



THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS

RHS mock trial
team headed
back to state
Community, Page 2

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Newbold board updates draft wake ordinance

Concerns voiced over 'sunset clause'

By Trevor Greene
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Newbold town board tweaked its draft "enhanced" wake ordinance during its Feb. 9 meeting.

About 25 people attended the meeting. Eight spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance during the public comment portion of the meeting, no one spoke against it.

While each person who made a comment was in favor of the ordinance, all of them opposed the ordinance's inclusion of a two-year "sunset clause."

Before the board discussed the draft ordinance, town chairman Dan Hess said he wanted to see debate among board members before any motions were made.

"As you know, as town board members, when we enact a law, we have to make sure it's done correctly," he said.

See **Newbold**. . . page 4

Wausau Paper added as a defendant in Stella PFAS lawsuit

Number of plaintiffs increases dramatically

By Heather Schaefer
RIVER NEWS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Six months after a group

of Town of Stella property owners first filed a federal lawsuit alleging that PFAS-contaminated sludge spread

on nearby farmlands contaminated their drinking water, the number of plaintiffs in the case has in-

creased from 6 to 40 and a new defendant has been added.

See **PFAS**. . . page 15



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RHINELANDER

A group of Rhinelander High School students hold up a sign listing challenges facing young people as part of a leadership workshop with nationally recognized speaker JC Pohl Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024 in the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Speaker helps Rhinelander students make connections

By Renee Draszkiwicz
OF THE RIVER NEWS

Nationally recognized speaker JC Pohl, a licensed marriage and family therapist who travels the country speaking to students about resilience, visited Rhinelander last week at the invitation of the School District of Rhinelander.

Pohl addressed parents as part of an evening presentation last Wednesday on nurturing relationships with adolescents.

On Thursday, Pohl spoke to groups of students and worked with a smaller group as part of a leadership workshop.

Through Pohl's presentation, students gained personal insight and worked with peers to offer solutions to common struggles experienced at school.

A common thread Pohl identified among both teenagers and adults was

relationships. As social beings, we naturally seek social interactions and connection, he noted.

Pohl reminded each individual how important the power of their presence is in generating these human interactions.

While the term "it takes a village to raise a child," might be considered a cliché by some, Pohl challenged each person to remember we are all part of building resilient students in the community. Any person working with a student during their adolescent years can generate a significant connection in their lives when seeking out healthy relationships.

"Healthy relationships are what kids are looking for," Pohl said, after sharing a film where a young girl shared that "[She is] always looking for [her] mom in other people." She shares a universal struggle among all students and

people: relational pressures.

Pressure at home and with peers forces students to "look to the school to find those connections that they are missing elsewhere," Pohl explained.

What we often do not realize is that they have the answers.

Films that Pohl put together gave teens the opportunity to talk. Pohl also reminded the adults that, "[teens] have the answers and we need to support them and help them find their voice."

A small group of RHS students had the opportunity to use their voices and come up with answers to improve school culture Thursday while working with Pohl as part of the leadership workshop.

Ellyse Younker was one of the students who took part in the workshop activities.

See **Connect**. . . page 6



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Rhineland High School Mock Trial team competes at regionals

The Rhineland High School Mock Trial team is headed to state once again!

Rhineland High School sent two teams to compete at regionals at the Marathon County Courthouse on Feb. 3. Team 2 won two matches out of four, a strong performance for a team with all new members. Meanwhile, Team 1 went 3-1 over the four rounds of competition, finishing in second place and earning a berth in the state championship tournament.

The squad's state berth is a continuation of Rhineland's proud mock trial tradition which, at one time, included a 33-year streak of regional wins.

The 2024 Rhineland 1 team is looking forward to the challenge.

"We have high hopes and look forward to taking on high level



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured, from left to right, are (front row): Skye Jordan, Kyleah Hartman, Lena Timphus, Katelyn Piller, Sophia Pearson, Isabel Hartman. Middle row: Brynlei Kuhn, Peyton Clark, Alex Kniewel, Evan Fredrick, Seth Alsteen, Lucas Haselton, Wendy Fronk, Sophia Parish. Back row: Coach Steven Jopek, Eliza Rudis, Kate Ripple, Payton Seidl, Etayne White, Charlotte Shurtleff and coach Brevin Persike.

competition," noted Kyleah Hartman, RHS Mock Trial Captain.

The team will head to Madison to compete against 23 other schools from around the state on March 1,2,

For more information about RHS Mock Trial, or to contribute to the team's trip, email the coaches, Brevin Persike or Steven Jopek, at persibre@rhineland.k

12.wi.us or jopekste@rhineland.k12.wi.us. Attorneys interested in becoming an attorney coach for the team, are also asked to contact the coaches for more information.

LWV of the Northwoods receives youth voter registration grant

The League of Women Voters of the Northwoods (LWVNOW) has received a Youth Voter Registration Grant in the amount of \$600 from the U.S. League of Women Voters Education Fund.

"The funds will support our upcoming voter registration and education activities in the high schools in Oneida, Lincoln, and Vilas counties, as well as at Nicolet College," Walter Hobbs, grant coordinator, and LWVNOW vice president, said

in a press release announcing the funding. The League's objective is to motivate high school students to register to vote, cast their first vote and to begin the journey of voting at each election, the release states. The League wants students to realize the importance of their one vote.

LWVNOW has trained volunteers for assisting at these drives and is looking for new volunteers. Online voter registration training materials are

available to help train new volunteers. "Then get out there and practice while having fun with the students and other volunteers," Hobbs said. Students can quickly register themselves to vote online at MyVote.wi.us, using their own tablet, computer or phone. Volunteers then congratulate the students and share important information on how, where, when, and why to vote, according to the release.

Oneida County Tourism Council asks businesses to add, update listings on official tourism website

To help visitors and potential visitors learn more about business offerings in the Northwoods, the Oneida County Tourism Council (OCTC) is giving local businesses an opportunity to create a free listing on the county's official travel website, oneidacountywi.com.

Business listings appear in five main categories on the site: Activities (boat rentals, fishing guides, etc.), Attractions (museums, breweries, etc.), Dining, Lodging, and Shopping.

Businesses can update their listings on the site — which features a robust filter system that allows users to find businesses by type, location, amenities, and more, according to an OCTC press release.

Businesses that already have a listing on the site can also use the platform to update their listings.

The new and updated business listings are being made in conjunction with and in support of Wisconsin Department of Tourism initiatives that highlight accessibility options and information on

diverse-owned businesses. "Oneida County's website is an important tool for visitors and potential visitors planning a trip to the Northwoods," said Krystal Westfahl, president of the Oneida County Tourism Council. "We want to make our site a one-stop shop for travelers and highlight the diverse business community we have here."

Oneida County is inviting all tourism businesses in the county to take advantage of these free business listings. Businesses outside the county but affiliated with an Oneida County Chamber of Commerce or Destination Marketing Organization can also participate.

Businesses interested in adding their free listing or updating their existing listing can learn more at <https://oneidacountywi.com/update-your-listing>.

Visitors can find more information about Oneida County at www.oneidacountywi.com or on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and YouTube.

Warm for Winter needs new location

Warm for Winter, the free clothing pantry begun as a mission of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, will be closing as of the end of February.

"Our space at Friendly Village Nursing Home, so generously provided for 14 years, is in need of major maintenance and will no longer be available," organizers explained in a press release. "The collection bins have been locked and the last clothing distribution will be Saturday, February 24 from 9 a.m. to noon. We are desperately searching for a new location. If you know of a possibility, please contact Gerylalyn at 715-367-3167 or Darla at 608-345-7305."

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Proceeds will benefit the LAMBO Riders and Minocqua Winter Park.

local & state news

Fire damages Lake Tomahawk's American Legion building

Cause undetermined, no injuries

By Brian Jopek
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Firefighters and equipment from Lake Tomahawk, Newbold and Woodruff responded to the report of a fire at the Colin F. Schultz American Legion Post 318 building in Lake Tomahawk Tuesday.

There were no injuries. Lake Tomahawk fire chief Billy Kuckkahn said there had been "some remodeling" of the building recently.

"They laid down vinyl plank-ing," he explained. "The basement, in my opinion, is going to have to be gutted. There was quite a bit of heat down there. Smoke got up into the main level and through the roof so I imagine there's gonna be some smoke damage there."

The building itself is intact. "Nothing structural wrong there as far as I could tell but we won't know for sure until a proper assessment is done," Kuckkahn said.

Brian Jopek may be reached via email at bjopek@lakeland-times.com.



BRIAN JOPEK/LAKELAND TIMES

Firefighters work to get hoses inside the building that houses the Colin F. Schultz American Legion Post 318 in Lake Tomahawk on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024.

EMS situation in Lac du Flambeau discussed at town board meeting

By Brian Jopek
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The issue of the number of runs made to Lac du Flambeau by ambulances and crews with Oneida County's emergency medical service (EMS) came up at the Feb. 7 meeting of the

Lac du Flambeau town board.

The town's EMS director, Mike Zimmerman, gave the board the monthly fire department and EMS report for the month of January 2024, noting that the town's volunteer ambulance crews made 65

runs. Lac du Flambeau resident Jim Somerfeldt asked Zimmerman if he knew how many runs Oneida County ambulances, primarily Med 5 based at Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff, are "making out here?"

"I do not," Zimmerman said. "Not off the top of my head."

Town clerk Sue Schoonover said she wasn't sure if that information could be obtained through LifeQuest, an EMS billing service the town was using before it went into annual con-

tracts with Oneida County for 2023 and 2024.

For 2024, the contract the town has with Oneida County to provide ambulance service is a little more than \$290,000.

"We don't receive any reporting from them (LifeQuest) at all," Schoonover said.

For clarification purposes, Somerfeldt asked who it was that bills for the Oneida County EMS when Med 5 makes a run to Lac du Flambeau.

See LDF. . . page 6

One killed in UTV-related accident in Newbold

BY RIVER NEWS STAFF

One person is dead following an UTV-related accident in the Town of Newbold Tuesday afternoon, the Oneida County sheriff's office reports.

According to a press release issued by sheriff's captain Tyler Young, a 911 call was received at approximately 1:18 p.m. Tuesday reporting an accident on private property off of Forest Lane in Newbold.

"The caller stated that the operator had stuck a tree and did not have a pulse, and was not breathing," the release said. "The caller also stated that the operator was blue in color. Upon arrival at the scene of the accident it was determined that the operator was deceased."

The sheriff's office did not immediately release any identifying information related to the deceased.

The investigation is ongoing, Young noted.

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obituaries

Richard Lee Gonterman

Richard Lee Gonterman passed away at home on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024. He was born on June 30, 1950, in Evansville, Ind. He was a son to Robert and Katherine Gonterman. He was preceded in death by both parents, sister Evelyn Rue, daughters Rhonda McFarlane and Toni Hickman and grandson Matthew Boatman.

Richard is survived by his wife Anne Gonterman, married since June 15, 1987; brother Robert Gonterman, his children Kimberly Gilligan, Jerry Gonterman, Richard-Hollinshead, Lisa Smithey, Michael Minton, Lorretta Minton; his grandchildren Ricky (Krystle) Smithey, Crystal (Rex) Norris, Kendra Smithey, Shane Smithey, Tristen Minton, Hannah Minton, Molly Minton, Kaitlyn Fisher, Tiffany, Fisher, Brayden Langston, Steven (Angel) Freix.

Richard had 19 great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, cousins, and so many more family members.

Richard Gonterman was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather. If at any given point his family needed help, he would help them out by living there with him and his wife. He was a very loving, caring man, with all his stories and time spending in the garage hanging out on a wonderful or difficult day, he would brighten the room with his sayings. Do not forget my doggy bag, or hi, wish I was, or what you got for me, where's my surprise at. We will miss him



Gonterman

so much and he will forever be in our hearts and minds. We will make sure we will keep his sayings going, and remember the memories we had with Richard.

There will not be any services for Richard Gonterman, per his wishes. He will be cremated. There will be a celebration of life in summertime, not sure when but will let family and friends know when the time comes.

Scott Gerald Dall

Sadly, Scott Gerald Dall, age 61, passed away at his daughter's house in Montgomery, Texas on Feb. 6, 2024.

Scott was born on Aug. 24, 1962, to Gerald and Carla (Marsden) Dall, in Milwaukee.

Scott and his family moved to Rhinelander in 1965 and he became a lifelong Hodag. He graduated from Rhinelander High School in 1980. Scott married Dawn Tushoski and had a daughter, Ashley. They later divorced. Scott worked at Tushoski Auto Body for a time, later at Twist Drill and for many years at Superior Diesel, working his way up from assembly to sales.

Scott made friends easily and had many of them. Scott said many times that the best memories and most fun of his life were his fishing trips to Canada and hunting in Wisconsin with his dad, uncle Ron and cousin Mike.

Scott is survived by his father, Gerald, sisters Laura (Bill) Horack, Julie Newbold, daughter Ashley (Carlos) Holstein, granddaughters Violet and Lillian and stepgrandson, Caleb Holstein.

He is further survived by several aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, numer-

ous cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Carla, and his grandparents.

Private family services will be held.

John Edward McMullen

John Edward McMullen, age 72, of Rhinelander, died on February 7, 2024 at Aspirus Eagle River Hospital. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on November 23, 1951 to William and Betty (Clough) McMullen.

John attended some of his grade school in Cleveland, during his grade school years the family moved to Racine where he completed his schooling and graduated from Racine Case in 1969. During this time he would meet Annette Marcinek and on September 4, 1971 they were married in Racine.

John, Annette and family made their move to Rhinelander in the early 2000s, that is when John applied for a job driving school busses for the Bowen family. He worked at Bowers for 18 years and was well liked by all his students. During the day after his bus route was completed, he would join up with the coffee group at the Friendship House restaurant where they would get their daily dose of John's jokes and humor. Then he would head home in time to catch "Days of Our Lives" before leaving to pick the kids up from school.

John enjoyed many things which included hunting, fishing, being a substi-



McMullen

tute for the pool and bowling leagues, driving his bus, and coffee with the group. He loved being with his family the most.

John is survived by his wife Annette, daughters Jennifer McMullen and Jaimie (Jesse) Kaster, son John A. McMullen, grandchildren Alyssa (Mitch), Kayla, Katelynn, Matthew, Jordan (Amanda), Krystal, Nicole, Sarah, Corey, great-grandchild Finn, sisters Jo Anne (Ken) Duller, Joyce (Steve) Owens, other family and many friends.

John was preceded in death by his parents, granddaughter Leanna, and brother Joseph McMullen.

A celebration of John's life will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Clarion, formerly the Claridge Motor Inn, at 70 N Stevens St. in Rhinelander. You may leave your private condolences for the McMullen family at www.carlsonfh.com. The Carlson Funeral Home (715-369-1414) is handling the arrangements for the family.

Philip M. McCoy

Philip M. McCoy, age 70, of Rhinelander, died on February 13, 2024, at his home. He was born on August 30, 1953, in St. Elmo, Illinois, the son of Melvin and Gracie (Phillips) McCoy.

Survivors include his wife, Susan (Mal-savage).

A complete notice will follow in the River News and at www.carlsonfh.com. You may leave your private condolences for the McCoy family at www.carlsonfh.com.

The Carlson Funeral Home (715-369-1414) is serving the McCoy family.

POLITICAL DIGEST

Lawmakers call on DOA to follow state law

Joint Legislative Audit Committee co-chairmen Sen. Eric Wimberger (R-Green Bay) and Rep. Robert Wittke (R-Racine) have sent a letter to Department of Administration (DOA) secretary-designee Kathy Blumenfeld, pressing her to follow state law and implement all recommendations made by the Legislative Audit Bureau in a report related to interest earnings on federal relief funds.

The letter, a follow-up to a public hearing on the report held this week, calls for the secretary-designee to follow the law and properly deposit interest earnings into the state's general fund. The lawmakers also requested documentation of any written communications between DOA and the governor's office and also communications between DOA and the US Treasury related to the use of interest earnings on federal relief funds.

The Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) report was the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for fiscal year 2022-23. In the report, the LAB made 15 recommendations that aim to address issues with the department's oversight of IT system controls, and ensure that DOA is complying with state law concerning appropriations, the lawmakers stated.

The lawmakers also released an opinion from the non-partisan Legislative Council, affirming the LAB analysis and further concluding that when there is no provision regarding an appropriation, "including miscellaneous receipts like interest earnings on advanced CSLFRF payments, the state law provides that moneys must be deposited into the general fund."

The lawmakers said they remain steadfast in their belief that DOA is violating state law, and believe that analysis by both the

non-partisan Legislative Audit Bureau and Legislative Council affirm their position.

Roth throws his hat into ring for Gallagher's seat

Roger Roth (R-Appleton) has announced his intention to seek the 8th congressional district seat in Wisconsin, following Rep. Mike Gallagher's announcement that he would not seek re-election.

Roth thanked Gallagher for his service.

"Throughout his time in office, Congressman Gallagher has worked tirelessly for the people of the 8th District and shined a light on the dangers both of our adversaries abroad and our complacency at home," Roth said.

Roth said he was excited to run for the seat himself.

"As a lifelong resident of northeast Wisconsin, I am ready to fight back against President Joe Biden's dangerous open border, disastrous economy, and weak foreign policy that has put Americans at risk, both at home and abroad," Roth said. "I'm proud to support President Trump as we reclaim the White House. We have seen what failure looks like and we know the first step is getting our economy back on track, securing peace and prosperity for generations to come means defeating Joe Biden and the Democrats."

As goes Northeast Wisconsin, so does the state, Roth said.

"Now is a time for bold, new leadership to restore the America we love," he said. "We must solidify our border and strengthen our national security, our economy, and our traditional values. Our federal government is failing us. It is our duty to preserve and protect our great nation now and for our future."

Roth said Wisconsin was ready for a proven conservative fighter in Washington, and that he was ready to deliver.

Newbold

From page 1

"A lot of times, fast government is not good government," Hess added. "So we have to be very vigilant on what we're doing. We're creating a law, which is obviously very important to all the people in the room."

Hess acknowledged the concern regarding the sunset clause.

He said he's researched what it is and said "typically" sunset clauses are a good thing.

Town supervisor Mike McKenzie, who suggested including a sunset clause when the ordinance was first discussed at a meeting last month, said he doesn't think it was being interpreted correctly.

The primary concern voiced with regard to the sunset clause was the opportunity for state law to take effect if the ordinance expired at the two-year mark, essentially making it impossible for any local regulation in the future.

McKenzie said he thinks the board already showed its support for the ordinance and noted how the board has worked with the lakes associations that requested it.

"By placing the sunset clause in there, it is gonna trigger an official board of review prior to that (two-year) expiration, to evaluate the effectiveness of that ordinance," he said.

"There's still state legislation going on that we don't know where that's gonna end up. The ordinance might not have

any effect if the state mandates that they have statewide regulations on enhanced wakes. So reviewing it after two years is not trying get rid of it in any way. You know, it's reviewing where we're at (in two years), whether it should be modified, whether it's good the way it sits or that's its intent."

He also mentioned a contentious time when the board created an ordinance for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) being used on town roads.

A one-year sunset clause was placed on that ordinance, McKenzie said, to determine if any concerning issues developed as an effect of that ordinance or if it was "doing what it was intended" to do.

"And here's what it came down to: it (was placed on) an agenda, we probably talked about it for five to 10 minutes, and there were no issues, there were no concerns," he said. "The ordinance was working the way it was originally adopted. So we just voted to keep the ordinance. That's it. The intent is review, not to get rid of it."

Some said the sunset clause could potentially prevent any chance of the ordinance being grandfathered in, if or when state legislation is passed.

McKenzie said he personally doesn't see how the sunset clause would have any effect on an ordinance being grandfathered.

"Whereas, the Town Board placed a sunset expiration stipulating that this ordinance will cease to be effective two years after the date of enact-

ment unless further legislative action is taken to extend," is the way the sunset clause was originally drafted.

Hess presented the board with different language for that part of the ordinance: "Whereas, the Town Board placed a sunset clause stipulating that this ordinance will be reviewed by a data analysis on complaints, violations, citations and public safety concerns two years after the date of enactment. Unless further legislative action is taken this ordinance will remain in effect as written."

"I believe this ordinance, like any ordinance, like I said, we're creating law, should be reviewed," Hess said. "It's a brand-new law, and if we just make it into a law and don't require us to review it, it's foolishness."

The board unanimously approved the updated language regarding the sunset clause part of the draft ordinance.

During its Jan. 11 meeting, the board agreed to send the initial draft ordinance on enhanced wake to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for review.

The board also updated the language changes as suggested by the DNR.

Unsure of exactly what steps to take next, like whether the board needs to send the updated draft back to the DNR or not, the board decided to wait and not schedule a public hearing for the ordinance until a future meeting.

Trevor Greene may be reached via email at trevorgreene@lakelandtimes.com.

northwoods opinion

HOW TO COMMENT

Email letters to news@rivernewsonline.com

Fax to (715) 365-6361

Mail to Forum, 232 S. Courtney St., Rhineland, WI 54501

Hurling verbal spitballs won't protect your kids

My older son Kyle, who has always been rather direct, calls it "Crackbook."

Don't get him started, or you'll likely hear a rant about people walking around in a daze staring at the phone in their hand. Living for "likes" and getting emotional if their "friends" are slow to comply. Not to mention filtering pictures that make people look like Casper the friendly ghost.

That's just Facebook. Look, I'm way too old to keep up with all this, but I've at least heard of Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok and X (aka Twitter). No doubt there are more where the young and hip hide out from the old and ornery.

At its best, social media is just kind of silly, a place where people hang out and show pictures of their food and pets. And grab their 15 seconds of fame by dancing around, cavorting with pals or some other inane but innocent activity.

The much darker side involves addiction, bullying and sexual exploitation. Congressional hearings were held last week on such topics and how harmful social media can be when abused, with or without the



Bill Barth
WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER
HALL OF FAME

tacit approval of companies and people who make an economic killing in the industry.

Here's Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Missouri, lambasting Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook: "Your job is to be responsible for what your company has done. You've made billions of dollars on the people sitting behind you here. You've done nothing to help them. You've done nothing to compensate them. You've done nothing to put it right. You could do so here today and you should."

At which point Zuckerberg stood up, turned to families in the gallery, and said he was sorry. He did not reach for his wallet.

Good theater from Zuckerberg. And Hawley. Then everybody went home.

Meanwhile, the phones are still in the hands of the ad-

dicts and the weirdos. The addiction pushers at the companies continue to rake in all the money.

One is reminded of the old saying usually attributed to Mark Twain, but really originated by Twain's friend, essayist Charles Dudley Warner: "Everybody complains about the weather, but nobody does anything about it."

Don't expect Hawley — the fist-pumping, mob-fleeing hero of January 6 — to do anything, either. He and his congressional colleagues may speechify and preen for the cameras, but they have avoided for years taking action to rein in Big Tech in the only effective way — by hitting them in their wallets.

Instead, tech companies hide behind section 230 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, which shields them from liability for harmful material on their sites.

The federal law was passed in 1998, at a time when the internet as we know it was more of a dream than reality. It was believed entrepreneurs attempting to blaze a trail to the digital future needed some protection from lawyers and liability. Probably true. But those con-

ditions have dramatically changed. Today's tech giants sit on mountains of cash. They spend generously to grease the wheels in political circles.

Color me cynical, but maybe that has something to do with why politicians strut and babble in front of the cameras, while doing nothing to regulate the industry and hold the billionaires legally accountable for harm occurring on their platforms.

The harm, by the way, is not limited to bullying and exploiting vulnerable young people. It also includes what can only be called propaganda — be it left or right — meant to fool voters. Studies have shown social media platforms, as a business plan, steer more propaganda toward users who show an appetite for viewing such disinformation. It doesn't require much tech understanding to see the link between that targeted content and America's rapidly increasing disunity.

Now, throw in AI, or artificial intelligence, with all its Terminator-like possibilities. This mess is not going to fix itself.

With legacy media —

newspapers and television, for example — there are bright lines of legal accountability. Producers know false, harmful content can be costly. Ask Fox News, after the network lost a defamation case and agreed to pay Dominion Voting Systems \$787.5 million.

Congress could expose digital companies to similar standards and make them liable for harmful content on their platforms. Of course, they will claim it's too hard to police such matters. Apparently, though, it's easy enough for them to know if you are looking for a certain pair of shoes and flood your feed with offers.

Tech billionaires may be the bad guys here, but they're not alone. Congress can't (won't?) get it done.

Follow the money, folks. You'll find out who owns these political show ponies. Then maybe, when elections roll around, give somebody else a chance to do the right thing.

Bill Barth is the former Editor of the Beloit Daily News, and a member of the Wisconsin Newspaper Hall of Fame. Write to him at bbarth@beloitdailynews.com.

YOUR VIEW: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let Ma do it!

To the Editor:

Mother Nature is smarter than we are. She is obviously more powerful. And way beyond that, she's also eternal. Human beings share few — if any — of these characteristics.

If certain disgruntled Wisconsinites are genuinely fixated on the decline of the state's deer population, why, the solution is before our very glazed-over eyes; Simply place a moratorium on deer slaughter for three years. Then, step back, and behold the beauty, size and amazing numbers of deer abounding. Let the wolves weed out the unfit; that's Mother Nature's way, after all.

About 11,000 years ago, people, then, gladly abandoned the hunter/gatherer life-ways — probably because they had killed all of the local game and starvation had few charms.

Cain, the hunter-killer, was not the man his farmer brother had become. Let's stop

being primitive. Hunting is not a sport. Rather, it is gruesome and unnecessary today. Time to grow up a bit. Try nature's way. Let Ma do it!

Tell your friends you've matured. Doing it Ma's way. Let Ma do it!

*Dr. Marlan Beilke
Rhineland*

New bill is unfair to landowners

To the Editor:

There's a bill in the State Senate that's bad for forestry and recreation and unfair to landowners. The bill's sponsors want to force Open MFL landowners to allow people to drive vehicles, ATVs etc. on all roads and trails over 9' wide maintained for vehicular travel.

Imagine sitting on your deer stand watching trucks drive by; or getting to your cabin to find that thieves easily made off with your furniture because the government forced you to remove the gate at the edge of your land; or not being able to get to your cabin at all be-

cause someone destroyed your road.

Roads and trails could only be closed from April 1 to the first Saturday in May. Landowners wanting to switch to Closed MFL can only close 320 acres per municipality. All open MFL lands must have public access, so partial switches to Closed MFL might not help.

Forcing roads to be open 11 months each year is ridiculous. During early or late ice-out years, incredible road damage will happen during March and May.

Landowners who switch to Closed MFL will have to pay the much higher Closed MFL tax rate. Landowners who cannot place their land in Closed MFL due to the acreage limits may simply remove their lands from MFL and pay the highest tax rate. Is this just a tax hike in disguise?

Some landowners may not be able to afford to pay the Closed MFL tax and may simply chop up their lands and sell them.

The bill creates a road repair program funded by the State Forestry Account. What other things will have to be underfunded to make up for this use of the funds? Will there be enough funding to compensate everyone with damaged roads? A shortfall is apparently already planned, as funds are to be dispensed on a "first come, first served" basis.

Most ATV riders and other land users are responsible people. Unfortunately, it doesn't take many irresponsible users to badly damage land. On un-gated industrial land, I've seen non-trail areas torn up by trucks and ATVs. I've seen appliances, furniture, countertops and carpeting in the woods.

Landowners will be stuck with the cost of cleaning up these messes.

During dry years, especially in certain habitats such as pine barrens, motorized use will increase fire danger.

Who will pay for the burned timber?

When these things happen and landowners switch or withdraw their lands, or fragment and sell them, acres available for logging and recreation will be lost.

Unlike the recent Pelican River Forest Easement, this ill-conceived bill is not voluntary for landowners; this is nothing but a government land grab. Not only that, but it's also a land grab that could actually result in there being less land available for logging and recreation.

This bill is being sponsored by Senators Felzkowski, Quinn, and Stafsholt, and co-sponsored by Representatives Green and Schmidt. Please write to your representatives and Governor Evers and oppose this bill.

*Tom Wiensch
Rhineland*

Reach for hand tools instead of fossil fuels

To the Editor:

I believe that understanding ones' carbon footprint is helpful in knowing how to live each day. We can all see our footprint when we travel by car and put gas into the tank. It turns out that one of the big ways we can effect our carbon footprint revolves around what we eat, where it comes from and how

not to waste it. Having a plant-based diet helps to not only to give one a healthier life, it also will cut methane emissions — a powerful greenhouse gas.

Growing our own food provides connection to the earth, gives us fresh, delicious food that is seasonally celebrated and not wrapped in plastic. There is no transportation cost. Vegetarianism aligns us with the world and its population. Just two billion people can eat like typical Americans with their meat consumption, while with the same grain, ten billion people can be fed. Hand forking the garden soil, maintains the soil integrity, builds soil, captures carbon and is easier. Making use of compost and returning it to the soil is a satisfying process of seeing how the Laws of Nature work...full circle.

During World War II Americans grew Victory Gardens and produced 30-40% of the country's food supply. It was good for the people and nation then and can be done again now.

We have endeavored to reach for hand tools instead of fossil fuels at Sun Farm and suggest that fossil fuels be rationed. Please join us.

*Amy C Wilson
Port Wing*

LETTERS POLICY

Email letters to heatherschaefer@rivernewsonline.com. Fax to (715) 365-6361.

Mail to Forum, 232 S. Courtney Street, Rhineland, WI 54501.

- ▶ Letters must include the author's full name, address and daytime phone number.
- ▶ Letters are limited to 400 words.
- ▶ Because of the volume of letters, we cannot acknowledge unpublished letters.
- ▶ Letters become the property of The River News.
- ▶ The River News reserves the right to edit letters to the editor.

Connect

From page 1

"It was different because he made the topic relatable by sharing what other students' experiences have been like in leadership and how it impacted them," she shared.

"We were encouraged to be proactive in finding solutions to problems and pressures we have with academics and relationships," she added.

A few favorite solutions included saving banked snow days to have a school-wide mental health day or a mid-year club recruitment day to give students an opportunity to

"Healthy relationships are what kids are looking for."

JC Pohl, TEEN TRUTH President/CEO

join clubs mid-year if they wish.

Student Brody Kowieski also shared personal insights on how to help combat isolation.

"We need to focus on what we can do together," he said. "We can talk about the problem, help find a solution and then expose the solution."

In student-led groups, the conversation around problems generated an incredible list of ideas on how to be proactive.

Kowieski explained how the presentation was unique compared

to other experiences.

"[Pohl] promoted a call to action, which is something different," he said. "He didn't come in talking about his story or ideas. He called us to action."

Yunker and Kowieski were among the group who generated a list of proactive solutions. In working on these solutions together, both shared similar reflections. They were chosen to join in the breakout sessions due to their involvement in extra-curricular activities and strong character as noted by their teachers.

The students each shared passion they have to help improve the community. As leaders, both were acutely aware of how important it is to create a good system in the community for others to connect with.

Pohl's message to both parents and students encouraged them to "look at the system." Especially for parents who struggle with the agony of trying to find a way in to their kids' lives, it becomes especially important to make sure that "[parents] are putting their child in a position to meet charismatic adults," Pohl noted.

We never know when a simple gesture or comment that we

make might have a tremendous effect on someone. Rhinelander is lucky to have individuals who are vested in the roots of the community working to create a place where healthy relationships can be fostered and supported.

Pohl noted that everyone has the power to live in the solution and make a difference in someone's day through connection.

"Connection helps

overcome adversity and lead us in solution-based thinking," he said. "We can all go to the bad or ugly, but the relationships in our lives pull us back to the good."

In reflecting on the day, Yunker noted she learned that "the individual has to take it upon themselves to get involved, but encouragement can help."

"We are all one community inviting people to share experiences," Kowieski concluded.

LdF

From page 3

"They do," town chairman Matt Gaulke said, referencing Oneida County.

"Plus their cut," Somerfeldt said.

"That's the problem," Zimmerman told him.

"Nice for them," town supervisor Bob Hanson said.

Hanson has been a vocal critic of the amount the town of Lac du Flambeau is charged for ambulance service by Oneida County.

"We're pretty well stuck with it," Hanson said.

Zimmerman said it's been a topic at recent meetings of the town's EMS personnel; he said he's tried to get the message across that the more runs Lac du Flambeau ambulance personnel can make, the more he can use that as a negotiating tool to reduce the annual contract with Oneida County.

"I can say 'Well, we don't really need you guys (Med 5) because we're covering this,'" he said. "It's a big push."

Zimmerman, demonstrating the challenges a volunteer ambulance service such as Lac du Flambeau's faces, used three calls "in a row" from earlier in the day.

"One I was able to do and then people had to go back to work," he said. "I had no crew because everyone's at work. Med 5 had to come in and another call came in. I had to run around and steal someone from work again. So, it's difficult but it is what it is. I know we pay them (Oneida County) way too much. I wanna bring that down but the only way I can do that is to show them we don't need 'em."

Zimmerman said the majority of the Lac du Flambeau calls are basic life support

(BLS) calls and not advanced life support (ALS) calls that Oneida County's Med 5 and other ambulances are capable of.

"They don't care," he said. "We have to pay them no matter what."

Lac du Flambeau resident Don Tingwald asked if it's known what the number of calls Lac du Flambeau EMS crews don't make.

"Well, that would be the number of runs Med 5 makes," Gaulke said. He mentioned there are times a Lac du Flambeau ambulance and crew will be out on a call when another comes in.

"Then you have to call Med 5," he said. "Or Med 4."

Oneida County's Med 4 is based in Nokomis and is repositioned when Med 5 is called out. On some occasions, Med 4 will get sent to Lac du Flambeau if Med 5 is elsewhere and Lac du Flambeau EMS isn't able to respond to a call.

Oneida EMS runs to LdF

Oneida County Sheriff Grady Hartman, who oversees the county's EMS program, told *The Lakeland Times* last week Oneida County EMS crews responded to Lac du Flambeau 27 times in January of 2024. The total number of responses for 2023 was 348.

Hartman, who mentioned the four towns

in Vilas County — Manitowish Water, Boulder Junction, Presque Isle and Winchester — that have recently established an EMS district, said he understands the situation with regard to volunteer ambulance services and the challenge faced with regard to more stringent standards for training and the time needed to do the training and become certified.

"The older people that had been doing it have aged out," he said. "They've lived that life and volunteered ... it's become a thing of the past, really."

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Novelist — Rand
 - 4 Slit
 - 7 Speak falsely
 - 10 Fontaine of old films
 - 12 Sooner city
 - 14 Crunch targets
 - 15 Jason's ship
 - 16 Flimsy, as an excuse
 - 17 Small amount
 - 18 Dwell
 - 20 — nova
 - 22 Kind of story
 - 23 Stray dog
 - 24 Leggy bird
 - 27 Canal site
 - 30 Town near Santa Fe
 - 31 Man in a fez
 - 32 Co.
 - 34 GI address
 - 35 Armor-crushing weapon
 - 36 "Stormy Weather" singer

- 37 Blot out
 - 39 Rare gas
 - 40 Common sense
 - 41 Estuary
 - 42 Ring-shaped cake
 - 45 Tower designer
 - 49 Levin or Gershwin
 - 50 Diva — Gluck
 - 53 Dodge City marshal
 - 54 Psychic power, for short
 - 55 Froze over
 - 56 Fender nick
 - 57 No, to a laird
 - 58 Thirsty
 - 59 Herbal soother
- DOWN**
- 1 Open a bit
 - 2 Long ago
 - 3 Complains persistently
 - 4 Paparazzi target

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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N	O	W	R	O	S	A	E	W	E	R
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E	A	S	Y	S	L	A	M	D	E	R

- 5 Ms. Merkel
- 6 Young Cratchit
- 7 Test-tube locales
- 8 White wader
- 9 Is, in Avila
- 11 Loud sounds
- 13 Expose as false
- 19 Dash partner
- 21 Mouths, in zoology
- 23 Give a darn
- 24 SFO info
- 25 Hang open
- 26 Overhead structure
- 27 Eggplant color
- 28 Air
- 29 Part of A.D.
- 31 Way with words
- 33 Little Engine verb
- 35 Rum drink (2 wds.)
- 36 Turned pages
- 38 Remote button
- 39 Cato's dozen
- 41 Prepared
- 42 Well, to Yves
- 43 Cato's bear
- 44 Collar site
- 46 — accompli
- 47 Seacoast eagle
- 48 Links org.
- 51 Digital watch readout, for short
- 52 Mal de —

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Church Directory

RHINELANDER FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
135 E. Larch Street, Rhinelander
715-365-1535 • www.rhinelandेरucc.org
10:00 a.m. Sunday In-Church Worship Service
as well as LIVE on Facebook
Pastor Myles Alexander

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
320 Lincoln Street, Rhinelander
715-362-4792 • www.ExploreCalvary.com
Pastor Rod Ankrom
Worship with us in person or online
Sunday worship 10 am • (Livestream)
KidZone (K-5 gr) & Nursery 10 am

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
21 W. Timber Drive, Rhinelander
715-362-5910 - www.immanuelrhinelander.org
Worship with us in person or Online -
9 am Sunday Worship - see webpage for info

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)
Corner of Brown & Frederick Streets
Rhinelander ~ 715-365-9357
Pastor Karl Schultz
Pastor Nate Plocher
Worship Hours:
5:30 p.m. Saturday Divine Service
9:00 a.m. Sunday Divine Service
Radio Broadcast 9:00 a.m. Sunday on 93.7 FM
www.zionrhinelander.org

SAINT AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
39 South Pelham Street - 715-420-0066
www.northwoodsanglican.org
SUNDAY HOLY EUCHARIST: 9:00 am
Sunday School: 9:00 am

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fr. Chris Kemp
OFFICE: 110 Conro Street, Rhinelander, WI
715-362-3169 ~ www.nativityofourlord.net

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
125 E. King Street - Rhinelander, WI
Saturday Mass: 4:30 pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30 am & 9:30 am

ST. JOHN
750 Appleton Street - Pelican Lake, WI
Sunday Mass: 11:30 am

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
203 E. Monico St., Rhinelander • 715-369-2098
Pastor Jeanmark A'Kessler
9:30am Sat. Sabbath School - Bible Studies for all ages
11:00 am Sat. Worship Service
Radio 74 @ 107.5 FM - beautiful, traditional Christian Music
3ABN on channel 129 on Cable and 9710 on Dish Network
Church school grades K-8, all denominations welcome, low teacher to student ratio
(Call for mid-week service)

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS
21 S. Baird Avenue, Rhinelander
715-362-2470 stmarkrhinelander.org
Office hours: 9: a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Pastor Richard Miller
Thursday evening Service: 6:00 p.m.
Sunday morning Service: 9:00 a.m.
Email: stmarkchurch@outlook.com

To advertise your organizations religious services in this directory, please call: 715-365-6397. All denominations and religions are welcome.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT ONEIDA COUNTY SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

Case No. 23-CV-219
WISCONSIN COUNTY MUTUAL
INSURANCE CORPORATION
22 East Mifflin Street, Suite 900
Madison, WI 53703,
Plaintiff,
ONEIDA COUNTY
1 S. Oneida Ave.
P.O. Box 400
Rhineland, WI 54501,
Involuntary Plaintiff,

-vs-
SCOTT ORTEL
621 Jacks Branch Road
Cantonment, FL 32533,
Defendant.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

To the person named above as a defendant: SCOTT ORTEL
You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 45 days after February 16, 2024, you must respond with a written demand of the Complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is: Oneida County Clerk of Circuit Courts, Oneida County Courthouse, P.O. Box 400, 1 S. Oneida Ave., Rhineland, WI 54501; and to the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is:

HALE, SKEMP, HANSON, SKEMP & SLEIK
505 King Street, Suite 300
P.O. Box 1927
La Crosse, WI 54602-1927

You may have an attorney help or represent you.
If you do not demand a copy of the Complaint within 45 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
Dated this 16th day of February, 2024.

HALE, SKEMP, HANSON, SKEMP & SLEIK
By: C. Michael Bjorling
State Bar No.: 1119217
505 King Street, Suite 300
P.O. Box 1927
La Crosse, WI 54602-1927
Phone: 608-784-3540
Email: cmb@haleskemp.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

"This communication is from a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained can be used for that purpose."
101137 2/16,2/23,3/1 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)

Case No. 24PR13
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
BETH MARGARET PACK
DOD: 10-31-2023
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 12-06-1939 and date of death 10-31-2023, was domiciled in Oneida County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2820 Bay Dr., Rhineland, WI 54501.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 23, 2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave., P.O. Box 400, Rhineland, Wisconsin, Room A-318 Probate Office.

/s/ Amy M. Franzen
Probate Registrar
02-02-2024

Nick G. Cirilli
116 E. Davenport St.
Rhineland, WI 54501
715-369-3443
Bar No. 1101541
101123

2/9,2/16,2/23 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)

Case No. 24PR14
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
DONALD PAREMSKI
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 02-04-1953 and date of death 01-22-2024, was domiciled in Oneida County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1380 S. Big Lake Loop, Three Lakes, WI 54562.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 23, 2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave., P.O. Box 400, Rhineland, Wisconsin, Room A-318 Probate office.

/s/ Amy M. Franzen
Probate Registrar
02-01-2024

Erik Paremski
2423 Strong Road
Phelps, WI 54554
715-891-1536
103025

2/9,2/16,2/23 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)

Case No. 24PR11
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
LYNN JOEL LAAKSO
DOD: 1-18-2023
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 6-13-1949 and date of death 01-18-2023, was domiciled in Oneida County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 3342 Fairway Street, Rhineland, WI 54501.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 16, 2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave., P.O. Box 400, Rhineland, Wisconsin, Room A-318 Probate Office.

/s/ Amy M. Franzen
Probate Registrar
01-26-2024

Nick G. Cirilli
116 E. Davenport St.
Rhineland, WI 54501
715-369-3443
Bar No. 1101541
109969

2/9,2/16,2/23 WNAXLP



LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Spring Primary and Sample Ballots February 20, 2024

OFFICE OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY CLERK
TO THE VOTERS OF ONEIDA COUNTY:
Notice is hereby given of a spring primary to be held in the Towns of Cassian (part of ward 1), Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Minocqua and Woodruff in Oneida County, on February 20, 2024, at which the officers named below shall be nominated. The names of the candidates for each office, whose nominations have been certified to or filed in this office, are given under the title of the office, each in its proper column, together with the questions submitted to a vote, for a referendum, if any, in the sample ballot below.

Information to Voters

Upon entering the polling place and before being permitted to vote, a voter shall:

- state their name and address
- show an acceptable form of photo identification*
- sign the poll book**

*If a voter does not have acceptable photo identification, the voter may obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

**If the voter is unable to sign the poll book due to disability, a poll worker may write the word "exempt."

If a voter is not registered to vote, they may register to vote at the polling place serving their residence if the voter provides proof of residence. Where ballots are distributed to voters, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot.

Upon being permitted to vote, the voter shall enter a voting booth or go to a machine and cast their ballot. The vote should not be cast in any manner other than specified here. Sample ballots or other materials to assist the voter in marking their ballot may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

A voter who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the voter's minor child or minor ward.

An election official may inform the voter of the proper manner for casting a vote but the official may not advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

Assistance for Voting

A voter may select an individual to assist in casting their vote if the voter declares to the presiding official that they are unable to read, have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English, or that due to disability are unable to cast their ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the voter's employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the voter. If a voter is unable to state their name and address, an assistant may also do so for the voter.

Where Optical Scan Voting is Used

The voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall write in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote and fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to the write-in line. On referendum questions, the voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to "yes" if in favor of the question, or the voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to "no" if opposed to the question.

When using an electronic ballot marking device ("Automark," Express Vote," "Clear Access" or "ImageCast Evolution (ICE)" to mark an optical scan ballot, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select the party of their choice. The voter shall then touch the screen at the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall type in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote. On referendum questions, the voter shall touch the screen at "yes" if in favor of the question, or the voter shall touch the screen at "no" if opposed to the question.

Where Touch Screen Voting is Used

The voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select the party of their choice. The voter shall then touch the screen at the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall type in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote. On referendum questions, the voter shall touch the screen at "yes" if in favor of the question or the voter shall touch the screen at "no" if opposed to the question.

Spoiled Ballots

If a voter spoils a paper or optical scan ballot, they shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one voter. If the ballot has not been initiated by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the voter shall return it to the election official, who shall issue a proper ballot in its place.

The voter may spoil a touch screen ballot at the voting station before the ballot is cast.

After Voting the Ballot

After an official paper ballot is marked, it

shall be folded so the inside marks do not show, but so the printed endorsements and inspectors' initials on the outside do show. The voter shall then deposit the voted ballot in the ballot box, or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit, and deposit the un-voted ballots in the discard box. The voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

After an official optical scan ballot is marked, it may be inserted in the security sleeve, so the marks do not show. The voter shall then insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. If a central count system is used, the voter shall insert the ballot in the ballot box and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. The voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

After an official touch screen ballot is marked, the voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

Tracy Hartman, Oneida County Clerk

The following is a sample of the official ballot:

Ballot ID: 1001 Town of Cassian, Ward 1

Official Primary Ballot Nonpartisan Office February 20, 2024

Notice to voters: if you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initiated by two (2) election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initiated by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials (see end of ballot for initials).

General Instructions
If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help (absentee voters: contact your municipal clerk).
To vote for a name on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●
To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write-in" and fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●
School District
Lakeland Union School District
School Board Member
At-Large Representative
Vote for 1
 Edward E. Schaub Jr.
 Lisa Schuman
 Barry Seidel Jr.
 Brittany Allen
 Kristin Allen
 write-in:
School Board Member
Ldf Area Representative
(Town of Lac du Flambeau)
Vote for 1
 Kristin Allen
 Lisa Schuman
 Brittany Allen
 Brian Jackson
 Gary Smith
 write-in:

Official Primary Ballot
Nonpartisan Office
February 20, 2024
for
Town of Cassian, Ward 1
Oneida County
Ballot ID: 1001
Ballot issued by
Initials of election inspectors
Absentee Ballot issued by
Initials of Municipal Clerk or Deputy Clerk
If issued by SVDs, both must initial
Certification of Voter Assistance
I certify that I marked or read aloud this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.
Signature of assistor
For Official Use Only
Inspectors: Identify ballots required to be remade:
 Overvoted
 Damaged
 Other
If this is the Original Ballot, write the serial number here:
If this is the Duplicate Ballot, write the serial number here:
Initials of inspectors who remade ballot

LOCATION AND HOURS OF POLLING PLACE		
At the Spring Primary to be held on February 20, 2024, in Towns of Cassian (part of ward 1), Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Minocqua and Woodruff in Oneida County, the following polling place locations will be used for the municipalities and/ or wards indicated:		
Municipality	Location	Wards
Cassian	Town Hall - 9110 Church Rd, Harshaw, WI	Wards 1 & 2
Hazelhurst	Community Bldg. - 7020 Hwy 51, Hazelhurst, WI	Wards 1 & 2
Lake Tomahawk	Raymond Sloan - 7246 Main St, Lake Tomahawk	Wards 1 & 2
Minocqua	Town Hall - 415 Menominee St, Minocqua WI	Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7
Woodruff	Town Hall - 1418 1st Avenue, Woodruff, WI	Wards 1, 2, & 3
POLLS OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.		
If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk at the address below.		
Stacey Plamann – Cassian Clerk 9110 Church Rd Harshaw, WI 54529 715-966-3136	Roben Haggart – Minocqua Clerk 415 Menominee St. Suite 300 Minocqua, WI 54548 715-356-5296	Julie Huotari – Woodruff Clerk 14181st Ave. PO Box 560 Woodruff, WI 54568 715-356-9421
Christy Myshchysun – Hazelhurst Clerk P.O. Box 67 Hazelhurst, WI 54531 715-356-5800	Sharon Lintereur – Lake Tomahawk Clerk PO Box 396 Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539 715-277-2257	

All polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.
Notice of Meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers
At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors will convene as a joint meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers and the Municipal Board of Canvassers for the purpose of conducting the local and municipal canvasses pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§7.51 and 7.53(1). This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS SPORTS

Friday, February 16, 2024

www.rivernewsline.com

Page 8

WIAA DIVISION 2 BOYS' SWIMMING STATE PREVIEW



A look at the field for tonight's state meet

By Jeremy Mayo
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Rhinelanders has tough road ahead of it as it tries to become the first repeat WIAA Division 2 boys' swim state champion since Madison Edgewood in 2019-20.

The Hodags enter the night expecting to be in a dogfight for the silver trophy, well behind last year's state runner-up McFarland. The Spartans are projected as 108-point favorites as they seek their first state title since 2012.

It looks to be a battle for second — and a tight one at that — between the Hodags and Whitefish Bay. The Hodags are projected to finish 2 1/2 points ahead, based on state qualifying times. Edgewood and Nicolet are also expected to be in the mix for the top three early, before fading back to fourth and fifth late in the meet.

Here's a quick look at what to expect from each event.

Diving — The Hodags have no entries here, though Whitefish Bay's Tyler Emory will be one to watch. Emory had the best regular season score of anyone in the field entering sectionals, but his total of 330.05 points has him fifth among the qualifying divers entering this afternoon's competition. He placed third in the event last year as a freshman and is the top returning medalist. Junior Sawyer Moore of Kiel/Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah is the top qualifier in the diving competition, scoring a 370.55 at sectionals.

200 Medley Relay — This looks to be an early showdown of the major players as McFarland (1:34.57), Rhinelanders (1:38.58) and Whitefish Bay (1:38.75) come in as the top three seeds, with Nicolet (1:39.08) not far behind.

See **Field** . . . page 13



JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

The Rhinelanders High School boys' swim team's state qualifying squad poses for a photo prior to practice at the Heck Family Community Pool Monday, Feb. 12. Pictured, from left to right, are Charlie Antonuk, Judson O'Malley, Mathias Fugle, Dolan O'Malley, Samson Shinnars, Shawn Denis, Brock Arrowood and Zacha King. Rhinelanders, the defending WIAA Division 2 state champion, is projected to finish second at the state meet tonight in Waukesha.

STILL SOMETHING TO PROVE

Hodags swimmers back in Waukesha, aiming for another state trophy

By Jeremy Mayo
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Rhinelanders High School boys' swim team does not have much to prove as it heads back to Waukesha tonight as the defending WIAA Division 2 state champions — at least not to itself or the rest of Hodag nation.

Repeating as state champions will be a difficult feat. In addition to graduating five of the nine swimmers who competed at state last year, last year's runner-up McFarland added a lot of talent from a season ago and is projected as the overwhelming favorite.

Still, much like how the Hodag girls followed their 2020 state championship with a runner-up finish in 2021, the Hodag boys have an excellent opportunity to walk out of Waukesha with the silver trophy this year.

It will not be easy. The

Hodags are projected only 2 1/2 points ahead of Whitefish Bay for second, based on the qualifying performances from last weekend's sectionals. While a top-two finish isn't necessary to validate a great year for the Hodags, they admitted there is some motivation to prove to the rest of the state that last year's title was not a fluke.

"A trophy is a placeholder," said captain Zacha King, the lone senior on this year's squad. "What we need to do to 'validate' what we did last year is to just go out on Friday and show them that we can swim fast. That it wasn't a one and done."

That was a sentiment echoed this week by coach Jenny Heck.

"If we can show that we can swim fast with another group and we have new guys and freshmen coming in swimming fast, (it will show) that we're just a strong team and a motivated

team and we work hard. It wasn't a fluke, we're just fast."

King will be joined by juniors Dolan O'Malley Mathias Fugle, Shawn Denis, Samson Shinnars and Brock Arrowood, along with freshman Judson O'Malley. Freshman Charlie Antonuk will also be on hand as a relay alternate. The Hodags will have 16 entries this year, tied with Whitefish Bay for second-most in the meet, behind only McFarland (18).

Much like last year, when the Hodags' only event win came in the 200-yard freestyle relay, Rhinelanders will look to rely on depth in multiple events, as well as its ability to rack up top-six finishes to keep pace.

Helping Rhinelanders in the fight for second may be the fact that McFarland appears to be so dominant this year. The Spartans come in as 107-point favorites over Rhinelanders, and hold the

top seed in six events — including all three relays.

"We don't have that expectation of the win because they're projected so far ahead and they're such a fast team. But, at the same time, you always try to do the best your team can do. The best we could possibly do is second and that would be amazing if we could get that. It's going to be a battle for second and, sometimes, the battle for second is just as strong as the battle for first," Heck said. "Whitefish Bay has a fast team. They have a lot of guys who are really dedicated swimmers who swim year-round and are just very strong and are going to drop some time. They know how this works. They're going to be out for second as well. It's going to be a matter of who can place higher. Who can edge out the next person."

See **Swim** . . . page 13

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715-420-1981

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Valid at Rhinelanders location only. Some restrictions may apply. Extra cheese and additional toppings is an additional charge. All white meat an additional charge. Price is subject to change without notice. Not valid with any other offers, online ordering, Gluten Free Crust or Pizza Ranch Drive-Thru Menu purchases. Delivery where available and charges and minimums may apply.

Bring The Team Together And Refuel At The Ranch! Good Luck Northwoods Athletes!

Hodag Hoops rolls Shawano 72-55

First-place battle at Mosinee on deck tonight

By Jeremy Mayo

RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

SHAWANO — The Rhinelander High School boys' basketball team had one of its most efficient offensive games of the season Tuesday night. The Hodags will need that kind of precision tonight with its Great Northern Conference championship hopes in the balance.

Seth Nofftz scored 20 points, leading four Hodags in double figures, and Rhinelander led nearly wire-to-wire in a 72-55 victory in a non-conference contest at Shawano.

Rhinelanders (13-9, 8-2 Great Northern) heads to Mosinee tonight for a must-win game. With a win, the Hodags would face Medford at home Feb. 22 with at least a share of the conference title in the balance. A loss tonight would mathematically eliminate the Hodags from title contention.

"We're playing for a conference championship," Hodag coach Derek Lemmens said. "The next

two games, we're playing for something, which is going to be great to prepare us for playoffs. We control our own destiny in the conference race. Friday's a big game on the road."

The Hodags will come into the game off of one of their best offensive games of the season. Rhinelander shot an even 50% (30 of 60) from the field against the Hawks. They took the lead on a Nofftz 3 less than two minutes in and never looked back.

Rhinelanders led 31-23 at halftime and slowly stretched that advantage deeper into double figures as the second half progressed.

Much of it was due to patience and shot selection as the Hodags moved the ball effectively and found open teammates.

"I think we ended up with 20 assists and seven turnovers. Guys allowed things to happen," Lemmens said. "Our lack of patience is what really prevents our offense from being what it can be. I thought tonight we moved the ball and when opportunities arose, we attacked them. We were patient and waited for those opportunities. That made a big difference."

See **Hoops**. . . page 12



JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

Rhinelanders' Seth Nofftz attempts a 3 during the second half of a non-conference boys' basketball game at Shawano Tuesday, Feb. 13. Nofftz scored a career-high 20 points on 8 of 9 shooting as the Hodags defeated the Hawks, 72-55.

Shawano stifles Lady Hodags

By Jeremy Mayo

RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

SHAWANO — If the Rhinelander High School girls' basketball team thought next week's start of the WIAA tournament was going to be easy just because it drew a No. 3 seed, it was served a valuable message on Tuesday.

Leah Nordin scored 40 points, Shawano's trapping zone forced 31 turnovers and the Hawks rolled past the Hodags 67-49 in a road non-conference contest.

The Hawks (16-7, 5-6 Bay Conference) drew the No. 5 seed, two spots behind the Hodags in the same Division 2 regional, when the WIAA released its computerized seeding Sunday morning. Shawano, however, appeared to have the better of the Hodags (16-7, 9-2 Great Northern) from the opening jump.

The Hawks raced out to a 10-0 lead over the first 2 1/2 minutes of the game while the Hodags committed turnovers on four straight possessions. Though Rhinelander kept pace for a while, mainly thanks to an 11 of 24 night from beyond the arc, the 6-foot sophomore Nordin eventually took over and the Hodags could not recover.

With the Hodags set to face sixth-seeded Green Bay Southwest a week from tonight to open the WIAA tournament, coach Ryan Clark called Tuesday's game a much-needed eye-opener to the style of basketball his team will likely see in a regional that includes a number of



JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

Rhinelanders' Vivian Lamers and Shawano's Ella Stuber react to a loose ball during the first half of a non-conference girls' basketball game in Shawano Tuesday, Feb. 13. The Hodags committed 31 turnovers and fell to the Hawks, 67-49.

teams from the northeast corner of the state.

"To me it's a great opportunity to learn from this one. I think they play in a much stronger area, stronger teams," he said. "The physicality, the aggressiveness, the confidence, the difference between them crashing the glass compared to us is so much different. We talk about being tough and strong with the basketball, you come down here and that's a different level of intensity."

Down 20 with 5:39 remaining in the first half, Rhinelander closed on a 15-3 run to pull within 31-23 at the break. That included a buzzer-beater by freshman Vivian Lamers, who got a steal

with Shawano trying to hold for the final shot and banked in a half-court heave at the horn.

"We went down 10-0 right away and we were down eight at the half," coach Clark said. "We weathered the storm OK. That's a good learning moment. We started off really sluggish. They really turned us over and made us struggle, but it's a good opportunity to learn that there's still a lot of ball game left."

Aubryn Clark had 26 points to lead Rhinelander, including a couple of buckets early in the second that got the Hodags within six at 33-27. Nordin took over from there, however. She scored 11 of

Shawano's first 14 points of the half and finished with 26 points over the final 18 minutes as Shawano eventually stretched the lead back to 20 with 6:10 remaining.

Whether it was attacking the basket, getting offensive putbacks or creating transition layups from the top of Shawano's 1-3-1 zone, the Hodags had no answer for Nordin.

"You can tell she's much more aggressive ... That's the difference," coach Clark said. "When she went to get a steal or get her hands in there, she was going to come out with the basketball."

See **Stifled**. . . page 13

Hodag boys' bowlers win two, finish season at .500

By Jeremy Mayo

RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

With a shot at qualifying for the WiHSBC state tournament out of the equation, the Rhinelander/Tomahawk boys' club bowling team looked to end its season on a high note on Sunday at 5-Star Lanes in Plover.

The Hodags did just that, defeating Wisconsin Rapids 8 1/2-1/2 and Stevens Point 5-4 to finish .500 overall in the District 9, Division 1 standings.

The Hodags (5-5), who came in averaging 174.3 pins per game, bowled two of their best matches to close out the year. The team averaged 186.7 pins against Rapids. They followed that up with an 185.0 average against SPASH and rolled three straight 200-plus games to erase a 4-2 deficit and win the match.

"The ultimate goal this time around was let's just go have some fun," Hodag coach Mike Bourcier said. "We knew the team was out of it, let's shoot for trying to get back to even, get a .500 record finishing the year out, let's just try to stay clean and have a fun time."

Rhinelanders dominated the match against Rapids, winning each of the first seven games by 30 or more pins. The Hodags took the eighth game 168-165 and the teams bowled to a 180-180 tie in the final game.

"They came out of the box pretty decent, had some good games in there. My look at it is it's what we expected out of the kids this year. They bowled well," Bourcier said.

The Hodags and SPASH traded off the first six games in their match. SPASH took the first two, Rhinelander claimed the next two and SPASH took games 5 and 6 to go up 4-2. Rhinelander edged SPASH 203-199 to stay alive in Game 7, then threw five strikes in a row to close out Game 8 204-184 and set up a decisive finale. The Hodags finished with eight straight marks in the final game, including two strikes from senior Noah Pearson in the 10th frame, to secure a 208-192 win.

Pearson finished the day by filling 32 of his 36 frames with 21 strikes. That moved his season-long fill percentage up to .7894, but it was unlikely to be enough to qualify for the WiHSBC state meet, with 14 eligible bowlers sporting percentages of .8000 or better with only a few results to finalize for the year.

See **Bowling**. . . page 12

YOUTH SPORTS ROUNDUP

Rhinelanders Swim Club takes 2nd at conference

The Rhinelanders Swim Club (RSC) wrapped up another successful season in early February placing second at the Central Wisconsin Swim Conference (CWSC) Championship in Black River Falls. CWSC hosted 14 teams across northern Wisconsin. All of the RSC swimmers who competed in the East Divisionals qualified to swim in at least one event at championships.

"All season long our swimmers from every age were willing to try new events, to push themselves further, and compete in the events that are considered the most challenging. Our athletes have so much to be proud of," RSC head coach Megan Cihla said.

Even though RSC has the second largest team in the conference, it is not an easy feat to place second at Championships.

"When our swimmers consistently reach the podium in events, we gain even more points as a team. We had events in which RSC swimmers took first through third place or events in which only our swimmers were brave enough to enter," Cihla said.

"Our swimmers had fun competing, cheering each other on, and enjoying the



Rhinelanders Swim Club swimmers, from left to right, Aiden Cihla, Easton Rady, Landon Kayser and Logan Lorenz pose with their medals during the CWSC championship meet earlier this month in Black River Falls.

team building during this 2-day event," RSC assistant coach Casey Lehmann said. "That's what it is all about!"

The club begins the regular season in mid-October

and includes swimmers from the ages 5 through 18.

"We are now approaching our postseason for some of our swimmers who have qualified for the Wisconsin



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Rhinelanders Swim Club swimmers, clockwise from top left Aubree Edwardson, Samantha Sherwood, Charlotte LeClair and Stella Beach pose with their medals during the CWSC championship meet earlier this month in Black River Falls.

Short Course State Championship and Regionals for those who are really close to achieving a state qualifying time," Cihla noted, "It is really exciting to see all of our athletes grow throughout the season. Many of our athletes have accomplished and exceeded the personal goals

they developed at the beginning of the season."

Regionals will be held this weekend in Fond du Lac, and the State Championship will be held February 23-25 in Ashwaubenon and Brown Deer or March 1-3 in Pleasant Prairie based on the age of the swimmer.



RBA 6TH GRADERS WIN AGAIN

The Rhinelanders Basketball Association's sixth-grade boys' traveling team took first place in a tournament in Marshfield Saturday, Feb. 10. The Hodags went 3-0 on the day, beating Owen-Withee 45-40, Marshfield White 37-29 and Marshfield Orange 55-27. The team improved to 12-1 on the season with the victories. Pictured are front row, from left to right, are Mason Stein, Boston Hopfensperger, Coltyn Anderson, Max Howard. In the back row are coach Ted Sommer, coach Josh Clark, Jaxson Kremer, Connor Clark, Hans Sommer, Carter Bell, and coach Jason Kremer.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

JV HOOPS

Rhinelanders took on Lake-land in boys' and girls' junior varsity basketball contests in Rhinelanders Friday, Feb. 9.

LEFT: Charles Johnson makes a pass for the Hodags during the JV2 boys' game at the James Williams Middle School gym. **RIGHT:** Ava Kurilla (0) and Gracie Anderson (4) pressure a Lake-land player during the JV girls' game at the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium.



PHOTOS BY BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

WIS. SPORTS GLANCE



Milwaukee BUCKS

35-20, 2nd NBA Central

SCHEDULE

Monday: Bucks 112, Denver 95
Tuesday: Miami 123, Bucks 97
Thursday: at Memphis, late
Friday: at Minnesota, 9 p.m. (ESPN/WAOW)
Sunday: at Philadelphia, Noon (ABC)

NBA STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 13

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB					
Boston	42	12	.778	—	Minnesota	38	16	.704	—					
New York	33	21	.611	9	Oklahoma City	37	17	.685	1					
Philadelphia	32	21	.604	9½	Denver	36	18	.667	2					
Brooklyn	21	32	.396	20½	Utah	26	28	.481	12					
Toronto	19	35	.352	23	Portland	15	38	.283	22½					
Central Division					Pacific Division									
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB			
Cleveland	35	17	.673	—	L.A. Clippers	35	17	.673	—	Phoenix	32	22	.593	4
Milwaukee	35	20	.636	1½	Sacramento	30	23	.566	5½	L.A. Lakers	26	26	.527	7½
Indiana	30	25	.545	6½	Golden State	26	25	.510	8½	New Orleans	32	22	.593	—
Chicago	26	28	.481	10	Dallas	31	23	.574	1	Houston	24	29	.453	7½
Detroit	8	45	.151	27½	San Antonio	18	36	.333	14	Memphis	18	36	.333	14
Southeast Division					Southwest Division									
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB			
Miami	29	25	.537	—	San Antonio	11	43	.204	21	—	—	—	—	
Orlando	29	25	.537	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Atlanta	24	30	.444	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Charlotte	12	41	.226	16½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Washington	9	44	.170	19½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

#20 Wisconsin BADGERS

MEN'S BASKETBALL: 17-8, 9-5 Big Ten

SCHEDULE

Tuesday: Badgers 62, Ohio State 54
Saturday: at Iowa, 1:15 p.m. (BTN)

BIG TEN STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 13

Team	Conf.	Ovr.	Iowa	7-7	14-10
2 Purdue	11-2	22-2	Indiana	6-7	14-10
14 Illinois	9-4	18-6	Penn State	6-7	12-12
20 Wisconsin	9-5	17-8	Rutgers	5-7	13-10
Northwestern	8-5	17-7	Maryland	5-8	13-11
Michigan State	7-6	15-9	Ohio State	4-10	14-11
Nebraska	7-7	17-8	Michigan	3-11	8-17
Minnesota	6-6	15-8	—	—	—

#4 Marquette GOLDEN EAGLES

MEN'S BASKETBALL: 19-5, 10-3 Big East

SCHEDULE

Tuesday: Marquette 78, Butler 72
Saturday: at No. 1 Connecticut, 2 p.m. (FOX)

BIG EAST STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 10

Team	Conf.	Ovr.	Butler <th>7-7</th> <th>16-9</th>	7-7	16-9
1 Connecticut	12-1	22-2	Providence	7-7	16-9
4 Marquette	10-3	19-5	Villanova	6-7	13-11
17 Creighton	9-5	18-7	St. John's	6-8	14-11
Seton Hall	8-5	15-9	Georgetown	1-12	8-16
Xavier	7-6	13-11	DePaul	0-12	3-20

Green Bay PACKERS

10-9, 2nd NFC North

SCHEDULE

Jan. 20: San Francisco 24, Packers 21
PLAYOFF GLANCE

SUPER BOWL LVIII
Sunday, Feb. 11
 Kansas City 25, San Francisco 22, OT

Hoops

From page 9

Nofftz's hot hand didn't hurt, either. The junior scored a career-high on 8-for-9 night from the field. That including a trio of 3s as part of an 11-2 run that put Rhinelander up 52-36 with 8:07 remaining. He also snagged a game-high eight rebounds.

"We know he can shoot. It comes down to him consistently being ready and wanting to," Lemmens said. "Then you saw the rest of his game improve too. He had some nice dimes. He attacked the rim."

Devon Feck added 14 points for Rhinelander while senior Will Gretzinger scored 13, putting him 28 points shy of 1,000 for his career. Truman Lamers added 11 points and eight boards and James Heck chipped in eight.

Freshman William Verkuilen led the Hawks (7-14, 5-7 Bay) with 20 points. Logan Sipple chipped in 19 as Shawano was held to 40% from the field.

"I thought we defended them pretty well and that was kind of our game plan to just contain those guys," Lemmens said. "They're going to get theirs but they're going to have to work for him and we did not let any other guys get rolling. I thought the guys defended pretty well and we held them to one shot most possessions. Things like that make a big difference."

Rhinelander also controlled the glass against an undersized Hawks team, out-rebounding Shawano 39-22. The



JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

Rhinelander's Truman Lamers (12) and Will Quinn defend a shot by Shawano's Logan Sipple during the first half of a non-conference boys' basketball game at Shawano Tuesday, Feb. 13. Sipple was held below his season average, scoring 19 points in the contest.

Hawks had only two offensive rebounds in the contest.

It all sets up a big showdown with Mosinee, which handed No. 3 (D3) Appleton Xavier just its second loss of the season on Tuesday. The Indians defeated the Hodags 70-58 in Rhinelander Jan. 9, but the Hodags had that game down to a six-point margin in the final two minutes.

Rhinelander held Mosinee's leading scorer Keagen Jirschele to 13 points in that game, but other players hurt the Hodags as Mosinee had four players in double figures.

"We've got to get stops,"

Lemmens said. "We got back cut a lot, especially in the second half. I thought Will (Quinn) did an amazing job defending Jirschele and I really felt we kept them off the glass, but we gave up way too many easy baskets at bad times and I also don't think our offense was patient the first time around. The second time around we've got to know we can get really good shots."

Tip off is set for 7:15 p.m. in Mosinee.

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

Digest

From page 10

Other changes impacted the Greater Metro Conference, the North Shore Conference, the South Central Conference, the East Central Conference, the Big 8 Conference and the Badger Conference.

The task force rejected a modified plan with a tied vote that would move Oak Creek from the Southeast Conference to the Classic 8 Conference.

The conference configurations for all

the modified realignment plans, as well as all the original realignment proposals submitted, are available on the Conference Realignment Requests and Proposals page of the WIAA Website.

The Board of Control will hear any appeals of plans modified or rejected at Task Force meeting and will vote on the recommendations of the Task Force at its meeting Tuesday, March 5. The board has the options to approve, reject or remand realignment recommendations back to the Task Force.

Among plans the Board of Control will take up at that meeting include one previously approved by the task force that would move Merrill from the Wisconsin Valley Conference to the Great Northern Conference.

If approved, the modifications will be implemented for the 2025-26 sports seasons. If remanded, the task force will reconvene to make appropriate changes to the plan before presenting it to the Board of Control again in April. If rejected, the conferences will remain in their current configuration.

Bowling

From page 9

Keagyn Schoone was 31 of 36 with 18 strikes, Blake Klingen went 30 of 36 with 17 strikes, Dominic Hakala was 29 of 36 with 17 strikes and Jackson Fuss went 19 of 36 with six strikes.

"Great day by Keagyn. Blake bowled well, Dom. The kids all bowled well," Bourcier said. "There was a lot of striking, a lot of good sparing happening. There were only four single-pin misses, which was good. A few of the games were close, but our kids came through throwing strikes at the end to pull every game out."

Hodag girls drop final matches

The Rhinelander/Elcho high school girls' team closed the year 0-10 with a pair of losses on Sunday. The Hodags felt to D.C. Everest/Wittenberg 8 1/2-1/2 and then to the Manawa cop 7 1/2-1/2.

"It was a tough one for us today," coach Cory Dellenbach said. "The girls seemed ready to go and had energy

at the start of the first match, but just didn't bowl very well."

Junior Johanna Dellenbach went 24 of 34 on the day, and finished the year with a .7083 fill percentage. With a handful of still pending as of press time, it appeared that Dellenbach would finish fifth in the final conference standings, one spot shy of qualifying individual for the WiHSBC state meet, but earning a spot on the D-9 All-Star team for the Wisconsin All Star Team Challenge.

"We're hopeful she lands in the Top 5 in the district and will go to the All Star Tournament on March 9 in Green Bay," coach Dellenbach said.

The Hodags averaged 121.7 pins per game in the match against Everest, rolling to a 137-137 tie in Game 7. Rhinelander took Game 3 against Manawa 151-129 and tied the final game at 121.

"In the second match, the pins just weren't falling our way and Manawa had a number that fell just right for them to win a few of the close games. Some key spare misses were a factor

too in them," coach Dellenbach noted.

Aubree Doppke was 22 of 34 on the day with seven strikes, Alyssa Habeck went 16 of 30 with seven strikes, Emily Koniar was 10 of 24 with four strikes, Addison Habeck was 10 of 32 with five strikes and Katrina Roof was 7 of 26 with two strikes.

The Hodag girls finished winless in District 9 competition for the second year in a row.

"It's not going to get easier next year as there are only two senior girls in our whole district this year," coach Dellenbach said. "Over the offseason all the girls need to get into the bowling alley and get some bowling time in. They cannot come into the season cold-turkey like they did this year. When they do that it's like starting over fresh again. Take advantage of summer tournaments open to youth, take advantage of open bowling times. It needs to happen."

Middle schoolers pick up win

The Rhinelander middle school squad improved to 2-3 on the season, earning a

6-3 victory on Sunday. As the bye team in the league, the Hodags had to bowl against a target score determined by the league average, which came in at 115.

Rhinelander did that six times, with a high game of 135 in Game 3. The Hodags averaged 120.1 pins on the day.

"The other middle schools kind of off-and-on struggled today," coach Dellenbach noted. "For all of the other four it was their first time bowling at a location other than Dale's Weston Lanes as we were at 5 Star Lanes in Plover. They learned that lane conditions are not the same from alley to alley and I think it surprised them. It definitely frustrated them."

Eli Miller paced the Hodags, filling 13 of 18 frames with seven strikes, Natalie Dellenbach was 11 of 18 with three strikes. Logan Campbell had four fills, Brighton Walkowski and Charlotte Preuss each had three fills and Silas Johnson had two fills.

While the dual meet season is over for the high school squads, it will carry

on into April for the middle schoolers. The team's next competition is in Antigo March 10, followed by home matches at Hodag Lanes March 24 and April 14 to close out the season.

Rhinelander to host D9 singles tourney

While the team portion of the District 9 season is over, there is will one big tournament on the calendar for the Hodags, as they will host the D9 singles tournament Feb. 22-24 at Hodag Lanes.

As of now, nearly 130 bowlers from D9 have registered and will compete for a purse of roughly \$7,000, paid out in the form of scholarships. Bowlers will be placed into flights for the tournament, based on year-long fill percentage in the league.

"It's going to be good," Bourcier said. "Being at home, the kids will have a great opportunity. They're going to have the home-field advantage. They're going to feel comfortable. It's going to be a fun one. It will be a lot of excitement there."

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Field

From page 8

McFarland is looking for a state championship repeat in this event. The Hodags finished second, but have a brand new quartet in the event this year after graduating Carter Gaber, Jack Antonuk, Daniel Gillingham and Charlie Heck.

200 Freestyle — Nicolet's Jack Sullivan is looking to become just the eighth swimmer in state history to win the same individual event four straight years. The three-time defending 200 freestyle champ comes in with the top seed at 1:38.76. Each of the projected top five teams has at least one entry here, Edgewood's Jaxon VandenBrook is seeded second ahead of Whitefish Bay's Finn Holdredge and McFarland's Lyon Hall. Samson Shinnners, Rhinelander's lone entry in the event, is seeded ninth. He placed seventh in the event as a freshman back in 2022.

200 Individual Medley — The McFarland sectional was loaded in this event, taking six of the top seven qualifying spots, led by McFarland's Blake TeBeest (1:56.39). The only outlier in that group is Rhinelander's Zacha King, who placed fifth in the event last year and comes in as the No. 4 seed. The Hodags also have Dolan O'Malley (13th), and Shawn Denis (14th) in the event, and it should make for an early opportunity to make up ground on Whitefish Bay, which was shut out from qualifying in the IM.

50 Freestyle — Everyone is chasing McFarland brothers Shane and Cale TeBeest, the Nos. 1 and 2 seeds for the event. Rhinelander's Mathias Fugle will vie for a podium spot as the No. 7 qualifier while Whitefish Bay has three entries in the event, led by senior Steven Camacho, who qualified sixth.

100 Butterfly — VandenBrook comes in as the top qualifier, but eyes will again be on Shane and Cale TeBeest, who are currently seeded fifth and sixth. Shane TeBeest was the state runner-up in the event last year. Rhinelander's Brock Arrowood checks in as the No. 10 qualifier after winning the Ashwaubenon sectional, but is less than a second behind No. 2 qualifier Jack Borzynski of The Prairie School. Moving up will be key for Arrowood in the Hodags as the butterfly is the second, and final event, where Whitefish Bay has no entries.

100 Freestyle — Sullivan is also the defending champion and the top seed in the 100 freestyle, where his 45.24-second sectional time is more than a second faster than the No. 2 qualifier, Hall from McFarland. Fugle comes in as the No. 5 seed in the event, after finishing 11th at state as last year as a sophomore, while Shinnners will look to set a fast time from the first heat at the No. 11 qualifier. Whitefish Bay has three entries here, led by junior William Wang, who comes in tied for seventh.

500 Freestyle — Much like how Ashwaubenon passed Rhinelander for a time last week in sectionals, look for Whitefish Bay to make big gains in the only event, other than diving, where Rhinelander does not have an entry. Holdredge was the state runner-up last year and comes in as the No. 1 overall seed for Whitefish Bay, which also has eighth-seeded AJ Katch.

200 Freestyle Relay — The Hodags are the defending state champions in this event, but Fugle is the only swimmer back from that squad. Rhinelander still comes in as the No. 2 seed (1:29.94), roughly eight-tenths of a second faster than Whitefish Bay (1:30.72). McFarland is the top seed here, with a time (1:26.98) three seconds faster than Rhinelander.

100 Backstroke — Rhinelander will make its push to get past Whitefish Bay here, with four swimmers to Whitefish Bay's one in the event. King leads the Hodag quartet as the defending state runner-up in the event. He's also the top returning swimmer in the event, with Hall doing the 200/100 freestyle double for McFarland. Blake TeBeest, who beat both King and Hall at the Small School State Invite last month, is the top seed here. Will Antonelli is fourth for Whitefish Bay. The Hodags will have Dolan O'Malley, Judson O'Malley and Arrowood swimming in the first heat.

100 Breaststroke — Stoughton's Julian Callender is the defending state champion and the No. 1 qualifier in this event. McFarland has the No. 2 qualifier in Preston Nygaard. Denis is seeded seventh for Rhinelander and Whitefish Bay has only one entry, 12th-seeded Owen Neodstup.

400 Freestyle Relay — The top five schools are the top five seeds here. McFarland, which won the event last year at state, is the top seed, nearly five seconds ahead of second-seeded McFarland. Edgewood is seeded slightly ahead of Whitefish Bay, which is slated to have its top two swimmers — Antonelli and Holdredge — in the event. In theory, the only way Rhinelander can go here is up, as they are nearly five seconds ahead of sixth-seeded Ashwaubenon.

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Swim

From page 8

Here are five storylines going into tonight's meet at the Waukesha South High School Natatorium.

Zacha's back

King was Rhinelander's top finisher in an individual event last year, finishing runner-up in the 100 backstroke. He comes in as the No. 2 qualifier in that event this year (51.45 seconds), trailing only McFarland's Blake TeBeest. That time is already 0.32 seconds faster than what King swam at state last year.

"I'm not really worried about what other people are going to do as much as how I'm going to swim," King said. "I'm seeded a little higher than I was last year, but that doesn't mean anything at this point. We've just got to see what's going to happen on Friday."

King also comes in seeded high in the 200 individual medley, in fourth overall (1:59.61). He placed fifth in the event last year — holding the varsity record at 1:58.58 for all of about four minutes, until teammate Daniel Gillingham eclipsed him in a fourth-place finish.

"Zacha loves competition. He loves the state meet," Heck said. "He just thrives on all of it and thinks it's so much fun. I'm excited to see what he can do. He had some good seeds coming into the meet and he swam really fast at sectionals. He hasn't reached the ceiling yet and I just want him to achieve all of his goals."

Relay important

The Hodags' battle for the runner-up spot in the overall standings could come down to how it fares head-to-head against Whitefish Bay in the three relay races, which count for double points in the standings.

Rhinelander's projected to outpost Whitefish Bay 96-94 in the relays. The Hodags hold the second seed in the 200 medley and 200 freestyle relays, and check in fifth in the 400 freestyle relay. Whitefish Bay is seeded third in both the 200 medley



JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

Rhinelander's Shawn Denis competes in the 100-yard breaststroke during a WIAA Division 2 boys' swimming sectional meet in Ashwaubenon Saturday, Feb. 10. Denis, seeded seventh in the event, is one of several Hodags looking to improve position at tonight's state meet and vie for a podium finish.

and 200 freestyle and fourth in the 400 freestyle.

"We're seeded second, but that second could be anybody's second. They're all very close," Heck said. "We can't just assume that we're going to keep that. The 200s could be anybody for that second place. In the 400 free, we're not seeded as high but we have more ability to move up. There are so many points in the relays, being double points, we've got to be ultra-focused. Every day we're going to be practicing those relays and make sure we've got it down and swim the best we can."

Moving on up

Aside from King, Fugle is the only Hodag who qualified in a podium position in an individual event. Fugle was the fifth-fastest qualifier in the 100 freestyle.

Half of Rhinelander's 16 entries will swim in the first of two heats in Friday's finals. While that's considered the "slow" heat, based on qualifying times, that may serve as an advantage for Hodag swimmers looking to move up the rankings.

That's especially true for someone like Shinnners, who is the ninth seed in the 200 freestyle and the 100 freestyle. He should have the benefit of open water,

being at or near the lead of the first heat, as opposed of trying to battle through the wakes from one of the outside lanes in the second heat if he had qualified seventh or eighth.

"I'm looking forward to dropping some time, not being in lane eight," Shinnners said. "I'm excited to get some open water and drop some time. After my performance at sectionals, I think I can drop a lot of time in my 200 and 100 and I can try to fight for a podium."

"Some of those guys in the first heat are going to have to make big jumps to knock off some of those guys in the top eight," Heck said.

Sibling rivalry

The Hodags will have most of the middle lanes in the first heat of the 100 backstroke to themselves, after putting four swimmers in the final 16. That includes brothers Dolan and Judson O'Malley who will start side-by-side in the lanes 4 and 5 as the ninth and 10th overall qualifiers in the event.

While Dolan is two years Judson's senior, he'll come in with a bit of a handicap, having just completed a leg of the 200 freestyle relay a few minutes prior to the race.

"In the 100 back, the goal is to not die and for sure try not to lose to my little brother on the

big stage when he'll probably be out in front," Dolan O'Malley admitted.

"It will be fun. Hopefully I'll be ahead of him the whole time and that will just make me go faster," Judson O'Malley said.

Lone freshman

Judson O'Malley is the lone freshman competing at state for the Hodags this year, a feat that seemed hard to fathom in September when he was in the operating room, having surgery on a knee that was injured during the football season.

"I'm thankful that it healed up as well as it has," he said. "Surgery was five months ago, not that long. I've been working hard with all these guys to get me back into shape and get me back into be in that first heat. It's really exciting."

Judson O'Malley said he's looked up to all of the upperclassmen — older brother included — to drive him during the season.

"Watching these guys for a while and finally coming and getting in, it's a real honor," he said. "These guys work really hard all season and now is the time where it pays off. For them to help me to get to that (point), it's really cool."

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Stifled

From page 9

"The ball went up and she just flashed and crashed the glass really hard. She's a really good basketball player and really good for our girls to see what it takes," he added. "Why is she being recruited? You can see tonight why she's being recruited."

Coach Clark said the tenacity Shawano showed on Tuesday will be what the Hodags need to make any sort of a playoff run. Rhinelander caught a break, as it avoided a potential matchup with No. 1 seed and defending D3 state champ Green Bay Notre Dame

until the sectional semifinal round, but Tuesday's game proved it's going to take two hard-fought battles to get there.

"This is what we kind of need to understand what it's going to take to win in the regional," he said. "Other times the regional has been more in our area, now we're in this part of the state, which is known for better basketball. We had a good opportunity tonight. We kind of got hit in the mouth, but the girls had a good approach to it afterward."

Lily Treder scored 14 for the Hodags, who finished the night 18 of 33 (54.5%) from the field. Ella Stuber chipped in 11 for Shawano as the Hawks shot 27

of 60 (45%) from the field.

Rhinelander closes out the regular season at home tonight against Mosinee. Though the Hodags have locked up sole possession of second in the GNC, regardless of tonight's result, it will serve as one final playoff dress rehearsal against a quality opponent.

"I know we wrapped up second, but I'd rather be 10-2 in the conference than 9-3," Clark said. "We got them by one the first time. They were very effective in the last 10 minutes guarding us and being very aggressive. It's a great tune-up."

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outdoors

Fish like a **GIRL****Going through the tackle bag from last year**

By Beckie Gaskill
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Whether it is a tackle bag, a tackle box or a whole boat, this is the time of year when we, as anglers, go through everything we carried around all year last year.

"Oh! I forgot about this one!" is likely a familiar exclamation in garages and basements across the Northwoods when avid anglers (and, I think, especially tournament anglers) really sit down to go through everything they have been carrying around throughout the open water season. It is just a thing we do. The old "what if" creeps in all the time. For me, I know I start out the year in a fairly reasonable fashion. I have my confidence baits, the stuff I know for sure I am going to use. If I happen to have couple of difficult tournaments, or I do not do well on a favorite lake, out comes the dump truck...

"Beep. Beep. Beep." Just back that thing up to my tackle bag or my boat and dump in everything. Yes, everything. I mean, what if I have a bait at home that might be just the bait the fish want, or I need just a slightly different color, but I do not have it with me? What then?

A non-angler might ask where the logic is in that. Honestly, if I am being honest, I do not think there is much logic in it.

As a bait maker, I can honestly say that our first aim is to catch the fisherman, not to catch the fish. All of us bait makers are always looking for the next hot thing, the thing that one guy in that one big tournament said he caught 'em on that one time. That is the bait we will all be making next week. From there, it is about marketing that bait. You would think those of us in the bait making world would then "know better," and not get tricked into needing 17 colors of the same bait. But that is simply not the way an angler's brain works. We are meticulous when it comes to finding the "spot on the spot" and creating waypoints and even keeping fishing logs. But when it comes to baits... see above.

Each winter I am always shocked by the amount of "stuff" I have managed to pack into my tackle bag by the end of the year. Even with it crammed to the top, I still go through the other baits Chet has in the boat, just to make sure there are a few more things there — just in case I need them.

But, let me be completely honest, there have been tournaments where I have only picked up one rod of the seven or eight that I bring along. When I was running my own boat rather than being a co-angler, I often had 15 rods or more in the rod locker. But there are many times that I will not put down the one rod with which I



BECKIE GASKILL/LAKELAND TIMES

When my tackle bag is overflowing, it can be hard to remember what is at the bottom of the deep pockets. But that never seems to stop me from adding "one more thing" that I just might need for the next tournament.

start. I will use the same bait in the same color all day long. It depends on how the day starts. If we wind up on good fish right away in the morning, I have had days where I would die with that same rod, with the same bait, in my hand. Off the water, with hindsight being 20/20, as they say, changing it up might not have been the worst idea. But it gets into your head. You caught a four-pound smallie in the first half an hour and had a little more luck through the next two hours, so you cannot psychologically make yourself put that rod down and grab another. I am speaking of myself, certainly, but I know a good number of other tournament anglers are the same way.

So, what is that bait that I will throw all day if I catch a few fish on it? Will I give up "the juice?" Of course I will. And I will give it up right here because I know if a reader tries that bait and does not catch as many fish with it as they do with their own favorite, the rest of that pack will likely be found next winter at the bottom of the rod locker or tackle bag. That bait, that super special, only known to me bait? A skirted double tail grub on a football shakey head.

That is the top secret "juice." That said, I do not seem to have as much luck with these days as I did years ago, but most of the lakes we fish now are much more pressured than they were back then. The fish get smart. That is how they get big and old. Just like humans, fish do not get old by making bad choices.

If we are being completely honest, when we look at color, in dark water, black and blue is the ticket. If that does not seem to be working, I move to black and red. In clear water, I am using either green pumpkin red or watermelon red. And that should be the extent

of it. Of course, that is not the case, but it can be that easy. But what if tilapia is the hot ticket, or black and green is the flavor of the day? I suppose it is easy to see how this happens, even for non-fishermen, when it is explained like that.

I remember a conversation with one of my "coffee guys" back when I was a restaurant manager. He loved fishing, too, and we often swapped stories and tried to help each other out when one of us was struggling catching fish. He was going through a hard time once and asked me what color the fish were hitting.

"Bob, you can throw any color you want," I told him. "As long as it's green." That was true at that time. Green pumpkin or watermelon, and the flake color did not seem to matter for weeks: red, green, gold, orange, purple. It did not seem to matter, which was a lot of fun for the couple of weeks it lasted.

Here is the kicker — what works for me and on what I am catching fish after fish, may not work for the other person in the boat. We are no more than 20 feet away from each other, closer to 10 or 12, and we are targeting the same fish, but if the other person does not have the same confidence in the bait, he (or she) will catch fewer fish with it. I can almost guarantee that. It is a weird fishing phenomenon.

I would love to hear about everyone's favorite baits, or even just a favorite color. Feel free to drop me an email — and do not forget to send in fish photos, whether they are ice fishing or "soft water" fishing photos.

Beckie Gaskill may be reached at bgaskill@lakelandtimes.com or outdoors@lakelandtimes.com.

THE LAKE WHERE YOU LIVE**The colors of bluegills**

Ted Rulseh
COLUMNIST

I've enjoyed good fishing for bluegills this winter, and as I've pulled them up through the Birch Lake ice I've been struck by their simple beauty.

I've said before that tropical fish barely outshine some of our native species, notably crappies for their large and delicate-looking tail and fins, pumpkinseeds for their array of bright hues, and yes, bluegills for their wide range of coloration.

As I lift each one up (and put it right back down the hole), I can't help but notice the variety. Some are nondescript, just black vertical striping on a greenish background. Others are quite brilliant, especially when held up against a background of bluish ice or virginal white snow.

The black spot behind the gills (technically the operculum flap) is a consistent feature, and so is the blue tinting that runs along the lower part of the gill covers and extends toward the mouth, although this does vary in intensity. The uniformity pretty much ends there.

In some the base color of the body inclines more toward yellow than green; when hit by sunlight they almost seem to glow. Most striking is the color variation on the belly, between the pectoral fins and the gill covers. Sometimes it's a brilliant lemon yellow. Other times it's a rich orange, like the yolk of an egg fresh from the farm.

I've also noticed variability in the fishes overall shape, some more rounded than others. I wonder sometimes if these differences are innate to the species or if to some degree they exist because of the capacity of the sunfish family (of which bluegills are a member) to hybridize. Are some of the "bluegills" I catch actually crosses with pumpkinseeds or a less common sunfish species?

At times and on various lakes I have caught fish that combine the bluing around the gills with the mottled yellow and green body of a pumpkinseed — a hybrid for certain. Bluegills are also known to cross with green sunfish, which are less abundant in Wisconsin than pumpkinseeds but are distributed widely in the state's lakes and streams.

It's also true that coloration in many fish species changes to reflect the character of their surroundings. For example, I've caught smallmouth bass in stained-water lakes that have more of a reddish cast than their characteristic greenish bronze tone.

But then, the bluegills I'm catching through the ice present a broad spectrum of coloring even though they come from areas of perhaps 20 square feet of lake bottom.

In any case, part of the charm of fishing through the ice on the recent string of unseasonably mild days is not quite knowing how the fish pulling hard at the end of the line will look when I lift it from the hole.

I don't keep them because I already have a couple of meals' worth of fish in the freezer. But while the bluegills don't end up as a meal for the table, they do present a feast for the eyes.

Ted Rulseh is a writer, author and lake advocate who lives on Birch Lake in Oneida County. His new book, "Ripple Effects," has been released by UW Press. You can learn about it by visiting his website at <https://thelakeguy.net>.

PFAS

From page 1

The plaintiffs' amended complaint, filed Feb. 9, adds Wausau Paper, the former owner of the Rhinelander paper mill, as a defendant.

The current owner, Ahlstrom Munksjö, remains a defendant as does the 3M corporation which, the plaintiffs allege, sold and/or distributed products to

the mill that contained dangerous chemicals. The mill then "improperly disposed of PFAS-containing waste by spreading tons of this waste on farms in the Rhinelander area" causing extensive contamination of private well water, the plaintiffs allege.

"The Rhinelander Paper Mill was established in approximately 1903. It was acquired or through merger and acquisition became

Wausau Paper in approximately 1997," according to the narrative set forth in the amended complaint. "In approximately August of 2013 Wausau Paper Mills, LLC and Wausau Paper Corp. sold the Rhinelander Paper Miller to Expera Specialty Solutions, LLC and/or other successors in interest to Ahlstrom. Through these names changes, mergers and/or acquisitions there was an identity of ownership which remained the same."

"Additionally, or in the alternative, as part of the sale of the Rhinelander Paper Mill from Wausau Paper Mills, LLC and Wausau Paper Corp, Wausau Paper contractually retained some or all pre-sale liabilities related to the Rhinelander Paper Mill," the plaintiffs allege.

PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl 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. These chemicals are known to accumulate in the human body, posing risks to human health including certain cancers, liver damage and decreased fertility.

Among the health issues listed in the amended complaint, including health concerns allegedly afflicting the new plaintiffs added to the case since the original filing in August, are kidney cancer, kidney disease, thyroid disease and high cholesterol.

Ahlstrom, Wausau Paper, and their predecessors "knew or should have long known of the dangers associated with PFAS in products made and used at the Rhinelander Paper Mill and knew that disposal of PFAS-containing waste on farmlands could lead to groundwater contamination," the amended complaint reads.

The amended complaint also includes an extensive recitation of what is referred to as "defendants' knowledge and concealment of PFOA/PFOS hazards."

"On information and belief, by the 1970s, Defendant 3M knew, or reasonably should

have known, among other things, that: (1) PFOA and PFOS are toxic; and (2) upon entering the environment, PFOA and PFOS migrate through the subsurface, mix easily with groundwater, resist natural degradation, render drinking water unsafe and/or non-potable, and can be removed from property and drinking water supplies only at substantial expense," the plaintiffs allege. "Notwithstanding their respective knowledge of the dangers involved with PFAS Products, 3M willfully, negligently and carelessly: (1) designed, manufactured, marketed, and/or sold PFAS Products containing PFOA and/or PFOS; (2) issued instructions on how PFAS Products should be used and disposed of, thus improperly permitting PFOA and/or PFOS to contaminate soil and groundwater; (3) failed to recall and/or warn users of PFAS Products of the dangers of soil and groundwater contamination as a result of the standard use and disposal of these products; and, (4) further failed and refused to issue the appropriate warnings and/or recalls to the users of PFAS Products, notwithstanding the fact that Defendants knew the identity of those users."

As a direct result of defendants' acts as alleged "plaintiffs' properties have been contaminated, and will continue to be contaminated, with PFOA and PFOS (types of PFAS), the amended complaint notes.

"This has created an environmental and public health hazard until such contamination may be remediated. As a direct and proximate result, Plaintiffs must assess, evaluate, investigate, monitor, remove, clean up, correct, and remediate PFAS contamination from their properties at significant expense, loss and damage to Plaintiffs," the document continues.

"Defendants had a duty to evaluate and test such products adequately and thoroughly to determine their environmental fate and transport characteristics and potential human health and environmental impacts before they sold such products, but they breached this duty. Defendants moreover breached their duty to minimize the environmental harm caused by PFOA and PFOS. Moreover, Defendants failed to warn Plaintiffs of the known risks for environmental and health hazards arising from the usage of Defendants' PFAS in their intended manner

for its intended purpose."

Through the lawsuit, which is in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, the plaintiffs "seek to recover damages (including but not limited to compensatory, punitive, and/or consequential damages) arising from both personal injury to certain Plaintiffs and the continuous and ongoing contamination of all Plaintiffs' Properties by Defendants' PFAS," according to the amended complaint. "Such damages moreover include, but are not limited to, the past and future costs of restoring and remediating contamination from their real properties and drinking water wells, past and future medical expenses (for those alleging personal injuries), loss of earnings, and household expenses, among others."

In a statement to the *River News* in response to a request for comment on the amended complaint, Ahlstrom stressed that it has only owned the mill since 2018 "and has not used PFOA or PFOS in the Rhinelander Mill's manufacturing process."

"We are reviewing the amended complaint and have no further comment on it at this time, as it is Ahlstrom's policy not to provide comment on pending litigation," the statement reads.

"However, Ahlstrom acquired the Rhinelander Mill in 2018 and has not used PFOA or PFOS in the Rhinelander Mill's manufacturing process."

As of press time for this edition, Wausau Paper had yet to respond to our request for comment.

All of the defendants are expected to file written answers to the amended complaint in the coming weeks. The *River News* expects to report on those filings in detail.

A number of private wells in Stella, located just east of Rhinelander, have the highest levels of PFAS detected in Wisconsin to date. Surface water has also been contaminated to the point where the DNR last week offered updated guidance related to consumption of fish harvested from the Moen chain of lakes and the Hat Rapids flowage.

In addition, earlier this month, the agency completed a preliminary assessment of the PFAS-contaminated lands in Stella that included a recommendation that the site be added to the national Superfund inventory.

"The Town of Stella site was selected to

move forward in the process based on the number of impacted wells and impacted surface water," according to John Sager, the DNR hydrogeologist who prepared the preliminary assessment report.

Superfund, also known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act or CERCLA, is a 1980 law that allows the EPA to clean up contaminated sites. It also forces the parties responsible for the contamination to either perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-led cleanup work, according to the EPA website.

"The next step in the CERCLA process is a Site Inspection, this includes limited sampling of environmental media (e.g., soil and groundwater) to confirm existing analytical data," Sager explained. "Following the Site Inspection a preliminary HRS score is calculated, but additional investigation may be warranted to finalize an HRS score. At this time, we do not have a specific timeframe when EPA will score the site."

According to the EPA website, the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) is used to determine whether a particular site qualifies for placement on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL).

"Sites with preliminary HRS scores below 28.50 do not qualify for the NPL, and are assigned a No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP) decision," according to the EPA website. "The NFRAP decision can also be made at sites with preliminary HRS scores of 28.50 or higher if EPA determines the site would receive a 'no action' Record of Decision (ROD) if placed on the NPL. Sites that do not qualify for placement on the NPL remain with the state, tribe, municipality or other federal government agency. Sites that do qualify for the NPL and need further short- or long-term cleanup attention are referred to appropriate cleanup programs."

"NPL listing does not guarantee that DNR will receive any funding to assist with the (Stella) site," Sager stressed. "NPL listing allows EPA to determine if there are viable responsible parties or if Superfund Trust monies could be used. EPA would make that determination."

As of late 2023, there are more than 1,100 sites on the Superfund National Priorities List.

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

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BUSINESS MANAGER/ FINANCE DIRECTOR
 The AV-W School District is now accepting applications for a Business Manager/Finance Director.
 Job Summary: The Business Manager/Finance Director has the responsibility to provide sound fiscal management in the operation of all financial matters, including the development and management of the school budget, the borrowing and investing of money, and the management of accounts receivable and payable. The Business Manager/Finance Director of the district works under the direction of the District Administrator.
 Minimally qualified applicants will possess a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or Accounting with preferred applicants possessing a Master's Degree and DPI License #5008 - School Business Administrator. Previous related work experience is a plus.
 Qualified applicants must provide a complete application, resume, cover letter, and three letters of recommendation. Send to Arbor Vitae-Woodruff School District, % Personnel Committee, 11065 Old Hwy 51 N, Arbor Vitae, WI 54568.
 Job Type: Full-time
 Start Date: TBD Position Open Until Filled

NORTHWOODS

MARKETPLACE

CLASSIFIED NETWORK OF WISCONSIN

Miscellaneous
Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-888-355-6955 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Miscellaneous
Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-948-3442

Sporting Goods
GUN SHOW: February 16-18, 2024 Sunnyview Expo, 500 E. Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm. Admission: \$8 (14 & Under FREE) Buy/Sell/Trade 608-752-6677

100. ANNOUNCEMENTS

140. MISCELLANEOUS

RIVER NEWS CLASSIFIED DEADLINES: Thursday at 3 to be in the Tuesday River News and the Wednesday Super Shopper. Tuesday at Noon to be in the Friday River News. Please call 715-365-6397 with any questions.

250. EMPLOYMENT

262. EMPLOYMENT MISCELLANEOUS

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

The Lakeland Times is looking for a dynamic person to be an Outside Sales Representative. If you like seeing people and enjoy marketing, this is the job for you. Please send your resume to: Gregg Walker, Publisher, c/o The Lakeland Times, PO Box 790, Minocqua, WI 54548; or email gwalker@lakelandtimes.com

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262. EMPLOYMENT MISCELLANEOUS

REPORTER:
The Lakeland Times and The Northwoods River News is seeking a reporter to cover a variety of beats, but have a love of reporting about government entities, be it at the school, town, or county levels. This position may also require reporting about police and courts. Because this is a general assignment position, a day's work could take one to a school or county board meeting, a concert in the park, a luncheon sponsored by an area church group, or to the courthouse for the day's activities. We seek a reporter who can handle a camera, drop everything to get to the house fire down the road, and produce compelling copy that engages the reader and tells the entire story. The reporter will have a nose for news and the ability to go the extra mile - to think beyond the actions of the board or committee and produce stories that make a difference in the lives of our readers - and do it all on deadline. We seek candidates with experience, but will also consider those with the drive to learn and succeed in a fast-paced environment that demands attention to detail. To apply for this position, provide a cover letter and resume to Gregg Walker, PO Box 790, Minocqua, WI 54548. Materials may also be emailed directly to gwalker@lakelandtimes.com

264. EMPLOYMENT TRADE/SKILL

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.

264. EMPLOYMENT TRADE/SKILL

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Carpentry position(s) available. Must possess basic knowledge of construction, but willing to train the right person(s). Must have reliable transportation. Year round. Thompson Construction of Minocqua, Inc., Text/ call 715-614-2909 to have a confidential conversation.

300. FOR RENT

320. FOR RENT APARTMENTS

FOREST VIEW APTS NESTLED IN WOODED TRANQUIL SETTING MINOCQUA AREA

Spacious, like new, 2 bedroom, open concept kitchen, dining, living room. Includes water, sewer, garbage, appliances, dishwasher, laundry facility. 1 year lease. No pets. Call 715-315-2362

The Oneida Apartments, 28 N. Brown St., Rhldr. Newly remodeled, 1- BDRM. No pets. Units from \$500/ mo plus utilities. Sec. Deposit required. 715-362-6232

340. FOR RENT DUPLEXES / HOUSES / CONDOS

3 bedroom mobile home with large deck. Plus 2 car garage with attached workshop in the country. \$1,000 a month plus security deposit, credit check and references. (715)908-0377

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

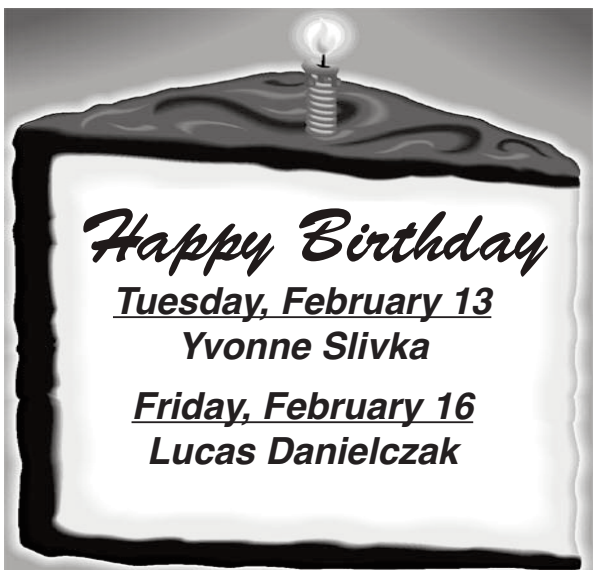
470. FOR SALE MISCELLANEOUS

Lanovno computer/ laptop - \$50. Weather Tec floor mats that fit a 2012 GMC Terrain. Price Negotiable. 715-409-6453

600. REAL ESTATE

650. REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Oneida County owned Real Estate For Sale: A detailed list of the properties, bid form, continued next column



650. REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

and other information can be obtained from the County website at <http://www.co.oneida.wi.us> under Announcements click 'Real Property Sale Offerings', or contact the Land Information Office, email lio@oneidacountywi.gov PH 715-369-6179. Bids due March 8th, 2024, 4PM. Parcel and minimum bid: Rhinelander RH-44 \$29,999.00, RH-906 \$25,000.00.

700. VEHICLES

720. VEHICLES PARTS & ACCESSORIES

For sale: 4 summer tires that fit 17" rims. \$200. 715-409-6453

800. SERVICES

820. SERVICES CONSTRUCTION / REMODELING

Master of Carpentry, Home Repair & Remodeling. Doors, windows, siding, gutters and additions. Specializing in log home repairs, interior/ exterior painting, skid steer and dump trailer work. Call or text: 262-620-9565

Roofing and Roof repairs, paint & stain, power wash, drywall repair, texture match, flooring and complete home repair services. Insured. 5 mi. radius of Rhinelander. 40+ years experience. Ken 715-891-7154

830. SERVICES GENERAL

RICK'S Clock Repair, Rhinelander. 715-360-7797. Repairing all types of clocks.

Road Gravel & Grading. Road and Building Site Construction. Tree Removal, Sand and Rock. 715-550-0443

860. SERVICES SNOWPLOWING

Plowing, roof raking, snow blowing. 5 miles/ Rhinelander. Ken 715-891-7154

930. WANTED TO BUY

Looking for large White Pine trees, 100 - 200 trees 18 inch and larger on the stump & 16 to 20 Red Pine. We will cut, skid and truck. If you can cut and skid to a good landing that will work out also. We will come in and select the trees to be harvested. Also interested in large Red Pine plantation, 25 years old +, and want to buy White Spruce & Black Spruce. Call anytime or text. If you have pictures that would help also. Please contact Ron at 715-250-2442

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The Northwoods River News

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CLASSIFIED CATEGORIES

- 050 ANIMALS
 - 060 LIVESTOCK
 - 070 PETS
 - 080 WANTED
- 100 ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - 110 BIRTHDAY/ ANNIVERSARY
 - 120 GIVEAWAY
 - 130 LOST/FOUND
 - 140 MISCELLANEOUS
 - 150 PERSONALS
- 200 BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL
 - 220 FOR LEASE
 - 240 OPPORTUNITIES
- 250 EMPLOYMENT
 - 252 ADMINISTRATIVE
 - 256 CHILD CARE
 - 258 HEALTH CARE
 - 260 FOOD SERVICE
 - 262 MISCELLANEOUS
 - 264 TRADE/SKILL
- 300 FOR RENT
 - 320 APARTMENTS
 - 340 DUPLEX/HOUSES
 - 350 MISCELLANEOUS FOR RENT
 - 360 ROOMS
- 400 ITEMS FOR SALE
 - 410 ANTIQUES
 - 420 BICYCLES
 - 430 HAY
 - 440 HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
 - 450 FARM, FLEA MKT
 - 460 FUEL/WOOD
 - 470 MISCELLANEOUS
 - 480 SPORTING GOODS
- 500 GENERAL SALES
 - 520 AUCTIONS
 - 530 ESTATE SALES
 - 540 GARAGE and RUMMAGE SALES
- 550 MISCELLANEOUS
- 600 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
 - 620 ACREAGE/LOTS
 - 640 MOBILE HOMES
 - 650 FOR SALE
 - 660 WANTED
 - 670 WATERFRONT
- 700 VEHICLES
 - 710 AUTOMOBILES
 - 720 PARTS & ACCESSORIES
 - 725 SUV'S
 - 730 TRUCKS
 - 740 VANS/BUSSES
- 750 VEHICLES/RECREATIONAL
 - 752 ATVS
 - 754 BOATS
 - 756 CAMPERS/RVS
 - 760 MOTORCYCLES
 - 766 PWCS
 - 780 SNOWMOBILES
 - 788 TRAILERS, PARTS, & ACCESSORIES
 - 790 WANTED
- 800 SERVICES
 - 810 CHILD CARE
 - 820 CONSTRUCTION/ REMODELING
 - 830 GENERAL
 - 840 LANDSCAPING
 - 860 SNOWPLOWING
- 900 SITUATION WANTED
- 930 WANTED TO BUY

**The Wednesday Super Shopper classified deadline is Thursday at 3 p.m.
Deadline for Tuesday River News is Thursday at 3 p.m.
Deadline for Friday River News is Tuesday at Noon.**