

---

# The New

---



REDISCOVER THE NORTHWOODS.

Winter 2021

Cross Country Ski Trail Guide  
The Hodag Dome  
The History of The New North  
Oneida County Humane Society  
and much more . . .



# THE NEW NORTH

Winter Issue 2021

Welcome to the first issue of The New North magazine!

A group of us got together and decided to create a beautiful homage to the wonderful Northwoods community in which we live. Here, we are surrounded everyday by beauty. Whether it is the deer grazing in our backyard, or a kind and generous gesture by a neighbor.

The Northwoods is a great place to live.

The magazine focuses on our history, our community, sports, artists and musicians, and the many charitable people and organizations in the area -- with stunning photography swirling around every story. Read more on the "Contributors" page about the special and talented people that helped bring this publication to life.

You will notice that the advertisers in this issue are all local. They are people you may know – your friends. We have all heard the phrase, "Buy Local" . But what I discovered as I strolled from local business to business was something more. Each owner took the time to answer questions, give me an education on the product I was purchasing, and have a conversation. In other words, they truly cared.

When making a purchase, we hope you will first consider our fine local sponsors. They will take care of you, and you will be helping to make our town a stronger and more thriving place to live.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make *The New North* a reality. Enjoy this issue and look for the next one in April.

Forever grateful,

Jaclene Tetzlaff

*If you' re interested in advertising give me a call @ 715-525-1596*



<u>Table Of Contents:</u>	<u>Page</u>
An Old Fashioned Story	5
Grooves Of The Season	7
Northwoods Ski Trails	9
History Of The New North	17
Positively Rhinelander	19
Egan Lives Photography	20
The Hodag Dome	23
Northwoods Artist	27
Northwoods Poetry	29
Featured Recipe: Pickled Fish	30
The Northwoods In Music	31
Oneida County Humane Society	33
Happenings In The Northwoods	35
Reflections from a Deer Stand	37





# CONTRIBUTORS



JACLENE TETZLAFF  
Editor  
Publisher  
Sales

DAN HAGEN  
Feature Writer



TOM BARNETT  
Designer & Illustrator



ANDREW EGAN  
Photographer  
Lead Designer



ROSS  
"WOODSY"  
WALLACE



JANET JAMISON  
Positively Rhinelander



KERRY BLOEDORN  
Feature Writer & Historian



A SPECIAL THANKS TO BETH WINTERS FOR THE LOGO DESIGN



## Winter Cocktail Recipe

### A Classic Old Fashioned

#### Ingredients:

- Sugar
- Bitters
- Orange
- Cocktail Cherries
- Brandy
- Sweet or sour mixer
- Ice

Slice an orange into wedges. In an "old fashioned" glass, place a dash of sugar or one sugar cube, a few dashes of bitters and a maraschino cherry along with an orange wedge. Using a wooden muddler, (a knife handle works well, too) smash ingredients together in the bottom of the glass. The trick is to avoid the orange rind, as it will give a bitter taste to the drink. Fill the glass with ice and pour a shot of Brandy over the ice. Top off with sweet or sour mixer. Garnish with an orange wedge and a maraschino cherry. Enjoy!

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**

# AN “OLD FASHIONED” STORY

By Kerry Bloedorn

## Wisconsin's Favorite Cocktail: The Brandy Old Fashioned

Order an “Old Fashioned” in any other part of the country, odds are you’ll get sugar, bitters, booze (most commonly Whiskey), over ice. If you’re a Wisconsinite and ordered an Old Fashioned elsewhere in these United States, like I did several years ago, you would be taken aback. It certainly wasn’t what I was accustomed to in the Badger State. Because in Wisconsin, we apparently have a superior Old Fashioned. I have been humbly enjoying one with a Friday night fish fry for many years and it had never occurred to me that there was anything different to this staple of Wisconsin culture in the wide world beyond our snow laden borders. Sure

enough, thousands of bartenders across this great nation could be making them so much better, and they don’t even realize it. I bet they don’t even say “Ope” when they bump into something. I know, how rude.



The history of Wisconsin’s signature Old Fashioned is believed to have begun in 1893 at the Chicago World Fair. Ironical, as that happens to be the year Eugene Simeon Shepard captured the infamous Hodag near Rhinelander. A Wisconsin coincidence? Perhaps. But while old Shep was wrangling the great pine beast up in the northwoods of Wisconsin, down in Chicago three Czechoslovakian brothers from California by the name of Korbel were at the biggest event that had ever happened in the Midwest at the time, the Chicago World’s Fair. With them, they brought something to sell in the famed White City. You guessed it, brandy. As you can imagine there were lots of

Wisconsinites at the World’s Fair representing the state’s bustling economy, read; beer. There were other things represented by Wisconsin but they did in fact bring lots of beer. But aside from beer, apparently Wisconsinites loved Korbel brandy just as well because they brought it back home with them by the train load. The rest as they say, is history. Over time, Wisconsin developed its own unique concoction that we now know as an “Old Fashioned.”

Somewhere or another bartenders at taverns and restaurants all over Wisconsin starting serving this drink as a mainstay, especially on Fridays. I





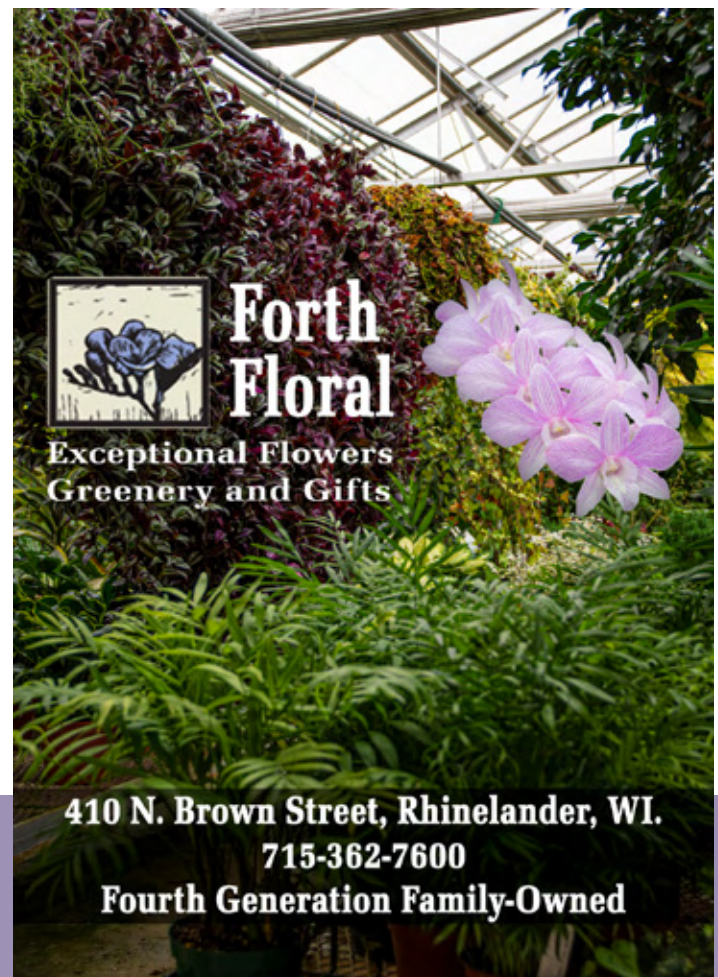
always say, "On Monday morning I know what I'm going to eat on Friday night", a fish fry of course! And a Brandy Old Fashioned is the perfect pairing for a Friday evening in Wisconsin.

It's interesting to note that the state of Wisconsin drinks more than half the world's brandy. That wasn't a typo. Half the brandy made, in the entire world is enjoyed in Wisconsin.

The thing that separates a traditional Old Fashioned and a Wisconsin variety is that it is created as a mixed cocktail. On top of the traditional ingredients, It uses a "wash" in bartender speak. 7up or Sprite for an Old Fashioned Sweet, and Sour Soda for a Sour. I like Squirt myself, although I prefer sweet when I'm out to

eat, and sour at home, don't ask me why, it just is. Add another orange wedge and cherries on a toothpick as garnish. Some like olives or pickled mushrooms.

There is no shortage of other twists to the Wisconsin Old Fashioned that can be applied and they are worth trying. For a "Hodag Old Fashioned" swap out the orange in the garnish with a lime wedge. But more than that, the simple process to create one of these time honored Wisconsin cocktails has become somewhat of an art form here, especially up in northern Wisconsin supper club country. That made me thirsty just thinking about it!



# GROOVES OF THE SEASON

By Dan Hagen

Name a ski trail near Rhinelander and Brian Hegge has probably groomed it. "Grooming" means laying track for classic skiing and a firm base for skate skiing, usually done with large, heavy machines. Nowadays, Hegge mostly focuses on the three county trails: Washburn Lake Ski Trails, Nose Lake Ski Trail, and Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail. Those three are maintained by volunteers of the Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA) year-round. The Northwoods Nordic Ski Club cares for Northwoods Ski Trails, CAVOC Trails, and the Rhinelander Community Trails.

Hegge has been involved with RASTA for years. But this winter is different than most others.

"If you have any snow-dance remedies, start doing them," said Hegge.

"THERE REALLY ISN'T A TRAIL I DON'T LIKE TO GROOM," SAID BRIAN HEGGE.

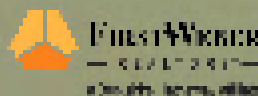


**TODD  
JOHNSON**  
Real Estate Broker



[johnsont@firstweber.com](mailto:johnsont@firstweber.com)

cell: 715-490-0194







Coincidentally, or perhaps not, the snow came soon after Hegge told The New North to start snow-dancing. So now that the landscape is covered in snow, we might as well enjoy it. The next few pages are a guide to Rhinelander area cross-country ski trails. There's a fit for all skill levels just a few minutes from downtown. And when you're gliding up and down the smooth trails through our wintry wonderland, think of the volunteers from RASTA and the Northwoods Nordic Ski Club who made it happen.



# Dahlquist

## HEATING & COOLING



715-361-2798

3399 FAUST LAKE ROAD

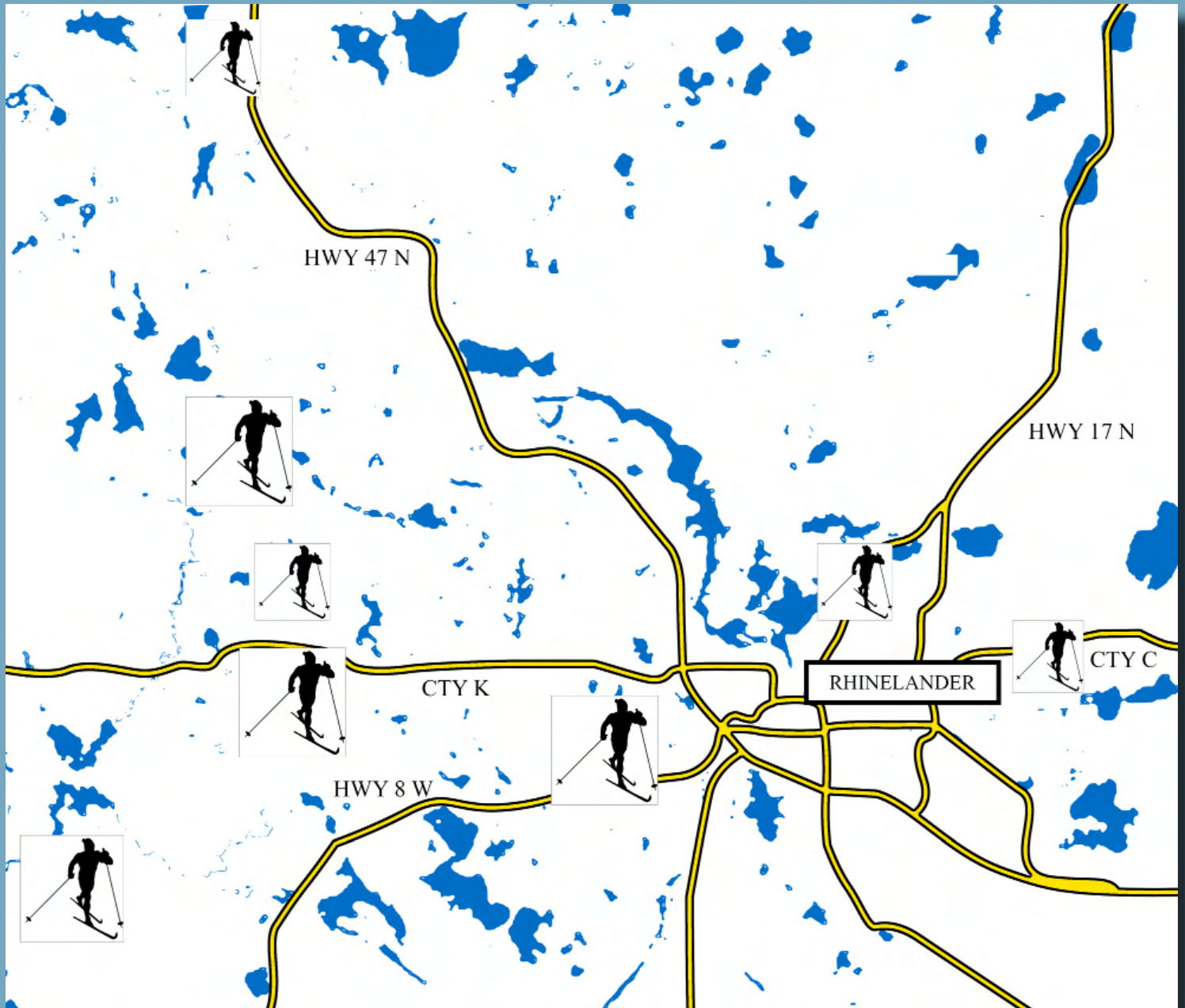
RHINELANDER



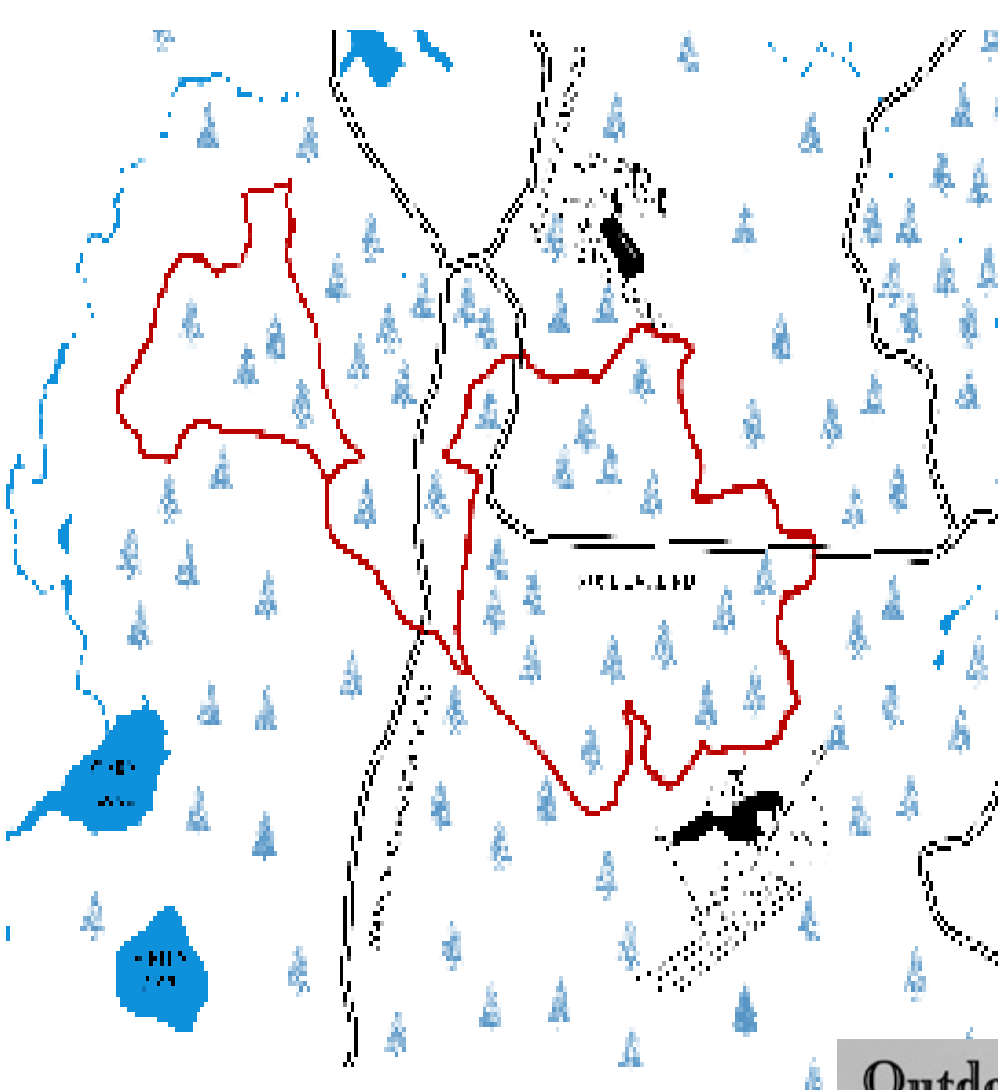
DAHLQUISTHEATINGANDCOOLING.COM

# NORTHWOODS SKI TRAILS

By Dan Hagen







## Nose Lake Ski Trail

Facts: 8 miles, classic only

Nose Lake is the other classic-only trail system in the area. It is similar to

Cassian but the terrain is a bit gentler.

It also has a few snowshoe trails and dogs are allowed. There are two loops that people can ski with a short connector trail in between. Not to be a broken record, but some stunning nature back here.

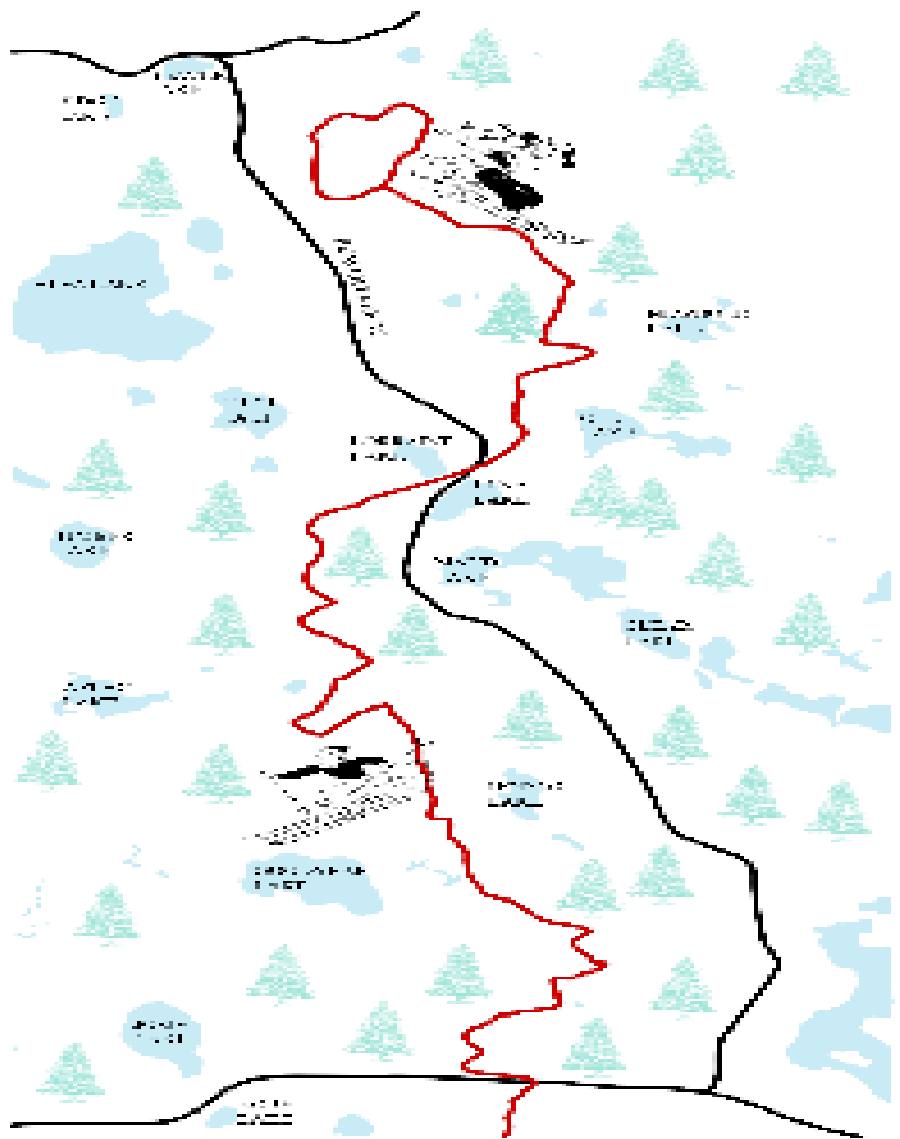
## Outdoor Fun For All Seasons

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

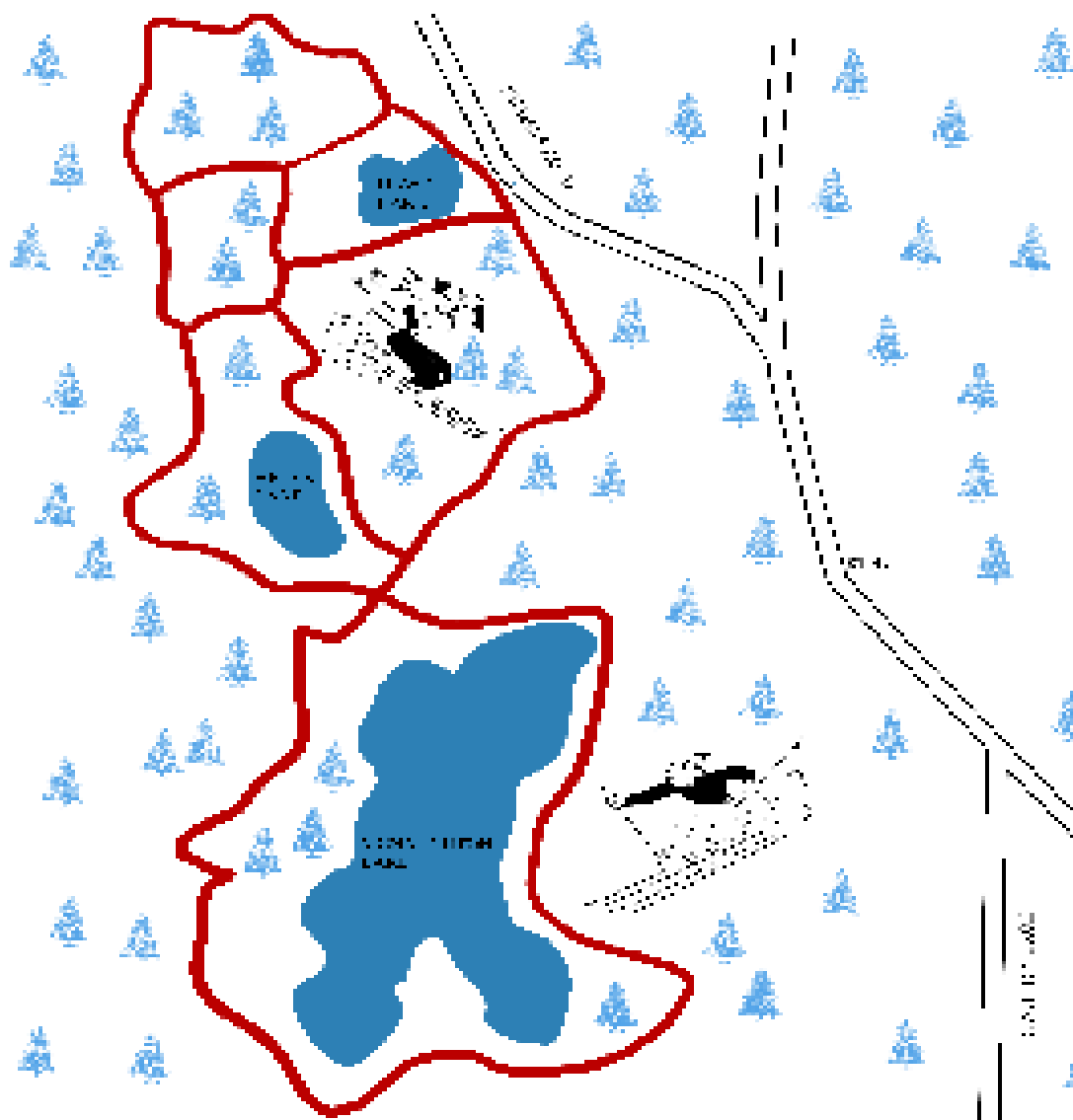


### Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail

Facts: 15 miles, classic only

Cassian is one of the two classic-only trail systems near Rhinelander. It used to be plagued by wet spots, but thanks to work from fantastic RASTA volunteers those days are long gone. Now a series of elevated boardwalks guide skiers to a lovely outdoor adventure through trees and gentle terrain. There are two trailheads, a southern one of Hwy K, and a northern one at 5332 Beaver Lake Rd. Here and Nose Lake are the best area trails for classic skiing.

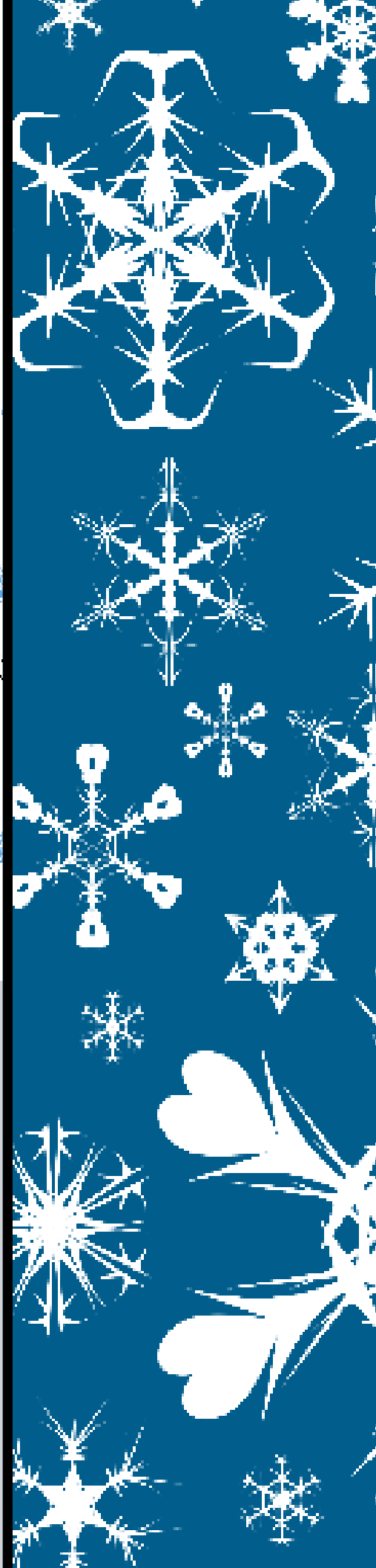


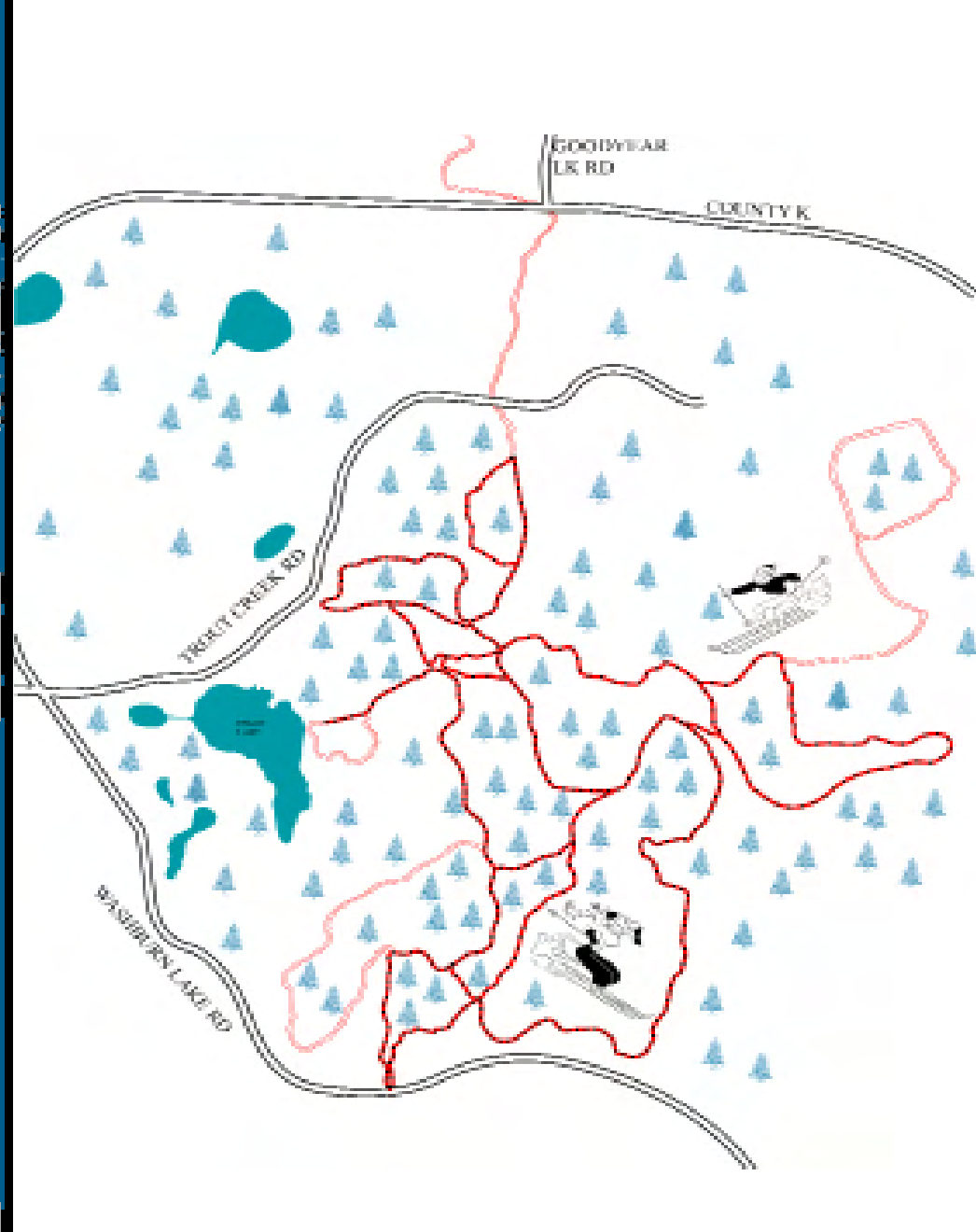


### McNaughton Lake Trail:

Facts: 13 miles, Skating and Classic.

If you want to maximize flat terrain and flat-out beautiful scenery, this is the trail system for you. McNaughton Lake Hiking Trail is situated at the southern edge of the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. It features gorgeous lake-views, intimate trails, and (if you're lucky) some wildlife. About two miles into the rolling terrain and overhanging trees, a shed and firepit invite skiers for a relaxing warm-up. Only the skating trail encircles the still and silent McNaughton lake, the gem of this trail system, and featuring a short boardwalk section along the shore. A must-see!





### Washburn Lake Ski Trails:

Facts: 8 miles Skating & 4 miles Classic

If you like rollercoasters, these are the trails for you. The most common trail-head is at the cozy Judy Swank Shelter in Perch Lake Park. From here, a gentle incline turns into huffing-and-puffing up to the first trail junction - and that sets a nice precedent for your exciting yoyo ski. The wild terrain of Washburn Lake Ski Trails is designed for intermediate and advanced skiers. It's easy your first time to get turned-around in the interlacing trails, but the system is compact enough so you'll never be too far away from the trailhead. If you want the best ski workout in the Rhinelander area, check out Washburn. If you are a beginner... perhaps try another area trail first.



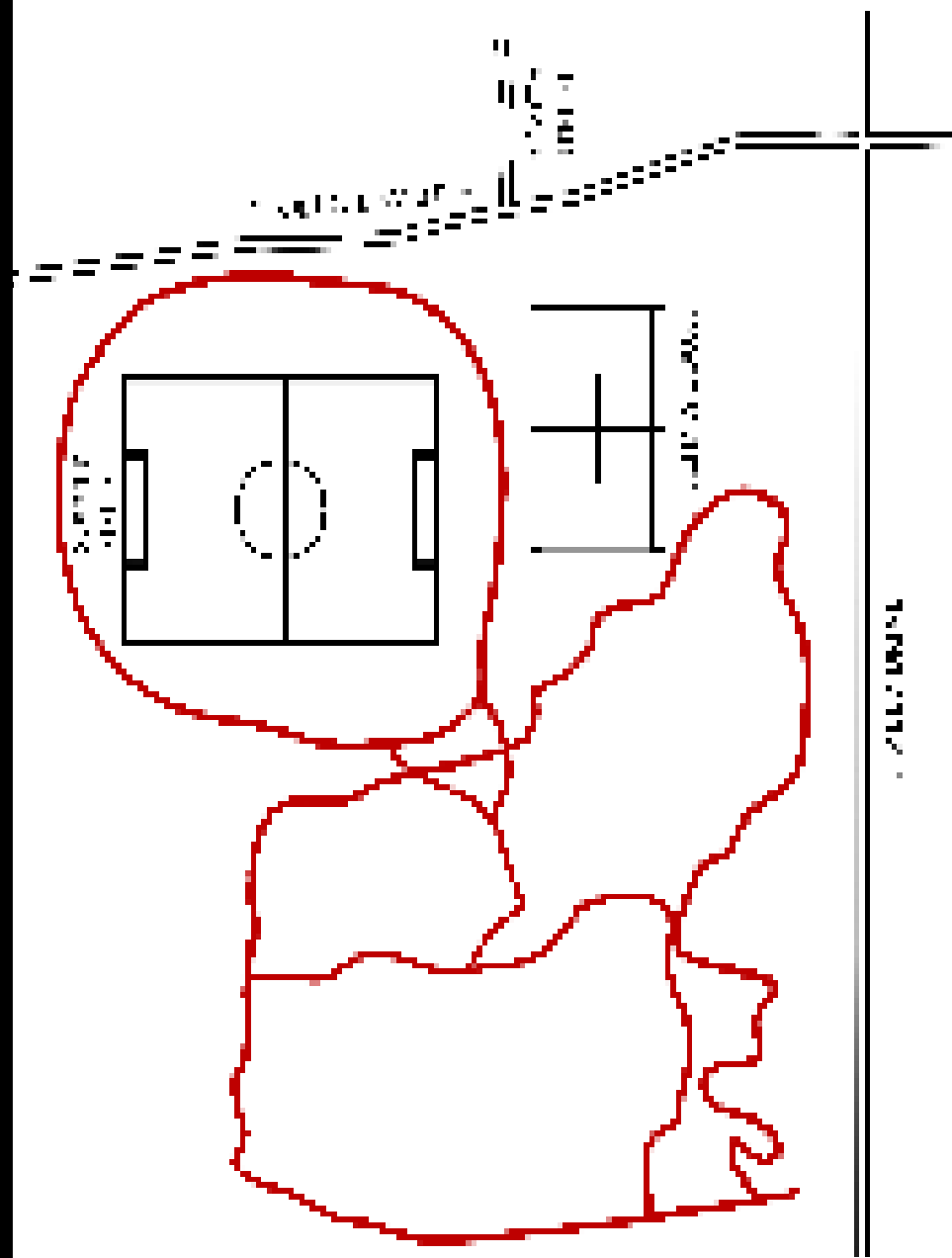
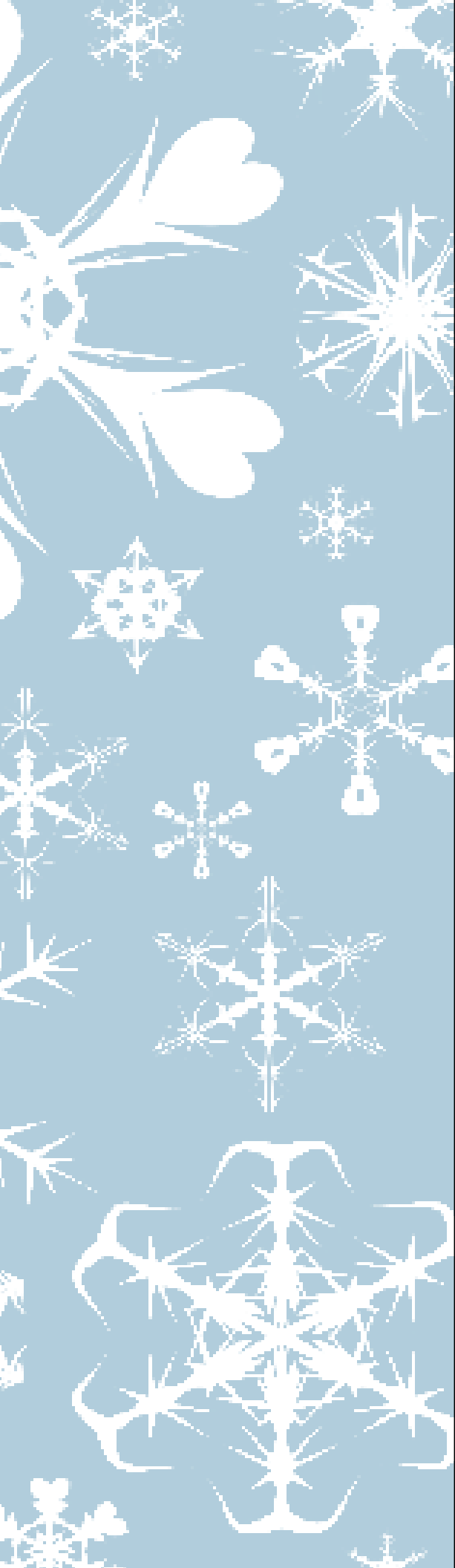


### Northwood Ski Trails:

Facts: 9.5 miles, Skating & Classic

Don't be deceived by the golf course next door, this trail system is full of fun twists and turns through forested terrain. The system makes pristine nature accessible to a wide-variety of skiers. For beginners, a mellow four kilometer loop will meet your fix for exercise and the outdoors. For more experienced skiers, just keep taking right turns (except onto Judy's Vista) and you'll experience such a surprisingly pleasant range of topography and foliage, that you won't even realize you just skied 7.5 kilometers! And keep your eyes peeled for upcoming candlelight ski events at Northwood. They're a blast.



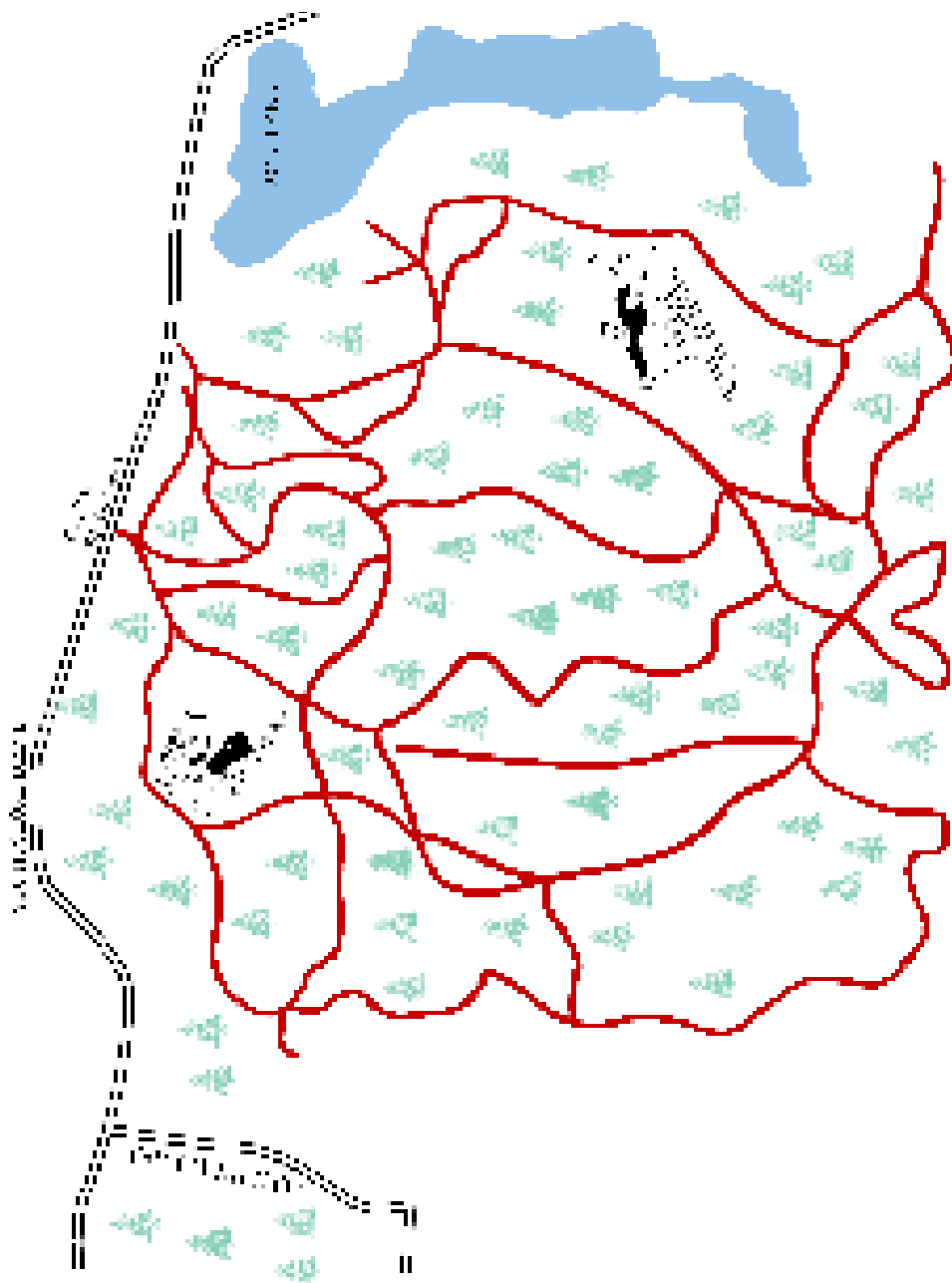


## Rhinelander Community Trails

Facts: 1.5 miles, skating & classic

A great place to start skiing and a convenient location. The trailhead is across the street from Rhinelander High School at the south end of a large field. The rolling trails take skiers through the woods west of the high school. The Sno-Dag Nordic Ski program for 2nd, 3rd, or 4th graders practice here.





#### CAVOC Trails:

Facts: 5 miles, skating & classic CAVOC Trails on the east side of Rhinelander features the hilliest terrain in the Rhinelander area. It's great for an experienced skier looking for a hard work-out. While Washburn Lake Trails have longer hills, CAVOC has shorter and more frequent hills. A good spot for snowshoeing as well. Fun fact: CAVOC is the only trail system in Wisconsin certified for races by FIS (Fédération Internationale de Ski, or in English: International Ski Federation).



# HISTORY OF THE NEW NORTH

By: Kerry Bloedorn

"The New North", Rhinelander's pioneering weekly Newspaper was published on Thursdays every week for 65 of Rhinelander's earliest years. The first copies of this frontier rag had quaint beginnings and were first printed in a tent pitched along the area of what is now King St. in Rhinelander. That tent also served as Rhinelander's first hotel and post office for a time until suitable accommodations could be built.

In the 1880's Rhinelander was a fledgling community being carved out of the vast pinery along the banks of the mighty Wisconsin river. The village of Rhinelander had been platted mere weeks before the first type was set as the budding logging boom town seemed destined to be the city and economic hub it became. It was said that no other Wisconsin community had been better situated to take advantage of the resources offered by the opening of the new north country. Although the earliest natural resources are now gone, the Wisconsin River, so integral to Rhinelander's founding, flows eternal through the city and is still important to the area today.

In 1882, Mr. Charles F. Barnes first stepped foot onto the sandy high ground between the Pelican and Wisconsin Rivers that would become the City of Rhinelander. He founded The New North weekly newspaper within days of his arrival. The type was set by T.H. Powell, Rhinelander's first Post Master with the first issue distributed on December 7th of 1882. In a time before radio, television, and social media, The New North was all of these outlets rolled into several sheets of newsprint. For years the early pages of The New North read like a proverbial Facebook feed in ink; Who went where? Who was in town? What were they doing? What were they eating? A few lines taken from The New North on September 7th, 1893 read; "Mrs. C. C. Shockley is visiting relatives in Sun Prairie, Wis." "John E. Jackson was in Chicago the first of the week on business."

"Clark & Lennon carry the finest lines of sporting goods in town."

"J. R. Binder is in Appleton this week visiting his mother and sister."

"Mrs. G. S. Goon gave a five o'clock tea to a number of friends Tuesday."

It's pages included local, state, and national news. Advertisements for local businesses catering to the early lumberjacks and settlers. Ads for cigar makers, blacksmiths, harness makers, land lookers, and general mercantile filled the pages of Rhinelander's first Newspaper at 10 cents per line.

Over the years The New North would dutifully record the highlights of the era and document the growing years of Rhinelander and Oneida County. Dramatic headlines like "Logger Loses Foot to Accident" and "Fight Broken up in the Hungry Hollow by Justice of the Peace" were in no short supply in the early rough and tumble days of Rhinelander's history when the air was still full of sawdust. Very quickly the streets of Rhinelander went from dirt to paved, boardwalks to concrete walkways, ring of the ax to buzz of the Sawmill, population from several dozen to more than 5000 in less than a decade. The New North would diligently record all these changes and become an important resource for historians of the future.

The New North would at first be printed in a tent but quickly moved to a space above T.H. Powell's General Store on the southwest corner of Brown and Davenport St. where the Forbes building is now. From between 1908 till at least 1944 the paper was published in a building located at 57 S. Steven St. approximately where the Rhinelander McDonald's is today. The paper would change hands several times during





its publication; established by Charles Barnes (1882-1888), it was afterwards owned and edited by George Bishop (1888-1898), William Ogden (1898-1906), F.A. Lowell (1906-1927), Henry Slossen (1927-1946) and finally Joe Bloom in its final year. The New North was printed on newsprint paper produced right in Rhinelander at The Rhinelander Paper Company until Ripco made the switch to producing its famous Glassine Greaseproof papers line in the early 1900's. Evidence of its success still partly emblazoned on one of the old mill stacks can be seen to this day, albeit missing the letter G in "Glassine" from a shortening of the stack in the early 1990's.

The New North would be the only early newspaper to carry on after The Daily News was founded in 1917. In 1929 owner F.A. Lowell died and The New North was purchased by long time editor and general manager Henry Slossen, who had worked for the paper since he was 16 years old. Mr. Slossen was known for his soft touch to reporting the news of the day. He was an enthusiastic fan of the circus and his articles in The New North about such event's passing through the community were well read and enjoyed by all. After Mr. Slossen passed away in 1945, Joe Bloom, WW2 war hero, later mayor of Rhinelander and still recognized by residents today, would edit the paper until it was finally pushed out of business by the ever growing Rhinelander Daily News in September of 1947. Thus ended the era of Rhinelander's first publication. In turn The New North is often referred to as the grandfather of The Rhinelander Daily News, predecessor to The Northwoods River News.

Today, the history of The New North and the spirit of the north country which it documented has inspired a group

of positive minded Rhinelander community members to start a new publication titled The New North magazine. The "new" New North aspires to highlight the wonderful culture, scenery, and life style of the Rhinelander area, as well as it's history, and it's residents. For those that live in and visit the Northwoods of Wisconsin, we hope you enjoy what this magazine will offer as we start a new era of The New North!

**"A UNITED COMMUNITY CAN ACCOMPLISH MUCH THAT IS A PROFIT TO ALL"**

– QUOTE FROM AN 1893  
ISSUE OF THE NEW NORTH

**Diane's Frame Shoppe LLC**  
*"Let Us Frame Your Memories"*

Check us out on Facebook

6 North Brown Street, Rhinelander, WI 54501

Locally Owned

dianesframeshoppe@yahoo.com  
715-369-1400



Photo by  
Chad Hintz

When Janet Jamison wanted to feature beautiful imagery from the northwoods, *Positively Rhinelander* was born. Local photographers submit their photos and are featured on this facebook page.

# POSITIVELY RHINELANDER



Photo by  
Pam Gabriel





Photo by Kerry Bloedorn



Photo by Kimberly Hetland



Photo by Denise Chojnacki



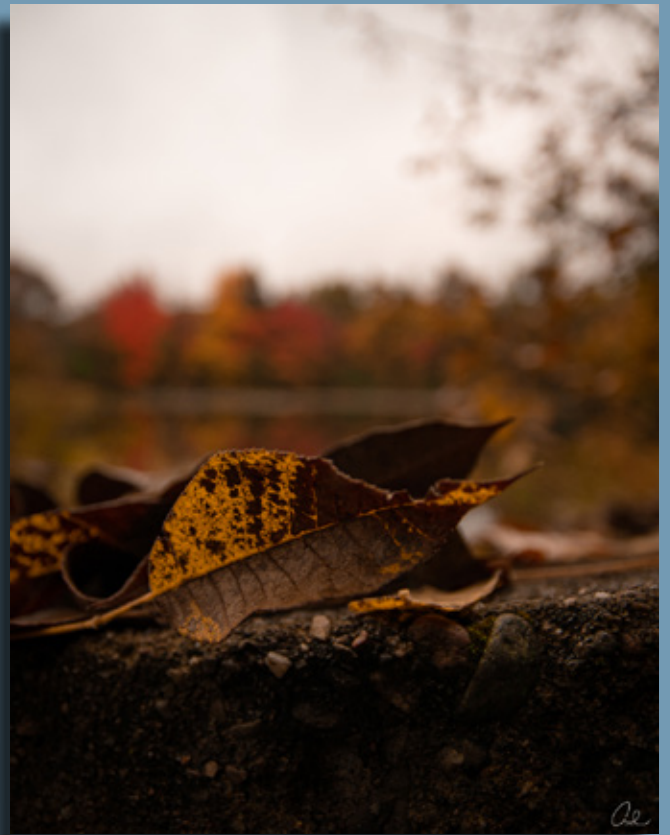
Photo by Denise Chojnacki











Egan Lives Productions LLC  
eganlives.com





# THE DOME

By Dan Hagen



On a chilly October evening, the Stratford Tigers and Rhinelander Hodags were in gridiron gridlock. Two early scores put the Tigers up 15-0, but three straight scores from the Hodags put them ahead 21-15 heading into the half. Both teams were tired. Both teams were cold. But one team had a dome.

"It was freezing cold outside," said assistant coach Luke Roberts. "It was the second coldest game besides Hayward. The lights were off so it was dark in the Dome. We were warming up literally and figuratively." It was the first time the team had been inside the Dome all together. For quarterback Quinn Lamers, it was a special moment to share with his teammates. It was a moment that the team desperately wanted to keep untarnished.

"They didn't want coming here to be a bad thing to look back on," said Lamers. "They wanted to be able to cherish that game and cherish that moment."

The Hodags headed back into Mike Webster stadium warm, loose, and inspired.

"We came out and just dominated in the second half," said Roberts.

The Hodags defense came out flying. And with a Caleb Olcikas rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter, the Hodags were up 29-15 with just nine minutes to play. A couple late scores by the Tigers made it close, but a Hodag stop on a two-point-conversion sealed the game. The Hodags won 29-27.

In short, it was a game and moment to be cherished.

"I think warming up in the Dome gave the guys an edge and motivated them for the second half," said Lamers.

The Hodag Dome gave Rhinelander a competitive

advantage. And it has only just begun.

## ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

The Dome is the first addition of facility/activity space since Rhinelander High School was built in 1958. At the time, the school had some of the best facilities in the state, which attracted families to the Rhinelander area for decades. But as time passed, the building and facilities weren't updated. By the aughts, this neglect was catching up to RHS.

Why couldn't Rhinelander keep pace with other schools? In 2008, three straight school referendums failed. Plus, people argued the state's funding formula was hurting the school. Funding is distributed using an algorithm based on property value and enrollment inside the school district. Northern Wisconsin is unique in the state by having a lot of expensive properties that are second homes - meaning they're owned by people who aren't sending their kids to Rhinelander schools. To make matters worse, students inside the school district were leaving for surrounding districts like Lakeland, Northern Pines, Three Lakes and others. When a student leaves, the district loses about \$8,000-\$10,000 in funding.

"The state isn't helping Rhinelander, so we have to help ourselves," said Dave Heck, President of the Hodag Schools Foundation. "If we don't invest in our schools, the students go to the neighbors."

Heck's parents moved to Rhinelander in the 1960's.

Back then, they saw a thriving community and excellent schools. Heck wants Rhinelander to return to its roots. He started the Hodag Schools Foundation (HSF)

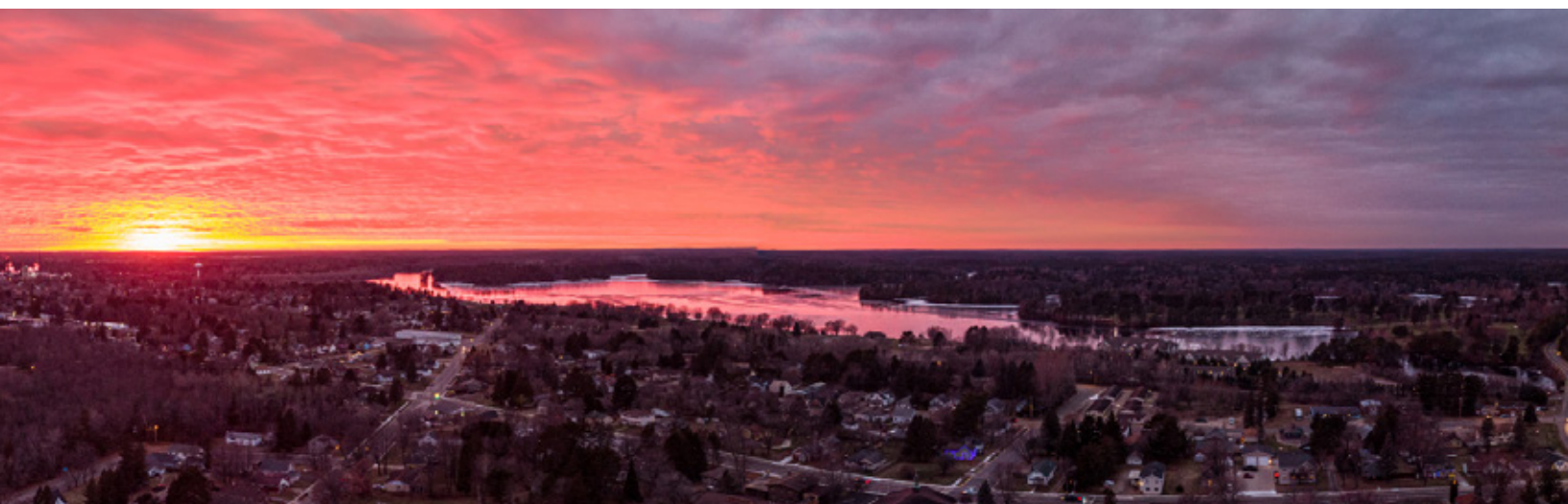


Photo Credit: Egan Lives

in 2003 (originally the Hodag Facilities Foundation) with other like-minded folks. By that time, RHS facilities were in rough shape. A 2010 school referendum passed, but it mainly focused on urgent roofing, lighting, asbestos problems. During this time period, HSF raised private money for improvements to the gymnasium, pool, auditorium, and fitness center. But even the generosity of the HSF couldn't keep pace with the dwindling funding from the state. And students were still leaving the district.

Enter Dr. Lee Swank.

In the 1980's Dr. Swank and his wife Judy wanted to move somewhere with more access to outdoor recreation. They decided on Rhinelander over other Northwoods communities because of what it had to offer. In late 2018, Swank, who noticed that student athletes at RHS were sometimes forced to practice in hallways or classrooms during the spring, pledged half a million dollars to HSF toward indoor activity facility improvements. He didn't want Rhinelander athletes in outdoor sports to be hampered by the long winters of the Northwoods.

With the new influx of money, Heck and others started to research different options, which led them to one idea: a multi-use dome. Heck, Athletic Director Brian Paulson, HSF board member Steve Jensen, School District of Rhinelander business manager Marta Kwiatkowski, and school board members Ron Counter and Mike Roberts all traveled to Minnesota to check out multi-use domes. That first step inside a dome was all Paulson needed.

"I told the person next to me 'wow, if we can get this in Rhinelander, this is a gamechanger, recalled Paulson.

The others were similarly smitten with a dome. They knew it would help more than sports.

"When we visited one of the Minnesota domes, an administrator there told me 'what this has done to our kids' mental health is incredible," said Heck.

#### CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

Plans were made, a design was ready. Heck just needed buy-in from the community.

"Dave approached me with the idea," said Dan Towne, General Manager of Rhinelander General Motors. "And it was just something immediately that I felt we needed to be involved with."

Towne's Rhinelander GM ended up being one of the earliest contributors to the Dome. He convinced other local businesses to chip in as well. All the while, Towne was thinking of his kids and their classmates.

"Even being a small part of making this dome happen makes me smile," said Towne. "There's a lot of kids in Rhinelander who are in need. I believe this will lift their spirits. These kids will be proud to live in Rhinelander" As Towne, Heck, and others were working toward buy-in from the community, money from around the country started to come in.

"Rhinelander High School alumni from across the country donated," said Heck. "Even though they didn't live here anymore, their heart was still in Rhinelander." Dr Swank started it all with his \$500,000 donation. HSF chipped in 2.5 million. The school board committed 5.7 million. With the financial end of it set, construction began.

Continued on next page



On October 17th, 2020, the air-supported dome was inflated. Less than a week later, the Hodags warmed up in the Dome and beat the Stratford Tigers.

### LARGER THAN LIFE

The Dome is big. At more than 128,000 square feet, it is the largest high school dome in the country. There are four tennis courts, a full-length football field, a five-lane 100-meter track, a pole-vault area, a jumping pit for long jump and triple jump, a gymnastics set-up, 80-foot long batting cages, and two golf simulators. The four tennis courts can turn into ten pickleball courts, or four basketball/volleyball courts. The football field can turn into two softball fields or one soccer pitch.

The Hodag Dome isn't the only thing that's new at Rhinelander High School. In front of the Dome are 180 new parking spaces and a storage unit. Behind the Dome are two two softball fields. A year ago you would've seen an empty field full of puddles.

### ADVANTAGE IN SPORTS

The Hodags ended the season 8 and 1, including the program's first two playoff wins. The team would practice in the Dome toward the end of the season, and

warm-up at halftimes of games.

Quinn Lamers won't be wearing pads any more, he's been lacing up basketball shoes for practice - sometimes on the Dome's removable courts. He's also preparing for baseball in the spring, and is excited for the path the team is on. "Looking back in past years, we really struggled with what to do in the early spring when we have three feet of snow on the ground still and baseball's already starting," said Lamers. "Sometimes we'd have to practice in school hallways or in the gym and we'd be very limited in what we could do. In the Dome you can work on long toss, hitting, and you can do all sorts of other drills with pop flies and grounders. I think it's going to give us a competitive edge in baseball as well."

The Dome has already hosted a gymnastics competition, basketball games, and many practices and gym classes.

Athletic Director Brian Paulson said Rhinelander is now the envy of the Great Northern Conference (GNC), and in the state.

"If you think about the winter and you think about soccer - where do people have turf?" asked Paulson. "People in the GNC are saying right now, 'your soccer program is going to become unbelievable because nobody else has any place like this to practice.'"



Dave Heck walking through The Dome.

Dr. Swank got his wish. The long winters are no longer a curse for Rhinelander sports.

## MENTAL HEALTH

The top of the Dome is made of a translucent material that allows for natural light to get in. For much of the winter, students may only have an hour of sunlight for the rest of the day. And it's most likely cold for that one hour. The Dome allows students to comfortably exercise in sunlight during the dead of winter. And they're still breathing in fresh air. There's a complete air exchange every 4 ½ hours. It also keeps kids off their screens.

"The average teenager spends 4 ½ to 7 ½ hours a day on screen time," said Heck. "To see green grass, light, to be able to exercise even when it's January and it's dark outside at 4 o'clock, that will be huge for mental health."

And the Dome is not just there for students. Senior citizens can walk on the track throughout the winter, or play tennis and pickleball.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

Where to begin. First off, the school district should expect fewer students in the district to enroll elsewhere. Plus, Paulson believes families will move to Rhinelander because of the Dome.

"Where are people going to choose to bring their kids to school, where will professionals live?" asked Paulson. "In the past they may have chosen Minocqua or Eagle River, but the Dome may change that."

Heck agrees.

"It's going to keep families and businesses here and also attract families and businesses," said Heck.

"Which helps with open enrollment, which means you're going to get money right back into the district that can re-invest in teacher's salaries, facilities. It's a full circle that will be an investment that keeps helping and giving back to Rhinelander for years."

There is already interest for tournaments and events. The Dome could host a tennis tournament and a soccer tournament at the same time. A lot of people will likely be visiting Rhinelander because of the Dome. "What this is going to do for hotels, restaurants, other businesses in the area is going to be phenomenal," said Heck.

THE DOME HAS GIVEN RHINELANDER A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE.

**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**  
NATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE PARTS ASSOCIATION  
AutoCare Center

**BLUE SEAL of EXCELLENCE**  
ASE  
RECOGNIZED BUSINESS

# NORTHWOODS ARTIST



Tom Barnett  
Tom's Drawing Board

Artist, graphic designer, teacher, children's book author, Alderman, Oneida County Fair Coordinator, and Santa. Those are just some of the many roles Tom Barnett carries out for the city of Rhinelander and surrounding area. His studio, Tom's Drawing Board, is a combination of art gallery, craft and T-shirt shop, hands-on learning and painting space, and even just an overall meeting ground for locals to talk, create, and share ideas. It is the first Autism-friendly business in northern Wisconsin, where parents and their children can visit and have a positive experience.

If you have an inner artist trying to get out, think about giving Tom a visit. He offers group classes where participants follow him along while he creates a painting. Each person goes home with a personal painting

created in the class. Or, if you prefer a private lesson, Tom can help with that, too. Maybe you have a vision to turn that old keepsake into a work of art. He will show you how to paint a scene on it and finish it off to display in your home.

Tom's paintings are usually of colorful landscapes done in oil or acrylic. While he paints, his Bearded Dragon, Tilly, otherwise known as Lizardo Da Vinci, sits on his shoulder. But his imagination does not stop there. He creates collages of stone, moss, and driftwood, as well as one-of-a-kind ornaments and decorative items. His original T-shirt designs reflect nature, humor, and sometimes just random thoughts.







Barnett was the creator of the logo for the new Hodag Dome. Several submissions were reviewed, and Barnett's was selected as the winner. Barnett has written and illustrated several children's books, including some about adventures with the Hodag. Last holiday season, he wrote and illustrated

a book for kids, where each page was displayed in a downtown retailer's window. Children and parents could follow the book as they strolled Rhinelander's main street. In 2020, Barnett became Alderman for the 1st Ward of Rhinelander. He sits on a newly formed City Council. He is the Lead Coordinator for the Oneida County Fair, and also plays Santa for the City of Rhinelander and Chamber of Commerce.

So, if you are looking for inspiration, feeling creative, or just want to try something new, give Tom a visit at Tom's Drawing Board, 52 North Brown Street in Rhinelander. 715-420-1001

**SAFE, CLEAN AND FAMILY FRIENDLY DINING!**

**PLUS ALWAYS DELICIOUS**

**Food**

**\$5 OFF**

Bring This Coupon to receive \$5.00 off your \$25.00 food or drink order. Coupon Expires 3/31/2021

**ORDER NOW**

**715 369 5645**

[BackwatersBarAndGrill.com](http://BackwatersBarAndGrill.com)

4920 Hwy 47, Rhinelander

Made with PosterMyWard.com

**BACKWATERS**

**Bar and Grill**

**Local Favorite Broasted Chicken, In-House smoked BBQ Ribs, Pulled Pork and Brisket! Delicious Friday Fish Fry, Specialty Burgers and Wraps, Steak, Shrimp, Broasted Pork Chop and much more!**

# POETRY OF THE NORTH

I Will Swallow The Universe.

I will swallow the universe.  
Become whole. Be singularity.  
Unending paradoxes, now the primer for structure  
and reason.  
My own re-creation of the stellar soup of knowledge.  
With uncertainty now at large, I have allowed you to  
leave your planet, and become one...  
You can choose to inhale wisdom and bleed rain-  
bows.  
Run for a million lives and still not look old.  
You can be a paragon or parasite. Choices galore.  
The universe is to ocean as I am to shore.  
You peer out and see only me inside.  
You'll join me in journeys to stretch thin the mind....  
In places...  
Where the next great snapshot grows in your eyes.

Poems by Ross "Woodsy" Wallace

Wisco colors show vividly through.

Whether Autumn's Reds  
Winter's Whites  
Or the lovely hues of Spring's and Summer's blues.

Wisco colors vividly shine through.

It's in our hearts to eat hearty and often do.  
Washing down treats, wine, and brew with old  
friends and new.

Wisco colors become part of you.



**Danner's**  
Shoe Store

Third Generation Family Owned  
Quality, custom fit footwear with personalized service.  
32 W. Davenport Street, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 715-362-3704



# PICKLED FISH RECIPE

By Sharon Olson of Lake Tomahawk, WI

Cut fish into 1-2" chunks, drain and rinse. Continue 2 times to drain and rinse over 2-4 days and soak in cold water.

Brine:

Simmer the following:

1 and 2/3 cup white vinegar

2/3 cup water

1 and 2/3 cup sugar

Add 2 tablespoons pickle spice, 2 teaspoons mustard seed and simmer 10 more minutes.

Cool and add 1 cup white wine.

If you like it spicy, add 1 tablespoon cayenne pepper.

Layer fish with onions and Brine. Seal up in containers and store in refrigerator about 5 days before serving.

ENJOY!



Located in the  
**Quality Collision Center**  
1500 Chippewa Drive  
Rhineland, WI  
715-420-0671  
[ppowersports@yahoo.com](mailto:ppowersports@yahoo.com)

**The Northwoods area Independent Powersports Repair Facility**

## ***WE REPAIR...***

- **Motorcycles (Dirt & Street)**
- **ATV's • UTV's • Snowmobiles**

We offer several services like general maintenance, tires, plows, ATV/UTV Track systems, OEM and aftermarket parts and accessories, complete engine rebuilds, 4 cycle cylinder head resurrounding, Crankshaft rebuilds, Cylinder boring, Performance modifications, tuning "carb and ECU". We also rebuild shocks as well as motorcycle restoration. We also offer Motorcycle Dyno Tuning, Race prepping and custom UTV Roll Cages. We also stock VP Racing fuel and offer custom paint work on motorcycles and plastic repair. We pride ourselves on doing the job right the first time and in a timely fashion. We're located in the rear of the Quality Collision Center building at 1500 Chippewa Drive. Stop by today to get your toys back in action or to schedule maintenance just in time for the season.

*Service all-terrain vehicles. Call to set appointment.*





# THE NORTHWOODS IN MUSIC



Tuck Pence Performing  
Photo credit Ty Helbach

This first installment brought to you by local Northwoods musician Scott Kirby

## Tuck Pence

If there was a name that immediately brought forth an expansive recall of memories throughout the collective consciousness of those who have experienced favorable times north of

Hwy 8, I would put a few pence on the "Jackpine Savage" myself. "Wait.. what?!"

"The only times I lived in my van was by choice" - in the words of Jerry Jeff Walker.

"Contrary to the ordinary, the stuff I've done on purpose you can't make that s\*\*\* up"

Tuck Pence has been a musician and entertainer, his entire life. His first paying gig was at 16. While he's never gotten rich at it, he's been able to carve out a life from it.

In 1977, Bruce Wayne Pence; graduated from Rhinelander High and while his music has taken him all over, he's happy to call the Northwoods of Wisconsin his home.

"I don't write songs on the guitar I just write them in this vast expanse of (the) abyss and then try an' figure out the details later" Tuck Pence has said.

He's admitted to writing more than a song or two in his (deer hunting) treestand. The solitude of the situation is conducive to his process. While Tuck has plenty of reason to be proud of his catalogue of original works, he recently got some reassurance from an

inspirational contemporary; Steve Earle. When Tuck and Bernie Thompson traveled to Camp Copperhead in upstate New York, Pence had the opportunity to get some feedback from Earle himself & while constructive criticism was freely given, as was part of the point of the session; when Tuck finished his performance Steve pointedly remarked, "I wouldn't change a thing".

Tuck has made his career performing weekly in clubs and taverns throughout the Midwest but has also shared music festival and theater stages with the likes of :

Jeff Healy, George Straight, Kentucky Headhunters, David Allen Coe, Blue Oyster Cult, Cheap Trick, Ozark Mountain Daredevils, Lee Ann Rimes, Molly Hatchet, Great White and Bad Company.

The past few years have been difficult for Tuck- he experienced a pattern of minor strokes along with premature ventricular contractions. This derailed his ability to perform as usual.

The global pandemic has further prevented Tuck from making his living and performing in public.

Nowadays Tuck can be seen and heard like many musicians of the Covid era, Online.

You can Support Tuck by ordering merch and music from him by contacting him thru his facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/Tuckpencenorthwood-slegend](https://www.facebook.com/Tuckpencenorthwood-slegend)

There is also a Gofund me page found at [www.gofundme.com/f/tuck-pence-living-medical-expenses](https://www.gofundme.com/f/tuck-pence-living-medical-expenses)





# ONEIDA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

By Jaclene Tetzlaff

The first thing that struck me as I entered the Oneida County Humane Society was, "Wow, it's so clean in here." Yes, the place is immaculate, bright, comfortable, and clearly offers a safe haven to animals in need of a home. The facility has capacity for 35 dogs and 60 cats, in addition to the small animal room for rabbits, guinea pigs, and occasional others. I slowly walked through the hallways, being followed by a few curious cats, and made my way to the back yard. It's completely fenced-in for a good game of ball playing. At the time, "Jax," a large Shepherd/Dane mix was playing with a pal. Any dog big or small could easily get a good workout in this large space. It was a sunny day, and Jax' glossy black coat shined in the sun as he romped around after a ball. He is a friendly guy, and quickly spied me, so he ran up and expected treats. After showing me-- several times-- how he could sit nicely for a treat, we went back inside to visit some cats.

Those curious cats were waiting for me and rubbed against my legs, purring and saying, "Take me home with you." There were also several sleepy cats in their crates who mustered enough energy to open their eyes and say, "Hi." Irresistibly cute were the young kittens that had just come in to the shelter. Their bright eyes and fluffy little bodies were adorable as they blinked at me through their cage.

The small animal room had volunteer visitors who were snuggling a Fluffle of bunnies. Yes, you read that right. A group of bunnies is called a Fluffle. These were all black and ready for a home and someone to love.

The executive director, Bria Swartout, leads a small staff of two full-timers and three

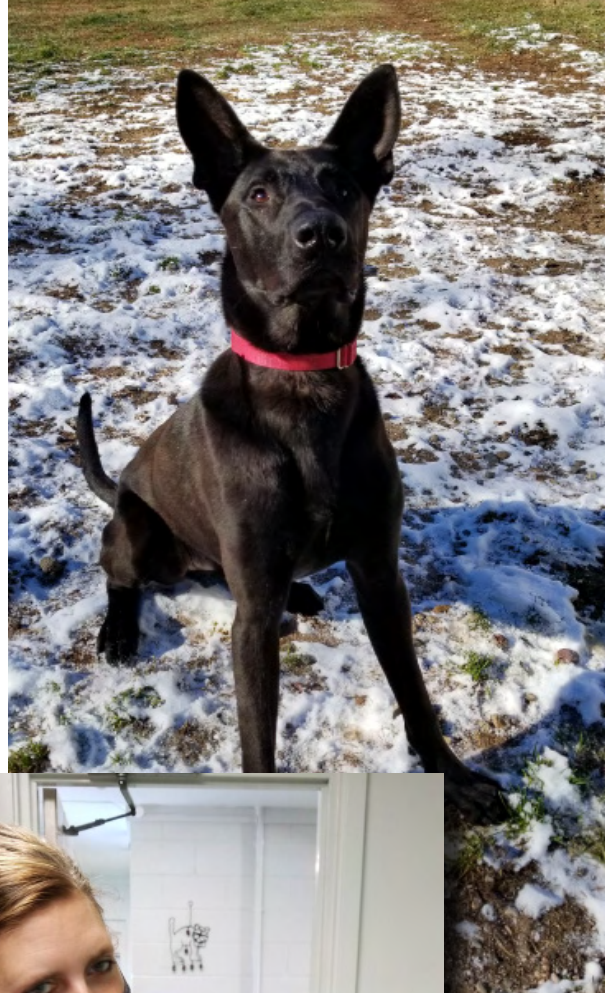
part-timers. Volunteers vary. Duties run the gamut from caretaking to fundraising. The OCHS is a private non-profit, which means that they mostly depend on donations and adoption fees in order to operate. A third of the operating budget comes as fees from the city and county in return for services provided such as rabies quarantines, and assistance to law enforcement. The OCHS is on call 24/7 for an animal in need. They take in all strays and surrenders and are a No-kill shelter. The animals taken into the shelter receive any necessary veterinary care such as spay, neuter, vaccinations, heartworm tests, and feline leukemia tests. They have seen an increase in animal surrenders due to an inability by the owner to afford needed surgery. Due to the Covid virus, much needed fund-raising activities and events have been curtailed, and as a result, funds are down. Normally, the most successful event has been the "Fur Ball," a dinner program with silent and live auction items. Now, The OCHS is offering on-line gift baskets and packages from local vendors. Please follow The Oneida County Humane Society on Facebook for more opportunities to purchase for donations.

To adopt an animal, first go to the website, [www.ochspets.org](http://www.ochspets.org). Call to make an appointment, 715-362-5992. An OCHS staffer will conduct an interview and arrange for you to meet the animal. If you rent a home, they will ask to check with the landlord to make sure it is OK to have a pet. All dogs will be Vet-checked before leaving the shelter, per State law.

Above all, The OCHS is a place for new beginnings. One of Bria's favorite stories is

of “Sonja,” a shepherd mix who had been in and out of several homes, but returned each time to the shelter. “We were conducting a program in conjunction with the NcNaughton Correctional Facility. Inmates would come and work with the dogs as part of their rehabilitation. One man fell in love with Sonja. She looked for him each time the bus pulled up. He told me that when he got out, he was going to come back to adopt Sonja. And he did. They are together forever and very happy. Both of them made some behavioral mistakes in the past, but found an understanding in each other.” Stories like this one keeps Bria going every day, and this community is the better for it. Thank you, Bria and staff for all you do for the animals.

Oneida County Humane Society  
1852 North Stevens Street  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
715-362-5992  
[www.ochspets.org](http://www.ochspets.org)



🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾

**Pawz n' Clawz**

Natural Pet Food and Grooming

1012 Lincoln St.  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
715-362-5163

Hours Mon-Fri 9-6, Saturday 9-4  
closed on Sunday

🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾 🐾



# HAPPENINGS IN THE NORTHWOODS

## Lights of the Northwoods

The good folks of Rhinelander were very busy in the month of December. The downtown lights and globes were erected and shone brightly, and local store owners on Brown Street decorated their windows with the spirit of the season.

The Lights of the Northwoods put on their best show ever this year. Many volunteers contributed their time and efforts to set up the holiday delight in Hodag Park. On January 1, a spectacular fireworks display was held for all to see. A record amount of food and monetary donations were collected to help the hungry.



Karen Marquardt, Volunteer Coordinator  
with Tracey Conner and Lindsey



Mike Fees





30th Annual Rainbow Ice Fishing Jamboree  
January 9th 2021

30 years ago Ed Choinski's parents, owners of the Lone Pine Resort founded the Rainbow Ice Fishing Jamboree. This year, a record 453 holes were sold at \$25 each, with proceeds benefitting Lake Tomahawk Fire Dept and the Sno-Fleas, What a great turnout!



Michelle McGreal with 3 month old Blue and her catch of the day



Terry Penfield,  
Mike Newcomb,  
Don Penfield



Doug Rehm  
keeping score



Ed Choinski and Dan Conopacky  
Organizers of the tournament

## MORE...

February 13th - Rhinelander Lions Club annual fishery, Boom Lake. For info call 715-256-7627

February 13th - Bikini racing and radar run at Slo's Pub, Big Arbor Vitae Lake. For info call 715-358-3006

February 20th - Turkey Bowling and Soup Cook off, Flyin' Finn Pub and Resort. For info call 715-369-3647

*Have an event you would like us to feature? Email us at [jjtetzlaff@gmail.com](mailto:jjtetzlaff@gmail.com)*



# REFLECTIONS FROM A DEER STAND

By Dan Hagen

I leaned back in my seat very slowly. Even still, an audible rustle emanated from my neon orange pants adjusting slightly on my heated seat. As soon as I found my comfortable position, I fell completely still. The only thing I moved for a half hour were my eyes darting back and forth. It was the second day of my first ever gun deer season, and the novelty of it all kept my focus, razor sharp. The first day I had seen a doe. I only had a buck tag so I kept perfectly still while she passed right underneath my deer stand. She didn't even notice me. When I see a buck, I thought, he's mine. So I sat there, occasionally moving my head slowly to make sure that rustling was indeed a squirrel, and occasionally shifting to a new sitting position. My steady breath dissipated in the frigid air in front of me. I wondered why breath was

visible in the winter. Those are water particles right? Why don't they show up in summer? One thought shifts to the next thought, and I forget where I am. Instead of sitting 20 feet up in a tree, I'm transported to somewhere else entirely. During my reverie, my hand slips out of a glove absent-mindedly to tend to an itch. And then I hear it - a quick rustling of leaves. I jolt my head to the left and stare. An eight-point buck is staring directly back at me. In the few seconds it takes me to get my .270 up to my shoulder, the buck darts away. I look through my scope desperately but only see trees and leaves. I lift my head up from the scope just in time to catch the buck scampering out of sight. I mutter a few choice words under my breath as I continue to scan the trees. Only now do I realize my heart is pounding out of my chest.



**Trappers**  
Fireplace Gallery

Your Northwoods Fireplace Specialists

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

**715-337-2307**  
[www.trappersfireplacegallery.com](http://www.trappersfireplacegallery.com)

6 W. Wall Street  
Eagle River, WI 54321

**SimpliFire**  
Fire Made Simple

  
**VERMONT  
CASTINGS**

**QUADRA-FIRE** **HEAT & GLO**  
NOTHING BURNS LIKE A QUADRA-FIRE  
No one builds a better fire

The buck was gone. I had failed.

A week later, I sat in my stand for one last time. I had not seen nor heard a deer since my tragic encounter. The first weekend, I had heard gunshots almost constantly. Now, back sore from sitting all day and all week, I hadn't heard a single one. What was once a white-hot passionate anger at missing my chance, had now simmered down to a dull disappointment. I wasn't going to bag a buck. But as the sun set on gun deer season, the thought of my failure became... almost soothing. First off, I convinced myself (through years of practice) that to try and fail is better than to never try at all. Second, today's society is filled with nuance and complexity. In a world of grayscale,

I found something black and white. With the sun clearly down, I unloaded my gun and descended from my deer stand one last time. Truly engrossed in my thoughts now, I realized it was a failure that connected me to my prehistoric ancestors - returning from a hunt with nothing to show for it. And if any of my ancestors, even just one, would've given up after a failed hunt, I wouldn't be here. They tried and failed and tried and failed until they found success. As I walked back to my car, I felt what I'm sure they felt. A burning desire to make things right, to accomplish whatever I set out to do. I vowed to be back in 2021 better than ever. And I am bagging that buck.



**metro**  
*Screenprinting & Embroidery*

METRO SCREENPRINTING & EMBROIDERY.  
FOUNDED IN 1994 BY NICK METROPULOS

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



# We would like to thank our fine local sponsors

Photo by Ann Breuer

Backwaters Bar & Grill  
Danner's Shoe Store  
Dalquist Heating & Cooling  
Diane's Frame Shoppe  
Domino's Pizza  
Forth Floral  
Mel's Trading Post  
Metro Screenprinting & Embroidery  
Northwoods Auto Techs  
Pawz & Clawz  
Precision Powersports  
Sherwin Williams Paints  
Todd Johnson, Real Estate Broker  
Trappers Fireplace Gallery

