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Two employees suffered minor injuries, and an unknown amount of hydraulic oil spilled into the Wisconsin River, as a result of an incident at the Rhineland paper mill on April 30. **Heather Schaefer**

Two injured after paper machine at Rhineland mill fails

Unknown amount of hydraulic oil released into Wisconsin River

BY HEATHER SCHAEFER
EDITOR

Two Rhineland paper mill employees suffered minor injuries, and an unknown amount of hydraulic oil was released into the Wisconsin River, last Wednesday evening after a paper machine experienced an equipment failure, the Department of Natural Resources and the mill's parent company, Ahlstrom, have confirmed.

According to a statement released by Ahlstrom spokesperson Tricia Schwartz, one of the two injured employees sought medical treatment and was released to return to work.

In its statement, the company described the incident as an equipment failure on the R6 paper machine.

"The safety and well-being of our employees is our top priority," the statement reads. "Ahlstrom is taking steps to mitigate potential discharge of oil into the Wisconsin River. We are investigating this matter and will provide updates as more information becomes available."

According to Fire Chief Brian Tonnancour, Rhineland firefighters were called to the mill at approximately 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 30 "for a fire risk to electrical equipment due to a steam rupture."

Firefighters were on scene for approximately one hour, Tonnancour added, noting that his crew did not transport or treat anyone for injuries.

The Star Journal reached out to Chris Saari, team supervisor with the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment program (northern region), for more information on the "potential discharge of oil" into the river.

Saari advised that the agency's regional spills coordinator Jeff Paddock is in contact with mill staff and has visited the site.

"Staff at the paper mill indicated the spill was reported to the DNR's wastewater program rather than the 24-hour emergency hotline, so (Paddock) instructed the paper mill staff to report the spill through the hotline; this reporting was completed at 3:58 p.m. on May 1," Saari explained.

"The amount of hydraulic oil spilled is unknown due to site conditions," he added.

Saari noted that paper mill staff had placed absorbent

See **PAPER MACHINE** page 9

Pelican residents raise questions about city well project

BY HEATHER SCHAEFER
EDITOR

In the approximately six weeks since the Rhineland Common Council chose Town&Country Engineering to provide engineering and design services for the city's proposed new well, questions have been raised as to its potential impact on neighboring areas.

During the public comment portion of the council's April 28 meeting, three residents of the Town of Pelican expressed concerns about potential drawdowns of private wells and nearby lakes, if the well project moves forward. Because the council and the city's adminis-

trative team do not respond to questions during public comment, per a longstanding city policy, the speakers' questions went unanswered during the meeting. However, the Star Journal posed the same questions to city administrator Patrick Reagan after the meeting.

First, Reagan stressed that city officials have met with officials from the Town of Pelican and Nicolet College and will "continue to actively communicate with both entities throughout the entirety of this project."

Second, there will be opportunities for further public/citizen input in the weeks and months to come.

See **CITY WELL** page 9

HODAG HERITAGE FESTIVAL

SAT MAY 17 8AM-8PM
PIONEER PARK, RHINELANDER

Pancake Breakfast 8-11am by the VFW
Hodag Calling Contest 1pm
Kids Activities and FREE Bounce House
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School district offers progress report on Hodag Dome

Three structural tears identified

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The School District of Rhinelander has provided an update on the ongoing repair project at the Hodag Dome. “Favorable weather conditions, particularly calm winds, have allowed the repair crew to safely and efficiently remove a significant amount of water from the dome’s surface,” district officials said in a press release. “The District would like to thank CD Smith and the City of Rhinelander for their help in the removal of water over the past few days.” While an exact timeline cannot be guaranteed, the team is working diligently in hopes of reinflating the dome during the first full week of May, the release continued. This schedule may need to be adjusted based on

changing weather conditions, including wind and rain. Once the dome is reinflated, the focus will shift to repairing three known structural tears — located near the main support pole, a light fixture, and the northeast corner of the dome, district officials said. After these areas are sealed and the structure is deemed sound, a full interior assessment will be conducted. The goal is to complete all repairs by the end of May. “The district is also working closely with its insurance provider to fully investigate the cause of the generator failure and to identify steps to prevent a similar issue in the future,” the release states. The 128,000 square foot air-supported dome collapsed on March 30 after a backup generator failed to turn on during an ice storm-related power outage.

City to renegotiate contract with ArtStart



The Rhinelander Common Council has directed the city’s administrative team to take steps to help the nonprofit ArtStart arts and cultural center solve its boiler problems. **Heather Schaefer**

BY HEATHER SCHAEFER
EDITOR

The Rhinelander Common Council has signaled its support for the city to take action to assist ArtStart in replacing a defective boiler so the nonprofit arts and cultural center can remain in its current location in the former federal building on Stevens Street.

During its April 28 meeting, the council voted unanimously to direct the city’s administrative team to renegotiate the contract between the city and ArtStart for use of the building. In a related move, the panel also gave its OK to a request from ArtStart for the city to pledge the building (located at 68 S. Stevens) so the organization can secure a loan to purchase a new boiler.

The council’s votes came after several individuals spoke in support of the organization during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Nate Sheppard, owner of the Hilgermann Center for Community, said ArtStart is one of a group of art-related organizations in the downtown area that includes his business.

“If the building that ArtStart currently occupies goes vacant, is torn down, or is inhabited by a non-arts and culture related entity, I do believe it will have a negative impact on many of our businesses, because ArtStart is a place that offers entertainment, education and community gatherings,” Sheppard told the alderpersons.

The council learned about ArtStart’s predicament during its April 14 meeting.

Program and operations director Ashley McLaughlin explained that the boiler in the over 100-year-old building her organization leases is failing.

She said the nonprofit has repaired the boiler on several occasions over the last few years, including by replacing the circulation pumps, but has been advised by the repair company that parts for the 1919 heater (retrofitted in 1965) may no longer be available. The company’s recommendation is replacement at a cost of \$185,000, she added.

While the current lease agreement between the city and ArtStart requires ArtStart to cover the cost of maintenance and repairs, McLaughlin said the nonprofit is hoping the city will agree to some type of cost-share agreement.

During the April 28 meeting, it was clarified that ArtStart can qualify for a loan but the city, as the building’s owner, must pledge the building for it to be secured. The organization has already obtained a \$50,000 grant to help defray costs, it was noted.

When the discussion shifted to the council members, alderman Steven Jopek noted the city does not have a plan for the building in the event ArtStart chooses to move out due to the boiler issue. At that point, city administrator Patrick Reagan advised that he contacted the National Park Service to get more information and was advised that the federal government is not interested in having the building returned to its inventory. Thus, if the city were to sell the building to some other entity, it would have to pay the federal government the fair market value of the building regardless of the sale price, he explained.

The city’s administrative team is expected to provide the alderpersons with a progress update during the panel’s May 12 meeting at which time further action may be taken.

To watch the entire discussion, visit www.hodagtv.com



A Prayer at the courthouse

The Rev. Rod Ankrom of Calvary Baptist Church of Rhinelander led National Day of Prayer worshipers outside of the Oneida County Courthouse on Thursday, May 1. The National Day of Prayer was established under President Ronald Reagan in 1988 and is always held on the first Thursday in May. This year’s prayer theme was “Pour out to the God of hope and be filled.” **DAVE MELANCON**

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Hodag Heritage Week May 11-17



Rhinelanders will celebrate its iconic mascot during the fifth annual Hodag Heritage Week May 11-17.
Heather Schaefer

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The Rhinelanders community is gearing up to celebrate its legendary Hodag. Hodag Heritage Week will start on May 11 and culminate with a full day of events at Pioneer Park on Saturday, May 17, organizers said in a press release. Events will include a pancake breakfast by the VFW, kids' bounce house and activities, exhibitors, a Hodag Quest, guest speakers, food and beer vendors, a Hodag art show, Hodag historical bus tours, the ever-famous Hodag Calling Contest, and live music from The Third Wheels and The Prince and the Peach. On Friday, May 16 at 7 p.m., the public is invited to a special ticketed showing of "Attack of the Hodag" with film director Bill Rebane at The Hilgermann Center for Community. Also available throughout Hodag Heritage Week is the All Things Hodag List, featuring a wide selection of Hodag-themed items from local businesses—many of

which are only offered during this special week. Pick up your list at the Chamber or the Hodag Store. "This event continues to grow every year. We've doubled our number of exhibitors since last year and added a new and exciting Hodag Quest, among other things," said Rachel Boehlen, the chamber's director of events and strategic initiatives. "There's something for everyone, and we invite the entire community to come celebrate our Hodag!" For the full festival schedule, event details, and Friday night tickets, visit RhinelandersChamber.com/hodagheritagefestival. Follow along for photos, contest updates, and more on Facebook at facebook.com/HodagHeritage. The Hodag Heritage Festival is a community event presented by the Rhinelanders Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Pioneer Park Historical Complex and the Hodag Store. For more information, contact Rachel at Rachel@rhinelanders-chamber.com or call 715-365-7464.

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| COMMUNITY CALENDAR |

May 7, Coffee and Company: 8-10 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, Rhinelander. A free community breakfast.

May 7, Rhinelander Area Food Pantry: 4-6 p.m., distribution. Donation drop-off hours, 8 a.m.-noon, Mondays through Fridays. 627 Coon St. Rhinelander-areafoodpantry.org.

May 7, Line Dancing: 6-8 p.m., The Haven, Rhinelander. Every Wednesday. For more information, call Diane at 715-282-5226.

May 8, Builder’s Club: 1-5 p.m., Rhinelander District Library. Legos, Magna-Tiles, and more available in the children’s department. 715-365-1070 or rhinelander-library.org.

May 8, Thursday Night Trivia: 7-10 p.m., Backwaters Bar and Grill, Rhinelander. Join teams of up to six to compete in a live hosted trivia game of 50 questions. Weekly on Thursdays through May 15. 715-369-5645.

May 8, Oneida County Fair Bingo Night: 6-9:30 p.m.Cabaret Cove, Rhinelander. Doors open at 5 p.m. Contact: steviehenk@gmail.com.

May 9, Northwoods Low Vision Support Group Meeting: 10-11:30 a.m., Balsam Room, Aging & Disability Resource Center

(ADRC) of Oneida County, 100 W Keenan St. Rhinelander. Join a low vision support group discussion focusing on adjusting to vision loss after diagnosis of a disabling eye condition. Discover practical tips and resources for visually-impaired people and the families who help care for them. Free and open to the public.

May 10, Life-Saving Saturday at YMCA of the Northwoods: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. A blood drive on the weekend that gives everyone an opportunity to be a hero and save lives. Blood donations stay in the community to support local hospitals and patients. To schedule your appointment, call The Community Blood Center at 800-280-4102.

May 10, RIPCO Family Fest: 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Mike Webster Stadium or inside RHS (depending on the weather). Games, face paint, balloons, bounce house and more. Featuring a performance by The Dweebs at noon. Plus a cookout with all donations going to the local food pantries. Free.

May 10, Rhinelander Area Food Pantry: 9-11:30 a.m., distribution. Donation drop-off hours, 8 a.m.-noon, Mondays through Fridays. 627 Coon St. Rhinelander-

areafoodpantry.org.

May 10, Indoor Farmers Market: Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon, throughout the fall and winter at the YMCA of the Northwoods, 2003 E. Winnebago St., Rhinelander. 715-362-9622 x 118.

May 11, Community Open Swim: 9 a.m.-noon, Sundays through May 19, Heck Family Community Pool, Rhinelander High School. Visit the community section at rhinelander.k12.wi.us. Contact: Mike Cheslock, 715-365-9745 or cheslmik@rhinelander.k12.wi.us.

May 11, Hanson’s Mother’s Day event: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Hanson’s Garden Village. Fun activities to celebrate the special ladies in your life including petting zoon, balloon decor and photo opportunity, kids’ planting activity. ENZO’s Frozen Treats will be on-site selling popsicles, ice cream bars and more.

May 11, North Wind Ensemble Concert: 2 p.m. at The Hilgermann Center (25 S. Brown). An afternoon of classical music with the North Wind Ensemble.

May 12, Overeaters Anonymous: 1 p.m.,Trinity Lutheran Church, 235 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander. 715-362-4258.

May 12, Bridge Games: noon, American Legion

Hall, 121 W. Front St., Minocqua. \$4. Call Lee at 715-356-4243.

May 12, Rhinelander Area Food Pantry: 3-5 p.m., distribution. Donation drop-off hours, 8 a.m.-noon, Mondays through Fridays. 627 Coon St. Rhinelander-areafoodpantry.org.

May 12, Tiny Tot Time: 10 a.m., Rhinelander District Library. Caregivers can connect with each other and their little ones as they play and learn. 715-365-1070 or rhinelanderlibrary.org.

May 12, Personal Essentials Pantry (PEP): 3:30-5 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 724 Arbutus St., Rhinelander. Use entrance A on the corner of Prospect and Wabash. PEP provides products necessary for personal and household cleanliness and good health. 715-362-2091.

May 13, Preschool Storytime: 10 a.m., Rhinelander District Library, 106 N. Stevens St., Stories, flannels, songs and fun for ages 2 and up. 715-365-1070 or rhinelanderlibrary.org.

May 13, Parkinson’s Support Group: 3-4 p.m. YMCA of the Northwoods, Dale and Gale Willcox Gathering Room. Community, resources, and encouragement for individuals living with Parkinson’s disease as well as their caregivers and

family members. 715-362-9622.

May 13, Rhinelander Area Woman’s Club meeting: 11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. The Pines Event Cneter. Rhinelander Woman’s Club monthly meeting. The speaker will be Courtney Smith from the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry.

May 13, Teen Art Experience: 4-5:30 p.m. at ArtStart. Youth ages 13+ are invited for open studio time with local artists. Participants can expect a casual art making experience with a wide variety of materials and projects to explore. Registration required.715-362-4328.

May 14, Rhinelander Area Food Pantry: 9-11:30 a.m., distribution. Donation drop-off hours, 8 a.m.-noon, Mondays through Fridays. 627 Coon St. Rhinelander-areafoodpantry.org.

May 14 UWF Salad Luncheon: 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. First United Methodist Church 724 Arbutus St. Enter from the carport Entrance A on Wabash St. Spring Salad Luncheon sponsored by the United Women in Faith First United Methodist Church of Rhinelander. Luncheon will be served in the church basement. Delicious homemade salads, ham salad on cream bread, homemade desserts and coffee, iced tea or lemonade

will be provided. All proceeds are used for missions (including PEP, NATH, and Tri-County). Cost is \$12 for adults and \$7 for kids 10 and under (includes drinks and dessert).

May 14, Line Dancing: 6-8 p.m., The Haven, Rhinelander. Every Wednesday. For more information, call Diane at 715-282-5226.

May 14, Searching for your Roots: The Northwoods Genealogical Society is available to help individuals researching their family history. Join the group at 1 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at the Rhinelander District Library.

May 14, Acrylic Painting, Sunny Day: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Rhinelander High School, room 134 (art room). Registration deadline: May 12. Visit the community section at rhinelander.k12.wi.us. Contact: Mike Cheslock, 715-365-9745 or cheslmik@rhinelander.k12.wi.us.

May 15, Support Group: 6 p.m. The Curran Building (Community Room #102) Peer-led mental health support group. Safe and confidential space open to anyone 18 or older. The topic will be Mental Health Awareness Month. Visit supportingeachother.online for more information or call Dan at 715-360-5796.



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Advertising: Nicole Raduechel hodagads@mmclocal.com	Editorial: Heather Schaefer, Editor hschaefer@mmclocal.com
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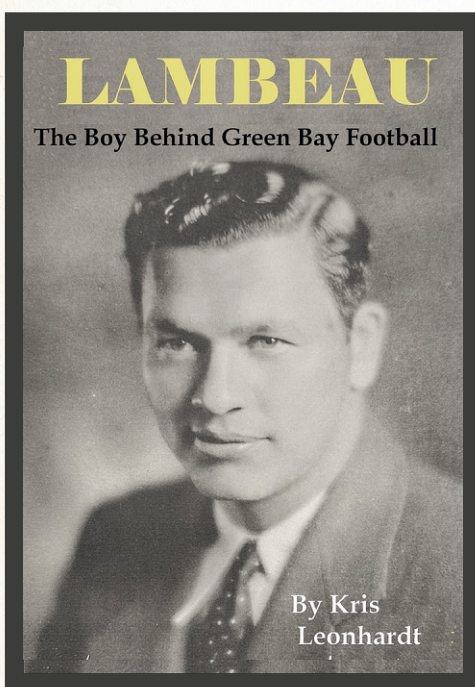
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LAMBEAU
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By Kris Leonhardt

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From the streets of Green Bay, Lambeau developed a passion for football and grew that yearning into a football team that would exist long past his lifetime.

Like the Packers, Lambeau’s story is a tale of adversity and challenge, but also a story of triumph and perseverance. While his personal life and professional career were wrought with challenge, his legacy continues to resonate in the Green Bay community, including a massive structure along Lombardi Avenue that shines a light on his contribution to the professional team.

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At Multi Media Channels (MMC), we are committed to delivering high-quality, accurate, and trustworthy content to our readers. As part of our ongoing efforts to innovate and improve our editorial processes, we have incorporated artificial intelligence (AI) tools into our workflow. This policy outlines our approach to using AI in content creation and the safeguards we have in place to ensure journalistic integrity.

Our AI Usage Principles

Our AI usage at MMC aligns with best practices in AI-assisted journalism and follows our core principles of using cutting-edge communications technology to deliver hyper local content to our readership, through our print publications and digital media. We have our roots in our communities, and while AI is a tool—like computers or spell check—it cannot replace our journalists, with their experience, knowledge of and connections to their communities, and integrity.

Human-Centric Journalism: AI is a tool to augment, not replace, human journalists. Our experienced editorial team remains at the core of all content creation and decision-making processes.

Transparency: We are committed to being open about our use of AI tools in content creation. When AI tools are used to analyze data or generate insights, we clearly attribute this in our reporting. Use of AI generated images are clearly attributed as such.

Accuracy and Fact-Checking: All AI-assisted content undergoes rigorous fact-checking and verification by our human editors before publication. AI-generated content is always cross-referenced with reliable, human-verified sources. We do not rely solely on AI-generated information without corroboration.

Bias Detection and Mitigation: Our editors are trained to identify and mitigate

potential biases in AI-generated or assisted content, ensuring balanced and fair reporting.

Style and Voice Consistency: While AI may assist in drafting, we ensure that all published content maintains MMC's distinctive style and voice and the authenticity of the writer.

Continuous Learning: Our team stays informed about the latest developments in AI and journalism, regularly updating our practices to reflect industry best standards.

Clear Attribution: Ethical Content Generation: We do not use AI to create fictional quotes, sources, or events. All content is factual and derived from verifiable sources.

Quality Control: AI-assisted content goes through the same rigorous editorial process as traditionally created content, including multiple rounds of editing, verification, and fact-checking.

Ethical AI Use: We only employ AI tools that align with our ethical standards and journalistic values. We regularly review and update our AI usage to ensure it meets these criteria.

Data Privacy: We respect data privacy laws and ethical guidelines when using AI tools, ensuring that no personal or sensitive information is compromised.

Accountability and Feedback

We value our readers' trust and welcome feedback on our AI usage and content. If you have questions or concerns about our AI editorial practices, please contact our editorial team at info@mmclocal.com.

By responsibly integrating AI into our editorial process, MMC aims to enhance the quality, efficiency, and depth of our journalism while maintaining the highest standards of integrity and accountability.

This policy is subject to regular review and updates as AI technology and industry best practices evolve.

Last updated: April 4, 2025

PUBLISHER LETTER

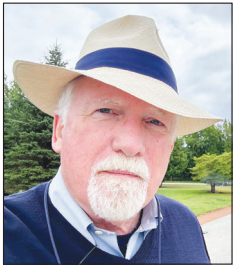
Mother's Day!

Dear Reader,

Mother's Day is upon us—a moment to pause and honor the women who gave us life, love, and guidance. Each of us owes our existence to a mother, through whom, by the grace of God, we came into this world. In that miraculous birth was a sacred gift: a bond of love that begins even before we take our first breath.

The umbilical cord may be cut at birth, freeing us to pursue our own paths, yet the connection to our mothers never truly ends. It lives on in her care, her wisdom, her sacrifices, and in the quiet ways she has helped shape our lives.

To have a mother—or to have had one—is an infinite blessing. From the moment of our conception, her pres-



ence, seen or unseen, known or unknown, is a source of strength and grace that remains with us forever.

So this Mother's Day, take a moment to celebrate your mother—whether with a gift, a word of thanks, a loving

gesture, or a prayer whispered in her memory. Whether she is near or far, here or gone, let your heart speak.

And to all the mothers out there—please take a bow. You are the quiet heroines of the human story. Have a joyful and well-deserved Mother's Day.

PATRICK J. WOOD

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RHINELANDER HIGH SCHOOL

2025 SPRING SPORTS

Photos by Bob Mainhardt




BOYS TRACK

Pictured are the members of the Rhinelander High School boys track team. From left to right (back row): Caden Sieker, Truman Lamers, Eric Parish, David Houg, Sam Caselton, Tripp Tanner, Greyson Gremban, Dylan Hopfensperger, Logan Schwinger, Reid Schultz, Evan Shoeder; (fourth row): Brock Sternitzky, Jackson Weinatzl, Kamden Kostrova, Landon Catlin, Blake Kjos, Colton Spalding, Shawn Denis, Avrom Barr, Eric Kelly, Dom Hakala, Dominic Lehmann; (third row): Ben Olson, Jackson Fuss, Cyrus Leisure, Jeffrey Dupree, Leander Sprecksel, Renin Craig, Ryley Hull, Amos Bergman, Billy Leisure, Matthew Haselton, Dean Gillingham; (second row): Bo Stott, Isaac Mickevicious, Alex Kniewel, Josh Haselton, Noah Leisure, Wyatt Crowell, Travis Trickey, Landon Webster, Myles Eagleson, Austin Sparling; (front row): Ayden Myers, Charlie Antonuk, Jonathan Campbell, Paul Denis, Owen Bohn, Sam Zwaard, Ivan Loka, Sebastian Lieder St. Peter, Michael Brunette, Grady DeBay.

GIRLS TRACK

Pictured are the members of the Rhinelander High School girls track team. From left to right (back row): Libbey Buchmann, Sam Aschenbrenner, Olivia Ruetz, Jalyn Zadnik, Emeline Hintz, Emmaline Kramsvogel, Callie Hoerchler, Macey Myers, Miranda Raduechel, Rylee Fisher, Madelynn Treder, Lexi Bishop; (third row): Charlotte Vesnefsky, Violet Biolo, Ellyse Younker, Gretchen Fiebke, Addison Fish, Kiya Pagel, Lucy Eddy, Alexa Segovia, Madison Rennhack, Josie Stella, Teagan Turcotte, Arieanna Crossman, Aila Bergman; (second row): Eva Heck, Addy Currie, Taylor Dahlquist, Katelyn Pillar, Wendy Fronk, Karly Gillingham, Tori Stella, Gracie Anderson, Shyanne Hueckstaedt, Tatiana Vadis; (front row): Kara Monk, Luna Grage, Lili Greenwood, Carley Smith, Brynn Teter, Valentina Moehring, Reese Gehrig, Padyn Meirhofer, Millie Gruett, Morgan Cahee, Emily Schiek, Ellie Cummings.





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RHINELANDER HIGH SCHOOL

2025 SPRING SPORTS

Photos by Bob Mainhardt

SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

BASEBALL SCHEDULE

5-9 AWAY vs. Northland Pines
5-12 HOME vs. Wausau East
5-15 HOME vs. Mosinee
5-19 AWAY vs. Lakeland
5-22 AWAY vs. Medford
5-23 HOME vs. Marathon
5-27 HOME vs. Three Lakes
5-29 WIAA Regionals

GOLF SCHEDULE

5-8 AWAY (GNC 4 at Lakeland)
5-9 AWAY (Northland Pines Invite at St. Germain)
5-10 AWAY (Merrill Invite)
5-13 HOME (GNC 5 at Rhinelander)
5-16 AWAY (GNC 6 at Northland Pines)
5-19 AWAY (GNC 7 at Medford)
5-23 HOME (Hodag Invite)
5-27 or 5/28 AWAY (WIAA Regionals at Wausau East)
6/3 or 6/4 AWAY (WIAA Sectionals at Wausau West)

SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

5-8 HOME vs. Northland Pines
5-10 AWAY (Shawano Quad)
5-15 AWAY vs. Mosinee
5-22 WIAA Regionals

TRACK AND FIELD SCHEDULE

5-9 AWAY (Otto Bacher at Merrill)
5-13 AWAY (TOMAHAWK INVITE)
5-15 HOME (HODAG INVITE)
5-20 AWAY (GNC Meet at Mosinee)
5-22 AWAY (Dale Peterson Invite at Antigo)
5-27 HOME (WIAA Regionals at RHS)
5-30 AWAY (WIAA Sectionals at Durand)

SOCCER SCHEDULE

5-8 AWAY vs. Shawano
5-13 AWAY vs. Mosinee
5-15 AWAY vs. Medford
5-20 HOME vs. Antigo
5-22 AWAY vs. Northland Pines
5-29 AWAY vs. Lakeland
6-5 WIAA Regionals

TENNIS SCHEDULE

5-8 AWAY vs. Pacelli
5-13 HOME vs. Medford
5-16 AWAY (Sheboygan North Invite)
5-17 AWAY (Sheboygan North Invite)
5-20 HOME vs. Marshfield
5-22 AWAY (GNC Meet at Lakeland)
5-27 HOME (WIAA Subsectionals at Rhinelander)



TENNIS

Pictured are the members of the Rhinelander High School boys tennis team. From left to right (back row) Hart Hokens, Roan Childs, Michael Schiek, Danek Koniar, Braydon Lorman, Aiden Ostermann, Vann Tulowitzky, Peyton McCue; (front row): Kash Krouze, Owen Evers, Brayden Barnhill, Karter Massey, Aidan Lueder, Asher Rivord, Calvin Loomis, Stephen Meinert.



BASEBALL

Pictured are the members of the Rhinelander High School varsity baseball team. From left to right (back row): Sawyer Bishop, Rowan Wiczek, Abe Gretzinger, Vince White, Conner Rappley, John Turek, Seth Nofftz; (front row) Barak Rappley, Mason Schmidt, Charlie Johnson, Josh Willoughby, Jackson Waydick, Tyler Chariton, Dylan Vanderbunt.



SOFTBALL

Pictured are the members of the Rhinelander High School softball team. From left to right (back row): Willow Mutter, Saige Mutter, Julia Gray, Kendall Vanney, Sadie Edyvean, Kady Taylor, Ava Rathbun, Nevaeh Anderson, Chase Verbist; (front row) Cassidy Lindner, Lucy Lindner, Miranda Daab, Karlie Yunkers, Kalyn Miller, Aleece Johnson, Claire Yunkers.

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RHINELANDER HIGH SCHOOL

2025 SPRING SPORTS

Photos by Bob Mainhardt



GOLF

Pictured are the members of the 2025 Rhinelander High School golf team. From left to right, (back row): Drake Nelson, Sam Schoppe, Blake Petroff, Chase West, Brody Kowieski; (front row) Kyleigh Kennedy, Dylan Shefveld, Grant Gemban, Hank Kowieski.



SOCCER

Pictured, from left to right, are the members of the Rhinelander High School girls soccer team. (Back row): Bailey Birk, Leah Weigel, Ella Heck, Lindsay Hoerschler, Kiley Pooch, Emma Houg, Alison Birk, Aurora Fallos, June Chiamulera, Rylee Mickevicius; (second row): Paige Wanta, Vivan Lamers, Hayley Schiek, Ella Miljevich, Sophie Miljevich, Alexis Smith, Gabby Wanta, Hope Dickinson, Maria Craig, Katy Petts; (front row): Addison Bates, Ashlyn Hapka, Becca Brost, Jordan Manske, Paytn Bowman, Emalee Detienne, Mia Tulowitzky.

Plots available at Northwoods Community Garden

For many people, spring means that it is time to plant a garden. The Northwoods Community Garden in Rhinelander has 12 plots of ground still available. Each plot is a marked out 10x20 feet and costs \$40 per year (with fours of volunteering with the garden), the organization announced in a press release. Two raised bed plots are also still available. The Northwoods Community Garden is located at the first parking lot on Nicolet Way, at the northeast corner of the Nicolet College field.

“Growing your own garden is fun and healthy way to enjoy the outdoors, since we practice a rule of ‘organic or better,’” according to garden manager Mike Haasl.

For more information about the garden or to check on plot availability, go to northwoodscommunitygarden.com.

Community invited to participate in Penny War to raise money for water filters and wells in Africa

The School District of Rhinelander third-grade classes are once again holding a Penny War to raise money to donate toward water filters or to go towards a well for a community in Africa. The Penny War will run from May 12-23. In the past five years, students in the district have raised over \$20,000, enough for four wells, school district officials said in a press release.

This is part of the Reading/Writing/Social Studies curriculum. If you would like to donate, email Jenny Prom at promjen@rhinelander.k12.wi.us. Any amount, large or small, is appreciated, the release notes.



Pictured is a map of Africa showing locations where Rhinelander students have helped build wells. Submitted photo



601 Lincoln Street, Rhinelander
715.369.1223



Pete Tenderholt
715.360.0003



Judy Mixis
715.367.9670



Jake Nelson
715.550.0248



Jeremy McCone
715.360.4366



Dan Buckley
715.360.6569



Michelle Pyrchalla
715.550.0249



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2016 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sport 143K.....	SAVE \$\$\$
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2013 GMC Sierra 2500 4x4 166k Miles.....	\$15,595
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| ONEIDA COUNTY WARRANTS OF THE WEEK |

The Oneida County Sheriff's Office is asking for your assistance in locating these individuals. If you have seen or have information regarding their whereabouts, please contact the Oneida County Sheriff's Office at 715-361-5100.



Timothy Mann, 57, Lac du Flambeau. Fail to appear. BODY ONLY



Clayton Collins, 43, Laona. Failed to appear. BODY ONLY



Thomas Blaszk, 39, Rhinelander. Fail to appear. BODY ONLY



Tiana Theobald, 33, Lac du Flambeau. Fail to appear. BODY ONLY



Breanna Gagnon, 27, Rhinelander. Fail to appear. BODY ONLY



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ONEIDA COUNTY COURT REPORT

APRIL 24-30
Thomas H. Bishop, 72, Rhinelander, operating while revoked (revoked due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal), ignition interlock device tampering/failure to install/violate court order, \$1000 signature bond, AIA May 30.
Nahzeair G. Boykin, 17, Rhinelander, take and drive a vehicle without consent with PTAC modifier, resisting or obstructing an officer, \$5000 signature bond, AIA May 29.
Kenneth C. Jolin, 55, Rhinelander, bail jumping-felony, \$5000 signature bond, AIA June 3.
Jeremy James Manka, 47, Rhinelander, bail jumping-felony, \$2500 signature bond, AIA May 20.
Mycal Zachary Payne, 41, Rhinelander, child abuse-intentionally cause harm, strangulation adn suf-focation, disorderly conduct, each with domestic abuse modifiers, \$2500 signature bond, AIA May 30.
Keegan M. Hattleback, 29, Rhinelander, resisting or obstructing an officer, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, three charges bail jumping-felony, bail jumping-misdemeanor, \$5000 signature bond, AIA June 19.
Brooke A. Petonquot, 43, Rhinelander, battery or threat to a judge/prosecutor/law enforcement officer, \$5000 signature bond, AIA May 30.
Nora M. Houghton, 43, Rhinelander, possession of methamphetamine with PTAC modifier, two charges bail jumping-misdemeanor, possession of THC, possession of drug paraphernalia, \$2500 signature bond, AIA May 13.
Ashley M. Smart, 37, Rhinelander, take and drive vehicle without consent, \$2500 signature bond, AIA May 19.
Brandon L. LaPalm, 37, Rhinelander, possession of methamphetamine with repeater modifier, \$1000 cash bond, AIA April 28.
Brian Lamar Jones, 38, Rhinelander, two charges of possession of child pornography, failure to maintain sex offender registry, two charges of bail jumping-misdemeanor, each with repeater modifiers, \$5000 cash bond, AIA April 30.
Frank J. Stasik, 57, Pelican Lake, possession of methamphetamine, possession of THC (2nd+ offense), possession of cocaine/coca (2nd+), possession of narcotic drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of illegally obtained prescription, \$1000 cash bond, AIA May 19.

Susan Hazel Vallier, 64, Lac du Flambeau, retail theft-intentionally take (<=\$500), deferred prosecution or sentence.

ABBREVIATION KEY:
DPA - Deferred Prosecution Agreement
DEJ - Deferred Entry of Judgment
WSP - Wisconsin State Prison
ES - Extended Supervision
PAC - Prohibited Alcohol Concentration
IID - Ignition Interlock Device
DL - Driver's license
AIA - Adjourned initial appearance
PTAC - Party to a crime
WHS/POP - Withhold sentence/period of probation
DRI - Dismissed but read in
PTC - Pre-trial conference
PH - Preliminary Hearing

New owner at Fantastic Sams

The Rhinelander Chamber Ambassadors recently welcomed Jennifer Mikkelson, the new owner of the Rhinelander Fantastic Sams, located at 2181 Lincoln Street. Fantastic Sams has been a part of our community for the last 30 years. With a location change 10 years ago, Jennifer Mikkelson decided to start her journey of being the official owner of the location. Jennifer became the owner in October 2024. Fantastic Sams is a full-service hair salon, providing professional color, haircuts, styling, updos, special occasion hair, highlights, facial waxing, treatment, perms, men's cuts, kid's cuts, women's cuts, specialty color, beard trim and more. Mikkelson is supported by 10 employees with training. Several team members also serve in a mentorship capacity and work closely with the Nicolet College Cosmetology program. They now operate mostly by appointment only and you are able to go on-line to make your appointment as well as call (715) 362-7722. Pictured, from left to right, are Tarsie Goes, Nicole Raduechel, Jessica Mellinger, Jennifer Mikkelson, Tony Mustacci, Linda Krebsbach, Diane Sowinski, Karen Eckert.

Photo by Rhinelander Chamber





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The Hodag Country Festival is looking for some people to add to our team! We are searching for Grounds Keepers and Maintenance Workers to help get the grounds ready for the Festival. These jobs would include mowing, raking, blowing, weed-whacking, sawing, painting, cleaning etc., as well as maintaining, making repairs and basic fixes, to vehicles and buildings. \$13+/hour. Stop by the festival grounds to complete an application or call 715-369-1300 for more information.

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Miscellaneous Real Estate 7487

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Help us investigate end-of-life care solutions in Wisconsin

Death: It's an unavoidable part of life we often avoid talking about. So folks who are seriously ill may not know how to navigate their final years or months.

Many have turned to hospice care for emotional, physical and spiritual support for themselves and loved ones.

But the national landscape of hospice care is changing, including in Wisconsin. Once run primarily by mission-driven nonprofits, the industry is increasingly privatizing, with private equity playing a growing role.

Wisconsin Watch is partnering with the Multimedia Channels publications Green Bay Press Times, Northwoods Star Journal, Waushara Argus, Merrill

Foto News, Marshfield Hub City Times and Wisconsin Rapids City Times to better understand how our communities access hospice and other end-of-life services.

We want to hear your questions and perspectives— whether your experiences have been positive, negative or somewhere in-between. Or maybe you're wondering how to navigate a new experience.

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Hodag Highlights

SOCCER BLANKS ANTIGO, NORTHLAND PINES

The Rhinelander High School girls soccer team played two conference games last week and won both contests without giving up a single goal.

The Hodags traveled to Antigo on Tuesday and held a 13-0 lead at halftime. The game was called via the mercy rule as the Red Robins had not had a shot on goal while the Hodags had 20 shots on net. Sophie Miljevich led the attack with 3 goals and 3 assists. Vivian Lamers, Ella Miljevich and Gabby Wanta each scored twice. Ten players for the Hodags either had a goal or an assist in the game.

On Thursday night the Hodags entertained the Northland Pines Eagles and finished the first half of conference play undefeated. They scored a 5-0 win with five different players scoring goals. Those scoring for the Hodags were Becca Brost, Vivian Lamers and Kiley Pooch in the first half. In the second half Lindsey Hoerschler scored and Ella Miljevich finished the scoring with a penalty kick after a Pines handball in the box in the 53rd minute. Sophie Miljevich had 2 assists in the game.

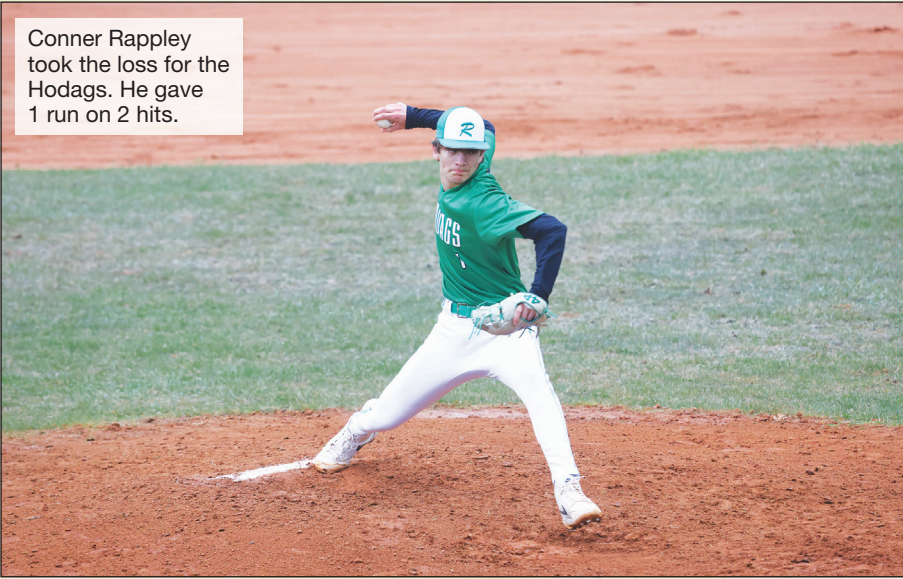
The Hodags are 5-0 in conference play. The team's next game is at Ashland on Friday, May 9.



Lindsey Hoerschler passes to Sophie Miljevich in the second half against Northland Pines.



A perfect relay to third got Dylan Vanderbunt trying to advance after a flyball out to right field.



Conner Rappley took the loss for the Hodags. He gave 1 run on 2 hits.

HATCHETS CUT DOWN HODAG BASEBALL 1-0

The Rhinelander High School baseball team suffered a close loss in Tomahawk Friday 1-0.

Conner Rappley started on the mound for the Hodags and gave up one run on two hits. That was enough for the Hatchets in the third inning as a walk, an in-field hit and a double down the third base line scored the only run of the game. Rhinelander's Dylan Vanderbunt had a double and attempted to advance to third on a fly out to right field but a perfect relay and tag at third erased a chance for a run. In the 7th inning the Hodags got two more of their four hits but could not score a run as the final score was 1-0.

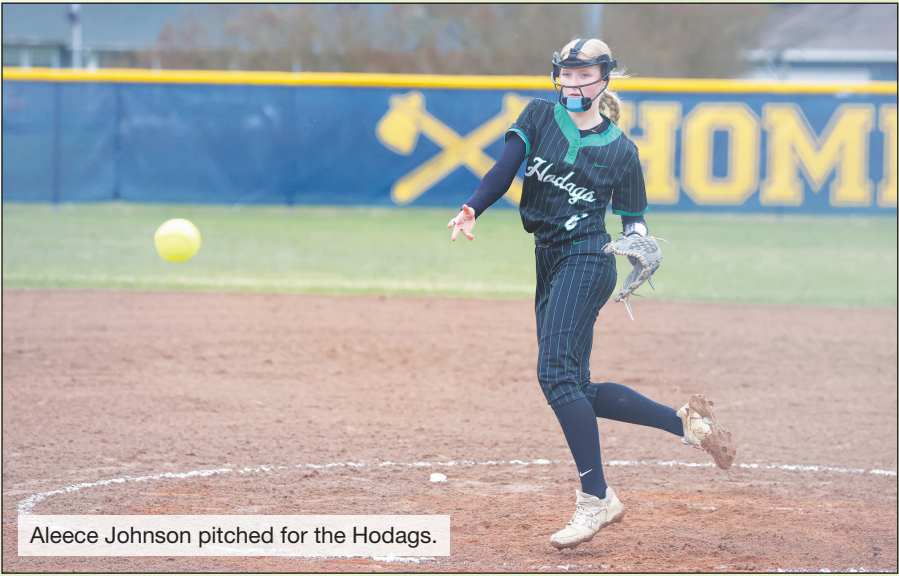
Rappley struck out 9, walked 5 and gave up the two hits in 5 innings. Dylan Vanderbunt pitched the 6th inning for the Hodags.

HODAG SOFTBALL FALLS TO TOMAHAWK

The Rhinelander High School softball team was scheduled to host Tomahawk in a doubleheader on Thursday, May 1. However, after the Hatchets arrived the officials deemed the Rhinelander fields unplayable due to the wet conditions and everyone packed up and made the trip to Tomahawk where only one of the games was played. The Hodags scored in the top of the first and were tied midway through the game with each team scoring 4 times. Then walks, errors and timely hits by Tomahawk allowed the Hatchets to build a lead. Tomahawk earned the win 13-4. Aleece Johnson pitched a complete game for the Hodags and took the loss.



First baseman Kadyn Taylor attempts to catch a foul ball but it was just out of reach.



Aleece Johnson pitched for the Hodags.

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