

WHOH-FM  
RESULTS BROADCASTING OF RHINELANDER, INC.  
QUARTERLY ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST  
April 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 1/1/2015 to 3/31/2015.

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Description of Issue	Program/Segment	Date	Time	Duration	Narration of Type and Description of Program/Segment
Three Lakes High School Football team moves into 11 Player Local Conference	News	1/21/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The Three Lakes football team will look a little different starting in the fall. That's because they will be playing with 11 players instead of eight. The school board unanimously approved the decision last week. The change will put Three Lakes back into the Northern Lakes Conference, which means the Bluejays won't have to travel out of the way just to play football. They will get to play more local teams like Crandon and Wabeno-Laona. "The football team is pretty fired up," says Three Lakes Athletic Director Gene Welhoefer. "The kids who are football athletes are involved in a number of other sports, but they're looking forward to football season because they know they're going to get to play the next town over, and they're going to get to play the conference kids that they see in the other sports and have those rivalries back." Three Lakes football originally switched to the eight men format because their enrollment numbers were down, but Welhoefer thinks this change will bring out more kids to the sport. "I think that our numbers are going to increase," says Welhoefer. "We had a strong junior high program last year so we're going to have a feeder program going. It is going to build some of that enthusiasm, and we're back to Friday night football." Eleven-man football in Three Lakes will start again in the 2015 season.
Water Pipe Freeze Advisory for Three Lakes	News	3/1/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	People living in Three Lakes should start running their water. The Three Lakes Sanitary District wants everyone to run a pencil-sized stream of water from one faucet. It should run from the cold faucet 24 hours a day. The sanitary district will let people know when they can stop running water.
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS PROGRAM EXPANDING LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS	News	1/12/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin will expand this year. They're looking for volunteers to help with the process. The Rhinelander program now includes community-based mentoring. Big Brothers Big Sisters came to Rhinelander in January, 2014. For the past year, it has exclusively focused on school-based mentoring, while Kinship of the North provided community mentoring. But Big Brothers Big Sisters will now have community and school mentoring programs. "[Kinship] decided to fold," said Big Brothers Big Sisters development and marketing coordinator Mary Kinnunen. "They asked Big Brothers Big Sisters if we could do community-based mentoring in Rhinelander, and we said, 'Absolutely.'" Big Brothers Big Sisters hopes to help children in the community by matching them with mentors. They still need more volunteers to help in Rhinelander and Northland Pines. "The big and the little spend about an hour a week for a year together. The research shows that a child will have better performance in school," said Kinnunen. You can find information on how you can volunteer on the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin website.
Employee Worker Rights Education Program	News	1/19/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	"Can my boss do that?" The new Northern Wisconsin Center for Working People wants to help workers in the Northwoods answer that question. The Rhinelander-based organization focuses on workers' rights. It looks to educate, empower, and mobilize workers in northern Wisconsin. "Sometimes, we just hear things at work, and we take it as the gospel," said NWCWP President Jackie Cody. "Yet, we need to check it out to see, to sort out fact from fiction at the workplace as far as worker rights are concerned." Northern Wisconsin has been without a workers' rights center until now. Rhinelander becomes the third city in the state with a designated workers' rights center, joining Milwaukee and Madison. "No matter where they live, whether it's rural or urban, [whether the workers are] ethnic or not, all have common problems at the workplace," Cody said. "They may be varying degrees of difficulty, but they need a place to go." The Center for Working People opened its office inside the ArtStart building in downtown Rhinelander. It's open Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment. Get in touch by calling 715-360-6732 or emailing nwcwp@yahoo.com

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Downtown Rhinelander, Inc. - could lose funding	News	1/22/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A group that promotes downtown Rhinelander could lose about half of its funding if enough downtown Rhinelander business owners stop giving money to the group. Businesses in downtown Rhinelander give money to the Business Improvement District, also called the B.I.D. The B.I.D. then gives money to Downtown Rhinelander, Inc. D.R.I uses that money to bring visitors to the downtown area. D.R.I relies on the Business Improvement District for a lot of its funding. "Our budget is a little over \$200,000 a year," says Downtown Rhinelander, Inc. President Dan Kuzlik. "We get about \$100,000 from the B.I.D., so we get just a little less than 50 percent from the B.I.D. But we do write grants. We also get donations that come to us, and a big thing that we do is fundraisers." If enough downtown business owners sign a petition to stop funding the B.I.D., it will shut down. However, the success of the petition isn't based on the number of signatures, but on how much certain businesses are worth. "It isn't by number; it's by valuation," Kuzlik said. "So a couple of very large property owners can really swing that because, if it gets to 50 percent valuation, then they can take the B.I.D. down. But that could just be three or four or five people," Kuzlik added. D.R.I does have money saved in case they lose funding from the B.I.D. "Luckily, we do have a fund balance that we carried over by being prudent over the years, and those dollars were donated to the B.I.D. to be spent by Downtown Rhinelander Incorporated," Kuzlik said. "Our assumption is we're going to be able to hang on to those dollars, and that will allow us to operate for some period of time." D.R.I's president says the group brings in 19,000 visitors a year to the downtown area. D.R.I puts on events like Redikulus Dae, PotatoFest, and Hodags on Parade.
Crime Law & Order - Drug busts on the rise	News	1/27/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Police in one Northwoods community feel like they've dealt with a lot of drug busts lately. Five people were arrested in Rhinelander in January on meth-related charges. But police say there are still people on the street who know how to make the drugs. The number one question is where police should start trying to solve the problem. Some police leaders believe they should target the people making the drugs. Rhinelander Police Chief Mike Steffes says education and communication with drug users and potential drug users are key factors in stopping drug abuse, but stopping it at the source is what they're trying to tackle right now. "For example being able to purchase the pseudoephedrine compound and other things that go inside of the mixture," said Steffes. "So hopefully we'll be able to resolve it at the source that way." Steffes says heroin has also affected the community. He says the Drug Enforcement Administration stopped funding the "National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day," which offered a safe location to dispose of expired, unused or unwanted prescription drugs. Now the Rhinelander Police Department is trying to find a safe way to prevent those prescription painkillers from opening a gateway to heroin abuse for some people. "It's a scary fact for me because the estimates are 80 percent of people who abuse heroin start out abusing prescription drugs," Steffes said. "So we want to make sure we have an outlet to be able to get rid of those prescription drugs." Steffes says there is no "Drug Take-Back" scheduled for Rhinelander this year. He says the police department is trying to keep its drug drop box open as long as it can. Steffes hopes to have a way to dispose those drugs available by February.

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Education - State Program PIE gets students Job Ready	News	1/29/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>A Northwoods group that strives to help make students job-ready got special recognition from Gov. Scott Walker on Wednesday. Rhinelander-based Partners in Education, or PIE, was one of 17 individuals and groups honored with the 2014 Wisconsin Financial Literacy Award. The non-profit started in 2009. It works with local businesses and community leaders to offer additional educational opportunities for K-12 students in Rhinelander. "It's really partnering together to help all of our students get those 21st century skills that they need to be successful after graduation," said Leah Van Zile, PIE's past president and current board member. "And really just to be successful and grow our local economy and expose the kids to all the great opportunities there are here in the Northwoods." The group organizes two financial literacy events each year. The Mini Business World and Mad Money Financial Simulations have been included in the School District of Rhinelander's curriculum. PIE was the only organization from the Northwoods to recognition from the state. "We want it to continue to grow, and it's under great leadership continually now," said Van Zile. We continue to grow our board of directors and our membership base, which is fabulous. And really everybody pitches in in our community to bring these opportunities to the students. So we want to continue with that track record." The Governor also honored the following individuals from our area: Melissa Meyer, a DC Everest Middle School teacher Kristin Verhulst of W2 Job Development Aaron Mielke, Wheels to Work program in Marathon County To learn more about PIE and to donate, click on the link below.</p>
Rhineland Police Dept. - Upgrading Squad Cars	News	1/30/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>Police squad cars get a lot of wear and tear. That's why the Rhinelander Police Department needs to upgrade at least one of them every year. The department will upgrade its 2005 Chevy Tahoe to a 2015 Chevy Tahoe. Rhinelander Police Chief Mike Steffes thinks it's important to trade in one car each year. "Driving around in the city, we have city miles," Steffes said. So the vehicle is idling as squads are parked, for example, running radar while they're out talking to people at scenes. The squad will sit idling. We can't really turn it off, because you have all the computer equipment and everything else that's inside of the vehicle," he said. "It has to stay either warm in the wintertime or cool in the summertime." Chief Steffes says the department has 10 different cars. It can get costly if the cars aren't upgraded. "As the vehicle starts aging, they start costing a lot more money," Steffes said. "The maintenance on the vehicles to try to keep them running, as well as the dependability to make sure the vehicles are prepared and dependable for officers to be able to get safely to the scene." The department will trade in the truck once the city council approves the bid.</p>
Rhineland Safe Ride Program	News	2/2/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>Most people probably won't think about St. Patrick's Day for at least a couple of weeks, but a group in Rhinelander wants to get an early start on the festivities. The group's main concern is making sure people who drink get home safely. David O'Melia, The Rhinelander St. Patrick's Day Parade chairman, encourages people to use the Safe Ride Home Program. Having a yellow Safe Ride Home tag in the back of your car after you've called for a safe ride home was one of their top priorities. O'Melia says placing the yellow tag in the back of the car not only lets the police know you're getting home safely, but you're keeping the community safe as well. "It fits in well with the community, keeps everybody safe, and they know that they can get home without getting arrested or hurting or killing someone. It's just a good idea," said O'Melia. Co-chairman Jack Winkler says he doesn't remember anyone getting cited for OWI last year. When they started the parade four years ago, their main focus was to celebrate the Irish American community. "We like to drink, celebrate, eat good food, and we talked about it and talked about. And finally one day David and I sat down and said, 'It's time that we get something done,'" Winkler said. Committee members look forward to hosting a safe event. They're also looking into whether it's possible to include the School District of Rhinelander marching band. But whoever they get, they want it to be festive. O'Melia says a lot of people came out last year, but having a marching band might bring out more people. "It'll make it more festive and it'll add another dimension to what we're doing. It would be nice to have music walking down the street," O'Melia said. After all the fun is done, there's the clean-up. Winkler says they try to have business owners keep the spots clean in front of their business. "Then we'll go through after the parade in the evening, to see how dirty it is," said Winkler. "Tim Phelan, one of the other people, just retired from the city. He and I will probably police the downtown early in the morning the next day so we don't have too much of a mess to clean up." Committee members hope to see as many people celebrating as they did last year. If anyone is interested in joining the parade, contact Winkler at 715-369-3030.</p>

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Education - High School Students Encouraged to start applying for Scholarships	News	2/3/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Students at a Northwoods high school can start applying for some local college scholarships Wednesday. Rhinelander High School seniors can apply for scholarships through the Rhinelander Area Scholarship Foundation. Last year, students got almost \$300,000 in scholarships from the organization. Rhinelander High School's principal says many students get anywhere from \$500 to \$3,000. But the foundation's biggest scholarship should pay for all four years of college. "One of our scholarships is pretty much what we call a life-changer," said Rhinelander High School principal David Ditzler. "It provides full tuition, full room and board, books, and some of travel cost to and from college for the four years at about the rate of what it costs to go to Madison." There are many community donors who contribute to the Rhinelander Area Scholarship Foundation. "Many families, businesses, organizations, civics clubs--all have the desire to provide scholarship monies to our students.," Ditzler said. "The scholarship foundation coordinates, organizes, sometimes even manages those resources." The high school helps students fill out FAFSA forms, get grants, and apply for other scholarships.
Lions Club Fisheree	News	2/11/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	We'll see some chilly temperatures this weekend, but that probably won't stop fishermen from heading out on the ice. The Rhinelander Lions Club will host its 39th annual Fisherree and Winter Festival this weekend. Event Co-Chairman Harry Helwig doesn't think single digit temperatures will scare people off. "Up here in Northern Wisconsin we dress properly," Helwig said. "Everybody wears boots, or whatever--snowmobile parkas or snowmobile suits and so on. They're very wind protective. This isn't going to be their first time fishing in most cases, either. They have been out parts of this winter." The Lions raise money for certain local organizations. One of the biggest is the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt. It's a camp for kids with disabilities, including hearing and visual impairments. "We send about 1,300 kids to that camp from Wisconsin--who are disabled or handicapped in some way--to that camp every summer for a week, each one. It cost about \$600 to \$650 per child," said Helwig. "They don't pay anything. We Lions sponsor everything for every child that goes there." The Flannel Faceoff Race will also take place Saturday and Sunday in connection with the Fisherree.
Crime Law & Order - Police arrest homicide suspect	News	2/12/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The Rhinelander Police Department arrested a second person Thursday in connection to a 2003 homicide. The department says it arrested 40-year-old Shannon Wolf for his role in Kenneth Wells' death. Police found Wells' body in the Wisconsin River near Rhinelander more than 10 years ago. Thirty-three-year-old Latoya Wolf of Tomahawk is charged for her alleged involvement in Wells' murder. She made her first appearance in court in January. She told police Shannon Wolf was the one who killed Wells. Shannon Wolf was arrested on charge of first degree intentional homicide and hiding a corpse.
Election - School Board	News	2/16/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Ann Munninghoff Eshelman has deep roots in Rhinelander. She grew up in the town and went to its schools. For 30 years she worked as a public defender, and she was the first woman attorney to have a practice in Rhinelander. Now Munninghoff Eshelman is an adjunct philosophy professor at Nicolet Area Technical College. She volunteers at the Rhinelander Food Pantry and just returned from volunteering in Zimbabwe. Munninghoff Eshelman is also running for Rhinelander School Board. She is one of five people running for open spots on the board this year. "I had so many different options for me and that's what I want to try to keep available for young people in this community, is for them to have all the options available to them that a good education provides," she said. Her parents both worked for the school board when she was young. She attributes her success to her education in the Northwoods. "I'm just so lucky," she said. "And when I think about that luck, I think it all really has to do with education. And I had so many educational opportunities that I just so want young people today to continue to have." The elections will take place on April 7. Munninghoff Eshelman and Gerald Anderson will run against three incumbents: Jim Winkler, David Holperin and Ron Counter.

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Rhinelanders Boys Swim Team sends 6 to State Competition	News	2/17/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Some members of the Rhinelanders boy swim team will compete at state. It's the first time in six years any members of the team have qualified. That's a long stretch for a historically good program. Rhinelanders boys swimming has 22 individual state titles, the 12th most in the state. The Hodags have a new coach who won six girls state titles, and she's trying to bring the program back to where it once was. That's all while she's been dealing with stage four cancer. The Hodag Hall of Famer Lindsay Byrka wants to bring back the work ethic that made Rhinelanders's swimming program successful. "I'm exactly trying to replicate the experience that I had because I had an amazing experience with coaches I had an amazing group of teammates," Byrka said. "Putting the new spins with the information we know about the tech suits. I'm trying to implement all of that with what worked for us." Byrka believes it's crucial to push as hard as you can during the 12 week season rather than focusing on distance. "It was the hardest year I've had in swimming I think I've been swimming for 10-11 years," Rhinelanders Senior Jake Zalewski said. "So far it was just that the practices were so hard not only physically but also mentally you just wanted to stop but you knew in the end it was all going to pay off." Byrka set goals at the start of the year for her team and they have all been met. "You know I walked in on my first day of practice with a sheet, paper I had all of the times that we needed to go and we hit those times at the conference meet, we were a week ahead of schedule," said Byrka. The team trusts her plan. "It makes you feel like, 'well she did it and if she did it then I think I can do it'," said Zalewski. The team is only made up of seven swimmers. Byrka says the average successful swim team in the Great Northern Conference is made up of around 20. "Everyone in conference just kind of looked at us like, 'That's not going to happen,' but they didn't see what I saw," said Byrka. "They didn't see the amount of dedication that I see every day I mean. They, came in every morning and would be dripping with sweat." The team is sending four swimmers for two individual races and two relays. It will take a team effort to come home with medals. "Definitely want to place in the top six so I can get some medals, but seeing how I'm in only one individual event I've got to rely on my teammates so something. I'm going to be motivating them to get some fast times too," said Rhinelanders Senior Ethan Brown.
Rhinelanders Citizens Police Academy	News	2/17/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Some people living in Rhinelanders will soon get the chance to spend personal time with police officers. The Rhinelanders Citizen's Police Academy is gearing up for its eighth year. The academy gives people the chance to see how officers keep the community safe. Rhinelanders Police Chief Mike Steffes believes more people would be interested in law enforcement because of the shooting of Dontre Hamilton in Milwaukee. "I think people want to know the rest of the story. They want to know the truth and we want to be able to share that with them," said Steffes. "We want to be able to explain with them why we do what we do, how we do things and give them a better understanding of how police officers think and the partnerships that we want to be able to establish with the community." Steffes says the program is so popular that people started signing up last year, but they only have 12 spots available. "We try to keep the participants very limited because it's mostly hands on," Steffes said. "So they learn to use all of our equipment and they actually get a chance to have hands on applications of everything that we do." The eight week course will show you what officers do on a daily basis. Meanwhile, the Minocqua Police Department will host its first Citizens Academy this year as well. "It is something that kind of spreads. When I was (with a) previous agency we had started one there and it had such a great success that we brought it here," Steffes said. "Everyone that's attended has given it very high marks and recommends it to other people. We have never had a negative experience in the Citizens Academy." Steffes says this program is geared towards having a stronger relationship with everyone. He says the first step is getting to know each officer. "We try to keep the participants very limited because it's mostly hands on. So they learn to use all of our equipment and they actually get a chance to have hands on applications of everything that we do," said Steffes. The program starts March 5th. The police department doesn't use it to train community officers.

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House Fire in Rhinelander still under investigation	News	2/20/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Fire crews are still investigating what started a house fire west of Rhinelander Thursday night. The fire started around 8:15 p.m. on Highway K just west of Rhinelander. Seven fire departments responded to the fire. Four men living there, including the homeowner, got out safely. The homeowner said he had just stepped out when outlets started smoking. He also said there was a fire in the fireplace. "I left the house to go get a pizza," Ben Brunell, the homeowner, said. "I'm on my way home, my friends had called me saying the house was on fire. When I arrived the house was in flames. It took about 10 minutes...not much you could do about it." Brunell said he bought the house in August, and he said he thought it was about 50 years old. He and his friends spent several weeks remodeling it. He also lost three vintage sports cars in the fire: two Porsches and one Nissan. His roommates had little time to try to stop the fire. "They went down to shut the power off real quick, and when they came back up the living room was starting to be engulfed in flames," said Brunell. Brunell also owns B & B Resale Shop in Rhinelander. He said he lost some of the store's merchandise in the fire. The local American Red Cross Disaster Action Team is helping the residents with stipends for some new clothes and groceries. A Red Cross representative said the residents lost everything. The representative also said all four residents have family in the area. Brunell also set up a donation fund at CoVantage Credit Union in Rhinelander. You can also send donations to PO Box 369 as well.
Delta Airlines to keep service to Rhinelander for another 2 years.	News	2/20/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Delta will keep flying out of Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport for another two years. The commercial airline signed on to continue service in January. A federal program makes sure small communities are served by air carriers like Delta. Skywest Airlines began service with Rhinelander in January 2013. Airport director Joe Brauer says it's important for airlines to service small communities. "It's very important for our economic growth to continue to have good airline service by a major airline carrier like Delta," said Brauer. Delta has two flights to Minneapolis-St. Paul daily. The number of people flying is up about 12 percent from 2013. That means those flights are at 80 percent capacity. Delta has regained many loyal customers since it suspended service out of Rhinelander a few years ago. "I think we have a very good schedule," Brauer said. "After we got Delta back into the market, we built it back up again with good fares and good connections to Minneapolis. That leads to increased passengers." The Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport's contract with Delta will last until at least January 2017.
Election - School Board	News	2/24/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	David Holperin wants to see a plan he helped create carried out in Rhinelander schools. Holperin is an incumbent candidate for the Rhinelander School Board. He has served on the Board for the past three years, the length of a term. During that time, he helped the Board write a long-term strategic plan that the Board began to implement this past December. "I'd like to now see that implementation through, and I'd like to see it become a successful plan," Holperin said. He said that plan includes five parts: striving to provide the highest-quality education in Wisconsin, attracting top-notch educators, managing finances, considering facilities and the future, and communicating these tenants to the taxpayers on an ongoing basis. Holperin said he hopes people will want to work in the Northwoods, and part of making that happen is by improving education. "I'm in the business of hiring people, and I'm finding it hard to find good, highly skilled, highly qualified candidates for not only our industry but for other friends of mine who are involved in business," Holperin said. "So we're really working hard to keep and retain our students and people that grow up in the community. We'd like to retain them here. We'd like them to get into business here." Holperin is the branch manager at Stifel, a brokerage and investment banking firm, in Rhinelander. He grew up in Eagle River and has lived and worked in Rhinelander since the 1980s. Three School Board terms will expire this year, leaving three incumbents and two challengers to contest for the positions.

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Election - School Board	News	2/25/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Ron Counter will finish his third consecutive term as president of the Rhinelander School Board this spring. Counter is running again, and he says he wants to continue giving back to the community. He first ran for the board in the 1990s. He filled many positions on the board, including president a few times. He says his dedication to the community keeps him coming back. "I feel everyone should kind of serve their community," Counter said. "I feel the community's been good to both raising my children and myself." Counter says he wants to make sure every student in Rhinelander gets a good education in the district. He also wants them to have access to good opportunities. "My drive is to provide every child in Rhinelander an equal opportunity to succeed and compete in our world," Counter said. "So it does, it brings you back each and every time." Counter is a respiratory therapist and works at Home Medical Products and Services in Minocqua. He also was a U.S. Marine in the 1970s. He was born and raised in Rhinelander, and has lived there since the 1980s.
Rhinelander Teacher charged with Marijuana Grow and stolen electronics	News	2/25/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Joshua Juergens taught English at Rhinelander High School until police found a marijuana grow operation and stolen electronics at his house. On Wednesday, Juergens was sentenced to 18 months in prison. Juergens was sentenced in Oneida County Court after his probation was revoked. He'll serve three years of extended supervision after he completes his prison sentence. He will get credit for almost eight months already served. Police had found 66 pot plants growing in his house during their investigation.
USA Ice Team Open Trials in Rhinelander	News	2/27/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Anglers from across the country came to Rhinelander Friday to compete at the USA Ice Team open trials. Yes, ice fishing has a national team. "This entire weekend is our US trials," said USA Ice Team Coach Brian Gaber. "So just like gymnastics or hockey or any other US national team, they've got a finals weekend. We've got twenty anglers from four or five different states--Nebraska, Ohio, Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin--trying out for our team." The world championships will be held in Latvia next year. About two dozen people are fishing to get about six spots on the US team. "We're fishing head to head heats, so we're paired up with another angler," said 2015 World Championship Team Member Bob Esbensen. "It's the first one to three fish who wins that heat, and then they do another pairing. The competition finishes on Saturday. "You've got to have the mental strength and focus to be able to fish through, focus, and keep a positive attitude," said Gaber. "You know, people like that are definitely a bonus to a team." While getting ready for next year, the 2015 team is off to the world championships in Finland next month. "We won the gold medal in 2010 in Rhinelander, and we won the bronze medal in 2013 in Wausau," said Gaber. "Overseas, we've been about seventh place." This year, they're ready to take home another gold. To learn more about the USA Ice Team, visit its website at the link below.
Crime Law & Order - Man gets 4 years for local burglaries	News	2/27/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A 35-year-old Rhinelander man will spend four years in prison for burglarizing a number of businesses in Rhinelander in March 2014. Benjamin Marquardt faced 18 charges for breaking into and stealing from restaurants in Rhinelander last March. He pled guilty to eight charges, including four felonies for Burglary-Building or Dwelling, as part of a plea agreement. This wasn't the first time he's been convicted for burglary. Marquardt went to prison for crimes in 2010. In court Friday, Marquardt said he got into a pinch and was sorry for stealing from the businesses. "I can't explain the amount of shame and remorse I have for these actions," Marquardt said. "I have no excuse for these actions other than the insanity of my drug addiction and alcohol addiction." Prosecutors accused Marquardt of robbing Burger King, Arby's, Sunset Junction and Sportsman's Café. Oneida County Circuit Judge Michael Bloom said the burglaries cost Burger King and Arby's around \$10,000 combined. Marquardt had also worked at two of the businesses. "In here, evidence counts for something. The evidence suggests that you are a criminal, at least by your conduct," Bloom said. Bloom called the crimes somewhat sophisticated. He said records showed Marquardt had maneuvered around cameras, which he knew about because he had worked with two of the businesses. He also used his coat sleeve to grab items to avoid leaving finger prints. "I'm sorry for my actions," Marquardt said. "I honestly had no idea what I was doing and I had everything going for me and I threw it all away." Bloom said Marquardt's addiction was a factor in the crimes. However, it doesn't change the ultimate result. "If a mentally ill person is compelled by their condition to hurt people, ultimately they're still going to be locked up." Marquardt will spend five years on extended supervision, after he serves his term in prison. He was also sentenced to nine months for each of the four misdemeanors against him. That sentence will run concurrent with his four-year prison sentence for his felonies.

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100 Year Old Building Torn Down in Rhinelander	News	3/2/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A building that has been a part of the Rhinelander Community for almost 100 years was torn down Monday. Lindey Cleaners has been around since 1920, but the building in downtown Rhinelander hasn't been used in years. Many thought it was necessary for the building to finally come down. "The building is dilapidated," said Sand Creek Consultants President Christopher Rog. "It looks like that on the outside, but if you've ever been in it in the last two or three years since it's been abandoned, it's extremely dilapidated. Walls are falling in, ceilings falling in. There are places where you can fall right through the floor. So it's a safety hazard." The Environmental Protection Agency cleaned the building last year. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation paid for the project through a \$109,000 grant. The Rhinelander City Council hopes to put the open space to better use. "As part of the downtown revitalization, we wanted to have more parking, and this building qualified for the environmental grants to knock it down, and it can eventually be turned into a parking lot," said Rog. The City Council hopes to have the new parking lot finished this summer.
Habitat for Humanity	News	3/3/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Habitat for Humanity Northwoods wants the homes it builds to be more energy efficient. In that spirit, the home it is currently building in Rhinelander will have solar panels. Habitat for Humanity has all the money it needs to build the house, but it needs to raise more money to install the solar panels. The solar panels count as just one of several strategies the group uses to increase the energy efficiency of their projects. "Well, we've been working on improving the energy efficiency of our homes for about six or seven years now," says Habitat for Humanity Northwoods Construction Committee Chairman Rich Urban. "And what we have done is improve the thermal performance of the building so that the heating bills homeowners typically had are very, very low." Students at Rhinelander High School work on the home every school day. There are two groups of students from the Building Trades program who work on the home. Students think they can use what they've learned after they graduate. "I think it's a pretty valuable life skill here. You get to be taught a lot of new things," says student Jake Arno. "I thought it'd be a good idea to take [the class] because it's learning your basic home maintenance and then a lot of other things to go along with it," says student Christina Ives. "So it will help you throughout your life." The home should be done by June. If you're interested in donating to Habitat for Humanity call 715-356-7203 or visit the groups website at the link below for more information.
Rhinelanders Gymnast Heads to State	News	3/3/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The state championship for high school gymnastics takes place this weekend in Wisconsin Rapids. One Rhinelander athlete had her best performance of her career in sectionals and will head to state. "You can only hope for so much as hard as you work for it," said Rhinelander senior Alyssa Ellis. Ellis worked hard to make it to state. "I've been to state since I was around seven years old every year with my sister just to watch, and I thought it was so incredible how talented the gymnasts were," Ellis said. "I never actually pictured myself out there competing." Ellis's sister Tanya finished as high as sixth on the balance beam at state. This year was Ellis's first opportunity to compete in sectionals, after suffering injuries in prior years. "Being that she hasn't been able to compete through conference, when she made it through the conference meet there were tears of joy that she did it without any injury," said Rhinelander Coach April Denis. "All this adrenaline that this would be my last chance that I could do my very best, that definitely got me through along with my teammates cheering me on and my coaches," said Ellis. Their confidence for me really built me up." Before sectionals Alyssa would drag her feet during her bar routine which would result in a deduction, but at sectionals she kept her feet up and she finished third to advance to state. "I had a huge smile on my face going to the top bar 'cause I didn't touch, and I knew I was going to get a really good score," said Ellis. "I was jumping up and down," Denis said. "I think I even started to tear up at that moment, and I looked up and I saw her smiling and I thought 'Keep going.'" Alyssa kept going. "Once I landed and I did the best that I could have ever done in my life, I started having tears of joy on my face."



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Education - Coaches finding unique way to teach	News	3/4/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Some coaches found a unique way to keep kids attention while teaching them to Nordic ski: paintball. The Rhinelander Nordic Ski Team is giving middle school students the chance to have fun in the outdoors while learning the sport. "Really fun," said sixth grader Lily Eternicka. "I was on my toes the whole day waiting for it." "They have a ball," Rhinelander Nordic Ski Coach Jim Wood said. "They're a unique group that they have a lot of energy when they get out of school. You can teach them about 15 minutes of technique, then you have to keep it fun." "It's a tough sport to come out and ski and ski hard, climb hills, learn technique," Wood said. "So if you mix something in like go ski a lap and then you get to shoot a paintball guns at targets, it just adds a lot of fun to it." Paintball isn't an easy sport. "Well, where they hold the paintballs, it kind of slides down your shoulder and it's really tough to get it right," said Eternicka. Coach Wood sees Nordic skiing as another opportunity for students to enjoy the winter in the Northwoods. "Encourage other kids, other youth, to come out to the sport to see that we're out in the weather," Wood said. "It's winter, it's snowing. Come out and ski. Join the ski team and just come out and have fun." His skiers are already encouraging their friends to come out. "That they should come out and really do it 'cause it is super fun and you get to do something fun and active," said Eternicka.
CANTastic - Food Pantry Food Drive	News	3/7/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry held the building day for its CANTastic event Saturday. The food bank hopes to collect thousands of cans of food for the fundraiser. Nine groups spent the morning building structures out of cans and boxes of food. Groups built replicas of the Oneida County Courthouse, the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, and The Lincoln Memorial, among other structures. "The theme is historic buildings, and the theme each year is picked by the groups that participated last year," says Rhinelander Area Food Pantry Executive Director Guy Hansen. "So we ask them for their ideas and somebody came up with historic buildings." The buildings are on display at the Rouman Cinema. You can vote for your favorite structure by donating a can or a box of food. "This year we actually have an anonymous donor that will contribute a dollar to the food pantry for every can or box of food that's used for voting," Hansen said. "So we hope we have lots of cans and boxes that's used for voting." You don't need to buy a movie ticket to cast a vote. Voting is open for the next two weeks. The teams will receive awards for the most cans used, judge's choice, and people's choice.
Local Food Pantry Helps Many Families	News	3/13/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Some students depend on school lunches for food during the school week. Now, the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry makes sure students and their families don't go hungry on the weekend. At Pelican Elementary School, the weekend food program has doubled in size. More than 80 families get backpacks filled with food every weekend. Every student who qualifies for free school lunches can enroll in the weekend food program. "Maybe [they're] going through some tough times," says Katie Morois, the counselor at Pelican Elementary School. "Economic times are hard [for] families. It's really just adding that extra bit of security for them." Many families depend on the backpacks. "They know it's coming every week," Morois said. "They know their student is coming home with it. Students are excited to get the backpacks. It's something that is a consistent little boost." The backpacks contain food that kids can easily prepare by themselves, but the backpacks also have items for the entire family. "The backpacks are filled for children," Morois said. "We have formula for babies. We have baby food for those babies. We support kids all the way up to high school." The program helps make sure kids don't come to school hungry on Monday mornings. "Food fuels the brain," says Morois. "Knowing that they're not coming to school hungry, leaving school hungry, making sure they have that extra cushion where they're home on the weekends and we know they're pantry isn't empty." The program costs about \$120 a year for every child in the program. The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry uses grants and donations to fund the program.

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Concussion Awareness in Youth Sports	News	3/17/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>Former Wisconsin Badgers and San Francisco 49ers linebacker Chris Borland surprised the NFL Monday by retiring at the age of 24, after just one season in the league, citing concerns about the long-term effects of concussions. Rhinelander High School shares Borland's concerns, which is why its focused on keeping its athletes' health and learning capabilities at the highest possible level. "We're doing our best to set up the kids to succeed and for their future," Rhinelander Athletic Trainer Eric Prom said. "We're hoping that they're not having a continuation of symptoms and if we need to, we get the right people involved." In 2007, the school started the athletic training services team. A nurse, athletic trainer, activities director, and doctor make up the team. They're able to focus on many aspects of the athletes' recovery. "We have to not only have what's called 'return-to-play [program],' when an athlete is ready to play their sport [again], but also a 'return-to-learn' program, meaning 'Is the child well enough to be in school?' 'Is their brain well enough to function with memory process?'" said Rhinelander School District Nurse Kerri Schimdt. Prom is on the sideline for Rhinelander football games. He serves an important purpose. "For someone to be on the sideline who understands the injuries, who understands the severity of stuff, it helps," said Prom. "The parents really value that," Activities Director Brian Paulson said. "They know that they have the training and resources to understand a little bit more in-depth of everything that's going on." Health workers believe it all comes back to communication by the student- athlete. "Part of the whole process is to teach the kids what they're looking for, what symptoms might be coming up," Prom said. "They have to be comfortable enough to be honest." With such a large focus on awareness these days, Prom says now is the safest time for athletes to play high school sports.</p>
Water Pipe Freeze Advisory for Rhinelander	News	3/23/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>Rhinelander residents who kept their water running to prevent freezing pipes will get some good news. Warmer weather means it's almost time to turn any running water off. It can be costly for residents to keep their water running through the winter, and it's also expensive for the Water Utility Department. Residents can shut their running water off next Tuesday. "March 31, that'll be the end of the running water," said Rhinelander Water Superintendent Tom Roeser. "The frost is releasing from the ground, so we're confident that we won't have any more freeze-ups." The Water Utility Department also wants people to start thinking about next year, even though it may seem too far into the future to worry about it. "Next year, people should be winterizing their basements, which means if their water meters are in their crawl space, it's their duty to keep everything insulated and heated so we don't have the freeze-ups," said Roeser. You can contact the Rhinelander Water Utility Department at (715) 362-4131 for more information on the running water release.</p>
Education - Program that teaches Confidence and Self-Esteem	News	3/25/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>Girls on the Run of the Northwoods will expand to Rhinelander next year. The organization offers a ten-week program for girls in grades three through five, including a few elementary schools in Vilas and Oneida counties. The program teaches girls about confidence and self-esteem. The girls then complete a 5K at the end of the season. Girls on the Run volunteers think the program helps the community. "Well, these are our future leaders," says President of the Board Hope Williams. "We really need to, you know, help them embrace, you know, being a strong, confident woman and to be able to go out in the world and really make those changes." The organization needs volunteers to expand to Rhinelander. "What we really need to do is get buy-in from folks in this area," says Williams. "So we need people to be on the board, we need people to help with fundraising, and we need all that, like, people that are really interested and that are going to support it." Rhinelander's group will meet at the YMCA of the Northwoods. If you're interested in volunteering or registering, you can find contact information on the Girls on the Run of the Northwoods website at the link below.</p>

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<p>Tourism - Around the Corner with John McGivern features Rhinelander</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/29/2015</p>	<p>6,7,8AM Noon &amp; 5PM</p>	<p>1 minute</p>	<p>A Milwaukee Public TV program came to Rhinelander last summer to profile the city. Around the Corner with John McGivern will premiere its episode on Rhinelander this week, but Rhinelander community members got the chance to see the episode before it airs. Wisconsin Public Television hosted a premiere event Saturday night. The show featured area businesses such as Expera, Ponsse, and Foster and Smith--but it also showcased the community. "Filming what people do living in the area, what the hodag is, so they talked about the history of the hodag, the history of Rhinelander as well," says Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce Tourism and Event Coordinator Lauren Strand. The episode will also air in Minnesota, Michigan, and Illinois. Tourism workers in Rhinelander hope the episode will bring more people to the area. "It's nice for other people to see what the Rhinelander community gets to see every day and see what it's like to live here, and play here, and be here, and hopefully bring other people to the community 'cause it is a nice community to be a part of," Strand says. The episode will air on Wisconsin Public Television this Thursday at 7 p.m.</p>
<p>Ballot Issue - Rhinelander Voters to decide on increase in Sales Tax</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>4/1/2015</p>	<p>6,7,8AM Noon &amp; 5PM</p>	<p>1 minute</p>	<p>Voters in Rhinelander will decide on April 7 if the city should raise its sales tax by one-half cent for every dollar. The proposal takes the form of an advisory question on the ballot; if voters approve the measure, the city would still need help from the state legislature. Rhinelander wants to increase its 5.5 percent sales tax to 6 percent as part of a Premier Resort Area Tax. That increase would only apply to items purchased at what the Wisconsin Department of Revenue considers "tourist-related retailers," a category that includes businesses ranging from toy stores to restaurants to sewing supply shops. State law dictates that all of the money collected from the Premier Resort Area Tax would go toward infrastructure improvements. "When you have a bad street, you also probably have also had infrastructure underneath it, and that's what the issues is," Rhinelander Mayor Dick Johns said. "You can cap those streets, but you've got to really do the work on it in order to do it right." Rhinelander City Administrator Blaine Oborn says this is the only type of sales tax cities are allowed to put in place under state law. Eagle River is one of five Wisconsin cities that have passed the tax. Voters approved the increase in 2006. According to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, in order to enact a resort area tax, at least 40 percent of a city's property value needs to be used by tourism-related retailers. However, a city can seek an exception from the state legislature to levy the tax. Rhinelander would seek that exception if the advisory vote passes. Rhinelander city leaders estimate that two-thirds of the sales tax increase will be paid by commuters and visitors. "Everybody who comes into the Rhinelander area is going to pay the tax, and [doing that] is much easier than trying to do it with [just] 7,000 people on the tax-roll," Johns said. According to city estimates, Rhinelander generates around 66 percent of the \$3.8 million dollars of Oneida County's sales tax revenue. However, the city doesn't receive any of that money. Johns says he's tried to work with the state to change that equation. The city asked the legislature to give cities the power to raise their sales taxes, which counties are allowed to do, but the legislature didn't agree to the plan. Johns says the Premier Resort Area Tax is the only way Rhinelander can hope to improve its infrastructure. "Look at the potholes we've got and all the work we have to do," Johns said. "We need help, and there is only one way to do it, and it is to help ourselves." The city says it has immediate infrastructure needs at Lincoln Street (Oneida to Evergreen), \$425,000; Lincoln Street (Evergreen to Eisenhower Parkway), \$540,000; Stevens Street (Frederick to Dwight), \$460,000; Boyce Drive (Prospect St. to Hwy. 17 Bypass), \$275,000; Kemp Street (Wabash to Oneida), \$230,000; Oneida Ave (Lincoln Street to Oneida Ave Bridge), \$190,000; as well as many more roads that are in need of repair. Newswatch 12 spoke with some Rhinelander business owners to see what they think about the proposal. They all agree infrastructure, especially roads, need to be improved, but none of the owners we spoke with are certain a Premier Resort Area Tax is the way to go. "I don't really feel downtown Rhinelander is a resort area," said I would like it to be. Perhaps better roads would help that," said Hatch, the owner of Imaginuity in Downtown Rhinelander. "I don't feel that calling it a resort area tax really invites tourists to our downtown, which is a negative connotation to me." Hatch doesn't think customers will notice much of a difference in cost, but it will cause a little extra work on her part. "From an administrative standpoint, however, because I have another store in Minocqua, I do have some pricing that rounds up to an even number with tax so, I mean that's going to be a - shoot that theory out the window because it will not be an even dollar at this store," she said. Shirts, Signs and Designs and Sunburst Tanning owner David Meinert feels the city should have looked at other options. He also doesn't think the proposed tax is a broad enough measure to raise the needed revenue. Meinert wants the city to instead work out a deal with the county. "The county has the opportunity to have a .5 percent county tax and half of that revenue they collect is collected inside the city limits and the city doesn't get to have any of it. The county keeps it and spends it. In the meantime, half of our cost is for infrastructure which more than half of the people live outside the city limits. They're the ones using the roads or whatever," Meinert said. Meinert also thinks leaders should consider cost cutting measures rather than just taxing. "Businesses in the city limits need tax relief. They've got to come up with something to generate some revenue that gives the people in the city limits some kind of tax reduction. They're driving property values down because of the tax base. Who's going to build or bring anything into Rhinelander when you can build outside the city limits and pay half the taxes?" Meinert added. City records estimate the Premier Resort Area Sales Tax will generate at least \$400,000 annually in additional funding for transportation infrastructure. That would be instead of raising property taxes or cutting 4 or 5 city positions. The city has cut 11 positions in the last 15 years. City leaders say the state continues to provide tax relief to businesses without replacement funding. For example, the paper mill in Rhinelander has gone from 52 percent of city property tax revenue to 4 percent in 2014 and 1 percent in 2015.</p>

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Downtown Rhinelander business district	News	4/2/2015	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	<p>Businesses in downtown Rhinelander pay taxes to the Business Improvement District. That money then helps Downtown Rhinelander Inc. promote tourism and economic growth in the area. But some disaffected business owners started a petition to dissolve the BID because they felt like they weren't getting their money's worth. After collecting enough signatures from fellow business owners, that petition will now move forward to the city council. If the city council verifies the signatures and accepts the petition, the BID will dissolve, and Downtown Rhinelander Inc. will lose about half of its funding. "[For] the majority of [business owners], it did not boil down to a personal thing in the sense that they felt DRI wasn't necessarily doing its job or [was] totally inadequate or useless," said DRI Executive Director Maggie Steffen. "It turned out to be more of money factor." DRI used to receive \$100,000 from the BID every year. The funding cut could impact some DRI programs, but it won't stop Steffen or the rest of DRI from moving forward with their plans to promote the community. "We have a lot of great things already in process that we're going to keep continuing because the BID is only half of our budget," she says. "We do have another 50 percent of our budget to work with, and we're going to reevaluate things and decide where we want to prioritize and move on from there." Although the success of the petition may indicate that some businesses no longer support DRI, Steffen says the group still enjoys a lot of support from the community as a whole. "We have a lot of supporters, community in general as far as volunteers, businesses that help support all of our programs and our events and things like that," said Steffen. "They all believe and realize that having an advocate for the downtown is truly important. You need to have that voice." Steffen says it's too early to know exactly what projects would have to be cut if the petition goes through but, regardless of the outcome, DRI leaders think it's important to maintain the downtown area. "At the end of the day, when people make the statement that the downtown is the heart of the community, it's a true statement," Steffen said. "And everyone kind of looks to the downtown to see how the city is thriving and progressing and that kind of a thing, so it is important to have the downtown have their best foot forward."</p>