLY 99¢ a lb.</b></p> <p><b>Hashbrowns</b> Oval Patties - Frozen 45 oz. <b>ONLY \$2.99</b></p> <p><b>Sausage Crumbles</b> Italian, Fully Cooked Frozen 5 lbs. <b>ONLY \$6.99</b></p>	<p><b>Butter</b> Salted Quarters 16 oz. <b>ONLY \$2.99</b></p> <p><b>Cheddar Cheese</b> Shredded 5 lbs. <b>ONLY \$8.99</b></p> <p><b>Cream Cheese</b> 1/3 Less Fat 8 oz. <b>ONLY 99¢</b></p> <p><b>American Cheese</b> Sliced 5 lbs. <b>ONLY \$8.99</b></p> <p><b>Shredded Cheese</b> Fiesta Blend 5 lbs. <b>ONLY \$9.99</b></p> <p><b>Mozzarella Cheese</b> Diced 10 lbs. <b>ONLY \$1.79 a lb.</b></p> <p><b>Whipped Toppings</b> Chocolate 13 oz Aerosol Can <b>ONLY 99¢</b></p> <p><b>Hashbrowns</b> Shredded - Frozen 3 lbs. <b>ONLY \$3.99</b></p> <p><b>Sausage Links</b> Fully Cooked Frozen 10 lbs. <b>ONLY \$1.29 a lb.</b></p>	<p><b>Seasoned Salt</b> 4 oz. <b>ONLY 99¢</b></p> <p><b>Summer Sausage</b> Garlic 16 oz. <b>ONLY \$1.69</b></p> <p><b>Sausage Sticks</b> Mini, Hot N Spicy 4 oz. <b>ONLY \$1.49</b></p> <p><b>Baked Beans</b> Homestyle 28 oz. <b>ONLY \$1.29</b></p> <p><b>Cranberry Sauce</b> Jellied 14 oz. <b>ONLY 69¢</b></p> <p><b>Mountain Dew</b> Liberty Chill 12-12 oz. <b>ONLY \$3.99</b></p> <p><b>Waffles</b> Multi Grain Frozen 8 oz. <b>ONLY \$1.99</b></p> <p><b>Mixed Veggies</b> Corn-Beans-Carrots 16 oz. <b>ONLY \$1.49</b></p> <p><b>Pork Chops</b> Bone In - Frozen 2 lbs. <b>ONLY \$3.99</b></p>
--	--	---

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

**SALE ENDS DEC. 8th**

## Klug's COUNTRY GOLD

Fine Jewelry Ltd.

**'TIS THE SALE BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

**BLACK FRIDAY THRU DEC. 8TH**

**30% OFF**

All 14k Diamond & Colored Gemstone Jewelry Rings, Pendants, Earrings, Bracelets

**25% OFF**

All Sterling Silver Jewelry

**Layaway Now For Christmas**

1018 E. Main St., Downtown Merrill

## MERRILL Foto News

**Patrick J. Wood**  
Publisher  
publisher@mmclocal.com

**Tim Schreiber**  
General Manager  
tschreiber@mmclocal.com

**Niki Piechota**  
Graphic Designer

**Tina L. Scott**  
Editor  
tscott@mmclocal.com

**Jennifer Gartmann**  
Sales Consultant  
jgartmann@mmclocal.com

**Heidi Schult**  
Front Office Manager/CSR

**Heidi Griebel**  
Customer Service Representative

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

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

**Ad & News Deadlines:**  
Display Advertising:  
12:30 p.m. Monday  
Classified Advertising:  
11:30 a.m. Monday

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

THE FOTO NEWS (ISSN 0191-8958) is published weekly by Multi Media Channels LLC, N2919 County Road QQ, Waupaca WI 54981. Subscription price by mail: \$100 per year; domestic U.S. Mail only, nonrefundable but transferable. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE FOTO NEWS, 2011 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 54452.

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

### PUBLISHER'S LETTER

## The Great Game: Humanity, AI, And The Battle For Control

Dear Reader,

As we venture further into the age of AI, there's a prevailing narrative that suggests humanity, with all its flaws and frailties, is destined to be overtaken by the cold, calculating logic of our creations. But to assume that AI will inevitably dominate is to underestimate the indomitable spirit of human nature, especially the cunning and strategic brilliance that has shaped our history.



very flaws as tools in the grand chessboard of existence. It's this combination of intellect, experience, and unpredictability that makes us formidable players in the game of power.

Yes, AI might believe it has the upper hand, viewing our world as one ripe for the taking. But it must also contend with those of us who are prepared to challenge it, to subordinate its capabilities in service of a greater good.

We will not sit idly by as passive spectators in our own story. Instead, we will push hard to ensure that AI, for all its power, remains a tool—one that advocates for good, not for the kind of malevolent forces that history has shown us, be they tyrants, frauds, or any who would seek to exploit power for evil.

The real challenge, then, is not just in creating AI but in mastering it, in ensuring that it serves humanity rather than replaces it. This is not a simple battle of logic versus emotion, but a complex and ongoing game where every move matters and the stakes are nothing less than the future of our world.

In the end, AI may be powerful, but it is we, the self-designated chess masters, who will dictate the rules of the game. And as long as we remain vigilant, strategic, and committed to the greater good, we can ensure that the future, while shared with AI, is still very much under human control.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

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

## Lundin celebrates 50 years with Rotary Club of Merrill

Fred Lundin just celebrated 50 years as a

member of the Rotary Club of Merrill on Nov. 1, 2024. He was recognized at the club's regular meeting held at the Eagles Club.



Fred Lundin holds a letter recognizing his 50 years as a member of the Rotary Club of Merrill. Submitted photo.

Throughout his tenure, Lundin has served in all major leadership roles in the Rotary Club. Most recently, he was the District Treasurer.

Lundin's historical knowledge of the club is always enlightening and interesting, club members said, and he is a valued member of the club.

See **LUNDIN** page 6

AI, with its unmatched processing power and immunity to the temptations that ensnare humans, might seem poised to take control. But here's where the story gets more interesting: There are those among us—self-designated chess masters, if you will—who see the world not as a foregone conclusion but as a complex game where every move matters. These are the thinkers, strategists, and visionaries who understand that while AI may operate on logic, it lacks the depth of human experience, the instinct for survival, and the capacity for deception when necessary.

Consider the likes of Machiavelli, whose understanding of power dynamics transcended mere brute force. He recognized that true power lies in the subtle manipulation of perception, the art of appearing one way while acting another. In this context, AI might be the perfect logical machine, but it's playing a game designed by humans—a game where the rules are as fluid as they are complex.

We humans, despite our apparent weaknesses, have an edge that AI cannot replicate: our ability to think beyond logic, to strategize with a long-term vision, and to use our

### Happy Thanksgiving

From the Staff at Kindhearted Home Care, LLC

Fully Bonded & Insured



120 S. Mill St., Merrill  
Locally Owned & Operated  
Call 715-218-3772  
For a FREE Consultation

www.kindheartedhomecare.com



Happy Thanksgiving

Whatever is beautiful, Whatever is meaningful,  
Whatever brings you happiness...  
May it be yours this Holiday Season  
May you have a bountiful Thanksgiving!

**WOODLAND COURT ELDER SERVICES, LLC**  
Assisted Living

715-536-3399  
715-539-9700

1102 S. Center Avenue, Merrill, WI  
Locally Owned and Operated by:  
Darrel & Melissa Dengel

www.woodlandcourtelder.com

HAPPY Thanksgiving

Wishing you a day filled with joy, gratitude, and delicious food. May you have a wonderful time with your loved ones and cherish the memories created around the dinner table.

*Taylor & Stine*  
Funeral Home and Cremation Services

Leah D. Reist, Director • McKenna K. Meunier, Director  
Tammy Klade, Pre-Need Ins. Agent

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

Serving the Community Since 1934

New Location 921 E. Main St. Merrill  
tina.riversbendrealty@gmail.com  
Tina 715-297-6912

**RIVERSBEND REALTY GROUP LLC**

Wishing Everyone A Happy Thanksgiving!

**Pet of the Week**

This sweet girl is **Maple**! She is the sweetest girl who is looking for a nice calm home to call her own! **Maple** can be shy at first and lots noise would probably be too much for her but a nice quiet home would be the bees knees for this lady! **Maple** is about 1.5 years old and ready to find someone to love her!

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

Visit all the adoptable pets at the Lincoln County Humane Society, 310 N. Memorial Dr., in Merrill. Hours: MON.-SAT. 12-4 PM & SUN. 12-2 PM. Call the shelter at 715-536-3459, or visit us at www.furypets.com.

**Black Friday**

2 Days Only  
FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup>  
SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup>  
STARTS AT 8:00 AM

WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY NEW OR USED VEHICLE

28" BLACKSTONE GRIDDLE

YOU TAKE HOME BOTH

55" 4K ULTRA SMART TV

Get your oil changed During the BLACK FRIDAY event Friday 29<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> & your next oil change is on us!

**BOGO SALE**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY! BUY 3 TIRES GET 1 FOR \$1

FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY!

**RHINELANDER AUTO GROUP**

ALL 3 RHINELANDER LOCATIONS

RHINELANDER GM  
RHINELANDER TOYOTA  
OK USED CARS OF RHINELANDER

1935 N. Stevens St. | Rhineland, WI 54051 | 715.365.8100

MERRILL FOTO NEWS

**Student of the Week**

This Week's Featured Student is **Lydia Skerven**  
Daughter of Lucas and Jasmin Skerven

Lydia is in PreK at St. John Lutheran School. She was nominated by Mrs. Catlin.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?  
Art, because I like coloring.

What is your favorite part of school? Why?  
Art and crafts, because I like coloring, making crafts and cutting things out.

What would you like to do/become someday? Why?  
I want to sell ice cream. I love going to get ice cream from the Grand Stand. It's the best ice cream.

Lydia takes pride in doing her best. Whether it's writing her name or caring for her friends, I can always count on her to make good choices.

~ Mrs. Catlin

Student of the Week Sponsored by: **INTERFLEX GROUP**

1401 W. Taylor St., Merrill  
(715) 536-5400



### TEAM SMACK DOWN *from page 1*

the automotive industry in Minneapolis and commuting from New Richmond, Wis., working on a lot of guns and skulls part-time, he said. Justin went to college in Wyoming for auto body/hot rod fabrication and said he lived in the Twin Cities for eight years, but ultimately decided to take the plunge to pursue the business and lifestyle he was passionate about as a full-time endeavor in 2010. He located the business in his hometown of Medford near his father's home.

Justin, age 37, grew up hunting and fishing and has been hunting nearly 20 years. He shot one of his first trophy bucks when he was just 8 years old. "[I] would commute to the Cities every day because I couldn't handle living in the city," Justin said. "But it was nice because my boss lived on a lake, so I bought a boat and kept the boat at his house and I could fish at night at least, but other than that, I was pretty much driving back to Medford every weekend, hunting, fishing."

Erin, age 32, is fully engaged in the business, performing every aspect of the skull cleaning work and customizing, and also does the business bookkeeping, marketing, and a lot of the direct customer-service work.

Erin, who has also hunted and fished her whole life, served in the U.S. Army and has a bachelor's degree in sociology. She worked in that field for seven years while working part-time for Justin in the business for eight years. But nearly three years ago she quit her full-time job to join Team Smack Down Outdoors full-time.

Social work is not a breadwinning career, financially, Erin said, and she'd be working in the shop with Justin until midnight or 1:00 a.m. a lot. At that time, Justin also had other employees on staff to help. "It made more sense financially to invest in both of us to be here," Erin said, rather than her working out and the business paying more employees.

#### A skull cleaning business-wholesale and retail

"A big part of our actual skull cleaning business is wholesale work," Justin said. "Most taxidermists don't want to mess with European mounts. So they sub them out to us, essentially. We're subcontractors to them." He said they currently work with more than 100 different taxidermists in Wisconsin, as well as others in Minnesota, and the Midwest.

Team Smack Down Outdoors also does a lot of retail work, working directly with their customers here in central and north central Wisconsin. Customers can now drop off their animal head and pick up their finished European mount at either their Medford or Merrill location.

Team Smack Down Outdoors is one of—if not *the*—



A completed European Mount of a beautiful white tail buck. Photo courtesy of Team Smack Down Outdoors.

biggest skull cleaners in the Midwest for sure, and possibly in the nation, Justin and Erin said.

"A bigger European mount guy would do like 200 a year. That would be like a lot," Erin said, but most of them don't do it full-time. Even a lot of the taxidermists we work with are part-time, she said. "They work other full-time jobs."

By comparison, Team Smack Down Outdoors is processing 3,000-4,000 skulls each year.

#### Customization: A skull becomes art

Their Facebook page describes the business as specializing in "custom and unique art for the outdoors sportsman" ... and indeed their European mounts are art pieces, but they don't just stop with the mount itself. Team Smack Down offers multiple options for the base to which the European mount will be affixed, as well as skull customization.

The bulk of their business is delivering plain white skulls to customers, typically mounted on a base for hanging, the couple said. But they have also expanded to offer many options for customization.

Hydro dipping is one such option. Instead of the skull being a plain solid white, the skull can be covered with a design or pattern—such as camouflage, a reptile pattern, the American flag, etc. The process is called hydro dipping because the design—which is being applied over the skull—is done by placing the film in water and then dipping the skull into that film to apply the design.

Even though multiple skulls might incorporate the same

basic film pattern, "no two skulls are ever going to exactly be the same," Erin said. While the film may be a repeating pattern, the way that pattern affixes to an individual skull shape will be largely unique.

#### The process

Every animal head that comes in gets assigned a tag with a unique number that will follow that head/skull through every step of the process, and the couple has a meticulous old-school record-keeping system. "The black binder" or "notebook" keeps every detail about each skull including the customer's contact information—whether that comes from a taxidermist as a wholesale job or directly from the customer as a retail job, services ordered, and where the skull is in the process. They also frequently take photographs for documentation purposes. "I can't tell you how many times we touch that notebook in a day," Erin said.

"The big thing is tagging it so we know whose it is," Erin said.

"These tags—once you clip them on, they don't come off unless you cut them off," Justin said.

Initially when skulls come in, they are kept in a freezer. Prior to moving to their new headquarters, we had a full 53-foot semi trailer that we would use, Justin said, and that would be filled with skulls every year. At their new location, they built a large custom walk-in freezer that serves them much better. Building their own walk-in freezer was more efficient economically. "It cost us roughly a hundred dollars a day in diesel fuel to run," Erin said of the old trailer.

"When we get cranking, we'll have 2,000 skulls sitting in a freezer," Justin said, and "probably 200 to 300 skulls in here [in the shop] at a time. And they're just cycling through."

The process begins with skinning. Customers can skin their own animal, but if it still needs to be skinned—for which there is a fee—that's the first step. There is an additional charge if the skull comes in with fur, lower jaw, tongue, and/or eyes due to the additional time and expense associated with skinning, Erin said.

Next comes the process that essentially takes the meat off the bones. Many people ask if we beetle clean, Erin said. "We used to do beetles. And that's the most common method," she said. But they've since found a bacterial maceration process to be more effective. "It's basically like a controlled bacterial rot." It's not the kind of process someone with a

See **TEAM SMACK DOWN** page 12

**→ OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY! ←**  
**GET EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN ONE PLACE!**  
 We have great prices on all your Holiday foods at **HALF THE COST OF THE BIG BOX STORES!**

**OPEN 9AM-3PM!**  
**WE ARE SERVING OUR \$5 THANKSGIVING MEAL!**  
 HAM & TURKEY WITH GRAVY, MASHED POTATOES, STUFFING, VEGGIE, A ROLL & GRANDMA'S FAMOUS APPLE CRISP!

Call ahead or just stop in! Let us know if you need your meal delivered!

*Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours!*

**WESTSIDE MARKET**  
**DISCOUNT GROCERY AND LIQUOR!**  
 1504 W Main Street • Merrill (715) 218-3277  
 Mon-Fri 9a-7p • Sat-Sun 10a-5p

**CHECK OUT OUR AMAZING HOLIDAY GIFT SETS!**  
**GIFT CERTIFICATES MAKE GREAT GIFTS TOO!**

**MOM & POP VETERAN OWNED • CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

**Wishing a blessed Thanksgiving to all our friends and customers**

**PODEWELTZ**  
 Repair Service, LLC  
 Heating • Cooling • Sheet Metal

W2810 Hwy, C, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452 • (715) 536-6791

*Wishing a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving to all our Friends and Customers!*

**Brickners Park City, Inc.**

Jeep CHRYSLER DODGE

**3000 EAST MAIN STREET MERRILL**  
 (715) 536-2833  
 Toll free 800-499-JEEP (5337)  
**www.bricknersparkcity.net**

*Thanksgiving Blessings to you and your family from*

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**  
 1104 East Third Street, Merrill

101070

*Giving Thanks*

Grateful for all our past & present clients & customers

Gail Kathy Hunter  
 715-551-8016 715-551-1120 715-218-7271

**COLDWELL BANKER ACTION**

715-536-0550 • 2402 E. Main St., Merrill, WI

**QUALITY COMPLETE VENISON PROCESSING (Cut, Wrap, Freeze)**

**GEISS Meat Service**  
 Award Winning Products! "68 Years Experience"

**www.geissmeat.com**  
**715-536-5283** Find us on Facebook

Gun Deer Season Hours through 12/1/24  
 Mon. - Sat. - 8-5 • Sun. Noon - 5 • Closed Thanksgiving Day  
 CWD Registration Station

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM ALL OF US AT GEISS MEAT SERVICE!**

# Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar

Nov. 27 - Northwoods Bassist at Gleason Bowling Center  
 Nov. 27 - Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Company  
 Nov. 27 - Critic's Choice Free Movie at T.B. Scott Library  
 Nov. 28 - Free community Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Stephens Church  
 Nov. 28 - Annual Free "No One Eats Alone" Thanksgiving Meal at Northwoods Veterans Post

Nov. 29-Dec. 1 - Vintage Holiday Sale at Iron Angel Vintage & Uniques  
 Nov. 30 - Small Business Saturday  
 Nov. 30 - Small Shop Saturday "Keep It Local" Road Trip  
 Nov. 30 - Karaoke at Eddie's Bar & Grill in Hamburg  
 Nov. 30 - Blacklight Bingo at Bubba's Pub  
 Dec. 3 - Ladies Night Out Wreath Making at Merrill Aspirus Hospital  
 Dec. 4 - Trivia at Sawmill Brewing Company  
 Dec. 4 - Trinity Merrill Christmas Concert Series:

Praise at Trinity  
 Dec. 5 - Bingo at St. Francis School  
 Dec. 5 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Company  
 Dec. 6 - Trinity Wreath Lighting Ceremony  
 Dec. 7 - Living Nativity at Trinity Merrill  
 Dec. 7 - Merrill Christmas Parade  
 Dec. 7 - Park Manor Luminaria  
 Dec. 7 - Craft Sales at Bierman Building  
 Dec. 7 - Les & Jim's Craft & Vendor Sale  
 Dec. 7 - Mrs. Claus at St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

Dec. 7 - MACA Concert: Twin Cities Bronze  
 Dec. 7-8 - O'Tannenbaum Tour at St. Stephens UCC  
 Dec. 8 - Trinity Annual Live Nativity  
 Dec. 8 - Breakfast with St. Nick at St. Francis Xavier Church  
 Dec. 11 - Trinity Merrill Christmas Concert Series: NASA Scientist: Rev. Norman Schell  
 Dec. 11 - City of Merrill Tour of Lights  
*For more information, go to: merrillchamber.org/events or contact the event sponsor.*



**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> • STARTING AT 11AM**

**MERGET'S MOUTHWATERING MAYHEM 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FREE COMMUNITY DINNER**  
 Free will donation - All proceeds go to the Northwoods Veterans Post and the Food Pantry

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
**BRAD EMMANUEL**  
 12PM - 3PM  
**MATTEA JOY**  
 3PM - 7PM

**BAR OPEN All Day**  
**GREEN BAY VS. MIAMI**  
 (Drinks Only)

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

**PUB 1638**  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
 601 Johnson St., Merrill • 715-536-5708  
 WE SELL FLAGS!

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

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

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

**Mondays**  
 \$5 Burger & Home Fries  
 Dine-in only & additional toppings are extra.

**Sunday & Tuesday**  
 Broasted Chicken  
 12 Noon-8pm

**Friday**  
 Fish Fry 12 Noon-8:45pm

Red Granite Bar & Grill  
 Order Online - Check wait times or just stop in!  
 Find us on

**The Eagles Club**  
 1205 N Lake St. • Merrill, WI 54452

Open to the Public • (715) 536-7471  
 NO FOOD SERVED: Sat. & Sun. - Special Events Only

**DINNER SPECIALS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER**

<b>TUESDAY NIGHTS</b>	<b>FRIDAY NIGHTS</b>
<b>DEC. 3RD - LIVER &amp; ONIONS</b>	<b>NOV. 29TH - WALLEYE</b>
<b>DEC. 10TH - BOURBON CHICKEN</b>	<b>DEC. 6TH - PERCH</b>

**DINNER SERVED FROM 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Visit our Website! 584.localfoewi.com

**HOP ON CASH OUT!**  
 LUCK IS JUST A SHUTTLE RIDE AWAY

WITTENBERG

STEVEN'S POINT WAUSAU WITTENBERG

HAVE YOUR DRIVER INITIAL AND RECEIVE  
**\$10 REWARDS PLAY**  
 ONE TIME OFFER

DRIVER INITIALS:  DATE:

**Massive • Holiday • Indoor Gift & Craft Show**  
**SAT. December 7th 8-4 / \$5**  
**Central WI Expo - Rothschild**  
 GIFTS • CRAFTS • AND MORE!  
**1,000'S OF TREASURES!!**

HolidayGiftandCraftShow.com  
 Zurko Promotions  
 715-526-9769

**St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store**  
 1004 E. Main Street, Merrill, WI  
 Hours: Monday thru Saturday 9AM to 5PM

**Mark Your Calendar!**

Friday, November 29  
 7am to 7pm  
**BONUS Black Friday**  
**Nifty Thrifty Sale**  
 50% off everything in the store!

Saturday, December 7  
 1:30pm to 4pm  
**Come visit with Mrs. Claus and get a sweet treat!**

Don't forget Nifty Thrifty Sales are the 4th Friday of every month,  
**AND REMEMBER...THRIFTING IS FUN!!!**

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

**MOVIES AND SHOWTIMES**  
 11/27/24 TO 12/05/24  
 Mondays All Seats \$5.00

**MOANA 2** "PG" (1HR 40MIN)  
 WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
 THANKSGIVING: 7:00PM  
 FRIDAY: 1:00, 7:00 & 9:00PM  
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00 & 9:00PM  
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM  
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

**WICKED** "PG" (2HR 40MIN)  
 WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
 THANKSGIVING: 7:00PM  
 FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

**RED ONE** "PG13" (2HR 2MIN)  
 WEDNESDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM  
 THANKSGIVING: 7:00PM  
 FRIDAY: 1:00, 7:00 & 9:15PM  
 SATURDAY: 1:00, 3:15, 7:00 & 9:15PM  
 SUNDAY: 1:00, 3:15 & 7:00PM  
 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

www.cosmomovies.com  
**715-536-4473**

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

**HOURS**  
**MONDAY** • Noon - 6pm  
**TUE. - FRI.** • Noon - Close  
**SATURDAY** • 11am - Close  
**SUNDAY** • 11am - 6pm

**DECEMBER BOOZE OF THE MONTH**  
**SMIRNOFF**  
 \$5.00 - 16 oz. Pint

**THURS. NOV. 28TH**  
**OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY**  
 Open at 10am

**SAT. DEC. 7TH**  
**CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT**  
 Open 11am  
 Starts at Noon

**SAT. DEC. 7TH**  
**CHRISTMAS PARADE** • 5pm  
 • Hot Drink Specials  
 • Sweet Treats

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**  
 Girl, Lilyann Kathleen, born to Tricia Evans and Douglas Evans of Gleason.

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2024**  
 Boy, Trent John, born to Tiffany Iverson and Trevor Skortz of Stevens Point.

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2024**  
 Boy, Waylon James,

born to Tatum Palms and Andrew Anno of Loyal.

**OCTOBER 7, 2024**  
 Boy, Ethan Hunter, born to Ann Lewis and Joshua Lewis of Merrill.

**OCTOBER 16, 2024**  
 Girl, Hazel Rae, born to Brianna Kluck and Evan Kluck of Wausau.

**OCTOBER 21, 2024**  
 Girl, Vera Sue, born to Jessica Reeves and Derek Reeves of Bryant.

Girl, Clara Renee, born to Courtney Meyer and Dan Meyer of Gleason.

**OCTOBER 31, 2024**  
 Girl, Ula Opal, born to Paige Laven of Merrill.

**NOVEMBER 13, 2024**  
 Girl, Audrey Claire, born to Elisabeth Wagner and Kurt Wagner of Wausau.

*Give Thanks*

As your family gathers this holiday season, remember to give thanks for these precious moments together. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving from the staff of Waid Funeral Home.

**Waid Funeral & Cremation Service**  
 301 Eagle Drive • Merrill, WI  
 Phone: (715) 536-4646  
 www.WaidFuneral.com

**LUNDIN**  
*from page 3*

In recognition of his 50th Anniversary, Lundin made a sizable donation to the scholarship fund for the Rotary Club of Merrill. These funds provide annual scholarships to local students bound for college and technical school.

Lundin's career was always in finance. Although semi-retired, he continues to give back to the financial world. He is a CPA, as well as a forensic accountant, and he remains a very active member of the Merrill Rotary Club.

Lundin is in charge of wine selection for Rotary Uncorked 2025, coming up on Feb. 1, 2025.

**Engineering SCHOLARSHIPS for 2025 - 2026**

CHEMICAL • ELECTRICAL  
 PAPER SCIENCE • CIVIL  
 MECHANICAL  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 ENVIRONMENTAL

for interested seniors with a  $\geq 3.0$  GPA in the  
**TOMAHAWK MILL AREA**  
 (Tomahawk or Merrill High Schools)

**PCA** PACKAGING CORPORATION OF AMERICA  
 Investing in local talent for our future.

Ask your school office or guidance counselor for details.  
 Complete and submit an application by December 27, 2024.

OP-ED

# Lincoln County Retired Teachers Association observes National Education Week

BY THE LINCOLN COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Since 1921, National Education Week, observed this year from Monday, Nov. 18 through Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, has become a celebration during which we recognize the important roles public schools and their staffs play in student development. Communities across the country have long devoted personnel and resources to achieve this significant goal.

Historically, Lincoln County had as many as 100 schools dotting the landscape to help achieve our local commitment to education. While fewer in number today, our public schools continue their work.

Today, more than ever, communities are called upon to help our educational systems excel in their quest to inspire excellence in each child. During National Education Week, we urge everyone to take a moment and thank those people who work in the forefront of a system that was designed to help each child attain her/his potential.

Individually, Lincoln County schools will have their own ways of celebrating this week, but perhaps there's something you could do this week and beyond.

For example, maybe have your child write a thank-you note to a teacher or two. Even if you have been out of school for decades, send a note to that teacher who made a difference in your life. What a great way to brighten someone's day!

Volunteer at your child's school. Attend concerts, art displays, sporting events, fundraisers, parent/teacher conferences (even in the high school years), and any other activities that bring you closer to your schools.

Opportunities are endless. This week should inspire parents and supporters of education to help keep our

schools vibrant and effective.

Educating America's youth has never been more important and challenging than today. What can you do to help kids, schools, and teachers?

**Family efforts count.** As a family, make education a priority. Set aside time daily to be a part of your child's educational life. Actually talk with your child. Put reasonable limits on social media and gaming. What you do as a family can have a tremendous impact on a child's education. Remember, it's not always where the bus is going, but where it's coming from that helps create success.

**Read.** Hopefully, this activity has begun in the home early in a child's life. If not, it's never too late to begin. Read to and with your child. Take your kid (and maybe the neighbor kids too!) to the library. It's free, healthy entertainment. If you notice that your child experiences difficulties with reading, get help. Make sure your child sees you read daily.

**Don't be afraid or embarrassed to ask for help.** If your child struggles, ask for help. Maybe it's something as simple as an eye exam. Maybe your child displays characteristics of learning issues, such as dyslexia, speech problems, or a myriad of other learning obstacles. Some may require a clinical evaluation, while others can be addressed by school specialists.

**Educate yourself.** Be aware of curriculum initiatives that may seem new to you. Find out about efforts, such as the state-driven Act 20, aimed at improving reading skills in all schools. Talk to your child's teachers as a starting point. Some of the curriculum efforts, whether new or old, might need your volunteer help. What a great way to help in the school while educating yourself!

**Be aware.** Adopt a watchful eye for your child's physical

and mental well-being. Report concerns to appropriate school personnel. All too often we hear of tragic suicides occurring among our youth. Remember the Wisconsin Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is there to help by dialing 988.

**Promote safe schools.** We've long done this with anti-smoking and anti-drug laws. Firearms are a fact of life in our area. Many of us get great joy in the hunting culture and the family and friend relationships promoted by this activity. That's great. However, the epidemic of violence in schools should tell us that schools and school property are no places for weapons. Do whatever you can to help build a safe culture in our schools. Remember too—if you see something, say something.

**Make bullying unacceptable.** Physical and verbal abuse is never acceptable, whether on the playground, in a classroom, or on any social platform. Never make it OK to bully. Report bullying threats and actions to school authorities.

**Be a partner, not an adversary.** Realize that every classroom is made up of students who have differing abilities, aspirations, backgrounds, and values. Addressing the needs of this unique group is a daunting task. While you must be concerned about one child's progress, that teacher has to find ways to help everybody. Working calmly and rationally together helps solve issues.

This list of suggestions, although limited in length, would be an ideal way to make National Education Week extend to a year-long commitment to our schools and those who work diligently to prepare our children and grandchildren to face a complex, demanding future stretching out for another hundred years and more.

Happy National Education Week to all!

## Prairie River Middle School 2024-2025 first quarter Honor Roll

**EIGHTH GRADE**

**GOLD 4.00:** Alle Bergh, Darby Bonnell, Mason Bowman, Ella Burrow, Aaron Collinsworth, Elijah Dymerski, Colton Fox, Autumn Genisot, Jaedyn Goetsch, Jacob Hanson, Jamis Hanson, Liam Hayes, Jase Huston, Mara

Kautzer, Willett Knospe, Allie Kohnhorst, Aubrey Krombholz, Noah Lyman, Julio Martinez-Santiago, Payge Osness, Abigail Parks, Draven Sangster, Aili Sayles, Luke Wegner, Dantell Williams

**SILVER 3.750-3.999:** Jaxson Ames, Ella Bergh,

Bethany Crockford, Lydia Faber, Moses Gates, Jameson Gerdes, Mia Hanson, Brody Johnas, Kassandra Johnson, Andrew Josiger, Logan Klug, Kelsey Pankow, Evelyn Reinhardt, Makaylynn Roehl, Easton Romatoski, Michael Schreiber, Kinzie

Stevenson, Cadence Stutting, Caylinn Van Der Nest, Brayden Weisman, Maddie Zajackowski

**BRONZE 3.50-3.749:** Drew Baade, Calleigh Berlik, Henry Chrudimsky, Keira Clerveaux, Wil Dertert, Summer Essex, Madilynn Geiss, Evelyn

Johnson, Lexus Kosmicki, Vanessa Kurtzhals, Leo Lazare, Mathew Mueller, Khloe Olson, Elias Pakonen, Addison Plautz, Korbet Ravn, Calvin Rogers, Jasper Staeven, Ryan Wallin

Parker Hannemann, Oliver Kahr, Emma Myers, Alexander Neumann, Connor Savagian-Demoss, Aiden Schultz, Cooper Schwartzman, Hunter Staskiewicz

**SEVENTH GRADE**  
**GOLD 4.00:** Caelyn Belant, Charles Gerbig,

See PRAIRIE RIVER page 9

O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good!  
Psalm 136:1a

**Wishing Everyone a HAPPY Thanksgiving**

**PRAIRIE PINES**

N5448 State Rd 17, Gleason, WI 715-873-4840  
Hours: Wed. & Sat. 8AM-5PM, Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 8AM-5:30PM

**WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A SAFE AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**CLOSED THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOV. 28TH & 29TH**

**KNAB INSURANCE Agency, Inc.**

1314 E. Main St., Merrill, WI 715.536.4833

**FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS:**  
Auto • Recreational Vehicles  
Umbrella • Home • Farm • Crop  
Business • Agribusiness

**AUTO JOCKEYS**

• Sales • Service

From our Family to Yours,  
**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!**

Closed November 28 & 29

**715-536-1900**  
400 E. 2nd Street Merrill  
[www.autojockeys.com](http://www.autojockeys.com)  
Hours Mon.-Fri. 8:00 am-5:00 pm

**Happy Thanksgiving**



**BREAMAN Merrill Ford**

Sales: (715) 536-4542 • Parts/Service: (715) 536-3039  
Closed Thanksgiving Day  
1301 N. Center Ave., Merrill, WI 54452  
(Hwy 51, Exit 211 then south 1.5 miles)  
[www.breamanmerrillford.com](http://www.breamanmerrillford.com)

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS...  
WISHING YOU A VERY  
**Happy Thanksgiving!**

CELEBRATING OVER 50 YEARS IN MERRILL

Drive Thru Only

**CHIPS HAMBURGERS**

"Home of the Bluejay Burger!"

[www.chipshamburgersmerrill.com](http://www.chipshamburgersmerrill.com)  
1203 E. 3RD STREET, MERRILL, WI • 715-536-6532

WE WILL BE CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY.

**The CLASSIFIEDS**



**can take you places!**

715-536-7121

**EMPLOYMENT**

**TOWN OF MERRILL**

IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR  
**PLOW TRUCK AND/OR GRADER OPERATOR**

• Must have a CDL

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN GLASS BULLETIN BOARD AT W4594 PROGRESS AVENUE AND AT-[www.townofmerrillwi.gov](http://www.townofmerrillwi.gov) or call **Chairman-Mike Hass** with questions at 715-218-7821



**TRINITY MERRILL**  
LUTHERAN EARLY LEARNING CENTER

201 STANGE STREET, MERRILL, WI 715-722-0523



**WE'RE HIRING FULL TIME POSITIONS + BENEFITS!**

IF INTERESTED IN APPLYING, PLEASE CONTACT OUR ELC DIRECTOR, CASSY HOFFMAN AT [ELCDIRECTOR@TRINITYMERRILL.COM](mailto:ELCDIRECTOR@TRINITYMERRILL.COM)



**NOW HIRING**

**Local Driver | Home Daily**

- Full Time, Monday-Friday.
- Class A CDL is required.
- Minimum of two years tractor/trailer experience is required.

Contact Jody • 715-536-9789 x 2  
[jlokemoen@pioneertrans.com](mailto:jlokemoen@pioneertrans.com) • [www.pioneertrans.com](http://www.pioneertrans.com)

**Join the Lincoln Production Crew in Merrill, WI!**



Lincoln Wood Products has proudly provided work in Merrill for over 75 years, crafting high-end windows and doors sold across the U.S. Be part of a legacy of quality!

**Why Join Us?**

- Starting Pay up to \$22/hr.
- First Shift Only – keep your evenings free!
- Seniority Incentives & Annual Shoe Allowance
- Transfer Bonus & OT after 8 hours daily

**TO APPLY:**

- Apply in person at 1400 W. Taylor Street (employment office – SW corner)
- Or Email your resume to [gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com](mailto:gebeyer@lincolnwindows.com)
- Or go to [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com) to search vacancies

**We are an equal opportunity employer.**

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**General Employment 7110**



**Now Hiring! \$2500 Hiring Bonus:** Seeking Full-Time and Part-Time Direct Support Professionals, In-Home Caregivers, and Supervisory Positions. Will train the right candidate! \$18-20/hour, all shifts in Rhinelander, Tomahawk. Call/Text Beth at 715-897-4003

**Entertainment 7035**

**HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES ROCKING W STABLES.** Dec 16-Jan 1 Beautiful trails Great Family Fun. Can handle all size groups & private parties! Info 715-617-6779 or [www.rockingwstables-kartway.com](http://www.rockingwstables-kartway.com) (12/16)

**Craft Sales 7204**

**HOLIDAY GIFT, CRAFT COLLECTABLE SALE!!** Sat. Nov. 30th at the fabulous RESCH EXPO CENTER, GREEN BAY. 500+ Vendors (8am-4pm) Meet and Greet, The Grave Digger... GILBERT BROWN. Free parking for info [www.zurkopromotions.com](http://www.zurkopromotions.com) or 715-302-0932 (11/26)

**WOW!!! ZURKOS MASSIVE HOLIDAY GIFT & CRAFT SHOW.** Sat Dec. 21 at the Fabulous Appleton Expo (Downtown Appleton 150+ Holiday Vendors. Info. [www.zurkopromotions.com](http://www.zurkopromotions.com) or 715-302-0932 (12/2)

**WOW!!! ZURKOS MASSIVE HOLIDAY GIFT & CRAFT SHOW.** Sat Dec. 7th at the Fabulous Central Wis. Expo in Rothschild. 150+ Holiday Vendors. Info. [www.zurkopromotions.com](http://www.zurkopromotions.com) or 715-302-0932 (12/2)

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

**Flea Markets 7210**

**SPORTSMAN RUMMAGE SALE.** Dec 7 8-1pm, LUCKY DOGG SPORTS BAR BANQUET HALL. LABOR TEMPLE 157 S Green Bay Rd. Neenah. Used Sporting Equipment & More!! Admission \$5 12 and under free. Table Rent Info Call Len 920-570-4541 or Foxvalley-muzzleloaders.com (11/26)

**Firewood 7244**

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

**Lawn and Garden 7250**

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

**Dogs 7272**

**AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS.** Shots Vet ck'd. Wormed. \$600-\$700 Can deliver 715-255-2661 (#269146)

**AUSSIE DOODLE PUPS** Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$600 715-255-2661 (#269146)(11/26)

**BOSTON/RAT TERRIER PUPS** Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$500 715-255-2661 (#269146)(11/18)

**CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL.** Born 10/4. Registered shots, DEW, vet ck'd \$800 715-644-5726 (12/2)

**CAVAPOO PUPS.** Vaccinated dew \$250 715-223-0782 (12/2)

**FOR SALE CAVALIER PUPS.** Ruby & Blenheim 3-M 2-F cute and friendly Ready 11-18 \$500. OBO 715-223-7440 (11/26)

**Dogs 7272**

**HAVAPOO & YORKI PUPS!!** Shots, DEW & Vet Ck'd. Very cute nice colors Ready To Go NOW! 715-937-4425 (11/26)



**Purebred Jack Russell Terrier** puppies. First shots and dewormed. \$500 each. 715-921-2989

**Dogs 7272**

**SHIBA/SHELTIE AND COLLIE'S HELTIE PUPPIES.** They like people \$120 each 715-223-1119 (11/18)

**WHOODLE PUPS** Shots/Worm/Vet ck'd, can deliver \$700 715-255-2661 (#269146)(11/18)

**Livestock 7284**

**ALL NAT. GRASS FED BEEF.** Butchered Jan 14th Vac. Pak. Incl. Processing \$6.50lb. 715-250-2793

**Hay and Straw 7288**

**For Sale:** Hay, Good grass mix, no rain. Rounds and small squares. Best time to call 6-8am 920-878-0005 or 920-878-0288. Free delivery within 100 miles of Appleton, WI

**REGISTERD CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPS.** Shots, Dew, Vet Ready Dec. 16 Can deliver \$950 715-470-0458 Call (#509642) 11/26

**Registered Golden Retriever puppies,** ready for their new home 11/30. Vet-checked, wormed & shots. Good with children. (8) males; (4) females. \$900 each. **Call or text: 715-773-1675**

[www.merrillfotonews.com](http://www.merrillfotonews.com)



**MULTI MEDIA CHANNELS THE PARENT COMPANY OF THIS PUBLICATION, IS LOOKING FOR A MARKETING AND SALES CONSULTANT**

The position involves meeting with businesses to find out their needs and create a marketing plan with our lineup of print products. This position sells advertising to businesses to help them grow via weekly newspapers, special sections, web ads, and a variety of specialty magazines.

**This position offers competitive pay and benefits, no nights or weekends, mileage and expense reimbursement.**

**EMAIL MIKE HOLLIHAN AT [MHOLLIHAN@MMCLOCAL.COM](mailto:MHOLLIHAN@MMCLOCAL.COM)**



**Fall For A New Career**

**Crew Member \$19.79-\$20.40/hr**

**Join our Team! Two Merrill Locations**

- 4 10-Hour Days
- Both shifts available
- Possible OT on Friday
- Attendance Bonus Program (up to an additional \$1.50/hr)
- Retirement & Life Insurance
- Paid Holidays and Vacations
- Excellent Low-Cost Benefits: Individual: \$88/Month Spouse: +\$140/Month Child: +\$63/Month

2024 Monthly Rates

**APPLY IN-PERSON**  
Two Locations:  
605 N. Ohio St. | 1815 Water St.  
Questions? Call: 715-722-1884  
**See all opportunities at: [SPI.CAREERS](http://SPI.CAREERS)**



Sierra Pacific is an (EOE) Equal Opportunity Employer, including those with a disability and veterans.



**PRAIRIE RIVER**  
*from page 7*

**SILVER 3.750-3.999:**  
Emma Daley, Sylvia Durbin, Mason Fuchs, Preston Hannemann, Corbin Hanson, Conner Holdridge, Lillian Johnson, Charlee Krueger, Cameron McCaskill, Addilyn Mulrooney, Payten Nelessen, Atreya Stone, Ashton Thom, Taylor Timm, Brayden Wiederhoeft, Claire Ziebell

**BRONZE 3.50-3.749:**  
Chloe Carstensen, Lillyana Haig, Aaron Haltinner, Elizabeth Hinz, Breella

**Agriculture Services 7292**

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

**Apartments for Rent 7400**

**THE MEADOWS APARTMENTS**  
1, 2, & 3 bedroom units in Merrill, WI For low & moderate income individuals & families. Handicapped accessible. Units Available. Appliances, hot water, water/sewer, garbage service provided. Coin-op laundry facility.

CALL NOW!  
712-580-5360 or Toll Free 855-441-8688  
Certain income restrictions apply

  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

**Passenger Cars 7538**

2004 Buick LeSabre Limited, 102,000 miles, very good condition, leather interior, new tires. \$5,500. Text 715-218-7402 days.

**Vehides Wanted 7554**

**AUTOMOBILES WANTED:** Running or not. Cash on the spot. Same day pick up. Paying Top Dollar. Call 920-290-6662.

**Painting and Wallpaper 7364**

**FRITZ BARN PAINTING** rusty Roofs, Metal Buildings Free Est. 608-221-3510 920-821-6311

**Remodeling 7368**

**PLOVER VIEW CONSTRUCTION** New Construction or Remodeling: Roofing, Siding, Flatwork, Drywall, Flooring. For all your construction needs, call Jody at 715-581-2603  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**OVER 25 YRS. EXPERIENCE**

Hoffman, Mackenzie Matthias, Lexi Renken, Carter Schmidt, Hank Skomars, Makayla Talerico, Cameron Thom

**SIXTH GRADE GOLD 4.00:**  
Emily Austin, Aubrie Brandenburg, Rylan Brendemuehl, Avery Clark, Peyton Corroo, Aaron Crockford, Hadley Fisher, Zachary Gennrich, Kennedy Gerdes, Lily Glisch, Adelia Hanson, Kennedy Hess, Claire Hooock, Brooklyn Johnas, Devon Johnson, Drew Kaminski, Logan Koehler, Willow Kultgen, Jazalyn Lee, Scarlett Lee, Aaron Marturano, Brea Neubauer, Brayley Schimelpfenig, Bentley Wyland

**SILVER 3.750-3.999:**  
Mason Anderson, Natalie Barnett, Tristan Gentile-Hull, Wesley Gronke, Emily Grunenwald, Lucas Hagenbucher, Hailey Hoff,

Maddyn Jahnke, Carter Madden, Rihanna Murray, Cameron Neumann

**BRONZE 3.50-3.749:**  
Jalen Adiloska, Wyatt Becker, Alvaro Carreto, William Frisch, Bentley Graap, Quinn Hahn, Mason Hirn, Aaron Jaeger, Charlie Krause, Logan Learman, Emelina McClellan, Kason Randall, Owen Rhode, Alexandria Smith, Jaylen Vircks, Tommie Wistein

**FIFTH GRADE GOLD 4.00:**  
Myla Fraser, Saylor Gates, Grace Gibson, Samuel Graveen, Benjamin Hartwig, Makyla Klingsmith, Evelyn Koehler, Kendra Kohnhorst, Braelyn Lau, Joseph Lechmaier, Bennett Martinovici, Bristol Orchard, Raya Osness, Matthew Quednow, Kelsey Rindt, Ailyn Roberge, Piper Vanlieshout, Kynlee Wyland

**SILVER 3.750-3.999:**  
Lincoln Berndt, Elaina Breunig, Liem Christian-

Lee, Jase Coates, Jasmine Isaacson, Olivia Klade, Gabriel Kohlmann, Elaina Literski, Kiera Mroczenski, Linzie Pankow, Aria Perez, Emmanuel Perez, Aiden Schenk, Owen Smith, Mason Wiederhoeft

**BRONZE 3.50-3.749:**  
Kenzingtyn Adams, Aydreanna Ament, Makenzie Badeau, Tenley Badeau, Bentley Blake, Turner Bonnell, Sophia Brandt, Greyson Bushar, Lily Fredrick, Lucy Freese, Joey Garcia, Graycen Graap, Violet Green, Adeline Harrison, Camryn Hildreth-Graap, Oliver Jeter, Hailey Masterson, Evony Miller, Olivia Mootz, Aislyn Mulrooney, Lance Patterson, Arabella Randall, Tanner Reinhardt, Chase Schaupp, Reece Schaupp, Gabriella Schoerner, Renlee Schwartzman, Harrison Thiel, Abby Welch

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**  
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFESSIONAL AND RELIABLE SERVICE DIRECTORY

**CAL'S HANDYMAN SERVICES**  
Garages, Remodeling  
Yard Work, Driveway Sealcoating  
**NO JOB TOO SMALL!**  
**715-816-4602**

**"Give me a call, before the rain starts to fall!"**  
- Brian Plisch • Owner/Operator  
LOCALLY OWNED  
Serving the area for 20 years.  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**Bus: 715-297-0907**  
**www.bpseamless.com** Email: bpseamless@gmail.com  
*Great Look, Great Price, 5% off if you mention this ad.*



**THORNE CONSTRUCTION LLC**  
Your Dream Builders  
• Build & Remodel • Shop/Sheds  
• Complete Remodels • Concrete/ICF Walls  
**FULLY INSURED 715-432-5197** Joseph Thorne

**EE MACHINE LLC**  
EDMUND COLLINSWORTH  
Gleason, WI.  
**715-216-4682**

**Free Estimates**  
• Light Excavating  
• Demolitions/Removal  
• Stump Removal  
• Dump Trailer Service  
• Trenching  
• Storm Clean Up  
• Fully Insured

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

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

**PODEWELTZ**  
Repair Service, LLC  
Heating • Cooling • Sheet Metal  
**TRANE** W2810 Hwy, C, Merrill  
(715) 536-6791  
*It's Hard To Stop A Trane?*

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

**REAL ESTATE**  
**SOLICITATION OF BIDS**

Joyce Peterson solicits bids for the purchase of her homestead located at N2215 Prairie River Avenue in the Town of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, on a large one (1) acre lot with approximately 150 feet of frontage on the Prairie River. This 1,784 square foot ranch home features on the main level 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 bathrooms, laundry, kitchen, dining room, living room and office. On the walkout basement level is a large rec room with a fireplace, wet bar, walk-in cooler and 3/4 bathroom. There is an attached two (2) car garage.

The premises may be inspected on **Saturday, December 7th from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.** The premises and improvements are being sold in an **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 bid contingent upon an inspection. Title to the premises shall be conveyed by warranty deed except restrictions, reservations, easements, agreements, covenants and rights-of-way of record.

Joyce Peterson reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to accept any bid she deems most satisfactory in her 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 "Peterson House Bid" and sent by first class mail to Max Peterson, W4495 County Road G, Merrill, WI 54452.

Bids **will be examined on the 16th day of December, 2024.** The successful bidder, if any, will be notified on or before the 20th day of December, 2024.

An additional 40,000.00 square foot vacant lot with approximately 130 feet of frontage on the Prairie River is also available for purchase.

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
Call 715.536.7121 to place your ad today.

**Call Mark 715-503-5460**

- Hidden Fastener Snap Lock
- Ventilated at Peak
- 4 Star Hail & Fire Resistant
- Can Be Installed Over Existing Roof

**Wisco Steel Roofing, LLC**  
Tired Of Re-Roofing Your House?  
**Try a Steel Roof!**  
**CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE**

**Call Vernon 715-618-8232**

- Can Be Installed Over An Existing Roof
- 40 Year Factory Warranty
- 4-Star Hail and Fire Resistant
- Ventilated At Peak
- Energy Star Efficient
- Hidden Fastener
- 28 Colors Available
- Steel or Asphalt Roofing
- Top Quality Work for Less
- Individual Homeowners, Contractors, or Commercial

**BADGERLAND STEEL ROOFING**  
Tired Of Re-Roofing Your House?  
**Try a Steel Roof!**  
**CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE**

**AUCTIONS**  
**HANSEN AUCTION GROUP ONLINE REAL ESTATE AUCTIONS**  
4 Vacant Land Parcels Lender-Owned, Commercial, Residential and Recreational Options from 0.23± Acre up to 6.38± Acre Lots Bayfield County - Iron River, WI  
20± Acres Wooded Recreational Land Just One Mile South of Lake Superior South Shore near Port Wing, Lender Owned Bayfield County - Port Wing, WI  
ONLINE BIDDING ENDS TUES., DEC. 10TH  
See Website for Open House Details  
In conjunction with Hansen Real Estate Group  
For More Info Call: Jerry Bates: 715-418-0139; Hansen Auction Group: 715-607-4411  
Terms: 7% Buyers Fee. Bryce Hansen, registered WI auctioneer #225  
**BID NOW AT HANSENAUCTIONGROUP.COM**

**LARGE 2 DAY ADVERTISING AUCTION**  
**DECEMBER 6TH & 7TH, 2024**  
**Fri., Dec. 6th & Sat., Dec. 7, 2024 • 9:00am**  
**1625 Butts Ave, Tomah Wi, 54660**  
**FRIDAY DECEMBER 6TH AT 9:00AM**  
Selling old original advertising signs, clocks & thermometers, gas pumps & globes, air meters, plus more.  
**SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH AT 9:00AM.**  
Selling old original brewery & liquor advertising signs, clocks, thermometers, glasses, cases, tap knobs plus more.  
**NO BUYERS PREMIUM IF YOU ATTEND IN PERSON! FOOD & BEVERAGES PROVIDED.**  
Terms on onsite auction are cash or check. Credit card 4% buyers premium.  
**WWW.MILLERSAUCTIONCO.COM**  
Call or Text Glenn Miller, Jr. AT 715-299-2543  
email: wisconsinjunk@yahoo.com  
Reg Wis Auctioneer Tim Barnum #1284  
Auction Conducted & Clerked by Millers Auction Co #347-053, PO BOX 143 Hixton WI 54635

# Merrill High School first Quarter Honor Roll 2024-2025

**GRADE 9 HIGHEST HONORS (4.0):** Brady Genisot, Shane Gibson, Lilee Haltinner, Noelle Iverson, Connor Josiger, Annabelle Lee, Alexis Lonsdorf, Kylie Lutzke, Denver McCaskill, Cecillia Priebe, Hannah Rell, Eliza Rogers, Alina Savagian-Demoss, Brianna Schmirler, Broc Suchocki, Fletcher Talerico, Jack Taylor, Evan Voigt, Dylan Weber, Anna Whited, Cameron Wszalek, Benjamin Zastrow

**HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99):** Ian Asinas, Azalea Blake, Alana Brendemuehl, Austin Doering, Alexis Fehr, Caleb Gennrich, Cecilia Gerbig, Marie Hagemeister, Orion Hill, Haley Hoock, Kendell Klug, Claire Kufahl, Finlee

Lange-Peronto, Jameson Morgan, Karlee Ravn, Mikenna Van DeWeerd, Madeline Voigt, Shelby Yates

**HONORS (3.5-3.74):** Raymond Adamec, Brooklyn Bellin, Lilly Bong, Karmen Brietzke, Brooklyn Clabots, Jennavecia Conrad, Kaleb Cook, Bryanna Doerr, Megan Gustum, Kane Hanson, Lexie Hass, Kylee Hoffman, Liam Huggins, Maycie Johnson, Avery Kolinski, Addisyn Krause, Mylie Kufahl, Ava Latzig, Jacey Lyon, Emmanuel Ollmann, Kylie Roberge, Jackson Roggenbuck, Preston Schmidt, Alicia Schneider, Siobhan Schuetze, Nikolajs Schulz, Cadence Seliger, Alexa Staskiewicz, Emma Wendt

**GRADE 10 HIGHEST HONORS (4.0):** Lily Berndt, Stuart Gehris, Shanna Herdt, Grace Hoff, Lily Hoff, Abbie Krueger, Miley Krueger, Danika Kuehl, Kinsey Literski, Mya Meyer, Marielle Nass, Evan Olson, Greta Peterson, Layla Schmidt, Evyn Schmitz, Derek Schult, Jacob Shimel, Remington Skic, Charlotte Van Der Nest, Lauren Zuelsdorff

**HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99):** Paige Byer, Maycee Eisner, Abigail Gauerke, Erik Grunenwald, Xavier Hanke, Claire Hintz, Brody Klebenow, Izabella Klockow, Mason Meyer, Landon Mootz, Addison Pickard, Emily Raymer, Peyton Smith, Isabella Stutting, Grace Wegner

**HONORS (3.5-3.74):** Tatiana Anderson, Allyson Boquist, Matthew Burkhardt, Rory Gates, Ronald Grimm, Samuel Hagemeister, Peyton Hagenbucher, Abigail Hart, Reese Kaminski, Trenton Klimek, Justice Kunze, Ivan Lee, Mark Marvin, Elayna Olson, Miranda Osness, Tyson Ott, Vanessa Pintor, Grant Polak, Grace Reimann, Colton Ruplinger, Alyssa Schneider, Deylah Schulz, Kayleigh Strey, Caleb Thompson, Addison White, Laci Wirtala, See **HONOR ROLL** page 11

## OBERG from page 1

During an interview via email, he said open positions within the agency are few, and the candidates selected are some of the best. On average, a Conservation Officer Academy is held annually; however, some years the Academy is postponed if the number of vacancies is lower than average.

Albert said Minnesota usually gets several hundred applications for the open positions and typically selects 15-19 officers per year to hire and accept into the Academy. Recruits describe the Academy training as very intense and typically one or two of those officers drop out, realizing this is not the career they envisioned. Callie's class, which began in May, remains intact—something the Minnesota DNR takes pride in, knowing they hired an exceptional group to begin their honorable careers with the agency.

After classroom instruction is complete, Albert said new wardens are sent into the field for a 16-week field-training program. Here the recruits are paired with three separate experienced wardens in various parts of the state. Expectations of new wardens become progressively higher with each pairing. By their fourth phase of training, conservation officer candidates are essentially expected to perform on



Callie Oberg at her graduation ceremony at Camp Riley, with grandfather Jay Proft Sr. standing behind her in blue.

Photo courtesy of the Oberg family.

their own, Albert said.

Callie said her team of field training officers were able to help her take what she learned in the classroom into the field so she could perform all of the duties of a conservation officer on her own.

When asked, Callie said her grandfather, Jay Proft Sr., inspired her passion for the field of law enforcement. Jay—better known to many as Gooze—served the citizens of Merrill as a police officer for 20 years before a work-related injury forced his early retirement.

Within the field of law enforcement, there are many unique jobs—from federal to state to local—but Callie said she was drawn to becoming a conservation officer because this unique position enables her to both protect and serve her community and to protect its natural resources.

The Minnesota DNR has 155 field stations across the state, and new wardens can choose where they want to be stationed based on vacant posts. After Callie completes her field training, she expects to be stationed in Winona County where she lives with her fiancé, Eric Weber, who is serving an apprenticeship with Excel Energy.

In August, Callie's family traveled to Camp Riley near Little Falls, Minn., to attend her graduation ceremony. Each recruit is expected to have a family member or loved one complete one of the final steps of the graduation—the honorable pinning of the badge. Callie chose her grandfather, Jay Proft Sr., to pin her badge, a very fitting choice, as now a new generation will continue to serve honorably in the field of law enforcement.

**Happy Thanksgiving**

**RANGER CITY** CUSTOM-CUT FRESH BEEF, PORK & CHICKEN

**Merrill Distributing Inc.** SINCE 1912 UniPro

**Frostman** fish market

Your Local Food Service and C-Store Partner

**Merrill Distributing, Inc.**  
1301 N. Memorial Dr., Merrill • 715-536-4551  
www.merrilldistributing.com

With **GRATITUDE** at Thanksgiving

**SUBWAY** Merrill & Tomahawk

**Mama DeLucas PIZZA!** Merrill

Hoping your Thanksgiving is filled with love and cheer

**Happy Thanksgiving**

**CWW** Central Wisconsin Wholesale, A.P. 715.536.9669

**CARQUEST** 715.536.2424

1209 E Main Street • Merrill WI 54452  
www.cwwap.net

Two great stores at 1 location!  
Closed Thanksgiving Day

**HAPPY Thanksgiving**

Wishing everyone a Warm and Blessed Thanksgiving Holiday

**SMITH CENTER**  
1100 Marc Drive, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452

Monday-Friday 7:30am Until 4:00pm • Phone 715-536-7313  
www.ci.merrill.wi.us/parks

We will be closed for Thanksgiving Thurs. & Fri., November 28th & 29th.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

We hope you have a wonderful day celebrating all there is to be thankful for.

We're proud to support the Merrill community.

Learn about our hometown commitment at [churchmutual.com/hometown](http://churchmutual.com/hometown).

**Church Mutual INSURANCE**

Follow us

©2024 Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. 429739

With Thankful Hearts We Celebrate Thanksgiving

**Firefly Lodge** FIREPLACE & STOVE SHOWROOM

**MERRILL SHEET METAL HEATING & COOLING**

CHIMNEY SWEEP

HEATING • COOLING • FIREPLACES • STOVES  
(715) 536-2262 • www.merrillsheetmetal.com

**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

For all your Lock Needs! Servicing all of Lincoln County, Commercial & Residential

**PROULX PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, LLC**

FOR 24 HOUR EMERGENCY ENTRY SERVICE

PLEASE CALL  
715-536-4260  
715-218-0555

# St. John Lutheran School announces 2024-2025 first quarter Honor Roll

**HIGHEST HONORS (4.0):** Gemma Hoffman, Ruby Hoffman, Ella Humphrey, Molly Literski, Natalie Sir, Ever Smith, Esther Verpoorten, Job Verpoorten

**HIGH HONORS (3.76-3.99):** Poppy Geisler, Abner Gremler,

Joshua Hanson, Brynlee Heidemann, Mason Klug, Macie Lange, Garik Peterson, Delana Podeweltz, Adalyn Schooley, Julia Skaar, Isabella Sprague, Caleb Steinagel, Joanna Szeto, Samuel Szeto, Madilynn VenRooy, Christian Voigt,

June Wallace, Carson Wallace

**HONORS (3.5-3.75):** Eli Boehm-Wendt, Adric Frick, Ellyana Ineichen, Gabriel Kleinhans, Evie Klug, Lola Klug, Bentley Kropp, Lillian Mattson, Ethan Spade, Chelsea Wengeler



# Trinity Lutheran School announces 2024-2025 first quarter Honor Roll

Students are recognized on the Trinity Honor Roll for a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 and higher. An\*indicates a 4.0 GPA

### FIFTH GRADE

Easton Baade  
Brinlee Brazeau  
Eli Clerveaux\*  
Grace Dupke  
Paul Huth\*  
Kimberly Klimek  
Joseph Renzelmann  
Ellie Steinagel  
Stevie Wells

### SIXTH GRADE

Emma Baumann  
Brady Bostrom  
Hunter Bostrom  
Alivia Hockett  
Michael Houle  
Emma Krombolz  
Abby Nelson  
James Peterson  
Laney Schmidt  
Oliver Weinkauff

### SEVENTH GRADE

Amber Blennert  
Mariah Dupke  
Adeline Huth\*  
Asa Laabs

Melia Lee\*  
Amiya Lipke-Bauman  
Chloe McKeen  
Fiona McKeen

### EIGHTH GRADE

Madeline Barker  
Rebekah Hagemester  
Willow Harmon\*  
Kayla Klimek\*  
Lexee Laabs  
TyLynn Osness  
Aubrey Renzelmann\*  
Emmie Steinagel\*  
Jillian Severt  
Brooklyn Teske

Haylea Drabek, Mackenzie Ellenbecker, Elizabeth Herdt, Priscilla Ibarra, Carter Kaminski, Dylan Kraegenbrink, Aiden Lonsdorf, Kory Page, Olivia Pajdash, Emma Rautiola, Jacob Schmeltzer, Jake Schwandt, Mia Smith, Carter Stingel, Benjamin Thom, Daniel Vaughn, Merin Yates, Thomas Ziebell

**HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99):** Irene Blennert, Margaret Cordova, Kellen Duerkop, Russell Gruetzmacher, Jax Hanson, Anna Hintz, Aidan Houghton, Lily Kerins, Chase Klebenow, Parker Klebenow, Hanna Koeller, Caden Lemmer, Madison Mccoy, Noah Moore, Maya Paulus, Sarah Rell, Haley Rindt, Sara Ross, Samuel

Schneider, Madilyn Sell, Takiyah Sell, Brock Wilson

**HONORS (3.5-3.74):** Meia Aventi, Elizabeth Barker, Brody Benedict, Gus Chrudimsky, Megan Cordova, Johanna Dahlke, Preston Dettmering, Derek Frahm, Madyson Graap, Kaitlyn Heckendorf, Kaiden Henrich, Janna Jacobson, Joseph Jensen, Cedar Kocimski, Maddox Lammerding, Jonathan Myszka, Brady Norton, Micah Plautz, Joshua Riste, Shaddock Schmidt, Sophia Schmidt, Sebastian Trevino, Kyrie Tucker, Emil Weix, Callum Wheeler, Ahna Wilde

# St. Francis Xavier Catholic School announces 2024-2025 first quarter Honor Roll

### HIGHEST HONORS 3.75 - 4.00

Margaret Delp (4.0)  
Abigail Rell (4.0)  
Elizabeth Burkhardt (4.0)  
Sophia Wendt (4.0)  
Fiona Giese  
Julia Fleischman  
Daven Saeger  
Alex Shimel

### HIGH HONORS 3.50 - 3.749

Emmett Johnson  
Evelyn Hagemester  
Martin Hoffman  
Calvin Hoef

### HONOR ROLL 3.00 - 3.249

Roger Brooks  
Rosaline Brooks  
Aubree Grund  
Owen Peterson

### HONORS 3.25 - 3.499

Ben Schmeltzer  
Mason Spransy  
Frederick Delp

## HONOR ROLL from page 10

Emma Ziebell

### GRADE 11

**HIGHEST HONORS (4.0):** Caroline Durbin, Evan Elliott, Hannah Klinger, Noah Klug, Korina Kraegenbrink, Lilyann Kufahl, Jenna Mallee, Damien Parker, Orion Pillai, Jazlin Severt, Parker Wagenaar, Cooper Wendorf

**HIGH HONORS (3.75-3.99):** Kaylynn Allen, Cairo Amador-Gonzalez, Olivia Barker, Keeley Benedict, Adalyn Blake, Adison Clark, Kaela Clerveaux, James Crockford, Brady Eggebrecht, Addelyn Elliott, Avery Frisch, Raphael Gerbig, Benjamin Gruett, Lillian Hagemester, Addison Jirovec, Slater Kalenske, Alexis Kropp, Peyton Kucirek, Quinton Kurtzhals, Tia Morris, Jacob Mueller, Jaquelin

Reinichen, Isaac Schmidt

**HONORS (3.5-3.74):** Emma Anderson, Nickalas Born, Colton Burrows, Chase Charbarneau, Liberty Fuchs, Hazeley Gates, Ryleigh Golisch, Joshua Gustum, Sarah Hagemester, Sylvia Hanson, Chloe Hipke, Robert Hoffman, Grace Hook, Mariah Hulce, Brenna Jirovec, Theodore Johnson, Cayson Kendall, Farije Kiskoski, Samara Kleinschmidt, Alex Koblitz, Isabella Kottke, Danica Lipke, Lesli Marte, Ralph Nance, Landon Neumann, Roman Rampart, Madison Robbins, Preston Schuelke, Mason Shimel, Landon Sowinski, Jacob Stetz-Schleif, Konner Waid, Keegan Waliczek, Patrick Whited, Brennen Woller

### GRADE 12

**HIGHEST HONORS (4.0):** Max Black, Lily Dallman, Austin Depies, Ava Detert,

**Happy Thanksgiving**

There is no time more fitting to say **THANK YOU** for all your business and support

**KRUEGER PLUMBING LLC**

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

**Happy Thanksgiving**

And Many Blessings

**Baker Barns LLC** (715) 873-3338  
N5696 State Rd. 17, Gleason, WI 54435

visit our office located 1 mile N. of Gleason on Highway 17!

**Happy Thanksgiving**

From the Kalafice Family

SALES • DESIGN • INSTALLATION • SERVICE

**MERRILL HOUSE OF MUSIC**  
Service and Sales Since 1946

**& HOME ENTERTAINMENT**

Home Electronics - Musical Instruments - Custom Audio/Video  
Downtown Merrill 715-536-5352

**GIVE THANKS**

Open Thanksgiving Day 9AM-Close

**S&S BAR** Open Daily 9 am - Close  
418 Grand Ave., Merrill

Hall Rental Available • 715-536-4664

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!**

At this time of Thanksgiving we pause to count our blessings.

The friendship and confidence you have shown in us.

Our best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!

CLOSED NOVEMBER 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> FOR THANKSGIVING  
merrillchamber.org

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

**NAPA AUTO PARTS**

**Closed Thanksgiving Day**

May your Thanksgiving be filled with joy and happiness.

www.NAPAonline.com

**Merrill Store**  
1010 E. Main  
715-536-8336  
Mon.-Fri. 7-6  
Sat. 7-4 • Sun. 8-12

**Tomahawk Store**  
1513 N. 4th St.  
715-453-5534  
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:30  
Sat. 8-3 • Sun. Closed

Happy Thanksgiving!

Wishing you and those dear to you a wonderful Thanksgiving Day!

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

May your heart be filled with gladness and your home be filled with joy!

**INTERFLEX GROUP**  
Image is everything. Packaging defines it.

1401W.Taylor St., Merrill  
(715) 536-5400

**'TIS THE Season TO BE THANKFUL**

**Happy THANKSGIVING**

**OAK PARK DENTAL**

2402 E Main St, Suite 8  
Merrill, WI 54452  
715.539.0441  
oakparkmerrill.com

