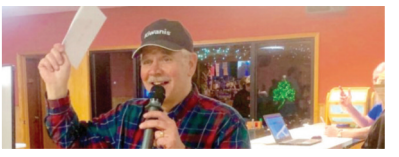




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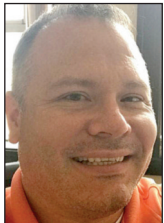
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## New city administrator eager for challenge, opportunity

By Heather Schaefer  
OF THE RIVER NEWS

Rhinelanders' new city administrator, Patrick Reagan, is impressed with the Hodag city and excited about the challenge of making it an even better place to live.

Rhinelanders, he said, "is a great-sized town with a little bit of everything" and most importantly the residents are passionate about their community.



Reagan

Since starting his new position on Feb. 6, Reagan said he has been busy learning as much as he can about the community and getting to know city staff.

"I see a staff that cares about the community and a fun, teamwork environment and culture," he said, noting that the Hodag legend/mascot is a unique and enviable asset.

"Communities around the country would kill to

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## City attorney to draft language to address Ohlson Lane assessment issue

By Heather Schaefer  
OF THE RIVER NEWS

The Rhinelanders Common Council has signaled that it

would like to resolve a dispute involving a proposed special assessment for residents of Ohlson Lane by amending city ordinances so

that the residents of Ohlson Lane are not required to immediately connect to city water and sewer and can defer the special assessment

until they do connect. The controversy erupted at the Jan. 23 council meet-

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JEREMY MAYO/RIVER NEWS

## CHAMPIONSHIP EXHILARATION

Charlie Heck yells as he holds the state championship trophy at the end of the WIAA Division 2 state meet in Waukesha Friday, Feb. 17. He is joined in the photograph by teammates (from left to right) Jack Antonuk, Eli Lundt, Zacha King and Marcus O'Malley. The Rhinelanders High School boys' swim team won its first ever state championship on Friday, edging McFarland by 5 1/2 points for the title. For more coverage, see Sports, Page 7.

## Special prosecutor dismisses several counts on eve of former deputy's trial

By Heather Schaefer  
OF THE RIVER NEWS

Just days before former Oneida County sheriff's deputy Stetson Grant was scheduled to stand trial on charges related to alleged incidents involving his then-estranged spouse, special prosecutor Karl Kelz dismissed the counts alleging misconduct in public office and false imprisonment.

According to court records, five counts of misconduct in public office were dismissed on Feb. 13. In addition, on Feb. 16, Kelz filed a motion to dismiss the count alleging false imprisonment.

A jury trial on the remaining charges — five felony counts of stalking, four misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct with use of a dangerous weapon and one count of misdemeanor criminal damage to property — was scheduled to begin Monday morning, Feb. 20, despite Kelz also filing a motion to adjourn the proceedings.

That motion was denied following a

30-minute hearing on Feb. 15.

In his motion, Kelz expressed concern about the complaining witness's ability to testify over a prolonged period of a time due to medical concerns. During the hearing, the complaining witness indicated she did not agree with the prosecutor's motion.

In addition, Oneida County circuit judge Michael Bloom noted it is his practice to allow breaks during testimony.

According to the criminal complaint, Grant is accused of calling a woman as many as 50 to 150 times a day and entering her home on more than one occasion after she asked him to leave. The complaint states police are in possession of a number of audio recordings where Grant purportedly uses "abusive and profane language" and the woman repeatedly tells him to leave.

Police reports also allege the woman recounted occasions where Grant would stand in the doorway and block her from leaving the residence, prompting her to lock herself in a room until he would re-

move himself.

He also made statements such as "I am the law" and "Ok, I am the (expletive) cops" when she would threaten to call law enforcement, the complaint alleges.

According to the complaint, Grant was in uniform and on duty with the sheriff's office when some of the alleged incidents took place.

He is also accused of damaging property by punching holes in walls and cabinets, the complaint alleges.

In an interview with investigators, Grant allegedly admitted to punching holes but claimed the woman was not present when this took place. He also stated that, as an owner of the property, he believed he could enter the premises and damage his own property.

The incidents in question are alleged to have occurred in early 2019. The parties divorced in 2020.

Grant's employment with the sheriff's office ended in August 2022.

If convicted of the remaining felony counts, he faces 17 1/2 years in prison.



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