

**WHOH-FM
RESULTS BROADCASTING OF RHINELANDER, INC.
QUARTERLY ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST
October 10, 2015**

There follows some of the significant issues responded to by Station WHOH-FM, RHINELANDER, WI, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the period 7/1/2015 to 9/30/2015.

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Description of Issue	Program/Segment	Date	Time	Duration	Narration of Type and Description of Program/Segment
Grace Lutheran Church raising funds for new roof	News	7/10/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A three-day rummage sale outside the building hopes to raise enough money to repair the seven-decade-old church's roof. "When spring rolled around, there was some leakage and they knew that it was getting bad. I don't know how old the roof is, it's just ripply and leaking, and so we have to do something about it. They put it off as long as they could," said Grace Lutheran Church Parishioner Julie Brunette. Repairing the leaking roof could cost the church almost \$20,000 there aren't a lot of new additions to the congregation. Most of Grace Lutheran's members are elderly, but nearly all of those members spent weeks pulling six hour shifts sifting, sorting and tagging for the sale. They went through more than 400 boxes of donated items. The Three Lakes Fire Department, Lions Club, local businesses, children from HoneyRock Camp, and even neighboring communities came together to help the church put on a big rummage sale. "It makes the parishioners and the congregation just rejoice really. It was a giving kindness of everybody. We were kind of caught, and they're trying to help us," said Brunette. The congregation knows the sale won't be enough to cover all the costs of the new roof, but it is a start. The sale will continue throughout this weekend.
Three Lakes High School Football back to 11-on-11 format	News	8/10/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Football fans in Three Lakes usually see eight players on the field for each team during games. Now, they'll have to get used to the traditional 11-on-11 format. The school made the switch back into the Northern Lakes Conference earlier this year, so this upcoming season will mark the first time they'll play 11-on-11 football in three years. Coaches are working hard to make sure the kids are ready. "For some of these kids, they've never played 11-man," says Head Coach Tyler Maney. "This is going to be their first year other than junior high. So it took some time, but we had our five contact days in the summer, and everything went pretty well. I think for the most part we've hit the ground running, and [we're] doing a pretty good job of getting back into the 11-man swing of things." The return to the Northern Lakes Conference will significantly cut down on the team's travel time. "We've had to travel four and a half, five hours for a game," says Maney. "And now we're back with our rival Crandon, Laona-Wabeno, teams that we used to have rivalries with, and so it'll be nice." The team will have to get used to using more players, but they still have big goals for the season despite all the changes. "We obviously want to make playoffs," says Maney. "[A] conference championship would be great, but we're pretty young. We do have five seniors. I think we have seven letter-winners back from an eight-man team, but for the most part we're pretty young." But coaches and players are especially excited about one part of the transition. "The most exciting thing for us is going to be [the] Friday night lights," says Maney. "We've been playing Saturday games, middle of the day games. We do have one Saturday game on the schedule, but it's going to be huge to play Friday night lights, and when we play here on Friday nights we have...the crowd just follows us great." The Bluejays will kick off their season on August 22 against Living Word Lutheran.
Three Lakes Man accused of Sexual Assault	News	8/20/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Prosecutors accuse a 41-year-old Three Lakes man of repeatedly having sex with a 14-year-old. According to the criminal complaint, he was also having sex with the victim's mother. Monte Bartelt pled not guilty in court Thursday. He faces a felony in the case. The criminal complaint says Bartelt told the victim not to tell anyone or he would lose everything. Prosecutors will try to prove that Bartelt sexually assaulted the victim three times. "The State is pretty confident that that number far exceeds three with regards to this child," Attorney Jodi Bednar-Clemens said. Bartelt waived his preliminary hearing in court. He faces nearly 40 years in prison if convicted. He's expected back in court in October.

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WI Legislature working on bill to remove non-fiscal policy items from budget	News	9/28/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>Sometimes, Wisconsin lawmakers will pass controversial pieces of legislation into law by including them in the state budget bill. A group of Wisconsin representatives doesn't want that to happen anymore, so they introduced a bill earlier this month that would create a way for nonfiscal policy items to be removed from the budget. But State Sen. Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) says that it is sometimes necessary to put non-budget-related proposals in the budget bill. "Sometimes, you know, if a state agency is not doing as we instructed them to do legislatively, sometimes we need other means to make sure that that happens," Tiffany said. "So I think it should be rare, but occasionally it has to happen." We spoke with Tiffany at a listening session held in Three Lakes Monday. We also talked with state Sen. Janet Bewley (D-Ashland) last week. She doesn't support a complete ban on including policy initiatives in the budget, but she does think the public should have input in the process. "Very often if you are doing something, you need a non-fiscal component," Bewley said. "You need a policy component to go along with it-but at least if it's policy in the budget as proposed, the people of Wisconsin have a chance to respond to it through the budget hearings." Changes to the shoreland zoning policy stand as one example of a non-fiscal proposal included in the state budget. Those changes forced some counties to relax their shoreland zoning laws to match the state's rules. People on each side of the shoreland zoning issue spoke at the listening session. Tiffany also spoke about proposed changes to the state's civil service system. A bill introduced by lawmakers and supported by Gov. Scott Walker would change the state's civil service system by speeding up the hiring process. The bill also includes a list of infractions that would result in an automatic firing for a civil service employee. It would also get rid of the current exam process as well. Tiffany thinks the hiring process should be quicker. "It takes a long time to hire state employees at times-six months to a year, I've been hearing from agency directors-and it's really holding up being able to hire their most qualified people," Tiffany says. "Sometimes that person will wait for a month or two to get a call back from the state, but then they're moving on. They're going to get another job." Republican state lawmakers are looking for co-sponsors for the bill. Republican legislative leaders have said they want to vote on it next month. Opponents say the bill is another attack on workers who lost nearly all collective bargaining rights in 2011.</p>
Utility Pole under repair in Rhineland after being knocked over by motorist	News	7/2/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>People can see something odd while traveling through a certain intersection in Rhineland. A Wisconsin Public Service truck is holding up a power pole at the intersection of Phillips and Thayer Street. A few days ago, a driver hit the power pole, but the collision wasn't hard enough to actually knock the pole down. "A situation like this is a common occurrence for the most part in the utility industry," said WPS Community Relations Leader Leah Van Zile. "It happens to be in a visible area, so people are noticing it, which is great." The power pole is cracked and bent, but the collision didn't damage the wires overhead. WPS electrical repairs are done on a schedule, based on how severe the damage actually is. "Our line electricians review that and they look at the pole, the structure, and what kind of damage has occurred to that, and then they're able to make the necessary work requirements to make that repair," said Van Zile. A new pole will be installed at that location sometime next week.</p>
Auto Rollover Accident	News	7/2/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>A one-car rollover slowed down traffic for about an hour in Rhineland on Thursday. Police received a call around 3:30 Thursday afternoon. No other cars were involved. "We had a one-vehicle rollover--went off the road and rolled over, I'm not sure how many times," said Pine Lake Fire Chief Brian Gehrig. "There was only one occupant in the vehicle and they were transported to St. Mary's hospital for observation." The Pine Lake Fire Department responded to the crash. We don't know how it happened or the condition of the driver. We'll update you when we learn more.</p>

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White Crosses being displayed in area	News	7/2/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>White crosses on the lawn of a Northwoods church represent just how strongly some people oppose abortion. The hundreds of crosses now dot the space in front of the Nativity of Our Lord Parish, St. Joseph's church location in Rhinelander. Three hundred 40-inch crosses represent the 3,000 daily abortions in the United States. Those numbers are from the Guttmacher Institute. Volunteers from the parish and from the Knights of Columbus arranged the crosses on Thursday. "We're not saying that people are bad for what they've done," said Nativity of Our Lord Parish member Gary Johnson. "That's not our job. We just want to make sure that they know there's another option. Adoption is another option." The parish specifically wanted to have the crosses up in early July. The route to the Hodag Country Festival-passes by the church, and organizers want to make sure that the influx of tourists see the collection of crosses. (Hodag Country Festival starts next week.) "It's the most Rhinelander will ever have a chance to have people look at it," Johnson said. "Thirty thousand people, and almost every one of them will be going by this spot next week." The cross display is based in Hayward. Rhinelander is the 39th place it has been set up in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota.</p>
Local Man sentenced to year and half for making meth	News	7/9/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>A Rhinelander man will spend the next year and a half in prison for making meth in his downtown apartment. Michael Steinmetz faced five felony counts. The court dismissed three of them. Police arrested the 41-year-old man and four other people in March. Investigators searched Steinmetz's Brown Street apartment and found evidence he was making meth in plastic bottles. Steinmetz admitted he made the drug. Judge Michael Bloom sentenced Steinmetz to five years of extended supervision in addition to his 18-month prison sentence. The court will also consider making Steinmetz pay for hazardous material clean-up costs. The four other people arrested will appear in court in July and August.</p>
Wisconsin's Mussels and Clam population threatened	News	7/14/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>Half of Wisconsin's mussels and clams fall under endangered or threatened species. A group of volunteers went out Tuesday morning to survey mussels in local waterbeds. The program was sponsored by the Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species Program. There's very little information on the state's mussel population, and volunteers say they are very important to local ecosystems. "Native fresh water mussels are actually very vital to stream ecosystems," said UW-Green Bay graduate student Jesse Weinzinger. "They filter water. They are good indicators to water pollution because they are very sensitive to change." The group that went out Tuesday partnered with the Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring program. Many people don't know much about the state's mussels. "There's not much information collected about the native freshwater mussels," said Weinzinger. "In the 1970's, there was a statewide survey conducted by Harold Mathiak, and ever since then, there hasn't been that much involvement in freshwater mussel studies." Volunteers say these surveys are important to monitor mussel populations. They hope these workshops teach important lessons. "I hope that these people appreciate what these fresh water mussels do in the natural ecosystems," said Weinzinger. The Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program will be offering more workshops throughout the summer.</p>

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New ATV Trails being proposed in area	News	7/15/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	We could get a new place to ride ATVs in the Northwoods. The DNR wants to add a trail to the Woodboro Lakes Wildlife Area west of Rhinelander. The new trail would take the place of the current snowmobile trail on the property. It would run on one-and-a-half miles of state property, starting at Oscar Jenny Road and going south. The trail could be extended on county land as well. "The snowmobile trail exists on county land as well as on state land, and the county would have to approve the designation for ATV use as well," says DNR Wildlife Supervisor Chuck McCullough. The proposed trail is just one part of the DNR's master plan for the property. That plan that also covers forest management and silent sport trails. "Lots of walking trails that are already in existence, keep those maintained, open those trails to bicycle use," says McCullough. The DNR will accept public comments on the plan until August 7. It hopes the Natural Resources Board can vote on the proposal in October.
Downtown Revitalization - Rhinelander	News	7/16/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The Executive Director of Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) talked with leaders in Rhinelander Thursday afternoon. Local leaders discussed their challenges and asked what opportunities they have with WHEDA, including finding resources for revitalizing downtown Rhinelander. The city wants to upgrade its downtown while its main street gets torn up for a project in 2016. And the state might have resources to help. WHEDA finances projects in communities throughout the state. Executive Director Wyman Winston told local leaders about their funding tools for housing, facades and downtown development, which could help Rhinelander. "So that ability to do say retail on the ground floor and have housing and other services on the second or third floor is an area that we are very comfortable in financing," Winston said. Department workers say the communities they've talked to have asked for help attracting housing, infrastructure and young people. Some say there's a lack of middle-class housing. "You're on the lake, or nothing," Winston said. "And so you have the really high end or there is not much there. So we want to see if there are things we might be able to do over the next year to help the community." WHEDA may also help developers build new housing in your area. It's part of a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program. The group announced Thursday that it will use at least \$850,000 in tax credits to help affordable housing projects. "And in the case of the [High Impact Project Reserve] HIPR as we call it, it really is our effort to produce not only housing, but supporting economic development," Winston said. The director says Mole Lake has benefited from a similar program recently, and the goal is to give developers incentive to make quality housing. "An idea of best in class is to create projects that are innovative and doing interesting things that both WEDC can learn, but our customers can learn with that idea that what we learn, we then apply it to in our larger programs." Since 1972, WHEDA has helped pay for more than 77,000 affordable rental units in Wisconsin. Workers met in Downtown Rhinelander and Nicolet College Thursday afternoon.
Lead Poisoning may be cause of dead Eagle	News	7/27/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Wildlife workers think lead poisoning may have killed an eagle east of Rhinelander on Friday. The bird was found at the intersection of highways 8 and 51. It died before workers at Wild Instincts in Rhinelander could rescue it. Many of the hurt or sick eagles that come to Wild Instincts have lead poisoning. "It's one of the larger majorities of the animals that come through, especially with the eagles," says Wild Instincts Rehabilitation Director Mark Naniot. "We lead test every eagle and every loon that comes through just to check their lead levels, and it's very seldom we end up with any that have no lead." Many of the animals get sick from ingesting the lead found in fishing tackle. Naniot hopes more people replace their old lead equipment with more modern, non-toxic supplies. "There's a lot of lead jig heads and sinkers, and we're trying to get people aware [that] there's always alternatives out there that they can pick up at the sports shops," Naniot says. "They're only pennies more than what they have right now, so take all the old lead out of your tackle box. Throw it away." Of the seven eagles Wild Instincts has taken care of this summer, five have had lead poisoning.

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Rhinelanders Searching for New City Administrator	News	7/29/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Rhinelanders search for a new city administrator got a little narrower - from nearly two dozen candidates to a handful. Rhinelanders has been without a city administrator since the middle of May when Blain Oborn went to Lake Geneva. The Rhinelanders City Council held a meeting last night to go through a list of candidates. At the end of that meeting, they went from having 22, down to a list of four. "We have four candidates that we have coming in," said Rhinelanders Mayor Richard Johns. "And the candidates vary, one's from Eau Claire, Antigo, Kewaskum, and Stevens Point. We pretty much have a local area so-to-speak, rather than out of state." The next step for these four candidates is an informal gathering with various community leaders. After that, each candidate will go through a more formal interview with city leaders. Mayor Johns says it will take a very strong individual to hold this position. "He or she has to be capable of handling the public, working with the public, also the department heads in the city," said Johns. "It's a tremendous responsibility for the city. And there's a lot of things going on in Rhinelanders, and I sure hope we pick the right candidate." The final four candidates will begin the next round of interviews starting on August 7th.
16 Year Old has Drunk Driving Accident Crashes into pole	News	7/31/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A 16-year-old male crashed into an electric pole just east of Rhinelanders this morning. The crash happened just after 6 a.m. on Lakeshore Drive just off of County Road C near Moen Lake Campground. The Oneida County Sheriff says the teen was drunk and driving without a license. Kathy Reinke witnessed the accident. She said if the driver hadn't swerved the other way he would have hit her truck. "I thought he was going to roll over into the lake," said Reinke. "And he came up, and as he came up, he hit that telephone pole at least 50 miles an hour, and when he did so the car flipped, almost flipped over, came up, spun around and ended up another 30-40 feet down the road." Reinke said speeding on the road has been a problem for a long time. "The speeding up and down this road is out of control. It's supposed to be 25 and I don't think anybody does under 40," said Reinke. The Pine Lake Fire Department helped out. Wisconsin Public Service installed a new pole earlier this afternoon. The male was transported to the hospital with minor injuries and subsequently released to his parents after his arrest.
Monarch Butterfly faces problems in the Northwoods	News	8/3/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The Monarch butterfly faces problems in the Northwoods, but a local group in Rhinelanders wants to help. Monarch butterflies try to live and feed in places with naturally growing milkweed, a plant that most people either mow or spray with chemicals. Monarch March collects and raises the insect from caterpillars to butterflies. They then release them back into the wild. The group will even breed them to help keep the local populations healthy. "This is my first year breeding. I've been raising them for five, six years now, but this is the first year I have actually tried to breed them, said Paula Larson, founder of Monarch March. The group releases the butterflies near the YMCA of the Northwoods. On Monday, a group of campers got to join in on the fun. Close to 30 butterflies were let out into the wild Monday, some of which may add to the future success of the monarch population. "I'm hoping to have them breed out here and lay more eggs. This is probably a third generation which would be the ones that are going to breed and their children will be the ones that will go to Mexico," said Larson. Monarchs will stay in and around Mexico for about nine months before coming back north. Monarch March hopes more people will let milkweed grow and create more space for the monarch population.

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Downtown Revitalization - Rhinelander	News	8/5/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	On Wednesday, people in Rhinelander celebrated the annual Redikulus Dae. The street sale brings people to businesses downtown. Mel's Trading Post has been a part of every single Redikulus Dae since it began. It prepares for the event by stocking up on items almost eight months in advance. "We buy specifically for Redikulus Dae. We go to shows as early as December," said owner Mitch Mode. "My first show of the year was in December. At that time I bought some product for Redikulus Dae that we are selling today." Mel's came to downtown more than 60 years ago. Owners say they look forward to the celebration every year. "Redikulus Dae on Brown Street in downtown Rhinelander has been important," Mode said. "It brings people down, gives a sense of vitality to downtown Rhinelander. We've been part of Redikulus Dae since day one, and it's a great day, and we look forward to it every year." Event organizers say Redikulus Dae gives businesses exposure to new and potential customers. "It's incredibly important to have an event like this," said Jim Hext, owner of Hext Theater and Redikulus Dae coordinator. "It's a chance for exposure for a lot of businesses, not only the vendors but the businesses in the downtown here" This year, 39 vendors participated, up from 24 vendors last year.
Rhinelanders Football Family Day	News	8/8/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The Rhinelander Hodags football team held a cool and newer tradition today. They celebrated football starting again. It was the second Hodag Family Day. The Hodags scrimmaged at 10 A.M. but more importantly afterwards they mingled with families and the community. It's all a part of trying to rebuild the culture of Hodag football that has struggled for years. "It's a lot of fun to see the community here and see a bunch of enthusiasm," Senior Quarterback Brandon Reinthaler said. "Just like you said we're rebuilding a culture of Rhinelander football, kind of bring it back in the community." Athletic director Brian Paulson hired Chris Fergie to take over the program last year. The team went 2-7. But Fergie brought the high flying spread offense to the program. "I'm really excited, we've got a lot better grasp on the offense," Senior Tight End Luke Roberts said. "Last year it was all new stuff. Now at least we know what we're doing. We can put athletes in the correct places and make plays." The quarterback made the mentality of this year's team pretty clear. "I see our team a being resilient," Reinthaler said. "We can really bounce back from anything. So we know that we're going to fight and doing anything we can to win. I know our team is going to benefit from that in the future." The Hodags face the highway 47 rivals, Lakeland Thunderbirds, next Friday.
Rhinelanders Searching for New City Administrator	News	8/10/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Rhinelanders will look to a current court administrator to serve as its next city administrator. The city's Common Council hired Kristina Aschenbrenner, the current district court administrator for Wisconsin's 10th district, to succeed former administrator Blaine Oborn. The council approved her contract Monday night. Oborn left earlier this summer to become Lake Geneva's city administrator. The hiring of Aschenbrenner, who's in her mid-30s, represents a step in a younger direction from her predecessor. In addition to her role with the district court, Aschenbrenner also served as a noncommissioned officer with Wisconsin Army National Guard for 10 years until she retired 2008. "The fact that she has military service tells me that she's going to be a stand-on-her-own young lady. I think that she will handle this job just fine," said Alderman Tom Gleason. "It's like, 'Wow,'" Alderman Mark Pelletier said of Aschenbrenner's pitch to the board. "There's a strong sense of wanting to be part of the community that we haven't seen before." Aschenbrenner will start her new job at some point in September, although an exact start date has yet to be chosen. Interim City Administrator Phil Parkinson will continue to serve until then. Rhinelander Mayor Dick Johns "believes she will bring a lot of energy and new thinking to the City of Rhinelander." Common Council members call Aschenbrenner a quick learner. "There are things she's not going to know about being an administrator; I'll admit that," said Pelletier. "It will be a learning process." Aschenbrenner beat out three other finalists--University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Controller Daryl DeDeker, Kewaskum Village Administrator Matt Heiser, and Antigo Clerk and Treasurer Kaye Matucheski. The four candidates visited Rhinelander over the weekend, attending a mixer on Friday with the Common Council, local town leaders, and members of community organizations. On Saturday, the finalists took on interviews, toured the city, and took a writing test. Several council members mentioned that the Friday mixer was a good way to gauge how candidates got along with others in the community. "The purpose of [the mixer] was for the council to get input from those community leaders and see how they interact, see firsthand how they respond," said Alderman Joe Salzer. "[Someone able to make community connections is] at the top of my list. We want somebody who is going to be active and involved in the community,

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Smart Prescription Use	News	8/13/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>Many older adults end up needing to take a lot of different medications. That can be confusing for anyone. That is why a health organization stopped by the Oneida County Senior Center on Thursday to help. Wisconsin Health Literacy is going around the state spreading knowledge about medication use. Leaders of the group say that becoming familiar with your medication is important.' "So many people are afraid to ask their pharmacist or doctor about their prescription label," Health Literacy Advocate Connie Hicks said. "It's just very important that they do, again, that person taking it has to understand it in order to get the full benefit of it." Hicks told the group Thursday that smart storage techniques, carefully reading the instructions, and using something like a pillbox all go a long way to being safe. She also talked about how some instructions can be a little bit confusing. "The time intervals, because sometimes it can be a little bit vague," Hicks said. "Maybe a prescription said take it twice a day, but there may be a time interval they need to watch out for." Hicks says that Wisconsin Health Literacy will continue to go around the state educating seniors on smart prescription use.</p>
Library to expand	News	8/13/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>The Rhinelander District Library may look a bit different soon. The library will expand and update its building and services. After two years, the new plans are complete. Builders will add about 12,000 square feet and remodel the building. The building hasn't been updated since 1984. It needs technological and facility upgrades. More than 105,000 patrons visited the library last year.</p>
Northwoods Students no longer will be allowed to carry backpacks to class	News	8/17/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>Students at one Northwoods high school won't be able to carry backpacks to class anymore. The no-backpack rule will start this school year at Rhinelander High School. Students will have to leave their backpacks in their lockers during the day and carry their supplies to class. School administrators say they are doing this as a safety precaution. "It's primarily student safety," said Rhinelander High School Principal David Ditzler. "Classroom clutter, backpacks alongside the chairs and desks, just present an obstacle for teaching and student movement around the classroom and the hallways. It's all about just overall student safety." Other Northwoods schools have already moved to a no-backpack policy in their classrooms. Some experts say carrying a backpack poses not only safety risks but health risks as well. Students can hurt their spines or necks when carrying too-heavy of a backpack for too long. Rhinelander High School will be giving students more time between classes to go to their lockers for supplies. "Even though it's only one more minute, six minutes between class should be enough time for students to get to their lockers and get their things throughout the day," said Ditzler. Administrators hope that this change will help cut down on damage to school property. They say the school's Chromebooks have been getting damaged when students drop or step on their backpacks.</p>

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Child Sexual Assault Case	News	8/20/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The child sexual assault case against a 66-year-old Rhinelander man will move forward after he pled not guilty in Oneida County court Thursday. Michael Winkler Sr. faces a felony for repeated sexual assault of a child. The criminal complaint says the assaults happened consistently between 1994 and 1995. The victim, who is himself a registered sex offender, told investigators that he felt Winkler's alleged behavior played a role in the victim's own behavior. The felony carries a maximum prison sentence of up to 40 years. Winkler is expected in court again in October.
Library is a busy place	News	8/20/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	These days, you might not think that a library sees a lot of people. But in fact, it's one of the busiest buildings in town, especially in Rhinelander. Roughly 500 people visit the Rhinelander District Library every day, and that's on the low end. Some come for a quiet place to work, others, to check out books and magazines. And now they're looking to expand. The last time the Rhinelander library was expanded was 1984. With advancements in technology and the printing of new materials, the library is just not large enough anymore. "We could have as many as over 1,000 visitors a day - a quiet Saturday 250, it's still very busy," said Virginia Roberts, Director of the Rhinelander District Library. "This is not a huge space. We enjoy helping the public, and we have a lot of public here." A design team estimated that roughly 12,000 square feet should be added to the building. Library officials say that they need more space to store those books, and for people to work. "We have more books published today than ever before," said Roberts. "So we're trying to get as many of those as possible because our patrons want them. Other reasons for wanting to do this; we have one meeting room, it's downstairs, which means that it's not entirely accessible except by an elevator, and it's not very large." Library officials say that the amount of people who visit the library warrants this expansion. "We have enough people coming into the library, we have enough programming going on, our numbers speak for themselves," said Roberts. "We've had requests for this. I don't think the board would have even considered it if we hadn't kept having repeated requests for, 'we don't have enough room, we don't have enough of a meeting space.'" The library already owns the land necessary to make the expansion. But construction won't start anytime soon. The library wants to hear from community members first, before going forward. Officials say they want to complete this project with money from donors.
City Wide Rummage Sale	News	8/21/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Some people say one person's trash is another's treasure. If that's true, you'll want to be in Rhinelander Saturday. The 20th city-wide rummage sale goes on from 9:00am until 3:00pm. People are selling anything from clothes to furniture and other odds and ends. Some people took advantage of the weather and started their sales Friday. "This is wonderful," said Jody Beloff, who's hosting a rummage sale on Ocala Street. "It brings a lot of people out. Everybody gets to unload a bunch of junk. We've got books, clothes, household items, baby items. Just a big, big variety." While some people just want to get rid of clutter and make some money, others will use the money for a good cause. Pet Haven Sanctuary's rummage sale proceeds will go toward helping homeless pets. "We're trying to raise funds for our non-profit animal welfare," said Beloff. "We do a lot of spays and neuters, emergency vet health, fostering, anything to help the homeless animals of the community." Some say it's a great event for the community. "It's good for our community I think, and you get a chance to meet everyone and talk to everyone," said Susan Bart, who's has a rummage sale on Itasca Street. "But bring everyone over. We've got something for everyone. Prices, you can negotiate with us. We'll take anything." The city-wide rummage sale is organized by the Northwoods River News.

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Car/Motorcycle Accident	News	8/22/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>One person went to the hospital after a motorcycle hit a car around 2:00 Saturday afternoon. The Oneida County Sheriff's Office said the motorcycle was going south on Highway 17 in Rhinelanders. A car with two people also heading south was making a left turn on West Balsam lane. Deputies say the motorcycle side-swiped the car. The person on the motorcycle was wearing a helmet. The people in the car were wearing seat belts. The motorcyclist was taken to the hospital. Their condition is unknown.</p> <p>----- The Oneida County Sheriff's Department is investigating a motorcycle crash that happened on Highway 17 in Rhinelanders. When we arrived we saw a Honda motorcycle was on it's side on the grass. The motorcycle's windshield was about 15 feet away from the motorcycle. We'll have more details when they are available</p>
Rhinelanders Teens believed to be stealing car emblems	News	8/25/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>Rhinelanders car owners may need to keep a better eye on their vehicles. Rhinelanders police officers believe a group of teenagers is stealing emblems off of cars. There have been around a half dozen reports just in the month of August. Emblems on a Camaro, Dodge Ram, and Lincoln have been stolen. Captain Ron Lueneberg says he can't remember the last time this kind of spree happened. "The large expenses are coming from are not only from the emblem but from the body damage that's being done from the vehicle," Lueneberg said. "They get scratches. The paint damage and sometimes some indentations from the pry marks and so forth." Captain Lueneberg says the damage to the cars cost between \$500 and \$1000. He hopes car owners will park their vehicles in a garage if they have one. "Park in a reasonably well lit area or maybe have a vehicle fashioned in a way of good view of it from inside your residence and if you see any suspicious activity outside your home or around your neighbors, call it into law enforcement," said Lueneberg. If you know something about those thefts, call Rhinelanders Police.</p>
Tree Health during droughts	News	8/28/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>We expect trees on our property to suffer when it gets very dry, but for tree health, drought severity may not be as important as another factor. Researchers for the U.S. Forest Service have been studying the impacts of drought on trees across the Midwest, including the Northwoods. One ecologist at the Northern Research Station in Rhinelanders found surprising results. "It was the length of drought that was more important than determining the severity," explained Northern Research Station Ecologist Dr. Eric Gustafson. "Trees have the ability to survive droughts by drawing on their energy reserves, and when the drought is long, those energy reserves get depleted." Data from the research goes into computer models that help predict future forest health. Scientists also noticed that aspens and birch trees are most at risk during drought in the Northwoods. The overall research helps forest managers create healthier forests. "So we can use those to help managers or to ask questions about what management strategies might be able to produce forests that have the most resilience to drought in terms of the species that are there," said Gustafson. Results of the study will lead to more research into managing forests.</p>

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Rhinelanders Schools upgrade the stadium	News	8/31/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The school district of Rhinelanders upgraded Mike Webster Stadium this summer. Workers built up the track, added a new scoreboard, better lights and improved the bleachers. It took a lot of donations to make that possible. Corporate and private donors helped with the upgrades. "We have the donor wall because we have a fabulous community and they help support us to do the special projects that most school districts these days don't have the finances to do," school superintendent Kelli Jacobi said. The district held an indoor ceremony Friday night. It also thanked the donors in a pre-game ceremony before the Hodags' football home opener.
Man fires gun in downtown Rhinelanders	News	9/2/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A Rhinelanders man faces charges for firing a gun while drunk in downtown Rhinelanders early Saturday morning. Prosecutors accuse 23-year-old Anthony Sackett of shooting the gun near Brown and Davenport Streets around 12:35 that morning. According to court documents, Sackett told police he had six drinks that night. Sackett was arguing with another man outside when the other man simulated shooting a shotgun. The court documents indicate that Sackett then grabbed a gun out of his car and told the other man, "If you shoot me, I'm going to kill you." Sackett told police he accidentally fired the gun when he inserted the clip, although he also said the gun was pointed in the air when it went off and not aimed at the other man or anyone else. According to the documents, Sackett ran away after the gun went off. Rhinelanders Police Chief Mike Steffes is pleased that his department was able to find Sackett quickly. "We're very fortunate and happy that the public was able to be safe through this event and that no injuries occurred," he says. "The officers as well as the deputies were so quick through the witness information to be able to apprehend the suspect before any further damage could be done." Sackett faces six misdemeanor charges, both for firing the gun and possessing drugs. He's out of jail on a \$1,000 cash bond He appeared in court on Monday and will be back in court later in September.
Fire Fatality	News	9/14/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Action from concerned neighbors and a fast response time from the fire department still couldn't save a man's life from a fire along Lincoln Street in Rhinelanders over the weekend. A woman in the Woodland Heights Estates trailer court told Newswatch 12 she called 911 just before 1 a.m. Sunday. She noticed a strange red glow through her windows and went outside to see what was wrong. "The smoke was mostly coming out of the roof and ceiling area," neighbor Tina Werres said. "The fire itself seemed to be contained right in the living room. The fire department and ambulance people and police were here very rapidly. I was proud of how rapidly they got here. I was barely hung up from 911 and I could hear the sirens." Rhinelanders' fire chief tells Newswatch 12 his crews put the fire out within 10 minutes after the call came in. Firefighters pulled the man from the trailer and took him to Ministry St. Mary's Hospital. He died at the hospital. Neighbors say the man called for medical help often. "The sad part about it is the ambulances were constantly in the park for the gentleman who lived right there," neighbor Christine Tregler said. "I guess the county said there's nothing they could do because he wasn't harmful to himself or others... A man lost his life. He shouldn't have lost his life." The fire chief says his crews had responded many times to the victim's trailer. The chief says there's a strong chance the man was reckless with smoking materials, but the exact cause is undetermined. No one else was hurt.

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Two Car Crash Blocks Traffic	News	9/15/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A two-car crash blocked traffic in Rhinelander Tuesday afternoon. It happened at the intersection of Highway G and Highway 8. A car driving west on Highway 8 didn't stop at a red light, then hit a car going south on G. The Oneida County Sherriff's Office hasn't been able to confirm any injuries. The crash is still being investigated. We don't know if anyone will receive a citation.
Area Tourism Guide in development	News	9/15/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Pictures can speak a thousand words. That's why the Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce needs your help putting together next year's area tourism guide. The Rhinelander Chamber publishes an annual guide of things to do and see in the area. Each year the chamber tries to make the guide different than the year before. That's why it's adding more magazine-style content in 2016 to give tourists a better idea of what it's like to explore the Rhinelander area. The public can help by sharing photos to make the guide exciting and different. "It's more engaging," said Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dana DeMet. "It paints a clearer picture of what there is to do. You know, you can either kind of go with a carpet bomb approach where you just kind of throw everything out, and hope that something sticks, or you can go as little bit more targeted." This year, the chamber is looking for pictures of people having fun. "We get a lot of great shots of landscapes and sunsets and lakes and everything like that. and we're always happy to take those, but those really good ones are the ones that have people in them," said DeMet. "Not necessarily a face or anything like that, but just show people doing something in the Northwoods." The guide is also a good way for organizations to share their events happening in 2016. "We print out around 30,000 of these," said DeMet. "These go across the entire nation, they go on our website. So you can get a lot of publicity for some of these things, and it helps us market all of the different things to do in the area." The guide helps people keep up with what's going on in their backyard. "We've actually had a lot of comments of people who will come in and pick them up and they'll say, 'Boy, I never knew this existed' or 'I never knew this went on' and they've been living here for their whole lives, maybe.'" Since the guide is about the community, the chamber hopes local residents will get involved. Events and photos can be submitted on the chamber's website. The link is included below.
City Wide Deer Bow Hunt under review	News	9/15/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Deer in Rhinelander might not find many safe places to hide soon. With more deer walking through yards and across roads, the common council approved a city bow hunt Monday night. The hunt should start Thursday. Most of the deer complaints have come from the city's north side, where there are more wooded areas and larger lots. The hunt applies only to antlerless deer, and only to hunters and parcels of land that the city deems eligible. Property owners can ask the city to include their property in the hunt, but the police chief and city administrator must personally approve each piece of property and each hunter through a process that includes a criminal background check. The city didn't have a hunt in 2014, but a local alderman says car-deer crashes and complaints from homeowners have increased significantly during the past year. "Complaints from residents have been on the rise in terms of deer--both in people's back yards, in their gardens chewing up their plants and generally, just, deer can sometimes be aggressive when they're in concentrated populations," Alderman Alex Young said. Hunters can't shoot from their decks, roofs or out of their windows. They must set up in a stand at least six feet off the ground. Young thinks the hunt will be both safe and effective. "By and large, that's the goal of this program. It's not a recreational program. It's a program to abate deer nuisance issues in the city," he said. The hunt runs through January 31, 2016, but it takes a break for the gun-deer and muzzleloader seasons as well as Halloween. Young says the hunt is less about sport and more about thinning out a herd that's grown too large. "If that's not successful, I don't know what other options would be on the table," Young said. "Some of the options that other large communities have considered are things like hiring professionals to come in and deal with deer nuisance issues. Price wise, I think that's out of the scope of things the city would consider." Tags will be available through city hall. There's no limit, but hunters can only apply for one tag at a time.

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Breaking and Entering	News	9/17/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Someone broke into the Apothecary in downtown Rhinelander this week. Police got a call early Tuesday about the break in. The glass on the front door was smashed in when they got there. The police ask anyone with more information to call them. The break in is still being investigated.
Two Car Crash injures one.	News	9/18/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A two-car crash sent one driver to the hospital in Rhinelander Friday morning. It happened at the corner of Lincoln Street and Eisenhower Parkway just before 8 a.m. A driver turning left onto Eisenhower crashed into a car headed west on Lincoln Street. The driver told police the sun and fog on the windshield made it difficult to see. Medics took the westbound driver to the hospital. Crews cleared the scene by 8:30 a.m.
Walk MS	News	9/20/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Wisconsin has one of the highest rates of multiple sclerosis in the country, and that's why a support group called Walk MS in Rhinelander hosted its third annual walk to raise money and awareness for the disease. More than 100 people came out to walk the two and a half miles around Rhinelander High School on Sunday morning. The group's goal is to raise \$25,000 in Rhinelander and to raise \$1.5 million statewide. Organizers are still counting the money raised and they think they will know the total sometime this week. Some local people diagnosed with the disease gave speeches and walked as well.

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Drug Arrests	News	9/24/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A Rhinelander man and woman could spend almost 10 years in prison for allegedly growing and selling marijuana. Police say 34-year-old Nathan Plouff and 29-year-old Amanda Plouff had the remnants of an indoor marijuana grow in their basement. Investigators think the Plouffs were using the United States Postal Service to get drugs. Earlier this month, a drug detection dog found a suspicious package addressed to "Nate Plouff." Court documents show authorities found almost 5 ounces of marijuana inside the package. Police also found pot, smoking tools, a digital scale, and small plastic bags in the Plouffs' home. The Plouffs are currently out of jail on a \$5,000 signature bond. They'll be back in court next month.
Downtown Revitalization - Rhinelander	News	9/24/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Rhinelander residents can expect to deal with construction in the downtown area this spring. The work, which includes the installation of a new sewer system and an improved look in the downtown area, will come as part of the Streetscape Project. Project leaders have hosted several public meetings to inform residents about Streetscape Project and the upcoming construction. On Thursday night, leaders met with property and business owners to specifically discuss the sewer upgrades on Brown, Stevens and Davenport streets. They told them what they should expect and what steps they need to take to prepare for the sewer installation. The new sewer system will have separate channels for waste water and storm water. Currently, both kinds of water flow into the same system, and treating all of that water is expensive for the city. Engineers inspected the properties on those streets in August to determine the nature of the sewer connection for each building. At the meeting, engineers asked the property owners to indicate the specifics of their buildings so as to properly connect to the new sewer system when it's finished. To install the new system, construction workers will likely need to remove the sidewalks on those streets. At the meeting, business owners expressed concern about that plan. Project leaders call the sewer upgrades and the Streetscape upgrades on Brown, Stevens and Davenport Streets the "base project," or the project they say they are committed to doing. Leaders estimate this project will cost roughly \$6 million, and so far the city has received about \$2.5 million in state grants and about \$3.3 million in loans. The "lion's share" of the sewer project is being financed by the utility, said Rhinelander Public Works Director Tim Kingman. "So we've really whittled it down so that the taxpayer isn't paying for a lot of this—it's all the utility," said Kingman. "Taxpayers would pay for improvements like the streetscape and some of the frills, however the total cost of the project is being carried by the utility rate." Project leaders have drawn up potential plans to upgrade more areas in the downtown area, including Rives, King, and Anderson streets. Those upgrades are covered by what leaders call the "total project," for which they are considering plans and costs. They estimate those improvements could cost an additional \$2 million, if they decided to upgrade that much area. Project leaders will present the plans to the City Council in January before deciding how they want to proceed. In December, contractors will submit their bids for the project, and then a more exact cost of the project will be determined. Project leaders hope to meet with the City Council and decide on a plan by mid-February. They hope to start construction in March or April of 2016. Leaders estimate the construction will take about two years. "The City Council and city committees have been working on this for years," said Kingman. "The expense involved with doing this construction is very great, and with the funding we've received, we've reduced the cost to the taxpayer." If you want more information, you can go to the Rhinelander Streetscape website.

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Local Embezzlement Case	News	9/28/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>A 47-year-old Rhinelander woman accused of stealing more than \$70,000 from her employer will go to jail after getting sentenced in Forest County court Monday. She'll also need to pay the money back. Kim Drake plead guilty to a felony for stealing from the Mole Lake BP gas station. Forest County District Attorney Chuck Simono says she used the money to gamble at a nearby casino. "She would find reasons to go into work, even on days when she didn't have to work, just so she could go to the casino, just so she could take money and go gamble," Simono said. "That's a criminal tendency." An independent investigator recommended 15 to 30 days in jail as part of her punishment. However, Simono called that recommendation laughable. "What it does send is-I guess we'll start there-the message it sends is, if we follow that recommendation, is that crime does pay. I can go steal \$80,000 to 90,000 and I'm going to do two weeks in jail." Prosecutors wanted Drake to serve two and a half years in prison followed by five years of extended supervision. But the judge sentenced Drake to a year in jail as a condition of probation. Drake's attorney Brian Bennett said Drake was sorry for taking the money. He also said Drake wishes she would've gotten help with her depression before it got to this point. "Where she tried to self-medicate her depression with gambling, and that's really what it came down to- self-medicating for depression with gambling," Bennett said. Bennett also said he warned Drake she would likely face jail time. He argued against time in prison and added that because of her felony conviction, she likely won't be able to find work for more than minimum wage the rest of her life. "That is the punishment," Bennett said. "That is what society metes out on people. Society will punish her. The department of corrections will punish her." Drake will stay on probation for five years. She'll also need to pay back \$77,000 restitution, plus a surcharge.</p>
Man looking at 12 years for choking a minor	News	9/29/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>A Rhinelander man could spend up to 12 years in prison for allegedly choking a 16-year-old girl in his apartment. In a police interview, the girl said 22-year-old Christopher Cousins got angry after he saw a hickey from someone else on her neck. Cousins allegedly choked the girl after she wouldn't let him give her a hickey, according to the criminal complaint. Court documents show the girl told police she was able to get out of the apartment but left her phone inside. Police think that's when Cousins threw the phone and broke it. In a police interview, Cousins said he did break the phone but never touched the girl's neck. Cousins is currently out of jail on a \$500 cash bond.</p>
Car Fire	News	9/30/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>A car caught fire west of Rhinelander Wednesday morning, on County Highway N near Highway 8, after the car slid off of the road into a ditch. The driver then tried to drive out of the ditch, but the friction from the tires and the heat of the engine started the fire. The driver was the only person in the car. He was not hurt.</p>