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Three Lakes group held free discussion on Burnt Rollways Dam	News	10/3/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	THREE LAKES - The Three Lakes Chain connects to the Eagle River Chain in a way that is pretty unique. On Wednesday night, people got a chance to learn more about it. The Catena Three Lakes group held a free discussion on the Burnt Rollways Dam. Two speakers discussed the history of its unique features such as the boat lift, and discussed the efforts to preserve the land around the historic site. "Burnt Rollways is an iconic piece of the Three Lakes chain, so in a lot of ways it's our history, our community, and how it connects us to the rest of the state," said Demmer Memorial Library Director Erica Brewster.
Chronic Wasting Disease	News	10/3/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	This hunting season, the Department of Natural Resources put some extra effort into stopping the spread of chronic wasting disease. They tried to pass a regulation on Monday that will make it so hunters cannot remove deer carcasses from CWD affected counties. The Legislative Joint Committee on Rules and Regulations revoked that regulation this week. The regulation prohibiting hunters from moving deer carcasses out of CWD-affected counties was supposed to take effect on Monday.
K9 Unit Needs/Funding for Vilas County	News	10/3/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	The Vilas County Sheriff's Office wants to add another member to its team. For the last year, the department held several fundraising events for its K9 unit. Capt. Gerard Ritter says the goal is to add a second K9 officer sometime next spring. The department wants to add another dog in order to get more K9 assistance across all shifts. "It aids law enforcement in tracking capabilities, assists us in traffic stops in drug detection, it assists us in schools for drug detection, it's a good community tool," said Ritter. So far, they've raised about \$20,000. That covers the cost of the dog and its training, but not the specialized equipment needed or veterinary care. Ritter says they aren't just raising money for a new dog though, they also need to keep up funding for their current K9 unit, too. "It's important for us to continue this fundraiser because we have veterinary care costs, we have food costs, we have other equipment associated with having a K9," said Ritter. Any donations can be sent or given directly to the Vilas County Sheriff's Office
Oneida County Sheriff Election	News	10/8/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	A 21-point loss in August's primary won't stop Larry Mathein from running for Oneida County Sheriff. Mathein posted on his Facebook page Sunday he intends to run as a write-in candidate. Mathein was the medical examiner in Oneida and Forest counties before he resigned in late August. Newswatch 12 discovered the Vilas County Sheriff's Office investigated Mathein for illegally signing a death certificate, but the district attorney decided not to file charges.

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Rhinelander Street Repair Projects upcoming	News	10/10/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	An upcoming project in Rhinelander will feel very similar to last year's downtown streetscape repairs. Stevens Street is the city's major north-south through street and it will soon be under construction. Most of Stevens Street in Rhinelander hasn't seen any major repairs since the 1980's. Public Works Director Tim Kingman has been trying to get the road redone for a while. Now he has the funds the city needs. Business owners on the road are just hoping that this construction will be quick. Al Joswiak is the owner of Bikes and Boards Extreme Sports Gear on Stevens Street is worried at what a major construction project will mean for his business.
K9 Unit Rhinelander FD	News	10/23/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	The Rhinelander Police Department added a new K9 to the force. Rhinelander officer Chad Brown is the police dog's handler. "It almost didn't seem like it was real… When the police chief let me know I had the position…because I had been waiting for so long," said Brown. "I was just drawn to Odin. I just had to bond with him." Odin was trained in multiple skills to help Brown keep the community safe. But it takes a lot of work to sharpen all those skills.
Ballot Issue: Rhinelander School District Referendum	News	10/22/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Election night means property tax referendum votes for area school districts. Rhinelander's school district will ask taxpayers to vote yes on spending \$4.25 million each year for the next four years.
U.S Immigration Issue, WI GOP response	News	10/30/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	A migrant caravan moving toward the U.SMexico border feels a long way from Oneida County. But it's an important issue Republican supporters want their Senate candidate to take a strong position on. Voters got to hear from that candidate, Leah Vukmir, in Minocqua on Tuesday afternoon. Congressman Sean Duffy and State Senator Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) joined Vukmir at the GOP offices along Highway 51 during a 45-minute stop. The visit drew a crowd of several dozen supporters. Vukmir says her opponent Tammy Baldwin would prefer to see "catch and release" of illegal immigrants at the border, but Vukmir said the U.S. is and should be a "nation of laws."

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911 System - Vilas Co. dispatch to update current system, will get text to 911	News	10/29/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Vilas County's dispatch service wants to keep up with technology. That's why the department will be getting a complete upgrade. Soon the dispatch center will switch to a program called "Next Generation 911." The new system will allow people to text 911 when a phone call may not be the best option. "Whether they're inside a building in an active shooter type situation where they don't want to be found, go in the bathroom and you can just have a conversation with a dispatcher through texting," said Vilas County Communications Lieutenant Greg Fulton. The program will eventually allow people to send video and pictures to dispatch as well. Fulton said those services will be a big help to emergency responders. "When they get images and live stream videos of an accident or a situation they're dealing with that'll give us more information to respond with the proper resources," said Fulton. Fulton said the new system's text to 911 feature will likely be installed by the end of this year.
Rhinelander Airport to continue with Skywest service to Twin Cities	News	11/1/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Air travelers out of the Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport who rely on SkyWest Airlines flights to and from Minnesota's Twin Cities can look forward to continued flights in the future. This week, the DOT awarded the airport a two-year contract with SkyWest. Airport Director Matthew Leitner says the opportunities allow the airport to plan accordingly for the next few years. "There's a level of certainty inherent in that we haven't had in several years because they were on a continuing resolution for the last several years," said Airport Director Matthew Lietner. "Just almost month to month funding."
Election Day - Free Transportation Effort	News	10/31/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	"Obviously it is critical that anybody of voting age votes," said Oneida County on Aging Director Dianne Jacobson. But for some voters, getting to the polls can be difficult. "One of the concerns I hear from voters is 'I don't know if I can get there, I don't know how I'm going to get there, I don't know how to get a ride, I can't drive any longer,'" said Oneida County Clerk Tracy Hartman.
Election - U.S. Senate Race: Vukmir visits Rhinelander	News	11/3/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Republican U.S. Senate candidate Leah Vukmir visited Rhinelander Saturday night with only days until the election. Vukmir arrived at the Al-Gen Dinner Club where Club owner Rob Swearingen introduced her to the crowd. Vukmir talked about poll numbers and said she wasn't afraid that she was behind. She then explained the stark contrast between her and her opponent Sen. Tammy Baldwin. "She supports open borders, sanctuary cities, abolishing Ice," said Vukmir. "I stand strongly and firmly with building that wall and making sure that we secure our border." Vukmir is visiting 60 cities in the state before Tuesday. She said she wants to she's to hear what people care about most.

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Election: Absentee Voters show high turnout	News	11/2/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	The general election heads our way in four days. Some people made sure to get a head start. Early absentee voting took place for people who cannot make it to the polls next week. Rhinelander City Clerk Val Foley says numbers for the city were high this year. 519 ballots were requested. 498 ballots were returned to City Hall. "I think this is an important election," said Foley. "There are a lot of issues on the ballot that people are interested in and they want to make sure they get their votes in."
Chronic Wasting Disease	News	11/7/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Two confirmed Chronic Wasting Disease cases less than two miles apart in the Northwoods worry the DNR. The first was found during the 2017 gun-deer season in northeastern Lincoln County of County A. The second came during a special hunt in March 2018 near Crescent Corners in Oneida County. The agency is trying a new approach to find out if the disease is spreading. The DNR is offering 270 deer surveillance tags starting Thursday. Hunters get a permit to shoot an adult deer on specific public lands in Oneida, Lincoln, Vilas, or Forest counties. The zones are within two regions of a ten-mile radius around the positive tests one termed the "Harrison" zone, the other near Three Lakes where a deer on a game farm tested positive in late 2015.
Education: Three Lakes Schools receive grant	News	11/8/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	A Northwoods school received another safety grant, but this time it's for more than securing the building. The Three Lakes School District got more than \$28,000. In part, that money will be used to train faculty on student mental health. "When you talk about mental health it's critical because someone who is struggling, even if they have a headache for the day, they're not going to be an effective learner," said High School Principal Gene Welhoefer. "So addressing their mental health issues is very important."
Community: Time to prepare for the winter season	News	11/9/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	You might not like scraping off your car, salting your driveway, and shoveling your sidewalk, but we don't have much of a choice this week. That means people are running to the local hardware stores to get supplies. Items like salt, snow blowers, and shovels have been flying off the shelves at Menards in Rhinelander. Menards Assistant Manager Joshua Pieper was happy to see a lot of customers. "Salt's one of those things where you need it every year and you need to buy more. You buy your snow blower, you got that, you buy a shovel, you got it for a number of years. But obviously salt, something you're always going to need more of," says Menards Assistant Manager Joshua Pieper. Joshua also encourages you to get supplies for an emergency kit in your car. Items like a tow rope, non-perishable food, water, a flashlight, and road flares can be helpful in the event of an emergency.

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Community: Time to prepare for the winter season	News	11/9/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	This latest batch of snow caused some slick roads Friday morning. Highway crews did their best with the supplies on hand. The Oneida County highway department uses a mixture of salt and sand to treat its roads when it gets very cold. The process in making that mixture has been delayed this year. That frustration though is just the latest issue. "Winter was still going on in April when we're normally on summer road maintenance; or just the starting of it. And then of course, all of the rain that we've had in the last couple months put our construction way behind," says Oneida County Highway Commissioner Bruce Stefonek.
Election: What happens to the ballots after the election?	News	11/14/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Nearly half of the entire state of Wisconsin voted this month. November's midterm election brought out more voters than usual. But after all those ballots are cast, there are a few rules about what happens to them. Carrying those rules out takes a lot of teamwork. After all the ballots are cast on Election Day, they end up at a county clerk's office. Vilas County Clerk Dave Alleman says ballots must be kept for 22 months, but that presidential elections ballots are kept a little longer.
Community: Time to prepare for the winter season	News	11/19/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Not many people like to drive in the winter. A vehicle break-down can add more to the headache. With snow already beginning to fall, auto shops are busy. People are bringing their vehicles in to have them checked and to be ready for the season. Some of the most common things people should have checked include the battery, windshield wipers, and windshield washer fluid. However, the most common issue that actually causes a car to have problems is actually with the heat itself. "People start to have a no heat condition which could be related to a faulty thermostat; or also when you get a no heat condition, it could have been that the coolant is low and you never would have known that you didn't have head during the warmer months so that would…could signify an internal engine problem or just an external leak," says James Maze, Owner of Maze Certified Auto Repair.
Chronic Wasting Disease	News	11/19/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	The Upper Peninsula hoped this day would never come. Hunters and biologists watched chronic wasting disease spread north across Wisconsin, infecting and killing deer in its path. They hoped the U.P. deer herd would stay free of the deadly disease. But this year, a deer killed east of Iron Mountain tested positive. That triggered a quick and aggressive response from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). "It's a pretty steady stream of people," said MDNR wildlife technician Ryan McGillviray as he worked on a deer carcass Monday.

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Crime / Child Safety - School Janitor charged with sexual assaulting student	News	11/21/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	A janitor working in a Rhinelander elementary school faces felony charges for sexually assaulting a young girl at school on Tuesday. Police say 65-year-old Stavros Iliopoulos took the girl into a dark closet and hugged, kissed, and touched her inappropriately at Northwoods Community Elementary School, a public charter school in Harshaw. "This is a very serious situation that occurred in a school," said Oneida Co. Sheriff's Capt. Terri Hook on Wednesday. "A student had reported to a teacher that there had been some inappropriate contact between herself and, obviously, Mr. Iliopoulos."
Avoid Scam	News	11/20/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Even as we approach the season of giving, some people want to take. Since Monday afternoon, Wisconsin Public Service has received 40 reports of scam phone calls made to customers. The scammers claim to be from WPS, and threaten disconnection if they don't get money. Both business and residential customers have been targeted.
Three Lakes Schools seeking donations to help keep students warm	News	11/26/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Recess during a Northwoods winter can get chilly for students who don't have the proper gear. A Three Lakes School District counselor needs a little help to make sure elementary kids can enjoy their time outside to the fullest. Kirsten Margitan says young kids sometimes lose track of their own gloves and hats, or may not own ones that are warm enough to spend long periods of time outside. So, Margitan keeps a stock of donated winter gear at both the Three Lakes and Sugar Camp Elementary for students to use as needed.
Rhinelander Airport to continue with Skywest service to Twin Cities	News	11/27/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Rhinelander's new airport director faced a challenge he didn't expect on his first day back in May. People wanting to book a summertime flight couldn't find an open seat. Matthew Leitner saw a chance to add service and got to work putting together a presentation for Delta Airlines. Last week he got some great news. Delta agreed to add a late-morning flight in and out of the Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport starting in June through part of August 2019.

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Drugs: Meth Awareness Day	News	11/30/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Meth use went up again in the Northwoods this year. Local police say it's an everyday battle, which makes Meth Awareness Day all the more important. From 2011 to 2016, it became a lot easier to get meth in Wisconsin. Use increased by 250 percent, according to a statewide study. Police and sheriff's offices are urging people to openly talk about the dangers of meth. "When somebody is not employed and has a several hundred dollar a day habit, they have to be eating that money somewhere," said Oneida County Captain Tyler Young's. "So that trickle down effect does make it their issue." Captain Young recommends talking about these problems around the dinner table even if meth doesn't directly affect you.
Rhinelander Upcoming Street Project: Stevens Street	News	12/7/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	A well-timed grant will help next year's project to rebuild a busy Rhinelander street. In 2019, major utility, sidewalk, and roadway work will begin on Stevens Street. The city just got a \$750,000 grant from the USDA Clean Water Fund. It will help pay the \$18 million cost of the project. "The city always is looking for the means to curtail the costs to our constituents. We've been successful in doing that on several occasions," Rhinelander Public Works Director Tim Kingman said.
Local Schools concerned with Bullying	News	12/10/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Last week, a cell phone video surfaced on social media showing a boy pushing another boy into the snow at James Williams Middle School in Rhinelander. Another cell phone video filmed at the school shows a student punching another boy in the face before shoving him down. The school says the incidents were staged, designed for posting on social media. But even if that's true, the videos have parents talking about bullying and aggression in Rhinelander schools. The mother of the boy pushed to the ground told Newswatch 12 she was upset and appalled when watching the video. That parent asked to remain anonymous. Her son told her he was fooling around when he accidentally made contact with a member of a certain clique, and the push was revenge.
Community: Time to prepare for the winter season	News	12/10/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	It's easy to slip on ice, skid on roads, or get stuck in the snow. One thing that also happens is joint pain from common winter activities. Shoveling heavy snow is one of the biggest problems Rhinelander Chiropractor Dr. Tony Lowenberg sees causing this pain. He said shoveling is a physical activity that can cause excessive stress on the body; especially for people who don't lift heavy often.

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Snowmobile Safety	News	12/17/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	The Oneida County Sheriff's Office and the School District of Rhinelander want to work together to limit snowmobile-related crashes. They're teaming up for a snowmobile safety course in late January. Sheriff's Deputy Brad Fogerty will lead the class at the Superior Diesel Advanced Learning Center in Rhinelander High School. It runs Jan. 21 through Jan. 23 from 4 to 7 p.m. The classes focus on reducing the potential for crashes, conflicts between riders and landowners, and promoting safe use of the machines.
Sheriff: Patrols to increase on School Bus Routes	News	12/19/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	A few weeks ago a Rhinelander student nearly got hit while getting onto her school bus. After that, law enforcement decided it was time to amp up patrols along bus routes. On Wednesday an Oneida County Sheriff's detective followed that very same bus to see how many drivers would violate the law. "Honestly, I was like 'It's about time,'" said bus driver Renea Jolin.
Area Ice Conditions - Caution	News	12/21/2018	6, 7, 8A and 5p	:20	Going out on the ice earlier this week meant taking a big risk in many places. Highs in the 30s and 40s last week were temperatures we typically don't see this time of year. "Right back up again next week so this is not a familiar December weather pattern," said WJFW Chief Meteorologist Geoff Weller. Normally the Northwoods averages high temperatures in the mid-20s. The above average temperatures have caused snow and ice to thaw out. "People are nervous going out and fishing right now," said Kurt's Island Sport Shop owner Kurt Justice. The lack of people ice fishing has recently caused a few items at Kurt's Island Sport's Shop to not sell well.