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## Catalytic converter thefts rising

### County investigators look for organized operations

By Dan Roherty  
NEENAH NEWS

An April 2 traffic stop in the Village of Fox Crossing led to police discovery of four freshly cut catalytic converters in the vehicle, an ever-growing felony crime that authorities say is picking up again with the end of winter.

Winnebago County began tracking catalytic converter thefts last July and as of this month had 63 cases involving about 71 converters stolen from a va-

riety of vehicles. Those numbers only involve the sheriff's department jurisdiction and don't include reports in specific county municipalities such as Neenah, Menasha or Oshkosh.

Fox Crossing police reported that it has separately received 12 complaints involving catalytic converter thefts during that same time period, including two last week.

Detective Division Capt. Todd Christie said there has been a more coordinated effort among law enforcement agencies to track similarities among cases and determine the potential criminal enterprises behind some of the more or-

ganized thefts.

"To crawl under a vehicle and operate a battery-operated Sawzall, you're taking that risk of getting caught, but I think a majority of law enforcement right now is focusing on the next level," Christie said. "If we can kind of work our way up the chain, then we can kind of figure out where this is all going."

Police agencies theorize that the more organized operations involve a middle man who pays thieves in need of quick cash to support either a drug habit or other expenses and then gets the con-

SEE **Catalytic converters** ON PAGE 8

## INSIDE



**Who's in charge?**  
 Battle to provide spark for electric vehicles continues

Pages 6-7

**Love brewing**  
 Homebrewing is about relationships

Page 4

**Rockets roll**  
 Neenah baseball tops Hortonville in FVA opener

Page 9



Photo by David Hall

## Getting outside

Families are starting to get outside at places like the playground area of Riverside Park shown here. The park was established 150 years ago this year.

# Children's theater group staging its inaugural show

By Amber Brockman  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Future Stars Theatre Company, a newly formed youth theater group in the Fox Valley, is holding auditions for its first production of "Annie Jr." for students in first through 12th grades.

Auditions are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 23 at the Valley Academy for the Arts in Neenah with signups at [futurestarstheatre-co.org](http://futurestarstheatre-co.org). The performances will be at 7 p.m. June 24 and 2 p.m. June 25 and tickets go on sale in May.

"We chose 'Annie Jr.' as our first show because we believed it would draw a lot of kids as well as a relatively big audience," theater company president Brody Adams said. "Most people know of Annie's story, and I think they will connect really well with it. The kids will have a blast being in it as well."

FSTC was founded in 2020 with the goal to provide young actors, directors, costume designers, sound engineers and others the opportunity to grow in their talents through hands-on experience in productions.

"The purpose of FSTC was to provide a very arts-driven community with a whole different type of theater experience — one led by arts majors," Adams said. "What's unique about this is that we have a never-ending learning cycle going on."

This cycle involves college students learning from industry professionals, high school students learning from college students and elementary-middle school students learning from high school students.

It also allows students to participate in all parts of the production process so they can discover what they like best, whether it's on stage, backstage or in a costume shop.

"This guarantees a learning model that is up-to-date with how the actual show business works," Adams said. "On top of this, we are accessible to all."



Adams

FSTC productions are free to audition and participate in, providing an opportunity for anyone who may be interested.

"Our goal is to be able to eventually provide as accurate and enriching experience as possible to any kid who is willing to put in the time and effort it takes to be in a show," Adams said.

FSTC board members have been involved in educational theater and community theater for more than four years and are pursuing degrees in the arts, Adams said.

"While directing is still relatively new to me, I have had the pleasure of assistant directing productions at St. Mary Catholic High School and Middle School as well as through FSTC," Adams said. "I will begin working toward a (bachelor of fine arts) in directing from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, in the fall of 2022."

FSTC vice president Kelsi Gennrich said she has been involved in theater throughout her life and is pursuing a double major in music education and theater.

"I helped start this company because I wanted to help give kids an opportunity to participate in theater at all ages and throughout the year, not just during school months," Gennrich said.

When FSTC was founded, Adams said the community was a major factor behind every decision.

"Everyone knows what happened in 2020, so it makes sense that we would want our theater company to be community driven, as 2020 showed just how important community truly is," Adams said. "While our main goal is to offer kids in the community with an enriching and affordable experience, a close second would be to give back."

Gennrich said she believes the development of kids and their skills is at the forefront of the community and, although there are many summer camps in the area, she couldn't find any based in the arts.

"Our production of 'Annie Jr.' is not a

SEE **Future Stars** ON PAGE 6



# Neenah News

Local news for you

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**Corrections**

It is the policy of the Neenah News to correct all errors of fact. For correction information, call 920-486-1616.

**About the newspaper**

Published every Friday and mailed to subscribers through the U.S. Postal Service and available online at [www.neenahnewsnow.com](http://www.neenahnewsnow.com).

Neenah News content serves the Neenah Joint School District geographical footprint. Cover price: \$2.00

Neenah News is owned by Oshkosh Herald LLC, 923 S. Main St. Suite C, Oshkosh, WI, 54902. (920) 508-9000.

## Shattuck Park getting general makeover

By Dan Roherty  
NEENAH NEWS

Downtown's Shattuck Park is undergoing a renovation of its fountain area that will add new water features along with repairs to some of its walking areas in a project that had run into some financing delays.

Removal of the old fountain and installation of an interactive play pad will be the centerpiece of the updates for which the city budgeted about \$500,000 in its five-year parks plan.

"It's meant to be more artistic water play than it is to be a serious splash pad," Parks & Recreation director Michael Kading explained.

Washington Park has a larger splash pad more intended for recreational use.

"It's not meant to rival Washington Park," he said. "It's really just meant to be a couple of spheres up in the air that are going to let some water loose and some ground features that are going to blow some water up."

The overall project will solve some standing water issues at the park that was last rebuilt in 2005.

"We'll be tearing out the concrete underneath the pavilion because we have a situation where the water comes down off the top roof, and comes down the stairwell and ends up underneath the pavilion," Kading said.

Concrete panels throughout the park will be replaced as well. Janke General Contractors are currently doing the work in 12-hour shifts so that it gets done by June 3.

Kading said it took a few years for the money to be available as with many post-pandemic public projects.



Neenah News

The refurbishing of the fountain area at Shattuck Park in downtown Neenah has begun.

But it will be done ahead of Shattuck's annual summer concert series and Saturday farmers markets sponsored by Future Neenah.

The park has 1.6 acres of space featuring harbor access with 32 boat rental stalls

and separate water access with an ADA kayak launch.

The municipal pool is also budgeted for about \$150,000 in improvements this year to its slide, play equipment and pool heaters.

## County's future housing needs studied

UW Oshkosh Today

The Winnebago County Aging and Disability Resource Center sponsored a University of Wisconsin Oshkosh study that looks at the impact of population changes

in Winnebago County from 2022-30.

Results of the research that identified gaps and projected future housing needs are being shared this month at three presentations, including this Thursday at Miron Construction in Neenah. The other two are on Zoom at 3 p.m. April 25 (passcode: 412923625) and 6 p.m. April 27 at the Coughlin Center in Oshkosh.

The study led by Jeremiah Bohr, an associate sociology professor working with UW Oshkosh's Center for Customized Research and Services, found that the number of individuals older than 65 is expected to increase from 16% currently to 22% in 2030.

The study will provide some estimates on what specialized housing needs are expected to support this changing population.

Bohr worked with Juyeon Son, also an associate sociology professor at UW Oshkosh.

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# Council member stays with commitment to city

By Dan Roherty  
NEENAH NEWS

When longtime Neenah City Council member Lee Hillstrom retained his District 3 seat last week in a late write-in contest, it kept him in a position that he had stepped away from to battle prostate cancer on both a personal and proactive level in the community.



Hillstrom

Hillstrom stepped away from the council after 12 years and started a prostate cancer support group in 2019 called Us TOO Fox Cities, an affiliate of the international organization. The local group drew an average of 50 people at its meetings before the pandemic hit.

“That is a crazy number for any type of cancer support group and especially one that deals with men having prostate cancer,” Hillstrom recalled.

He was not originally on the April 5 ballot after his elected successor Stephanie Spellman moved from Neenah and the seat reopened. He was chosen by the Council to return and finish out Spellman’s term but did not file the pa-

perwork to run for the seat again before being persuaded to run as a write-in.

“Several aldermen asked if I would be willing to run as a write-in candidate and (because of) my love for this city and respect for those I have worked with at city hall and on the council I agreed to do that,” Hillstrom said.

Hillstrom, who serves on the Park & Recreation Commission, Public Services & Safety Committee, Board of Public Works and Community Development Authority, defeated Mellisa Stafford in the write-in race by a 270 to 144 margin.

Noted and honored for his volunteer work by many community organizations, Hillstrom also has his Us TOO Fox Cities group back to in-person meetings every third Tuesday of the month at Fire Station No. 31. His dedication to prostate cancer awareness, a disease he has battled twice, extends to separate meetings with men and couples looking for personal answers.

“I have members from Waupun to Green Bay and Chilton to Stevens Point, but there are many who don’t know about the great education opportunity we supply along with what’s learned from others in the same cancer journey,” Hillstrom said.

# Sparr appointed to county DA post

Gov. Tony Evers appointed Eric Sparr to serve as Winnebago County’s new district attorney, filling the vacancy created by Christian Gossett’s resignation, which will be effective May 7.



Sparr

“Eric Sparr is a skilled prosecutor with strong ties to the local community,” Evers said in the announcement. “In addition to his roots in the Oshkosh area, he has great experience implementing evidence-based practices and working collaboratively with law enforcement and partner organizations. He will make an excellent district attorney for the people of Winnebago County.”

Sparr has worked in the county office since 2005, first as an assistant district attorney and since 2020 as deputy district attorney. He has prosecuted a wide variety of cases and helped develop pro-

gramming aimed at reducing recidivism and substance use disorders.

“Not only was I pleased to recommend Deputy District Attorney Sparr, but I was also happy to see the unanimous support within the office and tremendous support within the community and our criminal justice partners for his appointment,” Gossett said in a statement.

Sparr grew up in Oshkosh and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and UW Law School. He serves as a board member for the Rotary Club of Oshkosh and the Day By Day Warming Shelter.

“I frequently describe, with emotion and great pride, my feelings about this office, how it functions, and what it means to me,” Sparr said. “I care tremendously about the office, our legal community and the community as a whole, and I am eager to put that passion to work in a new role.”

Sparr will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term that ends January 2025.



Neenah News

# Controlled burn

The Town of Neenah Fire Department conducted a controlled burn and training Sunday at Conservancy Park off Park Avenue. The town board and parks committee has asked for assistance from the fire department on the burn at the 9-acre park, which has a retention pond with wildlife and a paved trail through prairie grasses.

# Vehicle, garage break-ins reported

The Neenah Police Department is seeking to identify people who were photographed at the scene of multiple vehicle and garage break-ins over last weekend.

The Facebook page – City of Neenah, Wisconsin Police Department – has

photos posted and is asking for any information to be provided to investigator Paige Kowalski at 920-886-6040, on the anonymous tip line at 920-886-6020 and by contacting Winnebago County Wide Crime Stoppers at 920-231-8477.

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–Dr. Dintelman

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# A couple is a collaboration: Why not extend that to brewing?

Beer is love.

OK, that's a bit much. Well, how about "beer can be an expression of love"? It definitely can add to a relationship. The couple writing this "Wife + Husband = Beer" column has bonded with each other (and made lots of new friends) throughout the years with beer as a focal point.

Some couples team up on a professional level, such as the husband/wife team at Hop Yard in Appleton (highly recommended). Other couples homebrew. They buy the ingredients and spend an afternoon in their kitchen or garage following the simple steps of brewing beer and enjoying some relaxing time together, often with a friend or two or three.

## Homebrewing is easy ... just keep it clean

Homebrewing your own beer isn't as difficult as you may think. Heck, with 1.1 million Americans doing it, brewing beer can't be that tough.

The number of ingredients needed can be as few as four – water, grain, hops, yeast – and the process is rather simple. The biggest challenge for nonprofessional brewers is sanitation. Keeping everything sanitized prevents any wild yeast or bacteria from entering the brew and causing off-flavors or other unintentional funk. Nothing ... nothing is sadder than a contaminated batch of beer.

After you make 5 gallons of beer — the typical amount for one recipe — it needs to be stored somehow. Glass bottles are the typical method, although

sanitizing 2½ cases of bottles/caps and filling them adds more work, so some homebrewers use a small keg (requiring CO2 and, likely, a dedicated beer fridge, which are additional expenses). Bottles are simple to transport, making them simple to share with friends and family, but kegs are far easier to clean and fill. Do the math: Preparing one large container is far simpler than dozens.

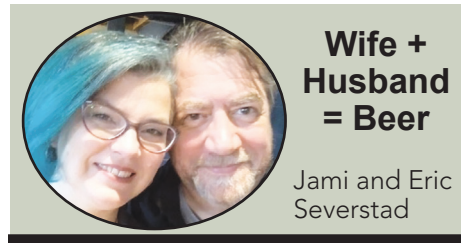
Homebrew supplies can be purchased at Rite Brew (Little Chute), The Cellar (Oshkosh) and House of Homebrew (Green Bay).

Like any hobby, homebrewing allows people to participate at various levels, from brewing a kit on a kitchen stovetop (with minimal investment) to building dedicated burners or buying cutting-edge fermenters with fully digital capabilities. Modern methods and equipment make this a very approachable hobby, plus you get to drink whatever beer you want!

## Homebrewing kickstarted craft brewing

The two breweries we enjoy here in Neenah wouldn't exist if it weren't for homebrewing. A majority of professional craft brewers started as hobbyists, experimenting and simply trying to brew a drinkable batch of beer at home.

Homebrewing is really the foundation on which the entire craft beer industry has been built. But, that wouldn't have been possible without two very important people: Jimmy Carter and Charlie Papazian and the actions they each took in 1978.



**Wife + Husband = Beer**

Jami and Eric Severstad

In October of that year, President Carter signed a bill (H.R. 1337) that legalized brewing beer at home. Just two months later, Papazian founded the American Homebrewers Association (AHA), an organization that supports amateur brewers. He also wrote "The Complete Joy of Homebrewing," in which he describes how to homebrew and shares his entertaining witticisms. No wonder Papazian is called the "Godfather of Homebrewing."

And, BOOM, one year later the AHA hosted the first National Homebrewing Competition. It had only 34 entries in 1979 (compared with thousands these days). Yet, beer-making competitions aren't just limited to national events, there are local ones, too.

## Local support of homebrewing is key

Let's dive into a discussion with the winner of Lion's Tail Brewing's homebrew competition in 2018, Greg Aykens. A self-described "engineer who likes beer," Greg enjoys the process of brewing as much as drinking its results.

No surprise, Greg's introduction into brewing at home starts with love.

Greg: My wife, Jill, gave me a homebrewing kit for our first wedding anniversary.

Husband: How romantic!

Wife: So, it was a gift you could use together. Did she participate in brew days?

Greg: She suggested styles; still does. I do the research, develop recipes and order ingredients. She hangs out while brewing takes place.

Husband: Do you fine-tune recipes to make them better?

Greg: Yep. To help do that, I entered a national competition a few times, the Sam Adams "Longshot" competition.

Husband: I remember that was a pretty big deal. Any success?

Greg: I learned a lot from the detailed feedback I received from professional brewers who tried my beers.

Wife: Did you join any local homebrew clubs?

Greg: I got to know some of them, but I didn't go all in just because of having limited time to commit to it.

(Side note: There are a few homebrewing clubs in the area — Appleton (Appleton Libation Enthusiasts), Oshkosh (Society of Oshkosh Brewers), and Green Bay (Green Bay Rackers) — but nothing in Neenah (that we know of). If you find a club and want to learn from these experienced brewers, be prepared for one thing about homebrewing clubs: They're welcoming.

Husband: When did you win the Lion's Tail homebrew competition?

Greg: I entered from 2017 to 2019, and I won in 2018.

Wife: Mosaic IPA, right? That's a great hop.

Greg: I love that hop, too. One of the most exciting things about winning was brewing my beer with the owner, Alex, on their system.

(Side note: Last weekend, Fifth Ward Brewing released a beer called "Tied Up," brewed with the winner of the Cen-

tral Wisconsin Vintners and Homebrewers 2021 competition. Although that club is based out of Fond du Lac, they have the support of a top-level Oshkosh brewery, which is pretty cool.)

Husband: Was brewing at Lion's Tail easy, difficult, stressful, fun?

Greg: Alex put me to work! And, it was a blast. Our first meeting was a brief discussion of my recipe. Then, we set up a brew day, which was a learning experience for me.

Wife: How so?

Greg: One thing was the water. I didn't do anything to the Neenah water I used for homebrewing. I used it straight from the tap. Alex is a chemist, so he treats the water for the particular beer he's brewing.

(Side note: In a May issue of Neenah News, we'll be exploring how Neenah's water affects the brewing process for the city's two breweries.)

Husband: How was the feedback from the local judges?

Greg: The judging forms weren't as detailed as the "Longshot" competition. I think the beers were judged on color, aroma, flavor and drinkability. So, I wasn't trying to nail a particular, established style.

Wife: So, the feedback was informative but not as strict?

Greg: Exactly. I have a schwarzbier recipe ready for competition. I was going to use it for 2020, but the pandemic squashed that for a couple years. I'd love to enter that beer in another competition.

Husband: Although Lion's Tail no longer hosts a homebrew competition, Neenah's other brewery, Barrel 41, is interested in creating one, so we'll see what happens.

Greg: Why don't you two brew?

Husband: We may. National Homebrew Day is May 7, so maybe ...

Wife: That's also Free Comic Book Day.

Husband: Let's brew some beer and read some comics!

Part of the May 7 global celebration is the AHA encouraging people to homebrew specific recipes, the most intriguing being Dark Inception Imperial Porter, inspired by a recipe from 2013 AHA Homebrewer of the Year, Annie Johnson. You gotta love pioneering women in all fields, brewing included.

So, is it the "responsibility" of local breweries to support homebrewers? No, but it sure does go a long way in establishing loyalty and celebrating the love of brewing. Sharing ideas and seeing what others brew can spark a brewer — home or professional — to create something special.

Thanks to Greg Aykens for his insights. Cheers to new beer, National Homebrew Day (May 7), and imbibing with your significant other. Remember, the couple that beers together, adheres together.™

**New beer news:** Tomorrow, April 16, Lion's Tail is re-releasing a fan favorite: Double Juice, their New England Double IPA. See you there at noon! Also, this weekend, hit up Barrel 41 for a brand new brew: "Leroy Light," an American Pilsner made with floor-malted Pilsner malt, flaked maize, acidulated malt and Willamette hops, clocking in at 5% ABV.

*Let us know what we should discuss, share your beer-related events, and suggest story ideas you think Neenah readers need to hear about. Email: wife.husband.beer@gmail.com*

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Next to Parker John's BBQ & Pizza in Oshkosh



# Get ready to collect April showers with rain barrels

By Merrie Schamberger  
SUSTAINABLE NEENAH COMMITTEE

Living nearly surrounded by water, we don't really think of water scarcity that plagues many western states as well as other countries. Even though we have abundant surface water it's a good idea to capture rainwater before it runs to the nearest storm water inlet.

Rain barrels are a great way to capture the rainwater, helping to lessen the risk for contaminants getting into surface water and having the water for later use. It can even save you money.

The barrels are connected to your rain gutter via a diverter. You can use the water you collect for watering flowers, trees and shrubs in your yard. Certain vegetable plants can be watered with rainwater as well. University of Connecticut Extension recommends

to "not use rainwater on anything leafy that you are going to eat directly".

Rainwater picks up any contaminants from the surfaces it runs across so he could pick up chemicals or animal fecal matter from your roof. A good way to treat this, according to Uconn Extension, is to "add 1 ounce of unscented bleach to a 55-gallon rain barrel once a month".

Washing produce grown with water from rain barrels before eating them and washing your hands with warm soapy water after contact with rainwater is also advised.

Another way to make good use of rainwater and filter it before it returns to the ground water is by diverting it into a rain garden, as rainwater flows along impervious surfaces it collects contaminants, taking them to the

nearest water body via the storm water inlets. A rain garden consists of a shallow bowl-shaped swale, planted with moisture loving plants, that receives rainwater via a downspout. A great addition to a rain garden are native plants that produce flowers and nectar for native pollinators. This not only looks pleasing but serves as food for our declining insect population.

For more information on rain barrels and rain gardens check out the Wisconsin DNR website or University of Connecticut Extension at news.extension.uconn.edu.

*Merrie Schamberger is a member of the Sustainable Neenah Committee, has a degree in biological aspects of conservation from UW Milwaukee and has been in the conservation field for about 30 years. She lives in Neenah with a pollinator-friendly yard.*



Submitted photo

A rain barrel can provide the water needed for flowers, trees and shrubs in a yard.



Submitted photo

Neenah High School's forensics team competed in a state meet earlier this month in Eau Claire.

## Neenah students compete at state forensics meet

Neenah High School junior Parker De Deker won the state title in the impromptu speaking category at the Wisconsin Forensics Coaches Association state tournament April 2 in Eau Claire.

De Deker was one of six students to advance to the finals in the category and finished with the top score. Two other Neenah students were semifinalists in their respective categories as senior Isabel Hoffman advanced in extemporaneous speaking and sophomore Berkley McInnis advanced in prose.

Additionally, Natalie Frank was one of six students statewide to receive a WFOA scholarship that is presented to students who hold a high regard for communications and who have demonstrated advanced skills in the area.

Isabel Hoffman was named the Student of the Year for the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) Northern

District. Six Neenah students combined to win the NSDA team sweepstakes award in the congress category as Kale Hildebrandt, Chloe Sieman, Sarah Hoffman, Robert Barthell, Nina Bhattacharjee and De Deker were honored.

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Work Play Earth Day returns to Wisconsin after a two-year hiatus through the Department of Natural Resources.

Residents have several opportunities to celebrate Earth Day (April 22) through acts of service and outdoor recreation at state parks throughout the month.

Earth Day, founded in 1970 by former governor and U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson to raise awareness about air and water pollution, is observed around the globe and commemorated as a full month of recognition, stewardship and celebration of the natural environment.

In 2019, nearly 1,500 volunteers logged 4,131 hours of service. Activities happening around the state this year include tree

planting, installing benches, removing invasive plants, painting picnic tables and other structures, and raking and cleaning up leaves and picking up litter.

Hours vary by event, with most beginning midmorning and running through the early afternoon. Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to sign up online through the DNR's volunteer portal. Both individuals and groups may sign up online.

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# Fight drags on over control of electric vehicle charging

By Kari Lydersen  
ENERGY NEWS NETWORK

A Wisconsin bill to spur the expansion of electric vehicle charging by confirming that private businesses can sell electricity to drivers at charging stations was stalled earlier this year by amendments that have turned electric vehicle proponents against it.

A revised version that would ban government entities from owning or leasing charging stations and only allow stations to charge for electricity that comes from utilities – not from on-site solar installations – also lost momentum when it was rejected in the state Senate.

The Senate voted 32-0 on March 9 against concurrence in the Assembly amended version of the EV charging bill, SB 573. The bill aimed to define who can provide EV charging services, how customers will pay for it and the electricity source for the chargers.

Scores of private businesses in Wisconsin currently own EV charging stations and bill customers for the energy. But advocates fear utility opposition could shut them down at any moment, especially if utilities decide to build their own charging networks, potentially earning a rate of return in the process.

As a shift to electric vehicles appears increasingly inevitable, the Wisconsin debate highlights the growing fight across the country over who will control and benefit most from that transition.

The situation has much in common with the state's long-standing angst over third-party-owned solar installations. Utilities have argued such arrangements infringe on their exclusive rights to deliv-



Wisconsin State Journal photo

Workers with Delta Metal Work enclose the electrical components of a charging station for electric vehicles along East Washington Avenue in Madison.

er power to customers, hence third-party solar is essentially impossible in Wisconsin even though no law bans it.

The EV bill in the state Senate was introduced by Sen. Robert Cowles, a Republican who is also the lead sponsor of the third-party-solar bills.

"All three bills have this thread of the utility wants to make sure nobody can sell any kind of electricity in any form," said Jim Bouillion, government affairs director of Renew Wisconsin. He noted that at least 34 states have laws specifically differentiating EV charging from utility service. He said only five states — Iowa,

Kansas, North Dakota, South Carolina and Virginia — have adopted policies restricting EV charging station ownership beyond utilities.

"We're talking about a different industry than the 'obligation to serve' that the utilities have — they're now expanding into 380 public charging stations (level 2 or DC fast-charging) transportation fuels," Bouillion continued. "We think the regulatory system is good and we need it, but the way things are changing in the world, having these strict limits is really hampering the growth of this clean affordable energy source. There has to be

some flexibility in the model we've had for 120 years to acknowledge this new technology."

Companion bills SB573 and AB588 explicitly allow private entities to own EV charging stations and bill customers for connecting to them (or "parking near" them). The bills also specify that billing can be done by either time or amount of energy used. Clean energy advocates want to clarify that billing by kilowatt-hours is indeed legal, since billing by time disadvantages customers with cars that charge more slowly or customers charging in cold weather (which slows charging speed).

Legal clarity can further the spread of charging stations across the state, advocates argue, especially as the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act could mean up to \$79 million over five years for EV charging in Wisconsin, according to Renew's analysis. There are currently 380 public charging stations (level 2 or DC fast-charging) in Wisconsin, according to the Alternative Fuels Data Center. They are most heavily concentrated in the southeast and tourist-friendly Door County, with relatively few in the northern half of the state.

As eager as they are for clarification, advocates say the status quo is better than a law that bans sales from government-owned charging stations or charging stations powered by solar. (The bill would still allow both types if they don't sell power.)

The bill would mean cities and towns could not build for-pay charging stations in municipal parking garages or

SEE **Charging fight** ON PAGE 7



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Submitted photo

Members of the Future Stars Theatre Company are planning their first production slated for June 24-25.

## Future Stars

FROM PAGE 1

camp, but it is a summer program with the goal of developing skills and giving our students a fun and safe place to be during the summer," Gennrich said. "It's very important for kids to have fun things to do during the summer where they can socialize and continue to learn. FSTC will give kids the opportunity to do those things."

Adams said the Fox Valley is lucky to have a high level of talent and arts support.

"With the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center at the heart of the Valley, as well as state of the art fine arts centers at almost every high school, the signs of the community's support of the arts are there," Adams said. "Our hope is that we can take these wonderful spaces and the saturation of talent and give the community something to be proud of."

As a special nonprofit company, Adams said it has the potential to positively impact

the community.

"Unlike school theater programs, we are not limited to a specific student body or school budget," Adams said. "Unlike community theater groups, kids will not get overshadowed by adults."

Since FSTC is relatively new to the community, Adams said that a lot of the funding has come from his own pocket.

"Last summer, we were very fortunate to successfully raise enough money to purchase the rights to 'Annie Jr.' with our first annual fundraiser, Future Stars Cabaret," Adams said.

The company will hold its second annual Future Stars Cabaret fundraiser later this summer, with more information to be released after the "Annie Jr." production.

"We are currently looking for local businesses in the Neenah-Appleton-Menasha area to partner with for our summer season," Adams said. "We have great incentives for businesses and are grateful for any support we can get."

For more information, visit [futurestarstheatrecorp.org](http://futurestarstheatrecorp.org).



# Charging fight

FROM PAGE 6

along commercial strips, for example. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities representing almost 600 towns and cities notes in a letter to legislators that it will revoke its original support of the bill if the amendments remain intact.

League government affairs director Toni Herkert has framed it as an issue of equity.

“A complete prohibition against municipalities owning, operating, managing, leasing, or controlling EV charging facilities does not allow for all areas of the state to be reliably served with charging facilities,” she wrote. “Limiting entities that can provide charging facilities will simply result in the most profitable areas, where the market dictates successful investment, to be reliably served. We do not want electric vehicle charging opportunities to mirror the lack of market incentives witnessed for broadband investment in rural areas, it will again be those smaller and more rural communities that will be most impacted and under or unserved.”

Flo, a company that develops EV chargers along roads, also opposes that provision. Flo senior public affairs specialist Cory Bullis said that such curbside charging stations are often built by local governments to encourage patronage of local commerce.

“Businesses aren’t motivated to single-handedly spend their own money on an asset that will benefit their competitors on the same block, nor are they willing to take on liability of owning an asset that is permitted on public property,” wrote Bullis. “City governments can step up to provide this value to multiple businesses simultaneously, ensuring everyone benefits.”

Bullis noted that Montreal has almost 1,000 curbside chargers, while New York City has 120 and Los Angeles has 200.

“The EV charging industry is still young and quickly evolving; this provision picks winners and losers among EV charging business models by expressly locking us out of the state,” Bullis wrote.

Advocates worry the bill would exacerbate drivers’ “range anxiety,” since the ban on for-pay charging stations owned by the government or powered by solar would make it harder to locate stations in remote and rural areas.

“If I’m going to the state park up north and have solar plus storage (powering an EV charger), then I do not have to run high-power lines out there” to install a charger, Boullion said.

The bill also would prevent businesses



Wisconsin Watch photo

A ChargePoint electric car charging station sits in the parking lot of Garver Feed Mill in Madison.

with their own solar panels from receiving payment for EV charging, unless they install a separate meter to ensure that no power from the solar panels goes to the EV charger, Boullion explained.

This could be a disincentive for the proliferation of both solar installations and EV charging stations, and it would curb rather than encourage the ideal clean transportation solution: vehicles powered directly by solar energy.

Bergstrom Automotive based in Neenah has an on-site microgrid capable of generating and storing up to 23 megawatt-hours of solar annually, enough for almost 500 electric vehicle charge-ups. The development was done by EnTech, a Wisconsin-based company that has also installed solar-plus-storage EV charging at a Madison shopping mall.

Even if businesses or governments sell some behind-the-meter or off-grid solar power to electric vehicles, without utilities getting a cut, advocates argue that EV proliferation is bound to be a boon for utilities. Solar-plus-storage arrangements helping to power EVs can reduce demand spikes and stress on the grid, and even power emergency vehicles or provide extra energy during outages, Renew said in testimony submitted to the legislature.

And the more charging stations there are available, the more people will feel comfortable buying electric vehicles. In most cases, the entity charging for use of the charging stations will be first buying that electricity from the utility. Meanwhile, utilities should also see their demand increase as more and more cars are charged at home.

“The utilities will gain a lot of business out of this,” Boullion said. “They will sell a lot of extra energy.”

Kari Lydersen is an author and journalist who worked for the Washington Post’s Midwest bureau from 1997 through 2009.

# Calendar of events

## Thursday, April 21

“Founders and Settlers,” 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

“Puffs,” Neenah High School Rocket Players production, 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Let’s Go Downtown. A Girls Night Out, 5 p.m.

## Friday, April 22

“Puffs,” Neenah High School Rocket

Players, 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium  
Family roller-skating party, 5:30 p.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

## Saturday, April 23

Fox Valley Roller Derby, 11 a.m., The Plaza

Plein Air Painting, 10 a.m., Neenah Public Library

“Puffs,” Neenah High School Rocket Players, 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

## Sunday, April 24

“Puffs,” Neenah High School Rocket Players, 2 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

## Thursday, April 28

Neenah High School band concert, 7:30 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Kitchen Tour, 10 a.m., five southeast Neenah locations

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Photo from Neenah Historical Society



## Poetic resident

Anne Kelledy Gilbert and her husband, Albert, built a home at 1010 E. Forest Ave. After his death in 1907, she and her children relocated to Washington, DC, where she became a noted author and poet. She was also the first president of the VNA in Neenah. This newspaper clipping is from the Washington Evening Star of March 11, 1929. April is National Poetry Month.



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# Health care power of attorney requires attention

By Theresa Pichelmeyer  
VALLEY VNA SENIOR CARE PRESIDENT

National Health Care Decisions Day is (Saturday) April 16, set aside to educate and empower people and their family members about the importance of advance care planning.

The Power of Attorney for Health Care (POA-HC) is a document that any adult, age 18+ (the "principal") completes and signs, naming another individual (the "agent") to make one's health care decisions when the principal might become unable to make those decisions.

Most people never plan on becoming incapacitated. Many think a POA-HC is just for old people. However, every adult should think about a few situations where they, at any age, might need a POA-HC: a car, ATV, or snowmobile accident that leaves you in a coma; a prolonged bad reaction to a drug; an injury sustained in a violent crime; or a life-threatening event, like a stroke or progressive disease. Therefore, all adults, or a loved one who is graduating from

high school and becoming an adult, needs a POA-HC.

There are several important reasons why every adult should complete a POA-HC. The "next of kin" idea does not apply in modern times. In Wisconsin, a family member is not automatically authorized to make health care decisions for an adult relative unless he or she completes a POA-HC document naming that person as one's agent.

Secondly, it's not just about end-of-life care. Hopefully the sick or injured person will recover from his or her health crisis. The POA-HC is about receiving the care one needs and wants when he or she can't speak for oneself. Also, a person's family may have to go to court to appoint a guardian without a POA-HC in place.

This process can be costly, time-consuming, cumbersome and emotionally draining. And then, a court-appointed guardian may not be the person the principal would have chosen. The appointed person may have no idea of the person's

wishes or what care he or she might or might not want.

Every adult should choose his or her agent carefully. A person's health care agent, upon being activated, might make some very important decisions regarding choosing a doctor, treating a medical condition, managing pain, maintaining or refusing artificial hydration and nutrition, and consenting to or refusing surgery.

To be deemed incapacitated, two physicians must personally examine and certify that a person can no longer receive, evaluate, and communicate his or her health care wishes. All keep their right to make their health care decisions as long as they are able. They can also update their POA-HC at any time to change their agent or add specific instructions.

Download the POA-HC form from the Fox Valley Advance Care Planning Partnership website. In Neenah, Valley VNA Senior Care helps people of any age complete their POA-HC by calling 920-727-5555.



Neenah police photo

## Officer retires

Neenah police officer Bill Mohr was honored by the Police Department upon his retirement April 1 after serving the city for more than 31 years. Along with his patrol duties, some of Mohr's activities have included boat patrol, tactical team, bike patrol, honor guard and field training.

## Man missing since early February sought

The Neenah Police Department is asking for assistance in locating a missing Neenah man last seen on Sherry Street on the evening of Feb. 4.



Ju Lee is 37, about 5 feet 1 inch tall and about 120 pounds. He would have been on foot or possibly riding the bus. Anyone with information is asked to contact the police non-emergency line at 920-886-6000 or through the tip line at 920-886-6020.

Shield that can be installed over the converters, Christie said keeping vehicles inside if possible or under camera security in well-lit areas can make them more difficult targets.

Christie notes that replacement costs for converters can run \$3,000 to \$4,000, making the thefts a felony by definition.

The vehicle pulled over in Fox Crossing was impounded and the three people in the car, who are not from the area, were taken into custody pending further investigation.

"It's a lucrative business; they do it very quickly and the risk is relatively low, but we're cracking down as much as we can," Sheriff John Matz said recently. "It's almost like the drug trade, where you arrest one dealer and there's another one to take their spot. And a lot of (catalytic converter thefts) are done to fuel a drug habit."

The state Legislature has considered but so far rejected Assembly and Senate bills that would require sellers of catalytic converters to show photo identification and legal proof of ownership to scrap dealers.

As it stands, scrap dealers are allowed to purchase proprietary articles from those 18 or older if they have current photo identification, if the dealer tracks the transaction, and if the seller proves lawful ownership of the piece.

## Bond sales approved related to referendum

Neenah News

A sale of \$62.9 million in bonds was approved by the Neenah Joint School District's Board of Education at its April 5 meeting, completing the district's debt issuance from the April 2020 referendum.

School officials said the bonds were sold at a 2.98 percent interest rate, below the estimated 4.5 percent at the time of the referendum.

This was the second phase of borrowing and completes the total \$161.9 million the district will need for the projects. The original plan was to use a three-phased borrowing approach, but with the low interest rate of 2.01 percent in the first borrow, only two phases were needed. The low rates could potentially save district taxpayers \$27 million from the original estimated interest payments.

Somewhat offsetting those cost savings have been nationwide supply chain issues that have impacted the cost of the new high school under construction by an additional \$14 million. District officials said about half of that increase is due to steel costs, while adding that the added expens-

2021.

Christie said the theft pattern is generally random but that some of the more vulnerable crime scenes are construction sites, transport businesses, park-and-ride lots and some boat landings.

"It's definitely a crime of opportunity," he said, often occurring at night on unattended vehicles and not noticed immediately if they aren't frequently driven. Christie said larger vehicles such as box trucks and RVs use larger converters and become more favorable targets with their higher values.

While there are cages such as a Cat

## Catalytic converters

FROM PAGE 1

verters to a more central location for extracting the precious metals.

The converters, a main component of a vehicle's emissions system, reduces the amount of harmful pollution going out the tailpipe. They are cut from vehicles for recovery of their valuable metals, such as rhodium, palladium and platinum.

National crime data and other sources have indicated that converter thefts have more than quadrupled in the U.S. since

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# Neenah baseball scores big win in FVA opener

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

With Mother Nature being highly uncooperative this spring, the Neenah baseball season has gotten off to a slow start with multiple games needing to be rescheduled. Once the Rockets finally hit the field last weekend, they were greeted rather rudely by Green Bay Notre Dame as the Tritons knocked them off 13-5.

Looking to respond from that loss, they had a Fox Valley Association clash with league favorite Hortonville. Led by Jaeden Carstens who was impressive in his 5 2/3 innings of work, the Rockets needed just one run as they won 1-0 over the Polar Bears.

"Today was a great battle for two of the conference's best pitchers," Neenah head coach Jack Taschner said. "Both received first-team all-FVA a season ago and showed exactly why today."

With Hortonville ace Sam Dodd on the mound, the Rockets knew that runs would be hard to come by. Brady Corso opened the game with a leadoff double and later advanced to third later but was left stranded.

Hortonville had a golden chance of its own in the first as a leadoff walk followed by a hit-by-pitch put two runners on base. Carstens struck out the side and finished with 11 strikeouts in the game.

Neenah responded in the second by putting the leadoff man on base with

Eli Schmidt picking up the single. Ethan Van Dyke worked a two-out walk to put Schmidt in scoring position. Two pitches later, Evan Paque came through with an RBI single for a 1-0 lead.

Carstens followed up with a pair of second-inning strikeouts. He then worked around an error and a hit by pitch in the third to keep Hortonville off the board.

Despite allowing just one run in four innings, Hortonville was forced to go to the bullpen as Nathan Vela was called on in relief after Dodd threw 76 pitches over those four innings.

Camden Kuhnke was hit by Carstens to open the sixth. After a pair of strikeouts, Kuhnke was still standing on first

when the Rockets called in Stuczynski to pitch and forced a Jake Fischer line out to center field to end the inning.

Despite falling behind early in counts, Stuczynski battled in the seventh to record strikeouts by Vela and Thomas Burns. Coenen worked a walk to bring the winning run to the plate but Sommers hit a ground ball to Stuczynski which sealed the deal for the Rockets.

"Carstens battled some command issues early on," Taschner said. "Once he got settled in, he not only got into a groove, but picked up lots of key strikeouts in timely situations. This was exactly the type of rebound game we needed after our performance against Notre Dame."

## Zephyrs thwarted by Hawks

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Not only has the start of the 2022 baseball season been rough in terms of weather, it's been extremely rough for the Saint Mary Catholic Zephyrs as they technically don't have a home field at this point. In the meantime, SMC will be bouncing around between venues with Koslo Park in Menasha being one.

From a mix of adverse weather conditions, to a Xavier team that seemed ready to go, the Zephyrs got off to a slow start and were never able to recover, falling to the Hawks 11-0.

"Although this was a tough loss against a very talented Xavier team, we were just happy to get a game in," head coach Jeff Hogenson said. "The spring weather has been a challenge for everyone this season and it has been hard to get on the field and correct the things we need to get better at."

Matthew Betchner got off to a rough start on the mound as the Hawks' Connor Bleck smoked a fastball to the left center field gap for a leadoff double. Two batters later, Nick Vallinski picked up an RBI single to right for the 1-0 lead. Betchner then issued three straight walks to force in another run as the Zephyrs fell behind 2-0.

While the Xavier offense looked ready to go, Vallinski was equally as good on the mound as the southpaw delivered four scoreless innings before yielding things over to the pen.

Aiden Birling opened the bottom of the first with a sharp single to right field but was then picked off. SMC would add another single later in the inning, but saw another pickoff attempt put an end to the inning.

Caden Akey took over for Betchner in the third and retired the first batter he faced before Calvin Keesler doubled to right

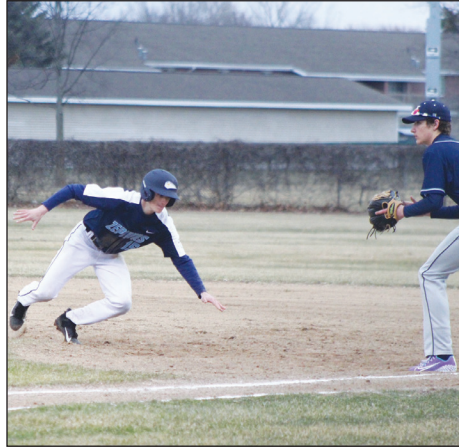


Photo by Dustin Riese

St. Mary Catholic's Caden Akey dives back into first base on a pick-off attempt against Xavier.

field. Reid Hietpas then delivered a two-out triple to extend the lead to 3-0.

The Zephyrs' defense stepped up in the fourth as Daniel Decker threw out a runner at home plate and then smacked a double in the bottom of the inning, but was stranded.

"Daniel Decker led the way for us tonight," Hogenson said. "He collected a pair of hits on offense and had a great throw to home plate to nail a runner later."

St. Mary Catholic was unable to keep Xavier from tacking on runs, while the Hawks kept the Zephyrs off the scoreboard.

Hogenson knows there is a lot of things to improve on, but they were able to give some of their less experienced kids some time.

"The score is not what we wanted, but we were able to give some of our less experienced pitchers some innings tonight," he said. "That is not only a good thing for their confidence, but it will certainly help us later on this season when we will need more arms."

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# Neenah expected to reign once again in FVA

By Tim Froberg  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Production at the Rocket factory in Neenah is expected to remain steady this spring.

This particular factory is located at Tom Berven Tennis Courts, home to one of the state's finest prep tennis programs.

## BOYS TENNIS PREVIEW

OK, so it's not an actual factory, but the precision and polished play by the Neenah boys' tennis team has produced victories in near assembly-line fashion the past several decades.

Neenah has advanced to the state team tournament seven times in the last eight years and 18 times overall. The Rockets have won 10 state championships. Oh, and they've done rather well in Fox Valley Association play. Neenah has either won or tied for the FVA title 21 consecutive years, winning it outright 19 times.

And they don't expect any slippage this spring. The Rockets are an overwhelming favorite to crank out yet another FVA title and should have an excellent chance of making their annual trip to the WIAA state team tournament.

The Rockets return seven players who were a prominent part of a 2021 powerhouse that posted a 19-5 overall record,

breezed to a conference title and won a state quarterfinal match before falling to Brookfield, 6-1, in the Division 1 state team semifinals.

The list of quality performers is led by three 2021 state individual meet qualifiers: singles players Nolan Kubiak and Solomon Dunsirn and doubles player Khaled Saleh. The latter took fourth in doubles competition, while Kubiak placed fifth and posted a 31-3 overall record. Dunsirn won three state matches and reached a consolation final, finishing at 31-2. Kubiak and Saleh are seniors, while Dunsirn is a sophomore.

Additional returning starters are seniors Leyton Daharsh and Jaxon King along with junior Satchel Moss.

Kubiak, Dunsirn, Satchel Moss and Daharsh landed first-team spots on the 2021 all-FVA team as singles players, while Saleh and King did the same as doubles players. The Rockets graduated first-team all-conference doubles players Cooper Moss, Henry Werner, Theo Kotchen and Jack Keller.

"Our overarching goal is the same every season: We're here to get better every single day, to push ourselves and our teammates and to have fun doing it," said Neenah coach Kyle Falk. "If we work to grow our games every single day, then good things will happen."

Falk is starting his fourth season as head

coach. He replaced the legendary Tom Berven, who retired in 2018 after guiding Neenah to five state titles and a remarkable 454-54-1 dual-meet record in 48 years with the program.

"We always work to represent our tennis tradition and community in ways that make people proud to say those players are from Neenah," Falk said.

Falk was still experimenting with different combinations before the Rockets' FVA opener Tuesday at Oshkosh West.

"We believe that with consistent growth, our returning players and many others have the ability to replicate what they did last year and go even further in the tournament," Falk said.

"Competing at the highest level is always a special experience. I feel we have a brotherhood here. Every season is unique. The team will develop its own routines and performance goals. Success is ultimately determined by player composure."

## Zephyrs another state boys success story

Four years ago, the program didn't have enough athletes to even field a team. However, the program numbers have jumped under fourth-year head coach Tate Whitlinger with 26 players on this year's roster, including returning state qualifier Ethan Campbell.

Campbell was part of a Division 2 state-qualifying doubles team along with Charlie Staner, who has since graduated. The duo finished 13-6.

"I'm looking for the kids to come out every day with a good attitude and give their best effort," said Whitlinger, who is assisted by Lizzy Bergstrom-Auth. "Hopefully, they will improve a little bit each time on the court. The key for this team is to play each match one point at a time, be humble and play from a place of gratitude, knowing they get to be a part of the SMC tennis team."

Campbell leads a solid nucleus of returning players that includes Grant Bergstrom, Michael Fairweather and Sam Todd. Bergstrom, a sophomore, finished third at sectionals at No. 2 singles while Todd and Fairweather placed second at No. 2 doubles. Todd is currently sidelined with a pec toral tear from powerlifting.

Freshman Wesley Auth is expected to fill a varsity spot and leads the list of newcomers.

"I'm hoping this team can be the favorite to win conference," said Whitlinger, a former state champion in his prep tennis days at Neenah. "I truly believe in them. All the boys on this team play an important role - from the top of the lineup to the reserve players. That's what being a team is all about."

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# Rockets rely on seniors entering 2022 campaign

Neenah News

The Neenah boys golf program prides itself on exceptional play, as the Rockets have either made it to state as a team or brought an individual qualifier to the state tournament 14 out of the last 21 years.

Sustaining that success is rare, but the Rockets have continued to do so and the Rockets will have high expectations this season after qualifying for the WIAA sectional last year, while advancing one to the state tournament in John Callahan.

What gets head coach Isaac Quella excited is that there were no seniors on

last year's team, so everyone returns.

"Last year we had a decent season in Neenah standards, we finished middle of the pack in the Fox Valley Association with a 5-4 record and qualified as a team to sectionals," he said. "It was an anomaly of a year, though, as we had no seniors on the team, something I haven't seen happen in a long time."

Callahan shot a two-day score of 171 last year at state (85-86) and will lead with two other senior captains in Carson Schultz and Elijah Oitzinger.

Schultz and Oitzinger both were named honorable mention in the FVA while Callahan was first team. Quella said another senior to keep an eye on is Payton Kramer – who played baseball. Other contributors this season will in-

clude Luke Abing (junior), Nick Hein (senior), Ethan Jacobs (sophomore), JJ Paider (senior), and Julian Gallmeier (freshman).

"As a team, we are very deep with lots of experience to help us out this year. I have high expectations for this group of young men. Our goal is to compete for a conference championship and make a run at qualifying as a team for state at Blackwolf Run in Kohler in June. If we do not make it to the state tournament as a team, I would hope to have one or two individuals move on."

## Zephyrs have high numbers, aiming high

The St. Mary Catholic boys golf team is young, but experienced and will rely on several returning players this season as head coach Brian Hale has high expectations this season.

Hale, a 1976 graduate of SMC, takes over the program after the Zephyrs finished in second place in the Big East Conference a season ago while advancing to the WIAA sectionals. Hale

played high school golf and walked on collegiately at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and still plays competitively at the Wisconsin state level – so he brings knowledge and experience to this team.

"I expect our team to gain experience throughout the early part of the season with the goal of qualifying for the state meet," Hale said. "I'm returning to SMCS as a coach having led the Zephyr golf team to our first state meet in 1976 and that's our goal, to qualify for state as a team and develop some nice players new to golf."

The Zephyrs have plenty of numbers this season – 20 – but return a handful of experienced juniors in Spencer Lynch, Dane Anderson and Evan Bengel. Hale also said that players such as Danny Griffith, Dawson Radsveich, Grant Hansen and Lily Hansen will be key contributors this season.

The Zephyrs finished sixth in their Division 3 sectional last year, shooting a 357. Lynch just missed out on state with an 82.

## BOYS GOLF PREVIEW

## Zephyrs finish with tie, loss at triangular

The St. Mary Catholic girls soccer team hosted a triangular on Saturday, losing 4-0 to Assumption while playing to a 2-2 tie against Wrightstown.

Addi Vollert had a hat-trick for Assumption against SMC (0-1-1) in game one. Greta Norville recorded five saves for the Zephyrs.

In the tie against Wrightstown, Agii Kerwin scored two goals while Megan Roloff had an assist. Norville had two saves in goal.

## Rockets blanked by Wildcats in FVA opener

Oshkosh West limited Neenah to eight shots on goal and kept the Rockets off the scoreboard as the Wildcats picked up a 3-0 win at Titan Stadium on Tuesday night.

Oshkosh West led 2-0 at halftime.

The Rockets are now 1-1 on the season.



Photo by Jim Kopenick

Neenah's soccer team lost to Oshkosh West 3-0 on Tuesday.

## School district gets 'Get Kids Ahead' grant

During his 2022 State of the State address, Gov. Tony Evers announced his "Get Kids Ahead" initiative that will provide \$15 million to support school-based mental health services in K-12 schools across the state.

Evers also announced a \$5 million investment for the University of Wisconsin System to help students access mental health supports remotely and on campus.

The Neenah Joint School District will receive a total of \$100,275 from the initiative.

"We know this pandemic has affected our kids in more ways than one, including their mental health. And a kid who's in crisis isn't going to be able to pay attention at school, finish their homework, or engage with their friends or teachers," Evers said during his address. "If the folks in this room want to have real conversations about our kids' success and achievement, then start by fully funding our schools and making sure our kids can bring their full and best selves to classrooms and to their

studies.

Every public school district is able to opt in to receive these funds and will get a minimum of \$10,000 with the rest allocated on a per-pupil basis.

Schools will be able to use these funds to provide direct mental health care, hire mental health navigators, provide mental health first aid and trauma-based care training, or provide family assistance programs.

In the 2021-23 biennial budget, the governor initially proposed \$53.5 million for student mental health services, but the Legislature reduced the combined funding to a \$19 million increase.

With the allocation of \$5 million, the UW System will be able to provide remote psychiatric services to augment the shortage of currently available in-person services, tele-counseling, and therapy to increase availability and shorten wait-times for counseling, 24/7 on-demand emotional support and crisis intervention services and fund post-masters and post-doctoral counselors.

## Memorial Day parade entry deadline slated

The last day for entries in the Neenah Menasha Memorial Day parade is April 30.

Those who would like to enter the parade can get a form sent by calling Dave Mix at 920-851-3206.

The parade starts at 9 a.m. May 30 and goes through the cities of Neenah and Menasha.

For more info Call Dave Mix at 920-851-2306

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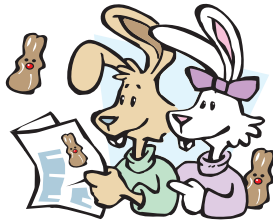


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## The Bunny Buddies are Back!

Buzz and Beeper Bunny are back with all kinds of Easter fun!

If the activities on this page seem hard, find some bunny to help you. If it looks easy, help some bunny younger than you!



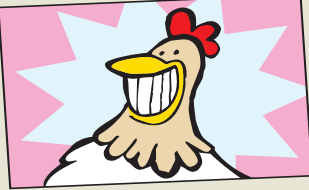
### NATIONAL EGG-QUIRER

NEWS FROM THE HENHOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE!

The newest basket fashions!  
Page 6

## HEN HATCHES HUGE SURPRISE

COOPERVILLE – Last night, things really started hopping for Henrietta Hen. The young mother of 152 is with excitement over the unusual in her nest last night.



“I was just dozing off, around when one of my eggs began to shake,” Henrietta recalls. “Now I know why I didn’t hear the tapping and sounds the sweet beaks of my chicks usually make as they crack out of their shells.”

hopped out. “I nearly flew the coop!” Mrs. Hen said.

Although she is a bit “chicken” when it comes to all of the media, Henrietta’s story will soon be made into a book and a movie.

“I guess I’ll enjoy the fame while it lasts,” Henrietta says. “However, I don’t like to put all of my in one basket.”

When Henrietta’s egg finally opened, a smiling

Draw a line to where each of these missing words belongs in the article.

- BUNNY
- MIDNIGHT
- JUMPING
- ATTENTION
- CHIPPING
- HATCHING
- EGGS



### Silly Scramble

The secret code to crack Beeper’s riddle is hidden in the egg rows.

is the letter A. The egg to the right of it is B. The next is C, and so on.

The alphabet follows in order from left to right, top to bottom. Each egg stands for one letter of the alphabet.

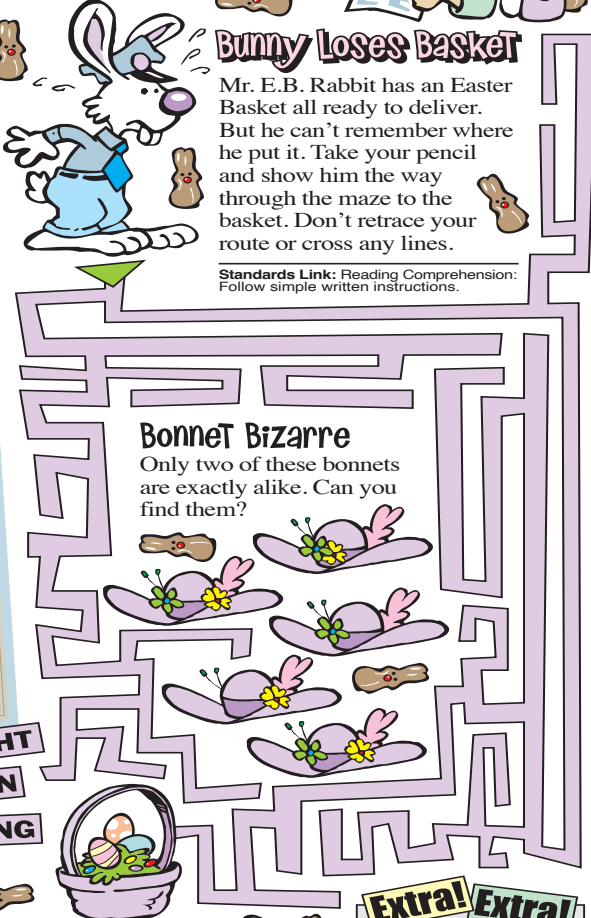
### What kind of Stories do bunnies Like best?



### Bunny Loses Basket

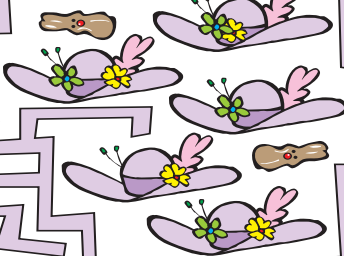
Mr. E.B. Rabbit has an Easter Basket all ready to deliver. But he can’t remember where he put it. Take your pencil and show him the way through the maze to the basket. Don’t retrace your route or cross any lines.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.



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Look through the newspaper for advertisements with an Easter theme. Circle the facts in yellow. Circle the opinions in green.

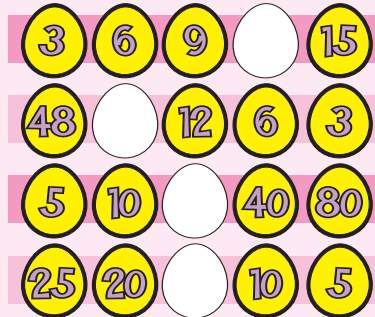
Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Distinguish between fact and opinion in expository text.

How many chocolate bunnies can you find on this page in one minute? How many can a friend find? Who found more?

Standards Links: Decoding: Recognize letters of the alphabet. Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

**Egg Patterns** Buzz Bunny has decorated his eggs with number patterns. Help Beeper figure out where to put each of the numbers left in the basket. Draw a line to where each egg belongs.

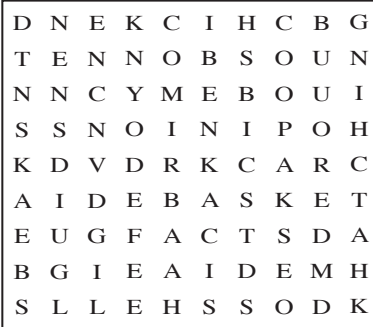


Standards Link: Math/Probability: Recognize patterns.

### Double Double Word Search

- DECORATED
- BUDDIES
- OPINIONS
- HATCHING
- MOVIE
- MEDIA
- BONNET
- BASKET
- BEAKS
- COOP
- CRACK
- CHICKEN
- FACTS
- SHELLS
- EGGS

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## Say What?

Some phrases people use don’t mean exactly what they say. For example the saying, “It’s raining cats and dogs,” doesn’t mean that cats and dogs are falling from the sky. It is a phrase people use to say it is raining hard.

These kinds of phrases are called **idioms**.

The Eqq-quirer page has several idioms. Find the idiom that goes with each meaning below:

1. Meaning: I was really surprised!

Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Meaning: To be afraid.

Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Meaning: Not to depend on one thing.

Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Meaning: Things are getting busy.

Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS:  
 1. I nearly flew the coop.  
 2. she is a bit “chicken”  
 3. don’t put your eggs in one basket  
 4. things really started hopping

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Apply knowledge of idioms to determine the meaning of phrases.

### What a Character!

#### Humor is ...



... laughing with people, not at them.

### Write On!

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