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Friday, February 7, 2025

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Sheriff's deputy, driver involved in fatal incident identified

By Heather Schaefer
OF THE RIVER NEWS

The Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) has identified the Oneida County sheriff's deputy and the driver involved in a traffic incident in Newbold last month that resulted in the driver's death.

The deceased driver is Matthew Johnson, 28, the DOJ announced in a press release issued late last week.

The officer involved in the incident, identified as sheriff's deputy Michael Bedish, has 4.5 years of law enforcement experience, according to the release.

Per agency policy, Bedish has been placed on administrative leave while an independent investigation is conducted.

Authorities did not immediately respond to a request for further identifying information about Johnson, including his municipality of residence.

See **Incident**. . . page 4



Bond reduced for Michigan man accused of threatening judge, newspaper publisher

By Heather Schaefer
OF THE RIVER NEWS

A Michigan man accused of making threats against an Oneida County judge and a newspaper publisher is free after posting \$2,000 in cash.

Court records show Peter

Thomas Gruich was released from custody on Tuesday after Judge Leon Stenz of Forest County agreed to reduce his bond from \$40,000 to \$2,000 cash.

In arguing for the bond reduction, defense attorney Brian Bennett noted that Gruich has been incarcer-

ated for 60 days and is "regretting some choices that he made in the past relative to this case."

Specifically, Bennett



Gruich

said his client regrets any contact with Minocqua Brewing Company owner Kirk Bangstad or anyone associated with him.

"He's deeply remorseful and wishes to get this thing moving forward," he added.

See **Bond**. . . page 9



HEATHER SCHAEFER/RIVER NEWS

FIRE DESTROYS PINE LAKE BUILDING

Volunteer firefighters from the Town of Pine Lake and several other local departments responded to a structure fire on Hildy Lane, off of W. View Road, on Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 5, 2025. Firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze but the owner advised the River News the residence is a total loss. No one was injured as the owner was at work when the fire broke out. We expect to report more information on the fire in a future edition of the River News.

Oneida County snowmobile trails to open today

By Trevor Greene
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

A public service announcement (PSA) was issued by the Oneida County forestry department on Tuesday advising the public that the county's snowmobile trail system will open at 8 a.m.

"All lakes and river trails in Oneida County are considered unsafe and should not be utilized until they have been clearly marked by a local snowmobile club," the PSA reads. "As always, the Oneida County Forestry, Land, & Recreation Department reminds riders to stay on the marked trails. Off trail riding is trespassing and could result in closure or loss of trails and citations and fines for those who participate."

There was mounting pressure for Oneida County to open its trails in the

last few weeks, given that Vilas and Iron counties opened their trail systems earlier in the season.

Additionally, while the pressure was mounting, there was a flurry of events involving the forestry department, the county board's forestry, land and recreation committee and the Oneida County Snowmobile Council over the last two weeks of January regarding whether to open the trails or not.

An initial PSA was issued on Jan. 24 after the snowmobile council voted 6-4 to open the trails, though the trail system remained closed due to a seven-vote majority being needed.

Then, on Jan. 27, the forestry committee voted 3-1 to override the snowmobile council's decision to open the trails.

See **Trails**. . . page 11

Oneida County forestry dept., committee clash on code *News analysis*

By Richard Moore
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

It hasn't snowed much, and significant snow might or might not be on the way, but Oneida County snowmobile trails are open as of today, which is a big delight for snowmobilers and a big relief to many area businesses.

But the controversy that has surrounded the county-funded trail system isn't going away any time soon, and one of the central issues that has come into focus is where the authority to open and close the trails resides.

See **Code**. . . page 5

Future business leaders compete at regionals

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) regionals were held Saturday, Feb. 1 at Edgar High School. Eight Rhinelander students competed against 29 other schools in the North/Central Wisconsin area.

Students could choose various types of events to compete in, such as taking a test on related business topics including accounting or personal finance or students could perform a presentation or speech for events such as desktop publishing or public speaking, according to a School District of Rhinelander press release. Some competitors competed on the day of competition and others took tests prior to the Regional Leadership Conference for

a total of 19 competitors from Rhinelander.

The top three competitors in each event advance to state; 10 members will go from Rhinelander. Five came home with a first place medal: Payton McCue (Client Services), Kate Ripple (Business Law), Brody Kowieski (Impromptu Speaking), Greyson Gremban (Financial Math), and Kamden Kostrova (Computer Applications). In addition, one team took second place in their event: Aiden Ostermann, John Turek, and Michael Schiek (Entrepreneurship). Placing third was the team of Clara Pudlowski and Caden Ehrhardt (Introduction to Event Planning).

Placing fourth was the team of Luna Grage & Evi

Sawyer (Marketing) and placing fifth was the team of Sam Caselton and Josh Haselton (Business Management). Also competing for Rhinelander were: Grant Gremban, Lylah Schroeder, Matthew Carpenter, Skylar Cleveland, and Barak Rappley. Rhinelander FBLA was recognized with a chapter award as well: first place for outstanding community service.

The state competition which will be held in Green Bay from March 30 - April 1.

For more information, or to contribute financially to the students competing at the state level, email chapter advisor Mischell Fryar at fryarmis@rhinelander.k12.wi.us.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured are (front row): Josh Haselton, Sam Caselton, Payton McCue, Greyson Gremban. Back row: Brody Kowieski, Aiden Ostermann, John Turek, Michael Schiek.

Rhineland Community Foundation opens 2025 grant application cycle

The Rhineland Community Foundation (RCF) has announced that its 2025 annual grant application cycle is open from now until Feb. 28. Qualified organizations serving the Rhineland area are encouraged to apply for funding to support impactful projects and programs that benefit the community, RCF officials explained in a press release.

Since its establishment in 2015, RCF has distributed over \$1 million in grants to local organizations. These funds have supported a wide variety of initiatives, addressing both current and emerging needs, the release states. In 2024 alone, RCF awarded \$59,337 to 25 organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Rhineland area.

This annual grant cycle is made possible through the Rhineland Community Permanent Endowment Fund and additional non-endowed funds, sustained by donations from individuals and businesses within and beyond the local community. By pooling contributions of all sizes, RCF ensures resources are available to address today's challenges while investing in the future, the release states.

Grants will be evaluated based on alignment with RCF's mission, the community impact of the proposed project, the visibility of the initiative, the population it will serve, the demonstrated need for funding, and the financial management of the applicant organization. Through this process, RCF aims to support projects that advance the foundation's vision for a thriving Rhineland community, the release states.

Eligible applicants include charitable organizations classified as 501(c)(3) under the Internal Revenue Code, local units of state or national charitable organizations, schools, hospitals, governmental units, and religious institutions offering programs that serve the public at large. Additional details regarding project eligibility and funding guidelines are available in the grant application materials. RCF's mission is to facilitate charitable giving and work with donors to enhance the quality of life in Rhineland now and for future generations. With a vision of a community reaching its full potential through philanthropy, RCF is committed to supporting initiatives that make a meaningful difference, the release states. Grant applications can be accessed at RhinelandCommunityFoundation.com.

Nicolet College accepting applications for board of trustees

The Nicolet College District Board Appointment Committee is accepting applications for four positions on the Nicolet College Board of Trustees. Three of the successful candidates will serve a three-year term, ending June 2028, and the interim employer vacancy until June 2027, according to a Nicolet press release.

The open positions include one member who is an employer, one member who is an employee, one additional member and one to fill an interim employer vacancy, the release states.

Per state guidelines, all candidates must meet a number of requirements in order to be eligible for Wisconsin Technical College System district board membership. Candidates must be residents of the technical college district, must submit an application/affidavit with a completed questionnaire and at least two written references,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Nicolet College District Board Appointment Committee is accepting applications for four positions on the Nicolet College Board of Trustees.

and must attend a district board appointment committee public hearing in person to be interviewed. The hearing is scheduled for 3 p.m., Tuesday, March 25, at Nicolet College in Rhineland.

A second hearing is scheduled for 3 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at Nicolet College in Rhineland. If all candidates are able to attend the March 25 hearing, the Thursday March 27 hearing will be cancelled.

Additional information about the appointment process, applicant requirements, and online applications are available at www.nicoletcollege.edu/about/board-trustees/board-appointment-process.

Applications are due to Kris Peeters, Nicolet College, PO Box 518, Rhineland, WI 54501,

by 4 p.m. on Monday, February 24.

For more information about the process, contact Kris at 715-365-4416.

Nicolet College is governed by a nine-member District Board appointed by the Iron, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas County Board Chairs.

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local & state news

Tree board poised to revitalize city's urban forest

BY RIVER NEWS STAFF

With the help of a grant from the Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service, the City of Rhinelander Tree Board is preparing to revitalize and diversify the Hodag City's urban forest.

"Working with landowners, this grant will allow the city to remove and replace dead or dangerous trees on private property and, in turn, plant two trees for every tree removed," the tree board announced in a press release.

"Trees in cities are mighty multitaskers," the board noted. "They reduce energy costs, mitigate air and water pollution, boost housing values, provide wildlife habitat, and even improve community health outcomes."

"The city's tree canopy has been severely impacted by disease, invasive insects such as the Emerald Ash Borer, and unavoidable street construction projects,"

the release states. "A replacement will be available for every hazard tree removed on private property, providing there is adequate space, and another will be planted in city-owned green-space. Care will be taken to select the right tree for the right space, ensuring it thrives and doesn't interfere with utilities such as sewer and power lines."

To apply, email forester@rhinelanderwi.us or call Tom Jerow at 715-401-1578. All qualifying properties must lie within the city limits of Rhinelander.

In addition to clean water and air, trees provide many more ecosystem services. The city is partnering with the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department (OCLW) to concentrate on one specific element of wildlife habitat: pollinator species.

"Pollinator species are declining and would benefit greatly from improved habi-

tat," said Baerbel Ehrig, conservation specialist with OCLW. "The benefits will cascade to many other wildlife species, including humans whose agricultural crops rely up to 75 % on pollinators."

By working with OCLW, the city hopes to balance planting trees that benefit pollinators with the need to plant diverse species. Many of these "Pollinator Trees" are fruit-bearing.

"Planting diverse species will help our urban forest be more resilient to the next disease or insect infestation, and planting the right tree in the right spot will avoid conflicts with urban infrastructure," Jerow explained.

More information about the city's efforts to maintain a healthy and vibrant urban forest will be available at Nicolet College's Earth Day Sustainability Fair, scheduled for April 22 from 3 to 7 p.m., or by contacting the city forester at forester@rhinelanderwi.us.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

With the help of a grant from the Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service, the City of Rhinelander Tree Board is planning to revitalize and diversify the city's urban forest

VA Medical Center announces Rhinelander town hall

In a push to strengthen ties with local veterans, the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center will hit the road in February for a series of town halls across Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The three-day tour, running Feb. 12-14, will bring VA leadership directly to veterans in five communities, including Rhinelander, offering face-to-face discussions about healthcare services,

benefits, and program updates.

"These aren't just meetings — they're a chance for real conversation," said John P. Shealey, Medical Center Director. "Whether you're currently en-

rolled in VA health care or not, we want to hear from you."

The Rhinelander meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. Feb. 12 at VFW Post 3143 (120 W. Park St.).

County Veterans Service Officers will join VA Medical Center leadership at each stop, ready to answer questions about benefits and services. Veterans' family members and community stakeholders are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact the VA Public Affairs Office at 906-774-3300, ext. 32001.

St. Patrick's Day pub crawl cards available

Mark your calendars with a four-leaf clover (or maybe a dancing leprechaun), because St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner.

The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Brown Street in downtown Rhinelander at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15 and \$5 cards are available now, from participating businesses, for the associated pub crawl. Card sales benefit the Safe Ride Home Program.

Those who purchase a pub crawl card will be eligible to win drawings of numerous \$100 prizes, including a \$100 bonus drawing for those with completed cards and a separate \$100 drawing for those in attendance.

The drawing will take place at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Big Daddy's in downtown Rhinelander.

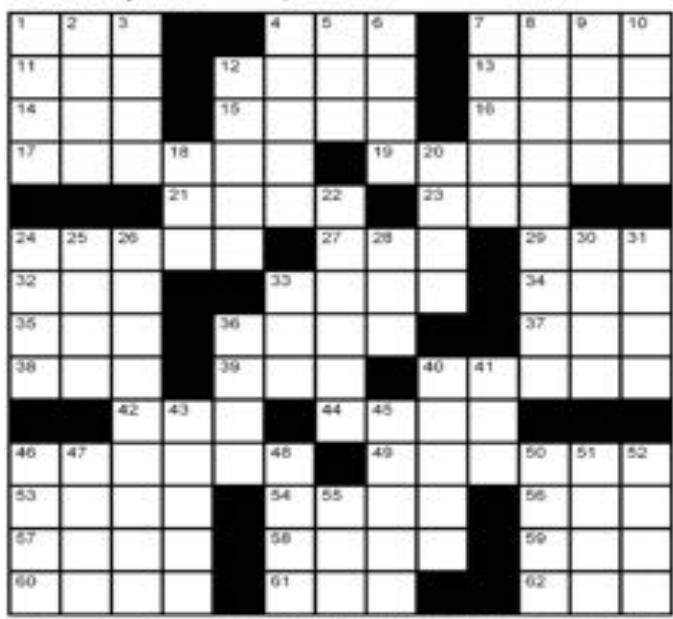
Individuals do not need to be present at the drawing to be eligible for cash prizes.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Unskilled actor
 - 4 Criticize
 - 7 Pack
 - 11 Swellhead's problem
 - 12 Red Muppet
 - 13 Desire
 - 14 Feel poorly
 - 15 Witticism
 - 16 Fashion magazine
 - 17 Conductor's place
 - 19 Hire
 - 21 — Canaveral, Florida
 - 23 Stopped a fast
 - 24 Mean dwelling
 - 27 Glass container
 - 29 Pi follower
 - 32 Copy
 - 33 Sleep
 - 34 Recipe direction
 - 35 Marshy area
 - 36 Engrave
 - 37 Cakes and —
 - 38 Demolition material
 - 39 Soak, as flax
 - 40 Accepted rule
 - 42 — Jima
 - 44 Cabbage salad
 - 46 Spatter
 - 49 Raise
 - 53 Layer
 - 54 Fairy tale heavy
 - 56 California's Big —
 - 57 Commedia dell'—
 - 58 Look
 - 59 Grassland
 - 60 Keg contents
 - 61 Tip
 - 62 Days of yore
- DOWN**
- 1 Stack
 - 2 Exchange premium

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 3 Give shape to
- 4 Chubby
- 5 Friend in France
- 6 "Uh-uh"
- 7 Used a broom
- 8 One at the helm
- 9 Norway's capital
- 10 Milk part
- 12 Same
- 18 Rocks in a pitcher
- 20 Grocery store
- 22 Ousts
- 24 Tool handle
- 25 Tennis event
- 26 Air
- 28 Powder residue
- 30 Town in Hawaii
- 31 Bovines
- 33 GPS suggestion
- 36 Love god
- 40 Antic
- 41 Piercing tool
- 43 Irrigate
- 45 Enticed
- 46 Picket line crosser
- 47 Tiny opening
- 48 "— springs eternal"
- 50 Ait
- 51 Gasoline
- 52 Jazz type
- 55 Mil. rank



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obituaries

Dallas Kelley

Dallas Kelley, age 91, of Rhinelander, died on February 2, 2025 at Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff. He was born on December 7, 1933, in Rhinelander, the son of Clarence and Myrtle (Alexander) Kelley. He attended schools in Rhinelander and then enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1952. He attained the rank of S/Sgt and served as a radio operator in security services. Upon his honorable discharge in 1956, he returned to Rhinelander and went to work for the Cleary's Dairy. In 1966 he went to work for the Rhinelander Paper Company and retired in 1996.

In 1969 he married the former Barbara Sutton and she preceded Dallas in death on January 19, 2023. They were blessed with nearly 55 years together.

Dallas is survived by his daughters Lauren Kraus and Terri Janes, his stepson Matt Gilman, his brother Pat Kelley, his six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he was also preceded in death by his parents, his stepdaughter Carla Toney, his stepson Michael Gilman and his brother Bruce Kelley.

Private family services will be held at a later date. You may leave your private condolences for the Kelley family at www.carlsonfh.com. Interment will be in the Forest Home Cemetery. The Carlson Funeral Home (715-369-1414) is serving the Kelley family.



Kelley



Michael John Perry

Michael John Perry, age 77, of Rhinelander, died on January 30, 2025, at the Aspirus Rhinelander Hospital. He was born on February 9, 1947, in Rhinelander, the son of Kenneth and Dorothy (Lindner) Perry.

He attended schools in the area and graduated from Rhinelander High School in 1965. Shortly after graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and



Perry



served in Vietnam. Upon his honorable discharge he returned to Rhinelander.

On April 1, 1978, Michael married the former Janice Roche and they shared over 46 wonderful years together.

Michael was employed by the Rhinelander Paper Mill for many years and worked there until his retirement in 2012. He was also a member of the First United Methodist Church. He was a longtime member and Past Commander of the Ray Rousseau VFW Post #3143 in Rhinelander. He also served on the local Honor Guard honoring his fellow veterans for many years.

Michael is survived by his wife Janice, his sisters Pamela Fleischman, Debra Lutsow, Anita Perry, and Lisa (Jeff) Javenkowski, his brother Jeffrey (Jeanette) Perry, his stepsister Judith (Bernard) Durkee-Peter, other family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his brothers Steven Perry and Daniel Perry.

Visitation for Mike will be held on Monday, February 10, 2025 from 10 a.m. to noon, with funeral services following at noon, all at the Carlson Funeral Home. The Reverend Mark Klaisner will be officiating. Interment will follow in the Northland Memorial Park Cemetery. You may leave your private condolences for the Perry family at www.carlsonfh.com.

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

David Nelson Tolsted

David Nelson Tolsted, age 90, of Rhinelander, died on Monday, February 3, 2025, at his home. He was born on October 26, 1934, in Fond du Lac, the son of Victor and Laura (Nelson) Tolsted.

He attended schools in the Adams/Friendship area, and grew up in Arkdale. After high school, David attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for two years. He was then drafted into the United States Army, where he served in Germany during the Cold War. Once discharged from the service, he finished his schooling at UW Stevens Point and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology.



Tolsted



After college he accepted a job with the Department of Agriculture in La Crosse. In 1976, he was transferred to the Forestry Sciences Lab in Rhinelander where he worked until his retirement in 1996. In his retirement, he did contract work for the University of Minnesota.

In 1968, he married Bernice Nelson in Necedah, and they shared nearly 60 wonderful years together.

David enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing golf, and cribbage. Above all, he loved spending time with his family.

David is survived by his wife Bernice, his grandson Ryder Nelson Tummett, his daughter-in-law Kara Tolsted, other family, and many friends. He was preceded in death by his daughter Christine Tolsted-Tummett, his son Mark Tolsted, and his parents.

A memorial service will take place for David on Friday, February 7, 2025 at the Carlson Funeral Home at noon with a visitation from 10 a.m. until the time of service. Interment will take place at the Northwoods National Cemetery immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers you may direct your memorials to the family. You may leave your private condolences for the Tolsted family at www.carlsonfh.com. The Carlson Funeral Home (715-369-1414) is handling the arrangements for the family.

George Joseph Neuber

George Joseph Neuber, 70, of Rhinelander, passed away on Sunday, February 2, 2025, at his home. He was born on August 29, 1954, in Rhinelander, the son of the late Earl and Aurelia (Meverden) Neuber.

George grew up in Appleton, where he attended Xavier High School. His family moved to Chilton, where he graduated from high school and worked side-by-side with his father on their family amusement business. In 1975, he met and married the love of his life, Jessie Wanty, and together they raised their family on his grandparents' farm in Chilton. In the late 1990s, George and Jessie made their dream come true by moving to the Northwoods and settling in Rhinelander, where George built their home from the ground up on what he fondly called his



Neuber

"own little piece of heaven."

A man of many talents, George was always the go-to person when something needed to be built or fixed. Whether it was a car, a home, or any other project, if there was a problem, George was the man to solve it. His unmatched work ethic, attention to detail, and willingness to tackle any challenge made him a master of many trades. George was also always ready to lend a helping hand to others. Whether it was a neighbor in need or a friend facing a tough situation, George's generosity and willingness to pitch in were evident in everything he did.

Over the years, George accumulated millions of safe driving miles as an over-the-road truck driver, spent over a decade as a master cheesemaker. In 2023, he joined the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association as the Spudmobile Educator and Outreach Administrator, where he shared his passion for agriculture with the public and children at school events and Packers games.

He is survived by his loving wife, Jessie Neuber; children: Seth (Valerie) Neuber, Nathan (Krystin Clemo) Neuber, Matthew (Lindsey) Neuber, and Amber (David) McGinley; grandchildren: Tressie, Sam, Joseph, Mason, Wyatt, Connor and Liberty; his siblings: Peggy Neuber, Marie (Douglas) Fink, and Paul (Cindy) Neuber and many nieces and nephews.

George was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Aurelia Neuber; and siblings: Cheryl Landwehr and Earl "Manny" Neuber, sister-in-law Jill Schroeder, brother-in-law Wimpy Wanty, father and mother-in-law Bernice and Jennie Wanty.

Memorial services will be held at The Pines Event Center, 5840 Forest Lane, Rhinelander, WI 54501 on Sunday, February 9, 2025.

Visitation will start at 10 a.m. with services beginning at noon with a luncheon to follow. You may leave your private condolences for the Neuber family at www.carlsonfh.com. The Carlson Funeral Home (715-369-1414) is serving the Neuber family.

George will be deeply missed by all who knew him, especially for his incredible talent, unwavering dedication to his family, and his hands-on approach to life. His legacy of hard work, generosity, and love for others will continue to live on in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

ONEIDA COUNTY COURT

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

Darius J. Diver, 24, Lac du Flambeau, cited for shoplifting (under \$200), has intake on April 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Carter William Quade, 20, Arbor Vitae, cited for fishing without a license (R), had intake on Jan. 27.

Riley Robert Wehmeyer, 21, New Holstein, cited for possession of illegally sized fish, had intake on Jan. 27.

Thomas Ryan Graeber, 62, Rhinelander, cited for operating a snowmobile on prohibited public property, has intake on Feb. 17.

Jack Bernard Skaletski, 62, Green Bay, cited for fishing without a license (R), has intake on Feb. 24 at 9:30 a.m.

Mitchell James Engelhardt, 28, Saint Germain, cited for shopping/retail theft, has intake on Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m.

Augustine T. Allen, 33, Lac du Flambeau, charged with possession of narcotic drugs (repeater) and bail jumping (misdemeanor), has a pre-trial conference on March 11 at 2:30 p.m. and a signature bond of \$500.

Danielle K. Hitter, 35, Rhinelander, charged with possession of an illegally obtained prescription, possession of methamphetamine, and bail jumping (misdemeanor), had an ad-

vised initial appearance on Jan. 28 and has a cash bond of \$500.

Hope L. Shawano, 53, Rhinelander, charged with failure to report to county jail (10 days +), has an adjourned initial appearance on March 10 at 2:30 p.m. and a signature bond of \$1,000.

Mary E. Poer, 61, Minocqua, charged with 2nd degree recklessly endangering safety (use of a dangerous weapon) and operating a firearm while intoxicated, has an adjourned initial appearance on March 10 at 2:30 p.m. and a signature bond of \$1,000.

Kyle C. Wittkowske, 32, Woodruff, charged with bail jumping (felony) and disorderly conduct (domestic abuse), has an adjourned initial appearance on March 10 at 2:30 p.m. and a signature bond of \$1,500.

Jonathan William Haack, 57, Rhinelander, charged with theft in a business setting (<=\$2,500), has an adjourned initial appearance on March 10 at 2:30 p.m. and a signature bond of \$1,000.

James Lee Shea, 24, Merrill, charged with possession of THC (repeater), had a warrant issued for his arrest..

Nathan Thomas Lawrence, 24, Rhinelander, charged with OWI (2nd), had an initial appearance on Jan. 21 and has a signature bond of \$1,500.

Isabella Alyssia Bol, 17, Sayner, cited for possession of tobacco as

a minor, has intake on Feb. 24 at 9:30 a.m.

Michelle Renee Skinner, 60, Rhinelander, charged with bail jumping (felony and misdemeanor) and retail theft (intentionally taking <=\$500), had an initial appearance on Jan. 30.

Brett Peter Degroot Jr., 28, Rhinelander, charged with failure to update information as a sex offender (repeater), has an adjourned initial appearance on Mar. 10 at 2:30 p.m. and a signature bond of \$5,000.

James R. Poikonen, 32, Rhinelander, charged with bail jumping (felony) and disorderly conduct (domestic abuse, repeater), has an adjourned initial appearance on Feb. 10 at 2:30 p.m. and a cash bond of \$500.

Daniel Gerald Ferguson, 64, Ironwood, Mich., charged with theft in a business setting (>\$10,000-\$100,000, repeater), had a voluntary appearance on Jan. 31.

Daniel Allan Erickson, 36, Hurley, charged with theft in a business setting (>\$10,000-\$100,000; PTAC, as a Party to a Crime) and bail jumping (felony and misdemeanor), had a voluntary appearance on Jan. 31.

Jonah Williams Walker, 20, Eagle River, charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, and bail jumping (misdemeanor), has an initial appearance on Feb. 24 at 1:30 p.m.

Incident

From page 1

According to the DOJ, Johnson was killed after he failed to comply with Bedish's attempted traffic stop.

According to the DOJ, during the pursuit Johnson's vehicle crossed the center line and collided with another vehicle, injuring six occupants in that vehicle.

"At approximately 9:15 p.m. (on Jan. 17) an Oneida County Sheriff's Office Deputy Michael Bedish, 4.5 years law enforcement service, attempted to initiate a traffic stop on Highway 47 at Northwestern Avenue," according to the release issued late Friday afternoon. "Matthew Johnson, 28, failed to stop, prompting a vehicle pursuit. The pursuit ended when Johnson crossed into the opposite lane of traffic, crashing his vehicle and striking another vehicle near the intersection of State Highway 47 and Bridge Road in the Township of Newbold. The victim vehicle contained six passengers, all of whom sustained injuries. EMS was contacted and law enforcement attempted life-saving measures on Johnson; however, Johnson was pronounced deceased on scene. All injured victims were transported to local hospitals for treatment."

DCI is leading the investigation with the assistance of a Crime Response Specialist and the Wisconsin State Patrol, the release states.

"DCI is continuing to review evidence and determine the facts of this incident and will turn over the investigative reports to the Oneida County District Attorney's office when the investigation concludes," the release states.

Bedish's squad camera was activated during the incident, according to the release.

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

Code

From page 1

The controversy ignited when the Oneida County Snowmobile Council voted against opening the county trail system due to poor snow conditions, especially in the southern part of the county. The vote was 6-4 to open the trails, but the council's bylaws mandate a supermajority of seven out of 10 "yes" votes to open the system. That

angered those in the northern half of the county, where the snow, while not ideal, rendered the trails rideable.

Prompted by a public outcry, the county's forestry committee held a special committee meeting on January 27, voting 3-1 to override the council's decision, thereby opening the trail system but allowing individual clubs to opt out and stay closed. The forestry committee based its

vote on a belief that the ultimate authority to open and close county-funded trails resides with the county and not the council.

Still, the snowmobile council held another vote, which again failed to meet the supermajority threshold. Despite the forestry committee's vote, all club trails stayed closed after that vote, presumably to abide by the bylaws of the snowmobile council.

The controversy deepened when it came to light that one of the "no" votes came from the Bo-Boen Club based in St. Germain. In contrast to its Oneida County vote, that club voted to open Vilas County trails, and, it was revealed, the club also asked the Oneida County Snowmobile Council and the county's forestry department for special permission to open three miles of the Highline Trail in Oneida County, near St. Germain, despite its vote to keep the rest of the system closed. That permission was granted.

Those votes prompted a quick response from Oneida County board chairman Scott Holewinski.

"Of course they want to keep all the business up by St. Germain and Vilas," Holewinski said. "So it's a wrong system when you've got conflict between who's going to open and who's not going to open."

Two questions persist: Who does have ultimate authority in the opening of the trails? And: Who sets Oneida County forestry department policy, unelected forestry department officials or the elected supervisors of the forestry committee?

The answers depend upon whom you ask. Ask the state and the answer is clear — the state vests the authority and funding for trails in the counties, and it's their call to make on trail openings and closures.

Ask the Oneida County forestry committee — the elected county supervisors who supposedly oversee the county forestry department and set its policy — and they say, at least according to a majority vote of the committee on January 27, that the county makes the call.

Ask the Oneida County forestry department, and they have a different answer entirely, namely, that the county and the county's snowmobile council must both approve openings and closures, the forestry committee's vote notwithstanding.

Ask the county's corporation counsel who has the authority, and it's not certain because, as far as we know, no one did ask him, except

this newspaper. The corporation counsel did not respond to a message asking if anyone else contacted him and what his interpretation might be.

What the state says

According to the state DNR, snowmobile trail aids grants must issue to counties or tribes. The money awarded in grants to Wisconsin counties comes from snowmobile registrations, trail pass revenue, and gas tax from some of the gas used in snowmobiles, the DNR states. The grants are used to reimburse more than 600 snowmobile clubs for expenses.

According to a January 29 email from Snowmobile Grant Program manager Jillian Steffes, the state considers the county to be the authority for opening and closing trails. Steffes was responding to an inquiry from Oneida County Snowmobile Trail coordinator and assistant forestry director Eric Rady.

In his email, Rady informed Steffes that he had received a question from a county board supervisor: "If the Oneida County trail system as a whole, were to be closed but one particular club wants to open and that particular club did maintain (sign, brush, groom, pack, open interior gates, close all other exterior trails properly and legally) their specific trails, would they be allowed to get funding for doing work on their trails while the Oneida County snowmobile trail system and all other clubs are closed?"

Steffes said the DNR's agreement was with the county only, and the county could make the call if it agreed, with certain requirements.

"Our agreement is with the county, and the club would be paid for doing work on behalf of the county," Steffes wrote. "So the county would have to be in agreement with this particular group of trails being open, and it would need to be publicly advertised as such so that all members of the snowmobile community were aware these trails are open."

Opening one club's trails wasn't ideal, Steffes continued, but it was not forbidden.

"We prefer counties open/close all their trails (within reason) on a countywide basis if possible, but a county CAN open/close 'zones' so if this were to be considered a designated zone, it could be managed separately in that regard," she wrote.

In addition, Steffes added, the club already could receive reimbursement from the county for work spent

preparing the trails for opening, so she thought — and inquired — that the only difference would be additional grooming.

Conflicts between clubs about opening and closing just come with the territory, Steffes advised.

"I know you'd rather not have the county stuck in the middle of an individual club vs. the rest of the county's clubs, but I'm afraid it's the nature of the beast with these 'county snowmobile trail aids' grants," she wrote. "That being said, you still have our full support to manage your trail system as you need to from a sustainability and practicality standpoint. If it is not appropriate to open the trails, you are under no obligation to open them due to club pressure, and as such do not have to approve additional grooming entries."

In other words, it's the county's call to open and close the trails, by zone or club or countywide, no matter club pressure. As a practical matter, each club could represent a zone.

The forestry committee

A majority of the county forestry committee essentially enshrined that policy in a formal vote at the January 27 special meeting it held. Specifically, the committee voted to open the county's state-funded snowmobile trail system, giving individual clubs the option to stay closed or to open but overriding a vote the previous week by the Oneida County Snowmobile Council to keep all the trails closed due to snow conditions.

That vote aligned with Steffes' position that the snowmobile clubs were merely doing work on behalf of the county, that the county could open/close trails for one club or sets of trails as designated zones, and that the DNR would give the county "full support to manage your trail system as you need to from a sustainability and practicality standpoint."

The vote by the forestry committee to open the trail system but allow individual clubs the right to opt out prevailed 3-1, with committee members Collette Sorgel and Mitch Ives joining committee chairman Bob Almekinder in voting yes, while committee member Chris Schultz voted no. Member Robert Briggs was absent.

During deliberation over the motion, a question was raised whether the forestry committee could override the snowmobile council's vote.

Almekinder said there was a serious question about the legality of the

snowmobile council's bylaws and the council's authority to control the opening and closing of the state-funded trails.

"The question was brought up whether or not the way that the snowmobile clubs vote is even legal," Almekinder said. "I looked into it, and we decided to go ahead with this meeting. I was assured that I'm on solid ground."

It's unclear where Almekinder received his assurance that the committee was on solid ground. Corporation counsel Michael Fugle wasn't at the meeting, and later said that he did not provide that advice.

Despite the DNR's position, and despite the committee's vote to assert its legal authority over trail openings and closings, there was a complication: the county code, in which it could be argued that the county ceded its sole authority and gave the snowmobile council joint authority over trail openings and closings.

On the one hand, the code states that approved snowmobile are trails that "receive state funding under Ch. 350 and are sponsored by the Oneida County Forestry Department or trails in which Oneida County holds the land use agreement, or trails on land owned by Oneida County."

So that appears to give control of the trails completely to the county as the state-sponsored party with the money, or with the land use agreement or through ownership.

However, the next section of the code states that the official open and closing dates are those dates "selected by the Oneida County Forestry Department in conjunction with the Oneida County Snowmobile Council and which is published on the Oneida County website, designating the approved snowmobile trails [closed or open] for snowmobile use."

The question is, what does "in conjunction with" mean?

In some dictionary meanings, and to many observers — and apparently to the forestry committee — it means "in close association or consultation with." The grammatical construction supports that interpretation: Rather than stating that the dates are selected by the department and the council, the language explicitly states that the dates are selected by the Oneida County Forestry Department, and then adds the council in a more subordinate context, as if in the sense of "in close consultation with."

See **Code**. . . page 11

Church Directory

RHINELANDER FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

135 E. Larch Street, Rhinelander
715-365-1535 • www.rhinelanderrucc.org
10:00 a.m. Sunday In-Church Worship Service as well as LIVE on Facebook

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@outlookcom

The Rhinelander Ministerial Association meets the third Thursday of each month at 10 AM at St. Augustines Episcopal Church in Rhinelander.

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

northwoods opinion

HOW TO COMMENT

Email letters to news@rivernewsonline.com

Fax to (715) 365-6361

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

THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS : OUR VIEW

This can never happen again

Our views represent the institutional voice of The Northwoods River News. They are researched and written independent of the newsroom.

GREGG WALKER, Publisher | RICHARD MOORE, Columnist

As of today, snowmobile trails are open in Oneida County and that's a good thing, but it can't mask the reality that the opening was delayed and hampered by a flawed system for opening and closing snowmobile trails that inflicted serious economic injury to many area small businesses and to the general local economy.

We happen to know that just three local businesses in Minocqua have together suffered losses totaling more than \$1 million. That's just three businesses, but many, many more throughout the county have suffered extensively as well. The damage of keeping trails closed in an area where they are rideable inflicts pain not just for bar owners and restaurants and lodging establishments, but gas stations and grocery stores and gift shops and more — the pain pulses violently through the entire local economy.

All totaled, the loss is and will be staggering, and especially so because it is the second winter in a row that the weather has not cooperated.

But it is not just the weather that has failed to cooperate. Even with less-than-ideal snow conditions, many trails in the northern half of Oneida County have been rideable for some time now — conditions have in fact been worse in the past when the trails were open — but a failure of forceful leadership within the Oneida County forestry department, and in particular by bureaucrats Jill Nemeč and Eric Rady, have piled extra heavy burdens on our tourism industry.

Even now those two bureaucrats proclaim for themselves powers they do not have — that is, to set policy that contradicts the department's committee of jurisdiction, the forestry committee.

To be sure, the by-laws of the Oneida County Snowmobile Council contain all sorts of poison pills that allow a minority of clubs to hold all of them hostage, and that allow a club not based in the county to have undue and inappropriate power to cripple the county's economy. The council's bylaws establish a dangerous supermajority requirement and a one-size-fits-all regime that requires seven out of 10 voting members to open, and it's either all the trails or none.

This year, that set-up allowed a minority of four clubs to dictate to all the clubs, and in particular it allowed the Bo-Boen Club, based in Vilas County, to become a deciding "no" vote against opening Oneida County trails, even as it voted yes to open Vilas County trails and asked for and received special permission to open three miles of Oneida County trails it manages near St Germain.

How can one club with 14 miles of trail in the county and that is not based in the

county have effective veto power over county-based clubs with 92 miles of trails?

It is preposterous that there is no flexibility to allow trails to open in a snowier northern half of the county, or to give clubs an option — by designating individual club trails as zones — to open trails where conditions are adequate.

We think the snowmobile council should take a long, hard look at its bylaws, but our beef isn't so much with them because, at the end of the day, it is a private organization, or at least a quasi-private organization, which raises another issue we'll look at in a minute. Instead, our problem is with the Oneida County Forestry Department, and specifically with Nemeč and Rady. They have not only failed to do their jobs, they have gone rogue by defying the forestry committee and ceding authority over county-funded trails to the council, at least as official department interpretation.

The DNR's position is clear that the counties, in this case Oneida County, control the trail openings and closures. Snowmobile Grant Program manager Jillian Steffes informed Rady that the county could open individual club trails if it wants, that the county doesn't have to bow to snowmobile club pressure — such as the council's vote that failed to achieve a supermajority — and that the department could "manage your trail system as you need to from a sustainability and practicality standpoint."

Period.

And yet, when the snowmobile council officially kept the trail system closed, despite a majority of members voting to open, despite a public outcry, despite the pleas of businesspeople that they were hurting, despite the forestry committee's vote to open the trails, the bureaucrats sided with the council over the majority of the people in their official interpretation.

Sure, the department voted yes to open the trails — for some reason they have a vote on the council — but that's meaningless when they say the county, and all county clubs, must abide by the council's minority decision.

We should point out that the elected supervisors of the forestry department did the right thing — and we thank them for their due diligence — by meeting and overriding the snowmobile council's vote, both affirming the DNR's position and their rightful legal authority to open the trails. Yet, the two bureaucrats in the forestry committee have continued to insist after the vote that the council's approval was needed.

In effect, the two bureaucrats are saying the forestry committee vote carried no weight. There were in effect broadcasting what the official "real" department policy was, so that every club could read between the lines — abide by their interpretation or lose trail funding. This is the very definition of bureaucratic resistance and defiance. This is a textbook case of bureaucrats going rogue, and they need to be held accountable.

Let's be clear. We realize that the county code language is murky at best and that it is open to interpretation, as we explore in the article in today's edition. But given the DNR's position that the county effectively engages the clubs to work on its behalf, given that the county distributes and controls the money, given that the county sponsors the approved trails, the most common-sense legal interpretation is that the county — after consulting with the clubs — makes the call on opening and closing the trails.

Still, even if that interpretation is wrong, meaning that the forestry committee vote was wrong, that does not excuse the noncompliant behavior of the forestry department staff. They may have their own opinions, but they are bound to follow and articulate the policy set by the forestry committee until that policy is overturned.

Some might say it doesn't really matter, that after the forestry committee vote allowing individual clubs to open the trails, the clubs held another council vote, which yielded the same result, and individual clubs chose to stay closed.

But those clubs chose to stay closed knowing they had a forestry department staff insisting that they could not go against the council and open the trails. The forestry department's position potentially would deny funding for any club opening its trails.

What would have happened if, instead of working to undermine the forestry committee vote, the department instead publicly promoted the committee's interpretation — that clubs could open their trails if they wished and not risk their funding, no matter the council's vote?

We can never know for sure, but the outcome could have been far different.

Another vital point to make is that through all of this, the Oneida County business community has had no voice. The clubs have a voice, reflecting their own interests, and even the bureaucrats have a seat at the table of the snowmobile council, but not any local businesses.

These people are making decisions that affect the livelihoods and economic well-being of small business owners and their families, and yet they have no voice. As it turns out, the forestry department gives no voice to their elected representatives, either, simply ignoring their vote.

All this must change, and county board chairman Scott Holewinski has assured that changes are coming and coming fast, so that this situation never happens again. Here are some of our recommendations.

First, the county needs to employ only staff members who will follow the direction of their elected committees that oversee them. Rogue bureaucrats who insist on setting department policy on their own must be replaced.

Second, the county code needs to be changed in several important respects. It must clearly state that the county forestry committee — elected supervisors — control the county-funded trails. The code must clearly state that clubs choosing not to open trails after the committee deigns that those specific trails should be open can keep them closed but will forego funding.

The county code needs to make clear that, as Steffes said, the county and the county alone — its elected officials, not its bureaucrats — will set the policies for managing the trail system "from a sustainability and practicality standpoint" and that department staff must abide by those policies and promote them.

And, however the details are worked out, the code must mandate that when Vilas County trails are open, there must be an exceptional reason not to open Oneida County trails, or, better yet, adopt a system whereby decisions are regionally based, with flexibility built into the system so that individual clubs or zones retain options. The days of a one-size-fits-all approach to snowmobile trail openings and closings must end.

The county code must also designate that the county snowmobile coordinator be appointed by the forestry committee and must be a member of the business

community of the county. Never again must the business community lack representation on matters of life and death to their businesses and to our communities.

Finally, the county must surrender its membership and vote on the snowmobile council. That membership incorrectly legitimizes the council's claim to authority by giving the county just one vote on trail openings. In reality, the county legally has the only vote on trail openings, so there's no need to participate in the council as though it is just a minority shareholder in a company. Though best practices dictate that the county closely consult with the clubs and the council, in reality the county is not one of ten votes but the boss of the other nine.

The council works for the county, not the other way around.

To the extent that this senseless scheme persists, the council must be considered a public entity subject to the open records and open meetings laws. If the department is going to articulate and vote in this council, then taxpayers should have a right to attend those meetings, to listen to discussions, and to witness all votes.

At the beginning of this controversy, the county withheld the specific votes made by the clubs in the initial balloting on opening the trails, despite its active participation. This is not even close to the spirit or the letter of the open government law.

This fiasco must never happen again. We urge the snowmobile council to make the changes that should be made so the clubs are county-based and responsive to varying trail conditions. We hope supermajority requirements and special backroom deals that open only certain trails — made in collusion with the county's forestry bureaucrats — come to an end.

The council is private so these suggestions should be taken in the spirit they are offered. But, after this season, a day of reckoning is due in the forestry department. The day of serving special interests and not the people's interest must end.

The forestry department must be transparent, and those working within it must be accountable for their conduct this season.

LETTERS POLICY

Email letters to heatherschaefer@rivernewsonline.com

Fax to (715) 365-6361

Mail to Forum, 232 S. Courtney Street, Rhinelander, 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.

▶ We reserve the right to edit letters to the editor.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING ON APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE

The following applications for license have been filed with the undersigned as Clerk for the Town of Pelican, Oneida County, Wisconsin.

NAME: Flick's Resort Bar & Grill, LLC Lindsay Flick, Agent
ADDRESS: 5580 Plain View Rd
KIND OF LICENSE: BLB-Class "B" Beer, "Class B" Liquor
LOCATION: 4225 W Lake George Rd
TRADE NAME: Flick's Resort Bar & Grill

Said applications will be considered by the Town Board at a meeting to be held at the Town Hall, on the 10th day of February 2025 at 4:00 p.m., and at any subsequent or adjourned meetings until said applications have been fully disposed of by the Town Board.

Mike Ring, Town Clerk
 102922 1/31,2/4,2/7 WNAXLP

INVITATION FOR BID ITB 25-0003/Project 7897

Birchwood Center Boiler Replacement: Nicolet College Rhinelander Campus

The Nicolet College District is currently soliciting bids for the Birchwood Center Boiler Replacement at the main campus, located at 5364 College Drive, Rhinelander, Wisconsin

The bidding documents may be obtained from:
 Somerville, Inc.
 2100 Riverside Dr.
 Green Bay, WI 54301
 Phone: (920) 437-8136
planrequests@somervilleinc.com

Bidding documents in electronic format (.pdf) are available by contacting Somerville, Inc. at the email address listed above. Your email should include name of the firm, contact person, address, phone number, and email address.

Bidding documents for this project will be available on Friday, February 7, 2025 after 4:00p.m., CDT.

A non-mandatory walkthrough for all contractors interested in bidding this project will be held at 10:30 a.m., CDT, on Monday, February 17, 2025 starting at the Birchwood Center on NATC's main campus, 5352 College Drive, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501. Meet in Lobby.

Questions due, Monday, February 24, 2025.

No bid shall be received unless accompanied by a scanned copy of a certified check or a bid bond as listed in the bid documents. The check should be payable to the College as a guaranty that if the bid is accepted the bidder will execute and file the proper contract and performance and payment bonds within the time limited by the College. If the successful bidder so files the contract and bond, upon the execution of the contract by the College the check shall be returned. In the case the successful bidder fails to file such contract and bond the amount of the check or bid bond shall be forfeited as liquidated damages. Awarded contractor will be required to send the bid bonds as listed in the bid documents within 5 days of execution of the contract.

Bids will be accepted at the Business Office in Red Oak Center, 5353 College Drive, Rhinelander, WI 54501 on the NATC Rhinelander campus – Room 217 no later than 2:00pm CST on Monday, March 10, 2025.

- Any bids received, not properly and clearly marked and thus inadvertently opened will be rejected.
- Bids received after the date and time specified will be rejected.
- We cannot and will not, under any circumstance accept late bids.

All bids submitted must be guaranteed for a period of at least sixty (60) days following the date of bid opening.

Substantial completion date for the project to be August 15, 2025.

A public bid opening will be held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 2:15 PM CST. Bids will be read aloud at the Red Oak Center – Room 108, 5353 College Drive, Rhinelander, WI 54501. Award, if any, will be made as soon thereafter, as possible.

Nicolet College reserves the right to waive any informalities, or to reject all bids.

120289 1/31,2/7 WNAXLP

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PROJECT: 2025 MESSER STREET AREA UTILITY AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS

OWNER: City of Rhinelander
 135 South Stevens Street
 Rhinelander, WI 54501

CONTRACTS AND BID DEADLINE:

Sealed bids for a single contract for water main, storm sewer and sanitary sewer construction, lift station upgrades, street excavation and base course construction, street asphalt pavement construction, and for curb & gutter and sidewalk construction will be received by the City of Rhinelander until 11:00 A.M., local time on February 14, 2025. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately thereafter in the City Hall meeting room.

This project is partially funded by the Department of Transportation through the Local Roads Improvement Program.

The contract consists of the following proposed scope of work and approximate quantities:

8-inch PVC Sanitary Sewer	4,690 lineal feet
8-inch Water Main	5,360 lineal feet
Street Reconstruction	22,000 square yards
12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 30 and 36-inch Storm Sewer	5,440 lineal feet
24-inch Concrete Curb & Gutter	11,100 lineal feet
4-inch and 6-inch Concrete Sidewalk	14,450 square feet
Grass Restoration	9,800 square yards
Hot-Mix Asphalt Pavement	4,520 tons

Renovation of the existing lift station including the replacement of the pumps, rails, piping, and valves as well as the replacement of the existing control panel and integration of the new system with the City's existing SCADA system.

Appurtenances to the above construction items, such as service laterals and manholes are included, but are not listed above. The quantities are subject to change without notice prior to document distribution.

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS:

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders, Bidder's Proof of Responsibility, Bid Proposal Form, Affidavit of Organization and Authority, Bid Bond (in the amount of 5% of the maximum amount of the bid), Certificate of Award Form, Agreement Form, Notice to Proceed Form, Performance/Payment Bond (100%), Certificate of Insurance, General Conditions, Supplementary Conditions, Technical Specifications, Drawings and Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following locations:

City of Rhinelander
 135 South Stevens Street
 Rhinelander, WI 54501
 Town & Country Engineering, Inc.
 6264 Nesbitt Road
 Madison, WI 53719

Copies of the Contract Documents and the Construction Plans may be obtained at the office of Town & Country Engineering, Inc., 6264 Nesbitt Road, Madison, WI 53719 via appointment only. There is a **\$75 non-refundable** copying and distribution charge for these documents. Electronic bidding documents are available on-line at Questcdn.com, Project No. 9209447 for \$42. This fee includes access to submit a bid on-line via Questcdn.com.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Bidders must be pre-qualified with the City of Rhinelander within the last year or must be pre-qualified for this work 5 days prior to the bid deadline in accordance with Section 66.0901 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Each bidder must deposit, with his bid, security in the amount of 5% of the maximum bid amount. Bidders must be experienced in municipal pipeline and street construction.

LAONA STATE BANK

5308 Beech St, PO Box 128, Laona, WI 54541
 The Laona State Bank is now accepting sealed bids on:
 2009 Harley Davidson FLHTCUTG Tri Glide
 Minimum Bid: \$7,500.00
 Sealed Bids January 31st to February 21st
 Bids Deadline 4:00 PM February 21st
 For more information, contact Julie Ison at 715-674-2911 or juliei@laonastatebank.com
 121452 1/28-2/21 Tues Fri WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT ONEIDA COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION PUBLICATION SUMMONS

Case No. 2024CV000235
 Judge Presiding Michael W. Schiek
 Case Code No. 30404
 ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC
 1050 WOODWARD AVE.
 DETROIT, MI 48226
 Plaintiff,

Vs.
 ANTHONY SALZMAN A/K/A ANTHONY M. SALZMAN
 A/K/A ANTHONY MICHAEL SALZMAN
 7342 USH 8
 RHINELANDER, WI 54501
 KATIE SALZMAN
 1831 RIVER STREET
 RHINELANDER, WI 54501
 ONEIDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
 C/O HIGHEST RANKING OFFICIAL, P.O BOX 400, 1 S. ONEIDA AVENUE
 RHINELANDER, WI 54501
 Defendants.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
 To each person named above as Defendant:
 You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.

Within 40 days after January 31, 2025, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is Brenda Behrle, Clerk of Courts, Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501 and to Michael C. Timothy, Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, Illinois 60602. You may have an attorney help represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 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.

Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 /s/Michael C. Timothy
 Michael C. Timothy
 State Bar No. 1032915
 Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC
 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650
 Chicago, Illinois 60602
 Ph. 312-541-9710
 Fax 312-541-9711
 Dated: January 27, 2025

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. Section 1692), we are required to state that we are attempting to collect a debt on our client's behalf and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

120286 1/31,2/7,2/14 WNAXLP

SPECIAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS:

This project will be funded in part by USDA Rural Development and may be funded by the Clean Water Fund (CWF) and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) established under Wisconsin State Statutes, as administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Neither the State of Wisconsin nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees is or will be party to this invitation for bids or any resulting contract.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), including minority business enterprises (MBE) and women business enterprises (WBE) are encouraged to apply and be used to the greatest extent feasible. Qualified DBEs will be included in the Unified Certification Program WisDOT UCP list. Program policy requires all bidders to show good faith efforts to solicit proposals from DBEs. Contractors with a DBE classification are strongly encouraged to bid as the Prime Contractor on this project provided they are qualified to do the work. Award of the contract will be subject to the Federal government's policy of good faith effort for increased use of DBE businesses. A description of the policy and forms to be used are included in specifications.

This project is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements under Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pub. L. 117-58, §§ 70901-70953. Absent an approved waiver, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in this project must be produced in the United States.

The following waivers apply to this Contract: BABAA De Minimis, Small Grants, and Minor Components.

Funding under the SDWLP and CWF programs also require all iron and steel products used in the construction of the project be produced in the United States (FFY 2014 Appropriations Act and/or Section 608 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA)), including lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

Federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), The Offeror's or Bidder's attention is called to the "Equal Opportunity Clause" and the "Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Contract Specification" included in the specifications. The goals and timetables for minority and female participation, expressed in percentage terms for the Contractor's aggregate workforce in each trade on all construction work in the covered area, are as follows:

- Goals for minority participation for each trade = 0.6% (Oneida County)
- Goals for female participation in each trade = 6.9%

WAGE RATES:

The successful bidder will be required to conform to the wage requirements prescribed by the federal Davis-Bacon and Related Acts which requires that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and sub-contractors performing on contracts funded in whole or in part with federal funds in excess of \$2,000 pay their laborers and mechanics not less than the prevailing wage rates and fringe benefits, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, for corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on similar projects in the area, per the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division May 29, 2009 Guidance.

RIGHTS RESERVED:

The City of Rhinelander reserves the right to reject any and all bids, for whatever reason, and to waive any informalities in bids or in the bid process.

Published by the authority of:
 Kristopher Hanus, Mayor
 City of Rhinelander
 120282 1/24,1/31,2/7 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT ONEIDA COUNTY

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

Case No. 24-CV-242
 Foreclosure of Mortgage: 30404
 Hon. Michael W. Schiek
 Br. 1

ASSOCIATED BANK, N.A.
 1305 Main Street
 Stevens Point, WI 54481
 Plaintiff,

vs.
 KYLE J. LARCH
 2846 Crescent Rd
 Rhinelander, WI 54501
 JOHN/JANE DOE LARCH
 (an Unknown Spouse of Kyle J. Larch)
 2846 Crescent Rd
 Rhinelander, WI 54501
 DLJ MORTGAGE CAPITAL, INC.
 c/o Select Portfolio Servicing
 3217 S. Decker Lake Dr
 West Valley City, UT 84119
 THREE LAKES HIGH SCHOOL
 6930 W School St
 Three Lakes, WI 54562
 Defendants.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN TO:
 KYLE J. LARCH
 JOHN/JANE DOE LARCH
 (an Unknown Spouse of Kyle J. Larch)
 You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.
 Within forty (40) days after **January 31, 2025**, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to:
 Oneida County Clerk of Circuit Court
 Oneida County Courthouse
 One South Oneida Avenue
 P.O. Box 400
 Rhinelander, WI 54501-0400
 and to Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is:
 Weld Riley, S.C.
 500 Third Street, Suite 800
 P.O. Box 479
 Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-0479.

You may have an attorney help or represent you.
 If you do not demand a copy of the Complaint within forty (40) 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: 1/20/2025.
 WELD RILEY, S.C.
 Attorneys for Plaintiff
 BY: JOHN A. CRAVENS
 State Bar #1001261

PLEASE DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE, INQUIRIES AND PLEADINGS TO:
 Amy L. Unertl, Paralegal
 Weld Riley, S.C.
 500 Third Street, Suite 800
 P. O. Box 479
 Wausau, WI 54402-0479
 (715) 845-8234
 120276 1/31,2/7,2/14 WNAXLP

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPOINT NICOLET COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that applications are being accepted for **four (4)** positions on the Nicolet College District Board from individuals residing within the Nicolet College District.

Appointments will be made in accordance with the Board Appointment Committee's Plan of Representation, which specifies categories of membership as well as geographic areas, gender, and minority representation within the district. Following is a list of openings:

- ONE (1) EMPLOYER MEMBER**
- ONE (1) EMPLOYEE MEMBER**
- ONE (1) ADDITIONAL MEMBER**
- *ONE (1) INTERIM EMPLOYER MEMBER**

*The interim employer position will fulfill a term through **June 30, 2027**, and must reside in Vilas County.

All positions will commence on or about July 1, 2025, upon certification of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board. Positions will carry a three-year term expiring June 30, 2028.

An **EMPLOYER MEMBER**: is defined as someone with the authority to recommend any of the following: hire, transfer, suspend, discipline, lay-off, recall, adjust grievances, promote, discharge, assign, or reward. The exception is a person who acts in the capacity of an officer or agent of a labor organization, even though that person may have the power to hire, etc. At the time of their appointment, employers also must be actively engaged in business and employ others.

An **EMPLOYEE MEMBER**: is defined as a person who is employed but does not meet any of the criteria in the Employer category. The only exception to these criteria is that a person who acts in the capacity of an officer or agent of a labor organization is considered an Employee even though that person may have the power to hire, etc. as listed in the Employer section above.

An **ADDITIONAL MEMBER**: All residents of a technical college district are eligible to serve as an additional member of the college.

- At least one (1) of the positions must be a female
- At least two (2) of the positions must reside in Oneida or the portion of Langlade that is within the Nicolet College District.
- At least one (2) of the positions must reside in Vilas County or the portion of Iron County that is within the Nicolet College District

Board Member Category Definitions:

In the appointment process, equal consideration is given to the general population distribution within the Nicolet College District, as well as to the distribution of women and minorities.

Note: No two (2) members of the Nicolet College District Board may be officials of the same governmental unit, nor may any district board member be a member of the school board which employs the SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR MEMBER, which is currently Rhinelander School District.

Please refer to the following Nicolet College website for an application and additional information, <https://www.nicoletcollege.edu/about/board-trustees/board-appointment-process>

Application forms must be received at the address below no later than **Monday, February 24, 2025, at 4 p.m.**; along with at least (2) letters of recommendation supporting his/her candidacy.

All applicants **MUST** participate in the public hearing of the District Board Appointment Committee on **Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 3 p.m.**

To accommodate any candidates unable to participate on this date and be interviewed, a second meeting and public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 3 p.m. If all candidates are able to appear at the first meeting, the second meeting will be canceled.

An affidavit (application) form and instructions may be obtained from, and submitted to:

Kris Peeters
 Nicolet College
 PO Box 518
 Rhinelander, WI 54501
 Telephone: (715) 365-4416
 E-mail: kpeeters@nicoletcollege.edu
 120304 2/7 WNAXLP

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public test of the electronic voting equipment and automatic tabulating equipment to be used in the City of Rhinelander at the 2025 February Spring Primary Election on February 18th, 2025, will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11th, 2025, at Rhinelander City Hall, 135 S. Stevens Street, Rhinelander, WI. This test is open to the public. **Austyn Zarda City Clerk**
120309 2/7 WNAXLP

NOTICE

ELECTORATE OF THE TOWN OF SUGAR CAMP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the official public test of the automatic tabulating equipment to be used for the February 18, 2025 Election to be held in the Town of Sugar Camp, will be conducted at the Sugar Camp Town Hall, at 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 13, 2025.
Lauren Sowinski
Sugar Camp Town Clerk
120300 2/7 WNAXLP

NOTICE OF VOTING MACHINE PUBLIC TEST

Town of Newbold, Oneida County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the public test pursuant to Wis. Statute 5.84(1), of the Image Cast Evolution (ICE) Tabulating Equipment to be used at the February 18, 2025, Spring Primary Election, will be conducted on Friday, February 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., at the Newbold Community Center, 4608 Apperson Dr, Rhinelander, WI 54501.
This test is open to the public. Call the Newbold Clerk with questions at 715-362-1092.
Noticed by: Kim Gauthier, Newbold Town Clerk on this 3rd day of February 2025.
120301 2/7 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY

Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)

Case No. 24-PR-112

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JEFFREY D. RICKSTAD
DOD: 11/04/2024

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 12/31/1959 and date of death 11/04/2024, was domiciled in Oneida County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 7175 Bay Road, Rhinelander, WI 54501.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 1, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave., P.O. Box 400, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, Room A-318 Probate Office.

/s/ Amy M. Franzen
Probate Registrar
01-16-2025

Nick G. Cirilli
116 E. Davenport St.
Rhinelander, WI 54501
715-369-3443
Bar No. 1101541
120283

1/24,1/31,2/7 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY

Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)

Case No. 25PR03

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Matthew R. Knishka
Deceased

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 09/28/1997 and date of death 12/14/2024, was domiciled in Oneida County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2891 Woodrick Road, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 1, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave., P.O. Box 400, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, Room A-318 Probate Office.

/s/ Amy M. Franzen
Probate Registrar
01-16-2025

Attorney Danielle Burza-Smith
440 Science Dr, Suite 101
Madison, WI 53711
(608) 447-0006
Bar No. 1123938
120281

1/24,1/31,2/7 WNAXLP

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The Oneida County Forestry Department will be accepting bids for the replacement of two culverts on Rozell Road. The contractor shall supply and install all necessary materials according to specifications associated to project. This project is located in Section 22 T36N R5E, Town of Little Rice, Oneida County, WI.

All work must be completed between July 5 and October 1, 2025.

BID DEADLINE: Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 12:00 noon.

Bids must be sealed and clearly marked "2025 Rozell Road Culvert Replacement" on the outside of the envelope. All bids must be submitted on the supplied bid form and must be completed per the instructions.

Oneida County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to select the bid most advantageous to Oneida County.

Mail Bids To: OR **Hand Deliver Bids To:**
Oneida County Forestry Department Oneida County Courthouse
PO Box 400 Forestry Dept., Rm B206
Rhinelander, WI 54501 1 South Oneida Avenue
Rhinelander, WI 54501

No emailed or faxed bids will be accepted.

NOTE: Bids will be publicly opened at 1:00 p.m. on March 6, 2025 in Committee Room #1, 2nd Floor, Oneida County Courthouse, Rhinelander, WI.

Bids will likely be awarded on March 11, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. at the Oneida County Forestry, Land and Recreation Committee meeting.

For more information, bid forms and the contract form, please contact the Oneida County Forestry Office, PO Box 400, Rhinelander, WI 54501. (715) 369-6140.
120295 2/7 WNAXLP

NOTICE OF HEARING ON APPLICATIONS FOR LIQUOR LICENSES

Town of Newbold, Oneida County Wisconsin

The following applications for licenses have been filed with the undersigned as Clerk for the Town of Newbold, Oneida County, Wisconsin:

NAME: Laura Cortright
d/b/a: Richard J and Charmaine M Unertl Irrv.Trust
ADDRESS AND LOCATION:
7169 Rainbow Lake Road, Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539
KIND OF LICENSE: Class B Beer & B Liquor

Said application will be considered by the Newbold Town Board at the regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, February 13, 2025**, at 6:00 p.m., at the Newbold Community Center, 4608 Apperson Drive, Rhinelander, WI 54501, and at any subsequent or adjourned meetings until said application has been fully disposed of by the Town Board.

Noticed on this 16th day of January 2025, by Kim Gauthier, Newbold Town Clerk
120277 1/24,1/31,2/7 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY

Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)

Case No. 24-PR-111

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DOUGLAS L. KEINTZ
DOD: 10/26/2024

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 06/30/1957 and date of death 10/26/2024, was domiciled in Oneida County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2770 High Peak Road, Rhinelander, WI.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 22, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave., P.O. Box 400, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, Room A-318 Probate Office.

/s/ Amy M. Franzen
Probate Registrar
02-03-2025

Nick G. Cirilli
116 E. Davenport St.
Rhinelander, WI 54501
715-369-3443
Bar No. 1101541
120311

2/7,2/14,2/21 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Case No. 24-CV-137

Hon. Michael W. Schiek

Br. 1

Crossbridge Community Bank
Plaintiff,

vs.

ESTATE OF LEO RAY CROWELL
Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that by virtue of a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above captioned action on October 17, 2024, in the amount of \$25,083.88, the Sheriff or his Designee will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:

TIME: February 19, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: in the lobby of the Oneida County Courthouse, 1 South Oneida Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501

DESCRIPTION: Lot ten (10), Block four (4) of Running Acres, according to the recorded Plat thereof, Town of Nokomis, Oneida County, Wisconsin.

Tax Key: NO-1013

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 10373 South Rd. Tomahawk, WI 54487

TERMS: Down payment required **at the time of Sheriff's Sale** in the amount of 10% of the successful bid by cash or certified check; balance of sale price due within ten business days of confirmation of sale by the Court, together with the applicable transfer fee and cost of recording the deed, all payable to the Clerk of Court of the above county. Property to be sold as a whole 'as is' and subject to all real estate taxes, accrued and accruing, special assessments, if any, penalties and interest.

Sheriff Grady M. Hartman or Designee

Oneida County, Wisconsin
Plaintiff/Attorney:
Weld Riley, S.C.
500 Third Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 479
Wausau, WI 54402-0479
(715) 845-8234
legal@weldriley.com

102966 1/24,1/31,2/7 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN - CIRCUIT COURT - ONEIDA COUNTY

Civil Claim Publication Summons and Notice

2024CV000263

Honorable Mary M. Sowinski
Branch 2

Plaintiff(s)
Summit Credit Union
1709 Landmark Dr.
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

If you need help in this matter because of a disability, please call: (715) 536-0319

vs

Defendant(s)
Bryce Babcock
10750 Cator Drive
Minocqua, WI 54548

PUBLICATION SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s).

Within Forty (40) days of receiving this Summons from the date of first publication: the 7th day of February 2025, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave. Rhinelander, WI 54501 and to Turke & Steil, LLP attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1 E. Milwaukee Street Suite 200 Janesville, WI 53545. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy within the 40 days, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. 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 7th day of February 2025
Turke & Steil, LLP
Attorney Michael S. Oellerich
1 East Milwaukee Street Suite 200
Janesville, WI 53545
(608) 237-1775
120296

2/7,2/14,2/21 WNAXLP

State of Wisconsin
Town of Pine Lake
County of Oneida

Publication Notice

Notice of Public Hearing to Decide Upon Highway Alteration

Proper application having been made to the Supervisors of the Town of Pine Lake, Oneida County, Wisconsin to alter a highway known as that portion of Sandy Beach Road which extends southeasterly from the west line of CSM No. 5192 approximately 445 feet to the east line of CSM No. 5363. Located in Government Lot 5, Section 5, T37N, R9E, Township of Pine Lake.

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Pine Lake will hold a Public Hearing on February 26, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. of that day at the Pine Lake Fire Department Meeting Room No. 1, 4197 River Road, Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

Dated this 16th day of January, 2025.

/s/ Cindy Skinner
Cindy Skinner, Town Clerk
120284

1/24,1/31,2/7 WNAXLP

NOTICE OF HEARING ON APPLICATIONS FOR ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSES

The following applications have been filed with the undersigned as City Clerk for the City of Rhinelander, Oneida County, Wisconsin:

New Licenses

Class B Retail Combo Beer/Liquor License

APPLICANT: T+R Dinky Diner LLC, Agent Richard Covin
DBA: Not So Dinky Diner
ADDRESS OF PREMISE: 130 N Brown St
KIND OF LICENSE: CBC (Class B Beer & Liquor)

Said applications will be considered by the Rhinelander Common Council at its regular meeting to be held February 10th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall at Rhinelander, Wisconsin, or at any subsequent meeting until said applications have been fully disposed of.

Austyn Zarda
City Clerk
Legal Notice: Published February 7th, 2025
120310 2/7 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT ONEIDA COUNTY

AMENDED SUMMONS

Case No. 24CV000225

CREDIT ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION

Plaintiff,

vs.

CAROL L BURNS

Defendant.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

TO: CAROL L BURNS

215 HARMONY HILLS CT

RHINELANDER WI 54501-89443

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is also served on you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within Forty (40) days after January 24, 2025, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY, PO BOX 400-ONE COURTHOUSE SQ, RHINELANDER WI 54501 and the Kohn Law Firm, Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 735 N. Water St., Suite 1300, Milwaukee, WI 53202. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If no Complaint accompanies this Summons you must respond within the said 40 day period with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint by mailing or delivering said written demand to the court and to the Plaintiff's attorneys at their respective addresses listed above.

If you do not provide a proper answer to the Complaint or provide a written demand for said complaint within the 40 day period, 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 be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin January 9, 2025.

KOHN LAW FIRM S.C.
ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED BY:
/S/JOHN DANNER
JOHN DANNER
State Bar No. 1125953
Attorney for Plaintiff

102925 1/24,1/31,2/7 WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT ONEIDA COUNTY

PUBLICATION SUMMONS

CASE NO. 24-CV-251

HON. MICHAEL W. SCHIEK

Money Judgment: 30301 The amount claimed exceeds \$10,000.00

COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION

PO BOX 107

ANTIGO, WI 54409

Plaintiff,

v.

NICOLE ALONSO
513 VAUGHN STREET
RHINELANDER, WI 54501

Defendant.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN,

To each person named above as a defendant:

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 **40 days** after the date of first publication, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is Oneida County Courthouse, One Courthouse Square, PO Box 400, Rhinelander, WI 54501, **and** to Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson, S.C., plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 413 N. 2nd Street, Suite 150, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within **40 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 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on January 23, 2025.

GALANIS, POLLACK, JACOBS & JOHNSON, SC

Attorneys for Plaintiff
/S/ Electronically signed
Joshua J. Brady

WI State Bar No. 1041428

P. O. Address:

413 N. 2nd Street, Suite 150

Milwaukee, WI 53203

Telephone: (414) 271-5400

120288 1/31,2/7,2/14 WNAXLP

EMPLOYMENT

715.356.5236 | 715-365-6397

LAKELAND UNION HIGH SCHOOL POSITION AVAILABLE BEGINNING WITH THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION TEACHER VOYAGER PROGRAM (HIGH SCHOOL) (full time)

Requirements:

Bachelor's degree with a Wisconsin DPI Alternative Education License #1952 preferred, or a certification as a DPI licensed teacher, or willingness to obtain within one year of hire date.

Application deadline is February 14, 2025.
Please apply on WECAN at <https://wecan.education.wisc.edu/#/>
(I.D. #226814)

For questions about this position, please contact:
Mr. Levi Massey, Principal
Lakeland Union High School,
9573 State Hwy 70, Minocqua, WI 54548
Or email: massey@lakelandunion.org

120315

102,103,104,2/7,2/11,2/14 WNAXLP

NOTICE TOWN OF MINOCQUA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT MINOCQUA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Town of Minocqua is accepting applications for a full-time Administrative Assistant at the Minocqua Police Department.

The position is responsible for a wide variety of clerical, secretarial and administrative support for the police department under the supervision of the police chief.

A more detailed job description and list of qualifications may be found at www.townofminocqua.org/current-openings, or by contacting Town Clerk Roben Haggart by email: clerk@townofminocqua.org, or phone: 715-356-5296.

Along with the town's standard Application for Employment, applicants are asked to submit a letter of interest and resume. The standard application is available at the town office or online at www.townofminocqua.org under "Resources" - forms. Applications and resumes may be dropped off during regular business hours (weekdays 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.) at the Minocqua Town Office, 415 Menominee Street, downtown Minocqua (third floor). Or mail to: Town of Minocqua, Attn: Clerk Haggart, 415 Menominee St., Suite 300, Minocqua, WI 54548.

Excellent salary and benefits package including health insurance, paid time off and participation in the Wisconsin Retirement System. Equal opportunity employer.

Roben Haggart, CMC
Town Clerk

121458

101,102 02/04, 02/07 WNAXLP



Residential Customer Network Technician

Norvado, Northern Wisconsin's premier provider of broadband services and telecommunications products is looking for a Residential Customer Network Technician reporting to our Eagle River, Wisconsin office. This is a customer-facing position that collaborates to install and support our high-speed internet and telecommunications products. This includes installing and troubleshooting fiber to the home services, WI-FI routers, streaming TV, smart home systems and video surveillance. Experience working with fiber optic infrastructure, telecommunications cabling, data networking or equivalent certification or degree is desired.

If you are interested in being a part of a stable organization that offers a competitive salary, health and dental insurance, generous 401k match, profit-sharing, educational assistance, company vehicle, cell phone and many additional benefits then go to <https://norvado.com/careers/> and complete the online application and attach your cover letter and resume by Friday, February 28, 2025.

All qualified applicants shall receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, religion, color, handicap, sex or physical condition, development disability as defined in Wis. Stat 51.05(5), sexual orientation as defined in Wis. Stat. 111.32(13m), or national origin. Norvado and its staff must comply with applicable federal, State, and local laws regarding discrimination and equal opportunity in employment, including but not limited to: (a) Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; (b) The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, (c) federal laws described in Attachment A to this Agreement.

LAKELAND UNION HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING POSITION AVAILABLE BEGINNING WITH THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

ENGLISH TEACHER (HIGH SCHOOL) (full time)

DPI certification #1300 required.

Application deadline is February 14, 2025.
Please apply on WECAN at <https://wecan.education.wisc.edu/#/>
(I.D. #226822)

For questions about this position, please contact:
Mr. Levi Massey, Principal
Lakeland Union High School,
9573 State Hwy 70, Minocqua, WI 54548
or email massey@lakelandunion.org

120318

102,103,104,2/7,2/11,2/14 WNAXLP

LPN \$40/hour
RN \$43/hour

PT/Split Shifts/PRN all shifts \$2 NIGHT SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL PAY

Elite Care Management, a private-duty home healthcare company with over 25 years in the industry, is currently hiring RNs and LPNs to provide one patient care in Eagle River.

Immediate coverage needed for:

7AM-7PM; 7PM-7AM

Please contact Maria Carreno, Recruiter at (630) 548-9500
or

Send resume to Maria at mcarreno@elitecaremanagement.com

You can also apply on Indeed.com - search Elite Care Management / Eagle River

LAKELAND UNION HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING POSITION AVAILABLE BEGINNING WITH THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER (HIGH SCHOOL) (full time)

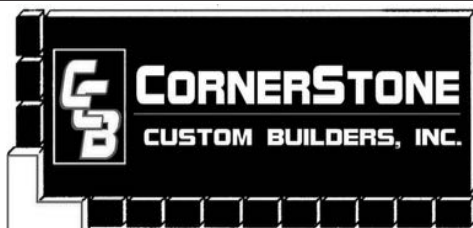
DPI certification #1701 Broad Field Social Studies or a #2700 Social Studies license is required. #1740 Psychology, #1715 Geography, #1745 Sociology, #1735 Political Science and #1710 Economics preferred.

Application deadline is February 14, 2025.
Please apply on WECAN at <https://wecan.education.wisc.edu/#/>
(I.D. #226818)

For questions about this position, please contact:
Mr. Levi Massey, Principal
Lakeland Union High School,
9573 State Hwy 70, Minocqua, WI 54548
or email massey@lakelandunion.org

120316

102,103,104,2/7,2/11,2/14 WNAXLP



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

RECEPTIONIST/MODEL ATTENDANT

CornerStone Custom Builders, Inc. is seeking a receptionist/model attendant for our Minocqua sales office. Candidate will be responsible for opening and closing the model homes each day, general office duties, greet and help model visitors with information, provide administrative support to the project managers and perform other similar or related duties as necessary.

Position is Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm plus alternating Saturdays with the project managers. Part time may be an option. Benefits offered are dependent on hours worked. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Position requirements: Knowledge of general office practices and procedures. Knowledge of Microsoft Outlook, Word and Excel. Basic knowledge of the construction process. Valid Driver's License. Reliable and dependable. Ability to be courteous and tactful with the general public. Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing. Ability to apply policies and procedures. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, supervisors, and the general public.

Benefits offered: Life, Short Term Disability and Dental Insurance. 401k Plan. Paid Vacation.

Send Resume to:
info@cornerstonecustombuilders.com.
Mail to: Model Position
PO Box 997, Eagle River, WI 54521
Or drop off in person at:
7319 Hwy. 51 South, Minocqua

Bond

From page 1

While some cash is appropriate under the circumstances, Bennett argued \$40,000 is excessive. He also noted that Gruich, who is retired from the auto industry, has limited financial means but could post \$1,000 to \$2,000.

District attorney Jillian Pfeifer did not oppose the defense request.

She argued that some cash is necessary but stated she would leave the dollar amount to the court's discretion.

After asking Gruich for more information as to his income, Stenz agreed to modify bond to \$2,000. As conditions of bond, he may not possess weapons or use social media.

Bennett indicated his client's intent is to return to Michigan.

A preliminary hearing is to be scheduled at a later date.

Gruich is charged with threatening injury or harm via computer message, a misdemeanor, and making a threat to a judge, a felony,

Oneida County judge Michael Schiek and *Lakeland Times/River News* publisher Gregg Walker were the recipients of threatening messages sent by Gruich, the criminal complaint alleges.

According to the complaint, the incidents began on October 17, 2024, when Walker received a threatening email and reported it to the sheriff's office.

The content of the message read: "Hey punk, it would be a shame if your 'newspaper' burned down or if your local pigs stated [sic] getting killed, wouldn't it? You and your police chief need a big lawsuit you f---g punk. F---k you, Pete Gruich Nazi Killer."

The complaint also references an email received by Oneida County Clerk Tracy Hartman on Tuesday, October 22. The subject header was: "I am thinking of financing a lawsuit against your Nazi judge and cops that need yo [sic] be killed."

According to the complaint, the message of the email was: "Hey a---e, I like suing corrupt p---y judges and cops that need to be killed. Does that bother you or those f---g a---s that you work for? F---k you, Pete Gruich Nazi Killer."

The complaint goes on to note that the message was sent one day after Bangstad made his initial appearance before Schiek on criminal defamation charges.

Bangstad is accused of publishing a Facebook post that included a false and manipulated image of Walker and *Times/River News* general manager Heather Holmes. In late 2024, Bangstad also settled the largest defamation case in Wisconsin history by agreeing to a payout of more than half-million dollars in a case in which a jury found that Bangstad had defamed Walker with express malice.

According to the complaint, Gruich told investigators that news of Bangstad's arrest in the criminal defamation case caused him to get "worked up."

He also told investigators he was disgusted with himself for sending the emails and had no intention of acting on the threats.

If convicted of threatening a judge, Gruich faces a maximum sentence of 6 years in prison. The misdemeanor charge carries a maximum sentence of 90 days in jail.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice Town of Newbold, Oneida County

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Newbold, Oneida County, Wisconsin, has adopted an Amended Code of Ordinance regarding **Chapter 14, Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Building Code**. To review the code, please contact the clerk at kgauthier@newboldwi.gov or 715-362-1092 or on the town website at: newboldwi.gov/government/town_ordinances and is also available for inspection at the clerk's office by appointment.

120308

2/7 WNAXLP

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

Douglas R. Evers, with a date of birth of March 13, 1948, died on February 12, 2021.

Kathleen J. Evers, with a date of birth of October 3, 1948, died on October 12, 2024.

The above-named decedents were the settlors of The Douglas R. Evers and Kathleen J. Evers Revocable Trust dated February 14, 2000. Said trust was the owner of Eversco Limited.

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 701.0508, creditors of the decedents and/or the Trust are notified that all claims against the Trust must be filed on or before June 2, 2025. Claims must be filed with the trustee: Eric Evers, 5357 Horsehead Lake Road, Harshaw, WI 54529.

This notice drafted by:
Atty. Nick G. Cirilli
(Attorney for Trustee)
Cirilli Law Offices, S.C.
116 E. Davenport St.
Rhineland, WI 54501

120285

1/31,2/7,2/14 WNAXLP

NORTHWOODS

MARKETPLACE

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.

262. EMPLOYMENT MISCELLANEOUS


REPORTER:
The Northwoods River News in Rhinelander is seeking a reporter to cover a variety of beats, and has 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

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

The Rhinelander District Library Shelver
The Rhinelander District Library seeks applications for a Page (up to 16 hours per week). Monday evenings and every other Saturday required. Applicant must be at least 16 years or older, detail oriented, and able to work quickly and accurately. Required skills include: good customer service, basic computer use, alphabetical and numerical arrangement, and ability to lift and move up to 30 pounds. \$13/ hour to start. Applications will be taken until 2/22 and are available at the Rhinelander District Library, 106 N. Stevens, Rhinelander, WI 54501 or online at our website: www.rhinelanderlibrary.org. Applications can be returned to the library or director@rhinelanderlibrary.org. Rhinelander District Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CLASSIFIEDS Get Results!

264. EMPLOYMENT TRADE/SKILL

TOP WAGES PAID!

Lead & 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.

320. FOR RENT APARTMENTS

Historic West Elementary
Beautiful 1 bdrm/1 bath 902 sq ft unit with garage & storage area. \$740 month includes water/sewer.
Must be 55 or older with gross annual income from \$33,051 to \$39,660 for 1 person (\$37,801 to \$45,360 for 2 ppl).
Building amenities include: computer lab, library, beauty shop, exercise room, theatre & laundry rooms. Smoke/vape/flame-free.
Call Melissa at Rhinelander Housing Authority to apply 715-365-7979 x1. EOH

The Oneida Apartments, 28 N. Brown St., Rhldr. Newly remodeled, 1- BDRM. No pets. Units from \$550/ mo plus utilities. Sec. Deposit required. 715-362-6232

340. FOR RENT DUPLEXES / HOUSES / CONDOS

Bass Lake Home For Rent
Lake Tomahawk area, close to Minocqua, St Germain & Rhinelander. Fully renovated. 2 bed 1 bath with attached garage. No Smoking. \$1250 per month
Call 715.367.3843

Rhinelander house for rent. 1 bedroom. \$985/ month. DECK OVERLOOKING LAKE! EVERYTHING INCLUDED! Washer and dryer. PETS ALLOWED!
715-401-9199

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

For sale: 4 - 17" tires. Tire size 235/55-17. Have less than 1,000 miles on them. \$500. 715-409-6453

520. AUCTIONS

ANTIQUH HUNTING? Check the CLASSIFIEDS!

520. AUCTIONS

NORTHERN AUCTION & ESTATE SERVICES
Rhinelander, WI
Now Accepting Consignments for Our Spring Consignment Auctions!
Items we accept include: boats, ATVs, UTVs, firearms, ammunition, hunting/ fishing gear, knives, coins, jewelry, gold/ silver, campers, jetskis, motorcycles, trailers, antiques, tools & more!
Call and ask about our discounted commission on these items!
Call or Text 715.493.1279 Rhinelander, WI

640. REAL ESTATE MOBILE HOMES

Manufactured home. 2 bedrooms with some IMPROVEMENTS!
\$6,000 OBO
715-891-7154

650. REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Oneida County owned Real Estate For Sale: A detailed list of the properties, bid form and other information can be obtained from the County website at <http://www.oneidacountywi.gov> under Announcements click 'Real Property Sale Offerings', or contact Land Information Office, email lio@oneidacountywi.gov PH 715-369-6179.
Bids due March 7th, 2025, 4PM. Parcel and minimum bid:
CA-735-15 \$2,000.00;
MI-2392 \$750.00;
PE-177-1A \$190,000.00;
RH- 193 \$750.00;
RH-783 \$14,900.00;
RH-808-1 \$2,500.00;

820. SERVICES CONSTRUCTION / REMODELING

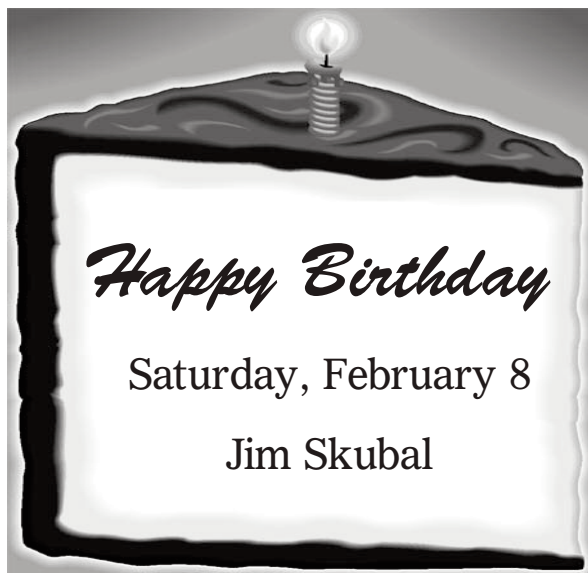
All Year Complete Home Repair Services
Paint & stain, power wash, drywall repair, texture match, flooring. Insured.
Roof repairs.
40+ years experience
715-891-7154

MASTER OF CARPENTRY
Home Repair & Remodeling. Doors, windows, siding, gutters, additions. Specializing in log home repairs, interior/ exterior painting, skid steer, dump trailer work.
Visit website: www.masterofcarpentry.com
Call/ text: 262-620-9565

830. SERVICES GENERAL

Garage Floor Specialist
BLACK PEARL EPOXY
Call Dan Johnson 920-378-2458 email: din63886002@gmail.com

HANDYMAN SNOW REMOVAL
Carpenter, painting, mechanic, any odd jobs.
(715)921-4789



830. SERVICES GENERAL

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

930. WANTED TO BUY

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

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 *continued next column*

WANTED TO BUY
Local collector and retired jeweler now paying cash for your unwanted gold, silver, jewelry, diamonds, and coins. One piece or entire collection. Call or text anytime for David (715)881-9956. Thank you.

LOCAL SPORTS PHOTO REPRINTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!
Check Out www.RiverNewsOnline.com
"Sports Photos"
5" x 7" or 8" x 10" (shipping available)
Have Questions?
Email: photos@rivernews.com
The Northwoods River News
232 S. Courtney Street • Rhinelander, WI 54501
715-365-6397

We want the scoop!
Share important information and news with the River News
email us at news@rivernews.com or call **715-365-NEWS (715-365-6397)**

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 Noon
Deadline for Tuesday River News is Thursday at Noon
Deadline for Friday River News is Tuesday at Noon.**

Trails

From page 1

There were questions over who has the authority to open the trails, and in response to the committee's vote to override, the council issued a notice to uphold its original vote to keep the trails closed.

Ultimately, the reason snowmobile council president Jim Wendt said trails should remain closed was a desire to not jeopardize easement agreements with private landowners whose land could be put at risk by opening trails too soon and riders veering off trails to find snow.

"Always exercise caution when riding a snowmobile," the Feb. 4 PSA states. "The trails are in rough, early season condition."

Last week, too, emails obtained by *The Lakeland Times* showed that the state Department of Natural Resources gave permission to the Bo-Boen Snowmobile Club in St. Germain to open a three-mile stretch of trail in Oneida County, despite

that club's vote the week before against opening the trails in Oneida County.

Clubs with parts of trails in Oneida County are included in the snowmobile council's vote.

Wendt is a member of the Bo-Boen Snowmobile Club.

A change in way trails open coming?

Before the vote by the forestry committee on Jan. 27, committee chairman Bob Almekinder indicated to the *Times* he felt the process for opening the snowmobile trails in Oneida County needs to change.

On Monday, the Let's Minocqua Visitors Bureau board of directors agreed to support the opening of the trails in Oneida County.

Krystal Westfahl, president and CEO of the Let's Minocqua Visitors Bureau, told the *Times* on Tuesday she personally feels if trails in Vilas are open, then trails in northern Oneida should be open too.

Because the Let's Minocqua Visitors Bureau is the chamber entity for the four towns of Minocqua, Hazel-

hurst, Woodruff and Arbor Vitae, Westfahl said her staff encountered difficulty in advertising snowmobiling for one of the four towns it represents and not the other three. She said it was tough for her staff to field questions about snowmobiling along county lines, having to advise people where they legally could and couldn't ride.

Westfahl said her office was getting "a lot of feedback" from businesses primarily on snowmobile trails expressing a need for the trails to open.

"It was more confusion, 'Like we don't understand why we can't be open,' more than anything," she said of what she was hearing from businesses. "It wasn't like a demand ... 'Right there, we can see snowmobiles driving and we can't have them come to our business.' So it was more confusion and not (an) understanding (of) the dynamics of this county-line."

Westfahl said she feels Let's Minocqua and business owners will need to be more involved with area snowmo-

bile clubs moving forward.

"I think geographically speaking, we have to look at ... how we're getting snow," she said. "We're part of like this ... southern snowbelt that comes off of Lake Superior and when it hits Vilas, it's going to hit the northern half of Oneida County as well. We see it time and again. ... So it's weird to have Arbor Vitae available to be open, but then like just a stone's throw away, Woodruff can't be. And ... when we have everybody staying here and also either renting here or buying from here, it's all in this region that can't be open and we can see the snowmobiles running just north of us. So it's strange as a zone for us to not be able to market the entire area because (of) this county-line situation."

What changed?

Wendt told the *Times* on Tuesday the most recent vote among the snowmobile council happened early Monday morning.

There were two dissenters, but those who voted again to keep the

trails closed said their trails could be fully ready if the area gets the 2 to 4 inches that was forecasted by today.

Wendt said he thinks the reason the snowmobile council ended up voting to open the trails this week was to avoid more "disruption" to businesses.

He said the fact that there is more snow forecasted for the area this week prompted the snowmobile council to hold another vote as well.

"Usually, when we do a PSA it's for 48 hours (before the trails actually open)," Wendt said. "We stretched this all the way to Friday to give the clubs a chance to kind of get caught up and hopefully we get a few more inches of snow."

This winter, he said, has been difficult.

"But again, like I've told everybody that listens, it's safety and landowner issues," Wendt said. "Those are the two things that we're made of."

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

Code

From page 5

Others say the language "in conjunction with" straightforwardly means "and." At the January 7 meeting, county forestry director Jill Nemeč appeared to lean that way.

"And I think I'm still very foggy on exactly what the department's role is," Nemeč said. "I don't know that we can mandate the clubs to do something. I don't know that whatever we've got is set up that way. Maybe it is. I've been looking into it for a while, since Friday, and I haven't found anything yet that says the county has official

authority over clubs. From everything that I can see, it's a partnership. We work in conjunction with them."

The important thing is, Nemeč said, if the committee moved forward and opened the trails, then the department and the committee have to try to get the clubs on board to do so, too.

"And some clubs already are, but they work through their council," she said. "So it's the council as a whole that decides that with input from each club. So I don't know what that level of difficulty is to get them to help out."

Almekinder again said that the question

was whether the council's bylaws and policies were legal.

So who makes department policy?

Whatever the proper interpretation, Nemeč's comments made clear she did not think the committee's vote meant anything more than an expressed desire — though the meeting was convened to actually open the trails, not wish them to be — and Rady, in following up on his email exchange with Steffes, not only took the same position but asserted it as department policy.

That begs the question, can Nemeč and Rady declare department policy on their

own if they don't agree with a committee vote?

After Steffes had responded to Rady, on January 31 Rady forwarded her response to county board chairman Scott Holewinski, to corporation counsel Michael Fugle, and to Nemeč, and then offered his interpretation that the forestry committee was wrong.

He asserted that not just as his opinion, but as the official interpretation of the forestry department, despite the forestry committee's vote to the contrary.

"Our department's opinion and interpretation of how this works is that both the County AND the council would with individual clubs/segments opening trails if our system as a whole is closed," Rady wrote.

It's not that Steffes was wrong, Rady wrote, just that the county code and the council's bylaws were not factored into the situation.

"Jillian's [Steffes] email below references that '...the County would have to be in agreement with this particular group of trails being open' is accurate, but because of how the trail opening policy and our county code are written, both the Forestry Department and the Snowmobile Council would both need to agree for one club to open in order for a solo club to get paid," he wrote. "The way that the council is structured now, the club would need to bring the request to open segments of their trails forward to the council and they would decide as a group if it would be allowed. If the county approves it but the council decides against it, then the trail

doesn't open because we need both organizations to say yes."

Given that position, questions had been raised about the ability of the Bo-Boen Club to open the three-mile segment of the Highline Trail in Oneida County close to St. Germain, where that club is based. Rady said it was a unique situation and actually the policy he had just outlined had been followed.

"The reasoning for the 3-mile 'Highline' section south of St. Germain being allowed to open is because both groups (County & Council) knew about it and are in agreement with it," he wrote. "Because the Council and County approved this, the club can get paid for grooming/maintaining that small segment even though the rest of the trail system is officially closed."

Opening that segment of the trail was a matter of practicality, Rady wrote.

"There are numerous club trails and other entry points feeding into the Oneida segment of this trail, and it would be incredibly difficult for the club to close that off," he wrote. "They would have to close a lot of spur trails in Vilas County for that to happen, and try to restrict access points at every single business along that stretch of trail."

It was not a new occurrence, Rady insisted, "opening of this segment before the rest of the Oneida system being open has occurred many times in years past."

In an email to this reporter clarifying authorship of the above emails — it wasn't clear to this reporter what was coming from Rady and what was coming

from the state — Nemeč did not disagree that Rady's assessment was in fact department policy.

"The email from Eric on 1/31/25 forwards Jillian's response from 1/29/25, but also provides our opinion and interpretation regarding partially opening trails, specifically the 'Highline Trail,' which we've received questions about from both you and county supervisors," Nemeč wrote.


In other words, the department's interpretation is being given to the public and to other county officials, not the committee's interpretation.

That prompted a follow-up inquiry to Nemeč, namely, given that the code language is being interpreted in one way by the forestry committee and in another way by the forestry department, and the forestry department's official position did not change after the forestry committee vote, who sets department policy?

"So my question is, who made that interpretation?" this reporter's email asked. "Did the corporation counsel give input or render an opinion to the department? It doesn't seem to be the forestry committee, given their vote last week. Is it Rady's interpretation, and has this interpretation come into play in the past? I know it is the department's opinion and interpretation, I would just like to know how that opinion and interpretation came to be the official one for the department."

Nemeč did not respond to the question by press time.

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



Plum Lake Equestrian Center

presents

EQUINE HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIRE

Saturday, Feb 8, 2025 9 AM to 3 PM

Join us for this fun and educational event, featuring hands-on demonstrations of the latest in equine health and wellness. This event is \$7 at the door and benefits the Best Friends Sanctuary. Food and beverages available from Milky Way Coffee Company.



Scheduled practitioners and times include:

9:00 AM BOREALIS HOLISTIC, EQUINE REIKI & ENERGY WORK
 9:30 AM WEST 20 RANCH & SADDLERY, SADDLE FITTING — JULIE CYRA
 10:15 AM STEVE PACKARD, FARRIER
 11:00 AM DR. KATIE HOM, DEMO CLICKER TRAINING
 11:45 AM CRAIG SANDMIRE, DR'S CHOICE, EQUINE NUTRITION
 12:30 PM DR. MIKE GRAPER "BREEDING HEALTHY HORSES"
 1:30 PM MIDWEST VETERINARY DENTAL SERVICES — DRs MOLLY RICE & JESSICA HUNT
 2:30 PM DR. ALISON FRENCH, EQUINE ACUPUNCTURE

More demonstrations and presentations are being added daily!
 To be included on our email list,
 drop us an email at PlumLakeEquineCtr@gmail.com.

Vendors: If you would like to participate, contact us.

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plumlakedressage@gmail.com
www.plumlakeequestriancenter.com

THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS SPORTS



YOUTH SPORTS ROUNDUP:
Hodag Peewee As
headed to state

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Friday, February 7, 2025

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PHOTOS BY BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhineland High School's skaters on the Northland Pines girls' hockey co-op, from left to right Jalyn Zadnik, Mia Tulowitzky, Reese Retallick and Emalee Detienne, pose for a photograph following a game against the Fox Cities Stars at the Rhineland Ice Arena Monday, Feb. 3. For Zadnik, Tulowitzky and Detienne, Monday's game marked their first contest in Rhineland in more than two years.

One more for the home fans

Rhineland seniors get final RIA experience as Eagles co-op skates Fox Cities

By Jeremy Mayo

RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

When Rhineland High School's Emalee Detienne and Mia Tulowitzky skated off the Rhineland Ice Arena following a game against Brookfield Jan. 21, 2023, little did they know how long it would be until they could compete again at their home rink.

A lot changed over the course of 744 days. The Northern Edge co-op that Detienne and Tulowitzky were a part of folded following the 2022-23 season and the skaters who remained merged with the Northland Pines co-op, which almost exclusively practices and competes at the Eagle River Sports Arena.

On Monday night, however, the

two Rhineland seniors got one final curtain call in front of their home fans.

The game didn't play out as the Eagles would have hoped as they were blown out 11-0 by the Fox Cities Stars super co-op that features a roster of players from 13 different schools in the Fox Valley. Yet for the two, it served as a bit of closure for a hockey journey that was a lot more winding than they expected when they first laced up their skates as youths.

"It was really nice getting to be in our old locker room and there was so many memories that happened there and it just felt great to be here again, for the last time," Tulowitzky said after the game.

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Mia Tulowitzky plays a puck in the defensive zone ahead of Fox Cities' Alexis Process during the second period of a girls' hockey game between Northland Pines and Fox Cities at the Rhineland Ice Arena Monday, Feb. 3.

Offense cools as Hodag Hoops falls to Wausau West

By Jeremy Mayo

RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Rhineland High School boys' basketball coach Derek Lemmens said Tuesday's non-conference game at Wausau West would be a good test to see how the Hodags' offense would fare against a strong defense.

Things were going well for the Hodags for a while but, eventually, the Wausau West defense won out.

West used a 15-3 run to open the second half and pulled away, defeating the Hodags 56-47 in Wausau.

Rhineland (11-5, 6-2 Great Northern) went cold, particularly in the final nine minutes of the first half and the first nine minutes of the second. The Hodags had only five field goals and 13 points in that span, and shot 39% (19 of 49) from the field overall. That included a 4 of 26 night from beyond the arc.

"You know, we were taking some quick shots and we were missing some really good looks too," Lemmens said. "We went 4 for 26 from three tonight. So when you shoot like that, you're going to have a hard time getting points on the board. Part of it was some really clean looks and another part was again the quick shots."

See Hoops... page 17

RHS gymnasts edge Antigo at home

By Jeremy Mayo

RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Though less than 100% from a health standpoint, the Rhineland High School gymnastics team still had enough in the tank Tuesday night to fend off a longtime rival.

The Hodags came through on their final event of the night to edge Antigo 114.425-112.225 in a Great Northern Conference Small division dual at the YMCA of the Northwoods. The win moved Rhineland to 1-1 in the GNC Small and marked Rhineland's first dual meet win over the Robins in nearly two decades.

It came down to the last event as the Hodags led by a mere 0.025 points after three rotations. Rhineland scored

30.775 on floor exercise while Antigo posted a 28.6 on the balance beam to account for the final margin.

"I'm happy that we were still able to get that one because we were really hoping we could put it together for that," coach Kristina Aschenbrenner said. "A lot of falls on beam, a couple floor routine mistakes, but also some surprises on vault. Mollie (Arneson) threw a new vault today and that went really well. So, overall, you know we did good and I'm happy with it."

The Hodags were short-handed as freshman Emeline Hintz, one of the team's top all-arounders, missed the meet due to a knee injury sustained at practice a night earlier. Senior Wendy Fronk, who missed last

Saturday's invite in Antigo, was back in the lineup for the Hodags and led the team in the all-around. She finished second on the night with a 28.65 and saved her best for last, winning the floor exercise with a 7.95. She added a runner-up finish on balance beam (7.3).

"Wendy had a new skill on beam that we've been working on, so that was fun to see," coach Aschenbrenner said. "Good meet for Wendy. You know, senior night, so it's always fun to see the seniors shine on senior night. Margherita (Tibaldeschi), our other senior, she had a nice beam routine, nice floor routine so that was a lot of fun to see those girls perform."

See Gym... page 17



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhineland's Wendy Fronk points during her floor exercise routine in a GNC Small division gymnastics meet against Antigo at the YMCA of the Northwoods Tuesday, Feb. 4. Fronk won the event and took second in the individual all-around as the Hodags defeated the Red Robins, 114.425-112.225.

Lady Hodags can't keep up with SPASH

By Jeremy Mayo

RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Rhinelander High School girls' basketball team hung in for a while against the top team in the Wisconsin Valley Conference on Tuesday night, but Stevens Point's relentless defense eventually proved to be too much.

The Panthers pulled away late in the first half and early in the second to defeat the Hodags 54-38 in non-conference play at the Jim Mizazga Community Gymnasium.

Standout guard Aubryn Clark (back) missed her sixth straight game for Rhinelander and the Hodag offense continues to be limited without its top scorer and ball-handler. The Hodags have averaged only 42.3 points per game in Clark's absence and finished Tuesday's game with 31 turnovers — right on their average over the last six contests.

"The effort was good. I thought the communication was really good. I thought the kids believed they could



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelander's Kelsey Winter puts up a shot against Stevens Point's Lindsey Weiler (24) and Jacinta Zdroik (12) during the second half of a non-conference girls' basketball game at the Jim Mizazga Community Gymnasium Tuesday, Feb. 4. The Hodags lost, 54-38.

compete. So we're really proud of that," Hodag coach Ryan Clark said. "I just think SPASH's defense caused a lot of problems. We

had 31 turnovers. We couldn't quite run anything offensively. They pressured the ball really hard, they denied the passing lanes."

The Hodags (11-8, 6-3 Great Northern) hung around early in the contest. After falling behind 9-0 at the start, a Dawsyn Barkus 3 pulled the Hodags with in 13-11 with 9:10 left in the half. Leah Awe hit a transition 3 moments later, however, sparking a 17-4 run for the Panthers to close out the first half.

SPASH (15-4, 8-0 Wis. Valley) scored the first six points of the second half before the Hodags made a mini-run to get back within 12 on a Vivian Lamers 3-point play with 12:15 remaining. The Panthers, coached by alumna and former WNBA No. 1 draft pick Janel McCarville, responded by scoring the next 12 to put the game out of reach.

The Panthers used an expanded bench throughout the night and had a balanced attack. Leading scorer Jada Seubert, a sophomore, had a game-high 15 points in limited minutes. Lindsey Weiler added 10 and Awe, a 6-2 freshman, had 11 points and seven rebounds. She also had a trio of blocked shots late in the second half

against an undersized Hodag squad.

"She's a heck of a freshman. She's going to be a really nice player. Boy, it would be nice to have a swing player like that," coach Clark said. "I told the girls they've probably never seen a kid that can get up and touch the rim and, boy, we just set them up on a platter for her. She was having a heyday blocking shots. But, that's something we've got to learn from."

The Hodags finished the night 36% (12 of 33) from the field. Lamers was Rhinelander's only player in double figures, scoring 12 points. Kelsey Winter added seven points despite heading off the bench for a few minutes in the second half for treatment on a left knee she's been battling all season. She returned a short time later, a sigh of relief for the Hodags, who were already down Aubryn Clark and JaLyn LaChapelle (leg) and have another senior — Barkus — playing through a knee ailment.

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Hodag hockey falls to No. 1 Tomahawk in GNC tourney opener

By Jeremy Mayo

RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Rhinelander High School boys' hockey team was no match for the top-ranked team in Division 2 on Tuesday night as the Tomahawk Hatchets rolled past the Hodags 9-0 in Tomahawk in the opening round of the Great Northern Conference tournament.

The top-seeded Hatchets (17-3-0) outshot Rhinelander 51-4 in the contest and controlled things from the opening face-off. Johan Dickens recorded a hat trick and was one of four different Hatchets with at least three points in the game. While closer than the 10-0 loss Rhinelander suffered to the Hatchets during the regular season, Hodag coach M.J. Laggis said Tomahawk is simply at another level.

"I'll tell you, Jonah Dickens, he's as good of a player as I've seen in a long time, just lightning fast and, tonight in particular, we didn't have the answer for their tape-to-tape passing and really quick transitions up ice," he said. "They make one, two, three good passes in the offensive zone and then comes a misdirection pass to the back door and a great scoring chance — and they're very, very good at it."

Goals came in bunches for the Hatchets during the contest. They went up 2-0 3:11 into the game on goals 24 seconds apart by Dickens and Jett Reilly and tacked on two more goals over the final 2:07 of the period to take a 4-0 lead to the first intermission.

The Hatchets scored only twice in the second period, but those were goals 32 seconds apart courtesy of Sawyer Hanna and Carson Childers. Dickens scored 2:44 into the third period and finished his hat trick at the 10:36 mark. Brayden Lamer score 27 seconds after that to round out the scoring.

Laggis commended his defense and goalie Asher Rivord, who made 42 saves in the contest, for the efforts against Tomahawk's relentless pressure.

"The defensemen were really scrappy down low and did a good job trying to cover the back door and be at the point of attack when the puck was in the corner," he said. "Nate Cordy, as a forward, does a really good job in the D zone working down though and he's one of those guys that did that tonight ... Asher had some really nice saves. I think about the second period and he has some really nice saves and kept us alive right there."

See **Hockey**. . . page 16

Wrestling: Hodags fall to Antigo, bunching field for GNC tournament

By Jeremy Mayo

RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Rhinelander High School wrestling team missed out on an opportunity Tuesday to cement itself into second place in the Great Northern Conference heading into this weekend's conference tournament.

The Hodags won only four of nine contested matches and gave up three forfeit losses in a 46-27 defeat at Antigo to round out the dual meet portion of the schedule.

Rhinelander (6-3, 3-2 Great Northern) had a chance to move four points clear of Antigo, Medford and Mosinee for second in the conference with a win. Instead the Hodags are even with the Robins (3-2 Great Northern), and only two points ahead of Medford and Mosinee, going into Saturday's finale in Minocqua.

"Disappointed for the way tonight went, but we always get another opportunity to go out there and let fly this weekend to try and get some those matches back," Hodag coach Scottie Arneson said. "Having the dual season that we had and then to finish it up like this is going to leave the sour taste in your mouth, but the sun's coming up tomorrow."

The Hodags still had a shot down the stretch, trailing Antigo 34-27 with two bouts remaining, but Gage Anderson was pinned in the first period by Jayson Arrowood at 150 pounds to seal the match and Dresden Klaver fell to Joseph Stimac early in the second period at 157 to close out the dual.

Antigo finished the night with four pins, three forfeits and a major decision in its favor while Rhinelander had two pins, one forfeit, a technical fall and a major decision. The squads both forfeited at 106 pounds.

"They did a better job in those in those 50-50 matches and we got to figure out how to put our

best foot forward in the next couple weeks here," Arneson said.

Antigo led wire-to-wire in the contest, going up 12-0 on a pin by Nolan Kielchieski and a forfeit win by Levi Binversie to start the dual. Logan Schwinger got the Hodags on the board with a technical fall over Antigo's Caleb Vandenlangenberg 3:21 into the 190-pound match.

"Logan did a nice job scoring points in a variety of ways which we've been working on. I think he understood that maybe he had the upper hand in experience and ability tonight, and he was working some of the techniques that we've been working on that we think get him an extra weekend coming up here in the next few," Arneson said.

The Hodags got to within 18-17 on a pin by Reid Schultz at 285 and a forfeit win for Trevor Denton at 113. Schultz gave up the opening takedown to Antigo's Johanan Taylor but rallied back to finish off the match in only 55 seconds.

"We were talking after we got back tonight and he's like, 'I don't know why my feet were so lazy tonight. I can't believe I gave up a takedown.' But I think it's sparked a fire under him to maybe get his footwork a little bit faster and move a little bit quicker," Arneson said. "But he ended up doing a really nice job with a nice reversal into a big mat return to eventually get the pin."

Ivan Loka secured the Hodags' other pin, stopping Antigo's Zander Zilles in the second period at 126, which closed the score to 24-23.

"He's got a weird gas tank that I don't know if it has an empty," Arneson said. "I haven't seen it yet where he gets to the end of a match and he's dead tired. I think he's got a lot of pride in taking matches the full length and trying to

sneak them out at the end. He used it tonight and found a way to get on top and get a fall."

Anthony Boldt picked up the Hodags' other victory, earning a 16-3 major decision over Antigo's Seth Medo at 144. Arneson said it was a needed win for Boldt, who relinquished second-period leads and was pinned in both of his matches five days prior at a non-conference triangular in Three Lakes.

"When he gets onto the leg, his ability to finish now is night and day better than it was three weeks ago," Arneson said. "We've just been trying to get them into a six-minute match and instead of just shutting down and letting guys battle back, and tonight he was proud of himself."

While Tomahawk appears to be the odds-on favorite on Saturday, the rest of the GNC could be wide open, based on how close dual meet scores were during the regular season and how teams fared relative to each other during non-conference invites over the course of the season. Arneson said emerging from the fray in second place will boil down to two factors.

"I'm not going to throw out any crazy guesses or anything like that, but I think with the amount of guys that teams will put on the mat and the amount of guys that we can put out on the mat this weekend will dictate where placement for teams ends up," he said. "I think there's going to be good opportunities for our wrestlers to get all-conference awards and hopefully they'll be full bracket so that a lot of matches take place."

Saturday's conference tournament gets underway at 10 a.m. at Lakeland Union High School in Minocqua.

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

Hodag Nordic competes at state sprints

The Hodag Nordic ski team was at the Ariens Nordic Center in Brillion this past weekend for the Wisconsin Nordic Ski League State Sprint Championships. The two-day event was divided into team and individual components, with team relay races on Saturday and individual sprints on Sunday.

The Hodags had a handful of A-final appearances on Saturday and five different skiers advanced to the knockout stages of Sunday's individual sprints.

While the races were short — just over a kilometer per lap — there were multiple races each day for the skiers, which made for a long weekend.

"It definitely does take a toll from just getting everyone down here and in ski condition and ready to race," coach John Gillen said. "The races are short and quick and really spread out so the athletes need to pay attention to their start times and a lot of competition out there and our venue is really spread out. So it's a lot of effort to get from place A to place B and then put in a great effort on the skis."

The Hodags had some success in the JV girls' division of Saturday's relay races. Sophomore teammates Kali Skubal and Mya Gillen finished second in the nine-team field, covering a 4.8-kilometer race with exchanges after each lap in 18 minutes, 34.2 seconds. Senior Emma Mankus and junior Kayla Skubal were eighth in that race (21:44.4), with Mankus earned a medal in the adaptive category.

"Emma, as our only adaptive skier in the state, came in and skied fantastic with her teammate Kayla supporting her and then Mya and Kali reaching the podium with second place yesterday was really nice," coach Gillen said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kayla Skubal competes in a quarterfinal race at the WNSL State Sprint Championships in Brillion Sunday, Feb. 2. Skubal finished 29th overall in a 55-skier field.

Senior Iain Rumney was the only Hodag boy able to compete over the weekend, but still got involved in the sprints. He partnered with August Roberts of the Snowflake Ski Team to form an All-Star pairing that finished sixth in the JV boys' race (15:12.2). He also took part in the mixed team relay where he and Kayla Skubal took seventh in a 7.2-kilometer race that featured 12 teams (24:16.5).

Rumney even aided middle schooler Alexander Rusch in the relays on Saturday, giving him someone to race with despite the Hodags having an odd number of skiers and being unable to find a skier from another team

to compete with to form an all-star team.

"Iain, as our high school boy, was supporting teammates from the high school level right down the middle school," coach Gillen said.

In middle school action, the pair of eighth-grader Noelle Mayo and seventh-grader Kelsie Skubal finished sixth out of 23 competing pairs. They took fourth in their semifinal to advance to the A-final, where they finished sixth. Scarlett Hartmann and Evelyn MacFarland took eighth in the B-final to place 20th overall.

See Ski... page 16

Regular season ends for Hodag bowlers

The Rhinelander Area Youth Bowling Club's high school boys' and girls' teams wrapped up regular season competition on Sunday in the Stevens Point area.

The Rhinelander/Three Lakes boys' squad split its matches, defeating Merrill 7-2 before losing to conference champion Antigo 7-2 at 5-Star Lanes in Plover. The Hodag girls dropped a pair of 7-2 decisions to the Manawa and D.C. Everest co-ops on Sunday at Skipp's Bowl in Stevens Point.

The Hodag boys came out with one of their best matches of the season against the Bluejays, averaging 185.1 pins per game over the nine-game baker series while filling 79% of their frames. Rhinelander won five of the first six games in the match to wrap-up the dual. The Hodags had games of 193 and 199 as they won the first two games and then ran games 4-6 with scores of 181, 200 and 224.

"That match was probably one of the stronger, most consistent of matches that we had," coach Mike Bourcier said. "They bowled really well and it was good. Overall, they were picking all the spares up, which is where you can win the games."

The Hodags left a few close games on the table early in the second match against Antigo and that proved costly once the Robins began to fire on all cylinders late in the going. Rhinelander opened with 215-191 win in Game 1, and had a 178-167 win in Game 4 after junior Dom Hakala struck out in the 10th frame, but close 161-145 and 179-158 losses in Games 3 and 5 had the Hodags down 3-2 in the match.

Antigo caught fire from there, posting scores of 222, 227 and 235 over the next three games to lock up the match.

"We should've been 4-1 right there. I mean they were beatable," Bourcier said.

The Hodags averaged 164.6 pins and filled 67.8% of their frames in the Antigo match.

Alex Hall, the team's lone senior, led the way, filling 30 of his 36 frames on the day with 14 strikes. Blake Klingen was 29 of 36 with 15 strikes. Oren Alsager and Hakala were both 25 of 36 with 16 and 11 strikes, respectively. Jackson Fuss was 23 of 26 with 13 strikes.

See Bowl... page 17

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

PREP BOYS' BASKETBALL

GNC Standings as of Tuesday, Feb. 4

Team	GNC	Ovr
Rhinelander	6-2	11-5
Medford	6-2	10-8
Mosinee	5-2	13-6
Northland Pines	4-4	10-8
Antigo	3-5	9-9
Lakeland	3-5	7-11
Tomahawk	0-7	4-13

Tuesday's Games

Medford 56, Altoona 52 (NC)
Wausau West 56, Rhinelander 47 (NC)
Wausau East 82, Lakeland 71 (NC)
D.C. Everest 87, Mosinee 80 (NC)
Tomahawk at Merrill (NC), ppd.

Friday's Games

Lakeland at Northland Pines, 7:15 p.m.
Mosinee at Antigo, 7:15 p.m.
Rhinelander at Tomahawk, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday's Game

Rice Lake at Medford, 7:15 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 10

Tomahawk at Merrill (NC), 7:15 p.m.

Rhinelander at Wausau West

Tuesday, Feb. 4
Rhinelander 24 23 — 47
Wausau West 26 30 — 56
RHINELANDER (47): Barkus 0-7 0-0 0, Feck 7-17 0-0 16, Nofftz 1-1 1-2 4, Lamers 2-7 0-0 4, Shoeder 4-9 0-0 8, Wiczek 1-2 2-2 5, Gretzinger 4-6 2-2 10, Schommer 0-0 0-2 0. 19-49 5-8 47.

WAUSAU WEST (56): Cooper 4 1-1 10, Phelps 4 1-2 9, Lange 6 6-6 18, Matteson 5 2-2 15, Riley 1 0-0 3, MacDonald 0 0-0 0, Waldvogel 1 0-0 2. Totals 20 10-11 56.

3-Point Goals:

Rhinelander 4-6 (Feck 2-10, Wiczek 1-1, Nofftz 1-1, Gretzinger 0-2, Lamers 0-3, Shoeder 0-4, Barkus 0-5), Wausau West 3 (Matteson 2, Cooper). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Rhinelander 25 (Shoeder 70, Wausau West N/A. **Assists:** Rhinelander 11 (Nofftz 4), Wausau West N/A. **Total Fouls:** Rhinelander 13, Wausau West 12.

PREP GIRLS' BASKETBALL

GNC Standings as of Tuesday, Feb. 4

Team	GNC	Ovr
Lakeland	9-0	16-4
Mosinee	6-2	12-6
Rhinelander	6-3	11-8
Tomahawk	4-4	10-8
Medford	4-5	8-11
Northland Pines	1-7	5-14
Antigo	0-9	2-15

Monday's Games

Northland Pines 65, Watersmeet, Mich. 30 (NC)

HODAG LANES

Ladies Friendly League

Tuesday, Feb. 4

High Game
Nicole Brown 244
Cory Hoffmann 236
Judy Bloomquist 225
Gerry Van Harpen 211
Nancy Nebgen 201

High Series

Judy Bloomquist 613
Nicole Brown 583
Gerry Van Harpen 572
Cory Hoffmann 559
Nancy Nebgen 545

Monday Morning Ladies League

High Game
Punky Showers 228
Trista Alsteen 192
Lynda Devine 190
Vicki Larson 184
Nancy Nebgen 175

High Series

Punky Showers 523
Lynda Devine 503
Diane Goslin 491
Vicki Larson 484
Trista Alsteen 475

Standings as of Feb. 3

Team	W	L
Alley Cats	88-59	
Class Act	78½-68½	
Big Dogs	74-73	
Cat Lovers & Co.	74-73	
Pin Pals	65-82	
Hi Lo Rollers	61½-85½	

Wednesday Tavern League

Wednesday, Jan. 29

High Game
Tony Shaltis 265
Chris Hurst 245
Armand West 242
Josh Oettinger 238
Tom Reinke 235
Christiaan Haling 235

High Series

Tom Reinke 678
Tony Shaltis 672
Chris Hurst 643
Christiaan Haling 637
Phil Amstadt 630

STANDINGS AS OF JAN. 29

Team	W-L
Nick's Hodag Lanes 2	65-54
Culver's	65-54
It Is What It Is	64-55
Hodag Honda	64-55
Nick's Hodag Lanes 1	64-55
Burnett Plumbing	56-63
Worm	49-70
Metro Screenprinting	49-70

Hodag Keglers League

Monday, Jan. 27

High Game
Ron Jablonski 279
Tony Shaltis 278
Remington Haling 276
John Reintaler 275
Chris Hurst 269

High Series

Eric Piepenburg 742
Ron Jablonski 724
Chris Hurst 720
Nate Russell 688
Phil Amstadt 683

Standings as of Jan. 27

Team	W-L
Nick's Hodag Lanes	35-16
River Street Tap 2	31-20
Blind Squirrels	29-22
3 & a Kow	29-22
Gutter Gang	27½-23½
Hodag Honda	27-24
Burnett Plumbing	27-24
SHI 2	27-24
Rick's Pro Shop	26-25
Tilly's Pinbusters	26-25
Triple D	26-25
Spencer's Den	26-25
Sounds & Motion	25-26
Simokon	24-27
River Street Tap 1	24-27
River Street River Rats	23-28
Butcher Shop Bake Co.	22½-28½
Da Kozy Korner	22-29
Flintstones	17-34
Amstadt Painting	16-35

STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 4

Team	W-L
Preuss's Pub	92-48
Schoenack Home Improvement	85-56
Play by Play	81-59
Country Bar	81-59
Rick's Pro Shop	80-60
Nick's Side Chicks	79-61
Eagle River Roasters	74-66
Avco Vacuum Cleaner Co.	74-66
Hodag Country Fest	71-69
Essence of Synergy	70-70
Campfire Coffee & Creamery	70-70
Victory Vinyl Designs	70-70
Culver's	64-76
Hodag Honda	60-80
Tom's Drawing Board	48-92

Monday Morning Ladies League

Monday, Feb. 3

High Game
Punky Showers 228
Trista Alsteen 192
Lynda Devine 190
Vicki Larson 184
Nancy Nebgen 175

High Series

Punky Showers 523
Lynda Devine 503
Diane Goslin 491
Vicki Larson 484
Trista Alsteen 475

Standings as of Feb. 3

Team	W-L
Alley Cats	88-59
Class Act	78½-68½
Big Dogs	74-73
Cat Lovers & Co.	74-73
Pin Pals	65-82
Hi Lo Rollers	61½-85½

Wednesday Tavern League

Wednesday, Jan. 29

High Game
Tony Shaltis 265
Chris Hurst 245
Armand West 242
Josh Oettinger 238
Tom Reinke 235
Christiaan Haling 235

High Series

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Tony Shaltis 672
Chris Hurst 643
Christiaan Haling 637
Phil Amstadt 630

STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 4

Team	W-L
Nick's Hodag Lanes 2	65-54
Culver's	65-54
It Is What It Is	64-55
Hodag Honda	64-55
Nick's Hodag Lanes 1	64-55
Burnett Plumbing	56-63
Worm	49-70
Metro Screenprinting	49-70

Hodag Keglers League

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SHI 2	27-24
Rick's Pro Shop	26-25
Tilly's Pinbusters	26-25
Triple D	26-25
Spencer's Den	26-25
Sounds & Motion	25-26
Simokon	24-27
River Street Tap 1	24-27
River Street River Rats	23-28
Butcher Shop Bake Co.	22½-28½
Da Kozy Korner	22-29
Flintstones	17-34
Amstadt Painting	16-35

STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 4

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Schoenack Home Improvement	85-56
Play by Play	81-59
Country Bar	81-59
Rick's Pro Shop	80-60
Nick's Side Chicks	79-61
Eagle River Roasters	74-66
Avco Vacuum Cleaner Co.	74-66
Hodag Country Fest	71-69
Essence of Synergy	70-70
Campfire Coffee & Creamery	70-70
Victory Vinyl Designs	70-70
Culver's	64-76
Hodag Honda	60-80
Tom's Drawing Board	48-92

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High Series

Punky Showers 523
Lynda Devine 503
Diane Goslin 491
Vicki Larson 484
Trista Alsteen 475

STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 4

Team	W-L
Alley Cats	88-59
Class Act	78½-68½
Big Dogs	74-73
Cat Lovers & Co.	74-73
Pin Pals	65-82
Hi Lo Rollers	61½-85½

Wednesday Tavern League

Wednesday, Jan. 29

High Game
Tony Shaltis 265
Chris Hurst 245
Armand West 242
Josh Oettinger 238
Tom Reinke 235
Christiaan Haling 235

High Series

Tom Reinke 678
Tony Shaltis 672
Chris Hurst 643
Christiaan Haling 637
Phil Amstadt 630

Standings as of Feb. 3

Team	W-L
Alley Cats	88-59
Class Act	78½-68½
Big Dogs	74-73
Cat Lovers & Co.	74-73
Pin Pals	65-82
Hi Lo Rollers	61½-85½

Wednesday Tavern League

Wednesday, Jan. 29

High Game
Tony Shaltis 265
Chris Hurst 245
Armand West 242
Josh Oettinger 238
Tom Reinke 235
Christiaan Haling 235

High Series

Tom Reinke 678
Tony Shaltis 672
Chris Hurst 643
Christiaan Haling 637
Phil Amstadt 630

STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 4

Team	W-L
Preuss's Pub	92-48
Schoenack Home Improvement	85-56
Play by Play	81-59
Country Bar	81-59
Rick's Pro Shop	80-60
Nick's Side Chicks	79-61
Eagle River Roasters	74

YOUTH SPORTS ROUNDUP

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

WINTER CLASSIC

The Hodag Diamond Club held its third annual Winter Classic tournament in the Hodag Dome Jan. 31 to Feb. 2. A number of area teams competed in the tournament, including one Rhinelander squad each in the 12U, 11U and 10U brackets.



Teammates react as Jaxon Eades (8) jumps to home plate after hitting a home run for the 11U team.



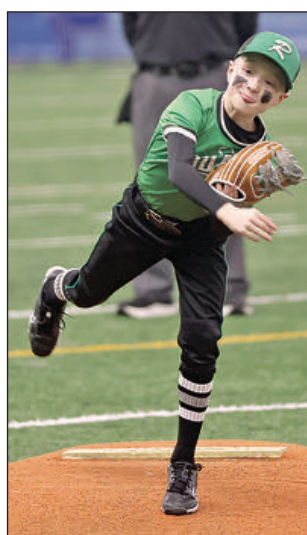
The Hodag 12U baseball team finished second in its bracket. Pictured in the front row, from left to right are Cash Rushman, Kolt Taylor, Jeter Vander Galien, Marshal Towne and Jaxon Eades. In the second row are Colton Jahn, Brayden Rexford, Eli Bauer, Casey Waksmonski and Cameron Olson. In the back row are coaches Kevin Eades, Dan Town, Joe Waksmonski and Ben Gauthier. Team members Landon Gauthier, Nick Schneider, Griffin Rady and Channing Waksmonski were unavailable for the photograph.



Easton Sieker reaches to receive a throw to first base for the 11U team.



Watson White gets a high-five on his way to first base after drawing a walk for the 10U team.



Braxton Bolkema pitches for the 10U team.



Eli Bauer hits a home run for the 12U team.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HOOPS

The James Williams Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade girls' basketball teams took on D.C. Everest at the JWMS gymnasium Monday, Feb. 3.



ABOVE: Olivia Eades looks to corral a loose ball for the seventh-grade team. **BELOW:** Kylie Treder drives in from the wing for the eighth-grade team.



Rhinelander Pee wee As advance to state

The Rhinelander Ice Association's Pee wee A hockey team has advanced to the WAHA Pee wee 3A state tournament following playdowns Sunday, Feb. 2 at the Rhinelander Ice Arena. The Hodags clinched their spot at state with a 13-1 victory over Tomahawk in the morning contest and then wrapped up the Region 2 championship with a 5-1 victory over Antigo later in the day.

They were the only Rhinelander team to move on from playdowns. The Squirt A team beat Tomahawk 7-2 but lost to Lakeland 4-2 in Merrill Feb. 1 for the right to move on to state. The Squirt B team lost 5-2 to Marshfield in Rhinelander on Sunday with a state berth on the line. The Pee-wee B team fell to Medford in



The Rhinelander Ice Association's Pee wee A team poses for a photograph after winning the WAHA Region 2 playdown at the Rhinelander Ice Arena Sunday, Feb. 2. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Owen Wallermann and Quinn Burton. In the second row are Cason Burnis, Sawyer Peters, Max Cahee, Hugh Anunson and Nick Schneider. In the back row are Teagan Drake, Ben Gehrmann, Collin Jorata, Jacob Baumann, Gage Chavez and Easton Ostrom.

the first round of playdowns and the Bantam squad dropped its opening game to Lakeland. The Hodags have the No. 1

seed for the WAHA Pee wee 3A state tournament, which will take place March 8-9 in Waupun.



Easton Ostrom reacts after scoring a goal during a Pee-wee A game against Antigo.



Tucker Schallock skates with the puck during a Squirt B game against Marshfield.

Home

From page 12

Added Detienne, "It was pretty scary to go out there and play in front of all of our home fans. I was really nervous, but I was also really excited to get back on our home ice again. It was just fun getting back out there one time before the season's over."

Detienne and Tulowitzky are the lone seniors on the Northland Pines co-op and the program, just like it did for Lakeland senior Taylor Hele- niak last season, gave the two one final home game. The contest was supposed to take place back on Dec. 19, but was postponed due to inclement weather.

That just made the wait a little longer, and the moment a little more poignant.

"Unfortunately, you know, when you got the co-op, it's tough because you don't get to play (at home)," Eagles coach Jeff Stebbeds said. "Some of your fans at normally there aren't able to travel and make it and watch you play all the time. So yeah, this is big for them to be able to come home and enjoy this play in front of them tonight. Unfortunately, the results were what they were tonight, but nonetheless, they skated hard for them."

The game itself was one-sided. The Stars (12-10-0) scored four times in the first period, three times in the second and four more in the third and dominated the shot count 60-4. The Eagles (4-17-0) simply didn't have the fire power to keep up. Monday's loss marked the 13th time Northland Pines has been shut out this season, and the fifth time in the Eagles' last six games.

"They are a well-oiled machine and that's where we want to be someday, but we're just so young," Stebbeds said. "You're going up against a crew like that, they've been together probably all the way through youth and stuff like that. That's where we want to be, that's why we're here and that's the goal we want achieve is get to that point."

All four Rhinelander High School skaters who suited up for the contest also got the start in front of the home fans — Detienne, Tulowitzky, junior goalie Jalyn Zadnik and sophomore forward Reese Retallick.

Detienne, Tulowitzky and Zadnik, along with Antigo junior Ella Koca, are among the



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Emalee Detienne talks with goalie Jalyn Zadnik during a break in a girls' hockey game between Northland Pines and Fox Cities at the Rhinelander Ice Arena Monday, Feb. 3.

few remaining links to the Northern Edge co-op which consisted of Rhinelander, Antigo and Lakeland. Even as the Edge finished their 2022-23 season talks were already underway between school activities directors about the team's future due to projected low numbers moving forward. By that April it was official. The Edge was no more as the participating schools joined the Northland Pines co-op.

Tulowitzky and Detienne said it took some time to get used to the change.

"Probably the hardest thing is the drive," Tulowitzky said, as Rhinelander skaters have to load up in a district-owned van and travel to Eagle River for practices and games. "We have to drive an hour every night, which is hard, and we can't just like get on the ice right away. We have to wait and which is hard."

Detienne added it was also difficult at first to assimilate with a team that, for most of her playing career, had been one of the Northern Edge's chief rivals.

"We had to meet a lot of new people, but it was fun," she said. "It was just real bumpy up first, but we ended up getting together and getting a real good team bond. Probably the most rewarding thing is just the memories that we're making at Eagle River and all the experiences we've got from that."

Detienne and Tulowitzky have seen plenty of ice time this winter as two of the top defenders on the Northland Pines squad. Tulowitzky had a goal and two assists on the

year while Detienne has one goal.

"We have two good seniors," Stebbeds said. "They always work hard for us, are great kids and it's going to be sad to see them see them go after this season because they are a fun group to coach and a really good kids to work with."

Retallick has also seen plenty of action. Her five points (2 goals, 3 assists) are second-most on the team this season. Zadnik has made three starts as the Eagles' backup goaltender, going 0-3 with a 6.51 goals against average and a .853 save percentage.

The Eagles were right back at it Tuesday night against another tough team, losing 8-0 at fourth-ranked Hayward. Pines has three more games remaining in the regular season, against Beaver Dam this Saturday in Antigo, at Wisconsin Valley Union next Tuesday against the Badger Lightning in Eagle River Feb. 14. The WIAA tournament will begin the following week.

"We want to be that dangerous team come playoff time. We want to try and upset somebody in the playoffs here and turn some heads right at the end of the season, or just before the playoffs here and maybe get a better seeding or something like that," Stebbeds said. "But, just a typical young team that will just play hard for us. Whenever you get that effort out of the girls like that, it makes you a dangerous team to play in the playoffs."

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

Ski

From page 14

On the boys' side, eighth-grader Sam Loomis and seventh-grader Jacob MacFarland were fifth in the B-final to take 17th overall.

Kayla Skubal had the best finish for the high school squad in Sunday's individual sprints. Her qualifying time of 3:42.20 seconds over a 1.2-kilometer skate course was good enough for 30th and a spot in the quarterfinals. That earned her three more laps around the course later in the day. She took eighth in her quarterfinal, sixth in her semifinal and fifth in the D final to place 29th overall.

Skiers who didn't make the top 32 got the chance to compete in one more race

against opponents of similar speed to determine their final placement. Rumney finished 59th on the boys' side after qualifying 58th. On the girls' side Mya Gillen finished 45th after qualifying 43rd, Kali Skubal was 47th after qualifying 48th and Mankus both qualified and finished 55th.

"Some of the kids that had great races yesterday, and wished they would have done a little bit better today, but they really put in a good effort," coach Gillen noted. "Kayla got up there in the top 32, so she had three more races and ended

up picking up another spot during her finals and final and semifinal heats."

The Hodags had three skiers finish in the top 24 in the middle school division. Both Kelsie Skubal and Mayo raced their way into the C-final on the girls' side, with Skubal taking 20th overall and Mayo finishing 22nd. Loomis qualified 29th on the boys' side, but advanced to the C-final with a top-four finish in his semi and then took fifth there to place 21st overall. Hartmann was the last girl into the field of 32 and nearly made it into the C final, finishing fifth in her semifinal. She ended up seventh in the D-final

and 31st overall.

On the boys' side Jacob MacFarland finished 37th after qualifying 35th. Rusch qualified and finished 32nd. Evelyn MacFarland took 38th on the girls' side after qualifying 36th.

The Hodags will wrap up their 2024-25 competition schedule this Saturday and Sunday in the WNSL Distance Championships at the American Birkebeiner Trailhead in Cable.

"There'll be a lot of athletes there and there's a lot of tough competition in the state. But the kids, I think, with how they raced this weekend and a lot of success, will be ready to race," coach Gillen said.

WIS. SPORTS GLANCE



Milwaukee

BUCKS

26-22, 3rd NBA Central

SCHEDULE

Feb. 2: Memphis 132, Bucks 119
 Monday: Oklahoma City 125, Bucks 96
 Wednesday: at Charlotte, late
 Friday: at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m. (FDSN-WI)
 Sunday: vs. Philadelphia, 1 p.m. (ABC)
 Feb. 10: vs. Golden State, 7 p.m. (FDSN-WI, NBA)

NBA STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 4

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	15	.706	—	Oklahoma City	39	9	.813	—
New York	34	17	.667	2	Denver	31	19	.620	9
Philadelphia	20	29	.408	15	Minnesota	27	23	.540	13
Brooklyn	17	33	.340	18½	Portland	22	29	.431	18½
Toronto	16	34	.320	19½	Utah	11	37	.229	28
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	40	10	.800	—	L.A. Lakers	29	19	.604	—
Indiana	28	21	.571	11½	L.A. Clippers	28	22	.560	2
Milwaukee	26	22	.542	13	Sacramento	25	24	.510	4½
Detroit	25	25	.500	15	Phoenix	25	24	.510	4½
Chicago	22	29	.431	18½	Golden State	25	24	.510	4½
Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	24	24	.500	—	Memphis	34	16	.680	—
Orlando	24	27	.471	1½	Houston	32	18	.640	2
Atlanta	23	27	.460	2	Dallas	26	25	.510	8½
Charlotte	12	35	.255	11½	San Antonio	21	26	.447	11½
Washington	8	41	.163	16½	New Orleans	12	38	.240	22



#11 Marquette

GOLDEN EAGLES

MEN'S BASKETBALL — 18-5, 9-3 Big East

SCHEDULE

Tuesday: No. 12 St. John's 70, Marquette 64
 Saturday: at Creighton, 1 p.m. (FOX)

BIG EAST STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 4

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



#21 Wisconsin

BADGERS

MEN'S BASKETBALL — 18-5, 8-4 Big Ten

SCHEDULE

Tuesday: Badgers 76, Indiana 64
 Saturday: at Iowa, noon (NBC)

BIG TEN STANDINGS AS OF FEB. 4

Team	Conf.	Ovr.	Team	Conf.	Ovr.
7 Purdue	10-2	18-5	Ohio State	5-6	13-9
9 Michigan State	9-2	18-4	Indiana	5-7	14-9
24 Michigan	8-2	16-5	Nebraska	4-7	14-8
21 Wisconsin	8-4	18-5	Iowa	4-7	13-9
UCLA	8-4	17-6	Rutgers	4-7	11-11
18 Maryland	7-4	17-5	Northwestern	4-8	13-10
23 Illinois	7-5	15-7	Minnesota	4-8	12-11
Oregon	5-6	16-6	Penn State	3-9	13-10
USC	5-6	13-9	Washington	2-8	11-10



Green Bay

PACKERS

11-7, 3rd NFC North

SCHEDULE

Jan. 12: Philadelphia 22, Packers 10, NFC Wild Card

NFL PLAYOFF GLANCE

SUPER BOWL LIX

Sunday, Feb. 8
 Kansas City vs. Philadelphia, at New Orleans, 5:30 p.m. (FOX)

Hockey

From page 13

Though the WIAA tournament bracket has yet to be released, Tuesday night's game was almost certainly a prelude to an opening round matchup between the two squads. The sectional field is the entire GNC minus Medford. The Raiders were replaced in the draw by Shawano/Bonduel, which beat Rhinelander twice during the regular season.

Laggis said while pulling an upset would be an extremely tall order, there are things the Hodags can do to try to close the gap for a seemingly inevitable third meeting with Tomahawk.

"You have to live in your D zone get some and try to find a way to have some transition hockey and get up ice and crate scoring chances," he said. "We did have two really really nice scoring chances tonight we didn't score but we had two really nice chances and that's not enough. You know we need more, clearly, to win a hockey game like that."

The Hodags (2-17-0) took on Kingsford, Mich. Thursday in the next to last home game of the season. That game concluded after press time for today's edition. Meanwhile, last weekend's postponed game at Ashland has been rescheduled for this afternoon, with a 4 o'clock faceoff up in Ashland.

Rhinelander will face Antigo next Tuesday in the consolation semifinals of the GNC tournament. The Robins, minus starting goalie Richie Veriha (illness), lost 9-3 to Northland Pines on Tuesday.

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

Hoops

From page 12

Rhinelanders led 18-11 with 9:37 left in the first half, but West (14-4, 6-2 Wis. Valley) closed on a 15-6 run. The Warriors took their first lead on a Kargie Cooper 3 with 1:24 left in the half and went ahead for good on a pair of Bennett Matteson free throws with 3.9 seconds left before the break.

The Hodags then stumbled out of the gate to open the second half as the deficit quickly ballooned to 14 points. In particular, Lemmens bemoaned second-chance points on three of Wausau West's first scores of the half, which made it 35-25 with 14:22 to play.

"The difference was there was a stretch where they were getting multiple shots per possession and just kind of being tougher than we were and then on offense," he said.

West pushed the lead to 19 with 3:04 remaining. The Hodags closed the game on a 14-4 run, but it was too little, too late.

"We played some gritty defense later on but we had a stretch like we've kind of had (recently)," Lemmens said. "It seems to be at similar times where we just I don't know if we run out of gas or what but we give (up) extra points, we get careless on offense and you know that's just enough to dig a hole. Then we're expending a lot of energy and effort trying to get out of that hole."

Devon Feck led the Hodags with 16 points but wasn't immune to the Hodags' shooting woes, going just 2 of 10 from distance. Abe Gretzinger added 10 points off the bench and Evan Shoeder had eight points. Meanwhile, West shut down two of Rhinelanders' top scorers, limiting Truman Lamers to four points while keeping Jatyn Barkus scoreless. The two were a combined 2 for 14 overall on the night.

Griffin Lange scored 18 points to lead three Warriors in double figures. Matteson had 14 and Cooper had 10 as West coach Nate Lemmens, Derek's younger brother, improved to 4-7 lifetime in the sibling rivalry series.

Rhinelanders is back in action on the road tonight at Tomahawk. The Hodags blew out the Hatchets 76-22 when the teams met back in December. Derek Lemmens said he hopes his team can use the contest to get some details ironed out, especially on the offensive side, before a key stretch run in conference play.

"We got some practice time here we need to go back to our non-negotiables and work the basketball," he said. "You know it's a tough balance. You want to give these guys freedom. You want them to be loose and comfortable but, like we said tonight, we are 4 for 26 from 3 and it's not like we've been shooting the 3-ball that well. So either you're not good shooters you're not taking good shots. Either way, we need to be a little more selective in the shots that we take. We need to be a little more patient to get the rhythm shots that we want and we know we can knock down."

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Gym

From page 12

Sophomore Alexis Smith took third in the all-around (28.5). She won the vault with an 8.45 and was fifth on both uneven bars and balance beam.

"She just has a super clean consistent vault that she was able to pull off again and is just doing great," coach Aschenbrenner noted.

Sam Aschenbrenner was fifth in the all-around (27.425), highlighted by a runner-up finish on the floor (7.725) and a third-place showing on uneven bars (6.45). Freshman Addison Fish scored three top-five finishes for Rhinelanders, taking second on the uneven bars (6.5), fourth on the balance beam (6.95) and fifth on the floor (7.5). Tibaldeschi added a fourth-place showing on the floor (7.6).

Antigo's Alexis Rank won the balance beam (8.45) and the uneven bars (7.5), helping her to claim the individual all-around (31.825).

The Hodags also won the JV portion of the meet with 79.65 points. Sophomore Olivia Ruetz took the all-around with a score of 24.0.

"It was nice to see some additional routines because they've been working on them. We just haven't had the opportunity to show them off," coach Aschenbrenner noted.



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelanders' Alexis Smith performs a vault during a GNC Small division gymnastics meet against Antigo at the YMCA of the Northwoods Tuesday, Feb. 4. Smith won the event and finished third in the all-around.

Rhinelanders is back in action Saturday at the Marshfield Invite which, like last weekend's competition in Antigo, will feature all four teams from the GNC Small. "We're excited for that one.

They do have JV that they run simultaneously, so all the girls will

be able to compete again," coach Aschenbrenner said. "(We're) just trying to clean up some of our falls and errors on floor, and stay consistent on vault. That would be the goal."

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

SPASH

From page 13

"They just want to play so badly and they both have a knee injury," coach Clark said. "But, to their credit, they keep playing, they just tell me there's times where it feels like it's pretty sore. It's locking up a little bit, they go out, (trainer) Ethan (Wiley) just gives me the thumbs up, they can go back in. I really appreciate how much they love to play."

Another senior, Ava Kurilla, had a nice spurt for Rhinelanders late in the second half. She hit a 3 on an inbound play, her first triple of the season and had a steal and layup in transition as she scored five points.

"Ava Kurilla, I'm really proud of her. She went back in there and had a 3, nice little steal and got a layup," coach



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelanders' Ava Kurilla drives in for a layup during the second half of a non-conference girls' basketball game against Stevens Point at the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium Tuesday, Feb. 4.

Clark said. "That's a senior who's worked every day in practice, just waiting for opportunity

and you know, we're going need that again Friday night. It's pretty awesome to see a kid

who doesn't complain, just keeps battling. Then, when her time comes, she's rewarded for that great attitude and mentality."

The Hodags are back home tonight to take on Tomahawk, which sits just behind Rhinelanders at 4-4 in the GNC. Though Rhinelanders defeated the Hatchets 67-31 when the teams met in December in Tomahawk, coach Clark said he expects a much different game tonight.

"Freya Alberg is a really nice big. She'll be tough inside for sure, and then, Claire Albert was injured the first time he played them, their shooting guard, so she'll be back," he said. "I just told the girls afterwards, like we got to have the effort we had tonight for Friday night playing Tomahawk."

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

Bowl

From page 14

Across town, the Hodag girls suffered a number close game defeats in both of its losses. Rhinelanders averaged 139.4 pins and filled 52.2% of its frames against the Manawa co-op, pulling out close wins of 139-136 in Game 2 and 140-135 in Game 8, but the team had four losses by 21 pins or fewer, including a 158-157 loss in Game 6 and a 139-137 loss in Game 7.

It was a similar story against the D.C. Everest/Wittenberg co-op. Rhinelanders averaged 146.9 pins and filled 63.3% of its frames — and had a total pinfall only 32 pins fewer than the Evergreens — but suffered five losses by 21 pins or fewer. The teams wins were a 167-121 victory in Game 1 and a

200-140 win in Game 6.

"It's frustrating to lose like this, but the girls fought hard," coach Cory Dellenbach said. "Pins just were not falling our way tonight. All of the girls had some nice pocket hits, but left single pins and splits up."

Johanna Dellenbach was limited on Sunday due to illness, but managed to fill 16 of her 22 frames with six strikes. Addison Habeck went 23 of 36 with eight strikes, Alyssa Habeck was 22 of 36 with seven strikes, Alexia Corey-Luse was 16 of 26 with five strikes, Oliver Doppke went 12 of 24 with four strikes, Katrina Roof was 12 of 26 with two strikes and Joselyn Sorensen was 3 of 10 with a pair of strikes.

The results officially eliminated the Hodags from qualifying for either the team or individual portions of next

month's WiHSBC State Meet. The Hodags boys wound up 4-6 on District 9 D2 boys/co-ed play while the Hodags girls finished 2-8 in the D9 girls' standings. The top three D2 boys' teams and the top D2 girls' team advanced.

Individually, Hakala and Klingen were the top bowlers on the boys' side. Hakala was 31st in the D9 boys' standings with a 60.99 Baker Equivalency Rating while Klingen was 33rd with a 60.62 BER. Johanna Dellenbach was eighth in the girls' standings with a 58.66 BER. The top 10 boys and top five girls advanced on to next month's state meet.

The season is not entirely over for the Hodag bowlers, who will have a chance to take part in the District 9 singles tournament held Feb. 28 to March 2 at North Star

Lanes in Antigo. The bowlers will compete individually in flights based on their season-long statistics for a chance to win scholarship money.

Middle schoolers win

The Rhinelanders middle school squad won its first six games on Sunday and cruised to a 6-1 win over Antigo's No. 3 middle school team at 5-Star Lanes.

The Hodags averaged 123 pins per game and filled 41.4% of their frames on the day. Their high score of the day was a 136 in Game 1, which it needed to edge the Robins by three pins. Antigo managed to break 100 only once in the next five games and the Hodags cruised to the win.

"After we won our fourth, I started rotating kids into different positions so they each got a taste of something

new. Some of them really stress about that 5th & 10th spot, so it's nice to get them there and used to it when I can," coach Dellenbach said. "This middle school team is really starting to come into their own and find their identity. All of the kids are improving and it's been fun watching them so far this year."

Natalie Dellenbach led the squad, filing 10 of her 14 frames with a pair of strikes. Brighton Walkowski was 8 of 14 with a strike, Charlotte Preuss was 7 of 14 with five strikes, Xane Kallio was 3 of 14 with two strikes and Logan Johnson was 1 of 14 with a strike.

The Hodag middle schoolers improved to 2-3 on the year with the win and will compete in the final two matches of their schedule March 16 in Antigo.

outdoors

Pet and Livestock Protection Act looks to delist wolves with no judicial review

By Beckie Gaskill
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Arguably, wolves are the most contentious wildlife species not only in Wisconsin but in many states where they are found. Wolves have bounced on and off the Endangered Species List (ESL) several times in recent years. Each time they are delisted, and Wisconsin is allowed to manage the wolf population in the state, a lawsuit puts the wolf back on the ESL. Last Friday Congressman Tom Tiffany (WI-07) and Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (CO-04) reintroduced legislation that would delist the wolf in the lower 48 states and ensure that it would not be relisted due to judicial review.

The Pet and Livestock Protection Act is similar to a bill co-authored by Tiffany during the last legislative session entitled the Trust the Sci-



FILE PHOTO

Congressman Tom Tiffany has once again introduced legislation seeking to remove wolves from the Endangered Species List.

ence Act. That Act, too, would have delisted wolves and not allowed for judicial review. Tiffany and Boebert led 30 other members of Congress in reintroduc-

ing this legislation. When wolves are delisted, control of populations revert back to each state. In the past, wolves have found themselves back on the

ESL after delisting not necessarily due to a lack of recovery of the species, but due to technicalities.

See Act. . . page 19

THE LAKE WHERE YOU LIVE

Gentle winter

Winter isn't supposed to be this easy. We have January in the rear-view and the short month of February ahead, and yet we've had minimal snow and only a few bitterly cold days.



Ted Rulseh
COLUMNIST

Being a fair-weather ice angler, I'm waiting for tomorrow because the forecast calls for a high temperature somewhere well north of 30 degrees. I'm guessing the electric auger will get a workout against what must be at least 18 inches of ice — much more than maximum we had all of last winter. The few subzero days have reached down deep.

I took one of my walks on Birch Lake one week ago today, and it was a slog. I assume conditions on your lake are much the same. Though we've had snow mainly just an inch or two at a time, it has come as powder that now lies cumulatively a foot deep.

Walking was difficult in insulated boots. Snowshoes would have been much better. I went about half as far as I normally would but got at least the same amount of exercise. It was actually beautiful snow: no crusty surface, no deep layer of slush. I imagine snow like this as a type ideal for downhill skiing.

I stayed near the shoreline where in places the snow wasn't quite as deep. The lake's blanket was largely undisturbed. One snowmobile track ran parallel to my course, but the trail that cuts across the lake had not yet opened. Mine were the only human footprints within my field of vision. Far across the lake stood a pair of fishing shanties.

There's no telling what the rest of this winter holds. Two years ago January went by with fairly benign weather, but then the systems began moving in. On the national TV weather map, there they were, lined up west to east, like gigantic dump trucks waiting to empty their contents on the landscape.

And that is exactly what they did. Four inches. A one- or two-day break. Then six inches. Eight. Five. Three. Seven. Twelve. And so on, always a day or two apart, all the way through February and into March. As the television weather guy last week reminded us, February alone brought us 70 inches of snow.

I wouldn't want to go through that again, but healthy doses of snow from here on would be a blessing, and not just for the visiting snowmobilers and skiers and the businesses that benefit greatly from their patronage.

The land and the lakes need the moisture snow brings. Already we are a couple of feet behind the typical season's snowfall. Too little snow can mean lower lake levels in spring and tinder-dry conditions in the woods after the melt. We shouldn't kid ourselves that we're immune to wildfires when the landscape is starved for water.

So my hope is for a more normal but not too brutal February. And meanwhile I can just start to imagine spring-time peeking over the horizon.

Ted Rulseh resides on Birch Lake in Harshaw and is an advocate for lake protection and improvement. His Lakeland Times and Northwoods River News columns are the basis for a book, "A Lakeside Companion," published by The University of Wisconsin Press. He may be reached at trulseh@tjrcommunications.com.

Fish like a GIRL



By Beckie Gaskill
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

A lot of people ask me if I ice fish. My answer usually is I will ice fish, but I honestly prefer "soft water" fishing over "hard water" fishing, as my Uncle Dave used to say. He was definitely the "hard water" specialist in the family. I love the taste of panfish out of that super cold water, I will admit. But, the majority of my fishing is still summertime tournament fishing.

So, what do I do in the winter-time when the lakes are frozen over. I think most tournament fishermen do the same things. We look at maps, we organize tackle, we try to decide if we want to bite the bullet on new, expensive things like electronics or updated shallow water anchors. Some of the younger guys are even spending the winter trying to reel in a new boat.

At our age, I am not sure Chet and I will ever take that \$100,000-plus plunge. But I suppose one never knows. Never say never, as they say, but the odds get lower and lower every year. The 2014 Skeeter will probably serve us well for the rest of our tournament years.

Over the years, many, many iterations of maps and mapping

apps have been made available to anglers. I still have a ton of Fishing Hot Spots maps around for the lakes I fish the most. Recently, I found what could loosely be called a map of the Stevens Point Flowage that my late husband Rod must have had when he first came here in the early 1990s. It is funny to look back on what we used to think was going to be a "game changer" in the way of fishing technology. The old Green Box comes to mind, as one of those things. Shortly after Rod died, as I was going through all of the fishing stuff that followed him here from Las Vegas, I even found some paper chart plotters or graphs that were a big deal way back in the day.

Now we have sophisticated electronics to use while on the water, but sometimes paper maps are still great to look at during the offseason. There have also been a number of apps that have come along that have given us even more information long before we ever launch the boat. As I write this column, it is snowing a bit, and yet I am sitting here checking out the Willow Flowage, for instance. We have fished tournaments there a few times, but with that much water available to fish, we are still in the process of learning, and have made some decent improvements and decisions over the last few tournaments.

Over the years, of course, I have added electronic fishing information to the Fishing Hot Spots and Sportsmen's Connection maps, although they are still fun to look at — especially be-

A look at mapping platforms

cause I can look back and see the notes Rod and I made on those maps years ago. It is nostalgic, for the most part. And there really is something about holding a map rather than looking at it on a computer. I liken it to holding an actual physical book rather than reading on my Kindle. Sometimes it's the feel of the paper or the smell of the book. I am sure avid readers understand what I mean.

There have been a number of apps I have used over the years. Google Earth is still a great one. We can look back, over time, to see how things have changed on the lake.

Up until the last few years, I even had a handheld GPS that was equipped with Fishing Hot Sports maps on a mini SD card that came with the device. That has since gone the way of the electric fondue pot. Eventually everything electronic sees the end of its days.

Fishidy is a fun platform, too. I have used it here and there and have several of my favorite lakes bookmarked on that platform so I can follow activity that is added to those lakes. I think what is fun about Fishidy is that a user can see what other people are catching on their favorite lakes. I can add my catches to the maps as well. Users can upload a photo and make a note about what they caught that fish on. It is a fun, community sort of mapping app.

Navionics has a smartphone app as well. I have not used it much, but I believe there is a paid version and a free version.

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Act

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In recent years, there has been a push by producers, hunters and others to put an end to this on-again, off-again situation.

With over 100 reports of probable or confirmed depredation reports listed on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website and 18 confirmed wolf harassments, it shows that hunters and producers in some areas have real problems with wolves. Many of those people have attended listening sessions in the last several years held by both Wisconsin Wolf Facts, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and state legislators to talk about the issues they've experienced.

With wolves on the ESL, however, management options are often limited to non-lethal abatement measures. Unfortunately, wolves often become habituated to those measures, leaving the producer with that same problem.

Hunters and producers have expressed the belief that, without a wolf season for several years now, wolves feel no threat from humans and they have become more bold in many areas. Further, as populations have grown, wolves have taken over habitats that were traditionally thought to be unsuitable for wolves. As wolf territory has expanded in the state, with that comes more conflict.

Those conflicts, according to Laurie Groskopf from Wisconsin Wolf Facts, are not only a problem for the people involved, but they also create more contempt for wolves, which is not good for the species as a whole, and certainly not good for the specific wolves that have been known to cause repeated issues.

"Scientific data, coupled with the rise in wolf attacks

in Wisconsin, confirms that the gray wolf population has exceeded recovery goals," Tiffany said in a press release. "Yet, activist judges continue to disregard these facts, leaving livestock, pets, wildlife, and communities vulnerable to further harm. The Pet and Livestock Protection Act will restore management to those who understand local needs best — state wildlife officials — and ensure that out-of-state judges can no longer dictate how Wisconsin manages its wolf population."

Tiffany said he felt there was enough backing, at least in the House, to get this bill over the finish line this time around, and said the challenge in the Senate would be that it must clear a 60-vote minimum, meaning it would have to be done on a bi-partisan basis. He said the hope was that Senators such as Tammy Baldwin and the Senators from Michigan would get behind the bill and offer some relief to rural Americans who have been dealing with wolf issues for years now with no relief. The damages are not limited to pets and livestock, but also to the deer herd in places like Northern Wisconsin, he added.

In 2020, the Department of the Interior issued a final rule to delist wolves in the lower 48 United States. The Pet and Livestock Protection Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to reissue that rule. The Act also ensures that rule could not be overturned through judicial review. According to Tiffany and Boebert, the delisting in 2020 used the best science and data available when delisting the wolf, calling the significant population recoveries in the Rocky Mountain and the Western Great Lakes regions a Endangered Species Act success story. There were an estimated 6,000 wolves at the time of that delisting.

"The recovery of the gray wolf is an incredible conser-

vation success story that should be celebrated," said Keith Mark, the Founder and President of Hunter Nation. "This legislation allows each state to manage the now recovered wolf population just as they manage all other wildlife within the state. The best part of this legislation is the provision that prevents judicial review of the legislative action which will preclude anti-hunting groups from interfering with sound, science based conservation in court."

Wisconsin Farm Bureau president Brad Olson also weighed in on the matter, saying the recovery of gray wolves has far exceeded the population goals set under the Endangered Species Act.

"Their removal from the list is a success story and should be celebrated as a testament to the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act," Olson said. "Now, it's time to allow Wisconsin to manage wolves at the state level, where we can ensure a balanced approach that protects our farmers, rural communities, and the ecosystem as a whole. Wisconsin Farm Bureau appreciates the work of Con. Tiffany and supports the Pet and Livestock Protection Act which will finally bring will bring much-needed certainty to rural residents, farmers, and livestock owners who have long dealt with the challenges posed by an unmanaged wolf population. It will also provide clarity and consistency for state regulators, ensuring they can respond effectively and responsibly to the needs of both people and wildlife."

When wolves are delisted federally, Wisconsin state statute dictates that the DNR must create a wolf hunt. However, it is unclear whether the state would be ready to create such a season.

"It should be a real concern to sportsmen what the state of Wisconsin, what the

Department of Natural Resources and the Evers administration is doing right now," Tiffany said. "It is obvious with them not having an accurate count, we're hearing these excuses now by the Evers administration and the Department of Natural Resources in not doing their job that they have an accurate wolf count and also talking about setting numbers that are going to limit the number of wolves that are going to be able to be harvested. Regardless of how it gets done [delisting], is the State of Wisconsin ready? And at this point it sounds like the State of Wisconsin is putting as many impediments in the way as possible from being able to have a successful wolf season."

Tiffany also spoke about the quota in the 2021 wolf season, which some said was largely overshot. The quota, however, was a harvest of 200 animals. After the Tribes were given their Treaty-granted allotment, that left 117 or so for state-licenses hunters and trappers, he said. In the end 218 wolves were taken off the landscape, just over the 200 quota mark. However, the Department, media and anti-hunting groups said wolves were grossly over-harvested. However, Tiffany said, based on the quota of 200, the overage was just a small margin.

The DNR, he said, played games with the numbers, saying that only 117 wolves should have been taken, even after setting the quota themselves at 200.

"The other thing is that we had expert testimony from Nathan Roberts last year on this bill where he said you can go up to 29%, it was almost 30%, you can go up to 29% take without endangering a species," he said. He also said the subzones around reservations in the Ceded territory should not be allowed, as extremely tight quotas were set for

those subzones, although a good deal of the land in those subzones outside of the reservations were privately owned.

"The Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association is strongly in favor of any action that would return wolf management to the professionals in the State of Wisconsin," said Carl Schoettel, president of the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association. "Science has shown now for over a decade that the wolf is recovered in our state. It has only been radical environmental activists that have been able to prevent the delisting that is essential for our state's people that live in wolf country and are adversely affected by our inability to manage the wolf population,"

Many stakeholders have given their support to the Pet and Livestock Protection Act. Those include the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Public Lands Council (PLC), National Rifle Association (NRA), Safari Club International (SCI), Hunter Nation, International Order of T. Roosevelt (IOTR), Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Blacktail Deer Foundation, Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado Wool Growers, New Mexico Cattle Growers, Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers Association, Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Nebraska Cattlemen, and Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association

More information about the Pet and Livestock Protection Act can be found on Congressman Tiffany's website at tiffany.house.gov under media press releases.

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Gaskill

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I do not know enough about it to talk about its high points, but I know several people, including my other half, Chet, that have the app and use it here and there. Lowrance also has a smartphone app and there are a ton of others. But one of the new ones I wanted to mention here is onX Fish. For those who use onX Hunt for hunting or onX Backcountry for hiking, biking, etc., the app will feel a lot the same. I think the familiarity of it drew me to the app to begin with when I first found out about it.

A couple of weeks ago one of the guys from onX called me and asked if I would be interested in a demo of the app. Of course, I jumped at the chance. I wanted them to show me all of the bells and whistles.

Now, before I give readers recommendations about this app, I

want to say that I am in no way sponsored or compensated by onX. I just happened to meet these guys and,

through our love of fishing, it organically grew into them taking the time to show me around the app. Honestly, if I find a product related to the outdoors that I like and that I think has real value, I am always going to share it. So, here we go:

For me, I think onX Fish takes all of the best parts of all of the other mapping things — Fishing Hot Spots, DNR maps, Google Earth type imagery, and even some aspects of Fishidy, and puts it all in one place. The app is free for now, and available for Wisconsin and Minnesota lakes, while it is in the development and input phase.

When a user opens the map on a desktop, I noticed it always starts at Leech Lake in Minnesota. I would guess that was the pilot lake with which they started. But it is easy

enough to pan over the Wisconsin border and find whatever lake I am looking for at the time.

Much like Google Earth, onX Fish allows the user to look back at the lake through time. Where ice anglers are concerned, it can also show ice on and off over time. A closer look at the current map can show where anglers are getting on and off the water, as far as where they are driving. Of course, the app makes no claim to those routes being safe at any time, but it can give an angler an idea of how to even access a new body of water. Snowmobile trails are also included, which is nice, not only to see where an angler can get on with a snowmobile when the trails are open, but it can also help to alleviate problems like those seen on social media recently where anglers had tip-ups set in the middle of what became the snowmobile trail on a lake in Vilas County. In any

event, knowing where trails are is helpful for a variety of reasons. Users can also toggle on or off a "motorized trails" layer, that will allow them to see where known motorized access is at a lake they are looking to fish.

There's another thing I like that is pretty ice fishing specific. With our new truck, I have Apple CarPlay. With onX Fish, I can use CarPlay to see the map on the dashboard of the truck. This can be helpful when driving out during the day and then attempting to get back to land at the same place once it is dark out. I can simply start a track when I get on the lake and then follow that track back in later. It kind of "dummy-proofs" the situation, and I am totally fine with that. Anglers can also get information for specific species of fish, private land and ownership information, and even pinpoint weather.

Many weather apps,

and even fishing apps, include weather, but onX Fish seems to take it to another level. An angler can pick a point on a map and get information for that exact point. Wind direction and speed, barometric pressure and precipitation chances can be found for that specific spot. To some people, that may sound strange, but I know I have fished plenty of tournaments where I fished in a downpour for an hour and came back to the launch ramp soaking wet while others came back perfectly dry and vice versa. To me, I think having that pinpoint weather feature is a great idea.

Users of Fishing Hot Spots maps will recognize that data overlaid on the mapping here, too, with various numbers depicting tentatively good fishing locations for specific species. DNR fishing information, as well as the full regulations for that body of water, can be found simply by

clicking the lake on a desktop, or tapping on a lake in the app.

Users can toggle on and off any species for which they would like to fish. Lake size can also be selected as a filter.

When it comes to access, anglers can look at all access points, just those that are carry-in or those that have trailer access. The type of launch ramp can be selected as well, for instance, paved, gravel or natural.

There are more features to onX Fish than I can do justice to in this column, but, with the app being free, at least for now, it might be worth it for readers to check it out. It just might flatten the learning curve on a new lake, or surprise an angler with something they did not know about one of their favorite lakes.

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Bridal Planning Guide

How to create a backup plan for an outdoor wedding

A wedding day is a magical and memorable day for a couple and their family members. Months or even years of planning may go into making a wedding day special.

For some, an outdoor wedding and celebration amid the beauty of nature is the ultimate setting in which to tie the knot. When Mother Nature is your decorator, the setting can be hard to match. Perhaps that's why 62 percent of couples opted for outdoor nuptials in 2023, according to The Knot 2023 Real Weddings Survey. However, there may be some extra work involved when exchanging vows outdoors, hosting a reception outside or both. That work includes having a contingency plan in place if the weather does not cooperate. Here's what couples should know about having a backup plan for



METRO CREATIVE SERVICE

Outdoor weddings can be beautiful events, but it is important to have a backup plan in place in case the weather doesn't cooperate

their outdoor weddings.

- Identify a second location. Couples who book outdoor receptions at catering halls can inquire how they handle inclement weather. Many will have a clause built into the agreement to move the party indoors in the event of bad weather. Others may enable the wed-

ding to move to a different space for an added fee. Smaller, less formal weddings taking place at other locations may require a bit of ingenuity when looking for a backup space. Perhaps a friend has a large house where everyone can gather, or an employer may have a warehouse, loft or even a

barn that can be transformed into unique venues at the last minute?

- Choose outdoor spaces with covered areas. The wish might be to have blue skies overhead, but it's impossible to control the weather. So it's safe to select outdoor spaces that offer a measure of weather protection, such as a pavilion in a park or a covered deck at a beachside locale. Such sites offer a little security without detracting from the ambiance.

- Look into a tent rental. A tent is a great investment because it keeps everyone out of the elements rain or shine. Even on a lovely summer day, the blazing sun can make being outdoors uncomfortable. A tent is the solution. Couples should coordinate with a wedding planner or the venue itself to be sure that a tent is allowed on the grounds.

- Think about event insurance. Special event insurance may protect against financial loss in the event that severe weather throws a wrench into outdoor wedding plans. Poor weather may make moving around the venue treacherous and might force a postponement. Liability and cancellation protection in an insurance policy helps couples avoid financial hardship.

- Hire a wedding planner. The Knot suggests hiring a wedding planner or coordinator who can pivot to plan B in the event of bad weather. This helps take some of the stress off of the couple so they can

enjoy the day.

- Plan wardrobe and hair/makeup accordingly. Brides and bridesmaids can choose fabrics for dresses that will be comfortable and not become blown around or see-through due to rain and wind. The wedding party can ask hair stylists to create a wedding hairstyle that is somewhat weatherproof. Experienced makeup artists likely know some tricks to keep makeup looking flawless even when the weather isn't.

Outdoor weddings can be beautiful events, but it is important to have a backup plan in place in case the weather doesn't cooperate.

Wedding day transportation options

Weddings involve many moving pieces that must all come together successfully for one glorious day. Transportation is among the details that need to be sorted in advance, particularly when wedding parties and guests must move between ceremony and reception sites.

It is customary for the wedding party, which tends to include a couple's parents, to be provided a ride to both the ceremony and reception. Furthermore, couples may have to figure out what to do when the wedding is over, particularly if the reception and ceremonies are a good distance apart. Here are a few transportation options couples can consider.

Limousines

Limousines are classic modes of transportation to and from momentous events. They typically feature seating to accommodate six or more people. Limousines typically bring the wedding party to the ceremony, then wait for the duration and transport everyone to the reception. Then the cars will leave from there unless other arrangements are made.

Party bus

Many couples opt for a party bus to transport themselves and/or their wedding parties. Party buses are larger than limousines, and as their name implies, often establish a festive atmosphere. Couples may ask their wedding party members to meet at the ceremony location, and then a party bus will take everyone to the reception location after vows are exchanged. Party buses often play music

and have refreshments available. They can be entertaining on long rides.

Shuttle bus

Couples can consider providing a shuttle to and from the airport or between other points to facilitate ease for the wedding party and guests. A shuttle can take individuals from the reception site to a nearby hotel if overnight stays have been booked. A shuttle can bring certain individuals back to the ceremony site, a transportation hub or another centralized location where they can get to their own private vehicles and back home. The couple also will need transportation home or to embark on the honeymoon, so it's helpful to have reliable taxi service numbers or rideshare options at the ready.



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