

Lamers reaches 1,000  
Sports, Page 8

Parade announced  
Community, Page 2



# THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS

## Man charged in mobile home fire

Local News, Page 3

Friday, February 10, 2023

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## Record number of snowmobile OWI's recorded in Oneida County

### Eight tickets issued in one weekend

By Richard Moore  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The number of snowmobile drunk driving citations exploded over this past weekend in Oneida County, with various law enforcement agencies in the county issuing a total of eight tickets.

Oneida County sheriff Grady Hartman said he's never seen anything like it in his years at the sheriff's department.

"We just had a plethora of snowmobile drunk driving this weekend," Hartman said. "Probably a record for this county as far as my recollection."

The sheriff's department issued six of the eight tickets, Hartman said, while the Woodruff Police Department and the Three Lakes Police Department issued one each.

See OWI's . . . page 3

## DNR: Paper mill, City of Rhinelander spread sludge in Town of Stella

By Heather Schaefer  
OF THE RIVER NEWS

As the residents of the Town of Stella continue to grapple with the ramifica-

tions of high levels of PFAS contamination in several local wells, the Department of Natural Resources has provided more information on the history of the use of

sludge in the small eastern Oneida County town.

According to the DNR, the City of Rhinelander and the Ahlstrom-Munskjo paper mill spread sludge in

Stella from the late 1990s to 2011, in the case of the city, and 2021 in the case of the mill.

See Sludge . . . page 16



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured, from left to right, are the Rhinelander students who participated in the FBLA regional competition Feb. 4 at Owen-Withee High School. (Front row left to right): Sunny Tang, Alyssa Smits, Wendy Fronk and Eva Hetland. (Back row left to right): Jayson Fairfield, Eva Heck, Dana Eliason and Lucas Haselton.

## Future business leaders get an early start at regionals

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) regionals were held Saturday, Feb. 4 at Owen-Whitee High School. Eight Rhinelander students competed against 29 other schools in the north/central Wisconsin area.

"Students could choose various types of events to compete in, such as taking a test on related business topics including accounting or personal finance or students could perform a presentation or speech for events such as desktop publishing or public speaking," accord-

ing to a School District of Rhinelander press release about the competition.

"Some competitors competed on the day of competition and others took tests prior to the Regional Leadership Conference for a total of 16 competitors for Rhinelander."

The top three competitors in each event will proceed to state; six members will go from Rhinelander. Three came home with a first place medal: Jayson Fairfield (Marketing), Wendy Fronk (Introduction to Public Speaking), and Kate Rip-

pel (Introduction to Financial Math).

In addition, three members took second place in their events: Dana Eliason (Accounting I), Eva Hetland (Public Speaking), and Aiden Ostermann (Personal Finance).

Placing fourth were Alyssa Smits (Organizational Leadership) and Lucas Haselton (Computer Problem Solving) and placing fifth was Eva Heck (Introduction to Marketing).

Also competing for Rhinelander were: Sunny Tang, Kylie Gechas, Taylor

Riopel, Bryan Glover, Neil Weibel, Tyler Chariton, and Greyson Gremban.

Rhinelander FBLA was recognized with two chapter awards: first place for outstanding community service and ninth place overall in chapter scores.

Students placing first through third place will be competing at FBLA State Competition which will be held in Green Bay April 16-18. For more information about the FBLA competition, email chapter advisor Mishcell Fryar at fryarmis@rhinelander.k12.wi.us.





# Sludge

From page 1

“We can confirm that both sewage sludge (also known as biosolids) from the Rhinelander Wastewater Treatment Facility and Paper Mill Sludge from the Ahlstrom-Munksjo Specialty Solutions Facility (also known as Expera Specialty Solutions) was spread in the Town of Stella,” DNR field operations manager Tim Ryan said in response to a request from the newspaper for more information on the agency’s documentation of the use of sludge in Stella. “The City of Rhinelander has spread biosolids on 8 different sites in the Town of Stella between 1997 and 2011. Ahlstrom Munksjo (or previous owners) have spread paper mill sludge on 63 different sites in the Town of Stella between 1996 and 2021.”

According to the DNR, spreading for both Rhinelander and Ahlstrom-Munksjo “likely occurred before 1996 as well” but the agency’s database only goes back to 1996.

“The Department is still analyzing data submitted for 2022 which is not submitted until the end of January for each previous year,” Ryan noted.

PFAS, per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, are a group of human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products, including non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays and certain types of firefighting foam. These contaminants have made their way into the environment through accidental spills of PFAS-containing materials, discharges of PFAS-containing wastewater to treatment plants and certain types of firefighting foams, according to the DNR. These chemicals are known to accumulate in the human body, posing several risks to human health including certain cancers, liver damage and decreased fertility.

As of late January, 24 households in the Town of Stella are receiving emergency water deliveries due to high levels of PFAS in their wells. The contamination, which was detected in late 2022 as part of a statewide well testing project, has caused considerable concern for residents of Stella, many of whom attended a public meeting with DNR officials on Jan. 19.

During that meeting, and during a media briefing on the Stella PFAS investigation held several hours before the public meeting, DNR officials stressed

that it may be years before the source of contamination is identified.

“(PFAS) marches to the beat of its own drummer in the environment,” DNR remediation and redevelopment program manager Christine Sieger stated during the media briefing. “It doesn’t behave like other things in the environment and so investigation into PFAS... like any other contaminant, can take years. In some cases we’re not going to find a responsible party. We’re going to look and we might find that we can’t tell where it’s coming from. We could find that there are multiple sources responsible. It’s an iterative process and it’s one that takes time.”

In disclosing the information on the past use of sludge in Stella, the agency was careful to note it cannot definitely say the sludge caused the contamination.

“The Department does not have PFAS data for the paper mill sludge or sewage sludge/biosolids that was land applied,” Ryan said. “The Department is in the process of identifying potential sources.”

Addie Teeters, head of marketing communications & public affairs for Ahlstrom Munksjo, noted that the company received permits from the DNR for its “land-spreading activities.”

“Since Ahlstrom acquired the Rhinelander mill in 2018, it has con-

tinued participating in a regulated biosolids landspreading program administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources,” Teeters wrote in response to an email request for comment on the DNR report. “As part of that program, we have received and operate pursuant to permits issued by the Department. We maintain records which are provided to the Department relating to our ongoing landspreading activities.”

“Ahlstrom has led the marketplace in developing PFAS-free technology for more than a decade and utilizes our FluoroFree® technol-

ogy at the Rhinelander mill,” she added.

“At this time the City cannot validate what spreading the DNR may have authorized in the 1990’s and early 2000’s,” city attorney Steve Sorenson wrote in response to a request for comment from the city.

“Since I have been with the City there has been no spreading of biosolids in the Town of Stella by the City,” he added.

“Even though I was not involved nor were any of the current staff of the City involved it is the desire of the City of Rhinelander to maintain the quality of our water supply,” the at-

torney added. “This is where the city is directing its efforts. The City is looking at new filtration systems and a potential new well or wells to insure safe water to the citizens of Rhinelander. The City is looking to the future rather than spending time in the ‘blame

game’ environment that so many others are supporting. Our most recent tests of the City water supply demonstrates that the City’s commitment to safe water is working.”

Heather Schaefer may be reached at [heather@rivernews.com](mailto:heather@rivernews.com).

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### ACROSS

- 1 Blessing
- 5 Auditorium guide
- 10 Bite
- 12 Prompt
- 13 Showy flower
- 14 Cope
- 15 Boulder’s st.
- 16 Form 1040 pro
- 18 Take a crack at
- 19 Baker’s need
- 21 King-sized spoon
- 25 Swats
- 29 Spring month
- 30 Lively actress?
- 32 Lustrous gem
- 33 Livy’s language
- 34 Spirited horses
- 37 Fix a manuscript

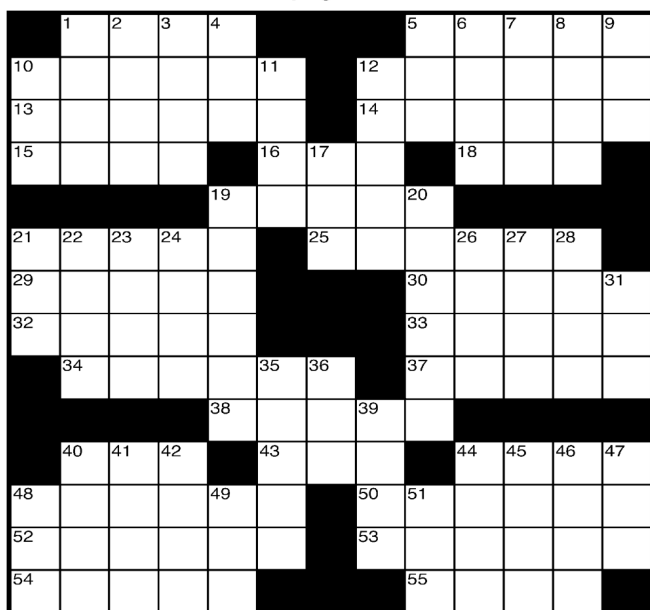
### DOWN

- 1 Clown of fame
- 2 Like some exams
- 3 Fjord city
- 4 Bridal notice word
- 5 — — creek
- 6 Transmitted
- 7 Get wind of
- 8 Uptight

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	A	I	D	J	A	N	O	P	A	L			
E	A	S	E	O	W	E	D	U	L	Y			
F	A	M	I	L	I	A	R	E	R	I	C		
				C	A	N	Y	O	N	E	E	R	
W	A	F	E	R				E	L	E	N	A	
A	G	E		A	K	I	M	B	O				
R	U	E	D		A	H	A		P	A	L	E	
Y	A	L	E		L	O	S		E	G	A	D	
				A	D	E	P	T	S		A	I	D
P	H	O	N	E					W	O	R	D	Y
Y	A	P			B	E	M	O	A	N			
L	I	T	E		K	I	N	G	S	I	Z	E	
O	T	I	S		E	M	U		E	R	A	T	
N	I	C	E		D	E	S		T	A	P	E	

- 9 Grain crop
- 10 Rock’s Fleetwood —
- 11 Delicate fabric
- 12 Crush
- 17 Handle roughly
- 19 Gave a holler
- 20 Postponed action
- 21 Pool length
- 22 Orangutans
- 23 “Confound it!”
- 24 Former Trevi Fountain coins
- 26 Chowler tidbit
- 27 — Winslet of “Titanic”
- 28 Peel
- 31 Call it quits
- 35 Shoulder muscles
- 36 Atmosphere
- 39 Cartoon shrieks
- 40 Carbonated beverage
- 41 Open-mouthed
- 42 TV set
- 44 In full view
- 45 Unwrap
- 46 Gives it the gas
- 47 Before, in verse
- 48 Go off-course
- 49 Primary color
- 51 Wallach or Lilly



## Church Directory

### RHINELANDER FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

135 E. Larch Street, Rhinelander  
715-365-1535 • [www.rhinelanderucc.org](http://www.rhinelanderucc.org)  
10:00 a.m. Sunday In-Church Worship Service as well as LIVE on Facebook  
Pastor Myles Alexander

### CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

320 Lincoln Street, Rhinelander  
715-362-4792 • [www.ExploreCalvary.com](http://www.ExploreCalvary.com)  
Pastor Rod Ankrom  
Worship with us in person or online  
Sunday worship 10 am • (Livestream)  
KidZone (K-5 gr) & Nursery 10 am

### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

21 W. Timber Drive, Rhinelander  
715-362-5910 - [www.immanuelrhinelander.org](http://www.immanuelrhinelander.org)  
Worship with us in person or Online -  
9 am Sunday Worship - see webpage for info

### ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

Corner of Brown & Frederick Streets  
Rhinelander ~ 715-365-9357  
Pastor Karl Schultz  
Pastor Nate Plocher  
Worship Hours:  
5:30 p.m. Saturday Divine Service  
9:00 a.m. Sunday Divine Service  
Radio Broadcast 9:00 a.m. Sunday on 93.7 FM  
[www.zionrhinelander.org](http://www.zionrhinelander.org)

### SAINT AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

39 South Pelham Street - 715-420-0066  
[www.northwoodsanglican.org](http://www.northwoodsanglican.org)  
SUNDAY HOLY EUCHARIST: 9:00 am  
Sunday School: 9:00 am

### NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

##### Fr. Chris Kemp

OFFICE: 110 Conro Street, Rhinelander, WI  
715-362-3169 ~ [www.nativityofourlord.net](http://www.nativityofourlord.net)

#### NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

125 E. King Street - Rhinelander, WI  
Saturday Mass: 4:30 pm  
Sunday Masses: 7:30 am & 9:30 am

#### ST. JOHN

750 Appleton Street - Pelican Lake, WI  
Sunday Mass: 11:30 am

#### NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN

#### UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

8625 Peggy’s Lane, Woodruff —  
Off Cty. Hwy. J to Woodruff Road  
715-356-4123 — [nuuf.com](http://nuuf.com)  
10:00 am Sunday — Adult Religious Education

#### SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

203 E. Monico St., Rhinelander • 715-369-2098  
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11:00 am Sat. Worship Service  
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21 S. Baird Avenue, Rhinelander  
715-362-2470 [stmarkrhinelander.org](http://stmarkrhinelander.org)  
Office hours: 9: a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Pastor Richard Miller  
Thursday evening Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday morning service: 9:00 a.m.  
Email: [stmarkchurch@outlook.com](mailto:stmarkchurch@outlook.com)

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