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**RHINELANDER PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**

ADVOCATES FOR OUR COMMUNITY  
rhinelanderpie.com

Fall, 2011

# Hodag PRIDE

News and information from the Rhinelander education community

## Northwoods Community Elementary School receives "Green Gift" from Cellcom

Northwoods Community Elementary School (NCES) received a green gift from Cellcom in the amount of \$500 at a presentation at the school on Oct. 20.

NCES is a project-based charter school that focuses on areas of environmental education and technology and was established in 2004. The school has a nature trail on two acres of property near the school.

"We are very excited to be selected as a green gift recipient," said Teri Phalin, NCES principal. "The funds will help us install educational signage on our nature trail to help students, parents, teachers



*SUBMITTED PHOTO*

Students from Northwoods Community Elementary School and representatives from Cellcom in Rhinelander celebrated the "Green Gift" from Cellcom to the school on Oct. 20.

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Follow the School District of Rhinelander's Community Education Program on Facebook at [facebook.com/SDRCommunityEd](https://www.facebook.com/SDRCommunityEd).

Receive the weekly Hodag Pride e-newsletter! Register by emailing Kim Swisher, Community Education Coordinator, at [swishkim@rhinelander.k12.wi.us](mailto:swishkim@rhinelander.k12.wi.us).

and the community identify the native plants, trees, and animals found in the area."

NCES has organized two trail work nights for students, teachers and parents to plan and create the nature trail pathway. In the future, the school plans to have students develop a nature trail guide incorporating the information found on the signs to share with the community. There will also be student led tours for the parents and community to share knowledge with others.

A total of \$30,950 was given out to 17 green organizations in Cellcom's service area.

Since 2004, Cellcom has

offered a cell phone recycling program where customers can bring in their old or unwanted phones to be reused and recycled. Cellcom sends the phones to recyclers who in return send money to Cellcom for the materials that were saved from the phones. Cellcom has always donated this money back to local non-profits.

This is the second year that Cellcom is donating their recycling funds to green, non-profit initiatives in an effort to complete the green cycle that starts with consumers being environmentally-conscious and donating their devices.

"We are constantly tak-

ing steps to become more eco-friendly as a company," said Brighid Riordan, director of public affairs. "By dedicating our recycling money to green initiatives, Cellcom continues our longstanding commitment to the community and together we can work toward a greener tomorrow."

Other green gifts went to non-profits throughout Cellcom's service area and included Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary (Green Bay), Preble Agriscience Natural Resources Program (Green Bay), Greater Green Bay YMCA Camp U-Nah-Li-Ya (Suring), Trees for Tomorrow (Eagle River), Friends of Mosquito Hill (New

London), Heckrodt Wetland Reserve (Menasha), Northwoods Elementary School (Rhinelander), CAP Services (Stevens Point), Central Rivers Farmshed (Stevens Point), Woodland Dunes Nature Center (Two Rivers), Whitefish Dunes State Park (Sturgeon Bay), The Ridges Sanctuary (Bailey's Harbor), Oconto River Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Camp Tekawitha (Shawano), Crivitz High School Science Club, DC Everest School Forest (Schofield), and Marathon High School Ecology Club.

Cellcom's recycling program has generated over \$105,000 for local charities over the past seven years.

## From the Superintendent PAR visits the School District of Rhinelander

By *ROGER ERDAHL*

**SUPERINTENDENT, SCHOOL  
DISTRICT OF RHINELANDER**



Recently, two members of the PAR group spent two days in Rhinelander conducting focus groups on how various citizens perceive the school district. This is the first step in developing our new strategic plan.

PAR is short for Prepare, Assess and Report, and is an arm of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards. As we approached the strategic planning process, our board directed us to obtain support from an outside source that could come to Rhinelander and evaluate our effectiveness from a different perspective.

The WASB website summarizes the work of PAR as follows:

“When a school system becomes involved in PAR, experienced WASB consultants will examine key operational areas. Through a systemic analysis, specific recommendations are provided which help focus the hard decision-making about the best use of limited district resources to most effectively improve student achievement.”

In addition to reviewing the available docu-

ments the district keeps, the PAR group conducted about a dozen focus groups from various cohorts in the community. In addition to staff members, business leaders, parents, retirees and other groups were asked to participate in a focus group where their perceptions were gathered. Citizens were nominated by members of the Board of Education.

Upon completion of phase one, the focus group process, the PAR group said they gained several insights about our community and how it perceives its schools. Phase Two will be compiling their report and meeting with the Board again to summarize their findings.

The district will have further announcements on the next step in the development of our new strategic plan.

## Join us, become a member of Rhinelander's Partners In Education

By *LEAH VAN ZILE*

**PRESIDENT, RHINELANDER  
PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**



The mission of Rhinelander Partners In Education is to promote student success while providing enriched learning opportunities with a common understanding that the success of our future workforce and community relies on the education students receive today. Your \$25 membership sends a strong message to our schools and community that we are serious about preparing our children for the 21st century.

We are proud to have developed a relationship with the school district which has created meaningful interactions between students and the business community such as:

- Mad City Money, an interactive, financial literacy experience for high school students budgeting for a home and family.
- Careers on Wheels, a hands-on show and tell experience for intermediate grade students learning about different careers and they vehicles they use.
- K-2 Career Day, a new program still in development that focuses on career awareness for elementary students.
- Business Network, a database of local business and community professionals who are interested in speaking to students about their areas of expertise or giving tours at their local businesses.
- Career Pathways planning, an initiative that

redesigns school curriculum and student focus to include the 17 Wisconsin career pathways and a career readiness certificate. All interested members are invited to work with district teachers and staff to establish career pathway planning. This will give our youth all the opportunities to be prepared for the 21st century upon graduation, no matter what their after-high school plan may be.

All of these initiatives along with our quarterly newspaper, *Hodag Pride*, require volunteer and financial support. And as we continue to grow our business network, we are encouraging all business and community members to join PIE and share in our message that the business community cares about our schools and our students. It has been proven across the country that an interested and involved business community has improved academic achievement, school attendance, career planning, student enrichment, and self image.

Please take this opportunity to be kept informed and make a difference in the future generations of our children and our potential workforce. We need each and every one of you. Join now. Membership is only \$25. The application can be found at [rhinelanderpie.com](http://rhinelanderpie.com).

Rhinelander Partners In Education is a formal, not-for-profit organization. Currently our board members and other financial supporters include:

- AmericInn of Rhinelander
- Aspirus
- Boyd Financial Services
- Cellcom
- The City of Rhinelander
- Digital Windmill ITC
- Downtown Rhinelander, Inc.
- Dressing With Intention
- Dynamic Personalities
- Forward Service Corp.
- Headwaters Inc.
- Heck Capital Advisors
- The Kiwanis Club of Rhinelander
- M&I Bank
- Ministry Health Care

- Nativity Catholic School
- NewsoftheNorth.net
- Nicolet College
- Northland Orthopedic Associates
- One Prospect Technologies
- Printpack
- Ripco Credit Union
- The Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce
- The Rhinelander Police Department
- Rhinelander Schools Education Foundation
- The School District of Rhinelander
- Spine & Sport
- The *Star Journal/Hodag Buyers' Guide*
- The Oneida County UW-Extension
- Wisconsin Public Service Corp.
- The YMCA of the Northwoods

For more information, call me at (715) 369-7179, or email [LMvanzile@wisconsinpublicservice.com](mailto:LMvanzile@wisconsinpublicservice.com).

## Vets honored at NCSS



HODAG PRIDE PHOTO BY KIM SWISHER

Northwoods Community Secondary School (NCSS) recently hosted a Veterans Day luncheon. Rhinelander and Korean Conflict veteran Mayor Dick Johns and several other Rhinelander area veterans joined NCSS staff and students for a great meal and tasty desserts!

**Hodag Pride is published for the  
Rhinelander educational community by:**

**STAR  
JOURNAL** & **HODAG  
BUYERS' guide**

Craig Mandli, Editor  
[cmandli@jcpgrp.com](mailto:cmandli@jcpgrp.com)

# One Prospect Technologies donates \$100,000 to Hodag Facilities Foundation



SUBMITTED PHOTO

School District of Rhinelander officials and One Prospect representatives recently celebrated the company's \$100,000 donation. Pictured from left, front, are Eugene Shawano, FCP Tribal Administrator; Mary Peterson, Rhinelander Board of Education; Charlie LaHam, RHS Activities Director and Hodag Facilities Foundation member; James Crawford, FCP Executive Council Vice Chair; and Roger Erdahl, District Superintendent; back, Ron Counter, Board of Education; Brad Kowieski, One Prospect; Marta Kwiatkowski, District Business Manager; Jason Neilitz, One Prospect; and Brad Brunsch, One Prospect.

One Prospect Technologies has announced a \$100,000 donation to the Hodag Facilities Foundation capital campaign to improve facilities at Rhinelander High School.

The significant contribution will support students in developing a strong foundation in technology, most notably through the One Prospect Technologies Digital Media Center. The high-tech digital media center will feature a more effective learning environment where students will access the latest computer technology and digital applications, including an audio/video lab.

"Things have changed dramatically in the last 40 years—whether it's automation in the factory, automation in the kitchen, or automation at the paper mill, you need to be able to operate in these environments," said Rhinelander High School graduate Brad Kowieski, who is the vice president of sales and business development at One Prospect. "By implementing strong technology at the school, it gives kids a good foundation to build upon."

The \$100,000 donation will be given part in cash and part in-kind, and is a good fit for the technology firm that has been serving school districts for almost 11 years. The company recently launched Cloud Spirit, a virtual desktop infrastructure product that dramatically reduces costs for school districts and allows students to access their data and run necessary programs

from anywhere.

"Cloud Spirit allows 8-12-year-old computers to act as if they are brand new," said Jason Neilitz, founder and CEO of One Prospect Technologies. "What school districts run into is there are so many different versions of software applications and this keeps it all standard." Cloud Spirit provides centralized management and centralized storage, allowing access anytime and anywhere. It also helps schools with their budgeting cycles. Schools can extend the life of the computers up to 12 years, providing much needed cost savings.

"The foundation of what school districts are setup to do is to provide a top-of-the-line education to the students," continued Neilitz. "The kids are the ones that get affected in a lot of the budget cuts. I think what the HFF has done is setting the standard for other school districts and communities. If you focus your energy on the kids and give them as much as you possibly can, that's a good thing."

One Prospect Technologies is owned by the Forest County Potawatomi. "The Potawatomi believe in 'community first'," explained Neilitz. "They are very excited about the difference we are making, as well."

For more information, or to get involved, visit the Hodag Facilities Foundation website at [hodagfacilities.com](http://hodagfacilities.com), or email [info@hodagfacilities.com](mailto:info@hodagfacilities.com).

## Following up: Our role in this community

BY BRAD BRUNSCH  
VICE PRESIDENT OF  
SALES AND BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT, ONE  
PROSPECT TECHNOLOGIES



Recently One Prospect Technologies received media attention for our donation to the Hodag Facilities Foundation for naming rights to the Digital Media Center at Rhinelander High School. While we are proud to be able to support our district monetarily, our organization is part of the district in so many important ways.

One Prospect Technologies is proud to have served communities in the Northwoods for more than 10 years. We focus on supporting schools, tribes and businesses with technology solutions that help bring the Northwoods to the forefront of technology. As taxpayers in the community in which we work, we want competitive schools for our families and community. We've long supported making our schools stronger through our work and have contributed time and effort to school groups and functions because we know technology is a vital tool in education today.

We are also parents in the district. Like many, we are concerned about the cost and quality of education in our community. Our team doesn't believe in an 'any tax for schools is fine' approach. We believe in prudent fiscal management while maximizing educational benefits for the kids. We know better technology in our schools will change how education is delivered, and give us more "bang for the buck." For that reason, when we talk technology with the district, it's with the true intent of improving the district, not just providing more technology.

We also commit time and effort to organizations that support the district in different capacities beyond promoting technology. Our employees serve on the Hodag Facilities Foundation Board, Partners in Education (PIE) Board, donate website development time and have worked aggressively for the improvement of our district through promotion. This is time we are allowed to donate during the work day, but we also dedicate many hours of personal time outside of work hours, all of which exemplifies our commitment to the district.

In addition to the School District of Rhinelander, we are extremely proud to work with the school districts Crandon and Wabeno. We love our communities, and love having an impact on schools, businesses and individuals. And how great is it that when we travel throughout the country, we can tell the story of the Hodag? We can't wait to see the school's updating completed, but even more, can't wait to see what students do with all that will be available in the next 10 years.

We know this is just the beginning.

## Louisiana Pacific donates \$26,000 for work at CAVOC

Louisiana Pacific Tomahawk Plant recently donated more than \$26,000 in materials for the Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC).

The School Board gratefully accepted the donation at their October meeting, and thanked Steve Graeber and Ben Mehring of LP for their generosity and support of the CAVOC expansion project.

Shown in the photo is Steve Graeber (LP Tomahawk), Ben Mehring (LP Tomahawk and 2001 Graduate of RHS), Russ Germain and Bob LeFebvre.

The donated materials are being used for the expansion of the Rominsky Lodge. Construc-



From left are Steve Graeber and Ben Mehring from Louisiana Pacific, Building Trade instructor Russ Germain and Bob LeFebvre.

HODAG PRIDE PHOTO BY KIM SWISHER

tion is being done by students in the Building and Trades (Technology and Engineering) program.

Updated information on the Rominsky Lodge expansion can be viewed on the District's website at [rhinelander.k12.wi.us/cavoc/](http://rhinelander.k12.wi.us/cavoc/).

## MOCK and Kinship to partner

Kinship of the North and the School District of Rhinelander have announced they have entered into an agreement that will increase opportunities for mentors to meet with students.

MOCK, Mentoring Oneida County Kids, is a school-based program that brings together adults and students to share interests, conversation and each other's company. Kinship of the North is a similar organization that allows the relationship to expand outside of the classroom. "MOCK has provided adults the opportunity to meet with students during school hours, and we will continue to offer this. The relationship with Kinship of the North will allow mentors to expand their meeting time with students to include after school, evenings and on weekends," said Tim Howell, MOCK program coordinator and Principal of Central School.

For more information on Kinship, call Elaine Boan-snick at (715) 362-2273, or mail Kinship of the North, Inc., P.O. Box 1282, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

For more information on MOCK, call Howell at (715) 365-9600, or mail MOCK c/o Central School, 418 North Pelham St., Rhinelander, WI 54501.

## Our Community Partners

# A commitment to the community

By JODI HANSON

**PUBLIC & COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER, MINISTRY HEALTH CARE**



Ministry Health Care has been in this community since 1891 when the people of Rhinelander, realizing the need for a local hospital, set up a boarding house on the corner of King and Pelham streets, west of St. Mary's church, as the first Rhinelander hospital. Over the years the location where health care services were available may have changed but Ministry's continued commitment to this community has not changed.

Catholic Health Care has its origins in a faith-based response to the health care needs of the poor and other vulnerable people. Each year, Ministry Health Care organizations contribute thousands of hours and millions of dollars of health care services to our local communities. This commitment and dedication makes Ministry organizations agents of change in the effort to achieve the common good for the communities we serve and society. Community benefit programs go beyond the normal health care services and are intended to help meet needs of local community with a focus on services to the poor and underserved.

In fiscal year 2010, Ministry Sacred Heart-

Saint Mary's Hospital and Ministry Medical Group community benefit expenses and contributions totaled \$26,608,221.

Following is a breakdown of this total:

- \$23,289,543 for unpaid costs of Medicare and Medicaid
- \$2,913,220 worth of free and discounted hospital care
- \$326,259 in support for community programs and special projects
- \$79,199 to support education and research related activities.

Not only does Ministry's care and commitment to a healthy community happen inside the hospital and clinic walls. Ministry Health Care employees keep patients first in everything they do by living the mission to "further the healing ministry of Jesus by continually improving the health and well being of all people, especially the poor, in the communities we serve."

Annually Ministry's staff is committed to helping the Rhinelander education community in many ways. Following are a few examples:

- Ministry Saint Mary's Hospital provides athletic training services for Rhinelander High School athletics.
- Ministry Saint Mary's Hospital staff and Ministry Medical Group providers partner with

the Rhinelander School District to provide the Medical Services Academy.

- Ministry providers and staff provide free pre-participation sports physicals for athletes in the sixth through the 12th grade.

- For the past 4 years, Ministry Health Care supported with staff and funding the Healthy People Healthy Oneida County 4th Grade Nutrition and Fitness Challenge.

- For the past 4 years, Ministry Saint Mary's Hospital Volunteers funded the Rhinelander School District Kindergarten Oral Education program.

- Each year in September, Ministry Rehabilitation Services Occupational and Physical Therapists host a backpack "weigh-in" at James Williams Middle School, Nativity of Our Lord Catholic School and Zion Evangelical Lutheran School to encourage students to "lighten up."

As you can see, annually the wide array of benefits provided to the communities Ministry serves and the Rhinelander School District is substantial. However, this vast community benefit is often not understood by key audiences or the public.

For more information, call me at (715) 361-2874, or email [jodi.hanson@ministryhealth.org](mailto:jodi.hanson@ministryhealth.org).



# MINISTRY HEALTH CARE

Sponsor of this issue of *Hodag Pride*

# The value of student internships and volunteer experience



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chrissy Peterson, a student at Nicolet Area technical College, is currently working as an intern with the Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce.

By *CHRISSEY PETERSON*  
**INTERN, RHINELANDER AREA  
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

What is an internship? I define it by saying it is a hands-on work and school correlated learning experience where I can develop experience in my occupational field of choice.

Benjamin Franklin said, "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."

I agree with Ben, and can tell you there is no better learning experience than on-the-job training, something I am getting as an intern at the Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce. As an intern, the responsibilities, such as writing, database management, web page maintenance, communications, project management and event preparation are a few of the skills I am learning.

At the Rhinelander Chamber, I have been involved in a variety of projects. Most recently, I have been working with the Chamber staff to introduce a new service to the Rhinelander Area called Hodag Volunteer Connection. This service will assist businesses and organizations to find volunteers, and also help Rhinelander area community members find volunteer opportunities. The Hodag Volunteer Connection has a link on the Rhinelander Chamber homepage for anyone interested

in this new service. The website allows businesses to develop profiles and add events for volunteers. Volunteers looking for ways to help can log on, set up an account, and begin to search the area for volunteer opportunities. This project is teaching me project management and skills in office procedures. I am very excited to be involved with such an important project for the community. The positive impact it will bring to all involved has given me a sense of how important helping others really is.

Working in an environment such as the Chamber has enhanced my customer service skills with businesses, community members, and visitors. In addition, this relevant work experience will help me build an excellent resume for when I am out of the classroom and searching for a job.

I believe that as a student, I bring a fresh perspective and innovative ideas to the job and exude a contagious level of energy and excitement to the staff, the customers, and the community. The methods I am learning at Nicolet College go hand-in-hand with what I am learning on the job. My experiences have been positive and yes, also a lot of fun! I will encourage other students to take advantage of the internship process and opportunities available at the chamber and other area businesses.

## A great summer with Upward Bound

This summer, 28 Upward Bound students spent six weeks participating in the Upward Bound Summer Program. Upward Bound (UB) is a federally funded, pre-college program for first-generation, low-income students from Crandon, Elcho, Laona, Rhinelander, Three Lakes and Wabeno high schools.

The UB Summer Program focuses on giving students a simulated college experience. Students spent five weeks at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River, and completed advanced high school course work, participated in community service and work-study, and received special presentations and tours. The last week of the summer program was spent on a trip to Minneapolis, Minn. Students visited various campuses such as UM-Twin Cities and UW-River Falls. They also toured the Wabasha Street Caves, went to the Science Museum of Minnesota, spent time at the Mall of America and much more.

A very special thank you to all the students and counselors for their hard work. Organizers are already planning great things for summer program 2012. **Upward Bound currently has 17 openings for the program.** They work with students throughout the academic year and in summer to help them be successful in high school and post-secondary education.

If you are a 9th or 10th grader from any of the high schools served and would like to join, call (715) 478-5480.

**For more information on  
 the Rhinelander Education  
 Community, or to get  
 involved, visit:  
 RhinelanderPIE.com**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students enjoy a little fun at Little Bohemia in Manitowish Waters during this past summer's Upward Bound program.

# Nativity Catholic School named 'Largest in the Diocese'

By *SHIRLEY HEISE*  
PRINCIPAL, NATIVITY  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

When athletic programs are successful in their given conferences or leagues, the chant of "We're number one! We're number one!" rings throughout the town. And while the staff, students, and families of our parish school did not start shouting this well-known expression, there was certainly a great deal of excitement when Father John Gerrits, Pastor at Nativity of Our Lord Parish, made the announcement that Nativity Catholic had become the largest school in the Diocese of Superior. The scales of the friendly rivalry between Nativity Catholic and St. Patrick's, of Hudson had finally tipped our way.

For the past 11 years, the enrollment at Nativity Catholic has steadily increased. This year, the student enrollment reached 323, the highest it has been since 1990. This news is wonderful, not only

for Nativity Catholic, but for the school district and community of Rhinelander. As the number of new families in our community increases, we also reap the benefits of having more students in our classrooms and programs, as well as employees in business, manufacturing and wellness-related fields.

Educating children takes the involvement of everyone. Those students that attend Zion Lutheran and Nativity Catholic spend their days immersed not only in the academic rigors required of today's education, but in developing and living the gifts of their respective faiths. For those students attending public and charter schools, students are provided with quality programs designed to teach the academic and technical skills that young people will need as they grow and prepare to enter the workforce. And intertwined among all of this are the dedicated teachers, support staffs, and administrators that give their time and their



*SUBMITTED PHOTO*

Several Nativity School students join principal Shirley Heise, back, right, in celebrating the school's recent designation at the largest school in Diocese of Superior.

hearts to the business of educating your youth.

So as I ask that you join us in celebrating this moment of success and excitement at Nativity Catho-

lic, know that I also ask you to celebrate the great education taking place in our community of Rhinelander. Thank you for all the ways you support kids!

## Nicolet Environmental Science Academy introduces students to the college classroom

By *SUSAN KORDULA*  
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS/  
PK-16 PATHWAYS, NICOLET COLLEGE

Two Rhinelander High School students are among the lucky 24 students from seven area high schools who received scholarships in September to attend a new event at Nicolet College during five Saturdays this fall. The Environmental Science Academy, offered free to qualified students through a Precollege grant from the Department of Public Instruction, is designed to introduce 9th and 10th graders to career pathways in science and digital media arts and demonstrate what it's like to take classes on a college campus.

The hands-on academy is combining fun and learning as the students are tackling the very serious issue of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the northwoods. After literally "getting their feet wet" by searching for examples of invasive species on the campus' Lake Julia and getting a closer look at the samples in the biology lab, the students worked with science instructors from local high schools and Nicolet to identify and learn more about what they found. The students also spent time on other nearby lakes and rivers to learn firsthand from DNR staff and local AIS coordinators about what has been done to stop the growth of these invaders to northern Wisconsin waterways. Each Saturday, the stu-

dents have also been documenting their studies and trips taking digital video footage, which they will then edit in Nicolet's Digital Media lab as the other part of the academy's hands on experience. The final project will be a completed video on the problems of AIS in the northwoods, which will be posted on YouTube.

By interacting with students from across the Nicolet district, completing projects in the Nicolet classrooms and labs, and learning from college faculty what it could be like to continue studies in the area of science and digital media arts, Nicolet is hoping that the academy will prompt first generation college students and lower income students that continuing their education beyond high school is worthwhile.

Through the DPI grant, Nicolet will be opening two additional academy experiences to area freshmen and sophomores in late January for another five Saturdays. These will focus on career fields in health-related occupations and engineering and will accommodate almost 50 students from Nicolet's 11 high schools. Transportation to the Nicolet campus, lunch, and all materials are covered by the grant's scholarships to students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Rhinelander High School students, who are currently in 9th or 10th grade and are interested in attending either of the next two spring academies, should contact their high school guidance counselor for more information.

## Partnering—A long term investment: Spine & Sport

By *TIM THORSEN*  
SPINE & SPORT

Spine & Sport staff has been providing services for the School District of Rhinelander (SDR) for over 20 years, including athletic training, game coverage, free screenings and job shadowing opportunities for the Rhinelander School District. Our staff enjoys working with students/athletes and district personnel, and in helping students learn more about careers in physical therapy, sports medicine and/or athletic training.

Spine & Sport is available to help everyday aches and pains from concussions to ankle/toe injuries and everything in between. Spine & Sport's staff are not only well versed in a multitude of injury needs, but in prevention and proactive care. No matter what the job, activity or sport minimizing downtime is critical. Therapists at Spine & Sport use cutting edge techniques to help their patients return to their normal activities in a minimal amount of time. Our therapists teach home exercise programs so patients may continue their programs after being discharge from our care.

Another area Spine & Sport specializes in is Functional Movement Screens to keep athletes in top condition, reduce their risk

**SEE SPINE & SPORT, PAGE 7**

# Business and Educators—It's all about working together

By **ROBERT SJOBERG**  
**HUMAN BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST,  
 DYNAMIC PERSONALITIES**



PIE members are working on many different things but the most important one is to bridge the gap between school and the community and beyond, with all its businesses and opportunities for the students.

I, along with Aaron Panke of Rhinelander High School and Jackie Masters of Superior Diesel, put together a presentation and had the opportunity to share it with district educators at an in-service day at Rhinelander School District and Nativity Catholic School this past August.

As we followed the airborne pathogen presentation (we weren't sure if we needed a mask and latex gloves for our talk) we got ready to share our message and introduced each other. It was great to see other PIE members there like Jeremy Van Camp from Printpack who shared

a manufacturer's point of view as well.

The purpose of the short presentation was to heighten the awareness of teachers in the community that there are many businesses in the Rhinelander area that are more than willing to visit and assist the teachers in the classroom. Many business and community leaders are willing to work with the students and increase their understanding of the qualifications and skills necessary to be successful in the community. This also shows students that the community is interested in their abilities and potential.

Whether a student wants to continue on to college to further their education or not, there are many opportunities in our community for either decision.

Sometimes it is really hard to get across a message. But with a message this important we hope, through working together (business, education, community), our youth will have an idea of what to expect, what is available and more importantly what is required of them as they step outside the school and try to make a living.

Some say education is expensive and hard; I say not as much as ignorance. With times like these we need to prepare our students more than ever.

Since teachers spend more time with the student than most of the student's own parents, it's important to give them all the tools that are available. All members of PIE have a common understanding that the success of our future workforce and community relies on the education students receive today. So by working together in the community we assist the students in understanding the importance of the knowledge necessary to transition from school to the workplace.

We are an organization of people that wants to make a difference in the community.

To the educators in the community we say: Ask us and we will assist. For the students; be proactive. For anyone in the community that is committed to continued growth, improved schools, an educated workforce, have questions or just want to help: join PIE and contact us at [rhinelanderpie.com](http://rhinelanderpie.com).

Hodag Pride is brought to you by:



## Spine & Sport

continued from page 6

of injury and identify performance enhancing strategies. A Functional Movement Screen is a test to determine "how well you move" and discover hidden weaknesses before they affect performance or turn into injuries and deter an individual's potential. Research in the February 2010 Journal of Strength and Conditioning suggests that Functional Movement Screens can be "confidently used to assess the movement patterns of athletes and to make decisions related to interventions for performance enhancement...and assist in identifying those at risk for injury." By improving fundamental movement patterns and eliminating asymmetries, Spine & Sport Certified Athletic Trainer and Physical Therapists can set a solid foundation upon which the clients can improve performance.

Spine & Sport values our partnership with the SDR and would look forward to developing more cooperative efforts.

## Virtual program has a new name: Hodag Tracks

Hodag Tracks is a personal learning program for students in Kindergarten through grade 12. Our program offers flexible schedules and curriculum options with local support. Our goal is to help families create educational tracks of success for Rhinelander area students.

For grades K-5, Hodag Tracks is run through Northwoods Community Elementary School. These tracks use primarily a textbook-based approach, as we have found this to work best for this level of learner. Virtual students are welcome to join the traditional students at NCES for music, art, physical education, projects, field trips, and other special activities.

James Williams Middle School's Hodag Track has options for text-book based and online courses. The personal learning plan can include one of these options or a blended approach, which could include a mixture of those options along with some face-to-face courses. The Rhinelander High School's Hodag Track is very similar to the middle school track, but the most common learning plan is a blend of face-to-face courses with a few online courses mixed in. We partner with Wisconsin Virtual School and OdysseyWare to offer a wide variety of online course options.

Northwoods Community Secondary School offers a project-based Hodag Track for grades 6-12. One of the main focuses for this charter school is building a community of learners, so this track is a blended learning approach with some time spent at school working with an advisor and some time spent working on projects at home.

If you would like more information about Hodag Tracks, call Kandi Bartelt at (715) 365-9500, ext. 8509, or visit [rhinelander.k12.wi.us/Virtual.cfm](http://rhinelander.k12.wi.us/Virtual.cfm).



## CAVOC Fall Festival a success

By *SHIRLEY HEISE*

PRINCIPAL, NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The autumn weather was perfect, the surroundings were beautiful, and the Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom trails were filled with families making their way through the Rhinelander School District Forest.

Thanks to members of the School Forest Committee and district administration, this year's Fall Festival on Oct. 8, was a tremendous success. Hoping to have 300 people tour the facilities and spend time enjoying the great outdoors, the committee members were thrilled to have more than 1,000 people in attendance. Children, families and members of the community were able to stop at several stations set up to paint pumpkins and leaves, make candied apples and even learn to identify animal tracks, as a way to enjoy the day and the wonders of nature.

The School Forest Committee is making plans to host more opportunities for the community like this one, with a goal to have three or four events throughout the year. We are so fortunate to have this facility available to the students in our district during the school year and to showcase the efforts of those who have built the facilities, year round.

Presently, RHS students in the Building Trades program are working to expand Rominsky Lodge, creating even more space for groups to gather and spend time in this wonderful facility. Thanks to these young people and their teachers for sharing their talents for the benefit of others. A special thanks to the members of the School Forest Committee for their time and energy in bringing as awareness of this "jewel" of the district to all of us.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nicolet University Transfer graduates consistently comment on how well Nicolet prepared them for a four-year college or university. Science classes, like the one pictured here, are a staple in the college's Transfer program.

## 9th and 10th graders invited to academies at Nicolet College

With the successful Environmental Science Academy for ninth and 10th graders completed, Nicolet College is now putting the finishing touches on two more pre-college academies for early next year that focus on engineering and health occupations.

Both academies, also designed for high school freshmen and sophomores, will run simultaneously for five consecutive Saturdays, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25. The academies will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Nicolet's Rhinelander Campus. Each is designed to teach students engineering and health care skills, and also give them a chance to explore careers in these fields along with learning skills they will need to be successful in college.

"Everything will be designed around hands-on activities that are fun for students," said Susan Kordula, academy coordinator and director of Admissions and PK-16 Pathways at Nicolet College. "They'll learn a wide variety

of skills that will help them succeed in high school and also be better prepared academically when they start college."

Students in the Engineering Academy will learn the engineering design process to define, build, and test solutions to a variety of engineering problems. Those in the Health Occupations Academy will learn about and get to practice a wide variety of basic medical procedures on Nicolet's new, high-tech patient simulator known as Meti-Man.

Tuition for each academy is \$487; however, a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will cover all tuition costs for students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

For more information, or to register, students should contact their high school guidance counselors or Susan Kordula at (715) 365-4464 or (800) 544-3039, ext. 4464, or email [skordula@nicoletcollege.edu](mailto:skordula@nicoletcollege.edu).

## Nicolet University Transfer popular with bachelor's degree seekers

Easy credit transfer, affordable tuition, and quality academics are driving the solid enrollment trends in Nicolet College's University Transfer Liberal Arts program, where students complete the first two years of a bachelor's degree.

"More students are discovering that they can start at Nicolet and then transfer their Nicolet credits to just about any four-year college or university in the state," said Nicolet College President Elizabeth Burmaster. "This includes the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Nicolet has a unique partnership with the state's flagship university that guarantees admission to students in good standing who graduate from Nicolet's University Transfer Liberal Arts program."

Enrollment in the college's Transfer program, which is the largest program at Nicolet, increased 5 percent this fall compared to the fall of 2010.

Nicolet currently has 51 credit transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities that cover hundreds of different majors. These agreements are with all 13 of the University of Wisconsin four-year campuses as well as with numerous private colleges and universities.

Two of these agreements are with UW-Madison. Both the Connections Program and the Guaranteed Transfer Contract create smooth pathways for Northwoods students to study at a world-class university famous for its high admissions standards. Under the Connections Program, incoming freshmen who are accepted into UW-Madison enroll at both Nicolet and UW-Madison and enjoy all of the benefits each institution has to offer. This includes receiving a UW-Madison ID that grants access to UW-Madison libraries, recreational facilities, ability to purchase tickets to UW-Madison athletic events at student rates, and access to cultural and social events on the UW-Madison campus.

Under the Guaranteed Transfer Contract, Nicolet Transfer students can move on to UW-Madison if they declare their intent to do so before they earn 30 credits at Nicolet.

Under both programs, students must complete at least 54 credits at Nicolet and maintain at least a B average before they transition to UW-Madison where they are granted full junior status.

Kyle McLaughlin is one of the students who has taken advantage of Nicolet's easy credit transfer options and comparatively low tuition.

"I was able to save thousands of dollars by starting at Nicolet compared to what it would have cost if I had started at a four-year college," he said. "That was huge. My thinking was that you're paying for your education so you might as well get the best one for your money."

McLaughlin graduated from Nicolet's two-year University Transfer Liberal Arts associate degree program and promptly transferred all of his Nicolet credits to UW-Stevens Point. He graduated from there debt-free with a bachelor's degree in natural resources management, and is currently finishing his master's degree at UW-Stevens Point in the same field.

"Quality education and affordable tuition make the Transfer program very attractive, especially in these challenging economic times," President Burmaster explained. "When students do transfer, their Nicolet credits count just the same toward a bachelor's degree as those they would have earned starting at the four-year college."

Tuition in Nicolet's University Transfer Program is \$150 per credit—approximately half of what students pay at four-year campuses in the UW System.

Along with the tuition savings, McLaughlin was able to live at home while attending Nicolet, which also reduced costs. "That was a huge money-saver, living at home and not having to pay room and board," he said.