
The New



Spring 2021

Canoe and Kayak Launch Guide
Victoria Houston - Mystery Writer
The Island - Our First Tavern
Rhineland Area Food Pantry
and much more . . .

THE NEW NORTH

The New North Spring Issue

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. You gave The New North Magazine a very warm welcome to the community with our first Winter issue. We received a resounding amount of positive feedback, and so did our sponsors. Customers walked through their doors saying they saw their ad in The New North. People throughout the area came looking for the magazine at local businesses to enjoy reading the well-written stories inside. Many places had to be restocked several times. The Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors gave us a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, and despite the below zero temperatures, we all gathered around the Hodag outside Chamber offices for the photo.

As you will see inside this Spring issue, cold temperatures did not deter the hardy Northwoods folks from having fun outside. The "Northwoods Happenings" page shows participants of The Rhinelander Lions 45th Annual Fisheree, The Flyin Finn Annual Turkey Bowl, and The Snowshoe Baseball Tournament on Washburn Lake. This issue will also take you to the Kayak and Canoe Launch sites throughout the area, introduce you to an accomplished mystery writer from our town, and give you a rousing history lesson about Rhinelander's first tavern where the lumberjacks wreaked havoc after a rough day on the job. . . and more.

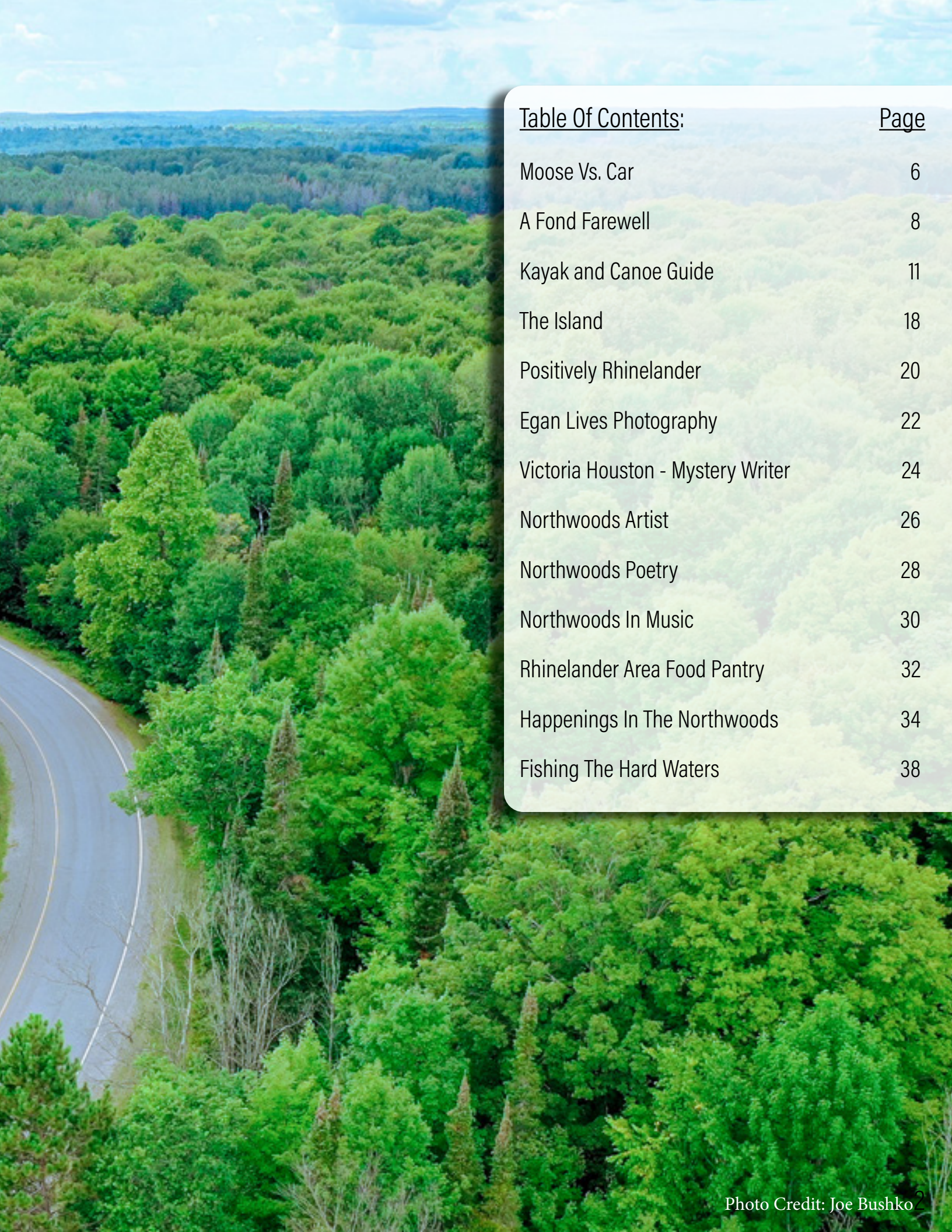
Look for our next issue, arriving in time for June 20, the Summer Solstice.



Forever Grateful,

Jaclene Tetzlaff
Editor and Publisher

**If you are interested in advertising, please call or email me
715-525-1596
jjtetzlaff@gmail.com**



<u>Table Of Contents:</u>	<u>Page</u>
Moose Vs. Car	6
A Fond Farewell	8
Kayak and Canoe Guide	11
The Island	18
Positively Rhinelander	20
Egan Lives Photography	22
Victoria Houston - Mystery Writer	24
Northwoods Artist	26
Northwoods Poetry	28
Northwoods In Music	30
Rhinelander Area Food Pantry	32
Happenings In The Northwoods	34
Fishing The Hard Waters	38

CONTRIBUTORS



JACLENE TETZLAFF
Editor
Publisher
Sales

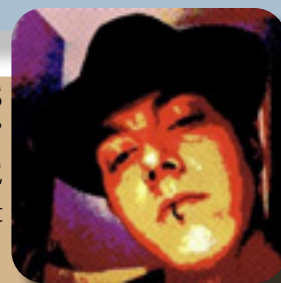
TOM BARNETT
Designer & Illustrator



DAN HAGEN
Feature Writer



ROSS
"WOODSY"
WALLACE
Poet



ANDREW EGAN
Photographer
Lead Designer



JANET JAMISON
Positively Rhinelander



KERRY BLOEDORN
Feature Writer & Historian





Spring Cocktail Recipe

Northwoods Sunset

Ingredients

- Sugar
- Fresh Cranberries
- Orange
- Vodka
- Orange Juice
- Cranberry Juice
- 7 Up

In a glass of your choice (Ball jar shown here) place a small amount of sugar, fresh cranberries and an orange slice. If fresh cranberries are not available, frozen work well, too. Muddle these ingredients together in the bottom of the glass, taking care not to muddle the rind of the orange. As with the Old Fashioned, if the rind itself is smashed, it will make the drink bitter. Add vodka, ice, orange juice and top with 7 Up. Mix well. Then add a dash of cranberry juice. The cranberry juice will create a "sunset" appearance in the glass. Garnish with 3 cranberries and an orange wedge on top. Sit back, relax, and enjoy your sunset!

Stop in today for a huge selection of liquors, wines, beers, microbrews, and premium cigars!

STEIN'S LIQUORS
715-369-1248

Over 30 Years of personalized service

Everyday low pricing.
Quality products.
Knowledgeable staff.

1011 LINCOLN STREET
RHINELANDER, WI

MOOSE VS. CAR

By Kerry Bloedorn

Have you ever seen a moose? They are enormous! Second only to the American Bison, they are one of the largest creatures in North America and the largest member of the deer family on Earth. Have you ever seen a moose in the area? Surprisingly, quite a few people have mingled with the "mooses" in Oneida County. DNR data had 8 reported moose sightings in Oneida County in 2019 adding to a list of encounters that number in the dozens over the years.

Capable of traveling long distances, Moose will follow waterways from the Upper Peninsula down into our area. These large creatures thrive on the abundance of quality wetland areas that are tucked amongst large swaths of forest and the scattered lakes of the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

**ENTER TO WIN THIS MOOSE PAINTING BY TOM BARNETT
SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS!
@THENEWNORTHMAGAZINE**

Most moose encounters in the Rhinelander area are relatively docile affairs, but several people have actually tangled with a moose while driving, and lived to tell the tale.

One of those people was Leona Olkowski. Leona grew up at a resort owned by her folks, the very popular Lake Creek Tourist Camp in the Town of Pine Lake, during the golden age of resorts in the Northwoods. She lived in Rhinelander until the early 50's and returned in 1992 where she's spent the next 30 years of her life with her husband Ed. These days at 90 years young, Leona is sharp as a tack, and a great story teller, so her recounting of the time she ran into a moose, in the literal sense, is vivid, compelling, and something a person never forgets.

As Leona tells it, it was in 2019 when she and Ed were returning from an evening of bingo at Mole Lake. With Leona driving, they were on Hwy 8 heading west having just gone through Monico, into an area



SHOOKUS AUTO BODY, INC

40 Years Family-owned

Expert Automotive Refinishing
ASE Certified Technicians

715-362-6483

1855 W. Davenport Street
Rhinelander

YOUR VACATION HOME AWAITS!
www.NorthwoodsNikki.com

Nikki Danner Maufort
715.619.0521

CENTURY 21
Ace Realty

REALTOR

where the Pelican River sweeps back and forth across and beside the highway, when all of a sudden, smash! The passenger window and a portion of the passenger side front window had shattered! Leona had hit plenty of deer in her life living in the Northwoods, but this seemed different, more dramatic. She pulled over to the side of the road and assisted brushing glass off poor Ed, who was thankfully, uninjured. Looking at the vehicle, the passenger ceiling had been crushed. Whatever they hit was very large, but in the dark it had been difficult to see just what it was. Leona was unable to place a call on her cell phone, so carefully and slowly drove the rest of the way to their Rhinelander home. Shaken, but not stirred. The next day an insurance claims adjuster came to the house to inspect the vehicle. He discovered black hair on the car where the impact occurred, so he suspected they hit a bear. After Leona gave the details of the incident to the insurance man, he went out to find the crash site. At first he didn't see any animals in the ditch, but as he walked into the woods he noticed a very large dead creature, it was a moose! Leona Olkowski had become the third person in Oneida County history to be involved in a moose accident.

Aside from the rare mishap, when Moose do venture into our neck of the woods, they cross the road, yard, or waterway, giving a few lucky spectators time to snap a couple blurry photos, but don't typically cause accidents. These kinds of Northwood's moments are ingrained in our minds and become stories that are shared for years to come. So keep your eyes open, you might get to see one of these amazing animals, right in your backyard!

It is our mission to exceed our guests' and employees' expectations and maintain their loyalty for a lifetime.

Welcome

RHINELANDER TOYOTA
715.365.8101 - 1955 North Stevens Street - RhinelanderToyota.com

metro
Screenprinting & Embroidery

METRO SCREENPRINTING & EMBROIDERY
FOUNDED IN 1994

The area's premier custom screenprinting and embroidery company and the founder of "Hodag Wear".

Originally a mass producer of embellished dart, pool stick and carrying cases, the company transformed to create custom screenprinting and embroidery for businesses, sports leagues, schools and special events.

The "Hodag Wear" retail store offers an array of shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, pants, hats and other specialized items in sizes ranging from infant to adult.

WE PROUDLY SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY AND HODAG TEAMS!

510 LINCOLN STREET, RHINELANDER, WI 54501 715-365-3195



A FOND FAREWELL By Dan Hagen

CHIEF WILLIAMS RETIRES

Fire Chief Terry Williams' office was practical. His binders full of documents were all clearly labeled. Folders were organized, the meeting table was completely bare, and not a stray crumb to be found. His lone pen was on top of the large calendar - perfectly parallel to the top and bottom edge.

I was there to ask him about a few houses the city had demolished. In a few minutes, the images of the dilapidated homes emerged one after another from the printer directly behind him. While I waited for the pictures to emerge, I noticed the only decorations were a series of fishing paintings and huge mounted walleye. Clearly he was an avid fisherman.

"Ever been fishing?" I asked on one of Williams' last days. "Not once," he said with a wry smile.

The fishing paintings no longer adorn the walls - after 29 years with the Rhinelander Fire Department Williams

retired in February.

His humor and willingness to help are just a few of the reasons why he was a successful leader.

"Chief Williams is not somebody who seeks out any recognition; he's pretty low key," said Lieutenant Michael Wesle. "He's usually the first guy that's willing to lend a hand if you need anything. He'll always go out of his way to help you,"

"He inspired me and helped me improve as a firefighter," said Driver Ryan Berghammer. "One of the things that I look up to him for is his willingness to work with his members."

"He was very charismatic," said Assistant Fire Chief Tom Waydick. "He was good with working with people. He was very good with the community; he cared about the community."

He delivered results for the community as well. Chief Williams led the effort to bring an ambulance service into the

Rhinelander Fire Department, likely leading to many lives saved in the community he served for so long.

"Thanks for hiring me 29 years ago and thanks for the opportunity and the honor of letting me serve you in the capacity that I have over the last 29 years," said Williams.

Now it's time for Chief Williams to ride off into the sunset. In his words, his plan is to "do whatever I want."


Maybe he'll even break out a fishing rod.



A'la Mode




Super Premium Ice Cream and Organic Espresso
 715-362-3994
 2100 Lincoln Street, Rhinelander



Forth Floral

Exceptional Flowers
 Greenery and Gifts



410 N. Brown Street, Rhinelander, WI.
 715-362-7600
 Fourth Generation Family-Owned
 FORTHFLORAL.COM

Medical and Surgical Support



Active Wellness Care

Full Service Veterinary Clinic and Hospital
1117 S Oneida Ave, Rhinelander WI
 frenchhomesteadvetcare.com

For Appointments Call 715-365-7387

Hours:
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Saturday and Sunday Closed




OUTDOOR FUN FOR ALL SEASONS

SPORTING EQUIPMENT | QUALITY SEASONAL WEAR | ADVENTURE GEAR



MEL'S!
TRADING POST

DOWNTOWN RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN
105 S. BROWN STREET, RHINELANDER
715-362-5800 | 1-800-236-MELS

KAYAK AND CANOE GUIDE

By Dan Hagen

There is nothing better than a paddle on a Northwoods river. There I said it. Sure, biking, hiking, waterskiing and fishing are all great. But a paddle? Can't. Be. Beat. Let me tell you why.

I will explain from the vantage point of a canoer, as that is my preferred activity. Replace with kayaker as you see fit.

The rhythm of paddling – plunge, push, lift, glide, repeat – is meditative. It engages your whole upper body in a low-impact way. To distract from the exertion is the simple task of staying straight. Just challenging enough to keep your mind occupied. Not too challenging to cost any mental energy.

Rivers provide an idyllic sample of nature. Below is aquatic life, from tiny minnows to big fish. At eye level are ducks, swans, and perhaps even a beaver. On the shores are deer and a wide range of vegetation. To the skies are the majestic eagles. And there's a pretty high chance of seeing our national bird - Vilas and Oneida Counties have the highest concentration of eagles in the state.

It's also a great way to spend time with others. Canoeing is a perfect time to chit chat with friends and family, taking pictures and relaxing along the way.

Now that I've convinced you, it's time to talk logistics. A paddle trip down a Wisconsin river requires some forethought. On the next few pages are proposed routes that will require a few companions, two vehicles, and a way to transport a canoe or two.

In short, first drop off canoes at the entry point. Then drive both vehicles to the take out point. Leave one car, and drive back to the canoes in the other. Plenty of water and snacks are important; as are sunscreen, a hat, and some lifejackets. Expect each mile on a river to take 20 to 30 minutes. A couple final tips. Call the DNR for water level conditions. Reach out to the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (715-848-2976) for information on water releases from dams.

Without further adieu, let's explore the beautiful waters of Oneida County.



LOON NEST AREA
STAY AWAY
DO NOT ENTER

LOON NEST AREA
STAY AWAY
DO NOT ENTER

PROTECT COMMON LOONS
by clearly marking their nest sites!

Learn more
and order at
LOON NEST SIGNS
COM

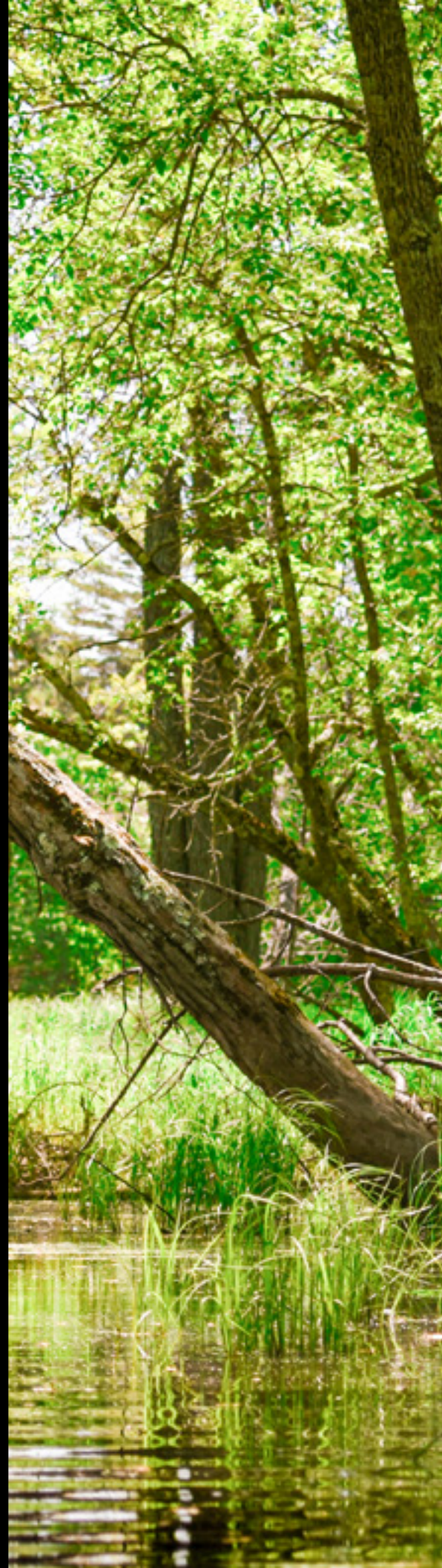
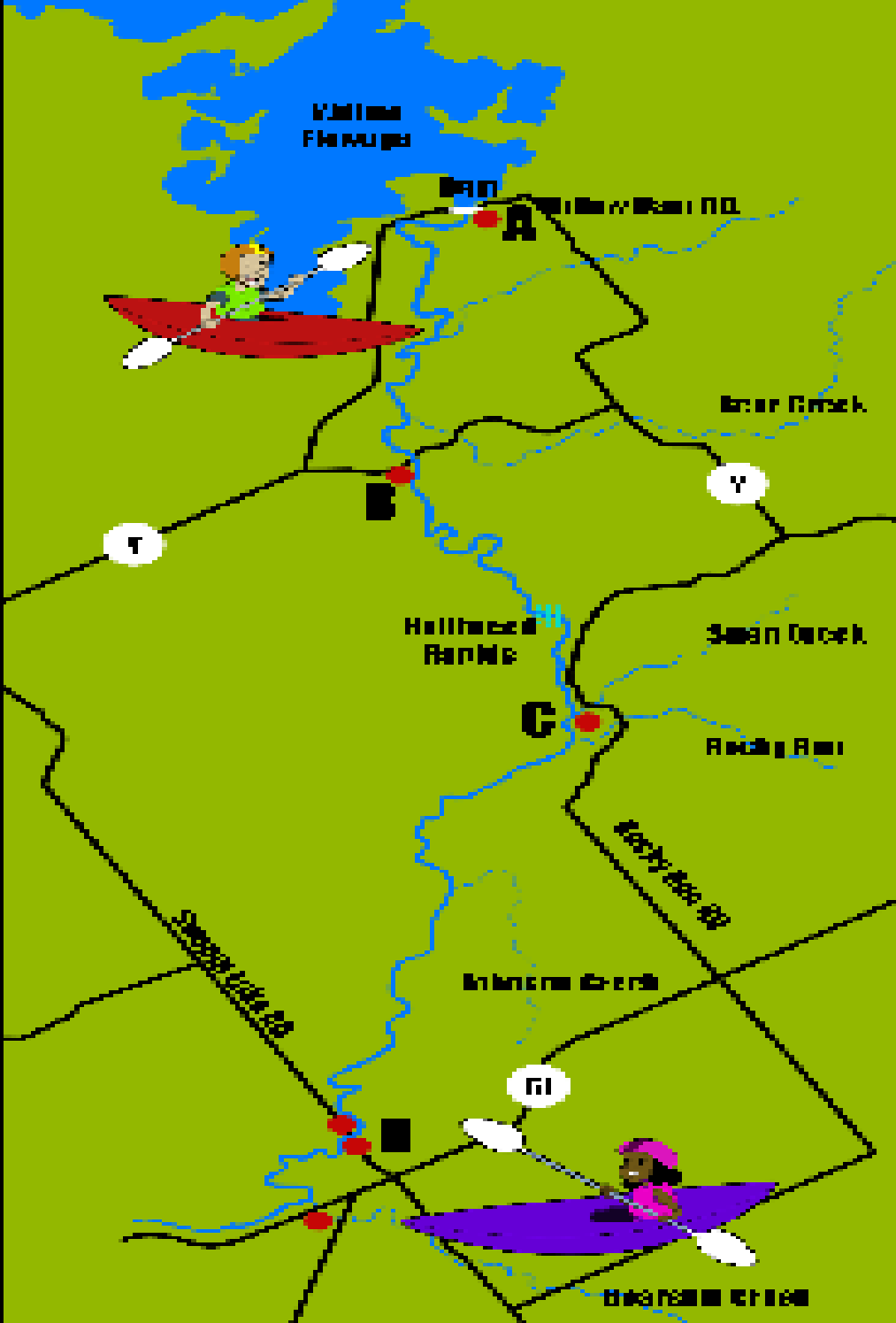


Wisconsin River

A to B: County D to Rainbow Rapids Bridge (2.8 miles)

B to C: Rainbow Rapids Bridge to McNoughton Bridge (7.3 miles)

Be ready to see an eagle. Put in at the public boat landing on County D, just downstream from the Rainbow Flowage Dam. Good parking is provided. The whole trip has a steady current with the exception of Rainbow Rapids (1.8 miles in). The rapids are two short curves in the river and are not particularly difficult. Getting out of the canoe and walking in the river is an option. The shores will be lined primarily with deciduous trees, with occasional pockets of white and red pine. There are some houses along the route, but most of the time this stretch of the Wisconsin River is pristine. The Rainbow Rapids Bridge is a perfect place to get out and eat lunch. There's a small park with plenty of picnic tables. South of the bridge, the river gradually widens and slows. This 10.1 mile stretch is a good trip for beginners as there is nothing too technical. Plus it's absolutely stunning.



Tomahawk River

A to B: Willow Flowage Dam to County Y Bridge (3.5 miles)

B to C: County Y Bridge to Swan Creek Bridge (3.3 miles)

C to D: Swan Creek Bridge to Swamp Lake Road Bridge (4.7 miles)

A good river for fishing along the way. There are a couple put-in spots here, but only one really good take-out spot. This is because County Y Bridge and Swan Creek Bridge do not have parking and the entry points are on private land. So, always plan a trip to finish at the Swamp Lake Road Bridge. This stretch of river is suitable for novices, besides Halfbreed Rapids (5.9 miles in). These are a couple hundred yards long and only experienced whitewater paddlers should attempt it. Thankfully, there is a well-defined trail along the left bank of the river. This 11.5 mile stretch of river has a variety of views and foliage. Pine, maple, alder, birch, popple and spruce trees abundantly line the route. Bass, trout, walleye, muskie, and northern can all be found.

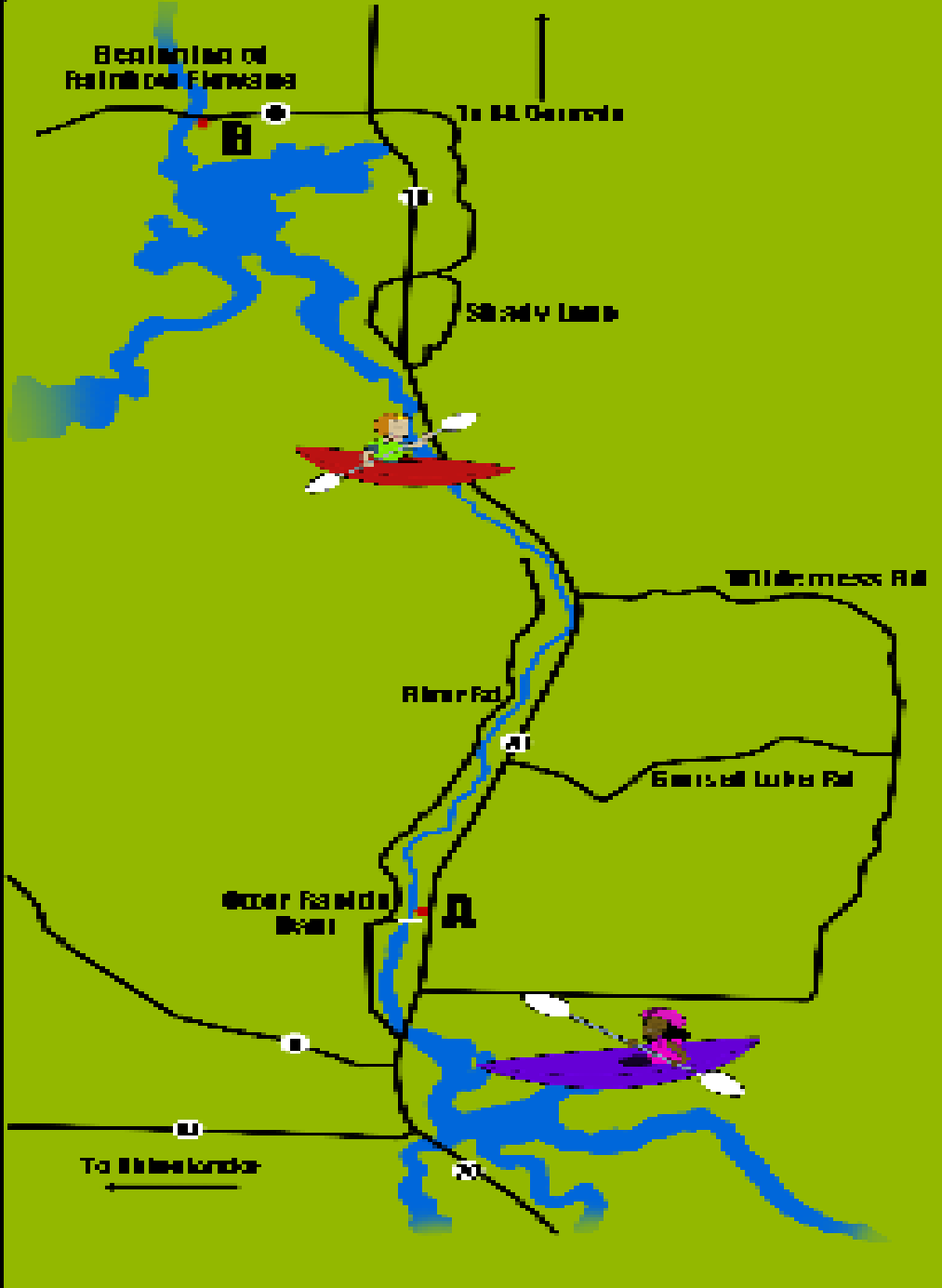


Wisconsin River

A to B: Hat Rapids Dam to Camp 10 Rd (3.3 miles)

B to C: Camp 10 Rd to Cty A (9.4 miles)

Like Otter Rapids, Hat Rapids is a thing of the past thanks to a dam, but there is one tricky spot on this route. First off, put in upstream from the Hat Rapids Road bridge, right next to the dam. The shoreline is heavily wooded with no houses for many miles. The current is swift until Menard Island. There is a boat landing on Camp 10 Road for a shorter paddle. After this you'll come upon Whirlpool Rapids (3.8 miles in). The difficulty all depends on the water level. Preceding the rapids is a boulder garden which can be a challenge in high and medium water. Call the DNR for conditions. At Whirlpool, there is an island in the middle of the river – to avoid the rapids entirely, carry your boats the length of the island. After the rapids, the next 3.5 miles is a smooth ride with a few ripples. Soon after Menard Island, the river becomes wide and slow with some marshy areas. Take out at the landing before the County A bridge.



Wisconsin River
A to B: Otter Rapids Dam to County O (7.1 miles)

Although this stretch of Wisconsin used to be home to the turbulent Otter Rapids, the dam made this part of river leisurely enough for a newcomer. The Otter Rapids Dam is located 3.5 miles west of Eagle River and is the first dam in the Upper Wisconsin River. Put in canoes a short walk below the parking lot there. The river starts out wide with many houses dotting the right shore. Many large boulders lie on the bottom of this stretch of the river, so be vigilant of what's ahead of you. After Sportsman's Chalet (5 miles in) the river turns into a marshy lake. Head straight across and take out at the boat landing just before the County O bridge. Fish and wildlife can be seen along the paddle, and sometimes osprey nests can be seen near the take-out point.





Chef inspired - Customer Desired



**NOW WITH EXPANDED SEATING
AND COMMUNITY ROOM!**

Downtown Rhinelander

715-369-8988

cheftomsdeli.com

**American
CARPET CLEANING**

Spring Cleaning?

Call Us

We Clean All Carpets, Area Rugs
and More.

Pet Stains-No Problem



715-362-RUGS (7847)

TEN POINT BAR AND GRILL



Outstanding Daily Specials

Homemade Pizza

Friday Fish Fry, featuring Walleye and Cod

U.S. Caught and Chemical Free

Pavillion for Private Events

3983 Harshaw Rd. Harshaw, WI

715-282-5302



**Over 40 Years of Well Drilling and
Quality Pump Service**

**Serving All of Northern Wisconsin and
the UP**

Call Us For A Free Quote

715-362-5841

rhdlrwell@charter.net

Danner's
Shoe Store

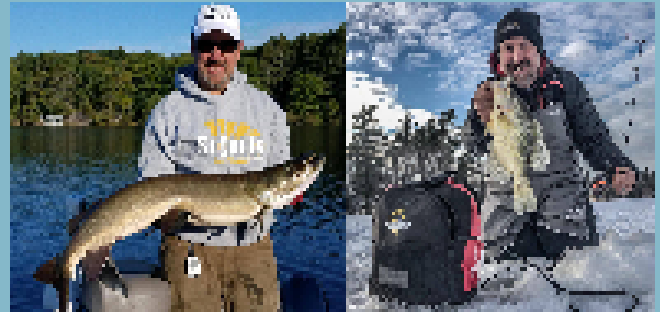
Specializing in quality men's work boots
Customized fit, personalized service

Third Generation Family Owned
32 W. Davenport Street, Rhinelander 715-362-3704

Grop's Guide Service

GUIDE SERVICE FOR
ONEIDA, VILAS AND LINCOLN COUNTIES

Call For Reservations



STATE LICENSED & FULLY INSURED

715-360-1601

daniel.gropengiser@gmail.com



Flyin Finn
PUB & RESORT

Best Friday Fish Fry Around
715-369-3647

Find Us on Facebook

Live Music on the Patio
Every Weekend in Summer

Carry Out Available

Get Ready for the Annual Finnanigans
on Saturday August 14th

Full Menu at theflyinfinn.com

THE ISLAND

By Kerry Bloedorn



On a little Island in the middle of the Wisconsin River, just below where the Davenport St Bridge crosses today was once Rhinelander's first drinking establishment. To this tiny tavern the early rough and tumble loggers were attracted like moths to a flame. Ironically it would be the flame that would bring this lumberjack pleasure island to its end, but unlike a Phoenix some things are meant to burn and die forever, so too was the legendary operation of Herr (Mr.) Schultz.

But the Island would play host to other parts of Rhinelander history before it would settle into the unassuming quiet it rests in today. 10,000 years ago when the last glaciers receded north of Lake Superior, millions of gallons of melt water gushed forth and created the bed in the Wisconsin River. When the torrent of melt waters came to the place that would become Rhinelander it was stopped by the root of an ancient volcanic mountain and backed up into another adjacent tributary creating what the early Native people of the area later called Fish Lake. As the waters carved through this ancient rock it created the Pelican Narrows, and below them a mile long whitewater that came to be known as Pelican Rapids on the Wisconsin River which ended just above the confluence of the Pelican River entering from the East. But just below the narrows an outcrop of hard rock was left mostly undisturbed as the water raged around on either side, creating an island in the middle of the River.

As early as the 1850's a gentleman came to the area and established a River Station, his name was John Curran. He built a handsome residence, trading post and boarding house on what is now the site of Friendly Village. At this time some logging was taking place many miles north of the Pelican Narrows and logs were being driven on the river to Wausau for milling, but early river drives found it near impossible to pass their logs through the Pelican Rapids

area among other rapids between that location and Wausau, and so a series of Dams were built to assist in floating the logs over the boulders and rocks that made up the rapids. In the 1860's a log and rock dam was constructed at the Pelican Narrows to facilitate the early river drives. That dam would leave our little island below the narrows, a little bit higher, and a little bit drier.

When Anderson Brown from Stevens Point traversed the river up to the Pelican Narrows around 1872 he found an as of yet untouched pinery surrounding the area that would become Rhinelander. It was 9 miles wide, by 40 miles long adjacent to the Wisconsin River, with towering White Pines averaging 5 feet in diameter, and a small lake that would make a perfect log storage area, also known as a Boomage. Andy envisioned a milling town in the near future for this place. The Browns made an investment and purchased acreage on both sides of the river, and in the following years the Village of Rhinelander was born. The Browns were known to be a temperance family and although not straight teetotalers they would write an early rule for their community that no alcohol was to be sold on Brown property which at that time made up much of the land surrounding the narrows.

As the years proceeded, hundreds of "River Rats," the men that worked the spring log drives, were making their way through the new village. The Wisconsin River was a regular highway in those days and saw the traveling of some of the roughest and toughest men in the country, known as Voyageurs, beaten from the French Fur Trade days that acted as porters of goods up and down the waterways. These hard men were a breed unto themselves even among the lumberjacks and river rats.

It was in the mid 1870's that a German immigrant known today only as Herr Schultz (Mr. Schultz) arrived to the confluence



of the Pelican and Wisconsin Rivers. Seeing how many of the hard men of the river were turned away at John Curran's clean and strict river station, that Herr Schultz saw a business opportunity. Herr Schultz then built a primitive log tavern on the Island just below the narrows and it quickly developed a reputation as one of the wildest places in the Northwoods.

The Browns were not particularly pleased at this development and would not have approved of such an establishment within the boundaries of their newly formed community. But because it was on an island owned by the federal government and that Herr Schultz had obtained a \$15.00 license, it was all very legal.

In those days, the Northwoods was a man's world and the men that visited Herr Schultz Island Palace were the worst breeds on earth at the time. Men such as The Ross Brothers, Bill and Frank, and the Lucy Boys were all regular patrons of the Palace where Herr Schultz would fill them full of booze and provide them with women as hard as they were. The riff raff went on at all hours of the day and night. Fights were many, boisterous and bloody.

As the popularity of the Island Palace grew, Herr Schultz decided he needed some support to keep his rowdy customers in check, and so he hired a strong-man who carried a shotgun and ax to protect Herr Schultz' life and property. It is said that while Schultz was away on business, a group of thugs visited the Island and took control of the place tying up the hired help and throwing his weapons into the river while they took turns behind the bar using a single silver coin to "purchase" each other drinks in turn.

Herr Schultz ran his unwholesome Island Palace for several years as the Village of Rhinelander quickly grew on the adjacent river bank and the people of that community became increasingly annoyed by its presence. It is said that a group of displeased Rhine-

lander residents took it upon themselves to cross the rocks to the island one coolness night where they set fire to Herr Schultz' racey river real estate. Those flames ended an era of debauchery the likes of which has never been seen again in the community of Rhinelander. But that's not where the story of the Island ends, no... Some decades later the Island and a forested low area along the river to the northwest, close to where the Chicago North Western and Soo lines crossed each other became the convenient site of a Hobo encampment often referred to as a Jungle. In the early 1900's

Continued on page 36

Diane's Frame Shoppe LLC
"Let Us Frame Your Memories"
 The largest frame shop in the northwoods with unique gifts made by over 30 local artists!

6 North Brown Street, Rhinelander, WI
 dianesframeshoppe@yahoo.com
 715-369-1400
 LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED



Photo by Mike VanderBunt



POSITIVELY Created and Managed by Janet Jamison

RHINELANDER



Photo by: Bev Engstrom

Photo by Dale Kauzlaric



Photo by Ruth Kammler





Photo by: Janet Jamison



Photo by: Deb Lukasik

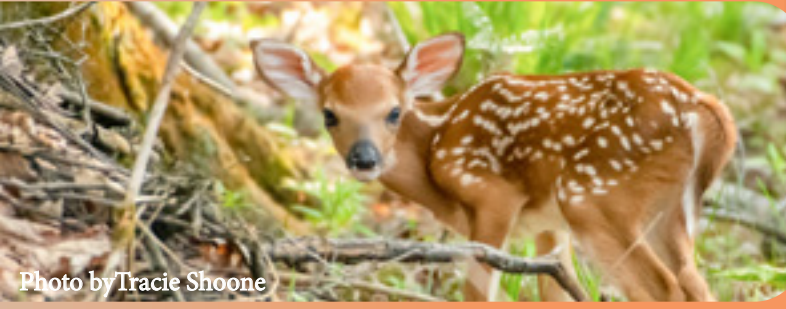


Photo by Tracie Shoone



Photo by Ruth Kammler



Photo by Dan Dumas



el
EGAN LIVES PRODUCTIONS

DIGITAL MEDIA AND PHOTOGRAPHY

- WEDDINGS AND FAMILY
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- VIDEOGRAPHY
- DRONE SERVICES
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- LOGO DESIGN
- ADVERTISING

EGANLIVES.COM 715-360-2812

 [Facebook.com/eganolives](https://www.facebook.com/eganolives)

 [Instagram.com/eganolives](https://www.instagram.com/eganolives)




SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.

COVER THE EARTH

GET THE HIGHEST QUALITY PAINT WITH EXPERT KNOWLEDGE AND SERVICE.

1110 LINCOLN STREET, RHINELANDER, WI
715-362-3822

TODD JOHNSON

Real Estate Broker
CELL: 715-490-0194
johnsont@firstweber.com

FIRSTWEBER
— REALTORS® —
a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

Precision POWERSPORTS

UTV ATV SNOWMOBILE MOTORCYCLE REPAIR AND SERVICE

The Northwoods Area Independent Powersports Repair Facility



We offer general maintenance, tires, plows, ATV/UTV track systems, OEM and aftermarket parts and accessories.

We also specialize in full engine and drivetrain rebuilds and performance modifications, so you can get the most out of your toys!

COME AND SEE US AROUND BACK OF THE QUALITY COLLISION CENTER FOR ALL YOUR POWERSPORT AND ATV/UTV NEEDS!

1500 Chippewa Drive
Rhinelanders, WI
715-420-0671

ppowersports@yahoo.com

VICTORIA HOUSTON

By Dan Hagen

MYSTERY WRITER IN RESIDENCE

"I graduated second in my class at Rhinelander High School, and I would've been first if I hadn't gotten kicked out."

The era is the 1960s, and a Rhinelander High teacher handed a student a large keyring. It included a master key to the school, and the opportunity was too good to pass up. He made a copy and, along with his five best friends, repeatedly went into the school after hours.

One of those friends was Victoria Houston.

"We'd go in after hours and one of the boys would scuba dive in the swimming pool. But basically, what we did was walk around the halls and leave. We just got such a kick out that."



They did this for a month until, finally, the group of friends were caught.

"What I did not know at that time," Victoria related, "is one of the boys had been stealing tests. We all had to leave school, and because of the stolen tests we all took F's in Chemistry and English. That summer we were allowed to make up those classes, but I was kicked off the school newspaper and the theater group."

But the consequences didn't stop there. When Victoria's mother went to get her hair done one day after the students had been caught, she overheard some of the other ladies gossiping. These students weren't just scuba diving and stealing tests - they were amorously involved.

"This devastated my mother," Victoria told me. "The rumors spread around town. And the poor superintendent Ced Vig, who was a dear man, got obscene phone calls. So it all just kind of built up."

Two F's. Kicked out of school. Houston felt bad for her parents, her friends, and school staff. But for herself she viewed it as an opportunity.

"You ask yourself - what do you do with experiences like this? Material. It's great material."

Houston wrote about the experience in her college essay. She received a full ride to the most expensive school in America at the time.

"I had a really good essay."

It takes a certain resolve to turn a traumatic moment (getting kicked out of school) into a good college essay. As a young girl, Victoria gained perspective through early adversity. "My mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis when I was five and she had a real tough time physically. So I've always thought stuff like that was a piece of cake compared to trying to manage with disabilities."

There is no cure for multiple sclerosis even today. However, treatments have come a long way since the mid-twentieth Century. Back then, the doctors recommended Victoria's mom brandy for the pain. Another physician recommended phenobarbital.



"I grew up with a woman who had M.S. and veered between alcoholism and painkiller addiction. As a kid, you had no choice but to manage through that." Houston has managed throughout her life to put her own adversity in perspective, and write from it.

The essay got her into Bennington College in Vermont. Falling in love turned into getting married as a sophomore. And a baby on the way meant she left school without graduating. Years later, she moved into book publishing and non-fiction writing. Her publishing company worked with one mystery writer. Houston was astounded by the amount of advance money he received, as it was way more than she received for her non-fiction books. Then she read one of his books. It was mediocre at best.

"For a hundred-grand I can be mediocre. So, I decided to try and write a mystery. I wrote four manuscripts and sent them to my agent. She said these are so bad I should just forget it." But she didn't. When Houston was 34, her publishing job took her to New York City. She took a mystery writing workshop and sent a new manuscript to an established novelist. The feedback was less than glowing, but it sent her on a path back to her Rhinelander roots.

"My mentor at the workshop wrote 'when I started to read this material, I was going to suggest this writer go back to school. But when the story turned to Northern Wisconsin, it just sparked.'" Victoria had found her niche. She spent the next six years trying to get a book published to no avail. A divorce sent her from the east coast back to Rhinelander, where she started writing the book that finally got her published, *Dead Angler*.

Through it all, her mother's early multiple sclerosis diagnosis kept her obstacles in perspective. She also knew the inner-workings of the business.

"Having worked in book publishing, I know how political the business is. So I know it isn't always a quality product that gets produced. Very often it can be who knows who. And so maybe if your work is turned down somewhere, the reason it was turned down might be it was because some editor's cousin was chosen instead. You never know."

Nowadays, Houston lives on Oneida Avenue in Rhinelander. When you enter her study, you see a dozen notepads. One is full of real-world observations - things she sees or reads that might make good material in a book. Another notebook is full of character backstories. Another - a novel's timeline. Victoria Houston has written a national bestseller, appeared on Oprah and Donohue, was featured on the front page of the Wall Street Journal, and written 19 mystery novels set in the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

"One of the secrets to my mysteries is they all take place within two weeks. This gives the book momentum."

Continued on page 37

Computer Plus
715-362-0529

26 Years

Custom configured business and home computers, networking, repairs, upgrades and consultation. Computer Plus provides both in-house and on-site services to meet your computing needs.

416 PELHAM ST. RHINELANDER, WI

NORTHWOODS ARTIST

FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD BY THOMAS BARNETT

"All That Glitters" is a shop in Rhinelander filled with wonder. Walking through the door, you are overwhelmed with the aroma of incense and herbs from far away lands. The sun shining through the windows sparkles off the many hanging crystals and ornaments that adorn the walls. Around every corner there are artifacts, tarot cards, pendulums and special stones crafted by Mother Nature herself. Despite the sparkle, the magical atmosphere of this little shop would be dim without its owner, Melody Majcherek.

When Melody was a child, nothing brought her more joy than a jumbo coloring book and a box of crayons. While she colored in each page, her imagination took her to beautiful places full of color and life. This artistic eye never left as she grew, and it influenced everything she did from taking pictures, to decorating a room. Her style and her clothing are also a colorful display of not only her art, but her energetic personality – a personality that draws you in and makes you feel welcomed and loved.

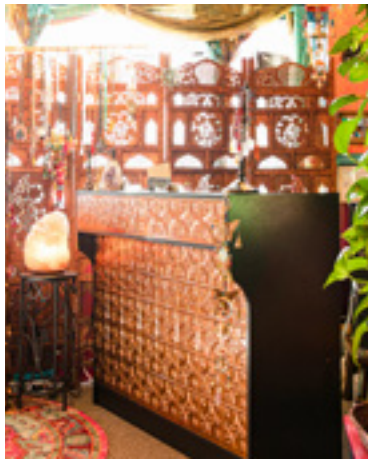
Most artists have that "a-ha" moment when they are stung by the



creative idea of wanting to be an artist. Then there are artists like Melody, who are born with that passion. She was not influenced by one particular moment or artist, but rather a life's journey surrounded by artists she admired and respected while always

developing her own unique sense of creativity. The one theme that is ever present in her life and her journey is a movie that she loved as a child, "The Wizard of Oz." When the black and white film burst into eye popping radiant color in front of Melody's eyes, it touched her in a profound way that inspired her to take the drab places in her world and add that same sense of wonderment and excitement. Melody, like all artists, is constantly evolving in her art. She is determined to put art out into the world whether she feels it is good or bad, and let the universe reciprocate in turn.

This reciprocation is what continues her inspiration and drive to grow as an artist. She feels she has scratched the surface in her art and knows that the journey she is on is a never-ending discovery of self. The Quarantine has actually been an opportunity to let her creativity explode and her art flow. After a while, though, she hit "Quarantine Fatigue." The creative roller coaster's ups and downs finally caused her to hit a brick wall. Melody's nature does not allow her to stay down for long, and just like Dorothy, she continues on the Yellow Brick Road with determination in her heart to break through that creative wall. Eventually, everyone meets some tragedy in life, and at a young age, Melody's husband passed away. She found comfort and healing in all forms of art, including pencils, paint, dance, and even martial arts. She found this healing at Fu-Chen Martial Arts and through her healing, found her way back from a profound loss. It was actually through a martial arts event that the universe reached out and whispered in her ear. She observed an artist putting a Henna tattoo on herself. Intrigued, she had to know what this Henna was! Henna is a temporary tattoo artform from the Indian culture. Melody has always had an affinity for India and its art, and continues to work on Henna tattoos today. She says, "Never doubt those affinities. They will always lead you to your path. Always go with your heart." This affinity led her down the path to opening her shop, "All That Glitters," with plans of it being a small Henna tattoo parlor. The name of her shop is also inspired by "The Wizard of Oz" with a subtle nod to the ruby red slippers that glittered on Dorothy's feet. Her shop has grown from her original version to the welcoming hang-out it has become. She feels drawn by a deep need to be of service to those around her, friends and strangers



alike. She is not just a shop owner, no, far from it – she is a listener and a friendly voice. She interacts with people on a level that makes them feel free of judgment and fear. As her shop grows, she is rediscovering things she had stopped doing years ago, such as Tarot and Astrology. Always growing in mind and spirit, she dreams of someday owning a martial arts studio and teaching Kung-Fu. Other options include joining the Peace Corps, or opening a facility where she can care for orphaned or neglected children.

Currently, Melody is working on her biggest piece of art to-date, a colorful mural at a local music shop. In the past, her son Tristan would walk down a black and white hallway toward his music lesson. But Melody's mind quickly envisioned the technicolor of "The Wizard

Continued on page 36

**FULL COFFEE BAR
BOUTIQUE CLOTHING
GIFTS AND CANDLES**



briarhousecoffee.com
634 S. Keenan Street, Rhineland
715-369-2498



Unique Creations

Custom Painted Furniture and Kitchen Cabinet Painting
We serve an extended area

Call for Appointment
715-369-7286
1471 Eagle St, Rhineland

POETRY OF THE NORTH

Luna Herself

A dense thicket of pine trees
with an even thicker fog rising
from it.

Glowing in the moon's light this
mist traced the tree-line on its
way to the sparse grey clouds
above.

Further away still was Luna herself
laying in the navy pool
that hugs the earth.

She basks in time with an aged
pearl look about her.

With more beauty than she held in her
celestial youth.

I am a student of our planets
betrothed...

She must have secrets to tell.

Her skin battered from Aeons
of stray rock collisions.

Still smiling down upon her love
and us who dwell here.

Her view of us must be blurred with tear.

Since to touch her love,
would destroy them both...

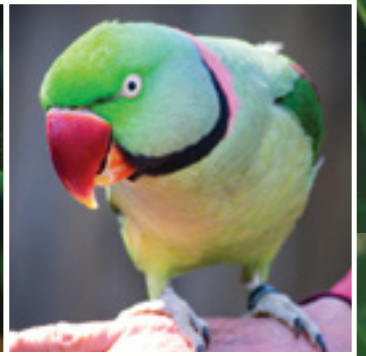
Poem By Ross "Woodsy" Wallace



COFFEE, BREAKFAST & LUNCH
69 N. BROWN ST., RHINELANDER, WI (715)420-1727



Four green tree icons in a row above the text:
Northwoods
Pets
RHINELANDER



- Live Reptiles, Small Pets, Birds, Fish, & Feeder Insects •
- Dog & Cat food & supplies •

Our mission is to provide education & loving support to our customers so they have the knowledge to care for & enjoy their pets.

We offer our customers a store well stocked with healthy & happy animals — plus everything you'll need to keep them that way!



NorthwoodsPets.com

- healthcare • NATURAL TREATS • toys • VACCINES • aquariums • BEDDING •
- HAY & GRASS • substrates • TERRARIUMS • frozen fish food •
- LIVE AQUARIUM PLANTS • adoption bundles • LOYALTY REWARDS •

M-F 8am-6pm, SAT 9am-5pm • 2134 Lincoln St, Rhinelanders • (715) 420-0535

NORTHWOODS IN MUSIC

By Bob Weigandt



A local musician's pandemic gamble pays off

I can hear muffled piano chords from the driveway as I approach the house. I don't want to interrupt, so I let myself in the back door and tiptoe through the kitchen, hoping to eavesdrop through a few bars before he notices. He's not singing, just rolling out a slow but powerful melody of a song-in-progress, pausing and rehashing a phrase until it feels right, then rolling along again. It's beautiful. It feels familiar, like vintage Neil Young or Jackson Browne in its tone and tempo, but the melody seems to be asking new questions.

Sneaking through the living room-turned live room now, I have to climb through a jungle of tripods, cables, cameras, lighting fixtures, and mic stands to finally arrive at the front entryway that opens up to the second floor. There, I see Scott gazing down at the keys of his old upright piano, his song rising from under his fingers as it reverberates off the odd angles of hardwood and plaster, up the stairwell, through and beyond the house. A song....a sound, an idea....that this world has never heard before, being born and echoing through these walls and out into the world for the first time.

It might seem miraculous, and believe me, it is. But I can see from the focus in Scott's eyes that this is not lightning in a bottle. This is a man showing up for work. And as beautiful as this new song sounds, it is far from the first to echo through these walls. In fact, aside from the vast catalog of Scott's original music that was born at his downtown Rhinelander studio, it is safe to say that most of the professionally active musicians in the Northwoods have made this hardwood and plaster rattle at least once or twice. And these days, the studio has been busier than ever.

Scott Kirby is a Rhinelander native who has been writing, recording, and performing music professionally since the late 2000's. He has toured across the U.S. and internationally, released nine albums and countless singles of his original songs, worked with Grammy winning and Gold Record selling artists and producers, and attracted the attention of the Chicago record label Little Cabin Entertainment, where he signed on in 2017.

Throughout his career that has averaged over two

hundred shows per year, he has used his studio as his own personal creative workshop where he could generate and develop ideas, rehearse material, and record projects without the financial and logistical constraints of a professional studio. While he has produced a number of projects for local artists working on a shoestring budget, he has mainly used the studio for his own work. "I guess as a creative, I'm usually working on my own things....I suppose I mostly use it for my own creative process."

That all changed in 2020. With COVID-19, those two hundred plus shows turned into zero almost overnight. Scott, along with most working musicians, was left without an audience and without an income. To make matters even more urgent, he and his wife Callie had their sixteen-month-old son Elton Ray to take care of. With no guarantees as to when the gigs would return, Scott had to do what he does best: get creative.

He dove headfirst into the emerging world of live streaming. At first, he used nothing more than a cell phone to broadcast live performances from the studio to his friends and fans on social media, accepting digital tips via platforms like PayPal and Venmo. While the initial response was positive, Scott quickly realized that if he wanted to stand out from the rapidly expanding crowd of online performers and build his audience, he had to step up his production value.

"I don't consider myself an overachiever by any means, but I guess I figured if this was the new norm of performance for the foreseeable future, I wanted it to be not just good, but exceptional. I was frustrated with a low quality product. I figured the only way I could actually grow my viewership beyond my current audience would be by producing a higher quality stream. I really wanted the consumer to feel like they were as close to a live performance as a virtual one could offer."

Over the next several months, Scott poured over online tutorials, discussion boards, articles, YouTube videos, and any other resource he could find to learn more about video production and live streaming. Every week he applied what he had learned, tweaked his setup, and tested it all out with a fresh live stream performance for his fans.





“IT MIGHT SEEM MIRACULOUS, AND BELIEVE ME, IT IS. BUT I CAN SEE FROM THE FOCUS IN SCOTT’S EYES THAT THIS IS NOT LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE.”

As productions improved, costs grew as Scott added cameras, professional lighting, microphones, and other production equipment to his arsenal. He knew that if he wanted to make his project feasible, he would need a business plan and additional capital. That’s when he called on his contacts at local public radio station WXPB, as well as a new grant program created by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). Prior to COVID, Scott hosted a weekly program on WXPB called Midwest Music Hour which featured regional artists performing live, along with in-depth conversation and interviews. Though he was unable to produce the show at the station now due to COVID, Scott realized that his new production setup at his studio would make it easy to pull the audio from his live streams and convert it to a radio format. He could now host guests for Midwest Music Hour at his studio, and not only record the radio program, but produce a live stream video program at the same time, allowing each performance to reach thousands more people, both online and over the radio.

To offset the mounting equipment costs, Scott looked to the WEDC where he learned of the We’re All Innovating Contest. According to the WEDC website, the program was created to recognize and promote the creative ways startups and small businesses are adapting to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since Scott was a perfect fit for this award, it should come as no surprise that he became one of only 231 winners of the grant program that totalled \$3 million. Still, he said, “I am pretty sure I wept.”

“In April and May I put all my working capital into technology upgrades and purchases. The definition of ‘all in.’ The vision was there. The goals were there. Scott had a keen idea of what he wanted to achieve, but to get there would be a gamble.

Continued on page 36



Cody Bednarz

Let's go bowling
Nick's Hodag Lanes
1843 N Stevens St, Rhinelander
Phone: 715-420-1732



Domino's

DOMINO'S PIZZA
623 LINCOLN ST.
RHINELANDER, WI
715-362-2525

DELIVERY
OR
CARRYOUT



LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
BY DAN AND NICOLE CAHEE



RHINELANDER AREA FOOD PANTRY

By Jaclene Tetzlaff

Striving to achieve food security for everyone

On a Saturday morning, I drove up to the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry and saw several cars in the parking lot. They were waiting for the many volunteers inside to bring out boxes of food and place them, contact-free, in the trunk of their car. As I walked inside, I could feel the positive energy and enthusiasm of those volunteers as they continued to busily fill boxes. The pantry had just received full loads of fresh oranges, apples, buns, soft drinks and many other foodstuffs that looked and smelled delicious.

Jane Motowski, General Manager of the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry met me for our interview. She explained the process of the food distribution. The pantry is open for car pickup only (during the pandemic) on Monday 3-6 pm, Wednesday 4-7 pm, and Saturday 10:30 am-1 pm. To sign up, bring your photo ID and a utility bill to verify your address. Eligible customers need to sign up and can then receive food every 14 days based on household size. The boxes are pre-packed and delivered to the vehicle in the parking lot. The Rhinelander Food Pantry was formed to assist area families on an on-going basis. They can also assist on an emergency basis. Those who have found themselves unemployed, or are in jobs that pay below the poverty level are encouraged to check out the food pantry. In some area schools, more than half the students qualify for free or reduced lunches. RAFP partners with the school district to provide weekly backpacks filled with food to help families ensure there is enough food for children over the weekend, when school meals are not available.

RAFP uses government commodity food programs and Feeding America, the nation's largest food bank. They also use local food and monetary donations, local purchases, and produce grown in the Rhinelander Area Community Garden. The local donations are critical because the food is at its freshest and most usable. RAFP provides over 600,000 pounds of food annually, and an additional 17,000 pounds of food through the Weekend Food Back Pack program.

"There is a huge need. Unfortunately, there are people who just don't feel comfortable coming here. I wish more people who qualify would use our facility. That's what we are here for," says Motowski. "Pay your bills with your refund checks and come here for your food."

To help families budget, FoodWise of the University of Wisconsin Extension will be offering the Healthy Cents Program throughout 2021. This is a 3-lesson series focused on deter-

mining your family's needs, developing a spending plan, and creating a food budget. Contact Karly Harrison, FoodWise Coordinator at Karly.harrison@wisc.edu.

How can you help?

Each month, RAFP expenses are over \$15,000. To help curb these costs, RAFP conducts several fundraising activities throughout the year: A Letter Campaign for direct donations, the Spring Challenge where private donors give a program match, and group events all help raise funds.

In addition, corporate-led donations are a big help.

For example,

Amy Vanney, Branch Manager of Nicolet Bank in Rhinelander is also a member of the Nicolet National Foundation employee allocations committee. Recommended by Vanney, the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry received a donation of employee raised funds via the Nicolet National Foundation in April, and again in December for a total of \$1750.00 in 2020.

Other community events include:

Cantastic—A group, company, or church creates themed structures of cans for a competition. All cans are then donated to the RAFP.

Salad Bowl—A luncheon and silent auction where signature salads are donated by local restaurants and auctioned off.

Hoedown at the Woodpecker Inn—A family oriented event with straw bale maze hay rides, crafts, pumpkin patch, live music and more.

Volunteers are always needed. Throughout the week, various groups are assigned a day to volunteer. However, you can call and be a part! Linda Krebsbach has been a volunteer since 2005. "I love to spend time here. It's a passion of mine to help as much as possible," says Krebsbach.

You can also organize a Food Drive at your business or organization, or donate directly. Call Jane Motowski or Guy Hansen at 715-369-7237 for details.

Rhinelander Area Food Pantry

627 Coon Street

Rhinelander, WI

www.rhinelanderareafoodpantry.org



Top Left: Jane Motowski, Jeff Kataoka, Linda Krebsbach Top Right: Tom O'Rourke placing food into a vehicle
 Bottom Left: Rhinelander Lions Members, Scott Campbell, Mel Hook, Tom O'Rourke Rhae Ellen Shnoor Bottom Right: Oranges

Trappers
Fireplace Gallery

Your Northwoods Fireplace Specialists

Fireplaces & Stoves • Gas • Wood • Electric
 Pellet • Fireplace Inserts • Indoor & Outdoor

715-337-2307
www.trappersfireplacegallery.com

6 W. Wall Street
 Eagle River, WI 54521

SimpliFire Fire Made Simple **VERMONT CASTINGS** **QUADRA-FIRE** HEAT & GLO. NOTHING BURNS LIKE A QUAD. No one builds a better fire.

HAPPENINGS IN THE NORTHWOODS

The Rhinelander Lions 45th Annual Ice Fisheree

Anglers took to the ice on February 13 and 14 to try for cash prizes in the Lions' Annual Fisheree. We caught up with some pretty fun fisherman and women who were more than happy to pose for the camera.

Mike Romportl
Rhinelander Lions Fisheree Chairperson



Jim Kennedy



Paul Pitts
&
Cotton



Matt Wocelka

Joe Thiel

Baby Murphy Thiel



Left to Right:
Quinn Robinson
Matt Michalsen
Eric Schwister
Paul Stanley
(you wish)
Dianne Langren
Brian Dutcher



Snowshoe Baseball on Washburn Lake

The last of the snowshoe baseball games was played on Washburn Lake on Saturday, February 24. Players soaked in a beautiful, sunny day and later celebrated at Henkel's Town Pump.

The Flyin Finn Annual Turkey Bowl

A large crowd was on hand for high flyin' fun at The Finn on Saturday, February 20. Bowlers formed teams with frozen turkeys to win cash prizes and other fun stuff. Games, soup tasting, and frivolity filled the day.



Nikki Danner Maufort

Jon and Cathy Danner



Greg Danner



Larry Drexler, Mike Roche, Dick Weibl, Nick Metropolis

Todd Henkel



Todd Johnson



Continuation of The Island

it was not uncommon for adventurous men with no ties to traverse the country on the iron horse, hopping train cars from one place or another, holding down a job long enough to make some spare cash before moving on to the next exciting place.

These Hobos found it easy to get on and off the rail cars at rail crossings as the train was forced to slow down to negotiate. And so the area next to the Rhinelander rail intersection became a popular camping ground for these often misunderstood but mostly harmless Hobos. Once again, the Island below the Davenport St Bridge would become host to human activity. Crossing on the many rocks strewn across the river, the island could be accessed and the encampment left undisturbed. So long as they were not causing trouble the local authorities turned a blind eye to the squatting that took place on "Hobo Island" later called "Bums Island" by the city children that played in the area. Some older residents still recall their days of "hopping rocks" down by the river where they might encounter a Hobo camping out and heating a can of beans over a small fire.

Still later, it was decided by the city government that a kids fishing pond should be developed between the Island and the east bank of the river, and so boulders were removed and a large pond was dredged just out of the main river channel creating a children fishing area. A popular fishing spot for years after, the best spot to toss a line was from that thousands-of-years-old island that once hosted the roughest, seediest place in Rhinelander. Much of that history had been long forgotten and was all but unknown to the youth that visited it for fun. But the memories remained tied to the island hidden in newspaper articles and documents from the earliest days of Rhinelander's history.

So next time you cross the Davenport St Bridge and glance North you'll know of the history that quiet island holds. I hope you pass on this history, so Herr Schultz can live on in some way. Gone, but not forgotten.



Continuation of The Northwoods Artist

of Oz." Always one to seize the day, she effortlessly convinced the owner to let her create a mural to bring color, light, and inspiration to each music student as they walk down that hall. Melody recognizes that there is a huge pool of artistic people in Rhinelander and the surrounding area – all putting their influence and creativity out into the universe. The art community thrives here in the Northwoods, and we have just scratched the surface. She is excited to see the art community grow in years to come.

I highly recommend stopping by "All That Glitters" at 119 East Kemp Street in Rhinelander, and experience the atmosphere of Melody's shop. Get lost in the glitter and warm energy that embraces you when you walk through the door. There is no grand wizard hiding behind a curtain, just an honest, caring shop owner and artist that always has a kind word and a hug to give away.

Continuation of The Northwoods In Music

"Goal 1: get artists on the program.

Goal 2: find a path to the radio. Goal 3: gain community support through advertising and underwriting sponsorships. Goal 4: expand the reach of the program beyond the local station."

The approval of the WEDC for Scott's plan did much more than offset the studio expenses. "It not only helped the financial side...but it helped strengthen my mental resolve and my sense of self-worth. It really gave me the sense that maybe I was doing something that people appreciated. Not only the sense that people other than my local base believed in me, but [that they] thought it was worthy of supporting in this way."

With a radio audience that now extends from the top of Rib Mountain to the shores of Lake Superior, and an online audience that circles the globe, Midwest Music Hour brings new episodes of live, original, regional music to thousands of people every week. And with the help of the We're All Innovating grant, Scott has created a new niche in the local business community and a new opportunity in the regional music industry, one that has already proven to be invaluable during this time of pandemic. "The grant really helped open a path for me to be able to develop a business format within the music industry that didn't exist before in this area of rural Wisconsin.

I'd love to be Rhinelander's answer to Tent Show Radio, or Mountain Stage, Austin City Limits, Tiny Desk Concert, etc." Standing in this studio that he has poured so much of himself into, watching him work, I can see exactly why Scott Kirby was the right choice for the We're All Innovating award. This is a man in his element. Living and breathing music in every cell in every moment. It doesn't get any more "all in" than this.

SUMMER HOURS 7 DAYS A WEEKS
 Monday - Thursday & Saturday 9am-5pm
 Friday 9am-7pm
 Sunday 9am-2pm

FALL/WINTER HOURS
 Friday & Saturday 10am-5pm
 By appointment Sunday-Thursday

THE HODAG STORE
 WE GOT T-SHIRTS, SIGNS,
 BUMPER STICKERS AND MORE.
 COME ON DOWN TO
 THE HODAG STORE!

Like us on

2 T-Shirts for \$25 with this ad!

www.thehodagstore.com
 hodagstore@gmail.com | 715-550-5412
 538 Lincoln St., Rhinelander, WI

Continuation of Victoria Houston

The Loon Lake Mystery Series are all set against a background of fishing, something Houston did nearly every day growing up. She's a big believer in writing what you know.

"It's a cliché, but it's true. It's so true. The best authors write from who they are and where they live."

Her characters are inspired from real people in her life. The main protagonist Doc Osborne shares some personality traits and a profession (dentistry) with her dad. The comic relief and expert fisherman Ray Pradt is inspired from two of her cousins and a brother.

The Police Chief Lew Ferris is inspired by her favorite teacher in school, the same teacher that first confronted Houston about breaking into Rhinelander High School. Houston always carries a notepad with her when she's around other people - there's always a chance for new material.

According to Houston, the Northwoods is fertile ground for mysteries. Her novels take place in the mythical "Loon Lake," which she describes as somewhere north of Wausau and south of Land O' Lakes. "As you drive up from Wausau you can really see the

landscape change.

The Northwoods has the highest ratio of water to land in the world. Within five miles of the city of Rhinelander, we have about 350 lakes. That gives the area a unique setting."

The people are unique as well. When Houston was growing up, half of Rhinelander was involved in the mill, and the other half wasn't. The personalities of her characters can usually be found on one side or the other. And the character's names are tied to the Northwoods as well.

"If I don't have one that just pops up, I'll pull out the Rhinelander telephone directory from a couple years ago and I'll look for names in there. Because you can't make those up. And then I'll put a little spin on it so it's not a real person and I won't get sued."

Houston has made a living writing mystery novels for decades. Right now, she's working on a spin-off from her Loon Lake Mystery Series, changing viewpoints from Doc Osborne to Police Chief Lew Ferris. Wolf Hollow: A Lew Ferris Mystery will be available this December.

Northwoods
 AUTO TECHS LLC

5 E. Monico Street,
 Rhinelander, WI
 715-365-2972

Treat your vehicle with the seal of excellence!

AAA Approved Auto Repair
 2020 GOLD CERTIFIED
 BLUE SEAL OF EXCELLENCE ASE
 RECOGNIZED BUSINESS

FISHING THE HARD WATERS

By Kerry Bloedorn



Important 2021 Fishing Dates:

April 1st: New Fishing Licenses must be acquired

May 1st: Open Water Fishing Season starts

With cold temps and lack of snow in the Northwoods in early winter there was no shortage of ice on the lakes. With 1,129 lakes in Oneida County there is no shortage of places to fish. Ice fishing in the Northwoods is not only a pleasurable pastime, but is a big part of Northwoods culture. Every winter thousands of people take to the hard water to try their hand at catching one of the many species of game fish Wisconsin has to offer. When I talk to my "southern" friends, many are in awe and disbelief, at what they see as daring-do as I explain to them, we drive on the lakes up here. But that's no more surprising to Northwoods residents than an old fashioned and a fish fry on a Friday night, just another part of Wisconsin life.

On a weekend when Americans are celebrating love in all its forms, Valentine's Day, people from all over the area head to Boom Lake in Rhinelander to participate in our love of fishing through the ice. And so on February 13th I got up long before the sun came up for the Rhinelander Lions Club's 45th annual ice fishing tournament on the Rhinelander flowage. At the local gas station and bait shop I purchased several dozen minnows of various kinds; crappie minnows, shiners, suckers, and a few of the peculiar but ever popular "Rosy Reds", a reddish fat-head variety minnow. Even though I have a number of tackle boxes with gear depending on what season and type of fish I'm aiming for, I grabbed a couple Swedish pimples to add to my collection, you know, just in case. Course I swore I left my depth finder on my parka my last trip out but couldn't find it in the dark so I grabbed a chartreuse one of those too, happy to see a tungsten variety on the shelf which allowed me to cut back on using lead, which is harmful to wildlife. The collecting of fishing gear is all part of the fun!

Upon arriving at the lake we loaded up our sled with the ice auger, heater, portable shack, snacks, and beer to spend the day angling the frozen waters of Boom Lake. Despite the snow accumulating on the lake in previous days, a road had been

plowed around the lake to make access to various weed beds, deep holes, and bays easier. Once we settled on a suitable location, we quickly set up the shack, fired up the heater and promptly placed the beer inside so it wouldn't freeze in the 20 below temperatures we were graced with.

We commenced to drilling holes in the ice and setting tip ups in them. Several more holes were drilled for jigging if we desired but truly the real fun involved putting a few chairs out, lighting a small fire in a portable grill, and sitting around telling fish stories.

I spent some time tooling around the lake by snowmobile, visiting with a number of groups. Despite the cold temps and variety of impressive ice shacks, some fit for living in, I found many people sitting outside. I was taught to ice fish at a young age and I found many kids out on the lake as well, enjoying this wonderful Wisconsin tradition. Smiles all around as people enjoyed a beverage and watched for flags to fly accompanied by the yell of tip up!" and a scramble to the hole to set the hook.

The fisheree continued into Sunday, Valentine's Day, and by all accounts was a success as usual. Hundreds of anglers and dozens of shacks dotted the lake, all in search of the biggest fish to put on the tournament board. The Lions Club goes above and beyond to make the event especially fun for children by giving them their own bracket and offering up a number of great prizes. More than once I saw adults help kids pull a fish out of the ice. In that way the adults enjoy the time better than putting their own fish in the running. What a great opportunity to teach and encourage the younger generations to participate in our Northwood's heritage!

The weekend is over and ice fishing time winding down for the winter. Ice shacks need to be off the ice by March 17th. Anglers will stow the tip-ups and look toward getting the boat ready and will make sure the spring and summer fishing gear is in order. Come opening day of regular inland waters fishing on May 1st, 2021, thousands of people will again take to the open lakes and waterways to enjoy the great outdoors of Northern Wisconsin!

Love Where You Live!



PINE POINT REALTY

1226 Lincoln Street
Rhineland, WI 54501

PINE POINT
REALTY

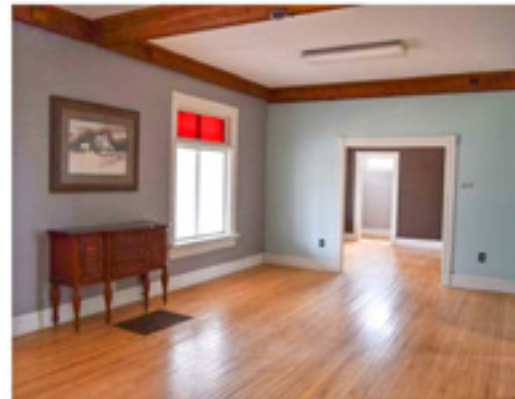
715.365.6000

www.pinepointrealty.com

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED



**Tattle Tales Bar: Become your own boss with this well established Northwoods bar. This property offers a 30 ft bar with 12 stools, a 21' x 31' dining hall, and a 45' x 34' banquet hall with a separate bar and restrooms. 2 bed, 1 bath apartment attached. \$349,900
MLS#189007**



Lincoln Street Commercial with Living Quarters! \$119,900 MLS#177612



The New

Denise Chojnacki



Your Backyard Oasis is a TAP Away

You've created a vision for your home; let us guide you through the financing. TAP Lending from Nicolet Bank combines Technology And People to dramatically shorten the time between application and mortgage approval. Apply online from home with guidance from a local expert at Nicoletbank.com.



Amy Vanney
Branch Manager

Rhineland
NMLS ID# 1659565
715.362.2651
avanney@nicoletbank.com

Nicolet
NATIONAL BANK
Real People. Real Conversations.

Nicoletbank.com | **800.369.0226**

Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender | NMLS ID# 411909