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Food safety for this July 4th holiday	News	7/2/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	NORTHWOODS - Many people will be cooking out this Fourth of July, but before you pack your coolers, here are some things to check. Keeping food cold means keeping you and your family safe from bacteria. Pack extra bags of ice on hand and don't leave food out for more than two hours. Make sure raw meat is package tightly to avoid it leaking onto other food. "We want to still make sure that we are doing things how we would at home. We want to try to wash our hands as much as possible. Nothing takes the place of handwashing. Hand sanitizer is great, but it is not a substitute," says Oneida County Public Health Department Registered Sanitarian Todd Troskey. Always use a fresh, clean plate and tongs for serving cooked food. Never reuse items that touched raw meat or poultry. For more info on food safety this summer, click below.
Invasive Species	News	7/2/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - You can expect to see a lot of blue T-shirts and white towels all around boat landings this week. The statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz runs through the Fourth of July. Volunteers, members of the DNR, and the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department will wear those blue shirts and do boat checks. It's a push to make sure you're are clearing off any mud, sand, or plants before taking your boat to another lake. Many lake associations staff landings on their individual lakes, but Oneida County places people at landings that don't have dedicated workers like Hodag Park and the Rainbow Flowage. Oneida County AIS Coordinator Stephanie Boismenue knows most people who live here year-round understand the risks.
Local non-profit wants to help people cool off on these hot, humid days	News	7/3/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Last week, we got a taste of how hot things can get. This week, temperatures will get close to that again. The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry opened its doors this week to welcome anyone who doesn't have a place to cool off. Food Pantry General Manager Jane Motowski says you can come and sit down in the pantry and they will give you water.
Construction crews finished with approximately three miles of ambitious 15-mile Rhinelander street repair plan	News	7/3/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Fourth of July holiday visitors to Rhinelander might notice two things this week: smooth roads and higher sales taxes. The two go hand-in-hand this year as the city works on an ambitious rebuild. Construction crews are about three miles into a 15-mile repave plan costing about \$2.5 million for 2018. Thayer Street and a good portion of Boyce Drive two of the notoriously pothole-filled streets in town went through grinding and overlay work. Thayer still needs line painted on it and the city also plans to finish the remaining portion of Boyce in the next few weeks.

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Oneida County Sheriff's Officers see influx of boaters on lakes, work to keep everyone safe	News	7/4/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	LAKE TOMAHAWK - Wednesday the Oneida County Sheriff's Office patrol team was out on lakes all around the county making sure people follow the laws and stay safe. Warm temperatures meant for a busy day for officers. "They needed extra people so I volunteered to come out today and help out with boat patrol," said Deputy Nancy Reklau.
Sen. Tiffany 'hopeful' for metallic mine in northern Wisconsin in near future	News	7/4/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	THREE LAKES - Sen. Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) remains "hopeful" we'll see a metallic mine in northern Wisconsin in the near future. Tiffany played a major role in the state's new mining law, which went into effect on Sunday. He believes our part of the state will see a mine soon. "For someone that agrees with mining, it would be optimistic, three to five years. But I think it's going to happen," Tiffany said. "We have some of the greatest resources here in northern Wisconsin in terms of nonferrous minerals."
Never Forgotten Honor Flights receive \$4,500 moments before leading Minoqua 4th of July Parade	News	7/4/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	MINOQUA - Veterans served proudly to protect our nation's independence over the years. On this Independence Day, some of those veterans walked proudly through the streets of Minocqua. In return, the community gave back more than salutes and smiles. Over the past eight years the Lakeland High School Honor flight fund has raised more than \$14,000 for veterans in the area. "The students really value the veterans," said Lakeland Union Social Studies Chair Mike Mestelle
Marshfield Clinic Recovery Corps holds sober event for community	News	7/5/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Jason Moon's journey began right here in the Northwoods. "I grew up in Eagle River and served in Iraq with the 724 out of Tomahawk," said singer songwriter Moon. But when his journey led him across the world to serve our country, some hardships followed him back home. "I had struggles with PTSD, struggled with substance abuse, attempted suicide in 2008," said Moon. Now, his mission is to share stories through music. "[I] sing to other people, inspire them try to give them hope," said Moon.

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In 'historical change,' nine top DNR forestry staff members now work in Rhinelander; more on the way	News	7/5/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - More than 40 communities in northern Wisconsin competed for a state government prize last year. Each wanted to be the new home of the DNR's forestry headquarters, which was considering relocation from Madison. Last fall, Gov. Walker announced Rhinelander had won that prize and staff would begin moving to the city. Chief State Forester Fred Souba was among the first to make the move. "Obviously, this is a historical change, to move a division outside of Madison," Souba said Thursday.
Invasive Species	News	7/6/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	THREE LAKES - Two teams in the Northwoods fight aquatic invasive species regularly. However, Friday the Three Lakes Waterfront Association and Adopt-A-Shoreline turned visitors and neighbors into fighters too. A day on a boat turned into an invasive species fighting session. "This is very heartening for all of us because we've been fighting an uphill battle," said scuba diver and Three Lakes Water Front Association President Fred Knoch. That battle got a little easier Friday for members of Adopt- A-Shoreline and the Three Lakes Waterfront Association. "We kind of woke up and decided it would be good to invite anybody," said Three Lakes Water Front Association board member Bruce Renquist.Renquist.Renquist and Knoch realized they needed more hands on deck to keep Wisconsin waters healthy. "Knowledge means you can recognize a problem," said Knoch. The two groups geared up boats, nets and scuba divers to show anyone interested how to recognize and prevent invasives from spreading."The more eyes you have the more opportunity you have for early detection," said Renquist.
Rhinelander man arrested for child abuse; police believe he planned to kill officers	News	7/6/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Police believe a Rhinelander man planned to kill officers after police took a child from his home because of physical abuse. The Rhinelander Police Department was investigating a child abuse complaint at Dwight Schleif's home Thursday morning. The 41-year-old refused to let officers in the home, but Schleif eventually let the child outside to talk with officers.
Election - WI Governor	News	7/8/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINEANDER - One of the democratic candidates looking to become Wisconsin's next governor plans to visit 20 cities in ten days. On Sunday, Mahlon Mitchell visited Rhinelander and Merrill. Mitchell started the day in downtown Rhinelander, visiting various businesses. He says the tour is less about telling people about himself, and more about finding out what Wisconsinites are concerned about. "It's more of a listening tour. We call it the 'Badger State Beer Tour', so we're hitting a lot of smaller breweries," said Mitchell. "But also getting out doing roundtable discussions and forums and actually listening to people." Mitchell says so far in his stops people seemed to be most concerned about the economy and education. The candidate's tour started July 6, and will continue on Monday when he makes a stop in Milwaukee

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Mayor's Finance Committee of the Whole proposal gets pushback from Rhinelander Council president	News	7/9/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Rhinelander's new mayor thinks "change scares everyone." Chris Frederickson's proposal to change one of the city's most powerful committees is getting pushback from some of the longest-serving members.Frederickson wants to add every council member to the Finance, Wage, and Salary Committee to create a "Committee of the Whole." He proposed the idea during the City Council meeting in June without consulting the committee's chairperson, Dawn Rog, or Council President George Kirby.
Chandler: sales taxes for most online purchases to start in Wisconsin Oct. 1	News	7/10/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - You'll start paying sales tax on almost everything you buy online starting October 1. Wisconsin is taking advantage of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowing states to charge sales tax for online purchases. Before the decision, companies were forced to collect sales tax only if they had a physical presence in Wisconsin. During an interview in Rhinelander on Tuesday, state Revenue Secretary Rick Chandler explained why the state wanted to start collecting these taxes.
Rhinelander, Northland Pines among schools getting six- figure safety grants	News	7/10/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Several local schools will receive tens of thousands of dollars for school safety improvements. State Attorney General Brad Schimel awarded almost \$3 million Tuesday in the latest round of grants.Rhinelander will get nearly \$120,000. Superintendent Kelli Jacobi says her approach to school safety is much different now than it was when she started in education.
Rhinelander narrows city administrator search to three candidates	News	7/18/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - The City of Rhinelander announced Wednesday it has narrowed its candidates for city administrator to three people. Daniel Guild, Jeff Eder, and Stephen Kil will be interviewed for the position. They were selected from a pool of 39 applicants.

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Rhinelander could choose its new city administrator Friday	News	7/19/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Four part or fulltime city administrators made their way in and out of Rhinelander during the last three years. Unexpected firings and resignations left some people wondering if anyone will come and stay. Rhinelander could get a new city administrator by Friday afternoon. Rhinelander City Council President George Kirby hopes to find someone who will stick around. Someone who's got the talents of an HR Person, somebody that can help us with our budget process and help us with economic development," said Kirby. The council thought they found that in past candidates but administrator Kristina Aschenbrenner was fired after only one year in 2016. Then in April, Interim administrator Keith Kost resigned just two months before his contract ended. This hiring round, the council started with 39 applicants and is now down to just three. Current East Peoria, Illinois City Administrator Jeff Eder plans on having a long term career with the city and is not fazed by the positions' past switch ups.
SpineCore Foundation gives people with physically disabilities the opportunity to enjoy outdoor sports	News	7/21/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	THREE LAKES - Three people turned tragic accidents into an opportunity to change lives. "There's always a way to get over any obstacle you think you can't get around," said 27-year-old Anthony Regole. Regole found his way around one of the biggest obstacles of his life when he was 16. "I was in a car accident and that's how I became a T-11 complete paraplegic," said Regole. However, instead of feeling defeated he found new strength. Now, he and wants to share a piece of his strength with others. Regole started the SpineCore Foundation this year to give people with physical disabilities like 45 year old Pete LaPage a chance to do adaptive outdoors sports with a specialized camp. "I don't like to be inside I need to be outside!" said LaPage. 24 years ago LaPage dropped off a 20 ft. embankment and broke his back during a three wheeler accident. "Everyday there's a challenge you find a way to overcome make it a little adventure," said LaPage. Breanna Kinneman started dealing with new challenges just a year ago when she had to have both legs amputated after a car crash. However, being around LePage and Regole showed her there's no reason to slow down.
Three Lakes School District considers purchasing 40 acres for school forest	News	7/23/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	THREE LAKES - Teachers came to the Three Lakes School District Board meeting on Monday to discuss how they could use 40 acres of land to educate their students. While most teachers and community members at the meeting expressed strong support for the idea, not everyone is convinced that purchasing the land between Three Lakes and Sugar Camp on the North side of Highway A is a good idea. "I'm not sure, that given we had to go to referendum to have enough operating costs that [it] justifies this purchase at this time," said Beth Jacobson, who is a former teacher that lives in the district. "I have some questions about how we're going to fund this," said Jolene Fine, who has two children in the district
Candidates for Oneida County Sheriff present ideas during forum	News	7/23/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Four men, three Republicans and one Constitutional party candidate, all want to see the Oneida County Sheriff's Office move in a certain direction. But those directions differ based on experience, ideas, and ways to get there. Local media representatives took turns asking candidates Larry Mathein, Grady Hartman, Greg Gardner, and Tom Wakely questions about how they would run the department. Mathein is the current Oneida and Forest Counties Medical Examiner. He said he thinks he would bring a fresh perspective and unique experience to the role as the only Republican candidate not currently working in law enforcement. "I have spent quite a few years working with our sheriff's department and other law enforcement agencies in the area, basically hand in hand on multiple instances including homicides and suicides and crime scenes," said Mathein.

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Back-to-school tax holiday starts next Wednesday	News	7/25/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Back-to-school shoppers will get a tax break in Wisconsin starting next week. The sales tax holiday runs Wednesday through Sunday on many items. "We're just trying to help families who are raising children with a little bit of tax relief to offset some of the costs they havekind of the things that people tend to buy for the back-to-school season," said Wisconsin Secretary of Revenue Rick Chandler. There will be no state sales tax on school supplies or clothes up to \$75 each. Computers up to \$750 also won't be taxed.
Wisconsin tax-free holiday runs until Sunday	News	8/3/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - If you still need to purchase back to school supplies, this is the weekend to go shopping. In April Governor Scott Walker signed into law the state's first sales tax holiday, meaning certain items are exempt from sales tax until Sunday. The list of sales tax-free items includes clothing and school supplies costing less than \$75 per item, and computers for less than \$750.
Make It! Camp in Three Lakes teaches technology and coding skills	News	8/7/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	THREE LAKES - Most students won't take a seat at a desk for a few more weeks. However, the Demmer Library in Three Lakes started a camp for students who wanted to get a jump start on learning. "It's interesting to see something come to life that you've built from nothing," said 13-year-old Gus Fink. Fink has been going to the Make It! Camp in Three Lakes since it began three years ago. Elizabeth Carleton from Arlington, Virginia, made sure she had room in her vacation schedule to learn about coding, computer skills, and 3D printing."It's one of the few places you actually have access to 3D printers and laser cutters," said 14-year-old Carleton.
Doctors Foster & Smith to close pharmacy, unknown impact on jobs	News	8/8/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - One of Rhinelander's biggest employers plans to close a major part of its business. Doctors Foster and Smith will close its pharmacy and begin using an outside fulfillment company, Petco confirmed Wednesday.Petco bought Doctors Foster and Smith in February of 2015. In an email, Petco did not confirm how many jobs would be impacted or when the closure will happen. The company said they hope to invest in the growth of the pharmacy and prescription categories of the pet business in 2019 and beyond.

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Three Lakes School Board holds special meeting to discuss Walker campaign ad	News	8/9/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p		Governor Walker told Newswatch12 Friday that the Three Lakes School District knew exactly what it was getting into when he visited its fab lab. At a campaign stop in Antigo, Walker said his campaign team was clear about why he was visiting the school."We're straight forward about what our expectations were, just as we do with every other ad that we do. We tell people what the ads are for. We said it was for an ad, not a public service announcement or anything else. This was an ad out there I think we were pretty clear," said Walker. Walker also felt the ad was not an endorsement for himself, but rather a chance for the Three Lakes School to tell its story."Well in their case they're not endorsing, they're just telling the story. None of them said vote for or against, the bottom line is they just told the story and they told the honest truth about what we've done," said Walker. Walker also said the ad will reach the end of its cycle this week and will not air again.
The Oneida County Humane Society needs more pet supplies	News	8/12/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p		RHINELANDER - The Oneida County Humane Society hosted a supply fundraiser. Instead of asking people to drop off supplies at the shelter, they hosted a Party for Pets at Rocky's Roadhouse in Rhinelander. Humane Society Treasurer Sue Otis said they asked people to drop off the supplies at the event while enjoying food and music. "This is more of a food supply drive. We aren't looking to raise a lot of money but we are always willing to take money. This is more of an awareness fundraiser to just have people come out that support us and have a good time," said Otis.
Mathein considers write-in bid for Oneida Co. Sheriff after Tuesday primary loss	News	8/16/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - The race for sheriff in Oneida County might not be over just yet. Incumbent Grady Hartman won a three-way Republican primary on Tuesday. There is no Democrat on the November ballot, and longshot Constitution Party candidate Tom Wakely is the only other candidate who will appear. Wakely got just eight votes in Tuesday's primary. But on Thursday, Republican challenger Larry Mathein confirmed he's considering a write-in bid. Mathein is the current medical examiner in Oneida and Forest counties.
Three Lakes School Board stands behind district administrator	News	8/17/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	THREE LAKES - The Three Lakes School Board stands by its district administrator after questions over a political ad. Friday morning, the Three Lakes School Board issued a statement saying they feel it is the best interest of students to continue under the leadership of Dr. George Karling.

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Land purchase approved for Three Lakes School District	News	8/23/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	THREE LAKES - The Three Lakes School District got approval from the public to buy 40 acres of land to help educate students. At the district's annual meeting Wednesday night, a motion on the purchase was approved on a vote of 139 to 46
Mathein resigns from Oneida County Medical Examiner position	News	8/30/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Oneida County Medical Examiner Larry Mathein will resign, effective Friday, Aug. 31 at 4:30 pm. County HR Director Lisa Charbarneau sent staff a brief memo earlier Thursday announcing the decision. Mathein confirmed his resignation to Newswatch 12 via text message Thursday night. He declined to issue a statement immediately, but said he would offer one Monday, instead.
Rhinelander teachers spend hours preparing for an active shooter in schools	News	8/30/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p		RHINELANDER - Teachers in Rhinelander spent this week preparing for classes and finishing their curriculum. But a few of their work hours had nothing to do with teaching kids. Each teacher practiced for something that's become a sad reality in the last few years. From leaving the building quickly to forming a door barricade with desks and chairs, they learned how to protect themselves and their students from an active shooter. Even Superintendent Kelli Jacobi admits education isn't her biggest everyday priority. It's safety
Mathein, then medical examiner and sheriff's candidate, committed felonies in Vilas Co., police investigation finds	News	8/31/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p		RHINELANDER - Former Oneida and Forest County Medical Examiner and sheriff's candidate Larry Mathein committed felonies in Vilas County, according to an investigation. On Thursday, Mathein announced his resignation from the medical examiner's office. The resignation took effect on Friday afternoon. Mathein had been on paid administrative leave since last Thursday. A Vilas County investigation found Mathein illegally signed a death certificate and illegally gave out a cremation permit, both felonies under state statute. Vilas County District Attorney Martha Milanowski is considering whether to press charges against Mathein.

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City taking applications for Rhinelander's upcoming deer hunt	News	9/4/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Hunters in Rhinelander started calling the police chief the last few weeks wanting to know when they can go after deer. The answer is "soon." Rhinelander's Public Safety Committee approved a citywide bow hunt, which would start September 15th, pending full council approval on Monday, Sept. 10. The hunt, which re
Former Weston administrator Guild selected as new Rhinelander administrator	News	9/10/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Rhinelander made Daniel Guild its newest city administrator Monday night. After a search spanning several months, the city council voted in favor of Guild. Six council members supported him, two abstained, and Mayor Chris Frederickson voted against Guild. Guild was last the administrator in Weston. He resigned this year after being put on a 30-day unpaid suspension for violating the terms of his employment. Rhinelander has shuffled through four part- or full-time administrators in the last three years. Its last full-time hire, Kristina Aschenbrenner, was fired after one year.
Oneida County waives job vacancy review process to expedite replacing medical examiner	News	9/13/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Oneida County wants to "fast track" its replacement for its medical examiner, according to Public Safety Committee Chairman Mike Timmons. Thursday morning, the Public Safety Committee approved waiving a mandatory six-month job vacancy review to fill the medical examiner job faster. County Human Resources Director Lisa Charbarneau asked the committee to take up the vote, which she says is common practice for many department openings.
New Rhinelander city administrator holds meet and greet, answers questions from public	News	9/18/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - Rhinelander's first full time city administrator since 2016 wants people to know he is excited to get to work. Daniel Guild spent his second day as city administrator meeting with people in town and answering their questions.Guild held a meet and greet Tuesday to go over his past experience and give his future ideas. Guild is no stranger to the Northwoods. He grew up in Ashland and knows what matters to the people who live here.

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A World War II veteran wants to help other men and women experience the Honor Flight	News	7/29/2019	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	RHINELANDER - When it comes to helping out the community it doesn't take long for the Northwoods to band together with benefits and fundraisers. "We were the first occupation troops in Japan after the war," said World War II veteran Eugen Stafford. 91- year- old Stafford served in World War II when he was 18. "I have so many memories my brain doesn't want to account for them all," said Stafford. One memory Stafford said he'll never forget is his experience on last year's Honor Flight in D.C. "My kids said we're going to put you on the honor flight, I said why?! I've been to Washington," said Stafford. However, once he landed in D.C he realized this trip was different. "Best thing I ever went on in my life," said Stafford. The Honor Flight Benefit at the Taj Mahall in Rhinelander wants more veterans to share that same experience. "We need to get them to D.C. to see the memorials that are so rightly deserved," said Honor Flight benefit organizer Dawn Panzer.