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Rhinelander City Hall, Oneida County Courthouse planning active shooter training	NEWS	10/3/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Both in front of and behind her Rhinelander City Hall desk, clerk Val Foley deals with all kinds of issues every day. "People are very understanding, but it's those people that are not that could potentially show up," Foley said. Foley says it's rare to need to call police in her job, but it has happened over her 17 years in the office. She's trained for things like fire drills and tornadoes, but it wasn't until Foley went to an active shooter class this summer that got her thinking, 'What if?'
Rhinelander Golf Committee meets with consultant to try and solve deficit	NEWS	10/3/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Rhinelander's Golf Course Advisory Committee met with its hired consultant Tuesday, hoping to solve a serious deficit. The committee hired Green Golf Partners for consultation help to try to figure out a way to make the course profitable.
RHINELANDER - Recent Stanford graduate Bob Harlow decided to run for governor to serve the state his family has called home for three generations.	NEWS	10/3/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	Harlow is one of eight Democrats who have declared a run for governor. Harlow wants healthcare for everyone, a \$15 minimum wage, and a debt-free college experience for those who choose to pursue a degree. "These are things we need to achieve as a state and we can as long as we have a government that is working for the people of Wisconsin instead of rich republican donors," said Harlow. Harlow said wants to get into public service regardless of the political climate of the state, but he thinks it's especially important now.
Minocqua gun store, like after other mass shootings, sees spike in business	NEWS	10/2/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	MINOCQUA - Business picked up at Tim McAuliffe's gun and ammunition shop, North Coast Arms and Ammo, less than 12 hours after Sunday night's Las Vegas shooting. That didn't surprise McAuliffe, who has owned the shop in Minocqua for 31 years. Every time there's a major public shooting in America, his business surges. "There's usually a spike in business," McAuliffe said. "It isn't instant, but like today, [there have been] a lot of magazines that have [gone] out already." McAuliffe said customers worry they might lose a window to buy guns.

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Community Blood Center sees significant increase in donors after Las Vegas shootings	NEWS	10/4/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Lines to donate blood stretched for blocks in Las Vegas after Sunday night's shootings, which killed more than 50 people. Seeing those images likely inspired many people in Wisconsin to give blood, too. The Community Blood Center reports it saw a 70-percent increase on Monday and Tuesday of people calling to schedule appointments over the prior three weeks. The Center also saw a 30-percent increase in appointments for calls the CBC made to potential donors. The CBC says many people who called specifically said they wanted to donate because of Vegas.
Three Lakes Center for the Arts provides space for creative community	NEWS	10/4/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	THREE LAKES - For years, a group of people in Three Lakes wanted a place to showcase artists, young and old, who make creativity a part of their lives. But they didn't really have a place to do that until a dedicated group stepped in. The group rented little spaces to give artists a place to hang their work—that is, until a generous couple from Chicago donated money to buy a building for a permanent space. Today, the Three Lakes Center for the Arts has grown into so much more.
Northwoods United Way kicks off annual fundraising campaign	NEWS	10/3/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Gov. Scott Walker designated September and October as United Way months in Wisconsin to help launch the organization's annual fundraising campaign. Northwoods United Way supports children and families in Oneida, Vilas, and Forest counties. "That can vary from providing scholarships for swim lessons for people that can't afford it to people that might need some help in parenting, those sorts of things," said Northwoods United Way Executive Director Nancy Sattler.
Aircraft touching down in Eagle River will now find a smooth landing	NEWS	10/6/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	EAGLE RIVER - A brand new two million dollar runway replaced the bumpy 40- year- old original. After two and half months the new runway was finished Tuesday and the grand opening ceremony took place Friday. "[There were] lots of complaints from pilots flying in [on the old runway] said that it was too rough and potentially causing damage to the planes." said Airport Manager Rob Hom. Chief Pilot Jerry Dahl was one of the first people to land on the new runway. He has been flying into Eagle River's Airport since 1984.

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Rhinelander Parks Director pushing for ice rink outside Trig's	NEWS	10/5/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Many people didn't like it when Rhinelander workers tore down the deteriorating hockey boards at Pioneer Park last summer. The city still flooded the rink, though, and people still came. This winter, people might have a second outdoor skating option in Rhinelander. Parks Director Jeremy Biolo wants to turn the open green space in front of Trig's into an outdoor rink. Biolo first came up with the idea in late 2016, but it was too late in the year to do anything about it.
Sparking Interest: Nicolet College hosts 600 students for Heavy Metals Tour	NEWS	10/4/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - As he fired up his welding torch Wednesday afternoon, Alex Novak felt a bit of deja vu. "[I try to] teach them that industry is where the money isyou can make money there," Novak said. The Nicolet College welding student lit up the eye masks and minds of eighth graders. His demonstration was part of a daylong "Heavy Metal Tour," which hosted middle school students on the same field trip Novak once took when he was their age. "It just gives them an idea of what they want to do and just They always have options," Novak said.
Ruby's Pantry Rhinelander distribution site set for Oct. 17 at National Guard Armory	NEWS	10/6/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Hundreds of families will get baskets full of food at a new Rhinelander location starting this month. Calvary Baptist Church took over Ruby's Pantry in Rhinelander and it finally found a distribution site. The pantry will offer its food at the Rhinelander National Guard Armory on Adams Way, which is just south of Home Depot and just east of Forest Home Cemetery. The first distribution is October 17, with hours running between 5 p.m. and 6:30
Oneida County Health Dept. offering two flu clinics in Rhinelander	NEWS	10/9/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Children can get free flu shots in Rhinelander during two clinics this month. The Oneida County Health Department will offer vaccines October 19th at Rhinelander High School and October 23rd at James Williams Middle School. Vaccines for children 18 and under are free. The regular vaccine for adults costs \$40. A high-dose vaccine for those 65 and up costs \$73.82.

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Democratic gubernatorial candidates attend first-ever Wausau Grassroots Festival	NEWS	10/8/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	WAUSAU - Plenty of Democrats want to challenge Republican Governor Scott Walker in the 2018 election. So far, eight candidates have declared their intention to run: State Superintendent Tony Evers, State Sen. Kathleen Vinehout, State Rep. Dana Wachs, Andy Gronik, Mike McCabe, Bob Harlow, Jeff Rumbaugh, and Michele Doolan.
Police see increase in deer versus car crashes this time of year	NEWS	10/9/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	NORTHWOODS - Oneida County Sheriff Sergeant Tyler Young is used to responding to deer versus car crashes. Monday morning, the Sherriff's Office went to a crash on Highway A. "This morning at about 4:00 they hit a deer. [It caused] quite significant damage and vehicle had to be towed," said Young. Young has noticed the amount of those crashes rising in recent years. "I think that's due to the deer population increasing," said Young. After 2013's harsh winter, the DNR estimated the Wisconsin's deer population at more than a million. The DNR estimates it's grown by about 250,000 as of last year.
Oneida County offering soil and water conservation project funding	NEWS	10/9/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - A sizable increase in state funding should help more people in Oneida County prevent shoreline erosion and other similar problems. The state Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) awarded the county Land and Water Department \$40,000 through a cost share program
Gardner announces candidacy for Oneida County Sheriff	NEWS	10/9/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Oneida County Sheriff Grady Hartman will face competition from one of his officers if he chooses to run for sheriff again in 2018. Sgt. Greg Gardner announced his candidacy for sheriff in a press release Monday afternoon. Gardner is a 22-year veteran of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office. He also served four years as a military police officer in the U.S. Army. Gardner describes himself as a lifelong Oneida County resident who "welcomes scrutiny and understands that he is responsible to the taxpayers of Oneida County."

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Snowmobile clubs begin prepping trails; need more volunteers	NEWS	10/12/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	EAGLE RIVER - As the temperatures start to drop, snowmobilers start gearing up. But before they hit the trails this winter, volunteers will go over every inch of them in Vilas County to make sure they're ready for riders. "A lot of people don't know what goes into brushing and getting the trails ready for the season," said Sno-Eagles Trail Boss Brian Scheid. The Sno-Eagles Trail Boss and three other club members spend every Thursday morning driving through the Eagle River snowmobile trail system checking for downed trees, low-hanging branches, and knocked down signs
Interim Rhinelander City Administrator won't extend Job beyond June 2018	NEWS	10/26/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Rhinelander likely won't hire a new city administrator until next summer. Interim administrator Keith Kost told Newswatch 12 on Thursday he has no desire to do the job beyond then. Kost started working part-time for the city in February. He replaced Kristina Aschenbrenner, who the City Council fired in August 2016. The Council decided to extend Kost's contract through June of next year during a special meeting Monday night. Kost says he's happy to help the city find his replacement and train them.
It just makes good sense': Walker announces Rhinelander as new headquarters of DNR forestry division	NEWS	10/25/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - The headquarters of the DNR's forestry division will move from Madison to Rhinelander, Gov. Scott Walker announced on Wednesday. In an event at Rhinelander's DNR Ranger Station, Walker said it makes sense to move the headquarters closer to state forests and Wisconsin's forest products industry. "It's not just a branch officeit is the office," Walker said. "The leadership will be here, the team will be here, the partnerships are going to be here."
Energy assistance applications being accepted for low income households	NEWS	10/27/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	NORTHWOODS - Heating your home during winter can get pricey. That's why WPS is reminding customers applications for energy assistance are now being accepted. "You don't have to be behind on your energy bill to receive energy assistance and it's income based. That really is designed to help off-set those high winter heating costs and then free up funds for other bills you need to pay," said WPS Community Relations Leader Leah Van Zile.

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DNR clears up confusion with deer baiting and feeding ban; ban still in effect for Oneida, Vilas, and Forest Counties	NEWS	10/26/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	ONEIDA COUNTY - The DNR wants people to know that baiting and feeding deer is still banned in Oneida, Forest and Vilas Counties. Chronic wasting disease was found on a Three Lakes deer farm as recently as October 2016. DNR Conservation Warden Dave Walz said there's been some confusion because of a recent law change and a court ruling last spring. "Some folks were thinking that baiting you couldn't do, but feeding you could and that's not correct. Both are prohibited," said Walz.
Rhinelander man sent to prison for raiding mailboxes, stealing checks, personal information	NEWS	11/1/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:60	RHINELANDER - A 22-year-old Rhinelander man raided the mailboxes of nearly 200 victims, trying to steal personal information and forge checks in his name. An Oneida County judge decided Wednesday that Alex Durand will serve prison time for his crimes. "I can't overlook all of these victims," said Oneida County Circuit Court Judge Patrick O'Melia. "As I weighed all of this over the last couple of days, after reading [the pre-sentence investigation], I can't get over it."
Three Lakes School District asking voters for \$3 million operating referendum during Nov. 7 election	NEWS	11/1/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	THREE LAKES - Voters in the Three Lakes School District will see only one thing on their ballots next week, but that one item could decide the future of the schools. The district is asking taxpayers for an extra \$3,092,787 each year for the next five years. The money would replace an expiring \$2,340,000 referendum that passed in 2013, adding about \$748,000 to the original amount.
Northwoods counties join major opioid lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies	NEWS	11/7/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	WISCONSIN - More than one-third of Wisconsin counties blame some makers of prescription drugs for the opioid crisis in parts of the state. Oneida, Lincoln, Langlade, Marathon, and Price are among the counties that filed suit against pharmaceutical companies on Tuesday. The lawsuit claims drug companies misrepresented the dangers of opioids, calling some marketing campaigns by three drug makers "nefarious and deceptive." It cost county taxpayers nothing to join the lawsuit, but if it's successful, it could bring a huge settlement or judgment to county budgets in Wisconsin. Many counties are struggling under the weight of increased police and health department costs triggered by opioid problems.

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Peoples State Bank delivers more than 7,300 care items for Rhinelander Military Support Group	NEWS	11/20/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - A mound of boxes full of things like canned goods, toiletries, and clothing stunned LeRoy Eades when he walked into Peoples State Bank in Rhinelander on Monday morning. "It blew my mind out," Eades said, with a smile. Eades, his wife Shirley, and Cheryl Zastrow came to Anderson Street branch to pick up donations for their Rhinelander Military Support Group. "I would have to say, it's probably one of our largest [collections ever]," Eades said.
Rhinelander police seeking donations as Shop With a Cop approaches	NEWS	11/22/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - A number of Rhinelander police and firefighters will work a weekend morning shift in December and won't get paid for it. It's an extra task they're happy to help with. The Rhinelander Police Department's Shop With a Cop program returns December 16. Police and firefighters take 20 third grade students from Crescent, Pelican, Zion, and Nativity schools shopping for Christmas presents at Walmart. The schools recommend students for the event.
USFS creates interactive map for public comments on Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest	NEWS	11/27/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST - If you get out in the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest, the Forest Service wants to hear from you. The Forest Service closed or reduced services at some of its recreation sites in 2015 due to budget cuts. It's currently looking for feedback from people who use it.
Local festival draws hundreds to Three Lakes	NEWS	11/24/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	THREE LAKES - Some people might spend the day after Thanksgiving finishing off their leftovers, while others are already celebrating the next holiday's festivities with Santa. Three Lakes celebrated its 22nd Festival of Lights Friday evening. The festival took volunteers a few days to set up. "I am so excited. I'm like a kid myself," said volunteer Linda Brainard. Brainard has volunteered at the Festival of Lights in Three Lakes for the last seven years. "Making memories for kids is what Christmas is all about," said Brainard with a smile. Brainard and a handful of other volunteers have spent the last few days hanging up Christmas lights, decorating candy canes and getting Santa's chair all set up

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Fire engulfs Three Lakes cabin	NEWS	11/27/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	THREE LAKES - A cabin in Three Lakes caught on fire Monday afternoon and continued burning for hours. Three Lakes Fire Department responded to a call from a neighbor of the cabin on Bundo Road around 4:00 p.m. "We got a call that there was a fully engulfed cabin and we responded. Right now we've got the initial knock down and [we're] doing some mop up right now," said Three Lakes Fire Chief Dave Kirby. The cause of the fire is not known right now. No one was in the building when the fire started. Fire departments from Sugar Camp, Stella, and Eagle River responded as well.
Three Lakes Elementary students collect school supplies for Harvey victims, donate supplies to teacher with Wausau ties	NEWS	11/27/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	THREE LAKES - Inside most Three Lakes classrooms, students use pencils, paper, and markers without a second thought. But students, like these first-graders, know other students aren't as fortunate. "There was a flood and a hurricane in Houston, and their school got wrecked," said 6-year-old Gracie Mandli. This month, Three Lakes Elementary School students collected supplies to send to a school in Houston. The first-graders decorated boxes to put the supplies in.
DNR warns early-season ice still not safe to walk on in many places	NEWS	11/27/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - Ice started forming on many lakes across the Northwoods in the last few weeks. That's good news for ice fishermen who are eager to get out.
Rhinelander couple, 2 others charged in drug bust less than 3 years after meth-related convictions	NEWS	11/27/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - People living in a seemingly quiet Rhinelander neighborhood suspected something illegal was going on inside 718 Margaret Street for a long time. Last week, those suspicions were proven right. "People coming at all hours of the day for real short visits, that's an indicator there's probably something that's not right," Rhinelander Police Captain Ron Lueneburg said. Police arrested four people at the home November 21. Richard Nitschke, Andrea Healy, Antonio Alvarez, and Darcy Skavland face various drug-related charges from the bust.

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Three Lakes Plan Commission approves preliminary designs for town office and police department	NEWS	12/5/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	THREE LAKES - Fifty people in Three Lakes approved a plan to tear down and rebuild the town office and police department in November. Tuesday, the board of supervisors came one step closer to making that renovation a reality. "The plan commission thought it was a great design, approved some of the preliminary construction materials. The town board said, hey, this is a go. We also approved the funding tonight and now Three Lakes is moving ahead with a new own office project and police department," said Three Lakes Chairman Jeff Bruss. The board hopes to break ground next spring. The project will cost about \$1.6 million
Northwoods mine in 3 to 5 years? After Rhinelander bill signing, Tiffany thinks so	NEWS	12/11/2017	6:40A, 7:40A, 8:40A 12:30P, 1:30P AND 4:30P AND 5:30P	:20	RHINELANDER - A new state law could help northern Wisconsin open a mine in the next three to five years, if Sen. Tom Tiffany's predictions are correct. Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) wrote the bill repealing a Wisconsin law often called the "mining moratorium," and Gov. Scott Walker signed it in Rhinelander on Monday. Walker said the new law, branded the Mining for America Act, "might as well be called the 'Keep Our Kids in Wisconsin' bill."