

# Letters to Santa tradition continues at SDR schools

BY CHRISTINA BRANDMEIER  
REPORTER

A group of lively teenagers descend upon the entrance to Pelican Elementary School in Rhinelander. They're on a mission. The second the front door clicks open, they hurry into the main office, split into groups, and take off down the festive hallways.

One group heads into Shawn Belanger's kindergarten class. "I told you today that some of our high school friends were gonna come and write Santa letters," Belanger told the class, prompting a kindergartner to look at the four big kids in the room and shout, "You were not lying!"

Those big kids are members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), two national organizations focused on business and marketing education, combined into one joint club at Rhinelander High School.

Letters to Santa is an FBLA/DECA community service project and a long-standing tradition across the School District of Rhinelander (SDR), where high schoolers help elementary students write letters to Santa, and they even get responses back.

"Each of you will get a letter from Santa," high schooler Evelyn Sawyer explained to the youngsters before they began. "That's why it's really important to be



High schooler Evelyn Sawyer helps Pelican Elementary School kindergartner Colt Towne write a letter to Santa as part of FBLA/DECA's annual community service project. **Star Journal photos**



Senior and FBLA/DECA president Payton McCue and Vincent "Vinny" Halverson discuss what to ask Santa for for Christmas.

honest in your letters, tell him what you want. Don't be greedy about it, but still think about the best things in your head that you want to get for Christmas."

Mike Cheslock, SDR community education and school forest manager, described Letters to Santa as a "great opportunity for mentorship, bonding, and

building relationships between Rhinelander youth of all ages," with elementary schools Pelican, Crescent, Central, and Nativity participating.

"I think it's just building a little more community. It creates a connection for the kids when they see the high

See **LETTERS** page 6

## 'Big Bundle Up' to collect donations until Dec. 30

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce invites the community to participate in the Big Bundle Up campaign, which collects new or gently used coats, sweaters, hats, mittens, and other warm clothing items to support those in need.

The winter clothing can be dropped off at the Rhinelander Chamber at 450 W. Kemp St.

The Hodag10s are also involved in the Big Bundle Up and have a drop-off site at Northland Insurance Agency, 131 Randall Ave. in Rhinelander.

Donations will be accepted until Dec. 30 and go to the Warm for Winter clothing pantry.

Warm for Winter distribution days are held at the First Congregational UCC Church at 135 E. Larch St. on the last Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and the second Monday from 4 to 6 p.m. through March 2025.

For more information, contact the Rhinelander chamber at 715-365-7464.

## Lions Club to offer free Christmas dinner

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The Rhinelander Lions Club will host its annual free community Christmas dinner Wednesday, Dec. 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The meal will be available for pick-up at the Trig's Deli Express entrance. It includes turkey, dressing, gravy, potatoes, cranberry sauce, a roll, and a cookie.

Home delivery is also available by calling 715-525-1068 before Dec. 24.

Donations can be sent to the Rhinelander Lions Club, P.O. Box 1005, Rhinelander, WI, 54501, or will be accepted at Trig's on the 25th.

Trig's is located at 232 S. Courtney St. in Rhinelander.

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**| PUBLISHER LETTER |**

## A New Year With New Beginnings

Dear Reader,

As the calendar turns to another New Year, we find ourselves at a familiar crossroads, a time for renewal and reflection. It's a time when we take stock of our lives, weighing the good against the bad, and consider the impact we've had on the world around us.



The New Year offers a chance to set new goals and make resolutions in the hopes of becoming the best versions of ourselves.

Yet, as many of us know, the resolve we feel on January 1st can be fleeting. How often do we revisit our resolutions a year later, only to find they've been forgotten, buried under the weight of daily routines and unexpected challenges? Despite our best intentions, life has a way of diverting our focus, and those grand plans can slip away unnoticed.

But perhaps that's okay. The beauty of the New Year lies not just in our ambitions but in the grace we grant ourselves when we fall short. It's a time to acknowledge our humanity, to understand that growth is not always linear, and that the journey itself—full of missteps and lessons—is what truly matters.

So as we step into this New Year, let's embrace the opportunity to dream, to set intentions, and to strive for better. But let's also be kind to ourselves when we stumble, and remember that each new day brings with it the possibility of renewal.

Wishing you a joyous New Year, full of hope, reflection, and the endless potential of new beginnings.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

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



The Oneida County 4-H Lego Robotics Challenge Team at a competition.

Submitted photo

## 4-H robotics festival to be held Dec. 21

**FOR STAR JOURNAL**

The public is invited to the Oneida County 4-H Youth Robotics Festival from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Northwoods Center at Nicolet Area Technical College in Rhineland.

The free event will feature 4-H robotics teams from Three Lakes and Rhineland.

During the event, 4-H members will showcase team models, discuss the season, answer questions, and receive awards.

In addition, 4-H youth leaders will offer science activities for youth of all ages.

Oneida County 4-H partnered with First Lego League to introduce science, technology, engineering, and math to youth in grades four to eight through hands-on learning and to offer opportunities for students to develop life skills.

For more information, visit [oneida.extension.wisc.edu](http://oneida.extension.wisc.edu) or call 715-365-2750.

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## Blue Christmas service to be held at area church

**FOR STAR JOURNAL**

The community is invited to attend a Blue Christmas service Thursday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church in Rhineland.

The service is for those who are grieving, hurting, or struggling during the Christmas season.

"Some people come because there is an 'empty chair' around the table—they are mourning the death of someone they love," said Pastor Rod Ankrom at Calvary.

"Some are far from home. Some people are lonely. Others are struggling with conflict, addiction, or pain. Some people just look at the violence, stress, and difficulties in the world and feel a profound sense of sadness.

"There are so many reasons why someone may not feel all that 'merry' at Christmas. But it is during challenging times that we find the hope we need in a quiet, but deeply meaningful, reflection on the birth of Jesus Christ," Ankrom concluded.

Calvary church is located at 320 Lincoln St. For more information about a Blue Christmas, call 715-362-4792.

## Snowmobile safety course set for January

**FOR STAR JOURNAL**

A snowmobile safety course will be held Monday, Jan. 6, and Tuesday, Jan. 7, from 4-7 p.m., at the Oneida County Sheriff's Office in Rhineland.

Participants must attend both dates and be at least 12 years old to enroll.

Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. To register, complete the form on the community education classes section of the School District of Rhineland's website.

Before registering, students must obtain a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) customer ID number by contacting the DNR at 1-888-936-7463.

The course costs \$10 per participant. Cash or check will be accepted; checks should be addressed to the Oneida County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's office is located at 2000 E. Winnebago St. The DNR-certified course is sponsored by The Oneida County Sheriff's Office and the School District of Rhineland Community Education Program.

For more information, contact Mike Cheslock at 715-365-9745.

## YMCA seeks winter clothing donations

**FOR STAR JOURNAL**

The YMCA of the Northwoods is hosting a Tree of Warmth to help those less fortunate this holiday season. The community is invited to decorate the tree with mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, earmuffs, boots, jackets, and snow pants.

All items donated must be new or gently used. Handmade knitted or crocheted mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats are also welcome.

Drop-off is at the YMCA of the Northwoods, 2003 E. Winnebago St., Rhineland. The tree is located in the lobby. Community members can decorate the tree with donations or leave them at the welcome center.

Donations will be accepted until Dec. 20. Items will be donated to schools in the Rhineland area, Warm for Winter, and the Tri-County Council.

For more information, visit [ymcaofthenorthwoods.org](http://ymcaofthenorthwoods.org) or call 715-362-9622.



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**This past June, the Rhineland District Library and the Rhineland District Library Foundation began a Capital Campaign to renovate and expand the Library's 120 year old building.**

The \$7 million fundraising goal will allow the Library to add 7,650 square feet to the building, and:

- Create new entrances that will be safer and more accessible, and meet the current Americans with Disability Act standards
- Replace the existing elevator and reconfigure the stairwell to the lower level
- Enhance and add community, study and work meeting spaces
- Add restrooms to the main level
- Perform long-needed building maintenance, including replacing leaking windows
- Improve and expand the Children's area
- Update staff work areas
- Enhance outdoor spaces and add a perennial garden.

**WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT OF OUR LIBRARY:**

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**To date, \$799,707.73 has been raised.**

**Donations of any amount will help us reach our goal!**

You may donate safely and securely on the Foundation's website at [RDLFoundation.org](http://RDLFoundation.org), or send your check to:

The Rhineland District Library Foundation  
PO Box 1225, Rhineland, WI 54501

Our Library has served our community in countless ways for 127 years. The community has consistently supported the Library's resources and programs, as they truly make a difference in area residents' lives.

**Please Support and Preserve our Library's Legacy for Today – and the Future.**

# Ahlstrom Rhinelander mill raises \$26,000 for Northwoods United Way

**FOR STAR JOURNAL**  
**RHINELANDER** — Members of the United Steel Workers Local 2-15 and nonunion employees at Ahlstrom's Rhinelander Mill pledged \$26,911.88 in contributions

to the Northwoods United Way. Funds were raised through the Rhinelander Mill's annual workplace campaign and matching funds from Ahlstrom. "United Way provides

essential funding to local programs that stay in the Northwoods," said Dan McGreaham, plant manager. "For a decade we have partnered with United Way and each year

our employees make an impact in our communities through their generous contributions."

Northwoods United Way supports health and human service agencies and their programs in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas counties. Contributions enable the organization to ensure that more individuals and families can access the resources they need.

This year the company recognized its top contributor, Brian Hollands, with a plaque.

"We appreciate everyone who contributed, and we're proud to acknowledge Brian as the top contributor in this year's campaign," said McGreaham. "We thank Brian for his generous donation, which exemplifies the impact charitable giving can have in our community."

Ahlstrom is a global leader in combining fibers into sustainable specialty materials,



From left, Dan McGreaham, Ahlstrom plant manager; Brian Hollands, top contributor recipient and Nancy Sattler, Northwoods United Way executive director. Submitted photos



Ahlstrom employees present Northwoods United Way with a check for more than \$26,000. From left, Dan Fritz, Steelworkers local 2-15 representative; John Apfel, Local 2-15 president; Kevin Larson, Local 2-15 vice president; Nancy Sattler, Northwoods United Way executive director; Tommy Wartman, Northwoods United Way board member; Dan McGreaham, Ahlstrom plant manager and Jordan Wolfer, Ahlstrom HR specialist.

with a purpose is Purify and Protect, with Every Fiber, for a Sustainable World. Ahlstrom's three divisions, Filtration and Life Sciences, Food and Consumer Packaging, and Protective Materials, address global trends with safe and sustainable solutions. Net sales in 2023 amounted to EUR 3.0 billion and worldwide Ahlstrom employees some

7,000 people. Northwoods United Way seeks to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good. As one of the world's largest privately funded charities, United Way serves 95% of U.S. communities and 37 countries and territories, impacting 48 million people every year.

# Christmas Worship



**Pine Grove Community Church**  
 Everyone Is Welcome!  
**Christmas Eve**  
 Candlelight Service 4:00 p.m.  
 Come celebrate the reason for the season  
 1360 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander  
 715-369-5404

*Calvary Baptist Church*  
**Christmas in Rhinelander**  
**Sunday, December 22**  
 Sunday morning worship - 10 am  
**Tuesday, December 24**  
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 4:30 pm  
**Calvary Baptist Church**  
 320 Lincoln St., Rhinelander  
 ExploreCalvary.com

**St. Augustine Episcopal Church**  
 39 S Pelham St., Rhinelander  
 Christmas Eve  
 6:30 p.m. hymn sing, 7 p.m. service  
 Christmas Day  
 9 a.m. service  
 Contact the church at  
 715-420-0066, or  
 northwoodsanglican@gmail.com

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Peace came to earth on that chosen night.  
 Through sin's dark shroud would shine a light.  
 A light of hope this joyful morn.  
 Rejoice, rejoice our Savior is born!

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Come celebrate with us!  
**Christmas Eve**  
 Lessons & Carols  
 Tuesday, December 24  
 5:30 pm

**Christmas Day**  
 Festival Service  
 Wednesday, December 25  
 9:00 am

Both services will be live-streamed at:  
[ZionRhinelander.org](http://ZionRhinelander.org)

**Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church**  
 125 E. King Street, Rhinelander

**Christmas Eve**  
 5:15 pm Mass

**Christmas Day**  
 9:15 am Mass



# Holiday Happenings

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

**Dec. 18-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](http://Lightsofthenorthwoods.org).

**Dec. 18-29, 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. 18, Business After Five (Jingle and Mingle):** 5 p.m., CT's Deli, 17 N. Brown St., Rhinelander. The Rhinelander chamber's informal gathering where business people network, exchange ideas, and develop new relationships in the community. Food, beverages, raffles, and activities. 715-365-7464.

**Dec. 18, Santa at PCCU:** 3-4:30 p.m., 9852 Hwy 70,

Minocqua. Stop by Park City Credit Union for a free photo with Santa.

**Dec. 19, Blue Christmas:** 7 p.m., Calvary Baptist Church, 320 Lincoln St., Rhinelander. A service for those who are grieving, hurting, or struggling during the Christmas season. 715-362-4792.

**Dec. 19, 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/northwoodsmodellrailroadclub](http://facebook.com/northwoodsmodellrailroadclub).

**Dec. 20, Holidaze:** 4-6 p.m., Minocqua Public Library, Suite 100, 415 Menominee St. DIY holiday gift making and crafts. Music, snacks, and activities. 715-356-4437.

**Dec. 20, The Looney Lutherans' "I'm Dreaming of a Looney Christmas":** 7 p.m., Campanile Center for the Arts, 131 W. Milwaukee St., Minocqua. The show is musical, comedic, and family-friendly. For ticket

costs and more info, visit [campanilecenter.org](http://campanilecenter.org) or call 715-356-9700.

**Dec. 20-21, 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. Homemade soups and chili, sweet treats, 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. 21, Living Nativity:** Performances at 1 and 2 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church and School, 160 N. Brown St., Rhinelander. Experience the true meaning of Christmas at Zion's Living Nativity. Holiday refreshments and nativity sets on display. Free. [Zionrhinelander.org](http://Zionrhinelander.org) or 715-365-9357.

**Dec. 22, Christmas Yuletide Champagne Brunch:** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Rhinelander Pub, 33 N. Brown St. Live music, a carving station, an iced seafood station, a

mimosa station, artisanal cheeses, a salad bar, winter harvest-inspired sides, and a dessert display. Email [info@rhinelanderpub.com](mailto:info@rhinelanderpub.com) or call 715-362-2918 to book a reservation.

**Dec. 25, Rhinelander Lions Community Christmas Dinner:** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Trig's, 232 S. Courtney St. Free Christmas dinner open to the community. Available for pick up at Trig's Deli Express Entrance. Home delivery is available by calling 715-525-1068 before Dec. 24.

## NGS donates to library improvements



The Northwoods Genealogical Society donated \$600 to the Rhinelander District Library Foundation's Capital Campaign during an informal presentation at the library Dec. 11. The funds will go towards the \$7 million goal for renovating and expanding the 120-year-old building. From left to right, NGS member Ila Turgeon, foundation treasurer Heather Sturtevant, incoming NGS chairman JoAnn Rajec and NSG member Gloria Rahf. **NGS photo by Dave Melancon**

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Here's A Bright Idea. **RECYCLE**

## Give The Gift Of Outdoor Fun This Year!

<p><b>Winter Boot Sale</b> All Kids Boots On Sale! Select Adult Boots On Sale!</p>	<p><b>Ice Fishing Clothing for Women! Parkas &amp; Bibs in stock now</b></p>	<p><b>Columbia Omni-Heat Infinity Gold Standard for warmth! Look for the Gold Lining</b></p>	<p><b>Get Ready for the Cold! Jackets—Boots — Heated clothing — Gloves &amp; mitts</b></p>	<p><b>Men's 3-in-1 Parka Waterproof/Breathable—Insulated</b> Reg. \$245.00 <b>\$175.00</b></p>	<p><b>All Kids XC Packages</b></p> <p><b>25% OFF</b></p>	<p><b>Muck High Boot Sock</b> Reg. \$19.95 <b>\$9.99</b></p>
<p><b>Men's 1/4 Zip Sweater</b> Reg. \$68.00 <b>\$24.95</b></p>	<p><b>Snowshoe Kit Snowshoe—Trekking poles—Carry bag</b> Reg. \$139.00 <b>\$74.95</b></p>	<p><b>Rab Mythic Ultra</b> Award winning design—900FP down fill—Comfort in the cold! <b>\$495.00</b></p>	<p><b>Treat Yourself or Someone Special! \$25 Gift Card—Now Only \$20!</b></p>			
<p><b>Women's Quilted Top</b> Reg. \$65.00 <b>\$24.95</b></p>	<p><b>Women's Mitt Waterproof—Insulated</b> Reg. \$34.95 <b>\$19.99</b></p>	<p><b>Garmin Striker Plus 4 Bundle</b> Reg. \$349.00 <b>\$249.00</b></p>	<p><b>Exclusive Deals on Quality Apparel</b></p>			

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### Dance school performs "The Nutcracker"



The Northwoods School of Dance held its annual Christmas show Dec. 7, consisting of dances to holiday songs and a performance of "The Nutcracker." In the center, senior Anna Price portrays Clara, and senior Julia Gerdes, to the right of Price, was part of the party scene as a guest. **Bob Mainhardt photos**



A group of beginning tap dancers perform "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas."

### LETTERS from page 1

schoolers out and about," Belanger said.

It's also a fun way to learn grammar. "Grammar is a big part of kindergarten foundation, so I wanted them to try and tap out their words when writing to Santa," Belanger added.

Senior and FBLA/DECA President Payton McCue said his favorite part is writing personalized letters back. "After we get all these, we write responses, and each one is individual. We look at what they wrote and make it special to them."

Belanger said the kindergartners are so excited when they get the letters back and read them aloud in class. "And their parents are excited. I hear back from families, and they're like, 'Oh, that was cool!'"

When asked what being a part of FBLA/DECA has prepared him for going forward, McCue became reflective. "Oh, gosh. Everything," he said. "I mean, with the FBLA/DECA community service, you get to see everything in the community. It's not just what happens in school.

"You go outside and see how the people interact and the problems of our communities, but you also see the good things you can do. I learned a lot of business aspects.



Weston Kibler (left) and Brexen Tarbutton write a letter to Santa in Mrs. Belanger's kindergarten class. Tarbutton asked for a bike, a GoPro, a Chromebook, and a "big person car." **Star Journal photo**

It prepared me to be a better, well-rounded person going through the rest of my life."

Upcoming FBLA/DECA projects include Jeans for Teens, a clothing drive, and Valentine's Day Boxes, where they help

elementary students design a box to put classmates' Valentine's Day cards in.

So Santa, if you're reading this, it's clear that Rhinelander students — young and old — have been good this year.

# PSC approves Rhinelander water rate increase

BY EILEEN PERSIKE  
EDITOR

RHINELANDER — A water rate increase requested by the city of Rhinelander has been approved by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. It will take effect Jan. 1, 2025.

The city requested the rate increase due to increases in operating and maintenance costs, and to plan for future infrastructure projects and water tower projects. The PSC Final Decision, dated Nov. 6, 2024, states "the final overall rate change authorized is \$704,494 or a 34.77% increase over current rates, for the test year ending Dec. 31, 2024."

According to the PSC, the current rates produced an operating revenue shortfall of \$704,494, which it called "unreasonable."

The Commission further explained the increase:

"The overall increase in annual revenues is 34.77% and is comprised of a 34.06% increase in general service charges and a 37.72% increase in PFP charges.

A typical single-family residential customer's bill, not including PFP [public fire protection], will increase 23.69%.

The increase in rates is due to a 42.68% increase in gross plant investment and an 8.18% increase in operating expenses since the applicant's last CRC [conventional rate case] in 2015."

City Finance Director Wendi Bixby explained how the new rates will be implemented.

"The January bills will have November, December and January usage; February bills for December, January and February usage," Bixby stated.

"Weighted averages are calculated for January

and February billing rates and the full rate will start with the March billing. New this year is a \$30 charge for special reading requests, similar to other communities."

For more detailed information, visit the city's website, [rhinelanderwi.us/departments](http://rhinelanderwi.us/departments) then select wastewater utility.

### Paying for infrastructure improvements

Part of a \$6.3 billion infrastructure investment by the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been earmarked for Rhinelander. The city will receive a grant for \$1.3 million and a loan for \$5.217 million to improve the water mains and sanitary and storm sewers in the Messer Street area.

The existing underground utilities are between 30 and 50 years old and do not meet current code requirements for fire protection, among other things.

The USDA pays out loans and grants after projects are completed. To finance the Messer Street Project in the interim, Rhinelander Common Council approved a resolution Dec. 9 authorizing the issuance and sale of a \$5.217 million Sewerage System Revenue Bond Anticipation Note.

This bond will go through CoVantage Credit Union at a 5% interest rate. If this bond goes to maturity in December 2026, just over half a million dollars in interest will accrue. It is prepayable without a penalty.

Josh Low, associate municipal advisor for Ehlers Public Finance Advisors told the council the USDA loan will be less than 5% because it is subsidized by the federal government.

## Free screenings to assess children's developmental milestones

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The Birth to 3 Program will host a Child Find event Wednesday, Jan. 8, from 9 to 11 a.m., at the Oneida County Human Services's Timber Drive location in Rhinelander.

It's open to children ages zero to three who may benefit from early intervention services.

At the event, children will receive free screenings to assess developmental milestones and determine eligibility for the Birth to 3 Program.

According to Oneida County Human Services, the Birth to 3 Program provides essential services to children and families, focusing on early intervention for developmental delays.

Through the program, children receive individualized support to enhance cognitive, motor, communication, and social-emotional development.

The team works closely with families to create tailored plans, ensuring each child's unique needs are met.

Services may include developmental screenings and assessments, speech, physical, and occupational therapy, family-centered support and resources, and assistance navigating community services.

For more information or to register, call 715-369-2215 or email [kn@thehumanservicecenter.org](mailto:kn@thehumanservicecenter.org).

**Wishing you a Joyous Holiday Season And a Happy New Year!**

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### DEATH NOTICES

**Jennifer L. Karlen**, 53 of Woodboro, died Dec. 2, 2024. Carlson Funeral Home.

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**Northwoods STAR JOURNAL**

24 W. Rives Street, Rhinelander WI 54501  
866-369-3331

## | COMMUNITY CALENDAR |

**Dec. 18, 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.

**Dec. 18, Line Dancing:** 6-8 p.m., The Haven, Rhinelander. Every Wednesday. For more information, call Diane at 715-282-5226.

**Dec. 19, 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. 19, Support Group:** 6 p.m., community room No. 102, first floor of the Curran

building in Rhinelander. Peer-led mental health support group. Safe and confidential space open to anyone 18 or older. This will be an open discussion. Call Dan at 715-360-5796 or visit supportingeachother.online.

**Dec. 19-21, ArtStart Winter Gallery Exhibitions:** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, and Friday, Dec. 20; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21. Featuring "Passing Through Wonderland" from artist Andrea Kidd and "Past, Present, and Future" from Cassandra Smith. 715-362-4328 or artstartrhinelander.org.

**Dec. 20, Winter Solstice Luminary Ski, Snowshoe, or Fatbike:** 4-7 p.m., Heal Creek

Trails at the Northwood Golf Course, 3131 Golf Course Road, Rhinelander. A candlelit adventure. If there's no snow, there will be hiking and mountain biking. Featuring a bonfire, heavy appetizer menu, beverages, and live music. Free. 715-820-2152.

**Dec. 21, Winter Solstice in the Garden Community Celebration:** 5-7 p.m., Northwoods Community Garden at Nicolet College, 5364 College Drive, Rhinelander. A traditional solstice fire and hot beverages. Free. Nicoletcollege.edu.

**Dec. 21, Oneida County 4-H Youth Robotics Festival:** 10 a.m. to noon, Northwoods Center at Nicolet Area Technical College, Rhinelander. This free event will feature 4-H robotics teams from Three Lakes and Rhinelander. 715-365-2750.

**Dec. 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. Rhinelanderareafoodpantry.org.

**Dec. 21, Indoor Farmers Market:** Saturdays from 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.

**Dec. 23, AA and Al-Anon Meetings:** 7 p.m., Immanuel Lutheran Church, 21 W. Timber Dr., Rhinelander. 715-362-5910.

**Dec. 23, Overeaters Anonymous:** 1 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 235 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander. 715-362-4258.

**Dec. 23, Bridge Games:** noon, American Legion Hall, 121 W. Front St., Minocqua. \$4. Call Lee at 715-356-4243.


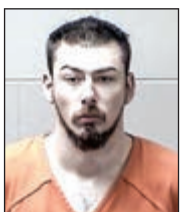



**Dec. 23, Baby Storytime:** 10 a.m., Rhinelander District Library. Stories, songs, and playtime. Free to the public. 715-365-1070 or rhinelanderlibrary.org.

**Dec. 23, 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.

**Dec. 24, 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.

### | 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.

				
William Stanley, 37, Pearson. Fail to pay. BOND: \$1,645.50	Mathew Smith, 28, Merrill. Fail to pay. BOND: \$2,301	Kevin Kaufman, 51, Rhinelander. Fail to pay. BOND: \$2607.50	Theodore Ganz, 32, Crandon. Fail to pay. BOND: \$5,688.25	Steven Coleman, 36, Three Lakes. Fail to pay. BOND: \$836

### ONEIDA COUNTY COURT REPORT

**DEC. 5-11, 2024**

**Jordan T. Peters**, 35, Oshkosh, two charges bail jumping-misdemeanor, \$1000 cash bond, PTC Dec. 1.

**Ricky M. Rohan**, 32, Rhinelander, child abuse-intentionally cause harm, \$2500 signature bond, AIA Dec. 17.

**Ryan W. Nordquist**, 28, Milwaukee, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct with domestic abuse-threat modifier, \$1000 signature bond, AIA Jan. 6.

**Jennifer B. Luczka**, 46, Rhinelander, criminal trespass to dwelling, criminal damage to property, \$1000 signature bond, AIA Jan. 6.

**Christopher M. Devereaux**, 37, Pelican Lake, bail jumping-misdemeanor, disorderly conduct with domestic abuse-threat modifier, \$1000 cash bond, AIA Dec. 17.

**Jamie L. Butler**, 36, Pelican Lake, disorderly conduct with domestic abuse-threat modifier, \$1000 signature bond, AIA Jan. 27.

**Justin M. Church**, 35, Eagle River, possession with intent-amphetamine/methamphetamine/etc (>10-50g), \$5000 cash bond, AIA Dec. 17.

**Scott D. Silva**, 41, Eagle River, possession of controlled substance, bail jumping-felony, carrying a concealed knife, resisting or obstructing an officer, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent-amphetamine/methamphetamine/etc (>10-50g), OWI (3rd), \$10000 cash bond, AIA Dec. 23.

**Ricky D. Bates**, 66, Eagan, MN, two charges bail jumping-felony, \$1000 cash bond, AIA Dec. 23.

**Brandon J. Brooks**, 39, Minocqua, misappropriate ID info-avoid penalty, operating while revoked (revoked due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal), ignition interlock device tampering/failure to install/violate court order, \$10000 cash bond, Bail/Bond Review Dec. 17.

**Gavin M. Thimm**, 21, Rhinelander, bail jumping-felony, possession of drug paraphernalia, \$10000 signature bond, AIA Jan. 13.

**Matthew S. Johnson**, 28, Manitowish Waters, bail jumping-misdemeanor, \$500 signature bond, AIA Jan. 6.

**Meranda J. Burton**, 35, Rhinelander, possession of methamphetamine, \$500 signature bond, AIA Jan. 6.

**Laslo A. Gedelei**, 56, Arbor Vitae, resisting or obstructing an officer, disorderly conduct, \$1000 signature bond, AIA Jan. 6.

**Gerald W. Dick III**, 27, Rhinelander, burglary-building or dwelling, criminal trespass to dwelling, resisting or obstructing an officer, two charges disorderly conduct, battery or threat to judge/prosecutor/law enforcement office, possession of

THC, possession of drug paraphernalia, \$8000 cash bond, AIA Dec. 30.

**Jamie L. Cornelius**, 34, Appleton, resisting or obstructing an officer, disorderly conduct, two charges battery or threat to judge/prosecutor/law enforcement officer, possession of THC (2nd+ offense), possession of drug paraphernalia, \$8000 cash bond, AIA Dec. 30.

**Jedediah A. Dart**, 23, Rhinelander, operate firearm while intoxicated, operating with PAC >=0.15 (1st), dismissed on prosecutor's motion, carry concealed weapon, deferred prosecution or sentence, hit and run-property adjacent to highway, OWI (1st), guilty due to no contest plea, \$1313.50 fine, 12 months IID, 6 months driver's license revocation.

**Jesse L. Crofoot**, 55, Rhinelander, possession with intent-amphetamine/methamphetamine/etc (<=3g), guilty due to no contest plea, 3 years WHS/POP.

**Arthur S. Whiting**, 63, Three Lakes, disorderly conduct with domestic abuse modifier, dismissed

on prosecutor's motion.

**Caleb D. Lanke**, 23, Rhinelander, bail jumping-felony, operate without valid license (2nd within 3 years), dismissed on prosecutor's motion, bail jumping-misdemeanor, guilty due to guilty plea, 1 year WHS/POP.

**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

### SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Miller beer variety
- 4. Member of people inhabiting Bering Sea islands
- 9. Stomach
- 14. Investment vehicle
- 15. Fictional soccer coach Ted
- 16. Irregular in botanical parlance
- 17. Cease standing
- 18. "American Horror Story" actress
- 20. Grow milk teeth
- 22. Plant parts
- 23. Snow house
- 24. Most contemptuous
- 28. Note to repay
- 29. Old English
- 30. Wings
- 31. Financial institutions
- 33. Parks and Lopez are two
- 37. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
- 38. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 39. Give off
- 41. Semitic alphabet letter
- 42. Farm state
- 43. Actress Sarandon
- 44. Back parts
- 46. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 49. Touchdown
- 50. One point north of due east
- 51. Refurbishes
- 55. Silver and Dogg are two
- 58. Former Tigers catcher Alex
- 59. Type of envelope
- 60. Seriously considered
- 64. Unhappy
- 65. Past (archaic)
- 66. Asian wild dog
- 67. Old English letter

- 68. Young domestic sheep
- 69. Football players need to gain them
- 70. Witness

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Dormant Peruvian volcano
- 2. Norwegian composer
- 3. Indicates location
- 4. Pubs
- 5. Unable to walk easily
- 6. Electronic warfare-support measures
- 7. World leader
- 8. Midsection
- 9. Jewish calendar month
- 10. Urological condition
- 11. A small quantity of anything
- 12. Mountain Time
- 13. Affirmative
- 19. Word element meaning ear
- 21. Carried away
- 24. Short-billed rails
- 25. Newborn child
- 26. Sword
- 27. Groups of people
- 31. Prickly, scrambling shrubs
- 32. Become less intense
- 34. Polishes
- 35. Indicates position
- 36. Songs sung to one's beloved
- 40. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 41. Insects
- 45. Israeli politician
- 47. Pre-digital
- 48. Roaming
- 52. Ambience
- 53. Brew
- 54. Late
- 56. Make ecstatically happy
- 57. Semitic alphabet letter
- 59. Blend
- 60. Dash
- 61. Self
- 62. Exclamation of satisfaction
- 63. Hill or rocky peak

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# Ambassador news

**FOR STAR JOURNAL**

The Rhinelander Area Ambassadors welcomed three new businesses recently. **Nate and Andrea Sheppard, Rhinelander-based artists and entrepreneurs, are the new owners of The Hilgerman Center for Community.** This historic building is located at 25 S. Brown Street and is home to three local businesses, Child's Frame Co., Crate Digger's Music & More and Nate Sheppard Media and also has a community space for events and private rentals.

The building is named for Otto Hilgermann, a brewer and businessman who lived in Rhinelander and constructed the building in 1915.

**Joe Dorion was welcomed as the new owner of Bessey's Meat Market and Bulk Foods.** After learning the butcher business from family, Joe purchased meat market from his uncle, Glenn Bessey, who got the store from his father, Roy Bessey.

Fresh cuts of meat, meat cut to order and special orders are available. Brats,

sticks and sausage are made at the market. Bessey's also offers an assortment of frozen meats, seafood, spices, sauces, marinades and rubs. Venison processing is also available as long as the meat is cut and off the bone.

Bessey's is located at 1102 South Oneida Avenue. The phone number is 715-362-5600. The hours are Monday - Friday 8 a.m.-5:30p.m. and Saturday, from 8-2.

**The Rhinelander Area ambassadors welcomed Josh Newman** at his new business, Cutz with Connection, located at 905 Lincoln Street, in the Muse Salon. He specializes in men's haircuts and beard trimming.

Newman is a barber and motivational speaker who wants to make an impact in the community for all walks of life. He enjoys sharing his story with school students about how he went from being an inmate to becoming a successful barber. Additionally, he provides free cuts to inmates at the Vilas County Jail. Newman is a Nicolet College graduate and said he



Pictured at the ribbon cutting at Cutz with Connection are Linda Krebsbach, owner Josh Newman, Nicole Raduechel, Tom Peterson, Renee Draszkievicz, Diane Sowinski, Tarsie Goes and Cora Eckrich.

is proudly two years sober.

Appointments can be made by calling 715-493-1952; walk-ins are welcome.

Hours are Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.



Pictured at the ribbon cutting for the Hilgerman Center for Community are Lauren Sackett, Linda Krebsbach, Bobbie Keso-Mode, Melinda Childs and Jaron Childs, owners of Childs Frame Co.; Tony Rio, owner of Crate Digger's Music & More; Nate Sheppard and Andrea Sheppard, owners of Nate Sheppard Media and The Hilgermann Center; Renee Draszkievicz, Tarsie Goes, Tom Peterson, Diane Sowinski, Tiki Krueger, Cora Eckrich. Submitted photos



At the ribbon cutting for Bessey's Meat Market are, in front, Tarsie Goes, Diane Sowinski, Cora Eckrich, Tim Thilmay, owner Joe Dorion, Kim Dorion, Glenn Bessey, Karen Kranda, Trent Woodall, Lori Nielsen and Linda Krebsbach. In back, Renee Draszkievicz, Tom Peterson and Nicole Raduechel.

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| SPORTS |

BOB MAINHARDT PHOTOS

# Hodag Highlights



The five seniors played on the floor together at the end of the game. Seniors, left to right, are Kelsey Winter, Reese Gehrig, Dawsyn Barkus, Makenna Sternitzky, and Ava Kurilla.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Hodag girls basketball team was looking for win number six on Friday night vs. the Northland Pines Eagles. The beginning of the game was all Hodags as the Eagles did not score until five minutes into the half and the score was 17-2. The Hodags scored points on turnovers with constant pressure on the ball and had a 47-16 halftime lead. The final score was 70-22. Vivian Lamers led all scorers with 20 points, followed by Aubryn Clark with 18 and Kelsey Winter scored 10.



Vivian Lamers scored two of her 20 points with a fastbreak off an Eagles turnover.



The Vivian Lamers and Aubryn Clark double team forced a Pines turnover.



Ella Miljevich scored two points on a fast break after a Pines turnover.



Aubryn Clark shot a three from the corner in the first half. Clark scored 18 points.



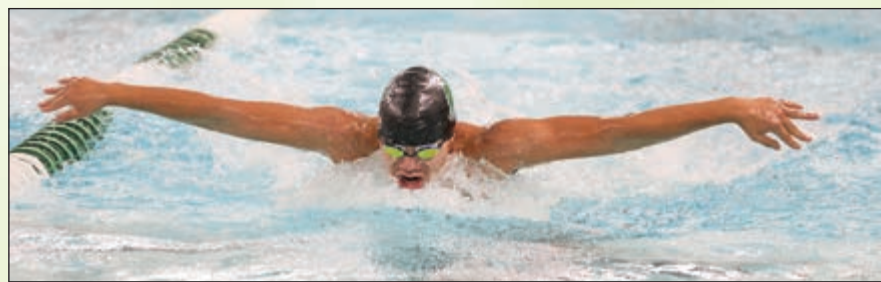
Mathias Fugle was the last swimmer in the 600-yard freestyle relay, swimming 200 yards. Fugle, Charlie Antonuk, Dolan O'Malley, and Judson O'Malley swam the event.



Shawn Denis was the first swimmer out for the Hodags in the 3x100 breaststroke. Denis, Dean Gillingham, and Samson Shinnars would have had a new record in the event, but Bayport was .61 seconds faster.



Samson Shinnars swam first in the 500-yard decrescendo relay. This was another race the Hodags would have set a new record were it not for Bayport again out touching the Hodags at the wall by 1.05 seconds.



In the last event of the meet, Charlie Antonuk swam the butterfly in the 400-yard medley relay. The Hodags would have had the record in the event but were out-touched again by Bayport, this time by .23 seconds. The swimmers in the event were Antonuk, Dolan O'Malley, Dean Gillingham, and Samson Shinnars.

## BOYS SWIMMING

On Thursday, Dec. 12, the Hodag boys swim team was at Tomahawk swimming against the Hatchets. What has become common in the conference, the Hodags won all 11 events and won 116-46.

On Saturday, Dec. 14, Rhinelander hosted the annual Hodag Relays with six other teams competing, including last year's winning team, Bayport.

Bayport won again this year while setting records in six of the 10 events and winning all but one event that was won by the Hodags. The Hodags won the 3x50 mixer relay with a time of 1:14.71, breaking the 1987 record of 1:15.92. Shawn Denis, Judson O'Malley, and Mathias Fugle were the swimmers who broke the record.

In three events, the Hodag times would have been new records except for Bayport swimming faster to claim the new record times. The Hodags placed second in five events and finished in second with 82 points behind Bayport's 136. One of the highlights of the meet is the cannonball competition at the end of the meet. This year's winner was freshman Dean Gillingham.



Shawn Denis, Mathias Fugle, and Judson O'Malley (front) broke the 1987 record in the 3x50 mixer relay, giving Bayport their only loss of the meet.



Cannonball winner Dean Gillingham in the air for one of his jumps.

More sports on page 12



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# Lake Tomahawk Lions celebrate members

At a November dinner meeting, Emy Klitzman was voted Lake Tomahawk Lion of the Year.

Klitzman initiated the club's social media presence on Facebook and Instagram. She's worked many hours for the spring luncheon, organized the children's pumpkin patch at the town's Harvest on Main Craft Show, and devoted time to vision screening at area schools.

Lion Dan Dosemagen presented Emy with her award.

Also at the meeting, Lion Kevin Klitzman was given the Melvin Jones Award, the highest honor bestowed on a member, according to the club.

Klitzman is the current president and helps the club run smoothly and productively.

Lion Dan Dosemagen presented him with the award.



Lion Dan Dosemagen presents Emy Klitzman with her Lake Tomahawk Lion of the Year award.



Lion Dan Dosemagen presents Kevin Klitzman with the Melvin Jones Award. Submitted photos



The Rhinelander Male Chorus sings holiday songs at the Rhinelander Historical Society museum. Dave Melancon photos

# Historical society celebrates the holidays

The Rhinelander Historical Society held a holiday open house Dec. 7 at the Rhinelander Historical Museum at 9 S. Pelham St.

Visitors toured the festively decorated museum and enjoyed holiday music and treats, such as eggnog, cider, and homemade cookies.

The event also featured a sleigh in the front yard for family photos.

Performers included the Northwoods Choraliers, Darlene Cole, the Rhinelander Male Chorus, Tom Nelson, Diane Mueller, and Theresa Seabloom.

The free event was open to the public.



Tom Nelson, Diane Mueller, and Theresa Seabloom perform at the Rhinelander Historical Society's annual holiday open house Dec. 7.

# Five tips to jumpstart your metabolism

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



Regardless of your age, state of health, or fitness level, these things work to improve your metabolism. This means you will burn more calories and rid yourself of unwanted fat. Your memory and concentration will improve, and your blood glucose will decrease, along with lowering your cholesterol and blood pressure to name a few benefits.

**1. The wonder of water:** Drinking water increases your metabolism. It also increases your energy and ability to burn fat. Drinking water will improve your mental focus, memory, and concentration. Work at drinking half of your body weight in ounces of water every day. If you enjoy caffeinated beverages, you need to consume an equivalent amount of water for every ounce of caffeinated beverage. The same is true for alcohol.

**2. Fasting for fat loss (TRE and IF):** There is an abundance of research about the positive effects of fasting on your metabolism and overall health. Time-restricted eating (TRE) involves fasting for 14-18 hours daily and eating your calories within a 6-10-hour window. It has been shown that the amount of cellular cleanup increases with an increase in fasting time, which gets rid of the toxins that slow down your metabolism. In comparison, intermittent fasting (IF) is fasting for 24-72 hours once a week. If you are new to time-restricted eating, I recommend first picking the time when you normally eat your last meal of the day, then add 12-14 hours to determine when your eating window should begin. Over a period of days or weeks,

you can increase your fasting time to 14-18 hours. If you have not done a fast before, I recommend doing it on a weekend starting Friday night after your last meal and choosing a 24-36-hour window for your fast where you consume only water and clear liquids like bone broth and tea and do only light exercise. You should always consult your doctor before fasting.

**3. The power of protein:** Eating more protein is an effortless way to increase your metabolism, which means you will burn more fat. Protein is required for building and repairing muscle tissue, among other things, and is not stored as fat. Protein also keeps you satisfied longer and aids in blood sugar regulation. Enjoy 4-6 three-ounce servings (80-120g) of protein daily and have protein with every meal and snack. You can add a high-quality protein shake of whey or vegetarian protein, but watch out for added sugars. Protein is found in fish, chicken, beef, pork, wild game, eggs, and cheese. If you are vegan or vegetarian, you can get adequate protein from legumes, nuts, and some high-protein grains.

**4. Avoid added sugars:** Sugar is converted to fat. Consumption of added sugar also leads to inflammation and pain and disrupts a healthy metabolism. A simple way to avoid added sugar is to read labels and eat mostly whole foods. Shop the perimeter of your grocery store where fresh and fresh-frozen foods are located. Limit or eliminate eating foods in boxes or packages along with baked goods.

**5. Move your body:** This is a no-brainer but should not be left out. Americans are becoming increasingly sedentary, and it shows in the increase in chronic illness and disease including obesity. Strength training three-five days weekly working all your major muscle groups along with 30 minutes of cardiovascular exercise daily will not only stoke your metabolism, but also reduce your risk for dementia, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and other degenerative diseases.

Take charge of your metabolism by using these tips to aid in weight control, improve your memory and concentration, as well as reduce your risk of chronic illness and diseases. 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. For more information, call 715-362-4852, visit timberlandchiropractic.com, or follow @drwendyhenrichs on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

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# Hodag Highlights



Junior Devon Feck makes a layup after a steal. Feck scored 11 points.



Senior Truman Lamers scores on the first of his three dunks on his way to 20 points for the game.



Senior Seth Nofftz only scored four points in the game but scored on a basket under the hoop with seven seconds remaining to give the Hodags the lead.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

The Hodag boys basketball team hosted Wittenberg-Birnamwood Tuesday, Dec. 10, in a battle of early undefeated teams.

The Chargers had an early lead in the game as the Hodags could not make their shots and only made two three-point shots in the game. The free throw line was also not friendly to the Hodags as the team was 15 of 24 from the line.

In the second half, Rhinelander increased the defensive pressure forcing turnovers and missed shots for the Chargers. Eventually, the Hodags were able to take the lead only to be tied late in the game, and with seven seconds left Seth Nofftz scored on a shot under the basket for a 2-point lead that the Hodags would maintain and then add two free throws ice the game after a bench technical on Witt-Birn with only two seconds remaining to win 63-59 after being down 25-31 at halftime.

On Friday, Dec. 13, the Hodags traveled to Eagle River to play the Eagles and came away with another win with a 65-48 score. Four Hodags scored in double digits led by Devon Feck with 16, Truman Lamers 14, Evan Shoeder 13, and Abe Gretzinger 10.

The boys next play Tuesday, Dec. 17, facing Ashland at home.



Jatyn Barkus follows through on a free throw in the second half. Barkus scored nine points with two field goals and shot five for five on free throws.



Van Tulowitzky with a shot on goal in the second period.



Dylan Shefveldand crosses the center line with the puck.

## HOCKEY

The Tomahawk Hatchets are the number one ranked hockey team in division two and paid a visit to the RIA rink to play the Hodags. The Hatchets lived up to the hype as they scored five goals in the first period and another five in the second. The sixth goal that was scored in the second period put the game into run time for the remainder of the game. The Hodags did not allow another goal in the third period and lost 10-0 as they were outshot 68-7 with goalie Asher Rivord recording 58 saves.



Goalie Asher Rivord covered the puck as one of his 58 saves.



Zach Edyvean advances the puck off the board early in the first period.



Riley Squires defends in front of the Hodag net.

## Shafranski to retire from WIAA

Former Rhinelander High School associate principal and activities director Tom Shafranski has announced his retirement as assistant director of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. Shafranski worked as associate principal and RHS activities director 1993-96 and then grades 6-12 activities director for the School District of Rhinelander from 1996-2000. He joined the executive staff at WIAA in June 2002 and served in many different roles.

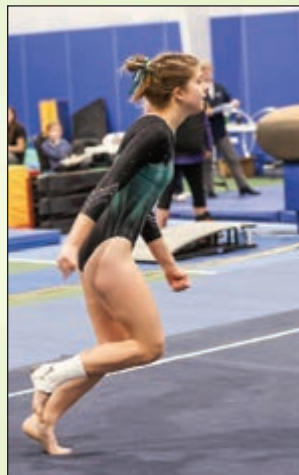
"To serve the WIAA membership and to work with so many quality student-athletes, coaches and school administrators has been an honor and a privilege," Shafranski said. "No one has had more 'fun' in their job than I have had at the WIAA."

His retirement is effective Feb. 7.

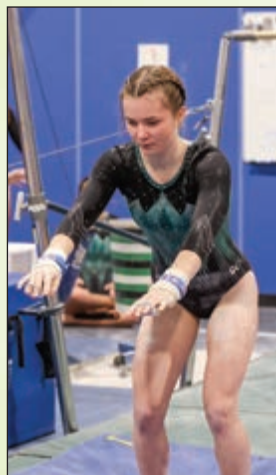
## GYMNASTICS

The YMCA of the Northwoods was the site of the annual gymnastics Snowflake meet, with six teams participating. The Hodags placed fourth with a score of 116.025, and the Medford Cooperative placed first with a score of 130.125.

The Hodags were paced by foreign exchange student Margherita Tibaldeschi, with an all-around score of 29.00. Tibaldeschi was the Hodags' high scorer on the beam with a 7.650, Alexis Smith was the top vaulter for the Hodags with a score of 8.325, and Smith was Rhinelander's best performer on the floor with an 8.000. On the bars, freshman Addison Fish was tops with a 6.800.



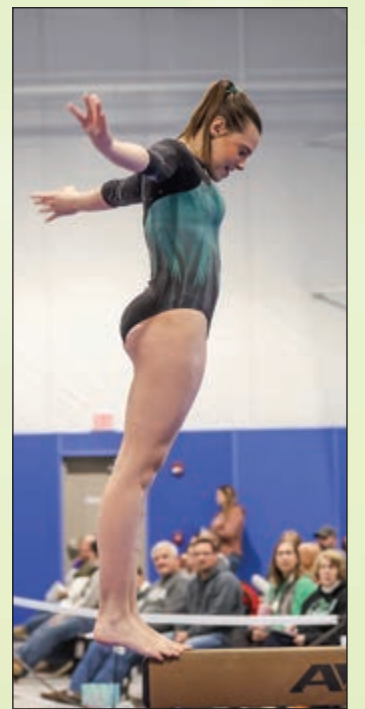
Senior Wendy Fronk legging a tumbling pass on the floor exercise.



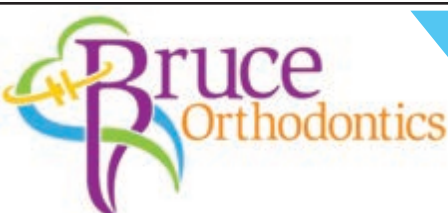
Addison Fish stuck the landing on her bars dismount and scored a team-high 6.800.



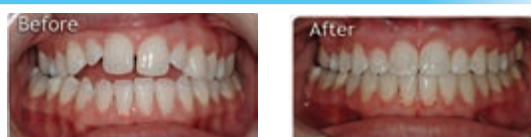
Alexis Smith scored a 6.200 on bars, an 8.325 on the vault, and an 8.00 on the floor.



Italian foreign exchange student Margherita Tibaldeschi prepares for her dismount on the beam. Tibaldeschi was the top all-around performer for the Hodags, with a score of 29.000.



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