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Voters approve district referendum

One of four incumbents voted off school board

By Brian Jopek
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The April 1, 2025, general election in Oneida County brought several changes.

In Rhinelander, voters Tuesday approved a \$20 million operational referendum for the school district and made a slight change in the make up of the board of education.

District referendum

The school district was asking voters for approval to exceed its revenue limit by \$3 million in the

2025-26 and 2026-27 school years; and by \$7 million in the 2027-28 and 2028-29 school years.

The referendum question passed with 53% of voters in favor. There were 4,369 yes votes cast while 3,875 people voted against the measure.

“We knew that this referendum coming down the heels of the capital project referendum was going to be

a challenge but our community, once again, showed great support for our schools, for our staff and for what we’re doing here in the school district — doing all we can to support the needs of our students,” Rhinelander district superintendent Eric Burke said Wednesday.

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Figure skaters host annual show

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BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

The Hodag Dome is pictured from overhead Sunday, March 30, it was allowed to deflate after it sustained damage due to a power outage. Snowfall has delayed the assessment of the damage to the facility according to SDR Superintendent Eric Burke.

Timeline to be determined for Hodag Dome repairs

Absence of community gathering space already felt

By Trevor Greene
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Hodag Dome in Rhinelander sustained damage and was manually deflated Sunday, March 30, as the result of a power outage caused by a winter storm the area encountered.

According to a press release issued by the School District of Rhinelander, the weather caused a power outage and “the Dome’s generator failed to provide backup power.” This led to partial deflation and structural tears.

The dome was fully deflated because of that to prevent any further damage.

St. Louis-based Arizon Building Systems will be on-site “as soon as possible” to develop a timeline for repairs, the press release says.

Additionally, the school district said it will be looking into why the generator failed when the main power source went out.

District superintendent Eric Burke told *The Northwoods River News* on Tuesday there is no update at this time on the district’s investigation into generator failure.

He said it’s an issue that will need to be worked through with the district’s insur-

INSIDE

River News sports editor Jeremy Mayo takes a look at how the Hodag Dome’s deflation is impacting Rhinelander High School spring sports teams.

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ance company, National Insurance Services.

Not only did the generator fail to kick-in, but a notification system hooked up to it failed as well, Burke explained.

“So the generator didn’t work and it’s supposed to send alarms and it didn’t,” he said. “There’s many people in the district that were supposed to get alarms (that) didn’t. Moving forward, we have to figure out why that happened so it doesn’t happen again, but then also insurance will be looking into that more closely.”

The dome stores a significant amount of the district’s athletic equipment.

“Right now it’s under the tarp, so until it gets inflated, it’ll just need to stay there,” Burke said. “We can’t get it out.”

He said the district is unsure how soon repairs will get underway and it will all depend on weather conditions.

Burke said damages can’t be assessed until the snow is gone.

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Frozen fury: Ice storms ravage Northwoods WPS deploys hundreds of line workers in one of its largest-ever restoration efforts

By Brian Jopek
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Northwoods was hit last weekend with a combination of freezing rain and snow.

It was a situation that resulted in, among other things such as the Hodag Dome in Rhinelander collapsing because of a backup generator malfunction, what Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) spokesman Matt Cullen told *The Lakeland Times* Monday was “one of the largest restoration efforts in our company’s history.”

“I’m not sure where it will rank but we do feel confident it will be among the largest in WPS history,” he said.

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Elementary Science Fair is April 10

Students up to 5th grade will share projects with community

Rhinelanders Partners in Education (PIE) is sponsoring an Elementary Science Fair at the Rhinelanders High School Gymnasium on Thursday, April 10 from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

More than 60 elementary students from the School District of Rhinelanders are participating this year and sharing their best science projects.

Each student that participates will receive a goodie bag, sponsored by PIE, and will have the chance to win a gift card.

Family, friends, and community members are welcome to attend and help celebrate and encourage the academic pursuits of these young Rhinelanders students.

AREA EVENTS CALENDAR

Want to submit an event to the calendar? Email editor@lakelandtimes.com

Friday, April 4

MINOCQUA: GYM TIME- 10 a.m., Minocqua Community Gym. Stop by and enjoy free play with large motor toys. Perfect for kids up to four years old and their caregivers. Info: visit minocquabilibrary.org.

EAGLE RIVER: WIGGLE GIGGLE AND SHAKE- 10 to 11 a.m., Olson Library. Music and movement, sing, dance, and play! Held you and your child strengthen family bonds and build social connections. Info: visit olsonlibrary.org.

PRESQUE ISLE: AMERICAN MAH-JONGG- 1 to 3 p.m., Presque Isle Community Library. Join us for some friendly games! Free to join, all experience levels are welcome. Info: visit presqueislelibrary.org.

LAC DU FLAMBEAU: IKWE CIRCLE- 3 to 8 p.m., Lac du Flambeau Public Library. Bring your own sewing, beading, or other craft projects. Supplies are limited, snacks are provided. Info: visit ldflibrary.org.

RHINELANDER: SPRING SWING- 6 to 8 p.m., Rhinelanders High School. Enjoy an evening full of jazz music featuring the Rhinelanders High School Green Shades Jazz Band and the ShoDags Show Choir. Enjoy the live music while indulging in delicious appetizers. \$10 for adults \$5 for youth. Info: visit rhinelanderschamber.com.

Saturday, April 5

MINOCQUA: DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE- 6:30 to 9 p.m., Campanile Center for the Arts. This year's theme will be Candyland! There will be a DJ, photographer, desserts, light-up dance floor, drinks, and raffles. Free event! Info: visit campanilecenter.org.

MINOCQUA: MARKET BASKET MAKING CLASS- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Campanile Center for the Arts. Perfect for all skill levels, this hands-on workshop will guide you through the art of weaving beautiful, seasonal baskets that are perfect for gift-giving or home decor. All materials are provided with personalized instruction. \$55. Info: visit campanilecenter.org.

MINOCQUA: ICE CAMERA ACTION- 1 p.m., Lakeland Hawks Ice Arena. Come enjoy the Lakeland Figure Skating Club Annual Spring Ice

Show! \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, three years and under free! Sanctioned by US Figure Skating. Info: visit lakelandarena.org/figure skating.

RHINELANDER: NORTHWOODS CROSS STITCHERS- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Grace Foursquare Church. Open to all cross stitchers, bring supplies and projects to work on. Info: call 715-369-4779.

RHINELANDER: SUPERIOR SIREN CONCERT- 7 to 10 p.m., Nicolet College Theatre. Superior Siren is an eerie-folk project created by singer-songwriter Laura Sellner. The music offers an alluring yet dangerous expression of vulnerability and desire, with inspiration from Lake Superior and Siren mythology. Info: visit business.rhinelanderschamber.com.

LAC DU FLAMBEAU: BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT- 10 a.m., Lac du Flambeau Public Grade School gym. There will be different levels and brackets to play in and cheer one! Free admission. There will also be drinks and snacks. Email to register. Large cash prizes for winners! Info: email maine@pchclinic.com.

MANITOWISH WATERS: EXPLORING THE SENSES- 10 to 10:30 a.m., North Lakeland Discovery Center. Perfect for families with children ages one to four, but all ages are welcome! Connect your children with the natural world through interactive activities with a nature theme. Info: visit discoverycenter.net.

MANITOWISH WATERS: LAKESIDE YOGA STRETCH- 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., North Lakeland Discovery Center. All levels are welcome to join this yoga class and facilitate a deep release in the major muscle groups. We have gentle stretches, breath work, and effective movements to improve range of motion. No registration required, \$12 to be paid at the class. Info: email suzihammer@gmail.com.

BOULDER JUNCTION: EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA- 9 to 11:30 a.m., Camp Jörn. Hop your way over for a complimentary pancake breakfast and Easter egg hunt! Fun for the whole family! Breakfast from 9 to 10:45 a.m. with the hunt starting at 11 a.m. Info: visit campjornymca.org.

EAGLE RIVER: MENDING DAY- 10 a.m. to noon, Olson Memorial Library. Bring your clean shoes or a well loved toy for free mending by volunteers. Info: visit olsonlibrary.org.

PHELPS: MAPLE SYRUP FEST- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Phelps School. Learn about local maple syrup production, tour sugar bushes and see sap turn to syrup in action, craft fair, maple treats, and more! Info: visit phelpswi.us.

Sunday, April 6

MINOCQUA: ICE CAMERA ACTION- 1 p.m., Lakeland Hawks Ice Arena. Come enjoy the Lakeland Figure Skating Club Annual Spring Ice Show! \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, three years and under free! Sanctioned by US Figure Skating. Info: visit lakelandarena.org/figure skating.

RHINELANDER: 3RD ANNUAL EASTER EVENT- Noon to 3 p.m., James Williams Middle School. This fundraiser for the New Hodag Park and Splash Pad is filled with fun! \$5 per person for bounce houses, egg hunts, Easter bunny photos, and other activities! Info: visit business.rhinelanderschamber.com.

THREE LAKES: D&D PLAY- 6 p.m., Demmer Library. Join us in person or virtually as we use Roll20 and Twitch to play D&D, no experience required, drop in play is encouraged! Info: email librarian@demmerlibrary.org.

MERCER: LAST BINGO OF THE SEASON- 11:30 a.m., Mercer Senior Center. Join us for the last Bingo game of winter. The meal will start at noon and be ham and turkey with all the trimmings and homemade desserts. Following the meal is the Bingo game with prizes. Info: visit mercerseniorcenter.com.

Monday, April 7

MINOCQUA: PASTIME CLUB- 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Ascension Lutheran Church. Pastime Club is a non-profit, social model adult day program serving Oneida, Vilas, and Lincoln counties. Info: call Rebecca

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Church Directory

RHINELANDER FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

320 Lincoln Street, Rhinelanders
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, Rhinelanders
715-362-5910 - www.immanuelrhinelanders.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
Rhinelanders ~ 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.zionrhinelanders.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, Rhinelanders, WI
715-362-3169 ~ www.nativityofourlord.net

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

125 E. King Street - Rhinelanders, 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., Rhinelanders • 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, Rhinelanders
715-362-2470 stmarkrhinelanders.org
Office hours: 9: a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Pastor Richard Miller
Thursday evening Service: 6:00 p.m.
Sunday morning service: 9:00 a.m.
Email: stmarkchurch@outlook.com

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

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

ONLINE AUCTION

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PICKUP & PAYMENT: Saturday, April 19 (9AM-2PM) Terms: Sales tax charged. Cash or good check, credit cards. **10 % buyers fee.** Not responsible for loss or accidents. Settlement made before removing items. Conditions: Sold as is, where is. Announcements made on auction day take precedence over printed material. R.W.A. Col. René Brass #424, Col. Robert St. Louis #450, 6728 Whitefish Lk. Rd., Three Lakes, WI 54562. PH: 715-367-1668

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
Episcopal Church Women's

SPRING CRAFT BAZAAR and BAKE SALE

including local community vendors

Saturday, April 5, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

at
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Guild Hall
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Mail: 236 S. Courtney St., Suite 6, Rhinelanders, WI 54501

Online: www.rivernewsonline.com

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Title	Name	Email
Publisher	Gregg Walker	gwalker@lakelandtimes.com
Circulation	Corey Richter	corey@rivernewsonline.com
Associate Editor	Jeremy Mayo	jeremy@rivernewsonline.com
Legals	Heather Holmes	legals@rivernewsonline.com

ADVERTISING

Classified Display Corey Richter 715-365-6397 classifieds@rivernewsonline.com
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Crawford cruises in victory over Schimel

Underly wins re-election as state superintendent of schools

By Richard Moore
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Progressive Dane County circuit judge Susan Crawford swept to a robust and easy win over conservative Waukesha circuit judge and former attorney general Brad Schimel Tuesday in the race for an open state Supreme Court seat, sealing a progressive majority on the court until at least 2028.

With 95 percent of the vote counted, Crawford led Schimel by about 240,000 votes out of 2.3 million votes cast, for a resounding 55-45 percent victory. Crawford will replace retiring liberal justice Ann Walsh Bradley on July 1.

In the race for state school superintendent, incumbent Jill Underly outpaced challenger Brittany Kinser, a moderate Democrat whom conservatives were also backing. Kinser ran a stronger race than Schimel, losing by 53-47 percent and by about 125,000 votes.

In the only bright spot of the night for conservatives, the state's voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment requiring a voter ID to vote in elections in the state, approving the measure 62-37 percent with a margin of nearly 600,000 votes. Voters approved the ballot measure in 69 of the state's 72 counties. Milwaukee and Dane voted thumbs down, with Columbia County still not reporting.

In Oneida and Vilas counties, Schimel and Kinser turned the tables on the statewide vote, each winning 54 percent in Oneida County and Schimel taking Vilas County with 59 percent of the vote. Kinser won 58 percent of the vote in Vilas County.

The Supreme Court race was a dark spot on an otherwise good night for the GOP nationally, as Republicans kept two GOP-controlled seats in Florida by double digits.

But the results in Wisconsin were another marker on the path of an overall decade-long trek back to the blue side of politics for the state. Expect rulings on the constitutionality of Act 10 — which prohibits most public sector collective bargaining — and school choice to proceed on fast tracks.

The high court will likely also attempt to redraw congressional district lines, with Democrats believing they can flip two of the seats. Republicans currently enjoy a 6-2 congressional advantage.

The race featured record-setting spending to go along with record-setting turnout in a so-called nonpartisan race.

By most accounts, Elon Musk spent at least \$20 million in the state on behalf of Schimel, with Musk handing out two \$1 million checks to voters who signed petitions opposing activist judges. On the left, George Soros had waded into the race, too, adding more than a million dollars for Crawford.

The race didn't look good for Schimel from the start and was called quickly. Early on, Schimel was unable to gather margins he needed in once deep-red counties, including his home county of Waukesha, where he gained only close to 58 percent of the vote.

In fact, the WOW suburban counties of Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington were a bust. Ozaukee was much closer than Waukesha, with Schimel winning just 51.6 percent of the vote. Only Washington County still wowed for the Republicans, with Schimel gaining a margin of 66 percent.

In the days before the election, Republicans had pinned their hopes on

a huge surge in early voting in traditionally Republican strongholds. Waukesha's voting totals were triple what they had been, for example, and early voting was more than 50 percent ahead of previous years in many Republican areas.

By Tuesday, voters had already cast 645,000 absentee ballots.

Republicans knew going in they needed a large increase over the 2023 court vote of about 1.85 million votes, and they got it. The 2.33-million votes cast Tuesday represented a huge turnout increase of more 25 percent, but to no avail for Schimel — he still lost by about the same margin as conservative Dan Kelly did two years ago.

Of course, the unknown was whether those early votes actually represented higher Republican turnout or whether they were simply cannibalizing their election day vote. That didn't turn out to be the case, but the downside for Republicans is that turnout was up for Democrats, too.

Turnout was so high in Milwaukee that seven precincts ran out of ballots.

Reaction

Art her victory speech, Crawford showed jubilation at her dispatch not only of Schimel but of Musk.

"Growing up in Chippewa Falls, I never could have imagined that I would be taking on the richest man in the world for justice in Wisconsin," Crawford said. "And we won ... Today Wisconsin fended off an unprecedented attack on our democracy, our fair elections and our Supreme Court. And Wisconsin stood up and said loudly that justice does not have a price, our courts are not for sale."

Schimel was gracious in his concession, quieting those supporters who did not want him to concede. The Waukesha judge told the crowd to accept the outcome: "We're not going to pull this off," he said.

Schimel thanks his supporters profusely.

"You did all the work," he said. "You put all your heart into it. I can't thank you enough for everything you did to try to make this a success, but it just didn't work."

But the judge said a loss is not a knock out.

"We will rise again," he said. "We'll get up to fight another day, but this wasn't our day."

For her part, Kinser said she had been honored to campaign across the state on behalf of the state's children.

"While this is not the outcome I had hoped for, I hope that my candidacy has inspired conversations about the importance of restoring high standards and ensuring every child can read, write, and do math well, so they have the opportunity to go to college, secure a meaningful job, or master a trade," Kinser said. "We know that our children meet expectations when standards are set high."

Kinser said she was proud of her team for the positive, clean campaign they ran.

"Our kids' future shouldn't rest on the politicization of our education system, but on the belief that our kids deserve so much better than they currently receive," she said. "This is not the end. I look forward to working for our kids to ensure that 95 percent of students can read at proficiency and work to support our local leaders who seek to do the same."

See **Crawford**. . . page 5

Julia Wacker helps create 'DanceScapes '25' at UW-Whitewater

Julia Wacker from Rhinelander, who is studying film studies at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, is a Performer in "DanceScapes '25" under the artistic direction of Barbara Grubel, professor of theatre/dance.

The production will run at Barnett Theatre in UW-Whitewater's Greenhill Center of the Arts on April 2-3 at 7:30 p.m. and April 5-6 at 2 p.m.

"DanceScapes '25" features works from UW-Whitewater student choreographers, faculty members, and guest artist Joseph Ravens, a UW-Whitewater alum with a Master of Fine Arts from Chicago's School of

the Art Institute. Ravens has presented his work throughout Asia, Europe, South America, and the U.S.

Tickets are on sale and can be purchased in advance online at tickets.uww.edu or by calling 262-472-2222. There is a \$2 surcharge for tickets purchased at the door at the time of the event. The Barnett Theatre is in the Greenhill Center of the Arts at 950 W. Main Street, Whitewater, 53190.

For additional information about the UW-Whitewater Department of Theatre/Dance, visit uww.edu/theatre.

Spring craft bazaar and bake sale in Rhinelander on April 5

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church will host the Episcopal Church Women's Spring Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will be held in the church's Guild Hall. Cash and check payments are accepted. The address of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church is 39 S. Pelham Street in Rhinelander.

Local community vendors will be there, so come support!

Lovely, dark and deep: Nicolet College art instructor

Hanging in the Rhinelander Oneida County airport waiting area are twenty paintings and a cluster of sculptures, all created by Nicolet College art instructor Nate Wilson.

One wall is dedicated to a mixed media series of darkly serene woods, a soothing blend of watercolor and colored pencil that demonstrates a mastery of color, line and light. Another wall features a series of illustrative and dynamic underwater paintings with a recurring character. Oil paintings of a dramatically lit squirrel and cat provide a jolt of energy in the room. Small figurative sculptures in clay with a sense of humor fill a display case.

The display is part of a partnership between the airport and Art Start, a non-profit in Rhinelander dedicated to arts education and cultural engagement. The airport hosts five rotating displays per year, spotlighting a variety of artists, to entertain weary travelers.

When asked why he is an artist, Wilson laughed. "I don't know how to answer that question. Asking why I do art is like asking someone why they eat food," Wilson said. "It's just a default for me."

Wilson added that he uses art to unwind and relax in the evenings.

Wilson's artistic skills aren't limited to the airport, though. He shares his expertise with the next generation of artists at Nicolet College, where he has taught art classes since 2012.

When Wilson started teaching, he was surprised by the variety of students in his classes. At Nicolet College, students come from different backgrounds and ability levels, which means Wilson has developed different strategies to help them succeed.

"Teaching art [at Nicolet College], you have to have 10 modes," he said. "You have to craft an art class for students of all levels and abilities, to set them up to create something they're proud of, whatever their skill



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Hanging in the Rhinelander Oneida County airport waiting area are twenty paintings and a cluster of sculptures, all created by Nicolet College art instructor Nate Wilson.

level. And then engage with all of them individually."

Wilson says that skills students learn in an art classroom like creative problem solving and critical thinking can enhance their future career, no matter what industry.

"If you look at a lump of clay and see just a rectangle, that's not going to work in today's job world," said Wilson. "Your brain has to be nimble, adaptable and creative when solving problems."

Students at Nicolet College can earn an associate of arts degree specifically for visual arts pre-majors who want to get a head start on a four-year degree more affordably, and closer to home. Nicolet College also provides more casual community art classes, which are open to all community members.

Election

From page 1

“We knew it was going to be a challenge. I was optimistic, based on you know feedback that we got from going to (listening sessions),” Burke added. “We went to I don’t even know how many groups, it was dozens of groups that we talked to — whether it be a group of four or five or 60 at the woman’s club — that people were supportive overall.”

Burke said people needed to “make their own choice” as far as “what they can afford.” “We understand that but we believe it was important to ask to be able to continue the program that we have in our school district,” he said. “The bigger issue — and hopefully in four years it’ll get figured out — is the state and what they’re doing for public schools. We will continue, as a school district, to advocate for especially the Northwoods schools because we don’t believe it’s fair to put districts continually on a referendum cycle to help support education.”

Burke said the district will “continue to be responsible” with its budgeting.

“We added staff supports for student needs whether it be in our college career counselors or special education, support or different supports at the elementary school to support academic and behavioral needs,” he said. “All those things were important to get us to where we feel we’re in the right direction so that the referendum passing allows us to keep that going. Because without a passing, it would’ve been some very difficult decisions.”

Rhineland school board

There were eight candidates for the four open seats on the Rhineland school district’s board of education and three of the incumbents – Mary Peterson, Judy Conlin and Ronald Lueneburg – were re-elected, Peterson with 4,267 votes,



ELECTION RESULTS



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RHINELANDER BOARD OF EDUCATION

4 SEATS AVAILABLE



Mary PETERSON (I)
4,267 votes

5. Bill Freudenberg
6. Jacqueline Zivko



Judy CONLIN (I)
3,802 votes

2,476 votes
2,054 votes



Ron LUENEBURG (I)
2,996 votes

7. Doug Artus (I)
8. Robert Shelly

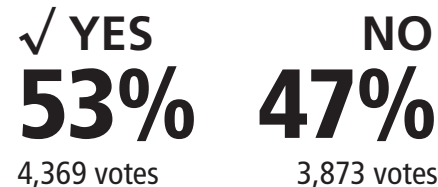


Kurt HELKE
2,800 votes

1,907 votes
1,890 votes

SDR REFERENDUM

“Shall the School District of Rhineland, Oneida, Lincoln and Langlade Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,000,000 per year for the 2025-2026 school year and the 2026-2027 school year and by \$7,000,000 per year for the 2027-2028 school year and the 2028-2029 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of ongoing operational expenses?”



Conlin with 3,802 and Lueneburg with 2,996.

The change came with Rhineland police officer Kurt Helke in fourth place with 2,800 votes, unseating the fourth incumbent who was seeking re-election, Doug Artus.

He finished with 1,907 votes.

Former Oneida County supervisor Bill Freudenberg finished in fifth place with 2,476 votes, Jacqueline Zivko had 2,054 votes and Robert Shelly was in last place with 1,890 votes.

Contested town board races

There were several contested races in Oneida County town elections in the *Northwoods River News* coverage area in 2025.

Enterprise

In the town of Enterprise, there were three candidates for the two open town supervisor seats, the top vote-getters there were Scott Krueger with 135 and Arnold Schauer with 85. Jeff Griffey came in third with 59 votes.

Little Rice

Incumbent town chairman Steve Margitan narrowly withstood a challenge from Richard Bertram, 91 votes to 86.

Incumbent town supervisor Ted Albright was the lone supervisor on the ballot and he received 147 votes.

The other incumbent town supervisor, Larry Mathein, received the highest number of write-in votes with 37.

There were eight other write-in candidates for town supervisor but none recorded more than six votes and that was Ronnie Scherer.

Lynne

Incumbent town chairman Jeff Viegut was unopposed but in the town supervisor race, Jeff Brown and Tim Karau were top two vote-getters, Brown with 62 and Karau with 46.

Darrell Rice, Jr. finished in third place with 36 votes.

Dave Klemm, currently a town supervisor, ran unopposed for town treasurer.

Monico

Town chairman Robert Briggs was unopposed but there were three candidates for the two town supervisor seats. Ben Briggs finished with 97 votes, Nancy Fisher was in second place with 58 votes and Pierson Rawoens had 53.

Stella

The only contest at the town level was that of town chair and Stella will have a new person in that seat.

William Calvin Casey Crump defeated incumbent Kristen Hanneman by nearly 100 votes, 192 to 93.

Cassian

While there technically were no contested races for the three-member town board, there will be new town supervisors and a new town chair as incumbent town chair Patty Francouer and the two incumbent town supervisors, John Schaub and Dave Priegnitz, didn’t run for another term.

See **Election** . . . page 7

Dome

From page 1

“So as soon as the snow is gone, that’s when they can assess the damage, and then we got to plan to do repairs,” he said. “(Arizona was) going to come up as early as Monday (March 31), but with our snowfall, it would’ve been a waste of time because they wouldn’t have been able to assess the damage. ... They were very responsive. So we’re hoping the snow melts ... and maybe get them in here as early as next week.”

It’s “definitely been a challenge” for the district, Burke said, but the district operated for a long time without a dome.

“Like, for example, our athletic director has been here for a while, Brian Paulson, so you kind of go back to how it was before we had a dome when scheduling athletic events and those kinds of things,” he said. “So, I guess, you just do the best you can with what you have.”

Burke indicated all of the district’s gym facilities will be used for spring sports until the weather is nice enough to move those activities outside.

“Things that were planned in the dome are going to have to either be re-scheduled or canceled until it gets fixed,” he added.

Burke reiterated the bottom line is nothing with the dome will be able to be done



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Nets, lights, cables and the membrane of the Hodag Dome lay nearly flat on the ground of the structure Sunday, March. 30. The deflation of the dome has left equipment for multiple Rhineland High School sports teams trapped inside.

until the snow melts.

The dome was first inflated in 2020.

Community impact

Besides providing a venue and space for the school district, the Hodag Dome is also an integral part of the community.

According to the press release, 250 community members use it daily during the winter for activities such as walking, pickleball, tennis and family fun.

“The facility serves as a hub for key community events, including elections, graduations, family nights, expos and local celebra-

tions,” the press release says. “The dedication of Janet Jamison, Janice Halverson and the Hodag Dome staff has made the Dome a truly special resource. Hosting over 18 large weekend tournaments annually, the Dome attracts thousands of visitors to Rhineland. These events generate millions of dollars for the local economy, supporting hotels, restaurants, and businesses, especially in years where other tourism revenue sources, such as winter recreation, may be impacted.”

To note, voting for the April 1 election on Tuesday

was moved from the dome to James Williams Middle School last minute. A multi-county veterans expo was scheduled for the end of April as well, but was canceled due to the collapse.

Additionally, dome manager Janet Jamison said Tuesday, there was a family night scheduled to take place in the dome Wednesday, but had to be moved to the high school gymnasium.

She said knowing what events will be able to be rescheduled or canceled will depend on a timeline, which won’t be determined until Arizona visits to assess the damages.

“ ... not only has it become a place for them to get some physical activity, but it’s kind of become a gathering place for our community, and a place where they can come to be social and make connections with other people.”

Janet Jamison,
Hodag Dome manager

Jamison said spring sports are affected, but added the dome is past a majority of its events for the season.

“I think just in the last two days, since people are realizing it will be a little bit until they can get back in here, I’ve had a number of people approach me out in public who just are sad and realizing that it changes their day-to-day life,” she said. “They’ve been people who walk here every day, and not only has it become a place for them to get some physical activity, but it’s kind of become a gathering place for our community, and a place where they can come to be social and make connections with other people. So I think it’s as much that that people are missing as the physical space too.”

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

obituaries

Arthur "Butch" Wilmot

Arthur "Butch" Wilmot, age 79, of Rhinelander, died March 29, 2025, at the Aspirus Rhinelander Hospital.

He was born May 9, 1945, in Rhinelander the son of Leonard and Lola (Gilman) Wilmot. He attended schools in Rhinelander and graduated from the Rhinelander High School. He lived with his family in Montana for a number of years before returning to Rhinelander. Butch was self-employed as a painter for most of his adult life.

He enjoyed driving and sightseeing, playing fantasy football, fishing and most of all, visiting his family, whom he loved dearly.

Butch is survived by his daughters Barb Wilmot, Samantha Siemers and Michelle Paris, his sons Keith (Krystal Berg) Wilmot and Kevin (Trish) Wilmot, his grandchildren Kaitlynn, Rachel, Amber and Eric Wilmot, nieces, nephews, other family, friends and his doggie Odin. He was preceded in death by his daughter Sherry, his parents, his sisters Debbie Castonguay and Bonnie Malone and his brothers Richard and Leonard Wilmot.

Private family services will be held for Mr. Wilmot. You may leave your private condolences for the Wilmot family at www.carlsonfh.com. The Carlson Funeral Home (715-369-1414) is serving the Wilmot family.

Leasia Ann Mueller

Leasia Ann Mueller, age 59, of Rhinelander, died March 28, 2025, at her home, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born Feb. 15, 1966, in Rhinelander, the daughter of Douglas and Shirley (Reinke) Mueller. She was a lifelong resident of Rhinelander. She liked being the outdoors and visiting lighthouses. She loved her dogs, but she adored her boys and the rest of her family.

Leasia is survived by her sons Michael (Kassie) Kraus, Aaron Kraus, Shawn (Sadie) Mueller and Jordan Cook, her grandchildren Hailey, Hannah, Trenton, Karissa, Nickolaus, Alyza, Kelsie and one on the way, her great grandchild Colton, her dad Douglas Mueller and her brother Michael (Tammy) Mueller. She was preceded in death by her son Nick, her mom Shirley and her brother Curtis.

Visitation for Leasia will be held on Friday, April 11, 2025, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Carlson Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 12:15 p.m. at the Forest Home Cemetery. You may leave your private condolences for the Mueller family at www.carlsonfh.com. The Carlson Funeral Home (715-369-1414) is serving the Mueller family.



Wilmot



Mueller

Groundbreaking ceremony set for major project at Rhinelander high school, middle school

The School District of Rhinelander is thrilled to announce the groundbreaking ceremony for a transformative construction project at Rhinelander High School and Middle School. The event will take place on Monday, April 7, at 4 p.m. at Rhinelander High School, and all community members are welcome to attend. The groundbreaking will cause closure of the entrance drive to RHS at 3:35 p.m.

This project will enhance educational

spaces across both schools, including:

- High school: Upgraded technical education and science classrooms.
- Middle school: New and improved art, music, family and consumer science, special education, health, and office areas.

These enhancements will provide students with state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, fostering hands-on learning experiences that prepare them for future success.

"We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of our community in making this project a reality," said superintendent Eric Burke. "This investment in our schools reflects our shared commitment to providing the best possible learning environment for our students."

Join us as we celebrate this exciting milestone and the bright future of Rhinelander students. It's a great time to be a Hodag.

Hands Off group plans 'mass mobilization' in Rhinelander

The Hands Off activist organization has announced a mass mobilization event scheduled for Saturday, April 5, at the Oneida County Courthouse in Rhinelander. The group is calling on community members to join them in a rally and peaceful march to oppose what they describe as a "radical takeover" of the federal government.

"Donald Trump and Elon Musk think this country belongs to them," the Hands Off protest group said in a statement. "First they fired the Inspectors Generals, our nation's agencies' 'security guards,' then they took the keys to the treasury. Now they're taking everything they can get their hands on."

The group emphasized the impact of these actions on rural communities, including veterans, farmers, national parks and forests, health care, personal data, and essential services. "This is a horrific crisis, and the time to act is now," the group stated.

The event will feature opportunities for attendees to speak out on a "soapbox" and share their perspectives. Following the rally, participants will march peacefully through the streets.

The Hands Off protest group outlined their demands, which include:

An end to what they de-

scribe as the Trump administration's "radical takeover."

A halt to assaults on American institutions such as veterans' benefits, Social Security, Medicaid, and other federal programs.

An end to attacks on minority communities, including immigrants, as well as retaliatory threats against the media and judges.

A cessation of threats to longstanding allies worldwide.

"On Saturday, April 5, we're taking to the streets to peacefully fight back with a clear message:

Hands off our federal government," the group said. "This mass mobilization day is our message to the world that we do not consent to the destruction of our government and our economy for the benefit of Trump and his billionaire allies."

The group emphasized their commitment to nonviolent action and urged participants to de-escalate any potential confrontations. "A core principle behind all Hands Off events is a commitment to nonviolent action," the group stated.

The event will take place outdoors on level concrete and meets ADA accessibility standards.

For more information, contact the Hands Off protest group by visiting handsoff2025.com.



COREY RICHTER/NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS

LINCOLN STREET ACCIDENT PUTS DOWN POWERLINES

According to the Rhinelander Police Department, a pickup truck on Wednesday occupied by two crashed into a power pole near Lincoln Street after the driver encountered a medical event causing him to black-out and the powerlines to come down. First responders arrived to the scene to secure the area and protect the public from the downed powerlines until they were repaired by Wisconsin Public Service, the police department said.

Denim and Diamonds board event in Rhinelander on May 2

This spring, celebrate for a good cause. The YMCA of the Northwoods is holding the 9th Annual Denim and Diamonds on Friday, May 2, starting at 5 p.m. at the Pines Event Center. Sitting on 11 acres of tall pine and birch trees, the Pines picturesque setting reflects the beauty of the Northwoods. To view photos of the venue, visit the Pines Event Center on Facebook.

The fundraising event, presented by the YMCA board of directors, will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, dancing, 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets, and auctions, all with a fun theme of Denim and Diamonds.

This is a party with a purpose. The event kicks off with a social

hour at 5 p.m., followed by raffles and auctions. All proceeds from the event will benefit the YMCA of the Northwoods Annual Support Campaign, which provides Y scholarships and programming for those in the Northwoods who would not otherwise have access to healthy programs and services.

Event tickets are \$60 each. 50/50 raffle tickets are \$10 each or six for \$50. Event tickets and 50/50 raffle tickets are for sale at the YMCA and can also be purchased from any Y board member.

For additional information, contact the YMCA at 715-362-9622 or visit our website at www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.org.

Crawford

From page 3

Underly said her win was a victory not just for her campaign, but for every educator, family, and child across the state.

"This victory belongs to all of us who believe in the power of public education," Underly said. "It's a testament to our shared commitment to ensuring that every child in Wisconsin has access to a high-quality education, regardless of their zip code. Together, we've championed the belief that public dollars should fund public schools, and tonight, that belief has been reaffirmed."

The last four years were years of making significant progress, Underly said.

"We've seen our graduation rates reach the highest in state history, and our schools climb to be ranked 6th in the nation by U.S. News and World Report — up from 14th in 2020," she said. "We've implemented higher standards for math and science, expanded career and technical education, and passed a new bipartisan

literacy law to ensure our students are better prepared for the future."

But Underly said the work was far from over.

"We face challenges ahead, including navigating the uncertainties brought by changes at the federal level," she said. "With the Trump administration hell-bent on dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education, our role in defending and advocating for our public schools becomes even more critical. We must stand united to protect the funding and resources that our schools and kids so desperately rely on to succeed."

Republicans and conservatives sought solace in the passage of the voter ID constitutional amendment.

"Wisconsin voters sent a loud message this evening in support of securing our elections by enshrining voter photo ID in the state constitution," MacIver CEO Annette Olson said. "The MacIver Institute has been a leader in the movement to secure our elections. It's evident that Wisconsin voters value their right to vote."

Olson said that requiring photo ID and ensuring that only citizens can vote is common sense.

"It's evident that Wisconsin voters

value their right to vote and enshrining the constitutional amendment in the state constitution is proof of that," she said. "Tonight's constitutional amendment vote is a big step forward in ensuring election integrity and protecting every legal vote."

State Sen. Van Wanggaard (R-Racine), a huge proponent of voter ID laws, also praised the result.

"I want to thank the voters for ensuring that voter ID will remain the law of Wisconsin regardless of the political whims of the Wisconsin Supreme Court," Wanggaard said. "This will help maintain integrity in the electoral process, no matter who controls the Legislature."

Wanggaard said the results were eye opening.

"It's telling, once again, how every Democrat in the Legislature opposed this measure that was overwhelmingly approved by voters," he said. "It shows when it comes to the issues, elected Democrats stand with the radical left rather than with the common-sense people of Wisconsin."

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

northwoods opinion

HOW TO COMMENT

Email letters to news@rivernewsonline.com

Fax to (715) 365-6361

Mail to Forum, 236 S. Courtney St., Suite 6
Rhineland, WI 54501



LETTERS

Securing social security, solutions over scares

To the Editor:

Let's stay focused on the real problems and important long term solutions when it comes to Social Security

The news these days is full of stories regarding Social Security — employee cuts, new requirements for beneficiaries, purported fraud, possible bankruptcy, and proposed changes to taxation of benefits. In the midst of this chaos, we'd be wise to keep our eye on the two things of greatest importance to everyone — the long term financial solvency of Social Security and the ability of the Social Security Administration agency to serve its beneficiaries.

Social Security is at its core "economic insurance" for people with disabilities and for retirees, especially those not well off financially and those in the middle class. In return for paying into the system during our working years (along with matches from our employers) during retirement we are guaranteed steady payments until our deaths, and our spouses can receive benefits even after we die.

News stories over the past few years have repeatedly and erroneously stated that Social Security will run out of money in the next seven or eight years. It won't because people who are working will continue having social security taxes withheld from their paychecks, and these largely fund the benefits checks retirees receive in any one year. What will run out if nothing changes is the trust fund that helps cover annual benefits costs. This is because the payroll taxes withheld no longer completely cover the payouts. If the trust fund dries up as projected by 2033, the monthly benefits checks will be reduced by around a quarter of what would have otherwise been received.

More recently, the idea of not paying federal taxes on monthly benefits checks people receive is being tossed around. While any tax break sounds good in principle, it does not promote long term financial solvency for Social Security because federal taxes on Social Security benefits go right back into the Trust Fund. To top it off, the economically least fortunate people whose retirement income is mostly Social Security (about half of recipients) already pay no federal tax on any of it, so this does not help them at all. The wealthiest social security recipients gain the most from the proposal and need it the least.

In 2024, the Social Security Administration already had its lowest staffing levels in decades while serving an increasing number of beneficiaries and without receiving adequate funding for critical updates to computer and software systems. Further reductions in staffing and other new requirements are making it more difficult for retirees to get timely service from the agency. Customer service levels are falling. People are complaining.

Claims of widespread fraud and abuse, such as the recent statements that millions of people over 110 years old are receiving Social Security checks, are just not true. These kinds of statements distract from the real problems at hand and do nothing to help solve them.

Many of you, your parents, and/or your grandparents are relying on social security benefits you already receive as part or all of retirement income. Others who suffer with disabilities have the same reliance. The rest of Americans have already planned for and counted on some social security benefits in their retirement or will be doing so in the coming years. The younger generation is starting to wonder if anything resembling social security will be available to them.

Paul Strong
Hazelhurst

Liars and fools: Security breach signals something worse than a clown show

Last week's disclosure that the Trump administration officials responsible for keeping us safe from our enemies resemble reckless frat boys may have been shocking, but it wasn't surprising. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was already regarded by most members of Congress as profoundly unsuited for that position. This was because of his obvious lack of credentials for the job, and because of evidence that he had engaged in serious sexual misconduct and had an apparent penchant for getting inebriated, all of which suggested a certain — what shall we say? — incompatibility with directing the U.S. military.

But it wasn't necessarily on anyone's Bingo card that he would pre-publish the operational details of a planned attack against Houthi rebels on a commercially available communications platform that his own department has assessed is vulnerable to monitoring by hostile actors. Here is what the Pentagon has warned about the use of Signal, which Hegseth used to disseminate the precise time, method and target of the attacks hours before they took place: "The use of Signal by common targets of surveillance and espionage activity has made the application a high value target to intercept sensitive information."

Were those to whom Hegseth used Signal to communicate our attack plans "common targets of surveillance"?

Nah, not really. Just the vice president, the secretary of state, the director of national intelligence, the national security adviser, the head of the CIA and a half dozen other obvious targets of surveillance.

But Hegseth didn't just use Signal to communicate top-secret intelligence to those who were prime targets of monitoring and electronic penetration. No, he published it to ... a journalist, The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg. Seems our National Security Ad-

viser, Mike Waltz, had inadvertently included Goldberg in the little chat group sharing our war plans, and none of the country's Team of Geniuses noticed.

The information being tossed around on a vulnerable platform, said Trump's own former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Mick Mulroy, "is highly classified and protected.



Jeff Robbins
COLUMNIST

Disclosure would compromise the operation and put lives at risk. Next to nuclear and covert operations, this information is the most protected." Trump, however, was ready with his customary BS. It was all, he said, "fake news." His press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, with the de-

ceitful brio that her master demands, blamed Team Trump's mind-blowingly reckless mishandling of top-secret information on ... Goldberg.

You read that right. "The entire story," the dismissible Leavitt posted, "was another hoax written by a Trump-hater who is well-known for his sensationalist spin."

Uh-huh.

Ever the bro, confident — with good reason — that he can lie his way out of anything, Hegseth picked up the theme, blaming his own stupidity on Goldberg. And, of course, there were the lies, always the lies. "Nobody was texting war plans," he actually said.

But here is what Hegseth texted on a vulnerable platform, ignoring his own Department's warnings:

"1215et: F-18s LAUNCH (1st strike package)"

"1345: 'Trigger Based' F-18 1st strike window starts ... also, Strike Drones Launch (MQ-9s) ..."

"1415: Strike Drones on Target (THIS IS WHEN THE FIRST BOMBS WILL DEFINITELY DROP) ..."

"1536 F-18 2nd Strike Starts — also, first sea-based Tomahawks launched."

Kind of sounds like a war plan.

Testifying before the Senate this week, a panel of those who were on the moronic group chat mindlessly chatting with Jeffrey Goldberg vied to be the most vapid witness not only of the day but of all time. Tulsi Gabbard won. Asked by Sen. Mark Warner whether she would confirm that she appeared on the texts as "TG," our director of national intelligence refused to confirm it. Warner did not ask her whether, in that event, it stood for "Too Glib."

And here's a shocker.

Attorney General Pam Bondi, in a fierce competition to show The Boss that she will do whatever he tells her to do faster than anyone else among all the other Cabinet members selected precisely for their lackeydom, announced even as her colleagues were still actively dissembling that the Justice Department had no interest in investigating the matter.

Not even curious.

These are the same people who have spent nine years thundering about how Hillary Clinton should be "locked up" for using a private server to email about yoga lessons and wedding plans, and who defended Trump when he was indicted for violating the Espionage Act for pilfering military secrets.

What a surprise.

Jeff Robbins' latest book, "Notes From the Brink: A Collection of Columns about Policy at Home and Abroad," is available now on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple Books and Google Play. Robbins, a former assistant United States attorney and United States delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, was chief counsel for the minority of the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. An attorney specializing in the First Amendment, he is a longtime columnist for the Boston Herald, writing on politics, national security, human rights and the Mideast.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOGRAPH

Tom Ryden's 2018 Ford F-150 was damaged during Sunday's storm when a tree limb went through the top of the vehicle's windshield while it was parked at his business in Harshaw. "My wife parked the truck and we were off doing some other stuff," he said. "We came back a half-hour later and that was there."

Frozen

From page 1

Cullen reiterated that message in a press release he issued shortly after he spoke to the *Times*, stating power had been restored "to more than 95,000 customers affected by this weekend's severe ice and snow storms so far."

"An army of line workers from across the Midwest are working in the field to repair extensive damage, including snapped utility poles, downed power lines and damaged electric equipment," he said in his press release issued late Monday afternoon. "So far, WPS has received more than 1,600 reports of significant damage."

Cullen told the *Times* Monday WPS had "hundreds of line workers" working in the field "from across the Midwest."

"In addition to our own internal crews, we have crews coming in from Minnesota and Iowa to assist us," he said. "We also have other crews from Wisconsin that are coming up to help us in making those repairs following the extensive damage that we've seen."

Scott Berschback, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service Office in Green Bay, said snowfall totals for Sunday and into Monday across Oneida and Vilas counties was between two and five inches "for much of that area."

"Rhineland had just under five inches," he said. "Vilas County had some higher totals ... Boulder Junction had between five-and-a-half and seven inches. Some areas from northern Vilas County over to northern Forest and Florence counties were in the three-to-six or seven-inch range. They had the most snow."

As for the freezing rain, Berschback said that was prevalent "more so" for areas such as Oneida County.

"As you worked more toward northwest Vilas County, the more snow and sleet occurred," he said. "Vilas County was kind of in that transition where it wasn't all freezing rain."

Berschback said there was one report of a quarter inch of freezing

rain from Vilas County in Arbor Vitae.

"I think that was the most (freezing rain) Vilas County saw," he said. "The more significant icing was to the south and east of there."

Amy Jewell with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office said the dispatch center took 98 calls related to Sunday's ice and snow, most of them reporting downed trees and tree limbs on power lines and trees or large tree limbs down on roads.

Oneida County highway commissioner Alex Hegeman said the freezing rain caused some problems for his crews but "it was not as bad as what we had planned for."

"It was definitely an event," he said. "We went out Saturday night and salted everything to try and stay ahead of it. Once the roads got cleared up, the biggest things we had to deal with were the trees and power lines that were down. All that weight ... the trees were bent over and hanging down."

Hegeman said overall, being able to stay ahead of the freezing rain situation ultimately made things, from his perspective, "pretty manageable" and Monday, he said there were crews out cutting trees "back a little bit to at least make travel lanes passable."

"Especially for the larger vehicles," he said.

Letter to Evers

Tuesday morning, Wisconsin State Senate President Mary Felzkowski and state representatives Rob Swearingen of Rhineland, Jeff Mursau of Crivitz and Calvin Callahan of Tomahawk sent a letter to Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers requesting that he declare a state of emergency for north-central and northeastern Wisconsin "after severe storms ravaged the area over the weekend, leaving thousands without power."

"A State of Emergency declaration would facilitate assistance to the communities most impacted by these storms and provide additional resources for response and recovery efforts," they said in a statement. "Thousands of our constituents are still without power, which for many, means no heat or running water. More severe weather, including ice

24 votes.

There were nine people who received write-in votes, including former town supervisor Dick Herman, who resigned from the town board last year, with six votes.

Francouer received two votes and former Oneida County supervi-

sor Tony Rio was among six people who received one write-in vote.

River News sports editor Jeremy Mayo contributed to this report.

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



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Ice coats trees and a lawn ornament in the town of Pine Lake Sunday, March 30, 2025. Areas in the Northwoods received between two-tenths and five-tenths of an inch of ice accumulation from Sunday's storm, knocking out power to tens of thousands.

accumulation and high winds, is expected over the next 24 hours. These are incredibly dangerous conditions, and our constituents need assistance."

In the statement, Felzkowski, Swearingen, Mursau and Callahan said the state of emergency they were seeking "will provide resources and assistance during this stressful time."

"We hope that the Governor understands the gravity of what not having power means for Wisconsinites, especially our elderly residents, and takes action," the statement read.

Late Tuesday night, a press release was issued by the office of the governor.

"Gov. Tony Evers today signed

Executive Order #256, declaring a state of emergency due to severe winter weather, including heavy ice and snow, affecting large portions of the state in Northern Wisconsin," the press release stated.

"As Northern Wisconsin still works to recover from severe weather over the weekend, with more storms on the way tonight, this declaration will help support local efforts to restore power where there are outages, support local efforts to clear debris, set up warming shelters, and respond to local emergency needs, and keep folks, families, and communities safe," Evers said in the press release.

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Emeril's exclamation
 - 4 Actress — Thompson
 - 8 Spoil
 - 11 Consumed
 - 12 Soup utensil
 - 13 Time
 - 14 Turf
 - 15 Moon of Saturn
 - 16 Use a shovel
 - 17 Salad plant
 - 19 Rub out
 - 21 Baby animal
 - 22 Banished
 - 23 Off-key
 - 25 Oregon's capital
 - 27 River islet
 - 28 Dressed
 - 29 Chili — carne
 - 32 Numbered hwy.
 - 33 — of Arc
 - 34 Color
 - 35 Leap
 - 36 Lively
 - 37 Jet engine force
 - 40 Melody
 - 41 Henhouse perch
 - 42 Mayflower passenger
 - 46 Insect
 - 47 Actress — Linney
 - 49 Writer — Levin
 - 50 Dove's cry
 - 51 New York's — Island
 - 52 Big bird
 - 53 Goof
 - 54 Downward movements
 - 55 "My Gal —"
- DOWN**
- 1 Singing voice
 - 2 On
 - 3 Treat with drugs
 - 4 Long story

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	I	N	D	E	S	S	S	P	A	N
A	G	I	O	T	A	T	C	A	P	E
C	O	N	N	E	C	T	S	R	I	S
R	E	E	D				D	O	N	O
			D	I	P	R	E	D		
C	A	F	E	T	E	R	I	A		L
A	L	L	A	R	O	D		F	U	E
S	O	U	L	K	I	D		L	A	W
T	E	E		F	U	L	L	H	O	U
			P	O	P		E	A	R	
S	P	R	I	G			Z	E	A	L
C	O	O	P		R	E	L	E	N	T
A	P	S	E		I	K	E		C	O
T	E	A	R		B	E	G		E	P

- 5 Wool-eating insect
- 6 Extinct bird
- 7 Attached
- 8 Olympic prize
- 9 Greet the day
- 10 Stormed
- 12 Attempt
- 18 Fanatical follower
- 20 Curved edge
- 22 African antelope
- 23 Few and — between
- 24 Kindled
- 25 Troop member
- 26 Actor — Aida
- 29 Slot machine fruits
- 30 "— Town"
- 31 Snood
- 33 Pushed and shoved
- 35 Coach
- 36 Porker
- 37 Draw a certain way
- 38 Respect
- 39 Revolving machinery
- 40 Woeful cry
- 42 "— Fiction"
- 43 Eye part
- 44 "— la Douce"
- 45 Handle roughly
- 48 Actress — MacGraw

Election

From page 4

Taking Francouer's place will be Ed Phebus. The new town supervisors will be Rod Randolph who, like Phebus, was on the ballot, and Keith Gee, a write-in who garnered

24 votes. There were nine people who received write-in votes, including former town supervisor Dick Herman, who resigned from the town board last year, with six votes.

Francouer received two votes and former Oneida County supervi-

sor Tony Rio was among six people who received one write-in vote.

River News sports editor Jeremy Mayo contributed to this report.

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

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12					13		
14				15					16		
17			18				19	20			
		21				22					
23	24			25	26						
27				28				29	30	31	
32				33				34			
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46				47	48				49		
50				51					52		
53				54					55		

SPORTS

HOME AWAY FROM DOME

Hodag teams battling loss of facility space, equipment following dome deflation

By Jeremy Mayo
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Athletes ran the hallways at Rhinelander High School this week. Some practices lasted until 10 o'clock at night. It all harkened back to a time prior to the Hodag Dome.

It's not just one issue, it's a number of complex situations teams have had to battle since Sunday when the Hodag Dome suffered damage and was manually deflated due to a power outage — and subsequent failure of an automated system to deploy the backup generator — during last weekend's ice storm.

Most teams were scrambling, trying to figure out amended schedules and amended practice plans. A snow day Monday gave teams an extra day to prepare, but that was hardly enough time for teams to wrap their heads around the enormity of the situation.

"All stuff we had planned for the start of the season is up in smoke, and all our stuff is stuck inside the dome," said Hodag golf coach Adam Schmidt, whose team started practice for the season this week.

That's the plight virtually all spring sports teams are in now after being displaced by the situation.

Mother Nature only acerbated the problem with two measurable snowfalls in the wake of the deflation. A four-inch snowfall Sunday night followed by another dusting Tuesday night, not only has hindered the teams' chances of going outdoors in the foreseeable future, it has also delayed the inspection and the start of repair process of the dome, which cannot begin until the snow subsides.

In the meantime, teams are using whatever spaces they can inside Rhinelander High School or James Williams Middle School. A few teams are wondering when their next game will take place, and how much equipment they will have when that happens.

"I would say probably it's going to be a week-by-week basis of trying to



PHOTOS BY JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

Senior Seth Nofftz hits in a portable batting cage during RHS baseball practice at the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium Tuesday, April 1.



Libbey Buchmann works on a throwing drill in a hallway near the RHS library during RHS track practice Tuesday, April 1.

figure things out and sometimes day-to-day with games," RHS activities director Brian Paulson said.

'It is just a shock'
Sunday's news sent shockwaves

around the sports community, especially to those who, not 24 hours prior, had been inside the Hodag Dome.

That was the case for RHS softball coach Ali Bender, whose team

knocked off Phillips 15-5 in the dome Saturday afternoon. The Hodags left the dome thinking they would be back there for two more games Monday morning once the storm passed, but woke up Sunday to a completely different reality.

"It was an absolute shock to me," Bender said when she heard the news. "You don't realize how fortunate we are as a community to have the dome."

Hodag tennis coach Matt Nichols was also inside the dome on Saturday. Though his team didn't begin practice until this week, he was there helping to coordinate a pickleball tournament which served as a fundraiser for the Hodag tennis program and the YMCA of the Northwoods.

"I mean it was lively, getting used as it always does, a great day and then the next day just devastating," he said. "I mean it's down. It has a hole. We don't have a great idea of when it's going to be back up and running and a day before season starts. Yeah, it was devastating."

See **Home**. . . page 11

WEATHER TRACKER

6

The number of Rhinelander High School varsity spring sporting events canceled or postponed due to the winter weather as of April 1.

LATEST CHANGES

March 31: Softball vs. Flambeau, ccd.
March 31: Softball vs. Laona/Wabeno, ccd.

GAMES AFFECTED BY SPORT:

Softball 6
Baseball 0

Soccer 0
Tennis 0
Track 0
Golf 0

PREVIOUS TOTALS:

2013 - 5	2014 - 40
2015 - 6	2016 - 15
2017 - 10	2018 - 55
2019 - 29	2020 - N/A
2021 - N/A	2022 - 19
2023 - 28	2024 - 7

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TEAM PREVIEW: RHS BASEBALL

Hodags look to improve with young roster

By Jeremy Mayo
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

It almost goes without saying, following a 1-19 season, that the Rhinelander High School baseball team has plenty of room for improvement in 2025.

The Hodags bring back a handful of players from that squad and hope to be bolstered by a young, sophomore group that will be getting its first taste of varsity action this spring.

"Time, I guess, will kind of tell and see how it's going to look here," said Hodag coach Joe Waksmonski, who's beginning his 19th year as the Hodags skipper. "It's going to be about this team coming to-

gether and seeing how quickly that we can grow."

The Hodags will figure out right away how the pieces will come together as they get set to play three games this weekend at the Woodside Sports Complex in Mauston. The Hodags face Hortonville this afternoon, followed by games tomorrow against Bloomer and Barron. It kicks off a busy 22-game schedule as the program looks to rebound only four years removed from playing in a sectional final.

The Hodags bring back seven players with previous varsity experience with the high school club and/or the Rhinelander Post 7 American Legion program last summer. That group is led by the

Hodags' two returning all-conference selections in seniors Dylan Vanderbunt and Seth Nofftz.

Those two, coincidentally, had the best bats for the Hodags last spring. Vanderbunt hit .362 with a double and four RBIs while Nofftz was .288 with three doubles, an RBI and was 3 for 3 in stolen base attempts.

Other returning players include seniors Tyler Chariton, Barak Rappley, John Turek and Mason Schmidt, along with sophomore Rowan Wiczek. Bolstering that group will be a number of underclassmen who were part of a JV squad that went 18-3 last spring.

See **Baseball**. . . page 11

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

PREP BASEBALL

GNC Standings as of Tuesday, April 1

Team	GNC	Ovr
Antigo	0-0	0-0
Lakeland	0-0	0-0
Medford	0-0	0-0
Mosinee	0-0	0-0
Northland Pines	0-0	0-0
Rhineland	0-0	0-0
Tomahawk	0-0	0-0

Thursday's Games

Medford at Wausau East (NC), late
Northland Pines at Merrill (NC), ppd.
Mosinee at Crandon (NC), ppd.

Friday's Games

Lakeland vs. Hayward, at Mauston (NC), 1:15 p.m.

Antigo at Wausau West (NC), 4 p.m.

Phillips at Tomahawk (NC), 4:30 p.m.

Ashwaubenon at Mosinee (NC), 5 p.m.

Rhineland vs. Hortonville, at Mauston (NC), 5:45 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Antigo at Mount Horeb, 1st game (NC), 11 a.m.

Rhineland vs. Bloomer, at Mauston (NC), 11:15 a.m.

Antigo at Mount Horeb, 2nd game (NC), 1:30 p.m.

Rhineland vs. Barron, at Mauston (NC), 1:30 p.m.

Lakeland vs. Spooner, at Mauston (NC), 3:45 p.m.

Lakeland vs. Barron, at Mauston (NC), 6 p.m.

Monday, April 7

Abbotsford/Colby at Lakeland (NC), 5 p.m.

Tomahawk at Merrill (NC), 5 p.m.

Team	Great Northern Pts.	W-L-SW-SL	Overall W-L-T
Antigo	0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0
Lakeland	0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0
Medford	0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0
Mosinee	0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0
N'lnd Pines	0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0
Rhineland	0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0

Tuesday's Game

Medford at Rice Lake (NC), ppd.

Thursday's Games

Three Lakes at Rhineland (NC), late
Medford at Merrill (NC), late

Friday's Games

Northland Pines at Crandon (NC), ppd.
Three Lakes at Mosinee (NC), ppd.

Eau Claire North at Rhineland (NC), 6 p.m.

Lakeland at Green Bay Notre Dame (NC), 7 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Lakeland vs. Kingsford, Mich., at Green Bay Notre Dame (NC), 11 a.m.

Marshfield at Rhineland (NC), 3 p.m.

Monday, April 7

Antigo at Merrill (NC), ppd.

SOFTBALL

PREP SOFTBALL

GNC Standings as of Tuesday, April 1

Team	GNC	Ovr
Medford	0-0	5-0
Rhineland	0-0	1-0
Mosinee	0-0	3-1
Antigo	0-0	2-2
Northland Pines	0-0	0-0
Tomahawk	0-0	0-0
Lakeland	0-0	1-2

Sunday's Game

Medford 16, Milwaukee Reagan 0 (NC)

Monday's Games

Medford 5, Colfax 3 (NC)

Flambeau at Rhineland (NC), ccd.

Laona-Wabeno at Rhineland (NC), ccd.

Tuesday's Games

Tomahawk at Antigo, ppd.

Medford at Northland Pines, ppd.

Lakeland at Rhineland, ppd.

Thursday's Games

Rhineland at Medford, late

Lakeland at Mosinee, late

Antigo at Merrill (NC), ppd.

Tomahawk at Northland Pines, ppd.

Friday's Games

D.C. Everest Invite (NC)

Mosinee vs. Eau Claire North, 3 p.m.

Wausau West vs. Lakeland, 3 p.m.

Mosinee vs. Shawano, 5 p.m.

Marshfield vs. Antigo, 5 p.m.

Lakeland vs. Marshfield, 7 p.m.

Spencer at Northland Pines (NC), 4:30 p.m.

Phillips at Tomahawk (NC), 4:30 p.m.

Phillips at Rhineland Saturday, March 29

Phillips 101 12 — 5 5 4

Rhineland 462 3x — 15 13 2

PHILLIPS	ab	r	h	bi	RHINELANDER	ab	r	h	bi
Eckert 2b	3	1	1	1	Johnson p	3	3	3	1
Smith c	1	1	0	0	Lindner 3b	2	3	1	1
Tobias p	3	0	1	1	Taylor 1b	3	2	1	2
Williams 1b	3	0	0	0	Winter rf	3	2	1	1
Edwards ss	2	1	1	1	Vanney cf	3	1	2	3
Tingo cf	3	0	0	0	SMutter c	3	2	1	1
Hertlein dp	1	1	0	0	CLindner ss	3	1	2	2
-Rehberg ph	1	1	0	0	Gray dp	2	0	1	2
-Bamke rf	0	0	0	0	-Barkus 2b	1	1	1	0
Huckmn 3b	3	0	0	0	Rathbun lf	2	0	0	0
Fore lf	2	0	1	0	-Edyvean ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	22	5	5	3	Totals	26	15	13	13

Phillips	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tobias, L	3	10	12	5	3	4
Smith	1	3	3	2	0	2
Rhineland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Johnson, W	3	1	2	1	3	5
Vanney	2	4	3	1	1	2

LOB: Phillips 9, Rhineland 6. 2B: R_Vanney 2, Johnson, Barkus. 3B: R_Johnson. SB: P_Tobias, R_Taylor, C_Lindner. CS: P_Fore. HBP: P_Smith 2, Edwards. SF: R_Taylor, Winter. S: R_L_Lindner.

TENNIS

PREP BOYS' TENNIS

GNC Standings as of Tuesday, April 1

Team	W-L	Dual	Pts
Ashland	0-0	0-0	0
Lakeland	0-0	0-0	0
Medford	0-0	0-0	0
Pacelli	0-0	0-0	0
Rhineland	0-0	0-0	0

Saturday's Matches

Lakeland, Medford at Baldwin-Woodville Invite (NC), 9 a.m.



Rhineland's Aleece Johnson pitches during the first inning of a non-conference softball game against Phillips in the Hodag Dome Saturday, March 29. Johnson pitched three innings of one-hit ball and collected three hits at the plate in the Hodags' 15-5 victory.

Hodag softball wins opener

By Jeremy Mayo
RIVER NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Hours before the early part of its season got turned upside down, the Rhineland High School softball team won its first — and possibly only — game in the Hodag Dome this spring Saturday afternoon.

The Hodags scored in every inning and defeated Phillips 15-5 in non-conference play. It was supposed to be the first of three games over the weekend for the team, but an impending ice storm canceled Rhineland's contests Saturday night and Sunday morning. The Hodag Dome sustained significant damage due to a power failure during the ice storm early Sunday and is closed for an indefinite period of time.

That was the furthest thing from the team's mind on Saturday. Freshman Aleece Johnson impressed in her debut with a three-hit day at the plate and five strikeouts over three innings in the circle. The Hodags got hits from nine different players and outhit the Loggers 13-5. Rhineland matched its win total from the entire 2024 season with the victory and scored its first win via the 10-run rule since a season-opening win over Boyceville in 2023.

"That was kind of what we came out here to do, play as one and learn how to win, and just to get over that bump from last year," coach Ali Bender said. "I mean, everyone right now, like I said, is looking at us as a program low as low gets. So just to come out and just score and 10-run ruling them, is just giving us that, like boost of energy, that boost of confidence. We can do this."

Rhineland (1-0, 0-0 Great Northern) scored four times in the bottom of the first to take the lead for good and then tacked on six more runs in the second as it built a 10-1 lead. The Hodags tacked on two more in the third and three in the fourth to lead 15-3. Despite giving up a couple of unearned runs to Phillips (1-1, 0-0 Marawood South) in the fifth, the Hodags were able to close out the game early.

The Hodags took advantage of some Phillips mistakes to build an early lead. A single, fielder's choice, error and a stolen base gave Rhineland



Rhineland's Kendall Vanney hits a couple during the second inning of a non-conference softball game against Phillips in the Hodag Dome Saturday, March 29. Vanney went 2-for-3 at the plate with three RBIs in the Hodags' 15-5 win.

runners at second and third with one out for cleanup hitter Kelsey Winter, who lifted a fly ball that was dropped in center field. The shot would have deep enough to score Lucy Lindner from third but Kadyn Taylor also scored from second thanks to the misplay. Rhineland made Phillips further pay for the gaffe as back-to-back two-out RBI singles from freshman Saige Mutter and sophomore Cassidy Lindner made it 4-1.

The Hodags hit the ball hard in the second. Johnson doubled and scored on a Taylor single and freshman Kendall Vanney hit a ground-rule double to right that scored Taylor and Winter. Everybody was safe after Phillips bobbled a two-out ground ball to short by Mutter and the Hodags cashed in on an RBI single by Cassidy Lindner and a two-run bloop single by Julia Gray to make it 10-1.

"We talked about winning each inning, and one of the things is winning on the bases," Bender said. "If we've got a girl on second base, then we better score them. That is a scoring opportunity. If we leave a girl on second base, we talked about (it), that's a loss. They're in scoring position and we get them in anyway we possibly can. So that was kind of the mindset going in. 'If I'm on second, I'm looking to score and that batter better get me in.'"

Johnson and Lucy Lindner both walked and scored in the third. A Taylor sacrifice fly to left scored Johnson and Lindner scored on a double to deep left center by Vanney. Johnson ended a home run short of the cycle in the contest, collecting

an RBI triple in the fourth. She scored on a base hit from Lucy Lindner and Lindner scored all the way from first on another dropped fly ball to center off the bat of Winter.

That was plenty of run support for Rhineland's two freshman hurlers. Johnson overcame some early jitters to work out of a jam in the first. Two walks and an RBI single by Annaka Tobias gave Phillips a 1-0 lead before an out was recorded. A hit batter loaded the bases with one out in the inning but Johnson avoided any further damage by striking out Mel Tingo and Macy Hartlein back-to-back. Johnson worked around a one-out walk in the second and allowed only one run in the third on an RBI ground out by Marlo Edwards.

Johnson allowed just one hit over three innings as she picked up her first varsity win. Vanney pitched the final two innings. Much like Johnson's first frame, Vanney worked out of a jam allowing only one run after loading the bases with one out. Ava Rathbun flagged down a live drive to left by Tobias and Dawsyn Barkus snagged a line drive to second by Raelee Williams to limit the damage.

A pair of dropped balls on plays at the plate allowed Phillips to score twice in the fifth inning and get the game-extending run to third, but Vanney struck out Mataya Edwards before Cassidy Lindner made a strong play in the hole at short to retire Trinity Smith and in the contest.

See **Softball**. . . page 10

BILLIARDS

Rhineland Women's Pool League

PLAYOFF GLANCE

Tiebreaker — Monday, March 24
Moonlighting def. Rocky's
Quarterfinals — Wednesday, March 26
Brokers-2 def. Birchwood
Woodpecker def. River Street Tap
Moonlighting def. Wayne's Place
Sammy Jr's def. Bucketheads
Semifinals — Monday, March 31
Woodpecker def. Brokers-2
Sammy Jr's def. Moonlighting
Finals — Wednesday, April 2
Championship match
Woodpecker vs. Sammy Jr's, late
Third Place match
Brokers-2 vs. Moonlighting, late

BOWLING

HODAG LANES

Mixed Commercial League

Thursday, March 27

Men's High Game	
Nate Russell	289
Joel Shaltis	267
Mat Boone	257
Eric Piepenburg	253
James Kappel	246
Women's High Game	
Jess Kappel	194
Jennie Kligen	156
Teresa Cleary	156
Amanda Piepenburg	148
Stefanie Edwards	147
Men's High Series	
Mat Boone	701
James Kappel	695
Joel Shaltis	677
Nate Russell	675
Bryan Meyer	645
Women's High Series	
Jess Kappel	516
Jennie Kligen	435
Amanda Piepenburg	435
Teresa Cleary	413
Steph Kappel	405

Standings as of March 27

Team	W-L
No Splitz Given	64-34
Klein Construction	64-34
Ponsse	59-39
Ripco Credit Union	58-40
Nick's Hodag Lanes	56-42
Banker's Life	53-45
Simokon	52-46
Enterprise Wood Products	52-46
Pat's Tavern	45-53
Four Pole Joe's	38-60
Tack Construction	32-66

SOCCER

PREP GIRLS' SOCCER

GNC Standings as of Tuesday, April 1

Lakeland, Medford at Baldwin-Woodville Invite (NC), 9 a.m.

SPORTS DIGEST

Inshalla senior golf league seeks players

The men's senior golf league is now forming for the 2025 season at Inshalla Country Club in Tomahawk. The league has a 2-man team format and is fully handicapped. Players may sign up individual or as a team. Minimum age to play in the league is 50 years old. For more information, contact league president Dale Smith at 715-367-008 or dws2612@gmail.com. Interested individuals may also contact Inshalla Country Club directly at 715-453-3130.

Northwood Golf Club announces league information

Northwood Golf Club in Rhineland has announced information and meeting dates for leagues for the 2025 golf season.

The Wednesday Men's League will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5, the Monday Fun League will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, April 7 and the Tuesday Ladies League will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22.

See **Digest**. . . page 10

CLASH OF THE PADDLES

The YMCA of the Northwoods hosted The Clash of the Paddles pickleball tournament at the Hodag Dome Saturday, March 29.

PHOTOS BY BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS



Samantha King hits a return in front of teammate Kelsey Birschbach.



Lisa Young serves during a women's double match. Ken Korten Hof serves during a mixed doubles match.



Christie Kondzela, left, plays a point at the net while teammate Kandi Noskowiak looks on.

WIS. SPORTS GLANCE

Milwaukee BUCKS
41-34, 4th NBA Central

SCHEDULE

March 30: Atlanta 145, Bucks 124
Tuesday: Bucks 133, Phoenix 123
Thursday: at Philadelphia, late
Saturday: at Miami, 7 p.m. (FDSN-WI)
Sunday: at New Orleans, 7:30 p.m. (FDSN-WI)

NBA STANDINGS AS OF APRIL 1

EASTERN CONFERENCE				WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	56	19	.747	—	z-Oklahoma City	63	12	.840	—
x-New York	48	27	.640	8	Denver	47	29	.618	16½
Toronto	28	48	.368	28½	Minnesota	44	32	.579	19½
Brooklyn	25	51	.329	31½	Portland	33	43	.434	30½
Philadelphia	23	53	.303	33½	Utah	16	60	.211	47½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Cleveland	60	15	.800	—	L.A. Lakers	46	29	.613	—
x-Indiana	44	31	.587	16	Golden State	44	31	.587	2
Detroit	42	33	.560	18	L.A. Clippers	43	32	.573	3
Milwaukee	41	34	.547	19	Sacramento	36	39	.480	10
Chicago	34	42	.447	26½	Phoenix	35	41	.461	11½
Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	37	40	.481	—	Houston	49	27	.645	—
Atlanta	36	39	.480	—	Memphis	44	32	.579	5
Miami	34	41	.453	2	Dallas	37	39	.487	12
Charlotte	19	56	.253	17	San Antonio	31	44	.413	17½
Washington	16	59	.213	20	New Orleans	21	54	.280	27½

x-Clinched playoff berth
z-Clinched conference top seed
y-Clinched division

Milwaukee BREWERS
1-4, 4th NL Central

REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

March 30: N.Y. Yankees 12, Brewers 3
Monday: Kansas City 11, Brewers 1
Tuesday: Brewers 5, Kansas City 0
Wednesday: vs. Kansas City, late
Thursday: vs. Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m. (FDSN-WI)
Friday: vs. Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m. (FDSN-WI)
Saturday: vs. Cincinnati, 6:10 p.m. (FS1, FDSN-WI+)
Sunday: vs. Cincinnati, 1:10 p.m. (FDSN-WI)

MLB STANDINGS AS OF APRIL 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE				AMERICAN LEAGUE					
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB	East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	3	1	.750	—	Tampa Bay	4	1	.800	—
Miami	4	2	.667	—	N.Y. Yankees	3	1	.750	½
N.Y. Mets	2	3	.400	1½	Toronto	4	2	.667	½
Washington	1	4	.200	2½	Baltimore	3	2	.600	1
Atlanta	0	6	.000	4	Boston	1	4	.200	3
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	3	2	.600	—	Cleveland	2	3	.400	—
Chicago Cubs	4	4	.500	½	Chicago White Sox	2	3	.400	—
Cincinnati	2	3	.400	1	Kansas City	2	3	.400	—
Milwaukee	1	4	.200	2	Detroit	2	3	.400	—
Pittsburgh	1	5	.167	2½	Minnesota	1	4	.200	1
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB	West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Dodgers	7	0	1.000	—	L.A. Angels	4	1	.800	—
San Diego	6	0	1.000	½	Texas	4	2	.667	½
San Francisco	4	1	.800	2	Houston	2	3	.400	2
Arizona	3	2	.600	3	Athletics	2	4	.333	2½
Colorado	1	3	.250	4½	Seattle	2	4	.333	2½

Wisconsin BADGERS
MEN'S BASKETBALL — 27-10, 13-7 Big Ten

SCHEDULE

March 22: BYU 91, Badgers 89

Marquette GOLDEN EAGLES
MEN'S BASKETBALL — 23-11, 13-7 Big East

SCHEDULE

March 21: New Mexico 75, Marquette 66

NCAA TOURNAMENT GLANCE

Saturday, March 29	Saturday's Games
NCAA ELITE EIGHT	NCAA FINAL FOUR at San Antonio, Texas
EAST REGION	1 Auburn vs. 1 Florida, 5:09 p.m. (CBS)
1 Duke 85, 2 Alabama, 65	1 Duke vs 1 Houston, 7:49 p.m. (CBS)
WEST REGION	
1 Florida 84, 3 Texas Tech 79	
Sunday, March 30	Monday, April 7
NCAA ELITE EIGHT	NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP at San Antonio, Texas
MIDWEST REGION	Auburn/Florida winner vs. Duke/Houston Winner, 7:50 p.m. (CBS)
1 Houston 69, 2 Tennessee 50	
SOUTH REGION	
1 Auburn 70, 2 Michigan State 64	

Softball

From page 9

“Aleece started in the mound on the mound for us, and that was amazing. I mean, I knew she was going to come out with some jitters. I knew she was going to throw some balls. She wasn’t finishing at first, and I knew it was jitters, but again, she really held it in there for us,” Bender said. “Vanney came in to close and that was awesome. They kept our walks down to five walks. I mean, that’s huge compared to where

we were last year at like 15, 20 walks a game. I think it just gave those girls on defense that, like boost of confidence, them being able to strike a few girls out, helped us get it out. It wasn’t always on the defense’s shoulders, so it was really nice to see that.”
Vanney and Cassidy Lindner each recorded two hits at the plate. Vanney drove in three runs while Taylor, Cassidy Lindner and Gray drove in two each.
When and where Rhinelander’s next game takes place remains to be seen. The Hodags were to

have played two games in the Dome Monday and had already planned to move Thursday’s game to Medford, field-conditions permitting.
A game at Tomahawk next Tuesday was slated to be moved to Rhinelander as part of a quadrangular April 12, but that game was in limbo as of press time, as were scheduled home games against Antigo April 10 and Lakeland April 14. The Hodags are scheduled to travel to Northland Pines April 15.
Jeremy Mayo may be reached at jeremy@rivernewsonline.com.



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS
Rhinelander’s Kady Taylor tags Phillips’ Trinity Smith for the final out of the fifth inning of a non-conference softball game against Phillips in the Hodag Dome Saturday, March 29.

Digest

From page 9

The Monday Fun League is a two-partner men’s league the is focused on fun. Contact league president Brian Berns at brberns@1supply.com for more information.
The Wednesday men’s league is the course’s largest lead with more than 50 players competing each week. For more information, contact Ron Teclaw at rontec@charter.net.
The Tuesday Ladies League is welcoming new and returning members for the 2025 season. Contact Stephanie Dahlquist at steph_ruckheim@yahoo.com or 715-889-0880 for more information.

Baseball

From page 8

The Hodags had to adjust their plans this week at practice following the deflation of the Hodag Dome due to damage. However, Waksmonski said he was pleased with what he saw from the team in live situations during the first week of practice.

"It seems like our pitchers, this crew seems like they'll be able to throw some more strikes this year. You know our hitters as well. Our hitters seem to be a little more aggressive at the plate," he said. "They seem to have more of a plan, but I think you know what we can tell from our initial matchups our pitchers, for the most part, have been right around the plate."

Vanderbunt will be Rhinelander's most experienced pitcher this season. He went a combined 2-9 between the high school and Legion seasons last year with a 6.30 ERA, 59 walks and 48 strikeouts over 56 2/3 innings. Behind him there are some less-experienced arms, though Schmidt fared well with the Rebels last summer, going 3-1 with a 2.69 ERA and 31 strikeouts over 26 innings.

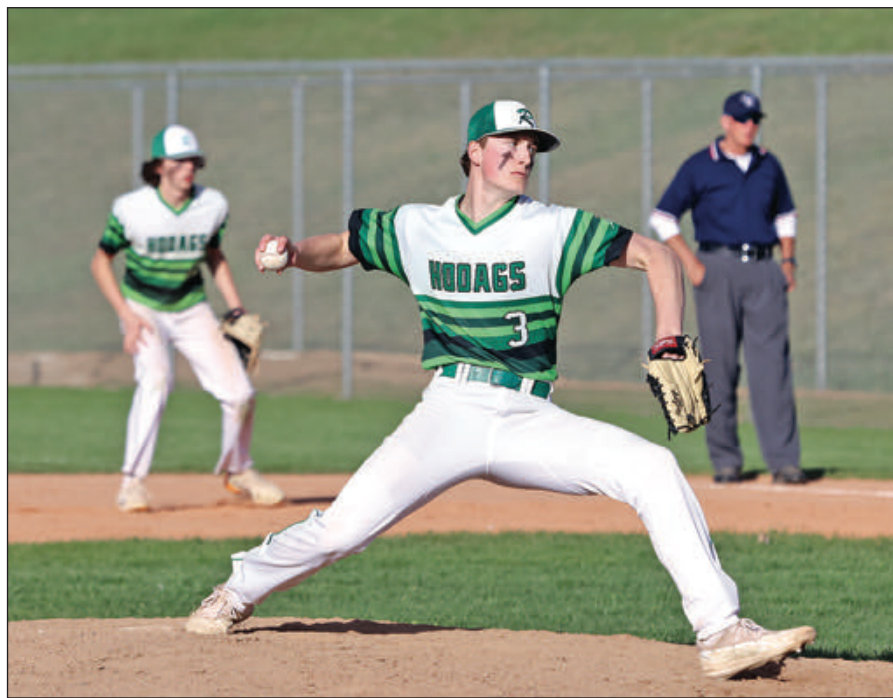
"Dylan obviously has lots of varsity pitching experience, throwing the last two years. We're kind of looking for him to try and be the leader and keep guys calm. Mason had some experience last summer throwing for the Legion team, but he threw a lot also last spring for the JV team," Waksmonski said.

Beyond that, a number of sophomores will likely round out the rotation. Waksmonski noted Conner Rappley, Jackson Waydick and Abe Gretzinger logged plenty of innings between JV and travel baseball last year. Wiczek and fellow sophomore left-hander Sawyer Bishop are also expected to see time on the mound. With three games this weekend, Waksmonski said he expects his entire staff will see plenty of work.

"We're not going to extend guys out too much here," he said. "Each guy will probably get two or three innings max and we can kind of give them a taste of varsity experience and kind of see what the first round looks like for them on the mound."

The Hodags will be green at catcher, too, with Adrian Patrone graduating. Waydick and another sophomore, Josh Willoughby, have seen time there during spring practice.

"Jackson Waydick's been very solid behind the plate," Waksmonski said. "Jackson puts a lot on the baseball. He played in a couple tourna-



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

In this May 6, 2024 file photo, Rhinelander's Dylan Vanderbunt pitches during a non-conference baseball game against Merrill at Stafford Field. Vanderbunt is the most experienced returning pitcher for the Hodags this spring, the senior went 2-9 over 56 2/3 innings last spring with a 6.30 ERA.

ments on his own this offseason and, you know, he's really progressed as a catcher. Very solid back-up, very good receiver, improving as a blocker and then throwing as well. He's got a very strong arm and it's very accurate as well. After him right now, it's looking like Josh Willoughby is going to be behind him and Josh is another guy that logged some innings on the JV team last year behind the plate, but again has looked pretty good actually his couple practices this spring."

Nofftz and Barak Rappley return for the Hodags on the infield. Nofftz was an all-conference infielder while predominantly playing shortstop last year, but Waksmonski said the plan is to move him to second and go with two sophomores — Gretzinger and Conner Rappley on the left side of the infield.

"Seth obviously, having some all conference recognition, we're going to look for him for leadership on the infield and in our lineup," he said. "Seth, it's looking like we'll ship him over to second base. Just kind of the way Abe Gretzinger plays shortstop — you know Abe's a vocal kid and he's got a very strong arm — and with Seth we just feel the way our pitching staff is this year and the way we call games, he's going get a lot of ground balls that side of the field. So having a strong defender there is very important."

The Hodags have perhaps the most returning experience in the outfield with Vanderbunt patrolling center again. Wiczek made a number of

starts in right for the team last spring while Turek saw plenty of action there over the summer.

"Dylan in centerfield, he obviously was our center last year, so he'll have a lot of experience out there and with Dylan being a leader and you know I think will be just fine," Waksmonski said. "We'll kind of start with those three and see where it goes from there."

Waksmonski hinted that Wiczek could see some time at third this spring, when Conner Rappley is on the bump and Chariton could see more time in the outfield than in the past. He dabbled some in the outfield last summer for the Rebels while also seeing time at second.

Besides Rhinelander's youth, there are plenty of other unknowns this year, especially at the top of the Great Northern Conference. Mosinee advanced to the D2 state championship game last year while Medford played in the sectional finals. Both squads lost plenty of seniors from last year and have new head coaches this year — Ty Cook at Mosinee and Chandler Schmidt at Medford. Overall, the conference is young with only two returning first teamers — Parker Lissner at Medford and Preston Knapkavage at Antigo.

"Mosinee obviously lost a lot, but they also have had a very good JV program," Waksmonski said. "One of their main pitchers ... Ethan Oatman, he's coming off of an arm injury last year and he's a very good pitcher. They got a couple other guys that throw hard as well. It

TEAM SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
4/4	Hortonville (at Mauston)	5:45 p.m.
4/5	Bloomer (at Mauston)	11:15 a.m.
4/5	Barron (at Mauston)	1:30 p.m.
4/8	TOMAHAWK*	5 p.m.
4/11	at Antigo*	5 p.m.
4/14	NORTHLAND PINES*	5 p.m.
4/15	at Adams-Friendship	5 p.m.
4/17	at Crandon	5 p.m.
4/22	at Mosinee*	5 p.m.
4/25	LAKELAND*	5 p.m.
4/28	at Merrill	5 p.m.
4/29	MEDFORD*	5 p.m.
5/2	at Tomahawk*	5 p.m.
5/5	at D.C. Everest	5 p.m.
5/6	ANTIGO*	5 p.m.
5/9	at Northland Pines	5 p.m.
5/12	WAUSAU EAST	5 p.m.
5/15	MOSINEE*	5 p.m.
5/19	at Lakeland*	5 p.m.
5/22	at Medford*	5 p.m.
5/23	MARATHON	5 p.m.
5/27	THREE LAKES	5 p.m.
5/29	Regionals	TBA

* Conference games
HOME GAMES IN CAPS

seems like you know Medford lost a lot, but I know they had a sophomore lefty pitcher that's going to be back and he's going to be a thorn in the conference's side. Antigo has a couple guys back. Lakeland has (Ben) Peterson back. So there's still going to be enough good, quality arms in our conference, but I don't know if each team will be as deep as they were this last year in the pitching department."

Rhinelanders is slated to begin GNC play at home against Tomahawk this coming Tuesday and then travel to Antigo next Friday, though it was unclear as of press time if field conditions would allow those games to take place as scheduled, or if the games could potentially be moved elsewhere. The Hodags are slated to play seven of their first nine games of the season on the road.

Aside from trying to play its best come tournament time, Waksmonski said he was unsure of what the team's potential could be this season. He said much of it will depend on how well the team gels over the next couple of months.

"I mean this year is really tough, I think, to kind of figure out what we're going to be as a team, just because, A, we're so new and so young and then, B, the rest of the conference lost a lot of talent," he said. "So it's kind of hard to predict and see where we're going to be and what not. It's going to be based on how well our younger kids can adjust to the varsity game."

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

Home

From page 8

Hodag football and boys' track coach Aaron Kraemer lives near the dome and said he heard a big bang of a transformer failing when areas of the city lost power at roughly 3 a.m. Sunday. Little did he know at that point what was about to transpire. Kraemer has been one of the facilities biggest proponents and promoters. When asked what his initial reaction was to the news, he could come up with only one, perhaps way too apropos adjective — deflating.

"It's one of those things where you get to a point where you just count on it to be there, and it's had such a massive effect on our ability to train and in our ability to prepare our athletes, that it's just, it is a shock," he said.

2019 all over again

None of the current spring sport athletes at RHS



JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

Members of the Rhinelander High School boys' tennis team warm up in the RHS commons prior to practice Tuesday, April 1.

have had to experience life without the Hodag Dome, which hosted its first sporting event in December 2020 and officially opened to the public in early 2021. This week has been a stark reminder of what early spring in the Northwoods used to be like without the dome.

The Hodag baseball, softball, girls' soccer and boys'

tennis teams shared space inside the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium, with practices starting right after school and running until 10 p.m. Some members of the Hodag track team worked out in the Aspirus Fitness Center, others ran in the hallways, rode bikes around the campus or practiced field events wherever

they could. The Hodag golf team used the balcony at the James Williams Middle School.

It's been six years since this sort of arrangement was in place. Spring sports teams first used the dome in 2021 and the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the 2020 season before most spring teams could begin practice.

"I actually went through the Google Drive and started sharing some old practice plans with the coaching staff and trying to go over and see what it is we can pull out and bring back and see what we want to use this week for our practices back in the gym," said Hodag baseball coach Joe Waksmonski, who's led the club since 2007.

While Nathan Bates didn't take over the Hodag girls' soccer program until 2021, he served as an assistant under then coach Dan Millot back in 2019, and said he can remember what life was like before the dome.

"We're going to have to continuously keep working on our touches and passing game and different drills that we can utilize like we used to when we had to practice in the gym," he said. "We're just going to have to adapt that way and just go back to the way we used to do things before we had this amazing facility."

See **Dome** . . . page 12

Dome

From page 11

For Bender, who is in her third year on the softball coaching staff, it has been a matter of trying to harken back to her playing days at RHS and recalling what those practices were like.

"The dome has allowed us to practice — especially softball and baseball — to an extent that you can never practice in the gym," said Bender, a 2017 RHS graduate. "Especially fly balls, hitting it's really hard to manipulate a gym, but we've done it for a lot of years prior to the dome. I was just actually thinking back on what did we do before we had the dome?"

Buried in the dome

When the dome deflated, everything inside was blanked by the heavy outer membrane, the steel support cables and then several inches of snow.

Paulson said he and a few others were able to get a few items out of the dome Sunday morning before needing to evacuate and allow the dome to manually deflate.

"Right where the main entrance is, we were able to get some chairs out," he said. "We were able to get the golf cart out, the sweeper right in that corner.

Everything that was accessible right there, but some stuff was already trapped on the far end that we couldn't get to.

"There's multiple equipment underneath there, and it's too dangerous to get it out."

Every spring sport had at least some equipment inside the dome — from bats to ball to pitching and hitting machines. It's all now trapped underneath the structure for an indefinite period of time.

"Until I would hear otherwise, let's say that," Paulson said. "I don't know if it's going to take the full duration for it to be fixed to get (the equipment) out. I don't know that."

Perhaps the most acutely affected by it all is the track team's blossoming pole vault program. In the team's first two meets, the girls' pole vault record has already been broken twice. What happens going forward is up in the air as not only is the team's pole vault pit buried under the dome, so are virtually all of their poles.

Pole vault coach Jayme Wyss is trying to use her connections and borrow poles from other schools, but was struggling to find answers as of Tuesday morning.

"Not looking good with poles," she told the *River News* in an email. "The ones I need to borrow are super common, meaning used a lot. Nowhere to get in a pit this week. Hoping to get



PHOTOS BY JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

Members of the RHS softball team help to put back a batting cage into the rafters of the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium after practice Tuesday, April 1.



Coaches Andy Wyss, center, and Rod Olson bring a set of hurdles from Mike Webster Stadium to Rhinelander High School for exercises during RHS track practice Tuesday, April 1.

in somewhere once next week. Meets are now practice, with only whatever (equipment) present schools are willing to share for the meet. Disheartening."

Paulson noted that the team's pole vaulters have been contacted by Northland Pines High School, offering practice time inside their field house — which would need to be separate from when Northland Pines practices per WIAA regulations.

Otherwise, Paulson said the track team still has some hurdles and starting blocks inside the dome, but could borrow some for use during middle school and high school meets planned for Rhinelander later this spring.

Track is far from the only sport affected. Bender said virtually all of the softball team's equipment is inside the dome, most critically all the bats that are supplied by the team for players to use. While catchers have their own gear and players have their own helmets, pretty much everything else — aside from a couple of pitching machines — is inside the dome.

"I'm going through my garage. I have a lot of parents who have volunteered to drop off balls that they have. We're just trying to figure out how to make things work," she said.

In addition to the two golf simulators inside the dome, Schmidt said he needed to rush to get equipment for the team to be able to practice on Tuesday. Among what's

still inside the dome includes hitting mats, foam balls, targets and nets.

"I don't really have any nets, so I have to go shopping later today," Schmidt said Monday.

Paulson also made a run to an area sporting goods store for some stand in equipment on Tuesday and said he will be working with Chippewa Valley Sporting Goods to work on acquiring some replacement inventory, once he had a list of needs from his coaches.

Games in flux

As of Tuesday afternoon, no additional games had been officially canceled or postponed by the RHS Activities Department but, with several events scheduled for the dome over the next week or so, it's only a matter of time.

Among the events in flux including soccer games against Eau Claire North and Marshfield this weekend, a tennis scrimmage against Wausau West on Saturday and a match against D.C. Everest next Tuesday, as well as a softball game against Antigo next Thursday and an invite next Saturday.

"I think we're in the wait-and-see game," Paulson said. "This weekend can we play soccer yet? It is possible."

Nichols said, the tennis team may look to flip the locations of its scrimmage and match, provided that courts in the Wausau area are de-

void of snow by this weekend.

Softball faces the greatest potential impact with a number of home games in doubt, as the Haug Family Softball Complex behind the Hodag Dome is typically late to dry out for the spring. The Hodags didn't play there at all when the facility opened for the 2022 season, didn't play its first game on the field until April 28 in 2023 and April 16 last year. Rhinelander frontloaded its schedule with home games with the Hodag Dome as an insurance policy. Bender said, with a young roster predominantly consisting of freshmen and sophomores, every game her team can get at this point is invaluable.

"There were so many situations that happened in the game on Saturday that you just can't mimic in practice," she said. "That's where I'm coming with the full schedule. We have got to play more games so we can talk about those situations and learn from those experiences, because playing 14U and coming all the way up to high school, and especially varsity, it's a totally different game."

Adapt and overcome

To a person, all the coaches who spoke to the *River News* said, despite the extreme adversity, the goal is to make due with what space and equipment they have right now and carry on with their seasons the best they can.

"There's definitely



Emalee Detienne catches a ball from teammate Rylee Mickevicius during RHS girls' soccer practice at the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium Tuesday, April 1.

things we can work on and they can all be done in the gym," Bender said. "We're just going to make do with what we have right now."

"It's just about figuring out what spaces you have, what equipment you have and brainstorming," Kraemer added.

Bates, meanwhile, tried to take matters into his own hands on Monday. He and an assistant coach attempted to pack down the snow on the Mike Webster Stadium turf with a UTV Monday, and then put a large, black tarp over sections of the field in an effort to expedite melting.

"We're trying our best to do a couple things here to help facilitate the snow off the turf to keep our girls playing," he said. "Depending on what Mother Nature throws at us again, it looks like toward the end of the week, weather looks pretty good with some sunshine and mid 40s. Fingers crossed, we're hoping. We'd love to get some games in before next week. We're still hoping right now."

Baseball caught a bit of a break. Because it was already relegated to the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium last week with the dome being used for the Danny Mac softball tournament, a good bit of its gear was already out of the dome.

"Our middle school coach (Ben) Quade, he brought his equipment over last week because they were supposed to start practice this week themselves," Waksmonski said. "... Everything that we use they have and so we'll just be using their equipment for the week."

Schmidt brought in his personal launch monitor, and so did a member of the Hodag golf team. While not the equivalent of hitting in a simulator, the team has still been able to get in full swings this week and at least get an idea of how far the ball is carrying and how much spin each player is producing.

"We'll keep working at it, keep swinging, get the kids loose and ready for the season. We'll do

some rules stuff. And then get them ready, hopefully get them as ready as we can," he said.

Nichols said the Hodag tennis team has a slightly smaller group than normal, with roughly 15 athletes this year. He said that's a bit of a blessing for the team with less space to work with in the interim and that the team will need to get creative with its practices early in the season.

"Stroke development I can see we can definitely work that," he said. "I think team building, we're just brainstorming different team-building games that incorporate some of our tennis skills. I think you know just moving forward, adversity is just an opportunity to work together and overcome. I think that's kind of the big piece of the season I'm going to have to hit home especially early on."

Putting it in perspective

One of Kraemer's mantras since taking over the Hodag track and football programs in 2019 is "E plus R equals O." In other words, if a negative event (E) takes place, a person or team's reaction (R) to it ultimately determines whether the outcome (O) is a positive or a negative.

"We're going to do everything we possibly can to make sure that our kids get prepared and they just come every day with attitude to work and get better," he said.

From a larger scale, Kraemer said he's confident the community will rally around the dome and embrace its eventual return.

"I was encouraged by what (SDR superintendent) Mr. (Eric) Burke said today about the dome and, I really do believe that, I know that talking to Mr. Paulson last night he said the same thing," he said. "We're going to figure out the situation, we're going to get the dome back up and it's going to be better than it ever has. I truly do believe that."

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

NORTHWOODS

MARKETPLACE

130. LOST & FOUND

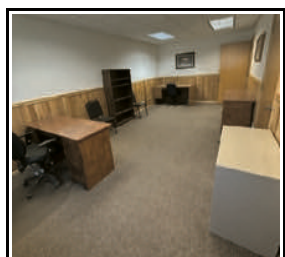
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140. MISCELLANEOUS

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262. EMPLOYMENT MISCELLANEOUS

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continued next column

262. EMPLOYMENT MISCELLANEOUS

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continued next column

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Drop off your canned goods donation at the River News office: 232 S. Courtney St., Rhinelander

Events

From page 2

Johnson at 608-881-2117 or email pastimes2007@yahoo.com.

BOULDER JUNCTION: MAH JONGG- 1 to 4 p.m., Boulder Junction Public Library. Beginners are welcome! Bring your set if you have one, otherwise one will be provided. Info: visit boulderjunctionlibrary.org.

EAGLE RIVER: UKULELE PRACTICE- 2 to 3:30 p.m., Olson Memorial Library. Come practice your skills! All playing levels welcome. If you can't play, bring another instrument or your voice. Info: visit olsonlibrary.org.

EAGLE RIVER: NICOLET ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER- 9 a.m. to noon, Olson Memorial Library. Get help with GED and college prep, computers skills, academic support and more. Info: visit olsonlibrary.org.

EAGLE RIVER: GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING- 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Olson Library. Come meet other genealogist and attend programs and workshops of genealogical interest; to provide instruction in genealogical procedures; and to collect, preserve, and disseminate genealogical data relative to the people of this area. Info: visit olsonlibrary.org.

RHINELANDER: TINY TOT TIME- 10 a.m., Rhinelander District Library. Caregivers can connect with each other and their little ones as they play and learn! Info: visit rhinelanderlibrary.org.

RHINELANDER: GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY 4 p.m., Rhinelander High School. Everyone is welcome to attend. This project will enhance education spaces across the Rhinelander high school and middle school. It includes up-graded technical education and science classrooms, new and improved art, music, family and consumer science, special education, health, and office areas. Info: call 715-365-9500.

RHINELANDER: STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER-5 p.m., Rhinelander District Library. Drop off your stuffed animals at the library where they will have a sleepover! Kids can watch their stuffies having fun and participating in activities on Facebook through the evening. Pick up stuffies on April 8. Info: visit rhinelanderlibrary.org.

SAYNER: KNIT AND STITCH GROUP- 1 p.m., Plum Lake Library. All skill levels are welcome to join our weekly meeting for comradery and conversation! Info: visit plumlakelibrary.org.

WABENO: AMERICAN LEGION SOCIAL- 4:30 p.m., Old Town Hall Sports Bar and Restaurant. Cocktails at 4:30 p.m. with dinner starting at 6 p.m., rsvp with your food choice! Info: call 1-920-251-2396.

THREE LAKES: HARRY POTTER CLUB- 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Demmer Library. Enjoy Harry Potter games, crafts, trivia, and more! Info: visit demmerlibrary.org.

Tuesday, April 8

MINOCQUA: ISLAND SOLES WALKING GROUP- 10 a.m. to noon, Minocqua Public Library. Everyone is welcome to join our walking group! Drop in any time during the group, music and hand weights are available. Please carry in your walking shoes. Info: visit minocqualibrary.org.

MINOCQUA: PHOTO DATING WORKSHOP- 1:30 p.m., Minocqua Public Library. The Lakeland Area genealogical Society will help you determine when your old photos were taken. Info: visit minocqualibrary.org.

MINOCQUA: AUTISM RISK AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT TRAINING- 6:30 p.m., Minocqua Fire Station. Free and open to the public. This training will help you recognize is a person has autism, and how to communicate and de-escalate situations safely. Info: call 715-493-3534.

EAGLE RIVER: SEATED YOGA- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Olson Memorial Library. Come as you are, we will provide chairs! Info: visit olsonlibrary.org.

MERCER: COFFEE AT THE SENIOR CENTER- 8 to 11 a.m., Mercer Senior Center. We invite all adults to stop by and enjoy free coffee and conversation every Tuesday and Thursday. There will also be tea and hot chocolate options. Info: visit mercerseniorcenter.com.

RHINELANDER: RHINELANDER WOMANS CLUB MEETING- 11 a.m., The Pines Event Center. This meeting will feature a presentation from local tree expert Tom Jerow. Doors open at 11 a.m., food served at 11:30, presentation starts at noon. Info: call 715-684-9574.

RHINELANDER: AUTHOR TALK WITH JENNIFER CHIAVERINI- 6 to 7 p.m., Nicolet College Theatre. Jennifer Chiaverini is a New York Times bestselling author of more than 30 novels. She will be speaking about her experience, answering questions, and signing books! Free event where everyone is welcome. No tickets, first-come first-serve seating. Info: visit rhinelanderlibrary.org.

RHINELANDER: PRESCHOOL STORYTIME- 10 a.m., Rhinelander District Library. Stories, flannel boards, songs, and fun! For ages 2 and up. Info: visit rhinelanderlibrary.org.

MANITOWISH WATERS: AUTISM RISK AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT TRAINING- 1:30 p.m., Manitowish Waters Fire Station. Free and open to the public. This training will help you recognize is a person has autism, and how to communicate and de-escalate situations safely. Info: call 715-493-3534.

WABENO: FREE BREAKFAST FOR VETERANS- 9 a.m., Wabeno American Legion Hall. Coffee will be ready at 9 a.m. with breakfast starting at 9:30 a.m. Info: call 715-889-3731.

THREE LAKES: CRAFTERNOON- 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Demmer Library. Register ahead and come learn to make this months craft! Info: visit demmerlibrary.org.

EMPLOYMENT

**RNs and LPNs
NEEDED IN EAGLE RIVER
PRN SHIFTS AVAILABLE
7am – 7pm & 7pm – 7am
\$\$ Weekend Shift Differential Pay \$\$**

Elite Care Management, a private-duty home healthcare company with over 26 years in the industry, is currently hiring RNs and LPNs to provide one-on-one care for our patient in Eagle River.

Please contact Andri Noesges,
Recruiter at (630) 548-9500 ext. 150
or
Send resume to Andri at:
alnoesges@elitecaremanagement.com

You can also apply on Indeed.com –
search Elite Care Management / Eagle River
Or our website:
www.elitecaremanagement.com search Careers

Help Wanted

Seasonal Production Assistant opening at Lallemand Bio-Ingredients USA, LLC. We are looking for a motivated individual that is a team player and is able to complete their required tasks on a daily basis. This job includes a multitude of functions including, but not limited to, truck/rail car unloading, packaging (50 lb. bags), cleaning/sanitizing, data entry (Excel, Labeling), machine operation, etc. Shift work is required as well as the ability to lift 50 lbs. regularly. Rate of \$22.00/hour.

Please email nrudis@lallemand.com for inquiries.

**NOTICE
MINOCQUA POLICE DEPT.
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
BOAT PATROL OFFICER**

Minocqua Police Department is accepting applications for the position of Boat Patrol Officer. This is a sworn police officer position performing law enforcement duties and functions on the waters of the Minocqua chain of lakes in accordance with State Statutes and local ordinances.

Qualified applicants must be a U.S. citizen; high school graduate; minimum of 60 college credits from an accredited university; eligibility for Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board Certification; ability to possess a firearm; prior experience and knowledge of computers; and the ability to work varied hours. Applicant must be self-motivated and able to work independently.

The hours of the position will be full-time from Memorial Day through Labor Day, with part-time hours for the month of May and September. The full-time and part-time hours will vary with applicant required to work days, evenings, weekends and holidays. The pay for this position is \$22-\$25 per hour base on experience.

Please return applications to the Minocqua Police Department, ATTN: Jason Benbenek, 418 E. Chicago Ave., P.O. Box 346, Minocqua, WI 54548. Application packets with a complete job description and list of qualifications is available for pick up at the department 24 hours a day, or can be mailed to you upon request. Please call Jason at 715-356-3234 or email jbenbenek@minocquapd.gov request an application packet.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
124075 13,14, 4/1,4/4 WNAFLP

**TOWN OF MINOCQUA
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS
WATERCRAFT INSPECTOR**

The Minocqua-Kawaguesaga Lakes Protection Association & Bear Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District are seeking candidates to join their Clean Boats Clean Water team. Applications are being accepted for the Watercraft Inspectors positions at the Minocqua Town owned boat landings on the Minocqua chain and Bear Lake boat landing. Applicants will be required to attend a training workshop. Applications and a job description can be obtained by calling the Clerk's office at 715-356-5296, email at clerk@townofminocqua.org or can be picked up during regular office hours. Questions regarding the position should be directed to Sally Murwin, Minocqua – Kawaguesaga Lake Association representative (715)356-1149 or niwrum@charter.net OR Mic Austin, Bear Lake Protection & Rehabilitation representative (920)217-0658 or mic.austin0805@gmail.com.

The Town of Minocqua is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Roben Haggart, CMC
Town Clerk

124063 12,13,14 3/28,4/1,4/4WNAFLP

**NOTICE
MINOCQUA POLICE DEPT.
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER**

Minocqua Police Department is accepting applications for the position of Community Service Officer. This position is a civilian position and is classified as a limited term employee, non-sworn position, responsible for performing downtown parking enforcement and foot patrol duties. All duties and responsibilities are performed under and subject to the review and guidance of the Lieutenant of Police.

Qualified applicants must be 18 years of age; U.S. citizen; high school graduate or equivalent; have prior experience and knowledge of computers; and the ability to work varied hours. Applicant must be self-motivated and able to work independently.

The hours of the position will be full-time from Memorial Day through Labor Day, with part-time hours for the month of May and September. The full-time and part-time hours will vary with applicant required to work days, evenings, weekends and holidays. The pay for this position is \$17.00 per hour.

Please return applications to the Minocqua Police Department, ATTN: Jason Benbenek, 418 E. Chicago Ave., P.O. Box 346, Minocqua, WI 54548. Application packets with a complete job description are available for pick up at the department 24 hours a day, or can be mailed to you upon request. Please call Jason at 715-356-3234 or email jbenbenek@minocquapd.gov to request an application packet.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
124074 13,14, 4/1 4/4 WNAFLP

**MINOCQUA POLICE DEPT.
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
FULL-TIME E-911 TELECOMMUNICATOR**

*****No Experience Necessary, Will Train!*****

Minocqua Police Department is accepting applications for a Full-Time E-911 Telecommunicator. This position is a civilian position responsible for performing a wide variety of communication-related tasks.

Qualified applicants must be 18 years of age; U.S. citizen; high school graduate or equivalent; no experience is necessary, training provided, however preferred candidates should have Dispatching, EMS, fire service, switchboard operations or radio communications preferred; ability to use computers and computer aided technology; and the ability to work varied hours.

Applicant must have the ability to react quickly and calmly in emergency situations; maintain confidentiality; to work with others in a fast-paced environment; and have adequate keyboarding and listening skills. The selection process may include a keyboarding test, listening skills test, and oral interviews. Qualified applicants will be subject to a background investigation, drug screen, and psychological profile evaluation.

The full-time position wage is \$20.25 per hour. The successful candidate will be required to work nights, evenings, weekends and holidays as shift scheduling dictates. Application packets are available for pick up at the Minocqua Police Department, 418 E. Chicago Avenue or can be mailed upon request. Please call the Department at 715-356-3234 or email Jackie Kortenhof, at: jkortenhof@minocquapd.gov to request an application.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

The Town of Cassian is accepting sealed bids for the paving of approximately 72 ft. from HWY 51 intersection of Rocky Run Road west approximately 1.2 miles (6280 ft.) to new existing blacktop by 10047 Harshaw Gun Club.

All bids need to be received by the Town Board meeting on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7pm at the Cassian Town Hall.

Bid packets can be obtained by contacting the Town Clerk @ Cassiantownclerk282@zohomail.com.
124100 4/4-4/29 Tues. Fri. WNAFLP

**NOTICE TO ROAD CONTRACTORS
Town of Newbold**

The Town of Newbold will be accepting proposals for the **Reconstruction of Cedar Lane & Polke Lane and Resurfacing of Silver Shores Drive and Lane and the single chip sealing and flex patching or mastic patching of approximately 5.68 miles of various town roads.**

Information is available from the Director of Public Works, Mark Fetzer, at 715-277-2432 or 715-499-5728.

Sealed bids for these projects will be accepted by the Newbold Town Clerk, 6103 Point Drive, Rhinelander, WI 54501, until 2 p.m., April 24, 2025, or at the Town Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on the same date.

Proposals will be considered at the Newbold Town Board meeting on **April 24, 2025**, at 6:00 p.m., at the Newbold Community Center 4608 Apperson Dr., Rhinelander, WI 54501.

The Town of Newbold reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and will accept the proposal most advantageous to the Town.

Noticed this 28th day of March 2025 by Kim Gauthier, Newbold Town Clerk
124106 4/4,4/15 WNAFLP

**STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY
Order Setting Time to Hear Petition for Administration and
Deadline for Filing Claims (Formal Administration)**
Case No. 25PR22

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
NANCY L. WIEGERT
DOD: 07/06/2024
A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.

THE COURT FINDS:
The decedent, with date of birth 06/06/1952 and date of death 07/06/2024 was domiciled in Oneida County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2299 Slizewski Road, Monico, WI 54501.

THE COURT ORDERS:
1. The Petition be heard at the Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave., Rhinelander, Wisconsin, Room Branch I Courtroom, before Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner Honorable Michael W. Schiek, on April 16, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.
2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 3, 2025.
3. A claim may be filed at the Oneida County Courthouse, 1 S. Oneida Ave., P.O. Box 400, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, 54501, Room A-318, Probate Office.
4. Heirship will be determined at the hearing on petition for final judgment.
5. Publication of this notice is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

/s/ Michael W. Schiek
Circuit Court Judge
03-14-2025

Michael B. Winter
835 Fifth Avenue
Antigo, WI 54409
(715) 623-2905
Bar Number: 1025676
120377

3/21,3/28,4/4 WNAFLP

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**Search for us or visit
www.RiverNewsOnline.com**

outdoors

New fishing license year has begun

Buy a license today and take advantage of early angling opportunities

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds anglers that 2024-25 fishing licenses expire on March 31. All residents and nonresidents over 16 must possess a valid 2025-26 general fishing license to fish in Wisconsin's inland waters. Along with the new licenses, the new fishing regulations are now available for the 2025-26 fishing season.

Annual resident licenses cost \$20 each, or purchase a spousal license for \$31 so you and your spouse can fish together. All fishing licenses and stamps can be purchased online via Go Wild, at a registered sales location or at DNR service centers.

Buy your license now; early opportunities abound

Although Wisconsin's 2025-26 general inland fishing season doesn't open until May 3, there are still some outstanding angling opportunities available throughout the state, so don't wait to buy your license.

Hook and line fishing is open year-round on some waters for many species. Anglers should note that for many of these year-round fishing opportunities, there are some specific rules on species, sizes and bag limits, so check the special county regulations before wetting a line.

Additionally, catch and release fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is open year-round in

most inland waters.

The early catch and release trout season is also open through May 2. Check the 2025-26 trout regulations for fishing opportunities near you.

All catch and release anglers are reminded of the importance of proper fish handling to ensure a safe release. More information, some helpful tips for safely releasing fish and a how-to video can be found on the DNR's Responsible Release webpage.

Protect our waters against invasive species

As the season kicks off, anglers are reminded to disinfect their gear and follow these guidelines to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- Inspect your boat, trailer and equipment.
- Remove any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading and before transporting on a public highway).
- Drain all water from boats, motors and all equipment.
- Never move live fish away from a waterbody.
- Dispose of all unwanted bait in the trash.
- Buy minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer.

Please note that anglers may take leftover minnows away from any state water and use them again on that same water. Leftover minnows may be used on other waters only if no lake or river water or other fish were added to their container.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOGRAPH

Although Wisconsin's 2025-26 general inland fishing season doesn't open until May 3, there are still some outstanding angling opportunities available throughout the state like catch and release bass fishing.

DNR seeking public comment on variance to NHAL state forest master plan for bicycle touring trails, vault toilet

Public comment open through April 11

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comment on a proposed variance to the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Master Plan.

As described in Chapter NR 44 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, a master plan variance is a change in the use or management of an area that is consistent with the area's land management classification and objectives.

The variance to the 2005 Master Plan proposes two actions that would improve recreation facilities associated with bicycle touring within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. The first adds Map H-1 to

the 2005 Master Plan as an addendum to Map H of the 2017 Recreation Amendment, identifying approximately 7 miles of authorized bicycle touring trails on DNR lands. The second proposes adding specific language to the master plan for the authorization of a vault toilet facility along an existing bicycle touring trail.

Spread across three counties near the towns of Woodruff, Mercer, Minocqua and Boulder Junction, the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest provides opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreation on its 236,000+ acres and more than 900 lakes within its boundaries.

The public can review the draft variance by visiting the DNR's Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Master Plan Variance webpage. Comments submitted will be a

part of the official record and are subject to open records law.

The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding the proposed variance to the 2005 Northern Highland-American Legion Master Plan. Please submit comments by April 11 to:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; C/O Dominique Swangstu, DNR Property Planner; 1027 West St. Paul Ave.; Milwaukee, WI 53233; Dominique.Swangstu@wisconsin.gov.

For more information related to the implementation of this variance on the property, please reach out by April 11 to:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; C/O Beth Feind, DNR Property Manager, Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest; 8770 County J; Woodruff, WI 54568; Beth.Feind@wisconsin.gov.

the lake where you live

Those little fish

We don't fish for them. We rarely see them. We don't know their names; if we encounter them at all, maybe we just call them "minnows."

They are the multiple species of little fish that live in the near-shore shallows of our lakes, and they are a lot more important than most of us know. At least that's the take-away from a session given last week at the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention given by Dave Marshall of Underwater Habitat Investigations and Lianna Spencer of the Lake Ripley Management District in Jefferson County.

The small fish we're talking about here are not the juvenile stages of walleyes, bass, perch and panfish, which of course are important in their own right. We're looking at species with names like least darter, pugnose minnow, tadpole madtom and brook silverside.

Spencer reported that an extensive sampling of 420-acre Lake Ripley, a productive largemouth bass fishery, turned up a total of 37 fish species, many of them of the small near-shore variety.

The species in question generally don't grow to more than a couple of inches long. But they matter because, the presenters said, they are like the proverbial canaries in the coal mine. They are sensitive to water quality, and their relative abundance can tell us a lot about the health of a lake, and especially its near-shore habitat. And they do provide forage for the fish we pursue for our sport and our dinner tables.

These little fish tend to be affected negatively by the presence of piers, which shade the water, and by other shoreline development and associated human activity. Relatively deep water abutting rock riprap can be detrimental to them because in the absence of extreme shallows near shore, they lose an escape hatch from pursuit by larger game fish.

In addition, the lowering of lake levels, such as by seasonal drought or draw-down by pumping from high-capacity wells, can rob these fish of access to spawning sites in adjoining marshes. They can also be stressed by wakes from powered boats, which carry more energy than natural wind-generated waves.

Lake scientists sample for these seldom-seen fish using low-power electroshocking and various kinds of small-mesh nets. It's not as glamorous as surveying for fish like walleyes, northern pike, and muskies, but it's an essential part of assessing lake health.

There are a few deeper lessons from presentations like the one given by Marshall and Spencer. One is that to learn about lake health we need to look beyond factors we can easily and routinely observe. Another is that lake ecosystems are built on a multitude of interlocking relationships among things living and nonliving.

As a final note, someone in the audience came up with a question that was begging to be asked throughout the talk: "What would you say about these little fish to shoreline property owners who only care about game fish?"

And Marshall responded simply: "Game fish have to eat."

Ted Rulseh, a writer, author and advocate for lake protection, lives on Birch Lake in Oneida County. Visit him and his blog at <https://thelakeguy.net>.



Ted Rulseh
COLUMNIST

SKATING ON THIN ICE

The Rhinelander Figure Skating Club held its annual show Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30 at the Rhinelander Ice Arena. The theme for this year's show was "Skating on Thin Ice," as the group solved the mystery of who stole the giant diamond.



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Members of the club perform three lifts in the opening number to Taylor Swift's "Are You Ready for It?" skated by the whole club.



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Aurora Henke and Elisya Jacinto skate to the song "Money, Money, Money."



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Emma Kowalczyk, Avery Morris and Blaine Kirkham skate to "The Chain" by Fleetwood Mac.



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Members of the club perform to "Cruisin' for a Bruisin'." In the front, from left to right, are Morgan Cahee and Libbey Buchmann. In the middle are Callie Hoerchler, Lorelei Aylesworth and Julia Eakes. In the back are Lyndsey Hoerchler, Karlie Yunkers and Claire Yunkers.



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Sarah Marshall skates her senior solo to "A View Between Villages."



BOB MAINHARDT FOR THE RIVER NEWS

Callie Hoerchler skates her senior solo to "Long Live."