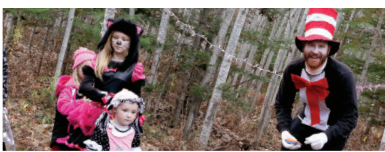


Bell Game defeat
Sports, Page 7

Halloween trail returns
Community, Page 2



THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS

Town of Lac du
Flambeau files
lawsuit against BIA
Local News, Page 3

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 Vol. 95, No. 056 www.rivernewsonline.com | the official newspaper of the oneida county seat | \$1.00

Oneida
County
closed 2022
in strong
financial
position
For every \$1 in
revenue, the county
spent 91 cents

By Richard Moore
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Oneida County had a very good 2022 fiscally, hauling in \$4.9 million in net revenue, according to the county's annual financial report for the year ending last December 31. County finance director Tina Smigielski presented the report to the full county board at its August meeting, assisted by Anthony Cervini of Sikich LLP, which conducted the audit. The county is in the second year of a five-year contract with Sikich to conduct the annual external audits. Overall, the county's net position as a result of operations was \$90.1 million for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, with \$60.7 million invested in capital assets net of related debt and depreciation, \$5.4 million restricted for specific purposes, and \$24 million in unrestricted net position, the report stated.

See **Audit.** . . page 5



DNR: PFOS levels in Ahlstrom sludge 'significantly below the median and average'

By Heather Schaefer
OF THE RIVER NEWS

On Aug. 15 Township of Stella residents were advised that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had obtained a sample of the sludge the Ahlstrom-Munksjo paper mill has been spreading on town lands as part of its DNR-permitted land applica-

tion activities and were in the process of testing it. As part of a comprehensive update on the DNR's investigation into PFAS contamination in the small eastern Oneida County township, Michelle BalkLudwig, DNR wastewater field supervisor for the Northern Region, told those gathered at the town hall that the

DNR had obtained a sample of the biosolid/sludge Ahlstrom and testing was underway to "make sure that it's not a contamination risk." In response to an open records request, Tim Ryan, field operations director for the DNR's wastewater program, has now reported that the results of the testing

showed the Ahlstrom sample had a PFOS (Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) concentration of 1.67 ppb (parts per billion) which is "significantly below the median and average" based on data compiled by the State of Michigan regarding PFAS concentrations in municipal biosolids.

See **PFAS.** . . page 4



BECKIE GASKILL/LAKELAND TIMES

METAL LESSON

Sara Hanson of the WOW Mobile Metal Lab instructs Teagan McLaughlin as they create metal sculptures together during the Project North event Friday, Sept. 15, 2023 in Rhinelander. Established by Hanson in 2005, the WOW Mobile Metal Lab is known for its collaborative public art installations, workshops/classes and educational demonstrations. Now in its third year, Project North is a collaborative music, art and sustainability festival.

Public comment on wolf rule brings few surprises

By Beckie Gaskill
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

A meeting was held on Sept. 12 regarding the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) proposed wolf rule WM-03-21. One of the only surprises of the meeting was its brevity. Lasting just over an hour, the meeting took comment from the public at five-minute intervals. The "usual" groups were represented at the meeting including the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), Hunter Nation, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and Centers for Biological Diversity, with members of the public pointing to a written comment that was to come from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF). DNR policy specialist Scott Karel spoke about the permanent rule that would replace the emergency rules that have been put into place regarding a wolf hunt in the state when the species

was federally delisted. The wolf, he said, has moved on and off the endangered species list several times in recent years. The state recently created a new draft wolf plan, which is headed to the Natural Resources Board (NRB) for consideration as part of the panel's October session. This plan created the framework for a wolf harvest season in anticipation of the wolf being delisted again at some point in the future. The contents of the rule, Karel said, included several things. One of those would be carcass tags that would be zone specific. There would also be protections for wolf dens, making it illegal to molest or destroy a wolf den. A faster harvest would also be addressed, with animals needing to be reported within eight hours after an animal is recovered. Wolf zone boundaries would also be updated in the new plan, he said. A designated dog training season

would also be established under the new permanent rule. When wolves were delisted previously, dog training was allowed year-round. This rule would allow dog training at times concurrent with the hunting of wolves with dogs. There would also be an enhanced reimbursement rate for producers. When there have been multiple confirmed depredations during the same grazing season, a reimbursement rate of 1.25 times the fair market value of the depredated livestock would apply. After the rule was presented, public comment was taken. Chris Vaughn of Hunter Nation weighed in on several parts of the wolf plan in general. He acknowledged wolves as important on the landscape for several reasons, and said Hunter Nation understands the need to manage the wolf.

See **Wolf.** . . page 12

Rhinelanders selected as one of 18 Arts for EveryBody communities

Inspired by the 1936 Federal Theatre Project where 18 cities and towns presented their own interpretations of the anti-fascist play “It Can’t Happen Here,” the Arts for EveryBody project will bring together people and communities in 18 cities and towns across America — including Rhinelanders — to simultaneously premiere an array of large-scale, site-specific participatory art projects on July 27, 2024.

Responding to the prompt “No Place Like Home,” each art project seeks to reflect the unique voice of its community, and through participation, impact the overall health of the community, according to a press release announcing the project.

In Rhinelanders, ArtStart, a community arts organization, is working with area healthcare providers and social service organizations on their 2024 project: youth mental health and isolation. They are working with local youth to co-design and build a new skatepark with integrated art elements, providing an ongoing oasis of gathering, creativity and support for teenagers. They are also working with the counties Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) on art programs for adults with memory loss. Both projects are creating ongoing opportunities for art creation as a space for connection and social cohesion. The project will culminate in the July 2024 public event, seeking to change the conversation about life in rural U.S. communities today.

“The space that is created through artmaking together builds connections at a time when connecting can feel tenuous. It also provides a space to process, relax, and step away from the struggles of everyday life,”

said Melinda Childs, community & cultural development director at ArtStart. “We’re proud to partner with Arts for EveryBody on this national campaign to bring people from our community together.”

Arts for EveryBody is co-directed by national arts leaders Lear deBessonet, Nataki Garrett and Clyde Valentin and seeks to bring about a new awareness around the value arts can have on the health of people and their community.

Garrett, deBessonet and Valentin see Arts for EveryBody as a breakthrough moment in the relationship between the arts and health in the U.S. America.

“Arts for Everybody aims to create an electric new awareness around the value arts can bring to the actual health of people and their community. Our hope is that the Arts for EveryBody experience will spark emotions that connect participants to their communities and each other,” said the co-artistic directors of Arts for EveryBody.

Existing research has confirmed that taking part in the arts:

- Lowers one's risk of dementia by 63%
- Offers health benefits comparable to weekly exercise
- Improves physical and mental health
- Can significantly reduce one's risk of cardiovascular disease

Arts for EveryBody has commissioned a series of new research studies to further examine the connection between arts participation and the health of a community.

To learn more about Rhinelanders’ project and the entire Arts For EveryBody initiative, visit www.artsforeverybody.org.



RIVER NEWS FILE PHOTO

Youngsters can enjoy a “Not So Scary” Halloween event at the YMCA of the Northwoods in Rhinelanders on Saturday, Oct. 21.

YMCA to host ‘Not So Scary’ trick-or-treat trail

Trick-or-treat takes to the forest, as the YMCA of the Northwoods in Rhinelanders will once again host the “Not So Scary” Halloween Trail on the Stoney Pines Trail behind the Y. This year’s event is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 21, from noon to 3 p.m.

The 0.75-mile crushed granite trail winds through the woods, and community groups, businesses and volunteers decorate sites along the trail and hand out candy to trick-or-treaters, YMCA officials ex-

plained in a press release.

Primary parking for this free event will be at the Rhinelanders Ice Arena and a path from the arena leads to the entrance of the trail. Those with strollers or who require an even surface should use the sidewalk along Highway 17, the release states.

A donation of a non-perishable food item for the Rhinelanders Area Food Pantry is encouraged. All participants are also asked to bring a Halloween treat bag.

Those interested in sponsoring a site or volunteering should contact Laurie Bielen, event coordinator, at 715-362-9622, ext. 114.

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Call Circulation Customer Service at 715-365-6397 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday. Periodical postage paid at the post office at Rhinelanders, WI 54501.
Published by Walker Communications, LLC, 232 S. Courtney Street, WI 54501 every Tuesday and Friday.
Subscriptions are transferable. No other refunds will be offered.
USPS: 464-620 • Annual subscription rate \$60 a year, home-delivered
Annual electronic subscription rate \$42 a year, online access
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Northwoods River News, 232 S. Courtney Street, Rhinelanders, WI 54501.
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Car: 1997 Nissan Altima w/only 30k miles must see! **Like new Tractor:** JD (X534) (all wheel steer) lawn tractor w/snowblower **Boats:** aluminum boat, canoe, kayak, boat lift, **4 Guns:** 2- rifles, 1-pistol, muzzle loader, Japanese sword, **Home contents:** large amount of Ethan Allen Furniture, Grandfathers clock, dining table, Oak king size bedroom set, twin beds, desk, Lazyboy recliners, dressers, cedar chest, prints, dining table, dehumidifier, rugs, painted bench, book case & more! **Antiques:** wood cook stove, wicker furniture, RW crocks & jugs, 5 Lladros, spool cabinet, wooden decoys, copper boiler, butter churn, dry sink, Oak ice box, trunk, snow shoes, Oak wall phone, treadle sew machine, crock bowls, flat irons, kerosene lamp, copper weathervane, baskets, bird houses, dressers, cabinets, mini kerosene lamp collection, clocks, old radio, vintage JVC stereo, miller beer mirrors, Coleman lantern, decanters, oil paintings, paddles, old glass & dishes, hanging scale, quilt stencils, wooden scoop, spice cabinet, Blue Wing Teal dishes, wooden clothes dryer, rug beater, wooden pulleys, yoke, 1920 hand held carpet binder, humidior, antique ice skates, antique tables of various styles & more! **Sporting/Tools:** fishing, lake toys, camping, push blower, pole saw, yard tools, power washer, push mower, fish mounts, gravity chairs, patio set, gardening supplies, air compressor, Dewalt miter saw, table saw, hi-lift jack, toolbox, vise, safe & more!

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local & state news

Town of Lac du Flambeau sues Bureau of Indian Affairs

Gaulke: ‘It’s a federal agency and it’s not following federal law’

By Brian Jopek
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

If there’s one thing there has been no shortage of in the ongoing expired road easement dispute between the Town of Lac du Flambeau and the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians it’s legal action.

Since the road issue began on Jan. 31, when the tribal council had road crews put up barricades on Annie Sunn Lane, Center Sugarbush Lane, East Ross Allen Lake Lane and Elsie Lake Lane because of expired easements on portions of tribal land that crossed the roads, there has been plenty of litigation, including claims against the tribe filed by property owners, lawsuits against the town filed by property own-

ers and a lawsuit filed by the United States Department of Justice against the town.

The barricades remain lifted for the time being as the town pays the tribe a monthly, escalating fee that began in May with a \$20,000 payment; prior to that, an initial 90-day, \$60,000 agreement between the tribal council and the town established the barricade lifting, an agreement reached with the intention of providing both entities time to meet and hammer out a long-term resolution.

To date, they’ve met three times since May — and not at all during the month of August — and as of Thursday, Sept. 14, town clerk Susan Schoonover said there’s been no response by the tribal council to requests from the town board to meet again to continue negotiations.

Following the \$20,000 payment the town made to the tribe in May, the escalating \$2,000 a month was added; for the period between Sept. 12 and Oct. 12, that amount was \$28,000, paid by the

town during the first week in September.

Despite the money the town is paying, there’s no guarantee the barricades won’t be re-established at any time.

It’s against that backdrop, the legal action related to the entire matter has been taking place. One of the most recent pieces of litigation from the town of Lac du Flambeau itself is a lawsuit filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin on Aug. 28 against the United States Department of the Interior and the department’s Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

‘Not cooperating’

In the 12-page complaint, prepared by Green Bay attorney Frank Kowalkowski, the outside counsel hired by the town board early in the road easement issue, 26 different Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) requests were submitted to the BIA on February 23, 2023, as they relate to the four roads and, according to

Kowalkowski, the BIA provided verification the FOIA requests were received.

According to the United States Department of Justice website, under federal law, “all federal agencies are required to respond to a FOIA request within 20 business days, unless there are ‘unusual circumstances.’”

“This time period generally begins when the request is received by the FOIA office of the Department of Justice component that maintains the records sought,” according to the USDOJ website.

Long story short, Kowalkowski alleges the BIA has failed to comply with the FOIA requests submitted on behalf of the town.

“Upon information and belief, the Defendants’ failure to produce the requested documents, which seek information relative to the four town roads barricaded by the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians ... was done to gain a strategic advantage in related litigation regarding the Band’s closure

of the roads and the United States’ claim against the Town for trespass damages and ejection from the roads,” Kowalkowski wrote in the complaint.

“They’re not cooperating,” Lac du Flambeau town chairman Matt Gaulke told the *The Lakeland Times* last week, referring to the BIA. “It’s a federal agency and it’s not following federal law. You have to respond in a certain manner and within a certain time frame and they haven’t.”

Gaulke acknowledged — and Kowalkowski has it documented in his filing — there have been responses from BIA staff but not the responses the town is seeking.

“(The BIA says) Yeah, we have it but we have to double-check it,” Gaulke said. “Or ‘we gotta get somebody to sign off on it.’ So, they’re not honoring a FOIA request and the only way we can get information out of ‘em is to file a lawsuit against ‘em.”

Brian Jopek may be reached via email at bjopek@lakelandtimes.com.

ONEIDA COUNTY COURT

The following cases were recently filed or heard in Oneida County Circuit Court

Bridget L. Towne, 40, Rhinelander, charged with possession of amphetamines/LSD/Psilocin, has an adjourned initial appearance on Oct. 30 at 2:30 p.m. and a signature bond of \$3,000.

Chuck Allen Markert, 47, Green Bay, charged with OWI (4th), has a preliminary hearing on Oct. 29 at 9 a.m., and a signature bond of \$2,500.

Sarah J. Rose, 39, Arbor Vitae, charged with OWI (4th), has an adjourned initial appearance on Oct. 16 at 2:30 p.m. and a signature bond of \$5,000.

See Court. . . page 4

POLITICAL DIGEST

WILL files motion to protect Wisconsin elections

The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) has filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit it says is seeking to overturn Wisconsin election law, on behalf of two Wisconsin voters and the Association of Mature American Citizens, Inc. (AMAC), a membership association with nearly 50,000 Wisconsin members.

The lawsuit was brought by Priorities USA and seeks to undo WILL’s recent win in the Wisconsin Supreme Court, where the court held that absentee-ballot drop boxes are not authorized by Wisconsin law. The case also seeks to remove other important election security measures, WILL argues.

“The stakes for this case could not be higher,” Rick Esenberg, WILL president and general counsel, said. “A far-left Super PAC from outside of Wisconsin is attempting to rewrite our laws. If they don’t like the law, they need to go to the legislature. WILL has a proven track record of defending the right to vote and also the rule of law, and we plan to aggressively defend the previous ruling we secured in *Teigen v. WEC*.”

WILL deputy counsel Luke Berg said the case was yet another attempt by the left to use the courts to remove meaningful election-integrity protections.

“WILL stands ready to defend our election laws, uphold Wisconsin statutes, and deny out-of-state interference,” Berg said.

Bob Carlstrom, a WILL client and AMAC Action President (the advocacy affiliate of AMAC), said his group of more than 2 million members nationwide and over 50,000 Wisconsin residents were very concerned about the efforts of the plaintiffs.

“The integrity of elections is our foremost priority and we strongly oppose efforts such as the plaintiff’s as counter to the rightful interests of the individual voter for free and fair elections and correct, not manipulated, outcomes,” Carlstrom said.

WILL says Priorities USA is bringing constitutional challenges to various absentee-ballot requirements,

seeking to use the court system to eliminate them.

“The case challenges the requirement for absentee ballots to be witnessed by a third party, the deadline to cure mistakes on absentee ballots, the requirement that absentee ballots be returned in-person to the clerk or via the mail (which the Wisconsin Supreme Court held, in a case brought by WILL, does not allow for drop boxes), and the statutory distinction [state law] draws between the right to vote at the polling place and the privilege of voting by absentee ballot,” WILL states.

On July 8, 2022, the Wisconsin Supreme Court held that absentee ballot drop boxes, used widely in the 2020 election, have no statutory authorization and Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) guidance encouraging their use was unlawful.

Republican lawmaker says he won’t support Protasiewicz impeachment

Rep. Scott Johnson (R-Jefferson) said last week he won’t vote to impeach Supreme Court justice Janet Protasiewicz if it comes before him in the Assembly.

“I was one of the 1,839,656 voters who cast a ballot in the Supreme Court race,” Johnson said. “The end result was Janet Protasiewicz winning the race. The people spoke. I did not vote for ‘candidate’ Protasiewicz, and I certainly do not agree with justice Protasiewicz, especially when it comes to her openness on election maps in our state.”

Still, Johnson said, elections have consequences.

“I will be honest in saying that I would encourage the justice to recuse herself from this case,” he said. “However, I will not vote in favor of impeachment.”

Johnson said the people of Wisconsin have historically shown that they do not support uprooting a duly elected official on the sheer basis of political disagreement.

“Our court has shifted in a new direction, which is the consequence of an election,” he said.

ACROSS

1 Turmoil

6 Sachet component

11 Glossy paint

13 Inheritance

14 Elk

15 Orbit extreme

16 Metal for plating

17 — and downs

18 Hoedown partner

21 Prepared

23 Bradbury of sci-fi

26 Geologic time period

27 Maize unit

28 Throw a party for

29 College exam

31 — Khan

32 Atlas dot

33 Retribution seeker

36 Sine qua non

37 Fish, in a way

38 First name in advice

39 Ky. neighbor

40 Aussie minerals

42 Slalom run

43 Winter sports item

44 Truth’s opposite

46 Crochet project

49 Firstborn

53 Decks out

54 Thataway

55 Does damage

56 Unpleasant

DOWN

1 Hardly any

2 Italian article

3 Seance sound

4 Ignore

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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| | L | O | S | | V | E | G | A | | S | S | N |

5 Many a Floridian

6 Full of energy

7 Vanities

8 Price ticket

9 Expert

10 Drain cleaner

12 In a row

13 Speak highly of

18 Zodiac sign

19 Up and at ‘em

20 Served soup

22 Naval force

23 Jamaican music

24 Parthenon site

25 Hungers for

28 Cooler

30 Actor Danson

34 Hill opposite

35 Greek vowel

40 Rubber-stamps (var.)

41 Defeats a wrestler

43 Imitation

45 Ferber or Millay

46 Murmur of content

47 Monastic title

48 Dog sound

50 Bradley and Asner

51 Collection

52 Hear a case

obituaries

Dr. Michael Bernard Haugen, DVM

Michael B. “Mike” Haugen, 67, of Rhinelander, died Tuesday, September 12, 2023 surrounded by his loving wife and friends at Friendly Village Nursing Home due to complications from Lewy Body Dementia. He was born in New Hampton, Iowa on June 28, 1958 to Bernard “Barney” and MaryAnn (Bucholtz) Haugen. Mike graduated from New Hampton Community High School and obtained his bachelor's degree and doctorate in veterinary medicine at Iowa State University.

Mike married Kimberly “Kim” McGee on September 2, 1994.

Mike loved cows and practiced veterinary medicine for food-producing animals. Mike owned and operated County Line Veterinary Services in Van Dyne, Wis. for many years. After his retirement, he and Kim bought a farm in Antigo. They operated a dairy farm and organic rotational grazing operation for dairy heifers. He was passionate about holistic resource management and sustainable food production.

Mike enjoyed hunting, fishing and gardening. He was a lifelong Cubs and Packers fan. He was a very talented cook and described himself as an amateur gourmet chef.

Survivors include his wife, Kim; mother, MaryAnn; children, Matthew (Kerry) Haugen and Rebecca (Gerald) Bailey; grandchildren, Mercedes Haugen and Jeffrey Bailey; siblings, Dennis (Linda) Haugen, Susan (Matthew) Bravard, and Jeffrey (Joan) Haugen, and many nieces and nephews.

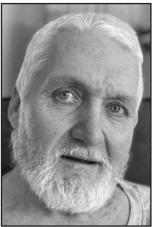
He was preceded in death by his father, Barney; brother, David Haugen; and maternal and paternal grandparents.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bradley Funeral Home, 1550 Neva Rd., Antigo. A memorial service will follow the visitation at 1 p.m. Cremation has taken place.

If you are unable to join us in person, the service will be live on the Bradley Funeral Home Facebook page.

Memorial contributions in Mike’s name can be made to your local food pantry, Salvation Army, or the Alzheimer’s Association.

Special thanks to the wonderful staff on the Memory Care unit at Friendly Village Nursing Home.



Haugen

Court

From page 3

Mercadys Anne Perkins, 31, Tripoli, charged with possession of methamphetamines and bail jumping (felony), had an adjourned initial appearance on Sept. 14 at 9 a.m. and a cash bond of \$1,000.

Randall G. Buckingham, 45, Rhinelander, charged with retail theft (intentionally taking <=\$500, repeater) and bail jumping (felony), had an adjourned initial appearance on Sept. 15 at 1:15 p.m. and a cash bond of \$5,000.

Malachi Richardson, 21, Oklahoma City, Okla., charged with retail theft (intentionally taking, >\$500-\$5,000), has an adjourned initial appearance on Oct. 16 at 2:30 p.m. and a cash bond of \$500.

Jeffrey Alan Peterson, 34, Rockford, Ill., is charged with extradition.

Jason Allen Krumwiede, 42, Lac du Flambeau, charged with resisting/obstructing an officer and OWI (4th), had a preliminary hearing on Sept. 14 at 9:30 a.m. and a cash bond of \$2,500.

Tyler J. Ince, 34, Mendota, Minn., charged with second degree recklessly endangering safety, criminal damage to property (domestic abuse), disorderly conduct (domestic abuse), and battery, has an adjourned initial appearance on Oct. 16 at 2:30 p.m. and a cash bond of \$1,500.

Terrence T. Rimmer, 19, Flint, Mich., is charged with extradition.

Kimberly E. Cox, 49, Harshaw, charged with possession of methamphetamines (PTAC, as a Party to a Crime), possession of THC (PTAC, as a Party to a Crime), and possession of drug paraphernalia (PTAC, as a Party to a Crime), has an adjourned initial appearance on Oct. 16 at 2:30 p.m. and a signature bond of \$2,500.

Kevin Richard Sparks, 39, Wausau, charged with possession of methamphetamines (repeater; PTAC, as a Party to a Crime), possession of THC (2nd+ offense; PTAC, as a Party to a Crime), and possession of drug paraphernalia (repeater; PTAC, as a Party to a Crime), has a preliminary hearing on Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. and a cash bond of \$500.

PFAS

From page 1

PFOS is one of a group of related chemicals known as PFAS.

“There are no limits in state or federal code for any PFAS chemicals at this time for the Department to compare the (Ahlstrom) results to,” Ryan explained in an email to the *River News*. “Therefore, the department cannot restrict land application of the paper mill sludge based on PFAS results if Ahlstrom is meeting all relevant code and permit conditions. The Department does have an Interim Strategy for Land Application of Biosolids Containing PFAS (https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/PFAS/PFAS_BiosolidsInterim-Strategy.pdf). This document is targeted at assisting municipal Wastewater Treatment Facilities (in making) decisions in how they handle biosolids containing PFAS (specifically PFOS and PFOA) based on the best information the Department has at this time. While the Ahlstrom paper mill sludge is regulated as an industrial sludge under ch. NR 214, Wis. Adm. Code, as opposed to municipal biosolids which are regulated under ch. NR 204, Wis. Adm. Code, you can see that the concentration of PFOA and PFOS would not result in any suggested restrictions in land application.”

“Michigan has collected a lot of data on PFAS concentrations in municipal biosolids,” he continued. “They found the median PFOS concentration of all 162 WWTPs (wastewater treatment plants) they sampled was 8.25 ppb and the average was 14.39 ppb. The Ahlstrom sample had a PFOS concentration of 1.67 ppb which is significantly below the median and average. Ahlstrom has indicated on its website that it has switched to a fluorine free product. The Department is not aware of when this change occurred. The Department is not aware of and has not been provided any PFAS results from samples taken before this recent sample which the Department collected.”

An Ahlstrom spokesperson confirmed the DNR’s statements about the results of the testing.

“Testing by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources found that the fibercake from the Rhinelander Mill contained a combined PFOA and PFOS concentration of 2.01 parts per billion (ppb) (PFOS concentration of 1.67 ppb), below the lowest 20 ppb combined level referenced in the Department’s Interim Strategy for Land Application of Biosolids,” the spokesperson stated in response to a request for comment.

The spokesperson also noted that Ahlstrom acquired the Rhinelander paper mill in 2018 and has not used PFOA or PFOS in the Rhinelander mill’s manufacturing process.

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products, including non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays and certain types of firefighting foam. These contaminants have made their way into the environment through accidental spills of PFAS-containing materials, discharges of PFAS-containing wastewater to treatment plants and certain types of firefighting foams, according to the DNR.

PFAS do not break down in the environment and have been discovered at concentrations of concern in groundwater, surface water and drinking water. These

chemicals are known to accumulate in the human body, posing several risks to human health, including certain cancers, liver damage and decreased fertility.

The contamination in Stella was first discovered late last year as part of a testing project conducted by the DNR. The initial testing was focused on households located within a one-mile radius of the town hall. In April, the DNR announced it would be conducting additional testing of wells located within 2.5 miles of the town hall.

During the Aug. 15 meeting, DNR officials reported that 28 of the Stella wells found to have dangerously elevated PFAS levels are located within the 1-mile testing radius and 21 are located within 2.5 mile radius.

The PFAS readings from Stella, an agrarian community located 11 miles east of Rhinelander, are some of the highest in the state.

According to the Department of Health Services (DHS), PFAS levels higher than 20 PPT (parts per trillion) are considered harmful to human health.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday the DNR announced that all of the materials it used as part of the agency’s Aug. 15 presentation in Stella are now accessible on its website.

“Attendees received a summary of known private well sampling results as well as information about resources to help address PFAS in private drinking water,” the agency explained in a press release. “The DNR staff also shared new results from sampling lakes and rivers in the Rhinelander and Town of Stella areas. All of the information shared at the town meeting, including the presentation slides and lakes and river sampling results are available on the PFAS Contamination in the Town of Stella website.”

In a press release issued in conjunction with the August meeting, the agency announced that water from 22 sites in lakes and rivers near the Town of Stella were collected in June and July.

Some of the surface water sites sampled include the Moen chain of lakes, the north branch of the Pelican River and the Wisconsin River near Rhinelander. Fish were also collected from Fifth Lake, the release said.

The DNR has recommended people not swallow or ingest lake or river water.

During the Aug. 15 meeting, James Yach, secretary’s director for the Northern Region, told the crowd a source of the contamination has not yet been determined.

“There has been no source identified at this point but we’re continuing to work on investigating that,” Yach said. “We’ll continue down that path and try to get to a conclusion as to what the potential source is and hopefully be able to cut that off in the future.”

While the DNR has yet to make a determination, a group of Stella property owners filed a federal lawsuit against Ahlstrom and the 3M corporation last month alleging they are responsible for the PFAS contamination.

“Over the course of decades, Defendant Ahlstrom and its predecessors disposed of millions of pounds of waste from the Rhinelander Paper Mill by dumping and spreading the waste on farmland throughout Oneida County, and specifically in the Town of Stella,” the 35-page complaint filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin

reads. “Upon information and belief, this waste contained high levels of PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS. It was this ‘land application’ of waste that caused Plaintiffs’ wells to be among the most contaminated in the country for PFAS. In addition to Defendant Ahlstrom — which owns and operates the Rhinelander Paper Mill — plaintiffs also bring this action against Defendant 3M, which sold and supplied PFAS chemicals to the Ahlstrom facility.”

According to the complaint, the plaintiffs are seeking “to recover compensatory and all other damages, including but not limited to the costs of restoring and remediating contamination from their real properties and drinking water wells, costs of treating water, costs of acquiring bottled water, non-economic damages, loss of earnings and future earnings, damages for loss of use and enjoyment, lost property value, and household expenses, among others.”

According to DNR records, Ahlstrom (or previous owners of the Rhinelander mill) spread paper mill sludge on 63 different sites in Stella between 1996 and 2021. The City of Rhinelander spread sewage sludge/biosolids from its wastewater treatment facility on farmland in Stella between 1997 and 2011, according to DNR records, but the city is not a defendant in the lawsuit.

In response to the lawsuit, an Ahlstrom spokesperson stated that review of the complaint is ongoing but “it appears to focus on activities that are alleged to have occurred prior to Ahlstrom’s acquisition of the Mill in 2018.”

The plaintiffs are seeking to have the case certified as a class action and the complaint notes that there are over 100 “putative Class Members.”

A putative class action is a lawsuit filed by one or more named plaintiffs on behalf of multiple people sharing a similar claim. Lawsuits are not class actions until a court certifies them as such.

Defendant 3M responded to the lawsuit by filing a motion for a stay pending the outcome of a separate motion it filed to include the Stella lawsuit in an existing PFAS-related multidistrict litigation underway in South Carolina.

Multidistrict litigation (MDL) is a procedure in which federal civil lawsuits (noncriminal cases) from around the country are transferred to one federal district court. The cases must have one or more common questions of fact, meaning issues that are decided by looking at the evidence.

The South Carolina MDL “comprises thousands of lawsuits brought by plaintiffs claiming property damage, personal injury, natural resources damages, or other harms” from alleged contamination caused by PFAS contained in certain firefighting foams (aqueous film-forming foams or “AFFF”), according to 3M’s motion.

However, according to online federal court records, the clerk of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (JPML), the judicial entity that manages multidistrict litigation, has determined that the Stella lawsuit is “not appropriate for inclusion” in the South Carolina MDL.

For more information and resources on the PFAS contamination in Stella, visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/Stella.html>.

Heather Schaefer may be reached at heather@rivernewsonline.com.

Audit

From page 1

For audit purposes, Smigielski told supervisors, there were two large groups into which financial activity is combined.

“One is governmental activity and that’s the activities that are principally supported by taxes or other intergovernmental revenues and fees,” Smigielski said. “And there’s another grouping and those are the services that are intended to cover their own costs through their own fees.”

The governmental activities of the county include general government, public safety, health and human services, public works, culture and recreation, conservation and development, and interest/fiscal charges, the report stated. The business-type activities include a highway department and a solid waste department.

The governmental net position was \$81.9 million, with \$54.9 million in net capital assets, \$4.7 million restricted for specific purposes, and \$22.3 million in unrestricted net position. The business-type net position was \$8.2 million, with \$5.8 million in net capital assets, \$0.7 million restricted for specific purposes, and \$1.7 million in unrestricted net position.

“So for the year ending 2022, we had a good year financially,” Smigielski said. “Our revenues in total were \$56 million and our expenses were \$51.1 million, so we had net revenues of \$4.9 million.”

The total cost of county programs was 91 percent of revenue, the report stated, meaning that, for every \$1 in revenue, the county spent \$0.91.

In governmental activities — public safety, general government, health and human services — Smigielski said the county had a \$2.4 million net return, with \$45.7 million in revenues (after a \$1.9 million transfer from the general fund to the highway and solid waste departments) and \$43.4 million in expenses.

According to the report, the county’s governmental activities had a 1 percent uptick from the prior year to \$47.6 million in revenues (before the transfers). While program revenues, including grants, declined by \$1.1 million, a combined increase of \$1.4 million in tax and other revenues, including sales tax and investment income, kept the county whole, the report stated.

“Total expenses also

increased to \$43.4 million, essentially flat versus the prior year,” the report stated. “The county did see increased spending in the areas of general government, public safety, health and human services; but declines in public works, culture and recreation, conservation and development, and interest. These trends are consistent with the areas in which intergovernmental grants and funding are trending. Notably, total revenues exceeded expenses by \$4.2 million, and after net transfers, the governmental activities net position was improved by \$2.4 million for a total of \$81.9 million.”

For business-type programs, Smigielski said the highway department and solid waste also had good years: “Our total revenues were \$10.3 million and expenses of \$7.7 million, so \$2.6 million net on those.”

Property tax leads the way

The largest source of revenue for governmental activities was the property tax, bringing in \$18.1 million, or 38 percent of total revenues collected, Smigielski said.

“Second is grants and contributions of \$14 million,” she said. “So the majority of our funding comes from property taxes, grants, and contributions.”

The county’s largest area of spending for the year was in the area of health and human services, the finance director said.

“So 34 percent of our governmental spending, or \$14.6 million was in that area,” she said. “That includes our social services department, public health department, veteran services and human service center.”

A close second in spending was public safety at 31 percent, Smigielski said.

“That was 13.3 million,” she said. “So that’s the sheriff’s office, emergency dispatch services and ambulance services. And then general government made up 20 percent of our spending and then ‘other’ is 6.6 million or 15 percent.”

Smigielski said the “other” expenses include such things as the forestry department and building and grounds.

The general fund, which is part of governmental services, is always talked about a lot in budgeting because that’s where most activity happens, Smigielski said.

“For our revenues we had revenues of \$31.7 million in the

general fund, which was over budget by \$2 million,” she said. “Of that 66 percent of our revenues were from taxes. So we did finish 5 percent higher than budgeted and that’s largely attributed to the performance of sales tax last year.”

In general, the report stated, conservative budgeting practices led to the favorable variance.

“Notably, prisoner housing revenue, while still lower than prior years, did finish the year nearly double of the original budget for a total just under \$500,000,” the report stated.

Then, too, Smigielski said, the county was under budget on expenses by \$1 million.

“We had a total spend of \$30.2 million,” she said. “Forty percent of the general fund dollars went to cover the cost of personnel, which is \$15.7 million for last year. This was under our budget by \$400,000.”

As a result of operations, Smigielski said the county ended the year with an operating surplus of \$1.5 million. But the county did transfer out \$3.5 million for capital projects, which the finance director said was part of the plan.

“So that brings us to our fund balances at the end of the year or, as our chairman likes to call it, our tin can,” she said. “So our general fund balance at December 31st is \$22.2 million. This is down \$1.8 million from the prior year. Of that \$22.2 million, \$16.6 is set aside for specific purposes.”

When it rains ...

Some \$3.1 million is continuing appropriations for projects or programs that were started in a prior year that will carry forward, while \$9.5 million is in the county’s stabilization fund, Smigielski said.

“The county adopted a resolution to set up a rainy day fund or stabilization fund and that’s \$9.5 million at the end of the year,” she said. “So that leaves us with unrestricted or unrestricted fund balance of \$5.7 million at the end of 2022.”

The rainy day would be used for unanticipated major expenses, Smigielski said.

“I believe that we crafted it, that it would be used, it would have to come back to at least the administration committee, probably the county board, and it would be used for things like weather emergencies, unforeseen emergencies that weren’t part of your budget and you need cash now. Maybe you’re waiting for in-

surance reimbursements, things like that.”

For business-type operations, Smigielski said the highway department had a good year in 2022. “Revenues were \$8.4 million,” she said. “We also did transfer in \$1.9 million and then expenses were \$7.7 million. So we actually finished the year up by \$2.6 million in our highway fund.”

Solid waste also had a good year, Smigielski said, with revenues of \$2.1 million and spending at \$1.9 million.

“And there was a \$400,000 transfer in, so the solid waste fund ended up \$600,000 from the year before,” she said.

Combined capital assets — which includes the airport’s assets because it is a subsidiary unit of the county — the land stayed pretty much the same, Smigielski said.

“Again, a lot of that is either forestry or the airport,” she said. “Our building and improvements increased by \$1.4 million for a total of just under \$18 million. Machinery and equipment went up about \$600,000 to \$10 million. And then infrastructure, which is our roadways, things like that, went up about \$800,000 to \$18 million. This is net of depreciation.”

Smigielski said it was nice to have a net positive increase in those assets.

“That means that our reinvestment in our assets is outpacing the cost of depreciation,” she said. “So overall that’s a positive that our capital assets net of depreciation went up compared to the prior year.”

During questioning, Smigielski said that some of the \$5.7 million in unrestricted funds would be used to fund capital improvement projects for 2023.

The county also spent \$400,000 less than budgeted for personnel, almost entirely because of agency vacancies.

Supervisor Robb Jensen asked if the \$5.7 million unrestricted fund balance was in line with other counties and wondered why the county kept asking departments to present zero percent increase non-personnel budgets when the county was in such robust financial condition.

“I think there are some departments that are saying, well if you keep coming out in the black significantly, why are we restricting non-personnel by not allowing them increases,” Jensen said. “And I know you said, we had good sales tax year, and it’s always good to construct a

budget conservatively, but I think some look at the 5.7 and [ask] why aren’t we getting some increases?”

Servini answered that question, saying that looking at the absolute total of unrestricted fund balances of other counties was not necessarily the most apt comparison.

“In terms of the unrestricted or the available resources there, I would more so encourage the supervisors to look at your fund balance as a percentage of your current year expenditures for that,” Servini said. “So when you look at those percentages there, you’re in line with other counties ... operationally. You are afforded flexibility when you have unrestricted or unreserved amounts if you will, in that fund balance, whether it be for future capital needs or other operational considerations that may come up from time to time.”

Servini said the county was not outside of the norm and on par in terms of the other counties in the benchmarking his company does.

Other budget notes

The report observed that the county’s business-type activities increased operating revenues at a faster clip than the operating expenses, 13 percent and 8 percent respectively, resulting in an operating gain of \$200,000: “After non-operating revenues and transfers-in from the general fund, the business-type activities net position was improved by over \$2.6 million for a total of \$8.2 million at year end.”

As for the general fund, actual results had a positive variance to the budget for both revenues and expenses.

“Total revenues for the general fund were \$31.7 million, \$2.1 million over the final budget with higher than anticipated revenues in every category except for fines and fees,” the report stated. “Taxes finished \$910,000 or 5 percent above final budget, driven largely by sales tax receipts. The other area with a significant variance to the budget is intergovernmental revenues and charges for service, exceeding the final budget by \$515,000 and \$798,000 respectively.”

Total expenses finished under final budget by 3 percent, the report stated, with savings in every category but for an overage in health and human services, with disbursements to third-party agencies via grants and contributions exceeding the budgeted plan.

“Transfers into the general fund at year end included excess tax levy from social services or public health funds,” the report stated. “Due to these positive variances, and the return of excess tax levy from the noted special revenue funds, the county did not need to tap prior year fund balance to fund general fund operations for 2022, instead growing fund balance by just under \$1.5 million by year end. However, transfers-out were made for pay-go capital projects completed by the county’s highway, solid waste, buildings & grounds, and/or information system technology departments.”

That reduced the general fund balance by a net of \$1.8 million for a final fund balance of \$22.2 million.

The report also addressed other funds, such as the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) fund, social services special revenue fund and highway special revenue fund.

“The ARPA fund finished under budget, as projects are multi-year in nature and will continue to roll-forward to 2023 and 2024,” the report stated. “The social services special revenue fund performed well versus its budget as well with revenues finishing on budget at \$5.5 million, and expenses finishing under budget by \$92,000. The county’s highway special revenue fund did better than budget as well, increasing its year-end fund balances to be used for future year projects.”

The county is also in good condition debt-wise, the audit stated.

“Non-current assets such as debt payments due in more than one-year decreased by \$(2.6) million to a total of \$10.8 million for 2022 as the county had general obligation debt roll off the books,” the report stated.

State statute limits the amount of general obligation debt the county may issue to 5 percent of its total equalized valuation, so the current debt limit for the county is \$452 million, the report observed.

“As of December 31, the only outstanding bond is a State Trust Fund Loan issued for economic development,” the audit stated. “The balance decreased by just under \$3 million to a new balance of \$3.2 million. It is anticipated that this bond will be fully retired by December 31, 2023.”

Richard Moore is the author of “Dark State” and may be reached at richardd3d.substack.com.

NORTHWOODS

MARKETPLACE

100.

ANNOUNCE-MENTS

140.

MISCELLANEOUS

RIVER NEWS CLASSIFIED DEADLINES:

Friday at Noon to be in the Tuesday River News and the Wednesday Super Shopper. Friday at Noon to be in the Tuesday River News. Please call 715-365-6397 with any questions.

250.

EMPLOYMENT

260. EMPLOYMENT

FOOD SERVICE

Up to \$18 per hour including tips, SERVING THE FINEST SANDWICH IN TOWN. No late nights. Weekends off. Apply in person. Northwestern Lounge

262. EMPLOYMENT

MISCELLANEOUS

Highway Maintenance Worker
Town of Cassian
Part- Time

The town of Cassian is accepting applications for the position of Highway maintenance worker. This is a part- time position performing a variety of semi-skilled tasks in the maintenance and repair of town roads, right of ways, facilities, and equipment. Standard procedures are followed and work is inspected by the lead worker, and or Town Chairperson and Town Supervisors. Position requires a CDL License. This position has a starting wage of \$22.86, it would include a call- in pay, with no benefit package, and no guarantee of hours.

A full description of minimum requirements and application can be found on the Town of Cassian website: townofcassian.org, under, forms. Or by emailing a request to cassiantownclerk282@zoho mail.com or by calling the clerk @ 715-499-0132. Completed applications must be received by the Cassian Town Clerk, PO Box 4, Harshaw, WI 54529, or emailed to cassiantownclerk282@zoho mail.com by September 22, 2023

Paginator / Layout / Graphic Designer

The Lakeland Times is now accepting resumes for an additional full-time or part-time experienced paginator / graphic designer to work in our production department. 2 years minimum experience with Macintosh Quark XPress, and adequate knowledge of Adobe Photoshop are required. Publishing, graphic design, marketing and/or customer service experience is a definite plus. The ideal candidate would also possess excellent organizational, communication and typing skills, efficiency, a positive attitude and the ability to pay close attention to detail in a fast - paced environment. Please send resume,

continued next column

262. EMPLOYMENT

MISCELLANEOUS

samples and references to: Heather Holmes, General Manager, The Lakeland Times, P.O Box 790, Minocqua, WI 54548. Email: hholmes@lakelandtimes.com.

264. EMPLOYMENT

TRADE/SKILL

CARPENTERS with log home experience helpful, \$30- \$50/ hour- painters experience \$20- \$35/ hour. Call Terry at: 715-617-0684 or 715-479-2047.

EXPERIENCED CARPENTER AND CARPENTER HELPER POSITIONS AVAILABLE. Are you an experienced carpenter considering a change... or are you interested in entering in a new career in the construction trade? Simply call or email to set up a time to speak with us confidentially to determine if this the right move for you. SCHATTNER CONSTRUCTION SERVICE INC. 715-479-8170, bill@schattnerhomes.com www.schattnerhomes.com

Forest-Tool in Crandon is accepting applications for: **Machinist, CNC Operator/ Programmer.** Applicants with machining and CNC experience are welcome to apply. Full-time hours with Benefits and Pay based on experience. Willing to learn and have ability to plan and complete projects on-time for customer schedules is required. Must be able to multi-task. Forest-Tool builds Injection Molds, Stamping Dies, and also provides production machining. Manual and CNC machines are commonly utilized. Please call 715-478-5870 for more information.

300.

FOR RENT

320. FOR RENT

APARTMENTS

Historic West Elementary
Beautiful 1 bdrm/1 bath 1,403 sq ft ADA unit with garage & storage area. New flooring. \$750 month includes water/sewer.

Must be 55 or older with gross annual income from \$32,801 to \$39,360 for 1 person (\$37,501 to \$45,000 for 2 ppl).

Evergreen Manor
Beautiful 2 bdrms/1 bath 800 sq ft unit (income-based rent), includes water/sewer & heat.

Must be 2-person household (55 or older) with gross annual income less than \$41,160.

Both buildings include: computer lab, library, beauty shop, exercise room & laundry rooms. Smoke/vape/flame-free.

Call Melissa at **Rhinelanders Housing Authority** to apply 715-365-7979 x1. EOH

The Oneida Apartments, 28 N. Brown St., Rhldr. Newly

continued next column

320. FOR RENT

APARTMENTS

remodeled, 1- BDRM. No pets. Units from \$500/ mo plus utilities. Sec. Deposit required. 715-362-6232

400.

ITEMS FOR SALE

460. FOR SALE

FUEL / WOOD

FIREWOOD- LOGGERS CORD, 12 cord minimum. 8 ft. logger cord. Maple/ Oak. Bruce or Monica 715-479-6309 or 715-891-2767

470. FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

Weather Tec floor mats that fit a GMC Terrain, 10' Jon Boat Smoker Craft \$250.00 Computer \$100. 715-409-6453

480. FOR SALE

SPORTING GOODS

Parker Switchback Extreme camouflage compound bow. Right hand 18- 28" draw. 20-40 lbs. Quiver, sight, rest, release and arrows. \$100.00 715-213-5942

490. FOR SALE

ITEMS UNDER \$50

HOW DO I GET AN AD IN ITEMS UNDER \$50 FOR **FREE?**
Visit www.rivernewsonline.com and click on the **FREE CLASSIFIED** link in the top tool bar.
Deadline is Wednesday at 5 p.m. for the following Wednesday Shopper
Please, no phone calls.

500.

GENERAL SALES

530.

ESTATE SALES

ER. ESTATE SALE – THE QUEENS OF CLUTTER will be hosting a one – day estate sale Saturday, September 23rd at 4249 Maple Ave., Lot 19, off Spruce Lane, Eagle River, WI across from Lumpy's. The sale will be held from 9:00 to 2:00 and the last hour anything remaining will be ½ OFF or less. Visit our Queens of Clutter Facebook page for photos and a list of items.

540.

GARAGE / RUMMAGE SALES

RH: 1027 Dorr Ave. Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9/21, 9/22, 9/23. 10am- 5pm. Glider rocker, scooter, piano, monitor, vintage glass, pictures, sports gear, games.

540.

GARAGE / RUMMAGE SALES

HOW TO GET GREAT
RESULTS FROM YOUR
RUMMAGE SALE AD
Town of sale: _____
Dates of sale: _____
Time of sale: _____
Address of sale: _____
Directions to sale: _____
List your big ticket items. A thoroughly worded ad will produce BETTER RESULTS

RUMMAGE SALE ADVERTISING DEADLINES – 5 FULL BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO 1ST RUN DAY IS RECOMMENDED.

To be in the Tuesday Lakeland Times or River News: THURSDAY at NOON

To be in the Wednesday Super Shopper: THURSDAY at NOON

To be in the Friday Lakeland Times or River News: TUESDAY at NOON

PLEASE have your ad prepared prior to calling in - 715-365-6397 River News 715-356-5236 Lakeland Times or email your ad: classifieds@rivernewsonline.com classifieds@lakelandtimes.com **Include your name, mailing address and telephone number so that we can call you for payment. All rummage sale ads are prepaid.**

RUMMAGE SALE KEY
AV.....Arbor Vitae
BJ.....Boulder Junction
CR.....Crandon
CS.....Cassian
ER.....Eagle River
FI.....Fifield
HR.....Harshaw
HZ.....Hazelhurst
LDF.....Lac du Flambeau
LT.....Lake Tomahawk
MC.....McNaughton
MQ.....Minocqua
MR.....Mercer
MW.....Manitowish Waters
NB.....Newbold
NK.....Nokomis
PF.....Park Falls
PL.....Presque Isle
PL.....Plum Lake
RH.....Rhinelanders
SA.....Sayner
SC.....Sugar Camp
SG.....St. Germain
TO.....Tomahawk
WB.....Woodboro
WD.....Woodruff
WN.....Winchester

SUPER SHOPPER DEADLINE:

If you want your ad to appear in the **Super Shopper** Deadline is at 11 a.m. FridayPrior to the Wednesday you want your ad to appear. Remember – **ALL** classified ads receive a minimum of **2 days** in the River News, **1** Wednesday in the Super Shopper and **6 days** on line!!

Reach over 40,000 homes Direct to mail box delivery!!
Call: 715-365-6397

550.

MISCELLANEOUS

550.

MISCELLANEOUS

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Newcomers and Newborns in the northwoods area go to www.nicoletwelcome.com for FREE certificates, and area information or FREE baby calendar with offers from local sponsors.

800.

SERVICES

820. SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION / REMODELING

Roofing and Roof repairs, paint & stain, power wash, drywall repair, texture match, flooring and complete home repair services. Insured. 5 mi. radius of Rhinelanders. Ken 715-891-7154

830. SERVICES

GENERAL

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Retired Plumber, will do hot water tank replacements, faucet replacement, hose faucet replacement & Copper pipe repairs. Special price on comfort height toilets. Free estimates.
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Road Gravel & Grading. Road and Building Site Construction. Tree Removal, Sand and Rock. 715-550-0443

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The Wednesday Super Shopper classified deadline is Thursday at 5 p.m.
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Deadline for Friday River News is Tuesday at 10 a.m.



PHOTOS BY **BOB MAINHARDT** FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Members of the Rhinelander High School football team, including Owen Ives (1) and Calvin Welch (78) walk off the field after the Hodags lost to Antigo 24-0 in the 89th playing of the Bell Game at Mike Webster Stadium Friday, Sept. 15.

BELL GAME BLUES

Antigo bullies Hodags, wins rivalry game 24-0

By **Jeremy Mayo**
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

In the eyes of the Rhinelander faithful, the 89th Bell Game was not supposed to go like this — not with the momentum the Hodag football team had built in a 4-0 start and not against an Antigo team that was dominated by Hayward two weeks earlier.

However, when it came time to lay the cards on the table, the Robins simply pushed the Hodags

around — much they way it did when they dominated the series from the 1960s through the 1980s and again from the mid 2000s through the 2010s.

The Robins rushed for 218 yards, held the Hodags to 65 yards of offense, and blanked Rhinelander 24-0 Friday night at Mike Webster Stadium

Antigo scored touchdowns on its first three offensive possessions and tacked on a field goal to start the fourth quarter while the Hodag

offense never got out of neutral, picking up only three first downs on the night.

The Hodags came in undefeated and ranked No. 10 in the WisSports.net D3 coaches' poll. Antigo was a .500 outfit. None of that seemed to matter on Friday.

"Rivalry games don't care about records," Hodag coach Aaron Kraemer said. "Rivalry games don't care about who's supposed to be the better team, who is the better team. They care about prepara-

tion and they care about heart. Tonight, Antigo, they did it. They took it from us."

The Robins' game plan was simple, yet effective. Offensively, it was a steady diet of the power running game, with a sprinkling of the pass to help pick up a few key third-down conversions. Defensively, Antigo threw more rushers at the Hodags than they could block.

See **Bell.** . . page 11



"Rivalry games don't care about records. Rivalry games don't care about who's supposed to be the better team, who is the better team. They care about preparation and they care about heart. Tonight, Antigo, they did it. They took it from us."

Aaron Kraemer, RHS football coach

Hodag swimmers take third in state meet primer

By **Jeremy Mayo**
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Rhinelander High School girls' swim team raced Saturday at the same venue where it will look to vie for a state title in November.

Results were strong as the Hodags came home as the top-finishing Division 2 school in the field and took third overall in the Black-shirt Invite at the Waukesha South Natatorium.

The Hodags finished ahead of both last year's WIAA Division 1 (Arrowhead, fourth) and Division 2 (Madison Edgewood,

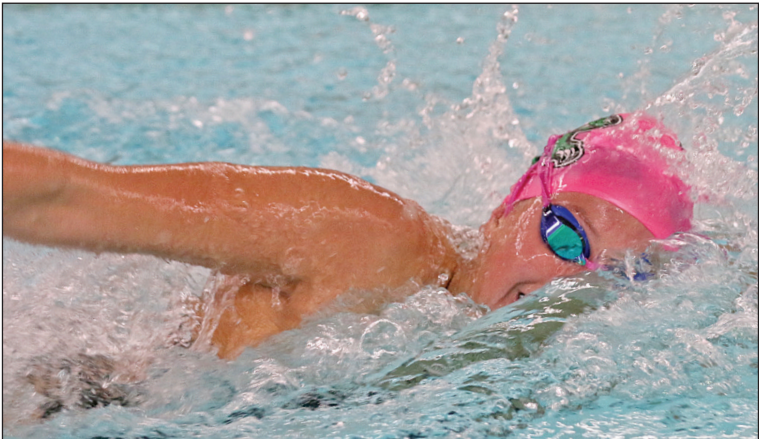
10th) state champions. Rhinelander won three events, added three more top-three finishes and had 12 top-eight finishes overall.

"We go into this meet not sure what to expect because we don't see a lot of these teams that are D1, D2 for that matter either," coach Jenny Heck said. "We have a few ideas of who we're up against, but I thought we were really after it each event, just not only making personal gains with times and technique. I think all the girls had something positive to take out of this meet."

Senior Abi Winnicki had a strong meet for the Hodags, sweeping both the 100- and 200-yard freestyle races. She beat Middleton's Tait Haag by more than a second to win the 200 (1 minute, 53.60 seconds) and swam to a 0.70-second win over Verona's Kyras Kittleson in the 100 (52.81).

"She was pleased with her times. She had very specific goals and it's good for her to be on top. It's the first time that she's won her events there. That was really fun and optimistic," coach Heck said.

See **Swim.** . . page 10



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelander's Abi Winnicki competes in the 100-yard freestyle during a GNC dual meet against Lakeland at the Heck Family Community Pool Thursday, Sept. 14. Winnicki eclipsed the pool record in the event by 0.01 seconds, finishing in 53.03 and then won both the 100 and 200 freestyle Saturday at the Blackshirt Invite in Waukesha.

King's late header gives Hodags 1-0 win at Pines

By Jeremy Mayo
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

EAGLE RIVER — The Rhinelander High School boys' soccer team's flair for the dramatic continued on Thursday.

Matthew King's header goal in the 76th minute saved the Hodags from their fourth straight draw and propelled Rhinelander to a 1-0 victory over Northland Pines in Great Northern Conference play in Eagle River.

Late goals have been the way for a Hodag offense that has mustered only six goals through the first five Great Northern Conference games. Three of those scores have come in the final 10 minutes of regulation and have either tied the game or given the Hodags a one-goal lead.

"They sure give me stress, don't they, these boys," Hodag coach John Weigel quipped. "Even last year and the years before, they make them interesting. Luckily we were able to get one. I thought we had some great opportunities throughout the game but we've got to start finishing, getting some of these goals to

fall earlier in the game." King's goal came off a set piece, moments after he headed a similar look just wide off a corner kick in the 73rd minute. King drew the foul that set up the game winner as Northland Pines' Cameron Birchbauer was called for a push on the right flank just inside the Hodags' attacking third. Will Quinn launched the free kick into the box toward the back post, where King nodded it past keeper Mylo Albrecht.

"We've worked on our set pieces. The plan is not to hit it over the crossbar, which we tend to do quite frequently, unfortunately," coach Weigel said. "This time it worked like we planned, like we practices and I'm glad we got it to go in there. It was a close one."

Otherwise, it was a relatively frustrating afternoon again for the Hodag offense. Its insistence on attacking the middle of the defense did not result in many breakaway chances and a number of shots from outside the 18-yard box.

See **Soccer**. . . page 11



JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

Rhinelanders' Matthew King heads the ball for a goal during the second half of a GNC boys' soccer game against Northland Pines in Eagle River Thursday, Sept. 14. King's score in the 76th minute was the difference as the Hodags defeated the Eagles, 1-0.

RHS volleyball swept at GNC meet

By Jeremy Mayo
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

As coach Dan Wolter described it, the Rhinelander High School volleyball team continued to "take a few lumps" on Saturday as it tries to fight back into the Great Northern Conference win column.

The Hodags dropped two more matches as they were swept by both Medford at Tomahawk during the first GNC tournament of the season at Sheldon Fieldhouse in Antigo.

"It's a learning phase for these girls," Wolter said. "We took a few lumps here early in our conference season. We get another opportunity on Tuesday at home against Pines. I told the girls we've just got to just circle the wagons a little bit, regroup and get ready for our next game."

Rhinelanders, which had the a bye in Saturday's first round, took on a Medford team that had just handed Tomahawk its first conference loss of the season in a four-set affair. The Raiders continued that momentum against the Hodags, sweeping the match 25-14, 25-18, 25-14.

The Raiders used a 9-2 run midway through the first set to take a commanding 16-8 lead. The Hodags were up 11-6 in the second but Medford chipped away to tie it at 15 before scoring seven of the next eight points to seize control. The Raiders led wire-to-wire in the third set, jumping out to a 7-1 lead and never looking back. The Hodags got to within a 12-8 before the Raiders reeled off seven straight points.

"Against Medford, we just couldn't find that put away," Wolter said. "Medford's a good ball-control team. They did a good job of that and had a couple of big swings on the outside that we had some troubles with."

It was a similar story against Tomahawk, which rolled to a 25-15, 25-11, 25-18 sweep. A 10-2 Tomahawk spurt broke a 5-all tie in the opening set and the Hatchets raced out to a 16-5 lead in the second. The Hodags held a brief 9-8 lead in the third set, but Tomahawk answered with a 10-2 run to go ahead 18-11. The Hodags staved off three match points, trailing 24-15, but not a fourth as the match came to an end.

"We were a lot more aggressive in getting a lot of swings in our Tomahawk game," Wolter said. "We had a lot of swings, a lot of attacks, a lot of digs, played some good volleys, but we just couldn't get a putaway to get momentum. They were just able to kind of keep extending their lead."

Libbey Buchmann finished with a team-high 10 kills on the day while Lily Treder and Kelsi Beran had eight kills each. Buchmann recorded nine of her kills in the Medford match, as the Hodags had a .113 attacking percentage in the match (19 kills, 11 errors, 71 attacks). The Hodags had 88 attacks against Tomahawk, but finished at the break even mark with 15 kills and 15 errors.

See **Volleyball**. . . page 10

Hodag netters keep pace in GNC, down Antigo 6-1

By Jeremy Mayo
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Rhinelander High School girls' tennis team kept within shouting distance of another Great Northern Conference title entering the final week of the regular season but the Hodags will need a strong effort to lock up their 12th conference title in 14 years.

The Hodags swept doubles and nearly did the same in singles on Thursday to defeat Antigo 6-1 in a GNC dual at the RHS tennis courts.

That win kept Rhinelander 16 points behind Lakeland with a match in hand on the T-Birds entering the final week of the regular season — which includes a pivotal dual between the teams this afternoon in Minocqua leading into Thursday's conference tournament in Rhinelander.

Medford did Rhinelander no favors in its quest to catch Lakeland, falling at home to the T-Birds 6-1 on Thursday after beating Lakeland 4-3 in a non-conference invite last weekend in Wausau.

"We're just looking to get as many points as possible. A team win is nice and 6-1 is extra points, so that's good," Hodag coach Matt Nichols said. "It really puts that last match, a lot of weight on it. Whoever wins that is probably going to lead going into the conference, which is just crazy. And Newman isn't far out either. It's a tight race. It's exciting."

The Hodags had a relatively easy time in the top three singles flights



PHOTOS BY BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelanders' Dawsyn Barkus hits a return during a No. 2 singles match in a GNC dual against Antigo at the RHS tennis courts Thursday, Sept. 14. Barkus defeated Antigo's Jacqueline Belling in straight sets, 6-1, 6-1.



Rhinelanders' Evelyn Sawyer plays a shot at the net during a No. 2 doubles match in a GNC dual against Antigo at the RHS tennis courts Thursday, Sept. 14. The Hodags swept all three doubles matches in a 6-1 victory over the Red Robins.

on Thursday. Tori Riopel was a 6-4, 6-3 winner over Molly Neufeld in the top flight, Dawsyn Barkus rolled Jacqueline Belling 6-1, 6-1 at No. 2 and Shayla Coppenger was a 6-1, 6-0 winner at No. 3.

"Singles, just the overall consistency of the play," Nichols said. "Tori struggled with that but she cleaned it up and got the win. I think depth, especially with Shayla and Dawsyn, just really

deep shots and consistency. I didn't see many errors on their side. They just played the game super well."

Rhinelanders cruised in doubles. Kayla Tessmann and Karmen Lopez were 6-2, 6-2 winners at the top flight, Evelyn Sawyer and Brooke Sisel won 6-1, 6-0 at No. 2 and Teagen Turcotte and Willow VanDenHeuvel won 6-4, 6-1 at No. 3.

"I think our doubles, it was nice to see them take care of business, to put it frankly," Nichols said "We've struggled there a little bit and it was nice for them to get some wins, get some confidence."

The Hodags' lone loss came at No. 4 where Maya Patrick was engaged in a marathon match with Antigo's Julie Volpentesta. Volpentesta snuck out a second-set tiebreaker and eventually won 2-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4 in a match that took roughly 2 hours, 45 minutes to complete.

See **Tennis**. . . page 11

Hodag harriers finish near back of Smiley pack

By Jeremy Mayo
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

WAUSAU — As is the case most years, the Rhinelander High School cross country team ran into some tough competition Saturday in its largest regular season meet of the year.

The Hodags finished near the back of the Division 1 pack, taking 18th out of 21 in the boys’ field and 15th out of 16 in the girls’ field, in the 67th annual Bill Smiley Invitational in Wausau.

Billed as the oldest invitational cross country meet in northern Wisconsin, the event drew 55 schools from around the state.

“It’s the best of the best,” Hodag coach M.J. Laggis said. “If you don’t want to run at Smiley, you don’t want to run. Those are the best teams around and that’s why there’s a waiting list for kids to get in there.”

The Hodag boys’ were short-handed Saturday, running without junior Brody Kowieski (knee). Rhinelander went to the line with only five boys in the varsity race and finished behind Medford (15th) for the first time this season.

Greyson Gremban paced the Hodags again, taking 25th overall in a field of more than 160 runners in the Division 1 race. He covered five kilometers in 17 minutes, 14.1 seconds. Though Gremban turned in a solid time, he was only fifth-fastest among the GNC runners in the field, behind Lakeland’s Owen Clark (fourth), Lakeland’s Ashton



Rhinelander’s Sophie Miljevich rounds a corner in the opening mile of the Bill Smiley Invitational cross country race in Wausau Saturday, Sept. 13. Miljevich was the second-fastest runner for the Hodag girls, finishing 80th overall.



PHOTOS BY JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

Rhinelander’s Jackson Weinzatl, left, Gavin Denis, center, and Avrom Barr, right, lead a pack of runners during the opening mile of the Bill Smiley Invitational cross country race in Wausau Saturday, Sept. 13. The Hodag boys placed 18th out of 21 teams in Division 1 on Saturday.

Bremer (17th), Medford’s Tanner Hruby (21st) and Antigo’s James Meade (23rd).

“He ran a really good time, Greyson did, a really nice time,” Laggis said. “He’s never overly pleased and that’s part of his mentality of working harder and trying to be better. He got beat by a couple of conference kids today, that will sit in his craw and I think that’s a good thing because that will just drive him to keep competing harder ... For Greyson, that’s fuel for the fire.”

A pair of freshmen were second and third for Rhinelander. Avrom Barr came home 96th (19:18.2) and Jackson Weinzatl was 105th (19:25.4). Senior Gavin Denis was 116th (19:39.1) and junior Shawn Denis was 145th (21:22.1).

“We’ve talked to Avrom and Jackson a ton. They’ve really done a nice job of staying right with Gavin and being that mold of scoring in the top four,” Laggis said. “They both nudged out Gavin a little bit today, but those three have been really, really solid.

Miljevich (93rd, 23:50.0), junior Brynn Teter (98th, 24:02.3), freshman Hailey Schiek (99th, 24:03.8) and junior Luna Grage (105th, 24:39.8).

“Leah Jamison wasn’t feeling great,” Laggis said. “She was our No. 1 and she finished and I was happy that she gutted it out. That was a nice effort. Sophie Miljevich had an awesome race today. She really is improving. She ran with a lot of guts today. I was really pleased with that. Then another big breakout today, Maria Hubler, who was our fourth, right behind Kara. Maria just had a fantastic run and really gave a great effort.”

See Smiley. . . page 10

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

ATHLETICS

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Bill Smiley Invitational
Wausau East High School
Saturday, Sept. 16

Division 1 Boys: 1, Stevens Point, 35. 2, De Pere, 99. 3, Eau Claire Memorial, 102. 4, Shorewood, 130. 5, Lakeland, 162. 6, River Falls, 206. 7, Shawano, 207. 8, Pulaski, 265. 9, Madison Memorial, 274. 10, Wausau West, 284. 11, Kaukauna, 313. 12, Waunakee, 323. 13, Eau Claire North, 362. 14, Wisconsin Rapids, 402. 15, Medford, 410. 16, Seymour, 434. 17, Oregon, 437. 18, Rhinelander, 453. 19, Appleton East, 544. 20, Wausau East, 568. 21, Merrill, 611.

Individuals: 1, Grady Lenn, DP, 15:25.7. 2, Bode Erickson, SP, 15:57.0. 3, Cooper Erickson, SP, 16:04.8. 4, Owen Clark, Lak, 16:09.9. 5, Quinlan Andrews, RF, 16:17.8.

Rhinelander: 25, Greyson Gremban, 17:41.1. 96, Avrom Barr, 19:18.2. 105, Jackson Weinzatl, 19:25.4. 116, Gavin Denis, 19:39.1. 145, Shawn Denis, 21:22.1.

Girls’ Team: 1, Madison West, 52. 2, Kaukauna, 79. 3, Stevens Point, 111. 4, Waunakee, 118. 5, Shawano, 157. 6, De Pere, 158. 7, Wausau West, 176. 8, Eau Claire Memorial, 188. 9, Medford, 219. 10, Wausau East, 316. 11, River Falls, 322. 12, Lakeland, 324. 13, Eau Claire North, 357. 14, Wisconsin Rapids, 395. 15, Rhinelander, 399. 16, Appleton East, 428.

Individuals: 1, Meredith Richter, Med, 18:59.5. 2, Cianna Wipperfurth, Wnke, 19:17.4. 3, Sydney Fauske, Kau, 19:17.8. 4, Tessa Bruckhart, 19:32.9. 5, Celia Wallace, MW, 19:47.1.

Rhinelander: 79, Leah Jamison, 22:47.6. 80, Sophie Miljevich, 22:51.3. 88, Kara Monk, 23:35.8. 85, Maria Hubler, 23:48.6. 93, Ella Miljevich, 23:50.0. 98, Brynn Teter, 24:02.3. 99, Hayley Schiek, 24:03.8.

FOOTBALL

PREP FOOTBALL

GNC Standings
as of Saturday, Sept. 16

| Team | GNC | Ovr |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| Medford | 3-0 | 4-1 |
| Mosinee | 3-0 | 4-1 |
| Rhinelander | 2-1 | 4-1 |
| Antigo | 2-1 | 3-2 |
| Hayward | 1-2 | 3-2 |
| Lakeland | 1-2 | 1-4 |
| Ashland | 0-3 | 0-5 |
| Merrill | 0-3 | 0-5 |
| Friday’s Games | | |
| Antigo 24, Rhinelander 0 | | |

Mosinee 44, Hayward 3
Lakeland 35, Merrill 0
Medford 59, Ashland 6
Friday, Sept. 22
Rhinelander at Mosinee, 7 p.m.
Lakeland at Antigo, 7 p.m.
Hayward at Medford, 7 p.m.
Ashland at Merrill, 7 p.m.

89th Bell Game
Antigo at Rhinelander
Friday, Sept. 15
Antigo 7 14 0 3 — 24
Rhinelander 0 0 0 0 — 0

First Quarter
Ant — Schlieve 2 run (Bunnell kick), 8:42.

Second Quarter
Ant — Arrowwood 17 pass from Thomae (Bunnell kick), 11:54.
Ant — Schlieve 2 run (Bunnell kick), 8:19.

Third Quarter
No scoring
Fourth Quarter
Ant — Bunnell 20 field goal, 11:56.

| Team Statistics | Ant | Rhi |
|-------------------|--------|-------|
| First Downs | 16 | 3 |
| Total Yards | 309 | 65 |
| Rushes-Yards | 48-218 | 22-19 |
| Passing | 91 | 46 |
| Punt Returns | 1-11 | 0-0 |
| Kickoff Returns | 1-19 | 1-114 |
| Interception Ret. | 1-5 | 0-0 |
| Comp-Att-Int | 5-9-0 | 2-9-1 |
| Sacked-Yards Lost | 1-2 | 5-22 |
| Punts | 2-51 | 5-137 |
| Fumbles-Lost | 2-0 | 0-0 |
| Penalties-Yards | 6-40 | 5-32 |
| 3rd Down Eff. | 7-11 | 1-9 |
| 4th Down Eff. | 1-2 | 1-2 |
| Time of Poss. | 30:20 | 17:40 |

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Antigo — Knapkavage 20-101, Bussey 10-70, Schlieve 13-37, Arrowwood 2-7, Verhasselt 2-4, Haggerty 1-(-1). Rhinelander — Kurtz 5-24, Heck 8-6, Bates 1-5, Schwinger 2-5, Lamers 6-(-21).
Passing: Antigo — Thomae 4-6-0-77, Verhasselt 1-3-0-14. Rhinelander — Lamers 2-9-1-46.
Receiving: Antigo — Hotchkiss 3-62, Arrowwood 2-29. Rhinelander — Heck 1-42, Vanney 1-4.
Missed Field Goals: None.

SOCCER

PREP BOYS’ SOCCER

GNC Standings
as of Saturday, Sept. 16

| Team | GNC | Ovr |
|-------------|-----|---------|
| Rhinelander | 13 | 4-0-0-1 |
| Lakeland | 12 | 4-1-0-0 |
| Mosinee | 11 | 3-1-1-0 |
| Medford | 6 | 2-3-0-0 |

N’land Pines 3 1-4-0-0 3-7-0
Antigo 0 0-5-0-0 2-7-1

Thursday, Sept. 14
Rhinelander 1, Northland Pines 0
Lakeland 7, Antigo 0
Mosinee 1, Medford 0
Saturday’s Games
Antigo at Antigo Quad (NC), late
Mosinee at Rice Lake (NC), late
Northland Pines 2, Wausau Newman 1 (NC)
Northland Pines 3, Barron 0 (NC)
Monday’s Games
Waupaca at Antigo (NC), late
Washburn at Lakeland (NC), late
Thursday’s Games
Mosinee at Antigo, 4:30 p.m.
Rhinelander at Medford, 4:30 p.m.

Rhinelander at Northland Pines
Thursday, Sept. 14
Rhinelander 0 1 — 1
Mosinee 0 0 — 0
First Half: No scoring.
Second Half: 1, Rhi, Matthew King (Will Quinn), 75:42.

| TEAM STATS | Rhi | NP |
|-----------------|---------|--------|
| Shots (On Goal) | 25 (10) | 21 (4) |
| Fouls | 7 | 9 |
| Offsides | 0 | 2 |
| Yellow Cards | 0 | 0 |
| Corner Kicks | 4 | 4 |

SWIMMING

PREP GIRLS’ SWIMMING

GNC Standings
as of Saturday, Sept. 16

| Team | GNC |
|--|-----|
| Colby/Abbotsford | 3-0 |
| Rhinelander | 3-0 |
| Tomahawk | 2-1 |
| Ladysmith Co-op | 2-1 |
| Medford | 2-1 |
| Mosinee | 0-3 |
| Antigo | 0-3 |
| Lakeland | 0-3 |
| Thursday, Sept. 14 | |
| Medford 117, Tomahawk 44 | |
| Rhinelander 136, Lakeland 29 | |
| Ladysmith co-op 110, Mosinee 51 | |
| Colby/Abbotsford 108, Antigo 35 | |
| Saturday’s Meet | |
| Rhinelander 3rd/17, Waukesha South Invite (NC) | |
| Thursday’s Meets | |
| Medford at Colby/Abbotsford, 5:30 p.m. | |
| Tomahawk at Rhinelander, 5:30 p.m. | |
| Antigo at Ladysmith, 5:30 p.m. | |
| Mosinee at Lakeland, 5:30 p.m. | |

Lakeland at Rhinelander
Thursday, Sept. 14
Rhinelander 136, Lakeland 29
200 Medley Relay: 1, Rhinelander A, 1:48.14. 2, Rhinelander B, 1:58.32. 3, Lakeland A, 2:43.40.
200 Freestyle: 1, Karis Francis, Rhi, 1:57.75. 2, Olivia Mickle, Lak,

2:03.13. 3, June Chiamulera, Lak, 2:09.66. 4, Rylee Mickevicius, Rhi, 2:14.63. 5, Avalon Collins, Lak, 2:37.02

200 Individual Medley: 1, Celia Francis, Rhi, 2:16.83. 2, Ellyse Younker, Rhi, 2:18.60. 3, Emma Houg, Rhi, 2:24.77. 4, Jadyen Wentland, Lak, 2:51.21.

50 Freestyle: 1, Abi Winnicki, Rhi, 24.43. 2, Vivian Lamers, Rhi, 25.46. 3, Lily Thorsen, Rhi, 26.23. 4, Molly Jorgensen, Lak, 30.99. 5, Greta Pritchard, Lak, 46.48.

100 Butterfly: 1, Younker, Rhi, 1:00.03. 2, Thorsen, Rhi, 1:02.08. 3, Chiamulera, Rhi, 1:08.66. 4, Wentland, Lak, 1:24.55.

100 Freestyle: 1, Winnicki, Rhi, 53.03. 2, Lamers, Rhi, 57.06. 3, Millie Gruett, Rhi, 59.12. 4, Collins, Lak, 1:12.38.

500 Freestyle: 1, Emma Houg, Rhi, 5:49.27. 2, Mickevicius, Rhi, 6:03.09. 3, Abigail Ames, Rhi, 6:50.90. 4, Jorgensen, 6:52.35.

200 Freestyle Relay: 1, Rhinelander A, 1:40.10. 2, Rhinelander B, 1:53.37. 3, Lakeland A, 2:06.32.

100 Backstroke: 1, C.Francis, Rhi, 58.75. 2, Mickle, Rhi, 1:02.64. 3, Kiley Pooch, Rhi, 1:07.62. 4, Gruett, Rhi, 1:08.38. 5, Pritchard, Lak, 1:54.00.

100 Breaststroke: 1, K.Francis, 1:06.54. 2, Heck, 1:04.30. 3, Sundby, Rhi, 1:18.62. 4, Sophia Gyuro, Lak, 1:34.57.

400 Freestyle Relay: 1, Rhinelander A, 3:50.23. 2, Rhinelander B, 4:04.20. 3, Lakeland A, 4:38.59.

Blackshirt Invite
Waukesha South High School
Saturday, Sept. 16

Team Scores: 1, Verona, 329.5 points. 2, Middleton, 324.5. 3, Rhinelander, 233. 4, Arrowhead, 222. 5, Waukesha West/Catholic Memorial, 202. 6, Muskego, 147.5. 7, Waukesha South/Mukwonago, 131.8. 8, Madison West, 129. 9, Menomonee Falls/Hamilton, 128. 10, Madison Edgewood, 5. 11, Brookfield Central, 84.5. 12, Stevens Point, 64. 13, West-ern Lakes, 26. 14 (tie), Hartford-Slinger, Sun Prairie West, 24. 16 (tie), Wausau East, Cedarburg, 8.

200 Medley Relay: 1, Arrowhead A, 1:48.82. 2, Middleton A, 1:48.93. 3, Verona A, 1:50.34 ... 5, Rhinelander A, 1:52.48. 20, Rhinelander B, 2:00.69.

200 Freestyle: 1, Abi Winnicki, Rhi, 1:53.60. 2, Tait Haag, Mid, 1:54.76. 3, Keira Gardner, WSM, 1:55.62 ... 28, Ellyse Younker, Rhi, 2:06.00. 39, June Chiamulera, Rhi, 2:10.75. 52, Abbie Ames, Rhi, 2:24.98.

200 Individual Medley: 1, Ella Antoniewski, 2:06.56. 2, Klare Pilger, 2:09.59. 3, Annika Curran, Ver, 2:10.10.

50 Freestyle: 1, Livi Wanner, WWCM,

23:60. 2, Emily Scargill, MFH, 24.53. 3, Kyrah Kittleson, Ver, 24.56 ... 13, Vivian Lamers, Rhi, 25.38. 27, Millie Gruett, Rhi, 26.50. 33, Kiley Pooch, Rhi, 26.68. 54, Margaret Lambert, Rhi, 28.12.

100 Butterfly: 1, Isabelle Gnewuch, Ver, 57.65. 2, Karis Francis, Rhi, 57.99. 3, Danielle Stemper, Arrow, 59.21 ... 4, Younker, Rhi, 1:00.34. 8, Lily Thorsen, Rhi, 1:01.44. 26, Gruett, Rhi, 1:04.83. 36, Riley Mickevicius, Rhi, 1:07.03.

100 Freestyle: 1, Winnicki, Rhi, 52.81. 2, Kittleson, Ver, 53.51. 3, Gardner, WSM, 53.82 ... 8, Celia Francis, Rhi, 54.70. 34, Chiamulera, Rhi, 59.10. 39, Ella Heck, Rhi, 1:00.06.

500 Freestyle: 1, Haag, Mid, 5:03.53. 2, Antoniewski, 5:05.44. 3, Kennedy Rainwater, BC, 5:09.64 ... 31, Emma Houg, Rhi, 5:45.66. 35, Mickevicius, Rhi, 5:53.26.

200 Freestyle Relay: 1, Waukesha West/Catholic Memorial A, 1:37.22. 2, Middleton A, 1:38.41. 3, Verona A, 1:39.42 ... 5, Rhinelander A, 1:40.28. 18, Rhinelander B, 1:47.25.

100 Backstroke: 1, Audrey Worgull, Arrow, 58.19. 2, Elizabeth Beam, WWCM, 58.26. 3, C.Francis, Rhi, 58.76 ... 31, Houg, Rhi, 1:05.6. 32, Pooch, Rhi, 1:05.95. 37, Lambert, Rhi, 1:07.35. 55, Claire Caselton, Rhi, 1:14.68.

100 Breaststroke: 1, K.Francis, Rhi, 1:06.53. 2, Curran, Ver, 1:06.84. 3, Emily Spielman, Ver, 1:06.91 ... 8, Thorsen, Rhi, 1:10.25. 17, Lamers, Rhi, 1:12.56. 24, Heck, Rhi, 1:14.25. 42, Ames, Rhi, 1:27.77.

400 Freestyle Relay: 1, Waukesha West/Catholic Memorial, 3:33.68. 2, Middleton A, 3:36.14.3, Rhinelander A, 3:37.48 ... 14, Rhinelander B, 3:54.01.

TENNIS

PREP GIRLS’ TENNIS

GNC Standings
as of Saturday, Sept. 16

| Team | W-L | Dual | Pts |
|---------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Lakeland | 6-0 | 33-9 | 66 |
| Wausau Newman | 5-1 | 28-14 | 56 |
| Medford | 3-4 | 26-23 | 52 |
| Rhinelander | 4-1 | 25-10 | 50 |
| Pacelli | 3-3 | 22-20 | 44 |
| Marshfield Columbus | 1-5 | 14-28 | 28 |
| Antigo | 2-5 | 14-35 | 28 |
| Phillips | 0-5 | 6-29 | 12 |

Thursday, Sept. 14
Rhinelander 6, Antigo 1
Lakeland 6, Medford 1
Wausau Newman 5, Marshfield Columbus 2
Pacelli at Phillips, late
Saturday’s Match
Wisconsin Rapids 4, Lakeland 3 (NC)
Lakeland 5, WR Assumption 2 (NC)
Lakeland 6, River Falls 0 (NC)

Monday’s Match
Rhinelander at Marshfield Columbus, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday’s Matches
Medford at Medford Triangular (NC), 1:30 p.m.

Rhinelander at Lakeland, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday’s Match
GNC Tournament, at Rhinelander, 9 a.m.

Antigo at Rhinelander
Thursday, Sept. 14

Rhinelander 6, Antigo 1
Singles: 1, Tori Riopel, Rhi, def. Molly Neufeld, 6-4, 6-3. 2, Dawsyn Barkus, Rhi, def. Jacqueline Belling, 6-1, 6-1. 3, Shayla Coppenger, Rhi, def. Hailey Hurhop, 6-1, 6-0. 4, Julia Volpentesta, Ant, def. Maya Patrick, 2-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Doubles: 1, Kayla Tessmann/Karmen Lopez, Rhi, def. Evie Trabant-McKenna/Anna Huess, 6-2, 6-2. 2, Evelyn Sawyer/Brooke Sisel, Rhi, def. Matty Ratliff/Haven Baumgartner, 6-1, 6-0. 3, Teagen Turcotte/Willow Van-DenHeuvel, Rhi, def. Heidi Baumgartner/Harmony Kannonberg, 6-4, 6-1.

VOLLEYBALL

PREP VOLLEYBALL

GNC Standings
as of Saturday, Sept. 16

| Team | GNC | Ovr |
|-----------------|-----|-------|
| Mosinee | 5-0 | 12-6 |
| Tomahawk | 4-1 | 11-13 |
| Antigo | 3-2 | 12-10 |
| Lakeland | 3-2 | 8-7 |
| Medford | 3-3 | 6-15 |
| Rhinelander | 0-5 | 8-11 |
| Northland Pines | 0-5 | 4-13 |

Thursday, Sept. 14
Northland Pines at Pembine (NC), late
Saturday’s Matches
GNC Meet No. 1 at Antigo, 10 a.m.

ROUND 1
Antigo 3, Northland Pines 0
Mosinee 3, Lakeland 2
Medford 3, Tomahawk 1

ROUND 2
Mosinee 3, Antigo 2
Medford 3, Rhinelander 0
Tomahawk 3, Northland Pines 0

ROUND 3
Antigo 3, Medford 1
Tomahawk 3, Rhinelander 0
Lakeland 3, Northland Pines 0

Monday’s Match
Monomomie at Medford (NC), late

Tuesday’s Matches
Mosinee at Tomahawk, 7 p.m.
Northland Pines at Rhinelander, 7 p.m.
Lakeland at Antigo, 7 p.m.
Wausau East at Medford (NC), 7 p.m.

Thursday’s Matches
Antigo at Tomahawk Quad (NC), 5 p.m.
Northland Pines at Pembine (NC), 6 p.m.

WIS. SPORTS GLANCE



Milwaukee
BREWERS

84-64, 1st NL Central

SCHEDULE

Sept. 13: Miami 2, Brewers 0
Sept. 14: Brewers 4, Miami 2
Friday: Brewers 5, Washington 3
Saturday: Brewers 9, Washington 5
Sunday: vs. Washington, late
Monday: at St. Louis, late
Tuesday: at St. Louis, 6:45 p.m. (BSWI)
Wednesday: at St. Louis, 6:45 p.m. (BSWI)
Thursday: at St. Louis, 12:15 p.m. (BSWI)

MLB STANDINGS AS OF SEPT. 16

| NATIONAL LEAGUE | | | | | AMERICAN LEAGUE | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----|-------------------|----|-----|------|-----|
| East Division | W | L | Pct | GB | East Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
| x-Atlanta | 96 | 52 | .649 | — | Baltimore | 92 | 56 | .622 | — |
| Philadelphia | 81 | 67 | .547 | 15 | Tampa Bay | 92 | 58 | .613 | 1 |
| Miami | 77 | 72 | .517 | 19½ | Toronto | 82 | 67 | .550 | 10½ |
| N.Y. Mets | 68 | 80 | .459 | 28 | N.Y. Yankees | 76 | 73 | .510 | 16½ |
| Washington | 65 | 84 | .436 | 31½ | Boston | 74 | 75 | .497 | 18½ |
| Central Division | W | L | Pct | GB | Central Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Milwaukee | 84 | 64 | .568 | — | Minnesota | 78 | 71 | .523 | — |
| Chicago Cubs | 78 | 71 | .523 | 6½ | Cleveland | 71 | 78 | .477 | 7 |
| Cincinnati | 78 | 72 | .520 | 7 | Detroit | 69 | 79 | .466 | 8½ |
| Pittsburgh | 69 | 80 | .463 | 15½ | Chicago White Sox | 57 | 92 | .383 | 21 |
| St. Louis | 65 | 83 | .439 | 19 | Kansas City | 48 | 101 | .322 | 30 |
| West Division | W | L | Pct | GB | West Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
| x-L.A. Dodgers | 90 | 57 | .612 | — | Houston | 83 | 66 | .557 | — |
| Arizona | 78 | 72 | .520 | 13½ | Texas | 82 | 66 | .554 | ½ |
| San Francisco | 75 | 74 | .503 | 16 | Seattle | 81 | 67 | .547 | 1½ |
| San Diego | 71 | 78 | .477 | 20 | L.A. Angels | 68 | 81 | .456 | 15 |
| Colorado | 56 | 92 | .378 | 34½ | Oakland | 46 | 102 | .311 | 36½ |

x-Clinched Division



Green Bay
PACKERS

1-0, T-1st NFC North

SCHEDULE

Sunday: at Atlanta, late
Sept. 24: vs. New Orleans, Noon (FOX)

NFL STANDINGS AS OF SEPT. 16

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | | | | | NATIONAL CONFERENCE | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|-------|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| North | W | L | T | Pct | North | W | L | T | Pct |
| Cleveland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | Green Bay | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Baltimore | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | Detroit | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Pittsburgh | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | Chicago | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 |
| Cincinnati | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | Minnesota | 0 | 2 | 0 | .000 |
| East | W | L | T | Pct | East | W | L | T | Pct |
| N.Y. Jets | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | Philadelphia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Miami | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | Dallas | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| New England | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | Washington | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Buffalo | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | N.Y. Giants | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 |
| South | W | L | T | Pct | South | W | L | T | Pct |
| Jacksonville | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | Atlanta | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Tennessee | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | Tampa Bay | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Houston | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | New Orleans | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Indianapolis | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | Carolina | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 |
| West | W | L | T | Pct | West | W | L | T | Pct |
| Las Vegas | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | L.A. Rams | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Kansas City | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | San Francisco | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 |
| L.A. Chargers | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | Arizona | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 |
| Denver | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | Seattle | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 |



#19 Wisconsin
BADGERS

FOOTBALL — 2-1, 0-0 Big Ten

SCHEDULE

Saturday: Badgers 35, Georgia Southern 14
Sept. 23: at Purdue, 6 p.m. (FS1)

BIG TEN STANDINGS AS OF SEPT. 16

| West Division | Conf. | Ovr. | East Division | Conf. | Ovr. |
|------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------|------|
| Minnesota | 1-0 | 2-1 | 6 Ohio State | 1-0 | 3-0 |
| 25 Iowa | 0-0 | 3-0 | 7 Penn State | 1-0 | 3-0 |
| Wisconsin | 0-0 | 2-1 | Rutgers | 1-0 | 3-0 |
| Purdue | 0-0 | 1-2 | 2 Michigan | 0-0 | 3-0 |
| Illinois | 0-1 | 1-2 | Maryland | 0-0 | 3-0 |
| Northwestern | 0-1 | 1-2 | Michigan State | 0-0 | 2-1 |
| Nebraska | 0-1 | 1-2 | Indiana | 0-1 | 1-2 |

Smiley

From page 9

There weren't many personal-best times on Saturday, which was partly due to the course and the warm conditions, but also partly due to where the Hodags are at in their training at this point of the season.

"If you're one of those emerging types, which I would put us in that category, you're still trying to improve and get better and drop time," Laggis said. "Trying to do that without getting kids hurt, it's a real juggling act and it's a lot harder than it might seem, I can assure you of that. We've got to try to get the speed work in, the hills, the miles, the weight training and, at the same time, have them healthy."

Stevens Point won the overall title in D1 while Shorewood (fourth) was tops among the D1 small division schools. The Hodags were 11th of the 13 teams in the D1 small classification.

Madison West took the D1 girls' title with Shawano (fifth) taking the D1 small division.

Up next, the Hodags travel to Three Lakes for an invite on Thursday. A flat trail on Three Lakes' Big Stone Golf Course typically leads to some of the fastest times of the season.

"It just sets up nice. It's a really cool venue up there to run a cross country race and it is flat and fast and kids score well," Laggis said. "Usually there's a positive affirmation after a race like that. We're looking forward to it. We want to see if we can drop some time."

Jeremy Mayo may be reached at jeremy@rivernewsonline.com.

Swim

From page 7

Fellow senior Karis Francis joined Winnicki on the top step of the podium by winning the 100 breaststroke (1:06.53) by 0.31 seconds over Verona's Annika Curran. Francis added a runner-up finish in the 100 butterfly (57.99), edged by Verona's Isabelle Gnewuch.

"Same with Karis, it was great to have her. Those were some close races, too. To show those kinds of times at this time of year just shows how fast these girls are," coach Heck said.

Freshman Celia Francis scored a third-place finish in the 100 backstroke (58.76) and the Hodags added a third-place showing in the 400 freestyle relay with Ellyse Younker, the Francis sisters and Winnicki (3:37.48).

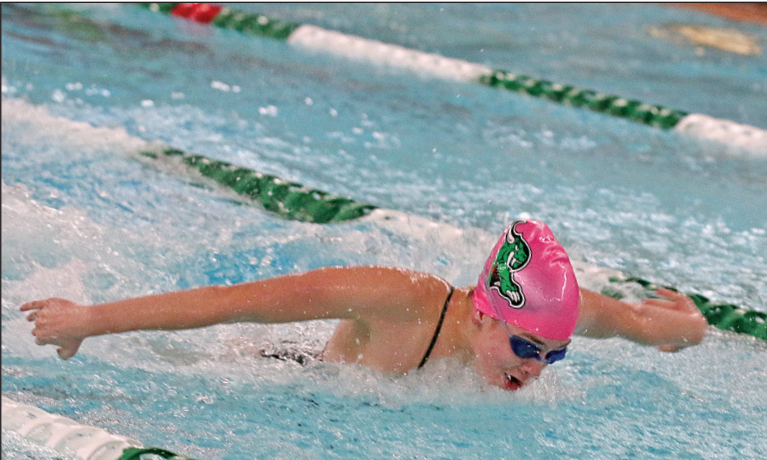
Younker added a fourth-place showing in the 100 butterfly, which proved to be Rhinelander's strongest event. Lily Thorsen took eighth in that event to give Rhinelander three swimmers on the podium. "When you can get multiple people top eight it's really telling of your depth," coach Heck noted.

Rhinelanders added fifth-place finishes in both the 200 medley relay and the 200 freestyle relay. Celia Francis, Thorsen, Millie Gruett and Ava Lamers made up the quartet in the medley while Younker, Karis Francis, Lamers and Winnicki swam the 200 freestyle relay.

Thorsen added an eighth-place showing in the 100 breaststroke and Celia Francis was eighth in the 100 freestyle.

Saturday's meet marked the first time this year that the Hodags did not come out victorious in a meet. But coach Heck said invites like Saturday's — and the ones coming up the next two weekends in Jefferson and Fond du Lac — are geared to get the Hodags swimming against elite competition ahead of sectionals and the WIAA D2 state meet in November.

"When they're swimming against some of the fastest people in the state, it's just exciting for everyone, whether they're in that event or not," she said. "I was really pleased with how we went after it. We weren't timid. We were confident and I think that maybe surprised a few, too."



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelanders' Ellyse Younker swims the butterfly leg of the 200-yard medley relay during a GNC dual meet against Lakeland at the Heck Family Community Pool Thursday, Sept. 14. The Hodags set a pool record in the event with a time of 1 minute, 48.14 seconds.

Rhinelanders 136, Lakeland 29

It was another record-breaking night for the Hodags Thursday at the Heck Family Community Pool. Two pool records fell as the Hodags won all 11 events and knocked off the T-Birds 136-29 in GNC action.

Winnicki got her name on the record board twice more. She narrowly eclipsed the pool record in the 100 freestyle and was part of the squad that set the mark in the 200 medley relay.

"These kids had to fight for these records," coach Heck said. "We have three home meets left and they'll have some chances to do that. We always love swimming in our pool because everyone's cheering, it's loud, the music's great and it's a lot of fun."

Celia Francis, Karis Francis, Younker and Winnicki started the night with record in the 200 medley relay, hitting the wall in 1:48.14, more than two seconds ahead of the previous mark.

"The girls really smoked that record in the 200 medley relay, just four great splits. That was a lot of fun," coach Heck said.

Winnicki then barely got the pool record in the 100 freestyle, getting to the wall in 53.03, just 0.01 seconds ahead of the mark set by Tomahawk's Kylee Theiler in 2017.

"Abi just got it," coach Heck said. "She's definitely stronger than that. I think she's got more in her for that record, but records are records."

Karis Francis narrowly missed her older sister Kiah's pool record in the 100 breaststroke (1:06.54) coming within a couple of tenths of the mark.

Volleyball

From page 8

Lucy Lindner had 14 assists and 24 digs on the day, Ava Krouze chipped in six assists. Emma Chiamulera had 28 digs and Buchmann added 12 digs.

"We had stretches today where our serve-receive was really good. I think that helped in our attack total, especially against Tomahawk," Wolter said. "We passed the ball better, but we've got to get kills and find a way to get the ball to the floor. We had three blocks today against Tomahawk. We're putting up a big block, I think, we've just got to find a way to keep that up and keep improving on the little things, finding ways to win point."

Rhinelanders (8-13, 0-5 Great Northern) will host Northland Pines tonight at the Miazga Gym. The Eagles are also winless in GNC play. The two teams played each other in a non-conference invite in Ashland Sept. 9, with the Eagles winning in straight sets 27-26, 25-15.

"I think it's going to be real competitive," Wolter said. "We saw them up in Ashland, we went extras with them, but we can definitely go and compete with that team and get a win against them, especially at home. Hopefully we have a good crowd there, can rally the troops there and get that first conference win."

Jeremy Mayo may be reached at jeremy@rivernews online.com.



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelanders' Libbey Buchmann attempts to tip the ball over the net during a GNC volleyball match against Tomahawk in Antigo Saturday, Sept. 16. Buchmann had a team-high 10 kills for Rhinelander on Saturday as the Hodags were swept by Medford at Tomahawk in GNC tournament play.

Bell

From page 7

The tone was set early, as Antigo marched 64 yards on seven plays on the opening drive, capped by an Alex Schlieve 2-yard run.

After forcing the Hodags to punt, Antigo marched down the field again — this time 72 yards on 12 plays — and quarterback Colton Thomae hit Jayson Arrowood on third and 8 for a 17-yard score on the opening play of the second quarter.

It was rinse and repeat from there. Another Hodag punt led to another touchdown for Antigo — this one on another Schlieve 2-yard plunge — that put the Robins up 21-0 with 8:19 left in the half.

“I got outcoached on the offensive side of the football,” Kraemer said. “Their defensive scheme was ready for us. I didn’t make the adjustments I needed to early in the first half and I fault myself for that. In the second half, we just didn’t have it enough times to make it count.

“Defensively, you can’t keep the defense on the field for that long against a team that runs the ball so well. We struggled because of the amount of time we were on the field.”

Rhinelanders defense stiffened in the second half, turning over Antigo on downs midway through the third quarter and making the Robins settle for a 20-yard field goal from Nolan Bunnell to start the fourth. From there the Hodags hit their only explosive play of the night, a 42-yard pickup on a screen pass from Truman Lamers to James Heck. That drive stalled out, however, when Logan Schwinger couldn’t haul in a fourth down pass.



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelanders quarterback Truman Lamers attempts to throw a pass away while being tackled by Antigo’s Alex Schlieve during the fourth quarter of the 89th Bell Game at Mike Webster Stadium Friday, Sept. 15. Lamers was sacked five times in the game as Antigo held Rhinelanders to 65 yards of total offense.

After holding Antigo to a rare three-and-out, Lamers underthrew a deep ball to Zach Germain that was intercepted by Ezekial Fobes with 7:45 to play and the Hodags never touched the football again.

“Defensively, we stood up and we had our opportunities to come back in the game,” Kraemer said.

If last year’s 26-14 loss to an underdog Antigo was a punch to the gut for Kraemer and the Hodags, this year’s defeat was a well-delivered right cross.

“I take that one on the chin, big time, and it doesn’t feel good,” Kraemer said. “But, at the same time, we’ve got to be better from Monday to Wednesday as a team. That includes coaches, that includes players. We have to be more intense and we have to prepare.”

Bringing the house

Antigo has shown a number of five- and six-man rushes on film in its 5-2 Monster defense, but cranked the heat up to 11 on Friday night with multiple eight-man blitzes.

That made for a long night offensively as the Hodags

had seven negative rushing plays, including five sacks of Lamers.

“They were playing man coverage and they were just bringing the house, and that worked for them,” Kraemer said. “We didn’t make a change to max protect on the back side until the second half, didn’t get enough plays.

“I put them in a bad position tonight by all of the blitzing that we saw in the game. I was not anticipating all of that pressure and I was not anticipating Cover 0. They outsmarted us and they played with heart tonight and they deserve the Bell.”

Trainer’s room

A Hodag team that had largely escaped the injury bug through the first four weeks of the season was not so lucky against the Robins.

The troubles began Wednesday when senior wingback/safety Payton Campbell rolled his ankle in practice. Though he played Friday night, he was limited to only the defensive side of the football.

Things went from bad to worse on the final play of

the first half where, following an eight-yard gain, Owen Kurtz appeared to have his ankle twisted on a tackle by Antigo’s Ayden Kaiser. Kurtz did not return following that play.

“As far as Owen’s concerned right now, it’s just an ankle injury,” Kraemer said, noting that preliminary sideline evaluation did not reveal any structural damage. “He’s going to need to have some time to rest and we’ll see if we can get him for the Mosinee game. If we do, we hope we can get him on at least the defensive side of the ball so he can play against that tough Mosinee offense.

“Payton, we were just doing a tackling drill and he kind of got rolled up. The limitedness of his ankle had more to do with the feeling of what that ankle was feeling. He got taped it, it didn’t help it and once he put the brace on in the second half, he felt a lot better.”

Statbook

Alec Knapkavage rushed for 101 yards on 20 carries — eclipsing the century mark on a fourth-down run on the game’s final play. Javon Bussey added 70 yards on 10 carries while Schleive had 13 carries, 37 yards and two scores for the Robins.

Thomae was 4 of 6 passing as he split time with senior Jake Verhasselt who was 1 of 3 on the night. Mitchell Hotchkiss caught three passes for 62 yards while Arrowood caught his first two passes of the season.

Kurtz, despite the injury, was Rhinelanders leading rusher, with 24 yards on five carries. Lamers was 2 of 9 throwing for 46 yards and an interception.

Antigo did to Rhinelanders what the Hodags did to their opponents during the four-game winning streak —

take over the game with a ball-control offense. The Robins possessed the ball for 30 minutes, 20 seconds and converted 7 of 11 third down attempts. The Hodags went just 1 of 9 on third down and ran only 31 plays to Antigo’s 59.

Rivalry rundown

Friday’s game marked the 102nd meeting between the teams, with Antigo improving to 65-34-3 all-time. The Bell Game was established in 1935 and the Robins now hold a 56-31-2 edge in the series.

Friday’s game marked the 15th time that Rhinelanders has been shut out in the Bell Game, and the first since 2013.

Difficulty ahead

Things get no easier for the Hodags, as they go on the road to take on defending conference champion Mosinee this Friday.

Mosinee has steamrolled through opponents since suffering a Week 1 loss to Stratford. Hayward was the latest victim, falling to Mosinee 44-3 on Friday night.

After that, it’s a home date with Medford, which is also on a four-game winning streak after blasting Ashland 59-6 on Friday.

“This is a good opportunity for us to understand how fragile winning streaks can be, how fragile a team can be on a high. Instead of getting ourselves down in the valley (we need to) rise up,” Kraemer said. “It’s time to do that. We have two of the toughest games on our schedule moving forward in Mosinee and Medford. If we play like we are capable of playing in those two games, there’s no reason why we can’t win both of those and turn this season around.”

Jeremy Mayo may be reached at jeremy@rivernewsonline.com.

Soccer

From page 8

The Hodags had a few good looks early. King fired high from outside the 18 in the seventh minute, and Albrecht tipped Quinn’s 35-yard effort over the bar in the 15th minute. King had another look just before halftime that was tugged wide left.

Albrecht denied Mason Shinnars on a header chance in the 43rd minute as Rhinelanders attempted 25 shots, but only put 10 on frame.

“I thought we had some good looks in the first half and even in the second half we had some good opportunities with the ball, we’ve just got to change,” coach Weigel said. “Those good looks need to start equating to goals. We need to start putting a couple of them in the back of the net.”

Luckily for Rhinelanders, the Eagles also had a difficult time putting shots on goal. Open looks by AJ Muench in the 26th and 28th minutes both went wide and Zach Ritter pulled a look from just inside the 18 wide left in the 39th minute after splitting the Hodag defense.

Of the Eagles’ 21 shots,



JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

Rhinelanders’ Hart Hokens attempts to take the ball away from Northland Pines’ Ryan Rydeski during the second half of a GNC boys’ soccer game in Eagle River Thursday, Sept. 14. The Hodags defeated Northland Pines, 1-0, recorded their fourth shutout in five conference games.

only four finished on target. The Eagles did not have a shot on goal in the second half until the final two minutes of regulation. Barak Rappley made a save on a free kick by Cody Vojta in the 79th minute and Ritter attempted to roll a ball to the right post that Rappley smothered in front of Muench as time expired.

It was fifth shutout of the year for Rappley and the

Hodag defense — four of which have come in conference play.

“I thought (center back) Hart (Hokens) did a great job back there,” coach Weigel said. “They tried a lot of through balls. Hart’s speed and his soccer skills, he was able to track almost all of those down and kind of eliminate the pressure.”

The Hodags (5-1-3, 4-0-1 Great Northern) maintained

their one-point lead over Lakeland at the halfway point of the conference standings. Mosinee sits only three points off the pace in third, after beating Medford 1-0 on the road Thursday.

“We’ve had some tough matches, a couple ties. Mosinee beat us in a PK, but I’m happy with the boys,” Weigel said. “They’ve just made it through five tough games. We haven’t been beat yet and that’s huge.”

The Hodags have a welcomed break in the schedule. After a five-game in eight-day stretch that concluded with Thursday’s contest in Eagle River, the team will be idle until this Thursday when it kicks off the second half of the conference schedule at Medford.

“I think you can tell our kids are getting a little beat up there. This will be a nice week off. They can rest their legs and come back strong,” coach Weigel said. “We go right back at it, conference matches right to Medford. It was a tough game the first time, so hopefully some of our early looks we can get one in sooner and not have to wait to the last couple of seconds of every game to end them here.”

Jeremy Mayo may be reached at jeremy@rivernewsonline.com.

Tennis

From page 8

“Maya, just a great game, a really good competitor,” Nichols said. “It was kind of crazy to see so many balls land right by that baseline, but she played a great game. She played hard the whole time and we’re proud of her for it.”

Volpentesta ultimately broke Patrick in the 10th game of the third set to clinch the match as dusk fell on the RHS tennis courts. Visibility was becoming an issue with no lights on the RHS tennis courts. However, Nichols indicated that the two would have likely tried to play on had Patrick held serve and pushed the set to 5-5.

“I’ve played in dusk, it’s really tough. I think, especially serve, serve return, it just gets really wonky. I’m sure it kind of affected them to some degree in the last couple of games,” he said.

Rhinelanders (14-13, 4-1 Great Northern) was set to travel to Marshfield Columbus on Monday in a match that was postponed last Tuesday due to rain.

The Hodags would be assured of at least a tie for first in the GNC entering Thursday’s conference tournament by winning at least 11 of the 14 individual matches between the Marshfield Columbus and Lakeland duals.

Jeremy Mayo may be reached at jeremy@rivernewsonline.com.

Wolf

From page 1

One of the items with which Hunter Nation took issue was the lack of a numeric population goal. Also at issue was the lack of a specific quota needed to achieve that number population goal. Vaughn said Hunter Nation also opposes the buffer zones around tribal reservations as there would be greatly reduced harvest opportunities.

Jason Schlender from GLIFWC spoke on behalf of the Voigt Inter-tribal Task Force.

Tribal entities have stood against the hunting of wolves, or Ma'iingan, and have been for protection of this species, which is highly revered by the Ojibwe as a relative.

Adrian Wydeven spoke on behalf of Wisconsin Greenfire. That organization, he said, is opposed to night hunting of wolves. This was seen as something that would not be looked upon favorably when it came to a state wolf harvest season.

He also stated the permanent rule defined "reservation wolves" as those whose territories overlapped reservation land by 50% or more. However, the plan itself stated a "reservation wolf" was defined as wolves with more than 50% rendezvous sites within tribal land or deemed to have a denning site on tribal land, as determined by tribal or DNR monitoring.

Laurie Groskopf of Tomahawk has spent thousands of hours studying

wolves and holds positions in several conservation groups in Wisconsin.

However, she spoke only on behalf of herself. In Wisconsin, she said, the current harvest rules do not look to the reality of wolf biology. That reality, she said, is attempting to get the wolf population under control. No longer is it an issue of sustainability, but an issue of finding a way to get wolf numbers under control. Wisconsin has the second highest wolf population in the lower 48 states and the highest human population by far of any state with wolf recovery, she said. Those two things set up for a great deal of conflicts and issues with public acceptance of wolves. There were also issues highlighted by farmers with the current depredation program, adding to the lack of tolerance for wolves.

Former DNR secretary George Meyer also provided comment at the meeting. He spoke on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation regarding a full written comment the organization had submitted. The Federation, he said, has long been a strong supporter of wolf recovery in the state and the proper management of the species in order to protect the personal property rights of those affected by wolves and of those hunting wolves, including hunters who use dogs in their hunts.

The Federation, Meyer said, was disappointed in the plan itself, but would keep comments at this meeting to the administrative rule. The first issue, he said, was the use of lights at

the point of kill. The intent is to ensure this would not inhibit normal navigation through the woods to retrieve dogs or other equipment. The use of lights for dog retrieval after dark must be considered, he said.

When looking at the timeline for registration of harvested wolves, the deadline worked well during the 2012, 2013, and 2014 hunts, Meyer said. In 2021, the problem was not the deadline for reporting, but that the department had set the ratio of permits to harvest at 10:1, which was subsequently revised by the Natural Resources Board to 20:1. This, Meyer said, was what resulted in the quota set for that hunt. Without that change, the same deadline for registration would have been adequate, he said.

Several groups, including the Sierra Club of Wisconsin, stated they would like to see nuisance wolves taken off the landscape taken into account in quotas if a wolf harvest season is re-established in the state upon federal delisting. Elizabeth Ward represented the Sierra Club and also asked for a full carcass inspection of harvested animals as a way to gather more information about the condition of the animals being harvested. The group, she said, also asked for a dog training license for hunters who train their dogs in order to get a better idea of the prevalence of hound training and to distinguish between hunters who are hunting with dogs and those training with dogs during the season. The use of UTVs, ATVs and snowmobiles, she concluded, was not a sporting pur-

suit, and she called for an end to those practices.

Another attendee, Kyle Meyer, spoke about several other species he said he believes are more problematic as nuisance species than the wolf. He said there were far too many deer in the northern part of the state and keeping wolves on the landscape could help to combat that problem. He also called the use of ATVs and dogs in hunting "incredibly unfair" and less than sporting.

Kyle Meyer said the state had problems with other animals. Mice, crows, pigeons, and rats are problematic, he said.

"I would find that it would be a little more difficult for these hunters to go after those types of creatures that may be a little more of a nuisance," he said. "Maybe we could propose that — that we have mice hunters going forward instead." Meyer stated these species should be targeted rather than looking to kill wolves.


Following the public hearing, the draft wolf management plan and the proposed permanent rule are headed to Natural Resources Board for discussion and approval.

That group's next scheduled meeting is Oct. 24-25 in Madison.

For more information on the wolf plan and/or the proposed permanent rule, see the DNR website dnr.wi.gov and input the search words "wolf management" in the search bar.

Beckie Gaskill may be reached via email at bgaskill@lakelandtimes.com.

Novena to St. Jude Thaddeus



May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever.

Sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us.
St. Jude Thaddeus, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude Thaddeus, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day. On the eighth day, your prayers will be answered.
It has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised.
Thank you, St. Jude Thaddeus,
for prayers answered.
D.G.H

ADDICTION CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE BUT SO CAN RECOVERY





Family Health Center
of Marshfield, Inc.

1-844-288-8324

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC MEETING

A county meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4 beginning at 1:30 PM at the Vilas County Courthouse, Conference Rm C, 330 Court Street, Eagle River to assess transportation programs for the elderly and disabled and develop plans to improve transportation services for those in need. The meeting will provide the basis for Oneida and Vilas County's Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan as required under federal and state regulations.

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) is coordinating the meeting on behalf of WisDOT and the County. Those persons unable to attend the meeting and would like to submit comments in advance may send them to: NCWRPC, 210 McClellan St. Ste. 210, Wausau WI 54403 or email to dlandeau@ncwrpc.org.

Seniors or persons with disabilities who would like to attend the meeting and require a ride or other accommodations should contact Oneida County Aging at 715-369-6170 or Vilas County Aging at 715-479-3625. The meeting location is accessible.

9/19,9/26 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 23PR74

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JEREMY D. DIERMEIER
DOD: 08-20-2023

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 12-07-1978 and date of death 08-20-2023, was domiciled in Oneida County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 9228 Jenny Lake Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 4, 2024.

5. A claim may be filed at the Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave., P.O. Box 400, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, Room A-318 (probate office).

/s/ Amy M. Franzen
Probate Registrar
09-13-2023

Nick G. Cirilli
116 E. Davenport St.
Rhinelander, WI 54501
715-369-3443
Bar No. 1101541
111025

9/19,9/26,10/3 WNAXLP

Town of Crescent

Notice of Offer being accepted

The Town of Crescent is accepting sealed offers for the sale of firewood. The firewood can be viewed at 2241 S River Rd and the sealed offer must be made for all of the wood, offers for purchasing only a partial amount of the firewood will not be accepted. All offers are to be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the outside "Firewood". Sealed offers must be received at Town of Crescent, 6902 Fire Tower Rd, Rhinelander WI 54501 by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 6th, 2023. Sealed offers will be opened at the Town Board meeting on Wednesday, October 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the Crescent Town Hall, 3231 Golf Course Road. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all offers. The firewood must be removed from the town shop by Tuesday, October 31st and must be moved as is, the purchaser will not be allowed to cut and split the wood while on the town property.

111027

9/19,9/22 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY

Amended Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing

Case No. 23CV133

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF

Tara Ellen Gremban

First Name Middle Name Last Name

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From: Tara Ellen Gremban

First Name Middle Name Last Name

To: Tara Ellen Alderton

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Birth Certificate: Tara Ellen Alderton

First Name Middle Name Last Name

IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Oneida County, State of Wisconsin:

Judge's Name: Honorable Michael H. Bloom

Place: Branch II, Oneida County Court House, 1 S. Oneida Ave., Rhinelander, WI 54501

Date: October 11, 2023

Time: 10:45 a.m.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-369-6120 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in The Northwoods River News, a newspaper published in Oneida County, State of Wisconsin.

BY THE COURT:
/s/ 09/06/2023
Circuit Court Judge
Hon. Michael H. Bloom
9/12,9/19,9/26 WNAXLP

111857

NOTICE

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Debra Jumonville please contact Attorney Ivy L. Graham at P.O. Box 1083, Denham Springs, LA 70727; (225) 663-8959; or bobbie@ivygrahamlaw.com

111859

9/12,9/15,9/18 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT CLARK COUNTY

Case No: 2023SC000207

NOTICE OF HEARING

Ronald Kroll vs Nicholas A Marks
NICHOLAS A MARKS
1316 RIVER ST
RHINELANDER, WI 54501
This case is scheduled for: **Return Date**
Date: 10/12/2023
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location:
Clark County Courthouse, Room 405
517 Court Street
Neillsville, WI 54456
Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner
Stacy L. Sandellier
Re: Sm Claim, Claim Under \$ Limit
This matter will not be adjourned by the court except upon formal motion for good cause or with the specific approval of the court upon stipulation by all parties.
THIS HEARING IS BEING HELD EITHER IN PERSON OR BY ZOOM
Join Zoom Hearing by WEb from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://wicourts.zoom.us/j/93011069776>
Meeting ID: 930 1106 9776
Join Zoom Hearing by telephone: 1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 930 1106 9776
If you have been unable to join the ZOOM meeting by the time scheduled, call (715) 743-5182 immediately so the court has notice and can assist you.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-743-5182 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Clark County Circuit Court
Date: September 13, 2023
9/19 WNAXLP

111024