

City to manage Northwood Golf Course next year



Rhinelanders' Northwood Golf Course will be managed by the city effective Jan. 1, 2025. A special city council meeting was held Dec. 3 with the only agenda item being discussion/action on the golf course for the fiscal year 2025. The council voted Nov. 25 against rehiring Oliphant Golf Management for another year. **Star Journal photo**

BY EILEEN PERSIKE
 EDITOR

RHINELANDER – Management of Northwood Golf Course is returning to Rhineland City Hall.

Council voted Nov. 25 to part ways with Oliphant Golf Management when the current three-year contract expires Dec. 31.

This action was one of three recommendations given to the council by the ad hoc golf course committee in October. One reason for this recommendation was the roughly \$90,000 a year that Oliphant is paid to manage the course.

“The two most significant maintenance items that we ran across on the golf course committee that need to be made as soon as possible are a rough mower for next year and a new truck with a snow plow on it so you can plow the parking lots and whatnot, which together cost right around the \$90,000 figure,” Erik Matson, ad hoc golf course committee member, said during the public comment portion of the meeting.

“We felt that using the \$90,000 to purchase these two pieces of essential equipment for the city was a better use of the money than giving it to Oliphant to do what our own people can already do,” Matson added.

A request was made at the Nov. 11 council meeting for a one-year contract extension from Oliphant. Alders wanted the option to ease back into city management. Last week’s meeting agenda included a vote on whether to accept the one-year contract. Before the vote Mayor Kris Hanus said, if given the choice, the city would prefer to manage the course in-house.

“We’re running into issues with their budgeting recording software doesn’t play nice with ours so that’s making extra strain on our financial department when it comes to budget, when it comes to coding,” Hanus said after being asked whether the city could take over the management responsibility. “Also the additional cost of using a management company.”

City administrator Patrick Reagan said it is “completely doable” from the standpoint of human resources and finance departments, although he has not had any conversations with current golf course employees.

“They’re not my employees so I haven’t had any discussions like that,” Reagan said. “But, it depends on who we’re going to get back in here. We’ll post it. We’ll do it as quickly as possible. We’ll get people in right away. I would suspect that there’s going to be interest from a lot of different places, but we can do it.”

See **GOLF COURSE** page 3

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Third graders’ generosity builds three wells in Africa, fourth on the way

Africans visit Central Elementary to thank students for clean water

BY CHRISTINA BRANDMEIER
 REPORTER

It’s officially the season of giving, but third graders across the School District of Rhinelanders have been helping those less fortunate every spring for the past four years with the Penny Challenge Water Project.

The project collects pennies and other change and donates it to fund water wells in Africa, where, as students have learned, clean water isn’t as accessible as it is here.

During a presentation held Nov. 21 in the Central Elementary School gym, a group of third, fourth, and fifth graders had the opportunity to learn about the impact of their efforts through a visit with two Africans whose communities they helped.

“I came here to say thank you to those of you who were involved in raising money to put in a water well. Job well done! You make me feel great,” Henry Mukonda from Zambia expressed during his talk with the students.

The Penny Challenge Water Project began when Jenny Prom, now an instructional coach at Central Elementary School, read “The Water Princess” to her class. They cried over the story of a young girl who dreams of bringing clean drinking water to her African village.

See **AFRICA** page 4



Henry Mukonda from Zambia and Emmanuel from Togo visited Central Elementary School to thank students for access to clean water through their Penny Challenge Water Project, which funds wells in Africa. **Star Journal photos**

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ATV/UTV trails and campground close

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department closed the ATV/UTV Trail System and Enterprise Campground for the winter Monday, Dec. 2.

The department thanked the ATV/UTV clubs and volunteers for their hard work and dedication in keeping the trails safe and in great shape this season.

The trails and campground will reopen in May 2025.



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PUBLISHER LETTER

Becoming Instruments of God's Peace

Dear Reader,

As we go through life, there's one undeniable truth we all share: we are all going to die. This sobering reality has been with us since the dawn of humanity, yet we often fail to confront it until we're forced to. But what if, instead of avoiding this truth, we embraced it as a powerful motivator? What if we used it to drive us toward something greater than ourselves?

Imagine if, knowing that our time here is limited, we dedicated our lives to becoming instruments of God's peace. Imagine if we became peacemakers in a world that so desperately needs peace. The concept isn't new—it's been the call of countless prophets, leaders, and thinkers throughout history. But now, perhaps more than ever, it's a call we need to answer.

Why don't we? Why don't we choose to be God's peacemakers, to show kindness and love that extends beyond our own material needs and desires? Perhaps it's fear, or perhaps it's because we're so often caught up in the mundane routines of life. We focus on accumulating wealth, power, and possessions, thinking that these things will bring us happiness. But deep down, we know that they won't. True fulfillment comes from something far more profound.

What if God's plan all along has been for us to figure out that we're here to spread peace and love? What if our highest calling is to reach out to others, to transcend our own selfish needs, and to show acts of kindness and compassion? It's a simple idea, yet it's incredibly powerful.

Think about the impact we could have if each of us made the conscious decision to be a peacemaker. If we chose to resolve conflicts rather than create them, to build bridges rather than walls, to spread love rather than hate. The ripple effect of our actions could transform not just our immediate circles, but the world at large.

As instruments of God's peace, we have the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy. We can make a difference in a world that often seems lost in chaos and division. And in doing so, we can find a sense of purpose that goes far beyond our individual lives.

So, let us ask ourselves: why not? Why not become

peacemakers? Why not live our lives in a way that reflects the love and kindness that God has shown us? Why not strive to leave the world a better place than we found it?

In the end, we all will face the same fate. But until that day comes, let's commit to living our lives as instruments of peace. Let's reach beyond our material needs, show love to those around us, and embrace the calling that has been with us all along. We may just find that in doing so, we fulfill the very purpose of our existence.

PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher

Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.

Rhineland band receives \$4,000 grant



The Rhineland Area Community Band received a \$4,000 grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation to support area musical groups performing at next summer's RiverWalk concerts. Pictured at a luncheon at Lambeau Field are Marilyn Larsen, left, band vice president and grant writer, and band director Marilyn Pekol. Joining them is Dorsey Levens, former Packers running back.

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RHS students of the month

November students and staff of the month were honored recently at Rhinelander High School. Those receiving recognition are, in front from left, Taylor Dahlquist and Cassidy Lindner, technology, engineering and manufacturing; Jordan Opsal, student services-education intern; Emily Gillis, English; Andrea Kohler, social studies teacher; Brianna Young, English; Ashlyn Hapka, physical education and health; Matthew Wood, mathematics; Grant Gremban, science. In back, Libbey Buchmann, social studies; Zoie Johnson, fine arts; Karmen Lopez, family and consumer science; Rory Young, world language-Spanish; Dominic Hakala, physical education and health; Austine Sparling, business/IT/marketing. **Submitted photo**



Fall harvest

As part of a new seed-collecting program with the Department of Natural Resources, elementary students at the School District of Rhinelander gather acorns at the Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom during the fall field trip season. **Submitted photo**

GOLF COURSE from page 1

Though a long-term plan was not on the agenda, Alderman Tom Barnett reiterated his interest in the idea of selling the golf course.

"I want to know if we're able to, I want our city attorney to delve into that," Barnett said. "I want to know that we're seriously looking at it because like I said, this isn't something that is, right now anyway, I think of as an asset for the city, personally. Especially when we're on such dire needs with our budget. We're talking about cutting services here and I think holding on to something that the city doesn't absolutely need is a little unnecessary."

Alderman Gerald Anderson noted the golf course has at least broken even the last several years, and agreed the city should continue to looking into the possibility of selling or leasing the golf course.

"Oliphant has had enough time to show us if they can make some sort of dramatic improvement and they haven't, so I can't picture that happening next

year if we give them another year," Anderson said. "We might as well be saving the management fee and doing something useful with it."

Now that the council has turned down the management company's offer, city attorney Steve Sorenson said someone will have to take charge.

"All it means is you don't have a management contract with Oliphant for the coming year," said Steve Sorenson, city attorney. "It doesn't mean you have any contract with anyone else or you have any responsibility to even open the course next year. That's all stuff that has to be discussed. Right now you have a contract that goes through Dec. 31."

"You're going to have to put that on your agenda for the next meeting, to figure out who's going to run that golf course because it isn't going to run itself."

The vote was 7-1 against a resolution to adopt the one-year addendum agreement with Oliphant. Barnett was the lone council member to vote in favor.

FORK to host river paddle in June

FOR STAR JOURNAL

Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) has announced the FORK on the River Charity Paddle will take place Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Wildwood Outdoor Adventures and Campground in Eagle River.

FORK President Perry Pokrandt said the idea for the paddle came when Wildwood approached them about putting on a fundraiser to benefit the organization.

"Our business is at a point where we felt it was time to give back to our community," said Wildwood co-owners Jason and Nichole Bach. "FORK is such a great fit for us because of all they do to support our area's children."

The two-hour recreational paddle on the Wisconsin River will begin at the Hwy G boat landing and end with a party

at Wildwood.

"Registration will be limited to the first 210 paddlers. Individuals can bring their own boat or rent a canoe, kayak, or stand-up paddleboard from Wildwood," Nichole said.

With your own boat, admission is \$45. Discounted boat rentals will also be available.

The party will include free food and drink, an event logo dry bag for paddlers, and music by Bret and Frisk.

Proceeds will benefit FORK, which provides nutritional support to children from food-insecure homes within the Northland Pines, Three Lakes, and Phelps school districts.

For more information, call 715-477-3333 or visit feedourruralkids.org/charity-paddle.

Hospice to light Trees of Love

FOR STAR JOURNAL

To honor the pain of loss many experience during the holidays, Compassus hospice invites the public to attend its annual Tree of Love lighting ceremonies, Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. in Arbor Viata, and Thursday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. in Rhinelander.

All attendees will receive ornaments to write a loved one's name on and place on the tree.

"Grief can feel especially profound during the holidays, regardless of when the loss happened," said Compassus Hospice Area Market Executive Janette Marien. "Our Trees of Love serve as an acknowledgment of the memories left by those who have passed and a reminder that support is near."

No registration is required. Ceremonies will be held outside with light refreshments inside the offices.

Compassus Arbor Vitae is located at 1571 Hwy 51 N and Compassus Rhinelander is located at 111 E. Davenport St.

Those unable to attend can still visit the offices to place a remembrance ornament on the trees.

The Minocqua Rotary Club and JJ's Acres donated the Tree of Love to be displayed at the Arbor Vitae office, and Forth Floral donated the Rhinelander office Tree of Love.

For more information about the events, contact Mary Ellen Kaminski, volunteer coordinator, at 800-234-3542 or maryellen.kaminski@compassus.com.

OCHD launches free mental health platform

FOR STAR JOURNAL

To support the new Community Health Improvement Plan, the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) has launched CredibleMind, a free, confidential online platform designed to empower individuals to understand and improve their mental health.

According to the OCHD, CredibleMind provides professional resources in one easy-to-use location, including videos, podcasts, apps, books, articles, and more. It offers tools to learn new skills, assess mental health, and explore thousands of resources tailored to emotional, psycho-

logical, and social wellness.

Community members are encouraged to take the mental health profile assessment available on the platform. The assessment evaluates over 20 mental health and well-being areas, offering personalized insights to help individuals take proactive steps toward a healthier mind.

OCHD said anyone who creates an account and completes the assessment by Dec. 6 will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 Amazon gift card.

To join, go to oneidacountywi.crediblemind.com.

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AFRICA from page 1

“With the elementary curriculum, there’s a module on water in the world, and having access to clean water is a piece that they research and study,” Prom said. “They learn that not everyone has it, and so many students felt compassionate and wanted to do something about it.”

To raise money, Prom said students share in the school announcements facts they’ve learned, put up posters, and give presentations to classes to inspire them to bring in coins.

“The whole school gets into it,” Prom added. “And each year, fortunately, we’ve also had community members give anonymous donations to the cause.”

Through her father-in-law, Mike Prom, the director of Wise Intentional Leadership Development, they have access to African communities. So far, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Togo have received wells. Funds from the spring 2024



After spending the spring collecting pennies to fund water wells in Africa, Central Elementary School students had the opportunity to learn about the impact of their efforts through a visit with two Africans whose communities they helped.

project will build one in Uganda.

During the presentation, Prom explained to the students that when the money gets sent to Africa, Mukonda works with the government there to ensure they can dig in certain areas. He also represents the students when the wells open to the public.

Mukonda shared that the first well in Zambia was near a school with roughly 1,500 students.

“Just with our one well, that many students like you have access to clean water,” Prom told the group.

Emmanuel from Togo, a small country in West Africa, also spoke to the students

and held up a bottle filled with dirty – almost black – water. “Unfortunately, many people in Togo are drinking water like this.”

In his French dialect, Emmanuel tried to explain the emotion of seeing his community’s reaction to the well. “If you were there, some of you may cry. People were running after water like...I don’t know, it’s hard to put.”

Since the start of the initiative, Prom said that over \$20,000 has been raised, and each well costs \$5,000 to build.

Mukonda wrapped up his talk by expressing gratitude to the students once again. “Thank you for your generosity,” he said. “We cannot do this alone. Your class, and the next class, and the next class, need to know how good this is.”

The current third graders will begin collecting donations for the fifth well in the spring. Prom hopes they can keep the momentum going and inspire more people to donate because, as the students have proved, every penny counts.

| COMMUNITY CALENDAR |

Dec. 4, Hodag Day at the Dome: 3:30-6 p.m., Hodag Dome. The School District of Rhinelander celebrates the 131st birthday of the Hodag. Games, inflatables, music, Hodag apparel for sale, prizes, face painting, an obstacle course, and an appearance from the Hodag. Free to the public, all ages welcome.

Dec. 4, Coffee and Company: 8-10 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 235 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander. Free community breakfast. Contact Mary at 715-367-4790 or the church at 715-362-4258.

Dec. 4, In Progress: 7-10 p.m., Nicolet College Theatre, 5364 College Drive, Rhinelander. ArtStart and WXPR’s version of an open mic night. Bring a song, poem, or painting – everything is welcome. All ages. Participants can sign up in advance on ArtStart’s Facebook event page. Beer, wine, and concessions available for purchase

beginning at 6 p.m. 715-362-4328.

Dec. 4, 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.

Dec. 4, Painted Pottery Workshop: 9 a.m.-noon, Campanile Center for the Arts, 131 Milwaukee St., Minocqua. Design, paint, and glaze a stoneware plate. \$45. 715-356-9700.

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

Dec. 5, Support Group: 2 p.m., Aging and Disability Resource Center of Oneida County, 100 Keenan St., Rhinelander. Peer-led mental health support group. Safe and confidential space open to anyone 18 or older. The topic for this meeting will be coping with the holiday blues. Call Dan at 715-360-5796 or visit sup-

portingeachother.online.

Dec. 5, Pickleball classes: Noon-1:30 p.m., Guided Play for Beginners; 1:45-3:15 p.m., Guided Play for Intermediates. YMCA of the Northwoods, 2003 E. Winnebago St., Rhinelander. \$20 for Y members and \$40 for the general public. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, call 715-362-9622.

Dec. 5, Northwoods Community Skatepark Input Party: 5:30 p.m., ArtStart, 68 S. Stevens St. Rhinelander. Hunger Skateparks will present the Rhinelander Skatepark design. Followed by a party at 7 p.m. 715-362-4328 or artstartrhinelander.org.

Dec. 5, Bug Tussel University, Streaming Audio Media: 10 a.m.-noon, Rhinelander District Library meeting room, 106 N. Stevens St. Understand the basic features of using a podcast and music app. Free; registration recommended. 715-365-1070.

Dec. 5, Builder’s Club: 1-5 p.m., Rhinelander District

Library, 106 N. Stevens St. Legos, Magna-Tiles, and more available in the children’s department. Free. 715-365-1073.

Dec. 5, Oneida County Fair Annual Meeting: 6-7 p.m., 315 S. Oneida Ave. #202, Rhinelander. Meeting to discuss the future of the Oneida County Fair. Contact Kerry Bloedorn at 715-550-8221.

Dec. 5-7, ArtStart Winter Gallery Exhibitions: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5 and Friday, December 6; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. Featuring “Passing Through Wonderland” from artist Andrea Kidd and “Past, Present, and Future” from Cassandra Smith. 715-362-4328 or artstartrhinelander.org.

Dec. 7, 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.

Dec. 7, Indoor Farmers Market: Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon throughout

the fall and winter at the YMCA of the Northwoods, 2003 E. Winnebago St., Rhinelander. 715-362-9622 x 118.

Dec. 7, Cribbage Tournament: noon-4 p.m., the Rhinelander VFW Post 3143, 120 S. Park St. Food and drinks available, raffle prizes and more. \$40 entry per person. For reservations or questions: dav62cribbage@gmail.com.

Dec. 7, Northwoods Cross Stitches: First Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Grace Foursquare Church basement, 4360 Hwy 17 N. Open to all cross stitchers; bring supplies and projects to work on. 715-369-4779.

Dec. 9, Warm For Winter: 4 to 6 p.m., First Congregational UCC, 135 E. Larch St., Rhinelander. New and gently used warm clothing, shoes, boots, coats, hats, mittens, toys, and bedding. No income requirements. Place donations in the bin outside the church or the tub in the Oneida County Health-ADRC building. 608-345-7305 or Warm For Winter Facebook page.

Dec. 9, Rhinelander Northwoods Quilters: 9:30 a.m., every second Monday, at ArtStart, 68 S. Stevens Street. Contact RNQ prior to attending to confirm location, tminder@charternet or visit us on Facebook. New members welcome!

Dec. 9, AA and AI-Anon Meetings: 7 p.m., Immanuel Lutheran Church, 21 W. Timber Dr., Rhinelander. 715-362-5910.

Dec. 9, Overeaters Anonymous: 1 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 235 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander. 715-362-4258.

Dec. 9, Bridge Games: noon, American Legion Hall, 121 W. Front St., Minocqua. \$4. Call Lee at 715-356-4243.

Dec. 9, Baby Storytime: 10 a.m., Rhinelander District Library. Stories, songs, and playtime. Free to the public. 715-365-1070 or rhinelanderlibrary.org.

Dec. 9, 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.

Dec. 9, Personal Essentials Pantry (PEP): 3:30-5 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 724 Arbutus St., Rhinelander. Use entrance A on the corner of Prospect and Wabash. PEP provides products necessary for personal and household cleanliness and good health. 715-362-2091.

Dec. 10, Preschool Storytime: 10 a.m., Rhinelander District Library. Stories, flannels, songs, and fun for ages two and older. Free to the public. 715-365-1070 or rhinelanderlibrary.org.

Dec. 10, Rhinelander Woman’s Club Meeting: 11 a.m., The Pines Event Center, 5840 Forest Lane, Rhinelander. The Hodag Ukers will be there. Contact the Rhinelander Woman’s Club on Facebook for more information.

| DEATH NOTICES |

Robert A. Wilson, 78 of Rhinelander, died Nov. 24, 2024. Carlson Funeral Home.

Helen J. Gerdes, 79 of Rhinelander, died Nov. 22, 2024. Carlson Funeral Home.

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Holiday Happenings

A roundup of this week's holiday-themed events across the Northwoods

Dec. 4, RAREA Holiday Gathering: 11:30 a.m., Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom, 4321 S. Shore Dr., Rhinelander. The Northland Pines High School Madrigal Singers will perform at 1 p.m. All retired educators are invited to attend and join the organization.

Dec. 4, Scandinavian Christmas Wreath Making Class: 4-5 p.m., Rhinelander District Library meeting room, 106 N. Stevens St. Create a Christmas wreath using two embroidery hoops, various greens, berries, and pinecones. Ages 18 and older. Registration required. Register at rhinelanderlibrary.org or call 715-365-1070 ext. 2.

Dec. 4-7, Gingerbread House Contest: Pick up a kit from the Rhinelander District Library or use your own materials. Three age groups for judging; must be made with edible, non-refrigerated materials and built on a sturdy base. Rhinelanderlibrary.org.

Dec. 4-29, A Christmas Wonderland: Over one million lights on display at Rondele Ranch, 8959 Hwy K, Harshaw. Walking tours are Fridays and Saturdays from 5-9 p.m., plus Thursday, Dec. 26, 5-9 p.m. Driving tours Sundays and Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Closed Dec. 24 and 25. \$20 per car; cash only at the gate. Proceeds support local non-profit groups. 1-844-WI-RANCH.

Dec. 4-Jan. 1, Lights of the Northwoods: 5-9 p.m., Hodag Park, 509 Rose St., Rhinelander. Nightly light displays, holiday music, bonfires, special weekend activities, including a visit from Rhinelander's Santa and a fireworks show on New Year's Day. Free admission. Collections of food and monetary donations will support area food pantries. Lightsofthenorthwoods.org.

Dec. 4-7, Holidays Around the World: The Rhine-

lander District Library Children's Department is celebrating world holidays with crafts and activities. 715-365-1070 or rhinelanderlibrary.org.

Dec. 5, American Culinary Federation Club Holiday Cookie Walk: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or until sold out, Northwoods Center Commons, Nicolet College, 5364 College Drive, Rhinelander. Cookies and other baked goods by Nicolet Culinary students. \$8/pound. All proceeds go to the Nicolet Junior Chapter of the American Culinary Federation.

Dec. 5, Wine, Women and Winter: 5-8:30 p.m., The Waters of Minocqua, 8116 Hwy 51 S. Celebrate the holiday season and benefit the Lakeland Pantry with a wine tasting, holiday demos, appetizers and gift raffles. Tickets available for \$60 at The Waters of Minocqua and Save More Marketplace. 715-358-4000.

Dec. 6, United Methodist Women Christmas Cookie Sale: 8 a.m.-until sold out, ArtStart, 68 S. Stevens St, Rhinelander. \$10 per pound. 715-362-2091.

Dec. 6, The Northwoods Singers Holiday Music: 7-9 p.m., Three Lakes Center for the Arts, 1760 Superior St., Three Lakes. Holiday songs, Christmas carols, and sing-a-longs. Adult tickets cost \$15; under thirteen \$5. 715-546-2299.

Dec. 6, Manitowish Waters Small Town Christmas: 4-6 p.m., Manitowish Waters Community Center, 5733 Airport Road. Children's games and activities, Christmas crafts, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and more. At 5:30, head to Koller Park for a bonfire, caroling, and the lighting of the town Christmas tree. Food and beverages available. 715-543-8488.

Dec. 6-7, Railroad Museum Christmas Open House: 4-7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6, and 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.,

Saturday, Dec. 7. Pioneer Park Historical Complex, 705 Martin Lynch Drive, Rhinelander. \$5 donation per adult; free for children. 715-369-5004.

Dec. 6-7, Santa's Snack Shop by the Rhinelander Woman's Club: 5-8 p.m., in the pavilion at Hodag Park, by the boat landing, in cooperation with Lights of the Northwoods. Soups and chili, sweets, snacks, hot chocolate, and cider. Pictures with Santa, a coloring table, and small prizes for children. For more information, see the Rhinelander Woman's Club Facebook page.

Dec. 7, Holiday Bake Sale: 9:30 a.m., Immanuel Lutheran Church, 21 W. Timber Drive, Rhinelander. Featuring specialty cookies, famous homemade Norwegian lefse, and many other ethnic baked items. Coffee and cookies will be served at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Jolene at 715-369-1814.

Dec. 7, Rhinelander Historical Society Holiday Open House: noon to 4 p.m., Rhinelander Historical Museum, 9 S. Pelham St. Musicians, eggnog, cider, cookies, and candy. Tour the museum and take a photo in the outside sleigh. Free. info@rhinelanderhistoricalsociety.org.

Dec. 7, Christmas Bazaar:

9 a.m.-2 p.m., Nativity of Our Lord Parish, 125 E. King St., Rhinelander. Cookie and candy walk, craft vendors, coffee bar, sweet rolls, and basket raffles. 715-362-3169.

Dec. 7, The Nutcracker: 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Rhinelander High School Auditorium. The Northwoods School of Dance and Dance Northwoods will perform an interpretation of "The Nutcracker" and other specialty pieces. Tickets sold at the door. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children; ages two and under are free. nwsdanceschool@gmail.com.

Dec. 7, Christmas Train Village Show: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hosted by the Northwoods Model Railroad Club. The 2024 display will be set up in the Train Station Shops in Minocqua, in the former Clothes Connection Unit, 611 Oneida St. All ages. Free. Visit facebook.com/northwoodsmodelrailroadclub.

Dec. 7, Christmas Kickoff: 4-6:30 p.m., Riverview Park, Eagle River. Featuring visits with Santa, hot dogs, brats, cookies, hot cocoa, carols by the Northland Pines Madrigal Singers, and the lighting of the Christmas tree at 5 p.m. 715-479-6400 or eagleriver.org.

Dec. 7, Sayner-Star Lake Hometown Holiday Cel-

bration: 4-9 p.m., Sayner Community Building, 8755 Lake St. Live music by The Local Legends of Brass and 2 Miles South, hot cocoa, warm food, photos with Santa, sleigh rides, and crafts for the whole family, including pine cone bird feeders and a cookie decorating station. Sayner-starlake.org.

Dec. 7, Phelps Christmas Tree Lighting: 4-6 p.m., downtown Phelps. Caroling, a bon fire, hot drinks, and a visit from Santa. Organized by the Phelps Woman's Club.

Dec. 7, Barks and Brunch - A Canine Christmas Party: 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Plum Lake Event and Equestrian Center, Sayner. \$25 per dog, \$20 for families without a dog. For more information, call 715-966-1444.

Dec. 7, Santa Claus at Arbor Vitae Fire Department: 1-4 p.m., 10672 Big Arbor Vitae Drive. Santa arrives

by fire truck at 2 p.m. Cookie decorating, ornaments and crafts, bonfire, snacks, and sleigh rides.

Dec. 8, Nicolet Live! Community Holiday Concert: 2-4 p.m., Nicolet College Theatre, 5364 College Drive, Rhinelander. Seasonal favorites will be performed by the Rhinelander Area Community Band, Northwoods Choraliers, Rhinelander Male Chorus, and the Hymns and Hers. Free. 715-365-4646.

Dec. 6, The Northwoods Singers Holiday Music: 4 p.m., Ely Memorial Church, Land O'Lakes. Free will offering; refreshments to follow.

Dec. 10, Compassus Tree Lighting: 6 p.m., 1571 Hwy 51 N., Arbor Vitae. Attendees will receive ornaments to write a loved one's name on and place on the Tree of Love. 800-234-3542 or maryellen.kaminski@compassus.com.

Harvest holiday trees in a northern state forest

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds Wisconsinites that they can harvest a holiday tree from a northern state forest.

Trees can be cut down in the Brule River, Flambeau River, Governor Earl Peshtigo River, Governor Knowles and Northern Highland-American Legion state forests. Details are available on the DNR website, dnr.wisconsin.gov; search "forest product permits."

Holiday tree cutting is not offered at other DNR properties. However, some county forests allow non-commercial harvest of holiday trees, as does the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Contact the property before venturing out to learn harvesting guidelines.

Members of the public can get a permit to harvest a personal-use holiday tree at the state forest property headquarters. The price may vary slightly from property to property, but the average cost is \$5 per tree. Fresh evergreen boughs may also be harvested with a permit for non-commercial forest products.

Before heading into the woods with a saw and permit in hand, the DNR reminds visitors that harvesting is prohibited within 100 feet or visual distance of roads, trails and water, and there is no harvesting from campgrounds or day-use areas. Trees must be cut at ground level with a maximum height of 30 feet, and the trees taken from state forests cannot be resold.



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RHS musical cuts 'Footloose'

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The Rhinelander Drama Department presented the musical "Footloose," Nov. 22-24. The musical is based on the 1984 movie by the same name. It's the story of Ren McCormack, a rebellious Chicago teen, played by Iain Rumney, who moves to the small middle-American town of Bomont, where Ren learns dance is forbidden by the local Pastor, Rev. Shaw Moore.

Ren collaborates with the pastor's daughter Ariel, played by Emily Koniar, and his friend Willard, played by Zachary Fernandez, to persuade Moore and the town to allow the teens to dance. In the process Ren learns the tragedy behind the ban, the town learns to heal and the students take part in a triumphant rock n' roll prom.

The Rhinelander cast included 36 actors plus a pit band of 19 musicians, and several stage hands.



The RHS Drama Department presented "Footloose" Nov. 21-24.



The students travel to a dance hall in a nearby county.



The teens dance at their prom.



The Footloose cast, band and the crew, pictured at the Rhinelander High School auditorium.

ONEIDA COUNTY WARRANTS OF THE WEEK

The Oneida County Sheriff's Office is asking for your assistance in locating these individuals.

If you have seen or have information regarding their whereabouts, please contact the Oneida County Sheriff's Office at 715-361-5100.



Edmond S. Broeffle, 25. Fail to pay. BOND: \$473



Brittany C. Felten, 33, Rhinelander. Fail to pay. BOND: \$1162.50



Justin R. Gibbs, 30, Rhinelander. Fail to pay. BOND: \$714.50



Jordan T. Peters, 35, Minocqua. Fail to appear: BODY ONLY



Michael L. Schram, 55, Rhinelander. Fail to appear: BODY ONLY

ONEIDA COUNTY COURT REPORT

NOV. 20-27, 2024

Joshua T. Willis, 30, Rhinelander, charged with disorderly conduct/domestic abuse-threat and bail jumping-misdemeanor. Signature bond \$1,000. AIA Dec. 9.

Georgia A. Wooldridge, 34, Minocqua, charged with bail jumping-misdemeanor and disorderly conduct. Signature bond \$1,500. AIA Dec. 9.

Danielle K. Hitter, 35, Rhinelander, charged with possess/illegally obtained prescription and bail jumping-misdemeanor. Signature bond \$750. AIA Dec. 10.

Chance H. Bauknecht, 40, Rhinelander, charged with bail jumping-misdemeanor. Signature bond \$1,500. AIA Jan. 10.

Damen R. Thompson, 28, New London, charged with disorderly conduct/domestic abuse-threat. Cash bond \$150. AIA Dec. 20.

Christopher M. Janczewski, 35, Goodman, charged with use a computer to facilitate child sex crime and attempt second degree sexual assault of a child. Cash bond \$25,000. AIA Dec. 4.

Timothy J. Organ, 46, Rhinelander, charged with criminal damage to property (over \$2,500), disorderly conduct and bail jumping-misdemeanor. Cash bond \$2,500. AIA Dec/ 10.

Jonathan C. Siizewski, 44, Eagle River, charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of controlled substance, possess drug paraphernalia. Signature bond \$750. AIA Jan. 13.

Ricky D. Bates, 66, Rhinelander, charged with resisting or obstructing and bail jumping-felony. Signature bond \$1,000. AIA Dec. 4.

Richard A. June, 38, Minocqua, charged with disorderly conduct, battery and bail jumping-felony. Cash bond \$2,500. AIA Dec. 4.

Samuel J. Tucker Jr., 43, Minocqua, charged with sex registry violation. Signature bond \$2,000. AIA Dec. 16.

Keegan M. Hatleback, 29, Rhinelander, charged with bail jumping-felony/repeater, bail jumping-misdemeanor/repeater, IID tampering/fail to install and operating while revoked. Signature bond \$2,500. AIA Dec. 13.

Nicolas D. Gross, 40, Eagle River, charged with possess drug

paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine. Signature bond \$5,000. AIA Jan. 13.

Scott R. Eades, 44, Rhinelander, charged with bail jumping-felony, possession of methamphetamine, possession of THC and possess drug paraphernalia. Signature bond \$5,000. AIA Dec. 2.

Cullen J. Mc Namee, 33, Tomahawk, charged with use a computer to facilitate a child sex crime. Cash bond \$1,000. AIA Jan. 13.

Breanna L. Gagnon, 27, South Range, Mich., pleads guilty/no contest to charge of resisting or obstructing an officer. Arrest warrant issued.

Joseph R. Zuraff, 63, Rhinelander, has charge of disorderly conduct dismissed.

Richard A. Burns, 66, Boulder Junction, pleads guilty/no contest to IID tampering/failure to install, operating while revoke. Charge of bail jumping-felony is dismissed. Sentenced to jail time served. Fines/fees \$642.

Kurtis S. Cline, 41, Rhinelander, enters into DPI on charge of harboring/aiding a felon with repeater modifier. Review hearing Nov. 24, 2025.

Tommy Thompson, 50, Lac du Flambeau, pleads guilty to disorderly conduct. Charge of bail jumping-felony dismissed. Sentenced to jail time served. Fines/fees \$957.

Ryan J. Hoopie, 25, Tomahawk, enters into DPI on charge of possession of methamphetamine/repeater/PTAC. Review hearing May 19, 2025.

Valarie A. Roberts, 31, Rhinelander, has charge of retail theft-retain possession (<=\$500) dismissed, following fulfillment of agreement.

Valarie A. Roberts, 31, Rhinelander, has charges of retail theft-intentionally take (<=\$500) and theft-business setting (<=\$2,500) dismissed following fulfillment of agreement.

Robin A. Werner, 46, Woodruff, pleads guilty/no contest to OWI (5th or 6th). Charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of narcotic drugs/both with repeater modifiers, and operate with restricted controlled substance (5th or 6th) are dismissed. WSP six

years; three years initial confinement and three years ES; 211 days jail credit; DL revoked lifetime, IID three years if DL reinstated. Fines/fees \$1,902.

Cheyenne D. Johnson, 45, Taycheedah Correction Inst., Fond du Lac, pleads guilty/no contest to charge of battery by prisoners. Fines/fees \$518.

Dieter W. Soetebier, 42, Dodge Correctional Inst., Phoenix, Md., pleads guilty to bail jumping-felony, disorderly conduct and prisoner throw-expel bodily substances. Sentence count one, WSP 5.5 years, concurrent with counts 2, 3 and Forest County case; initial incarceration 2.5 years; ES 3 years; 496 days jail credit. Count two, 90 days jail, CC; count 3, WSP 3.5 years, CC with other counts. Fines/fees \$1,029.

Dieter W. Soetebier, 42, Dodge Correctional Inst., Phoenix, Md., has charge of driver or operate commercial vehicle without consent DRI.

Roy D. Mason, 64, Rhinelander, has DEJ rescinded on guilty pleas to two charges of bail jumping-misdemeanor. WHS/POP 18 months; fines/fees \$1,172.

Roy D. Mason, 64, Rhinelander, has DEJ rescinded on guilty pleas to charges of bail jumping-misdemeanor and disorderly conduct. WHS/POP 18 months, CC to other case.

Wyatt D. Haverkamp, 21, Rhinelander, has charge of possession of child pornography by person under age 18 dismissed following fulfillment of agreement.

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

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Craft Sales 7204

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Miscellaneous Real Estate 7487

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Hodag Highlights

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Hodag boys basketball team began the season with a nonconference game at Crandon on Tuesday. Rhinelander jumped off to a fast start offensively and used a stifling defense to limit the Crandon Cardinals to 11 points in each half. The Hodags were up 46-11 at the half and won by a final score of 72-22. Junior Devon Feck led all scorers with 14 points. Fellow junior Evan Shoeder scored 13, senior Truman Lamers had 12, as did sophomore Abe Gretzinger coming off the bench. The Hodags open the conference Dec. 6 with a game at home against Antigo in a doubleheader, with the girls playing first.



Devon Feck with a long three-point attempt. Feck led all scorers with 14 points.



Sophomore Abe Gretzinger came off the bench and scored 12 points.



Truman Lamers got above the rim for a dunk and two of his 12 points.



The Hodags' Evan Shoeder scored in double digits with 13 points.



Gracie Anderson is fouled by Wausau West's Paige Anderson.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Tom Kislow Memorial Tournament was held on Friday and Saturday at Rhinelander, with eight teams participating. The tournament raises money for cancer research in honor of Kislow, who died in 2012 of lung cancer at the age of 35. The Hodags played the last game on both days, the first against DC Everest. It was a defensive battle as the home team prevailed, winning 39-33. Aubryn Clark scored 16 points, and Kelsey Winter added 14. On Saturday, the Hodags ended the tournament playing another Wisconsin Valley Team, the Wausau West Warriors. The Hodags' pressure on the Warriors created turnovers and a few easy baskets as Rhinelander took a 32-20 halftime lead. In the second half, the Hodags began by being deliberate with their movement and passes and created open looks taking time off the clock. The girls maintained their lead and won 53-40. Again Aubryn Clark and Kelsey Winter were the leading scorers with 23 and 11 respectively. Vivian Lamers added nine points. The Hodags next play Medford on Tuesday night at home.



Aubryn Clark puts up a shot in the lane for two of her 23 points.



Ella Miljevich goes in for a layup after a steal.



Vivian Lamers defends Iris Waldvogel bringing the ball up the court.



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