



### Up North Expo 2025

Numerous local businesses and organizations participated in the annual Up North Community Expo Thursday, March 6, 2025 at the Hodag Dome in Rhinelanders. This annual rite of spring is a wonderful opportunity for businesses, entrepreneurs and members of the community to connect.  
**Dave Melancon photo**

## Schaefer named editor of Star Journal

BY STAR JOURNAL STAFF

Longtime local journalist Heather Schaefer is the new editor of the Northwoods Star Journal, beginning with this issue.

Born and raised in Rhinelanders, Schaefer has covered news here for 24 years, starting as a crime/courts and general assignment reporter before becoming an editor.

“I’ve always considered it a special honor to tell the stories of the people who live in my hometown, those who built and nourished it and made it what it is today,” Schaefer said. “While I’ve been at this for many years, I’m still learning new things about my hometown and the endlessly interesting people who call it home.”

While she’s covered countless stories over the years, she said two stand out as favorites — interviewing Walter Wendt, a local veteran who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, and a feature on the Ellis/Estabrook family, who collected cans and donated the proceeds to the Ronald McDonald House in honor of their toddler daughter Ashley, who died of brain cancer in 1989.

“My sister is a cancer survivor, and the Ronald McDonald House provided her with support and respite while she was being treated in 1993,” Schaefer said. “It was an absolute honor to tell the story of this remarkable local family whose unimaginable tragedy inspired them to help others, including my sister.”

She also said being in the newsroom on 9/11 and interviewing residents outside of St. Augustine’s Church is an “indelible memory.”

Schaefer’s work hasn’t gone unnoticed, having won a first-place Wisconsin Newspaper Association award for her coverage of the PFAS contamination in the Town of Stella and recognition for her crime/courts, local government, and education reporting.

“We are very excited to have Heather on staff,” said Tim Schreiber, Multi Media Channels (MMC) North Central Region general manager. “Her years of experience and dedication to keeping the community informed will serve her well in her new role at the Star Journal.”

Schaefer replaces former editor Eileen Persike, who retired in December 2024 after 19 years with the paper.

“I’m a longtime admirer of Eileen’s work,” Schaefer said. “We crossed paths many times over the years and I’ve always considered her a role model, an example of a true community journalist. I’m grateful for the opportunity to follow in her footsteps at MMC.”

## DA clears officer involved in fatal high-speed chase

BY HEATHER SCHAEFER  
EDITOR

Oneida County district attorney Jillian Pfeifer has announced she will not pursue criminal charges against a county deputy whose high-speed pursuit of a vehicle ended with the motorist’s death.

On Friday evening, Jan. 17, Oneida County deputy Michael Bedish initiated a pursuit of a vehicle operated by Matthew S. Johnson, 28. According to Pfeifer’s written decision, issued on March 4, the chase lasted approximately 5 miles and Johnson’s vehicle reached speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour before it collided with another vehicle, resulting in Johnson’s death.

Six occupants of the other vehicle were injured in the crash.

“On the evening of January 17, 2025, in response to Deputy Bedish attempting to initiate a traffic stop for multiple counts of misdemeanor bail jumping, as well as operating while revoked, Johnson fled from law enforcement at a high rate of speed, also giving rise to a violation of fleeing and eluding an officer,” Pfeifer wrote. “In response, Deputy Bedish initiated a pursuit of Johnson’s vehicle. When the pursuit was initiated, the traffic was light, the road conditions were wet, and it was starting to snow. Despite Deputy Bedish pursu-

See **HIGH-SPEED CHASE** page 3



## In the Heart of the Northwoods



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# Tech ed construction project scheduled for April

BY HEATHER SCHAEFER  
EDITOR

Students and parents will soon notice increased activity outside of Rhinelander High School and James Williams Middle School as the School District of Rhinelander’s \$26 million technical education project is set to get underway in April.

According to district superintendent Eric Burke, Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) has begun work on gas lines in preparation for the planned renovations and additions to the technical education facilities in both schools.

Local voters approved the project last spring, with a two-thirds majority in favor.

The referendum was the result of more than two years of study and planning that began with a needs assessment in 2021.

School officials noted an increased interest in traditional technical education classes as well as a demand in the Northwoods for employees in the trades, manufacturing and service industries. With facilities that date back to the ‘50s (at RHS) and the ‘70s (JWMS), it was determined that upgrades were necessary in order to properly train students to join a much more technically-advanced workforce.

According to Burke, workers will be focused on exterior work only while school is in session.



Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) is working on gas lines in preparation for construction at Rhinelander High School and James Williams Middle School. Renovations and additions to technical education facilities at both schools are scheduled to begin in April.  
**Bob Mainhardt photo**

# YMCA of the Northwoods and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northwoods announce transformational partnership

FOR STAR JOURNAL

The YMCA of the Northwoods (YMCANW) and the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northwoods (BGCNW) have announced a strategic partnership designed to expand services and resources for youth and families in the community.

This collaborative agreement will bring together the strengths of both organizations to create a safe and supportive environment for youth development, according to a press release announcing the initiative.

According to the press release, the partnership will be focused on providing middle and high school students with enhanced programming opportunities. Through shared resources, including facilities and staff collaboration, the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club will increase access to vital afterschool programs, social-emotional learning opportunities, and recreational activities, the release states.

“We are excited to join forces with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northwoods,” noted Linda May, CEO of the YMCA of the Northwoods. “This collaboration between our organizations marks a pivotal moment in the ongoing mission to nurture a promising future for our youth.”

The agreement also outlines a com-

mitment to inclusivity, ensuring that all children, especially those who need support the most, benefit from the collective programming of both organizations. Through joint marketing efforts, community outreach, and shared leadership, this collaboration aims to maximize the impact on local youth, the release states.

“This partnership represents our shared commitment to empowering young people and fostering a sense of belonging,” said Dillon Gretzinger, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northwoods. “Together, we will provide critical support, mentorship, and resources that help our youth reach their full potential.”

To ensure the success and sustainability of this initiative, the BGCNW has set a goal to receive \$100,000 in pledges for the first year operational funds. These funds will be used to expand programming, provide scholarships, and enhance resources so that we can serve even more youth in need, the release states.

The partnership will allow BGCNW to operate out of the YMCA facility for after-school teen programming while maintaining its autonomy. Both organizations remain dedicated to fostering strong community ties, aligning their missions to enhance youth services, and ensuring long-term sustainability through joint fundraising efforts, the release states.

To make a pledge to support this initiative, go to [www.bgcnorthwoods.org/donations/](http://www.bgcnorthwoods.org/donations/) or for more information on how to get involved or support this initiative, contact Gretzinger and [ceo@bgcnorthwoods.org](mailto:ceo@bgcnorthwoods.org)/715-627-1389 ext. 3 or May at [lmay@ymcanw.org](mailto:lmay@ymcanw.org)/ 412-807-1607.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Norma Phyllis Christiansen**, age 102 of Rhinelander, died March 6, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home.

**Carrie Bergman**, age 47 of Rhinelander, died March 1, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home.



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## PUBLISHER LETTER

# Human Body Design

Dear Reader,

When we stop to think about the design of the human body, we might find ourselves wondering if it could have been crafted more efficiently. Consider the everyday processes of hydration and nutrition: why must we spend so much of our lives urinating or expelling waste from our bodies? Why couldn't we have been designed to hydrate and metabolize food directly into energy without the need to excrete waste?

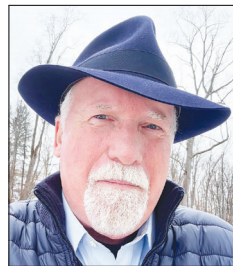
It's a curious thought experiment—imagining a body that functions without the need to “offload” its excesses, freeing us from the sometimes inconvenient realities of biological maintenance. Wouldn't it be wonderful to live unencumbered by these daily rituals, focusing solely on the higher pursuits of life?

Yet, when we reflect more deeply, we realize that the human body as it is designed is nothing short of miraculous. It's a complex, harmonious system where countless processes—digestion, circulation, respiration—work in synchrony to sustain us. These so-called inefficiencies might actually be part of the greater design, teaching us humility and grounding us in the rhythms of life. They remind us of our interconnectedness with nature and the delicate balance we inhabit.

Could there have been a “better” design? Perhaps. But then, would we be the same creatures we are now— resilient, adaptable, and marvelously imperfect? Perhaps the true genius of the human design lies not in its flawlessness, but in its resilience and ability to grow through imperfection.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher

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



## Students of the Month

Rhineland High School recently recognized its students and staff of the month for February 2025. Parents and media were invited to a recognition ceremony on Feb. 27 where they enjoyed treats and a presentation by Associate Principal Matt Knott. The students and staff are pictured (from left to right): Iain Rumney (Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing), Tatiana Vadis (Fine Arts), Blaine McAtee (Physical Education and Health), Kaiden Hurlbutt-Ames (English) Aubryn Clark (World Language-Spanish) Mr. Beske (Maintenance), Lucy Lindner (Social Studies), Miranda Raduechel (Science), Payten Denton (Math), Kayla Skubal (Family and Consumer Sciences). Not pictured is Luna Grae (Business/IT/Marketing). **Submitted photo**

## City announces public informational meeting on Messer project

**FOR STAR JOURNAL**

The City of Rhinelander has announced that work on the Messer Street area project is tentatively scheduled to begin on March 31.

A public informational meeting on the project will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 12 at City Hall (135 South Stevens Street) to discuss the proposed work and tentative construction schedule.

All are invited and encouraged to attend, according to city administrator Patrick Reagan.

City officials announced the road and utility improvement project during the summer of 2024. Initially, residents of the Hodag Park neighborhood, where the work will take place, expressed concerns about the scope of the project. In particular, residents were concerned about the loss of trees and the number of additional sidewalks. However, following a series of meetings, the city and the Messer area residents were able to come to a compromise aimed at ensuring that necessary improvements are made while also preserving the character of the neighborhood.

For more information about the meeting, contact Mark Barden at Town and Country Engineering at (715) 420-0579.

## HIGH-SPEED CHASE *from page 1*

ing Johnson's vehicle with emergency lights and siren activated, Johnson continued to flee from law enforcement at speeds exceeding 118 mph, resulting in additional violations including reckless driving. Based on multiple criminal offenses being committed as well as Johnson's continued effort to flee from law enforcement, under the totality of the circumstances, Deputy Bedish was justified in both initiating the pursuit of Johnson's vehicle as well as continuing the pursuit of Johnson's vehicle."

Pfeifer concluded her written decision with a commendation for the Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation, which conducted an independent investigation of the officer-involved incident.

“The review of the information from their investigation resulted in the very clear conclusion that Deputy Bedish was justified in pursuing Johnson’s vehicle on January 17, 2025,” she wrote.

In her decision, Pfeifer noted that Bedish initially observed Johnson outside a local gas station.

According to Pfeifer's recitation of the events that preceded the pursuit, Johnson looked at Deputy Bedish's marked squad vehicle and immediately looked away, putting his hood up.

This prompted Bedish to run a vehicle registration which resulted in his discovery that Johnson's driver's license was revoked and he had a prior conviction for operating while intoxicated.

A search of court records also revealed that Johnson had been released on bond in two pending misdemeanor cases and one of the bonds included a non-monetary condition that Johnson be prohibited from operating a motor vehicle. Bedish's pursuit of Johnson ended when Johnson attempted to pass another northbound vehicle resulting in a collision with a southbound vehicle.

He was pronounced deceased at the scene.

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**NEW LISTING!**

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## Program explores important conversation topics related to Alzheimer’s, dementia

FOR STAR JOURNAL

Alzheimer’s disease affects nearly seven million people in the United States. It is the most common form of dementia and causes memory, thinking and behavior problems that interfere with daily living. However, the earliest signs are often dismissed as part “getting older” and the conversation with family and friends about those changes can be challenging and uncomfortable.

The Alzheimer’s Association® has developed an education program, Dementia Conversations, to help family and friends become more comfortable with difficult topics such as:

Why it is important to talk to one’s doctor about concerns about changes to memory, thinking and behavior as soon as they are noticed

How to encourage someone who is reluctant to talk to their doctor about memory concerns to do so

Strategies for how to talk to someone when there are concerns about their ability to drivesafely and to develop a plan for when “retiring” from driving becomes necessary

The importance of making legal and financial plans for the future

The necessity of planning ahead, learning about community resources and developing a supportive care team

The Dementia Conversations program will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at the ADRC of Oneida County (100 W. Keenan Street) in Rhinelander.

To learn more about this program, or to register (registration is requested), contact Julie St. Pierre at (715) 352-4091 or [jstpierre@alz.org](mailto:jstpierre@alz.org). Individuals can also register by reaching out to the Alzheimer’s Association 24/7 Helpline at 1.800.272.3900 or by visiting <https://bit.ly/DCONVORHI>.

## Roach to serve as chief deputy medical examiner

FOR STAR JOURNAL

Following the sudden resignations of Oneida County Medical Examiner Crystal Schaub and her chief deputy, Luke Johnson, deputy medical examiner Ashley Roach has stepped in to helm the office, as a limited term employee, while the county searches for a permanent replacement.

County administrative coordinator Tracy Hartman and HR director Lisa Charbarneau announced the change in a press release issued on Feb. 26.

According to the release, Schaub resigned on Feb. 3 and Johnson followed on Feb. 21.

Roach has been with the medical examiner’s office since 2021 and “the county feels confident that (she) will provide a high level of service to Oneida, Vilas and Forest County residents while a permanent Medical Examiner is being sought,” the release states.

The Lincoln County Coroner, Valerie Caylor, has agreed to assist Roach as needed, the release notes.



### Pets of the Month



Say hello to **Paisley!**  
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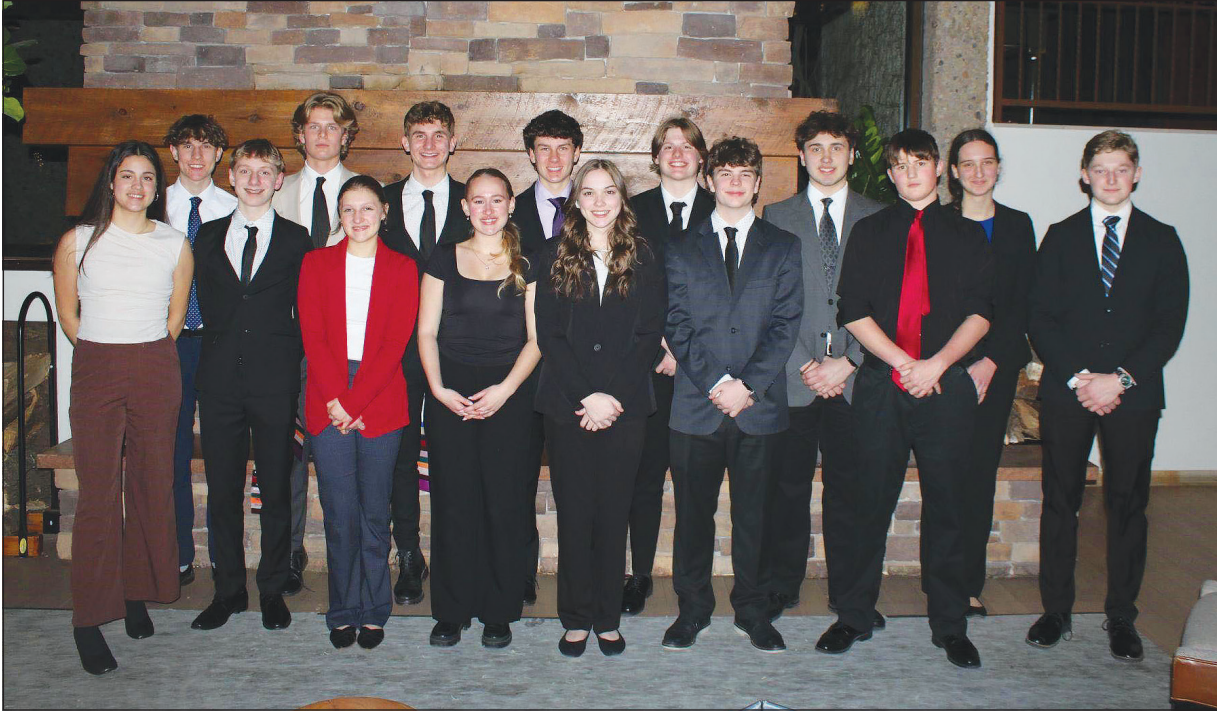


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# Rhinelanders DECA students excel at state



Rhinelanders High School’s DECA State Attendees are pictured. Front row: Luna Grage, Grant Gremban, Clara Pudlowski, Evi Sawyer, Skylar Cleveland, Josh Haselton, Caden Ehrhardt, and Payton McCue. Second row: Kamden Kostrova, Aiden Ostermann, Greyson Gremban, Brody Kowieski, Barak Rappley, Sam Caselton and Kate Ripple. Submitted photo

FOR STAR JOURNAL

Fifteen Rhinelander High School students competed at the Wisconsin DECA State Career Development Conference in Lake Geneva Feb. 24-26 and six qualified to participate in the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Orlando, FL, according to a School District of Rhinelander press release.

DECA is an organization that helps prepare students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. At state, students had to take a 100-question test concerning the field their event is in, as well as an economics test. They also performed two role plays in which the student is given a business situation and must act it out to resolve the issue with a judge. Medals were awarded to students for earning high scores in their tests, on either of their role plays, and for placing in the top ten of

their event.

Rhinelanders’ Brody Kowieski took first place in Personal Financial Literacy and received medals for his series test, role play, and economics test. Also, Payton McCue took third place in Accounting and medaled in his test and a role play. Kate Ripple, Skylar Cleveland, Barak Rappley, and Clara Pudlowski were accepted to the THRIVE Academy at ICDC.

All 50 states and several countries including: Canada, Mexico, Germany, China, and Spain will be represented at ICDC.

In addition, three students were recognized on stage for their performances in the tests and role plays; Luna Grage & Evi Sawyer for their performance in both their role plays, and Kate Ripple for her performance in the economics test.

Rhinelanders DECA was also recognized for its accomplishments as a chapter this year. First, the

club received recognition for its Community Service Campaign which included Acts of Kindness, General Contributions to Charity, 100 Hours, MDA, Color a Smile, and Trick or Can. Secondly, the students were recognized for the Thrive Level Chapter Membership Campaign, Thrive Level Chapter Campaign, and Wisconsin Gold Chapter.

Overall, Rhinelander DECA had a very successful state conference and hopes to continue its involvement in the community for years to come. Chapter advisor Mischell Fryar was very impressed by the hard work of all of the competitors, many of which were competing at the state level for the first time. For more information, or to make a donation to assist with travel expenses for ICDC, contact Mischell Fryar at 715-365-9500 or [fryarmis@rhinelander.k12.wi.us](mailto:fryarmis@rhinelander.k12.wi.us).

## Do you know what’s in your well water?

FOR STAR JOURNAL

March 9-15 is National Ground Water Awareness Week and if you are a private well owner, it is a great time to think about testing a sample of your tap water to be sure it is safe to drink.

The Oneida County Health Department, Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recommend residents test their water annually for bacteria and nitrate. Testing for arsenic should be done at least once and yearly if arsenic was present in previous tests, according to a health department press release. The Oneida County Health Department is offering discounted water test kits for purchase between March 10 and March 14 at the following prices:

- Bacteria: \$22 (savings of \$5)
- Nitrate: \$30
- Arsenic: \$35

All 3 tests: \$72 (total savings of \$10 from regular kit pricing)

Test kits can be picked up between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Oneida County Health Department, 100 W Keenan St, Rhinelander. After collecting your water sample, kits can be dropped off at the health department from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday for analysis. Samples do not need to be returned the week of the sale. The health department does not offer PFAS analysis. Households with pregnant women or infants may be eligible for free testing. To learn more, contact Oneida County WIC office at (715) 369-6109.

For more information regarding water testing, water quality, and PFAS, visit <https://publichealth.co.oneida.wi.us/services/environmental-health/>



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## To our valued readers,

We want to take a moment to explain an important update to our editorial policy regarding political letters and opinion pieces.

While many media companies are eliminating political content altogether, we remain committed to providing a forum for meaningful discussions that contribute to the education and awareness of our communities.

To continue offering this service in a sustainable way, we have made two key changes:

1. A 250-word limit on political letters and opinion pieces to encourage clear, concise, and impactful discourse. We ask that you also provide supporting documentation on the facts included.

2. A required submission fee for publishing political opinions, reflecting the significant investment required to maintain this platform.

Our newspapers and digital media provide a powerful and far-reaching outlet for those who wish to share their views.

With that opportunity comes responsibility.

We must ensure that all contributions meet our standards for civility and relevance.

We reserve the right to edit submissions that are derogatory, inflammatory, or counterproductive to constructive community dialogue.

The reality is that providing a platform for public opinions—one that reaches thousands of readers—requires time, effort and editorial oversight.

This is a service we are proud to offer, but it must be managed responsibly.

The alternative would be for individuals to purchase their own media outlets, which is impractical for most.

Instead, we are maintaining an accessible, fair, and carefully moderated forum for public discussion.

We appreciate your understanding and continued trust as we work to provide a space for informed and respectful dialogue.

MMC Editorial Board

## Celebrating long-term care administrators

### EDITOR:

As we celebrate Long-Term Care Administrator’s Week in March, I want to honor the invaluable partnership between home health agencies and long-term care facilities. Together, we strive to ensure that residents receive consistent, quality care that promotes their well-being and respects their individual needs.

Long-term care administrators are at the heart of this collaboration, tirelessly managing their facilities to create safe, comfortable environments for residents. Their role requires both skill and compassion as they oversee daily operations, support their teams and ensure the best care possible for each resident. Working alongside these dedicated administrators, home health agencies bring additional expertise and specialized services to residents, helping them maintain independence, manage chronic conditions and enjoy a higher quality of life.

This partnership enhances residents’ care by providing a continuity of services, whether it’s skilled nursing, physical therapy or personal care. It also gives families peace of mind, knowing their loved ones are receiving the best possible support in every aspect of their health.

Let’s take this week to celebrate and thank long-term care administrators for their dedication and their partnership with home health agencies, which together help create a supportive, compassionate environment for our community’s most vulnerable individuals.

Sincerely,  
Amy Nowak  
Hospice Administrator, Compassus

## Protecting Medicaid funding for our communities

### EDITOR:

Medicaid is a lifeline for millions of Americans, including children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. It provides essential healthcare services, ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our society receive the care they need.

In Wisconsin Medicaid provides funding for all of the following programs: BadgerCare, Family Care, Foster Care, Katie Beckett, CLTS, MAPP, CCS, and institutional care.

As a parent to a child with a disability, a speech and language pathologist, and community member, I see firsthand how Medicaid supports individuals with disabilities, helping them access therapy, medical treatment, and other necessary interventions. Reducing funding would not only harm those who rely on it but also place additional strain on hospitals, schools, and local services. Services our family has been able to access which help our son have included some of the following: parent education about his special needs and how to manage them, daily living skills instruction where he has learned to make purchases at stores and place orders at restaurants, specialized toothbrush, home modification with equipment to access teletherapy as we did not have reliable access to high speed internet, medication and medical copays.

Representative Tom Tiffany voted to end these basic services which have been invaluable to our family. My story is only one of many who are in this community.

I have attempted to call and connect without success with Representative Tiffany. Investing in Medicaid is an investment in public health, economic stability, and human dignity. I urge policymakers to protect and strengthen Medicaid funding rather than reduce it. Our communities depend on it.

Angela Koch  
Tomahawk

## ONEIDA COUNTY COURT REPORT

### | 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.



Thomas J. Blaszk, 39, Rhinelander. Fail to appear. BODY ONLY



Claressa S. Nelis, 32, Minocqua. Fail to appear. BODY ONLY



Reginald L. Anderson, 36, Milton. Fail to appear. BODY ONLY



Jeffrey J. Stefoni, 29, Crandon. Fail to appear. BODY ONLY



Hannah J. Rausch, 25, Tomahawk. Fail to appear. BODY ONLY

possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of illegally obtained prescription, two charges bail jumping-felony, \$5,000 cash bond. AIA March 7.

**Tiffany Marie Breitenfeld**, 39, Tomahawk, two charges bail jumping-misdemeanor, \$3,500 signature bond, Status Conference June 23.

**Emma D. Beighley**, 36, Lac du Flambeau, fraudulent use of a financial transaction card (<=\$2,500), bail jumping-felony, both charges dismissed on prosecutor’s motion.

**Victoria Duvall**, 37, Pelican Lake, possession of THC, disorderly conduct, both charges dismissed on prosecutor’s motion.

**Jeffery O. McAvaney**, 30, Ashland, bail jumping-felony, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of THC, charges dismissed on prosecutor’s motion, possession of narcotic drugs, guilty due to guilty plea, 45 days jail.

#### 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

### FEB. 27- MARCH 5

**Matthew Alan Walker**, 33, Rhinelander, sex registry violation with repeater modifier, \$5,000 cash bond. AIA March 31.

**Kevin L. Grant**, 46, Rhinelander, OWI (5th or 6th), \$5,000 cash bond, AIA March 6. PTC May 19.

**Jonah Clement Ludwig Meyer**, 29, De Pere, OWI (2nd), \$1,000 signature bond. PTC May 19.

**Jack R. Alonso Jr.**, 62, Rhinelander, operating while revoked (revoked due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal), ignition interlock device tampering/failure to install/violate court order, \$1,000 signature bond. AIA March 31.

**Benjamin J. Rizzo**, 38, Star Lake, operating while revoked (revoked due to alcohol/controlled substance/refusal, ignition interlock device tampering/failure to install/violate court order, \$1,000 signature bond. AIA March 31.

**Zachary Joseph Bedard**, 34, Hazelhurst, disorderly conduct with domestic abuse-threat modifier, 2nd degree recklessly endangering safety, made terrorist threats, possession of a firearm - convicted out-of-state felony, two charges bail jumping-felony, \$25,000 cash bond. AIA March 7.

**Calvin F. Morris**, 48, Three Lakes,



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# Trig’s creativity recognized at national grocers show

**FOR STAR JOURNAL**

Trig’s was recently honored with two Creative Choice Awards at the National Grocers Association (NGA) Show.

Held last month in Las Vegas, the NGA Show recognizes outstanding marketing and merchandising programs from independent grocery retailers nationwide.

Judged by a panel of industry experts and trade press members, the contest features various categories where the judges determine category winners based on each entry’s creativity, clarity, innovation, and effectiveness.

Trig’s event submission was entitled “We’ve Got Crab Claws” and featured Frenchy’s stone crab claws. It won first place in local, specialty, or emerging products and fresh meat/seafood.

“The Creative Choice Awards showcase the incredible innovation and ingenuity of independent grocers,” said Bob Jaskolski, president and CEO of T.A. Solberg Co., Inc. “We have a very creative team that rises to the task of delivering that innovation and showcasing new products for our guests. Our history of Creative Choice Awards shows Trig’s commitment to our communities.”

Trig’s has five grocery store locations in the Northwoods, including Rhinelander, Eagle River, Minocqua, Tomahawk, and Manitowish Waters.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Dogs 7272

Cavapoo Puppies Looking for a home! They love people, use to children! 1st Sots and Wormed \$300 OBO 715-223-8803

FOR SALE: Dark Red Golden Retriever Puppies. ACA Registered, Shots, De-wormed, VERY CUTE! 715-669-3860

For Sale- Havapoo Pups, Shots, Wormed, Dewes Removed, Vet-Checked, Can Deliver. \$700 to \$900 each. 715-255-2661

POMERANIAN AMERICAN ES-KIMO CROSS PUPPIES! Shots Dewormed \$250 715-721-6931

POMERANIANS! Vet ck'd shots, health guaranteed, fun and playful. \$500 715-654-5149

Teddy-Poodle Puppies, All Shots, De-Wormed, and Vet Checked. Have both Parents. \$325 each 715-669-3607

### Agriculture Services 7292

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### Miscellaneous for Rent 7442



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

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

### Business and Commercial 7475

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### Miscellaneous Real Estate 7487

## PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

**Equal Housing Opportunity**

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

### General Employment 7110

**Full-time Office Assistant** position. Must have high proficiency with computers, Excel, Word, Outlook. Duties include, but not limited to, answering phones, ticket order processing, filing, payroll, and accounts payable. Accounting software knowledge required; Sage BusinessWorks experience a plus. Vacation, sick and holiday pay. We would also be open to candidates interested in part-time employment. \$15-20/hour. Please submit resume with references through Indeed, via mail to Hodag Country Festival, P.O. Box 1184, Rhinelander, WI 54501, or drop off at 4270 River Road, Rhinelander.



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**March 12, Community Presentation:** 6-7 p.m., Rhinelander High School Commons. Information on the April 1 operational referendum. For more information, visit rhinelander.k12.wi.us/district/referendum.cfm.

**March 12, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., ADRC of Oneida County, 100 W. Keenan St., Rhinelander. Free tax assistance; by appointment only. 715-369-6170.

**March 12, 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.

**March 12, Line Dancing:** 6-8 p.m., The Haven, Rhinelander. Every Wednesday. For more information, call Diane at 715-282-5226.

**March 12, Builder's Club:** 1-5 p.m., Rhinelander District Library. Legos, Magna-Tiles, and more available in the children's department. 715-365-1070 or rhinelander-library.org.

**March 13, Thursday Night Trivia:** 7-10 p.m., Backwaters Bar and Grill, Rhinelander. Join teams of up to six to compete in a live hosted trivia game of 50 questions. Weekly on Thursdays through May 15. 715-369-5645.

**March 13, Toddler Aerobics:** 9:30-10:15 a.m., Hodag Dome. Music and dancing for toddlers. Free class. No membership required. Bring a driver's license for check-in. 715-365-9520.

**March 13, Movie Matinee, Wicked:** 1-4 p.m., Rhine-

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

lander District Library. Attending minors should be accompanied by an adult. 715-365-1070 or rhinelander-library.org.

**March 13, Oneida County Fair Bingo Night:** 6-9:30 p.m., Cabaret Cove, Rhinelander. Doors open at 5 p.m. Contact: steviehenk@gmail.com.

**March 14, Cosmetology Hair Show, Remembering the Decades:** 6-8 p.m., Nicolet College Theatre, 5364 College Dr., Rhinelander. Students compete for top honors by showcasing their best hairstyling techniques, inspired by iconic looks from the 1920s through the 80s. Admission: \$20 (\$5 off with a donation to the Oneida County Humane Society). Nicolet College students and children under 10 are free. 715-365-4410.

**March 14, Low Vision Support Group Meeting:** 10-11:30 a.m., Balsam Room, ADRC of Oneida County, 100 W. Keenan St., Rhinelander. Discussion focusing on adjusting to vision loss after diagnosis of a disabling eye condition. Free and open to the public. For more information: viplunch.word-press.com. Contact: Brent Goodman, rhi.vip.club@gmail.com or 715-525-2060.

**March 15, St. Patrick's Day Parade:** 1:30 p.m., downtown Rhinelander, Brown Street. Food, music, and merchant specials. Contact: Jack, 715-369-3030.

**March 15, Hodag 4-Wheelers Meat Raffle:** 3-6 p.m.,

Bucketheads Sports Bar and Grill, 46 N. Brown St., Rhinelander. 715-570-3091 or hodag4wheelersatvutv-club.com.

**March 15, 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.

**March 15, Indoor Farmers Market:** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon, throughout the fall and winter at the YMCA of the Northwoods, 2003 E. Winnebago St., Rhinelander. 715-362-9622 x 118.

**March 15, Chess Club:** 10 a.m.-noon, Rhinelander District Library. All ages. Learn how to play chess with an instructor or join at any time to find a worthy opponent. Chess boards will be provided. 715-365-1070 or rhinelanderlibrary.org.

**March 16, Community Open Swim:** 9 a.m.-noon, Sundays through May 19, Heck Family Community Pool, Rhinelander High School. Visit the community section at rhinelander.k12.wi.us. Contact: Mike Cheslock, 715-365-9745 or cheslmik@rhinelander.k12.wi.us.

**March 17, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., ADRC of Oneida County, 100 W. Keenan St., Rhinelander. Free tax assistance; by appointment only. 715-369-6170.

**March 17, Overeaters Anonymous:** 1 p.m., Trinity

Lutheran Church, 235 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander. 715-362-4258.

**March 17, Bridge Games:** noon, American Legion Hall, 121 W. Front St., Minocqua. \$4. Call Lee at 715-356-4243.

**March 17, 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.

**March 17, Tiny Tot Time:** 10 a.m., Rhinelander District Library. Caregivers can connect with each other and their little ones as they play and learn. 715-365-1070 or rhinelanderlibrary.org.

**March 18, Ruby's Pantry:** 4:30-6 p.m., National Guard Armory, 1136 Adams Way/ Military Road, Rhinelander. Pop-up food pantry. For a \$25 cash donation, receive an abundance of grocery items, no income requirements. Bring two boxes that can be exchanged when picking up the food, which is delivered to your vehicle. 715-362-4792 or explorecalvary.com/rubys-pantry.

**March 19, Business After Five:** 5-7 p.m., Lakeland Realty, 48 W. King St., Rhinelander. An informal social where business people get together to network and exchange ideas while developing new relationships in the community. Held the third Wednesday of each month at a different location. 715-365-7464.



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# Hodag Highlights



Pictured, from left to right, are award winners Dean Gillingham, Paul Denis, Matthew Wood and Charlie Antonuk.

## BOYS SWIM BANQUET

The Rhinelander High School boys swim team's year-end banquet was held March 3 celebrating a successful season. The team won the Great Northern Conference, the sectional meet and placed second at state.

Each swimmer received a plaque commemorating their state appearance and 2nd place finish.

Awards were presented to Dean Gillingham and Paul Denis for most improved rookies while Charlie Antonuk was awarded the most improved returning swimmer. Freshman Matthew Wood received the Hodag Award.

After the conference meet coaches voted for swimmer of the year and coach of the year. Shawn Denis and Mathias Fugle were voted co-swimmers of the year and Jenny Heck was voted coach of the year.



Conference swimmers of the year Shawn Denis and Mathias Fugle are pictured with coach of the year Jenny Heck.

## BASKETBALL

The No 2 seed Hodag boys basketball team hosted Rice Lake Friday night March 7 at the Jim Miazga Community Gymnasium. Rice Lake knocked the Hodags out of the playoffs last season so the home team was hoping to return the favor.

The game began with neither team able to score. The Hodags held an early lead and at the end of the first half Rice Lake went on a little run and were up 17-12 at the half.

Both teams made adjustments at the half and scoring increased. The Hodags were down by a point with under a minute left to play with the score 42-41. The Hodags fouled Will Johnson with 12.4 seconds remaining. Johnson missed the front end of the 1-and-1 with the Hodags gathering in the rebound. The Hodags brought the ball up court with Jaytn Barkus driving the lane. He passed the ball to a wide open Devon Feck. Feck faked a 3-point shot, dribbled inside the 3-point line to the top of the key and hit a jumper to put the Hodags up 43-42 with 2 seconds left. Rice Lake called a timeout to set up a final shot. The ball was put in bounds past half court to Will Svendsen who took a couple dribbles and put up a long 3-point attempt that went off the rim. The Hodags were scheduled to take on New Richmond Monday evening in Rhinelander. The game was originally scheduled for Saturday but was moved to Monday as New Richmond had played two games in a row, due to last Wednesday's snowstorm.



Evan Shoeder blocks a shot by Rice Lake's Will Johnson early in the first half. Shoeder scored 8 points.



Abe Gretzinger takes a difficult shot in the lane. Gretzinger scored 4 points in the game.



Truman Lamers drives the lane for 2 of his 7 points.



Jatyn Barkus picks up a loose ball and scores his only 2 points in the game.



Junior Devon Feck scored 18 points in the game with 2 three-point makes and 6 field goals including the game winner with 2 seconds left.



Jackson Weinatzl and Jatyn Barkus celebrate after Rice Lake's desperation 3 point shot hits the rim as time expires.

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