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Pumpkin Fest in Three Lakes	News	10/11/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	It probably looked like a hectic day in Three Lakes Saturday. That's because the 22nd Annual Pumpkin Fest kicked off. Many vendors were able to show off their products to several hundred people. Event-goers took part in an arts and crafts fair, cranberry marsh tours, and taste some favorite fall foods. Those behind the scenes say the crowds get bigger every year at Pumpkin Fest. "We started really small in the community buildings, having a few things," says Event Organizer Del Gries. "Having a few crafts most of made, and then it started getting bigger, and we came here to the school, and it's getting bigger every year." Vendors were allowed to sell anything they wanted. But they had to obey one rule. "All homemade items," says Del. "You're not allowed to sell anything that's manufacturer made. You have to be homemade, and we judge it. They cannot just come in and sell. We judge." All the proceeds from the event benefited the fire department.
Renewable Energy Grant awared to Three Lakes High School	News	10/14/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A local high school will give their students a chance to work hands on with renewable energy. Three Lakes High School received a grant from Wisconsin Public Service to install solar panels. They are the latest school to join the SolarWise School Family. They are the 53rd high school to receive the grant. The solar panels will help students learn about renewable energy by tracking just how much energy the school saves. There was a dedication at the high school today. The students feel lucky to have this opportunity. "I am really looking forward to being able to help our environment and learn more about solar energy. I think it is cool that a small school like us can have something so significant," said freshman Eli Ribbe. SolarWise education wants students to get hands on experience with renewable energy. Teachers are excited to add to the environmental science course by allowing the students to learn hands-on. "We'll be able to go right up on the roof and feel and look at the solar panels. And, we will be able to get that real time data generated right here on top of our school," said Three Lakes High School teacher Ryan Bock. The learning started today at the energy fair. "It increases the relevancy. The students understand why this is important if they learn to be stewards of the environment and they are able to see all the different aspects of renewable energy," said Bock. "Every single booth has helped you learn a little bit more about solar panels and how you can save energy," said freshman Maggie Servent. In the spring the students can compete in the WPS Community Foundation's Solar Olympics at U-W Stevens Point.
Fallen Trees cause strain on City Public Works Dept.	News	10/6/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Something as simple as falling trees can put a big strain on the City of Rhinelander. When trees fall from private land onto public right-of-way like streets, the city needs to clean it up. That can get expensive, especially on weekends and holidays. It also can force workers away from their families on days off. Storms like this one in early September made things difficult for Rhinelander's Public Works department. Some problems could be prevented by people taking better care of their trees, and removing dead or dying ones. Public Works Superintendent Tony Gilman wants to start a conversation with city rulemakers. The issue was on the agenda at Monday afternoon's meeting. The city could eventually ask landowners to help pay for cleanup of trees falling onto public right-of-way.

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Oneida County quarantined for Emerald Ash Borer	News	10/8/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A Northwoods county became the first in Northeentral Wisconsin to be quarantined for Emerald Ash Borer. The state department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection confirmed they have found Emerald Ash Borer in Rhinelander. Emerald ash borer is a beetle that burrows under the bark of ash trees. It creates tunnels that cut off a tree's ability to take in water and nutrients. It eventually kills the tree. The USDA found the beetle in a purple trap on James Williams Middle School property. That means Oneida County is now quarantined. "It means they can't move firewood out of Oneida County. Wood can move into the county freely from forestry and personal firewood collections, but it can't move the other direction," said DATCP Plant Industry Bureau Director Brian Kuhn. Businesses that deal with wood products in Oneida County will work with DATCP to make sure their products don't have emerald ash borer before they transport them. No other counties surrounding Oneida County have been quarantined. Experts believe the beetle was brought to the area by humans, not by pest movement. They didn't see any sign of infestation in the tree near where the beetle was found. "There was nothing clear and obvious to us, you know, so it may be that we're earlier in this infestation than we have been in others that we have found," Kuhn said. Part of the Lac du Flambeau Tribe's land is located within Oneida County's boundaries. The state and federal government are working with the Tribe. It's up to the Tribe to decide if it will quarantine its reservation. Emerald Ash Borer is native to China. Scientists first found it in Wisconsin in 2008. Thirty-seven other counties in Wisconsin are quarantined, many of them are in the southern part of the state. People can move wood between quarantined counties if they border each other, but that's not yet the case in Oneida County.
Oneida County quarantined for Emerald Ash Borer	News	10/13/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The USDA's discovery of emerald ash borer in Rhinelander didn't necessarily surprise city officials. The city's parks director knew it was just a matter of time before it made its way into the area. The USDA discovered the pest near James Williams Middle School. The city already had a plan in place to deal with emerald ash borer. "Three years ago, we got a grant from the DNR to do a tree inventory. And part of that was an emerald ash borer readiness plan so we're ahead of the game in a lot of ways. Some other communities don't even have an inventory," said City of Rhinelander Parks Director Gunder Paulsen. The plan includes an inventory of ash trees on city streets. There are 214 ash trees on Rhinelander streets. The inventory doesn't include the number of ash trees in public parks and private property. But according to the state DNR, ash trees make up as much as 12% of all urban trees statewide. The city planted the ash trees 25 to 30 years ago when Dutch elm disease hit the city's street trees. "When a pest like the emerald ash borer comes along, it can knock out a specific species is what we're seeing," Paulsen said. "So, we've got to learn from our mistakes and in the future, we'll try to use a lot of diversity so that when the next pest comes down the road, it won't be so devastating." The city will start taking down trees they think are in the worst shape as time permits. They'll begin chemically treating about 50 ash trees this spring. The city already planned to dig up many ash trees in downtown Rhinelander as part of the streetscape project. "Traditionally, once a tree is infected, it might be two or three years before you see the signs of it. The construction is slated for 2016 so I think they will take care of themselves," Paulsen added. Paulsen will meet with the DNR soon to survey the area where emerald ash borer was found. He also hopes to organize some community education sessions to make community members aware of what they can do to protect their trees.
Old Lindey Cleaners Building Cleaned up and ready to come down	News	10/13/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	EPA workers think 100 to 150 different chemicals could have been in the old Lindey Cleaners building in downtown Rhinelander. The deteriorating building has been empty since 2009. The EPA did cleanup work this summer, but now the building needs to come down. The Rhinelander city council voted to award the contract to C&D Excavating. City Councilman Alex Young tells us the company has done projects in the area before, including demolishing the former Daily News building for the county. The project will cost almost 48-thousand dollars. The city hopes to make the land into a public parking lot.
Rhinelander Burgular Faces Charges	News	10/13/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Oneida County prosecutors think Benjamin Marquardt pulled off a string of burglaries at restaurants in Rhinelander this spring. He faces 18 charges for burglarizing Burger King, Arby's, Sportsman's Cafe and Sunset Junction. Marquardt was in court Monday. He's in prison for a different crime right now. Police think Marquardt used to work at Sportsman's and Arby's. They also think he had knowledge about the surveillance at Burger King. Marquardt will be back in court later this month.

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Wisconsin Same Sex Marriage	News	10/14/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Same-sex couples in Wisconsin got good news last week. Inaction by the U.S. Supreme Court meant their marriages were no longer blocked. A Northwoods congregation took a major step to open themselves even further to homosexual, bisexual, and transgender people just six days later. On Sunday, Rhinelander's United Church of Christ voted to officially become an Open and Affirming congregation. That means the church not only welcomes LGBT people to its services. It wants to embrace them, and invites them to become fully involved in the church. "Although many churches hang out this big welcome sign and say all are welcome, when it comes to gay and lesbian people, that was often times not the case," said Judy Thoms, who helped organize Open and Affirming education and discussions at the church. "That was kind of an eye-opener for me because our church has always acted open and affirming." Sunday's overwhelming vote sets the Rhinelander UCC apart. The next nearest UCC church calling itself Open and Affirming is in Stevens Point. "Here we are in Rhinelander, smack in the middle of this wonderful countryside, and cabins, and lakes, and we're saying, 'we are an Open and Affirming congregation'," said Rev. Dr. Chris Hucker, the Senior Pastor at the Rhinelander UCC. Unlike in some other denominations, individual UCC churches decide many of their own practices for themselves. That's what allowed the Rhinelander UCC to become Open and Affirming. Other UCC churches regionally include Wisconsin Rapids and Green Bay.
New Indoor Winters Farmers Market	News	10/20/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	One local group wants to make sure you can get fresh local produce even during the winter. The Lean Coalition is partnering with the YMCA of the Northwoods for a new indoor winter farmers market. The Hodag Farmers market closed on Saturday. But you won't have to wait long to get your fresh produce. The indoor winter farmers market opens this Saturday. They are trying to find ways to bring healthy foods to the community throughout the winter months. "Now it is going to be winter time and the farmer's market outdoors is going to close. So, I thought, wouldn't it be nice if we could extend that season and offer it indoors," said YMCA Active Older Adult Coordinator Marilyn Duschl. The winter farmer's market will be held in the lobby of the YMCA of the Northwoods. It will run from 8 a.m. till noon. You will be able to find most of the same local fresh fruits, vegetables, and jams you can find at the area farmer's markets. "The stuff that is in the field is still growing and still fresh until it really freezes. We still have a lot of stuff in the field. We do have a short growing season so it is nice to be able to extend it for them and for us too," said Evergood Farm Owner Brendan Tuckey. Since this is the market's first year, they are not sure how late into the season the market will stay open. They hope vendors will plan for winter markets when planting next year.

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New Food Pantry	News	10/21/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The new Rhinelander Area Food Pantry features new aisles for easier shopping, a sitting area, and large scale for weighing food. You could see the updates at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry Tuesday. The pantry held an open house to celebrate its new location. It opened its doors at 627 Coon Street on October 4th. It's the former Golden Harvest Building. The new set up helps make food distribution more efficient. "Everything is going quite smoothly compared to what it might have. We're still making a lot of changes. As time goes on, as we get more and more comfortable with this area, we'll fit in better. But, it is going very nicely," said executive director Guy Hansen. The move would not have been possible without generous support from the community. Two of the larger donors were honored. The Food Pantry received a \$26,000 donation from the USDA Rural Development match grant to help buy its equipment. It also received a \$10,000 grant from Wisconsin Public Service for the insulation of the building. "They can see what a well-run and efficiently stocked food pantry looks like. We can be proud of this facility that we have here in the Oneida County Area," said Hansen. The pantry is holding a silent auction to raise money. The auction will run until the end of the month. You can submit your bids at the pantry. The pantry distributes food to local households on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. It is always looking for monetary donations and non-perishable food items.
Davenport Street Bridge Out of Service	News	10/27/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	If you're traveling in Rhinelander today, you may need to use a different route. Some lanes on the Davenport Street Bridge will be closed. Road crews are working on the water main. The bridge will be open to west and eastbound traffic, but you can expect some traffic delays. Crews will be out working on the bridge all week long. They hope to finish the project by early November.
Education - Tax Levy	News	10/31/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The School District of Rhinelander will get a little bit more funding from property taxes this year. Rhinelander passed a referendum in 2013. The district gets 4 million dollars per year through 2016. On Monday the district approved the tax rate and mill levy for the year. Taxpayers will pay \$10.99 per thousand dollars of property values. It's an increase of 3 cents from last year. That's because the district is getting less state aid. "Number one is the state is shifting support to local taxpayers, and number two, in 2010 when we approved the referendum the school board went out and got 0% bonds, and those bonds are no longer 0% and the federal government is reimbursing the district with a lower rate and the difference has to be made up by local taxpayers," said Marta Kwiatkowski, the Director of Business Services for the School District of Rhinelander. The district saw an increase in students this year. The district you get a declining enrollment exemption. Last year was over 400,000. It's a three year average of your enrollment which means we're not going to see the full effect until three years," said Kwiatkowski. The district put a detailed summary of what was passed online.
Election - WI Governor Candidates make stops in Northwoods	News	11/1/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Both Governor Walker and democratic candidate Mary Burke want to get voters to the polls on Election Day. Walker and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie encouraged voters in Rhinelander Friday. Burke's tour stopped in Rhinelander Saturday morning. Burke's message was simple. Get voters to vote this Tuesday. "It's about everyone getting out and voting and making sure they're voice is heard," says Mary Burke. "The issues that are on top of people's minds are the ones that are important throughout the state." The race for governor is a close one. The latest Marquette law school poll shows Walker with a 50% to 43% lead over Burke among likely voters. The poll also shows a statistical tie among registered voters. Walker and Burke disagree on issues like education. "I believe we have to prioritize education in the state budget so we have strong neighborhood schools," says Burke. "What we've seen [are] cuts from the state. Governor Walker has made the biggest cuts to education of any state in the country." Burke talked to voters about changes she thinks need to be made in Wisconsin. She believes she will get elected because she thinks governor Walker hash't done enough. "Governor Walker has had four years and he hasn't gotten the job done," says Burke. "Our economy is lagging. He has made cuts to education. He has stood in the way of raising minimum wage. He has actually taken away women's freedoms and [rights] to make their own decisions." Governor Walker spent his day campaigning in Minocqua, Eau Claire, and La Crosse. Both candidates will campaign throughout the state up to Election Day.

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Getting area youth involved in Winter Sking	News	11/6/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	It seems like winter is already here. That means it's almost time for the Nordic Skiing season. The Rhinelander School District hopes to get even more kids skiing this year. "If you can't have fun, it's not worth doing," says Rhinelander Head Coach Charil Reis. That's the message that coaches want to send their athletes. Coach Reis held an information meeting Wednesday to raise awareness for both the high school and middle school skiing teams. She also introduced a new team for younger skiiers called the Sno-dags. Reis hopes to start training the skiiers at a younger age so they have a wealth of experience when they reach high school. "There have been feeder programs in the past, but they ebb and flow, they ebb and flow with the number of volunteers available during certain years, and so now we have a lot of interest again, we have a lot of volunteers who want to beeh, and a lot of families who want to see their kids succeed in sport," says Reis. Reis recruited Bryan Fish, the head development coach of the U.S. Ski Team, and Rhinelander native, to help the program. "She's trying to revitalize the programs, not only from a high school standpoint but also all the programs, so it's exciting for me to come back and lend a hand," says Fish. Fish plans to bring some of his professional advice to help out the students. But his number one message is still the same as Reis's. "One of the most important things is to have fun, and even at the World Cup level, if the athletes aren't having fun, it's not worth doing," says Fish. But having fun isn't the only message the coaches want to send. "The second thing that I would like to do is build team cohesion, and make everybody feel like they're a part of a whole," says Reis. Team cohesion," says Fish. "And so it's one of the areas that we're trying to focus a great deal of attention, and although this is an individual sport, it requires a team effort, not only from the sthole areas that we're trying to focus a great deal of attention, and although this is an individual sport,

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New Sporting Goods Store Opens	News	11/14/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The new Dunham's Sports opened in Rhinelander Friday morning. There was a ribbon cutting at 9 a.m. Dunham's Sports sells athletic equipment, athletic wear, outdoor equipment, and has an expanded hunting department. Some people in the Northwoods say they're excited for a new sporting goods store to come to the area. "There are a lot of people that I know that could benefit from Dunham's Sports. I think it will be a really good deal for Rhinelander," said Jay Wilcox. "We don't have a really good sports store around where you can get jerseys and everything. I am sick of having to go to Wausau all the time to have to get stuff like that," said Tracy Flannery. "I think it will be exciting to have a new sporting goods store in the community to provide products that we can't find locally now," said Andy Beach. "I am always excited to see a new business like Dunham's come to the Rhinelander area. It is a positive sign of growth and a good business climate in the Rhinelander Area," said executive Director at the Rhinelander Area Chamber Dana DeMet. "Alright, I got done shopping. And, tremendous deals, I know I'll be coming back," said Paul Miller. Dunham's will be having sales and door busters all weekend long. On Friday, the first 100 people will receive a free Dunham's t-shirt. Saturday, the first 100 people will get free baseball caps. Sunday, the first 50 people or families will get a \$10 gift card. Dunham's Sports is open Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. It is open Sundays from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.
Students who allegedly shared nude photos with each other won't face charges.	News	11/17/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Current and former School District of Rhinelander students who allegedly shared nude photos on their cellphones won't face charges. On Monday, the School District and the Oneida County Sheriff's Office announced that they have finished a nearly month-long investigation. "A decision was made to stop the investigation and focus on education," said L1 Lloyd Gauthier of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office. That investigation started about a month ago at Rhinelander High School. A male student saw other male students looking at an inappropriate photo of a female classmate. He told his mother. She then called the school's resource officer. "From that the list grew very rapidly of other people who were taking pictures and sending pictures, both male and female students," Gauthier explained. Investigators interviewed more than 40 students. They found students had been sharing inappropriate photos through text messages and smartphone apps like Snapchat for years. Those photos had been shared with people in at least four states. Most of the photos were taken and shared late at night outside of school. But 10 students were suspended for violating a technology use agreement. Those students allegedly shared inappropriate photos using their cellphones while in school. "They had no idea how serious this was. They had no idea how this could affect their future," Gauthier said. "If criminal charges were pursued, some of the photographs that were taken were by students who were at the age of 15 or 16 at the time. They were juveniles. Unfortunately, the law says that they need to be treated at the age when the crime is discovered. Many of them are 17 now. So they'd be treated as an adult when they hadn't done any type of conduct like that, in some cases, for a year or even two years," Gauthier said. That's a major reason none of the students investigated will face charges. "We had numerous meetings with the district attorney, with Department of Social Services, with the school as to what is the best outcome," Gauthier recalled. Th

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PETCO to buy local employer Dr.s Foster and Smith	News	11/20/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The national pet supply company Petco will buy one of the Northwoods' largest employers. About 530 people work at Drs. Foster and Smith in Rhinelander. Drs. Foster and Smith sells pet supplies online. One of the company's founders doesn't think the company will move. "I have no reason to believe they're [going to] leave Rhinelander," says Drs. Foster and Smith founder Race Foster. "Marty Smith and I actually talked to many prospective buyers. The one condition we put was it cannot leave Rhinelander at least in the foreseeable future." Drs. Foster and Smith is the biggest seller of online pet supplies. The sale could even help the community. "If they expand for instance the internet platform there will be a lot of IT jobs here, technology type jobs. I see that happening," Foster said. Company founders say Petco wanted to buy the company so they can offer more pet health supplies. "What they're really doing is they're expanding their animal health capabilities into health and wellness. And what they liked about our company is that that's what we are. We're veterinary owned and operated," says Foster. The sale could also benefit Drs. Foster and Smith. "We can use their resources to help us grow, more opportunities for marketing, and we give them some animal health expertise that I think they wanted for their plan," Foster said. The company's management won't leave Rhinelander. The founders will also stay. "We have friends that work here. We have family that works here. I want to continue working here and Marty's [going to] continue working here," says Foster. The company will be officially sold in February.
Downtown Revitilization - Holiday Open House	News	11/21/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The opening of the gun deer season often leaves wives and girlfriends at home on their own. Downtown Rhinelander hopes it can attract many of those women, and maybe even some men, to get started on holiday shopping. The first-ever Holiday Open House on Saturday will feature sales, special events, and demonstrations at several businesses. Its timing falls perfectly with the hunting season. "There are a lot of women looking for something to do when the guys are out hunting," said Ruth Hempel, the co-owner at Forth Floral. "It just kind of morphed into this great weekend where a lot of the businesses in Rhinelander open their doors." The Holiday Open House weekend slides into the place where Holiday Expressions used to be. That event at Holiday Acres in Rhinelander isn't running this year. The Holiday Open House is a way for small businesses to get a head start on larger ones. "Black Friday is always a big box store shopping time, and internet shopping time," Lund and Taylor Bridal Gallerie co-owner Mary Taylor said. "We'd just like people to come in the week before and check out downtown and see what we have."
Proposal to Raise Sales Tax on tourism related businesses	News	11/23/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Some Wisconsin cities rely on tax money from tourists to pay for certain things. Rhinelander's city administrator wants to know if people would support raising sales tax on tourism related businesses. The question will be on the ballot next spring. City leaders think the extra tax could bring in about \$400,000 every year. Businesses like restaurants and department stores would see the increase. The money would help improve the city's roads. "It would bring the rate from 5.5 to 6% and that would only be for tourism related goods and services that would be taxed and the city would be able to use that revenue to hopefully improve our road infrastructure which is real difficult for us to have the funds to maintain," says Rhinelander City Administrator Blaine Oborn. A similar ordinance was passed in Eagle River in 2006. City employees say it will help since tourists use the roads. "So there's a lot of people who use our services and this would be a generated to pay for a lot of the things that we need to repair because of the usage." This referendum is only a survey. The Wisconsin legislature will need to approve it before the tax is implemented.

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Rhinelander comprehensive plan - Look for a Survey in your property tax bill this year.	News	11/27/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	l minute	People living in Rhinelander will find something extra with their tax bills this year. They'll get a survey. Cities are required by law to create a comprehensive plan. They create a new plan every decade. City leaders hope the survey results will help them plan for the city's future. "Answers to this survey are going to guide what ends up in the city's comprehensive plan, which is going to dictate and guide the city leaders in the next ten or twenty years on a lot of decisions, you know, that affect how the city's going to do different things, what the city's going to do, what types of things people want to see out of the city, that sort of thing," said Alderman Alex Young. Survey takers will also get the chance to give their input on what recreational offerings they'd like to see in the city." I think it's the first time we're doing an outdoor recreation plan. We tacked that onto the comprehensive plan and so there are a number of questions in the survey that deal specifically with outdoor recreation and with parks and what types of recreation amenities people would like to see in the city," Young explained. The surveys will also be available online for renters and other people who don't get a tax bill. They're due January 15th.
Oneida County Man Jailed after assualting officer	News	12/3/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Prosecutors think a Rhinelander man fought with an Oneida County Jail corrections officer. Police say Jeremy Cooper fought with the officer in November after he was arrested. Cooper allegedly elbowed and put the officer's neck in a headlock. He was arrested earlier because he wasn't supposed to be drinking. A Rhinelander police officer first spotted Cooper when he was in the middle of the road waving his hands. Cooper told the officer he was walking home from a friend's house when he saw what he thought was a pack of wolves. He said he was yelling at the wolves so they'd stay away. Cooper admitted to drinking that night when he wasn't supposed to because of earlier charges. He's charged with a felony for battery by a prisoner and three misdemeanors for resisting an officer and bail jumping. Cooper will be back in court later this month.
Fire Destroys Barn	News	12/4/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A fire destroyed a barn at Fort Wilderness camp Thursday afternoon. No people or animals were hurt. The fire started from a tractor in the barn. The building was used for storing hay and tractors. It's estimated there's about \$75,000 of damage. The fire is still under investigation. Newbold, Cassian, Crescent and other fire departments helped put out the fire.
Shop with a Cop	News	12/7/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Santa might not be the only one watching you. If you're good, you might get a present from a cop. 20 Rhinelander 3rd graders got to shopping for gifts with Rhinelander officers. The experience helps kids see a happier side of the Police Department. "We get to know the kids and they get to know us other than just law enforcement. Most of the time, they see us in bad situations. This time, they get to see us in a good situation and get to know us as people," says Officer Chad Brown of the Rhinelander Police Department. Each Rhinelander police officer paired up a child who might not be able to afford holiday presents. Before they went shopping, the cops took the kids out to breakfast and a little play time. That's where some kids thought about which toys to pick out. "I really want a doll," says 9-year-old Lillian. Once the lists were perfected, the kids went to Walmart with an official police escort. Each child received 100 dollars to spend on themselves and their families. "We rely heavily on community donations," says Brown. "It depends on how much we get from the community as to how much the kids can get per year to go shopping." The shopping trip is a treat to the students who were really good all year long. "The school district picks the kids based on a lot of different things," says Brown. "Mainly it includes good behavior, doing well in school, trying very hard, getting good grades, and doing all their homework." All of their hard work paid off. Many of the kids couldn't wait to play to with their new toys. "It's a hairstylist doll," explained 8-year-old Destiny. "I like that she has blue streaks in her hair." The event reminded many of the kids why the holidays are so special. "I get to eat cookies and have family fun times," says Destiny. The kids weren't the only ones having a good times," says Brown. "It actually brightens our spirits a little bit. We love it."

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Chainsaw Safety	News	12/8/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	We often hear the sound of a chainsaw in the Northwoods. Paul Bunyan Fest celebrates logging history in Eagle River. Rhinelander just held its first- ever Boom Lake Log jam over the summer. A course for chainsaw users is designed to make sure everyone knows how to do so safely. "In 2012 there were over 30,000 individuals that were injured using a chainsaw," explained training coordinator Ben Parsons. "There's actually a saying that I hear a lot, which is the chainsaw is one of the most dangerous tools that we can buy that isn't without any special training or permit required." Parsons is the training coordinator for the Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance in Rhinelander. He's teaching the course for people who want to become safer chainsaw users. "Most of our clientele is more of the county highway departments, parks employees and volunteers and loggers themselves," said Parsons. Not everyone in class uses a chainsaw in a professional setting. "There's so many safety aspects that you learn in the class that I think people are doing incorrectly. So I think that's one of the main benefits for someone that's a landowner or a homeowner to go through," said class graduate Aaron Nieman. There's a lot to learn with today's chainsaws. "I personally think that although we've come a long way with learning how to use this gas powered chainsaw safely and efficiently, there's still more to learn and to discover to result in accident free work when it comes to chainsaw work," Nieman says the class brought a lot of safety reminders to the surface. "I think a lot of people, when they're going through the process of cutting a lot of firewood or something, they don't have chaps on, they don't have proper footwear, eyewear, and ear protection. That stuff's critical. A chainsaw can cut through a piece of wood like butter. Imagine what it could do to your arm or leg if a situation like that happened," said Nieman. Parsons hopes the one day course can provide a lifetime of safety awareness. "We've compiled that knowledge in
Safe Ride Program	News	12/15/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	If you decide to go out and have a few drinks, there could soon be a safe place to leave your car. Overnight spaces might be available for Safe Ride Home program users. The Tavern League of Wisconsin and Rhinelander Parking advisory board want to provide the parking spots. They've also talked with Rhinelander Police Chief Mike Steffes. They hope to put in 16 to 18 parking spots. Overnight parking would only be for safe ride users. "As long as they're in the designated area they won't be ticketed and towed. If we get to the point that there's more cars being left downtown or stalls available, then we'll make some adjustments to accommodate," explained Rhinelander Street Superintendent Tony Gilman. The idea isn't set in stone yet. The Rhinelander Parking advisory still needs to meet with Tavern League officials to finalize details. "We're going back to the parking advisory board, I believe January 14. So, I'll sit down and talk with the tavern league, tavern league can come to the next meeting, we'll get everything finalized and then probably by middle of January, February 1 in that area," said Gilman. The parking spaces would be in lots on Courtney Street.

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Toy Drive	News	12/17/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	The Kindness for Kids Toy Drive trys to give every child in Oneida County a Christmas toy. The toy drive this year will help nearly 400 children. That would not have been possible without the help of young student athletes. Friday night could turn into a fun one in Rhinelander. Rivals Antigo and Rhinelander, will play each other in basketball and give toys to kids. Just a mile away, the Rhinelander Hockey team will skate with kids. "It's just fun bringing the toys in the middle of the court," said Rhinelander Boys Basketball Player Cole Oettinger. "We don't get to meet the kids but it's fun to know that we are doing something together to help the community and the kids bringing new unwrapped toys to them." Players have already collected gifts. But they can always use more. Players on the hockey side seem excited for the skate. "It's just like a big of' Christmas party," said Northern Edge Girls Hockey Player Gabbe Millot. "Its two hours getting to know community members. Making friends just having fun." "Well I think for a third and fourth grader to come out here on the ice and have a high school kid in his game jersey skating and talking to you is a thrill," said Rhinelander Boys Hockey Coach Michael Laggis. "Judging by the smiles on their faces and the amount of kids we've had in the building, they're completely excited about it." "It's good to get people on skates I really enjoy that we offer this free thing," said Northern Edge Girls Assistant Coach John Forster. "A lot of people come out and enjoy it." The basketball teams also think the extra fans will add to the atmosphere inside the gym. "With it being a double header to it just adds to the hype," Oettinger said. "Two varsity games on the same night, easily our biggest rivalry of the year." "It should bring a lot of energy towards Rhinelander, which is exactly what the basketball teams are pushing for this year," said Rhinelander Girls Basketball Player Kylie Hunter. You can help the energy by bringing your own unwrapped gift to help. The hockey skate s
Lions Club Hosts - Free Christmas Dinner	News	12/23/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Some people in the Northwoods don't have a place to go for Christmas this year. That's one reason the Rhinelander Lions Club has a free Christmas dinner every year. "Especially those that come in, that come in because they don't have a meal at home; they don't have family at home where they can get a real good turkey type dinner. And we'll also deliver for people who are shut-ins or live in a community that would like to have a meal delivered," says Rhinelander Lions Club member Harry Helwig. The dinner will be held Christmas day from 11a.m1:30p.m. It'll be at the Rhinelander Armory. The club has been hosting the dinner for almost 30 years. "This is kind of a thank you to everyone who supports us. We want to support them by giving them basically a free meal, a complet turkey dinner, with mashed potatoes and gravy, and cranberries, and stuffing," Helwig said. You can also have meals delivered to your home. Club members expect they'll serve around 300 meals. You don't need to be from Rhinelander to get dinner or volunteer. "Even if they're from Three Lakes or Minocqua, they'd like to come in and either come in for a meal they could do so," says Helwig. "We will need volunteers, we have people who come in from Mercer, Manitowish Waters that come in and help wash dishes, and wash the trays, the pots and pans." Club members say they can still use more volunteers to serve meals, clean, and drive. If you're interested in volunteering call Harry at 715-360-2549.
Man arrested for failing to register as Sex Offender	News	12/24/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Police arrested a Rhinelander man last night for failing to register as a sex offender. The U.S. Attorney for western Wisconsin tells us 58 year old Gregory Porter was indicted by a federal grand jury earlier this month. They accuse Porter of traveling between several states over the last couple of years, without updating his sex offender registration. The charge carries a maximum penalty of ten years.
Lions Club Hosts - Free Christmas Dinner	News	12/25/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	A local Lions Club hosted a free Christmas dinner Thursday. The Rhinelander Lions Club has been putting on the dinner for about 30 years. The club starts preparing the dinner in November with help from Trigs. "They deliver their stuff to us on Christmas Eve here," said Christmas Not Alone Co-Chairman Thomas O'Rourke. "They bake their turkeys for us in their bakery. That's a big help because this year we baked 30 20lbs turkeys." More than 180 people ate at the Rhinelander Armory Thursday. They also delivered more than 117 meals to people who couldn't leave their house. "Last year we delivered one to St. Germain," said Rhinelander Lions Club Vice President Dick Garrow. "This year we got a call from Wausau to bring a meal. We decided that's a little far, but we do Sugar Camp, Crescent, Cassianâ€i all over." They served about 140 pounds of mashed potatoes, 600 pounds of turkey, 4 big pots of gravy and more than 200 pounds of dressing. If you're looking for a Christmas dinner, there's one in Three Lakes. It will be held from 5-7 p.m. at the Honey Rock Camp Thursday.

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Improvements expected at Rhinelander District Library	News	12/26/2014	6,7,8AM Noon & 5PM	1 minute	Virginia Roberts hopes to make some improvements to the Rhinelander District Library. She became the library's new director at the end of October. She was director of the Chippewa Falls Public Library before that. Roberts is no stranger to the Rhinelander library. She used the art collection at the library when she was in graduate school. Roberts already has things she hopes to improve. "There's a lot of policies that were written a number of years ago that just need to be brought up to date. Looking at the computers, same type of thing. Collections, I want to make my mark on the collections by going through them and determining what's outdated, what needs to be updated. You know, there's some books that need to be replaced just because they're worn." You'll likely see Roberts out on the floor. She likes working the front desk and helping people find what they need. Roberts and her husband wanted to move back to the area because they have family here. "It was the best of all possible worlds. This is a library that I'm familiar with in terms of collection. It's got the historic aspect I like in libraries, and like I said, it's got a tremendous staff. It always has so I'm pretty lucky here." The library board has plans to expand the library. Roberts has experience raising money and going through a library renovation.