

### Quarterly Issues/Programs List

**Station:** WMQA  
**Quarter:** 1<sup>st</sup> (Jan.)  
**Year:** 2024

<i>ISSUE DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>PROGRAM SEGMENT</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>DURATION</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION OF SEGMENT</i>
Wisconsin legislative maps	News	1/2/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>A couple weeks ago the Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered the state's current legislative maps unconstitutional and required new ones. Republicans have asked the high court to reconsider that decision saying the timeline to get it done is too rushed. The Wisconsin Elections Commission said the maps must be in place by March 15<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming voting. GOP lawmakers said this would disrupt the electoral process and ask the deadlines be reconsidered and the court halt all proceedings in the meantime. The ruling also states the court is prepared to replace the maps if the legislature and Governor cannot agree on a</p>

new one.

Come April, the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame will honor its 2024 inductees, Walter Bresette and Lewis Posekany. Bresette was a member of the of the Red Cliff Band of Chippewa, businessman and treaty rights advocate, emerging as a leader during the spearfishing controversies in the 1980s. Posekany was an environmental advocate long before advocacy was popular and often functioned as his own legal counsel in projects to help protect the state's waters.

The new year hasn't brought a proper winter to Wisconsin, it also won't boost wages for workers. Millions of them got a bump in pay as of the first. Nearly half the country raised the minimum wage. Washington state has the highest rate in the nation at \$16.28 an hour. Washington DC

					<p>boasts the highest hourly minimum wage at \$17.05. Economists say while this is good for workers, it will be balanced on the wallets of consumers.</p>
Big break in insulin costs	News	1/2/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>The new year will bring a big break for those using insulin. Millions of Americans with insurance will find insulin for \$35 per month. Lantus, made by the company Sanofi, is the most widely prescribed insulin in the U.S. This is a big deal for so many people. About 8.5 million Americans rely on insulin to survive. Health officials say as many as 25% of patients haven't been able to afford their medicine. In 2023, the nation's two other major insulin manufacturers, Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly, also reduced their insulin prices. Insulin manufacturers have been under a lot of pressure from federal officials and the public to lower their prices. More hospitals across Wisconsin are expanding mask policies to</p>

cover more people as seasonal virus activity surges across the country. Doctors stress the importance of preventative measures, such as masking and vaccinations as well as the value of treatment for those who get sick. During the week ending December 23<sup>rd</sup> there were more than 29,000 patients admitted with Covid-19, around 15, 000 with the flu and thousands more with RSV.

After 34 drawings without a grand prize winner, the first Powerball drawing of the new year paid off to the tune of \$842.4-million to one lucky player from Michigan. Late ticket sales pushed the amount up quickly from the estimated \$810-million Saturday. It's the fifth largest Powerball jackpot and 10<sup>th</sup> largest US lottery prize. In addition to the grand prize there were six million dollar winners. Tomorrow's drawing is a measly 20-million.

<p>Moves to remove Donald Trump from the presidential ballots continue</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/3/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Moves to remove Donald Trump from the presidential ballots continue. He's already started appealing, and on the flipside of that coin, appeals are coming in Wisconsin to keep the ex-president off. Kirk Bangstad, lost in his initial bid with the Wisconsin Elections Commission last week to have Trump removed. The owner of the Minocqua Brewing Company is now looking to the Circuit Court for a ruling. Bangstad maintains Trump broke the law by leading an insurrection on January 6<sup>th</sup> as his supporters stormed the Capitol. His critics say Trump hasn't been convicted of anything and that removing him amounts to voter suppression. While this goes on, names have been submitted for Wisconsin's presidential primary ballot. Leaders of the state's political parties met briefly at the Capitol yesterday. Six candidates from the Republican Party of Wisconsin</p>

are former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, former UN ambassador and South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, businessman Vivek Ramaswamy and former President Donald Trump. President Joe Biden was the sole name from the Democratic Party. The names now go to the Wisconsin Elections Commission. Candidates have until January 30 to confirm their ballot status or indicate that they don't intend to run.

In related news, the Circuit Court in Dane County ruled yesterday election clerks in the state can accept absentee ballots with minor errors. That means absentee ballots with technical issues, such as errors in listing their witnesses address would be allowed. The case was brought by the League of Women Voters.

<p>Bomb threats to numerous state capitol's including Wisconsin</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/4/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Bomb threats were made to numerous state Capitols yesterday, including in Wisconsin. The State Capitol in Madison was one of many across the nation targeted in a mass bomb threat hoax. There were reports of at least 23 state capitals receiving a generic email related to bomb threats. A Wisconsin Department of Administration spokesperson said additional measures were taken to ensure the safety of the Capitol and those working inside. State Capitol Police worked with law enforcement partners including federal agencies. While some capitols were evacuated, there were no reports of any substantiated threats at any location.</p> <p>The lack of snow is killing much of the winter recreation across the North, and while the ice is slowly returning, there's not enough to support a large event. The latest casualty is the AmVets-NCO Clubs</p>
---	-------------	---------------	-----------------------	-------------	--

of Rhinelander and Tomahawk cancelling this weekend's ice fishing tournament. This is a major fundraiser for the organizations and that part will still be held Saturday at the Prairie Rapids Bar in Nokomis.

The Rhinelander School District received a \$10,000 grant. The funds coming from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Harju Center for Professional Development. Made available to rural school districts, the grant is used for professional development of faculty and staff, directly connected to equity, empowerment and excellence in education.

Not a single member of the Packers roster were selected to the Pro Bowl when the initial rosters were announced yesterday. Green Bay joins Carolina, Washington and New England as the only four teams without a player picked for the



					Pro Bowl.
Former state senator Kohl will be memorialized	News	1/4/24	1230p,530p	1:30	Former US Senator and Milwaukee Bucks owner Herb Kohl's life will be celebrated during a public memorial next Friday at Fiserv Forum. Kohl, who owned the Bucks from 1985 to 2014 played a key role in the creation of Fiserv Forum, contributing \$100-million to the project. He also ran the family business that included more than 1100 Kohl's stores. He died December 27 <sup>th</sup> after a brief illness. He was 88 years old. Kohl was lauded for his public service, charitable giving, business acumen and determination to keep the Bucks in Milwaukee. This week the Feed Our Rural Kids or FORK program is leveraging their relationships with three area food pantries to introduce a new KID-centered nutritional support program. FORK Extra, as it's called, has the goal of reaching

					<p>even more children served each month. Working with the Vilas Food Pantry in Eagle River, Three Lakes Christian Food Pantry and the Headwaters Food Pantry in Land o' Lakes, FORK is promoting their use for economically challenged families to see what the pantry's have to offer. The program also provides newly registered families two \$25 grocery vouchers per child good at area supermarkets. More information's available online at <a href="http://feedourruralkids dot org">feedourruralkids dot org</a>.</p> <p>You may not have notice much yet, but the days are getting longer. While we impatiently wait for the arrival of winter and the sun still setting well before 5:00, there's literally light at the end of the tunnel. To the tune of nearly 50 more minutes of it by the end of the month.</p>
State tax payers to foot the bill for redrawn legislative	News	1/5/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Last week the Wisconsin Elections Commission rejected a complaint

maps

from Minocqua Brewing Company owner Kirk Bangstad to remove former President Donald Trump from Wisconsin ballots. Today, he plans to file a lawsuit in Dane County Circuit Court to continue the process. This is one of dozens of lawsuits seeking to bar Trump from the ballot in multiple states, some of them succeeding. The former president is already appealing those decisions.

Last October the Little Rice Fire Department received over \$33,000 in an EMS Flex Grant through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Now, they're in receipt of additional funding from the Marshfield Clinic Health System, Community engagement, CoVantage Cares Foundation and Sacred Heart Hospital Foundation. The money paid for automated external defibrillators for their first responders. The department's also placed the

					<p>units in some area businesses for public access for quick response to cardiac emergencies. The department serves the Oneida County communities of Little Rice and Lynne townships.</p> <p>Taxpayers will be footing the bill for the new court-ordered maps of legislative boundary lines. The state Supreme Court pulled the current Republican-drawn maps, ruling them unconstitutional and now a pair of consultants will be paid \$450 an hour, up to \$100,000 each to analyze the maps submitted by the legislature and Governor Tony Evers. If nothing comes of it, the court will take over. GOP lawmakers last year were ready to defend the current maps, budgeting nearly \$2-million in taxpayer funds. The consultants can recommend changes or create their own and have done so in other states.</p>
	News	1/5/24	1230p,530p	1:30	The next several days will bring in

Possibility of snow over the next few days across the state

an active weather pattern with good chances for accumulating snow. Not a lot, but it's a start. The first round comes in tonight through Saturday morning north of Hwy 29. The Northwoods can expect from 1-to-3 inches. Another system comes in Monday night but it continues to change track and has been moving away from the area. Most of the accumulations will fall in the southeast parts of the state, however some parts on north central Wisconsin can still pick up minor accumulations. A traffic crash closed Hwy 54 in both directions early this morning in Portage County. The accident reported at Kennedy Avenue shortly before six. Traffic was detoured a couple hours before being reopened to traffic. No other details were available. In a wide ranging interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Governor Tony Evers said he wants U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson and

					<p>a group of Republicans who posed as electors in 2020 to "pay a price" for their ties to former President Donald Trump's failed scheme to stay in power. He criticized a lawsuit seeking to end the state's voucher program. He thinks the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents made the right call to remove Joe Gow as chancellor at UW-La Crosse and he said it's way too soon to think about whether he's running for a third term.</p> <p>Packers fans are hoping history doesn't repeat itself as Green Bay is in the same win or go home position as last season heading into the final week of the season against Chicago.</p>
<p>State officials warn people to stay off the area lakes</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/8/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The DNR, law enforcement, Chambers, snowmobile clubs and others have been warning for weeks the condition of area lakes</p>

for recreation. While there are waters with more than 8" of ice already, there are just as many with far less. That was evident again over the weekend as yesterday morning an ATV went into Elk Lake on the Phillips Chain. Especially on moving waters, ice anglers or those on ATVs are cautioned to stay away from channels or bridges, as the ice is typically much thinner in those areas. The machine was removed and no one was injured. Also yesterday the Pine Lake and Newbold Fire Departments were dispatched to help a deer that had gone into the Wisconsin River. Newbold's air boat was used to reach the exhausted animal, which was brought to shore and covered with blankets. On the advice of Wild Instincts animal rehab, the doe was kept on shore and department members periodically checked on her, and she's fine. Volunteers also noted there's open water on stretches of

					<p>the river adjacent to Boom Lake in the area of Estabrook Island.</p> <p>Sunday was active for another reason, as an earthquake with a 2.5-magnitude rattled rural Forest County. The US Geological Survey reported the tremor and loud rumbling between Mole Lake and Crandon shortly after 7am. Vibration was felt as far away as Pelican Lake. The USGS identified the epicenter over five miles deep. No damage or injuries were reported.</p> <p>And the Packers punched their ticket to the playoffs, dropping Chicago 17-9.</p>
A snowstorm is aiming at the state beginning tonight	News	1/8/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>A winter storm is taking shape and is aiming for Wisconsin beginning late tonight. Much of the north will be spared the brunt but will pick up around 3-inches on average. Snow intensity will pick up tomorrow especially across central and southeast sections of the state for significant</p>



accumulations and gusty winds reducing visibility. Treacherous travel conditions are anticipated across that region. Winter storm watches and warnings have already been posted and you can check on this station's website for the latest information. The Wausau-based Never Forgotten Honor Flight serves veterans across 13 northcentral Wisconsin counties, flying them to Washington DC to view the memorials built in their honor. Since 2009 thousands of vets have made the trip of a lifetime. And this May, it's a very special trip. In memory of her husband Herbert, who took the flight in 2016 and died in 2019, Helen Haydock of Wisconsin Rapids donated \$70,000 to the organization. That ensures everyone on board is paid for. In the effort she teamed with Oso Brewery in Plover to honor her husband and the other veterans. The 48<sup>th</sup> mission as they're called on May 20<sup>th</sup> will be

					<p>billed as the Oso's Brewery and Haydock Memorial Flight.</p> <p>While not officially in the race to challenge incumbent Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin, Eric Hovde leads the possible challengers. The 59-year-old old multimillionaire is expected to have support of the National Republican Senatorial committee, which works to get their candidates elected. Franklin businessman Scott Mayer and former Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke Jr are also considering a run.</p>
<p>The state dept. of corrections among other agencies is looking into a death of an inmate</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/9/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Vilas County Jail and Oneida County Sheriff's department are looking into the death of an inmate. Early last Monday night a corrections officer reported an inmate in distress. 46-year old Jessica Barry from Ashland showed signs of a</p>

drug overdose. Narcan was administered as were other life saving measures but without success. No other information was available.

Republicans in the Wisconsin Assembly yesterday proposed a tightly controlled, state run medical marijuana program. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos said the bill will create the most restrictive medical cannabis program in the nation – not recreational use. Neighboring Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota have passed laws allowing recreational use, while Iowa has a medical marijuana program. Patients with conditions including cancer, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis would need a doctor's prescription in order to receive a variety of smokeless options from the state operated dispensaries. Under the proposal, the state Department of Health Services would have oversight of five dispensaries located around Wisconsin. It's unclear how the

					<p>measure will fare in the Senate. Governor Tony Evers has signaled support for medical marijuana, but warned of any “poison pills” in Republican legislation. Democrats including Evers have called for legalized recreational use of cannabis.</p> <p>The first major winter storm of the season is bearing down on Wisconsin, and all but the northwest corner of the state stretching down to Oneida County is under some kind of watch or warning. The north will see a mix of freezing drizzle with around 2” of snow while to the south and east, 8” or more.</p>
The 1 <sup>st</sup> winter storm has moved through the state	News	1/10/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>The first winter storm of the season has moved through Wisconsin, depositing on average around 3” across the north and three times that as you move to the southeast. It will be calm today with some light snow returning tomorrow but another system</p>

moves in for the weekend with a target again on the southeast. The big event will be temperatures to 10-below zero through the weekend across the north with highs in the single digits. Young people in Wisconsin will be allowed to stay on state medical programs for an entire year under new guidelines. The new federal rules require BadgerCare Plus and other Medicaid programs to keep people under the age of 19 covered for a full year, even if their families leave the programs or if they no longer meet requirements. Department of Health Services secretary Kirsten Johnson says the change ensures that children will be able to have stable access to wellness screenings, medical services and vaccinations, regardless of their parents' status.

Northcentral Technical College will offer two new healthcare-related programs for the spring 2024 semester, which begins

					<p>Monday, the 22nd. Applications are now being accepted for: · Medical Administrative Professional Associate Degree and a Sterile Processing Technician Certificate. The administrative degree is available online and will prepare learners to function in a high-demand field in a variety of medical office assistant areas. For the tech certificate, students will assist a surgical team through a number of disciplines and is available at NTC's Wausau Campus. Information is available through the admissions office.</p>
<p>A possible election to recall state assembly speaker</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/1124</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A Racine County man plans to gather signatures to trigger an election to recall Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. Matthew Snorek of Burlington yesterday filed paperwork with the Wisconsin Elections Commission to recall Vos, the most powerful Republican in the state Legislature over his opposition to Donald Trump and unwillingness to impeach the</p>

state's top election official over the 2020 election. Vos, who has been speaker for 10 years has faced fierce criticism from members of his own party in recent years over his rejection of calls to decertify the 2020 election, which has been impossible as long as supporters of Trump have called for the idea. To trigger a recall election, Snorek must gather 25% of the total number of votes for governor in 2022 in Vos' district, or about 7,000 signatures, over the next two months.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office said the body of a woman missing since Thanksgiving was recovered on Tuesday. Chief Deputy Adam Olson said that an employee with the Black River Falls Municipal Utilities found a body in the water near the Black River Falls Dam. Members of the sheriff's office responded and confirmed that it was the body of Stacy Lyn Shramek of Black River Falls. She was last seen on the Black

					<p>River on Thanksgiving Day around 3:15 p.m. The search for her began about three hours later. Her overturned kayak was found late that night along the bank of the river north of her residence.</p> <p>With cases of RSV across Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services is urging pregnant Wisconsinites to get the vaccine to protect their baby from the virus. As of January 10 there have been over 14 hundred people in Wisconsin hospitalized with RSV this season, 580 of those are children under age 2. The RSV vaccine can be given to people who are pregnant between 32 weeks and 36 weeks and 6 days of pregnancy and provides protection for newborns until they are 6 months old. People who are pregnant should ask their health care provider if they can get the vaccine.</p>
State lawmakers are looking into the renaming of the Tomah VA hospital	News	1/11/24	1230p,530p	1:30	Wisconsin lawmakers are introducing a bill that would change the name of the Tomah VA



and honor a veteran who lost his life too soon. If the bill passes, the Tomah VA would be called the Jason Simcakoski VA Medical Center. Simcakoski, a Marine veteran, overdosed on opioids in 2014 while receiving treatment from the Tomah VA. The bill which received bipartisan support is headed by Senator Tammy Baldwin and Representative Derrick Van Orden and will act as a remembrance. Baldwin introduced legislation in 2015 named "Jason's Law" toughening opioid prescription guidelines at the VA.

A Milwaukee kindergartner was left on a school bus Monday after he fell asleep, and wasn't found until his family tracked him down in the school bus company's parking lot that night, police said. The boy's mom, said the five year old was physically

unharmd but traumatized. He was honking the horn on the bus for help when he was found. In a statement, GO Riteway said an employee, who has since been terminated, failed to follow safety protocols at the end of a shift.

Medical experts remind you that while it may seem like a simple task, shoveling snow can place a significant strain on the heart, and it's crucial to be aware of the potential risks. A Non-Invasive Cardiologist for Aspirus, warns that shoveling snow can be an incredibly exertional activity.

[Common signs](#) of overexertion during snow shoveling include shortness of breath, chest pain, arm pain, excessive sweating, palpitations, and an overwhelming sense of fatigue after a short time. If you start experiencing those symptoms, it's recommended you stop shoveling and see medical

					attention.
Income taxes to be cut under a new bill by state republicans	News	1/12/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>Income taxes would be cut for Wisconsin families earning up to about \$200,000 under a plan being worked on by Senate Republicans. The proposal will be targeted at middle class families in an attempt to win the support of Governor Tony Evers. Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu said. Details of the latest plan are still being worked out, but in general it would lower the tax on income between about \$36,000 and around \$200,000 for families from 5.3 to 4.4 percent. Currently, the 5.3% tax rate applies to <a href="#">those earning</a> between about \$36,000 and around \$405,000.</p> <p>Wisconsin is one of 35 states that will be involved in a summer program this year that would provide families with \$120 in extra</p>

grocery benefits while schools are out, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Wednesday. The department estimates that 401,000 school-age children would be eligible in Wisconsin for a total of over \$48 million in benefits. Families would receive an extra \$40 per month for three months. Students who are already enrolled or eligible for free or reduced-price schools at meals would be eligible for the summer benefits.

A state Supreme Court ruling ordering new legislative maps in Wisconsin is raising questions about whether a new effort to recall Assembly Speaker Robin Vos could take place before new district boundaries are drawn. The December ruling declaring the state's legislative maps unconstitutional banned state

					<p>election officials "from using the current maps in all future elections." Some legal experts say this likely affects a group of largely Racine County residents who on Wednesday launched a recall campaign against Vos in the 63rd Assembly District.</p>
<p>A Wausau woman to be charged in an overdose</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/12/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A 39-year-old Wausau woman is facing homicide charges in connection to a fatal overdose in October, according to court documents filed this month in Marathon County. Jessica L. Messman was released from prison just weeks before she allegedly sold the drugs to a woman who collapsed in a Wausau apartment and died. The overdose was reported Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. Efforts to revive the woman were not successful and she was pronounced dead at the scene. Police say the woman arranged to buy a point of</p>

heroin from Messman shortly before her death. An initial appearance date for Messman has not yet been set.

A bill working its way through the Legislature could change how long your state parks pass remains valid in Wisconsin. The bill proposes that a state park sticker would remain valid for 12 months after its purchase. That means outdoor enthusiasts who purchase a pass at the end of the calendar year would still be able to use their pass after the new year. The plan would go into effect in 2025. Sen. Robert Cowles, of Green Bay, one of the bill's authors, said that the bill would ensure residents get their money's worth out of the \$28 pass. Senate Bill 415 has so far received unanimous bipartisan approval from the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, but has not yet been scheduled for a

				<p>hearing by the Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation.</p> <p>Congressman Tom Tiffany announced that he will be hosting listening sessions in Oneida, Wood, Marathon, Barron, Polk and St. Croix Counties later this month. The Oneida County listening session will be at the Ripco Credit Union on Sutliff Avenue in Rhinelander on January 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 till 11 am. Listening sessions are open to all constituents in Wisconsin's 7th District.</p>	
A cold week for the area	News	1/15/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>It's going to be a cold week as below normal temperatures will continue all the way to the weekend. There's a wind chill advisory across all of central, northcentral and northeast Wisconsin through noon today as gusts over 20 mph will make it feel like 30-below. Exposed skin can freeze in less than 30-minutes</p>

under these conditions. And for those beginning to enjoy the outdoor recreation, be aware the cold air will increase the risk for ice jams on area rivers. Those pushing the envelope had trouble over the weekend as two snowmobiles went into Lake Wisconsin in Columbia County yesterday morning. The incident reported near Sunset Bay. One person was rescued from the water. And an ATV went into Shell Lake, where there was only three inches of ice, no injuries reported there.

The lack of substantial snow up north cancelled another popular event as organizers of the Mercer Cross Country Association's Mecca Winterfest race on the 20<sup>th</sup> said conditions are unsafe. The virtual ski racing option in February will continue as planned. Also, schools in Crandon, Goodman/Armstrong Creek, Laona and Wabeno will have a two hour delay this morning.



					<p>Jordan Love threw for three touchdowns, Aaron Jones piled on another three, Darnell Savage had a pick-6 as the Green Bay Packers manhandled the Dallas Cowboys 48-32. That broke a string of 16 consecutive home wins for Dallas and once again killed their playoff chances. The talk now is if big changes are coming to Big D. Green Bay takes on the 49ers this weekend in the divisional round.</p>
<p>State Supreme Court begins work on new state legislative maps</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/15/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The Wisconsin Supreme Court gets to work on seven submissions for new legislative maps. They include proposals from Democratic Governor Tony Evers, lawmakers from both parties, UW-professors and conservative and liberal legal groups. Most of those submissions would reduce the current GOP advantages as the current maps tilt heavily in Republicans' favor according to recent studies. Now that the</p>

court has the maps, two hired consultants will review them, suggest any changes or propose their own maps by the beginning of February. There's also a March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to enact new districts ahead of the August legislative primary. Attorneys said the parties have been given 21 days, with a third of them falling on weekends and state holidays to submit proposed remedies, lengthy remedial briefs and expert reports.

Proposed legislation would toughen penalties against drivers who flee police in Wisconsin. The measure from is from state Greenfield Representative Bob Donovan. Donovan testified before the Assembly last week and highlighted the impacts caused by reckless drivers, particularly those fleeing law enforcement. He cited the death of a woman and her unborn child last November when her car was struck by a fleeing

				<p>felon at 70-mph. It was Mark Hagen's 32-year old daughter who died and he said, "It is sickening the devastation that they leave in their wake and the community that they leave in destruction." He told lawmakers it's time to curb the reckless driving that turn vehicles into killing tools. The measure increases penalties and mandatory minimum sentences for various offenses involving fleeing an officer.</p>	
<p>Temps remain bitterly cold across the area</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/16/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>With continuing below zero temperatures and wind chills to 25-below, the Oneida County Sheriff's office reminds residents there are warming shelters to escape the cold. From 6am to 11pm the Walmart Supercenters in Rhineland and Minocqua are open with availability also at the YMCA of the Northwoods in Rhineland, whose weekend hours vary, but is open weekdays</p>

6-to-8. The bitter cold is forecast to push into the weekend.

Recent merger talks with Essentia health were dropped and now the Marshfield Clinic Health System will lay off over 300 employees, roughly 3% of its staff. In an email to employees, the provider said the move will affect mostly non-patient seeing departments, including leadership roles. The layoffs are the result of, in their words, "a comprehensive review of our service and labor resources which account for more than 50% of the health system's total operating costs."

Biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy suspended his run for the presidency last night following the Iowa caucuses, won by a wide margin by former President Donald Trump. He placed a distant third behind Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley who came in second and

					<p>third, respectively. In making his announcement, Ramaswamy said he's now throwing his support to Trump. The narrowing field now move on to New Hampshire.</p> <p>New advancements in technology is set to streamline the checkout system at Sam's Club. Humans will stop checking shoppers' receipts as they leave, replaced by an AI system to scan their carts. Waiting in line to leave had been a major complaint to the retailer for years.</p>
<p>Lack of snow across the area is making it difficult for snowmobile trails to open</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/16/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>While grooming and prep work continues on snowmobile trail systems across the north, where the lack of appreciable snow is still affecting the sport, it's a bit different to the south. This morning the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department partially opened the Mountain Bay Trail. It's partially open from County J east into Shawano County. No other</p>

connecting trails are open yet.

The freezing temperatures, which are forecast to continue into the weekend are being blamed for a nationwide service outage yesterday morning for AT&T U-Verse. Customers were instructed to reset their set top boxes by afternoon if they were still experiencing any issues. The carrier had the problems fixed later in the day.

Menominee Tribal Police and FBI continue investigating the discovery of human remains on the reservation. A hunter discovered the skeleton October 30<sup>th</sup> and notified authorities. Conditions suggest the adult male may have been there for years and there's no indication the remains match a known missing person from the area.

It's obvious the Green Bay Packers shocked the football world with their wildcard playoff win over Dallas on Sunday. This

					<p>Saturday night they head to California and the 49ers, a Super Bowl contender with a 12-5 record. Sportsbooks lost a lot of money on that game. The Pack are two wins away from a title shot but the odds are still against them. The Niners are 9.5 point favorites, but as we've discovered, anything can happen. On the plus side, San Francisco's road record is better than at home.</p>
<p>Two more outdoor activities have fallen victim to Mother Nature</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/17/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Two more major outdoor fundraising activities have fallen victim to Mother Nature. The lack of substantial ice has cancelled, for the second consecutive time, the annual Ice Fishing Jamboree, the largest fundraiser for the Northwoods United Way will not take place. The event draws hundreds of anglers to Stacks Bay on Lake Minocqua. Next month's Hiller's Radar Runs on Little St. Germain Lake will still take place, but not on the water as usual. The</p>

event benefits area fire fighters and first responders as well as the Pink Ribbon Riders, fighting breast cancer. The event, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> will now take place at the community park in St. Germain. Speaking of weather, wind chill advisories remain in effect again today through 9am but temperatures next week will warm into the 30s.

Two weeks ago it looked like medical marijuana might be a thing in Wisconsin. Today, not so much. Republican lawmakers in the Assembly are not compromising with their Senate counterparts over the creation of state run dispensaries. The restrictive bill would limit availability to severely ill people from five state run locations. Thirty eight states have already legalized medical marijuana and another 24 allow recreational use. The GOP won't let that happen despite the support of



					<p>Democratic Governor Tony Evers.</p> <p>The Boulder Junction Community Foundation welcomed two new board members. Former Boulder Chamber Director and current marketing and production and client relations director for a Madison-based company Theresa Smith and Bre Miner, general manager of the Aqualand Ale House joined the organization this month.</p>
<p>Two central Wisconsin towns looking to merge police depts.</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/17/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Two central Wisconsin communities are looking at the possibility of merging their police departments. Officials in Rothschild and Weston are just begging those discussions but the merger would not only include those Villages, but the city of Schofield as well. There's no rush to the planning talks but insiders say all the communities are willing to work together.</p> <p>If you've spent any time driving Wisconsin's highways you've no</p>

doubt noted the state highway department of transportation's witty overhead signs, creatively urging citizens to drive safely and sober. With messages like, that's the temperature, not the speed limit...or make it to deer camp, drive sober. Well, enter the federal government. The US federal highway administration updated their 1100 page manual which includes rules regulating those signs. As of 2026 those clever phrases will be banned not only across Wisconsin but in the country as well. Officials say they can be misunderstood or distracting to drivers. The new guidelines state signs should now be simple, direct, brief, legible and clear and only relay important information, such as warning drivers of pending delays due to accidents or weather conditions.

You can help make Valentine's Day brighter for Wisconsin veterans. For a second year,

					<p>individuals and groups are asked to send Valentine's to the veteran homes at Chippewa Falls, King, and Union Grove. Last year more than 24,000 Valentines came in. The WDVA asks the Valentines be in the mail by the end of the month to the Department of Veterans Affairs at PO Box 7843 Madison, 53707.</p>
<p>Voters in the Merrill school district will see a referendum in spring</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/18/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Voters in the Merrill School District will see a referendum this spring. The school board is looking for \$16-million to renovate, and improve facilities, put up a maintenance building at the high school site, demolish old buildings including the district office and acquire new fixtures, furnishings and equipment. The election comes up in April.</p> <p>Fire last night displaced 22 assisted living residents in Stevens Point. Officials there said the blaze was reported shortly before 11 at North Crest Assisted Living.</p>

Smoke was already coming from the roof as firefighters arrived. Six area departments responded along with police to help evacuate the residents. No injuries were reported and the cause of the fire is yet unknown.

The political gamesmanship continues in Madison as Republican lawmakers fired a member of the state public service commission who was appointed by Democratic Governor Tony Evers. Tyler Huebner was called highly qualified for the position and democrats say what matters now is the political party who appointed you. He got the job in 2020. Evers immediately name PSC administrator Kristy Nieta to the commission and called Huebner's dismissal baseless.

People trying to save money share passwords for premium streaming services and other

					<p>subscription-based businesses. One of them, Costco, is putting an end to it. The company is testing a new system requiring shoppers to scan their membership cards as soon as they walk in, replacing showing them to employees. The company has about 66-million members and 119-million cardholders and said it's unfair for non-members to get the same benefits as paying members.</p>
<p>Structure fire in the town of Pine River this morning</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/18/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Few details are available following a structure fire early this morning in the Town of Pine River near Merrill. Dispatch got the call just after 1:00.</p> <p>Next Wednesday the Merrill Fire Department invites the community to a strategic planning meeting as they work toward creating a new comprehensive five-year strategic</p>

plan. A similar meeting was held yesterday and there are another two planned as firefighters, city officials and the community meet to help contribute to and shape the future of the department.

The discount grocery retailer Aldi is the first major store in the country to eliminate plastic shopping bags at all its stores. That totals 2300. Company officials say the move's being made to promote sustainability by reducing the use of plastic and encouraging customers to bring in their own reuseable bags. Cloth bags will be available for sale at the stores.

Anyone who flies frequently knows at some point there's going to be a delay. Whether it's a connecting flight or direct, delays pop up for any reason. Airport officials say there's no definitive cure for the problem but staying on top of things can help. A lot of

				<p>things are affecting air travel right now, not the least of which is the weather, lack of pilots, the 737 issue and others. The best advice is to download the airlines app you're flying on and monitor for your flight information. This is especially true for those travelling to San Francisco for this weekend's Green Bay playoff game with the 49ers. As of this morning, the Pack are still 9.5 point underdogs.</p>
<p>Several people were hurt after head on collision on Hwy 17</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/19/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p> <p>Several people were hurt following a head-on collision last night on Hwy 17. Pine Lake Fire &amp; Rescue got the call shortly before 9:00 on 17, just south of East Balsam Lane. A pickup crossed the centerline, striking the oncoming SUV, whose driver needed to be cut from the vehicle. Both lanes of the highway were closed about an hour while the scene was cleared.</p>

None of the injuries were serious. Even with the 61<sup>st</sup> running of the World Championship Snowmobile Derby in Eagle River that opens today, the trails systems are still closed. Vilas County Forestry, Recreation & Land, which works with the 11 snowmobile clubs to administer the trails, still finds them unsafe to travel on. Supervisor Todd Bierman said this was not an easy decision for the clubs to make. While the track for the races needs ice, which there's plenty of, the lack of snow has hampered the snowmobiling. Officials ask for patience and to stay off the trails until Mother Nature catches up.

There were few details yesterday, but today we learn a machine shed was destroyed in a Town of Pine River fire. Volunteers arrived shortly after two yesterday morning to the structure at a farm on Hwy P. It was already



				<p>collapsing when they arrived, taking the stored machinery with it. Several area departments responded to aid in fighting the blaze.</p> <p>The Aspirus Health system has some new financial guidance. Jerry Yang's been appointed the new Chief Financial Officer, succeeding Sid Sczygelski, whose retiring after 39-years with the provider.</p>	
World championship snowmobile derby opens this weekend	News	1/19/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>The 61<sup>st</sup> annual World Championship Snowmobile Derby opens its weekend run today and two big things will be missing. First of all, snowmobiles since the trail systems across the north are still closed because of the poor conditions. And secondly, the downtown ice castle. While a decision hasn't been made yet about this year, the Eagle River fire department, whose members build the large structure, but haven't three out of the last four</p>

years because of conditions and covid, plan an update for the project by next week. The last one went up in 2022.

An effort to impeach Wisconsin's elections administrator is going nowhere. On the Assembly floor this week, Representative Janel Brandtjen was ruled out of order, when she tried to force a vote to remove Meagan Wolfe. And yesterday, Assembly Majority Leader Tyler August was dismissive of the effort by the Menomonee Falls Republican, saying she doesn't have the support to move the resolution forward. Brandtjen is a vocal supporter of former president Donald Trump and her resolution to remove Wolfe from her job overseeing elections requires 50 votes to pass the Assembly. As of yesterday it had five.

The Packers defense has put out three solid performances in a row after a rough stretch late in the

					<p>season to get them into the playoffs. However, they will meet a tough test in the San Francisco 49ers this weekend boasting probably the best offense in the league. Gametime 7:15 tomorrow with the broadcast on Rock 105-3, WRLO radio and telecast on FOX.</p>
<p>Active shooter reported in Rhineland</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/22/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Tense moments in Rhineland Saturday night as tactical teams from several counties were staged at the Wagner Shell station on the city's west side following reports of an active shooter. Investigators with the state department of criminal investigation said shortly after 8:30, the Oneida County Sheriff's office and Rhineland police conducted a welfare check after two 911 hang-ups from a home on the 1600 block of River Street.</p>

As officers entered they discovered two people inside and were met with gunfire. They fled the building as shots continued from the second story of the house and officials returned fire. After several hours one suspect came out and was evaluated by medical personnel. The second was found deceased inside. No law enforcement personnel were injured and the DCI continues the investigation and will turn those findings over to the DA upon completion. During the standoff, law enforcement ordered the power cut to the home, which ended up leaving over 3100 residents in the dark on the west side all the way out to Newbold for several hours in the frigid temperatures. Officials said they did everything they could to try and avoid that tactic.

Ahead of tomorrow's New Hampshire primary, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis

					<p>suspended his presidential bid and endorsed Donald Trump. That leaves former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley as the last major candidate in the race.</p> <p>The 61<sup>st</sup> annual World Championship Snowmobile Derby wrapped up its weekend run in Eagle River as defending champion Matt Goede of New Germany, Minnesota repeated the feat and Troy Dewald of Au Gres, Michigan captured the Pro Enduro title.</p>
<p>Officials are looking into a death in Antigo</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/23/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A death in Antigo doesn't appear suspicious but officials are investigating. The body of a man was found yesterday morning at Antigo Lake Park. The cause at this point is exposure, succumbing to the below zero temperatures. No other information was available.</p> <p>Vice President Kamala Harris was</p>

in Wisconsin yesterday and the White House announced President Joe Biden will be here Thursday. His schedule has him in Superior to discuss his economic and investment plans. The visit follows the announcement that Wisconsin and Minnesota will receive more than \$1-billion in bipartisan infrastructure law funding to replace the Blatnik Bridge which connects the twin ports of Superior/Duluth. The critical link handles more than 33,000 vehicles daily and some 265,000 trucks hauling nearly \$4-billion in goods annually.

A no-contest plea's been entered for Ann Retzlaff, the former owner of Annie's Campground in Shawano. Charges included two counts of recklessly endangering safety, eluding officers, bail jumping and disorderly conduct stemming from an incident in May of 2021. The 54-year old Reedsburg woman still faces

					<p>felony charges in Sauk County and is due in court there in March.</p> <p>The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry announced the receipt of a \$2000 Wisconsin Public Service Foundation grant. Associate executive director Courtney Smith said the funds will go toward new shelving the in the pantry shopping area. Grants providing funding for capital expenses are rare and she said the upgrade will make things more accessible for customers. Last week, Rhinelander-based AirPro Fan &amp; Blower company donated \$10,000 to the pantry.</p>
<p>Following years of declining enrollment UW is cutting back</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/23/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Following years of declining enrollments and the lack of state aid the UW has been cutting back. One of the biggest changes because of the financial problems is the end of in-person instruction. UW campuses in</p>

Milwaukee, Oshkosh and Platteville ended the face-to-face classes and now UW-Green Bay's Marinette campus joins that list. As with the other locations, online instruction is still available. This latest most will be effective with the fall semester.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services reports a steady increase in RSV cases across northeast Wisconsin. For the week ending January 13<sup>th</sup> there were nearly 8000 tests for RSV and 14% came back positive. Symptoms include wheezing, shortness of breath and congestion. It can be deadly for babies and older adults. The best way to prevent RSV is doing the things we typically hear, keeping hands washed often and stay at home if you're sick.

Hospital Sister Health System announced today it's closing Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau



					<p>Claire and St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls, impacting over 1400 employees.</p> <p>As most of the northwoods waits for winter weather to show up in order to open the snowmobile trails, officials in Wood County are closing theirs. The Parks &amp; Forestry Department there will close all their trails effective at 8am tomorrow morning. Deteriorating conditions coupled with mild temperatures in the forecast led to the decision. To preserve what snow there is on all other trails, county officials ask people to stay off the groomed multi-use, cross country ski and fat tire bike trails when the temperatures are above freezing.</p>
<p>Two more area winter related activities are closing because of lack of winter weather</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/24/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The lack of winter weather has cancelled two more major events across north central Wisconsin. The 2024 USA Hockey Pond</p>

Hockey national championships on Dollar Lake in Eagle River fell victim to the unseasonably mild weather and lack of ice. It had been scheduled for the 9-11<sup>th</sup> of next month. And Wausau's annual Winter Fest cancelled their outdoor activities on the 400 Block. The indoor events will continue as planned Saturday from 11-to-1 inside Washington Square, downtown.

Speaking of weather, a storm system is headed our way but this time it's bringing more mild temperatures and a wintery mix of freezing rain, sleet and rain. Forecasters expect it around lunchtime tomorrow with roads becoming slippery by afternoon. Accumulating ice is expected across much of north central Wisconsin.

Going around Republican opposition, Governor Tony Evers secured federal funds to

purchase the 70,000 acres of the Pelican River Forest, east of Rhinelander, making it the largest land conservation purchase in state history. The tract will now remain undeveloped with public access for hunting, fishing, trapping and motorized recreation. GOP members of the legislature's budget committee, including Senator Mary Felzkowski, initially cut funding for the project, citing the potential for adverse effects on the northwoods economy. The funding is coming from the US Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program.

Wisconsin's sturgeon spearing season opens February 10<sup>th</sup>, and the future of the sport remains in doubt because of a move to add the fish to the endangered species list. Congressmen Mike Gallagher and Glenn Grothman introduced a bill to exempt the state from that decision.

The Eagle River Fire Department promised an update by Wednesday on plans for the annual ice castle downtown. That update yesterday was no go. Dollar Lake, the same lake that this week had the national pond hockey championships cancelled doesn't have enough ice to build the popular castle. Average thickness is around 8" while the structure needs around 14. Last year's lack of winter also put off building the massive castle that's been an annual feature since 1933.

Politicians were out around north central Wisconsin yesterday. Governor Tony Evers was in Wausau to address the need for better healthcare for women. There's a bill currently moving through Madison that has bi-partisan support that would enable Wisconsin to join 43 other states extending coverage to pregnant women for up to a year

after they give birth. The Democratic governor there is still Republican opposition but they're working on that. At the same time in Rhinelander, Republican Congressman Tom Tiffany held the first of three listening sessions on a variety of topics. Issues ranged from the impeachment attempts for President Joe Biden to tribal and veterans issues and more. Tiffany is also stopping in Weston, Marshfield, Rice Lake, St. Croix Falls and New Richmond.

The Merrill School District hasn't had a lot of luck passing referendums of late. But that's not stopping them from bringing another one to voters this spring. They're asking for \$16-million for repairs and renovations across the district. A recent survey showed better than 50% support this time around. Residents will see the question in April.

	News	1/25/24	1230p,530p	1:30	Rhinelander police performed a
--	------	---------	------------	------	--------------------------------

Rhinelanders police performed a health and wellness check with a firearm involved

health and welfare check involving a firearm overnight in the city. Officers were able to subdue the individual and get them some help. Early reports said shots were fired near the high school, which was not the case. Police said there were no safety concerns.

Rhinelanders newest hotel is now open. The 99-room Holiday Inn & Suites on the city's east side boasts 600 square feet of meeting space, 24-hour business center, oversized pool and hot tub and fitness center. The hotel is near the Rhinelanders Ice Arena, Hodag Dome and the area's top businesses.

The Rhinelanders Community Foundation awarded nearly \$102-thousand to local organizations serving the area last year. The organization is now accepting applications for grants in 2024. Submissions should be made

between the first and 29<sup>th</sup> and February and more information and qualifications can be found online at [rhinelandercommunityfoundation dot com](http://rhinelandercommunityfoundation.com).

After two Waupaca County Planning and Zoning committee members changed their votes, plans for a sand mine on the site of the Lola Car Show are again moving forward. Neighbors aren't happy and will appeal the decision. The construction company looking to develop the site say their complaints are based on guidelines and not law. Faulks Brothers Construction and owners of the car show land propose removing sand and gravel from the property over the next 10 to 15 years. There's an estimated million tons of usable material that could be mined and the contract is to remove at least 75,000 tons per year. Permits are

					pending.
State abortion bill	News	1/26/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>After more than two hours of debate, the Republican-controlled Assembly approved a bill calling for a binding referendum to ban abortions after 14 weeks of pregnancy. Current law bans the procedure after 20-weeks. A statewide referendum will go before voters in April and if approved, the prohibition would take effect the day after the results are certified. Chances of that happening however are slim as Democrats opposing the measure say it amounts to government overreach and women should be able to make their own choices. Governor Tony Evers is expected to veto it, even if it passes the Senate as well.</p> <p>Governor Evers also rejected the GOP changes to his legislative maps. The changes would have avoided Republican incumbents running against each other in</p>



redrawn districts. The state supreme court is ready to take over if there's no agreement.

The Let's Minocqua Visitors Bureau yesterday unveiled its new electronic reader board. The nearly 10-foot tall structure on Hwy 51 heading into the city will provide the bureau and local non-profits to promote their events. The sign replaces the large banners that were used to promote local events. President Krystal Westfahl said the large LED sign will provide a clean, elevated look at upcoming events as you come into town. Interested organizations can contact the bureau for more information.

Rhineland High School's FBLA/DECA Jeans for Teens drive netted more than 600 pair. They're now donated to Frederick Place, the homeless shelter in Rhineland. This was the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the project and organizers

					thank the entire community for the amazing success.
State lawmakers want a cap on the state's wolf population	News	1/26/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>While a lawsuit moves through the court system on the issue, Wisconsin Republicans sent a bill to Governor Tony Evers mandating state wildlife managers set a cap on the state's wolf population. The move would force the governor to choose between the wishes of conservationists who want to protect the animals and farmers who say they're destroying their livestock. The measure's passed both houses and Evers now has the final decision. Republican lawmakers have sided with their constituents in the north, calling repeatedly on the DNR to adopt a hard cap to no avail.</p> <p>A new K-9 will help investigate internet crimes against kids in Wisconsin. Attorney General Josh Kaul introduced Moose, who will specialize in electronic storage detection. Kaul said Moose and</p>

his handler, Special Agent Alexander Bol, are primarily assigned to assist with Internet Crimes Against Children investigations, but can also prove useful in a variety of other investigations. Moose can also be used to provide comfort to children during investigations and court proceedings. The two-year-old Black Lab joins K-9 Kozak in the DOJ's Division of Criminal Investigation.

Rhinelanders' Common council meets in special session Monday night with two items on the agenda. One of them is to accept the resignation of council member Tom Kelly. He's served the city for 16 years, as well as district two as an Oneida County supervisor. Health issues are prompting the move. The council will also discuss the process of filling the vacancy. The group will also review the mayor's appointments to the district library board and the city's board of

					review.
Price County sheriff's dept. investigating two deaths	News	1/29/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>The Price County Sheriff's department is investigating the deaths of two people. Their bodies were discovered early Saturday morning the Township of Elk. No other information was released, as well as the name of the victims. Later that afternoon, the sheriff's department in Forest County received a 911 call about a one vehicle rollover on Hwy W near Lost Lake Lane and reports of a gun shot. Shortly after 4 the driver was found outside the vehicle with an apparent self-inflicted injury. The man died on route to the hospital.</p> <p>The 48<sup>th</sup> annual Lions Ice Fishing Jamboree, a major fundraiser for the organization is the latest victim of the lack of winter. The popular event, originally set for Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled for safety concerns.</p>

The event draws hundreds of ice anglers and the ice has been deemed unsafe to handle that amount of people and equipment. It's one of the largest fundraisers for the Lions.

To no surprise, this month is one of the warmest on record, follow the same distinction for December. High temperatures Wednesday may challenge records for the last days of January with 40s expected. Temperatures are trending well above average in February as well and forecasters don't see any hope for accumulating snow at the same time.

The defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs will meet the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl 58 February 11<sup>th</sup>. KC heads to the big game for the fourth time in five years after dropping Baltimore 17-10. The niners ended the storybook

					season for the Detroit Lions, winning 34-31.
Pine Crest nursing home struggling to see the property	News	1/29/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>The Pine Crest Nursing Home is still in the news as efforts to sell the struggling facility continue. It's currently owned by Lincoln County and operated by North Central Health Care. About 150 people met over the weekend to discuss ways to keep it open to continue serving its residents. Low profits and maintenance costs are leading the reasons to sell it. A petition to keep it open is headed to the county board next month.</p> <p>Beyond selection preferences for local, nonpartisan offices next month and presidential candidates in April, you might also weigh in on school referendums when casting ballots this spring. More than 50 school districts, Rhinelander and Merrill among them, have already said</p>

they're putting at least one referendum on the ballot and many others are still considering it. Last April there were 83 school referendums before the voters across the state with nearly half of them failing. Out of the 37 rejected, 22 of them were nonrecurring operational referendums. Four addressed recurring operational funding and 11 were debt or capital referendums. The largest ask this time around comes in Milwaukee where schools are seeking \$252-million in additional operating revenue.

First term Congressman Derrick Van Orden will seek another term in the House of Representatives. Making the announcement over the weekend, the Republican represents Wisconsin's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional district. He currently serves on House committees on agriculture, transportation and infrastructure

					as well as veterans affairs. That's tainted by his actions in Washington, where volatile and unpredictable outbursts have garnered national headlines.
Antlerless deer season across the northern part of the state	News	1/30/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	A bill working its way through Madison looks to pause the antlerless deer season across the North. The Republican measure is in reaction to the decline in the herd and as a potential solution, they're looking to slow things down over the next four years. Overall the state has experienced drops in both the harvest and number of hunters in the woods. The bill is being circulated by GOP State Representatives Chanz Green of Grand View, Calvin Callahan of Tomahawk, Angie Sapik of Lake Nebagamon, Rob Swearingen of Rhinelander and



Senator Romaine Quinn of Cameron. This would affect all or part of 20 counties across the northern forest deer management region. Critics of the proposal say individual counties already have the authority to suspend permits, and have exercised that right in the past.

The slow start to winter this year's prompted a coalition of chambers and visitors' bureaus across the North to ask the state for help. The area is experiencing those disastrous effects on area businesses and lodging properties, especially across Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Price and Vilas counties. The group hopes to secure state and/or federal funding to help mitigate the losses from the lack of visitors

					<p>as snowmobile trails have yet to open and now ice fishing becomes more hazardous as temperatures are much above normal for this time of year. Estimates put lost revenue so far at more than \$6.5-million. Many businesses are already showing losses over 80% over the last several months and to date, weather forecasts don't look good.</p>
Pelican River forest	News	1/30/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>Last week we told you about a move made by the governor's office to secure the Pelican River Forest just east of Rhinelander to protect it. Funding was put in place to ensure the conservation effort, despite having things held up last year at the request of Republican lawmakers. Governor Tony Evers said outdoor groups donated the funding to complete the project for the 70-thousand</p>

acres. Supporters are already working with ATV/UTV clubs to create a network of trails through the property they hope to have open by this summer. The effort conserves the land that includes the headwaters of the Wolf River and several miles of pristine trout streams.

Elected officials in western Wisconsin are still coming to terms with the departure of a major health care employer. State Senator Jeff Smith says of particular concern are mental health services offered at Sacred Heart in Eau Claire. "They've got a grant to expand mental health services, and now people are really concerned that that's not going to happen and what is going to happen with that. So it just hits all sorts of places that are that really are a concern." Hospital System Health System announced last week it will close its hospitals in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, and Prevea

					<p>clinics in the Chippewa Valley. More than 1200 HSHS and Prevea employees will be impacted by the closures, most of which will be completed by mid-April.</p> <p>In related news, Lt. Governor Sara Rodriguez was in Wausau yesterday to address workforce challenges in the healthcare industry.</p>
<p>Minnesota couple have been identified in a murder/suicide in Price County</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>1/31/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A Minnesota couple have been identified as the victims of a Price County murder/suicide. Early last Saturday morning the Sheriff's department got a call reporting a suicidal man had just killed his wife. Upon arrival at a home on South Minnow Road in the Township of Elk, deputies found Patricia and Richard Cooper of Cottage Grove, Minnesota dead from gunshot wounds. The investigation into the incident continues.</p> <p>One of the biggest ice fishing tournaments in the state has</p>

cancelled due to the mild weather. The Battle on Bago, the fishing portion at least, succumbed to the weather. The large event, scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> is held annually on Lake Winnebago. The events at Menominee Park will still take place. Plans are in place to refund fishing tickets and you can check their Facebook page for information.

New research finds Wisconsin is one of best places to sell your home. According to the report from Agent Advice, based on the average number of days for the sale, Indiana comes out on top with about 60-days from the day of listing to an accepted offer. Wisconsin is second at just under 65-days and Michigan third at 66-days. The data comes from recent Zillow listings outlining the average number of days it took for an offer to be accepted on a home in each state and the

					number of days until closing. Sale time varies due to demand to move to the state and a lack of supply for affordable housing, according to the report.
The Northwood's is setting up to be the warmest winter on record	News	1/31/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>The Northwoods is setting up what could be the warmest winter on record. Forecasters looking ahead into February don't see any major changes headed our way, meaning March-like temperatures will stick around for a while longer. This month will end up in the top 10 warmest on record. We've had temperatures above normal since December and long range models have that continuing until Valentine's Day. There is a possibility for some active winter weather to arrive after that it's difficult to predict because now there will be increased daylight with more sunshine.</p> <p>Goodwill stores always appreciate the donations of people, but this</p>

one, not so much. Ashland Police and the Marathon County Sheriff's Department bomb squad evacuated the True North Goodwill in Ashland after a live World War II grenade was discovered. It was placed outside the building and the store closed before authorities arrived. No other weapons were found in the donation bin. Besides, the organization doesn't accept weapons of any kind and don't resell them at the stores. The device was detonated at a safe location.

You may recall UPS workers just approved a new contract last in September providing pay raises, new job creation and allowing more part timers to transition to full time. Yesterday, the company announced 12,000 will now be cut and they're looking to sell it's Coyote truck load brokerage business. UPS acquired the company in 2015. Company

officials yesterday said the move will save the delivery service nearly a billion dollars. Stock prices dropped nearly 8% yesterday for the company.

### Quarterly Issues/Programs List

Station: WMQA  
 Quarter: 1<sup>st</sup> (FEB)  
 Year: 2024

<i>ISSUE DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>PROGRAM SEGMENT</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>DURATION</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION OF SEGMENT</i>
Gov. Evers in Wausau	News	2/1/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Governor Tony Evers was in Wausau again yesterday, this time to sign several bills to expand access to dental coverage and the healthcare workforce. The five bipartisan measures provide dental care more attainable, especially in rural areas. The bills will also help the technical colleges in Wisconsin support and strengthen their dental and



oral hygiene workforce. To that end, Northcentral Technical College received \$2-million to bolster their current dental and therapy programs.

For the first time in more than 35 years, the Langlade County Sheriff's Department has a new K-9 officer. The office introduced Sheena yesterday, a Belgian Mal/in/wah shepherd mix trained in narcotics, tracking and apprehension. She'll also be seen a lot in area schools. In the past the department's had to borrow K-9 units from neighboring agencies.

Beginning next week, parents can begin applying to send their kids to school in a different district. The open enrollment period opens Monday and any Wisconsin resident in 4K through 12<sup>th</sup>

					<p>grade is eligible. However, a child may transfer to a nonresident school district for early childhood education or 4K only if the child's resident school district offers the same type of program and only if the child is eligible for that program in the resident school district. Families are responsible for transportation but there are some exceptions. The open enrollment period ends April 30<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>And the Green Bay Packers picked up a new defensive coordinator, hiring Jeff Hafley from Boston College to take over the role of the fired Joe Barry.</p>
Yesterday's mild weather set records	News	2/1/24	1230p,530p	1:30	The US Senate Health Committee is investigating the practices of major drug companies in an effort to

stop price gouging on inhalers. Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin sent letters to AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, GlaxoSmithKline and Teva asking them to stop improperly listing patents for inhalers in order to stifle competition. The way they're listed can block competing drug products, many times lower cost alternatives for up to 30 months. Inhalers can cost as little as \$10 in France but here they're up to \$600. Baldwin says she's asking they either justify their patents or take them down by February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Yesterday's mild weather set a couple records and just missed several others across north central Wisconsin. And we could have a repeat this weekend. Merrill and Antigo set new marks at 47 and 43 respectively. Wausau and Rhinelander missed the

record marks by one degree. Sunday's temperatures right now are forecast to reach the mid-to upper 40s. How crazy is this weather pattern? Sap is already beginning to run in maple trees and Iron County, Michigan has the load limits in place on area roadways.

And you've probably noticed the days are starting to get longer and we'll soon have our clocks "spring forward" as daylight saving time approaches in March. While it unfortunately means we'll get an hour's less sleep, we can look forward to more sunlight in the evening hours. Daylight saving time starts on March 10<sup>th</sup> and will end November 3<sup>rd</sup> as the sunrise and sunset will fall back an hour earlier.

New legislative state maps	News	2/6/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>The Wisconsin Supreme Court has about a month left to put in place new legislative maps as part of a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the current Republican-drawn maps...a process that steeped in political fighting. Two consultants ruled out the only proposals from the GOP, calling them "partisan gerrymanders," suggesting the court will consider plans put forth by Democrats or UW professors. Parties in the case have until Thursday to respond to the consultant's report. Meanwhile, the state elections commission points out the new maps must be in place by March 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure clerks have enough time to properly administer the voting.</p> <p>A Shawano area teen will be sentenced in April, after being found guilty yesterday</p>
----------------------------	------	--------	----------------	------	---

of throwing a barrel of fuel on a bonfire two years ago at a party. 18-year old Samuel Armstrong faced 13 felony counts of injury by negligent use of explosives or fire. He took a no contest plea and accepted a deal with prosecutors. A number of teens were seriously burned. The judge, making it very clear to Armstrong yesterday, she does not have to follow the agreement between both parties for a year in jail and could still impose a sentence of up to 45 years in prison.

Looking for summer work that will get you outdoors? The DNR may have the perfect position in the form of a volunteer campground host at one of the state forest campgrounds. Openings run from May through November with more information

					available online at the volunteer opportunities webpage.
New presidential candidate on the state ballot for the primary	News	2/6/24	1230p,530p	1:30	The Wisconsin Supreme Court's ruled Democratic presidential candidate Dean Phillips will be on the ballot for the primary. The high court unanimously ruled the state's presidential preference selection committee failed to demonstrate it exercised discretion in keeping the Minnesota Congressman off the ballot. Attorneys for Phillips argued he's a nationally recognized candidate and now will be included in the April election along with President Joe Biden. And, if you were curious, Republican candidates who've already dropped out of the race will still appear before voters. After nearly 4000 complaints, Honda is recalling more than

three quarters of a million vehicles due to a faulty sensor that may cause the front passenger air bag to inflate when they're not supposed to. The recall covers the Honda Pilot, Accord, Civic sedan, HR-V and Odyssey models from the 2020 through 2022 model years as well as the Fit and Civic coupe, Civic hatchback and Type R, Insight, CR-V, Ridgeline and Accord Hybrid. Dealers will replace the seat sensors at no cost to owner beginning next month.

The Eagle River Chamber of Commerce kicked off their chamber bucks program. It's all in an effort to incentivize both locals and visitors to spend money at local businesses this winter. People making purchases



					<p>can bring their receipts to the chamber office to entered into a weekly drawing for \$25 gift certificates. The first winner will be announced Monday, with weekly winners through the end of April. The unseasonally warm weather and lack of snow's created a big challenge for area businesses, prompting the creation of the program.</p>
<p>A plea deal expected for a Tomahawk woman</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/7/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A plea deal is expected today for a Tomahawk woman, charged with disorderly conduct and 41 counts of false imprisonment. 63-year old Debra Decker, a bus driver in the Tomahawk School district was reportedly frustrated with the behavior of the kids on her bus and returned to the shop without dropping them off. The incident occurred January</p>

18<sup>th</sup> last year. Investigators said before leaving the school she warned the children after they were loud and not listening to her. She turned up the radio loud in response. Decker then contacted the shop saying she was bringing them there and the parents could pick them up. A different driver finished the route. She's back in court at one this afternoon.

The historic Lutsen Lodge on the shores of Lake Superior was destroyed the fire early yesterday. According to an online post from Cook County, Minnesota, the staff reported smoke from the floor in the lobby. There were no guests on site. Officials say the structure is a total loss and had been operating since 1885.

While snowmobiles have been keep off the trails

					<p>because winter hasn't shown up yet, portions of those systems are being used by other off road vehicles. The Lakeland ATV/UTV club reports routes are open for use in the Arbor Vitae and Woodruff areas. New signs are up directing operators. This includes the railroad grade between Woodruff and Lake Tomahawk. Club officials say if four or more inches of snow should fall, trails will immediately close. Riders are urged to use caution and follow the new posted signs.</p>
<p>Republican National Convention coming to Milwaukee in July</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/7/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Milwaukee hosts the Republican national convention in mid-july and area colleges and universities, some as far away as Madison will play a key role in housing. Thousands</p>

are expected and the schools are preparing to house law enforcement, journalists, convention volunteers and others associated with the RNC. Dorms are a good option to house large groups at a lower cost than hotels while still being relatively close to the event. Details are still being worked on as not schools are open to the idea. To date, no formal contracts have been signed. Continued mild temperatures and the threat of rain is causing major concerns for this weekend's opening of the sturgeon spearing season. The DNR will have registration stations open but ice conditions are treacherous in many locations. First responders say they'll have to be extra alert due to the thin patches of ice on the state's lakes,

even along the shorelines. Smaller crowds are expected and any change to the season would have to come from the legislature.

Dozens of Ojibwe from different bands in Wisconsin took to the icy waters of Pelican Lake last month in the annual ISH/PA/GOO/NEEKA Deep Snow ice spearing camp. The social event has a deeper significance as it includes a revitalization of historic indigenous traditions also with workshops and language classes. Originally started years ago for tribal kids, adults grew into it because they were moving from the cities back to the reservations. It's all in an effort to teach the art of fishing, hunting, gathering wild rice and collecting

					maple syrup.
State officers looking into shooting in Rhinelander	News	2/8/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) continues their investigation into an officer involved critical incident in Town of Crescent, near Rhinelander that occurred on the evening of Saturday, January 20 <sup>th</sup> . Upon arrival at the residence, law enforcement determined there were two subjects inside. Law enforcement entered the residence where they were met with gunfire by Steven Kincaid, age 33. One of the deputies returned fire. All law enforcement retreated and created a perimeter. Kincaid continued to shoot at the officers from the second level of the house and gunfire was exchanged. Eventually the second subject came out

of the residence and was evaluated by emergency medical services on scene. The tactical team entered the house and located Kincaid who was deceased. DCI is continuing to review evidence and determine the facts of this incident and will turn over investigative reports to the Oneida County District Attorney when the investigation concludes.

Not surprisingly, President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump are tied in a hypothetical rematch in Wisconsin, according to the newest Marquette University Law School Poll. Wisconsin is part of a handful of states that will decide the next presidential contest and as of

					<p>now, Biden and Trump are each tied at 49% among registered voters in the battleground state, Just 2% of those surveyed in the most recent poll, released yesterday, said they haven't decided on whom to support in the November election. The February poll surveyed 930 voters in Wisconsin between Jan. 24th 31st. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 4.2%.</p>
<p>An employee at a Sawyer County assisted living facility was sentenced Tuesday</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/8/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>An employee of an assisted living facility in Sawyer County was sentenced Tuesday for negligently abusing patients - likely to cause great bodily harm. Beth Knauss, from Winter, pleaded no contest to that charge Tuesday in return</p>



for dismissal of two drug charges. Knauss and her daughter Tara Knauss were charged after EMS was called to Queen of Angels Assisted Living in Radisson in 2022 for a patient they thought was having a stroke. Investigators learned that Knauss and her daughter left residents alone as they went outside to smoke marijuana. Beth Knauss was placed on probation for three years and ordered to pay restitution.

The tax season is upon us, and when filing your state income taxes this year, you might be able to use new, free filing services through the state Department of Revenue. The state rolled out a "new and improved" electronic filing

system this year called WisTax. You're eligible to use the new service if you've filed taxes in Wisconsin recently, are a full-year resident and have a state driver's license or ID card.

Information about online courses offered by the University of Wisconsin system is now available through one source. UW system officials announced yesterday that a new website has been launched listing all online courses available across the system's 13 campuses. The website, [online.wisconsin.edu](http://online.wisconsin.edu), lists more than 200 online programs, including courses in 10 associate, 99 bachelor and 95 master programs. The site includes links to the campuses that offer the courses. System

					President Jay Rothman says the site will help UW market online programs to prospective students around the world.
Tornado spotted near Madison yesterday	News	2/9/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	The National Weather Service confirmed that a tornado was spotted yesterday evening just south of Madison between Evansville and Edgerton, marking the first time a tornado touched down in the state during February. The tornado was part of a storm system tracking across southern Wisconsin that has resulted in strong winds, lightning and hail. The weather service had issued a tornado warning for parts of Dane, Jefferson and Rock counties, which expired around 6:45 p.m. Power poles snapped, large trees down, roof damage to homes and damage to trailers were reported. While this is the first February tornado in Wisconsin, the state has seen three during the month

of January.

A Lac du Flambeau woman has been found safe hours after being reported missing. A Wausau TV station reports that the Tribal Police Department received a report of a missing person around 11:45 a.m. yesterday morning. The 68-year-old woman, who reportedly suffers from dementia, went for a walk, but hadn't returned. About five hours after the woman went missing, a Vilas County officer received information about a woman walking on County Highway H. The Lac du Flambeau Tribal Police went to the reported location, and found a woman walking down the road. She was medically evaluated, but was returned home safely

					<p>without needing medical treatment.</p> <p>Governor Tony Evers is not ruling out an independent investigation by the State into the growing number of deaths inside Wisconsin prisons. Questioned at an event Wednesday in southwestern Wisconsin, Evers said the state is waiting on internal investigations into the three deaths that occurred in recent months at one of the facilities, and if needed, the state would pursue an outside, independent investigation as well. Waupun, one of the state's five maximum-security prisons, has been the site of <u>three in-custody deaths</u> during its monthslong state of lockdown.</p>
Power outages and property damage related to tornado in southern part of the state	News	2/9/24	1230p,530p	1:30	Major property damage, power outages and minor injuries have been reported following <u>a tornado and severe storm</u> that hit near

Evansville south of Madison in Rock County last night. This marks the first time a tornado touched down in the state during February. The tornado was part of a storm system tracking across southern Wisconsin that has resulted in strong winds, lightning and hail. Nearly two dozen local police, fire, paramedics and service organizations responded to reports of severe weather damage east and northeast of Evansville just before 6 p.m., according to an overnight news release from Rock County Sheriff's Office and Rock County Emergency Management.

An attorney for the energy company Enbridge tried to persuade a federal appellate court yesterday to vacate an order that would shut down part of a pipeline running through a Wisconsin tribal reservation. About 12 miles of Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline runs across the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's reservation.

The company contends that U.S. District Judge William Conley improperly ordered Enbridge last summer to shut down a section of the pipeline on the reservation within three years. Enbridge wants to reroute the pipeline around the reservation, but needs more time to secure permits from multiple government agencies.

The state Assembly is set to vote next week on a \$2.1 billion tax package that would significantly expand the state's second-lowest tax bracket to include more than 1 million Wisconsin residents earning between \$19,000 and \$150,000 per year. The proposal would overhaul the state's tax system by also exempting up to \$75,000 of retirees' income and expanding tax credits for married filers and for filers with children. Some Democrats believe the package could lead the state into a risky financial situation, while the proposals' Republican authors

					<p>have said the bills are designed to make Wisconsin a more attractive place to live for families, low- and middle-income earners and retirees. The state senate Majority Leader told reporters he expects the chamber to vote on the bills soon.</p>
<p>Candidates to have their name on ballots for April's primary in the state</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/12/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Last week, the Wisconsin Elections Commission sent to county clerks the finalized, certified list of candidates qualified to have their names appear on the April presidential primary ballot. That's determined not by WEC, but by Wisconsin's Presidential Preference Selection Committee and any applicable court decisions. The Democratic candidates are Joe Biden and Dean Phillips. Republican candidates are Chris Christie, Vivek Ramaswamy, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, and Donald Trump, although only the</p>



latter two remain in the race.

Wisconsin 8<sup>th</sup> District representative Mike Gallagher isn't running for reelection this fall. The Republican said he'll leave Congress at the end of his term to return to the private sector and spend more time with his young family. His departure opens a safely GOP district in largely rural northeast Wisconsin. While the announcement took many by surprise, he said he and his wife have been discussing it for over a year.

Ice heaves on Lake Winnebago in spots were 10 feet high, prompting those taking part in the weekend opening of the sturgeon spearing season to take the ice on foot. But the DNR reported the poor ice conditions led most of the 13,000 licensed spearkers to

					<p>stay home. Officials reported around 450 shanties on the lake, down from 3000 last year. Despite the lack of safe ice, there were success stories, like the 77-inch, 113 pound monster taken Saturday morning. The season runs 16 days or until the quota numbers are reached. Two people had to be rescued from Lake Poygan but as of this morning that was the only incident reported.</p>
<p>Businesses handling the lack of a winter season in the north</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/12/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>We've been telling you about how the business community across the north is handling things without winter. The trouble is, they're not and it's showing. It's estimated Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Price and Vilas counties have already lost more than \$6.5-million due to the lack of snow to open the</p>

				<p>snowmobile and ski trails. That goes back to December. Many areas have reopened systems to ATV traffic to help offset the losses. Some businesses are reporting around 75% year over year losses in the first few months of winter and some have even closed their doors. Bars and restaurants are trimming hours. Local chambers have banded together and met with state officials in an effort to secure state or federal funding to mitigate those losses. The problem is the legislature wraps up their work soon before campaign season gets going so there's little time left for new bills. While health officials say the flu season has peaked nationally, they'd have a hard time convincing those at the lower levels. The virus is intensifying in many rural areas especially across the</p>
--	--	--	--	--

					Midwest. Numbers into the weekend show cases rebounding with high levels across 23 states, up from 18 last week. Flu generally peaks between December and February according the CDC and national data suggests this season's peak came in around December, but a second surge is always possible. Typically that's happened in other flu seasons with that second round sometimes lower than the first. More than 22-million cases have been reports, 250,000 requiring a hospital stay.
Despite warnings people are still heading out on the ice	News	2/13/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Despite all the warnings of hazardous ice conditions, people are still heading out. There were two recoveries

necessary over the weekend, one on Pickerel Lake near St. Germain when an ice shack went through. On Squirrel Lake outside Minocqua, a side-by-side SUV dropped into nearly 35 feet of water. There were no injuries reported with either incident.

Republican lawmakers in the Chippewa Valley want to reallocate untapped state funds toward emergency services grants. It's \$15 million that was allocated in the last state budget for the Hospital Sisters Health System to provide expanded mental health capacity. That never happened. Elected officials noted the closure of HSHS hospitals will mean a loss of emergency services in the region, accounting for nearly 43% of the ER visits. Two bills would free up the money, and allow it to be

used for grants to fund emergency services in the area. They're scheduled for public hearings at the Capitol this week. HSHS hospitals in Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire are set to close in April.

Northern Wisconsin will benefit from a Center for community health advancement grant. The Marshfield Clinic announced the \$500,000 funds will improve food security for families across the area. Marshfield was awarded the grant through the Wisconsin Partnership Program at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health and will directly benefit the YMCA of the Northwoods in both Rhinelander and Park Falls and the Boys and Girls Clubs in Antigo and Rice Lake. The funds are part of some \$3.5-million provided to seven

					new initiatives through the Community Impact Grant Program.
Democrats in the state are getting closer to overturn Republican drawn legislative maps	News	2/13/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>Democrats in Wisconsin are getting closer to overturn Republican drawn legislative maps. At issue are the boundaries for senate and assembly districts, where the GOP has dominated for over a decade. The state supreme court ruled those maps were unconstitutional and ordered them redrawn in time for the November elections. Consultants were hired to move the matter forward and have their opinions now before the high court. Whatever happens, it has to come to an end by March 15<sup>th</sup> in time to get things to local and municipal clerks in time for the elections.</p> <p>If you're making plans to</p>

travel somewhere more exotic for spring break, you may want to heed the warnings from the State Department. The agency's issued a travel advisory urging travelers to avoid Jamaica due to rising crime and the lack of medical services. The Bahama's are also sketchy with high crime around Nassau and Freeport islands. Activities involving watercraft are not consistently regulated and may be poorly maintained. Where to go then? Look at Aruba, Barbados, Bermuda, the British Virgin or Cayman Islands for a memorable trip.

If looking at the prices on the McDonald's menu board has been sending you into sticker shock, take heart. Prices at the fast food giant have jumped as much as 10% last year. Now, with weaker than



					<p>expected sales, company executives admit customers need a break. The prices are beginning to drop on some menu items. Details on the timing or size of any cuts were not released.</p>
<p>An operator of a UTV died in a crash in Oneida County</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/14/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The operator of a UTV died in a crash yesterday. The Oneida County Sheriff's Department reported the accident on private property off Forest Lane in the Town of Newbold shortly after 1:00. A 911 caller stated the machine struck a tree and the driver wasn't breathing and when first responders arrived was pronounced dead at the scene. No other information was available. Firefighters from Lake Tomahawk, Woodruff and Newbold responded to a fire at the American Legion Hall</p>

in Lake Tom. The nearly 100 year old building, a fixture in left field of the ballpark downtown was having the floor refinished when someone reported smoke from the building. Reports of how much damage was sustained has yet to be released.

Businesses across Oneida County have the opportunity for some free promotion through the county's Tourism Council. The official travel website, [oneidacountywi dot com](http://oneidacountywi.com) provides business listings catering to everything from boat rentals and fishing guides to museums, breweries, dining, lodging, shopping and more. The new and updated business listings are being made in conjunction with and in support of Wisconsin Department of Tourism

					<p>initiatives that highlight accessibility options and information on diverse-owned businesses. Businesses can find out more by logging onto the site.</p> <p>U.S. Senator Ron Johnson says it makes no sense to send more money to Ukraine. Johnson was a no vote early yesterday, as the Senate passed a \$95 billion aid package for Ukraine and Israel. The Wisconsin Republican is urging the bill's rejection in the House, where Speaker Mike Johnson has already said it won't get a vote.</p>
<p>Measureable snow in the area</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/14/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>For the first time in a long time we'll talk about measurable snow. Not a lot, but more than's on the ground right now. A winter weather watch begins at</p>

nine tonight through nine tomorrow morning for the area south of Hwy 8. The early commute could see some slippery going with more than an inch around Wausau, up to 3" when you get down to Stevens Point. The heaviest snow will come in after midnight and across the north amounts could total just over an inch. Nowhere near enough to help the winter tourism. A bill sitting on Governor Tony Evers' desk would require UW campuses to admit students at the top of their respective classes. Madison would take those in the top 5% while other campuses would have to admit those in the top ten. The measure was passed by the legislature yesterday. It's part of a deal reached between lawmakers and the UW that limits diversity

					<p>programs in exchange for money to cover salary increases and construction projects. Other parts of the deal are working through the process in Madison.</p> <p>With the closing of two hospitals in Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire, thousands of people will be losing close medical care. To help in that situation, Aspirus Health is bolstering their facilities in the area. The provider will add more inpatient beds at their hospitals in Stanley and Medford and accept new patients at their clinics in Gilman, Owen and Thorp. They'll also hire some of those displaced by the closings, planned for next month.</p>
State teenagers may be able	News	2/15/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	In a time when there are

to get work permits sooner

more and more job openings, teenagers in Wisconsin may be able to get work permits sooner. The Republican proposal would allow 14 and 15 year olds to get jobs without a work permit. It doesn't change how many hours can be worked or prohibiting dangerous positions. Critics say the move would cost the state over \$200,000 in lost fees and lose the only means of collecting child labor data. In 2017 former Republican Governor Scott Walker signed a bill eliminating the permits for 16 and 17 year olds. Democratic Governor Tony Evers has signaled he'll veto this one if it reaches his desk.

Ruby's Panty has been distributing food from the National Guard Armory in Rhinelander for a decade and plans to celebrate next

week. A ministry of Calvary Baptist Church the pantry has given back not only food but some \$55,000 to other local non-profit groups in the area. There are 85 pop-up Ruby's Pantry locations across Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa.

For the first time in a long time, northcentral Wisconsin woke up to measureable snow. Roads were in tough shape early this morning as more than 3" of wet, heavy snow was on the ground. Winter weather advisories expired at six this morning as the snow band moves off to the east. Heavier amounts have fallen across much of central Wisconsin. Still mild temperatures and the wind the next couple days will trim those amounts considerably. The extended forecast has highs in the 40s again next week.

The State Supreme Court will implement new legislative maps if the Legislature and Democratic Governor Tony Evers can't find consensus, but it appears the two sides might reach an agreement. Democrats turned back the governor's proposal, which was supported by Republicans. Simply put, the lines didn't change that much. The court is now looking at a handful of proposals to redraw the legislative boundaries, most of which could dramatically alter the number of GOP seats and ultimately even shift the majority to Democrats. Evers has promised to sign his proposal but is facing pressure by high-powered Democrats to veto them. A spokeswoman said his position hasn't changed.

Bigger snowfalls in the area overnight

News

2/15/24

1230p,530p

1:30

Despite forecasts to the



contrary, Rhinelander ended up with some of the higher amounts of snow overnight with the total at nearly 5-1/2". Roads were a bit treacherous early and schools in Crandon, Elcho, Wabeno and White Lake were all delayed a couple hours. Brisk northwest winds dropped windchills into the single digits and that's what can be expected heading into the weekend.

Temperatures will return to their above normal status by mid-week. The snow is too little too late as the dog sled racing circuit across northcentral Wisconsin has cancelled its season.

First Lady Jill Biden is making a stop in Wisconsin tomorrow. She'll be in Green Bay, arriving at Austin Straubel International Airport at 2:30. She'll visit the Rail Yard Innovation District in

				<p>Green Bay and according to the administration, will highlight President Joe Biden's policies and how they're benefitting students across the country.</p>
<p>Eighteen years of food service for the Rhinelander food pantry is coming to an end</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/19/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p> <p>After being passed by the GOP-controlled legislature, Democratic Governor Tony Evers signed the state's new legislative maps in law. The maps were passed last week with little support from Democrats in either chamber. Those maps were put forward by the Governor and will be in place for the fall elections. Numerous re-drawn Senate and Assembly districts will end the advantage Republicans have enjoyed under gerrymandered maps for more than a decade. Evers said the maps are fair and responsive, meaning voters will see more competitive</p>

contested races. GOP leaders insisted they had no tricks up their sleeves in adopting the Evers maps.

Eighteen years of service to the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry is coming to an end. Guy Hansen, who's served as executive director during that time is stepping back from the day-to-day operations, but will remain as board chairman. The leadership duties will be picked up by Courtney Smith, the associate director the past two years. She has more than 20 years experience working with non-profit management and programming.

At last weeks' Rhinelander Common Council Meeting, the conditions to fill the Aldermanic district 4 vacancy were finalized.

					Interested persons should confirm they live in the district and complete a questionnaire. The deadline is Friday, March first. Based on the number of applicants the council may conduct rounds of voting to narrow the field and by majority vote, choose an applicant to serve the remainder of the term held by Tom Kelly, who recently passed away. The meeting March 11 <sup>th</sup> will make their choice final.
Bolstering childcare across Oneida County	News	2/19/24	1230p,530p	1:30	The Oneida County Economic Development Corporation in partnership with the Northwest WI Workforce investment board and Northcentral WI workforce development board are working to bolster childcare across the county. The Quest grant focuses on access, quality, affordability

and wages by offering training, support services and business engagement opportunities for those interested in starting regulated family care services. The program is federally funded and pivotal for economic development in the area, allowing parents to engage in the workforce with the assurance their kids are in a safe, nurturing environment. More information is available on the north central workforce development facebook page.

Madison businessman Eric Hovde launches his campaign this week in an attempt to unseat Democratic incumbent US Senator Tammy Baldwin in November. He enters the race with the support of Senate Republicans' top

campaign arm. Franklin businessman Scott Mayer is said to still be considering a run for the position. Baldwin is running for a third term and hasn't faced a strong challenge yet.

The ice fishing season has suffered right along with much of the outdoor recreation this winter. Conditions cut down the number of anglers on the water and already, ice shanties are required to be removed. Already today they must be off the water along the Wisconsin/Iowa border. It's March first for the Minnesota boundary waters, the third for inland water south of Hwy 64, the 15<sup>th</sup> for the Michigan boundary waters and 17<sup>th</sup> for everything north of 64 plus Lakes Michigan and Superior and Green Bay. Portable

					shanties are allowed provided they're removed daily.
Federal funds available for northern businesses that are hurt from a lack of tourism	News	2/21/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Federal funds are now available for those businesses across the North affected by the lack of winter tourism this season. Governor Tony Evers and US Senator Tammy Baldwin announced the program and encourage all eligible businesses to apply as soon as possible. A number of outdoor events, many major fundraisers for local organizations were cancelled and the cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobile seasons were non-existent. Many counties in the state are already covered by a pre-existing disaster designation for drought from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This designation allows

businesses in counties identified as drought disaster areas to be eligible for emergency loans to offset their business losses in those counties if their business loss is related to the drought. The economic impact disaster loans will help keep businesses stable until their busy season -- which usually starts in early May.

A redesign for business Hwy 51 in Stevens Point was vetoed by the Mayor yesterday. Mike Wiza's decision delays the planned project for an improved intersection at 4<sup>th</sup> and Division streets. Wiza said he disagrees with building a roundabout at that location saying it would have a negative impact on drivers, pedestrians and emergency vehicle access.



					<p>Wisconsin is well known for its milk and beer...but now you can add water to the list. The city of Columbus, just northeast of Madison won the gold medal at the National Rural Water Association's 25<sup>th</sup> annual Great American Water Taste Test. Columbus beat out 40 other entrants from across the country to grab the title of having the best tasting water.</p>
<p>Rhinelanders get's \$25,000 from a national pizza chain for snow plowing</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/21/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>With more than 100 nominations to a national contest, the city of Rhinelanders gets \$25,000 from Domino's for snow plowing. The nationwide program has the pizza provider either plowing the streets of communities or awarding the funds, some half a million dollars, to 20</p>

towns and cities for keeping the streets clean. Mayor Kris Hanus said the city's already saved over \$10,000 because of the lack of snow this season, and that's due to not using as much sand and salt and overtime hours. He said the 25k will certainly come in handy moving forward, and hopes some snow comes in for pictures to send to the company.

The Shawano County Sheriff's Department continues its investigation involving Atley, a hound mix found with multiple gunshot wounds last week. The dog was treated at an animal hospital in Appleton and is now recuperating with her foster family. She was found near Olson Road and County Hwy C in the Town of Green Valley. The department assures people they are

doing all they can in their investigation and have leads. They also thank the Shawano County Humane Society for all the attention to Atley. Any information would be appreciated.

Top employers across Wisconsin landed on the latest Forbes report ranking midsize and large employers for the nation's best places to work. The best mid-sized businesses include Acuity Insrance, Bellin Health, Johnsonville, Land's End and Blain's Farm & Fleet. In the large category, Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, Kwik Trip, UW-Madison, Gundersen Health systems and Uline. The report includes data collected over the last three years.

Former Merrill mayor	News	2/22/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	The Republican primary for
----------------------	------	---------	----------------	------	----------------------------

announces he's running for state senator

the US Senate race in August in filling up as former Merrill Mayor Derek Woellner announced he's running. The 31-year old Woellner was the youngest mayor of the city at 25 when he was in office from 2018-to-2022. If successful he'll challenge two-term incumbent Democrat Tammy Baldwin in November. Right now his only opponent is Madison businessman Eric Hovde.

A \$2.1 billion Republican tax cut package which draws down the state surplus is now ready for Governor Tony Evers and insiders say chances of it becoming law are slim.

The weather pattern the next two weeks will keep temperatures above normal and that will cap the warmest winter season on

record. Forecasts of a strong El Nino, which users in those mild temps from the Pacific was stronger than predicted. Much stronger, two degrees warmer than normal and that's only happened six times on record. Much of Wisconsin is in the warmest season ever recorded.

Nicolet College  
Cosmetology students will showcase their annual Student Hair next month at the Nicolet College Theatre, and the public is invited. The \$15 admission serves as a fundraiser to support advanced student education. This year, the Cosmetology program is partnering with the Nicolet College Food Pantry to offer attendees the option to donate one non-perishable food item to receive a \$5 discount on the price of admission. Money raised

					from the hair show will allow cosmetology students to attend America's Beauty Show in Rosemont, Illinois, where students can test out the latest products and tools while also networking with seasoned stylists. The event takes place March 8 <sup>th</sup> .
One person killed and another critically injured in head on collision south of Minocqua	News	2/22/24	1230p,530p	1:30	One person was killed and another critically injured in a head on collision early this morning just south of Minocqua. The Oneida County Sheriff's office reported the crash just after 6 on Hwy 51 south of Blue Lake Road. Traffic was rerouted on the highway for hours while the scene was cleared and helicopters dispatched to transfer the victims. One died in transit.

Witnesses said the southbound vehicle crossed the centerline and the northbound vehicle could not avoid it. Names have not been released pending notification of relatives. The Wisconsin State Patrol is investigating the accident.

Major cities, mostly across the south were affected by a service interruption for cell phones this morning.

Northern and Central Wisconsin also experienced outages for services from AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon.

If you're planning to attend the Republican National convention in Milwaukee this summer, you may want to visit their new website to answer any questions. What roads will be open, accessible restaurants, what city services will be affected,

					<p>how protests will be staged and what the security zone will look like are all there. The map is tentative and information about street closures, parking restrictions and security checkpoints will be released later. Outside the security perimeter, parking will operate normally, according to city officials. The U.S. Secret Service is contacting residents and businesses in the zone to develop a plan that minimizes the impact on them. There will also be a plan for mail deliveries and trash pickups in the security zone. This information and more is available online at <a href="http://city.milwaukee.gov">city.milwaukee.gov</a>.</p>
<p>State assembly took action with a number of issues yesterday</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/23/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The state assembly took action on a number of items yesterday, one of them a bill aimed at stemming the</p>



threat of PFAs contamination in the drinking water. Representative Rob Swearingen said communities like Rhinelander and Stella cannot afford to ignore the growing risks posed by the so-called forever chemicals. The measure provides \$125-million from the budget for cleanup and a dedicated fund for support into the future. The Rhinelander Republican called on Governor Tony Evers not to turn his back on the North again and sign the bill. He's already said he won't.

The Assembly yesterday also approved legislation to help the northern deer herd replenish itself. The measure that now heads to the Senate would bar hunters from killing any does for four years. Figures from the DNR

have shown ever decreasing numbers of the animals with the doe harvest in the region down over 27%. In related moves, lawmakers approved increasing the fees for hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for out of state residents. The move is expected to net around \$780,000 for the dwindling fish and wildlife account that funds a number of projects from fish stocking to wildlife surveys. Republican lawmakers raised nonresident deer hunting licenses by \$40 to \$200, nonresident hunting and fishing license fees by \$5, and nonresident combination licenses by \$20 in the state budget that Gov. Tony Evers signed in the summer.

James Crawford, chair of the Forest County Potawatomi,

					delivered the 2024 State of the Tribes address yesterday, calling for bipartisan solutions to problems including human trafficking and affordable housing.
Gas prices climbing again	News	2/23/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>Gas prices have been climbing again lately. In Rhinelander it's at \$3.14 a gallon and according to the Triple A the average in the state is around \$3.02. That's still down a dime from a year ago. Despite being higher lately, Wisconsin remains lower than the national average by 25-cents.</p> <p>In related news, the Forest county Potawatomi community is looking to debut its new line of Fireside Market convenience stores in southeast Wisconsin. The new Fireside concept is among the companies founded by the Potawatomi</p>

Business Development Corporation to expand the tribe's economic holdings beyond gaming. At full buildout the stores would feature a gas station, electric vehicle charging, car wash and convenience store. The initial investment in the project is \$9-million. Pending approvals the first location is planned for Pewaukee with opening targeted for early next year.

The security perimeter for the upcoming Republican National Convention in Milwaukee has an impact you might not expect on one local industry...boating tourism. The event runs July 15-18 and security reasons may mean boats that typically need access to the Milwaukee River would be grounded. But boaters as of yet don't know all the details

				<p>but are bracing for bad news. That could come in the next month.</p> <p>Temperature records have been falling more than the snowflakes across the north, but does the mild winter mean charges this summer? Forecasters say not really. The strong El Nino kept frigid temps well to the north and shouldn't impact the summer. However next winter could return to the real thing.</p>	
Weather will change this week across the state	News	2/26/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>Much of Wisconsin will experience all four seasons in just a few days this week. A powerful cold front will drop temperatures over 40° in about 12 hours Tuesday night, creating a flash freeze, snow showers and slippery roads. That comes as record high temps could be shattered both today and</p>

tomorrow. Winds the beginning of the week could reach over 30 miles per hour. We could pick up around an inch or so of snow by Wednesday morning but the cold snap will be short-lived as warmer air returns by Friday through the weekend.

The Rhinelander School district begins informational sessions this week for the upcoming referendum. Some \$26-million is being sought to renovate and upgrade the tech-ed classrooms across the district, including the auto shop, welding and fab lab. The sessions begin Wednesday. The question will be on the spring ballot in April.

The Langlade County District Attorney is reviewing charges leveled by the Wisconsin Ethics commission against

					<p>Republican officials for alleged violations of campaign finance laws. GOP Party chairman Terry Brand, who's also Antigo's Mayor and Vice Chair Leonard Boltz face criminal charges for money laundering in a scheme that may have violated the limits on campaign donation amounts. Brand disputes the charges saying they followed state law. An article from WisPolitics.com says the Langlade County GOP donated more than \$44,000 to the campaign of Adam Steen, who ran for Assembly Speaker in 2022 against Robin Vos. The charges also include State Representative Janel Brandtjen of Menominee Falls and several others.</p>
Phone service affected	News	2/26/24	1230p,530p	1:30	AT&T was one of several

across the state

carriers including Verizon and T-Mobile that were affected by service outages last week. The company's now issued an apology to its customers and is offering compensation. A \$5 credit will be issued which is the average cost for a full day of service. The credit however will not apply to AT&T business, pre-paid or Cricket customers. There was much made of what could've caused the nationwide outage ranging from sunspots to being hacked. The carriers said it was actually a coding error.

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin wants the state Supreme Court to declare abortion a constitutional right. The organization which provides abortion services at three Wisconsin clinics announced last week it will



file a petition directly with the court. Planned Parenthood President and CEO Tanya Atkinson said, "We are asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to answer this question. Does the Wisconsin Constitution protect the right to access abortion care and a provider's right to provide abortion care? We think it does." Earlier, Sheboygan County District Attorney Joel Urmanski filed a petition to bypass an appeals court and ask the justices to decide whether a ruling from a Dane County judge declaring the 1849 law outlawing abortion does not apply to consensual procedures.

The state legislature is wrapping up its work for the year, sending some bills to Democratic Governor Tony Evers for either a signature or a veto. Others look like they

					<p>won't make it to his desk. That includes a proposal to allow clerks to begin processing absentee ballots a day early and prevent late-night results.</p>
<p>Weather will be changing drastically overnight</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/27/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Expect some iffy travel conditions for the morning commute tomorrow as today's high in the 60s will drop dramatically overnight with single digits and wind chills to 15-below. Strong northwest winds usher in this cold blast along with a mix of precipitation that will be mixed at the start and drop maybe an inch or so of snow. Scattered accumulations may hit 2 or 3" in the snowbelt area of Vilas County.</p> <p>More than 15-million AC adapters for Toshiba laptop computers are being recalled. The units have</p>

date codes between April 2008 through December of 2012 and can overheat and spark, causing burns and fire hazards. Dynabook Americas, the manufacturer is providing free replacements. To date there have been 679 reports of the adapters overheating or catching fire, melting or burning. You can submit a photo of the AC adapter with the power cord cut and certify proper disposal to get the replacement.

For more than two decades the village of Hobart and the Oneida Nation have been at odds. Now, they're suing the federal government of its decision to return land to the band that had been considered part of Hobart, a community that's almost entirely within the Oneida Reservation just west of

				<p>Green Bay. When the tribe bought the nearly 500 acres in Hobart in question, it applied for the land to be moved to federal trust status, meaning it would revert to Oneida sovereign land, which isn't subject to local taxes and jurisdiction. The U.S. Department of the Interior eventually approved the move. Hobart believes the move unconstitutional.</p>
<p>Tricky driving across the area this morning</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/28/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p> <p>Slippery going early this morning as much of the north picked up an inch or more of new snow, sitting on top of a layer of ice. Roads are covered and strong northwest winds are causing some drifting in open areas and dropping visibility. Drivers are asked to use caution. High temperature records were set across the</p>

area both Monday and yesterday, with Rhinelander smashing the old mark of 55 on Tuesday when the mercury hit 64. Today will be bitter but it's not lasting long as above normal temps return heading into the weekend.

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District is cracking down on discipline problems on busses. In a note to parents, Administrator Garret Rogowski said they take the matter seriously and have taken steps to deal with it. Drivers have been reporting problems on the routes with kids using foul language, standing up, being loud and touching other students. Any one of these issues can cause a safety problem and the district recognizes that. Grade schoolers will be taught expectations,

					<p>administrators will ride in the afternoons and penalties will be tougher. Just some of the steps taken to keep everyone on a school bus safer.</p> <p>Nikki Haley's longshot bid for the presidency got a bit longer yesterday as Donald Trump captured the Michigan primary. President Joe Biden grabbed over 80% of the vote, conceivably setting up a rematch with Trump in November. The number to watch moving forward was very apparent in Michigan and that was the uncommitted votes, which tallied over 13% of the total.</p>
More details about a missing Two Rivers boy	News	2/28/24	1230p,530p	1:30	In Manitowoc County, more details have come to light about the case of missing Elijah Vue. The criminal complaint against 39-year-old Jesse Vang stated he

helped his teenage son get on the bus the morning of February 20th, and when he came back inside, 3-year-old Elijah was still asleep. Vang told investigators he brought Elijah into his bedroom and closed the door before going back to sleep himself. When Vang woke up at around 11:00 a.m., he claimed Elijah was gone. He's said to be in a relationship with the boy's mother, Katrina Baur, who's also implicated in the case. As of Monday, Vang is still only charged with Neglecting a Child Under 6, while Baur is charged with Neglecting a Child Under 6 as Party to the Crime and Two Counts of Obstructing an Officer.

Three Republicans are running in an attempt to unseat incumbent Democrat US Senator Tammy Baldwin

this fall. The most well known of them, multimillionaire businessman Eric Hovde dropped his first television ad this week. He cites the economy, crime, health care and open borders as problems facing the country. Baldwin, despite announcing her intentions to seek a third term nearly a year ago, has yet to advertise. The other two candidates in the running include Trempeleau County Board Supervisor Stacey Klein and UWSP college student Re/jonny Ra/veen/dran.

The Mega Millions jackpot is up there again. For the eighth time in the lottery's history the prize will surpass \$600-million. It's been growing since there were two winners in California back in December.



					<p>Two lesser-known Republicans are also running: Trempealeau County Board Supervisor Stacey Klein and Rejani Raveendran, a 40-year-old college student and chair of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College Republicans.</p>
<p>A Merrill man has reached a plea deal in death of a young boy</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>2/29/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A Merrill man has reached a plea agreement after being charged for a crash that killed an 8-year-old boy in 2022. 43-year-old John Lahti pled no contest on two charges in Lincoln County Court on February 20, which include homicide by intoxicated use of vehicle and OWI causing injury. Six other charges were dismissed. Lahti was originally charged in September 2022 after being intoxicated in his</p>

truck, crossing over the center line and colliding with another vehicle. A scheduling conference is set for March 14<sup>th</sup>. Lahti faces up to 46 years in prison.

D.C. Everest Senior High and Greenheck Turner Community Center was on lockdown yesterday morning after an alarm on the lockdown system at the community center was 'inadvertently partially triggered'. According to an email sent to families, students and staff, while work was being done on the lockdown system for Greenheck Turner Community Center, the alarm was triggered putting the Senior High and the center on lockdown. Members of the

Senior High administration team immediately went room-to-room to notify staff and students the incident was a false alarm.

March is Women's History Month, and First Lady Jill Biden will tie in the occasion with her second visit to Wisconsin this year. She'll be launching the new 'Women for Biden-Harris' Campaign. During the tour, Dr. Biden will meet with women and discuss what's at stake in this election. The tour will take place tomorrow through Sunday, making stops in four states, including Wisconsin. The date and location of her Wisconsin stop has yet to be announced.

Tribal nations across the Great Lakes are speaking out on oil pipeline

News

2/29/24

1230p,530p

1:30

Tribal nations around the Great Lakes are urging the federal government to speak out against Enbridge's Line 5 oil pipeline. A group of 30 tribal nations sent a letter to President Joe Biden this week asking the administration to fulfill its commitment to support tribal sovereignty. In December, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals requested federal input in a legal battle between Enbridge and the Bad River Band. The Biden Administration has yet to respond. Last June, a federal district court ruled that Enbridge Energy was trespassing on the Bad River Band's land and must remove its Line 5 pipeline from the Band's land within three years or face a shutdown. Both sides appealed the decision.

The deer overpopulation within the fenced in boundaries of the Weston Power Plant in Kronenwetter is now under control, following weeks of work by Wisconsin Public Service and the DNR. A total of sixty-five deer have been removed from the 350 acre area since January through baiting outside the property. Approximately 25 deer remain. Officials decided to move the majority of deer out of the fenced in area due to lack of vegetation to handle the size of the herd.

A local supermarket employee will be heading to Los Vegas to compete in the National Best Bagger competition

				<p>March 10<sup>th</sup> through 12th. Christina Powers, who works at Trig's Supermarkets Tomahawk location, will compete in the national competition after winning the Great Wisconsin Bag-Off last October, hosted by the Wisconsin Grocers Association. Before Powers heads to Vegas, there will be a send-off rally at Trig's Tomahawk location on Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>, featuring free food, and reusable shopping bags to the first thousand shoppers.</p>
--	--	--	--	---

**Quarterly Issues/Programs List**

**Station:** WMQA  
**Quarter:** 1<sup>st</sup> (March)  
**Year:** 2024

<i>ISSUE DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>PROGRAM SEGMENT</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>DURATION</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION OF SEGMENT</i>
--------------------------	------------------------	-------------	-------------	-----------------	-------------------------------

<p>Mother of missing child is asking for a change in her bond</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/1/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The mother of a missing child is asking for a change in her bond. According to a court document filed yesterday, Katrina Baur asked the court to modify the bond from \$15,000 cash bail to a personal recognizance bond. Baur has been unable to post the cash bail and has been in the Manitowoc County Jail since Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>. Elijah Vue has been missing since Tuesday, February 20. Baur, from Wisconsin Dells, was charged in Manitowoc County with one felony count of party-to-a-crime child neglect and two misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer. The man Elijah had been staying with, Jesse Vang, of Two Rivers, has been charged with one felony count of party-to-a-</p>
---	-------------	---------------	-----------------------	-------------	---

crime child neglect. He was being held on a \$20,000 cash bond. Meanwhile, family and community members in Two Rivers are intensifying their search for the three-year-old this weekend.

The Vice President will return to Wisconsin next week. The White House announced yesterday that Kamala Harris will visit Madison along with Secretary of Labor Julie Su to highlight the Biden administration's commitment to worker apprenticeship programs. The visit will mark her second visit to what will once again be a battleground state in the Presidential election this year.

Wisconsin's Capitol city,



					<p>Madison, made the top ten in WalletHub's 'Happiest Cities in America' list, ranking fourth. The personal finance companies rankings were based on data from a variety of sources and centered on Emotional &amp; Physical Well-Being, income and employment, and community and environment. Milwaukee just missed the top 100 list, coming in at 108. According to the survey, the happiest city in America is Fremont, California.</p>
<p>A trust fund created for the state remains unused</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/1/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A 125 million dollar trust fund that was created last year to help address Wisconsin's "forever chemical" problem remains unused as Democrats and</p>

Republicans remain at odds over how to spend the money and who should be held responsible for contamination. Republicans proposed legislation that would allot money for grant programs for things such as testing, remediation and research. But it would also potentially constrain the Department of Natural Resources from taking certain actions. Governor Tony Evers said earlier this week he would veto the bill, a decision Republicans blasted. Meanwhile, Democrats introduced two bills yesterday aimed at regulating PFAS and banning the substance in manufacturing in the state.

A judge in Waushara County

entered a not guilty plea on behalf of the a Wisconsin Rapids man accused of causing a hit-and-run crash that killed a 67-year-old woman. Daniel Sawyer is accused of hitting another vehicle along Highway 73 near Plainfield and then leaving the scene. The driver of the second vehicle, died at the scene. After the incident, Sawyer was named as a person of interest and was arrested at his Wisconsin Rapids home a few days later. Sawyer faces up to 60 years in prison on the homicide charge if found guilty. No trial date has been set.

Wisconsin's Capitol city, Madison, made the top ten

					<p>in WalletHub’s ‘Happiest Cities in America’ list, ranking fourth. The personal finance companies rankings were based on data from a variety of sources and centered on Emotional &amp; Physical Well-Being, income and employment, and community and environment. Milwaukee just missed the top 100 list, coming in at 108. According to the survey, the happiest city in America is Fremont, California.</p>
<p>Heavy rain across the area last night</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/4/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A rare early evening band of showers and thunderstorms swept across northcentral Wisconsin last night bringing frequent lightning and up to an inch of rain in some locations.</p>

There are two effects with the rain further eroding the ice on area waters to dangerous levels, but it also helped to ease the fire danger across the north where some locations we in the extreme category. More showers are expected later today and high temperatures will still be well above normal for this time of year with 40s the rest of the week while we're typically in the mid-30s. Forecasters are keeping an eye on a possible winter storm that could track toward the state heading into the weekend. Aspirus Health now has 19 hospitals across Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Duluth-based St. Luke's Hospital completed its affiliation with the provider with not only the main facility, but adding to the 130 outpatient clinics and

nearly 14,000 employees. The now combined system will collaborate in clinical care, sharing medical knowledge and resources to improve care coordination and increase patient access across the region. Wausau will remain the headquarters with a corporate office in Duluth.

Several years ago the Hodag Country Festival raised \$70,000 to charter a plane to Washington, DC for the Never Forgotten National Honor Flight. Last year, festers stepped up again and this time contributed over \$73,000 to do it again. This flight, Mission 47 as it's called, will take off April 22<sup>nd</sup> from Central Wisconsin Airport, taking veterans to view the memorials built in their

					honor.
<p>A one vehicle crash in Waupaca County yesterday claimed the life of the driver</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/4/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A one vehicle crash in Waupaca County yesterday claimed the life of the driver. The sheriff's department reported the accident shortly before noon on Crystal Lake Road in the Township of Dayton. Investigators said the lone occupant lost control of his pickup and was thrown out as it rolled over. Life-saving measures were performed on site but the man was pronounced dead at the hospital.</p> <p>Massive funding cuts is leading the Rhinelander-based Tri-County Council to seek outside help. For nearly 40-years the organization's provided services and support for victims of domestic violence. Federal cuts alone dropped a quarter of</p>

a million dollars. Between 2021 and 22, Oneida County saw a nearly 100% increase in sexual assaults. The shelter is one of only two in the North.

Higher demand has kept gas prices up. The Triple-A notes this time of year with milder temperatures and spring break, those prices at the pump increase. The average in Wisconsin this week is \$3.26 a gallon, up 50-cents from last month. The national average is \$3.35. The west side of the state sees the lowest prices at \$2.97 right now.

This may be the first time you hear it but it certainly won't be the last. Daylight Saving Time is this weekend, meaning you'll lose an hour's sleep but gain an hour of daylight in the



					<p>process. When you go to bed Saturday night, set the clocks ahead, unless you're in Arizona or Hawaii. And despite talks at the federal level to end the observation, the bills have been stuck in committee for years, going nowhere.</p>
<p>Numerous accidents across the area due to weather conditions</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/5/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Numerous accidents were reported across the area as a band of snow quickly turns roads into slush-covered hazards. No one was hurt when a service truck slid off Hwy G east of Rhinelander yesterday afternoon and struck a tree. Roads early this morning are ice-covered and slippery. Those conditions won't last as temperatures return to the upper 40s.</p> <p>Wisconsin ended up being the model for other states in</p>

attempts to overturn the 2020 elections. More than 1400 pages of documents, emails and text messages revealed details of Republican operatives plan to keep Donald Trump in office. A civil lawsuit filed against two attorneys and 10 others posing as fake electors ended yesterday when the materials were provided. Federal prosecutors detailed how the plot grew out of Wisconsin with coordination between the attorneys with the Trump campaign and eventually involved Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico and Pennsylvania.

In preparation for the summer season, an additional flight's being added at the Rhinelander/Oneida County Airport schedule.

					<p>Beginning May 20<sup>th</sup> and running through September 9<sup>th</sup>, Delta and SkyWest Airlines will provide early afternoon round trip service to Minneapolis.</p> <p>Wisconsin's wildfire season is off to an early start. Lack of snowfall across the state means conditions are primed for fires. Already this year, the DNR's responded to 138 wildfires, burning nearly 300 acres. The 10-year average is four fires for two acres. The agency anticipates a long fire season ahead. You can view updated maps showing fire danger and burning restrictions at the DNR website.</p>
<p>Search continues for missing Two Rivers boy</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/5/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Investigators with the Two Rivers Police Department</p>

and scores of volunteers have been searching now for two weeks to find 3-year old Elijah Vue. He disappeared February 20<sup>th</sup> and yesterday the department identified a vehicle of interest in the case. A beige 1997 four door Nissan Altima is now in their possession and they're asked homeowners and businesses to review any surveillance video from February 19<sup>th</sup>. The search has already spread well beyond the greater Two Rivers area. Elijah's mother and her boyfriend have been charged with child neglect and obstruction. Governor Tony Evers visited Crescent School in Rhinelander yesterday to kick off a reading campaign and tout the signing of a bill to help parents cover the cost of child care. The bipartisan

measure will expand the tax credits for children and adult dependents from 50% of the federal credit to 100%, providing tax relief for thousands of Wisconsin taxpayers. In making the announcement, Evers said the bill still doesn't go far enough, saying it's a good start in lowering the taxes on parents but it's not enough as it relates to child care at large. He says the cost of child care is too high, period.

Tonight's Mega-Millions lottery jackpot is sitting at \$650-million. If someone gets lucky they'll win the seventh largest prize awarded in the game's history. The largest came in August of 2003 when the total hit \$1.6-billion. Mega Millions holds the distinction of being the only lottery

					game to award five jackpots worth more than a billion, all in different states.
Reward for missing Two Rivers boy has been raised	News	3/6/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Missing more than two weeks now, the search for 3-year old Elijah Vue continues and the combined reward is now up to \$25,000. \$10-thousand of that comes from the Manitowoc County Crimestoppers for information leading to the youngster's location and return or the arrest and conviction of those responsible for his disappearance. Two Rivers Police Chief Ben Beinnert said the FBI reward is up to \$15,000. Elijah disappears while with the boyfriend of his mother, both of whom have been charged with neglect in the case.

A bill is sitting on Governor Tony Evers' desk that requires a cap on the wolf population in Wisconsin. Wolves have been a hot topic of discussion with the state's Native American tribes seeking protection while hunters and farmers say the increasing numbers of the animals are detrimental to the deer population and livestock. The DNR is in the middle and Congressman Tom Tiffany has said the agency should manage those numbers. The Federal Endangered Species Act provides protection for the animals and if removed, that would open the door to allow hunting and trapping. That's taken up in the pending bill, which the Governor hasn't said what he'll do with it.

No winner again last night

					<p>in the Mega Millions Lottery and that pushes the total for Friday's drawing to \$687-million. Two tickets sold did win a million each. March has been a lucky month for the game, with 21 jackpots being claimed since it began in 2002. Two of those winnings exceeded half a billion dollars.</p>
<p>Another candidate for state congress</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/6/24</p>	<p>1230p.530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Another candidate for Congress in northeast Wisconsin. Republican State Senator Andre Jacque of DePere entered the race for the 8th District U.S. House seat being vacated by Green Bay Republican Mike Gallagher. Assuming no other Republican candidates announce, he'll face former state Senator Roger Roth of Appleton in the August primary. So far there are no Democrats running in the heavily Republican district.</p>



Jacque has served in the Senate since 2018 and previously served in the Assembly. Roth served two terms in the Senate before running for lieutenant governor in 2022 and losing to Democrat Sara Rodriguez.

The first statewide ads for Wisconsin's US Senate race came out this week for Republican candidate Eric Hovde. In his ad, which features his wife, Sharon saying he graduated from Madison East and UW-Madison. He's also featured at a Packers game and standing in front of the real estate company started by his grandfather. Democrats meanwhile countered, painting him as a rich Californian and multi-million dollar banking mogul. He's running to take on incumbent Democrat

					<p>Tammy Baldwin.</p> <p>Speaking of elections, the state's newly re-drawn congressional maps will remain. The district boundaries will stay in place for the elections later this year. The Wisconsin Supreme Court last week rejected a Democratic challenge to change the maps once again. The maps, laid out by Governor Tony Evers, show only two competitive congressional districts. That includes the western 3<sup>rd</sup> District and southeastern 1<sup>st</sup> District. The GOP controls six of the state's eight house seats and still hold a slight advantage with the new districts.</p>
<p>Stevens Point officials are asking for any help in a hit and run accident</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/7/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Stevens Point police are asking the public for any information regarding a hit</p>

and run incident. A 63 year old man was located Tuesday around 5 p.m. in a ditch off West River Drive north of Highway HH. Authorities believe the victim was likely struck by a vehicle driving south on West River Drive, while the victim was walking. The vehicle then left the area after the collision. Police said medical personnel treated the victim at the scene, and transported him to a helicopter, where he was flown to an area Wausau hospital.

Vice President Kamala Harris visited a Madison construction site yesterday, joined by Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su, to

announce the signing of an executive order directing federal agencies to explore which government jobs can be filled with trained apprentices, rather than those with four-year degrees. Since the start of the year, Biden officials have made six visits to the state. The trips underscore the heightened attention on Wisconsin by the Biden-Harris campaign heading into November.

The Hodag Dome will be a busy and informative place to be during today's Up North Community Expo. The Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the event today from 10 am until 5 pm. Eighty-five businesses and non-profit

					<p>organizations from seven counties will be on hand to share information. Business leaders are also encouraged to stop by to network with other businesses. Admission is free at the Hodag Dome in Rhinelander.</p>
<p>Wisconsin Rapids man arrested in a hit and run accident</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/7/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A 43-year-old Wisconsin Rapids man has been arrested in a hit-and-run case after Stevens Point police received a tip about a potential suspect. Kenneth Butler is facing charges of hit-and-run causing great bodily harm. The victim was located Tuesday around 5 p.m. in a ditch off West River Drive north of Highway HH. Authorities believe the victim was likely struck by a vehicle driving south on West River Drive, while the</p>

victim was walking. The vehicle then left the area after the collision. Butler remains in the Portage County Jail.

The U.S. Department of Justice has launched an investigation into an alleged conspiracy within Waupun Correctional Institution to bring in cell phones, illegal drugs and other contraband — a probe that has resulted in the suspension of nearly a dozen prison employees. Governor Tony Evers and state Department of Corrections officials in June asked federal authorities to conduct an investigation into potential criminal activities inside the Waupun prison. It's unclear if the allegations

involve smuggling by staff or another role employees could have played in the alleged scheme. The DOC is also facing a class action lawsuit, claiming “cruel and unusual” conditions at the prison.

In Rhinelander, much needed affordable low-income housing will soon be available in the former Roadway Inn. Rhinelander was one of three cities across the state where Wisconsin Economic Development announced new housing projects. \$228,000 was given to the city to turn the inn into affordable housing. Rhinelander City Administrator Patrick Reagan says the project should be

					completed by December of 2025
Law officials investigating a death and fire in the town of Navarino	News	3/8/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	The Shawano County Sheriff's Office and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are investigating a death and fire in the Town of Navarino. According to the Shawano County Sheriff's Office, a couple were burning brush in a burn pit prior to the fire spreading and becoming out of control yesterday morning. The caller, who had burn related injuries, and who said her husband was still in the area where the fire was active. Deputies entered the area and found the man dead. Authorities are investigating the



incident.

Two ice fisherman were rescued from the Willow Flowage in the town of Little Rice yesterday afternoon after spending about 30 minutes in the water after falling through thin ice. A UPS driver discovered the men struggling in the water and called authorities. The men were taken to the Tomahawk hospital.

Winter fun enthusiasts have been very disappointed by the lack of snow this winter, but even if there's a late season snowfall, snowmobile trails in Oneida County won't be opening this season.

					<p>That's the decision of the Oneida County Snowmobile Council. In a meeting Wednesday, after careful consideration the council felt that any attempt to open trails and get them in rideable condition would be difficult to attempt, and would also have a negative impact on landowners property.</p>
<p>A structure fire shut down traffic in Adams County last night</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/11/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A structure fire last night shut down traffic on Hwy 13 in Adams County. The fire reported about five and closed the highway from WI 21 to County J. Traffic was rerouted several hours. No other information was immediately available. That traffic crash killing nine people Friday is one of the deadliest in Wisconsin history. A van with eight</p>

people, seven of them members of an Amish family from Virginia were pronounced dead at the scene. Investigators said the van entered the intersection at Hwy 95 and County J and was struck by an oncoming semi. That driver also died at the scene. A two year old remains hospitalized.

President Joe Biden will be in Milwaukee this week for a campaign event. He'll be in the state Wednesday before heading to Saginaw, Michigan. The White House didn't provide specific information on the visit. The trip comes just one week after Harris stopped in Madison to announce the signing of an executive order aiming to expand apprenticeship programs. Recent polls show both

					<p>Biden and former President Donald Trump unpopular in the state.</p> <p>More temperature records could fall tomorrow as highs in the mid-60s are forecast for much of the North. A normal winter would have a temperature of 36 and the record is 63. Forecasters are looking around 66° for Tuesday. That temp, along with a steady wind elevated the fire danger to high levels across the area. Wildfires can spread quickly under these conditions. The mild weather will quickly fall off by mid-week into the weekend.</p>
<p>Mother of missing Two Rivers boy is facing additional charges</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/11/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The mother of missing three-year-old Elijah Vue from Two Rivers is facing additional child neglect charges. Katrina Baur</p>

				<p>made her initial appearance in Manitowoc County Court last week where judge Robert Dewane denied her request for bond reduction. Prosecutors filed an additional neglect of a child charge and a chronic neglect of a child charge against Baur. In court, prosecutors say they have evidence that on Feb. 14, Baur left a six-year-old child unattended in a vehicle for about an hour in below freezing temperatures, without the vehicle running. In addition, prosecutors say they have evidence that on Feb. 16, Baur left Vue unattended for at least an hour as she and her boyfriend, Jesse Vang, traveled to other locations throughout Manitowoc, not seen with the child. The nation's presidential nominating conventions are</p>
--	--	--	--	--

getting a security boost. Both Milwaukee and Chicago, the host cities are in line for a \$25-million increase in their federal security funding. Congress approved the requests from state and federal lawmakers for the Republicans in Milwaukee and Democrats meeting in Chicago. Both cities are expected to get \$75-million in federal grant money for security costs.

The Rhinelander Community Foundation's reached its initial goal of granting one million dollars to the community since its inception in 2015. The foundation's mission is to promote charitable giving and together with its donors, enhance the quality of life in the area now and into the future.

					<p>The RCF Board is currently reviewing grant applications for this year's grant cycle and will announce recipients next month.</p>
<p>Elevated fire conditions due to dry conditions</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/12/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The National Weather Service is alerting people to the elevated fire danger due to the dry conditions. With the near record temperatures today and increasing SW winds and low humidity, conditions are ripe for wildfires across much of the state. Persons are urged to be careful with activities that could lead to sparking a blaze and that includes campfires, outdoor grills, smoking materials, chain saws and all-terrain vehicles. Debris burning is the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin. Shawano County officials</p>

reported a fatality last week when one got away from someone burning. The DNR recommends checking on any local restrictions before burning debris. Forecasters are calling for some badly needed rain later in the week but that will be south of Hwy 64 for the most part. Police officers responding to wellbeing check in the Village of Rothschild that ended in a suicide, have been cleared of any wrongdoing. Marathon County District Attorney Theresa Wetzsteon says the report indicates officers played no role in the victim's self-inflicted gunshot wound during the January 3rd incident. The situation does not constitute an officer-involved death. Police from multiple agencies were called to the apartment that day for a welfare check, which



					<p>ended with the subject fleeing into a bathroom and producing a handgun. Officers attempted first aid at the scene, the victim was rushed to a local hospital where they died. Officers who responded to the incident were all wearing body cameras and none fired their weapons.</p> <p>And the Packers released David Baktiari and Aaron Jones yesterday.</p>
<p>State senator Mary Felzkowski is running for re-election</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/12/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>State Senator Mary Felzkowski is running for re-election. The Tomahawk Republican's represented the 12<sup>th</sup> Senate District since 2020. Under the newly redrawn maps in the state, Felzkowski represents all of Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Oneida and Vilas counties and parts of Oconto, Marathon</p>

and Shawano. She served two terms in the Assembly before moving to the Senate.

Speaking of the Senate, the body is poised to fire two UW System Regents. The full group is on the floor for a final session day today. A vote to reject Governor Tony Evers' appointments of Dana Wachs and John Miller to the Board of Regents appears likely following a committee vote to do so last week. Wachs and Miller both voted twice against a deal struck between UW leadership and Republican legislative leaders. That agreement released state funding for building projects and employee pay raises, in exchange for restructuring campus diversity, equity and inclusion positions.

					<p>More than 35,000 pounds of Johnsonville turkey kielbasa sausage is being recalled after customers found pieces of rubber in the food. The 12-ounce packs are sold nationwide and while no one's been hurt, the company and US Department of Agriculture are urging people to either toss the product or return it to the store for a refund. People with health problems should see their doctor. The recalled product has a best by date of May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>And it's a sign of the return of spring as peregrine falcons return to Wisconsin. Four nesting pair are nesting at the We Energies and WPS facilities.</p>
Chippewa spearfishing is under way on northern lakes	News	3/13/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Chippewa spearfishing is underway on northern

Wisconsin lakes within the ceded territories. Jonathan Gilbert with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission says they'll keep watch on the number of walleye being harvested. The DNR will take the number of walleye harvested into account when determining annual bag limits for anglers. Gilbert says the days of widespread protests over spearing are over, but they're still asking for some space to work. Treaties with the federal government allow tribal members to take walleye ahead of the regular hook and line season May 4<sup>th</sup>. Another UW System branch campus will close. UW-Milwaukee will close its Waukesha campus at the end of the spring 2025 semester and follows the closure of UWM's West

				<p>Bend campus, UW Platteville's Richland Center campus, and the Fond du Lac campus of UW Oshkosh. The closures are a symptom of the financial challenges facing the Universities of Wisconsin. Since the 2018 merger of the 13 branch campuses with four year schools, only UW Green Bay at Manitowoc has seen enrollment grow. Enrollment at the Waukesha campus was down to 672 this spring. The closure will affect some 100 employees. Nearby Waukesha County Technical College began offering Associate degrees last year.</p> <p>With bipartisan support funding for the Office of School Safety will continue. Both the House and Senate</p>
--	--	--	--	--

					<p>yesterday extending the funding through September of 2025. The office's tip line has attracted national attention as it has received more than 11,000 contacts, resulting in opportunities to intervene early, assist youth, and prevent violence.</p>
<p>Hiway 8 in Pelican will get some needed work this summer</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/14/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Traffic on Hwy 8 in Pelican will get some needed work this summer. The \$3.2-million project begins in May and includes replacing the asphalt and concrete pavement between Hwy 17 and County P. Drivers can expect closures and detours into October. Fire yesterday morning damaged Masonite Architectural, a door manufacturer in Marshfield. Firefighters arrived just before 10 where a large</p>

particle board press was ablaze. Automatic sprinklers initially contained the fire but flames spread into the attic before crews could get things under control. The cause at this point is unknown. One employee was treated for smoke inhalation.

Dry conditions and no snow across Wisconsin means the wild fire danger is increasing. Jolene Ackerman from DNR says the most common start to those fires has been careless burning of yard waste. The agency handled 68 wildfires in the past week alone, and 212 so far this year. Burn permits are currently suspended in most parts of the state where the fire danger is high. Oconto County and several others in central Wisconsin are in

					<p>the very high category.</p> <p>The DNR reports 32 people died in ATV/UTV crashes last year. Warden Jacob Holtzclaw says people need to understand how their vehicles work before they get behind the controls. 95% of those who died in crashes were not wearing helmets.</p> <p>Tomorrow's Mega Millions Lottery drawing goes for \$792-million, the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in the game's history. Two tickets won \$1-million in Tuesday's drawing. The largest jackpot was won last August with a single ticket worth more than \$1.6-billion.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--

Family Dollar stores to shut down across the state	News	3/14/24	1230p,530p	1:30	How many Family Dollar stores in Wisconsin slated for
--	------	---------	------------	------	---



closure hasn't been announced yet as the company plans to shut down nearly 1000 locations this year. The move was announced yesterday following lackluster financial news for the first quarter. The company will close 600 Family Dollar locations in the first half of the year and another 370 plus 30 Dollar Tree stores will not have their leases renewed. The stores accounted for a nearly \$730-million loss. There are locations in Wisconsin that will close already this month and customers almost universally said they'll be hurt by the shutdowns.

Cashiers are going back to work. That's because stores like Walmart and Target are beginning to limit their self-checkout aisles. In some

stores, those lanes are only available to club members. Both businesses monitor the amount of traffic and if needed, will add more self-checkout lanes if the manned ones are getting crowded. The moves come as customers have been complaining about not enough lanes open. Company officials also acknowledge the theft rate at self-checkout spots is higher since there's seldom anyone around to monitor the activity.

Speaking of shopping, retail sales rose last month after being dragged down in part by inclement weather according to the commerce department. February's numbers show an increase of 6-tenths of a percent, after falling over 1% in January. Increases

					<p>were realized at general merchandise, electronics and appliance stores. Restaurants were also up. Sales were off at furniture and home furnishing stores and sales online were also down.</p>
<p>Students at Crandon school complex became ill yesterday</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/15/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>The Crandon Fire Department and Forest County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the Crandon School complex yesterday afternoon after several students and staff became ill. Symptoms were similar in all the cases at both the elementary and middle schools. Investigators looked for any harmful gasses and dispatched both K9 units to search classrooms and lockers. Nothing suspicious was found. During the checks two EMS workers also</p>

became sick. The Oneida County HAZMAT team will continue looking for the cause. Symptoms included lightheadedness, tingling, numbness in extremities, shortness of breath, slurred speech and rapid heartbeat. Anyone with these symptoms should seek medical assistance. Classes and after school activities are canceled for today.

Northland College launched a campaign this week to raise \$12 million by April 3<sup>rd</sup> to avoid closing. If they fail to raise the funds, a news release states the Ashland school "will be forced to begin the closure process at the end of this academic year." The release says a review by the college's Board of Trustees determined there aren't

					<p>“...sufficient resources or the financial stability to continue current programs and operations” beyond this year, adding that the 132-year-old college must adapt and evolve, which might mean “refining the college’s focus.”</p> <p>After a series of motion hearings this week, 46-year-old Lucas Aschbrenner had his trial reset for mid-August. The former elementary school teacher at MHLT faces up to 50 years in prison after investigators found multiple child pornography images on his devices and online accounts. He’s free on a \$25,00 cash bond.</p>
Spring road weight restrictions are beginning to come off	News	3/15/24	1230p,530p	1:30	Spring road weight restrictions are beginning to come off. The Wisconsin DOT will lift them at

midnight on Monday for Class II and posted road restrictions. This includes roadways stretching east to west across central Wisconsin. The northern third will end when conditions warrant. The frozen roads period ended last month. Specific information is available on the DOT website.

Earlier this week we told you the state Assembly approved a bill to continue funding the Office of School Safety. Yesterday, the Senate did the same. The office was set up in 2018 with federal funding following the shooting at Parkland High School in Florida. That money has now run out but lawmakers have noted the success of the office in protecting students and staff and approved continuing

through the next state budget. The measure's just waiting for Governor Tony Evers signature.

A bill barring transgender athletes from female team sports in Wisconsin will be vetoed. The Republican authored measure passed the state Senate in a near party-line vote on its last session day this week, with Republican Senator Joan Balweg joining all Democrats in voting against it. The bill would require separate K-12 men's, women's and co-ed teams and prohibit biologically male students from playing on any women's team. Evers has already vetoed a Republican bill banning gender-affirming care for minors, and he quickly promised a veto of the sports bill as well.

State health officials are

					worried about a growing number of confirmed cases of measles in Illinois. So far Wisconsin is not one of 17 states reporting active cases.
Staff and students at Crandon school will remain out of school	News	3/18/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Students and staff in the Crandon School District will be out through spring break to ensure their safety. This comes as more than 30 of them were sickened by carbon monoxide poisoning last week from a malfunctioning furnace. School officials and local authorities determined more testing and inspections are needed. Plans call for a return on April 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Mechanical personnel will be on site today to work on the equipment. The district is also arranging for a comprehensive cleaning of



the facility to make sure everything runs smoothly and is clear of contaminants.

It may say spring begins this week on the calendar but winter's finally decided it's not going to let go. A more active weather pattern is setting up gusty winds and below normal temperatures all week. There's also the potential for a winter storm for the weekend, beginning Thursday but forecasters say it's still too early to determine the track and types of precipitation that might fall.

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers last week signed 15 bills into law, including one that expands the options for municipalities to fund water quality improvements through a state program.

					<p>Senate Bill 99 allows projects dealing with the reduction of infiltration and inflow in connecting laterals and sewer lines to qualify for funding under the Clean Water Fund Program administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The other bills Evers signed include Senate Bill 586, which allows hunting with an airgun.</p> <p>The Wisconsin Badgers lost to the Illinois Fighting Illini 93-87 in the Big Ten Tournament finals yesterday.</p>
Search continues for missing Baraboo teen	News	3/18/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>Nine months after Baraboo teen James Yoblonski went missing near Devil's Lake State Park, investigators hope a billboard leads to more tips. The Sauk County Sheriff's Department and Crime Stoppers put up the</p>

large sign near the North Shore Road entrance to Devil's Lake in Baraboo this fall on County DL and West 136 across the street from Tumbled Rock Brewery. The billboard has the words "Have you seen me?" written on them next to a picture of the 14-year old James. James' father William Yoblonski is frustrated with investigators and said they are not looking hard enough. He also said he's upset because they have not returned his phone or other personal belongings they obtained during the investigation. People with any information should call the Sauk County Crime Stoppers.

A business owner running against Wisconsin U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin is promising to donate his

Senate salary if elected. Republican Eric Hovde issued the pledge in a campaign ad, promising to donate his salary to a Wisconsin charity. The current salary for a U.S. Senator is \$174,000. Hovde, owner of a Madison real estate firm and a California bank, said in the campaign spot that he "can't be bought." He's expected to largely self finance his campaign against Baldwin as the Democrat seeks a third Senate term.

Reckless driving in Wisconsin claimed 140 lives last year. In an effort to combat that, the DOT and Milwaukee Bucks star Bobby Portis teamed up to help Control Your Drive as part of the Zero in Wisconsin campaign.

<p>A possible clue found in case of missing Two Rivers boy</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/19/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>A red and white plaid blanket found more than three miles from where 3-year old Elijah Vue was missing was reported yesterday by police in Two Rivers. He's been missing since February 20<sup>th</sup>. More community search efforts are planned this week for the youngster as volunteers will be meeting already this morning to continue. The reward for any information that leads to his whereabouts is now up to \$40,000.</p> <p>The price at the pump is the highest it's been all year. The AAA reports the national average for regular unleaded is \$3.47 a gallon. That's up two cents from the same time last year. In Wisconsin, Lincoln</p>

County shows some of the lowest prices with a \$3.37 average. Industry experts say as the weather warms and other factors are causing prices to skyrocket, specifically drone attacks on Russian oil refineries and outages caused by the extreme cold over there.

The Wisconsin State Patrol assisted deputies with the Lincoln County sheriff's department in arresting two juveniles over the weekend. A 16 and 15-year old were driving around with the younger teen hanging outside the passenger window smashing mailboxes. A total of 35 were damaged. Authorities were notified Sunday of a vehicle on Hwy JJ. Anyone finding their mailbox damaged in the towns of Merrill and Rock Falls who hasn't been contacted by

					<p>the sheriff's office yet is asked to call and report it. The teens were turned over to their parents awaiting charges from the DA's office.</p> <p>And Rhinelander School Superintendent Eric Burke will serve a three year term on the Nicolet College Board of Trustees.</p>
<p>Police in Stevens Point release info on man killed last week</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/19/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Police in Stevens Point released details of an assault last week that killed a 61 year old man. Donald Mitchell, Jr died of his injuries following the incident last Friday. Police got the call shortly before noon of a man laying on the ground in a city parking lot. One suspect is in custody, 18-year old Christian Emerson. Authorities are looking for 20-year old Brandon Boehm, 19-year old Arlin</p>

Sangster and 19-year old Daemon Kitzrow. Any information can be forwarded to the Portage County sheriff's office.

Elected officials in the Marathon County Villages of Weston and Rothschild will consider an agreement to merge the Everest Metro and Rothschild Police Departments. Rothschild Administrator Ryan VanDeWalle says there's already a lot of cooperation and the combined department would benefit both communities. The Weston Village Board approved the plan last night, the Rothschild board later this month. VanDeWalle says the new Mountain Bay Metropolitan Police Department would employ about 40 sworn officers. No officers with either



					<p>department would be “re-applying” for their jobs – and all would keep their current rank.</p> <p>Forecasters are watching a developing system that will be moving into north central Wisconsin over the next several days. Brisk NW winds will usher in wind chills in the teens through Friday along with some accumulating snow. Right now it looks like a couple inches for the north with several most from Hwy 64 to Hwy 10 across central parts of the state. Expect travel conditions to be a bit difficult early Friday but conditions will improve quickly into the weekend.</p>
Disturbance at Lincoln Hills injured several staff members	News	3/20/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	Following last weeks' carbon monoxide poisoning of 39 students and staff members at the Crandon School, several

Republican lawmakers will introduce a bill requiring detectors in the buildings. A faulty furnace was discovered to be the cause. Representatives Rob Swearingen of Rhineland, Jeff Mursau of Crivitz and David Steffen of Howard said the legislation includes a process for districts to seek reimbursements for costs associated with purchasing the units. Swearingen said it's a basic safety measure. Meanwhile, parents and students at the school have until tomorrow to submit online if they have any personal belongings in the building that need retrieving. The complex is closed until April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Information is available on the district website.

A disturbance at Lincoln

Hills injured several staff members. The Lincoln County Sheriff's office reports a 17-year old student was making threats while others were being disruptive and resisting staff. Three were treated at the hospital for injuries. The student was arrested.

The Boulder Junction Town Board is planning to expand the sports and recreation area on Hwy M. The current half court for basketball will be replaced by a full-size floor. The project also includes new posts, rims, nets, backboards and team benches. The fundraising goal is \$81,000 for the work, with \$20,000 already committed from room tax funds and another \$2500 from Parks and Rec. An additional \$18,000 is coming from an

					<p>anonymous pledge and when added to town funds, the amount needed is down to \$40,000. Officials hope to begin the project by July.</p>
<p>A new documentary is out that focuses on a northern Wisconsin Indian tribe</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/20/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Two years ago the Wisconsin Voters Alliance sued the Walworth County register in probate seeking records indicating a judge ruled someone was incompetent to vote. The court of appeals decided those records are public. Now the state supreme court will hear the case. The group asserted in their challenge the number of ineligible voters didn't match those in the state's public voter database.</p> <p>A new documentary focuses on a northern</p>

Wisconsin tribe. "Bad River" opened in theaters nationwide last week. The film provides a look at the ongoing legal dispute between the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Enbridge, the Canadian firm which operates a pipeline that crosses the tribe's reservation on the shores of Lake Superior. The tribe wants the aging Line 5 shut down and removed from its lands, citing the damage that could occur in the event of a leak. Enbridge is appealing a federal judge's order for that to happen within the next three years.

A potential federal ban on the social media app Tiktok could have farther ranging consequences than just removing the app from the US. UW-Madison cyber

					<p>security strategist Dave Schroeder says other companies harvest the same sort of data that TikTok does. He says the bill could set up a national discussion on data privacy, even with US corporations. Proponents of the ban say that data is being sent to Chinese government officials, and that those same officials are using the app to push propaganda to its users in the US.</p>
<p>Menominee tribal police are treating a disappearance as a homicide</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/21/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Menominee Tribal Police are treating a disappearance as a homicide. 31-year old Dean Ford was reported missing in July of 2018. Skeletal remains found in the woods last October have been identified as Ford, a descendant of the Menominee Tribe. Officials</p>

say he'd been living on the reservation or the City of Shawano at the time he disappeared. Anyone with information is asked to contact tribal police or the FBI.

Governor Tony Evers approved measures yesterday to create a network of electric vehicle charging stations along the interstate system and major highways. Nearly \$80-million in federal funds will make it easier for gas stations, convenience stores and other businesses to operate the stations. These would recharge vehicles in less than an hour and are supported by businesses and environmentalists. Critics however say it's a waste since the EV sales have been falling off and manufacturers have even

halted production of some models.

A bill requiring the teaching of Asian American history in Wisconsin is ready for action by the Governor. The measure amends a current law requiring public school districts and pre-service education programs in the state to offer instruction on the history and culture of Native Americans, Black Americans, and Hispanics. Though Asian Americans consist of a little over 3 percent of Wisconsin's population, their numbers in the state have grown over the past years, with residents of Hmong descent providing for 29 percent of the community's total population. If signed into law, Wisconsin would join Illinois in passing similar



					legislation.
<p>Winter weather advisories are in effect for the area beginning tonight</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/21/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Winter weather advisories are in effect for much of the listening area beginning just after midnight tonight, extending into the early morning hours of Friday. The snowfall will be widespread with a couple inches expected across the north and greater amounts heading south. Commuters can expect snow-covered and slippery going to work or school. Those conditions will improve later in the day. Forecasts are calling for a bit more snow deeper into the weekend and early next week.</p> <p>Since February 20<sup>th</sup> the Shawano County Sheriff's office has been investigating the shooting of Atley, a mix-breed dog left on the side of the road</p>

for dead. Deputies on the case have exhausted leads and unfortunately haven't been able to make any progress. Atley has been recuperating and the department asks anyone with information to contact them as it will be looked into.

Wisconsin BadgerCare Plus members can now pick up daily over-the-counter oral contraception medication at no out-of-pocket cost. Governor Tony Evers signaled the move in his State of the State address and this week confirmed it. BadgerCare Plus members, who are low-income residents who don't qualify for Medicaid, can pick up Opill at no cost and without the need to schedule an appointment to get a

					<p>prescription.</p> <p>If you're feeling lucky there are a couple chances for big bucks. Tomorrow's drawing in the Mega-Millions lottery features a \$977-million payout, the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in US lottery history. Right behind that is tonight's Powerball jackpot at \$750-million. Obviously the odds of winning are hundreds of millions to one.</p>
<p>Moderate snowfall blanketed the area this morning</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/22/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Moderate snowfall blanketed the state early this morning with the heaviest amounts south of Merrill. Travel conditions are expected to deteriorate by mid-morning when the heaviest amounts are expected. Trace amounts up to a couple inches is</p>

likely across the north with up to five traveling south. The next big weather-maker is expected Sunday into Monday bringing a rain/snow mix. Several schools are closed or delayed and that information is available on this station's website.

Three Wausau area men are formally charged following a fatal assault in Stevens Point. 19-year old Arlin Sangster and 20-year old Brandon Boehm were in Portage County court yesterday where a cash bond was set at \$250,000 in the beating death of 61-year old Donald Mitchell, Jr in the parking lot of the Cobblestone Hotel and Suites a week ago. 18-year old Christian Emerson is held on a \$50,000 cash bond, all charged with reckless

homicide. A fourth man believed involved will not be prosecuted.

Embezzlement charges are leveled against a 69-year old Antigo man. Gary Kieper is accused of taking more than \$300,000 from government entities and non-profits over the last decade. He's held in Langlade County on a \$500,000 cash bond and due back in court April first.

Measures are in place to handle protests during the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee this summer. Mayor Cavalier Johnson signed a new ordinance setting guidelines for protesters. That includes registration for those wanting to march inside an RNC security footprint set around the

					vicinity of the Fiserv Forum.
It's been snowing most of the day today	News	3/22/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>It's been snowing most of the day today with light amounts to the north but across central and southern regions, a much different story. From about Tomahawk south much higher amounts were being recorded. By 8:00 DePere already have over 6.5". Brine trucks were out early across Oneida County yesterday in advance of this system which is already on its way out. Plows hit the highways just after 3 this morning. There are still some scattered slippery spots with conditions worse as you travel south.</p> <p>Governor Tony Evers signed a bill providing added security for the bank</p>

accounts of older Wisconsinites. The bill's author is Green Bay area Republican state Representative John Macco who said the new law will allow bankers to contact family members or other listed contacts, if an older adult has account activity that's out of the ordinary. Maaco said his mother and mother-in-law were victimized financially, and such safeguards are necessary for the state's growing number of baby boomers who may be potentially vulnerable.

The entertainment lineup for the Wisconsin Valley Fair was announced this morning with Night Ranger performing Tuesday night July 30<sup>th</sup>, LOCASH returns Wednesday and Gabby Barrett Thursday August 1<sup>st</sup>.

					<p>The demolition derby hits Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup>. Reserve seat tickets go on sale next Friday for the event at Marathon Park in Wausau.</p> <p>The mega millions jackpot has gone unclaimed since December 8<sup>th</sup> of last year and in that time has grown to \$977-million, the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in lottery history. Five mega-million prizes have exceeded a billion dollars.</p>
A late winter storm moved across the state	News	3/25/24	630a,730a,830a	1:30	<p>A thick blanket of snow finally covered much of Wisconsin as a late winter storm moves through. More than 8" is covering the north and dozens of schools are closed, that list is on this</p>



station's website. The snow that's still falling will be changing over to rain later today and the wet weather is expected to run into Tuesday as high temperatures will approach 50°. A winter storm warning persists through the morning hours across the north. Travel conditions are poor but road crews have been out since early this morning.

Wisconsin congressman Mike Gallagher is resigning. The 8th District Republican says he'll step down April 19<sup>th</sup>. Gallagher, from Green Bay Republican already announced last month he wouldn't be running for a fifth term. The latest announcement gave no reason for the earlier departure. He's represented his district in northeast Wisconsin since

2017. There will be no special election. State Senator Andre Jacque of De Pere and former state Senator Roger Roth of Appleton are already running and will face off in an August primary. So far no Democrats have announced in the solidly Republican district.

An idled Wisconsin Rapids papermill is finally being sold. Sweden-based Billerud purchased the Wisconsin Rapids mill in 2020 after former owner Verso got out of the market. Billerud has been running the converting facility, which turns pulp into finished paper, and will continue to do so according to a news release. The new owners, Capital Recovery Group, are expected to auction off

					and sell the rest of the property.
Aspirus Tomahawk is now offering urgent care	News	3/25/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>There are no volunteer search efforts today or tomorrow for clues to Elijah Vue's disappearance. The family of the missing 3-year-old boy posted a new schedule online this weekend. Search teams will go out Wednesday and Thursday and another day of rest on Friday, with search efforts continuing Saturday. An Amber Alert was issued for Elijah over a month ago for the Two Rivers youngster.</p> <p>Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital is now offering Urgent Care, providing timely treatment for non-life threatening illnesses and injuries. According to Director of Nursing Carmen Viegut explained the service differs</p>

from the emergency department because it deals with problems not needing immediate and more serious treatments. The benefit is also a shorter wait time than in an emergency room along with a less expensive cost with lower insurance co-pays. The Tomahawk hospital has been serving the area for more than a century.

The combined jackpots of the Powerball and Mega Millions lotteries stand at a whopping \$1.9bn as of yesterday, prompting people across the country to get their tickets and try their luck. The Powerball number sits at \$800-million while mega-million is at \$1.1-billion, that drawing is tomorrow with Powerball

					<p>tonight.</p> <p>Up to a foot or more of snow fell on much of Wisconsin overnight and the next weather-maker will bring milder temperatures and rain. There's even a chance for a thunderstorm tonight with most locations across northern and central parts of the state looking at total amounts of an inch or more by Tuesday afternoon. Nearly 2-inches south of Wausau.</p>
<p>State prosecutors will not act on felony charges</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/26/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Prosecutors in Chippewa, Florence and Langlade counties will not act on felony charges of campaign finance violations against former President Donald Trump's fundraising committee and a Republican State Lawmakers tied to an effort to unseat Assembly Speaker</p>

Robin Vos. The DA's declined due to conflicts of interest, in some cases because they're actively involved in their local Republican parties. The Wisconsin Ethics Commission, which brought the charges, are looking at several other counties to act but haven't had any response. The commission alleges Trump's fundraising committee and state Rep. Janel Brandtjen, a Trump ally, conspired in a scheme to evade campaign finance laws to support the GOP primary challenger to Vos in 2022.

Speaking of Vos, the state's leading republican, despite campaigning against Trump last year, he's now come on in support of the presumptive nominee, saying there's no way he'd

vote for a Democrat. He also said the efforts to recall him are not legitimate, commenting it's from a few people on the fringe.

Northcentral Technical College in Antigo will host a community roundtable on childcare next month. The event takes place April 11<sup>th</sup> and panelists will include local childcare providers, industry experts and local business leaders with the focus on building a collaborative future for Langlade County. Among the topics: the economic impact, support for workers, high costs and affordability. More information is available through the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation.

And the Powerball jackpot

jumps to \$865-million after nothing matched the numbers last night. The \$1.1-billion mega millions drawing is tonight.

Two Marathon County police departments merged services officially to become the Mountain Bay Metropolitan Police Department. The Rothschild Village Board last night approved the merger. The Weston Board agreed last week with the change possibly effective by next month. The two departments will collectively serve the communities of Rothschild, Village and Town of Weston and Schofield with more than 40 officers.

Some elected Wisconsin Democrats say they won't

Two Marathon County police depts. Have merged

News

3/26/24

1230p,530p

1:30



support Joe Biden in next week's presidential primary. WisPolitics reports a total of 24 have signed a letter, vowing to vote "uninstructed" in the April 2 Democratic primary. It's part of a campaign urging voters to vote uninstructed in protest of President Joe Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas war. State Representative Francesca Hong of Madison drafted the letter. Representative Kristina Shelton of Green Bay has signed it, as have Democratic Socialists Representatives Ryan Clancy and Darrin Madison of Milwaukee, Milwaukee state Senator Chris Larson, and local officials. Biden has already secured the Democratic nomination for president.

The DNR is taking public comment on a new elk

					<p>management plan. Biologist Joshua Spiegel says they've been working closely on the plan with farmers in the central region of the state. Elk have been doing damage to cranberry farms, so the D N R worked together with the U S D A and ag groups to minimize contact between elk and humans. You can enter your input online at D N R dot W I dot Gov, just search for "Elk".</p>
<p>Next Tuesday is election day in Wisconsin</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/27/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Next Tuesday is election day in Wisconsin. And according to the Trump campaign, the former president will be making a stop in Green Bay that day. A rally is planned at the Hyatt Regency, his first stop in the state since 2022. That's an issue the Biden campaign hit hard saying Joe Biden, Vice President Harris and other Democrats</p>

have been here numerous times. The campaigning comes as Trump is facing mounting legal bills while fighting four criminal indictments along with a series of civil charges and fines.

Nearly a foot of snow following by over an inch and a half of rain not only dropped the fire danger across the state, but has added much needed moisture to the ground.

Drought conditions covered much of Wisconsin recently and with the mild winter and frost out of the ground early, much of the moisture is being absorbed at a time it typically doesn't happen.

While it won't significantly help the lakes and rivers that are showing low levels right now, it may give farmers and growers a jump

on the planting season.

A boost for broadband access in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's blueprint for digital equity has been accepted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. This makes the state eligible for up to \$30-million to implement its plan over the next five years. Information how to apply will be coming soon.

Someone is waking up this morning a millionaire. A single winning ticket in New Jersey took the \$1.13-billion Mega Millions prize last night. Powerball tonight is \$865-million.

A \$40-million renovation and expansion project begins this summer at

A \$40 million expansion this summer at Aspirus Merrill hospital

News

3/28/24

630a,730a,830a

1:30

Aspirus Merrill Hospital. The work will double the number of inpatient beds to 20 along with their complete reconstruction, enhance the imaging, rehab, lab and pharmacy services and update the main floor, stairwells and offices.

The Eagle River-based Feed Our Rural Kids or FORK program has a new chairman for its endowment fund. The board announced Ben Rabenn of Eagle River will run the fund that's already distributed more than \$50,000 of financial aid to northwoods kid-based food programs.

Personal attacks, misrepresentation of facts and a lack of civility prompted the Wisconsin Conservation Congress to

make a change to its social media. Citizen delegates are elected to the Conservation Congress to advise the Natural Resources Board and the DNR. The organization maintains a Facebook page, but in a post this week Chair Rob Bohmann said comments will be disabled going forward.

Improper welds on the steering columns of certain Chrysler vehicles prompted a recall. That may cause the driver's side airbag from working in a crash.

Affected are the 2023-24 Ram 1500, Jeep Wranglers, Wagoneer and Grand Wagoneer, Gladiator, Grand Cherokee and Grand Cherokee L, Ram 2500, 3500, 4500 and 5500 Cab chassis, and Chrysler Voyagers. Dealers will

					<p>inspect and replace the steering column as necessary at no cost. Owners should be notified by early May.</p> <p>The Milwaukee Brewers' season opener against the New York Mets has been postponed due to rain in the forecast. The Crew's opener is rescheduled for 12:40 tomorrow.</p>
<p>DNR wardens are warning people about driving across lake beds</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/28/24</p>	<p>1230p,530p</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>D N R wardens are warning people from driving on exposed lake beds across the northwoods. For example, low water levels on the Rainbow Flowage in Oneida County have exposed parts of the lakebed, and people have been riding out on the surface in ATVs and vehicles. Wardens say that can permanently damage</p>

the lake once the water fills the reservoir again, and is illegal in any case. People caught on the lake could face fines and citations.

Wisconsin's rate of those homeless is trending upwards according to a new report. The Wisconsin Policy Forum finds the number of homeless Wisconsinites is up after years of decline. W P F says pressures from the pandemic pushed many people out of their homes as they lost their jobs, and the sudden rise in home prices and rent has only made it harder for people to get back into a permanent home. The Forum says Wisconsin communities need to look at expanding transitional housing for homeless people, and try to make up the difference in lost federal



					<p>stimulus funds to continue to provide shelter.</p> <p>If you're a fan of the bagged milk available at Kwik Trip, you'll have to find it somewhere else. The chain will discontinue the sale of Nature's Touch bagged milk across all stores beginning in May. The product has been a part of Kwik Trip's product lineup for more than 40 years, guest preferences and purchasing patterns indicated a substantial declining demand for this product compared to milk sold in jugs.</p>
<p>Another brush of winter weather expected over the area this Easter weekend</p>	<p>News</p>	<p>3/29/24</p>	<p>630a,730a,830a</p>	<p>1:30</p>	<p>Easter weekend weather isn't expected to be festive as we'll have another brush of winter weather beginning tonight. Another fast moving storm system</p>

will blow through bringing a mix of precipitation that may end up depositing a quarter inch of ice first, covered by at least two inches of snow, with more expected further north. Traveling Saturday morning could be tough and drivers should monitor the forecast and road condition reports before heading out.

A motion hearing yesterday for a Wausau homicide suspect- scheduled to stand trial in three weeks. Michael Turner returned to a Marathon County courtroom for a hearing as officials prepare for a two-week trial beginning April 15th. Turner is accused of shooting another man near the intersection of Thomas Street and 5th Avenue in two years ago, the man went to a nearby business

for help and was hospitalized, but was able to identify Turner as the suspect. He died about two weeks later. Turner fled Wausau after the shooting but was arrested in Marquette County without incident. He faces life in prison if found guilty.

Nearly a quarter of voters in Wisconsin could find themselves represented by a new political party in the Assembly or Senate after legislative maps were redrawn in February. A Journal Sentinel analysis found more than 420,000 people are now in competitive assembly districts, slightly favoring Democrats. For the Senate, it's half a million. The most significant changes are found in Green Bay and Eau Claire, rural south

					central regions and the SE corner of the state.
Park Falls city administrator resigns	News	3/29/24	1230p,530p	1:30	<p>Park Falls City Administrator Brent Michalek resigned. He noticed the Mayor Wednesday he's accepted a similar position in the city of Hudson. He was appointed to the job on an interim basis last December. The city council is still seeking a permanent replacement.</p> <p>Another proposed tuition increase for UW System students. Tuition at UW-Madison and other campuses would increase by 3.75% next school year. It's a recommendation announced yesterday by Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman, and it's up for a Board or Regents vote next week. If this sounds familiar, it's</p>

because UW tuition increased an average of 4.2% last year. Tuition hikes are back on, after the end of a 10 year freeze in 2021. Rothman says UW campuses remain the most affordable in the Midwest, but that the UW System “is facing challenging economic realities.”

Northcentral Technical College in partnership with Community Partners Campus in Wausau announced a new opportunity for those interested in pursuing the General Education Development (GED) or High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED). Adult Education is offering individuals at least 18 years of age the opportunity to earn the GED or HSED in a self-paced, friendly environment. Participants

				<p>will learn about their options, assess current skills, and develop a plan to prepare for and complete the requirements. Upon completion of the classes, students will be prepared to begin their job search or apply for college.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

				<p>Another winter storm is setting its sights on the north in advance of the holiday weekend. Rhinelanders are now looking at more than 4" of new snow by tomorrow afternoon.</p>
--	--	--	--	---