

Winter 2022

The New

Complimentary Community Magazine



Cover photo by Tracie Schoone

**Bearskin Creek Snowy Island photo
by Dan Kauzlaric**

Welcome

As I think back on past New Year's resolutions made and not kept, I have decided that this year, I am going to make ONE resolution – to be more appreciative. I want to show more appreciation of the big things, and the little things. I want to appreciate what I have, and not necessarily want more. I want to appreciate the people around me that allow me to do what I love. And most of all, I want to appreciate those people who do good things to help make life better.

As *The New North Magazine* enters its second year, I want to first and foremost show my appreciation to all those who made the publication possible. Friends who encouraged me from the start, my team that jumped on board not knowing where it would go, and of course, all the advertisers who supported us along the way and made the dream a reality.

The community has responded very positively, and as a result we are making plans to grow and evolve. We have a new look for the new year and we hope you like what we've done. We will continue to bring you stories of the Northwoods about its history, its people, events and the beauty that surrounds us. In this issue you will read about Rhinelander's industrial companies that offer ample opportunity for employment. A brief history of the mill reviews how the town began its growth. You will find stories about dynamic people doing outstanding things. And as always, lots of beautiful photography by talented locals.

We hope you enjoy our new issue for this new year full of hopes, dreams, and appreciation!

Jaclene Tetzlaff

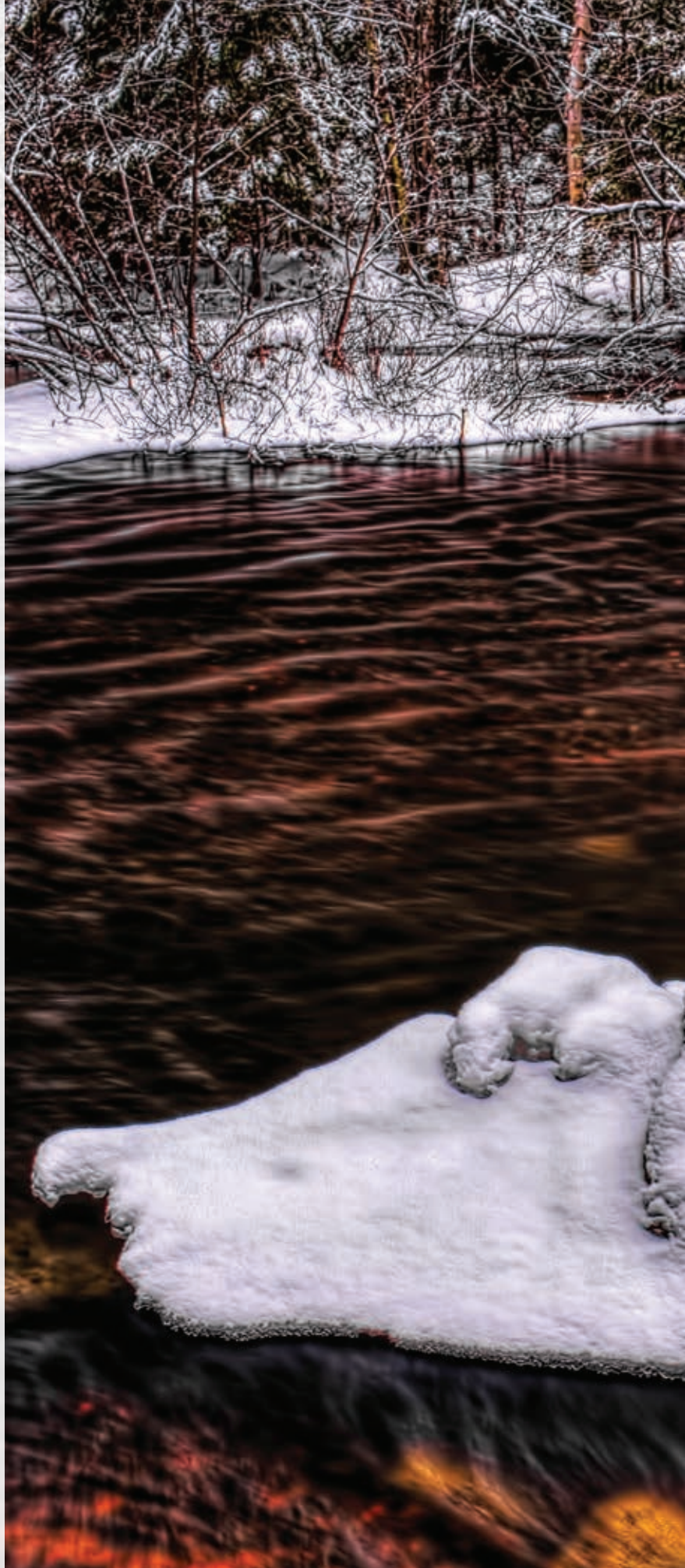
Publisher

The New North Magazine

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Ross "Woodsy" Wallace
Poet

VODKA MARTINI



Shaken not Stirred

There's just something about James Bond saying, "Vodka Martini. . . shaken, not stirred" that makes you want to have one. Here is a simple recipe of the classic to start off your year.

Chill a classic martini glass with ice cubes and water.

In a cocktail mixer pour:

A few ice cubes

3 ounces of quality Vodka

1 ounce of Dry Vermouth

Shake vigorously. Pour out the ice cubes and water in the Martini glass, strain the mixer, and fill the glass with the shaken Martini.

Garnish with olives, or a lemon twist. For a Northwoods version, add one or two smashed fresh cranberries.

A variety of fine Vodkas can be found at Stein's Liquors in Rhinelander.

A photograph of the interior of a liquor store. The shelves are filled with a wide variety of liquor bottles, including whiskey, vodka, and wine. A central logo for 'STEIN'S' is overlaid on the image, featuring a stylized orange and white design. The store has a warm, rustic feel with wooden walls and hanging signs for different liquor categories like 'BOURBON WHISKEY' and 'IRISH WHISKEY'.

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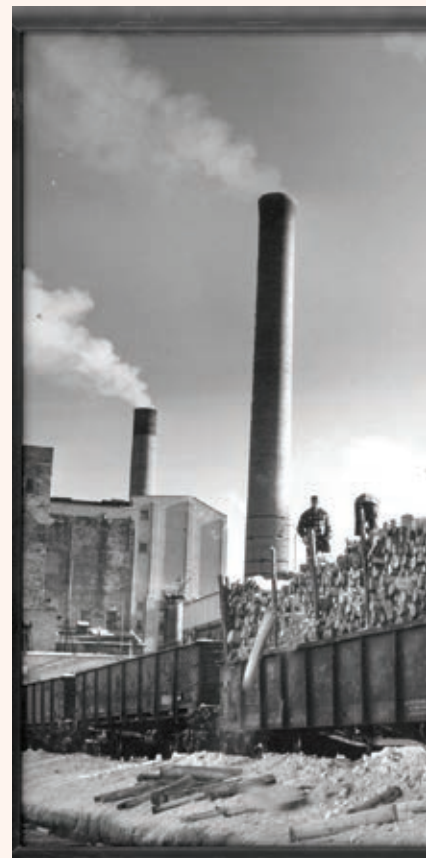


The Rhinelander Paper Mill: Heart of Industry

By: Kerry Bloedorn

Timeline:

- 1903:** Construction begins on the Rhinelander paper mill
- 1904:** The Rhinelander Paper Company begins operation
- 1907:** The Rhinelander Paper Co. switches from making newsprint and other like papers, to producing butchers' wrapping
- 1916:** The Rhinelander Paper Co. begins production of Glassine and Greaseproof papers
- 1928:** The Rhinelander Paper Co. hires its most influential leader, Folke Becker
- 1932:** Ripco Credit Union is formed as a banking office within the mill for mill employees and their families
- 1941:** The Rhinelander Paper Co. begins its largest expansion since its founding
- 1951:** The Rhinelander Paper Company becomes the largest producer of Glassine and Greaseproof papers in the world
- 1956:** Rhinelander paper mill bought by St. Regis Paper Corporation
- 1978:** Rhinelander paper mill sold to Monarch Paper Corporation
- 1979:** Rhinelander paper mill bought by Wausau Papers Corporation
- 2013:** Rhinelander paper mill sold to Expera Specialty Solutions
- 2018:** Rhinelander paper mill bought by Ahlstrom-Munksjö



At the turn of the 20th Century, in the year 1900, Rhinelander was a fully-fledged logging boomtown. The timber era came and went as fast as a two-man crosscut saw team could buck a 14-foot log, and in those days, that was fast. Over 98 percent of the old-growth pine timber in the area of the Pelican and Wisconsin River confluence was cut, sent to Rhinelander sawmills, turned into lumber, and shipped by rail all over the country, helping to build cities like Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, and hundreds of communities across the great plains. There was still an era of hardwood cutting to come but the pine resources the Rhinelander area was so rich in for thousands of years was depleted to a shadow of its former forests. **With the lumber boom came a flood of forestry-related companies to Rhinelander, including sleigh and wagon makers, box and lath companies, a screen door factory, the Rhinelander**

Refrigerator Company that manufactured wooden iceboxes, and a boat manufacturer, among other businesses. Soon these companies found themselves having to bring raw materials in from elsewhere, when for years the lumber was procured right from the lumber yards that covered much of what became the north side of Rhinelander. **Community**

leaders saw the writing on the wall and knew if Rhinelander was to survive past its logging boom days and become a prosperous business hub, it needed something to sustain itself into the future. Enter into the historical record, The Rhinelander Paper Company. The history of Rhinelander's paper mill is a history of progress, adaptation, resilience, science and industry. It is quite literally the history of the Hodag city itself.





As early as 1902, prominent Rhinelander founders Anderson, Webster, and Edward Brown, as well as Dr. Alfred Daniels, John C. Barnes, Paul Browne, and other enthusiastic community leaders began planning for Rhinelander's future. They believed their city could continue in the forest products industry by other means than lumber. Although a majority of the pine timber was gone, and hardwood lumber was still being cut, there was a pulpwood resource that was yet to be tapped. Spruce, poplar, and other valuable pulpwood trees were still in abundance, and Rhinelander, situated along the banks of the Wisconsin River, adjacent to Boom Lake, had access to rail lines that went in all cardinal directions. For all the same reasons it became a lumber town, it would make a great location for a paper mill. Paper production was growing all over the state of Wisconsin at the turn of the century with paper mills built along the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. The risks involved in starting a new paper mill in Rhinelander were not small, but the group involved in founding the facility were seasoned businessmen, and the start-up cost of half a million dollars in an industry with a questionable future did not stop them from going out on the proverbial limb to better their community. Stock was sold for the new Rhinelander Paper Company, and as soon as the funds were raised, construction commenced in earnest.

The building of a state-of-the-art paper making factory began in 1903 on the former site of one of Rhinelander's first

sawmills, the Rhinelander Lumber and Shingle Company. The new ventures' beginnings were rife with challenges. Just three weeks into construction, the crews employed by Hackworthy Construction Co., for unclear reasons at the time, didn't report to work the Monday following Saturday payday. It was discovered later that, due to cold weather, much of the steam machinery used in the construction efforts were not working properly, so hand tools and blasting were used to supplement the work on the water power canal being built. The Superintendent of Hackworthy, a Mr. Vinol, sent word to contacts in Milwaukee requesting 100 Russian laborers be sent up to Rhinelander. No Russians could be procured and in due time a trainload of 50 Italian laborers was brought to Rhinelander to continue building the paper mill. This hiring out of the mill's construction did not please some of the locals, and Rhinelander's first and only known "race riot" occurred, as it was called in The New North newspaper. A boarding house was put up to room the tough-looking bunch of Italians and a group of "peace disturbers" formed there. Shouts of "Down with the Dagos" and "let's drive them out" were reported by The New North. Soon several officers came to quell the disturbance and some "youths" were arrested and tried in the Oneida County Courthouse. Based on court records, the community at large didn't believe the incident reflected well on Rhinelander's reputation. Judge Paul Browne, a major booster and investor in the paper mill, did not appreciate the events that took place,

and handed out stiff sentences to the young men on trial. A fine was paid by one man but others proceeded to spend time in the county jail, then located on the southeast corner of the courthouse block. The Italian workers threatened to return home after the event but were persuaded to stay by benefactors of the company. In the following weeks, the Italian crew became displeased that their Italian foremen had been replaced by English-speaking foremen, and after two months they all quit and returned to Milwaukee. Again, a new crew made up of locals was hired and put to work, and it was with these labor pains the Rhinelander paper mill was built.

Construction of the new dam, mill canal, and raceway used to power the mill continued through the summer of 1903. The footings for the factory were laid on the ancient root of a mountain that still lies below the mill to this day. As a geological history aside, the very same bedrock that forms that ancient mountain the paper mill sits on can also be seen behind the Rhinelander High school where it protrudes above ground and has become a beacon of artwork over the years.

In the spring of 1904, the Rhinelander Paper Company began operation and its large machines were started up whereby they produced fine quality newsprint, catalog, and manila wrapping paper. The paper mill employed about 150 men, many of them scoured from the local sawmills reiterating the turning of the city's leaf from lumber to paper. For a time, Rhinelander's newspapers were printed on paper manufactured right at home. The production of these papers continued until about 1907 when mill executives went on the search for more profitable papers to produce. Cheaper production of newsprint made in Canada caused a slump in the U.S. market and caused the Rhinelander facility to ponder new products. A young mill manager named William Eibel and the mill directors decided to pursue the production of butcher's wrapping paper commonly known as "King Williams". Its production was

such a success that the Rhinelander Paper Company stopped making newsprint and focused solely on its dry finish wrapping papers. This butcher's paper production eventually led to the mill adopting new practices developed in Germany, and in 1916 the Rhinelander Paper Company began making Glassine Greaseproof papers. For decades after, the Rhinelander Paper Company continued making some of the finest food grade Greaseproof papers, and these papers made in Rhinelander, Wisconsin were being sold in markets all over the world. The words "Glassine" and "Greaseproof" were emblazoned on the mill stacks which towered over the river city of Rhinelander.

In 1928, the mills leadership duties would be given to Folke Becker, who became a renowned figure in Rhinelander business. Mr. Becker and his family purchased the Edward O. Brown house on top of the hill east of the mill on Frederick St., which would later be known as Cranberry Hill, so that he could oversee the mill facilities while he was home. Under Becker's leadership, the entire mill was practically rebuilt and outfitted with new equipment for maximum efficiency. In 1941 he supervised the largest expansion at the mill since its founding, as well as diversifying the production of wrapping papers. Two new machines were installed during the expansion that followed, the #6, dubbed The Big Swede, and seven years later the #7, the Ripco Maid, a twin of The Big Swede was installed. Both gargantuan paper-making machines were constructed at the Beloit Ironworks. Nobody is sure how The Big Swede got its name but it was popular in that era for machines in Scandinavia to be christened with a name. The Ripco Maid was named in a naming contest that went viral and was listed in newspapers and publications across the nation, entries of which came in from all over the globe. In the end, it was paper mill employee Otto Stark who won the naming rights with his entry of The Ripco Maid. The newly added finishing room, constructed in 1946 at a size of 120' by 367', could hold



the entire original paper plant inside its walls. By 1951, the Rhinelander Paper Company was the largest maker of Glassine and Greaseproof papers in the world, hitting an annual production mark of 50,000 tons!

Over the decades, the Rhinelander paper mill would employ thousands of people which put a strain on local banks. In 1932 an in-house banking institution named Ripco Credit Union was founded for employees of the mill and their families. Until 1953 this operation was managed by volunteers, but as more services were offered from the small office within the mill, a credit union building was built on Sutliff Ave. in 1970. In 1972 Ripco Credit Union opened its doors to the entire community with a charter that included the city of Rhinelander and several adjacent townships. It has since opened up membership to include anyone who lives in, works in, or owns real estate in Oneida, Forest, Vilas, Langlade, Lincoln, Florence, and Price Counties. What started out as a small banking institution for mill employees has grown into a large credit union which was expanded in 2021.

Pulpwood used for the manufacture of paper at the mill was originally sourced within a few miles of Rhinelander, but as production increased and the immediate resources waned, the procurement of pulpwood moved progressively farther and farther away. The Rhinelander Paper Company not only produced paper at their factory, but also had a large land department, woods operation, and pulp making facility. For decades the unmistakable smell of sulfite pulp floated throughout the city, much as it continues to do in places like Mosinee, Wisconsin today. Pulp logs were brought to Rhinelander by rail or truck and stacked in an imposing mile-long pulpwood pile along the west shore of Boom Lake and

the Wisconsin River.

In 1956 a stock exchange ended with the sale of the mill to the St. Regis Paper Company, and the Rhinelander Paper Company became its subsidiary. In 1959 the company dropped the former name and “Ripco” was born as a division of the St. Regis Paper Company.

Paper production and the pollution it caused were not well regulated in the mill's early years. For many decades, waste products from the mill were let loose into the Wisconsin River with little oversight. Some of these byproducts were repurposed into yeast additives for food. Originally done in-house, later a yeast plant was built adjacent to the mill on a triangular lot to the east that hosted The Rhinelander Logging Museum from 1932-1954. In the 1970s, with the passing of the Clean Water Act, St. Regis made huge investments into its treatment of primary and secondary effluent to the tune of over \$7,000,000. Crews were hired to clean the Hat Rapids flowage between Rhinelander and Hat Rapids Dam, which had become so caked with wood cellulose it had to be broken up and removed with hand tools. The Wisconsin River is a much cleaner waterway with these dramatic changes to business as usual. The sulfite pulp plant would not survive these major changes and was eventually closed down, opting to have paper pulp shipped into Rhinelander from other mills.

Although troubling to those mill workers that worked in “the wood room”, long-time Rhinelander residents do not miss the smell. Although the odor of yeast making can still be smelled on certain days coming from the Lake States yeast factory.

In 1978, St. Regis sold their Rhinelander assets to Monarch Paper Corporation of Minneapolis, MN, and changed the





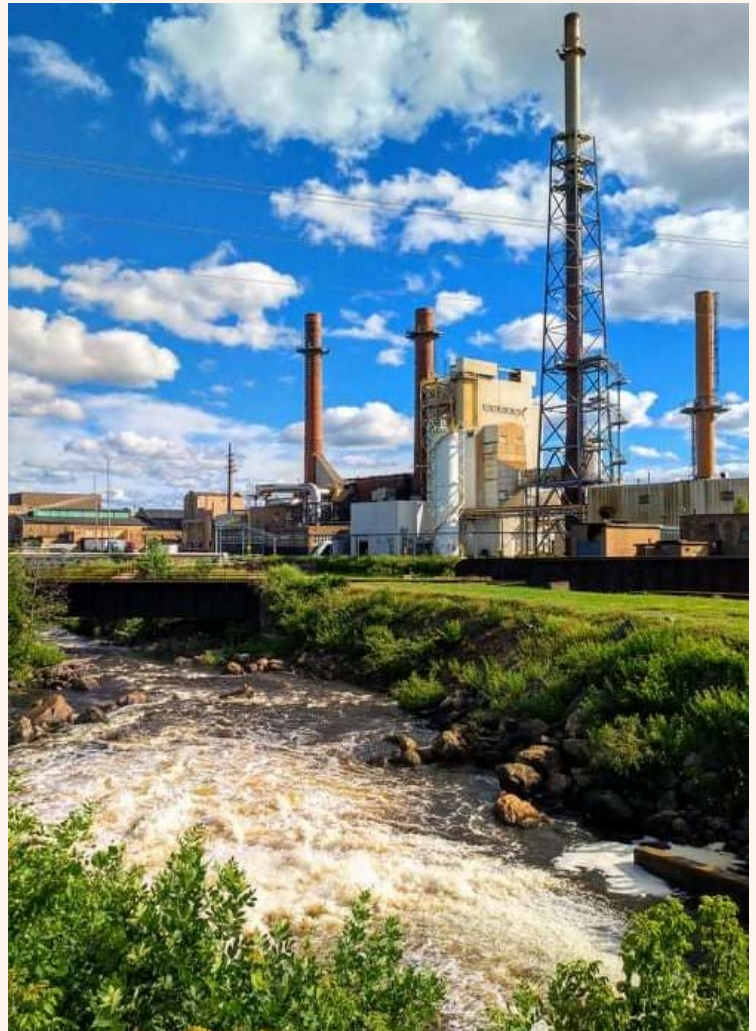
Rhinelanders name the plant back to The Rhineland Paper Company. This was a short-lived change of hands as the facility was sold again in 1979 to Wausau Paper Corporation. This arrangement lasted until 2013 when the mill was once again sold and bought by Expera Specialty Solutions. In 2018 the mill was bought by its current owner, Ahlstrom-Munksjö, which operates the plant to this current day. Ahlstrom-Munksjö employs approximately 500 people and has by all accounts done well by the City and its employees. The facility produces high-grade specialty papers for the food industry and the Rhineland paper mill has carved out a wonderful niche in the paper-making industry over the decades.

The Rhineland paper mill has seen many changes in its more than 117 years of operation. Thousands of people have been employed at the paper mill during its operation. Fathers and sons, husbands and wives, brothers, sisters, and many friends have all worked at the mill. The paper mill connected its employees and their families to the Rhineland community through their work as papermakers, and one is hard-pressed to find long-time residents that didn't have a relative that worked there if they themselves hadn't worked at the mill. Each employee had a life and stories intertwined with the proud heritage of papermaking, which reached directly into their personal lives through bowling leagues, softball teams, hunting parties and other community organizations. Many of these stories can be found in a collection of periodicals published by the mill from at least the 1950s into the '70s called *Ripco Ripples*. These magazines can be found at the Rhineland Public Library as well as at Pioneer Park Historical Complex in its Rhineland paper mill Exhibit. The *Ripco Ripples* are a treasure trove of paper mill history through its

lifetime.

In writing this brief history of The Rhineland paper mill it is difficult to cover every aspect of the mill's history; surely it could fill an entire book. Whole chapters on strikes that occurred or individual machines such as The Ripco Maid and the Big Swede could be included. Undoubtedly a lot of information had to be left out of this article. But that will leave some history for you to explore, and more topics for me to touch on in future articles. Until then, I hope you enjoyed this condensed history of the Rhineland Paper Mill and have come to appreciate it as more than just a big factory in the middle of town. It is a monument to Rhineland history and the memories of the lives it has impacted. A history of industry.

If you'd like to learn more about the Rhineland paper mill history, you can plan a visit to Pioneer Park Historical Complex to see its exhibit. The Museum is currently collecting written recollections by mill employees, past and present. If you'd like to add yours or a relative's story to the archive, please contact rhinelandpphc@gmail.com.



Rhinelanders' Manufacturers Tied to Worldwide Products

By Dan Hagen

What do popcorn bags, U.S. navy ships, candy bar wrappers, and the 2018 World Cup have in common? All have a tie to a Rhineland manufacturer.

Rhineland Paper Mill

Popcorn bag components come from the Ahlstrom-Munksjö Rhineland plant, known locally as “the mill.” Plant manager Joe Fierst said the mill has always been a specialty mill.

“The history of the Rhineland mill is all about grease-resistant and barrier-resistant paper properties,” said Fierst.

This type of paper is what Fierst calls “liner paper.” This is the paper on the back of “Hello, my name is” name tags and on the backs of postage stamps. The mill also produces a lot of baking papers for commercial bakeries and the inner and outer plies of microwave popcorn bags.

The mill employs around 460 people. In early September, Fierst said he was looking for 10 to 15 more. This was before the news that one of the four paper machines was to be shut down.

The Rhineland Paper Mill is a non-integrated mill, meaning that all of its products start with fiber, not wood. Sister plants in Kaukauna and Mosinee take care of converting wood to fiber. Once the fiber, or pulp, arrives, water is added to make a slurry. The slurry gets pumped to a paper machine to be pressed and dried. Another Rhineland manufacturer is crucial to this drying process.

AirPro Fan & Blower



AirPro designs and produces industrial fans and blowers. These heavy-duty fans help power manufacturers all around the world. When Russia hosted the 2018 World Cup, new stadiums were made; AirPro fans were used to aerate the new fields. Closer to home, the mill uses industrial fans to power its boilers – the combustion process relies on AirPro fans to send in the right amount of air, and at the right temperature. Meanwhile, an



entirely different set of AirPro fans at the mill help dry pulp slurry in the papermaking process. President and founder Keith White said AirPro is the manufacturer who helps other manufacturers.

“We are the energy system of manufacturers,” said White. “If the fan fails then they’re not going to be able to make their product.”

Originally a southerner, White made his way to Rhinelander while working in the industrial fan and blower business. He saw the potential of a new company to fill a growing need and in 2002

founded AirPro Fan & Blower Company in Rhinelander. Nearly 20 years later, he employs 110 workers, and is looking to add another 30. And there’s a lot of different skill sets at AirPro.

“It all starts with research and development, then design,” said White. “We market our products, we have a sales department. Then we purchase raw materials and have a team of welders implement the designs. It’s the whole thing, start to finish. It’s comprehensive, which is what I enjoy about it.”

AirPro fans also help out a manufacturer on the west side of the city.

Trident Maritime Systems

Another large employer of welders in the area is Trident Maritime Systems. The Rhinelander plant was formerly part of Lake Shore Systems. Since 1858, Lake Shore had designed and manufactured heavy equipment for the maritime and mining industries. In 1990, the company opened its Rhinelander plant. Lake Shore and Trident merged in December 2021. Former plant manager Scott Sievert said the Rhinelander plant specializes in safety equipment for the U.S. Navy.

“Every active service ship in the US Navy has a part on it made in Rhinelander, Wisconsin,” said Sievert. “Most of our parts are supply parts, ship to ship, ship to shore, ramps, anchor handling equipment, cranes, and doors.”

Across Highway 8 is another niche manufacturer.

Charter Next Generation

Did you know a leader in the film industry is in Rhinelander? No, not movie films – plastic film.

“Our product goes all over the world,” said Kevin Colborn, plant manager at the Charter Next Generation Rhinelander facility.

The Rhinelander facility makes big rolls of plastic. These end up covering cheese, chicken products, and Jack Link’s beef jerky, just to name a few.

Right now the Rhinelander plant employs 75 people. But Colborn said he’s aiming for 89 employees in the near future.

“This company is definitely a company you can grow at,” said Colborn. “Over the last five years we have about doubled in size, and

we’re not stopping there. Right now we are in the top ten in the plastics industry in the U.S. and we hope to be number one some day.”

CNG’s Rhinelander plant added two new pieces of equipment in 2021. Another state-of-the-art piece of equipment is on its way.

www.thenewnorthonline.com





And Colborn says CNG is not stopping there. Big rolls of plastic will be coming out of Rhinelander for a long, long time.

Printpack

Big rolls of plastic are exactly what Printpack needs for their Rhinelander plant. The Atlanta-based company has 18 locations, but only the Rhinelander plant specializes in candy bar wrappers.

“If you pick up a candy bar in a grocery store there’s a very good chance that the wrapper was made here,” said Jeremy VanCamp, Human Resources Manager at Printpack in Rhinelander.

Printpack-Rhinelander specializes in cold-seal, flexible packaging processes. It’s a technology to seal smaller bar products, like granola and candy bars. The plant also prints and laminates the packaging, which is then shipped to a customer who will put the bar product inside.

Without the mill, there would be no Printpack in Rhinelander. Around 1912 Daniels Firm (later Daniels Packaging Company) was created to convert mill-made toilet and tissue paper into finished products. The mill later transitioned to liner paper and Daniels used it to print candy bar wrappers. When the candy bar industry transitioned to using plastic wrappers instead, Daniels stuck with their customer base instead of the mill. Daniels Packaging was purchased by Printpack in 1989 and still prints candy bar wrappers.

“We’re growing quickly and it seems like we’re always adding new positions,” said VanCamp.

Printpack-Rhinelander has about 200 employees and has openings for about 15 more.

“We added a new piece of equipment in 2020,” said VanCamp. “We just got approval to add a bunch more robotic and automation stuff in 2022. All that results in more workers.”

So next time you reach for a bag of popcorn, or a candy bar, or Jack Link’s beef jerky, know that a Rhinelander manufacturer played an essential part in making it.



A SLED DOG RACE IS COMING TO TOWN



By Kerry Bloedorn

Hike! Gee! Haw! On By! If you aren't aware, those are terms mushers use in the exhilarating sport of sled dog racing. Rhinelander will be hosting what appears to be the first sanctioned dog sled race in it's history!

On February 26th and 27th, 2022, competitors from all over the country will bring their dog teams to Rhinelander's Northwood Golf Course for the first annual Heal Creek Dog Dash. The Rhinelander area and greater Northwoods is a wonderful place for winter silent sports and incorporating dogs into these activities only ups the ante for trail use. The race will feature traditional dog sleds as well as skijoring, where a skier is towed by their dog teammate.



To learn more about how the Heal Creek Dog Dash came into being, we must first learn a little about race organizer Niina Baum. Niina grew up in Kennan, Wisconsin which is about an hour west of Rhinelander. She got involved in dog sled racing, when she was just six years old, after witnessing a race in Park Falls, Wisconsin which lit a fire in her heart for the sport. For the last 20 years she has fastidiously kindled that fire by racing dogs in various skills including sled racing, skijoring and bikejoring where a dog or team of dogs pulls you on skis, or a bike, respectively, as well as canicross where the racer runs being pulled by their canine teammate. Years of training and dedication has made Niina into an incredible athlete and landed Ms. Baum on Team USA for the winter dog sled championship held in Sweden this year. How cool is that?!

Niina moved to Rhinelander about two years ago for better access to the many trail systems that run throughout the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Being able to train right out her back door and live in proximity to other mushers has been invaluable in her rise to the pinnacle of dog sled racing. As Niina sets her sights on a world championship, it appears the flame started all those years ago in Park Falls has turned into a roaring

Heal Creek Dog Dash - February 26-27



bonfire! Niina has four beloved dogs, hound mixes, as they've become popular breeds in the sled dog racing realm in recent times. Three of her dogs are in their racing prime, and together they form an incredible sporting bond that's given them an opportunity to race on one of the biggest stages in dog sled racing. Her dogs love to race as much as she does, and are excited every time the gear comes out!

Many Northwoods residents have kept a fascinated eye on Niina's training efforts the last couple years as she shines a spotlight on fun activities people can do with their own canine companions. Because of this spotlight, she was approached about bringing a legit dog sled race to Rhinelander and in turn The Heal Creek Dog Dash was formed. Niina works at Nicolet College and has developed a program for community members to learn about and experience dog racing for themselves. She will lead a skijoring class in January which will teach people the methods and equipment used for this activity. This sport isn't just for racing the clock or other competitors but can be done leisurely as a way for human and animal to connect in a fun and

healthy way to get out of doors.

The Heal Creek Dog Dash will run under rules by the International Sled Dog Racing Association which adheres to strict rules and standards for treatment of dog teams. Niina's dogs are her family and she says, "I think I spend more money a month on food and nutrition for them than I do myself," which gave me a chuckle. She will be keeping a close eye on all competitors making sure the Heal Creek race is run professionally and humanly. The race will feature Skijor, 2-, 4-, and 6-dog sled teams as well as a 2-dog junior class.

This race is an awesome opportunity to showcase the beauty and utility of the area which will draw people to our community to enjoy what we love about living here so much. Spectators won't want to miss this exciting chance to see snow and fur flying on the Nordic trails of Heal Creek, right in our own backyard. I'll see you at the Heal Creek Dog Dash!

*Alternate race date: In the event there isn't enough snow or some other need for reschedule occurs, an alternate race date of



March 5th and 6th has been selected if needed.

For information about the Niina's January skijoring class visit:
<https://www.nicoletcollege.edu/community/outdoor-adventure>

To learn more about or register for the Heal Creek Dog Dash, visit the events Facebook page @healcreekdogdash or contacting Niina Baum at niina_baum@yahoo.com



LOCAL DOG FRIENDLY TRAILS FOR SKIING, SNOWSHOEING, HIKING AND FAT TIRE BIKING

Nose Lake Ski Trail – Harshaw

Three Eagle Trail – Three Lakes

Northwood Golf Course/Heal Creek Trails (Wednesdays & Sundays) – Rhinelander

Minocqua Winter Park (dog friendly loop) – Minocqua

Bearskin Trail (allows silent sports and dogs but be cautious of snowmobile use) – Harshaw

Cassian Ski Trail (top part is dog friendly) – Cassian

WinMan Trails (Niina's personal favorite) – Winchester/Manitowish

Almon Recreation Area Trails (snowshoeing, dogs on leash) – Rhinelander

Enterprise County Forest Primitive Trails (snowshoeing, dog friendly) – Rhinelander

Hanson Lake Trail Loop (snowshoeing and dog friendly) – Rhinelander



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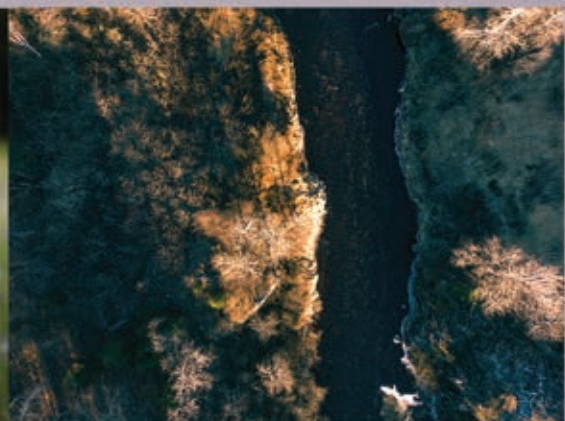
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SLEDDING *The Bowl* **SAROCKA FIELD**



By Dan Hagen

Kids love sledding. And it's not just the thrill of going fast down a hill, sledding involves constant experimentation. What happens when I lean right? Lean left? How about when I go off this jump? How about I try to make the jump bigger? Could I make it down the hill standing up? A child learns best by interacting with the world, and sledding is a fun, low-stakes way to do just that. So why not explore the different sledding options of the Northwoods? Your kid will thank you. And let's be honest here, sledding is enjoyable for all ages too.

Rhineland's Sarocka Field, also known as "the bowl," is a great place to start. It's a short but steep hill, perfect quick rounds of sledding fun. For longer rounds, head west of the city to the Northwood Golf Course. It has a long sledding hill at the driving range. Just know that it's a guarantee for a kid to ask you to "pull them up the hill." To avoid this question, make the drive up to Minocqua Winter Park. Here you'll find a sledding hill with a tow rope. You could even enjoy a hot cocoa while watching sledders from inside the chalet.

While snow isn't everyone's favorite, sledding is a great way to get out of the house and have some good old-fashioned fun. And, I'd argue, a learning experience to boot.





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TOP O' THE MORNING TO YOU!

The Rhinelander St. Patrick's Day Parade

By Jaclene Tetzlaff

About fifteen years ago, a group of Irish descendants in Rhinelander gathered in a downtown pub and talked about holding a St. Patty's Day Parade. "Let's have one!" And so, the tradition began. Someone commented that the intended revelry landed during Lent. "But surely the Bishop will give us a dispensation!" laughed the Irishmen. The first parade had about 20 units, whether they were floats, decorated trucks, walking, or bicycling, people wore their finest green garb and marched down Brown Street.

Last year in 2021, the parade grew to 80 units. The people were ready to get out of their houses after a year of Covid isolation. Brown Street was packed with spectators



young and old alike. Green washed the streets as the parade passed by. The Rhinelander St. Patrick's Day Parade was the second largest in the state of Wisconsin, only to be outdone by New London (who dubbed their name New Dublin for the day).

"The parade does a lot of good for the city of Rhinelander," says Jack Winkler, one of the parade founders. "It brings a lot of business to the motels, bars and restaurants downtown and everyone has a good time."

Winkler explains that his dream is to have a week-long festival with Irish dancers, storytelling, fiddle playing, and Irish food specials. "CT's Deli does a good job with food specials all week long



Jack Winkler



leading up to St Patrick's Day. It would be nice if more joined in. There are a lot of Irish people in the area and I think they would enjoy it."

All are welcome to join in, and there is no charge to be in the parade. In years past, high school bands and teams, the Nordic ski team, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and even the Humane Society marched. "It is also a great way to showcase your business – let everybody see you in the parade!" says Winkler. "We've had bagpipers before, but it is hard

to get bands to play because it can be a little cold in early March."

Winkler has fond memories of parades from years past. "My favorite thing about it is that we are keeping up with the Irish heritage. My friend and I used to make a float that had a "pot of gold" with a rainbow leading to a big pot of beer. We drove it to Antigo for their parade and then brought it back here for our parade." In 2020, the city said no to a parade due to Covid. "My brothers and friends got in my truck and a few of us marched down Brown Street anyway," he laughs.

The Parade Committee holds a promotional Pub Crawl leading up to parade day. Tickets list all the Pub Crawl bars, and can be purchased in January, February and March. Revelers visit all bars listed to get a signature, and when their ticket is full, they can drop it off at Big Daddy's to be entered into a drawing after the St. Patty's Day Parade. Winners can receive cash prizes in \$100





increments. You do not need to be present to win, but if you are, Big Daddy's will give you a chance to win an additional \$100. Proceeds from the ticket sales are split – half goes toward the cash prizes, and the other half benefits the "Safe Ride Program" by the Tavern League of Wisconsin.

Special cups are also sold for the event. The cups are white when empty, but when filled with beer, they turn green. During the merriment, hats, pins, and beads are handed out.

The current committee consists of Jack Winkler, Tim and Joan Phelan, Dale Schlieve, and Aaron Schultz. If you are interested in joining in on the fun, please contact Jack or any of the committee members. They will be very happy to have you join!

This year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Rhinelander will be held on Saturday, March 12. Lineup is at 12:30 on Brown Street next to the police station.

To join in, or for more information, contact Jack Winkler 715-369-3030 or Aaron Schultz 715-499-6945. Slainte!



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COLORFUL COFFEE, AVAILABLE LOCALLY

Tilly's Downtown Carries Ruby Colorful Coffees

By Lisa Haefs

Ruby is a gem.

Over her 92 years, Ruby Szitta has been a farmer, 4-H leader, teacher, mother, poll worker and world traveler. She has ridden historic trains and driven a Model A coupe. And now, she is the namesake and marketing matriarch for Ruby Colorful Coffees, one of the region's more unusual and fast-growing businesses.

"I am sure Ruby's name and her enthusiasm has helped us become successful and I love seeing her name on the package," grandson Jared Linzmeier, who created Ruby Coffee in 2014, explains. "Stevens Point Coffee Company

or something like that wouldn't have the same kind of ring to it."

"It's the best coffee I have ever had," Ruby insists. "And I hope I have helped make it a success."

And Ruby knows coffee.

I started drinking coffee when I was five years old," she says, explaining that the drink was durable and simple to store in an era long before easy refrigeration and flick-of-a-switch stovetops. "We had coffee and milk every day. I have been drinking it all my life."

Born on an 80-acre family homestead, during a February snowstorm, Ruby cut her teeth on hard work. The farm was located 17 miles northeast of Antigo, with no electricity, telephone or running water. What it did have was cows, chickens, and draft horses. There were kerosene lamps for lights, a wood-burner for heat, and, for entertainment, a wind-up record player and a radio powered by a car battery.

After attending the one-room Kent School, Ruby and her sisters moved into Antigo for high school, staying with local families and helping with chores in return for board. She moved on to Langlade County Teachers College and taught for years at one-room rural schoolhouses.

And she had a Model A Ford coupe, which led to a chance encounter with her future husband. The car was acting up, and Ruby took it the Antigo Co-op Oil Gas Station. When it wouldn't start, August Szitta went inside, found a file, and got the jitney running. He and Ruby were married two years later, in 1949.

Ruby and Gus raised their family in the town of Summit in far western Langlade



Jared Linzmeier prepares his grandmother, Ruby Szitta, a cup of Ruby Colorful Coffees at the Stevens Point café.

County, on the farmstead where she remains today, 72 years later. For many years, they milked a dairy herd, transitioning to beef cattle following a barn fire in January 1976. She also worked as a substitute teacher in the Antigo school district until 1974 and as an instructional assistant for another 20 years.

Even with that very full cup, Ruby found time to serve as the town of Summit clerk for 30 years, continuing as election inspector until very recently, a leader with the Summit Satellite 4-H Club for 25 years, and "special friend" volunteer for elementary schools through the Langlade County Department on Aging.

She and Gus had five children, including four daughters, Mary, Cheryl, Nancy, Margaret, and son, Dan. Gus died in 1996, but Dan and his mother remain in the farm, raising and selling beef cattle and hay.

Ruby's devotion to hard work, fun and family did not go unnoticed, especially by her grandson, Jared. Born in Rosholt,



Ruby Szitta, the namesake of Ruby Colorful Coffees, and family outside the roaster's Stevens Point café. She is shown with her daughter, Margaret, grandson Jared, who named the business in her honor, and great-grandchildren Eloise, left, and Adeline.



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he grew up visiting his grandparents on their farm “up north.” Following his graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he departed for a life on the West Coast, honing his barista and coffee-roasting expertise at the famed Chicago-based Intelligentsia Coffee location in Los Angeles and later as director of coffee at Café Ladro chain of coffee shops in Seattle.

“Two life events happened in L.A.,” Jared says. “I met my future wife and I started working in specialty coffee.”

When he decided to branch out into his own roastery, he was drawn home. It was where he had learned his values, and he wanted to use that upbringing to roast specialty coffee in a socially responsible manner, by working directly with small farmers and cooperatives all over the world.

“Some of my family thought I was crazy, leaving a good life in Seattle and starting from scratch in Wisconsin,” he admits. “But I was always thinking about going out to the family farm and how quiet it was and how much space there was around it. I wanted to make sure my own new family wasn’t missing out on that.”

He and his wife, Deanna, a West Coast native, returned home in the dead of winter in 2013, while she was pregnant with their second child.

Waiting there, were his parents, plenty of extended family members, and Ruby, thrilled with his return.

“My grandma has always been a really positive person in my life,” Jared says. “I’m amazed by her spirit.”

It was an easy decision to name the company after her.

“So many of the coffee brands I was seeing on the West Coast had these hardcore, masculine names. I wanted something softer and more honest. Who could ever fault naming something after your grandmother?” Jared says. “The more I thought about the name the more I knew it was perfect. It was a real a-ha moment.



Ruby Szitta, sporting a Ruby Colorful Coffees bandana, shows off her great-grandson, Arlo Linzmeier.

“I was nervous about telling her,” Jared continues. “I knew it would mean so much to her and it meant so much to me also. It was very emotional.”

Ruby was overwhelmed.

“I just about cried and almost passed out when he told me,” Ruby says. “I was happy and surprised.”

At first, Jared operated a roastery out of his parents’ garage in rural Portage County. The business expanded to a wood-paneled warehouse in nearby Nelsonville in 2015.

“It really exploded on the market,” Jared says. ““It only took 14 or 15 months for us to have to move from the garage to our facility in Nelsonville. The success was pretty much immediate.”

In 2019, Jared’s wife took the lead in opening Ruby’s Stevens Point café, with a menu focused on ingredients from nearby farms. It has quickly become a local favorite and earned honors as the best coffee shop in the state from Food & Wine magazine.

“Café and coffee and community are linear,” Jared says. “Community is a huge focus.”

That community extends to growers he regularly visits in Africa and Latin America sourcing beans from small family farms with their own processing stations to depulp, ferment and wash the coffee cherries.

An example is the Grupo Yosotatu producer

association in Mexico, which broke away from a large umbrella co-op association to form a group of 120 farmers that place specific emphasis on quality in order to raise premiums for their coffees.

Jared explains that each smallholder farm has their coffee processed and tested for moisture content, water activity, and cup quality separately before that coffee is added to a community lot or set aside to highlight a single producer lot.

“With quality higher than ever this year, Ruby committed to twice as much coffee as a way to help growth with the project,” Jared says. “All of the farmers follow full organic growing practices, usually with worm composting facilities on site at each farm. We’re thrilled to be able to partner with this group to highlight amazing coffee work from such a beautiful, rural region.”

Another example is Finca De Dios, which Jared says is a near-perfect template of conscious coffee farming by the Prentice family.

“Combined with projects that help local schools and orphanages, the scope of impact for Finca De Dios is staggering for a farm of its size,” Jared says, “Partnering with the farm has both helped Ruby establish itself with amazing coffees in our lineup, as well as provide essential feedback to the Prentice family, helping them shape their coffee processing and establish a relationship for many years to come.”



Tilly’s offers an extensive line of Ruby Colorful Coffees.

The Ruby flagship is Creamery, described as a rich, distinctive mix of dark chocolate and cherry notes. Creamery is designed to take advantage of seasonal coffee production by rotating components to highlight a fresher, more vibrant flavor profile throughout the year.

“We put a lot of work into Creamery to develop a versatile blend that brews effortlessly on every brew method,” Jared says. “By consciously sourcing the coffees for Creamery to be versatile and from quality-focused partners, we’re able to invest our energy into developing an amazing blend that follows our sourcing protocol for quality and sustainability without compromise.”

Other roasts run the gamut from balanced and milky to a bit more tart. All have traditional easy-to-drink smoothness. There are decaf and instant options as well as sampler packs.

It is a very personal undertaking. In addition to Ruby on the masthead, Jared has blends named for Portage County, home of Stevens Point and Nelsonville, and the Tomorrow River which flows near the roastery. Soon an organic blend known as August, named for his grandfather, will join the lineup.

“Ruby started with the goal of bringing amazing coffee quality to an audience who is looking for it. As we established new relationships with coffee producers, we were able to source their best quality lots,” Jared says. “As Ruby has grown, so now has our commitment to these direct partnerships.”

Accolades have flooded in, including from the *Chicago Tribune*, the *New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

It has, Jared admits, been a wild ride, moving from the West Coast, back home to his parents’ garage, then on to a rural roastery, a café, an ever-growing presence in coffee shops across the region and nation, and national acclaim, all with the help of a 92-year-old spitfire.

“We don’t over-leverage the story, but we do tell the truth about how we came up with the name,” Jared says. “It’s just really heart-warming.”

Ruby continues to serve as chief ambassador. She was front and center at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Stevens Point café, and is a regular visitor to the Nelsonville roastery. When she was hospitalized for several weeks after a fall last year, she treated the staff to bags of Ruby coffee upon her discharge, something she says earned her “best patient” status.

Donned in bright-red Ruby-branded clothing, she is a regular visitor to coffee shops such as Tilly’s in Rhineland, earning celebrity status as “Grandma Ruby.”

“They treat me like a queen,” Ruby says. “Everyone has their picture taken with me.”

Attention to detail, commitment to quality, and a respect for the community are attributes Ruby has practiced for nine-plus decades. And she has passed them on.

“She has always been just super energetic and a real go-getter.



Ruby visiting Tilly’s in downtown Rhineland.

It’s an honor being able to share this business and its success with her,” Jared says. “Grandma always says, ‘if you work hard enough, things can happen.’ Well she is right.”

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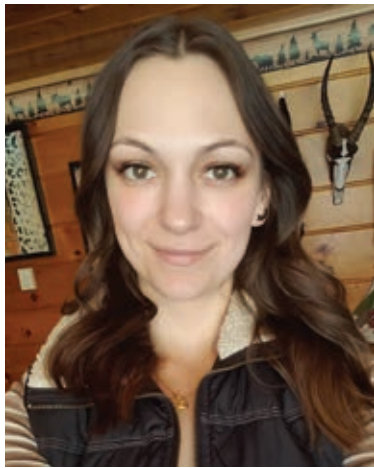
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NORTHWOODS ARTIST

Randee Smith

By Jaclene Tetzlaff and Tom Barnett

If you have strolled into the Curran building lately, you will have noticed the murals painted above the doorways of the historic structure. Those murals were painted by a Northwoods artist, Randee Smith.



"I have always been into wildlife and nature," says Smith. And she takes that passion with her every day to work. She is the Coordinator of the Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership, a group of organizations that help land owners

manage their forested properties for wildlife.

"The owner of the building asked me to do the murals. I have two done and two to go. The themes are to highlight the Rhinelander area and history. I am going to do a baby Hodag. I have never seen one before," laughs Smith. "The very first painting that I sold was of a friend and her horse. It was a really good feeling, but I felt weird charging for it. Now that my skill level is up, it's nice getting my name out there."

Randee Smith does not limit herself to mural painting with oils, however. Her specialty, that has gotten much favorable attention, is her feather art. "It just came to me. I used my sister's Cricut and started doing silhouettes." Smith fills the silhouettes with feathers from pheasants or chickens. "Silhouette art takes patience. You have to have an eye for where to place the feathers." Her favorite feather is the green and blue






iridescent ones from roosters. She also favors the red, yellow and blue hues from pheasant feathers. “I love how the colors align. You have to open your eyes to the natural beauty.”


Randee Smith’s booth was voted “Best Booth” at the Oneida County Fair this past summer. “People told me that my art was very unique. They had never seen anything like it before,” she smiles. She collects chicken feathers from her own backyard flock and pheasant feathers from hunting. “I keep it to domesticated birds. Picking up feathers from wild migratory birds is illegal. If I see a feather in the woods, I leave it there.”

Randee intends to grow her art business, while still working with nature in her current job position. To see Randee’s art, you can find her on Facebook at *Bear’s Wild Creations – Feather Art & Décor*.

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NORTHWOODS MUSIC



Amanda Anderson

By William Young

Someone once said, the purest art comes from the individual that never stops pursuing their truest self. And I for one, will forever have an undying reverence for those who stare down their past with the adventurous

gaze of a gold miner, elated at the opportunity to dig deep into that mine of the self and see what comes up. The best of us have been able to profess an ability, something I like to think is akin to “alchemy of the soul”. A way to make sense of the nonsense. To attempt to remedy their capsized hearts. To bring into existence something so undeniably beautiful that it drowns out the loudest suffering. In that talent I was drawn in to the music of Amanda Anderson.

Somewhere between Natalie Merchant and Fiona Apple; and smattered with themes of self-reflection and discovery, Amanda Anderson finds a way to tend the garden of her life with such grace so as to produce some of the sweetest fruit and savory soup for the soul you'll find around. If you've had the pleasure of seeing Ms. Anderson play live at any of her sets or Open Mic's she's been to these last few years, consider yourself lucky. With an almost angelical, ethereal voice and graceful but deliberate piano, her stylings remind me of the feeling of taking that first warm sip of coffee on a wintery Sunday morning.

That being, it should simply go without saying her musical prowess should not go ignored. From her cover of Calum Scott's “Dancing on My Own”, to her heartfelt, deeply introspective ballad “Coming Back to Myself”, Amanda has a way of taking you on a sort of sonic journey, like being adrift on a sea of comfort and familiarity, where you can just sit back, and lose yourself into her sound and yet, find yourself singing right along without even realizing.

And if that weren't enough, with her impressive musical chops, Amanda also has an eye for the aesthetic, and her photography compliments her style as if one in the same with her musical artistry. Any artist will tell you that being proficient in a single medium is difficult enough, but to boast the ability to seamlessly transition from one to another with the same expression and heart is unheard of and only furthers to validate her incredible gifts.

Amanda grew up in the heart of Sonoma county, California, and was first introduced to music in the



church, which she says, attributed to her early love for music. However, as with many young artists, she felt her true love for music didn't truly bloom until she left home and moved to Wisconsin in 2016. After soaking in the sights and sounds for a while, that proverbial artistic itch began to gnaw at her and finally came to a head when she performed at a handful of local open mics. After one fateful set, she remembers being approached by Jaron Childs from Nicolet College, and was asked to come perform at their Arts Center. It was in that performance she felt something had cemented the idea in her mind that that connection, that indescribable joy of sharing her wonderful gift with others, really took root. Since then she has been periodically playing gigs in and around Rhinelander, honing in her voice and her style and carving out a real following for herself with her unique talent.

You can check out her upcoming dates on her Facebook page “Amanda Anderson Music” or watch her songs on her YouTube channel of the same name. If you get the chance to see her, I cannot recommend it enough! A talent like hers is not one to miss!





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The Rhinelander Community Foundation (RCF) dates back to 2015 when philanthropic individuals came together from two groups of thought. One group that was familiar with the area's current needs was trying to invest in Rhinelander area projects but did not have an available tax-exempt entity. Another group was looking for tools for community investment for the area's future and stability. Members of these two groups formed the founding board of directors of RCF, which began meeting in 2015 and was recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 organization in 2016.

The mission of the RCF is to facilitate charitable giving and, together with its donors, enhance the quality of living in the Rhinelander community now and for future generations.

The goal of the first board of directors, which still rings true today, is two-fold: Provide financial support for current needs, and fill the missing link of providing support for tomorrow's unknown needs. The geographic area of philanthropy mimics that of the School District of Rhinelander, covering the city proper, but also including the outlying townships that call Rhinelander home.

The RCF continues to work toward goals by establishing "funds." All gifts from donors go into a fund. There are two categories of funds:

1. Non-endowed funds, which are not invested and principal can be spent as needed (these serve as primary support for current needs in the community).
2. Endowed funds, which are invested and allowed to grow but generate an annual grant from a small percentage of the fund. This fills in the gap of providing for the future unknown needs of our area, as these funds are permanent and last forever.

RCF can work through other 501c3 organizations, churches, schools, hospitals, and governmental units. As held funds generate grants, the organization gets financial support for on-going needs, impact projects, and programming.

The Board's initial goal was to grow the community endowment to \$1 million, that would generate \$50,000 in annual granting . . . forever. Thanks to generous donor support and leadership, the RCF has received over \$1 million in donation since its beginning and has been able to provide grants totaling over \$545,000 to Rhinelander area organizations through established funds. Qualified charitable organizations were awarded grants in 2021 totaling nearly \$69,000.



MUNITY FOUNDATION

Six new community endowments were established by donors this year, providing grants for designated purposes forever. Like-minded donors can contribute to established funds or can establish their own to meet charitable goals to support an organization or community cause, or to honor a family name. Endowed funds last forever, are invested for growth over time, and generate annual grants for stated purposes of the donors.

RCF is making an impact. Recently, our parks received notable attention as the train restoration at Pioneer Park was completed and planning began for improvements at Hodag Park. An anonymous donor put forth a \$100,000 match toward the Hodag Park Improvement Fund, held at RCF, to spearhead needed funding for priority projects at the park. To date, over 85% of the match has been achieved. The initial project planned is a mixed-use community amphitheater and gathering area overlooking beautiful Boom Lake. These changes will inspire generations and would not have been possible without enthusiastic and generous contributors.

In 2021, RCF engaged with business and community leaders through hosting a “Business After 5” event, a “Professional Advisors” evening, and the “Unsung Difference Makers” recognition.

RCF 2021 GRANTS AWARDED

Grants listed are in combination with those awarded through the annual grant application cycle and those awarded through established funds.

Rhineland District Library	\$1,000	Story Stroll at Hodag Park
Art Start	2,437	Agency Fund
Oneida County Humane Society	1,000	Rhineland animal shelter support
Lights of the Northwoods	1,525	Holiday lights display
Art Start (fiscal agent)	4,300	Northwoods Garden
Rhineland Area Food Pantry	2,500	Community Garden upgrades and GROW
Lights of the Northwoods	2,500	Holiday lighting display
Rhineland District Library	2,500	Local plat, history, shelving
United Methodist Church	1,000	Personal Essential Pantry, paper goods
Rhineland Police Department	1,000	Recovery Coach Program
NAMI	2,000	Northern Lakes Center/drop-in care
Hodag Soccer	1,000	Youth soccer equipment for turf
Girl Scouts of NW Great Lakes	2,000	Rhineland troop supplies, access
YMCA of the Northwoods	1,500	Seed money for 6th grade access plan
WXPR/White Pines Broadcasting	2,000	Community podcast initiative
Rhineland District Library	250	Building fund/Unsung Difference Maker
Hodag Little League	1,000	12U State Tournament
Badger Boys State	400	RHS student sponsor
Hodag Schools Foundation	25,000	Hodag Dome and complex
TriCounty Council on Dom Abuse	2,500	Victims of domestic abuse
Rhineland Food Pantry	5,000	Half to Back Pack/ Half general
NATH	1,000	General needs
United Way	2,500	General needs
Rhineland PIE	2,500	“Inspire” program, student needs
School District of Rhineland	500	NCES 5th grade outdoor classroom

“Since receiving 501c3 status in 2016, the world has changed in many ways, yet compassion for one another and support for the Rhineland community has remained unwavering,” says Gina Heck, RCF President.

“I really enjoy being a part of The Rhineland Community Foundation,” says Janet Jamison, Board Member. “I’ve seen such a wide

variety of projects and organizations receive grants, and I'm really proud to be a member of a community that supports so many great non-profits."

The future lies in fund establishment and growth, and therefore support for the community over time through grant making. Currently, RCF holds a Rhinelander Community endowed and non-endowed fund, established by the board of directors, that serve to meet general needs of the community through the general grant cycle. RCF also holds several other funds that have designated purposes established by interested donors. Descriptions of these funds can be found on the RCF website and continue to be updated. When a donor gives to the Foundation, they can designate it to a particular fund, leave it unrestricted, or establish their own fund to meet their charitable goals. Funds are customizable. Donors can establish funds to support an organization they are fond of, support an area of interest, honor a family name, or leave for general purposes.

Ron and Elsie Gaber established a lasting endowment at RCF and commented, "Many positive things can occur when a community is committed to each other."

We look forward to seeing what the future will bring as we strengthen our community through strategic philanthropy. For more information about The Rhinelander Community Foundation, visit: www.rhinelandercommunityfoundation.com



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BETH W. ★★★★★
Absolutely wonderful with my kiddos.

SHANE K. ★★★★★
Great Staff!

PAUL K. ★★★★★
The staff treated me like family.

AMANDA T. ★★★★★
Dr. Fiebke and his staff are amazing!!!

MIKE W. ★★★★★
The hygienist was great!

TAMMY S. ★★★★★
Their professionalism was out of this world.

PAUL K. ★★★★★
I was treated like family

SUSAN W. ★★★★★
Everybody was wonderful!



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DOWNTOWN RHINELANDER ACROSS FROM TRIG'S

HAPPENINGS *in the* NORTHWOODS

ROTARY CLUB OF RHINELANDER

The Rotary Club held its Annual Fall Gala at Holiday Acres on Saturday, October 16. Attendees enjoyed a gourmet dinner, raffle prizes, and a live auction. Net proceeds are distributed to local organizations that benefit the community.



Rotary Gala Dinner at Holiday Acres

Morgan Johnson and Dan Hagen



*Paul Marquardt
Rotary President*

Gala Tablescape



*Kerry Bloedorn as
Pumpkin Head*



*Lauren Sackett
with Charlie*



*Frank Wilkens with
Jada and Romani*



*The Hodag hands
out candy to
Trick or Treaters*

HALLOWEEN DOWNTOWN TRICK OR TREATING

Rhinelanders really know how to throw a Halloween party! Huge crowds gathered downtown to trick or treat through local businesses. Lots of treats, great costumes, and fun was had by all.



Mike Braun, Brian Gehrig, Connor Gehrig

PINE LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAUNTED HOUSE

Volunteers went all out to decorate the Pine Lake Town Hall into a haunted house. Walking through with the lights on, I was scared! The group entertained over 1,000 kids and families.



Danielle and Lynne Larsen

LIGHTS OF THE NORTHWOODS SET UP

Hardworking folks showed up at Hodag Park to set up the spectacular light display for the holidays.



**Lindsay Galvin, Doug Brown,
Karen Marquardt**



**Don Hoppe, Linda Campbell
Don Theisen**



**Boy Scouts Back row (L-R): Charlie Glover, Joey Breuer, David Fielhauer/Eagle Scout, Sam Castleton, Greg Fielhauer/Scout Master, Bill Freudenberg
Front row (L-R): Eric Berger, Jackson Mark, Michael Brunette, Allen Wisnewski, Nick Lesch**

RASTA SNOWSHOE RACE

A colorful and hearty group gathered on Saturday, January 8 at Holiday Acres, for the Annual RASTA Showshoe Race. Participants could run the 6K or 10K, and enjoyed a lunch and door prizes after the race. For more information go to rastatrails.org

**Bethany Deuchar,
Jaclene Tetzlaff**



**Cute doggie
spectator**



The first to cross the finish line



**Richard Reidinger, Co-director and Board Member
Tyr Wesner-Hanks**



Runners take off



Sarah Reidinger, Race Director

HAPPENINGS *in the* NORTHWOODS

ROTARY CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY

Fun-loving Rotarians got together for some holiday cheer at the Al Gen in December.

*Diane Sowinski,
Connor Showalter*



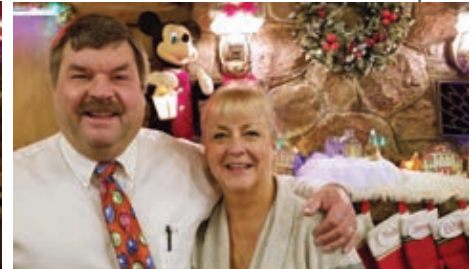
*Giselle
Harbach
and
friend
Diane Arendt*



*Paul Marquardt,
Father Kevin Farrell*



*Dan De Lisle, Tom Rudolph, Al Hofstetter,
Karen Marquardt*



*Rob Swearingen &
Amy Swearingen*

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NORTHWOODS POETRY

Promise This

BY WOODSY

Coming to a new year.
Old tears wash away.
Games change but our lust for life still stays the same.
It's all real but believe this, we're going to be better.
We will weather this together.
Broken bones and broken souls will gather and will tether.
We are all measured after all by what you do after the hardest fall.
It's been a long year or so and I know your hurt continues to grow,
but you should know...
You are full of possibilities,
You can fill the hollows.
We're going to take on this new year.
Let dry the old tears and fear not.
Tomorrow is always a new day.
Just let the snow melt.
Still remember what you've felt.
Time still rolls along...
Contemplate the state of things.
But bring love to the table and sing.
Sing aloud, sing it out, and don't frown.
All will get better.
It's going to be better.
Promise this.
It's just another season.
Been through worse before.
We don't need a reason.
To live, love, laugh or be what we are down
to the core.