

City takes another step toward construction of public safety building

Truck route approved

BY HEATHER SCHAEFER
EDITOR

The City of Rhinelander has chosen a company to provide preliminary designs for a new emergency services building that would replace the aging police and fire building on Brown Street.

On May 12, the common council voted unanimously to direct Mayor Kris Hanus to sign a proposal from Wendel-Five Bugles for Phase I design work for the proposed emergency services building at a price not to exceed \$29,500.

“As you may recall, city staff have spoken about the state of disrepair that the police/fire station is in at the moment,” city administrator Patrick Reagan wrote in a memo to the alderpersons. “This facility was built in the 1960s and, quite frankly, is beyond its expected, useful life. The fire chief, the police chief, and I have spoken at length about the need to replace this building. Unfortunately, these buildings are not cheap, nor would

See **PUBLIC SAFETY** page 4

Nicolet president explains decision to allow test wells on campus

BY HEATHER SCHAEFER
EDITOR

Nicolet College President Kate Ferrel has addressed a question that has been circulating since it became known that the City of Rhinelander is considering drilling a new municipal well on the school’s Lake Julia campus. During the public comment portion of the Rhinelander Common Council’s May 12 meeting, Ferrell offered the following remarks regarding the well project.

“I just want to say a couple of words about Nicolet College’s perspective on the City of Rhinelander’s proposed municipal well at Nicolet College,” she said. “One of the recurring questions that I have been hearing from neighbors is why would we agree to a test well out at the college? What was our motivation? Why would we agree to a test well if now we’re saying, ‘this isn’t a done deal.’ I just wanted to address that a little bit. Since 1967, Nicolet College’s motivation

See **CAMPUS** page 5



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Leadership Oneida County graduates 14th class

The Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce has announced the graduation of the 14th class of Leadership Oneida County. Thirteen new graduates of the program were recognized in a ceremony at Nicolet College on Thursday, May 8. These community and business leaders participated in monthly day-long activities September through May, and completed four community projects, chamber officials said in a press release.

“Leadership Oneida County is more than just a program; it’s a catalyst for positive change in our community,” said Lauren Sackett, CEO of the Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce. “By bringing together individuals from various sectors, we foster a network of engaged citizens who are equipped to make meaningful contributions to Oneida County’s future.”

In addition to the graduating class, the Leadership Oneida County program announced two award winners. The Outstanding Alumni award recognizes Leadership Oneida County alumni who are continuing to develop their leadership presence in the county and who have used their experiences in the program to further their service to the county. The 2025 Outstanding Alumni was awarded to 2022 LOC Graduate Tommy Wartman.

The Mel Davidson Leadership award recognizes any person in Oneida County that shows outstanding leadership and service within the county - nominees do not necessarily have to have previous history

with the Leadership Oneida County program. The 2025 Mel Davidson Leadership Award was awarded to Don Theisen.

Leadership Oneida County is a nine-month program that cultivates and prepares emerging leaders in Oneida County. Leadership Oneida County creates an awareness of services and organizations within the County, and reinforces an individual’s call to civic responsibility and citizen involvement. For more information about Leadership Oneida County, contact the Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce at 715-365-7464 or visit RhinelanderChamber.com.



The 2024-25 Leadership Oneida County graduating class is pictured (from left to right): Nathan Fiebke, Thomas Moore, Nathan Chartrand, Jessica Mellinger, Angelo Guercio, Nicole Raduechel, Janet Jamison, Nicole Brand, Phoebe Spier, Courtney Zempel, Joe Boehlen, Leigha Plehn, Eric Durbin. **Submitted photo**



2025 Outstanding Alumni award winner Tommy Wartman is pictured with RACC CEO Lauren Sackett.



2025 Mel Davidson Leadership Award winner Don Theisen is pictured with RACC CEO Lauren Sackett.

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Nicolet College celebrates the Class of 2025

FOR STAR JOURNAL

Nicolet College held three commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2025 in its on-campus theater on Saturday May 3. The college has been holding commencement ceremonies at the Hodag Dome in recent years but the damage the structure sustained at the end of March forced a move to a different venue.

The sessions began with the procession of graduates followed by a welcome address by Nicolet president Kate Ferrel and a welcome song from the Medicine Rock music group of Lac du Flambeau.

After Joni Clare performed the national anthem, faculty speaker Vicki Mendham, a culinary arts instructor, addressed the group.

Before the presentation of graduates by Ferrel, and the awarding of degrees and diplomas, student speaker Amanda Pellock spoke about her journey going back to school after losing her husband in 2019 and raising two small children.

Pellock earned an associate of applied science degree-office management.

Once all of the new graduates received their diplomas and the switching of the tassels took place, Medicine Rock performing an honor song. Graduates then proceeded out of the theater to celebrate their accomplishment.



Student speaker Amanda Pellock addresses her classmates during commencement exercises for the Nicolet College Class of 2025 Saturday, May 3, 2025 in the Nicolet Theater.



Graduates switch tassels from the right to the left signifying conferment of degrees by the college. **Bob Mainhardt photos**

| DEATH NOTICES |

Wayne Joseph Schauder, age 91, of Rhinelander, died Tuesday, May 6, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home

Carol Jean Ramsey, age 77, of Rhinelander, died on Wednesday, May 7, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home

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EARLY DEADLINE

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the deadline for the May 28 issue will be Thurs., May 22, 10:00 a.m. for the Northwoods Star Journal

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Fourth of July Parade theme announced

Organizers of the annual Rhinelander Fourth of July Parade have announced the theme for this year’s event is “Road to Independence” in recognition of the start of the Revolutionary War in 1775.

The main parade will begin at 11 a.m. Friday, July 4. The parade will start at the police station on Frederick Street, head south on Brown Street, then east on Anderson St, and north on Stevens Street to Rives Street.

Units of interest include the Rhinelander High School Band, Pipes and Drums of Thunder Bay, Edgar High School Band, Zor Funsters, the Rhinelander Community Band and Janesville Fife and Drum.

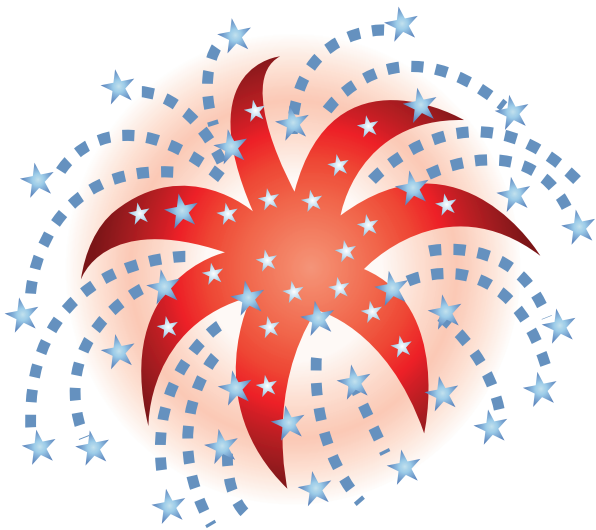
Parade applications are available at the Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce Office.

In a press release, the organizing committee stated it is in search of antique, new or just plain sharp cars or trucks to lead sponsored units. Contact Dale Schlieve 369-1814 for more information.

Awards will be given for the following categories: Non-Profit, Business, Marching and General.

Donations for the fireworks or parade can be sent to: Dale Schlieve, 312 Conro St, Rhinelander, WI 54501. Make checks payable to Rhinelander Chamber Commerce.

Distribution of candy, promo items, pamphlets, etc allowed only if Rhinelander Police Department Distribution form is signed and recorded with the



Dept. You can walk along the curb to distribute candy, but nothing can be thrown from the vehicle/float.

The Rhinelander Lions Kiddie Parade will begin at 10 a.m. with lineup at 9:30 a.m. by Zion Church/School on Frederick Street.

For more information about the main parade, call or email Schlieve at 715-369-1814, 2schlieve@charter.net

For questions about the Lions Kiddie Parade, call Tim Gengler 715-490-2470.

RHS celebrates future educators

Last week, Rhinelander High School honored 11 outstanding seniors who have chosen to pursue a career in education during the school’s first-ever Senior Signing Day for Future Educators.

“Each of these students selected an impactful educator who has inspired their journey,” district officials said in a press release. “The educators shared information about each of the students. We were thrilled to welcome those honored teachers, family members, district administrators, and staff to celebrate this special moment. As a district, we are proud to stand behind these students as they work toward their future careers. Once they complete their degrees and earn teaching certifications, we are proud to guarantee each of them an interview right here in the School District of Rhinelander.”

“Education is the foundation of a strong and thriving society,” noted district superintendent Eric Burke.

“Our future depends on the individuals who step up to teach, guide, and shape the next generation—and today, we celebrate 11 students who are answering that call.”

Michele Cornelius, Director of Human Resources, encouraged students to consider coming home to Rhinelander to make an impact, reminding them of all the great things about becoming a Hodag once again.

The district also extended a heartfelt thank you to the Educators Rising advisors, Meghan Rettalick and Melissa Hasselberger, whose tireless efforts and unwavering belief in these students made this program—and this moment—possible.

“To the educators and mentors who joined us today: thank you. Your influence is powerful, and today’s celebration is proof of the lasting impact you make. To our future teachers: congratulations. You are beginning a journey that will shape lives—both your students’ and your own. We can’t wait to see the difference you’ll make.”

PUBLIC SAFETY *from page 1*

we want a building that is cheap. In order to apply for grants and other funding, it is necessary that we have, at a minimum, a preliminary design for this building – most funding outlets will require a design, as well as an expected project budget, in order to qualify for funding. The fire chief, police chief, and I put forth a “Request for Qualifications” in order to find a qualified engineering/architectural firm to do the preliminary design of this proposed building. After receiving back Statements of Qualifications from qualified firms, and interviewing two firms for this work, the group chose Wendel/ Five Bugles as the preferred firm. We found that they have many years of experience in designing these buildings, and also have former emergency services directors that will best help us find the best design for our needs. As you will see from their agreement, Phase One of this design work will cost \$29,500. Staff are proposing that

the funds for this work be appropriated directly from the 2025 bi-annual borrowing.”

Prior to the vote, Reagan emphasized that a preliminary design is a necessary step that must be completed before the city can apply for grant funding.

“We need this done because many of the grants that we’re gonna go after, they want to see a design,” he said. “They don’t just want to take your word for it. They actually want to see the design of it.”

The project is estimated to cost \$15 million.

The city has not yet determined where the building would be located.

“We have reviewed a number of available sites within the city and are currently in discussions to select the site that will work best for the needs of the community,” Reagan told the Star Journal.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the council approved a map desig-

Leadership Oneida County group partners with chamber to create resource for newcomers

FOR STAR JOURNAL

Recognizing that one of the biggest challenges for new residents in Oneida County is building connections, a group within Leadership Oneida County’s Class of 2025 has developed a user-friendly resource to help. The intention of this resource is to help newcomers to the area and current residents find meaningful ways to get involved in the community, according to a chamber of commerce press release.

“Whether individuals are interested in creating connections through service, networking with local professionals, or looking for others with the same hobby interests, this initiative makes it easier than ever to get connected,” the release states. “It currently centralizes involvement opportunities within the following categories: Business & Networking, Lifelong Learning, Arts & Culture, Recreation & Sports, and Clubs/Other Special Interests within Oneida County.”

This document is available both online and through a printed guide now included in Oneida County’s welcome packet. Community members are invited to visit the Area Guide and Relocation Page of the Chamber’s website (<https://www.rhinelanderschamber.com/area-guide/>). The link to this new resource can be found within the “Get Involved” section. If you find interest in any of the listed involvement opportunities, click the title of the business, group, or class you’re interested in and be directed right to their website for quick access to more information.

“This partnership is about making Oneida County feel like home,” said Jessica, participant of Leadership Oneida County’s 2025 class. “We want to make sure newcomers have a clear, welcoming pathway to become part of the fabric of our community.”

The Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce will serve as the main point of contact for this resource, while Leadership Oneida County participants will assist with outreach and ongoing updates.

“Our region thrives when residents feel empowered to contribute,” said Lauren Sackett, CEO of the Chamber. “This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to a vibrant, connected community.”

For any questions about this resource or thoughtful addition ideas, visit the website or call the Chamber at (715) 365-7464.

nating the streets to be included in the truck route. The route was developed by the mayor, city administrator, police chief, fire chief and streets foreman in response to direction from the council last August.

An increase in commercial truck traffic on Davenport Street prompted the city to consider establishing an official route for heavy trucks.

At the time, police chief Lloyd Gauthier explained that the city did not have an ordinance that covers truck routes and it’s up to the council to determine if there should be a route.

A copy of the newly approved map will be maintained in the city clerk’s office. More information on the truck route can also be found on the city’s website, https://www.rhinelandervi.us/news_detail_T21_R119.php.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

At the end of the meeting, during the time when alders are asked to suggest “future agenda items,” Hanus asked that the council discuss the possibility of making Brown Street into a one-way street. He stated that he wants to determine whether the council members have any interest in making such a change.

To watch the full council meeting, visit www.hodagtv.com.



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MEMORIAL SERVICE



Union Grove Cemetery at the Veterans Monument on **Saturday, May 24th at 11:30 am.** Located in Harshaw, WI. 4521 Lakewood Road. We will be honoring our past veterans and military. All are welcome to attend. There also will be the Einar H. Ingman Jr. motorcycle Honor procession gathering at the American Legion Post 93 in Tomahawk at 9:15 am that will proceed to the ceremony.

All are welcome to ride. Contact NICK @ 715-574-2060 for motorcycle procession. Please visit our website for more information.

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CAMPUS from page 1

has been to serve our communities and to be a good neighbor to all and to really carry forward a spirit of sustainability. In December 2023, we agreed to allow the city to drill a test well site, a couple of sites, at Nicolet because we saw an opportunity, a really important opportunity to potentially help our Rhinelander neighbors access safe and healthy water. Then, in April 2025, when we received a copy of the test results and the Wisconsin DNR’s review of those results, we definitely discovered that we have a lot more to learn, our administration and our board of trustees, before we can make an informed decision about whether or not to annex, lease, sell land to the city.”

Ferrel also noted that the city held a public informational meeting on the project just before the council meeting where Town of Pelican residents expressed concern that the project is on an “accelerated timeline.”

Although the water would be conveyed to city residents, the proposed well site is in the Town of Pelican, a fact that has caused significant concern among adjacent property owners.

A number of those who spoke during the informational meeting asked questions regarding potential negative impact on their private wells, as well as nearby lakes, if the well project moved forward.

Greg Droessler of Town&Country Engineering, the firm contracted by the city to design the proposed well, provided background information on the history of the project. He stressed that the site investigation report was compiled by a different firm and Town&Country only recently became involved in the project. When asked why there was no representative from the DNR at the meeting, he stated the agency was not invited to participate “because, quite honestly, we didn’t want to put them in a position of having to defend another consultant’s information.”

In response to a number of questions, Droessler and fellow Town&Country engineer Amy Beras noted they need more time to study information recently re-



Greg Droessler of Town&Country Engineering makes a point during a public information session at Nicolet College Monday, May 12 on the City of Rhinelander’s proposed new municipal well. **Heather Schaefer**

ceived from the DNR. Droessler also detailed the city’s difficulties in locating a suitable site for a well, a fact he admitted is quite ironic given that the Rhinelander area is surrounded by water in the form of lakes and rivers.

“It’s amazing to think about in a community that is quite literally surrounded by water that here we are searching for sources of water, not only in quality but in quantity,” he said. He went on to explain that the discovery of PFAS contamination in two city wells near the Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport, as well as in the Town of Stella, have further complicated matters. Droessler stated that Town&Country’s deadline to submit the well design to the DNR is June 30, however the project cannot and will not move forward until or unless the Nicolet board and the city come to an agreement.

In her remarks at the council meeting, Ferrel stressed that the college intends to take a comprehensive approach

to the question of whether to allow the well project to move forward on campus property.

“Nicolet is focused on carefully and deliberately taking all of the proper steps to provide our leadership and administration, and our board of trustees with the environmental, the fiscal, financial and legal information that we all need to make a really sound decision,” she said.

Bob Martini, a member of the college’s board of trustees, expressed a similar sentiment during the listening session.

Martini, who served as the statewide river protection coordinator during his 32-year career with the DNR, told those in attendance that the trustees have engaged the services of a groundwater modeler.

“Nicolet College is very concerned about cooperating with the city,” he said. “We want to make sure we do that. We’re a customer. But we’re also really concerned about the impacts to the rest of the people in the area. We also have a sustainability mission on campus and



Kate Ferrel

beyond. There’s a whole series of reasons why we need to be very comfortable with what the impacts might be.”

“We want to get a separate look, a fresh set of eyes on the various estimates that were calculated from equations to move to the modeling stage to see if we can better define what those impacts would be to the surrounding areas as well as to Nicolet College itself,” he added.

Martini prefaced his remarks with a statement stressing that he was not speaking on behalf of the board, as no individual board member has that authority. He also noted that the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board would also have to sign off for the project to move forward.

Ferrel noted that the college had scheduled a “neighborhood listening session” for the afternoon of Tuesday, May 20 and public comment on this topic would be accepted during the board of trustees meeting that will follow the listening session.

As the meetings took place after this edition went to press, look for additional coverage on our website, www.starjournalnow.com, and in future print editions.

| COMMUNITY CALENDAR |

May 21, 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 21, Business After Five: 5-7 p.m. An informal social where business people get together to network and exchange ideas while developing new relationships in the community. Held the third Wednesday of each month at a different location. 715-365-7464.

May 21, Line Dancing: 6-8 p.m., The Haven, Rhinelander. Every Wednesday. For more information, call Diane at 715-282-5226.

May 22, 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 23, Rummage Sale to benefit Warm for Winter: 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Pine Lake Community Building (behind the fire station) 4197 River Road, Rhinelander. Clothing and household items.

May 23, Pine Grove Community Church blood drive: 10 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. 1360 N. Stevens St. Pine Grove Community Church invites the public to help support our local hospitals and patients by donating at their upcoming blood drive.

To schedule an appointment, call The Community Blood Center at 800-280-4102.

May 24, Rummage Sale to benefit Warm for Winter: 8 a.m.- 1 p.m. Pine Lake Community Building (behind the fire station) 4197 River Road, Rhinelander. Clothing and household items.

May 24, 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 24, 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 26, Overeaters Anonymous: 1 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 235 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander. 715-362-4258.

May 26, Bridge Games: noon, American Legion Hall, 121 W. Front St., Minocqua. \$4. Call Lee at 715-356-4243.

May 26, 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 26, 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 27, Preschool Story-

time: 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 27, 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 28, Wednesday Flea Market: 8 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Rhinelander Ice Arena (weather permitting). New vendors always welcome. For more information, call Gary at 715-493-0975.

May 28, SPARK!: 10:30 a.m., ArtStart, 68 South Stevens St., Rhinelander. A cultural program for people with early to mid-stage memory loss and their care partners. Registration required. 715-362-4328 or artstartrhinelander.org/spark.

May 28, 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 28, Business After Five: 5-7 p.m. An informal social where business people get together to network and exchange ideas while developing new relationships in the community. Held the third Wednesday of each month at a different location. 715-365-7464.

May 28, Line Dancing: 6-8 p.m., The Haven, Rhinelander. Every Wednesday. For more information, call Diane at 715-282-5226.

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Northwoods National Cemetery ... Where Heroes Rest

This summer will mark the fifth anniversary of the dedication of the Northwoods National Cemetery in Harshaw. The U.S. government purchased a six-acre lot on Lakewood Road in 2015 as part of its rural initiative. The aim was to improve access to burial benefits for veterans in rural areas. Construction began in 2017 and the cemetery was formally dedicated in August 2020. The first burial took place that October. Northwoods National serves veterans who live within a 75-mile radius of its location. It has the capacity to serve the needs of more than 38,000 veterans, spouses and eligible children. **Heather Schaefer photo**

Swearingen, Felzkowski discuss wake boat regulations at listening sessions

BY JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN
VILAS NEWS-REVIEW NEWS EDITOR

Wake boats were a prominent, if not passionate, discussion point at a recent listening session held by Sen. Mary Felzkowski and Rep. Rob Swearingen at Eagle River City Hall.

While the listening session, one of four hosted throughout the North Woods, was

intended to discuss the 2025-2027 state budget and bring what they heard to the Joint Finance Committee, constituents’ concerns over wake boat regulations on Vilas County waterways dominated the discussion.

Those in attendance voiced their concerns over erosion of shorelines, disruption of shoreline ecosystems, the transmission of aquatic invasive species

(AIS) like quagga mussels and eurasian water milfoil, the difficulty in enforcing wake boat regulations, and also the dangers posed to others as they try to enjoy local lakes as was described by Greg Schuenke, a Yellow Birch Lake resident, who says that he won’t let his grandchildren swim in the lake anymore out of fear of the dangers posed by the high wakes.

“Those waves came over my dock by about 6 to 8 inches. “It was almost impossible for me to swim through and keep my head above water,” he explained. “I was shocked by my inability to catch my breath between these waves, and I was scared. I won’t let my grandkids come over here anymore. That’s what this has done for my world. It’s just a shame.”

While constituents in attendance tried to call upon the legislators for firmer wake boat regulations, Felzkowski said that crafting legislation in regard to wake boats has been a challenge for legislators and law enforcement officials alike, namely due to a uniformity clause in the Wisconsin State Constitution that requires one piece of legislation capable of being applied to all lakes in the state rather than putting more emphasis on lakes in one county versus another.

“I can’t say, ‘Vilas County, you’re unique, I love you, I’m going to give you all these perks, and the other 71 counties don’t get it,’” Felzkowski explained. “These are the kinds of hurdles we’re facing while we try to work something out. That is why we’re going to try to bring everyone together and come up with a piece of legislation that works for the southern part of the state, the Manitowish Chain, the Eagle River Chain, and all the lakes in between...It’s not going to be easy, and I don’t know if we’re going to get it done, but we’re going to try.”

Ultimately, Felzkowski said that control of wake boats, in the meantime, will have to be up to local control and local ordinances.

However, some local towns have already drafted regulations into their town ordinances, but are struggling to enforce those regulations due to a lack of personnel.

According to Jim Egan, Town Chairman for the Town of Washington, where wake boat regulations are already present in the town’s ordinances, enforcement has been a challenge for the town due to both the Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Vilas County Sheriff’s Office stating that they lack personnel to help the town in policing wakeboats.

As a result, Egan explained that the town has considered hiring a constable to help combat this personnel shortage, but have decided that it would not be a cost-effective decision.

“It’s pointless to put these rules into an ordinance if they cannot be enforced,” Egan said.

Other constituents in attendance, including Chad Kravick, a Three Lakes resident and avid wake boater, said that along with regulations, there should also be an attempt at educating wake boaters on the effects irresponsible wake boating has on area waterways.

“I think they’re some bad players, absolutely,” Kravick stated. “I wish we could educate them, but we can’t. We stop and call them out. We’ll stop and call them out on their behavior.”

This meeting in Eagle River was one of four held throughout the North Woods last week, with other meetings taking place in Manitowish Waters, Minocqua and Rhinelander.

As they work with the Joint Finance Committee to craft the state budget, Senator Felzkowski and Representative Swearingen will relay what they heard during these listening sessions.

COMPROMISE

To help craft a piece of legislation for wakeboat regulations that could appeal to both pro- and anti-wake boat arguments, Felzkowski says that she has organized a meeting to take place on Wednesday, May 28, in Madison that will bring together parties from both sides of the argument in an attempt to reach a compromise.

The meeting will include Legislators like Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and Rep. Cindi Duchow, as well as lobbyists for both Lakes at Stake Wisconsin, an organization concerned about the effects wake sports have on lakes throughout the state, and boating industry groups, including the Water Sports Industry Association and the National Marine Manufacturers.

While both Felzkowski and Swearingen have previously been involved in authoring bills regarding wake boat regulations during the 2023-2024 legislative session, they will not be involved with this meeting.

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Remember and Honor

Javenkoski to speak at Oneida County Memorial Day observance

FOR STAR JOURNAL

Oneida County Veterans Service Officer, and U.S. Navy veteran, Tammy Javenkoski will be the guest speaker at this year's Oneida County Memorial Day observance.

The ceremony, hosted by the Oneida County Veterans Council, will take place at 10 a.m. Monday, May 26 in the John and Dori Brown Performing Arts Center at Rhinelander High School.

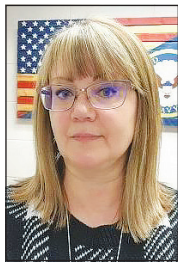
The annual observance is an opportunity for members of the community to remember and honor fallen military heroes who fought to create, preserve and defend the freedom we enjoy.

Javenkoski served over 21 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring in November 2004 as a Senior Chief Navy Counselor. A native of Minnesota, Javenkoski joined up after graduating from high school in 1983. According to the bio included in the program prepared for the ceremony, Javenkoski served aboard a submarine tender in Kings Bay, Ga. and a destroyer in Norfolk, Va. and was stationed overseas in Diego Garcia and Greece, as well as four shore duty stations to include San Diego, Calif.; Pensacola, Fla.; and twice in Great Lakes, Ill.

She began working as the Oneida County Veterans Service Officer in February 2006, "a job she's always considered her dream job."

According to the program, she intends to retire in February 2026, when she will have 20 years of county service.

In addition to her work for the county in support of veterans, she is also a member of the American Legion, AmVets, DAV,



Tammy Javenkoski

NCO Club, VFW, and serves on the Board of Directors for Northwoods Veterans Homestead, which is the tiny home community being built in Rhinelander for homeless veterans.

The ceremony will also include the last roll call of Oneida County veterans who died between May 2024-May 2025.

Other highlights include a reading of the "Gettysburg Address" a performance of "In Flanders Fields" and the playing of Armed Forces-The Pride of America."

2025 Rhinelander High School graduate Brody Kowieski will serve as emcee and provide opening remarks.

Memorial Day ceremonies in the Northwoods

Saturday, May 24

The annual Veterans Memorial will be held at 11:30 a.m. at Union Grove Cemetery. The event is co-sponsored by Union Grove Veterans Memorial Committee and Veterans Ceremony-Union Grove Cemetery, Inc., located on Lakewood Road in Harshaw. Lunch will follow at the Town Hall.

Monday, May 26

8 a.m. VFW Honor Guard at Newbold Cemetery

8:30 a.m. AmVets/American Legion Honor Guard at Northland Memorial Park

9 a.m. VFW Honor Guard at Forest Home Cemetery

9 a.m. AmVets/American Legion Honor Guard at Nativity of Our Lord cemetery

10 a.m. Oneida County Memorial Day observance at Rhinelander High School

2:30 p.m. Northwoods National Cemetery Memorial Day Observance.

at Northwoods National Cemetery. 4520 Lakewood Rd, Harshaw.

| PUBLISHER LETTER |

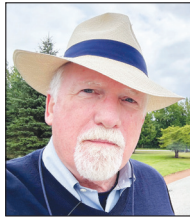
Memorial Day: Honoring the Ultimate Sacrifice

Dear Reader,

As Memorial Day approaches, we pause to remember and honor those who gave everything for our nation. Each Memorial Day, we stand in solemn gratitude for those who never returned home. The empty chairs at family tables. The children who grew up without a parent. The spouses who faced life alone. Their sacrifice echoes through generations and forms the foundation of the liberties we often take for granted.

My own father was among those who answered the call of duty, serving our country in World War II to keep the world free from tyranny and oppression. He was fortunate to return home, but many of his comrades-in-arms did not. My family's military tradition continued with my cousin, who served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army until recently. He earned the distinguished Ranger tab, representing the pinnacle of military training and excellence. Men and women like him stand ready to defend our nation at a moment's notice, prepared to make the same sacrifice as those we honor on Memorial Day.

As we honor the memory of those who gave their lives for our country, we must also recognize the silent battles many of our veterans continue to fight long after their



time on the battlefield has ended. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, affects a significant number of those who have served, and it is a reminder that the cost of freedom is not always visible. These men and women carry wounds that can't be seen—a burden of trauma, memory, and sacrifice that continues well beyond their return home. Their courage does not end with deployment; it continues every day as they strive to heal and find peace. As a nation, we owe them not only our gratitude but our unwavering support.

As we gather with family and friends this Memorial Day weekend for barbecues and celebrations, let us take a moment—a dedicated, mindful moment—to remember why this holiday exists. Let us teach our children about sacrifice and service. Let us bow our heads in gratitude for those who died defending our values, our freedoms, and our way of life.

May we prove worthy of their sacrifice by being citizens who honor their memory not just on Memorial Day, but every day—by living with purpose, protecting the freedoms they died for, and building a nation worthy of their profound sacrifice.

They gave their tomorrows for our todays. We will never forget.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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Hodag Highlights

HODAG BASEBALL GOES 1-1

The Rhinelander High School baseball team had mixed results in its recent contests against Wausau East and Antigo.

The Hodags hosted Wausau East at Stafford Field Monday, May 12 in a non-conference game. East held a 2-0 lead until the 4th when Rhinelander’s Sawyer Bishop hit a 2-run single to tie the game. East then scored 5 runs in the last 2 innings, with 4 of the runs driven in by Ketyon Laszewski. Bishop pitched into the 6th inning and gave up 4 runs.

The Hodags traveled to Antigo on Tuesday, May 13 and came away with a win against the Red Robins. The Hodags were down a run going into the top of the 7th, 8-7 With Vince White and Tyler Chariton both on base, Dylan Vanderbunt hit a double to score them both. Two more runs scored and the Hodags held the Robins scoreless in the bottom of the inning to win 11-8.

KOWIESKI TIES FOR 3RD IN FOURTH LEG OF GNC TOURNAMENT

The Rhinelander Country Club was the site of the fourth leg of the Great Northern Conference golf tournament Monday, May 12. Rhinelander’s Brody Kowieski tied for 3rd with a 77 and was the top finisher for the Hodags as the home team placed fourth out of the seven teams competing.



Brody Kowieski watches his putt on number 5 in the first round at the Rhinelander Country Club.



Kendall Vanney was the pitcher for the Hodags and took the loss.

HODAG SOFTBALL FALLS TO TOMAHAWK 8-5

The Tomahawk Hatchet softball team traveled to Rhinelander on May 12 to take on the Hodags at Andrea Musson field.

Tomahawk opened the game with 3 runs in the first inning. Rhinelander came back with single runs in the 2nd and 4th innings to tighten the back-and-forth contest. The Hatchets continued to manufacture of-

fense, scoring 1 in the 5th and 6th innings to go up 5-2. The Hodags rallied with 3 runs in the bottom of the 6th inning to tie the score and neither team could score in the 7th to put the game into extra innings. The drought was short-lived, however, as the Hatchets scored 3 runs in their half of the 8th inning to take the game 8-5.

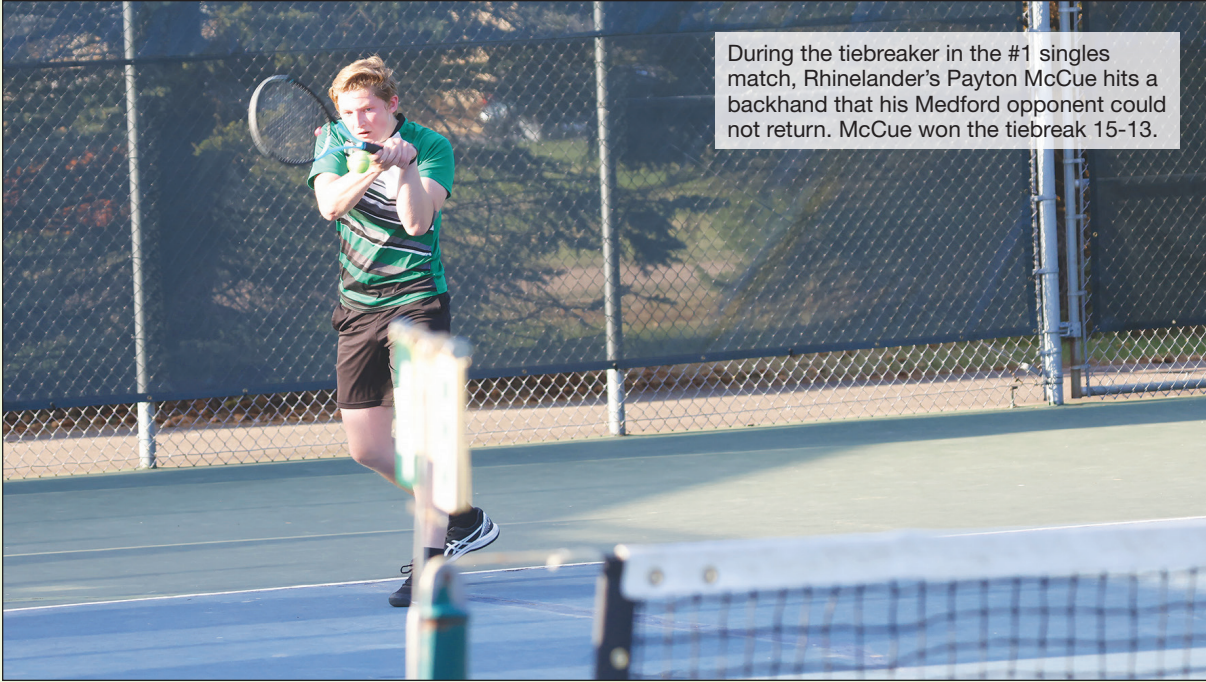
HODAG TENNIS DOWNS PACELLI, MEDFORD

On May 8, the Rhinelander High School boys tennis team defeated St. Point Pacelli 6-1 to give the team 34 points in the race for the conference title. On Tuesday, May 13, the Hodag netters took on Medford and emerged with a 5-2 win.

The losses came at #2 singles and #3 doubles. The Hodags’ #1 singles player, Payton McCue, had to battle

as he won the first set, lost the second and had to play a 10-point tiebreaker. McCue eventually outlasted his Medford opponent to win the match, taking the tiebreaker 15-13.

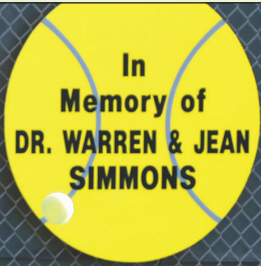
With the win the Hodags go into the conference tournament with a 10-point lead over Lakeland. Rhinelander will take on Marshfield on May 20 ahead of the conference tournament on May 22.



During the tiebreaker in the #1 singles match, Rhinelander’s Payton McCue hits a backhand that his Medford opponent could not return. McCue won the tiebreak 15-13.



Rhinelanders’ Asher Rivord prepares to hit a forehand during his #4 singles match.





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SHIFT IN HEALTH

IBS: Causes and treatments

BY DR. WENDY HENRICHS
BOARD CERTIFIED CHIROPRACTIC
PEDIATRICIAN AND NUTRITION
COUNSELOR



IBS is a functional gastrointestinal disorder, meaning it affects how the gut functions. IBS affects millions worldwide and can significantly impact quality of life. Symptoms can vary in intensity and may include:abdominal pain or cramping; bloating and gas; diarrhea, constipation, or both; and changes in stool consistency and frequency. While medications are often prescribed for managing symptoms, many individuals seek natural, drug-free methods to alleviate discomfort. This article explores the causes of IBS and highlights natural strategies to manage its symptoms.

The exact cause of IBS remains unclear, but several factors are believed to contribute to its development.

1. Gut-Brain Interaction: The gut-brain axis, a communication network linking the gastrointestinal tract and the brain, plays a crucial role in digestive health. Dysregulationin this interaction can occur from brain trauma, a poor diet, and inflammation of the brain and/or gut can contribute to IBS symptoms.

2. Intestinal Muscle Contractions: The walls of the intestines contract to move food through the digestive tract. Stronger or prolonged contractions can cause diarrhea, while weaker contractions can lead to constipation.

3. Infections and Gut Flora: Post-infectious IBS can occur after a severe bout of diarrhea caused by bacteria or a virusleading to an imbalance in gut microbiota.

4. Stress and Mental Health: Stress, anxiety, and depression are commonly linked to IBS. These factors can influence gut health through hormonal and immune system changes.

5. Food Sensitivities: Certain foods can worsen IBS symptoms. Common triggers include dairy, gluten, and high-gas foods like beans and cruciferous vegetables.

These are some natural treatments for IBS and its symptoms.

1. Low FODMAP Diet:FODMAPS are carbohydrates that do not absorb well into the small intestine. These include compounds such as fructose, sorbitol, mannitol, and xylitol. These short-chain carbohydrates can be difficult to digest and are known to worsen IBS symptoms.

2. Increase Fiber Intake: For those with constipation-predominant IBS, gradually increasing soluble fiber intake such as apples, pears, berries, carrots, and other fruits&veggiestotolerancecan help regulate bowel movements.

3. Cold Laser Therapy: Cold laser therapy decreases pain and inflammation, increases blood flow, and accelerates healing. It can decrease the dysregulation of the Gut-Brain Axis and aid in healing the gut tissues.

4. Identify Triggers: Keeping a food diary can help identify patterns and specific food sensitivities that trigger symptoms.

5. Nutrition Supplements:
a. Probiotics: Consult with your Integrative medicine provider to find the right combination of strains for you.

b. Vitamin D3 – Vitamin D deficiency is common in those suffering from IBS.

The maintenance dose is 5000 IU's/day. Although the range of normal is between 30-100ng/dL, optimal vitamin D levels are between 60-80 ng/dL. Have your Vitamin D3 levels tested prior to taking more than the maintenance dose.

c. Digestive enzymes should include key enzymes protease, amylase, and lipase, and other specialized enzymes which can assist in the breakdown of proteins, carbs, fats, fibers, and lactose.

d. Aloe Vera can work as a natural laxative and help rid the body of toxins. It contributes to a healthy digestive system and can help boost energy levels.

e. Turmeric – this powerful root is used to assist in a wide variety of gastrointestinal issues and can work to help reduce stomach pain as well as assisting with the frequency of bowel movements.

f. Peppermint/Perilla – produces cooling effects in the digestive tract and contains anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties. It helps reduce bloating and cramping, while soothing pain and boosting general gastrointestinal health.

g. Ginger – used in ancient remedies, as well as many modern medicines. This root is an anti-inflammatory and antioxidant rich ingredient which assists with the cleansing of toxins from the body, as well as helping with blood flow and relieving pain symptoms associated with IBS.

h. Psyllium Husk – a source of soluble dietary fiber which helps to clean the intestines by removing food waste and toxins from the body.

6. Stress Management:Practices such as mindfulness meditation can reduce stress and improve the gut-brain connection.Yoga and Tai Chi are mind-body practices thatcombine movement and breathwork, which can help reduce anxiety and improve digestive function.

If you suffer from IBS, there is hope. Dietary modifications, nutritional supplementation, integrative treatments, and stress management practices can significantly improve your quality of life and aid in healing the cause. Remember, it is never too late to make a Shift in Health.

Dr. Wendy Henrichs of Timber Land Chiropractic provides comprehensive chiropractic and wellness lifestyle care. Dr. Wendy Henrichs is a Board-Certified Chiropractic Pediatrician and Nutrition Counselor. Timber Land Chiropractic is at 1 E. Courtney Street in Rhinelander. For more information, call 715-362- 4852 or visit www.timberlandchiropractic.comInstagram @drwendyhenrichs, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

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Miscellaneous for Rent 7442

Publisher's Notice All real estate advertised here-in is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Lots and Acreage For Sale 7466

For Sale- 3.25 Acre Lot, 250 Timber Heights Dr, Rhinelander- \$89,900
Premium cul-de-sac lot in a quiet, upscale neighborhood. Just minutes from downtown, shopping, and medical services. City water, sewer, gas, and electric available at the road. Partial clearing for house & garage.
Call John Krueger Realty 715-367-5999

Miscellaneous Real Estate 7487

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Equal Housing Opportunity

All Real Estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to Federal and State Fair Housing Laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, handicap, lawful source of income, or marital status of the person maintaining the household, and sexual orientation. We will not accept advertising indicating an intention to discriminate. our readers are informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. If you think you have been discriminated against, call the Fair Housing Council, 1-877-647-3247 or HUD toll-free at 800-424-8590.

Foreclosures 7488

Oneida County owned Real Estate For Sale: A detailed list of the properties, bid form, and other information can be obtained from the County website at <http://www.oneidacountywi.gov> under Announcements click 'Real Property Sale Offerings', or contact Land Information Office, email lho@oneidacountywi.gov PH 715-369-6179.
Bids due June 6th, 2025, 4PM.
Parcel and minimum bid:
Ml-2392 \$375.00; PE-1177-1A \$150,000; PL-659-3 \$101,500; RH-808-1 \$1,000.

Boats 7508

RHINELANDER AREA- 2003 Sea Ray BR182 I/O 18' Bowrider ski boat on a Sea Ray trailer, 4.3 Mer-Cruiser engine, Alpha 1 stern drive. Clean, no rips, stains, etc. Asking \$9,800. Call 715-493-2597.

Vehicles Wanted 7554

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-844-406-2647 today!

| BUSINESS DIRECTORY |

To have your professional service appear in this section, call
866-369-3331 today!

Insect & Wildlife Services
715.350.1030

Northern Wisconsin's Pest Removal Experts
MOSQUITOS, BATS, SPIDERS & MUCH MORE...

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Windows Siding Roofs Gutters Concrete Decks

Elliott Gomez 715-571-3841
Athens, WI

FREE ESTIMATES

Think Spring! Make Your Appointment Today.

AVCO Vacuum Cleaner Co.

Ron Platek • 715-362-3376
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Warranty Repairs on
Sanitaire Bissell

Repair & Services on All Makes
Sewing Machine Repairs • New, Used & Rebuilt Vacuums
Now Renting Commercial Carpet Shampooer!

FREE ESTIMATES!
Tired of re-roofing your house? TRY A STEEL ROOF!

• Snaplok (hidden fastener) • Can Be Installed Over An Existing Roof • 40 Year Factory Warranty • 4-Star Hail and Fire Resistant • Ventilated At Peak • Energy Star Efficient • 28 Colors Available

Jerry Stutzman **Do it Once, Do it Right!** **715-314-2295**

TIRED OF RE-ROOFING YOUR HOUSE? TRY A STEEL ROOF!

• CAN BE INSTALLED OVER EXISTING ROOFING
• 40 YEAR FACTORY WARRANTY
• 4 STAR HAIL AND FIRE RESISTANT
• VENTILATED AT PEAK
• ENERGY STAR EFFICIENT
• SNAP-LOC HIDDEN FASTENER
• 18 COLORS AVAILABLE

INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNERS, CONTRACTORS OR COMMERCIAL ON SITE CUSTOM ROLL FORMING AVAILABLE
CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE
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FREE ESTIMATES

• Can Be Installed Over An Existing Roof
• 40 Year Factory Warranty
• 4-Star Hail and Fire Resistant
• Ventilated At Peak
• Energy Star Efficient

• Snap-loc Standing Seam
• 28 Colors Available
• Steel Roofing
• Top Quality Work for Less
• Individual Homeowners, Contractors, or Commercial

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Northwoods STAR JOURNAL

HELP WANTED
LUMBER JACK'S TREE SERVICE • St. Germain
JOIN OUR TEAM. LEARN TREE CARE INDUSTRY. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.** ON THE JOB TRAINING.
Must be 18 yrs. old • Driver's License a must.
Starting Pay \$25-\$35 HR.-Housing Available
LUMBER JACK'S 715-479-8733

Answering phones remotely and office help position also available

MEL'S 2025 PADDLE DEMO DAY!

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 25! 10:00 A.M. TIL 2:00 P.M.

Don't Miss Our Full Selection of In-Store Savings!

HODAG PARK IN RHINELANDER

Rain or Shine!

TEST PADDLE KAYAKS & SUPs!* NO CHARGE!

Old Town—Eddyline—Wilderness Systems—Grey Duck

Special Sale Pricing Thru Sunday, May 25th!

<p>SELECT NAME BRAND KAYAKS</p>  <p>On Sale!</p>	<p>KAYAK PADDLE</p>  <p>\$59.95 \$29.95*</p> <p><small>*Blue Only!</small></p>	<p>RAVE NOMAD SUP</p> <p>Durable, easy to paddle</p>  <p>\$999.00 \$619.99</p>	<p>PERCEPTION PESCADOR</p> <p>\$679.00 \$599.00*</p> <p><small>*Limited availability! Discontinued color</small></p> 
<p>CARBON SUP PADDLE</p>  <p>Reg. \$149.00 \$79.95</p>	<p>ALL-CANOES</p>  <p>On Sale!</p>	<p>PADDLE SHIRT</p> <p>Long Sleeve</p>  <p>\$58.00 1/2 OFF</p>	<p>VIKING GT PROFISH</p> <p>12' fishing kayak</p>  <p>Reg. \$1,649.00 1/2 OFF</p>
<p>INFLATABLE ANGLER KAYAK</p> <p>Sit-On-Top fishing kayak</p>  <p>\$999.00 \$479.00</p>	<p>KAYAK PACKAGE</p> <p>--Swiftly Kayak --2pc Paddle --PFD</p>  <p>\$595.00 \$425.00</p>	<p>eddyline</p>  <p>Select On Sale!</p>	<p>Old Town LOON</p> <p>"Best Seller" Save up to \$175.00*</p>  <p><small>*On Loon 126-all others on sale as well.</small></p>
<p>MALONE TRAILER</p> <p>Buy a Malone Trailer & receive a FREE kayak or canoe rack!*</p> <p><small>*Valid May 23-28, 2025</small></p> 		<p>*CHILDREN UNDER 18 MUST HAVE PARENTAL APPROVAL ON SIGNED WAIVER.</p> <p>**GOOD THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 25!</p>	

105 S. BROWN STREET • RHINELANDER



DOWNTOWN RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN

MEL'S!
TRADING POST

715-362-5800
or 1-800-236-MELS



STORE HOURS:
Mon.-Sat., 8:30-5, Sun., 10-3
Closed Memorial Day