

Soldier from Rhinelander takes part in Carter's funeral, Trump's inauguration

BY CHRISTINA BRANDMEIER
 EDITOR

A former Hodag found himself in the international spotlight recently.

Twenty-one-year-old Arik Beske is a Rhinelander High School graduate and a member of the U.S. Army's Old Guard in Washington, DC.

Earlier this month, he had the honor of keeping watch over former President Jimmy Carter's casket while his body lay in state at the U.S. Capitol, part of his six-day funeral. He also marched at Donald Trump's inauguration Jan. 20.

While his parents, Jon and Bethany Beske, who work in the Rhinelander School District, are proud, they're not surprised.

"He always wanted to be in the military," his father Jon said. "When he was in probably fifth or sixth grade, he's like, 'I'm going to be in the Army.' And he stuck with it, and it got to the point where he was like, 'I don't know if I want to do anything else, so I'm going to join the Army.'"

When he turned 18, he did just that and left for boot camp at Fort Benning (now called Fort Moore) in Georgia almost immediately after high school graduation in June 2022.

After "turning green" or completing basic training, Jon said Arik wanted to be airborne and then go to ranger school after that, but he "fit the build" for The Old Guard, which is in DC.

"They said, 'No, you're going to go do Old Guard, which is basically, you're part of the funerals and ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery,'" Jon said.

Now based at Fort Myer, Arik has been a part of historical events. Last year, he was on the 21-gun salute squad at the funeral of Arthur J. Gregg, the first African American lieutenant general buried at Arlington. But



Rhinelander local Arik Beske, far left, stands guard over former President Jimmy Carter's casket at the U.S. Capitol. **Submitted photo**

Carter's funeral was his first huge, internationally watched event.

"With President Carter, we've just been waiting. He had been in hospice ever since Arik got to DC. Every time he came home on leave, we were always wondering if he would get called back," Jon said.

That day came this past winter break after Carter passed away on Dec. 29, 2024, at the age of 100. Arik was in Rhinelander at the time. "He got called back at

Christmas, but we had him for a week and a half before he had to return," Jon said.

When Jon asked his son why the Army picked him as one of The Old Guard members to stand beside Carter's casket while the public paid respects, he said, "We've been here the longest, and we know what we're doing."

Overall, Jon said Arik downplays the whole thing. "From his perspective, he's just doing his job," he said. "But hearing the support of all the people here, throughout the school district and everybody who found out, saying, 'that's a huge deal and honor'... we're just really proud of him."

Once soldiers moved Carter's body from the Capitol to the cathedral, Arik had a day and a half off before beginning preparations for Donald Trump's inauguration, where he planned to march along with the rest of Fort Myer.

Accomplishments aside, Jon said Arik's still a small-town kid who always looks forward to coming home.

"When he comes home, it's visiting friends, visiting with us and my folks, who live in town, too," Jon said. "It's a decompression kind of thing. He wants to go to Culver's because they don't have a Culver's in DC. He wants me to make him pizza; he wants to sit around a

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Snowmobile trails open in Vilas County

FOR STAR JOURNAL

Despite low-snow conditions, The Vilas County Snowmobile Trail System, including all state-funded and club-funded trails, opened for the season Jan. 17.

According to Vilas County Parks and Recreation Supervisor Todd Bierman, the trails are in early-season riding conditions, and snowmobilers should use caution.

The trail base is icy; riders should watch their speed and be careful entering corners, accelerating, and sudden braking.

He added that riders must stay on the marked trails, routes, and lake crossings.

The Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance includes 11 clubs that maintain 500-plus miles of trails.

Oneida County trails remain closed.

SDR to hold presentations ahead of referendum

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The School District of Rhinelander will host two community presentations with information about the upcoming operational referendum Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 9-10 a.m. in the Hodag Dome and Wednesday, March 12, from 6-7 p.m. in the Rhinelander High School Commons.

The goal of the presentations is to inform the community about all aspects of the referendum ahead of the spring election April 1.

According to the district, if approved, it will be able to exceed its revenue limit by an additional \$3 million per year in the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years.

Once the current referendum expires in 2027, the district would then be able to exceed its revenue limit by \$7 million in the 2027-28 and 2028-29 school years.

In total, the district would exceed its revenue limit by \$7 million each of the next four years.

For more information, visit rhinelander.k12.wi.us/district/referendum.cfm.

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Rhineland hospital to unveil time capsule

FOR STAR JOURNAL

Aspirus Rhineland Hospital announced it will unveil the contents of a time capsule from 1981 on Monday, Feb. 3, at noon. The event is open to the public and will occur in the Galleria of the hospital, near the cafeteria.

The capsule was found behind the cornerstone of the former Saint Mary's Hospital on Kabel Avenue.

According to Aspirus Communications and Engagement Coordinator Matt Thompson, Aspirus Health sold the property on Kabel Avenue, including the former St. Mary's Hospital, in August 2023.

"After the sale concluded, we learned some long-time employees believed there may be a time capsule on the property behind the cornerstone," Thompson said. "The new owner was very generous and granted our team permission to remove the cornerstone to see if anything was there. One of



A time capsule from 1981 was found behind the cornerstone of the former Saint Mary's Hospital on Kabel Avenue in Rhineland. Submitted photo

our facilities employees found the time capsule, and we're excited to see what's inside."

Sealed over 40 years ago, the hospital said the contents could offer a fascinating snapshot of life for the Rhineland community, showcasing not just health-care artifacts but also items that reflect the culture and spirit of the time.

The hospital is located at 2251 N. Shore Drive.

Teens collect over 400 pairs of jeans for homeless shelter

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The Rhineland High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) 2024-25 Jeans for Teens drive collected over 400 pairs of jeans for the Frederick Place homeless shelter in Rhineland.

FBLA/DECA said that the residents will wear the jeans in good condition, and the torn-up jeans will be used as rags and for cleaning.

This year was the group's ninth holding the drive.

"We would like to thank everyone in the Rhineland community and surrounding areas who participated in the Jeans for Teens drive," FBLA/DECA said. "We could not have had the amazing success we did without the help of the area businesses and all those who donated."

Local businesses that served as drop-off sites included the YMCA, Maurice's, Bath and Body Creations, Al a Mode, the Rhineland Public Library, and the public schools.

Rhineland takes first in finance bowl

On Jan. 8, teams from Rhineland, Three Lakes, Northland Pines, Laona, Crandon, Lakeland, Bowler, Chequamegon, and Tomahawk competed in the 13th annual Northwoods Regional Tournament of the Finance and Investment Challenge Bowl at Nicolet College. In the championship game, a team from Rhineland High School beat Northland Pines. For more information about the program, visit ficbonline.org.



The winning team receives their trophy. From left to right: Greyson Gremban, Brody Kowieski, Aiden Ostermann, and Michael Scheik. Submitted photos



Rhineland students participate in the Finance and Investment Challenge Bowl at Nicolet College. Front row left to right: Alex Huempfer, Percy Huempfer, and Atoli Hildebrand. Second row: Sam Schoppe, Charlie Antonuk, Ryley Hull, Brody Kowieski, Lindsey Hoerchler, Ella Miljevich, Mollie Arneson, Hayley Scheik, Ella Heck, Renin Craig, Stephen Meinert, and Isaac Mickevicius. Third row: Michael Scheik and Seth Nofftz. Top row: Greyson Gremban, John Turek, Aiden Ostermann, Truman Lamers, Payton McCue, Nathan Olds, Austin Sparling, Leander Spreksel, and Dominic Hakala.

SOLDIER from page 1

campfire and smoke cigars."

Jon credits Arik's upbringing, specifically the coaches and teachers he had in Rhineland, for his success. "I tell a lot of people like [his former football coach] Mr. Kraemer and [history teacher] Mr. Jopek, 'You're a part of this whole thing because you helped shape and influence his life and the direction that he went'...

it's a community kind of thing."

Arik is currently in the last of his scheduled three years in the Army but may stay another year as he's working toward the rank of sergeant.

According to his dad, he's taking all this attention in stride. "He's grateful for the experience," Jon said. "Not sure how many people in Rhineland have ever been able to do that."



Twenty-one-year-old Arik Beske with his parents, Jon and Bethany, at his boot camp graduation in 2022. Beske, from Rhineland, is now part of the U.S. Army's Old Guard in Washington, DC. Submitted photo

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DECA Districts

Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) held its DECA Districts event on Jan. 10 in Wisconsin Rapids, where 16 Rhinelander students competed against 500 others in numerous business-related fields such as marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Front row: Kali Skubal, Lylah Schroeder, Josh Haselton, Matthew Carpenter, Grant Gremban, Evi Sawyer, and Clara Pudlowski. Back row: Luna Grate, Kate Ripple, Caden Ehrhardt, Sam Caselton, Greyson Gremban, Aiden Ostermann, Brody Kowieski, Payton McCue, and Kamden Kostrova. **Submitted photo**



Lions' library donation

The Boulder Junction Lions Club recently donated \$2,000 to the Boulder Junction Public Library to purchase new materials for the visually challenged. The library will use the money to buy large print books, which will help patrons with visual impairment to read without any adaptive technology. Pictured, left to right, are Phil Lewandowski, Boulder Junction Lions Club president; Cherie Sanderson, library director; Lanette Nelson, library board member; and Dennis Aukstik, library board member. **Submitted photo**

Anglers asked to prevent spread of AIS this winter

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) asks anglers to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) while fishing this winter.

Even in harsh winter conditions, anglers can transport AIS and fish diseases from one lake or river to another by emptying water from bait buckets and fish containers.

When lake or river water is added to these containers, diseases such as viral hemorrhagic septicemia or critters like tiny spiny water fleas and zebra mussel larvae may be along for the ride.

That's why anglers should drain all lake and river water from bait buckets on site before leaving.

Putting used bait back into a container could also increase the risk of spreading AIS.

Wisconsin fishing regulations state that up to two gallons of water may be used for transporting minnows. As long as no lake or river water has been added to the container, minnows may be used on a different waterbody.

If lake or river water was added, the minnows cannot be used at other fishing locations and should be disposed of before going to a new site. Never dispose of unwanted bait in a lake or river, and dispose of any worms in a closed

container in the trash.

Minnows can only be purchased from a licensed Wisconsin bait dealer. No other fish can be held in the minnow container, and dead bait must be preserved in ways that do not require freezing or refrigeration.

Before leaving fishing spots, remove any mud or plant material clinging to gear, including sleds used to haul supplies. Some invasive aquatic plants flourish under the ice, like curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil. Invasive critters like the spiny water flea larvae hide in the mud, and zebra mussels often hitch rides on plants.

Before and after dropping a line, protect the fishing future by doing the following to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Remember to:

Inspect all fishing equipment for attached aquatic plants, animals, or mud.

Remove all attached plants or animals.

Drain all water from buckets and containers.

Never move live fish away from a waterbody.

Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

To learn more about invasive species and the impacts on Wisconsin's waters and economy, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/invasives.

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| OBITUARIES |



Rebecca Rae Petonquot, age 69, of Rhinelander, died on December 30, 2024, at her home. She was born on September 27, 1955, in Rhinelander, the daughter of Albert and Marie Reinke-Turiff (Gauthier). She was born and raised in Rhinelander and attended schools here. On February 9, 1974, she married Robert Petonquot and they shared over 50 wonderful years together. They were married in Rhinelander where they made

their home and have been since.

Rebecca was a homemaker and caregiver to many kids and grandkids, including her son Brett who had Muscular Dystrophy. She loved spending time with her family, and enjoyed flower gardening, cook outs, shopping, and trips to the casino.

Rebecca is survived by her husband, Bob; her daughters, Bobbie (Don) Bennett and Brooke Petonquot (Josh Dombrowik); her son, Bradley Petonquot; her son-in-law, Josh Bougie; her grandchildren Justice, Riley, Jade, Dominick, Noel, Alexys, Julie, Chase, Logan, Jasmine, and Jemma, as well as her sisters Marian Fourt, Debbie (Randy) Slack, Susie (Dennis) Bohne, and close family friend Jared Graffe. She was preceded in death by her father Albert Reinke, her sons Jonathon and Brett, her brother David Reinke, and her sisters Patricia Wales and Shirley Mueller.

A celebration of life will be arranged in the near future. You may leave your private condolences for the Petonquot family at www.carlsonfh.com. The Carlson Funeral Home (715-369-1414) is serving the family.

"If flowers grow in Heaven, Lord, then pick a bunch for me. Then place them in my grandmother's arms and tell her they're from me. Tell her that I love and miss her, and when she turns to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while. Because remembering her is easy, I do it every day, but there's an ache within my heart that will never go away."



Teresa Ann Kennedy, 39, of Rhinelander, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

Teresa was born on February 4, 1985, in Rhinelander, to Jay Kennedy and Kathee Groner. She was raised in Rhinelander and was a 2003 graduate of Rhinelander High School.

She will be dearly missed by her children, Ayden and Natalie; sibling, Tammy; and her parents, Jay and Kathee. Also surviving is her nephew, Scott; great-nephew, Ryder; aunts,

uncles, and cousins.

She is preceded in death by grandparents, Robert and Marion Kennedy and Alice Wozniczka.

Teresa loved swimming, camping and skating, but most of all she loved watching movies with her children.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Hildebrand Funeral Home & Cremation Specialists, 24 E. Davenport Street, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, 54501, 715-365-4343. Everyone is invited to leave an online condolence at www.hildebrandrussfh.com



Gail Marie (Miller) Losch Strid, 75, of Rhinelander, passed away peacefully at home on January 15, 2025. She was born on July 21, 1949, in Chicago, Illinois to Genevieve (Larson) and Roy Miller.

Gail's pattern of connecting and caring for others began early. Friendships made from a young age lasted the rest of her life. She attended Bethesda Lutheran Elementary School and Luther North High School, graduating in 1967. As the oldest sibling Gail was the babysitter and guide. In Chicago she met her first husband, Bill Losch. Gail earned a certificate as a Radiology Technician from the University of Chicago. She and Bill moved to Rice Lake, Wisconsin in 1972 and started a family. Tragedy would bring her to Woodruff in 1973 to rebuild.

Here she met Craig Strid. In 1975 they married and moved to Rhinelander, bought a house and never moved out. They grew and raised their family, later enjoying having grandkids return to participate in the same traditions. Many people she holds dear today started as King Street neighbors. The house and driveway were a hub of card, craft, baking or birthday parties, neighborhood packs of kids moving in and out, the coming and going for youth activities of all kinds. Gail formed many new Rhinelander friendships that lasted the rest of her days. These "Sisters" were like family to her—they enjoyed golf, traveling, Briar House visits, prayer circles and more.

Gail worked for Marshfield Clinic. To the delight of many of her pets, she also worked at Foster & Smith. Her years of work with the School District of Rhinelander, mostly as a special education aide, was a source of pride. Volunteering was important to her, and she did this through the PEO sisterhood, Women's Club and other organizations.

The title that most fit Gail's purpose in her second half of life was Grandparent. She watched many hockey and other athletic contests, saved paper clippings, attended concerts, went on shopping excursions, baked treats and more. She was a role-model, guide, fan and harbor for them, as she was for so many others.

Gail is survived by her husband, Craig Strid; sons, William Losch, David Strid and Douglas Strid; her daughters by marriage, Kati Havel Strid and Nicole Losch; grandchildren, Madeline, Jakob, and Leonardo Losch, Carson and Jilly Strid; siblings Gwen Wallmark (Walt), Kirk Miller (Ann), Geri Miller (Howard Ellis), and Gami Miller; many nieces and nephews and grand-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her first husband, William Losch III, her parents, and her brother, Mark.

A longtime member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Gail also served as a Chaplain for the PEO group. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to Trinity, Habitat for Humanity Northwoods Wisconsin, Headwaters, Inc., or another charity of your choice.

There will be a visitation for Gail on Friday, January 24, 2025, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, with a funeral service following at 12:00 noon, all at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Reverends Timothy and Kari Vadis will officiate. Interment will take place in the Ridgewood Memorial Park in Des Plaines, Illinois.

You may leave your private condolences for the Strid family at www.carlsonfh.com. The Carlson Funeral Home (715-369-1414) is serving the family.

| DEATH NOTICES |

Linda Marie Numrich Meyer, 71 of Rhinelander, died Dec. 19, 2024. Carlson Funeral Home.

Kerry M. Kelly, 72 of Rhinelander, died Jan. 6, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home.

Lonnie Gene Owens, 65 of Harshaw, died Jan. 10, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home.

Mary "Cathy" Steffen, 81 of Rhinelander, died Jan. 12, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home.

John Glenn Beckman, 58 of Rhinelander, died Jan. 13, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home.

Raymond Alan Lange, 68 of Rhinelander, died Jan. 14, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home.

Ruth Elizabeth Radtke, 78, died Jan. 15, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home.

DNR to host career fair in Woodruff

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host a career fair Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 2-7 p.m. at the Woodruff Town Hall.

Attendees can ask questions, explore the natural resources field, and learn how to apply online as new job postings become available.

People of all ages and educational backgrounds are encouraged to attend.

The DNR said it employs a large, diverse workforce throughout the state, and it typically has job opportunities in natural resources, environmental sciences, engineering, law enforcement, business, customer service, information technology, and administrative support, with a variety of full-time and limited-term employment positions.

The Woodruff Town Hall is located at 1418 1st Avenue in Woodruff.

For more information, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov.

Nicolet College launches community survey

FOR STAR JOURNAL

Nicolet College recently launched a community survey to improve its services and programs for employers, high school students, and learners of all ages. It will be open until Feb. 16.

The survey can be found on the Nicolet College website at nicoletcollege.edu/survey, or participants can request to take the survey by phone by contacting Jenna Allen, public information officer, at 715-365-4434.

Nicolet College is a technical and community college and the only institute of higher education in its district. The counties in its district are Oneida, Vilas, and Forest, as well as the parts of Lincoln, Iron, and Langlade, which include Tomahawk, Mercer, and Elcho.

"Each community in our district is unique because each community has different educational, economic, and workforce needs. That's why we want to hear from everyone," said Kate Ferrel, president of Nicolet College.

The college reaches several thousand learners annually through community classes, events, and services. According to Nicolet, it served 3,639 students in the 2024-25 school year.

Seventy-one percent of Nicolet College graduates live and work in Wisconsin, and 51 percent work in the Nicolet College district, according to Wisconsin Technical College System graduate outcome data for the 2023-24 school year.

"For almost sixty years, Nicolet College has partnered with our communities to drive forward their vision for the future through education," Ferrel said. "This survey represents a new cycle of listening, innovating, and evolving."

After the survey, Nicolet College will host community listening sessions throughout the district in the spring.

Survey participants can enter a drawing to win a \$100 Amazon gift card.

For more information, visit nicoletcollege.edu.

Children's museum taking reservations for tea party

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The Northwoods Children's Museum is now taking reservations for its popular Enchanted Tea Party Saturday, Feb. 22, in Eagle River.

The event has three 30-minute sessions, which include tea and treats with princesses. Session times are 11 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 1:30 p.m.

Participants should dress as a favorite prince or princess.

The cost is \$20 per person. An adult should accompany children.

Crafts are also available for purchase at \$5 each and include a color-your-own canvas tote, create a sparkly picture frame, or paint a canvas.

Reservations are required. To reserve a spot or to be a volunteer or sponsor, call 715-479-4623.

The museum is located at 346 W. Division St. in Eagle River. It will be closed to the public on the day of the event.

New book tells story of Packers' first head coach

FOR STAR JOURNAL

Kris Leonhardt, a senior editor at Multi Media Channels (MMC), has authored a book on Green Bay Packers' first head coach and general manager, Curly Lambeau.

"Lambeau — The Boy Behind Green Bay Football" chronicles Lambeau's life from birth through death and includes photos supplied by Green Bay area archives, including the Neville Public Museum, UW-Green Bay Archives, and Packers Hall of Fame, Inc.

The book also features a foreword written by current Packers Hall of Fame, Inc. President Don Sipes and is tailored toward both the casual football fan and the die-hard fanatic.

According to Leonhardt, the book captures the heart and history of the Green Bay Packers as a sports team and a symbol of resilience and unwavering belief.

At its core is the story of Lambeau, a man who refused to let challenges stop him from building a legacy. Against all odds, he kept the Packers alive through sheer determination, transforming them into one of the most revered teams in NFL history.

"If you love football, community, and tales of grit, this book is a must-read," said MMC Publisher Patrick Wood.

The book is available at shopmmclocal.com/product/lambeau and on Amazon.

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| PUBLISHER LETTER |

**Looking Past;
Looking Forward**

Dear Reader,

When the love of your life dies, the impact is profound and life-altering. The grief can feel as though it will never subside, and the absence of that person—your partner in all things—casts a shadow over even the smallest moments of your day. The process of losing them, from illness or sudden tragedy to the final goodbye, is one of life's greatest challenges.



After the funeral is over, the loneliness often sets in deeply. Friends and family may surround you for a time, offering kindness and support, but eventually, their lives pull them back to their routines. And there you are, left to grapple with the silence.

Many who experience such a loss have shared how the grief feels inescapable. The memories you shared with your spouse linger everywhere—in your home, your daily habits, and even in the way you think about the world. The ache is particularly acute when something good or bad happens, and you instinctively want to share it with them.

There is no one-size-fits-all answer to coping with such loss. Each person's grief is unique, shaped by the depth of the relationship and the individual personality of the one left behind. However, here are some thoughts that may offer comfort and guidance as you navigate this painful journey.

First, take it one day at a time. It's simple advice, but it holds profound wisdom. In the early days, just getting out of bed and facing the world can feel like a monumental task. Allow yourself to move at your own pace. Don't rush the grieving process or feel pressured to "move on" too quickly. Healing is not linear, and it's okay to have days when the sorrow feels overwhelming.

It's important to lean on others—but also seek to rebuild. Family and friends can provide crucial support, but their lives will naturally continue, and you may find yourself needing to rebuild parts of your own. Consider joining a grief support group where others who've experienced similar losses can share their insights and struggles. Knowing you're not alone in your feelings can be deeply reassuring.

Over time you can find new meaning and purpose. Though it feels impossible at first, try to slowly re-engage with the world. Take up an activity or explore something you've always been curious about. Join a class in art, writing, or history. Volunteer with an organization that aligns with your values. If you're physically able, activities like yoga, gardening, or walking in nature can offer both physical and emotional relief.

You may find some healing in honoring your loved one's memory. Create a ritual or space where you can remember and celebrate your spouse. It might be a small garden, a photo album, or even a weekly moment of reflection. This helps keep them present in your life in a way that feels healthy and comforting, rather than overwhelming.

But don't remain in a constant state of sorrow. Your loved one wouldn't want that. While they may no longer be physically by your side, their love and influence live on in you. Embracing life doesn't mean forgetting them; it means carrying their memory with you as you find joy again.

Take heart, dear reader. Though the journey of loss is painful, it's also a testament to the love you shared. Grief is a long and winding road, but it does not mean your own story is over. It's a new chapter—one you didn't ask for, but one in which you can still find meaning, connection, and even hope.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

Wreaths Out

On Jan. 15, volunteers braved the 15-degree temperature and brisk winds to remove wreaths from veterans' headstones at the Northwoods National Cemetery in Harshaw. Officially known as Wreaths Out Day, volunteers gathered and helped dispose of the garlands placed on the veterans' memorials during Wreaths Across America Day last month, an event that remembers the fallen, honors those who serve and teaches the next generation the value of freedom. **Dave Melancon photos**



Free child screening event to be held Feb. 12

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The Birth to 3 Program will host a Child Find event Wednesday, Feb. 12, from 9-11 a.m., at Oneida County Human Services, 705 E. Timber Drive, Rhinelander.

The event is open to children ages zero to three who may benefit from early intervention services. During this time, children will receive free screenings to assess developmental milestones and determine eligibility for the Birth to 3 Program.

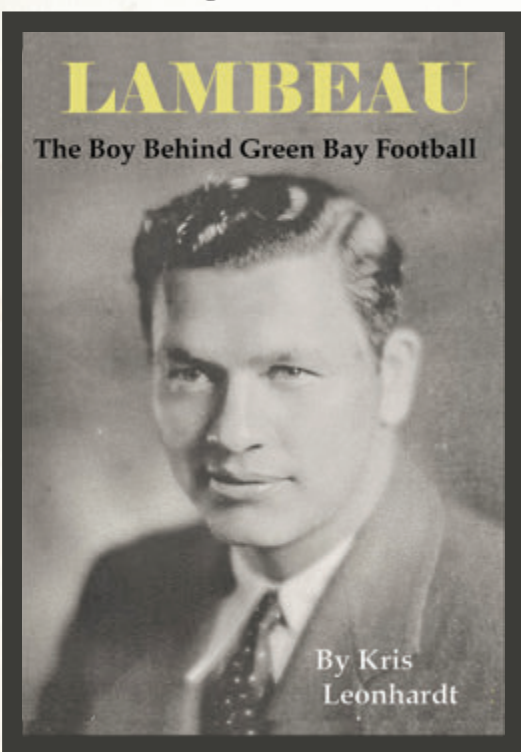
The Birth to 3 Program provides essential services to children and families, focusing on early intervention for developmental delays.

Children receive individualized support through the program to enhance cognitive, motor, communication, and social-emotional development. A team works closely with families to create tailored plans to meet each child's unique needs.

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, please call 715-369-2215 or email kn@thehumanservicecenter.org.

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Hodag Highlights

GIRLS BASKETBALL

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, the Hodag girls basketball team faced Mosinee at home without their point guard and leading scorer, Aubryn Clark, due to soreness in her back.

The girls couldn't get into a rhythm without Clark leading them, and they fell behind and couldn't catch up as they were down 35-10 at the half. Numerous turnovers and not being able to get good shots continued into the second half as Mosinee won 65-24. Dawsyn Barkus and Kelsey Winters each scored six to lead the Hodags in scoring.

On Friday, Jan. 17, the girls lost in Medford 64-56 in their second game without point guard Clark. Vivian Lamers led the Hodags in scoring with 23 points.



Dawsyn Barkus put up a three-point shot in the first half and scored six points on two three-point shots.



Vivian Lamers is fouled on a drive to the basket.



Kelsey Winter put up a shot with two defenders around her. Winter scored six points.

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Medford Red Raiders came to Rhinelander in a battle for first place in the conference. On Tuesday, Jan. 14, the Hodags had defeated Mosinee 63-54. In conference play, the Raiders had one loss, and the Hodags didn't have any conference losses.

The Hodags had trouble making shots in the first half, but the Raiders were able to score and led the Hodags at the half 21-28.

In the second half, the Hodags defense stiffened, and the players were making more shots and, at one point late in the game, tied the score at 48.

Medford pulled away in the game and won 63-71.

Truman Lamers led the Hodags with 22 points. Evan Shoeder scored 10 for the Hodags.



Devon Feck was fouled while shooting and made both free throws, plus he shot four others in the first half. Feck also made a three in the second and scored nine points in the game.



Making another dunk shot was Truman Lamers after a steal. Lamers scored 22 points in the game while only scoring one in the first half.



Evan Shoeder grabbed a defensive rebound. Shoeder scored 10 points for the Hodags.



Senior guard Jatyn Barkus scored two of his nine on a layup after a steal.

HOCKEY

The Hodag hockey team lost to Northland Pines on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 11-2, and entertained Medford on Thursday, Jan. 16. The Hodags defeated Medford in Merrill on Jan. 12 and were hoping for a repeat.

The first period ended in a 0-0 tie. In the second, Drake Nelson scored his eighth goal of the season, but Medford scored four to lead the Hodags 4-1 after the second. Medford scored another in the third to win 5-1.



Senior Karter Massey takes a shot on goal that the Medford defender blocks.



Timber Cronauer controls the puck behind the Medford net.



Goalie Asher Rivord blocked a Medford shot on goal.



Junior Drake Nelson #16 celebrates after scoring the Hodags' lone goal in the 5-1 loss.

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