

Judge sides with defendants in PFAS lawsuit discovery dispute

BY HEATHER SCHAEFER
EDITOR

A federal judge has resolved a discovery dispute between a group of Town of Stella property owners and the companies they are suing for alleged drinking water contamination. In a decision issued late last month, Judge William M. Conley of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin granted, with some modifications, a defense motion to compel all named plaintiffs in the case to respond to defense requests for production of documents.

“Named plaintiffs are always subject to discovery, regardless of whether putative class representatives have been identified,” Conley wrote. “Here, all forty-eight plaintiffs remain named in the operative complaint, and are pursuing claims in their individual capacities, and so are subject to discovery.”

The plaintiffs had argued that only its six self-selected “class representatives” were required to respond to the defendants’ full array of requests for production of documents and previously submitted “fact sheets” would suffice as to other 42 named plaintiffs.

According to the defendants, the “fact sheets” provided only basic information while the requests for documents are much more detailed and include information regarding the condition, use, and value of each plaintiff’s property(ies).

Conley found the defense argument more compelling but clarified that only the nine plaintiffs who are bringing personal injury claims are required to produce documents the defense has requested regarding their personal health and health habits.

“Although defendants are entitled to reasonable mer-

See **PFAS LAWSUIT** page 8

Damage to Hodag Dome less extensive than anticipated

Facility expected to be ready for use in late May

BY HEATHER SCHAEFER
EDITOR

There’s good news for those waiting anxiously for the Hodag Dome to be restored to its former glory. The School District of Rhinelander issued a bulletin on Wednesday, April 9 announcing that the damage the facility sustained in last month’s ice storm was not as extensive as anticipated and the popular community asset is expected to be up and running soon.

The goal is to start the reconnection process next week and, if progress continues on schedule, the facility will be fully operational and ready for use by late May, district officials said in a press release.

According to the release, Tom Soehngen, VP of Arizon — the company that manufactured and installed the Dome — visited the site on April 9 to inspect the structure and assess the damage. Following his inspection, Soehngen met with district leadership and shared encouraging news: the damage to the Dome is less extensive than originally anticipated.

“Arizon will have personnel on site beginning Thursday, April 17, to begin reconnecting the Dome’s fabric to the building,” district officials said. “If all goes as planned, the Dome will be re-inflated by early May.”

Once the Dome is re-inflated, district officials will be able to access and retrieve athletic equipment needed for spring sports. Arizon’s team will also be inspecting and completing necessary interior repairs, which will include fixing lighting and addressing any rips or tears within the structure., the release states.

Additionally, the district has decided to take this opportunity to add lighting to the tennis and pickleball court area, enhancing the facility for future use.

Superintendent Eric Burke noted that district officials join the community in awaiting the Dome’s renaissance.

“We greatly appreciate everyone’s patience and con-

See **DOME DAMAGE** page 6



Bless the ground

Members of the School District of Rhinelander Board of Education pose during a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, April 7 celebrating the construction phase of the district’s \$26 million technical education project. Facilities at Rhinelander High School and James Williams Middle School will be updated as part of the project. Once finished, district officials said Rhinelander will have one of the best tech ed programs in the state. **DAVE MELANCON**

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YMCA Healthy Kids Day to include cooking demo

The YMCA of the Northwoods, Beck Family YMCA, will host its annual Healthy Kids Day ® event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 26.

This free, annual event features a variety of family-friendly activities to encourage healthy kids, healthy families and a healthy start to the summer season, organizers said in a press release.

Sponsored nationally by Peanuts, Healthy Kids Day’s mission is to prepare families and communities for a safe, healthy and fun summer. Some featured activities include healthy snacks, healthy meal samples, community resource fair, open pool, bounce house, games and activities.

“It is so important for kids to stay active over the summer, both physically and mentally,” said Abbie Cline, mission advancement director. “At the Y, we believe in providing resources for families to create healthy habits, no matter the time of year. Healthy Kids Day is a fun, free community-wide event that encourages families to take advantage of all the great summer activities our community has to offer.”

Healthy Kids Day will also welcome a celebrity chef, Doreen Colondres, who will be in attendance and providing a cooking demo from 11 a.m. to noon

Locally, Healthy Kids Day is sponsored by Health in Motion.

For more information, contact the YMCA of the Northwoods: Beck Family YMCA at 715-362-9622 or visit www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.org.

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Hands off rally in Rhinelander

Approximately 400 people gathered at the Oneida County Courthouse and displayed protest signs along Stevens Street during a two-hour “Hands Off Rally” on Saturday, April 5. The Rhinelander protest was one of several taking place statewide, nationally and overseas. The event was peaceful with drivers showing support by waving or honking or disagreeing with hand gestures and shouted comments. Another protest rally is scheduled for April 19. **DAVE MELANCON**

City tree board to participate in Earth Day Fair

Do you have a dead or dying “hazard” tree on your property? Help may be on the way! The City of Rhinelander has announced it is ready to launch its new Urban Forest Recovery Project to replace and revitalize yard trees and urban green spaces.

“Through a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service, the project supports removal and replacement of dead or dangerous trees on private property and, in turn, plants a healthy tree in its place at no cost to the property owner,” city officials said in a press release. “Moreover, for every tree planted in a yard, another will be planted on public property.”

This service is available only to city of Rhinelander residents, the release notes.

The project is part of a broader initiative by the City of Rhinelander Tree Board, in partnership with the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department (OCLW), to grow a diverse urban forest with a special focus on trees that benefit pollinators. To promote and continue this effort, Rhinelander is taking steps to become recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Workshops will be held in the fall to teach tree care and maintenance, with an emphasis on the importance

of pollinator-friendly trees. These workshops are a requirement for private property owners receiving a tree, as long-term maintenance will be their responsibility.

The benefits of trees and forested areas are many. Trees reduce erosion, cut heating and cooling costs, clean the air, produce oxygen, provide habitat for wildlife, supply paper and wood products, and increase property value while adding beauty and serenity to our busy lives.

To learn more about how trees can benefit your home, attend City Forester Tom Jerow’s discussion “Landscaping for Energy Savings” and visit the Tree Board’s table at the Earth Day Sustainability Fair at Nicolet College-Lakeside Center on April 22. City residents can also learn more about the Urban Forest Recovery Project and sign up to have their hazard tree evaluated.

The Earth Day Fair will be held from 3-7 p.m. and admission is free.

For more information about the Urban Forest Project, contact Jerow at 714-401-1578; email: forester@rhinelanderwi.us.

For information on the Earth Day Fair, visit <https://northwoodscommunitygarden.com/earth-day-fair/>.

Rhinelanders Area Food Pantry to celebrate 20th anniversary

Tickets are still available for the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry’s 20th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser to be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26 at the Pines Event Center. Tickets can be purchased at Forth Floral, RAFF (627 Coon Street) or at rhinelanderareafoodpantry.org.

This will mark the 20th anniversary of RAFF where over 9 million pounds of food (equivalent to over 225 full semi trailers) has been distributed to area children and families in our community, pantry officials said in a press release. RAFF currently serves over 1,020 households and provides 35,000 meals to kids in our community.

The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry (RAFF) is also challenging local residents to contribute to the annual Spring Challenge.

“Donations are typically lower during this time of year, so your help is greatly appreciated,” the release states. “Two local families, who wish to remain anonymous, have agreed once again to make a partial match for all donations or pledges received from March 1 through April 30. Donations may include cash, checks and food items (valued at \$1.00 per item or pound) and will be counted if received during March and April.”

RAFF’s current most needed items can be found by visiting www.rhinelandersareafoodpantry.org. Giving

during the RAFF Spring Challenge is an excellent way to make your donation go farther and provide even more help to area families in need, the release states. Attending the 20th anniversary celebration and money raised at the event will also count towards the Spring Challenge.

To help the food pantry with the Spring Challenge, monetary donations can be made to Rhinelander Area Food Pantry PO Box 1306, Rhinelander, WI 54501. Food items may be dropped off at the food pantry at 627 Coon Street from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. For more information, go to www.rhinelandersareafoodpantry.org or call 715-369-7237.



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Rhinelanders receive grant to support career exploration activities

Rhinelanders Partners in Education (PIE) has received a generous grant in the amount of \$2,340.92 from the Rhinelanders Community Foundation to support career experience activities for students at Rhinelanders High School and James Williams Middle School.

“This grant, made possible by the Ron and Elsie Gaber Grants for Greater Good, will directly fund field trips and experiences designed to expose students to a variety of college, technical school, and career opportunities throughout the Northwoods region,” district officials said in a press release.

“We are incredibly grateful to the Rhinelanders Community Foundation and the Ron and Elsie Gaber Grants for Greater Good for supporting our mission to connect students with real-world career experiences,” said Lexi Allen, col-

lege and career counselor for the School District of Rhinelanders. “These funds will allow students to explore a wide range of post-secondary paths and career fields, helping them make informed decisions about their futures.”

The funding will support field trips that allow students to visit college campuses, technical schools, and local employers, providing hands-on learning and valuable exposure to potential career pathways.

Partners in Education is a collaborative effort that brings together local educators, businesses, and community members to enhance academic and career planning for Rhinelanders students. For more information about Rhinelanders Partners in Education or to get involved, contact Lexi Allen at lexi.allen@rhinelanders.k12.wi.us.

School District of Rhinelanders announces engagement and connectedness survey

In an effort to measure its engagement and connectedness with community members and families, the School District of Rhinelanders is inviting the public to take a brief four-question survey. To access the survey, visit [https://](https://forms.gle/Grv5D3YqC8zRLPfM9)

forms.gle/Grv5D3YqC8zRLPfM9.

This survey is for all adult community members living within the School District of Rhinelanders boundaries. The survey will be open through April 25, 2025.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 16, Rhinelanders Area Food Pantry: 4-6 p.m., distribution. Donation drop-off hours, 8 a.m.-noon, Mondays through Fridays. 627 Coon St. rhinelandersareafoodpantry.org.

April 16, Business After Five: 5-7 p.m. Call the chamber for location. 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.

April 16, Line Dancing: 6-8 p.m., The Haven, Rhinelanders. Every Wednesday. For more information, call Diane at 715-282-5226.

April 17, Support Group: 6 p.m. Community Room #102, 1st floor of the Curran Building in Rhinelanders. Peer-led mental health support group. Safe and confidential space open to anyone 18 or older. This will be an open discussion. Visit supportingeachother.online for more information or call Dan at 715-360-5796.

April 17, Builders Club: 1-5 p.m., Rhinelanders District Library. Legos, Magna-Tiles, and more available in the children's department. 715-365-1070 or rhinelanderslibrary.org.

April 17, Nicolet Student Art Show Opening Reception: 4-7 p.m. Nicolet College Art Gallery. Witness the creativity of Nicolet College's talented students through a curated collection of their works.

April 17, Thursday Night Trivia: 7-10 p.m., Backwaters Bar and Grill, Rhinelanders. 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.

April 17, Roots Concert Series: 6:30-8:30 p.m. ArtStart. WXPB and ArtStart present the Roots Concert Series featuring Kelly Jackson, a Native American Folk singer.

April 19, Chess Club: 10 a.m. -noon, Rhinelanders 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 rhinelanderslibrary.org.

April 19, Rhinelanders Area Food Pantry: 9-11:30 a.m., distribution. Donation drop-off hours, 8 a.m.-noon, Mondays through Fridays. 627 Coon St. rhinelandersareafoodpantry.org.

April 19, Indoor Farmers Market: Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon, throughout the fall and winter at the YMCA of the Northwoods, 2003 E. Winnebago St., Rhinelanders. 715-362-9622 x 118.

April 20, Community Open Swim: 9 a.m.-



noon, Sundays through May 19, Heck Family Community Pool, Rhinelanders High School. Visit the community section at rhinelanders.k12.wi.us. Contact: Mike Cheslock, 715-365-9745 or cheslmik@rhinelanders.k12.wi.us.

April 21, Overeaters Anonymous: 1 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 235 N. Stevens St., Rhinelanders. 715-362-4258.

April 21, Bridge Games: noon, American Legion Hall, 121 W. Front St., Minocqua. \$4. Call Lee at 715-356-4243.

April 21, Rhinelanders Area Food Pantry: 3-5 p.m., distribution. Donation drop-off hours, 8 a.m.-noon, Mondays through Fridays. 627 Coon St. rhinelandersareafoodpantry.org.

April 21, An Evening of Poetry at RDL: 4:30- 7 p.m. Rhinelanders District Library. Join Wisconsin author James Hamilton for an evening of poetry. Register to join a poetry workshop from 4:30-5:30 p.m. or attend his spoken word poetry performance from 6-7 p.m.

April 21, Tiny Tot Time: 10 a.m., Rhinelanders District Library. Caregivers can connect with each other and their little ones as they play and learn. 715-365-1070 or rhinelanderslibrary.org.

April 21, ATV/UTV Club Fundraiser: 4-8 p.m. Pizza Ranch. Pizza Ranch is providing the Hodag 4-Wheelers ATV/UTV Club in Rhinelanders an opportunity to earn some money helping them out with service. Help the Hodag ATV/UTV Club. Proceeds will be used to fund trail maintenance.

April 22, Earth Day Sustainability Fair: 3-7 p.m. Learn about energy saving techniques to reduce your energy bills. Food truck, hosted discussion groups, kids activities, vendors, live music, eco art and silent auction.

April 22, Preschool Storytime: 10 a.m., Rhinelanders District Library, 106 N. Stevens St., Stories, flannels, songs and fun for ages 2 and up. 715-365-1070 or rhinelanders.k12.wi.us

See **CALENDAR** page 4

RHS students build business experience at FBLA state

Nine Rhinelanders High School students traveled to Green Bay for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference March 30 -April 1. Approximately 2,400 students attended the conference, each with the goal of making it to national competition in Anaheim, Calif. Rhinelanders students competed in various business-related events including Business Law, Computer Applications, and Entrepreneurship, all of which required taking a 100-question test, as well as presentation events like Client Services and Impromptu Speaking. In addition to competing, students attended workshops, took tours of prominent Green Bay businesses, and met other students from across the state, school officials said in a press release.

For each event, the top four places qualify as individuals or teams for nationals. For Rhinelanders, Kate Ripple took second place in Business Law and Brody Kowieski came home as a

state champion, taking first place in Impromptu Speaking.

Payton McCue took 6th place in Client Services, and the team of Aiden Ostermann, John Turek, and Michael Schiek placed 6th in Entrepreneurship. Rhinelanders was also recognized for its community service efforts based on the amount of time and number of members who have helped complete several projects throughout the year, especially Trick or Can, Fall Fest, Santa Letters, and Jeans For Teens. For their efforts, Rhinelanders placed second in Community Service.

The two students who qualified have the opportunity to go to Anaheim, Calif. from June 27-July 3 and compete against students from all 50 states. If you have any questions regarding FBLA, or would be interested in supporting the FBLA students as they advance to the national competition, contact Ms. Fryar at (715)-365-9500 or fryarmis@rhinelanders.k12.wi.us.



Brody Kowieski



Kate Ripple

Free summer academies help teens explore careers in public safety

Teens 16 to 18 years old who want to explore careers in criminal justice, fire and emergency medical services can join free academies this summer at Nicolet College.

The Criminal Justice Teen Academy will run June 16-19, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on the Nicolet campus in Rhinelanders. During the academy, teens will have hands-on activities, such as K9 demonstrations, traffic law, emergency first aid and specialized teams and tactics, organizers said in a press release. Teens will also participate in scenarios to immediately apply their new skills.

The Fire and Emergency Services Academy will run June 24-26, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on the Nicolet College campus in Rhinelanders. Hands-on activities in this academy will include search and rescue scenarios, hose lines and extinguishers, emergency first aid, and moving in full turn-out gear. Teens will also visit Rhinelanders Fire Department and Aspirus-Howard Young Hospital in Woodruff.

“These careers attract people who want to make a difference in their communities and keep their families and friends safe and healthy,” said Jason Goeldner, associate dean of public safety at Nicolet College. “We need young people who are ready to step up for their communities and



Teens can explore careers in public safety this summer at Nicolet College in Rhinelanders. **Submitted photo**

summer academies are a great place to start to see if they have what it takes.”

Academies are free, and lunch is provided. Interested teens 16 to 18 years old can sign up on Nicolet College's website. For more information about the criminal justice academy, contact Tim Gerdman at 715-365-4535 or tgerdmann@nicoletcollege.edu. For more information about the fire and emergency medical services academy, contact Ray Lemke at 715-365-4453 or rlemke@nicoletcollege.edu.



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| OBITUARIES |



Jean Weaver Sharon died at home on December 5, 2024, age 93. Jean was born September 7, 1931 in Antigo, to Harold and Norma Weaver of Pelican Lake. Jean graduated from Antigo High School in 1950. After graduating Jean's first job was with Bell Telephone as a telephone operator. The only known Weaver to actually get paid for talking. Jean met and married Don England, had two daughters, and they began life together on Pelican Lake, until Don's passing in 1968. Jean raised her girls, worked many jobs, and also participated in running Weaver's Resort alongside her folks before becoming the primary operator. She also worked for a time as the Town Treasurer of Shoopke. Jean had a beautiful smile, was a generous spirit and she always enjoyed a good laugh. If you spent any time on the resort you were bound to see Jean on her golf cart with a dog in the passenger seat. Jean made running the resort her life's work and was never far from the lake. Jean married Jim Sharon in 1977. They loved snowmobiling together and escaping to Mazatlan to relax in the sun whenever they could get away. When Jean did have time for cooking she made pasties for the family and had a pickle recipe that drew rave reviews. That weathered recipe is still in use today. Jean's kindness came from her bones, and if a kid was ever in trouble at the lake, the smart ones confessed to Jean first. She was always there for the kids, and anyone else who needed a gentle shoulder. Jean was preceded in death by her parents, brother Bill (Shirley Weaver), sister Virginia Radtke (Bob), Jim Sharon and his sons Steve and David Sharon, and nephews Steve England and William Weaver. She is survived by sister Barbara Weaver Krause, daughters Debbie England and Wendy (Rick) Lowe, and grandson, West (Ellyse) Lowe, and cousins, nieces and nephews in Wisconsin and Michigan. A celebration of life will be held at the Pelican Lake Town Hall on Saturday June 21st, 11-2pm. Come and taste a pickle, while supplies last.

| DEATH NOTICES |

Anne L. Anderson, age 82, of Rhinelander, died on April 4, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home
Sandra Anne Fransen, age 76, died on April 6, 2025. Carlson Funeral Home



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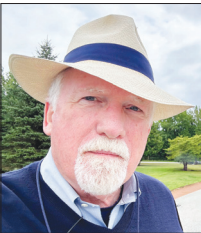
| PUBLISHER LETTER |

The Meaning Of Easter

Dear Reader,

Easter is upon us, a time of great celebration for Christians around the world. It is the day we proclaim, Christ is risen!—a moment of triumph over death, of hope restored, and of love eternal. But what does this truly mean? It means embracing faith—not just in the historical event of the Resurrection, but in the promise that, just as He rose, He will come again. It is a reminder that life is more than what we see before us, that there is a deeper purpose, and that goodness, love, and faith lead to something far greater.

For children, Easter is often marked by the joy of waking up to baskets filled with candies, chocolates, and bright-colored treats. They search eagerly for hidden eggs, trusting with pure hearts that the Easter Bunny has come, just as he does every year. Their delight is simple and beautiful, a reflection of the wonder



and innocence of childhood.

But for adults, Easter carries a weightier significance. After the solemn season of Lent—a time of fasting, reflection, and sacrifice—Easter is a moment of renewal. It is a time to rejoice in the promise of redemption, to embrace the idea that goodness on this earth matters, and to reaffirm that our choices have eternal significance.

If you believe, then know this: the good you do in this world is not in vain. Love, kindness, and faith shape not only our lives but also our eternity. Easter reminds us that beyond the struggles, beyond the sacrifices, there is the promise of everlasting joy. It is a celebration not just of an event from long ago, but of the hope that guides us today and always.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Easter.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

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

CALENDAR *from page 3*

landerlibrary.org.

April 22: Y Stitchers: 12-2:30 p.m. YMCA of the Northwoods. Stitch, chat, and make new connections. Bring your knitting, crocheting, or sewing. Share ideas and skills. All skill levels are welcome.

April 22, Teen Art Experience: 4-5:30 p.m. at ArtStart. Youth ages 13+ are invited for open studio time with local artists. Participants can expect a casual art making experience with a wide variety of materials

and projects to explore. Registration required. 715-362-4328.

April 23, 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.

May 1, Barn Quilt Painting: 5-9 p.m., Rhinelander High School, room 134 (art room). Registration deadline: April 21. Visit the community section at rhinelander.k12.wi.us. Contact: Mike Cheslock, 715-365-9745 or cheslmik@rhinelander.k12.wi.us.

May 7, Watercolor Color Painting, Solitude: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Rhinelander High School, room 134 (art room). Registration deadline: May 5. Visit the community section at rhinelander.k12.wi.us. Contact: Mike Cheslock, 715-365-9745 or cheslmik@rhinelander.k12.wi.us.

May 14, Acrylic Painting, Sunny Day: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Rhinelander High School, room 134 (art room). Registration deadline: May 12. Visit the community section at rhinelander.k12.wi.us. Contact: Mike Cheslock, 715-365-9745 or cheslmik@rhinelander.k12.wi.us.



Happy Easter

Pine Grove Community Church

Good Friday Service
6:30 pm

Easter Sunday Worship Service
10:00 am


1360 N. Stevens St. Rhinelander

Everyone is invited to come worship with us.
Or watch our services online at www.pgcc.us


Easter
BECAUSE HE LIVES

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www.ZionRhinelander.org
160 N. Brown Street
Rhinelander
715-365-9357

Easter Celebration Services

Easter Sunday, April 20 - 6:30 & 9:00 am

  9:00 am livestream 
Go to ZionRhinelander.org

Also on WCYE—93.7 FM at 9:00 am
Easter breakfast served 7:30-8:45 am


**Your friends at Zion wish you
a most blessed and joyous Easter!**

St. Augustine Episcopal Church
39 S Pelham St., Rhinelander

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy, Thursday 7 p.m.
Good Friday: Noon
Saturday Easter Vigil: 8:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday: 9 a.m.

www.rhinelanderepiscopal@gmail.com



Calvary Baptist Church
320 Lincoln, St., Rhinelander • 715-362-4792

Good Friday
April 18, 7 pm

Easter Sunday
April 20, 10 am
KidZone (K-5th) and nursery during 10 am service.

ExploreCalvary.com



SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT 2025



How to boost home value before selling

People considering buying or selling a home are facing a unique market. The real estate market has been in flux for several years, and high interest rates have made it more expensive to borrow.

The Mortgage Bankers Association is projecting that 30-year mortgage rates will level out to 6.5 percent for the foreseeable future. That means that people who have been waiting for changes in the real estate market could be disappointed, and hesitant buyers may finally just bite the bullet and buy even if mortgage rates are not where they hoped they'd be in 2025. Homeowners with properties they are considering listing for sale would be wise to make certain changes that will help garner the best prices from buyers.

MAKE KITCHEN AND BATH IMPROVEMENTS

The kitchen is the heart of many homes. Real estate agents may recommend that homeowners make minor to moderate kitchen upgrades like resurfacing cabinets, upgrading countertops and changing fixtures or hardware to give the room an overhaul.

Homeowners also should look to bathroom updates as smart investments that can improve home value. Katie Severance, author of *The Brilliant Home Buyer*, characterizes kitchens and baths as “money rooms” that add the most value to a home.



DECLUTTER THE HOME

Homeowners should clean out items they no longer need. Decluttering can make a space feel bigger, which is beneficial in a market where open concept floor plans remain popular among home buyers.

When buyers walk through a prospective home, they want to envision themselves living there, something that is more easily done if the home isn't overrun with the current homeowner's belongings.

GET TO PAINTING

Painting a home is a cost-effective renovation with a lot of oomph. Freshly painted rooms appear clean and

updated, says HGTV, and that can appeal to buyers. Homeowners should choose neutral colors to accommodate the widest array of potential buyers.

IMPROVE THE LANDSCAPING

The exterior of a home is the first thing potential buyers will see as they roll up to view a property or look at a listing online. Homeowners should start by evaluating and enhancing the landscaping. Ensure the lawn is well-maintained and add plants that provide color without a lot of maintenance.

EXPAND USABLE SPACE

Homeowners can think about adding to the usable space in a home. This translates into finishing basements or attics or even converting garages to rooms. Or it may involve adding a three-season room.

Homeowners can consider a number of improvements to increase the resale value of their properties.

Small renovations that make a big impact

Homeowners may think they have to tear down walls or build room extensions to transform their homes with renovation projects. But small projects can yield impressive results, and that's something homeowners working with limited budgets can keep in mind.

There's no shortage of small projects that can change the look and feel of a home. Many of these undertakings can be achieved with a modest investment.

- **Front door replacement:** A new front door instantly improves curb appeal and can make a home more secure and energy-efficient. Painting the existing front door is an even smaller project that still offers appeal.
- **Lighting addition:** Whether a homeowner enlarges a window or adds skylights, natural light can produce incredible results. Investing in new lighting can feel like expanding a space without pushing out walls.
- **Kitchen and bath fixture upgrades:** Faucets and door pulls are used every day. Swapping existing fixtures for something a little more modern can unify spaces and provide subtle changes that enhance these popular spaces.
- **Wood floor restoration:** Scuffing and scratches can adversely affect the pristine look of a natural wood floor. Homeowners can polish a floor to restore its shine. A professional service will sand down and refinish older floors at a fraction of the cost of a new floor installation.

- **Exterior lighting:** Lighting isn't just important inside. A welcoming glow in the yard is awe-inspiring. There are many energy-efficient lighting options, including ones that do not need to be hard-wired to the circuitry inside the home.
- **Staircase renovation:** Coordinate the staircase to the style in the home with a decorative carpet runner. A secure runner is attractive and can help reduce slipping down the stairs. Tighten shaky railings or replace them while upgrading the stair treads.
- **Interior paint:** Change the color of walls, doors, cabinets, or even furniture with paint. All homeowners need is a paint color that inspires them and a

little bit of time.

- **Replace outlet covers:** Upgrade outlet covers with screwless options. Screwless plates for outlets and light switches can make walls look more sleek.
- **Entry organizer installation:** Banish clutter from the home by catching it at the door. An entry organizer with spaces for shoes, coats, backpacks, and shopping bags can be eye-catching and functional.
- **Carpets cleaning:** Soiled carpets can look drab and dingy. Homeowners can rent carpet-cleaning machines or hire services to revitalize carpets with a deep cleaning.

Small changes around a home can create a big impact without breaking the bank.





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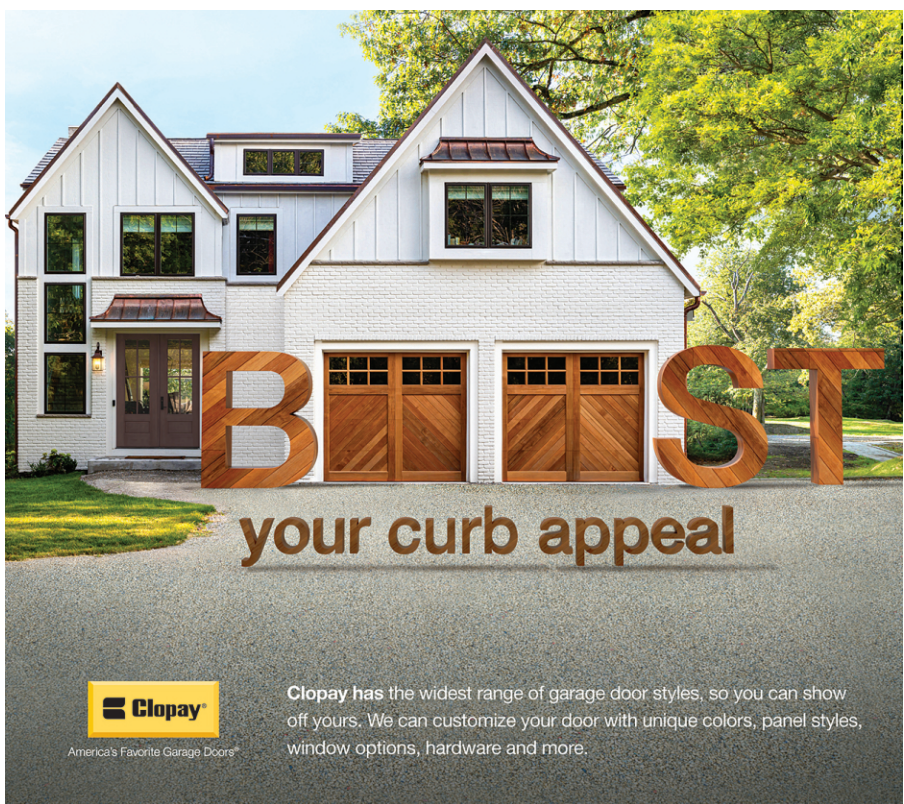
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ONEIDA COUNTY WARRANTS OF THE WEEK

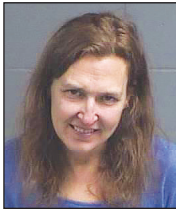
The Oneida County Sheriff's Office is asking for your assistance in locating these individuals. If you have seen or have information regarding their whereabouts, please contact the Oneida County Sheriff's Office at 715-361-5100.



Leon M. Diver, 27, Lac Du Flambeau. Failure to pay. BOND: \$813.86



Laurie A. Schuman, 53, Lac Du Flambeau. Fail to appear. BODY ONLY.



Melissa A. Vine, 52, Rhinelander. Failure to pay. BOND: \$1,006.50



Bryan L. Vandyke, 40, Rhinelander. Failure to pay. BOND: \$1,529.20



Stacie L. Fox, 39, Woodruff; Failure to pay. BOND: \$356.50

ONEIDA COUNTY COURT REPORT

APRIL 3-9

Jonathan T. Neveaux, 28, Rhinelander, OWI (3rd), \$2500 signature bond, AIA May 12.
Nicki Nicole Boettcher, 34, Rhinelander, possession of controlled substance, \$500 signature bond, AIA May 12.
John Christian Wise, 50, Eagle River, possession of THC, possession of drug paraphernalia, \$500 signature bond, AIA May 12.
Michael Anthony Youngs, 31, Antigo, failure to report to jail (felony), \$500 signature bond, AIA May 12.
Walter Ronald Lannet Jr, 51, Eagle River, OWI (4th), bail jumping-felony, \$7500 cash bond, AIA April 14.
Damon A. Laking, 44, Eagle River, OWI (5th or 6th with passenger < 16 years old), \$1500 cash bond, AIA May 12.
Ryan L. Meyer, 42, Minocqua, bail jumping-misdemeanor, \$500 signature bond, PTC May 6.
Rebecca J. Lieder, 38, Rhinelander, operating without a valid license (2nd within 3 years), \$500 signature bond, AIA May 12.
Yvonne Margaret Morman, 81, Lake Tomahawk, violate harassment restraining order, bail jumping-misdemeanor, \$10,000 cash bond, AIA April 7.
Joshua T. Willis, 31, Rhinelander, disorderly conduct with domestic abuse-threat modifier, bail jumping-misdemeanor, both

charges dismissed but read in.
Nicole Ann Joslin, 50, Tomahawk, possession of THC, deferred prosecution or sentence, possession of methamphetamine, guilty due to guilty plea.
Matthew Earl Cranchich, 47, Appleton, operating while revoked (1st forfeiture), dismissed on prosecutor's motion, ignition interlock device tampering/failure to install/violate court order, guilty due to no contest plea, \$443 fine.
Kyle J. Larch, 46, Rhinelander, neglecting a child (no harm and child <6 years old or disability), deferred prosecution or sentence, bail jumping-felony, battery with domestic abuse modifier, strangulation and suffocation, charges dismissed but read in, disorderly conduct with domestic abuse modifier, guilty due to no contest plea, 1 year WHS/POP.
Ashley Erin Slesicki, 38, Rhinelander, possession of drug paraphernalia, guilty due to guilty plea.
Joshua T. Willis, 31, Rhinelander, operating with PAC (2nd), guilty due to no contest plea, 5 days jail, \$1655 fine, 15 months Driver's license revocation, 15 months IID.
Kenneth Brian Davis, 54, Rhinelander, vehicle operator flee/elude officer, found guilty at jury trial, 12 months WHS/POP.
Edwin Andrew Johnson IV, 43, Rhinelander, operating without a valid license (2nd within 3 years),

dismissed on prosecutor's motion, operating without a valid license (2nd within 3 years), bail jumping-misdemeanor, charges dismissed but read in, operating with PAC >=.02 under IID order (3rd), ignition interlock device tampering/failure to install/violate court order, bail jumping-misdemeanor, charges found guilty due to guilty plea, 45 days jail, 2 years POP, \$1894 fine, 24 months driver's license revocation, 24 months IID.
Lamberto Galindo Rodriguez Jr, 23, Rhinelander, bail jumping-misdemeanor, disorderly conduct, both charges dismissed on prosecutor's motion.
Amy Lynn Sparks, 48, Rhinelander, intentionally mistreat animals, guilty due to no contest plea.
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

DOMES DAMAGE from page 1

tinued support as we work through this challenge," he said. "In just a few short years, the Hodag Dome has become an incredibly valuable resource for our students, our community, and the entire region. We're excited to see it return to full operation soon."
The 128,000 square foot dome had to be deflated after a backup generator failed to operate during a March 30 ice storm, resulting in damage to the facility's PVC fabric.

The Dome, the largest in the country owned by a school district, opened in February 2021, offering local student-athletes an opportunity to practice and compete in inclement weather. The facility has also been an important economic engine for the Rhinelander area. Numerous tournaments are held throughout the year, drawing families from around the state. The facility also hosts a wide array of community events for residents of all ages and serves as the polling place for City of Rhinelander residents.

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Rummage Sales Upcoming 7202

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Miscellaneous for Rent 7442


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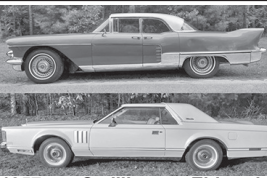
Miscellaneous Real Estate 7487

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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.

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Nitke Day 3 - Monday, April 28th & Nitke Day 4 - Tuesday, April 29th Attachments, Industrial, Outdoor and Misc. Items <i>Online Only - Starts to Close at 10:00am</i>	

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Application deadline is April 21, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Please submit letter of application, resume, transcripts, and three current letters of reference to:
Mr. Jose Laureano, Director of Technology
Lakeland Union High School
9573 State Hwy 70, Minocqua, WI 54548
or email directly to laureano@lakelandunion.org

Hodag Highlights

SOCCER GOES 3-1

The Rhinelander High School girls soccer team posted a 3-1 record last week.

On Tuesday, April 8, the Hodags played their first home game of the season, taking on the Three Lakes Bluejays. The team had not scored a goal in the first two games of the season and came out with a vengeance as they scored 8 goals in the first 60 minutes to end the game via the mercy rule. Sophie Miljevich scored 4 goals, Vivian Lamers had 2 and Linsey Hoerchler added a goal and 3 assists.

On Thursday, April 10 the Hodags hosted Stevens Point. Rhinelander played a complete game against a Div. 1 opponent and came out on top 2-1.

Over the weekend the team traveled to Lake Mills where they defeated Jefferson 10-2 in a tournament. Lake Mills, the No. 2 ranked team in Div. 4, and the Hodags squared off in the championship game.

Lake Mills won, shutting out the Hodags 4-0.



Play ball!

On Friday, April 11 the Rhinelander High School baseball team was able to practice on their home field.



Ella Miljevich takes a shot against Stevens Point Thursday, April 10, scoring a goal.



The Rhinelander High School boys tennis season is underway. Doubles player Aiden Ostermann waits at the net as his partner Michael Schiek serves.



The Rhinelander High School girls softball team held its first outside practice of the year on Wednesday, April 9 in preparation for a weekend tournament.

PFAS LAWSUIT *from page 1*

its discovery at this time, some of their requests are overly broad given the nature of plaintiffs’ claims,” Conley wrote. “All class claims are either property-based or for products liability and unjust enrichment. By contrast, the personal injury claim is brought only on behalf of nine individual plaintiffs. Some of the requests to which plaintiffs specifically objected, defendant 3M’s requests nos. 15 and 21 and defendant Wausau and Ahlstrom’s requests nos. 13–15, seek documents exclusively related to plaintiffs’ personal health and health habits. While these documents are not irrelevant to the personal injury claim, they are inapplicable to the property claims and so must be limited to the nine individual plaintiffs bringing the personal injury claim.”

The plaintiffs filed their lawsuit in August 2023, several months after a DNR-conducted statewide study revealed dangerously high levels of PFAS in some private wells in the eastern Oneida County township.

PFAS are a group of man-made, fluorinated chemicals manufactured and used since the 1940s. Because they are designed to be stable and unreactive to water, grease, heat, and other elements, they are often referred to as “forever” compounds.

Studies have shown a link between human exposure to PFAS and adverse health effects and some of the Stella plaintiffs allege they have experienced health issues they attribute to PFAS contamination.

The defendants are Ahlstrom Rhinelander LLC, the current owner of the Rhinelander paper mill, its former owner Wausau Paper, and the chemical giant 3M which the plaintiffs allege provided products to the mill that contained PFAS.

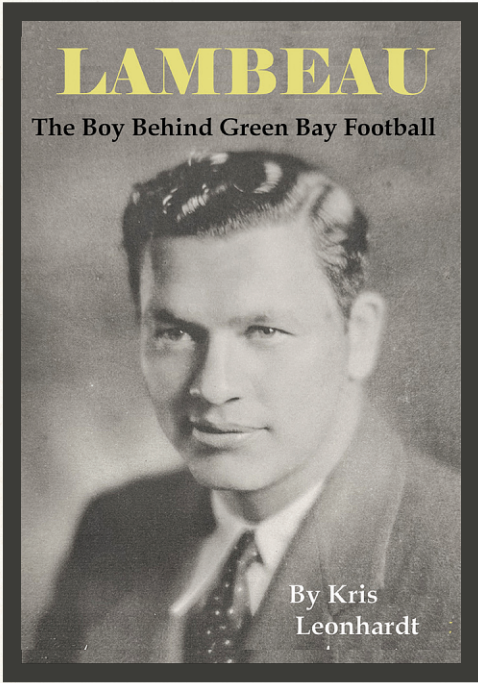
The plaintiffs allege the practice of spreading sludge/fibercake from the mill on local farmlands caused their properties to become contaminated.

The defendants have mounted a vigorous response. Among other things, they argue that land-spreading is a common practice, regulated by the DNR, that does not meet the legal definition of a “hazardous activity” as is required for the plaintiff’s strict liability claim to prevail.

The defendants have also signaled their opposition to any attempt to have the lawsuit certified as a “class action” as it is their belief that none of the plaintiffs’ claims meet the “rigorous standards” for class certification.

Court records indicate Conley is not expected to rule on the question of class certification until late next year. The case is not scheduled for trial until March 2027.

“A fascinating TALE



of dedication that will inspire fans and readers alike. If you love football, community and tales of grit, this book is a must-read.

The story of the beginning of the Green Bay Packers and the life of Earl Louis “Curly” Lambeau are so intertwined that it is hard to imagine one without the other.

From the streets of Green Bay, Lambeau developed a passion for football and grew that yearning into a football team that would exist long past his lifetime.

Like the Packers, Lambeau’s story is a tale of adversity and challenge, but also a story of triumph and perseverance. While his personal life and professional career were wrought with challenge, his legacy continues to resonate in the Green Bay community, including a massive structure along Lombardi Avenue that shines a light on his contribution to the professional team.

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