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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024 ■ VOLUME 69, ISSUE 49



A view of E. Main Street in Merrill looking east. It's a great time to shop local.

Joseph Frederick photo.

# **Shop local this Christmas!**

The Merrill area offers options for everyone and every budget

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Regardless of who is on your Christmas shopping list or how long (or short) that list may be, keeping your Christmas shopping local is a great way to stimulate and safeguard the Merrill economy. To keep your money in Merrill, think creatively, and use these ideas as a starting point.

Consider all the stores you may not be aware of by taking a slow stroll down East Main St., East First St., East Second St., West Main St., or Grand Ave. in Merrill with a hot cup of coffee or cocoa in hand and enjoy all the Christmas decorations in the windows at the same time. Or pay extra attention as you're driving by. You'll no

driving by. You'll no doubt be surprised at the businesses—some of them new in the last year or three—right here in Merrill, and you'll probably discover a new place or two to shop that you didn't even know existed.

Whether you're Christmas shopping for

See SHOP LOCAL page 6



A float in the 2023 Christmas parade.

Joseph Frederick photo.

# Christmas activities kick off in Merrill this weekend

BY TINA L. SCOTT EDITOR

Christmas activities are kicking off the holiday season in Merrill this Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024. From craft shows to Christmas shopping to supporting local non-profits at the beautiful annual O'Tannenbaum Tour to Merrill's lighted Christmas Parade, Christmas is close at hand. Then Trinity will host their live nativity, St. Francis will host their Breakfast with St. Nick, and St. John the Baptist in Bloomville will hold their Christmas Bazaar, all on Sunday, Dec. 8. And next week is the City's Tour of Lights!

# Christmas craft and vendor events

Several Christmas craft and vendor events will take place this Saturday, providing opportunities for area residents to shop for handmade gifts and holiday decor or items from favorite vendors. More than 100 crafters, vendors, boutiques, and small businesses will showcase their wares at three locations. Shoppers in search of unique or handcrafted items, crafts, jewelry, clothing, baked goods, candies, and gifts will have a good selection. Some locations will also have raffle baskets, and

See KICK OFF page 7

# Dustin Dengel DDS Looking for a dentist that treats your family like their own? Merrill native, Dr. Dustin Dengel, is now accepting new patients in Wausau - a short drive from Merrill. Call our office to schedule today. Szmanda Dental Center - Rib Mountain 227071 Hummingbird Rd, Wausau, WI 54401 Call (715) 845-3200 to set up your appointment today



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# MERRILL FOTO

To allow our employees time with their family for Christmas, the Merrill Foto News will not be published on December 26th.

Early Deadlines for the

January 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue
DISPLAY & CLASSIFIEDS:
Fri., Dec 27<sup>th</sup> by 3 PM

Our office will be closed December 23 - 26 and January 1

**Happy Holidays!** 

# Volunteers erect Christmas tree

Santa to light the tree this Saturday evening at the end of Merrill's Christmas Parade

Volunteers from Courtside **Furniture** assembled and erected the Christmas tree on the lawn of the Lincoln County Courthouse. Special thanks to Bryce Jirovec, Shawn Buckley, Brady Peck, and Tony Kusserow-and to Eric Dayton of Boxkar Rentals LLC for donating his time and the use of his lift to place the very top of the tree-for keeping this holiday tradition alive and making the season Merry and Bright in Merrill!

Santa will light the tree for the beginning of the Christmas season in Merrill at the end of the Merrill Christmas Parade this Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024. The parade starts at 5 p.m. and ends at the Lincoln County Courthouse.



The Christmas tree on the Lincoln County Courthouse lawn awaits Santa's touch. Santa will light the tree this Saturday evening when he arrives at the end of the Christmas parade.

Jennifer Gartmann photo.



Eric Dayton uses a lift to help place the top of the Christmas tree at the Lincoln County Courthouse. Submitted photo.





# Lincoln County Board again seeking broker for Pine Crest sale

BY JALEN MAKI MMC STAFF

The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors is once again searching for a broker to facilitate the sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill.

According to a Request for Proposals (RFP) posted on the county website on Monday, Nov. 25, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors, through Administrative Coordinator Renee Krueger, is "seeking to contract with an individual or entity to act as a Real Estate Broker to provide information to, and solicit proposals from, prospective buyers" of the county-owned facility.

The RFP follows the Board's September approval of a resolution authorizing the county's Administrative and Legislative (A&L) Committee to pursue a sale of Pine Crest.

RFPs must be received by 12 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13. All RFPS will be publicly opened in the lobby area of the Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N. Sales St., Merrill, at 12:15 p.m. that day.

This marks the second time the Board has gone through the process of selling Pine Crest.

According to the September resolution, several parties

See PINE CREST page 3

# **MAPS** accepts recent donations

The following donations were approved and/or accepted at the Aug. 21,

2024, Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) Board of Education meeting:

State Farm Matching Program (matching Bob and Janet Grunenwald's prior donation) - \$1,000 for the baseball team and \$1,000 for the cross country team.

The following donations were approved and/or accepted at the Sept. 18, 2024, MAPS Board of Education meeting:

A monetary donation from Aspirus, Inc. valued at \$2,000 for hygiene products through the Merrill High School (MHS) Nest; a monetary donation from the MHS Class of 1994 valued at \$605 to be split between the MHS and Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) Nests (\$302.50 each); a check from Margaret Bowman valued at \$50 for helping students at MAPS with negative lunch balances; a check from Park City Credit Union - IT Department valued at \$50 for helping students at MAPS with negative lunch balances; school supplies

Merrill Chiropractic valued at \$250 for student and staff use at Kate Goodrich Elementary School; and, school supplies and snacks from the Zulliger Family valued at \$300 for student use at Pine River School for Young Learners.

The following donations were approved and/or accepted at the Oct. 23, 2024 MAPS Board of Education meeting:

A monetary donation from Mari Nelson valued at \$100 for the MHS Nest; the following sponsorship donations for the MHS 2024 Youth Cheer Camp: Terx Shredding and Recycling Company \$250; Nicolet National Bank Grass Creek Greenhouse, LLC \$75; Team Eisner Racing \$50; Edward Jones \$100; Interflex Group \$250; Merrill Equipment Company \$100; Penkert Properties Real Estate Management \$150; Merrill Chiropractic \$100; Hugo's

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See DONATIONS

page 5





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Sun.: 15/22 ..... Noon-4pm

Christmas Eve: .....9am-2pm





#### **PUBLISHER'S LETTER**

# **Becoming Instruments of God's Peace**

Dear Reader,

As we go through life, there's one undeniable truth we all share: we are all going to die. This sobering reality has been with us since the dawn of humanity, yet we often fail to confront it until we're forced to. But what if, instead of avoiding this truth, we embraced it as a powerful motivator? What if we used it to drive us toward something greater than ourselves?

Imagine if, knowing that our time here is limited, we dedicated our lives to becoming instruments of God's peace. Imagine if we became peacemakers in a world that so desperately needs peace. The concept isn't new-it's been the call of countless prophets, leaders, and thinkers throughout history. But now, perhaps more than ever, it's a call we need to answer

Why don't we? Why don't we choose to be God's peacemakers, to show kindness and love that extends beyond our own material needs and desires? Perhaps it's fear, or perhaps it's because we're so often caught up in the mundane routines of life. We focus on accumulating wealth, power, and possessions, thinking that these things will bring us happiness. But deep down, we know that they won't. True fulfillment comes from something far more profound.

What if God's plan all along has been for us to figure out that we're here to spread peace and love? What if our highest calling is to reach out to others, to transcend our

own selfish needs, and to show acts of kindness and compassion? It's a simple idea, yet it's incredibly powerful.

Think about the impact we could have if each of us made the conscious decision to be a peacemaker. If we chose to resolve conflicts rather than create them, to build bridges rather than walls, to spread love rather than hate. The ripple effect of our actions could transform not

just our immediate circles, but the world at large.

As instruments of God's peace, we have the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy. We can make a difference in a world that often seems lost in chaos and division. And in doing so, we can find a sense of purpose that goes far beyond our individual lives.

So, let us ask ourselves: why not? Why not become peacemakers? Why not live our lives in a way that reflects the love and kindness that God has shown us? Why not strive to leave the world a better place than we found it?

In the end, we all will face the same fate. But until that day comes, let's commit to living our lives as instruments of peace. Let's reach beyond our material needs, show love to those around us, and embrace the calling that has been with us all along. We may just find that in doing so, we fulfill the very purpose of our existence.

PATRICK J. WOOD

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

# Publisher

#### funding referendum resolution in 2023.

The facility unexpectedly remaining on the county's books was among budgetary challenges highlighted by County Board Vice-Chair,

for next year District 12 Supervisor and Finance Committee Chair Julie DePasse during the Board's November meeting. Board ultimately approved the 2025 budget during the meeting.

> The Board previously contracted with the firm Marcus & Millichap to broker a Pine Crest sale.

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#### PINE CREST from page 2

have expressed interest in purchasing the nursing home, including Senior Management Inc. and Merrill Campus LLC. The organizations were

previously set to buy the facility and the county's Health and Human Services building earlier this year before they terminated the Asset Purchase Agreement with Lincoln County in response to a lawsuit filed by District 7 Supervisor

Dunphy, who is also a member of People for Pine Crest, a local group that has advocated against the sale of the facility, said the lawsuit was his "vehicle to keep Pine Crest from being sold."

Donald Dunphy in May.

The suit was dismissed in July.

In August, the Board voted 8-11 to reject a resolution that would have placed a binding referendum related to Pine Crest funding on November ballots.

The Board also rejected a proposed Pine Crest

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# | OBITUARIES |

#### **Mary Catherine Grefe**



It is with deep sorrow and love that we announce the passing of Mary Catherine Grefe, who peacefully left us on November 26, 2024, at the age of 81. Born on November 4, 1943, to the late Fred and Dorothy (Hickey) Heldt. Mary graduated from Holy Cross High School in 1961. She worked various jobs while rais ing her family, and she retired from Pine Crest Nursing Home. Mary was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother

great-grandmother, sister, and friend whose life was defined by her unwavering love for

family, her warm spirit, and her enduring passions.

Mary was a proud mother to eight children: Judy Trudell Bob (Lori), Lynn (Jerry) Marrier, Robert (Sara), Amy (Tim) Geiger, Sarah (Greg) Schenzel, Tom, Pam (Brian) Suchocki Her legacy lives on in her 18 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren, each of whom brought her immense joy and whom she cherished dearly. As a mother, she offered constant support, wisdom, and unconditional love. Her presence at family gatherings, school and sports events was a constant source of encouragement and pride. She took great joy in watching her children and grandchildren grow and thrive, always showing up to cheer them on in all of their endeavors.

A woman of many passions, Mary was an avid bridge player and enjoyed countless hours taking rides and having lunches with her dear friends, always making time for laughter strategy, and camaraderie. She was also a dedicated fan of Wisconsin and Merrill sports, finding joy in supporting her teams and sharing that enthusiasm with those around her Her love of Wisconsin and Merrill athletics was matched only by her love of family and community.

Mary was deeply committed to the holiday traditions that brought her family together. Whether it was preparing festive meals, or in later years micromanaging the preparations decorating with care, or simply gathering around the table, the holidays were always brighter because of her warmth, devotion and playful spirit, making these moments memorable.

She was a friend to many, and her circle of close friends was a testament to her kindness, generosity, and ability to connect with people on a deep and meaningful level. Her friendships were a source of strength, joy, and shared laughter throughout her life.

She is further survived by her sister Lois (John) Grans brother Ted (Rachel) Heldt, and sister-in-law Donna Heldt lifelong friends Jeff and Darlene Hanig, along with a community of friends who will continue to honor her legacy Mary is preceded in death by her husband Robert and her brother Fred Heldt.

A visitation took place on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home in Merrill. The Mass of Christian Burial for Mary will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Merrill. The burial will take place at Merrill Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorial donations can be made in Mary's name to Lincoln County Humane Society or St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church or School. Any monetary gifts will be donated to Merrill Athletic Programs.

The family of Mary Grefe would like to extend heartfelt thank you to Merrill and Wausau Aspirus Hospital, including the ER staff, Cardiac ICU, Cardiac Telemetry and Palliative

Though Mary will be deeply missed, her memory will live on through the generations she nurtured, the friendships she cultivated, and the love she gave so freely to all who knew

Taylor-Stine Funeral and Cremation, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www taylorstine.com



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#### **Patrick Joseph Grob**

Patrick Joseph Grob, age 81, of Merrill, passed away on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at the Tomah VA Medical Center. He was born in Merrill on July 2, 1943. He enlisted in the United States Army in June 1967, where he served as a

combat engineer, and ultimately attained the rank of E8 Master Sergeant. Pat retired from the Army in October 1987 He then worked for the city of Copperas Cove, Texas for over 10 years.

Pat enjoyed puzzles and had a sweet tooth for ice cream and chocolate! He had a lifelong love of cars, watching stars, the Green Bay Packers and World Cup Soccer. Pat was an extremely gentle soul and always willing to listen.

Pat is survived by his son Alan (Lonie) Grob, grandchildren Jackie and Robert Grob, great granddaughter Eleonore 'Ellie" Grob . He is also survived by his sister Mary Chvilicek, brother Peter (Jill) Grob, and brother-in-law Radisa Miljkovic. Pat also leaves behind many loving cousins, 3 nieces, 1 nephew, 4 grand-nieces, and 2 grand-nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Ralph and Jean (Cronin) Grob, wife Radmila "Millie", son Robert Grob, and brother-in-law Dan Chvilicek.

The memorial service for Pat will be held on Saturday December 7, 2024. Visitation will begin at 12:30pm, with a service at 1:00pm, at Waid Funeral Home. Pastor Southcombe will officiate. Following the service, inurnment will take place at the Veteran's Memorial in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Merrill. Military honors will be conducted by the Merrill V.F.W. Post 1638.

The family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the VA Medical Center in Tomah, WI, for all their care and compassion during Pat's time there.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Pat's favorite charities, St. Jude's, or your local humane society. 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.

#### Darlene Thelma (Johnson) Hinz



Darlene Thelma (Johnson) Hinz passed away peacefully in her sleep on November 20 2024, at BeeHive Homes Oregon, WI.

Darlene was born on February 11, 1938, in Merrill, WI, to Otto and Mabel (Knabe) Johnson. She married Marvin Hinz on April 18, 1959. In 2000, Darlene retired from the Lincoln County Forestry Land & Parks Department, where she worked for 30+ years. She and Marvin moved to DeForest, WI, in 2004. Darlene

enjoyed spending time in nature - gardening, fishing, camping, and walking. She also enjoyed many crafts camping, and waking. She also enjoyed many crafts, including painting, sewing, paper crafts, and quilting. Darlene was kind, caring, and patient, with a beautiful sense of humor. She was loved by all BeeHive and Agrace caregivers who helped her throughout the past 4 years.

Darlene is survived by her children Daryl (Dina) Hinz, Portland, OR, Sheryl (Robert) Lindmeier, Oregon, WI and Bryce (Donna) Hinz, Metamora, IN; grandchildren Ceara, Morgan and Dilame; brothers Robert (Trina) Johnson, Merrill, WI and Peter (Nancy) Johnson, Mountain, WI; sisters Marian Gatterman, Merrill, WI, and Bonnie (Jim) Gass, Neenah, WI, and many extended family and friends. She is preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Hinz; parents, Otto and Mabel (Knabe) Johnson; brother George Johnson; sisters Lucille Zander and Karen Dietzler; and brothers-in-law Bruce Zander and Randall Gatterman.

A funeral service will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, 220 S. Main Street, DeForest, WI, on Thursday, December 5 2024, at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Sue Beadle officiating. Visitation will be held at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the time

To view and sign the guest book, please visit RyanFuner-alService.com. Ryan Funeral Home & Cremation Services Windsor/DeForest Chapel 6924 Lake Road 608-846-4250



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#### Kenneth G (Kenny) Woller



Kenneth G (Kenny) Woller, 79, of Merrill passed away on November 25, 2024, at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau. Ken was born on April 21, 1945, in Merrill to Raymond & Ardith Woller. On September 16, 1967, he married the love of his life Rita. Ken had work at Anderson Brothers & Johnson quarry and then later at SEMCO from where retired.

When he was vounger Ken enjoyed bear hunting with family and friends. He loved to

tell the many stories of those days. Ken loved his family and spending time with them whether it was in the woods, Black Friday sales, demo derbies, ice drags, hitting the UTV trails and of course auctions. Ken was very proud when his daughter-in-law Deb Woller became an auctioneer and he never missed a sale no matter the distance. He enjoyed collecting coins, Santas for his daughter and Snowmen for his granddaughter. Ken was a hard worker, a story teller, a jokster and a friend to anyone he met. Although Ken's family was most important to him, he significantly missed his true love Rita Woller for the last four years...in fact just this past weekend Ken said he would be spending this Thanksgiving with her and now he is. Although our hearts are broken, we can be very thankful this Thanksgiving for the love, laughs and memories with him, and the knowing that Mom and Dad are together again.

Ken is survived by his daughter Lisa (Jeff) Brown, his son Wayne (Deb) Woller and one son-in-law Jeff Dorgay. Six grandchildren Samantha (Dan) Sawyer, Merrill, Megan Spreeman, Eau Claire, Robert Spreeman (Amanda Hayley) Merrill Tyler Dorgay, Merrill Nikki Philipp (Devyn Raab) Prentice and Duston Koenig (Becca Dorn) Merrill. One great-grandson Zander Brown-Grenwalt (Merrill) He is also survived by a brother Raymond (Janet) Woller a brother-inlaw Randall Hofmann and a sister-in-law Lorene Hofmann all of Merrill, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, daughter Amy Woller Dorgay, father and mother-in-law Kenneth and Grace Hofmann, Sister-in-laws Ann Hofmann and Nancy Walsh and niece, Lynn Lecher.

Per Ken's wishes a private family celebration will take place

at a later date.

#### Darlene J. Plautz



Darlene J. Plautz, 90, of Merrill, passed away Monday, 25, 2024, November Woodland Court Services, Merrill.

Darlene was born July 8 1934, in Oneida County daughter of Victor and Ruth (Batchelder) Schreiber. She married Richard E. Plautz on June 11, 1955, in Rhinelander. He preceded her in death on August 1, 2021. Darlene had attended Normal Teacher's College in Merrill and went on to teach in the Rhinelander and

Gleason areas. She eventually left her teaching position to raise her children. Once the kids were grown, Darlene worked as a bookkeeper for the family business 'Plautz Oil Company'. She also worked doing demos for grocery stores and drove for Geri Van.

Darlene enjoyed working on arts and crafts, especially crocheting. She was a member of the Merrill Red Hatters She sang in the church choir and was a member of Sweet Adelines for many years. Darlene enjoyed playing music and excelled at playing concertina, accordion, piano, organ, and guitar. Darlene also enjoyed working on genealogy.

Survivors include daughter, Ranee (Michael) Kopetzky of Merrill; sons, Rick (Alicia) Plautz of Taicang, Jiangsu Province, China and Ryan (Cheryl) Plautz of Merrill; six grandchildren, Rachael (Michael) Waldburger of Merrill Ramsay Plautz (Maria Schmelling) of Merrill, Eva Plautz of China, Amanda (Michael) Goeden of Merrill, Ashley (Steven) Sanford of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Andrew (Amber) Plautz of Merrill; nine great-grandchildren, Michael, Elora, Ava, Piper, Sebastian, Stella, Aidan, Addison, and Anderson; sisters-in-law, Marlee Schreiber of Merrill, Pat Schreiber of Rhinelander, and Leora Rash of Homer City, Pennsylvania; and brother-in-law, Roger (Patsy) Plautz of Merrill. Darlene was preceded in death by her husband, Richard E. Plautz; father, Victor Schreiber; mother, Ruth Schreiber Bratley; stepfather, Milton Bratley; and siblings, Ronald Schreiber, Larry Schreiber, and Shirley William) Wagler.

The memorial service for Darlene will be held at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, December 31, 2024, at Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Rev. Scott Gustafson will officiate. The family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 A.M. Tuesday at the funeral home. Interment will take place at a later date in St. Francis Xavier Veteran's Memorial. Taylor-Stine Funeral & Cremation is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.taylorstine.com



# | OBITUARIES |

#### Charles E. Scolley



Charles E. Scolley, 76, of Merrill, passed away Saturday, November 23, 2024, at Aspirus Merrill Hospital.

Charles was born June 17 1948, in Frankfort, Indiana son of Elvin and Cora (Robbins) Scolley. Charles enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on April 1, 1968 He served in Vietnam on the front line as an infantry sniper He was honorably discharged as Lance Corporal (E-3) on

March 31, 1974. Charles married Edtha Jane Scolley on October 5, 2001, in Frankfort, Indiana.

Charles worked as a dairy farmer for several years before taking a position with Kolbe & Kolbe in Wausau. He retired from Kolbe & Kolbe after 32 years. Charles was a member of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Gleason. Charles favorite pastimes were fishing, painting ceramics, and taking care of his dogs, Prince and Curly. He loved visiting with friends and helping anyone that needed help.

Survivors include his wife, Edtha Jane Scolley of Merrill sisters, Ruth (Rick) Sosnovske of Gleason and Georgia Black of Frankfort, Indiana; and many nieces and nephews Charles will also be missed by his dogs, Prince and Curly Charles was preceded in death by his parents, Elvin and Cora Scolley; son, Andrew Charles Scolley; stepson, Joshua Walker; and siblings, David (Erma) Scolley, Tom (Louise) Scolley, Carl (Irene) Scolley, Waneta (Lewis) Morris, Gladys Sanders, and Goldie Evelyn (Dale) Young.

A private family celebration of life will take place at a later

Waid Funeral & Cremation Service, Merrill, is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at www.waidfu neral.com

#### Mary Lou Gilbert (Pfotenhauer)



Mary Lou Gilbert (Pfotenhauer) passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, November 14, 2024 in Midwest City, OK, at the age of 87.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents James & Ruth Pfotenhaur and husband Ted Gilbert. She is survived by their son, James Gilbert (Mary Beth Hill and her daughter & son-in-law Amy and Chad Tittle) and daughter, Susan Gilbert-Van Slyke (Jeff) and grandchildren, Hannah Van

Slyke and Henley Van Slyke; sister, Carol Anderson (Joe) niece, Nicole Weiss (Victor) and family, nephew, Jon Anderson (Carrie) and family; sister Ruth Pfotenhaur (Chris Spaulding); late brother Tom Pfotenhauer (Patty) and family; late brother Dennis Pfotenhauer (Bonnie) and family; and late sister Bev Hinz (late brother-in-law Jack), niece Holly Zastrow (Brad) and nephew Jason Hinz (Linda); nephew Darell Hinz.

Mary was born on February 25, 1937 in Menominee, MI. She graduated from Merrill Senior High School in 1955. She married Ted in 1967. The couple lived in Merrill, WI for a short time then spent many memorable years living at Tug Lake, Irma, WI, where they raised their children. Years later they moved back to Merrill and then later on to Mt. Home Arkansas, to live out their retirement years.

Mary was a Merrill Bluejay cheerleader, baton twirler, a prom queen and after high school was a semi-pro softball player in St. Louis, MO. She later spent much of her life dedicated to working and taking care of her home, children and was a church member of St. John's United Lutheran Church. She returned to school later in life to earn a cosmetology license, which she spent several years working in a salon. She enjoyed life on Tug Lake, especially canoeing with the family companion, Doc the dachshund. She loved dogs and spending quiet time on her screened-in porch and back deck drinking her coffee. She enjoyed walks with her dog, cooking for annual Thanksgiving and Christmas festivities that were spent with all family members, an active player in a bowling league, playing card games with friends, ng a member of the Red Hat Society, and started the W Club in Arkansas, along with Ted, that included many members who would meet up to watch and cheer on all the Green Bay Packer games. She was very generous, helpful to others in need, and always found the good in everyone.

No service by request. Cremation handled by Affordable Cremation Services, Oklahoma City. In lieu of flowers, you can make a tribute donation at the Alzheimer's Association, https://act.alz.org/site/Donation. The family would like to thank Jim Gilbert and especially Mary Beth Hill, who were Mary's primary caregivers during the last several years.

# **DONATIONS** from page 2

Pizza Shop, Inc. \$50; Dave's County Market \$200; and Thorogood-Weinbrenner Shoe Company, Inc. \$100; a check from Sierra Pacific valued at \$1,000 for the Letterman's Club water football; a cash donation from John Wagner valued at \$100 for the Washington Elementary Nest for purchasing supplies for kids in need; four 14" pizza gift certificates from Hugo's Pizza valued at \$76 to use as door prizes for the Pine River School for Young Learners Family Pizza Night; a drum set from Scott & Linda Doerr valued at \$400 for PRMS; school supplies from Merrill Chiropractic valued at \$200 to help students in need at PRMS; a check from the Optimist Club of Merrill WI Inc. Youth valued at \$750 for the MHS Teen Mental Health First Aid in the sophomore health class; a monetary donation from Merrill Area United Way valued at \$1,000 for the Bluejay Nests Kate

#### Herbert L. Pierce Sr.



Herbert L. Pierce Sr., 89 of Merrill, passed away Sunday, November 24, 2024 at his home surrounded by family. Herbert was born February 6 1935 in Chicago, Illinois, the son of James and LaVerne (Eckhard) Pierce. He was united in marriage to Rose Toczynski and she preceded him in death April 9, 1990.

Surviving are his daughters Terry Weisinger, Prentice Barb Kittinger (Pam Larson) South Carolina; son, Herbert Pierce (Jamie Locklear)

Merrill; eight grandchildren, many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; brother, LeRoy Pierce, Chicago Illinois.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Rose daughter, Linda Pierce; sister, Laverne; brothers, Gene and

Services will be held at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) Saturday December 7, 2024 at Krueger-Nimsgern Funeral and Cremation Service with Pastor Larry Mathein officiating. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. to time of service at noon. Burial to follow at Prentice Cemetery.

Online condolences for the family may be directed to www nimsgernfuneral.com

#### Lynn J. Henrich



Lynn J. Henrich, of Merrill passed away unexpectedly Saturday, November 30, 2024 while filling his bird feeders something he took great pleasure in. Lynn was born March 29, 1949, to the late Gerald C. and Harriett M. (Dahm) in Merrill.

Lynn graduated from Merrill High School with the class of 1967. As a recipient of the Anson Memorial Scholarship, he completed his education at the University of Notre Dame graduating in 1971. He was a

gifted and dedicated multisport athlete in High School. As a Senior, he led the Wisconsin Valley Conference in passing completions, yards and touchdowns.....and also interceptions!

After his divorce, Lynn's focus became his sons, who survive him; Tom (Dawn) Henrich of Merrill, Ben (Carrie) Henrich of River Falls, and Jason Henrich of Wausau, grandchildren Jordyn, Kaiden, Breanna, Payton, Addyson and Ewan. Also surviving are sister Holly Henrich of Merrill and brother Jerry (Andrea) Henrich of Sun Prairie, nephews Christopher (Debbie) Henrich and Jeremy (Debra) Henrich He was preceded in death by his parents.

Lynn was employed by the J.C. Penney Co., until his retirement in 2012. He traveled extensively, managing the completion and remodeling of J.C. Penney stores across the country. Lynn enjoyed hunting and fishing, an annual trip to Canada for walleyes and northerns. He particularly enjoyed time socializing at "the Shack", whether fishing for trout or hosting the Prairie River Gang every November for the annual gun deer hunt.

As his grandchildren grew, he delighted in watching their sporting events and enthusiastically supported Merrill sports He was a formidable sheepshead player, remembering every card played, usually anticipating his opponent's next card He also dabbled in bridge, poker and excelled at the daily crossword. Lynn had a knack for remembering every birthday and anniversary of relatives and friends with a special and usually humorous, card. He unobtrusively listened to comments made by family members, and shopped throughout the year for the items mentioned, surprising them with their special gift at Christmas.

Lynn was a collector of many things, including road maps hunting/fishing regulations, stamps and beer cans to mention

Lynn, along with his best friend and soul mate of over 30 years, Carol Mroczenski, traveled to Alaska, Mexico and Jamaica, the western U.S., as well as various casinos. He was a member of St. Stephens United Church of Christ Lincoln County Sports Club, Merrill Silver M Club, and Carpenters Local 310.

Lynn's passing will leave a void, but his contemplative, thoughtful nature, and proclivity to be fashionably late, will be greatly missed.

A funeral service for Lynn will be held Monday, December 9, 2024, at 11:00 AM at St. Stephens United Church of Christ in Merrill. A visitation will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2024, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at Waid Funeral Home in Merrill, as well as one hour before the fu neral service at St. Stephens.

In lieu of flowers, family members request memorials be made to St. Stephens United Church of Christ, Lincoln County Sports Club, or the Silver M Scholarship Fund. Waid Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Merrill is assisting the family with Arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.waidfuneral.com.

Goodrich, Washington, PRMS, and MHS; two iPads from Pat Kloske valued at \$300 for use in the District in honor of Nathan Kloske; used clothing from St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store valued at \$100 for student use at Kate Goodrich Elementary School; a Stihl leaf blower and accessories valued at \$963.96 for curriculum support and maintenance of the grounds at the Merrill School Forest; the following donations from Saint Stephens United Church of Christ: a check valued at \$392.50 for the PRMS Nest; a check valued at \$1,392.50 for the MHS Nest - \$1,000 for their Food Pantry and \$392.50 for the Nest supplies; and a check valued at \$392.50 for the Washington Elementary School Nest; and a monetary gift from Women In Manufacturing Northern Wisconsin valued at \$515 for the MHS Graphics.

# | LEGAL NOTICES |

BY THE COURT DATE SIGNED: November 18, 2024

<u>Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer</u> Probate Registrar STATE OF WISCONSIN.

CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Donald A. Kaminski Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 2024–IN-15
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

 An application for informal administration was filed.
 The decedent, with date of birth 06-22-1934 and date of death 09-29-2024, was domiciled in Lincoln County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W9934 State Hwy 64, Merrill, WI 54452. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against

the decedent's estate is March 7, 2025.

5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Merrill, Wisconsin, Probate Office. Register in Probate 1110 E. Main Street Merrill, WI 54452

715-536-0342 Published 11/21/24, 11/28/24 & 12/5/24

The October 28, 2024 and November 12, 2024 Council Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting. The minutes are available for viewing in the City Clerk's Office and on the City of Merrill website. Complete Ordinances are available on the City of Merrill website: https://www.ci.merrill.wi.us/

Published December 5, 2024 WNAXLP

#### **CLAIMS DEADLINE NOTICE** IN THE MATTER OF THE MJS INCOME TRUST DATED APRIL 11, 2018

Pursuant to Section 701.0508, Wisconsin Statues, Kerry Steinagel and Brian Steinagel, as co-successor trustees of the MJS Income Trust dated April 11, 2018, with power to both to the stein the state of the MJS Income Trust dated April 11, 2018, with power to be set the state of dated April 11, 2018, with power to pay the debts of Judith E. Steinagel, D.O.D. September 3, 2024, hereby provides notice that the deadline for filing claims for payment of debts of Judith E. Steinagel with Kerry Steinagel and Brian Steinagel, as Co-Trustees of the MJS Income Trust dated April 11, 2018, is April 13, 2025, being the date four (4) months after being the date four (4) months after the date of the first insertion of the

notice. By:/s/Hougum Law Firm, LLC 305 S. 18th Avenue, Suite 200 Published December 5, 12 & 19, 2024

DATE SIGNED: December 2, 2024

DATE SIGNED: December 2, 2024
Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer
Probate Registrar
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
KATHLEEN ANN WEGNER
D.O.D. October 23, 2024
Notice Setting Time to Hear
Application and Decelling for Ellips Application and Deadline for Filing

Claims (Informal Administration)
Case No. 24PR48
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

An application for informal administration was filed.
 The decedent, with date of birth Sept.

3, 1945 and date of death Oct 23, 2024 was domiciled in Lincoln County. State of WI, with a mailing address of W1863 Burgener Ave, Merrill, WI 54452.

3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main St., Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office, before Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar, on 01-23-2025 at 10:15 a.m.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March 21, 2025. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street. Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office

This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0342 prior to the scheduled court date Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Atty. Richard Wm. King / King Law

Offices, LLC 1667 Capital Avenue, Suite A Madison, WI 53705 (608) 233-9588

Published December 5, 12 & 19, 2024 WNAXLP

Bar Number: 1004736

DATE SIGNED: November 14, 2024 Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN. CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SCOTT A. PFAFF

DOD: 07/31/2024 Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

 An application administration was filed. for

2. The decedent, with date of birth 05/28/1965 and date of death 05/25/1905 and date of death of John County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W5486 Park Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452.

3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 03/07/2025. 5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 East Main St, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office. Mary M. John

Eaton Law. LLP 513 Grant St, Wausau, WI 54403 Telephone: 715-843-6700 Bar Number: 1019515

Published 11/28/24, 12/5/24 & 12/12/24

# NOTICE OF JOINT REVIEW BOARD MEETING CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN

Notice is Hereby Given that the City of Merrill will hold a Joint Review Board meeting on December 10, 2024, at 5:30

The meeting will be held at the Merrill City Hall, located at 1004 E First St. To attend remotely call 713-489-2199 PIN:

711 935 943 # The meeting is being held to consider approval of the resolutions adopted by the Merrill Common Council amending Tax Incremental District No. 6, 7, 11 and

12. The meeting is open to the public. By Order of the City of Merrill, Published December 5, 2024 WNAXLF

DATE SIGNED: December 2, 2024 <u>Electronically signed by Becky S. Byer</u> Probate Registrar

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, LINCOLN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
LEE GORDON WEGNER D.O.D. October 23, 2024

Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration) Case No. 24PR49

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: An application for administration was filed.
 The decision of the state of

2. The decedent, with date of birth Feb 19, 1942 and date of death Oct 23, 2024 was domiciled in Lincoln County, State

of WI, with a mailing address of W1863 Burgener Ave, Merrill, WI 54452. 3. The application will be heard at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main St., Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office, before Becky S. Byer, Probate Registrar, on 01-23-2025 at 10:00 a.m..

You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.

4. The deadline for filling a claim against the decedent's estate is March 21, 2025.

5. A claim may be filed at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 1110 E. Main Street, Merrill, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.

6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-536-0342 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not

provide transportation.
Atty. Richard Wm. King / King Law Offices, LLC 1667 Capital Avenue, Suite A Madison WI 53705

(608) 233-9588 Bar Number: 1004736 Published December 5, 12 & 19, 2024

To **Advertise** 715-536-7121

# **Merrill Foto News to** close for Christmas

For the first time, the Merrill Foto News will not be published between Christmas and New Year's Day. There will be no Dec. 26, 2024 publication this year, to allow newspaper employees time with their families for Christmas.

Please note, there are early deadlines for the Jan. 2, 2025, issue for display ads and classified ads. All ads must be placed and paid for no later than Friday, Dec.

27. at 3 p.m.

The Merrill Foto News office at 2011 E. Main St. in Merrill will be closed from Dec. 23-26. The office will re-open on Friday, Dec. 27.

The office will also be closed on Jan. 1, 2025. The staff at the Merrill

Foto News want to wish you all a very happy holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!





#### Plautz's 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

# SAT. DEC. 7TH

CRIBBAGE **TOURNAMENT** 

#### Open 11am • Starts at Noon SAT. DEC. 7TH

- **CHRISTMAS PARADE** Parade Starts 5pm
- Hot Drink Specials Sweet Treats

#### SAT. DEC. 14TH **CHRISTMAS BINGO**

Open 11am • Start 1pm • 100% Cash Payout

Drink Specials & Chili

# Find us on Facebook Merrill Foto News



# MOANA 2

"PG" (1HR 40MIN) FRIDAY: 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) FRIDAY: 7:00PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 1:00 & 7:00PM MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 7:00PM ONLY

#### **RED ONE**

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

www.cosmomovies.com <u>715-536-4473</u>

# **Area Events & Entertainment Community Calendar**

Dec. 5 - Bingo at St. Francis School

Dec. 5 - Open Mic Night at Sawmill Brewing Company Dec. 6 - Trinity Wreath Lighting Ceremony

Dec. 6 - Santa at Park City Credit Union

Dec. 7 - Merrill Christmas

Dec. 7 - Park Manor Luminaria

Dec. 7 - Craft Sales at Bierman Building Dec. 7 - Craft Sales at

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 Handbell Concert at Merrill High School

Dec. 7 - Sensory Santa for Children with Special Needs at Agra Pavilion (reservations required)

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. 8 - St. John the Baptist Christmas Bazaar in Bloomville

Dec. 8 - Bingo at the VFW Dec. 11 - Trinity Merrill Christmas Concert Series: NASA Scientist: Norman Schell

Dec. 11-12 - City of Merrill Tour of Lights Bus Ride/Judging

Dec. 13 - Free Swing Dance Basic Lessons Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Dec. 14 - Santa in the Fire House at Pine River Fire Department

Dec. 14 - Free family movie at the Cosmo: STAR, by sponsored Trinity Lutheran Church

Dec. 14 - Free movie at the Cosmo: Moana 2, sponsored by the Optimist Club (Free for the kids; \$2 for adults)

Dec. 14 - Santa at the Sawmill Brewing Co.

Dec. 14 - Living River Concert at St.

Lutheran Church Dec. 14 - Christmas Movie Trivia at Sawmill Brewing

Dec. 15 - Firm Foundation Ringers Christmas Concert

Dec. 18 - Trinity Merrill Christmas Concert Series: The Garms Family

Dec. 18 - Christmas Music Trivia at Sawmill Brewing

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

# SHOP LOCAL

from page 1

a man or a woman, child or teen, there's something for everyone on your list when you shop local in Merrill.

Use this shopping guide as your jumping off point and see how creative you can be this Christmas.

Consider jump-starting vour shopping day with a cup of coffee and breakfast at Auntie Ray's Coffee House on E. First St. or First Street Coffee Station in the Park City Credit Union building on E. Main St. Both coffee shops also offer gift certificates and have a selection of gift items available for purchase at their locations.

Take a peek at Ana Blair's Boutique for stylish clothing and accessories for the ladies on your list.

Consider shopping for high quality Melissa & Doug toys for the little ones at Johnson's of Merrill, and

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 Craft Shop at the Merrill Enrichment Center has many locally made items, perfect for gift giving. Tina L. Scott photo.

take a look at their clothing lines and gift and home decor sections, as well.

Pick out the perfect little gift or shirt for your Christian friends and family from The Humble on E. Main St.

And don't forget—a lot of ladies would love to find a small box from Klug's Country Gold under their

Head over to Merrill Ace Hardware if the men [or handy women] on your list are looking to add a new tool to their shop (or a grill to their patio) this Christmas.

And many men would appreciate a gift from Carquest, NAPA, O'Reilly's—whether that's something for their car or truck, tools, car parts, or even shop towels.

How about a new record player (yes, vinyl is back "in") or a new tv—or an instrument for your favorite music lover—from Merrill House of Music?

Know someone who loves watching the birds outside their window? How about picking up a new bird feeder and some bird seed from River Country Co-op? (And they have some toys and other great gift ideas for pet lovers, too.) Tractor Supply offers food for the animals and a few giftgiving surprises, as well, so take a trip there to see what they have in stock.

Know a local history lover? Take a peek at the books and other local history-related items for sale at the Merrill Historical Society Museum on E. Third St. (or their website at discovermerrillhistory. org/for-sale). [Many of their books are currently on sale.1

You'll find unique and locally handcrafted items at Iron Angel Arts & Antiques located on Merrill's west side between the Sixth Ward bridges and also at the Craft Shop in the Merrill Enrichment Center located on the corner of N Sales St. and E. Sixth St. (at the Merrill Fair Grounds).

What about crafting and hobby supplies for your favorite teen or tween (or anyone really) from Inspiring Creativity Supplies & More on S. Center Ave.?

You can find plants including houseplantsand a lot more, like blown glass, gift items, decor, and locally handmade pottery and crafts, at the Plant Garden Center a little further south on S. Center Ave.

Give the gift of flowers from Victoria's Floral on N. Prospect St. Stop in and order a bouquet or plant to be delivered right before Christmas. What a beautiful surprise!

The Creative Spirit on Grand Ave. in Merrill artisan-led arts offers and crafts workshops and private parties, so consider scheduling a holidayrelated party or event for your family or inquire about gifting a friend or family member admission to an upcoming class.

Has mom been wanting an updated (or first-ever) family portrait? Pick up a gift certificate or book a session with a local professional photographer. Contact Stacy Literski Photography, Photography, or Blue Sky Photography (easily find them on Facebook).

And don't forget to stop at the Weinbrenner Outlet Store to pick up a pair of Thorogood boots for the working (or hunting) guys on your list.

#### A bottle of booze?

It may not sound politically correct, but buying a bottle of booze for that adult (age 21 and older please) is an age-old standby.

Is that person really hard to buy for? A bottle of their

favorite liquor or liqueur is always an option. Westside Market has an entire liquor section and a big selection of bourbon. In and Out Liquor Store also has a great selection, and you can stock up on everything you need for drinks for those holiday get togethers at the same timet.

A bottle of locally-made wine from Sunset Hollow Winery & Bistro also makes a classy gift, and you may find some other fun gift items while you're there, as well. It's also a great place to stop for a bite to eat while you're out and about shopping.

Or purchase a locallymade beer from Sawmill Brewing Company for those who prefer a craft brew. Perfect on its own or to tuck into a gift box of goodies from the area.

#### **Creating the home** of your (or their) dreams

Dreaming furniture or a comfortable new bed or recliner for the New Year? Courtside Furniture and Miller Furniture in Merrill have so many options, and A & R Furniture in Gleason has beautifully handmade furniture for nearly every room in the house.

Maybe your spouse has been wanting new appliances. Take a look at Hargrave Appliance Center on E. Main St. or Gruett's Appliance Center on W. Main St. to find the perfect stove, refrigerator, freezer, washer, or dryer and have them delivered just in time for Christmas.

A new computer, printer, or ergonomic office chair for that special someone's home office would make a great gift! Check out all the options at VIP Office Supply on E. Main St.

Maybe your family really wants new flooring for the new year. Central Carpet & Flooring has you coveredand they'll cover that floor,

Or a new fireplace or wood stove? Look no further than the Firefly Lodge Showroom at Merrill Sheet Metal Works on N. Center Ave. to see their selection of wood and gas fireplaces, stoves, inserts.

Considering a new garage door? Ziebell Door Company on Heldt St. has some great custom options

See SHOP LOCAL

page 12



WEEKLY BRIEFING - DECEMBER 5TH - 9TH







# See the beautiful decorated live trees

O'TANNENBAUM TOUR

All trees, wreaths and baskets available for raffle

Sat. Dec. 7th 10:00ам - 7:00рм Sun. Dec. 8th 10:00am - 2:00pm

St. Stephen's Church 903 E. Second St • Merrill

ADMISSION: \$3.00 EACH, AGES 6 - 11 \$1.00 EACH **BENEFITS LINCOLN CO 4-H & MERRILL & TOMAHAWK COMMUNITIES** 

St. Nick.

St. John the Baptist

**Christmas Bazaar** 

**Bus Ride** 



Outdoor Christmas decorations make the community festive.

#### KICK OFF from page 1

at Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes, the Christmas Spirit [Lincoln County United Giving Tree Program] is asking for book donations for area families in need. Shoppers can pick a tag off the tree to make a donation of \$5 to \$20 and funds will be used to purchase books for area children for Christmas.

craft and Christmas vendor event locations include:

- · Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - 1208 N. Center Ave., Merrill
- Merrill Expo Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - 303 N. Sales St., Merrill
- VFW Post 1638 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - 601 Johnson St.

#### **O-Tannenbaum**

Merrill's annual O'Tannenbaum Tour will take place this weekend at St. Stephens UCC, 903 E. Second St. in Merrill, on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Santa will be there on Saturday from 11 a.m. until noon and on Sunday from 10 a.m. until noon.

This year's tour will feature 22 lighted and decorated trees, each one decorated by a local business or group, to be enjoyed as they help transform the lower level of the church into a Christmas wonderland before they are raffled off Sunday afternoon. This vear's theme is Christmas Angels and will be reflected in decor for the event. In addition, there will be more than 100 gift baskets, wreaths, and gift certificates to be raffled off.

"We hope to make \$10,000 in the two days," said Sue Kunkel, spokesperson for the O'Tannenbaum Committee that organizes the event each year.

All funds are donated to help local children and local 4-H programs. In the past, Kunkel said the proceeds of the event have been donated to non-profit organizations including Lincoln County 4-H clubs, the Lincoln County 4-H Leader Association, the Mary Geiss Memorial

(Respite), Meals on Wheels, Friends of the River Bend Trail. Food For Kids. HAVEN, the VFW, the MAC Home, St. Vincent de Paul, and The NEST at Merrill High School, all in Merrill; and the Backpack for Kids program, Our Sister Home, The Dream Park, Kwahamot Water Ski Show, Tomahawk Together, and the K9 Unit, all in Tomahawk; and others.

#### **Christmas Parade**

Merrill's annual lighted Christmas Parade will be held this Saturday, Dec. 7. beginning at 5 p.m.

The line-up for the parade begins at 4 p.m. and starts on S. Genesee St. and is first-come, first-served with no prearranged order. [Call the Chamber of Commerce office at 715.536.9474 to register your float or with any questions.]

Santa will, of course, be at the end of the parade and will be on hand to light the Christmas tree at the Lincoln County Courthouse, which is where the parade will end.

#### **Trinity's Live Nativity**

Trinity Church Merrill will host their annual Live Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 12 noon until 3 p.m. in their church parking lot at 107 N. State St. in Merrill. Come and see the Christmas nativity acted out with real people and live animals. All are invited, and there will be free hot chocolate and goody bags for the children. This is another great free local family-friendly event for all ages.

#### **Knights of Columbus Breakfast with** St. Nick

The Knights of Columbus will host their annual Breakfast with St. Nick on Sunday, Dec. 8., in the St. Francis Xavier School Cafeteria, 1708 E. 10th St., serving after both Sunday Masses (7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m.). The event includes

Bazaar on Sunday, Dec. 8, beginning after the 11 a.m. Mass with raffles, a bake sale, a silent auction, and a soup lunch. Tour of Lights/ Joseph Frederick photo.

> The City of Merrill will again hold their 4th annual Tour of Lights Decorating Contest and invites residents within the city limits to participate. Go to https://ci.merrill.wi.us/ touroflights to register your home to be included in the contest and on the tour. Homes must be registered no later than noon on Monday, Dec. 9, to be in the contest and on the tour map

> > prize.

Area residents are invited to enjoy and judge the lights via the Tour of Lights Bus Ride. This year another night was added to the

and for a chance to win a

schedule to accommodate all the people who wanted to ride and tour and judge the light displays. The Tour of Lights Bus Ride will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 11,, and Thursday, Dec. 12, beginning at 5 p.m.

The Merrill-Go-Round picks up riders from their homes and takes them on a bus ride to tour the city to see the decorated homes, and the tour lasts two hours or less. This is a free event and fun for all ages, so it's a great family-friendly event. Riders on the bus also serve as judges for the contest. At the end of the tour, the Merrill-Go-Round returns riders to their homes.

Call the Merrill Transit office at 715.536.7112 to reserve your seat. Seats will be available on a firstreserved, first-served basis, with the bus being filled for Wednesday evening first, and seats are limited.





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# Henry Haltinner

Son of Jason & Athena Haltinner Henry is in the 11th grade at New Testament Church Christian Academy He was nominated by Mrs. Schneider.

What is your favorite subject in school? Why? Social Studies. I like learning about world history.



What would you like to do/become someday? Mechanic. My Dad is a great Mechanic

and I learn a lot from him.

Henry is a great student. He tries his best in everything that he does in school. He goes out of his way to help others. ~ Mrs. Schneider





residents gathered at the Northwoods Veterans Post on Thanksgiving Day to share Thanksgiving Dinner and friendship as part of their "No One Eats Alone" Thanksgiving Meal. Joseph Frederick photo.



Area Girl Scouts and their leader pose by the Mitten Tree at Miller Furniture in Merrill with some of the posters they made. The Girl Scouts are encouraging area residents to make or purchase mittens, hats, scarves, and gloves and bring them to Miller Furniture and hang them on the Mitten Tree. All items collected will be distributed to area schools to be used for children who need warm winter wear. Tina L. Scott photo.





















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7204

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#### 7282 **Auctions**

Notice of Auction of 2020 Ford F150 4-door Supercrew FX4 Police Responder and surplus

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Mrs. Claus and some of the elves prepare to meet children at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. Submitted photo.

# Meet Mrs. Claus at St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

BY TINA L. SCOTT **EDITOR** 

St. Vincent de Paul

### |CLASSIFIEDS|

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Thrift Store, 1004 E. Main St. in Merrill, recently announced that Mrs. Claus will be in the store on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Management and volunteers at the store invite families and children to stop in to meet Mrs. Claus and get a sweet surprise.

"Following her appearance in the store, she will join Santa and the elves in the Christmas Parade starting at 5 p.m.," they

All proceeds from sales at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store help local families and individuals in need, supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Center at 503 S. Center Ave., Ste. 2 in Merrill. Lincoln County residents in need can call the Outreach Center at 715.539.2666.

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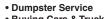
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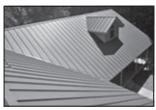
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homestead located at N2215 Prairie River Avenue in the December 7th from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Town of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, on a large The premises and improvements are being sold in an one (1) acre lot with approximately 150 feet of frontage AS IS condition without any warranties or on the Prairie River. This 1,784 square foot ranch home representations of any nature whatsoever. All bidders features on the main level 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ bathrooms, are encouraged to thoroughly inspect the premises and may make their bid contingent upon an inspection. On the walkout basement level is a large rec room with Title to the premises shall be conveyed by warranty a fireplace, wet bar, walk-in cooler and 3/4 bathroom. 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.

thank the following donors for sponsoring adoption fees at the Lincoln County Humane Society in October: Richard Burkam: Angelia Peter; Sheridan Perry; The Winter Family; Deborah Radwan; The Haunted Sawmill-The Friends of Vincent Foundation; and Cynthia Guenther. Your generosity

greatly appreciated!

Please note, donations coming through Facebook via the Paypal Giving Fund are anonymous and LCHS cannot see donor's name or the information. contact They apologize for any inconvenience.

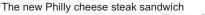
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# THE GLEASON CORNER





Tina L. Scott photo

# New owners at Ma's Place have local ties

Following in the footsteps of Barb Nickel and Cindy Schielke, Ma's Place will continue to be a family-owned business. and Jennifer McCrory and their second eldest son, 18-year-old Rex Brown, became the new owners of Ma's Place in Gleason in mid-October 2024.

Though young, Rex comes to the business with four years of restaurant experience, having worked his way up to being the manager of Lenny's Sub Shop in Tennessee for the last 2 ½ years.

Jennifer previously worked at a restaurant in Tennessee for about 15 years and also worked in food sales on the broker side. In college she majored in biosystems and food process engineering. "Since then I've been a mom," Jennifer said. "I've probably learned more about cooking and food as a mom and a homesteader than I ever did in college. ... I cared what was going into my kids' bodies and for their health. ... I kind of have both a practical and educational background in food."

"I've been coming to Gleason every year of my entire life," Jennifer said. "My grandfather had bought a cabin up here. My dad spent all his summers here ... my grandfather retired here ..my parents spend a good part of the year here, and we've been spending the summers here for several years."

Jennifer and Tom were both raised in Tennessee and wanted

to raise their family [six boys and a girl] in a rural area, but the area became overpopulated, they said. All of their great memories of Gleason prompted them to move to Gleason and buy a family

From one family to the next

The restaurant barely skipped a beat, as Barb and Cindy helped with the transition, Rex said. They handed over the keys, the new family jumped right in, and Cindy stayed to help and train for two weeks, he said.

Currently, Jennifer and Tom are handling things out front—waiting tables, bussing, washing dishes, and ringing up customers—while Rex serves as both manager and cook, and Jennifer also does all the baking and desserts—and it's a lot. When not in school, several of the younger boys help in the restaurant, bussing tables and doing dishes, etc.

"If anybody is interested in cooking breakfast, we need a really good breakfast cook," Jennifer said. Rex stepped in to cook on a temporary basis, but the family really needs him to be able to focus more on management and being the face of the business.

Adding a southern flair

We want to honor the great work Barb and Cindy did for this community," Jennifer said. "We would not change much, but we're gonna have to put our own spin on it. ... being from the south, we're

gonna probably put a southern

flair [on things]."

That southern flair shows with the addition of hush puppies and cheddar bay biscuits (in lieu of rye bread for fish fries); the addition of new sandwiches on the lunch menu including a Philly cheese steak sandwich and Rex's chicken strip melt; and the addition of a prime rib French dip, along with chicken and waffles, to the Friday fish fry menu.

"Rexis great at the sandwiches," Jennifer said. "People have been really liking his sandwiches. He comes from a Philly cheese steak place. And he's made so many of those and he's doing a great job.

Another change? potatoes replaced German potato salad. Oma is the German word for grandmother. "That was my mom's mom," Jennifer said. "We called her Oma. They're a creamy hash brown potato with some cheese in it." Another new German side is sweet beer carrots.

Jennifer is also the baker in the family and plans to have at least one or two dessert options each day. "We have a banana cream pie that's delicious, and I make a black bottom pie," she said.

Something else for the locals to love? In addition to beer and wine with dinner, Jennifer plans to create a custom old fashioned people can enjoy with their dinner. 'I'm going to be experimenting and trying to do a south meets north kind of thing," she said, incorporating whiskey from Tennessee

In lieu of Cindy's skillet, Rex introduced "the breakfast of champions, which is hash browns, eggs, grilled green peppers, onions, and then the meat of your choice [like sausage or ham]." It's a big skillet-style serving that 'came from mom's brother, Jess. He made that a lot up here for breakfasts, for all the cousins and stuff, whenever they were hosting for the week," Rex said.

Another breakfast change? Crispy edge pancakes. "We cook our pancakes in butter in the south," Jennifer said. "It gives it a crispy edge ... overwhelmingly people have loved it, except for maybe one or two. Mostly people have said that they were the best pancakes they've had in their life. . And they keep coming back for Rex's crispy edge pancakes.'

Sourcing food locally "One thing that we're excited about here is being able to source some local eggs. ... We're going to carry the local eggs across the Jennifer said. "And some local beef. We're going to carry Skaar Farms beef as an option." They're starting out small, giving customers the option for locally grown beef for their burgers for a small upcharge.

For those who want real maple syrup on their pancakes, the restaurant also has jars of locallyproduced maple syrup for sale. "Buy your own jar or bring it in,"

Portable

Storage Sheds

Rex said. Or opt for real maple

BY TINA L. SCOTT

**EDITOR** 

syrup for a small upcharge.

Jennifer said they are happy work with local vendors "We prioritize sourcing and showcasing local food and other items. Look for local items on the menu and local art on the walls!" she said.

Where and when

Ma's Place, N5375 State Hwy. 17 in Gleason, serves breakfast 6-11 a.m.; sandwiches/lunch menu 11 a.m.-2 p.m. except on Fridays; and fish fries 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-8 p.m. on Fridays.

They close 2-4 p.m. on Fridays prep and are closed on



Manager and co-owner Rex Brown at the grill.

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Tina L. Scott photo

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**Jennifer Gartmann** Phone: 715-218-1644 email: jgartmann@mmclocal.com



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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST** Children's Christmas Program • 6:00 PM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service • 7:00 PM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH Christmas Morning Service • 10:30 AM



Matthew 18:20







Pamela Zettelmeier of Waukesha gifted the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Outreach Center in Merrill with a generous gift to help SVDP continue their work in the community. "We were happy to receive a donation of over 200 handmade crocheted mittens, 150 children's socks, and pajamas," said Sue Norenberg, Operations Manager at the SVDP Outreach Center. "Pamela has been so generous in providing these items for the past several years." The items will be used in the community for those in need as the wintry weather sets in. The SVDP Outreach Center is located at 503 S. Center Ave. Ste. 2 in Merrill. The phone number is 715.539.2666. Submitted photo.

# **SHOP LOCAL**

from page 6

and provides service and installation.

#### Doing a thrifted Christmas?

Yes, that really is a thing! Many people, tired of rampant consumerism and high prices and focused on creative gift giving, are doing a thrifted Christmas, either entirely or in part, shopping at secondhand stores, resale shops, and thrift stores for their Christmas gifts and home decor. Even if you're not doing a thrifted Christmas, these places are some of the best places to find gifts for a white elephant gift exchange. And thrifting has also become a popular hobby in and of itself, so consider a gift certificate to one of these local shops.

Check out St. Vincent

de Paul Thrift Store on E. Main St., Main St. Resale on W. Main St., Helping Hands Bargain Center on N. Grand Ave., and Old Time General Store & Mercantile in Gleason.

#### Give the gift of experiences

Lots of families are choosing to forego the extra "stuff" of Christmas and opting to give the gift of experiences. Merrill's got you covered with that, too! Give a gift certificate to the Cosmo Theatre so your family and friends can enjoy a movie and popcorn when their favorite new movie is playing, or give a gift certiicate for the family to go bowling at Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes and maybe enjoy a meal afterward.

How about a date night for your favorite couple? Give them a gift certificiate for Red Granite Bar & Grill or Pub 1638 so they can get away for an evening at their convenience (and offer to babysit the kids as part of your gift).

Have you considered a gift certificate for a family trail ride at Chism Trail Ranch west of Merrill or Blue Haven Stables south of Merrill? Or perhaps a gift certificate for riding lessons at either venue for your favorite horse lovers or a gift of cowboy boots, clothing, jewelry, decor, or tack from Blue Haven's Western Wear & Tack Shop.

For those who love body art, gift them the gift of a henna tattoo at Henna North on W. Main St. or a piercing or time on their next tattoo at Iron Raven Tattoo or Redemption Ink Tattoo and Art Studio, both in Merrill.

#### Gift someone a Merrill vacation or staycation

Whether your family lives in or out of the area, the gift of a mini Merrill vacation-or an overnight weekend staycation in Merrill—is a great experience to consider! Both the AmericInn and Cobblestone Inn are located conveniently on E. Main St. and both offer whirlpool suites, while the AmericInn also has a pool and hot tub and the Cobblestone Inn has a workout room, making them great options for couples and family fun. And once they're here, there is so much to do in Merrill. Have them turn to the Area Events & **Entertainment Community** Calendar page in the Merrill Foto News or find the latest article online at MerrillFotoNews.com to see all the fun things to do in our area once they're here.

#### Food, groceries, and eating out

Who doesn't love food? We've all got to eat! When in doubt, give the gift of food in one form or another. Bake up a loaf of homemade sourdough bread for a neighbor or make a batch of your sibling's favorite cookies. Or shop locally and you won't have to heat up the oven at all. Pick up a little something sweet or a favorite treat at the Polka-Dotted Pie on E. Main St. or place your order for pies and cookies just in time for the holidays. Grab a coffee refill while you're there.

Families always appreciate gift certificates to eat out, whether that's a gift certificate to Pine Ridge Restaurant so they can enjoy a sit-down breakfast Sunday morning after church, a gift certificate to Pine Ridge Arby's so they can all go for a quick meal together between activities, or a gift certificate to Chip's Hamburgers so mom or dad can drive through and grab a family pack on the way home. Other area options? Consider a gift certificate or gift cards from Ballyhoo's, Caylor's Trophy Bar, Culver's, Ed & Sharon's, Eagle's Club, Hugo's Pizza, Los Mezcales, Subway, The Dugout, The Grand Stand, Casa Amigos, Salvo's Pizzeria, the B's Nest, Friendship House, or Merrill's newest restaurant, Luis Alberto's Mexican Taco Shop at 722 E. Second St.

How about a gift certificate to Prairie Pines Country Store in Gleason or Ma's Place in Gleason? Individuals, couples, and families alike would welcome the chance to stock up on groceries at Prairie Pines or try out some of the new menu items or a Friday fish fry at Ma's Place.

While you're in Gleason, how about gifting locally raised beef or chicken? A box of meat from Skaar Family Farm or Huhta Homestead makes a great

Or take a drive out on Pope Rd. just northeast of Merrill to Geiss Meat Service where you can put together a nice gift box of meat and cheese or purchase individual selections as gifts.

Plautz's Pub now offers bingo and cribbage, so a gift certificate there could cover a drink or two to warm up on a cold day and the chance to enjoy entertainment, as well.

# Giving the gift of getting healthy

Maybe you'd rather focus on experiences to help someone—or the entire family—get fit and healthy in 2025? Consider buying and gifting a membership or a gift certificate to Riverside Athletic Club so the gift recipient can enjoy some pickleball or basketball, climbing on the rock wall, weight lifting, individual or group classes (for everything karate to zumba to Silver Sneakers), the warm water pool, and more! Or look into gifting a membership at Anytime Fitness on Merrill's east side.

Find the perfect gift for your favorite golfer at the pro shop at the Merrill Golf Club or give a gift certificate for a round of

#### The gift of being pampered

Another great gifting experience? Give someone permission to pamper themselves in the new year with a gift certificate for services at Hair by Julie, Images Salon, Allan's Barber Chair, Mike's West Side Barber Shop, Images, Designer's Plus, Studio 500, Emerald Studio, or Lueur Aesthetics.

#### Gas up the tank ...

It's easy to give the gift of gas. A gift card for Kwik Trip is perfect for older teens, the new driver in the family, or drivers of all ages—so the recipient can fill up their auto gas tank with fuel or gas up their proverbial gas tank with Karuba coffee, donuts, or other quick foods. Other locally-owned and operated gas stations like Pine Ridge Mobile offer gift cards, as well.

Make life easier with a gift certificate from Brickner's Park City for an oil change in their shop. Another option for a car owner? Pre-purchase a car wash at Rain Auto Wash on E. Main St. and tuck that into a card for an easy gift option.

#### **Merrill Chamber Gift Certificates:** One-stop Christmas shopping

If you're still stumped or just want to make your Christmas gift giving a lot easier while still keeping Christmas your cash local—do all vour "shopping" at one stop. The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce offers Merrill Chamber Gift Certificates, redeemable at hundreds of Merrill area businesses for goods and services! One and done.

# 2024-2025 Merrill High School Winter Sports Schedule

	Boys Basketball (Varsity, JV & J	(V2)	
Thurs, Dec. 5	Crandon (JV)	Home	5:45 pm
Thurs, Dec. 5	Crandon (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
Fri, Dec. 6	Mosinee (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Fri. Dec. 6	Mosinee (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Tues, Dec. 10	Northland Pines (JV & JV2)	Away	5:45 pm
Tues, Dec. 10	Northland Pines (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
1405, Dec. 10	rvortinana i mes (varsity)	11way	7.13 pm
	Girls Basketball (Varsity, JV & J	<u>[V2)</u>	
Fri, Dec. 6	Florence (JV)	Away	5:45 pm
Fri, Dec. 6	Florence (Varsity)	Away	7:15 pm
Tues, Dec. 10	Wausau West (JV & JV2)	Home	5:45 pm
Tues, Dec. 10	Wausau West (Varsity)	Home	7:15 pm
	Davis Wheatling (Vansity & IV	`	
TI D 5	Boys Wrestling (Varsity & JV		6.20
Thurs, Dec. 5	Stevens Point (JV)	Away	6:30 pm
Thurs, Dec. 5	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Fri, Dec. 6	Kimberly-Invite (JV)	Away	4:00 pm
Sat, Dec. 7	Kimberly-Invite (Varsity)	Away	8:15 am
Thurs, Dec. 12	Wausau East (JV)	Away	6:30 pm
Thurs, Dec. 12	Wausau East (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
	Girls Wrestling (Varsity)		
Thurs, Dec. 5	Stevens Point (Varsity)	Away	6:30 pm
Sat, Dec. 7	Multiple Schools (Varsity)	Home	8:00 am
Thurs, Dec. 12	Wausau East (Varsity)	Away	6:30 pm
	Boys Hockey (Varsity & JV)		
Thurs, Dec. 5	Stevens Point-Marathon (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Thurs, Dec. 5	Stevens Point-Marathon (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Sat, Dec. 7	Marquette-MARC (JV)	Home	12:00 pm
Sat, Dec. 7	Marquette-marc (Varsity)	Home	2:00 pm
Tues, Dec. 10	WI Rapids-S. Wood (JV)	Away	5:00 pm
Tues, Dec. 10	WI Rapids-S. Wood (Varsity)	Away	7:00 pm
Thurs, Dec. 12	D. C. Everest (Varsity)	Away	7:30 pm
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Girls Hockey (Varsity & JV)



The Sports Calendar of events is sponsored by:





Addison Jirovec, a Junior at Merrill High School (MHS), has been named Athlete of the Week for the week of Dec. 5, 2024. She has been a member of the MHS Varsity Swim Team since ninth grade and competes individually and as part of relay teams. Her 200 yard medley relay team recently went to State, but her favorite event is still the 100-yard backstroke, she said. Addison has been swimming since childhood and competitively since sixth grade when she joined the Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) Swim Team and the Merrill Aqua Jays, as well. In Freshman year she was also on the MHS JV Track and Field Team, however, she was out with an injury last season. She plans to return this spring, competing in discus, shot put, and the 100-meter dash.

At school, Addison is part of the Co-op Program and works at both McDonald's and PRMS as a lifeguard; she also lifeguards at the Bierman Center Pool in the summer. In her free time, Addison likes to "swim, hang out with friends, go shopping, camping, and playing with my dogs," she said. The family has two English springer spaniels.

The daughter of Rory and Jennifer Jirovec of Merrill, Addison has a 3.7 GPA. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in the medical field—either physical therapy or medical imaging (X-rays) or possibly chiropractic, she said. She is considering attending either UW-Oshkosh or UW-LaCrosse.

Congratulations from these sponsors:





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Addison Jirovec

Please direct comments or suggestions to fotonews@mmclocal.com



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