

Pelican residents urge Nicolet officials to scrutinize city well proposal

BY HEATHER SCHAEFER
EDITOR

On May 20 Town of Pelican residents had their first opportunity to speak directly to the Nicolet College officials who will ultimately decide whether to allow the City of Rhinelander to locate a high-capacity municipal well on the school's Lake Julia campus. A "neighborhood listening session" on the well issue, hosted by the college, drew a large crowd to the school's Northwoods Center and the school's trustees also took public comment on the topic at the beginning of their monthly board meeting, which followed the listening session.

The listening session attendees shared their personal histories as residents of Pelican and expressed concern about potential lake drawdowns and dry wells. Some asked the Nicolet officials to reject the city's proposal outright, all were consistent in requesting the college, at least, place strict, enforceable conditions on any potential agreement with the city.

Dr. Ted Shinnars, who was the first to speak, argued the proposal is simply not in the school's best interest and could result in costly litigation.

See **CITY WELL** page 3



Nicolet College trustee Bob Martini, center, addresses a neighborhood listening session on the City of Rhinelander's well project Tuesday, May 21, 2025 in the Northwoods Center on the Nicolet campus. From right to left are Jenna Allen, Nicolet public information director, Kate Ferrel, college president, Pete Vanney, facilities director, and Megan Gerber, vice president of finance & college operations. **Heather Schaefer**

School board approves vehicle purchases

Counter to continue as board president

BY HEATHER SCHAEFER
EDITOR

The School District of Rhinelander Board of Education has reorganized following the April election but no changes have been made to the roster of board officers. Ron Counter will continue as board president, having received all eight votes for the position during the panel's May 12 organizational meeting. The same pattern continued as Judy Conlin was elected board vice-president, Mary Peterson was elected clerk and Mike Roberts elected treasurer, all with 8-0 votes.

Conlin, Peterson, and Ron Lueneburg, who were re-elected on April 1, were formally sworn in as was new board member Kurt Helke.

The board's operations and strategic planning committee met just after the organizational meeting adjourned.

In addition to resolutions related to the replacement of student chromebooks and staff laptop and docking stations, the committee forwarded to the full board a resolution authorizing an application for a \$500,000 loan from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) for the purpose of financing the purchase of several vehicles.

The committee passed the resolution with a unanimous vote. On May 19, the resolution was presented to the full board which also approved it with a unanimous vote.

According to the resolution, the district currently has a fleet of 18 vehicles but a number of them are ag-

See **SCHOOL BOARD** page 3



First seasonal flight from Chicago arrives

United Airlines has resumed daily flights between the Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport and O'Hare International Airport. The first flight arrived on Thursday, May 22, 2025 and was greeted with a water cannon salute. A brief ceremony inside the terminal preceded the flight's arrival. A full story will be published in a future edition of the Star Journal. **Nicole Raduechel photo**

Welcome to St Germain,
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JUNE EVENT SCHEDULE

- MONDAYS

St Germain Flea Market
Community Park, 8am-3pm
- MONDAYS

St Germain Chamber BINGO!
Community Center, Doors Open 6:15pm
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FORK On the River Charity Paddle
(visit www.feedourruralkids.org for info)
- JUNE 14

Walk in the Woods Artisan Fair
Chamber Park, 9am-3pm
- JUNE 20-21

St Germain Town Garage Sale
8am-3pm
- JUNE 25

Concert Crawl at Hillside Tavern
With Brian McLaughlin, 6:30-8pm
- JUNE 29

St Germain Freedom 5K and 1K
Community Park, Races Start at 8:30am
- JUNE 29

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| PUBLISHER LETTER |

The Implications of Telling a Lie

Dear Reader,

Let's consider what it means when someone tells a lie. Whether it's told to one person or many—depending on the liar's available platforms—the essence remains the same: they knowingly state something untrue. They don't believe it themselves because they know it's false. Yet, they say it anyway.

What are the implications of knowingly spreading falsehoods?

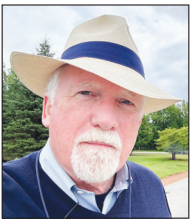
Does it reflect on the person's integrity and diminish our ability to trust them in the future? Trust is often hard-earned and easily lost. If someone repeatedly speaks falsehoods, does it reveal something about their character—about who they truly are?

And what happens when the lies multiply? What if the person telling them holds a position of authority or influence? Do their lies carry more weight, affecting not just individual relationships but entire communities or societies?

As a society, we often wrestle with how to respond to liars. Do we simply tolerate them, resigning ourselves to the noise of their falsehoods? Or do we take a stand—choosing to distance ourselves, challenge their statements, or even remove them from our lives altogether?

The act of lying is never a neutral one. It leaves a mark, not only on the deceived but also on the deceiver. It erodes trust, fractures relationships, and undermines the fabric of any community. Yet, each of us has a choice in how we respond: to confront lies with truth, to rebuild trust where it has been broken, or to protect ourselves by stepping away.

The choice is ours.



PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher
Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.



Honoring Heroes

On Tuesday, May 21, members of the American Legion Riders District 11 placed flags in front of veterans' graves at the Northwoods National Cemetery in Harshaw. The cemetery held its annual Memorial Day observance on Monday, May 26. **DAVE MELANCON**

Blain's Farm & Fleet to mark 70 years with in-store celebrations and giveaways

Blain's Farm & Fleet, a Midwest retail destination since 1955, is marking its 70th anniversary with a two-day celebration. The anniversary events on May 30 and 31 will be packed with savings, giveaways, memorable experiences, and appreciation for the customers, associates, and communities who built the brand, according to a Blain's press release.

In addition to exclusive anniversary deals on everything from tools and auto supplies to clothing, pet food, and home goods, Blain's will also celebrate by giving away over \$25,000 in prizes! Attendees can win one of two \$500 shopping sprees or one of the eight grand prize packages, including a Massimo Motor Sports MSU850 59HP UTV sponsored by ExxonMobil. Shoppers will also get a chance to "Be An Original" with hands-on activities like DIY trail mix stations, gardening workshops, tool demos, and food dehydration tips with free giveaways for participants. Plus, on the first day of each event, the first 100 customers at each store will receive

a Blain's Farm & Fleet 6' Tape Measurer or a 7" 70th Anniversary Limited Edition Level—while supplies last!

"For 70 years, Blain's Farm & Fleet has stood with hardworking Midwesterners," said Chief Executive Officer & President Mark Hasting. "From planting season to Toyland, we've been that partner that makes it possible for our neighbors to stay active and Be An Original. We're proud to celebrate that spirit with this anniversary celebration, thanking the community for supporting us for many years."

"Whether you are a neighbor who has been shopping with us for years or a neighbor we haven't met yet, we can't wait to see you in our store," added Jane Blain Gilbertson, Executive Chair of the Board & Owner. "We look forward to serving you for the next 70 years & beyond!"

For more information, visit www.farmandfleet.com.

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Hodag Heritage Fest 2025



The Hodag strikes a pose for a young fan during the annual Hodag Heritage Festival at Rhinelander's Pioneer Park May 17, 2025. **DAVE MELANCON PHOTOS**



Holly and Harrison Hodag celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary during the 2025 Hodag Heritage Festival at Pioneer Park.



Live music is one of the highlights of the annual Hodag Heritage Festival held at Rhinelander's Pioneer Park.

SCHOOL BOARD from page 1

ing. Among the district's fleet of Suburbans is a 2013 model and several 2015 models, according to the resolution. "They are now over 100,000 miles and requiring more and more maintenance," the resolution reads.

The district is also looking to replace a 2002 dump truck and a 2011 box van, according to the resolution.

"We have quotes from Ford for a dump truck (\$67,376), four Expeditions (239,988), two F-250 pickups (93,222) and one box truck (46,817)," the resolutions states. "This would be \$447,403 plus license, fees, etc. The remainder of the \$500,000 (loan) would be used to finally get the carport constructed."

According to the district's business director, Bob Thom, the carport will be located at the east end of the RHS parking lot where the Suburbans and vans are currently parked. The carport was approved in March of 2023, and purchased that spring, but permit issues and increased costs have delayed the project.

"Since we are already doing construction on the RHS and JWMS buildings (as part of district's tech ed project) it is more cost effective to have the construction done now," Thom explained. "It will be really nice to provide protection from the elements for all of the school vehicles."

According to Thom, the dump truck is used for grounds maintenance as well as sand and salt in the winter.

"Our staff hauls dirt and brush while maintaining ski and walking trails at CAVOC and the school forests," he explained. "They also haul dirt, wood chips, and other landscaping materials for playgrounds, athletic fields, and materials for the technical education facilities."

"The Suburbans are used to transport students for activities, special programming, and for staff to attend trainings and conferences," he added. "We also have vans for wheelchair-bound students, special education transportation, and use by activities and staff. The maintenance staff uses their trucks to plow snow, transport supplies and materials between schools, deliver lunches to outlying buildings, and many other tasks that come up each day."

BCPL loans are available to school districts and the interest paid goes to the common school fund for libraries. The rate for the five-year loan is 5.50%.

"The idea would be to spread out payments over five years and then renew a five-year loan to replace another batch of vehicles," the resolution reads.

CITY WELL from page 1

"You're going to have to install monitoring wells, and then you're setting yourself up for liability, because if there are negative effects, you own the land and you're gonna be the one named in the lawsuit," he said. The members of the college's board of trustees have a "fiduciary duty" to properly manage the school's assets, he stressed, citing his own extensive experience serving on boards.

A few speakers asked the school officials to clarify if the college has received anything in exchange for allowing the city to drill test sites on campus. The response was that no money has changed hands and, as college president Kate Ferrel has stated previously, the college only gave permission for the city to determine whether the water located through the test well process was of sufficient quantity and quality to meet the city's needs.

Ferrel reiterated that the college administration and board of trustees are carefully and deliberately gathering the data required to make a sound decision. To that end, she announced the college has secured the services of Dr. Christian Langevin, a highly respected research hydrologist, who has agreed to conduct a comprehensive review of the project.

The results of Langevin's work will be made available to the public, she added.

A common refrain among the Pelican residents was that they will have no recourse if the new city well causes their private wells to go dry. One after another they told the Nicolet officials they don't have thousands of dollars available to pay for a new well.

"It just seems to me that this is gonna be a hardship for us here," one of the Pelican residents told the school officials.

While no one disputed that the city's water issues are

very real, several speakers said the city should have implemented a water conservation plan some time ago. In particular, one speaker referenced comments made during the May 12 city informational meeting regarding the amount of water used by commercial businesses and industry in the summer for cooling purposes.

"I was just floored that nobody brought up a point that may be (the city should be) looking at a conservation plan before they start looking for more water," one of the speakers shared.

The topic of putting city wells Nos. 7&8 back in service was also mentioned, but city officials have previously stated it would be prohibitively expensive for those wells, offline for nearly five years due to PFAS contamination, to be restored to the point where the water would be safe to use. Also, there's no consensus among governmental and environmental officials as to what constitutes a safe amount of PFAS, the so-called forever chemicals that have shown to have negative effects on human health.

Rhinelander fire chief Brian Tonnancour, the only city official to speak during the listening session, told the crowd that the city is not "flush with cash."

"(Filtration) is super expensive," he said, referring to a potential treatment for the two shuttered wells. "Yes, Wausau does it. Wausau also has a whole lot more money than the City of Rhinelander. We're not, we don't have tons of cash in the safe down in the basement of City Hall. Last year, we had to cut a position just to make our budget (balance). This year, we don't

even know what we're gonna do, probably gonna have to cut more people."

Approximately 15 minutes after the listening session ended, the meeting of the board of trustees was called to order.

A number of those who participated in the listening session then offered prepared remarks to the board members.

Pelican resident Christy Moe offered a stark warning. "It feels like we are racing ahead with a project that has the potential to alter our environment, our community, and our water security, without the public having access to key data, impact studies or a clear plan for accountability," she told the trustees. "That should raise an alarm for everyone in the room."

"I urge this board to hit pause, demand real data, include the public in these decisions, and act with caution, because once this is done, we can't undo it," she added.

Several speakers reminded the trustees of the college's long history of environmental conservation and its position as one of the "jewels" of the country.

"(The board) is being asked to authorize something that could have permanent consequences for the land, the water and the people around you," another speaker shared. "While testing is one thing, advancing this towards a permanent municipal well, especially with so many unanswered questions, is not just premature, it's irresponsible and morally wrong."

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ONEIDA COUNTY COURT REPORT

MAY 15-21
Samantha Morgan Jacob, 27, Rhinelander, two charges bail jumping-felony, operate without a valid license (2nd within 3 years), \$1000 signature bond, AIA June 9.
Immanuel J. Smith, 27, Crandon, resisting or obstructing an officer, carrying a concealed knife, OWI (2nd), \$5000 cash bond, AIA May 23.
Elijah R. Hintz, 23, Rothschild, two charges possession of THC, two charges bail jumping-felony, charges dismissed but read in, two charges bail jumping-felony, two charges possession of metham-
phetamine, both charges guilty due to no contest plea, 1 year jail.
Robert James Cunningham, 71, Tomahawk, resisting or obstructing an officer, impersonating a peace officer, two charges battery or threat to a judge/prosecutor/law enforcement officer, all charges dismissed on prosecutor's motion.
Steven R. Lake, 33, Rhinelander, disorderly conduct/cause disturbance, guilty due to no contest plea, \$100 fine.
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

I ONEIDA COUNTY WARRANTS OF THE WEEK I

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.



Alexander J. Schewe, 32, Rhinelander. Fail to appear. BODY ONLY
Jade W. Beson, 33, Lac Du Flambeau. Fail to pay. Bond: \$573
Jamain K. Lee, 20, Waupun. Failure to pay. Bond: \$388
Malik M. Woods, 28, Scott. Failure to appear. BODY ONLY
Dylan S. Dolato, 32, Merrill. Failure to pay. Bond: \$647

DRI to continue flower basket project

With summer right around the corner, Downtown Rhinelander Inc. (DRI) has announced it is continuing its annual city beautification project. Volunteers will be hanging flower baskets throughout the downtown business district. Forth Floral, under the guidance of Ruth and Henning Hempel, plants the flowers in the hanging baskets and provides regular watering services throughout the summer. The Masters Gardeners of the North group also assists with this project. The baskets cost about \$100 each for the flowers, fertilizer and labor. A fundraising campaign is underway to help defray costs. Individuals can sponsor a flower basket at a cost of \$100 or donate a smaller amount. Contributions of any size may be made to Downtown Rhinelander Inc., PO Box 1638 Rhinelander WI 54501. Sponsorships can be made in honor or memory of a loved one.

Restoration of Hodag Dome nearly complete

The Hodag Dome will soon be ready to welcome visitors, school district officials announced last week.
“A specialized crew from Arizona, the manufacturer of the facility, is diligently working to restore the facility to full functionality, district officials said in a press release. “The first phase of repairs is focused on the Dome’s interior lighting system. All lighting fixtures are being inspected and repaired to ensure safety and full illumination of the space. Following this, the team will address all large and small fabric tears on the inside of the Dome. The repair team expects to complete all scheduled Dome repairs by the end of next week. Once repairs are finished, the Dome will be reopened for public use. While repairs to the track and tennis courts are being scheduled

for a later date, those efforts will not interfere with the Dome’s reopening or regular usage by community members.”
In addition, a new communication system will be installed for the generator system to ensure timely alerts to district maintenance staff. As an added precaution, district maintenance personnel will remain on call during potential weather-related power outages to ensure uninterrupted operations moving forward.
The district’s insurance company has approved all of the repairs needed to get the Dome back to full operations, the release said.
The dome was damaged after a back-up generator failed to operate during an ice storm in late March.

Prospect Street home damaged by fire

FOR STAR JOURNAL

A home on Prospect Street was damaged by fire on Monday evening, May 19. According to the Rhinelander Fire Department, a call came in at 6:21 p.m. reporting a “house on fire” at 17 W. Prospect St.
Upon arriving on scene, flames were visible from the exterior of the structure at the back entrance,” assistant chief Adam Johnson reported in a press release. “The Rhinelander Fire Department was able to make an initial attack on the exterior of the structure, gained entry to the interior of the structure and found fire extension within the wall and ceiling adjacent to the flames initially found. The fire was extin-

guished at approximately 6:42 p.m.”
All residents within the building were able to self-evacuate without injury, the release said. They have since been temporarily relocated.
Crescent, Pine Lake, Newbold firefighters were dispatched to assist via the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS).
The cause of the fire is still under investigation and the extent of the damage is still being assessed.
The Rhinelander Fire Department thanked the following entities for their assistance: Newbold Fire Department, Pine Lake Fire Department, Rhinelander Police Department, WPS, Oneida County EMS, Oneida County Dispatch Center, Domino’s pizza and Pizza Ranch.

I COMMUNITY CALENDAR I

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, Bingo: 10-11:30 a.m., ADRC, 100 W. Keenan St., Rhinelander. 715-369-6170.
May 28, SPARK! 10:30 a.m., ArtStart, 68 S. 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 artstartrhinelanders.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. Rhinelanderareafoodpantry.org.
May 28, Line Dancing: 6-8 p.m., The Haven, Rhinelander. Every Wednesday. For more information, call Diane at 715-282-5226.
May 29, 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 rhinelanderlibrary.org.
May 29, Walk to End Alzheimer’s kickoff event: 5-7 p.m. Rhinelander Brewing Company, 43 S Brown St. Contact: 715-352-4091 or jstpierre@alz.org.

PEP provides products necessary for personal and household cleanliness and good health. 715-362-2091.
May 31, NVH Cornhole Tournament: 10:30 a.m.- 6 p.m. Nick’s Hodag Lanes 1843 N Stevens St, Rhinelander. Northwoods Veterans Homestead’s 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament. All funds raised will go to the organization’s capital campaign. Sign up on scoreholio or contact Mike at 715-550-3373. Bring your partner and bags. Registration: Mike 715-550-3373 Donations or general questions: Carla 715-367-5853 Cindy 715-360-2700.
May 31, The Table-Free Community Meal: 4-6:30 p.m., St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 39 S. Pelham St., Rhinelander. Doors open at 4 p.m. Serving takes place at 5:30 p.m. 715-420-0066.
June 2, Overeaters Anonymous: 1 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 235 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander. 715-362-4258.
June 2, Bridge Games: noon, American Legion Hall, 121 W. Front St., Minocqua. \$4. Call Lee at 715-356-4243.
June 2, Rhinelander Area Food Pantry: 3-5 p.m., distribution. Donation drop-off hours, 8 a.m.-noon, Mondays through Fridays. 627 Coon St. Rhinelanderareafoodpantry.org.

June 2, 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.
June 3, 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.
June 3, 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.

June 3, Hodag Park Concert Series: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Hodag Park amphitheater. Enjoy free live music at Hodag Park! Krazy Knights will kick off the series!

June 4, Coffee and Company: 8-10 a.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, Rhinelander. A free community breakfast.

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

June 4, Line Dancing: 6-8 p.m., The Haven, Rhinelander. Every Wednesday. For more information, call Diane at 715-282-5226.



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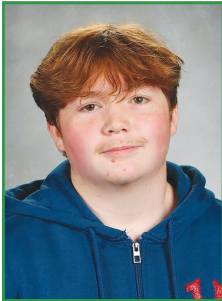


Graduation Ceremony
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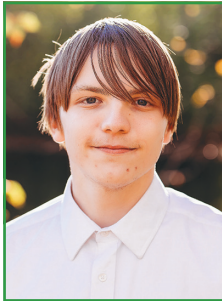
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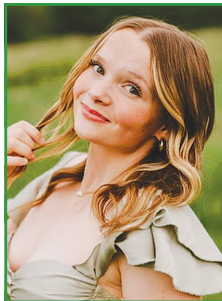
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Mae Goslin



Shelby Gould



Luciana Grage



Julia Gray



Greyson Gremban



Brianna Grijalva



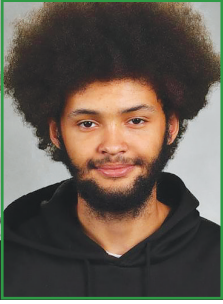
Lila Gross



Alex Hall



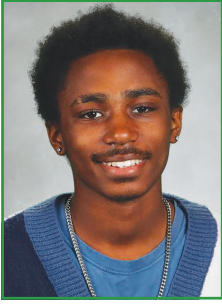
Kyah Hanold



Marcel Hardin



Coral Hardy



Clifton Harper Jr.



Gracie Hatleback



Brooke Helke



Callie Hoerchler



Hart Hokens



Caleb Holley



Dylan Hopfensperger



David Houg



Kaela Hunt



Frankie Hutton



Jasper Ison



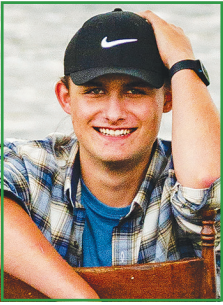
Carlie Jahn



Wyatt Johnson



Zoie Johnson



Kayden Juedes



Brentin Kasmarek



Eric Kelly Jr.

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Kai Kieper-Charapata



Dresden Klaver



Emily Koniar



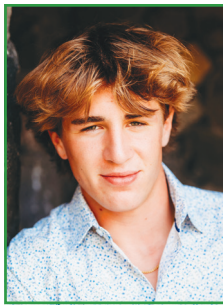
Hannah Kotula



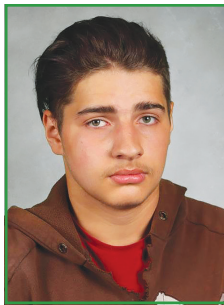
Brody Kowieski



Ava Kurilla



Truman Lamers



Jonah Lammert



Elena Larson



Serenity Larson



Margaret Lehman



Dominic Lehmann



Alicia Lentine



Lucy Lindner



Karmen Lopez



Ava Lukes



Cadence Lund



Angel Malone



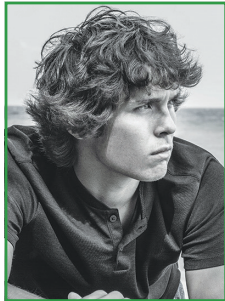
Emma Mankus



Sarah Marshall



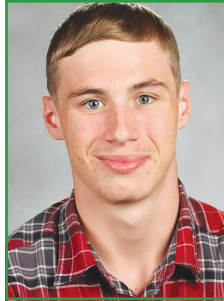
Madalyn Marten



Karter Massey



Laina Mata



Preston Mattiae



Payton McCue



Jesse McFadden



Juliana McFarland



Derrick McGeshick



Alexander Steven
McMillion



Carter Melby



Teagan Melton



Taylor Meurer



Alaina Meyers



Karma Meza



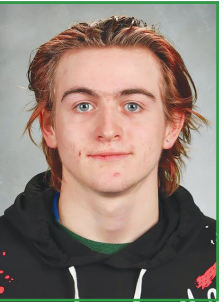
Madison Michel



Sophia Miljevich



Joshua Murray



Charles Nejdlik



Morgan Nelson



Huong Nguyen

It takes courage
to grow up and become
who you really are. - E.E. Cummings

Congratulations

We are so **PROUD** of our 2025 Graduates



Kyah Hanold



Laina Mata



Carter Melby



Anna Price



Aiden Thomas

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Rhinelanders HS



McKaelynn Schettino
Lakeland Union HS



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Rhinelanders HS



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Kayla Oldenhoff



Jordon Opsal



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Aiden Ostermann



Sophia Parish



Maya Patrick



David Peter



Kristina Peterson



Augustus Porter



Anna Price



Barak Rappley



Caiden Recla



Ashton Renn



Katherine Ripple



Katrina Roof



Iain Rumney



Evelyn Sawyer



Michael Schiek



Devon Schlieder



Ashley Schmidt



Mason Schmidt



Macey Schmoeger



Hayden Schommer



Samuel Schoppe



Victor Schreiber



Summer Schroeder



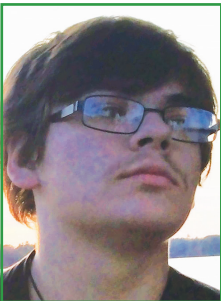
Reid Schultz



Logan Schwinger



Courtney Selig



Jeffrey Shaver



Samson Shinnars



Evelyn Simonsen



Brooke Sisel



Natalie Skinner



Hailey Skubal



Spencer Smith

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Adam Sztukowski



Trinity Tanner



Connor Terzinski



Brynn Teter



Aden Thomas



Lily Thorsen



Margherita Tibaldeschi



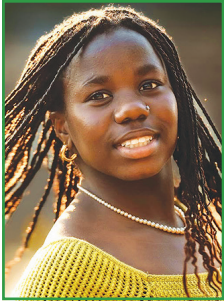
Alexander Traub



Paul Treder



Alexander Tucci



Mia Tulowitzky



Van Tulowitzky



John Turek



Elsa Vadis



Dylan Vanderbunt



Payton Volkening



Alea Vozka



Evan Wanta



Olivia Wanty



Grey Weatherley



Leah Weigel



Averie West



Max Whitaker



Kendra Whitburn



Timothy White



Karlando Williams



Jane Wilson



Kelsey Winter



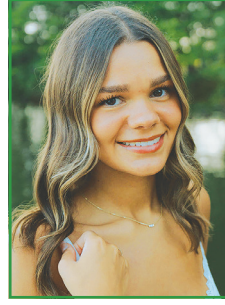
Reese Withers



Ellyse Younker



Pyper Zelechowski



Brooklyn Zivko



Margeaux Zohimsky



Hodag Park Concert Series returns June 3

The 2025 Hodag Park Concert Series, presented by NRG Media, will kick off on June 3 with Krazy Knights. The series will include a total of eight concerts, held every other Tuesday, at the Hodag Park Amphitheater in Rhineland-er. Performances will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The public is invited to bring a chair or blanket to Hodag Park, or hop on a boat in Boom Lake, and enjoy free live music! While carry-ins are allowed (no glass),

food and beverages will be available to purchase from General Beer Northwoods, PEO Chapter DR, Enzo's Frozen Treats, Casa Mexicana, Lola's Lunchbox, Randy's Bambinos, Taco Dans, Yahoo Barbecue, Badger Kettle Korn, Dublin's Paddy Wagon, and Crimson Café. During each concert, fundraising efforts will be made to benefit different area non-profit organizations. More information can be found at the Hodag Park Concert Series Facebook Page, and <https://wrhn.com/concert-series-2025/>.

2025 HODAG PARK CONCERT SERIES LINEUP

- 6/3/2025 KRAZY KNIGHTS (Classic Rock and Country hit covers)
- 6/17/2025 NORTHWOODS SKITCHERS (Variety covers from Classic Rock, Alternative, and Blues hits)
- 7/1/2025 WHISPERING DONKEY (Rock/Pop Christian originals)
- 7/15/2025 ANOTHER STUPID SUMMER (Rock and Punk hit covers)
- 7/29/2025 CHILLBILLY'S (Variety hit covers)
- 8/12/2025 WILD SPIRITS WITH CARL JACKSON (Classic Rock and Country hit covers)
- 8/26/2025 SANTY & SON WITH FRIENDS (Variety covers from Pop, Classic Rock, R&B, and dance hits)
- 9/9/2025 SETH BROWN DUO (Roots Rock, a blend of Rock, Country, Folk, and Bluegrass)

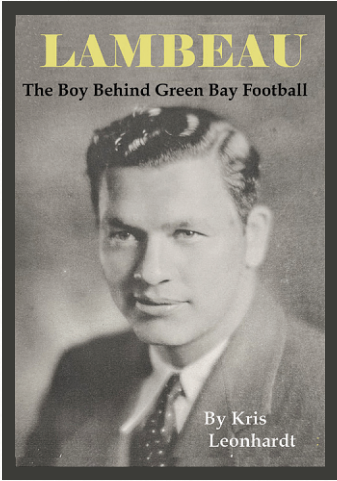


2025 Junior Prom Royalty

The Rhineland-er High School Class of 2026 selected its junior prom royalty on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Emma Houg was crowned queen and Nathan Danh was named king. Pictured, from left to right, are court members: Valentina Moehring, Libbey Buchmann, Eva Heck, Mya Swanson, Millie Gruett, Naomi Roberts, Caden Sieker, Devon Feck, Blake Petroff, Jaytn Barkus, Evan Shoeder and Myles Eagleson. **Submitted photo**

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Tick season is here: Protect yourself and help advance research

As the weather warms and more residents and visitors enjoy the outdoors, the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) is reminding the public that ticks are active and present a serious health risk in our region. The department is also encouraging community members to participate in a statewide tick surveillance project to help researchers better understand tick populations and the diseases they carry.

Ticks are endemic to Northern Wisconsin, including Oneida County, and can transmit serious illnesses such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, babesiosis, and more. Tick-borne illnesses can lead to symptoms like fever, rash, joint pain, and fatigue. If left untreated, some can cause long-term complications.

“We want residents and visitors to enjoy the beautiful Northwoods safely,” Oneida County Health Officer Linda Conlon said in a press release. “Taking steps to prevent tick bites and participating in research helps protect not just yourself, but the entire community.”

PREVENTION TIPS FROM ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- To reduce your risk of tick bites: Wear light-colored, protective clothing and tuck pants into socks.
- Use EPA-registered repellents such as DEET or permethrin-treated gear.
- Try natural repellents with cedarwood, thyme, or clove oil.
- Check your entire body and pets thoroughly after being outdoors.
- Remove ticks with fine-tipped tweezers, pulling straight out. Avoid squeezing or burning the tick.

Early detection and treatment of tick-borne illnesses is important, the release states. If you experience symptoms like fatigue, fever, rash, or joint pain, contact your healthcare provider.

JOIN THE STATEWIDE TICK STUDY

The Marshfield Clinic Research Institute is once again calling on Wisconsin residents to send in ticks they find as part of the Tick Inventory via Citizen Science (TICS) project.

Participation is easy: Pick up a free tick collection kit at the Oneida County Health Department, located at 100 W Keenan St., Rhinelander. To request a kit by mail, contact tics@marshfieldclinic.org or call 715-389-7796 ext. 16462.

Use the kit to safely collect and mail in ticks found on yourself, others, or pets.

Each kit includes a unique code so you can track what kind of tick you submitted and see statewide results. Tick submissions help researchers identify which species are most common in Wisconsin and track the spread of disease-carrying ticks, including new species like the lone star tick, which can transmit illnesses and potentially cause Alpha-gal Syndrome, a red meat allergy. The research does not include testing the ticks for disease. The Oneida County Health Department will continue to monitor tick-related health concerns and encourages all residents and visitors to take precautions. For more information about the TIC Study, visit <https://www.marshfieldresearch.org/News/marshfield-clinic-research-institute-seeks-ticks-for-second-year-of-study>.



The Pioneer Park Historical Complex has opened for the summer season. Submitted photo

Pioneer Park Historical Complex now open

The Pioneer Park Historical Complex opened its gates for the 2025 regular season on Saturday, May 24, welcoming locals and visitors from across the Northwoods and beyond to experience one of the region’s most unique cultural attractions.

Located in the heart of Wisconsin’s Northwoods, the complex is home to one of the most extensive and authentic collections of historical exhibits in the area. Highlights include the nation’s oldest Logging Museum, an 1800s-era sawmill, the Wisconsin Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, a one-room schoolhouse, vintage fire equipment exhibit, a Railroad Depot Museum, and train on static display, paper mill history exhibit, and the Duke’s Outboard Motor and Boat Museum. Visitors can also discover the story of the legendary Hodag, an iconic part of Northwoods folklore.

Owned and operated by the City of Rhinelander, the complex serves as a regional hub for history, education, and tourism, offering a glimpse into the industries, communities, and characters that helped shape the greater Northwoods of Wisconsin.



Learn about Rhinelander’s famous Hodag during a visit to one of the Northwoods’ premier history destinations. Submitted photo

Admission is free with donations encouraged. Regular season hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. The complex is located on Martin Lynch Drive in Pioneer Park and will remain open weekends through September.

For more information, visit rhinelanderphc.com, call (715) 369-5004, or email rhinelanderpphc@gmail.com.

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| CLASSIFIEDS |

General Employment 7110

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.

Retail 7145

SALES ASSOCIATE: Imaginuity specialty toy store offers flexible schedule, fun environment, and happy customers. Must be available to work some Saturdays. Apply in person at Imaginuity 21 S Brown St, or email Imaginuity@outlook.com.

General Labor 7180

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Rummage Sales This Week 7200

RH- 2427 County Road C. May 28, 10-5, May 29, noon-?, May 30 & June 1, 9-4. Large sale, something for everyone! XL-XXLG women's clothes, Halloween, Xmas decor, pellet stove, fridge/freezer, older air cond., much more.

TOMAHAWK- Multi family rummage sale May 29 & 30, 8-4 & May 31, 8-1. Clear Lake Condos, N11445 County Road A, near Hwy. 8. Signs will be out.

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Miscellaneous Real Estate 7487

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Foreclosures 7488

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Hodag Highlights



The Bauer family, Jenna, Avery, Eli, Isaac and Blake, accepted the Heart of the Hodag Award on behalf of Dan who passed away in November 2024.



2025 Hodag Hall of Fame inductee Tyler Johnson was introduced by his older brother Kevin.



Graduating seniors Truman Lamers and Sophie Miljevich were presented with \$1,000 scholarships during the recent ABC banquet.



Coach Jenny Heck introduced sophomore swimmer Celia Francis who was recognized for winning the 200 yard individual medley at the state meet.

BAUER FAMILY ACCEPTS HEART OF THE HODAG AWARD

The Athletic Booster Club (ABC) held its annual banquet Wednesday, May 14 at The Pines event center. Tyler Johnson, from the Class of 2005, was inducted into the Hodag Hall of Fame in recognition of his prowess on the football field in high school and at the University of Minnesota-Duluth where he was a nose tackle and helped the team go from a 4-7 season to a Division II national championship and a 15-0 record. Johnson was a four-year starter for the Hodags in basketball and football and was honorable mention all-state his senior year and a Channel 7 All-Star. Johnson was also invited to play in the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Star game, but was unable to play due to an injury.

The ABC also awarded \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors Truman Lamers and Sophie Miljevich.

Finally, the Heart of the Hodag Award was presented to the family of Dan Bauer. Bauer, an assistant chief at the Rhinelander Fire Department, suffered a fatal heart attack in November at the age of 42. He had been an integral part of Hodag Little League as well as a coach for basketball and football. Jenna Bauer and the couple's four children accepted the award.



Seth Nofftz, hitting in batting practice on Wednesday, May 21, hit a ground ball against Mosinee that was misplayed, allowing 2 runs to score in the bottom of the 7th for a walk-off win.

HODAG HARBALL UPSETS MOSINEE

On Friday, May 16 the Rhinelander High School baseball team hosted Mosinee, the first-place team in the conference. Conner Rappley pitched a complete game for the Hodags, giving up 3 runs on 9 hits and striking out 2. In the bottom of the 7th, the Hodags were down a run with John Turek on 3rd and Jackson Waydick on 2nd. Seth Nofftz was up to bat with 2 outs. Nofftz hit a ground ball to the shortstop, Treve Stoffel, who made a wide throw to first as Turek scored to tie the game. Waydick then scored from 2nd for the walk-off win.

On Monday, May 19 the team tallied an 8-4 win at Lakeland. The team had 11 hits including Conner Rappley hitting the team's first home run of the season. Jackson Waydick pitched 4 1/3 inning for the win, and Dylan Vanderbunt pitched the final 2 2/3 for the save, as the Hodags scored 3 runs in the 6th to ice the game.

HODAG SOCCER DOWNS MEDFORD, ANTIGO

The Rhinelander High School soccer team has continued to dominate its competition. On Monday, May 19, the team played at Medford and came away with a 4-0 win. Sophie Miljevich, Jordan Manske, Lindsey Hoerchler and Ella Heck all scored in the contest.

On May 20, the Hodags hosted Antigo and scored four first-half goals. Sophie Miljevich scored two and Kylie Pooch and Alexis Smith scored the other two. In the second half, Vivian Lamers scored four goals and Miljevich finished the hat trick scoring in the 55th minute.



Vivian Lamers scored four goals for the Hodags against Antigo.

UPDATING THE RECORD BOARD

On May 14 the Rhinelander High School boys swim team changed the record board to reflect the new times that were set during the 2025 season. At the conference meet the Hodags broke four pool records and seven conference records. New pool and conference records were set in the 200 freestyle, 200 yard individual relay, and the 400 yard freestyle relay. A pool record was broken in the 200 yard medley relay. New conference records were also set in the 50 freestyle, 100 yard freestyle, 200 yard freestyle relay and the 100 yard breaststroke.



Judson O'Malley, Dolan O'Malley, Samson Shinnars and Mathias Fugle set new pool and conference records in the 400 yard freestyle relay.

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