

### Quarterly Issues/Programs List

**Station:** WMQA  
**Quarter:** 1<sup>st</sup> (Jan)  
**Year:** 2021

ISSUE DESCRIPTION	PROGRAM SEGMENT	DATE	TIME	DURATION	DESCRIPTION OF SEGMENT
Covid cases in the state continue a downward trend	News	1/4/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>COVID-19 cases in the state continued their downward trend. The health department reported 80 more people were hospitalized yesterday and five more died. And as has been the trend lately, testing remains considerably low. Statewide, hospitals are at 78% capacity. The one number that's remained is a 93.5% recovery rate among those infected.</p> <p>Response to the pandemic and election procedures will greet lawmakers in Madison today as they open the 2021-22 legislative session. Typically it's the</p>

budget that consumes the most time, but this year is anything but typical. Among other discussions, new political boundaries. And the one constant, the deep political division within the parties.

As the latest round of stimulus checks roll out, the Better Business Bureau is warning of another round of scams. Con artists are contacting people via text messages, eMail and robocalls claiming personal information is needed to get the funds. Consumer advocates say never respond to any of these messages as there are no processing fees or information necessary.

The Green Bay Packers won a lot more than yesterday's 35-16 win over Chicago. Top seed in the NFC playoffs, home field

					<p>advantage and a first round bye. And what's the team going to do with the time off? Quarterback Aaron Rodgers said the goal is not to get COVID. With his 18<sup>th</sup> TD catch, DaVante Adams tied Sterling Sharpe for the most touchdown catches in a single season in franchise history. And his six catches gave him the record for most in a single season in team history as well with 115.</p>
<p>State senator Johnson to vote against counting electoral votes</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/4/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Senator Ron Johnson is among 11 Republicans who will vote against counting electoral votes Tuesday. That would be part of the certification of election results by Congress. The Wisconsin Republican is part of the group led by Texas Senator Ted Cruz that wants to reject the Electoral College</p>

votes from several states until an "emergency 10-day audit" of those results is completed before Joe Biden is sworn into office. National reports indicated as many as 140 Republicans in the U-S House of Representatives will vote against counting those electoral votes.

A one vehicle accident last night in the Town of Bradley injured a 29-year old Tomahawk woman. The crash reported shortly after 8 on Hwy 8 and Crystal lake Road. She was taken to Aspirus Wausau Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's office reported the arrest of two people last night after a traffic stop in the Town of Birch. A check of the driver, a 28-year old Merrill woman found an outstanding warrant for burglary while

					<p>armed, two counts of theft, criminal damage to property and two felony bail jumping counts. The 49-year old Irma man, a passenger, was arrested on a drug charge.</p> <p>With the snow cover, the number of controlled burns is increasing. With that snow the DNR lifted the burning restrictions.</p> <p>Northwoods deputies responded to a number of reports of smoke in well-travelled areas over the last week that were not reported. Residents are reminded if you do plan to burn you should contact the sheriff's office.</p>
Reigning Alice In Dairyland will continue in the role for 2021	News	1/5/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>The first action to come out of Madison since last spring on the coronavirus pandemic occurred yesterday in the first day back in session for lawmakers. The Republican-controlled</p>

House introduced a relief package that immediately drew criticism from Democratic Governor Tony Evers, who called it disappointing. GOP leaders say it will pass later this week while the governor's office gave no indication if it would be signed or vetoed.

The reigning Alice in Dairyland will continue in that role this year. Julia Nunes of Chippewa Falls will serve through July of 2022 after the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection announced the 74<sup>th</sup> annual Dairyland finals would be cancelled, a victim of the COVID-19 pandemic. The longstanding program is a major part of the marketing for the department. A \$50,000 cash bond was continued for 26-year old Alexander Beda, facing 10

				<p>felony counts for possession child pornography. The Minocqua man entered a not guilty plea in Oneida County court yesterday. A pre-trial conference was set for March 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was arrested in November after images were found on a social messaging app that was linked to Beda.</p> <p>Last month it was announced tax returns would not be prepared through the Rhinelander Tax Aide Program. But a group of RSVP volunteers will help people complete the Homestead Credit Forms. This applies only to those not required to file a state or federal tax return, but pays either property tax or rent. People can contact the Oneida County ADRC for information about the free service</p>
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State judge reflects on state law

News

1/5/21

1230p,530p

1:30

A federal judge in Madison says a lawsuit filed by two Republican lawmakers, voting rights groups and others “rests on a fundamental and obvious misreading of the U-S Constitution.” U-S District Judge James Boasberg rejected the case brought against Vice President Mike Pence, the Congress and the Electoral College Monday. Four other states – Arizona, Georgia, Michigan and Pennsylvania – were also targeted. More than 50 similar lawsuits have failed since President Donald Trump lost to Democratic challenger Joe Biden in November. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos says the Wisconsin State Capitol is the “People’s House,” again. The Capitol building has been closed to the public since March 25<sup>th</sup> due to the coronavirus

pandemic. Lawmakers passed a joint resolution Monday, on the first day of the legislative session, re-opening the building. Vos says Democratic Governor Tony Evers can handle access to his office anyway he wants, but the Legislature is "committed to public access and the safe re-opening of our state." Congressman Mark Pocan won't run for the U-S Senate in the 2022 election. The Wisconsin Democrat made the formal announcement Monday. He would be seeking to replace Republican Ron Johnson – who hasn't formally made any announcement about his future, but has said in the past that he didn't plan to run for re-election. Pocan says he would be less effective if he gave up his seniority in the House to move to the Senate. He's

					currently a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee and Pocan says his seniority means he can deliver results there.
Demand for Covid vaccine in Oneida Co. exceeds the amount delivered to the county health dept.	News	1/6/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Kenosha braced for unrest with little happening following the announcement no charges would be filed in the Jacob Blake shooting. Officer Rusten Sheskey will not be held negligent in the incident where Blake was shot in the back last summer leaving him paralyzed. Demand for the COVID-19 vaccine in Oneida County far exceeds the amount just delivered to the county health department. Workers there will help provide the shots to organizations having frontline healthcare personnel not affiliated with a healthcare system,

				<p>hospital or long-term care facility. OCHD is working closely with the Wisconsin dept of health services and local healthcare facilities to develop a process to ensure workers get the vaccine as it becomes available. That availability has come into question by health officials as the federal government has dramatically slowed the distribution to states. Governor Tony Evers said yesterday the focus should be on stopped the spread of the virus, not the numbers of vaccines. Emergency services in the North got a boost as the Marshfield Clinic Health Systems introduced its own critical care transport ambulance service. Based in both Park Falls and the new Marshfield Medical Center-Minocqua campus, the state-of-the-art</p>
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					ambulances will be staffed around the clock with critical care level paramedics and nurses. And the new Aspirus Rhinelander Clinic is now open. The facility just finished a 22,000 square foot expansion that offers everything from new check in areas to larger spaces for therapies and increased imaging services. The expansion also brought on more jobs with increases in staff.
Area ice hockey tourney canceled	News	1/6/21	1230p,530p	1:30	The Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, state Restaurant Association, and state Grocers Association are giving their support to the COVID-19 relief bill being fast-tracked by Republican lawmakers. Not liking the bill at all are public health officials and Democrats in the Wisconsin Legislature. The Public

				<p>Health Association and the Association of Local Health Departments and Boards say the Republican-backed bill would limit their ability to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. Both the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly could pass it by Thursday. If they do, Democratic Governor Tony Evers is likely to veto it.</p> <p>The 2021 USA Hockey/LaBatt Blue Pond Hockey National Championships, set for next month have been cancelled. The sanctioning organization said the decision was made with the health and safety of the players, volunteers and Eagle River community after consulting with the Vilas County Health Department, Chamber of Commerce and Labatt Blue. The event was scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup> thru the 7<sup>th</sup> on Dollar</p>
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					<p>Lake on the Eagle River Chain. It's been rescheduled for February 10-13 next year.</p> <p>A group called the Gitchigumi Scouts gathered in Superior last night to continue the fight against Enbridge Energy's Line 3 pipeline. The multi-billion dollar project received the final approval it needed in November. Opponents continue to create barricades and blockades as they try to impede the work. They say they are protecting the water and the people who will be affected if there is a spill or other major disaster. Enbridge officials say they have designed the project to minimize the impact on sensitive streams and wetlands.</p>
Trump supporters rally in Minocqua	News	1/7/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Hours after protesters stormed the capital in Washington, President

				<p>Donald Trump, in a video message, told his supporters to “go home”. The events unfolded as lawmakers convened to confirm the electoral college results and President-elect Joe Biden’s victory. An explosive device was found by law enforcement, Vice President Mike Pence was forcibly removed to safety and a woman shot and killed by capital police as the mob tried breaking through a barricaded door. Three others later due to medical emergencies. The state’s congressional delegation condemned the actions. Governor Tony Evers reacted by saying the protest, “is an attack on our democracy. Period.” Lawmakers from both parties went so far as to say Trump should be immediately removed from office. In a statement,</p>
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Biden called for, “just simple decency”.

As violence erupted in DC, Trump supporters rallied in Minocqua peacefully yesterday. Several dozen people, many still believing there were irregularities in the November elections, came to offer thanks to the president for his time in office. The president now says there will be an orderly transition to the office on January 20<sup>th</sup> for Joe Biden. The confirmation lasted until early this morning.

The Demmer Library in Three Lakes was one of 200 serving small rural communities to receive a national grant. The \$3000 American Library Association grant will help library staff receive training in community assessment and begin connecting with community and library volunteers. Director Erica

					Brewster said the funds will allow them to get to know the residents better and help build their core of volunteers.
State senators vote down	News	1/7/21	1230p,530p	1:30	Wisconsin's U-S Senators voted against the objections to electoral votes for Arizona and Pennsylvania late last night. The dramatic roll call vote came several hours after thousands of Trump supporters stormed the U-S Capitol trying to prevent it. Democrat Tammy Baldwin and Republican Ron Johnson voted against the motions to reject Joe Biden's victories in the two states. In the House of Representatives, Republican Congressmen Tom Tiffany and Scott Fitzgerald voted to override the presidential votes in Arizona and Pennsylvania. Glenn Grothman, Bryan Steil, and

Mike Gallagher voted against the objections, which failed. Members of Congress returned to the Capitol after the rioters had left with the session lasting into the early morning hours.

Wisconsin political leaders are offering harsh criticism of the violence at the U-S Capitol which left four people dead. The Wisconsin Senate Republican caucus condemned it as “unacceptable and un-American.” Democratic State Senator Chris Larson said the incident was “nothing short of treason.” Republican State Senator Steve Nass and several others said people who broke into the Capitol building must be met with swift and immediate justice.

					<p>The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is reporting the state has passed another milestone in its battle against COVID-19. The death toll from the virus has topped five-thousand. As of Wednesday, the D-H-S says five-thousand-39 people have died from COVID-19-related complications. Since March nearly a half-million people have tested positive and 93-percent have fully recovered. D-H-S officials say only one-percent of the people who tested positive for the virus wound up dying.</p>
Vilas Co. snowmobile trails open for the season	News	1/8/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>Vilas County last week opened their snowmobile trail system for the season. Tomorrow morning Oneida County will follow suit and they both have something in common. Little snow.</p>

				<p>Earlier this week the County Snowmobile Council voted 7-2 to open the trails and the Oneida County Forestry Department is on record opposing the move. At best the trails are in poor condition and one area club, the Cross Country Cruisers, is urging its members and others to stay off until conditions change. A social media post, which has since been removed, almost mentioned land owners with easements for trail use are not happy about sleds crossing and potentially damaging their property. Several businesses we spoke with are also unhappy with the decision with some saying it could do more harm than good. All lake trails in the county remain closed until marked.</p> <p>The Rhinelander boys basketball team has gone</p>
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					<p>into quarantine until next Friday due to concerns over COVID-19 exposure. This will affect their games tomorrow with Kaukauna and Monday at Tomahawk, which was to be a double-header with the girls. At last report five staff members in the district are out along with 10 students. The overall numbers of cases within the district remain low and administrators, working with the districts health advisory committee and county health department, are planning for the middle and high school to increase to four days a week for in-person learning. Superintendent Eric Burke said they'll monitor the numbers over the coming weeks with the goal of 4 days classes next month.</p>
	News	1/8/21	1230p,530p	1:30	A coronavirus response bill just passed by Republicans

A Covid bill passed by state  
Republicans has a bleak  
future

in the Wisconsin Assembly seems to have a bleak future. Republicans in the Senate don't like it. And, even if the legislation managed to get legislative approval, Democratic Governor Tony Evers would be expected to veto it. The governor and Democratic lawmakers have their own package of bills that Republicans won't support. The Wisconsin Legislature hasn't passed anything addressing the coronavirus pandemic since April and recent talks between the governor and Republican leadership didn't produce any agreement. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos says he is still hopeful the Senate will take up his legislation which earned approval yesterday.

Governor Tony Evers is joining six other governors asking federal health

officials to send more COVID-19 vaccine to the states. They're requesting the Department of Health and Human Services distribute "upwards of 50 percent of the currently produced vaccines held by back by the administration for reasons unknown." It was signed by the governors of Minnesota, Michigan, California, Kansas, Illinois, New York, Washington, and Minnesota.

With the **Mega Millions** jackpot at \$510 Million and **Powerball** at \$470 Million, the multi-state Lottery games have combined jackpots of nearly \$1 Billion. This is the highest the combined jackpots have been since October 2018. The *Mega Millions* jackpot is the eighth largest jackpot in the game's history.

					<p>The <i>Powerball</i> jackpot is the tenth largest. This is only the third time in the history of the two games having jackpots larger than \$450 Million at the same time.</p>
<p>Weekend UTV crash over the weekend kills a female passenger</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/11/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A weekend UTV accident killed a female passenger and has the driver in the hospital in Iron County. The 911 came in about 8:45 Saturday night but didn't have the exact location. As first responders searched for crash site another call came in from a passerby around 10, locating the crash on a trail in the town of Carey. Authorities found the machine partially under water. The woman was pronounced dead at the scene. No other information is available other than investigators say alcohol may have contributed to the accident.</p>

				<p>Two years ago Jayme Closs was kidnapped after her parents were murdered. She made national headlines, escaping 88 days later. Now the Barron County teenager is doing well and taking life day by day according to her family, who shared a message over the weekend. Her aunt and guardian Jennifer Smith thanked everyone for their support during that time, saying in part, "We're still very thankful for the community, to the whole world for all caring and being there, and to law enforcement who worked tirelessly to seek justice." Jake Patterson confessed to the crimes and is in prison for life. Yesterday was the latest update from the state health department and is shows a decrease in</p>
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					<p>COVID-19 cases across the board in Wisconsin. For the first time since early January, less than 2000 people tested positive. The recovery rate is over 93%. And the Green Bay Packers will host the Los Angeles Rams Saturday afternoon in the first game of the NFL's divisional round.</p>
<p>Marathon Co. sheriffs investigating a Rib River incident</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/11/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Congressman Scott Fitzgerald says the storming on the U-S Capitol last week by Trump supporters was "a tragic event." The Wisconsin Republican says he was inside the House chamber when protesters broke in and he calls it "a very scary time and wants to know why there was a breakdown in security, but he also holds the president accountable for the violent incident. Fitzgerald says the language used by the president and Rudy Giuliani was "unacceptable"</p>

because it encouraged people to march to the Capitol and take that kind of action. He opposes the impeachment of the president.

The Marathon County Sheriff's Office is investigating an incident where a 15-year-old girl had to be rescued from a bridge over the Rib River. A Wisconsin State Patrol trooper saw the girl hanging onto the bridge railing with one arm Friday afternoon. The trooper stopped his squad car and ran to the girl, and with the help of another driver who had stopped, the teenager was pulled to safety. No other information is available.

Green Bay Police Chief Andrew Smith says he is "frankly shocked" that anyone with 17 arrests for operating while intoxicated

					<p>is still driving. Seventy-four-year-old Wallace Bowers was arrested for his 18<sup>th</sup> offense on Green Bay's east side last Friday. When his vehicle clammed into a power pole more than three-thousand customers lost their electrical service. Bowers' arrests date back more than 32 years. Officers say they weren't able to perform all field sobriety tests because Bowers' prosthetic leg came off in the crash.</p>
<p>The Hodag dome announces ribbon cutting ceremony</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/12/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Through Wisconsin history the State of the State address has been given by the governor before a joint session of the legislature and other guests. Tonight, Governor Tony Evers will stay with his recommendations to stay home and deliver the address virtually. He said he</p>

				<p>spent the better part of the last year encouraging residents to stay home, practice social distancing and limit gatherings and this unprecedented move is consistent with those recommendations. In a letter to lawmakers Evers said elected leaders must lead by example. The address is at 7 tonight. A 4-year old Hazelhurst girl is back home today, discharged yesterday from the Marshfield Children's Hospital after a rare side-effect of COVID-19. Lily Lavin spent the last week in ICU under cardiac care with multisystem inflammatory syndrome. Her young body's immune system fought off the virus but keeps going, attacking here other organs and tissues. The condition is most notable in young children and doctors say at</p>
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					<p>the first hint of a high fever to get to the hospital. Her parents want people to understand how serious the virus is.</p> <p>The new Hodag Dome gets it day February first with a ribbon cutting and grand opening. The 8:30 ceremony that Monday morning will feature the Chamber Ambassadors, select school district staff, board members, Hodag Schools foundation members plus volunteers and donors. While the monstrous structure has been hosting student athletes, this will be the first day being open to the public. The first event, announced by the school's community education program, is a series of daytime fitness classes.</p>
Oneida Co. corrections officer in court	News	1/12/21	1230p,530p	1:30	A 26-year old Rhinelander man is in court today

charged with solicitation of prostitution and misconduct in public office. Jacob Petitt works as a corrections officer for the Oneida County Sheriff's Department. The investigation, with help from the Department of Justice, found Petitt had contact with incarcerated females in the jail.

The Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin says its members are ready to help administer COVID-19 vaccinations. The Society sent a letter saying some pharmacies are already doing that. The letter asks the D-H-S to use pharmacies to expand the distribution to more people – especially in rural communities. The group wants the state to enter Phase 1-B of COVID-19 vaccination, which includes

people 75 and older and frontline essential workers. The state isn't ready to move to that Phase yet, saying it doesn't have enough doses of the vaccine for everyone who is eligible.

The F-B-I is warning of plans for armed protests at all 50 state capitols and in Washington, D-C, prior to the inauguration of Democrat Joe Biden. Federal investigators are saying the protests are most likely between Saturday and January 20<sup>th</sup>. They believe some of the people will be members of extremist groups. Governor Tony Evers activated the Wisconsin National Guard to protect the Capitol building in Madison and ordered ground-floor windows to be boarded

up. The troops involved are part of the state's National Guard Reaction Force, which is made up of members who have had special training. The Wisconsin Department of Justice says that state office is "monitoring" the situation.

Aspirus Health reached an agreement with Ascension to acquire ownership of seven hospitals, 21 clinics and air and ground medical transport services across northern and central Wisconsin. The transaction includes more than 2200 staff and includes hospitals in Eagle River, Woodruff, Rhinelander, Tomahawk, Merrill, Stanley and Stevens Point. Part of the transition includes working to keep insurance coverage in place for Ascension plans. The sale price was not disclosed and is pending for regulatory approval.

Hospital acquisitions across central and northern Wis.

News

1/13/21

630a,730a,830a

1:30

				<p>Meanwhile the Marshfield Clinic Health System is scheduling community healthcare workers and emergency responders in north central Wisconsin for COVID-19 vaccinations. This includes personnel providing direct care or engage in services that place them into contact with people who've tested positive for the virus. The shots will be offered at medical offices in 14 communities. The state department of health services reports as of yesterday more than 163,000 doses of the vaccine have been administered and that includes some getting the second shot. But that number is well below the 607,000 doses the state has been allocated. The recovery rate in the state is now at 93.4%.</p>
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					<p>Governor Tony Evers delivered his State of the State address virtually last night, laying out priorities for the year that include broadband access, the unemployment system and gerrymandered political maps. He also touched on the pandemic and inaction by the legislature on key issues like school funding and property tax relief. Evers said he'd be calling a special session to deal with unemployment as jobless claims still go unpaid in the state.</p>
<p>States tax burden falls below the national average</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/13/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>State Senator Van Wanggaard says the governor's State of the State address was backward-looking, depressing, and divisive. Not many of the senator's fellow Republicans were impressed by the speech from Democratic Governor</p>

Tony Evers. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos criticized Evers for what he calls a lack of leadership. Vos says Wisconsin doesn't have a comprehensive rollout plan for the COVID-19 vaccine. In his response to the governor's virtual message, Vos says his party will fight for another conservative budget, will reduce taxes even further, and will ensure free speech still exists in the Badger State.

The majority leader of the Wisconsin Assembly says the COVID-19 relief bill passed by the Senate "falls short of the needs" of state residents. Republican Jim Steineke says the bill fails to provide protections for places of worship, doesn't allow people to opt-out of the COVID vaccine when they want to, and fails to stop local health officers

					<p>from shutting down businesses on a whim, without approval from elected officials. Democratic Governor Tony Evers has indicated he would sign the legislation approved by the Republican-led Senate. Steineke says the Assembly will have a response later this month. A new report shows Wisconsin's state and local tax burden has fallen below the national average. The Wisconsin Policy Forum report finds taxes as a share of income last year reached the lowest level in at least 50 years. People living in Wisconsin paid a little over 10-percent of their income for state and local taxes. The percentage hasn't been that low since 1970.</p>
Covid cases in the state	News	1/14/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	As of yesterday, there were about 28,000 active COVID-

				<p>19 cases in Wisconsin and that now includes the new, more contagious variation of the virus. Health officials confirmed the case in Eau Claire County. The person did travel internationally and officials are working to trace their contacts. The new strain has been found in six other states so far but it's been noted the vaccines should be effective against it. Most involved in the now second impeachment of President Donald Trump say there will be fallout. One of those is a call from state Democrats calling for the resignation of Republican Senator Ron Johnson. Critics are accusing Johnson of fueling the fire of a violent insurrection when an angry mob stormed the Capitol last week. State Democratic Party Chair Ben Wikler said,</p>
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				<p>Johnson needs to take accountability for his actions. A series of television ads begins soon. Meanwhile thousands of National Guard troops are mobilizing at the Capitol, about 500 Wisconsin troops among them, charged with security for the presidential inauguration next week. Governor Tony Evers also authorized the guard to assist local police at the state capitol in Madison. Northcentral Technical College will be looking for new leadership as Dr. Lori Weyers announced her resignation. She's been in the state's technical college system for 42 years, the last 14 at NTC. Weyers will leave the position in June. An internal search will be conducted by an ad hoc recruitment group including officers of the</p>
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					board and hope to have a selection by April.
State senator Johnson calls for looking into the attack on the US capitol	News	1/14/21	1230p,530p	1:30	Senators Ron Johnson of Wisconsin and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina are calling for an independent commission to investigate the attack on the U-S Capitol. The two Republicans write "Congress should not be allowed to investigate itself when it comes to the massive security failure of January 6th." Johnson and Graham say "the commission must be comprised of nationally recognized non-partisan security experts." The U-S House impeached President Trump yesterday on a charge of "incitement of insurrection" in connection with his supporters storming the Capitol building. None of the Republican members of Wisconsin's

congressional delegation voted with the Democratic majority to impeach. Congressman Mike Gallagher says he thinks the impeachment "accomplishes nothing." Representative Glenn Grothman defended Trump's comments made just prior to the riot last week. Democratic Congressman Mark Pocan said President Trump "is responsible for inciting the attacks in our democracy." Legislative Republicans are rejecting Governor Evers' call for a January 19th special session to address Wisconsin's trouble unemployment program. Evers said that he understands revamping the outdated and aging system will take years, and that's why it's got to be done as soon as possible. G-O-P leaders claim legislative

				audits have shown the major issues with the backlog at the Department of Workforce Development during the pandemic were not due to an old computer system "but rather mismanagement of the agency itself." Assembly Speaker Robin Vos said in a statement, "we are always open to passing necessary legislation, but unfortunately, this Special Session call is about politics; not about policy."	
More state national guard units being called to duty for protection of the state capitol and nation's capitol	News	1/15/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	More Wisconsin National Guard troops are being deployed to both Madison and Washington, DC to help with safeguarding the capitols. About 500 will join the more than 20,000 already surrounding the capital in preparation for the inauguration of Joe Biden Wednesday. Commanders said they'll be integrating with the

larger task force to provide safety and security as reports of armed protests continue to come in. The state capital in Madison has already boarded up first floor windows and entrances due to the threat of protests.

Meanwhile, the Badger State's Sheriff's Association is urging people to exercise their constitutional rights with discretion, care and common sense and in any public gathering, know who you are standing next to. Saying they won't tell you what to do, but it may be a good idea to stay home.

Back in 1999 Doug Plude was accused of drugging and drowning his wife in Eagle River. He was serving a life sentence but inaccuracies in the case led to a new trial, a lesser charge in a plea deal and

a 25 year sentence. The 53-year old Plude has been in prison 19 years and last month was released on parole and ten years of extended supervision.

Tomahawk Elementary School is closed until next Friday due to COVID-19 issues. The number of teachers in quarantine forced the issue when there wasn't enough available staff for in-person instruction. This affects only pre-k through 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the district, which now moved to remote learning for the first time.

Shooting at Rib Mtn. motel last night

News

1/15/21

1230p,530p

1:30

An officer involved shooting last night at a Rib Mountain motel has a woman injured. Hotel staff and guests at the Days Inn were evacuated around 4:00 when, after seven hours of negotiating with the armed woman, she

went into hall with the weapon and aimed it officers, who fired. The woman received non-life threatening injuries and the officers involved are on administrative leave. Wausau and Everest Metro Police are investigating.

The FBI this week warned of possible violent protests in all 50 states, but authorities in Madison aren't expecting anything. Officials say the only planned protest is to demand justice for Jacob Blake, who was shot by police last August. City officials said there is no 'specific threat' to the city or state Capitol ahead of Joe Biden's inauguration.

While most snowmobile trails are in poor condition there's another winter sport available that won't cost a thing this weekend. It's a free fishing weekend in

Wisconsin, with no license or trout stamp needed. Anglers can fish all bodies of water where there's an open season and are reminded all regulations apply. People are also cautioned about ice conditions, especially on moving water, where dangerous conditions still exist.

If you're looking for something to do on that snowmobile, racing opens tonight at the Eagle River Derby Complex for the annual running of the World Championships this weekend. For nearly 60 years snowmobilers from across the continent make the trek to the Northwoods for the biggest trophy in snowmobile racing. The finals take place Sunday afternoon.

All quiet at the capitol  
yesterday

News

1/18/21

630a,730a,830a

1:30

What looked like a moldy loaf of bread was eaten by three dogs Saturday near Lake Tomahawk. One of them died within 10 minutes, the other two are critical after ingesting blue and green pellets that contained a neurotoxin. The chemical attacks the nervous system. The poison was found near Gypsy Lake Road and anyone with information is urged to call the DNR hotline

All was quiet yesterday in Madison around Capitol Square with hundreds of National Guard troops and police on site, there in case of potential unrest. Some businesses were closed and others closed early as an FBI warning last week warned of organized protests following the violence at the Capitol in Washington. Community public health resources, even before the

				<p>COVID-19 pandemic have been stretched thin. To help the problem the Marshfield Clinic Health System created Community Corps, a program of AmeriCorps, that will place 80 full time staff across the state to support clinics, hospitals, coalitions, youth serving organizations, public health and other non-profits and government agencies in addressing local health priorities. The new program is accepting applications from non-profits and government agencies to host an AmeriCorps member, full time, for up to a year at very little cost. The program launches September 13<sup>th</sup>. More information is available on the Marshfield clinic website.</p> <p>The NFL Division Championships are set as it's Kansas City and Buffalo</p>
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					in the AFC and the Packers hosting Tampa Bay at Lambeau in the NFC this weekend. The next step in the Super Bowl February 7 <sup>th</sup> .
Hate crime dismissed against St.Germain man	News	1/18/21	1230p,530p	1:30	A hate crime charge has been dismissed against a 62-year-old St. Germain man who fired a gun at Chippewa spearfishers last year. James Kelsey entered a no-contest plea to a charge of using a gun while intoxicated in Vilas County Circuit Court. He will serve no time in jail and pay a fine of about 343 dollars. Forty-four-year-old Greg Johnson says he was spearfishing May 2 <sup>nd</sup> last year on Little Saint Germain Lake with three others in his boat. Johnson says they were about 20 yards from Kelsey's property when he heard yelling, then shots were fired. The Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe tribal

member says his party sped up the boat to get away. Kelsey originally said he was shooting at a squirrel.

42-year-old David Misc Jr of West Allis will make a virtual appearance before a federal judge in the District of Columbia this week. He's charged with disorderly conduct, unlawful and violent entry after storming the capitol. Two people escaped injury after their vehicle struck a pole on Hwy U just south of Hwy 51 in the Town of Bradley Saturday morning. A Tomahawk woman driving lost control shortly after midnight and went off the road, closing it for nearly three hours while WPS crews made repairs. A 38-year old Wausau woman was cited for a fourth offense of criminal operation after revocation

					<p>Sunday night following a traffic stop by Lincoln County deputies. Charges for bail jumping will also be forwarded to the district attorney. She was out on bond from a similar incident in Marathon County.</p>
<p>Snowmobile accident over the weekend kills a Kenosha man</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/19/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A snowmobile crash over the weekend killed a Kenosha man. 41-year old Trevor Albrecht, a seargeant with the Kenosha Police Department died when his machine left the trail in the Iron County Town of Knight Saturday afternoon and hit several trees. He was pronounced dead at the scene.</p> <p>Wisconsin is expanding the COVID-19 vaccine eligibility into Phase 1B, which includes fire and police department personnel. Hospitals are now working to increase access to the doses in accordance with</p>

state and federal guidelines. The state department of health services reported yesterday more than 239,000 doses have been administered. At the same time, 1,083 new cases have been identified and 19 additional deaths. 94% of all COVID cases are considered recovered yet there are more than 5400 fatalities.

Republicans in the state assembly plan to bring back an amended COVID relief bill at the end of the month. The measure already made it through the Senate and Governor Tony Evers indicated he'd sign it. But GOP lawmakers want to include preventing employers from requiring workers to get vaccinated and restrict local agencies from limiting or closing businesses. Party leaders

					<p>believe that's not enough for Evers to veto it.</p> <p>Voters in the Wausau School District will see a pair of referendum questions come the spring elections. The school board last night approved to requests, the first seeking to exceed the revenue limits by \$4-million for recurring purposes. The second asks for a one-time payment of \$148,800,000 for needed renovations and upgrades. The election is April 6<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<p>Shawano police say stablign incident may be upgraded to attempted 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/19/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The premier of the Canadian province of Alberta will seek legal damages if President Joe Biden stops the Keystone X-L pipeline project after he takes office. Premier Jason Kenney hopes to speak to Biden to make the case for letting the multi-billion-dollar work continue. Biden has</p>

said he's going to cancel the pipeline that would deliver oil sands crude from Canadian fracking operations to a terminal in Wisconsin. The pipeline has been in the middle of a 12-year battle between environmentalists, native American tribes, and Enbridge Energy.

Shawano police say a stabbing suspect faces a charge of attempted first-degree intentional homicide after an incident early yesterday. Officers were called about a "robbery in progress" shortly before 4:00 a-m in Shawano. When they arrived they say they found a broken window and evidence of a struggle inside the home. No names have been released.

An eight-year-old Wisconsin girl will be part of a virtual Joe Biden inauguration

					<p>special. Her parents say Morgan Marsh-McGlone of Belleville started out to raise 90-dollars to help feed food-insecure families. Her virtual lemonade stand has raised more than 50-thousand dollars. Tomorrow's event will air at 7:30. Organizers say they are highlighting heroes who have helped unite their communities. The girl says she started raising money after learning some kids who used to get their meals in school were going hungry due to the coronavirus pandemic. The money collected goes to Little John's Kitchens In Fitchburg. Morgan is one of six people selected to share their stories.</p>
Covid vaccines across the state are in short supply	News	1/20/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	The demand far exceeds the amount of COVID-19 vaccine available in

				<p>Wisconsin but that's not stopping the state from moving to the next phase next week. All area hospitals will begin vaccinating people 65 and older on Monday. Counties are looking at setting up additional clinics in the future to handle the large number of this segment of the population across the north. People are urged to contact their providers for appointments.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Governor Tony Evers issued an executive order making sure the state takes additional actions to ensure residents have access to health care and to continue require face coverings. He's also pushing the federal government to get more vaccines out faster.</p> <p>Lincoln County joined Stevens Point and Wausau when the county board</p>
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				<p>yesterday approved a resolution taking action against climate change. Critics maintain such measures could impact negatively on business while supporters say now's the time to move on the issue. Another legislative battle is looming over mining in the state as the DNR board is looking to retroactively institute new rules increasing mining fees. Citing a 2017 law that reworked permitting standards for nonferrous mining, project costs would increase by about half a million dollars each. The rules haven't changed since 1982. The rules would also require more detailed plans and establish new areas off limits to mining. Only one permit has been approved in the last 40 years for nonferrous mining, which includes copper,</p>
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					gold and silver. Plans will be reviewed next week before heading to the legislature.
Reports of vehicles going through area lakes	News	1/20/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>There have already been several instances of vehicles going through thin ice on area waters and one rescue. Last night a snowmobile went into Catfish Lake in the Vilas County Town of Lincoln, killing the operator. The 911 call came in just before 7 and first responders found the machine left the trail and drove onto the lake. The victim was found under water and pronounced dead. No other information is available.</p> <p>Two of the three people charged with first-degree intentional homicide in a Rusk County double murder made a court appearance. Twenty-two-year-old Adam Rosolowski</p>

				<p>and 18-year-old Joseph Falk appeared via video from the Rusk County Jail yesterday. There are accused of killing Rosolowski's grandparents last year. Sixteen-year-old Tristan Shober is also charged, but he didn't make a court appearance. The judge ordered an evaluation for Falk after his attorney changed his plea to not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect. The victims were killed near the Village of Sheldon last June. Wisconsin lawmakers held another special legislative session that lasted about a minute. Republican leaders gavelled the session in at 12:30 p-m yesterday, then immediately gavelled it out. Thirty minutes later Senate Republicans did the same thing. Governor Tony Evers called the session to</p>
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					<p>take action on his plan to upgrade Wisconsin's unemployment benefits system. Legislative leaders say Evers has the money and the means to advance a five-million-dollar upgrade for the benefits system. They call the governor's actions a "dog-and-pony show." A spokesperson for Evers says the funds aren't available to him.</p>
<p>President Biden puts end to Keystone pipeline</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/21/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>One of the first acts from President Joe Biden put a stop to the long disputed Keystone XL oil pipeline. The 1700-mile line was designed to carry nearly 800,000 barrels of oil a day from Alberta until Biden yanked the permits. The premier of the oil rich Canadian Province called the decision an insult and the government should impose trade sanctions. Critics maintained the</p>

				<p>growing operation would increase greenhouse gas emissions and threaten rivers and forests along the route. Supporters said the stroke of a pen eliminated thousands of good jobs. Biden plans to talk with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tomorrow.</p> <p>Following the protests in Wisconsin over police brutality and racism, lawmakers in Madison introduced a measure to reform police use of force policies and investigations. The bi-partisan bill would create a board to review officer-involved shootings, annual reports for use of force incidents, reduce state aid to municipalities cutting police funding and training among other things.</p> <p>For their work on the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the</p>
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					<p>Oneida county sheriff's department is being recognized as the affiliate agency of the year. In a ceremony next week the award will be presented for their proactive approach to ICAC investigations including numerous traveler arrests and constant innovation toward staying ahead of online predators among other things. The presentation takes place Tuesday.</p> <p>Wisconsin workers are reminded taxes have to be paid on unemployment benefits. That includes federal pandemic unemployment compensation and extended benefits. Totals will be shown on the 1099-G forms for filing.</p>
<p>No dangerous protests at the state capitol this week</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/21/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>There were no dangerous protests at the State Capitol this week, but law enforcement agencies say</p>

they were ready. Windows on the building have been boarded-up since last week and there were barricades near the entrances. Those barricades have been pushed to the side. The Department of Administration isn't saying how much longer the windows will be boarded up. A spokesperson says details about current or future security measures aren't shared to protect the safety and security of Capitol Police, as well as members of the public. Capitol Police officers were walking around the outside of the building Wednesday to monitor any developments. A state vaccine advisory subcommittee is backing a phase 1-B vaccine rollout plan that would greatly expand the people eligible for a shot. The full

committee would still have to give its approval to include all people age 65 and older, grocery workers, meat processors, transit bus drivers, teachers, daycare workers, college professors, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and state prisoners. That would basically mean one-third of Wisconsin's adult population – one-point-six-million people – could seek vaccination. One doctor points out that the list doesn't include people under 65 with heart disease, kidney disease, cancer, or other serious health issues.

The victim of a snowmobile accident Tuesday in Vilas County has been identified as 40-year old Gregory Parkinson of Tomahawk. Investigators said he drove his sled off the trail onto Catfish Lake near the Town of Lincoln and went through thin ice. Officials

remind operators few lake trails are marked. Oneida County trails are still closed.

We reported earlier about the availability of the COVID-19 vaccines to those 65 and old and how area hospitals will begin the shots on Monday. Now, the Oneida County Health Department announced up to three clinics per week depending on their allocation of the drug from the state. Officials expect to provide up to 3000 doses per week and registration is required by signing up online at Oneida county public health dot org. To date nearly 52,000 people have been fully vaccinated against the virus, with more than 285,000 doses administered according to the Wisconsin department of health services.

State hospitals to begin Covid shots on Monday

News

1/22/21

630a,730a,830a

1:30

Jacob Petitt will go to trial. The 26-year old former Oneida county corrections officer waived his right to a preliminary hearing and the court ruled there was probable cause. He's charged with solicitation of prostitution and misconduct in public office. He was arrested last week after investigators found he had contact with women in the jail.

The 36-year old Wausau man convicted of a fatal shooting in Tomahawk last year is now beginning his life sentence in the Dodge County Correction facility in Waupun. Eric Moen took a plea deal in September of last year.

A unique apprenticeship program is now available at Northcentral Technical college with the goal of increasing essential healthcare workers. The

					<p>medical assistant apprenticeship provides an opportunity for a degree while completing the state of Wisconsin registered program. Medical assistants perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a physician. Students or employers interested can check out the NTC website.</p>
<p>State DNR meeting about a state wolf hunt</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/22/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Wisconsin election officials are starting the preparation of absentee ballots for the February primary and April elections. Those ballots are scheduled to be mailed out starting next week. The coronavirus pandemic created record-setting demand for ballots by people who don't want to come to polling locations. The typical voter turnout for the spring election season is about 25-percent. In-person</p>

absentee voting begins February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The DNR is meeting today to discuss a wolf hunt. Republicans in the Legislature want the idea fast-tracked while worrying the new Biden administration will return gray wolves to the federally-protected endangered species list. The D-N-R board has said it wants to be thorough before rushing to start a hunt. Right now, the next hunt is set for November. Hunters are becoming impatient because the wolves were removed from the protected list more than 60 days ago. Wisconsin Bow Hunters Association President Mike Brust accuses the D-N-R board members of "dragging their feet."

					<p>The Portage County district attorney is seeking an increase in security efforts at the courthouse. D-A Louis Molepske points to an incident earlier this week in Wood County – where a person waiting for a hearing used a razor blade in an effort to harm themselves. Molepske says that shows how important it is to screen people at the courthouse entrance. He says Portage County has courtroom security on the second floor, but, by the time a person gets to the second floor, they have already passed by two judge’s chambers that are unsecured.</p>
<p>Ford vehicles being recalled for airbag problems</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/25/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The state health committee votes tomorrow on a bill to begin vaccinating the general public for COVID-19 in less than two months. The Republican supported measure calls for the plan</p>

to begin by March 15<sup>th</sup>. The bill is dependent upon doses being made available by the federal government. It also looks to expand immediate eligibility to those 60 and older. Beginning today, residents 65 and older can get vaccinated.

Rhinelanders was one of the first communities in the state to begin dealing with PFAs chemicals in the municipal water supply. The potentially dangerous man-made chemicals are used in dozens of everyday products and there was enough to shut down two city wells as a result. Now, the state is looking to sue over those responsible for the contamination. The state and DNR are now monitoring more than 50 contaminated sites,

More than 3-million Ford vehicles are being recalled for airbag issues. This was a different version of the airbags that were made by the now bankrupt Takata Corporation in Japan, whose devices killed at least 18 people when they exploded and sprayed metal pieces across the vehicles. Ford officials maintained the bags were safe but will honor the recall from the national highway traffic safety administration. Owners will be notified if they're affected by the recall.

For the first time in Superbowl history there will be a home team as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers knocked off the Green Bay Packers yesterday 31-26. It was also the first home conference championship for Aaron Rodgers.

Rhode Island man sentenced to state prison	News	1/25/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>A federal judge says a Rhode Island man had only received “slaps on the wrist” in the past, so a stiffer sentence was called for. Twenty-nine-year-old Aaron T. Moul was sentenced to four years in prison last week for harassing and threatening a person in Wisconsin. Moul entered a guilty plea to cyberstalking and other charges. He had been accused of contacting the person in Langlade County last April through Facebook. Over the next few days, he threatened to injure or kill the victim, while sending sexual pictures of himself. Moul was targeting a person in Arizona in the same manner at the same time.</p> <p>Three Republican congressmen from the</p>

				<p>Badger State say stopping the Keystone X-L pipeline will cost hundreds of Wisconsin jobs. One of the first executive orders by President Joe Biden stopped the multi-billion-dollar construction project last week. Congressmen Bryan Steil, Glenn Grothman, and Scott Fitzgerald spoke Friday at a news conference. Steil called the president's decision "disgusting," saying Biden should reconsider. Keystone X-L President Richard Prior has said more than one-thousand jobs will be eliminated in the coming weeks. The congressmen say hundreds of those jobs are held by Wisconsin workers for Michels Corporation, a construction contractor headquartered in Dodge County.</p>
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					<p>Anheuser-Busch joins Coke and Pepsi and will sit on the sidelines for this year's Super Bowl. The Budweiser brewer will instead donate the millions it would spend on advertising to coronavirus vaccination awareness efforts. The company has been a fixture with its memorable commercials for nearly forty years.</p>
<p>State health officials say it could take a couple of months to distribute Covid vaccines to those 65 and older</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/26/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Health officials say it could take a couple months to administer shots to the 700,000 plus people in the state over 65. That group is now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and the doses began yesterday. Hospitals, clinics, county health offices, pharmacies and satellite locations expect to have the program fully running in about two weeks. The Wausau School Board meets next month to consider a committee</p>

proposal to have middle and high schoolers back in classes. The proposal would allow in-person contact four days a week beginning March first.

Details of the crash aren't known but Merrill firefighters rescued the driver of an SUV that ended up on the Wisconsin River yesterday morning. The driver was trapped inside as the vehicle ended up on its side by open water near the 2000 block of W. Main Street. As dispatch kept him calm, first responders removed the windshield to get to the driver who was taken to the hospital. No other information is available.

Even though snowmobile trails in Oneida County are in rough, early season condition, they'll be opening today at noon. Riders are urged to check

					<p>with local snowmobile clubs for specific information. All lake trails are still closed and considered unsafe until they're clearly marked. People can now start filing their taxes through the IRS Free File Program. Most people will qualify for using one of the multiple programs on the market. Tax season hasn't officially started, but preparers will keep those completed returns ready for when the IRS is ready to start taking files in February.</p>
<p>State snowmobile trail system is starving for more snow</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/26/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The two leaders of the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee have sent a letter to the governor saying he has the authority and resources to upgrade the unemployment insurance I-T system. Senate Chair Howard Marklein and Assembly Chair Mark Born say if the I-T system is what's</p>

				<p>causing the backlog of unemployment claims, Governor Evers' action is overdue. Marklein and Born point out that the Evers administration has reportedly looked into replacing that system for at least a year, but hasn't submitted a request proposal. They say Evers is wrong when he claims he needs legislative approval for the project.</p> <p>The Wisconsin Medical Society is on record opposing a Republican-sponsored resolution that would overturn the statewide mask mandate now in effect. The state Senate is scheduled to vote on the resolution today. Although the Assembly is in session, there is no word about when that chamber might vote. The medical society's board of directors voted Saturday to</p>
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					<p>support the continuation of the mask mandate put in place to slow the spread of the coronavirus.</p> <p>As snowmobile trail systems across the north are starving for snow, a major winter storm is clobbering southern portions of the state. Travel was hazardous throughout Milwaukee with more than 10-inches piling up, causing a semi to jackknife on the Interstate south of the city, closing it to traffic. Winds to 25 mph added to the problems. Iowa and Nebraska were also hard hit as schools and businesses closed with more than a foot setting records.</p>
The state senate wants to end the governor's mask mandate	News	1/27/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>The Wisconsin Senate has passed a resolution to end the governor's statewide mask mandate. Whitewater Republican Steve Nass says people can determine what steps are appropriate to guard</p>

against COVID-19. Nass says that can be accomplished without the “heavy hand of government coming down on us.” If it passes in the Assembly, the joint resolution will go into effect immediately. Local Health declarations and mask orders won’t be affected. Republicans say Democratic Governor Tony Evers has illegally issued multiple emergency orders and mask requirements.

More groups are being added to the next round of those eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Wisconsin. The state Department of Health Services has approved teachers, grocery store workers, public transit, non-frontline health care personnel and those in congregate living facilities, including prisoners, for the next wave of those eligible for the vaccine. The next round of vaccinations is to begin around March 1st,

				<p>depending on the state's vaccine supply.</p> <p>A court-ordered monitor reports the situation at the state's juvenile prisons has been made worse by the coronavirus pandemic. Exhausted guards are said to be more likely to restrain inmates at the Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls. The monitor says inmates aren't receiving enough programming and staff members fear for their safety. The Wisconsin Legislature passed a law requiring the campuses to be shut down by July, but government leaders say that deadline will be missed</p>	
<p>State DNR says a wolf killed a dog</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/27/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The U-S Attorney's Office says the man who tried to set Madison's City-County Building on fire has reached a plea deal that will send him to prison. Marquon Clark could get up to nine years in a federal facility for his actions</p>

during the last summer's nights of violence. Security cameras showed the 26-year-old Clark throwing a burning roll of paper towels into the building June 24<sup>th</sup>. Clark was taken into custody a week later during a traffic stop. More protests followed when people demanded that Clark be freed.

Officials with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have confirmed reports that a wolf injured a pet dog in Lincoln County. The D-N-R has confirmed four wolf depredations so far this year, but it's the only one where a pet was injured. It's considered a human health and safety complaint because the incident happened so close to a residence in the Town of King. The physical condition of the dog wasn't released.

Federal prosecutors say the former pharmacist who

					<p>admitted trying to ruin hundreds of doses of the coronavirus vaccine has reached a plea agreement. The U-S Attorney had charged Steven Brandenburg with two counts of attempting to tamper with a consumer product. He made national headlines for leaving about 500 doses of the vaccine out to spoil last month at Aurora Medical Center in Grafton. Brandenburg told investigators he worried the vaccine would mutate people's D-N-A. The plea deal with the feds was reached after state prosecutors in Ozaukee County reduced the charges in their case.</p>
<p>The halt in residential evictions will carry on</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/28/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Recent federal legislation and an anticipated order from the Center for Disease Control extends the temporary halt in residential evictions. Put in place last September, the order now protects tenants from eviction based on</p>

nonpayment of rent through March 31<sup>st</sup>. There are conditions and renters are not automatically protected by the order. Information is available on the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection website.

Wisconsin's two Senators are at odds over raising the federal minimum wage. Tammy Baldwin joined a number of Democrats introducing the measure, raising the minimum wage incrementally each year to \$15 by 2025. She called the current \$7.25 a starvation wage and the increase will help raise millions of people out of poverty. Republican Ron Johnson agrees the wage is low but says there are real world consequences for that big an increase, such as putting many small businesses out

					<p>of business. The bill is part of President Biden's \$1.9-trillion COVID-19 relief package. The Rhinelander District Library is having trouble with their phonelines and advise patrons if a call doesn't go through, to try again. The staff is working to resolve the issue. You can still contact the library through their website or Facebook page.</p> <p>The Milwaukee Brewers will have their home openers April 1<sup>st</sup> at a new stadium...at least in name. Miller Park is no more as the new signs for American Family Field went up yesterday. The company got the naming rights in a 15-year deal with the club and will make other changes over the coming months.</p>
Senate majority leader says the governor will veto the Covid bill	News	1/28/21	1230p,530p	1:30	Senate Majority Leader Devon LeMahieu says the governor is likely to veto the

coronavirus relief package of bills approved by Assembly Republicans this week. The legislation includes more protections for schools, churches, and businesses in a deal worked out earlier this month. LeMahieu says he wants to get something done that will reopen Wisconsin, but he isn't sure that this package is it. The Democratic governor and Republicans are at odds over what should be in a relief package.

New rules approved yesterday by the DNR mean companies applying for a nonferrous mining permit would have to pay an additional half-million dollars. Applicants would have to pay more for permits and licenses while turning in more detailed plans to the state. The list of new rules also includes new

areas where mining wouldn't be allowed – like wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, national and state parks, wildlife refuges, and endangered species habitat. Companies looking for copper, gold, and silver would have to make a much-larger investment before removing minerals from the ground.

It's a little like finding a 20-dollar bill in your coat pocket. The Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau predicts the state will have an extra one-billion dollars in the bank at the end of the current budget. The Bureau points to better-than-expected tax revenue and a flood of federal money as reasons for the surprisingly good financial news. The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee say the extra money will

					<p>help shield Wisconsin from the economic downturn other states are dealing with during the coronavirus pandemic.</p>
<p>Oneida Co. investigation leads to federal indictment against a Milwaukee man</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/29/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Investigations led by the Oneida County Sheriff's Department led to a federal indictment against a Milwaukee man. 30-year old Dewayne Veasy is charged with possession and intent to deliver cocaine, heroin and fentanyl last July. He's also charged with having a firearm as a felon. If convicted, Veasy faces more than 30 years in prison.</p> <p>COVID-19 legislation is bouncing around Madison this week. Tuesday the Senate voted to repeal Governor Tony Evers' mask mandate, sending it to the Assembly. Yesterday, that body abruptly canceled the vote because it's tied to</p>

				<p>more than \$49-million in federal aid they didn't want to lose. The lower house then cleared a measure prioritizing who gets the coronavirus vaccine in the state moving forward, including the general public by mid-March. That now sits in the Senate. The highest priority would be those over 60 along with non-healthcare-related essential frontline workers, teachers, childcare providers, food and agricultural workers, manufacturing workers and first responders. The state department of health reported the highest one day total of vaccinations yesterday with more than 35,000 people getting first doses. That includes over 2700 across north central Wisconsin.</p> <p>The Rhinelander Chamber announced their 2020</p>
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					<p>awards in a virtual celebration. Northern Grounds Coffeehouse wins Small Business Excellence, Shoeder's RV &amp; Marine, Business Excellence, Rhinelander Area Food Pantry for community service, YMCA of the Northwoods for community enhancement, Ripco Credit Union for company culture excellence, Tom's Drawing Board for entrepreneurial achievement, the community volunteer is Meg Sprecksel and spirit of the hodag winner, Kerry Bloedorn.</p>
<p>Unemployment data from across the state shows big job losses in December</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/29/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Unemployment data from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development shows big job losses in December – and almost all of the people out of work are women. The state agency reports women lost 156-thousand jobs that month, while men actually</p>

gained 16-thousand. Female job losses are concentrated in three sectors: education, hospitality and retail. For many of women sidelined in the coronavirus pandemic economy, joblessness has lasted for nine months or more.

Johnson & Johnson's long-awaited vaccine appears to protect against COVID-19 with just one shot – not as strong as some two-shot rivals but still potentially helpful for a world in dire need of more doses. This morning the company rated their dose 72% effective for moderate cases and 85% against more serious symptoms in this country. Those figures varied in other places.

Balloon and Rib Fest in Wausau are a no-go this summer. Wausau Events

announced the cancellations this morning on recommendations from local health officials, the slow vaccination rollout and the inability to comply with COVID-19 guidelines. Other events are under review.

The numbers show that political campaigns for office don't have to be national to be costly. The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign released an analysis Thursday showing the Legislature's four campaign committees spent a record 12-million dollars in 2020. The old record was eight-point-four-million. The Republican Assembly Campaign Committee spent the most at a little over five-million dollars. Assembly Democrats spent three-point-one-million. The Committee to Elect a

					Republican Senate spent two-point-three-million and the State Senate Democratic Committee spent one-point-six-million.
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**Quarterly Issues/Programs List**

**Station:** Wmqa  
**Quarter:** 1<sup>st</sup> (feb)  
**Year:** 2021

<i>ISSUE DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>PROGRAM SEGMENT</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>DURATION</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION OF SEGMENT</i>
Shooting at Fox River Mall in Grand Chute	News	2/1/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	The suspect is still at large following a shooting yesterday at the Fox River Mall in Grand Chute. Police say one person was killed, another injured in the incident around 3:30. The victim was identified as 19-year old Jovanni Frausto from Appleton. The injured person was treated and released. Witnesses said the shots were fired in the food court of the mall. The suspect, 17-year old Dezman Ellis fled the scene

in a blue, 2012 Dodge Avenger. He's considered armed and dangerous and this was a targeted shooting according to authorities.

What's next? The topic for the Water Action Team Rhinelander virtual forum tomorrow. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> session for group, formed to deal with the PFAs contamination in the city water supply. Two municipal well and a popular spring water source were shut down last year because of high concentrations of the potentially hazardous chemicals, found in dozens of everyday products. Mayor Chris Frederickson and Administrative Assistant Zach Vruwink will lead the discussion of what's happened so far and what's being done to deal

					<p>with the issue. The forum is on the WATR Facebook page at 2:00.</p> <p>The Eagle River-based Feed Our Rural Kids or FORK program is expanding. The non-profit nutritional support program will now extend to the community and school district of Phelps. FORK was established in May of 2019 to provide meals to school-aged children within the Northland Pines school district. Since then they've included Land o' Lakes, Conover, St. Germain, Sayner and Star Lake.</p>
Ribbon cutting at the new Hodag dome	News	2/1/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>Rhineland Chamber Ambassadors and the school district made it official this morning with a ribbon cutting and grand opening event for the new Hodag Dome. The multi-million dollar project yielded</p>

the largest air supported high school dome in the nation with over 128,000 square feet. This is the first day it's open to use by the public. The facility boasts space for football, soccer, track and field, baseball, softball, tennis, pickleball, basketball, wrestling and seasonal gymnastics not to mention community use on a number of levels. Events have already booked the facility for this year adding a boost to the local economy.

A traffic stop has a 28-year old Tomahawk man in jail. Lincoln County deputies made the arrest Saturday night on Hwy A in the Town of King when K9 officer Poncho alerted, revealing marijuana and methamphetamine. Drug charges are pending against the driver whose

also held on a probation violation.

The U-S Navy wants its Badger statue back, but Wisconsin is asking to keep it for another two years. The statue has stood outside the Wisconsin governor's office at the Capitol for more than 30 years. The statue came from the U-S-S Wisconsin where it was first located before World War One. Standing outside the governor's office for the last 31 years, it has become a high point of State Capitol tours. Thousands of visitors rub its nose for good luck. The Navy wants to put the statue in a museum in Norfolk, Virginia, where the U-S-S Wisconsin battleship is berthed.

Traffic stop in Laona results in 3 arrests	News	2/2/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Oneida County's Forestry Land and Recreation
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				<p>Committee meets tomorrow afternoon and one agenda item has area residents organized and motivated. More than 1300 signatures on a petition are supporting a move to save Townline Park, just west of Rhinelander on Hwy K. The committee is recommending selling the parcel. Parts of the park have already been closed and the beach is unusable since it hasn't been maintained. The group also alleges some improprieties the way the matter has been handled by the county. Committee members say the sale of the land will help offset the purchase of a different parcel in the Town of Enterprise. The meeting is at 3:30.</p> <p>A traffic stop in Laona resulted in three arrests. The Forest County Sheriff's</p>
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Department reported K9 officer Thunder alerted when approaching the vehicle and meth, cocaine, marijuana and other drug paraphernalia were found. In custody are 25-year old Lydia John of Oneida, 30-year old Matthew Skodowski of Milwaukee and 23-year old Rebecca Parker of Green Bay. All three face several felony charges including possession with intent to deliver and jailed on a \$10,000 cash bond. The Department of Natural Resources assisted in the stop.

Wausau residents have an opportunity to provide feedback this month concerning experiences with law enforcement in the city. The Wausau Policing Taskforce put together a listening process to ensure they're meeting the needs

of the public. There are six way to take part and information is available on the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service website, wipps dot org/wpd.

A delay in a Marathon County homicide trial is likely when the parties meet next Tuesday for a scheduling conference. Henry West faces 16 felony counts, including first-degree intentional homicide for the death of Pine Grove Cemetery manager Patty Grimm and injuring two others. West is accused of shooting and injuring two other people. West's original attorney is out and a new attorney won't take the case if the trial starts in three-and-a-half months. Prosecutors say West was a disgruntled former employee of the

A delay in a Marathon Co. homicide trial expected

News

2/2/21

1230p,530p

1:30

				<p>cemetery who had been evicted from his apartment two days before the October 2019 incident. A suspect is in custody for a fatal weekend shooting on the Menominee reservation. Tribal Police were called Sunday night shortly before midnight about a fight in progress and a possible gunshot being fired. When they arrived, they found an adult male with a gunshot wound. He died before he could be treated at a hospital. Investigators haven't identified the victim or the person currently being held.</p> <p>Wisconsin is getting help from Microsoft as it sets up an online way for people to sign up for coronavirus vaccinations. The system is expected to launch in 10 communities February 15<sup>th</sup>. State officials plan to</p>
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					<p>use those communities to test the software before they roll out the new system statewide. The Department of Health Services says you will answer questions about your age and profession to see if you're eligible. If not, you will go on a waiting list and will be notified when you become eligible.</p>
<p>Gray wolf taken off the endangered species list</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/3/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The Trump administration last month took the gray wolf off the endangered species list, allowing broader management to the states. But things aren't moving fast enough in Wisconsin and Kansas-based Hunter's Nation filed a lawsuit to force an immediate start to wolf season here before the new Biden administration restores federal protections to the animals, which could come at any time. The DNR had planned on a wolf season beginning in</p>

November. The department maintains more study needs to be done on the wolf population but critics say they already know the numbers are several times the planned goal and all another study will do is waste taxpayers money.

The recent Lights of the Northwoods collected more than 3400 pounds of food for the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry. In addition, a donation of \$2500. Many of the food pantry volunteers worked at the event over the holidays.

Beginning this morning only one person will be allowed to visit patients at Mayo Clinic hospitals and emergency departments across northwest Wisconsin. This includes Barron, Bloomer, Eau Claire, Menomonie and Osseo.

					<p>Masks are required and visitors will be screened at the door.</p> <p>Winter storm watches are in effect for all of northern and central Wisconsin from early tomorrow through Friday morning. On average 3-5 inches is expected with locally higher amounts in the 7-to-8 inch range. Right behind the snow comes some of the coldest weather of the season with only single digit high temperatures through the weekend and into next week.</p>
State Supreme Court to hear a challenge to the rape shield law	News	2/3/21	1230p,530p	1:30	The Wisconsin Supreme Court will hear a challenge to the state's rape shield law. That law was created to keep defense lawyers from tarnishing a woman's reputation by focusing on her sexual history. The state's high court will hear a

arguments from a 2016 rape case from River Falls. Lawyers for 26-year-old Ryan Mulhern want the justices to rule whether the law also bans evidence about a victim's lack of sexual experience. That was one of the key points in the conviction of Mulhern of one count of second-degree sexual assault. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows Wisconsin passing other states in getting its residents their first COVID-19 vaccination. Wisconsin is ranked 29<sup>th</sup>, up from 45<sup>th</sup> last week. The Badger State is still lagging when it comes to getting people their second shot. Wisconsin is 44<sup>th</sup> among the states when it comes to the percentage of its people who have received both shots. The C-D-C reports a little over seven-percent of the

					<p>people in Wisconsin have received at least one dose. Former Shopko employees who lost their jobs when stores were closed should begin receiving their severance checks soon. The law firm handling the process says the checks will be mailed to members of the class on or before February 12<sup>th</sup>. A fund of 12-million dollars will be shared among about four-thousand former workers at the chain. Shopko closed the last of its stores in June 2019. The Ashwaubenon-based retailers had filed for bankruptcy the previous January.</p>
<p>Schools closed for today following winter storm</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/4/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Schools were already announcing closings yesterday afternoon and cancelling after school activities in advance of a winter storm headed for Wisconsin. Warnings are in</p>

effect until 9 tomorrow morning. Some communities across central Wisconsin have declared snow emergencies. There was some light freezing rain and sleet overnight but the bulk of the snow should begin late this morning with the heaviest by afternoon. The weather also cancelled the Oneida County Health Department's COVID-19 testing in Rhinelander today. Appointments will be rescheduled. Six to eight inches of snow is expected across the north with less amounts to the south. Bitter cold temperatures will follow the storm.

Governor Evers' mask mandate in the state is still in effect until mid-March...for now. Last month the Senate voted to repeal the order but the Assembly didn't, citing the

				<p>loss of federal funds if emergency orders weren't in place. That doesn't mean the lower house wants to keep it however. The political decisions come despite unprecedented support from the healthcare industry, urging the legislature to reconsider. The moves are forcing cities to develop their own plans and implement mask wearing protocols. Republicans maintain the governor doesn't have the authority to issue such emergency orders. The State Supreme Court will decide that question. The Assembly could meet again today to discuss the issue. Meanwhile, Governor Evers announced his proposed two-year state budget will include controlling prescription drug costs. He said no one should have to</p>
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					choose between paying their bills and affording their prescription medication.
Tribal casino's gave less to the state govt. in 2019	News	2/4/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>With the pandemic closing Tribal casinos, hotels and restaurants, payments to the state's general fund dropped nearly 80% because of it. Figures from the Wisconsin Policy Forum found \$5.3-million came in last year. That's down from more than \$26-million in 2019.</p> <p>Governor Tony Evers' budget proposals to keep prescription drug costs under control gained immediate support from A-A-R-P Wisconsin. The group's Lisa Lamkins says there have been bipartisan bills offered in the legislature to do the same. Lamkins said, "the problem is it really just nibbles at the edges. And I think what we see with the governor's announcement</p>

is a wide range of things that will help the state save money on drug prices, as well as helping individual consumers across the state save money on their prescription drugs." Among other things, Evers wants a 50-dollar cap on copays for insulin, and elimination of drug copays in the BadgerCare program. He'll introduce his proposal February 16th.

Attorney General Josh Kaul is disappointed in the wake of emails that seem to show Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke isn't expecting much out of the Task Force on Racial Disparity. Kaul says it's an issue that needs real examination in Wisconsin. Steineke's email reportedly called co-chairing the task force "a political loser." Kaul said, "I hope the legislature doesn't sort of take the kind of

approach that email suggested, which is not to do much, and instead this is really a task force that's going to lead to real progress."

About an hour after the state Assembly voted to repeal Governor Evers' mask mandate, he issued another one. He said his priority is to keep people safe and wearing a mask is most basic way to do that. Republicans who control both House and Senate say the Governor doesn't have the authority to extend such mandates without legislative approval. Evers says all they're doing is playing politics. The Supreme Court will sort out that difference. Health officials blasted the vote as nearly 6000 people have died of the COVID-19 virus in Wisconsin, saying it sends the wrong message at the

State mask mandate debate continues

News

2/5/21

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wrong time. GOP leaders maintain it's not about the masks, it's about the rule of law.

Continued concern over the virus prompted the Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce to again cancel its Business Showcase this year. A survey of members and vendors found a virtual version of the event in March wasn't an option. In a statement the Chamber said the decision was made for the safety of the community, the vendors, but also students at staff in the school district because school facilities are used for the event. Planning for 2022 is already underway. More than nine inches of snow fell yesterday across the north but it's back to business today. The difference now is going to be the bitter cold

					<p>temperatures and double-digit wind chills that will be here for at least a week. Roads this morning were drifting over because of the winds, gusting over 25 mph.</p>
<p>Fox River Mall shooter arrested</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/5/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The teen accused in a deadly weekend shooting at fox river mall is now in custody. Grand Chute police say 17-year-old Dezman Ellis was arrested by U-S marshals yesterday in Des Moines, Iowa. Investigators say Ellis fatally shot 19-year-old Jovanni Frausto of Neenah following an argument over an ex-girlfriend. Another victim suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Ellis was wanted on a warrant for first-degree intentional homicide and first-degree recklessly endangering safety. Wisconsin's delegation voted along party lines as</p>

the U-S House removed freshman Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene from her committee assignments. The Georgia Republican offered excuses but no apologies yesterday for trafficking in baseless Q-Anon conspiracy theories, and calling for assassination of prominent Democrats in social media posts. Wisconsin Republicans Bryan Steil, Glenn Grothman, Mike Gallagher, Scott Fitzgerald and Tom Tiffany all voted "no." Democrats Mark Pocan, Gwen Moore and Ron Kind were "yes" votes. The 11 Republicans who voted with the majority included Adam Kinzinger, whose northern Illinois district abuts Steil's district in Wisconsin. Wisconsin Medical Society C-E-O Doctor Bud Chumbley is urging

					<p>everyone to continue masking up no matter what happens with the statewide order. Chumbley said, "during the pandemic we've learned a lot about this COVID-19 virus, and one of the things we've learned is that the spread is mitigated by the wearing of masks." Governor Tony Evers issued a new statewide health emergency and mask order yesterday after the Assembly voted to end them. Republican legislative leaders are now urging the state Supreme Court to end what Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu calls "a constitutional crisis."</p>
<p>The Daniel Guild chapter in Rhinelander has closed</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/8/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The Daniel Guild Chapter in Rhinelander is finally closed. The city's former administrator was fired from the job last May and charged with tampering</p>

				<p>with public records and misconduct in office after search warrants locked down city hall. The tampering charges were found to be without merit and dismissed earlier and the misconduct charge will be dismissed this spring in an agreement reached Friday in Oneida County Court. Other issues stemming from this case are still in the system.</p> <p>As part of his next budget, Governor Tony Evers is looking to legalize marijuana in the state. His first budget two years ago sought legalizing medical marijuana and that was soundly defeated. Evers said this time move would generate millions for the state with much of it going to communities and schools. He said it would be regulated and taxed like alcohol. If approved,</p>
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Wisconsin would join 15 other states including Illinois and Michigan having recreational marijuana legal.

Northern Wisconsin will have strong representation at the state level as Brittany Beyer is elected to board of the Wisconsin Economic Development Association. She's currently the executive director of the Grow North Regional Economic Development Corporation. Beyer, who has led Grow North for the past three years, also has over a decade of experience working in the creative arts economy. She serves on Governor Tony Evers' Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity and currently chairs the state of Wisconsin's Taskforce on Broadband Access.

Covid vaccine updates	News	2/8/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>More than 158-thousand people have gotten both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine according to an update yesterday. The Department of Health report shows almost 750-thousand doses have been administered in the vaccination campaign in Wisconsin so far.</p> <p>As the Biden administration is pushing for a one-point-nine trillion dollar COVID-19 spending package to be passed by the first week of March, one Wisconsin Republican is warning of the repercussions of such spending. Sixth district representative Glenn Grothman says the package will further expand the money supply and potentially even cause hyperinflation. Grothman said that inflation will end up harming even more families as prices rise.</p>
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				<p>Wausau Mayor Katie Rosenberg is reminding residents the city's own local mask resolution will remain, regardless of what happens to the governor's latest statewide order. She said she knows people are sick of it, but just keep at it. Governor Evers issued a new emergency order and mask mandate Friday, after the Republican controlled legislature voted to end them. Whether or not he can do that is before the state Supreme Court. Arguments begin tomorrow in the impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump. U-S Senator Ron Johnson is opposed to this unprecedented second attempt. Johnson said President Biden's message of unity is not served by the proceedings. He thinks the impeachment of a now former president in and of</p>
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					<p>itself is unconstitutional. Democrats would have to convince as many as 17 Republicans to vote for conviction in order for their case against Trump to be successful.</p>
<p>Police in Plover investigating a shooting</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/9/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Police in Plover are investigating a shooting yesterday that left one person dead and several others hurt. It happened on the 3100 block of Wisconsin Avenue early yesterday morning. Two men suffered gunshot wounds while another two and a woman were injured from an altercation. One of the men died at the scene. No other information was available.</p> <p>Just after Christmas in 2019, officials with the Semco plant in Merrill told workers they were closing the next day. That idled 140 employees. State law</p>

requires a 60-day notice and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Department of Justice and Attorney General's office said the former window and door factory owes those workers nearly \$683,000 in wages and benefits. Legal action in the case sought to recover wages by enforcing a lien against all property owned by the company.

Students in the Wausau School District will head back to classes next month. In a close 5-4 vote the school board last night approved grades 6-12 returning to in-person instruction. The administration reported the number of students failing classes has dramatically increased, as have mental health setbacks due to

					<p>being forced into virtual learning, which will still be an option.</p> <p>The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry has another, Farmers to Families food distribution coming up Thursday morning. Hosted by Feeding America there will be a one box limit and while the program is intended for households in needs, it is open to the public. This is a no-contact pickup and begins at the pantry on Coon Street at 9:30.</p>
Bail set for Fox River Mall shooter	News	2/9/21	1230p,530p	1:30	Bail is one-and-a-half-million dollars for Fox River Mall homicide suspect Dezman Ellis. He's accused of shooting 19-year-old Jovannie Frausto to death and wounding another person January 31 <sup>st</sup> at the

mall in Grand Chute. Authorities say friends and relatives helped the fugitive hide out in a Platteville motel before U-S Marshals finally took him into custody in Des Moines, Iowa last Thursday. Witnesses say Ellis and the victim argued over a girl.

Two Democratic state lawmakers who have introduced legislation for ranked-choice voting in Wisconsin say it would make it harder for extremist candidates to win. State Representative Mark Spreitzer and state Senator Chris Larson call ranked-choice voting an innovative and practical way to make sure people can vote for "who they truly want." It's already being used in Minneapolis. Ranked-choice voting systems lets voters rank candidates in

				<p>order of their preference, rather than selected a single candidate. If a candidate gets 50-percent of the vote – plus one – he or she is the winner. If no candidate gets an absolute majority, then the candidate with the lowest vote total is eliminated and their votes are distributed among the remaining candidates based on the voters' next preference. The process is repeated until one candidate gets an absolute majority.</p> <p>A federal court will not stop the construction of the Line 3 pipeline replacement project in northern Minnesota. Native American tribes and environmental groups filed a lawsuit in December seeking a preliminary injunction on a water</p>
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permit issued by the U-S Army Corps of Engineers.

We reported earlier about Governor Tony Evers' attempt to make marijuana legal in Wisconsin. He tried two years ago but Republicans snuffed it out and they're poised to do it again. Supporters of the move, mainly Democrats say it will create a \$165-million dollar industry for the state. GOP leaders maintain that's the wrong way to look at things, saying the burden on law enforcement and social services is too high a price. Recreational marijuana is legal in 15 states and D.C., while 16 states have decriminalized recreational use at various levels.

President Biden to be in the state next week

News

2/10/21

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President Joe Biden will be in Wisconsin next week.

CNN is hosting an invitation only televised town hall in Milwaukee on Tuesday. That's also the state's primary to name a superintendent of schools and a number of local races. The event will also overlap a video address from Governor Evers as he delivers his two-year state budget to lawmakers.

A second case of the more contagious COVID-19 variant was found in Wisconsin. Health officials are concerned because this variety spreads more easily and encourage mask wearing and healthy habits as well as getting vaccinated if eligible.

More than \$1.5-million has been raised toward the \$2-million goal for the YMCA of the Northwoods' Building For The Future Capital

					<p>Campaign. The organization got another boost from People's State Bank in the form of a \$15,000 gift. Craig Lau, Peoples northern market president said the campaign engages the youth and teens to supporting adults and seniors and focuses on community, they're making a difference.</p>
<p>One person hurt during snowmobile accident last night</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/10/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>One person was hurt following a snowmobile accident last night. Pine Lake first responders reported the crash site at 10:30 nearly 2-1/2 miles down the trail from Cross Country Road. Using the UTV and rescue sleigh they found one machine from a group left the trail with the operator alert but complaining of back and chest pain. Firefighters and medics transported the driver to a waiting</p>

ambulance where he was taken to St. Mary's Hospital for treatment.

Plover police say 28-year-old Zachary Deyo was the man who was shot to death at a mobile home early Monday morning. Four other people suffered injuries during what investigators are calling an altercation.

The University of Wisconsin Health System says the state could improve the way it distributes the COVID-19 vaccine. The system says changes are needed because supplies continue to run short at most locations. It says facilities that see the most patients should be getting more doses. Wisconsin public health officials say hospitals and health systems in the state should work together to share their COVID-19 data so there would be

				<p>better information about how the vaccine needs to be directed.</p> <p>A former pharmacist in Grafton could face up to 20 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to charges he spoiled 57 vials of COVID-19 vaccine on purpose. Forty-six-year-old Steven Brandenburg made a virtual court appearance yesterday. He was arrested New Year's Eve as part of an investigation into how the vials of Moderna vaccine had been left sitting outside of a refrigerator for hours.</p>	
Republican lawmakers and kids going back to school	News	2/11/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>Republican lawmakers in Madison supporting kids going back to class are willing to shift federal school aid away from those who don't. Democrats immediately said education is not a competition. Many schools remain virtual as the COVID-19 pandemic hangs</p>

				<p>on and the GOP points to failing grades and mental health problems because of it. There are 446 school districts in the state and \$65-million in funding was set 172 of them to aid poorer districts. The Republican-controlled Joint Finance Committee added another half million and wants to distribute it based on the number of hours of in-person instruction, leaving virtual schools in the cold. Democratic Representative Evan Goyke of Milwaukee admonished his colleagues saying if you don't like their decisions, run for school board and don't micromanage from Madison. Republicans say they're not punishing anyone, just providing an incentive to get students back into classrooms. One Democrat said it's not an incentive, it's blackmail.</p>
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					<p>Speaking of schools, high school students are being encouraged by the UW System to continue that education. Officials are looking to begin a pipeline program this spring that will put career counselors at area high schools to help students discover the pathways to a UW school and ultimately to a profitable career that will not only benefit their families but the community as well.</p> <p>Mask wearing and safety precautions are credited with having virtually no flu cases this season. State hospitals have treated only one case so far, compared to well over 1000 at this time last year</p>
A father and son are in jail in Marathon Co.	News	2/11/21	1230p,530p	1:30	A father and son are jailed in connection with a body found in in Marathon County late last year. A fur trapper discovered 20-year-

				<p>old Christian Schauer of Marshfield dead December 29th in the McMilan Marsh Wildlife area. Investigators located Schauer's vehicle last week on property in the town of Eau Pleine. Deputies say 19-year-old Jared Carl was arrested for possession of stolen property and drug and weapons charges. Officers say his father - 50-year-old Shawn Carl - was taken into custody on suspicion of first-degree intentional homicide.</p> <p>The seven day average of new COVID-19 cases has dropped below one-thousand for the first time since September. D-H-S reported 821 new cases and 35 deaths Wednesday. Health officials caution that the rate of transmission is still "far too high," especially as new</p>
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				<p>variants of the virus appear. The Department of Health continues urging people to continue wearing masks and social distancing.</p> <p>Another lawsuit is asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to overturn Governor Tony Evers' public health declaration and mask mandate. Waukesha businessman Jere Fabick accuses the Democratic governor of having precipitated a constitutional crisis and "has demonstrated that he will not comply with the law until ordered to do so" by the court. Evers issued a new order last week, immediately after the Republican-controlled Legislature overturned the emergency he issued last month. Fabick sued last fall after Evers issued his third public health declaration,</p>
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					and Evers issued a fourth shortly after the court heard oral arguments in the suit.
A problem getting the Covid vaccine	News	2/12/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>The government is announcing more locations for people to get vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus, but the problem is getting them the doses. Now nearly 200 Walgreens pharmacies across the state are expecting deliveries. Anyone eligible, including those over 65 can schedule appointments. Some of the locations will be able to begin today. The shots are provided free through the Federal retail pharmacy program and the state health department.</p> <p>Wisconsin's prison system has no shortage of inmates but it's the lack of staff that's costing taxpayers. The Department of Corrections shows nearly 15% of corrections officer</p>

				<p>positions are unfilled, putting at least \$60-million in overtime time on the public. The prison in Waupun is especially hard hit with a 40% job shortage. Until the next budget is approved, which will go before lawmakers shortly, the DOC is asking for an additional \$88-million to handle the overtime costs. A Jefferson County judge ruled the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources must schedule a gray wolf hunt this month. Circuit Court Judge Bennett J. Brantmeier issued the ruling yesterday. Wisconsin's Natural Resources Board had originally voted 4-3 not to hold the hunt. The conservative Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty brought a lawsuit and based their case on a state statute that said if the gray</p>
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wolf ever was taken off the endangered species list, the state would allow for the animal to be hunted. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service removed the gray wolf from the endangered species list on Jan. 4th.

A woman who was in a standoff with police is in Marathon Co. jail

News

2/12/21

1230p,530p

1:30

A woman injured in a standoff with police in Rib Mountain last month is now in the Marathon County Jail. Wausau police say 35-year-old Katina Mulroy was booked yesterday after being discharged from the hospital. Investigators say deputies negotiated with Mulroy for six hours at the Days Inn January 14th before she came into a hallway with a semi-automatic handgun and was told to drop the weapon. Law enforcement fired a "less than lethal" round hitting Mulroy and she raised the gun and

pointed it at them. Officers then fired again. She has a court hearing today on charges of attempted first-degree homicide and criminal trespassing.

A new billboard in Oshkosh attacks U-S Senator Ron Johnson and calls on the Wisconsin Republican to resign. The billboard was put up by 2022 Democratic Senate hopeful and Outagamie County Executive Thomas Nelson. He tweeted a picture of the billboard which shows a photo of Senator Johnson, the words resign and "Treason Johnson" with the letters R O and N of treason in red. Johnson has been targeted by Democrats for his support of former President Trump. Johnson has not indicated whether he'll run for re-election next year. He previously said he

				<p>would not serve another term.</p> <p>Wisconsin voters will narrow a field of seven candidates for state Superintendent of Public Instruction on Tuesday. Absentee voting is already underway for the spring primary. State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor is not seeking another term. And the Central WI Sports Show kicks off this afternoon at the Expo Center in Rothschild.</p>	
<p>Bitterly cold temps hit the area</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/15/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Air temperatures of better than 25-below and wind chills of 40-below prompted dozens of school closings today. Stretching from Stratford to the Michigan border administrators already yesterday afternoon elected to cancel classes or go virtual at some locations and that list is available on this station's website. The sub-</p>

zero weather prompted a water main break in Medford yesterday. City crews had repairs made in about three hours. The dangerous temperatures will continue the next couple days but forecasters say things begin to moderate by the end of the week.

Police in Three Lakes identified the man killed late Friday as 59-year old George Steinhaus of Three Lakes. Around 9:30 that night he was helping his son, 29-year old Samuel Steinhaus pull his truck out of the ditch on Hwy X when he was backed over and pronounced dead at the scene. The younger Steinhaus was arrested for a third offense drunk driving, operating after revocation and failure to install an ignition interlock device.

					<p>Governor Tony Evers isn't formally announcing his budget until tomorrow night but another significant portion was released over the weekend. The Democrat will propose more than \$200-million in small business assistance, another \$100-million for a new venture capital program and \$29-million for workforce development initiatives. Businesses particularly hard hit by the pandemic would also be in line for funds. Last week Evers announced his proposal to legalize both medical and recreational marijuana in the state. That drew quick reaction from Republicans but nothing yet on this second part.</p>
<p>Protestors in Kenosha want judge to step down</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/15/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Protesters in Kenosha, Wisconsin want the judge in Kyle Rittenhouse's case to step down. Rittenhouse is accused of murdering two</p>

people during protests last year. The protesters laid on the courthouse steps in Kenosha yesterday, upset that the judge didn't send Rittenhouse back to jail. The group says had a person of color not given the court their real address, they would most certainly be locked-up. Rittenhouse's lawyers say he's living in a safehouse because of threats in the case. They gave that address to the judge last week.

Wisconsin's senators were split on Saturday's vote over whether or not former President Trump should be convicted in his impeachment trial.

Democrat Senator Tammy Baldwin voted for conviction, and Republican Senator Ron Johnson was one of those who voted to acquit. Johnson even got into an argument on the

Senate floor with Mitt Romney, one of only seven G-O-P senators to join the Democrats in voting to convict.

#### Interim U-W System

President Tommy Thompson received his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and says he feels great. Thompson said testing and getting more people vaccinated is particularly important. He is urging everyone who has the opportunity to get the vaccine to do so.

It seems people will never learn how to drive in the winter weather. The light snow that fell over the weekend across north central parts of the state is a prime example as Lincoln County alone tallied 38 calls involving crashes or vehicles sliding off the road. None were reportedly serious.

<p>Rhinelander residents can let water running to keep the pipes from freezing</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/16/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Rhinelander city residents are now authorized to let water run 24-hours a day to keep the pipes from freezing. The approved locations are updated and posted at City Hall and on their website. One faucet with a thin stream, about the diameter of a pencil lead, will suffice until further notice. The water utility will adjust billing during this period. That list will be adjusted periodically with changes in the frost conditions and should be checked often. Yesterday's bitter weather closed schools across the north and also cancelled the Rhinelander school board meeting. It's been rescheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Feed Our Rural Kids or FORK program launched the Tomorrow's Kids Endowment Fund Capital Campaign. The fund</p>
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began with an anonymous \$1-million donation last June and the organization wants to keep it at that amount moving forward. FORK was created to help meet the nutritional needs of children from food insecure homes across much of Vilas County. The fund drive will help ensure their work into the future. More information and the ability to donate can be found online at [feed our rural kids dot org](http://feedourruralkids.org). Beginning today at noon hunters can apply for permits for the new wolf hunt. The DNR met yesterday and approved a harvest quota of 200 with 4000 permits issued. Hunters will be notified on the 22<sup>nd</sup> if they've drawn a permit and will be allowed to hunt until the 28<sup>th</sup> after purchasing their harvest tag. Hunting zones and

					quotas are shown on the DNR website.
Low local voting turnout today	News	2/16/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>There's no a lot on the ballot and that's contributed to low voter turnouts so far today. It's a primary for State Superintendent of Public Instruction where the top two candidates move to the general election in April. Other parts of the state have races for judges and special elections for the assembly and senate. Voters are reminded to have a photo ID and polls close at 8 tonight. A special sign-up window for health insurance shoppers is open through May 15<sup>th</sup> in Wisconsin. People stuck in a bad plan or unable to find coverage have a new opportunity. President Joe Biden ordered government health insurance markets that had ended the annual</p>

				<p>enrollment periods in December to re-open. The Affordable Care Act – sometimes known as Obamacare – has created state-based insurance markets for people to buy individual coverage, either for themselves or their family. The president's order applies to 36 states that run their insurance market through the federal platform, but the rest of the states are offering a similar extended window for signing up.</p> <p>Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes' campaign paid a one-thousand-652-dollar fine to the state Ethics Commission for taking too much money from a political action committee. Wisconsin state law limits a lieutenant governor candidate to 26-thousand dollars in donations from a</p>
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					<p>PAC. Barnes' campaign exceeded that amount through five in-kind donations from the Wisconsin Working Families Party Political Action Committee in 2018. The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel reported the excessive donations. The Democrat Barnes has said Republicans are focusing on issues from the past.</p>
<p>President Biden makes stop in Milwaukee last night</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/17/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>President Joe Biden made his first appearance outside the White House since being elected with a stop in Milwaukee last night. In the CNN sponsored town hall, the president said the last four years all that's been in the news is Trump. The next four years I want to make sure all the news is the American people. In answering questions from the invitation only audience, Biden put a hard deadline on vaccinations,</p>

wanting everyone vaccinated by the end of July. He tried to make clear his stance on re-opening schools but didn't get too far. The president was empathic with people, even meeting several after the event. He also said the division in Washington isn't as bad as everyone thinks it is.

Last night Governor Tony Evers called on lawmakers to take up his two-year budget. Democrats hailed the plans that expand broadband, supports school and childcare funding and makes meaningful investments. Republicans said it hikes taxes, serves special interests and is just a wish list.

In yesterday's state primary elections, Jill Underly will meet Deborah Kerr in April in the race for State School

					<p>Superintendent. The two easily outdistanced the other five candidates. The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association supports a reintroduced bill in Madison that would make it a class A misdemeanor to harass or intimidate a referee, umpire, judge or anyone serving in similar functions. There are 24 states with such legislation and studies show 57% of officials believe sportsmanship is getting worse and more than 40% quit within the first one-to-three years.</p>
<p>Milwaukee Bucks vice president to run for state senate</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/17/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The senior vice president of the Milwaukee Bucks has taken a leave of absence to run for the US Senate. Alex Lasry announced his candidacy today. Saying Washington hasn't fixed anything over the two decades he said you can't</p>

continue with the same people and expect change. Lasry helped lead a number of initiatives that benefitted the Bucks and Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee. He also led that city's bid to win the Democratic National Convention. Tammy Baldwin has held the seat since 2013.

An assistant district attorney in northwestern Wisconsin made his first court appearance to face charges he secretly recorded his sex acts with women. A Polk County judge released Burnett County Assistant D-A Dan Steffen on a 10-thousand-dollar signature bond and ordered him not to have any contact with the two victims. He is charged in Polk County with three counts of illegally making

representations depicting nudity. Authorities say one of the victims he recorded was being prosecuted by Steffen at the time for several different crimes. Steffen is scheduled to return to court next month.

A homeowner along Silver Lake in Barron County found a wrecked truck on the shoreline of his property yesterday morning. Inside that truck, the body of 22-year-old Ben Jacobson of Cumberland was discovered. Jacobson had been reported missing last week after he failed to show up for work. His Ford pickup left the road and crashed into an embankment. An autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause of Jacobson's death.

Another assault at Indian Hills	News	2/18/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>There was another assault on a youth counselor at the Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake School in Irma this week. The Department of Corrections reported the incident Tuesday. The counselor was treated at the hospital and is resting at home. No other information was available.</p> <p>Stevens Point Area Senior High students have gathered more than 1200 signatures on a petition to reopen school. With only a few months left in the school year, seniors are pushing the idea to the school board, given the lower number of positive COVID-19 cases in the state. Students also point to what they call the toxic atmosphere created by virtual learning that's led to many negative daily behaviors. SPASH students</p>
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current have two days a week in the building and the board is now looking at the possibility of four.

As snow and frigid temperatures grip much of the nation that's not used to it, Wisconsinites can be thankful there's a stable power grid up here. With hundreds of thousands still without power, representatives with Wisconsin Public Service say their facilities are designed specifically to handle weather extremes. And that includes the snow and cold of winter and sometimes the extreme temperatures in the summer.

State election officials put the voter turnout Tuesday at just over 7%. Absentee ballot numbers were up but in-person voting was minimal. The general

election comes up in April and municipal clerks will have multiple races on the ballots, which typically draws around a 50% turnout. Current conditions may drop that number.

Traffic was rerouted for a time early this morning east of Rhinelander on Hwy 17 near the Stevens Street intersection. A small gas tank truck left the road and emergency vehicles blocked the traffic lanes. There was no immediate word of what caused the accident or if there were any injuries. Public health officials report a major milestone in getting Wisconsin residents vaccinated against COVID-19. As of yesterday, more than one-million doses of the vaccine had been administered in the state. The Wisconsin

Traffic rerouted in Rhinelander this morning

News

2/18/21

1230p,530p

1:30

Department of Health Services says nearly 264-thousand people have completed the two-dose vaccine series since the effort began in December. Ten more people died of coronavirus complications Wednesday, running the statewide death toll to six-thousand-214.

Officials at the Department of Workforce Development say the one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits could be waived by March 5<sup>th</sup>. If lawmakers approve a scope statement published by the D-W-D earlier this week, the state agency can begin drafting the rule. The old rule expired two weeks ago. State officials say the temporary rule is intended to stop recipients from having to wait a week for

					<p>their benefits to start during the coronavirus pandemic. State Senators are in Madison today because the leadership didn't allow attending remotely. Senate President Roger Roth complained Democrats were being inconsistent about whether or not they would attend virtually. Roth said that showed it was about "convenience" and not about safety. Democratic Senators have complained in the past some of their Republican colleagues refuse to wear masks both during the session and in committee meetings.</p>
<p>People in Wis. Can go online to set up a Covid vaccine appointment next week</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/19/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>People living in Wisconsin will be able to go online to a D-H-S website to find out when and where they can get vaccinated starting next month. The Department of Health Services is launching the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine</p>

Registry. State health officials say the site won't be a comprehensive list of all vaccination options, but it will help fill the information gaps Governor Tony Evers says the website will make it easier for people to get vaccinated. Evers cautions that the vaccine supply from the federal government is still very limited.

A judge is throwing out all felony charges against Marshfield Police Chief Rick Gramza. The visiting Portage County judge handling the case says there's not enough evidence to bring three counts of misconduct in public office with the use of excessive authority against Gramza. That leaves a misdemeanor count of fourth-degree sexual assault and disorderly conduct on the docket. Gramza will return to court on those charges on March 22nd. A female member of the Marshfield P-D

				<p>claims Gramza made unwanted sexual contact dating back six years. Gramza claims it was consensual.</p> <p>The 34-year-old driver who survived a 70-foot drop after his car went off the side of Milwaukee's Zoo Interchange has been charged with three traffic violations. Richard Oliver is recovering from a broken back and broken leg at home after being discharged from a hospital. Investigators say Oliver was driving 77 miles-an-hour in a 55 zone when the accident happened.</p>	
Gov. Evers signs new tax relief bill for state businesses	News	2/19/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>A bill signed into law by Governor Tony Evers yesterday will provide tax relief to Wisconsin businesses that received Paycheck Protection Program loans. Evers says the measure will cut taxes by 450-million dollars to businesses and provides 30-million dollars in relief to low-income families. The move</p>

will trim 540-million dollars from the state's tax revenue over the next three years.

People living in northeastern Wisconsin are being told the flooding risk is lower for the coming spring than it has been the last two years. The National Weather Service in Green Bay published its First Spring Flood Outlook this week. Meteorologist Tim Uhlmann tells Green Bay television station W-B-A-Y that abnormal amounts of summer rain were followed by a really big snowpack then, saturating the ground. That part of the state was in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile for soil moisture. Right now, it's at about 80-percent. Uhlmann says there's more room in Lake Michigan and water levels are lower, alleviating some concerns. It's still possible a drastic cold snap or heavy snow or rain in March could increase flooding concerns once again.

					<p>A snowplow driver in West Bend and a Madison Good Samaritan are being praised for rescuing two small boys who were found outside in frigid temperatures. David Gehrke was plowing West Bend streets when he spotted five-year-old Maddox Pierce at about 4:00 a-m Friday. He wrapped the boy in his jacket, turned up the heat in his truck, and called 9-1-1. Wednesday morning in Madison, the scene was repeated. A Good Samaritan spotted a five-year-old boy outside an apartment building. After about an hour, he was finally reunited with his caretaker, who had fallen asleep. Both boys are okay after their adventures.</p>
Roads a bit snow and ice covered this morning	News	2/22/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>Roads are a bit snow covered and slippery this morning as more fell overnight. Rhinelander tallied about an inch and a half as amounts climbed as you move south. Wausau</p>

was also over an inch and a half as Plover totaled around 3", over 5" in parts of Portage County and Cashton and Melvina had nearly 8". Temperatures are forecast to be in the 40s by tomorrow.

For the first time since last September, there wasn't a death attributed to COVID-19 in the state yesterday.

Wisconsin continues to see a drop in new cases. The Department of Health reported 403 of them yesterday. The average now is the lowest since July. The new cases were reported in 47 out of the state's 72 counties.

Snowmobile trails in Marathon County are now closed. The system is listed as possibly reopening this Friday at 6am with the exception of trail 5 which opens Thursday. All ATV

					<p>trails in the county are closed until Sunday. The Federal Highway Administration confirmed what northern Wisconsin residents already know: Highway 13 along the south shore of Lake Superior is a great drive. The 70-mile stretch of highway known as the Lake Superior Scenic Byway was officially named a National Scenic Byway. The road through Port Wing, Herbster, Cornucopia, Red Cliff, Bayfield and Washburn brings drivers through historic fishing villages, dense forests, past orchards and sand beaches. The routes are selected based upon their archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities.</p>
<p>Court of Appeals deny's a request from the DNR to stop the state wolf hunt</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/22/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The Wisconsin Court of Appeals dismissed a request from the D-N-R to stop the wolf hunt that</p>

				<p>began today. The agency was appealing a court order requiring hunt to be held this month. The appeals court ruled the order wasn't a final judgment so it has no jurisdiction over any appeal. The wolf hunt is scheduled to run through Sunday. The deadline to apply for permits ended Saturday at midnight. The guidelines will allow up to 200 animals to be harvested this week. A warrant has been issued for the arrest of an Illinois activist for his actions during the August protest following Jacob Blake's shooting in Kenosha. Sixty-two-year-old Clyde McLemore of Zion was charged Friday with attempted battery to a law enforcement officer. Investigators say McLemore kicked in a door at the Kenosha Public</p>
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					<p>Safety Building while saying he wanted to break an officer's fingers. McLemore founded the Black Lives Matter chapter in Lake County, Illinois and was involved in several protests after Blake was shot in the back by a Kenosha officer. While the COVID-19 pandemic came into play, it's poor ice conditions that cancelled opening the ice caves on Lake Superior. While it's been extremely cold the ice coverage was only about 50% according to the Apostle Islands national lakeshore. The ice through the area is unstable and rough. Park officials say access to the caves is becoming a rare event as Lake Superior continues to warm. They were last open to hikers in 2014 and 15.</p>
<p>President Biden says no to canceling student loan debt</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/23/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>As part of his budget, Governor Tony Evers included spending \$2.4-</p>

billion on building projects, with nearly half of it going to the UW system. The plans spread across 31 counties in the state over the next two years. The legislature's budget committee has the final say on what's getting funded.

President Joe Biden said a flat, "no" when asked about cancelling \$50,000 student loans. But Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul joined a coalition of other attorneys general in a letter to Congress supporting the move. Kaul said the rising cost of education is increasing the debt load on people that's only enhanced by the pandemic. He also said the mechanism for repayment of loans isn't working.

Ice anglers and snowmobilers are warned the DNR and Wisconsin Valley Improvement

				<p>company will begin operating the aeration system on the Eau Pleine Reservoir tomorrow. The aerator is located in a narrow stretch adjacent to the Big Eau Pleine County Park. Running the system creates open water and unsafe ice conditions. Rope barriers with flags and reflective signs are already up warning of the danger. This is done annually to maintain adequate oxygen levels for the fishery. For over 40 years Jeep has been selling the popular Cherokee model SUV. Now, the Cherokee Nation wants them to stop using the name. The principal chief of the native American band says even if it comes from a well-intended place, having their name on the side of a car does not honor them. The automaker says the</p>
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					name was chosen to celebrate their nobility, prowess and pride.
Wolf hunters took a quarter of the quota in opening day of the state wolf hunt	News	2/23/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>Wolf hunters took a quarter of the quota in yesterday's opening of the season in Wisconsin. 52 animals were taken, with zone 2 spreading across north central Wisconsin only six away from closing. The quota is 200 with half of it within the ceded territories reserved in response to a declaration by the Chippewa bands. The harvest for state hunters is 119 wolves. The season ends Sunday unless the numbers are met.</p> <p>The deep freeze that hit Texas shut down refineries, idling production, and is now being seen in higher gas prices in Wisconsin. Badger State pump prices range from two dollars, 30-cents-a-gallon to two-</p>

				<p>99. GasBuddy-dot-com petroleum analyst Patrick De Haan says the cold weather has moved out and, if refineries come back online quickly, the prices could begin a slow drop. The break won't last long. Refineries will soon start to transition to summer blends and a longer-term increase in the cost you pay for that tank of gas will resume. The average price of gas has jumped more than 10-cents-a-gallon in the last week and it is 24-cents-a-gallon higher than just one month ago.</p> <p>The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry has their final food distribution of the month on Thursday. Hosted by Feeding America, non-contact distribution gets underway at 9 at the pantry on Coon Street. While it's open to the public, the</p>
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					<p>food is intended for households in need. Marathon County residents in need are also in line for food boxes. These, distributed Friday at the Wausau Salvation Army from noon to four.</p>
<p>State's wolf hunt closes today over much of the state</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/24/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Wisconsin's wolf season ends today across much of the state. Zones 2, 5 &amp; 6 close at 10 this morning, covering much of the south and a good portion of northeastern Wisconsin. As of yesterday hunters took 60 wolves, more than half the quota. The DNR advises hunters to check with the department often for updates. The season for the rest of the state ends Sunday unless quotas are met first.</p> <p>More than 380 non-profits across the state received COVID-19 Cultural Organization Grants from the Department of</p>

				<p>Administration. Among them, the North Lakeland Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters. More than \$15-million were awarded with the Center picking up over \$44,000 of it. The funds will help the organization continue connecting people, nature and the community.</p> <p>Northcentral Technical College has earned the 2021-22 Military Friendly School designation. More than 1200 schools were evaluated with over 700 certified. Among the qualifications are student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, degrees and providing opportunities for the military community.</p> <p>The Oneida County Fair is planned for the end of July and organizers are already working hard to pull it off. To that end the fair board</p>
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					announced a telethon to help raise funds for the event. Coordinator Thomas Barnett said the event takes place March 19 <sup>th</sup> as the fair looks for people to donate funds, their time and talents in music, magic, comedy or any other to the cause. The fair is held at Pioneer Park in Rhinelander. For more information you can visit the Oneida County Fair on Facebook.
Three Lakes man in court today	News	2/24/21	1230p,530p	1:30	A Three Lakes man is in court today for recording a patient at Ascension-St. Mary's Hospital without their consent. 31-year old Evan Sheedy, an employee of the hospital was originally investigated by local police, the Oneida County Sheriff's department and Department of Criminal Investigation for possessing child pornography.

				<p>Following the execution of a search warrant no child porn was found but one was, capturing the nude victim who has been identified and notified. This investigation continues. Wisconsin's hastily-scheduled wolf hunting season lasted about a day in most of the state and less than two days in southern and central zones. Hunters and trappers quickly killed at least half of the allotment in the first few hours. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources set the allotment at 200 wolves after the species had been removed from the federal protected list. All remaining hunting and trapping ends at 3:00 this afternoon. The hunt had been scheduled to last through Sunday. The D-N-R had been turned away by the Wisconsin Court of</p>
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					<p>Appeals when it tried to stop the hunt that began Monday.</p> <p>Funding to pay for upgrades to the outdated computer system used for unemployment benefits made it through the Assembly and is headed for the Wisconsin Senatet. Governor Tony Evers already said he will sign the legislation. Under the nearly 50-year-old system used now, some employees have to navigate through 100 different screens while processing a claim. The challenges caused major backups for people filing for unemployment during the coronavirus pandemic.</p>
<p>More people across the state becoming eligible for Covid vaccines</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/25/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>School teachers and child care providers are about to join the list of people eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in Wisconsin. The Department of Health</p>

				<p>Services said teachers will be the first in Phase 1-b to receive the shot Monday. Many school districts are waiting for teachers to get vaccinated before re-opening. D-H-S says there's no guarantee there will be enough doses to get them vaccinated next week. Nearly half of Wisconsin residents over age 65 have received the vaccine.</p> <p>Over 60% of Wisconsinites support a requirement for people to wear masks in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19. The new poll was conducted by the left-leaning Public Policy Polling and surveyed 937 state voters. The organization is committed to electing more scientists to public office. The figures also show just over half the respondents trust Governor Tony Evers to handle the</p>
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pandemic, more than they do Republicans in the legislature. It also offered an early indication of another close battle for the governor's seat next year, with 45 percent of Wisconsin voters saying they would support a second term for Evers over a generic Republican, while 44 percent prefer the GOP nominee.

The quota for brief wolf hunting season in the state was 119. They're still counting and the number's already at 182. The DNR opened the season Monday and shut it down yesterday. It was supposed to run through Sunday. The last three wolf hunts in the state, dating back to 2012 also had the quotas exceeded.

State lawmakers want election workers counted as essential workers

News

2/25/21

1230p,530p

1:30

Wisconsin election officials are telling lawmakers poll workers are essential employees. Clerks across the state are asking that they be vaccinated as soon as possible. The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled last year that elections wouldn't stop despite the coronavirus pandemic. Dane County Clerk Scott McDonell says there's no way around it, "there has to be in-person voting." He has worked four elections during the pandemic – plus November's recount. McDonell says he has been in the room with hundreds of people for nine days lasting about 14 hours each. The Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association is asking to be considered essential workers before the April 6<sup>th</sup> vote.

				<p>Public health officials are speculating Johnson and Johnson's single-dose vaccine for COVID-19 could be available to Wisconsin residents next week. The F-D-A is scheduled to decide whether to grant the drug emergency use authorization for the public Friday. Testing shows it is effective at preventing the virus. Johnson and Johnson is estimating it is capable of producing 100-thousand vaccines by summer. Wisconsin doctors say it is easy to store and inexpensive to produce. Scientists say its effectiveness is less than other vaccines, but it stops the worst health outcomes for those who get COVID-19.</p> <p>The Trig's stores across northcentral Wisconsin launched their 11<sup>th</sup> annual</p>
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					<p>stuff-a-truck food drive and fund raiser to benefit local food pantries. Through March 17<sup>th</sup> shoppers can purchase a pre-packaged bag of items, buy pinups in any denomination for display in the stores or round up their grocery bill. Last year was a record with over \$15,000 raised.</p>
<p>Nearly a million dollars in rental relief is head to north central Wis.</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/26/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Nearly a million dollars in rental relief is headed to northcentral Wisconsin. Lincoln, Marathon, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor and Wood counties will benefit from the funds from the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Governor Tony Evers said yesterday this doubles the amount already provided to those struggling with rent. To qualify the main income should be below the county's median level and</p>

the household affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

If your income is below \$24,680 and you pay rent or property taxes, you may be eligible for a Wisconsin Homestead Credit. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program is offering help in completing these forms. This free assistance applies only to Homestead Credits and does not include Federal or State Income Tax Returns this year. There is no cost and it applies not only to the 2020 Credit, but you may also be able to go back up to three years and complete the Credit forms for those years as well. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, contact the ADRC of Oneida County.

The numbers for the state's wolf hunt that began

					<p>Monday and basically ran for a day and a half keep climbing. As of yesterday afternoon the DNR reported 216 animals were taken, 97 more than the limit for non-tribal hunters. State hunters were allowed 119 with the overall number at 200.</p> <p>And the championship run for the Three Lakes Bluejays girls basketball team ended at the state finals last night, falling to Assumption 55-48, but bringing home the first state trophy in program history.</p>
<p>Help is on the way for the aging computer system at the state's dept. of workforce</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/26/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Help is on the way for Wisconsin's aging computer system at the Department of Workforce Development. The 50-year-old infrastructure delayed unemployment benefit payments for months for some applicants during the past year. Governor Tony Evers blamed lawmakers</p>

				<p>and previous administrations for failing to take the needed action for more than a decade. Evers absorbed some harsh criticism while people who lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic waited to be approved, then waited for payments. The Democratic governor called the bill he signed “a step in the right direction” yesterday. That bill also waives the one-week waiting period for receiving benefits and extends limited liability from COVID-related lawsuits to state businesses, schools, and governments. While that’s good news now, it will take four or five years to affect the changes. A history teacher at Burlington High School is denying accusations that he encouraged his students to ignore face-mask</p>
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				<p>requirements and called the coronavirus pandemic a hoax. Jeff Taff already faces charges in the District of Columbia for attending the U-S Capitol riot January 6<sup>th</sup>. Parents have complained that Taff promoted right-wing, pro-Trump conspiracy theories in the classroom while trying to indoctrinate his students. Taff has denied the accusations. District officials say they are investigating what he posted in Google Classroom about "election integrity" while attending last month's protest. With early morning temperatures in the low teens, students and staff at Rhinelander High School had a surprise day off today as there was a problem with the heating system, cancelling classes.</p>
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Interview	Phone	2/11/21	835a	3 min.	Talked to Gary Drossert about the upcoming family fisheree in Lake Tomahawk
Interview	Phone	2/12/21	835a	3 min.	Talked to Doug Etten from the Lakeland baseball Assoc. about the sign up for summer baseball in the Minocqua area

### Quarterly Issues/Programs List

**Station:** Wmqa  
**Quarter:** 1<sup>st</sup> (March)  
**Year:** 2021

<i>ISSUE DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>PROGRAM SEGMENT</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>DURATION</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION OF SEGMENT</i>
Snowfall totals varied widely across the state	News	3/1/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Snowfall totals varied widely across the state from yesterday as the system tracked right over central and northeast Wisconsin, dumping nearly 10" around Manitowish Waters, 8 in Park Falls, dropping to 4" around Minocqua, Eagle River and Rhinelander with less than an inch or trace amounts to the south. The mild temperatures from Saturday left a glaze of ice beneath that snow but main

highways are in good shape this morning.

Fifty one of Wisconsin's 72 counties reported increases in the number of COVID cases over the weekend, but overall the numbers are still falling, as is the death toll. Oneida County tallied 4 new infections, Vilas at 6, Lincoln was up 2, none in Langlade, Florence or Forest, 1 for Price and 11 for Marathon. Last week, state health officials said Wisconsin is on target to expand eligibility for the vaccine beginning today. The emphasis in that expanded group is educators and childcare workers. However, the state's first priority is continuing to vaccinate those who are 65 and older. Meanwhile, the country is getting a third vaccine to prevent the virus as the

					<p>Food and Drug Administration Saturday approved a Johnson &amp; Johnson shot the offers protection with one dose instead of two. A massive study over three continents showed the single dose was 85% effective against the most severe symptoms.</p> <p>Stop the dealing, start the healing is an organization in Forest County helping those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. An online fundraiser for a new car netted over \$3000 and that's when Rhinelander GM stepped in, donating a 2011 Chevy Traverse.</p>
State educators become eligible for Covid shots today	News	3/1/21	1230p,530p	1:30	Wisconsin educators become eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine today but they won't be getting the shots yet. State health officials confirmed last week people 65 and older,

teachers, and childcare workers will be prioritized among the new eligible groups. The problem is, the supply of shots won't meet the demand. Public health officials have said they want to make more progress with people 65 and older before moving on to teachers. State officials say their goal is to have all educators fully vaccinated by the end of April.

U-S Senator Ron Johnson says the nation should spend the remaining one-trillion dollars to help people before going further into debt. The Wisconsin Republican says he isn't denying people are hurting. The one-trillion dollars he referred to is left over from the first COVID-19 Relief Bill. Republicans say the current COVID-19 Relief Bill is bloated and contains

too much spending not connected to people suffering through the pandemic.

Officials seeking solutions to Wisconsin's drunk driving program point to a Sunday traffic accident in Mount Pleasant as a prime example of the problem. All three drivers involved in a three-vehicle crash were charged with operating while intoxicated. State Senator Alberta Darling says the state's greatest problem is repeat offenders and one of the three drivers was charged with a third O-W-I offense. Darling says she has been working for eight years to stiffen the penalties for drunk drivers – some of the most lenient in any state. One-hundred-40 people were killed in drunk driving accidents in Wisconsin during 2019.

<p>Health care providers across the state expect Covid vaccine supplies to grow</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/2/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Health care providers in Wisconsin expect the supply of COVID-19 vaccines to grow throughout the month. With the single dose Johnson &amp; Johnson vaccine now available, that makes three different shots available to the public. About 47,000 doses are expected next week. The next eligible group includes educators and child care workers first, followed by Medicaid enrollee and public-facing essential workers, non-frontline healthcare workers and facility staff and residents in congregate living settings. There's a push in Madison urging Governor Tony Evers to divert more federal COVID relief dollars to schools offering in-person instruction. Republicans in the Assembly are pushing for expanded in-person classes and the funding</p>
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				<p>would help defray costs including substitute teachers, personal protective equipment and transportation. Last month the budget committee shifted over \$65-million in federal aid to schools offering in-person classes. Local GOP lawmakers met in a news conference yesterday in Rothschild saying the emergency funds can help rural school districts expand virtual options with broadband service so scarce. Representative Calvin Callahan of Tomahawk said that's a necessity in today's society.</p> <p>The Feed Our Rural Kids or FORK program in Vilas County launched a million dollar capital campaign through its Tomorrow's Kids Endowment Fund. FORK provides food for school-aged children in the</p>
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					<p>Northland Pines School district and beyond. The fund raising got a boost from Margaret Baack and Mike McAdams of Land o' Lakes with a \$50,000 matching grant. The endowment was developed to provide longevity for the program. Donations can be made at <a href="http://feedourruralkids.org">feedourruralkids dot org</a>.</p>
<p>A toll on area snowmobile trails</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/2/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A report from the Mclver Institute finds Wisconsin state revenues are in good shape and a tax increase isn't needed. Democratic Governor Tony Evers wants to raise taxes by one-point-six-billion dollars so another eight-billion in spending can be added to his state budget plan. The Mclver report indicates Wisconsin has a surplus of about one-and-a-half-billion dollars and another billion in its rainy day fund. Republicans on the</p>

Legislature's Joint Finance Committee also agree with the institute's conclusion there's no need to spend as much as Evers wants to spend.

The mild weather is beginning to take its toll on area snowmobile trails. Vilas County reports very good conditions while Oneida is listed as good with some exposed areas close to towns and slush on the lakes. Langlade County trails close at midnight tonight, Lincoln County closed trails 2-3 &4 last night and zone 1 will remain open as conditions permit. Marathon is already closed. The marketing efforts of the Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce picked up national recognition. Three American Advertising Awards or ADDYs were awarded for creativity and innovation. A gold award

				<p>went to a series of fun, animated Hodag emoji Gifs that have garnered more than a million views. Two other ADDYs singled out their high-energy Tik-Tok account and the design of the hodag strong limited edition t-shirts. Chamber Director Lauren Sackett said they needed to find ways in these uncertain times to remind people “Wisconsin’s Northwoods will always be a constant, a place to have fun and relax no matter what life hands us”.</p>	
<p>Rhineland City Council meets in special session tonight</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/3/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Rhineland's City Council meets in special session tonight to formally hire Zach Vruwink as the City Administrator. He had been an assistant to Mayor Chris Frederickson since the dismissal of former administrator Daniel Guild last year. Terms of a contract were agreed to this week and the Council</p>

				<p>has the final say tonight. Approval is expected and Vruwink will assume his duties immediately. Residents hope this ends the parade for this position over the last several years. When the Merrill School District considered consolidating buildings to save money, it included closing the Maple Grove Elementary School in rural Hamburg. Over a year later, through petitions and legal actions, the 150 year old school will move into the Athens district, where it had once been prior to the 1950s.</p> <p>Assembly Republicans introduced a bill yesterday preventing transgender students from taking part in girl's or women's sports in Wisconsin. The measure isn't expected to make it past Governor Tony Evers. Democrats in the</p>
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					<p>legislature's LGBTQ Caucus call the bill cruel and discriminatory. GOP Representative Barb Dittrich of Oconomowoc says the bills ensure fairness for females in athletics and support Title nine, a federal law prohibiting sex discrimination.</p> <p>The Town of Newbold hosts a series of informational meetings in advance of an April referendum to redo the town hall and build a new town shop. Two meetings are scheduled at the fire station for the next two Tuesdays at 3 and 6pm to review the needs, designs, costs and field questions. Voters will see the questions April 6<sup>th</sup>.</p>
Madison area school to hold classes outside in 30 degree weather	News	3/3/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>Temperatures will be in the 30s tomorrow when a group of teachers at Madison East High School hold classes outside. They're doing it to protest plans for a return to</p>

the classroom. They say they plan to conduct their online classes from the lawn in front of the school between 8:00 a-m and noon. The teachers say the plan created by the Madison Metropolitan School District isn't safe and it leaves too many critical safety questions unanswered. Other schools will follow suit.

The obituary for an 81-year-old Madison woman takes a sharp left turn, politically – urging people to make a donation to U-S Senator Ron Johnson's opponent next year in lieu of flowers. The family says Carol Lindeen was never very political. Then she watched the Wisconsin Republican speak during a Senate hearing on the January 6<sup>th</sup> riot at the U-S Capitol. Her daughter says Lindeen was furious as she

				<p>listened to Johnson downplay the actions of the crowd, saying she wished she had spoken up more during her life. The Dancing Goat Distillery in Cambridge has built Wisconsin's first non-climate-controlled rickhouse. Barrels of its Limousin Rye Whisky were being rolled into the rickhouse Tuesday. The distillery plans to build four more. A spokesperson says rickhouses age whiskey in a way that creates a more natural process than temperature-controlled warehouses with restricted air flow. The new structure in Cambridge is five stories high and can handle up to 78-hundred barrels of whiskey. Wisconsin's cool winter climate isn't a problem.</p>
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A new Rhinelander city administrator officially hired last night

News

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Rhinelander's fifth city administrator in eight years was officially hired last night. On a unanimous vote the city council formally gave the job the Zach Vruwink, who'd been acting as an assistant to Mayor Chris Frederickson since the firing of former administrator Daniel Guild last year. Vruwink, a former three term mayor in Wisconsin Rapids, will be relocating to the area and have a salary that's under budget at \$133,000 plus fringes and is in line with compareables for communities this size. A new registry program in Wisconsin is underway for people to sign up for the coronavirus vaccine if they're eligible and make appointments for where they live. So far only the community clinic in Janesville is the only health

department participating. Oneida and Marathon counties joined a couple others in testing the registry and could begin using it soon.

Nearly 30 schools in Wisconsin still have Native American mascots. It can be a costly process to change what many schools have used for decades and in Governor Tony Evers' proposed budget, there's \$400,000 in grants to help local districts remove race-based mascots to another nickname. Panthers top the list of high school mascots in the state with 22 followed right behind by the Eagles with 21. There are 15 using Warriors, 10 with Indians, four each with Chiefs or Chieftains.

In-person hunter safety courses return next month. The DNR noted the popular courses resume on the 15<sup>th</sup>

					<p>following protocols dealing with COVID-19 including social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer and a maximum of 50 participants.</p>
<p>A Minnesota man is going to prison on drugs charges in Wis.</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/4/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A Minnesota man is going to federal prison for seven years for a drug conviction. Fifty-two-year-old Chong Chueneng Moua was found guilty of supplying large quantities of meth to a distribution operation in central Wisconsin. Federal prosecutors say Lisa Xiong, the leader of the conspiracy, drove to St. Paul to pick up meth from Moua several times. Xiong was sentenced to 13 years. The two were arrested in June 2019. Nine of the 11 people indicted in the case entered guilty pleas to their roles in the distribution conspiracy.</p>

				<p>Governor Tony Evers floated a couple ideas directed at helping students catch up when they return to the classroom after a year of virtual learning. He suggests public schools could open before September 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2021-2022 academic year. That would require a change in state law by a Legislature that has resisted early starts in the past to avoid hurting the tourism industry. Evers said the earlier opening is something that might have to be done temporarily. Students' progress has been slowed significantly during the coronavirus pandemic. The premier outdoor event of the summer in the North, the Hodag Country Festival is still on. Organizers are in constant contact with the Oneida County Health Department and state department of health and</p>
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				are encouraged by the news out of Washington that all adults could be vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus by the end of May. The event is in July. The news was updated in a Facebook post yesterday. In anticipation, all campsites on the grounds have been sold.
Gas prices on the rise through the state	News	3/5/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30 In an effort to expose what he says is an abusive and obscene amount of money, Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson forced the chamber's clerks to begin reading the \$1.9-trillion Covid relief bill. It's 628-pages long. Johnson said Democrats are ramming through an overpriced bill that disregards the increasing numbers of vaccines and other signs the country's pandemic is beginning to ease. Senate Majority Leader Chuck

				<p>Shumer said the only thing being accomplished is giving the clerks a few sore throats. Republicans met with President Joe Biden last week on a proposal a third the size of the one under consideration. Nothing came of that meeting. Nearly 98% of households in the country got a COVID-19 relief check in December and according to the White House, those same people will qualify for the next round of payments tucked in the measure being debated in the Senate. President Biden said people were promised \$2000 but only \$600 was approved. This time that amount would be \$1400, which would be adjusted based on income in an effort to get more to the lower and middle class.</p>
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				<p>It's been seven years since we've seen gas prices over \$3 a gallon. Industry analysts now say we could see it by Memorial Day. GasBuddy warns the odds of it happening are at 70%. They point to a delay by OPEC to create enough oil production to meet global demands. With the vaccine rollout that demand has rebounded. The average price across the north this morning is \$2.76 for unleaded regular.</p>	
<p>Democratic State Representative is not believing what Foxconn has to say</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/5/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Democratic State Representative Gordon Hintz says he doesn't believe anything Foxconn says anymore. The top Democrat in the Wisconsin Assembly says the state has been played by the Taiwan-based tech giant in the past – and it's being played again. Hintz says he simply doesn't believe that</p>

Foxconn will make electric cars at its plant near Mount Pleasant. He says the lack of transparency, the lack of honesty, and the lack of accountability – from the very beginning – makes it hard to take any statements by the company seriously. Democrats have been skeptical and critical of Foxconn since it signed a deal worth three-billion dollars with the state in 2017.

The Veterans Administration says wait times at its Wisconsin clinics are shorter and veterans should know it is safe for them to come in for medical help. Public reports found that some new patient appointments for elective surgeries involved wait times as long as several months last October. Milwaukee V-A Medical Center Chief of

					<p>Staff Dr. Michael Erdmann says the vast majority of clinics are now meeting the goal of keeping those wait times under 30days. The coronavirus pandemic was blamed earlier. Now, Erdmann says about 70-percent of the employees at Wisconsin V-A clinics have been vaccinated. Organizers of the Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo announced the event will be held this summer. Last year's event, like all others was cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It's now set for June 11<sup>th</sup> thru the 13<sup>th</sup> at the fair grounds in Merrill, with advance tickets available.</p>
<p>Rhineland man in court next week on charges of sexual assault of a child</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/8/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A 21-year old Rhineland man is back in court next week on charges of first degree sexual assault of a child. Malachi Hills has a preliminary hearing scheduled next Monday</p>

after allegedly exposing himself to the child. He's also facing a repeater penalty. He's jailed on a \$100,000 cash bond. He was arrested last week, Monday.

Wisconsin's two US Senators couldn't be further apart on the \$1.9-trillion American Rescue Plan, passed over the weekend. Democrat Tammy Baldwin said the plan is the support the state needs right now to get past the health crisis and move the economy forward.

Republican Ron Johnson said it's not COVID relief, but a massive debt burden that further mortgages our children's future. There are still Senate amendments to the massive bill, which now heads to back to Congress this week.

A pair of reminders from the DNR. First for people wishing to burn vegetative

					<p>debris, that now, while there's still snow on the ground, is the best time, especially in storm-damaged areas, where conditions can dry quickly among the brush and fallen trees from last year's storms. Proper permits are required and daily fire restrictions should be checked. Secondly, permanent ice shacks should've been removed from waters south of Hwy 64 yesterday and north of there by this weekend. Portable ice shanties can be used as long as they're removed each day. Many lakes across the north are showing deep slush and a lot of the markings for snowmobile trails have already been pulled for the season.</p>
<p>Wausau hazmat team dispatched to Mosinee paper mill this morning</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/8/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Just after 8 this morning the Wausau Hazmat team was dispatched to reports of a</p>

chemical leak at the Mosinee Paper Mill. Initial reports say it was a leak of sulfuric acid. No other information was readily available.

Lincoln County authorities are seeking information on a burglary last week in the Town of Birch. Last Wednesday night someone cut the locks and took items from Quality Manufactured Home Sales on Hwy V. The owner discovered the break-in the next morning. If you have any information you're asked to contact the Sheriff's Department of Lincoln County Crime Stoppers.

Wausau city officials expect to complete the purchase of a seven-acre piece of property next to a wastewater treatment plant next month. A solar array would be built on the property to provide about

40-percent of the power needed to operate the plant. It's possible the city would buy more property later to make the solar array larger. Wausau is planning to use all of the electricity created by the solar panels to power the plant. Every other similar project sells some of its power back to a utility. City officials say they expect the work to be completed next year.

The mild stretch of weather will shut down the Oneida County Snowmobile Trail System, including all state and club funded trails tomorrow morning at 8am. The County Forestry Department also extends appreciation to all the clubs and volunteers for their work this year keeping the trails safe and in great condition despite the

					challenges of a short season.
CDC sets new rules about people gathering inside	News	3/9/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>New guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows vaccinated people can safely gather indoors with a mask or social distancing once they've established immunity. That takes about two weeks. Doctors with the Aspirus hospitals say it's optimistic news but it's not a blanket statement as there are conditions where people should still adhere to current safety guidelines, Like chronic conditions, being over 65 and not vaccinated, obesity and so on. State counties are now waiting for the health department to adopt the guidelines before they're formally adopted locally.</p> <p>In an effort to promote his biennial budget, Governor Tony Evers is hosting a series</p>

of listening sessions for residents to provide feedback on his so-called Badger Bounceback agenda. Six sessions are planned, with three already this month online and streamed on the governor's YouTube channel. Evers is hopeful a bipartisan budget will pass to help the state make it through the pandemic and its effects on the population and business. Sessions, all beginning at 6pm include economic recovery, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure, education, justice reform, legalizing marijuana and the environment.

Before yesterday's observation of International Women's Day ended, Wisconsin Democrats introduced an equal rights amendment to the state

					<p>constitution. The federal act became law in 1971 and Wisconsin was one of the first states to ratify it a few months later. But there wasn't one for the state constitution.</p> <p>Representative Lisa Subeck of Madison said all Wisconsinites should have equal rights and protections under the law.</p>
<p>Lawsuit filed against Foxconn has been dismissed</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/9/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The U-S Supreme Court declined to hear a challenge of Wisconsin presidential election voting results from lawyers representing former President Donald Trump. The Wisconsin Supreme Court had ruled against claims the election was fraudulent in the past. Monday's ruling ends the last court petition brought by lawyers for the former president. There are additional suits over the</p>

				<p>election filed by others. Trump had claimed the Wisconsin Elections Commission used illegal absentee voting drop boxes and completed poll workers to improperly correct absentee ballot witness certificates. A lawsuit filed against Foxconn Technology Group by a Racine County developer has been dismissed. Daniel Hintz of Caledonia had alleged the Taiwan tech company violated the terms of its contract by failing to build a giant manufacturing plant near Mount Pleasant. Hintz owns hundreds of acres of land in the Interstate 94 corridor near the plant's projected location. He had anticipated an explosion of development near the facility where 13-thousand people were going to be</p>
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					<p>working. Hintz asked that his suit be dismissed and the Racine County Court did so last Friday.</p> <p>If you've been stocking the bird feeders lately or hanging suet balls it may be a good idea to begin taking them down. With warmer temperatures moving in across the Midwest, the DNR is warning about bear encounters. They say bears are coming out of hibernation and it's likely they know where there could be opportunities for food near humans. The agency has a few tips online to avoid and protect yourself during bear encounters.</p>
<p>Wis. Covid vaccine supply expected to increase in April</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/10/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Wisconsin's COVID-19 vaccine supply is projected to increase moving into April and health officials are opening the eligibility list. Nearly 2-million more people, including those</p>

				<p>with certain pre-existing conditions should be announced tomorrow. The plan is for everyone who wants a shot should be able to get it by the end of June. Right now nearly 20% of the state's population has received at least one dose. The overall number of positive cases has been steadily dropping but officials say people should not drop their guard. Businesses and attractions that had been shuttered are now beginning to re-open as well. Meanwhile, taxpayers could begin seeing the latest round of stimulus benefits already this month. Congress is expected to approve the \$1.9-trillion American Rescue Plan as early as today. Including those checks, the plan includes aide to schools and small businesses</p>
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				<p>impacted by the pandemic. The entire rollout could take several months. The measure includes a direct \$1400 payment for single taxpayers or \$2800 for a married couple filing jointly. Another \$1400 goes for each dependent. Income limits will vary those amounts.</p> <p>Four lakes in Oneida and Vilas counties will be the focus of a DNR informational meeting this month. The agency is looking for guidance to rehab the declining walleye populations in Clear and Katherine lakes in Oneida and Anvil and Laura lakes in Vilas. The Zoom meeting takes place the 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm with specific information available on the DNR website. Proposed fishing regulations for those</p>
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					waters will also be discussed.
Update on chemical leak	News	3/10/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>That sulfuric acid leak at the Ahlstrom-Munksjo Mosinee Mill Monday morning released 90-gallons of the chemical. The DNR reported an equipment failure contributed to the leak, which was contained with no environmental impact.</p> <p>Some of the more than 70 animals relocated from Texas to Wisconsin have already found new homes. The Wisconsin Humane Society says 21 cats and 16 dogs arrived last week after the recent severe winter weather event that devastated much of the Lone Star State. Another 35 cats are expected to arrive this week. The animals sent to Wisconsin were chosen because they don't have owners who are looking for</p>

				<p>them. Most had been in a shelter before the winter storm. Transporting the animals to Wisconsin allowed the Texas shelters to work with pets displaced by the storm and complete repairs to their facilities. The cats and dogs are currently at the Milwaukee, Green Bay, and Ozaukee campuses of the Wisconsin Humane Society.</p> <p>The former Sears Store on Lincoln Street in Rhinelander will have a new owner next month. The Northwoods Habitat for Humanity Restore expects to be operational by early next month. Executive Director Dave Havel said everything fell into place for the sale, the location, the parking and more. Financially he said it was better for the organization to own rather than rent. That sale closes Friday and that's when the</p>
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					inventory and materials will begin the move. Havel said they can use volunteers for help during the process and they can be contacted via their website or Facebook page.
WPS crews battling high winds and power outages this morning	News	3/11/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Crews with Wisconsin Public Service have been battling winds over 40 mph early this morning in the wake of power outages. Nearly 10,000 customers were in the dark with the hardest hit areas including Tomahawk, Merrill, Gleason, Elcho, Eagle River, Hatley, Minocqua, Rhinelander, Three Lakes and Wabeno. Speaking of weather, seasonal load limits on area highways are being posted. Oneida County began the annual ritual already yesterday. Drivers are

				<p>reminded to check for postings in their areas. The legislature's Joint Finance Committee meets next month in the new Hodag Dome adjacent to Rhinelander High School. Representatives Rob Swearingen of Rhinelander and Calvin Callahan of Tomahawk announced the location, one of several across the state. Swearingen said this gives lawmakers a local perspective from the North as they work through the draft budget. The hearing takes place April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am. President Joe Biden will sign the \$1.9-trillion COVID-19 relief bill tomorrow. It was passed along party lines in congress last night. Republicans in both the house and senate opposed the measure saying it's bloated, crammed with</p>
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					<p>liberal policies and heedless of signs the crisis is easing. The most notable provision within the 628 pages of the bill are up to \$1400 direct payments to most Americans and extending the \$300 weekly emergency unemployment benefits into early September.</p> <p>The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry has another Farmers to Families distribution this morning but is running about two hours late due to the truck being held up due to bad weather in Minnesota.</p>
University of Wis. System reports new funding	News	3/11/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>A vote in the U-S House of Representatives means an estimated five-point-seven billion dollars will be coming to Wisconsin state and local governments. The one-point-nine-trillion-dollar American Rescue Plan was passed last night. Three-point-two billion dollars</p>

would go to Wisconsin state government and about two-and-a-half billion would go to local governments. The U-S Senate made some changes to the original version before sending it back to the House. The 15-dollar-an-hour minimum wage was taken out and federal unemployment insurance payments were kept at 300-dollars-a-week instead of 400. Wisconsin's congressional delegation voted along party lines, with all Republicans voting no and Democrats voting yes.

The University of Wisconsin System reports new funding in the amount of one-point-three million dollars will double the number of freshman students getting help. An additional 14-hundred students will be assisted. System President

Tommy Thompson says the effort will help those incoming students have a smooth transition to college, mentally and academically. Thompson says this is even more important during the coronavirus pandemic. The on-campus programs won't cost the students using them anything.

Attorney General Josh Kaul is asking members of the state budget committee for 925-thousand dollars for upgrades to the crime lab. The new technology would be used to identify synthetic drugs and hire four more analysts. Kaul says the eight toxicologists currently working in the state crime lab are overwhelmed by the volume of drug cases involving highly-toxic fentanyl. The Democrat says the new technology

					would speed those cases through the court system.
Covid vaccines grow while cases go down	News	3/12/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	The COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues to grow while the overall cases of the virus across the country continues to drop. While that's good news on the surface, the pandemic is still having devastating effects on businesses. The latest comes from the Grand Lodge Hotel in Wausau which has shutdown the Logger's Landing Waterpark indefinitely effective today. In a statement management said due to the continued hardships from the pandemic and recent staffing challenges, the decision was made to close. The Hotel itself will be closed from March 22 <sup>nd</sup> until April 5 <sup>th</sup> to allow workers to regroup and reorganize to continue serving their guests.

Meanwhile, the state department of health the next group eligible to received vaccines. Beginning the 29<sup>th</sup>, people over 16 years of age with certain medical conditions can get the shots. That's over 2-million people. Those conditions include cancer, heart or lung conditions and diabetes as well as those with immune deficiencies, overweight or have high blood pressure. Health officials also urge grocery, transit and utility workers to get vaccinated. A number of waters across the north are in line for surface water grants from the DNR. More than \$6.2-million will be used to restore and protect lakes, rivers and wetlands. From local lake associations to townships and counties, the projects range from outreach and education

					<p>activities to habitat restoration and pollution reduction. As an example, Trout Unlimited in the Rock Creek watershed of Forest County will open eight miles of trout stream, reconnecting cold water habitat using a river management grant.</p>
<p>Authorities in central Wis. Are investigating a fatal school bus accident and a 6 year old boy</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/12/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Authorities in central Wisconsin are investigating a fatal accident involving a school bus and a six-year-old boy. A spokesman for the Wood County Sheriff's Office calls the incident "absolutely horrible." The victim's name hasn't been released and crash scene investigators with the Wisconsin State Patrol are working to reconstruct the crash. No criminal charges are expected. Details of what exactly happened at a rural intersection near Auburndale aren't clear due to a lack of witnesses.</p>

Men, women and machines start working Monday as Green Bay Packaging's new 500-million-dollar paper mill begins operations. It's the first new paper mill to go online in Wisconsin in 30 years. Company officials say the previous facility was 71 years old and the machinery outdated. The new mill preserves 11-hundred jobs and another 200 could be added in the next few years. It's environmentally friendly, using treated wastewater in its production process so none is released into the Fox River and two natural gas boilers are replacing the old plant's coal-fired boiler. Production capacity will be tripled.

A group of five friends and sandwich lovers went together to buy the Madison-based Milio's

					<p>chain of restaurants. Four of the five graduated from Madison West High School and grew up in the area. All have strong ties to the community. Milio's was launched in 1989 as a single sandwich shop on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. The company has grown to 21 locations across Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Brian Bergen, Timm Heller, Chris Gentilli and Todd, and Tony Mancusi were announced as the new owners this week.</p>
<p>State senator Johnson is giving rivals something to talk about.</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/15/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>With an election looming, Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson is giving rivals a lot to talk about, because of talk. The Republican last week on a syndicated radio show said the thousands who stormed the Capitol building in January would never do anything to break the law and he wasn't</p>

concerned. But if Trump won the election and it was thousands of Black Lives Matter and Antifa, I might have been a little concerned. Both Democratic candidates jumped on the comments with Alex Lasry saying Johnson is a racist and unfit to serve while Tom Nelson said it was a despicable new low, even for Johnson. The incumbent hasn't said whether he intends to run again in 2022.

Around 20% of Wisconsin residents have been vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus according to numbers from the health department over the weekend. And Governor Tony Evers says everyone over 16 will be eligible for the shots by May first. President Joe Biden said pretty much the same

					<p>thing. Evers didn't say how long after becoming eligible it would take to get the shot. Health officials have maintained everyone who wants one will be able to get it by early July. Restaurant workers are the latest priority group to get vaccinated with the health department noting it was due to the increased supply of doses and their public-facing role. Another 20 groups of people with medical conditions will be eligible by the end of the month.</p> <p>And saying the packers have unfinished business, running back Aaron Jones signed a new four year deal.</p>
Federal arrest warrant issued for 19 year old shooting suspect	News	3/15/21	1230p,530p	1:30	A federal arrest warrant is issued for the apprehension of a 19-year-old shooting suspect. Menominee Tribal

Police are asking the public for help in the search for Menom Powless-Brown. Powless-Brown is considered armed and dangerous. He is suspected of being involved in a Saturday shooting on the Menominee Reservation. Police say you shouldn't approach him just call 9-1-1 or contact your local law enforcement agency. Investigators are hoping someone who knows where he is will contact them.

A woman in the Town of Scott notified the Lincoln County Sheriff's office of an email scam. She reported getting the email from what appeared to be Charter Communications. It informed her a problem occurred with her last payment and directed her to follow a link to update her billing information. She

				<p>contacted Charter Spectrum, who is her cable provider and they confirmed here account was up to date and the email was a scam. People are reminded to use caution and if needed, get a permit before doing any outdoor burning. Deputies, local fire departments and the DNR responded to two separate grass fires within eight minutes of each other Saturday afternoon. The first was reported on Woodenware Road in the Town of Rock Falls and minutes later another on Hwy X in the Town of Schley. No structures were damaged and no injuries reported. Gas prices are flirting with \$3 a gallon, going up another two and a half cents in the past week. The national average is now \$2.86 a gallon.</p>
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State officials say more than 2 million doses of Covid vaccine have been given out

News

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State health officials say more than 2-million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered. That's over 20% of the population. Iowa County leads the state in terms of first doses with 27.6% of residents getting the shots. The percentage of residents 65 and older officially hit 40% yesterday for both doses while over 68% have received at least one. The overall number of positive cases in the state continues to fall rapidly.

The first of Governor Tony Evers' virtual Badger Bounceback sessions comes up Thursday night. The

topic of the series will be economic recovery and opportunity in the state. Subsequent sessions will hit healthcare, transportation and infrastructure, kids, justice reform, making marijuana legal, the environment and more. The Joint Finance Committee also goes on the road next month.

Thomas Blythe Scott was a lumberman, state senator and the first Mayor of Merrill. When he died in 1886 he willed \$10,000 for the creation of a free library in the community. Hence, the TB Scott Library. The family mansion, which wasn't even finished when he died has been

					<p>the subject of debate for years, whether or not to preserve it or raze it. The building itself is being torn down, but hospital officials with Ascension, who owns the property, is handling the removal and restoration of tower on the home and placing it on the River Bend Trail in the city. Park City Credit Union also donated to the project and is accepting donations from the public to help reserve a piece of history.</p>
<p>Waupaca SWAT team ends standoff in Clintonville</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/16/2021</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A Waupaca County SWAT team helped ended a two-hour standoff in Clintonville yesterday. Police got a call about a man inside a local home throwing and</p>

breaking things. When officers arrived, they could hear yelling inside the home and could see blood on the stairs. Some children were moved out safely, then officers saw a man on the stairs armed with broken glass. He reportedly told them he had a gun and was going to shoot them. After two hours, the suspect and a woman came downstairs and surrendered. The man's name hasn't been released. No injuries were reported.

An effort to keep Wisconsin inmates from getting federal stimulus checks is back on track. Congressional Democrats stopped the idea in Washington last week when Republicans backed an amendment to the one-point-nine-trillion-dollar package signed by

				<p>the president. The measure would require any federal stimulus money received by a prisoner to go toward the restitution he or she owes. Doctors and U-W Health are urging Wisconsin residents to consider a “staycation” rather than traveling for spring break. Although the end of the coronavirus pandemic seems to be in sight, they say it’s not here yet. Health professionals are worried about another large outbreak of COVID-19 cases like the nation saw after Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you have to travel, U-W Health says you should wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands – no matter what your vaccination status is. Officials say despite the improving conditions it’s no time let our guard down for protection</p>
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Forest Co. drug task force  
arrest two people after  
routine traffic stop in  
Argonne

News

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A rural Shawano County man is in jail on multiple counts of possessing child pornography. 35-year old Derek Metzenbauer of Cecil faces 65 counts along with having drugs after his arrest yesterday by sheriff's deputies. He's already a registered sex offender following a conviction in North Carolina for taking indecent liberties with a child.

The Forest County Drug Task Force arrested two people following a routine traffic stop in the Town of Argonne. K9 officer Thunder alerted to the vehicle to drugs and 41 year old William Gehring of Rhinelander and 41 year old Brian Steinert of Argonne were taken into custody. Meth, pills, drug paraphernalia, a firearm, taser and large amount of cash were found. Both

				<p>face multiple felony charges. Gehring is held on a \$10,000 cash bond while Steinert was released after posting a \$3000 cash bond. The man accused of supplying the heroin that killed a Newbold woman two years ago is back in court next week. 24-year old Dalton Kampf of Stevens Point is charged with reckless homicide and bail set at \$75,000 cash with an adjourned initial appearance set for the 25<sup>th</sup>. Oneida County investigators have been working this case nearly a year prior to the arrest. The Rhinelander Fire Department got some water rescue training early yesterday, rescuing a deer that had broken through the ice on Boom Lake. A passerby called it in around 7:30 yesterday morning. Lt. Scott Rathbun went into the</p>
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					water to help the animal safely back to shore.
Oneida Co. looking at ways to fixing deteriorating roads	News	3/17/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>The Wisconsin Assembly passed legislation that would require pharmacy benefit managers to register with the state and submit annual reports. The bill is designed to lower prescription drug costs. The benefit managers would have to reveal the rebates they received from drug makers and show whether those savings were passed on to consumers. Members of the Assembly are also working on a bipartisan measure to guarantee those with pre-existing conditions can't be turned away by health insurance companies.</p> <p>U-S Senator Ron Johnson says he's not running for governor, but he still hasn't decided about going for a third term in Washington. The Wisconsin</p>

Republican says he has no idea who started the rumor he would campaign to replace Democrat Tony Evers. Johnson had pledged in 2016 he wouldn't seek a third term in the Senate, but he has rescinded that. The veteran politician was first elected to the U-S Senate in 2010.

Oneida County is looking at dealing with deteriorating roads and are turning to voters to help pay for it. The highway department is looking for approval in a referendum in April to impose a road tax in an effort to raise a half million dollars a year for 10 years for road construction and repair. Taxes would go up around \$6.50 per \$100,000 of property value. Highway commissioner Bruce Stefonek said without the increase there isn't another

					option for road work because costs have dramatically increased over the years while their budget has not.
Rhinelander's water utility has lifted the running water credit for the season	News	3/18/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>Republicans on the State Building Commission rejected Governor Tony Evers' proposed \$2.38-billion capital budget yesterday. And he said he's disappointed and accused the party of playing politics with the people and future of the state. Evers said the plan included projects in nearly half of the state's 72 counties and have an estimated impact of \$4.3-billion on the economy. You can buy cocktails to go in more than 30 states and Wisconsin could be next. The Assembly yesterday approved the measure to help struggling bar and restaurant owners attract more business. Mixed drinks and wine would have a</p>

				<p>tamper-evident seal and would only be available for pickup, not delivery. The bill is now in the Senate. Representatives also approved a resolution honoring the late conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh. Democrats railed against it, saying Limbaugh's career was full of racism, sexism and homophobia.</p> <p>Rhinelanders' water utility has lifted the running water credit for the season. Frost has released from the ground and residents no longer have to run water to prevent pipes from freezing. Credits will not be allowed for water supplies metered after March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The city reported minimal incidents this season and appreciates the cooperation of utility customers.</p> <p>The Mercer Cross Country Ski Trail, or MECCA</p>
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					<p>expanded with the purchase of 40 acres of private land. Funded by the DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and a \$10,000 grant from the Gogebic Range Health Foundation, the 21 kilometer system is now completely on public property and open year-round for skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, birding and hunting.</p>
<p>State tax payers are getting extra time to file federal taxes</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/18/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>For the second year in a row, Wisconsin taxpayers are getting a little extra time to file their federal income taxes. The Internal Revenue Service is delaying the filing deadline from the traditional April 15<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup>. In each of the last two years, people have had to deal with tax situations complicated by the coronavirus pandemic. Last year, the I-R-S moved the deadline to July 15<sup>th</sup>. The I-R-S is extra</p>

				<p>busy because it's currently distributing about 150-millions federal stimulus payments. As of Wednesday, 90-million had been sent out.</p> <p>Wisconsin businessman Jere Fabick wants a ban on absentee ballot drop boxes and some other election practices. Fabick says they aren't authorized under Wisconsin state statutes. He filed a lawsuit with the Wisconsin Supreme Court Monday. In addition to getting rid of drop boxes, he wants municipal clerks prohibited from filling in missing witness information on those absentee ballots and wants to stop ballot harvesting. Fabick's suit isn't seeking to overturn Joe Biden's presidential election victory in the state last November. He just wants the practices ended for future elections.</p>
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				<p>With his small plane dangling from a power line after hitting a utility pole, a pilot from Minnesota escaped injury as he jumped to the ground yesterday morning. The unidentified pilot said he was trying to land the ultra-light plane when it got snagged on the line and slightly damaged. A crew from Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative was on the scene between Bloomer and New Auburn, replacing the utility pole that snapped during the crash.</p>	
<p>State moratorium on utilities not being shut off due to the pandemic is coming to an end.</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/19/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The moratorium preventing utilities from disconnecting service to customers for non-payment during the COVID pandemic is coming to an end. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin voted yesterday to allow utilities to move</p>

				<p>forward with the actions after April 15<sup>th</sup>. The weekly average of COVID-19 cases in the state have decreased by more than 90%, prompting the move. Customers behind in paying their bills are encouraged to arrange payment plans with their providers. The State of Wisconsin was back in Oneida County Court in their case against Steven Vick and H &amp; H Septic of Rhineland. A status conference this week reviewed five charges, specifically failing to obey disposal requirements and failure to keep proper records. Attorneys had meetings with the DNR over illegal dumping at the Rhineland Wastewater Treatment Plant. It's alleged the company gained access to the plant during off hours and falsified reports of what was</p>
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					<p>being dumped over a six year period. Investigators said this all went on with the knowledge of former public works director Tim Kingman, who was fired in 2019. H &amp; H paid \$4100 in restitution to the city late last year but the amount police say was effectively stolen from the city is over \$31,000. Another status conference is set for April 12<sup>th</sup> pending trial, if it comes to that. The company entered a not guilty plea in December. Work is underway to upgrade the state's antique computer system that handle unemployment claims. The Dept of Workforce Development reports new services should be operational within six months.</p>
<p>Barron Co. authorities are charging Rice Lake man in February crash with horse and buggy</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/19/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Authorities in Barron County are charging a Rice Lake man with homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle</p>

in a February crash with a horse and buggy. Forty-year-old Anthony Anderson is also charged with three more felonies. Anderson called 9-1-1 February 18<sup>th</sup> to report the crash. When emergency responders arrived they saw a dead horse on the side of the road, a smashed buggy, and debris on the roadway. One unconscious but breathing person was taken to an Eau Claire hospital where he died. A second person in the buggy survived. Anderson was legally intoxicated. He is scheduled to return to court next month.

Waupaca County prosecutors accuse the former treasurer of the Manawa chapter of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary with stealing more than 14-thousand dollars. Fifty-six-

				<p>year-old Carrie Willems is scheduled to make her initial court appearance April 6<sup>th</sup>, charged with several counts of theft and forgery. Investigators say Willems admitted she kept poor records and admitted forging signatures on checks. She told authorities she did it because she moved away from the town and it was hard to the needed second signature. Lincoln County Sheriff Ken Schneider is crediting K9 officer Nina and deputy handler Sam Steckbauer for saving an Irma woman yesterday. Deputies responded to a Skanawan home following a missing person report. Officials learned the woman could be a danger to herself. Nina began tracking the woods and located the woman with severe injuries. She was airlifted to the</p>
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					trauma center for treatment. Tomahawk firefighters assisted deputies and paramedics.
Dozens of grass and wildfires reported over the weekend	News	3/22/21	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Dozens of grass and wildfires were reported over the weekend as the DNR and local firefighters fought against the dry conditions and stiff winds. More than 100 acres of land burned along with five structures and several more threatened. One fire, near Hwy L in western Oneida County yesterday closed the road for a time as thick smoke was spreading across the area of Hwy 51 in the Township of Nokomis. Until showers arrive today and tomorrow, the fire danger across the north is high and very high across central parts of the state. Wausau Police are investigating a shooting early Sunday that left one person dead and another

in custody. The incident reported at a residence in the 1300 block of N 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue about 2:30. A 30-year old woman was found dead of a gunshot wound and 24-year old Unberto Lo arrested on charges of first-degree intentional homicide and felony bail jumping. He's in Marathon county court this afternoon. There's still a mask mandate in Wisconsin. A fake document has been circulating online, appearing like Governor Tony Evers' order from last month and showing an expiration of March 20<sup>th</sup>. Examining the document, there's no signature. The official order is set to expire April 5<sup>th</sup> unless extended. Meanwhile, state health officials reported over the weekend more than a quarter of the people across north central

					<p>Wisconsin have been vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, with nearly a million doses across the state. Numbers for positive cases, hospitalizations and deaths also continue to drop.</p>
<p>State senator Johnson says he doesn't regret his comments on a radio talk show</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/22/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>U-S Senator Ron Johnson says he doesn't regret his comments on a radio talk show and he maintains they weren't racist. The Wisconsin Republican said he wasn't worried when Trump supporters stormed the Capitol January 6<sup>th</sup>. He added, he might have been a little concerned if Trump had won the election and there were tens of thousands of Black Lives Matter and ANTIFA demonstrators there. Democrats are asking him to resign and calling the comments racist. Johnson says what he said had nothing to do</p>

with race and everything to do with riots.

For the first time in a week gas prices in Wisconsin held steady or dropped a bit.

The average price is around \$2.70 a gallon with an average \$2.82 across the North. Even with the small changes, GasBuddy reports the prices are still 13-cents higher than last month and nearly 88-cents higher than a year ago. The company said prices are affected by the surge in COVID cases overseas that are impacting the demand on oil.

For 12 hours local talent filled the Facebook page of the Oneida County Fair Friday in their first fundraising telethon. And thanks to the generosity of area businesses and community members, over \$6000 was raised either online or dropping by Tom's

					<p>Drawing Board in downtown Rhinelander. Owner Tom Barnett is the fair coordinator and appreciates all the support. The fair is always accepting donations to help grow the fair, which takes place this year beginning July 29<sup>th</sup> at Pioneer Park in Rhinelander.</p>
<p>Traffic crash in Langlade Co. yesterday claimed a life</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/23/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830 a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A traffic crash yesterday afternoon in Langlade County claimed a life. Just after 1:00 the Sheriff's Department was notified of the collision on Hwy HH south of Hwy 64. Investigators said one vehicle crossed the centerline and ran head on into oncoming traffic. One driver was taken to Langlade Aspirus Hospital where they died. Several other people were treated at the scene for minor injuries. No other information is available.</p>

It's all about killing. The words of John Johnson, chairman of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Voight Intertribal Task Force regarding last month's wolf hunt in Wisconsin. Members of the Chippewa band in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan are coming down hard on the DNR for allowing the hunt, where the quota was nearly doubled by state hunters. The Chippewa hold the wolf sacred and opposed the hunt. Johnson said it was held during mating season, putting the pelts in bad shape and female wolves are typically pregnant, making the hunt all about killing.

A popular program from the fall gets a spring run. Actually, it's a walk. The Rhinelander School District

					<p>relaunched their Get Out and Walk 100-Mile Challenge. From April 19<sup>th</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>, registered people can walk 100 miles and be entered into a drawing for Chamber Bucks from the Chamber of Commerce. Community Education Coordinator Mike Cheslock said the program gets people outdoors and they don't have to wear masks. Registration is \$10 and information is on the school district website.</p>
<p>A jury trial for an accused Wausau cemetery shooter will be next year</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/23/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The jury trial for the accused Wausau cemetery shooter is now March 2022. A former worker at that cemetery, Henry West, is accused of shooting three people there, killing one. Fifty-two-year-old Patricia Grimm died before she could be taken to a hospital. The two others</p>

				<p>survived. West's trial was originally set to start in May, but was delayed. He's is also suspected of setting fire and rigging his apartment in Schofield to explode. Investigators say if it had worked, many people would have died. The Menominee Tribal Police say the human remains found on the reservation in northeastern Wisconsin last week are those of a missing woman. Twenty-two-year-old Katelyn Kelley was last seen by her family in last June. An autopsy yesterday identified the remains, discovered last Wednesday. Tribal police haven't said who made the discovery, or how it was made. They also haven't said where Kelley's remains were found. The F-B-I is assisting police with their investigation.</p>
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				<p>Wisconsin election officials remind people they need to bring an acceptable photo I-D with them when they cast an in-person absentee ballot for the April election starting today. COVID-19 precautions are still in force at the absentee voting locations – meaning a person wanting to vote early may have to wait for another person to leave before they can go inside. If this is your first time to vote, you will need to bring proof of residence so you can register. The Wisconsin Elections Commission reminds people they can find more information at <a href="http://MyVote.WI.GOV">MyVote.WI.GOV</a>.</p>	
<p>Statewide mask mandate ends April 5<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/24/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The statewide mask mandate ends April 5<sup>th</sup> and Governor Tony Evers hasn't given any indication whether or not he'll extend</p>

it. Wausau, however pushed theirs out to May 31<sup>st</sup> last night. The city's Common Council also created a temporary ordinance relaxing certain rules allowing outdoor seating for bars and restaurants with alcohol until the new year. They also modified the fees and license schedule for businesses.

Meanwhile, the Wisconsin Senate yesterday voted to take away control of the state's share of the \$1.9-trillion federal coronavirus stimulus package from the governor. That share is around \$5.7-billion. At the same time in the Assembly, state reps approved measures prohibiting the government and employers from requiring people to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

Speaking of money, state legislators, who didn't meet for over eight months last year due to the pandemic, claimed over half a million dollars for travel and work in Madison. Figures released yesterday show claims for per diem came in at \$555,159. That's on top of the average \$53,000 salary. Just before the pandemic took over last March, lawmakers adjourned, but returned in April to pass a COVID relief bill, then took the rest of the year off to campaign.

Wisconsin wolf hunt opponents might make it a federal case. Environmentalists and Wisconsin's Native American tribes hope Interior Secretary Deb Haaland will stop the hunt. They're unhappy with how many wolves were

					<p>killed in Wisconsin during last month's three-day hunting season, where hunters killed 216 wolves, nearly double their quota of 119.</p>
<p>New program at Howard Young attracts new cases</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/24/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Last November the Howard Young Medical Center, part of Ascension, launched a sexual assault nurse examiner or SANE program. Six forensic nurses work out of the ER, specially trained to help meet the needs of abuse victims. By providing immediate, compassionate, culturally sensitive and comprehensive forensic evaluation and treatment, they are trained to collect and maintain the chain of evidence, provide emotional support and arrange any follow-up support that may be needed. To date nearly a half dozen cases and additional referrals have</p>

				<p>required use the SANE program.</p> <p>Funded by the Feed Our Rural Kids or FORK program, Fork Cares is a nutritional support effort to provide kids in eastern and central Vilas County a supplemental food source while not in school, especially at times like the upcoming spring break. Organizers say meal boxes will now be shared by both the children and their families.</p> <p>Weston School District officials say a referendum question on the April 6<sup>th</sup> election ballot could determine the district's future. Two questions request nearly three-million dollars from taxpayers for renovations to the high school and additional funding for operations for operating over the next four years. If the referendum</p>
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				<p>fails, the school board could decide to dissolve the district serving students in Sauk and Richland counties. School officials say the renovations at the high school probably should have been done 10-to-15 years ago, citing loose tiles containing asbestos and a need for a new heating system. The Elcho School District will try again to get \$4-million over four years to avoid deep cuts.</p>	
<p>A Birchwood woman will be in Sawyer Co. court today on a drug charge</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/25/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A Birchwood woman will be in Sawyer County Court later today following a drug bust Sunday. 40-year old Kena Baird was stopped for a traffic violation by Sheriff's deputies and nearly a pound of methamphetamine was discovered in the vehicle along with psychedelic mushrooms and THC. Investigators say the</p>

				<p>meth had a street value of 39-thousand dollars.</p> <p>Governor Tony Evers gave the green light to a proposed Ho-Chunk Nation casino in Beloit. Evers said yesterday he concurs with the U-S Department of Interior's decision that 32 acres of land should be taken into trust by the federal government for the project. The Beloit Gaming and Entertainment Center is expected to create more than 15-hundred jobs in the casino-resort and two-thousand construction jobs. Evers and the Ho-Chunk Nation need to complete an amendment to the gaming compact and the Department of Interior must issue its final determination whether to take the land into trust. Meanwhile, GOP leadership in the state assembly say they will take the Governor</p>
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					<p>to court if he vetoes a bill taking away his ability to dole out federal stimulus funds.</p> <p>A new, week-long event kicks off in Rhinelander this May as the Chamber of Commerce announces Hodag Heritage Days. Running from the 17<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>, it's a celebration with art contests, scavenger hunts, Hodag decoration contests, videos, parade and more. The Chamber partnered with the Pioneer Park Historical Complex and the Hodag Store for the event but is seeking additional sponsors. Their website will release events and details April 22<sup>nd</sup>.</p>
State businesses are saying they have a workforce shortage	News	3/25/21	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>Justices on the Wisconsin Supreme Court are denying a request from Attorney General Josh Kaul to hear his challenge to a law passed two years ago. The</p>

law passed during a lame-duck session requires his Department of Justice to get approval from the Joint Finance Committee before settling lawsuits. The state's highest court upheld that law in another suit last summer, but it hadn't ruled out more legal challenges. Kaul is a Democrat and conservative justices have a four-to-three majority on the panel.

Wisconsin businesses say they are experiencing a workforce shortage – quite a difference from the situation during the height of the coronavirus pandemic when thousands were off the job. Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce says there a “countless openings for good, family-supporting careers” now. Wisconsin's unemployment rate was

nearly 15-percent in April of last year, but it has fallen to three-point-eight-percent. That means only eight states have a lower rate of people out of work. Wisconsin bosses say finding enough workers tops their list of concerns, followed by the need to reduce regulations. Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos wants to see Wisconsin workers back in their offices by the Fourth of July to avoid a “pandemic hangover.” Both Vos and Republican Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu had words of praise for Democratic Governor Tony Evers’ administration for its efforts to get everyone vaccinated. Though the leaders of the two political parties have had a rocky relationship, Vos and LeMahieu gave the Evers

administration credit for increasing vaccinations in Wisconsin.

Lincoln County deputies noticed three suspicious vehicles at a storage unit north of Merrill early yesterday morning. While attempting to make contact the vehicles fled and a pursuit ensued. Two of them were finally stopped in the city limits after 1am where the drivers took off on foot. A 36-year old Merrill man was found and arrested on charges of felony fleeing, bail jumping and a probation hold. Two other suspects as of this morning remain at large. All three vehicles are in evidence and being held. The empty Shopko building in Rothschild is being repurposed, purchased by the Tomah VA Medical Center. The clinic is expected to offer vision

Lincoln Co. officials stop suspicious looking vehicle

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and hearing services along with dental work. And because of the size of the building other programs will be added. Officials hope to have the facility in operation for veterans around this time next year. Meanwhile, the Wisconsin Veteran's Home at King, which just restarted in-person visits this week, suspended them again after a positive COVID-19 case in an employee. Complete testing is underway.

One of the candidates for state school superintendent made a swing through the north yesterday. Dr. Deborah Kerr made stops in Rhinelander and Antigo. The former Brown Deer School District Superintendent hit the hot button topic up here in discussing the school funding formula. For

					decades the north has been handcuffed by it due to the high property values, which the formula is based on. Kerr meets Jill Underly, superintendent for the Pecatonica Area School District in the spring election April 6 <sup>th</sup> .
Jacob Blake is suing the police officer who shot him last summer	News	3/26/21	1230p,530p	1:30	Jacob Blake, the Black man paralyzed after a Kenosha police officer shot him last summer filed an excessive force civil suit in federal court. Blake is suing Officer Rusten Sheskey for his actions in August. No criminal charges were filed against the officer because he said he feared for his life. Blake was shot in the back while he was entering an S-U-V during a domestic dispute. The suit seeks unspecified damages. The shooting of Blake led to more protests over police brutality and racism.

				<p>UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank says campus life will mostly return to normal this fall. Blank wrote on her blog, "I feel confident next semester will look more like Fall 2019 than Fall 2020, with offices occupied and throngs of students changing classes in the middle of the day." She says some unknowns remain due to the COVID pandemic. Blank also said "we want to return to what makes UW-Madison special, and that means safely returning to our classrooms and labs for in-person learning and research." She is encouraging all students and staff get vaccinated. The owner of Osseo Family Restaurant just wants his rooster back – and if it's returned, he won't press charges. The rooster statute which used to stand</p>
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					<p>outside the restaurant in Osseo is about 12-feet tall and four-feet wide. Owner Artan Shabani says Osseo police are on the case. Video surveillance from nearby businesses is being checked. Shabani says he doesn't know how they pulled it off since the chicken was bolted to the ground.</p>
<p>Police in Kenosha have filed charges on 55 people involved in the riots last summer</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/29/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Police in Kenosha say a total of 55 suspects are identified and charged with crimes related to riots last summer following the police shooting of Jacob Blake. Police Chief Daniel Miskinis says the charges include arson, burglary, conspiracy to commit theft of narcotics, possession of a firearm, battery, criminal damage and disorderly conduct. Six suspects are juveniles. Investigators say more arrests are expected.</p> <p>Officials at Mitchell International Airport say</p>

Saturday was their busiest day since the coronavirus pandemic started. The T-S-A reports nine-thousand-150 travelers passed through the airport that day. Passenger traffic at the time of the year in 2020 was about two-thousand travelers. Before that, a normal day would have been about 11-thousand. People last weekend were going to warm-weather destinations like Florida, Arizona, and the Caribbean. Most told W-I-S-N Television they were heading out for spring break.

U-W-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank is telling students they should be expecting to be back in the classroom this fall. Blank says the university is expecting nearly every class that was held in-person in Fall 2019 to return to in-person instruction. Some hybrid and online classes will remain, but they will be the minority. Blank says she

					<p>hopes as many students as possible will get vaccinated over the spring and summer, but the university will be offering vaccines again this fall. She didn't say vaccination will be required for students.</p>
<p>Wisconsin has topped all states in vaccinating it's people</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/29/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Wisconsin has topped all 50 states in vaccinating its people. As of Friday, the state had used more than 90-percent of the vaccines it has received from the federal government. Right behind the Badger State are New Mexico, North Dakota, and Minnesota. More than two-point-six-million doses have been administered here. One in every six Wisconsin residents has received both shots. The counties with the highest percentage of residents receiving the vaccine are Bayfield, Door, and Menominee.</p>

Wisconsin's superintendent of Public Instruction says she is proud of the way the state's educators have adapted to teaching virtual classes. Carolyn Stanford Taylor goes on to say there is no substitute for in-person learning. Many students have struggled. Taylor is retiring in July after more than 40 years in education. Candidates trying to take her seat are on next month's ballot. She says the challenge of education during the coronavirus pandemic has helped schools reimagine what education could look like. Taylor says she has been in regular communication with Milwaukee Public Schools about the district's plan to return to in-person learning that was just approved last week.

Workers at fisheries in Wisconsin and Minnesota plan to meet in La Crosse next month. They will be there to

				<p>discuss the so-called modified unified method of removing invasive carp from the Mississippi River. The method involves using netting and herding techniques to concentrate the fish from a big area into a small zone where they can be removed. Scientists are focused on removing bighead, grass, and silver carp.</p>
Gov. Evers veto's bill	News	3/30/21	630a,730a,830 a	<p>Democrat Governor Tony Evers yesterday vetoed a bill passed by Republican lawmakers last week to give the Joint Finance Committee control over federal COVID-19 spending. Evers says he vetoed the bill to make sure once the state gets the guidance it needs from the federal government they can work to get these funds out quickly. He says he will use two-and-a-half billion dollars in federal stimulus funds for economic recovery in Wisconsin. The funding announcement includes 50 million dollars for the tourism industry, and 600 million to help support businesses.</p> <p>Evers also says he hasn't made a decision yet on whether to extend the state's mask mandate beyond</p>

					<p>April 5th. Evers says he's "waiting for the science on that" and it's a decision that will be made at the last moment. President Joe Biden yesterday asked states that have lifted their mask mandates to reinstate them -- citing what he says are rising coronavirus case counts and the spread of new variants.</p> <p>A Waukesha prosecutor has written a letter to the court saying 19-year-old Anissa Weier shouldn't be released from a Wisconsin state mental hospital. Assistant D-A Kevin Osborne says Weier "remains a danger to others." She was 12 when she and Morgan Geyser stabbed a sixth-grade classmate to appease a fictional internet horror character known as "Slender Man." Weier was committed to a mental health institute for 25 years after a Wisconsin jury found her not criminally responsible for her role in the attack. A conditional release hearing for her is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<p>Air travelers in the Northwoods will soon have access to routes to O'hare in Chicago</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/30/21</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p><b>Air travelers in the Northwoods will soon have access to O'Hare Airport in Chicago. Daily United</b></p>

Express jet service, operated by SkyWest Airlines, from Rhineland-Oneida County Airport to Chicago will begin July first. These new seasonal flights will provide travelers access to United's global network. The new flights to Chicago from the Rhineland Oneida County Airport will be in addition to service to Minneapolis provided through Sky West Airlines and Delta.

A Stevens Point firefighter who has been on leave without pay since last September won't be coming back to the job. Casey Bielen was the focus of a series of investigations and hearings by the city's Police and Fire Commission. Bielen had been accused of failing to

report to work on time, trying to report to work while under the influence of alcohol, and misconduct over his alleged social media activity. At least two women have said they received lewd and unwanted messages from the former firefighter, while he was both on-duty and off-duty. No criminal charges have been filed against him.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources says a five-foot drawdown is planned for a flowage in Oconto County this summer. That means a major transformation on the Machickanee Flowage in Stiles. D-N-R water resources management specialist Brenda Nordin says silty sediment and

					<p>overpopulation of aquatic plants are causing a lot of navigational issues. The area getting attention is upstream from the Stiles dam on the Oconto River. Starting next July, the flowage will be lowered by up to six inches-a-day for two weeks.</p>
<p>Gov. Evers says all state residents 16 and older will be eligible for Covid vaccines beginning next Monday</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/31/21</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Governor Tony Evers says all Wisconsin residents age 16 and over will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine next Monday. The eligibility date was moved up four weeks due to increased vaccine supply and an accelerated pace in vaccinations. Not everyone will be able to get the shot April 5th as some areas of Wisconsin have higher demand and may have waitlists. May 1st was the initial deadline to have the general public eligible for the vaccine.</p>

The Wisconsin Supreme Court is scheduled to release a ruling Wednesday on whether Governor Evers can issue multiple public health declarations. Last May the court overturned the initial extended order, just after the Democratic governor first issued a pandemic public health emergency. Evers then issued a new declaration in late summer, serving as foundation for the mask mandate. He's issued multiple declarations to extend it, including last month when the Legislature rescinded a declaration. The court heard oral arguments back in November. The mask mandate ends next Tuesday. Evers says he'll extend it if the situation with the pandemic warrants.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development says its new user interface should be easier to use than the old one. The new unemployment

					claims portal went online last night. It offers a way to securely upload documents and a message center where applicants can talk directly with claims specialists and adjudicators. It has been a year of frustration as the Wisconsin unemployment system was overwhelmed by the rush of claims during the coronavirus pandemic.
Next round of stimulus checks coming to state residents who don't normally file taxes	News	3/31/21	1230p,530p	1:30	Assembly Republicans are giving Governor Tony Evers' plans for more than three-billion dollars in federal COVID relief mixed reviews. They held a news conference at the Resch Expo Center Tuesday explaining what they liked and didn't like. State Representative David Steffen agrees with Evers' plans to invest in broadband for rural areas, but says 200-million dollars isn't enough. Republicans also like investing in tourism and small businesses, but Republican Representative Kevin

Petersen says relief for homeowners and investment in long-term care facilities doesn't go far enough. Even though Evers vetoed a bill giving the Legislature control of the money, the lawmakers say they think they can work with the governor and help him prioritize how it should be spent.

The next round of stimulus checks headed to Wisconsin bank accounts are coming to those who don't usually file income taxes. The U-S Department of the Treasury and the I-R-S are working on the roll-out of payments to Social Security recipients. Officials say the money should reach their bank accounts by April 7<sup>th</sup> but could show up as soon as this weekend for some people. Federal officials say the majority of the payments will be distributed electronically, but some people should receive what

					<p>are called “direct express” cards.</p> <p>The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay is working with local and national organizations in an effort to have the Bay of Green Bay recognized as a national reserve. For 30 years, the university and local officials have been working to clean up, restore and protect the bay, which is the world’s largest freshwater estuary.</p>
Interview	Phone	3/18/21	737a	3 min	Talked to Tom Barnett from the Oneida Co. Fair board about a Facebook telethon to raise money for the fair
Interview	Phone	3/19/21	835a	3 min	Talked to Ashley Roach about the upcoming 5k event in the Minocqua area