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Housing plan for Shattuck unveiled

Renovation of school, housing lots proposed

By Dan Roherty
NEENAH NEWS

A regional property developer that specializes in converting historic buildings into multi-unit housing shared his initial proposal for renovating Shattuck Middle School to its neighboring residents Tuesday night at the school.

Andy Dumke of Northpointe Development based in Oshkosh is proposing up to 100 housing units in the school buildings

when they are vacated after next school year. The rest of the school campus would be home to single- and two-family lots for owner-occupied houses along with two eight-unit townhouse rental properties.

School Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer introduced Dumke and architect Jonathan Brinkley of Precedent Architecture to outline their project vision using the existing structure built in the 1920s and the adjoining campus bordered by Reed, Division and Elm streets down to the end of Burr Avenue.

About 200 people attended the presentation, organized by the school district,

which is looking at an offer from Northpointe to buy the land and buildings. Pfeiffer said the district has been working with city officials on preliminary plans for the property after the middle school moves to the existing high school location after next school year.

She said school officials determined it was important to sell the site and avoid high maintenance expenses and a potential \$2 million demolition cost.

"Your feedback is going to be really important," Pfeiffer told the group while not-

SEE **Shattuck school** ON PAGE 6

INSIDE



State tennis
Rockets finish second at WIAA team finals
Page 10

Family affair
Kauferts feel right at home at Dome
Page 5



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Arrowhead Park is at the south end of Little Lake Butte des Morts, just west of downtown.

Park makeover a force of nature

Arrowhead targeted as city recreational jewel

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city is making great strides toward transforming Arrowhead Park from a former landfill into a popular recreational destination.

The park is situated at the south end of Little Lake Butte des Morts, just west of downtown Neenah. The trail and connecting trestles are part of the Loop the Little Lake trail system.

The project includes a pedestrian trail, bike park, pump track bicycle adventure course, activity center, outdoor amphitheater, community building and connecting plazas.

The history of Arrowhead Park dates to 1950, when Bergstrom Paper Co. needed a site to dispose of paper mill sludge. The company proposed developing the park on land created by filling the south end of Little Lake Butte Des Morts with paper mill waste.

In 1951, the state Legislature granted the land transfer to the city to be used for



public purposes. The landfill was closed in 1976. The area known as Arrowhead Park sits atop that landfill, which is contaminated with cancer-causing PCBs.

The 30-acre site includes 13 acres of land that formerly housed the Fox Valley Energy Plant, which shut down in 2013. The former plant was removed and the site cleaned up in 2016.

In 2017, the city hired a civil engineer to assist with developing and refining a new conceptual master plan for the parkland.

The Arrowhead Park master plan is divided into three phases.

The first phase includes reconstructing the park entrance, connecting a bike and pedestrian trail loop, restoring shoreline habitats and building an activity center.

The second phase includes constructing an outdoor amphitheater and installing public art displays, play areas, internal trails and "touch the water" opportunities.

The final phase includes a community building and connecting plazas to bring the site together into a "fantastic destination park," according to the city's plan.

SEE **Arrowhead Park** ON PAGE 6

Neenah police stay current with initiatives

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Police Department is undergoing several changes and improvements this year, including construction of a new training center on Marathon Avenue.

The \$5.5 million project will include an 18,550-square-foot addition with a firing range, armory, conference room, defense and arrest tactics room, virtual 3-D training room, fitness center and additional garage space to store police vehicles.

Community policing coordinator Joe Benoit said NPD doesn't have its own firing range, and officers often travel to Fox Valley Technical College or the Menasha Police Department to use their ranges.

Benoit said the officers need a place to practice drills and de-escalation tactics.

"Do we use deadly force or do we use a



Benoit

SEE **PD improvements** ON PAGE 8

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County, state tourism impact reviewed

Neenah News

Wisconsin tourism generated \$20.9 billion in total economic impact last year, with Winnebago County contributing \$458 million for its part, according to state Department of Tourism economic impact data.

In 2021, Winnebago County tourism generated more than 4,000 full- and part-time jobs across diverse sectors of the industry, up 6 percent over 2020, according to Travel Wisconsin and Wisconsin Council on Tourism.

Direct visitor spending in the county increased to more than \$229 million in 2021 compared with an estimated \$175 million in 2020.

Wisconsin tourism has not fully recovered to the record year of 2019, which saw \$22.2 billion in total economic impact. Statewide, economic impact increased 21 percent in 2021, with all 72 counties reporting double-digit growth over 2020. Tourism supported more than 169,700 full- and part-time jobs statewide across

diverse sectors of the industry, up 7 percent over 2020. Wisconsin also hosted more than 102.3 million visitor trips, up 12 percent from 2020.

“These successes are the result of intentional and strategic action by everyone who makes up our industry,” said Wisconsin Department of Tourism Secretary-designee, Anne Sayers.

For more data, including individual county figures and year over year growth, visit industry.travelwisconsin.com.



Photo by Scott Kruger

Market blossoms

Opening day of the Neenah Farmers Market last Saturday drew crowds downtown.



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Women's Fund for Fox Valley hires first development leader

The Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region has hired Terri St. Lawrence as its first development manager as the organization grows and develops strategies to diversify and expand its fundraising.

“We are so excited to have been able to create this position and have Terri join our team. With this new role, the Women's Fund will be able to expand its impact to better serve the needs of women and girls in our community,” said Julie Keller, executive director of the Women's Fund.

St. Lawrence was previously the impact and outreach specialist for the Oshkosh Area United Way, where she facilitated the annual community grant process and built relationships with the funded programs to ensure they were successful and created a lasting, positive impact.

Before the United Way, she worked at Agnesian Health Care in Fond du Lac in program development and outreach.

“I've been told I am a natural at engaging individuals in meaningful conversations. Because of that, I've cultivated many significant relationships that have inspired others to take positive action in their lives,” she said. “My role at the Women's Fund is about listening, learning and moving forward together. This position is more about building trusting relationships and helping individuals make a difference in their lives and with their money.”

Nominations being sought for J. J. Keller safety award

J. J. Keller & Associates, which specializes in safety and regulatory compliance solutions, is accepting applications for the 20th Annual J. J. Keller Safety Professional of the Year (SPOTY) Awards. SPOTY Awards recognize workplace safety professionals who build a culture and vision for safety and achieve excellence in safety for their companies.

Applications will remain open through July 31 at jjkeller.com/spoty. The winning safety professionals will be chosen by a J. J. Keller staff panel. Winners will be announced in September.

First place will earn items totaling more than \$20,000 in value.



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A garden of spring surprises at Doty Island home

By Rob Zimmer
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

I feel so blessed, said Carolyn Rashid, marveling at the bounty of fresh color and blooming beauty that has overtaken her Doty Island home this spring.

Rashid, along with husband David, chose this quaint home of brick with unique windows and cozy front and backyard as their new oasis late last year, completely unaware of the special garden treasures that would show themselves this spring.

The Neenah GARDENER

The transformation and surprise appearance of so many stunning bulbs, perennials and herbs, carefully and lovingly planted and nurtured by the previous owners, has become a daily blessing.

“Every day brings something new. I feel like the hearts and personalities of the people who lived here before us are showing themselves to me every day,” Rashid said. “I’m getting to know them, intimately, through these gardens. Every day I learn more about them through these beautiful plants.”

From a magnificent, specimen Japanese maple to lush, rare fern-leaf peonies, roses, hydrangeas, a collection of breathtaking spring bulbs, as well as a carefully tended and planned native woodland wildflower garden, the thought and talent that went into creating this special array of garden treasures is obvious and appreciated.

My neighbor warned me when we moved in that, “You’re in for a treat, when it came to the gardens, but I had no idea,” she said.

Rashid, who has developed a fondness for cooking comfort soups using homegrown herbs, was especially touched when she found a lush and deliciously maintained herb garden along one side of the house.

“Look at the size of this sage,” she said, as I toured her blossoming spring garden. In addition to sage, the herb garden contains mint, thyme, lemon grass, lavender and more.



Photos by Rob Zimmer

Carolyn and David Rashid’s new home has been providing spring surprises outside in the form of beautiful blooms.

“I can’t wait to use these herbs in my soups and dishes all summer long,” she said.

A front courtyard continues to fill out with spring’s warmth and will no doubt bring colorful floral surprises throughout spring and summer. Already, masses of stunning red tulips, azaleas, peonies and others can be seen, with many more spring and summer blooming perennials bursting forth to take their place in the gardens that surround the brick home that already possesses so much character.

Of course, Rashid plans to add her own touch to the garden wealth.

“I want to plant a vegetable garden, filled with all my favorites,” she said, though she’s not yet quite sure where. Even more herbs will be added as well, including her favorite, lavender.

“I love lavender and lemon grass so much. I tuck lavender plants in wherever I can find room,” she said, noting the large front window boxes tucked full of yellow annual flowers and lavender.

Throughout the coming seasons, the care and tender touch the previous gardeners afforded this cozy and comforting home and gardens will bring joy and warmth to the Rashids and their dogs, who love that just enough grass remains to allow them to enjoy the yard and landscape.



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Prison sentence issued in drug house case

A Fox Crossing woman was sentenced in Winnebago County Circuit Court last week to two years in prison for operating a drug house that also involved two other men who received jail sentences.

Ashtyn E. Hale, 29, had pleaded no contest and was convicted of maintaining a trafficking place along with possession with intent to deliver more than 10,000 grams of marijuana and between 100 and 500 grams of psilocin, the active drug in psilocybin mushrooms.

She was also placed on extended super-

vision for five years during the June 6 sentencing hearing by County Judge LaKeisha Haase.

WLUK TV reported that police seized more than \$100,000 in cash and hundreds of pounds of marijuana and related products after searching a home on Happy Valley Drive in June 2020. Investigators also seized three vehicles as part of this investigation.

Others sentenced for their roles in the case were Billie Gerver, who was sentenced to six months in jail, and John Hale, sentenced to a year in jail.

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As industry shifts toward women, local brewer adds to mix

If you ever tried to put faces to the team behind your beer, there were two defining characteristics that probably popped up: white and male.

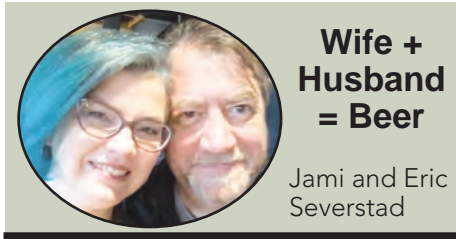
You wouldn't be wrong; according to 2021 data from the Brewers Association Diversity Committee (established in 2018), 93.5% of responding brewery owners (out of five hundred randomly polled) were white (non-Hispanic), and 75.6% were male.

Now think about the average beer drinker. According to the Brewers Association chief economist – the guy who analyzed all the data – Bart Watson, “The American beverage alcohol consumer is increasingly BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color) and female ... That shift is ongoing and will likely continue going forward.”

“For example, female drinkers under 25 now outnumber male drinkers under 25. So for craft to continue growing and moving more in the larger beer and beverage alcohol consumer market, it will need to connect better with that diverse customer base.”

Ouch.

Brewers in the industry are trying to address this disparity through various initiatives, such as femme-centric festivals like Hop Culture's Beers With(out) Beards; talk panels to air grievances and brainstorm solutions like Other Half Women's Forum; startup initiatives like Pilot Project (a Chicago brewery incubator aimed at supporting minority-owned businesses) and Brewing the American Dream Program (Boston Beer Co./Sam Adams), and too many individual beers to count highlighting or generating assis-



Wife + Husband = Beer

Jami and Eric Severstad

tance for women in the brewing field.

Collaborative brewing days have popped up all over the nation. One of the most visible is Pink Boots Collaboration Brew Day, an “international celebration of women in the alcoholic and fermentable beverage industry ... to help raise funds for Pink Boots scholarships that support our mission to assist, inspire and encourage the professional development and education of women in our industry.”

Lion's Tail Brewing Co. can count itself among the progressives in the industry by hiring now-assistant brewer Emily Burger in January 2021.

Originally working at a Mineral Point cider farm near her hometown of Blanchardville – halfway between Mineral Point and the state's arguably most famous brewery, New Glarus – Burger responded to Lion's Tail's need for a delivery driver in the orchard's off-season.

Her boyfriend – who got her into micro/craft brews to begin with, encouraging her to try beer flights when they went out to bars – was living in Appleton. It seemed like a fun opportunity for her professional and personal life.

Burger was a surprise to many customers when she showed up to deliver kegs, who wondered about her ability to accomplish that physically demanding task.

“Beer, as a whole, can feel like a boys' club,” she said. “But once you get to know them –and show them you're capable – then you're good; then it's easy to fit in.”

She transferred to the brewing side in May 2021 with no experience, unless you count her agricultural background and serving as head of her FFA in high school, but tons of enthusiasm and work ethic. “I think they liked that I wanted to get my foot in the door.”

It's been a rush ever since, often emptying and refilling Lion's Tail tanks for the next brew in the same day. “We released 78 beers in 2021,” Burger said. That lack of downtime is appealing to her. “I'm never waiting for something to happen.”

She may contribute initial ideas for beers, ingredients or hops in the beginning stages of a brew, but she's mainly responsible for the day-to-day processes of bringing the beverage to consumers' glasses.

“I like taking something as simple as grain, water, just a few ingredients, and



Lion's Tail assistant brewer Emily Burger has been with the business since January 2021.

For further reading

brewersassociation.org/insights/new-owner-demographic-benchmarking-data

hopculture.com/women-craft-beer-breweries-to-support-right-now

making something people really enjoy.”

An easy day is when she's brewing one of Lion's Tail's regular rotation of beers.

“You know what to expect,” Burger explains. “German malts are nice and easy, quick, the mashing in is reliable,” as opposed to some grain-heavy recipes, which are “more problematic ... they don't flow as freely as others.”

Going forward, Burger aspires to attend the lauded Siebel Institute of Technolo-

gy in Chicago (educating brewers since 1872) to supplement her on-the-job experience. “Yeast is still a mysterious thing to me,” she reveals with a laugh.

In January of this year, she became a member of the Pink Boots Society and participated in one of its local collaborative brewing days. For Burger, meeting the other women in fermentation has been the highlight, such as Whitney Froelich at Titledown in Green Bay, with whom she is in regular contact.

“Brewing historically was women's work, and you have some cultures where that hasn't gone away. Chicha (fermented maize) in Peru is still brewed by the women of the household.”

Burger still turns heads when she works at beer festivals, with most people she's serving guessing she's a bartender or brewer's girlfriend – an impact of having so few women in the industry. Add to that introducing your beer to people who've never had it before, “It's fun to blow their minds,” Burger grins.

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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Kauferts keep their city family growing at The Dome

By AJ Mikkelson
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

What started as a hobby has turned into a treasured Neenah favorite.

The Dome Sports Bar and Grill, owned by Renee Kaufert, wife of former Mayor Dean Kaufert, is nearing five years in its current location and is well known for its Friday fish fry, nightly specials and Wisconsin-centered sports gatherings.

The 1338 S. Commercial St. location is the second run at bar ownership for the Kauferts. The first was Under the Dome at Doty and Main streets downtown.

“That bar was the old corner/family style bar,” Renee said of the former location, which was called the Owl Tavern.

“It was the establishment we frequented after softball,” said Dean, who with some partners worked out a deal to buy the tavern. When he asked Renee, she first said no. “He did it anyway,” she recalled.

Dean and Renee had full-time jobs when they bought the Owl as a place to hang out with friends and family. Under the Dome was a hobby, according to the Kauferts. What they loved was the atmosphere and diverse group of patrons who would visit, especially on Fridays for fish.

Under the Dome was purchased by John Bergstrom in 2015 as part of the deal that brought Plexus to downtown Neenah.

The Kauferts initially had no plans to get back into bar ownership. What they found was that their regular crowd had dispersed.

When they were looking to go out and visit with friends, they couldn't find them anymore. Under the Dome patrons were like a family to the Kauferts.

Dean suggested to Renee that the only



Photo by AJ Mikkelson

The Dome Sports Bar and Grill will mark five years in business on South Commercial Street.

way he would consider bar ownership again was at the Eagles Club on South Commercial. After looking into it, the Eagles organization reached out to the Kauferts to discuss their interest. By Labor Day 2017, The Dome Sports Bar and Grill was open.

Many of their downtown patrons came back. For this go-around, The Dome is a family business. Both of Kauferts' daughters play an important role in the bar operations.

On a typical Friday night, The Dome will serve more than 300 fish fry dinners, all with a staff of about 12. Even the Kauferts' grandchildren can be seen bussing tables, reflecting staff shortages every-

where. They said they wouldn't be able to do it without family help.

Besides staffing issues, the supply chains have been equally challenging. Between the rising costs and getting regular menu items, the Kauferts said owning The Dome is far from the hobby the original bar was more than 20 years ago.

But they feel good about their managing team and don't see the need to be on site at all times.

Dean retired as mayor in April and Renee has plans to follow him in July. Since then, Dean has taken more of an active role in the operation of the bar, even pulling some shifts as bartender.

And he still has a few appearances to

keep as the former mayor. Mayor Jane Lang has invited him to a few ribbon cuttings for projects initiated under Kaufert's tenure.

“The plan is to spend more time at our cottage and travel,” Renee said. She said in the meantime, they can't get away from the Friday fish fry.

“Our travel plans are Saturday through Thursday so we can be back,” she said.

But they see Neenah as a special place where their customers become regulars because they strike up conversations with people next to them at the bar. For the Kauferts, Dome customers soon become part of the family.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society



Celebrating Dad

Girl Scouts and Brownies from Tullar School held a banquet with their fathers in 1963. The celebration was held in March and had a St. Patrick's Day theme.

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Arrowhead Park

FROM PAGE 1

Three acres of land formerly housing the energy plant will be used to construct buildings for the park. The remaining 10 acres will be developed into a prairie, including grasses and flowers.

Director of parks and recreation Michael Kading said the project is currently in Phase 1b of the master plan.

Mayor Jane Lang has assembled a task force to discuss the buildable portion of the park. The group will be meeting within the next couple of months to come up with recommendations by the end of the year.

In late 2020, the city cut down all the trees along Little Lake Butte des Morts in the park due to concerns that the roots could compromise the integrity of the landfill, leading to contamination of the water.

In June 2021, the city accepted a \$325,000 grant from the David L. and Rita E. Nelson Family Fund to construct a pier at Arrowhead Park for non-motorized recreational water vehicles such as kayaks, canoes and paddle boards. The city agreed to name the pier the Nelson Family Pier and to install an entrance monument and a plaque to highlight that legacy to the community.

The late David and Rita were De Pere residents who were married for 73 years. David managed finances for the publishers of The Post Crescent and Green Bay Press Gazette.

Rita was a stay-at-home mother who later

became a teacher. She also volunteered for several charities.

Because the Legislature designated Arrowhead for a public purpose, plans to change the park must be reviewed by the Department of Natural Resources to ensure they meet certain criteria.

The pier design has been approved by the DNR and the final design and construction documents are currently being prepared. Pier work is expected to start late this year and continue through February.

The city is working to get the pathway portion of the project approved by the DNR with expectation that work will be done by November. The prairie installation portion of the project is projected to start next spring and be completed by next fall.

The cost estimate to complete the three phases of development was originally projected to be around \$8 million. However, Kading said with rising costs and inflation, the city is unsure how much the entire project will cost.

“Any projection out in the future years and the future phases would not be beneficial because right now we just don’t know,” he said.

As the physical development stages of Arrowhead Park move forward, Kading said the city will be seeking assistance from community members who want to participate in fundraising opportunities.

According to the master plan, Arrowhead “is intended to be a treasured local asset, well connected to the surrounding neighborhoods and providing unique, enriching experiences for all of Neenah’s residents.”

Brinkley said a preliminary site evaluation showed the school viable for historic rehabilitation, which led to a draft plan that city officials reviewed before it went public this week. He said the separate housing units would be at a density similar to that of the existing neighborhood with front-facing homes, parking areas in the back and a common park space for those in the development.

“That’s what traditional neighborhood design is,” Brinkley said. “It’s having your own space, only mowing a smaller patch of lawn, having a front porch, but having access to a larger green space that you can also feel ownership in.”

The school district’s Health and Wellness Clinic at Shattuck would remain in place under the proposal instead of moving to the new high school as originally planned, and a large stormwater pond needed for water retention in the neighborhood would be incorporated into the site under local government authority.

The existing tennis courts and adjacent parking lot would also remain in place under the proposal.

Developers will not be presenting the project plans at Tuesday’s Board of Education meeting. The sale of the Shattuck property will be discussed with a decision on the acquisition expected in July.

The school district will be posting information on Northpointe’s plan online along with contact information for providing feedback. Further development details would shift to the city once the sale is complete. Dumke estimated the project would take at least 15 months to complete.

eryday errands,” said Valley Transit general manager Ron McDonald. “Valley Transit’s fleet of buses run on clean diesel, meaning there’s nearly zero air pollution emissions, so there really is a lot to celebrate about the positive impact Valley Transit is making on the Fox Cities community.”

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Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Arrowhead Park is expected to become a popular outdoor destination for Neenah residents.

Shattuck school

FROM PAGE 1

ing the proposal is a work in progress on details at this early stage.

Some attendees expressed concerns over the number of rental units being proposed and the traffic impact the project could have on the neighborhood. Others supported the general concept of redeveloping the school and providing affordable housing mixed with neighborhood homes that would add to the tax base.

Northpointe’s current housing projects include renovations of the former Cabrini and Smith schools in Oshkosh, and the former Post-Crescent newspaper building in downtown Appleton, all of which have historic recognition.

Shattuck’s buildings would have apartments mostly in the outer windowed areas with the larger interior and gymnasium spaces left open as part of the preservation requirement. Dumke said those spaces would be made available as locations for nonprofit and community organizations.

Dumke said his group seeks federal tax credits based on a building’s historic preservation plans through the U.S. National Park Service, scoring points based on the type of development and breakdown of mixed housing.

He said rental units in the school space would create “workforce housing” capacity sorely needed in communities looking to draw employees for the local economy and would not be part of any rental assistance program.

Valley Transit service promotes cheaper option

Valley Transit celebrates Dump the Pump Day today (Friday) as an initiative led by the American Public Transportation Association to encourage people to ride public transportation instead of driving personal vehicles.

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Museum of Glass promotes array of programs, projects

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass is promoting its spring fund drive with plans for special events and projects that celebrate the arts, while also approving new mission and vision statements.

Members get first looks at exhibitions and discounts on classes and in the museum shop. Information about its enhanced membership program and benefits can be found at bmmglass.com.

Upcoming programs and projects:

- Art After Dark is a free quarterly event with live music, food trucks, micro-breweries and art. The next one is from 5 to 8 p.m. June 23.

- Catching Fire Virtual Auction, July 20-30, with a live event at 6:45 p.m. July 27. More than 50 artists participated last year when it was first formed during the pandemic.

- GLASS (Glass Lakeside Art Sale and Show) Arts Festival, Aug. 13. The new free arts festival will focus on glass and be held on the museum's grounds with more than 40 artists, demonstrations, children's activities, food and live music.

- Art Activity Days are monthly family-friendly Saturdays with a timed and ticketed admission to minimize the number of art-makers in the classroom.

- Museum renovations begin in late 2022 to galleries and upgrades to exhibition spaces, last done in 1994. The upgrades will take place over the course of a year.

The museum's board of directors last month approved new mission and vision statements "that reflects our forward trajectory both reaffirming and celebrating our commitment to glass."

The new mission: "We provide extraordinary glass experiences to spark fun, kindle creativity, and illuminate learning for all."

The new vision: "The global gathering place where lives are enriched and transformed by glass."

Working with Fox Valley Technical College, the museum also formed this statement related to its commitment to diversity: "Diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging are core principles at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass. We recognize the need for ongoing commitment to creating an authentic space, accessible and welcoming to all. We envision a place where all people can participate in exciting discoveries in glass without regard to their personal characteristics or identities. Our core principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging extend to all we do as an organization. We strive to be positive stewards of the ancestral lands on which we operate."

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PD improvements

FROM PAGE 1

less lethal option? Sometimes that transition has to happen very quickly – within a couple of seconds – depending on the scenario you’re dealing with and so we try to incorporate these trainings throughout patrol shifts,” he said.

Benoit explained that during periods when police call volumes have slowed, the center will allow officers to return to the department and spend their downtime training.

The city council at its meeting last month selected Miron Construction as manager for the project. Groundbreaking is scheduled for October with the training center expected to be completed by next July.

Locals may see Benoit around town giving classroom presentations, attending events and handing out Dairy Queen vouchers to kids while riding his mountain bike.

Benoit is a father to 11 children. He spent 14 years with the Omro Police Department before taking a position with Neenah in 2020. In January, Benoit was promoted to community policing coordinator, replacing Stu Zuehls, who returned to patrol work.

“I’m just happy to be doing the small-town policing style that I’m so used to from Omro and taking a lot of my style of policing and the way I interact with the community and getting involved in local events and getting to know people and taking those experiences from Omro and taking them to Neenah,” he said.

Benoit said the police sometimes receive more than 100 calls a day. His position is used to bridge the gap between the

police department and community.

“I can go out there and start knocking on doors, talking to people, and trying to determine what the underlying issues are and looking for additional resources to help solve that problem or maybe act as a mediator to try and bring a resolution to something that’s been straining our patrol officers and then also straining the neighborhood, so bringing out a better quality of life in the neighborhoods,” he said.

In March, the council approved NPD’s request to purchase two 2022 Ford hybrid marked police utility squads and one 2022 Mazda CX-5 investigator vehicle at a cost of \$143,609. Benoit said the investigator vehicle was purchased and is in use in the city.

The department was unable to purchase the two hybrid vehicles because Ford had already stopped taking orders on hybrids for 2022 and 2023, so they instead ordered two gas vehicles. He said the department hopes to start the purchase process sooner next year to acquire two hybrid vehicles.

In April, NPD installed a new Flock camera system around town. The cameras take a picture of each vehicle that passes and are used to identify the license plate number of passing vehicles. The cameras also alert police when the license plate of a wanted vehicle is read. The cameras are part of a Flock group system which is used to search other Flock systems for a match.

The city signed a two-year contract with Flock. The initial cost of the cameras was \$16,500 with a cost of \$15,000 per year thereafter.

In May, Officer Anthony Edwards was promoted to a new full-time traffic safety officer position. The council last year approved a measure to provide \$91,000 to fund the position. Edwards’ focus is traffic enforcement, dealing with complaints,



Neenah News

Expansion plans are in the works for the Neenah Police Department.

deploying radar units, working with the Flock camera system and conducting traffic initiatives.

“Although we have concerns with drugs and crime and all sorts of things, the number one complaint by volume would be traffic concerns,” Benoit said. “Officer Edwards is addressing all of those and hopefully bringing about more tranquility to our citizens.”

NPD is also participating in the Winnebago County Speed Task Force 2022 Summer Speed Enforcement Grant from June 1 to Aug. 31. Benoit said the task force targets aggressive driving, speeding and seatbelt violations. The target amount of the grant is \$30,000, which covers 75%

of the overtime costs to increase patrols, while the city covers 25%.

“It works as a deterrent as well and it puts people at ease knowing we’re out there enforcing these traffic laws and keeping the community safe,” Benoit said.

The training center addition and the other updates and improvements are all designed to accomplish the missions of the department.

“Having the updated state-of-the-art equipment and this addition with the firing range ... not only does it benefit the community in terms of resources and assets, but it also attracts very high-qualified officers to come to a department that works as a wonderful team,” he said.

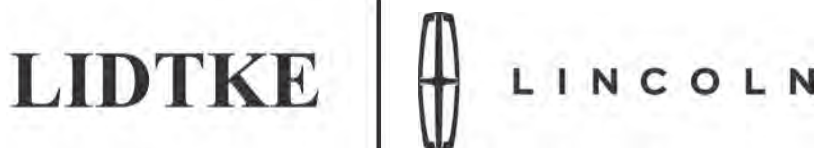


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Commercial St. planting

The Doty Island Development Council recently organized a group from Congregational United Church of Christ Neenah-Menasha to fill planters along Commercial Street as part of the church's spring season Service Sunday. In addition to the planting projects, the church group has engaged in other projects such as loading quarters at the neighborhood laundromat, renovating the Habitat for Humanity house at 431 Elm St. over the winter months, assembling meals for the Empty-to-Full program, and making greeting cards for nursing home residents.

Calendar of events

	Riverside Park
June 22 through June 26	"The Savannah Sipping Society" by Riverside Players, 8 p.m., Riverside Park pavilion
June 22	Future Neenah Evening Concerts, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park Night Games, 7 p.m., Memorial Park
June 18	Udderly Euro Car Show, 3 p.m., Shattuck Park
June 19	Summer Fun Run, 7 p.m., Memorial Park
June 21	Neenah Community Band, 7 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
	Art After Dark, 5 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
	Future Neenah Out to Lunch Concert, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park



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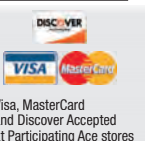
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Rockets finish second at WIAA Team State Tennis Tournament

Neenah News

Neenah's boys tennis team came up one victory short at the WIAA Division 1 Team State Tennis Tournament, but the Rockets finished above their seed by taking second place last weekend at the Nielsen Tennis Stadium.

The Rockets, who were seeded third entering the tournament, opened with a 6-1 thumping of Eau Claire Memorial before pulling out a close 4-3 win over Middleton.

In the title match, top-seeded and defending state champion Brookfield East proved to be too much for Neenah as the Rockets fell 7-0. It was the fourth time in the past 10 seasons that Neenah has finished in the runner-up position along with 2013, 2016 and 2017.

"I'm very happy. It was a great tournament," Neenah head coach Kyle Falk said. "We knew it was going to be tough matches the whole way through no matter who we played. I think we accepted the challenge of bringing our best tennis and I think we did that."

Although the Rockets beat Eau Claire Memorial by a lopsided margin, a few close wins helped Neenah create the distance.

David Murphy bounced back from dropping the second set to win a third-set super tiebreaker, 10-7, over Evan Birkholz at No. 2 singles. Then, at No. 4 singles, Ben Kotchen pulled out a 7-6,



Photo submitted

The Neenah High School boys tennis team took second place at the team state tournament for the fourth time in the last 10 years.

7-5 nailbiter over Ariya Natarajan.

In doubles, the No. 3 pairing of Leyton Daharash and Jaxson King won their match 6-4, 6-4, as the Rockets swept all three doubles matches.

"That's honestly one of the fun parts of high school tennis. It's an individual sport, you are playing at your flight, but the point you earn helps your team," Falk said. "The point you earn at No. 4 singles or No. 3 doubles is equally important as those points earned at the top. It brings a lot of energy to the team."

Neenah also won all three doubles matches against Middleton - which beat Neenah 4-3 earlier this season - with a huge win coming from Henry Werner and Satchel Moss at the No. 2 flight. Werner and Moss lost the first set against Saketh Peddireddy and Franklin

Hu, but won the next set 6-4 and took the super tiebreaker 10-5.

Daharsh and King won a close match 6-3, 7-5 at No. 3 doubles, while the top pairing of Nolan Kubiak and Khaled Saleh cruised to a 6-1, 6-1 win.

The lone singles win against Middleton came from Neenah's top singles player - and Division 1 individual state champion - Solomon Dunsirn, who beat Ethan Bo, 6-0, 6-3

"We knew we could hang with (Middleton) and if we were ready to execute and compete, there was a possibility of a different result," Falk said. "And it came out in our favor."

In the title match, the Rockets were not able to take any matches but got a good match at No. 3 singles from Carl Hein, who lost 6-4, 7-5, while Kubiak and Saleh lost 7-5, 6-4.

Brookfield East also won the title in 2014 and were state runner-ups in 2018 and 2019.

"It was a hard-fought win for Brookfield East," Falk said. "At the end of the day, they were the better team on the court in that final. They earned that championship."

In Division 2, St. Mary Catholic lost in the semifinals to eventual state champion Brookfield Academy 6-1. It was the Zephyrs first trip to the state tournament, while Brookfield Academy claimed its first team state title after be-

ing runner-up the last two years.

Despite the loss, Zephyrs head coach Tate Whitlinger said it was a positive experience for the team and something that will help the program moving forward.

"It was a very good experience. Obviously, the results weren't what we were hoping for, but a lot was learned, and a lot can go into how we prepare for next year," Whitlinger said. "We went down Friday and walked around Madison and then went to the Friday (Division 1) matches just to get some of them accustomed to the atmosphere. It was eye-opening for a lot of them. We talked through their nerves and excitement."

Wesley Auth, fresh off medaling at the individual state tournament collected the lone win for St. Mary Catholic with a 6-1, 6-1 over Alexander Li at No. 1 singles.

It was another big win for Auth and also gave the team a boost knowing it didn't get shut out.

"It's always good to get a win. To get blanked is never fun, so in that way 6-1 does sound better than 7-0," Whitlinger said. "For Wesley's confidence it was huge and it gave the team a better feeling. It was good to end on a good note and made everyone feel a little bit better."

Brookfield Academy defeated Catholic Memorial in the title match.

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YOUR NEIGHBORS' CONCRETE GUYS

Shift to doubles was easy adjustment for Neenah's Kubiak

By Tim Froberg
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Nolan Kubiak is ready to blast into the future, but he'll never forget a pleasant part of his past.

Kubiak takes a spin down memory lane each weekday morning at his summer job. He sees a younger version of himself when teaching the game he plays so well to the wide-eyed youth participating in Neenah's park and recreation tennis program.

It's the same well-attended rec program that Kubiak completed as a kid – and it did more than just help him learn the fundamentals. It fueled a high interest in the sport that led to an exceptional prep tennis career with the Neenah Rockets.

Kubiak, one of the state's best high school tennis players – and other members of Neenah's powerhouse team – work as instructors each summer for the program, which is directed by legendary tennis coach Tom Berven.



Kubiak

The Rockets have been the area's elite tennis program for years and a state power, and Kubiak knows why.

Neenah – a third seed – finished the 2022 season as the WIAA Division 1 state runner-up. The Rockets posted wins over Eau Claire Memorial (6-1) and Middleton (4-3) before falling to top-seeded Brookfield East (7-0) Saturday in the state team championship.

"Neenah has such a rich tennis tradition and culture," Kubiak said. "I really feel the reason we've been so good for so many years is this park and rec program. We get kids playing just for fun at such a young age.

"I mean, we get hundreds of kids and we're role models for them. Eventually, they grow up and want to be like us. I played in this program as a little kid and loved it. I grew up right next to the park – only a block away – and remember taking lessons from the varsity players.

"I looked up to those guys and just fell in love with tennis. So to be a role model now for the younger kids, that's really rewarding. I played a bunch of other sports as a kid, but they got me excited about tennis and tennis is what stuck."

It certainly did. Kubiak was a key Neenah varsity player since his freshman year as both a singles and doubles player. He was a WIAA individual state tournament qualifier as a singles player his freshman year of 2019 (going 25-5) and in 2021 when he carved out an

Senior Spotlight

outstanding 31-3 record and finished fifth in Division 1 at the 2021 state individual meet.

Kubiak switched to doubles play this spring. It was a different type of tennis for Kubiak, but the results were the same: a long string of lopsided victories. Kubiak teamed with Khaled Saleh at No. 1 doubles to win Fox Valley Association and sectional titles and finish fourth at the WIAA Division 1 state individual tournament. The duo was unbeaten until the state tourney, finishing 37-3 overall.

Kubiak could have remained a singles player and no one would have blamed him had he objected. But being a team-first player, Kubiak didn't hesitate to make the change when Neenah coach Kyle Falk asked him to consider it.

"Coach asked if I'd be willing to make the switch for the team because it would give us the best chance to competing at the state tournament," Kubiak said. "It's a coach's job to make sure a team is as competitive as possible. I said, 'Of course, wherever you need me.'"

Kubiak never looked back, quickly adjusting to the doubles game.

"It allowed me to play the game in a new way and play with Khaled (Saleh), who is probably my best friend," he said. "So I wanted to do it. I'm going to play college tennis next year and you have to play both (singles and doubles). I learned a lot about doubles positioning and strategy. It was a lot of fun. Doubles is really fast-paced and gives you a chance to communicate with your partner before each point."

Falk wasn't surprised in the least with Kubiak's decision to do what was best for the team.

"Nolan's love of the game, his love of the team and the desire to represent the Neenah tennis tradition makes him a player and person that a coach can only have the utmost admiration and respect for," said Falk.

Tennis is a tradition in the Kubiak household. Nolan's older brothers, Evan and Aaron, were standout prep tennis players for Neenah and Nolan continued the Kubiak way.

"I watched hundreds of Neenah tennis matches as a kid and went to the state tournament five or six times to watch my brothers play," Kubiak said. "That's what's always made qualifying for the state tournament special for me."

Kubiak's tennis days are far from over. He will play the game collegiately next fall when

he attends Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. An exceptional student who graduated with a 3.9 grade-point average, Kubiak plans to study economics.

"I was looking to go to a smaller school," Kubiak said. "I'm a fan of small class sizes and getting to know everyone around me. I'm not a big party school, huge school kind of guy. I wanted to get out of the state and experience a new part of the country. So, I toured a bunch of schools across the West and East coast, both big and small. I just seemed to connect with everything and everyone at Vassar: the campus, the professors, the tennis team and the coach."

He will take with him a passion for tennis that never seems to wane.

"One of the things that's unique about tennis is that it has both individual and team aspects involved," said Kubiak. "You can com-

pete as an individual, yet can still help your team win matches. You still have that team around you, cheering you on and supporting you, and you do the same for them. It's a great sport."

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***FLEA MARKET* SUNDAYS** 7am-4pm **SHAWANO FAIRGROUNDS** weather permitting **715-526-9769** zurkpromo-tions.com

Moving/Estate/Craft Sale: 1415 Coolidge Avenue, Oshkosh, Thursday & Friday, June 16th & 17th, 8AM-5PM. Bed, Safe, TV, Dresser, Kitchen Table/Chairs, MISC.

Multi-Family Rummage Sale: 1515 Deerfield Drive, Oshkosh. Reclining Chair, Two File Cabinets, Lawn Mower, Leaf Blower, Kitchen Items, Comforters, Curtains, and Many Decorative Items. Friday, June 17th from 8am - 5pm, Saturday June 18th from 8am - 4pm.

NEIGHBORHOOD SALE AT RIVER WATCH CONDOS OSHKOSH (Campbell Road Behind the Senior Center) **FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 8AM-4PM, SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 8AM-1PM.**

Miscellaneous

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO SELL? GET RESULTS! Affordable advertising that fits your budget! Reach OVER 300,000 homes! Place your ad in MANY weekly Wisconsin Shoppers & Buyers Guide papers for as low as \$36.00 **Call today! Publishers Development Service, Inc. (PDS, Inc.) 1-800-236-0737** www.pdsadnet.com

FLORIDA BOUND EMPTY TRUCK Can move household & Cars - CHEAP! Local **414-520-1612**

Free community meal at River Valley Church on June 20th, from 5 pm - 6 pm. 1331 High Avenue, Oshkosh. Questions, please call 920-379-3371.

New Storage Units - Power & Light included, 24/7 access. 14x40 with tall door and 12x20 with large door. Outer Space Storage, 3250 Walter St, Oshkosh 54901, cleverly hidden behind Fasco Appliance. 920/376-0629

WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact **The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)**

YOUR CAR, BOAT OR MOTORCYCLE helps Rawhide provide mental health services that redirect local Wisconsin youth & adults from harmful decisions. Donate Today! **888-653-2729 (WCAN)**



Submitted photo

Nolan Kubiak (right) celebrates a point with doubles partner Khaled Saleh this season. The duo were the top doubles team in the Fox Valley Association this spring and placed fourth at the WIAA State Meet.

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Plankton

They may be teeny, tiny little things, but plankton are hugely important!

They are hard to see, but these tiny living things in the ocean are important to our entire planet. They are food for many sea creatures. And they make much of the oxygen we breathe.

The word plankton comes from the Greek word *planktos*, which means "drifter." Their name fits because plankton do not swim on their own. Instead, they drift through water. When the water moves, they move with it.



W K O R C I J L V L
K

Powerful Plankton

Though they are quite tiny, swarms of this plankton are so huge they can be seen from space! Circle every other letter to discover its name.

How many of me can you find on this page?

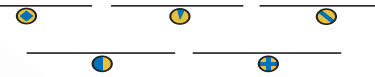
How many plankton are in a teaspoon of water?

How many would you guess? Use the secret code to discover the surprising answer!



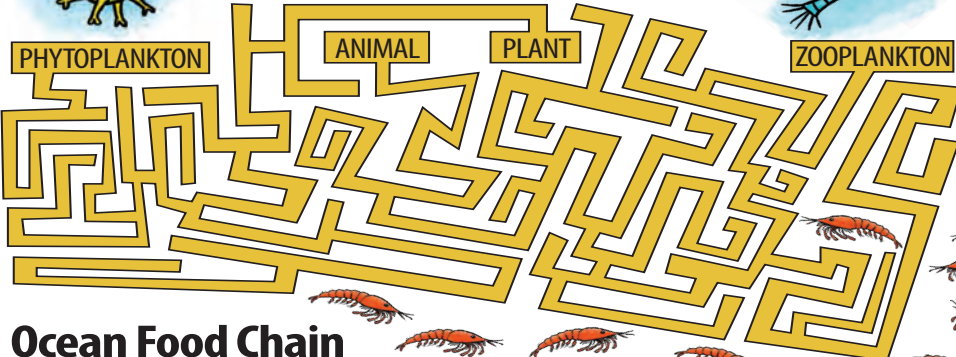
- = SIX
- = MORE
- = LESS
- = HUNDRED
- = MILLION
- = THOUSAND
- = THAN
- = PLANKTON
- = ONE

A teaspoon of water can contain



Are plankton plants or animals?

The answer is both! There are two main types of plankton: **phytoplankton** (fi-toe-plank-ton) and **zooplankton**. Follow the maze to discover which are plants and which are animals.



A Breath of Fresh Air

Phytoplankton make more than half of the oxygen in our world. Think of it this way, every time you take four breaths, two of those breaths came from oxygen made by phytoplankton through **photosynthesis**. So even if you live far from the ocean, you depend on it to survive!

Extra! Extra!

PH = F

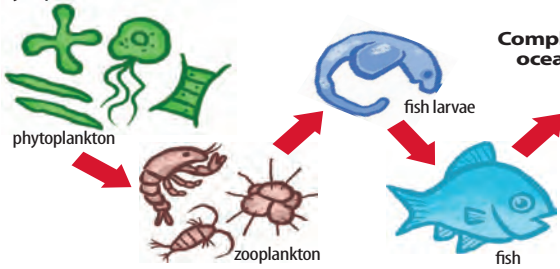
In English, when the letters **p** and **h** are next to each other, they make an **F** sound.

Words like *phytoplankton, phone, photograph and pharmacy*. Look through the newspaper and find letters to spell each of these words. Glue the letters onto a piece of paper, spelling out each word. Then read each one aloud.

Standards Link: Match letters and sounds to spell words.

Ocean Food Chain

Plankton is made up of tiny, usually one-celled plants and small water animals such as larvae and eggs. Zooplankton and other small marine creatures eat phytoplankton and then become food for fish, crustaceans, and other larger species.



Complete this food chain diagram by drawing an ocean predator (shark, orca, barracuda) here:

Standards Link: Science: Understand how food chains support the life cycles of animals and humans.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

The world's largest animal, eats up to 16 tons of plankton daily. Ten adult men together would weigh about one ton. So 16 tons of plankton would be equal to the weight of 160 men. Good thing it likes plankton and not people!

Color the spaces with odd numbers blue to reveal the animal's name.

7	3	5	4	2	5	4	8	6	1	8	7	6	7	5	9	6	4
3	4	1	6	4	3	8	4	2	5	6	3	4	3	4	8	8	2
1	5	7	3	6	1	4	8	6	3	4	7	2	5	7	3	8	2
3	6	2	5	8	3	6	8	4	1	2	3	2	3	8	2	6	4
7	5	1	5	2	5	3	5	2	3	5	1	6	7	1	3	2	4
2	4	6	8	6	4	2	2	4	6	8	4	8	2	6	4	4	8
6	8	2	6	4	6	4	4	2	6	4	2	6	2	4	6	8	2
5	6	4	2	5	8	3	6	1	2	5	1	7	3	2	5	4	4
3	4	1	8	9	8	7	2	3	8	3	2	4	7	6	3	6	8
6	1	4	6	6	1	4	6	6	6	1	4	6	6	1	4	6	6
1	2	3	6	3	2	5	3	5	2	5	1	3	5	8	5	2	6
7	8	5	4	9	4	1	6	1	6	1	8	4	1	8	1	8	4
3	7	3	3	3	4	3	2	3	4	9	2	6	3	4	9	3	5

Double Double Word Search

- PLANKTON
- ANIMALS
- BREATHE
- PLANTS
- OXYGEN
- CARBON
- PLANET
- OCEAN
- DRIFT
- WATER
- FISH
- SWIM
- TINY
- FOOD
- SEA

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

T	W	N	E	H	T	A	E	R	B
O	D	O	O	F	M	A	I	D	Y
P	L	A	N	T	S	T	Y	R	T
N	P	E	H	S	K	O	Y	I	E
O	M	I	W	S	F	N	N	F	N
B	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	T	A
R	D	E	L	T	A	F	E	L	L
A	N	W	A	T	E	R	C	K	P
C	T	N	E	G	Y	X	O	O	N

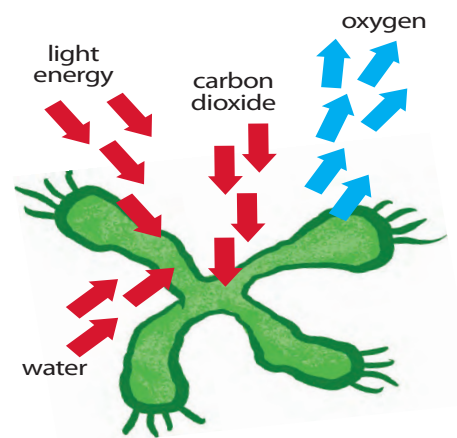
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together Plankton Quiz

Can you find the answer to each of these questions? They can all be found on this Kid Scoop page!

- Phytoplankton is a
 - plant
 - animal
 - computer part
- Zooplankton is an
 - plant
 - animal
 - island
- What does *planktos* mean in Greek?
 - swimmer
 - drifter
 - boat
- Where do plankton live?
 - oceans and lakes
 - ponds and rivers
 - all of the above
- How much of the world's oxygen is made by phytoplankton?
 - about 7%
 - 12.4%
 - more than half
- How many tons of plankton does a blue whale eat each day?
 - 16 tons
 - 100 tons
 - 232 tons
- How many plankton can be found in 1 tsp. of water?
 - Between 30-40
 - About 10,000
 - More than 1,000,000

Photosynthesis



Like plants on land, phytoplankton use sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to make food and oxygen. This process is called **photosynthesis**.

Write On!

Message in a Bottle

While walking on a beach, you spy a strange bottle with a note inside. What does the note say? What will you do next?



JOIN US AS WE AWAKEN THE MAGIC OF READING TOGETHER!

Why support Kid Scoop? To make an impact!

- Reading ability predicts:**
- Future employment and level of pay
 - Health care access and need for social services supports
 - Criminal justice system involvement and costs
 - Vitality and cultural health of the community
 - Continued cycle of poverty
 - A child's future options for a successful life

Thank you



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