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Invasive Species Roadshow helps people identify invasive species in Rhinelander	NEWS	7/14/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - People who thought they found invasive species on their property could get their theory tested. The Oneida County Land and Water Conservation held an invasive species roadshow Friday. People could bring their plants to Trig's Greenspace to see whether or not they were invasive species. The conservation group says it is important for people to be on the lookout for invasive plants.
Manufacturing jobs on the rise in the Northwoods	NEWS	7/19/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Those looking for jobs in manufacturing don't have to go to a big city to get a job. There are a lot of opportunities right here in the Northwoods.  Nicolet College held a manufacturing expo with both educators and employers Wednesday to show the community what opportunities are available in the field.  "It's just a really good opportunity to see what the education pathway looks like for manufacturing, but then also that end game at the very end to see what the sacrifice was worth when you look at employment opportunities," said Nicolet College Career Coach Angeline Kesler.
Workers and volunteers scour Northwoods lakes for aquatic invasive species	NEWS	7/19/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	SUGAR CAMP - Equipped with a box full of tools and their trusty canoe, Aubrey Nycz and Tom Boisvert hit the water ready to search Wednesday morning.  "It's kind of like a little scavenger hunt," Nycz said.  The duo from the Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species program hunted Paradise Lake northwest of Sugar Camp for items like Chinese mystery snails and Eurasian Watermilfoil, noting where they're located and how much of the species there is in the area.
Demmer Library holds cooking demo with invasive species	NEWS	7/26/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	THREE LAKES - Normally when we think of invasive species, we want to get rid of them. But on Tuesday in Three Lakes, people learned how to cook with invasive species.  It was all part of a cooking demonstration held at the Demmer Memorial Library. Oneida County AIS Coordinator Stephanie Boismenue led the class.  Boismenue says it's an effort to help educate the public.

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Wet spring, summer leads to increase in West Nile cases	NEWS	7/26/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - All the rain across the Northwoods this spring and summer likely didn't help get rid of any mosquitoes. The pesky insects can carry the West Nile Virus, which has animal rehab workers worried about an increase in cases.  Wild Instincts Rehab Director Mark Naniot has seen between 10 to 15 cases of suspected West Nile Virus come in to his Rhinelander-area facility. Naniot usually doesn't submit his birds for testing because they often come back negative. But he received word from the state Wednesday saying there are 27 counties with confirmed cases including Oneida, Vilas, Lincoln, and Langlade counties.
Vilas Co. Sheriff's Office warns of break-ins and vandalism	NEWS	8/3/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	VILAS COUNTY - Police believe more than one person broke into a Vilas County home and stole food and other items in late July. It's not the first recent break-in or act of vandalism they've seen.  Vilas County Sheriff's Captain Gerry Ritter said at first police got reports of car break-ins at a Woodruff-area apartment complex in late-July. Ritter said the suspects were going through unlocked cars and taking things out. Then, the act moved into Vilas County.
Make It! Camp in Three Lakes introduces kids to science, Fab Lab	NEWS	8/10/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	THREE LAKES - The Fab Lab in Three Lakes gets used constantly during the school year. But middle and high schoolers helped keep it popular this summer, too.  On Thursday, teams were busy programming a robotic vacuum cleaner to follow a specific route as part of Make It! Camp. Those kinds of projects help introduce kids to the science and technology field.  "I haven't taken any classes here at the school about the Fab Lab. I was just curious. What could I do here?" said Three Lakes student Aubrey Krajewski. "I really like what I've been doing. I feel like this could be something I could do in the future."
School districts remain in 'limbo state' on funding with overdue state budget	NEWS	8/28/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Arbor Vitae-Woodruff school superintendent Jocelyn Smith held off until last week before notifying her teachers of their salaries for this fall. That's not normal.  Rhinelander's school board used old numbers to try and set its budget for the coming year. That's rare.  Districts across the state continue to play a financial guessing game without an approved state budget, not knowing how much money they'll get from the state government to run their schools.  "We're in a limbo state," Smith said of Arbor Vitae-Woodruff schools. "It has weighed heavy on the board's minds."

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Organizations work together to reduce opioid use in Wisconsin	NEWS	8/28/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	NORTHWOODS - Wisconsin faces the same opioid crisis that is sweeping the country. Many organizations are trying to reduce opioid use in the Northwoods. They're trying to reduce prescriptions and dispose of unused medication properly. But it isn't always easy.  Amidst the opioid crisis treatment providers and law enforcement officers are coming together to bring hope. Danielle Luther and Michael Larson are part of the Hope Consortium, a partnership of organizations started in 2015 to educate and bring treatment services to North Central Wisconsin.  Last week's conference in Lac Du Flambeau was the first of its kind in the Northwoods.  "We need something that is targeted up north that really lends itself to what the communities up here need what rural areas need," said Luther.
Meeting to be held for proposed Three Lakes dog park	NEWS	8/29/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	THREE LAKES - Lionel Kliss lives in Three Lakes but he takes his dogs to Minocqua when he wants to go to a dog park.  He hopes to change that.  Kliss and another resident started a committee to build a dog park.  Now they're hoping to get more people interested.
Highway 45 work in Eagle River aims to improve roadway, safety	NEWS	8/30/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	EAGLE RIVER - Construction cones now block off lanes of traffic over long sections of U.S. Highway 45 in Eagle River.  Work started last week on a stretch between the downtown area and the Northland Pines school complex. One lane is blocked in each direction for a Wisconsin DOT construction project. It's the first of two phases of the project in Eagle River.  "Both are pavement-driven," said DOT Project Development Supervisor Robin Stafford. "The pavement has gotten to the point where we needed to address it or it would really start falling apart on us."
Rhinelander accepting applications for city bow hunt	NEWS	9/5/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Drivers in Rhinelander need to be extra cautious around deer this year. There have been 11 deer-versus-car accidents in city limits so far. Rhinelander Police Chief Lloyd Gauthier hopes this year's city bow hunt will help bring that number down.

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Walker expects few budget changes by Legislature before he begins reviewing potential vetoes in coming weeks	NEWS	9/7/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	THREE LAKES - The Wisconsin Legislature made the most progress yet on the overdue state budget Wednesday night. The budget committee finally passed the two-year spending plan, which is two months past its deadline.  The State Assembly plans to take it up next week, and the Senate will follow.  Gov. Scott Walker will control the final step. He will consider any partial vetoes before signing the bill.
Tiffany, committee hear testimony on mining moratorium repeal; Walker noncommittal on support	NEWS	9/7/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	WISCONSIN - In Wisconsin, miners last dug into deposits of copper, lead, and zinc 20 years ago.  That's when the open-pit Flambeau Mine in Ladysmith closed.  Nineteen years ago, the state put into place a partial mining moratorium, making opening that kind of mine much more difficult.  State Sen. Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) wants to pull back some of those mining restrictions. Tiffany hosted a public hearing of the Senate Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry Committee in Ladysmith on Thursday.
Downtown Rhinelander celebrates the end of construction with a block party	NEWS	9/10/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - People can now enjoy downtown Rhinelander without all the road blocks and construction.  The clear streets mean stores and bars can get back to business as usual, but not before celebrating with a Block Party.  The downtown construction took about a year.  The city widened sidewalks and changed the layout of the street.  One local business says dealing with construction wasn't too bad, but now customers can access the store with less work.  "They would park blocks away to come and get their bridal needs and alterations. We didn't suffer terribly because people really appreciate the long standing business we've had," said Lund and Taylor Bridal Gallerie sales person Ruth Uphoff.
Tony Evers discusses run for governor	NEWS	9/12/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Tony Evers believes serving as state superintendent has given him a good idea of what the important issues are. He is one of several Democrats who plan to run for a chance to take on Governor Scott Walker in next year's gubernatorial election.  On Tuesday, Evers made a stop in Rhinelander. He says he believes the key to making the state strong is by investing in people, something he says hasn't been done over the last eight years.

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Man accused of stealing car, mail, credit cards pleads no contest; prosecutors to request prison time	NEWS	9/13/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Prosecutors will ask for prison time for a 22-year-old Rhinelander man accused of credit card fraud, stealing mail, and car theft.  Alex Durand pled no contest to several crimes in Oneida County Court today.  Police arrested Durand in January in a stolen car.  They found other people's mail in his car and home.  Prosecutors plan to ask for a year and a half in prison at his sentencing in November.
Sex trafficking sting leads to arrests in Vilas County	NEWS	9/14/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	VILAS COUNTY - Thirteen men in Vilas County went to jail after officers caught them in a state and nationwide sex trafficking sting.  The state Department of Justice announced the arrests Thursday afternoon.  Police cracked down on sex traffickers, known as "Johns," and child abusers in July and August. The names and charges of Vilas County arrests are listed at the bottom of this story.
Rhinelander police chief proposes academy sponsorship solution for lack of quality candidates	NEWS	9/15/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - As Rhinelander Police Chief Lloyd Gauthier watched a handful of candidates go through agility testing in August, he stood frustrated at times.  "Still, we're not getting the numbers," Gauthier said Friday afternoon.  RPD only received 18 applications for two open jobs, and just eight applicants actually sent the proper paperwork to make it to final interviews.
Popular Northwoods public transit option, lacking federal funding, will 'probably' shut down some services	NEWS	9/21/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Government red tape could force at least a partial shutdown of a popular Northwoods transportation option as soon as next week.  The Oneida-Vilas Transit Commission, which operates 12 low-cost buses within and between Rhinelander, Minocqua, and Eagle River, is still waiting on a \$300,000 payment from the federal government. The program, which operates as Northwoods Transit Connections, could start cutting back services as soon as Monday if it can't find a temporary fix.

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Nicolet College hosted the Veterans Business Workshop	NEWS	9/22/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Veterans can be some of the hardest workers. That's the message local business owners heard in Rhinelander on Friday.  Nicolet College hosted the Veterans Business Workshop.  The objective was to tell businesses why they should hire local veterans.  Guest speaker from Wisconsin's Veterans Chamber of Commerce Saul Newton says veterans can bring strong and diverse skill sets into the work force.
A Rhinelander woman worries about a sex offender who moved into her neighborhood	NEWS	9/22/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:60	RHINELANDER - A Rhinelander mom said her lifestyle completely changed when a new neighbor moved in.  She used to love the close proximity and the ability to walk to almost anything in town.  She has two young kids and regularly checks the sex offender registry.  The Rhinelander mom wishes to stay anonymous. We'll refer to her as Linda.  Linda found out a sex offender moved in a few doors down from her by flipping through a local newspaper, She saw a small box at the bottom page with a notification.  "He kind of just snuck in," said Linda.  William Huntington moved close to Linda's house in May. However, Linda says she knew nothing until she did research of her own in July.  "When I saw what he was found guilty of I was in shock. I was in complete shock," said Linda.
Wounded Warriors find peace in the Northwoods	NEWS	9/24/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	EAGLE RIVER - Men and women in military service deal with situations that the average civilian may never see.  That's why it can sometimes be difficult for them to transition out of active duty and into everyday life.  Eight Wounded Warriors from across the country got the opportunity to participate in the Wounded Warriors in Action 3rd Annual Eagle River Muskie Chal-Lunge.
Dogs, deputies, searchers deployed; runaway sisters found after 'adventure' in Oneida County	NEWS	9/25/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	HARSHAW - Oneida County sheriff's deputies found three runaway sisters, ages 14, 14, and 12, in the woods in Harshaw just after 1 p.m. on Monday.  The sisters had been reported missing by their parents Monday morning. The parents had gone to wake the girls up for school, but instead found a note saying they had gone on an "adventure."  The missing girls triggered a search from the Oneida County Sheriff's Office Special Response Unit, Newbold Fire Department Search and Rescue, Minocqua Fire Department, Lake Tomahawk Fire Department, and Little Rice Fire Department.

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Walker names former Northwoods legislator as DNR secretary	NEWS	9/25/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	MADISON - Gov. Scott Walker has selected a former legislator to run the state Department of Natural Resources. Walker's office announced Monday that he has chosen former Republican state Rep. Dan Meyer to serve as DNR secretary. He replaces Cathy Stepp, who resigned in August to take a position in President Donald Trump's administration.
Walker explains why he vetoed stricter restriction on sexually violent offenders	NEWS	9/26/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	WISCONSIN - Central Wisconsin lawmaker Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) believes rural, small communities should not be treated as a dumping ground for sex offenders.  But a recent veto by Gov. Scott Walker may cause that to keep happening in some places.  Communities like Rosholt in Portage County have two sexually violent persons living under the same roof even though neither of those men offended in Portage County.  Under state law, judges have the ability to place released sexually violent offenders in a different place than their home county.  "What's happening with sexually violent persons is they are getting transferred from urban areas to more rural areas. I recognize this is not fair and we live in an imperfect world," said Shankland.
Warm weather brings more business to Three Lakes golf course	NEWS	9/26/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	THREE LAKES - Above average temperatures and sunny skies gave golfers across the Northwoods another chance to get out last weekend.  Temperatures climbing into the upper 80s made for a great opportunity for golfers to enjoy a late season day on the course.
Flu season starts early; Health Department recommends getting flu shots now	NEWS	9/27/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - There have been 19 confirmed flu cases in Wisconsin this month, including eight hospitalizations.  Public Health Nurse Jennifer Bates says the Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommends getting the flu vaccine as soon as possible.

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DNR confirms cougar sightings in Marathon and Clark counties	NEWS	9/27/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	MADISON - Department of Natural Resources biologists have confirmed a video and photo of a single cougar captured on two separate trail cameras in Clark and Marathon counties.  The Clark County video was captured in early August south of Neillsville, while the Marathon County photo was captured east of Marathon City in early September.  In each case, DNR biologists conducted site visits to verify the location and origin of the photo and video footage.