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Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

J. J. Keller associate editor Jen Loomis works with the Habitat team on a home in Menasha.

Special event protections reviewed

Outdoor incidents getting extra attention

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Eight months after a man in an SUV drove into a Christmas parade crowd in Waukesha, killing six and injuring more than 60, the city of Neenah is considering strategies to protect the community from experiencing a similar tragedy.

On Nov. 21, 2021, Darrell Brooks Jr. was fleeing the scene of a domestic disturbance when he drove around safety barricades and into the Waukesha Christmas Parade crowd, killing five adults and an 8-year-old child. Eighteen children and dozens of adults were treated at area hospitals for injuries. Brooks was charged with 77 counts, including reckless homicide and reckless endangerment.

In a memo to the Public Services and Safety Committee, Neenah Assistant Police Chief Jeffrey Bernice said parades and other events are considered “soft targets,” easily accessible to the general public and relatively unprotected, making them vulnerable to an attack.

“One tactic of these crazed individuals is using a vehicle as a deadly weapon to target groups of pedestrians in open areas,” he said.

Bernice outlined several local incidents similar to the parade tragedy that could have turned deadly. He said that in the past five years an intoxicated driver joined the Neenah High School homecoming parade on Wisconsin Avenue, a wrong-way driver drove into the Labor Day parade on Wisconsin Avenue, a vehicle attempted to drive into the Labor Day parade from Church Street and was stopped by an officer and the mayor, and an intoxicated driver hit a city vehicle parked as a barrier during the streetball event at West Wisconsin and South Commercial streets.

Bernice said there have been other occasions – Fox Cities Marathon, Fourth of

SEE **Event safety** ON PAGE 2

INSIDE



In full bloom
City garden full of memories for owner
Page 9

Stay healthy
Officials keep tabs on pandemic, monkeypox
Page 4

Fresh future
City redeveloping site of former salvage yard
Page 6

Habitat project meets worker, family goals

J.J. Keller’s support builds a solid team

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A local family will be moving into a brand-new home later this year thanks to a partnership between Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity and J. J. Keller & Associates.

Fox Cities Habitat and Neenah-based J.J. Keller have partnered to build a home each year for the past 17 years. The J.J. Keller Foundation makes a significant contribution to fund the build and Keller employees contribute volunteer hours.

Habitat works to build or rehab houses that are then sold to low-income families with affordable financing terms. The families agree to contribute time to help build the home, referred to as “sweat equity.”

Marketing and volunteer services program coordinator Angie Demers said the Habitat vision is to ensure everyone has a decent, safe and affordable place to live.

“Nobody deserves to live in the streets and we provide a hand up rather than a hand out and hopefully change the lives of some families and their future generations,” she said.

This year’s build is taking place at Deerfield Court in Menasha. The home will have seven bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms, making it the largest home Fox Cities Habitat has built. Ha Chang, Mai Vang and their nine children will be moving in later this year.

Chang came to the U.S. as a refugee in 1980. He lived in Wisconsin until 1989 and then moved to Fresno, Calif. Vang was born and raised in Fresno. The Changs moved to the Fox Valley a few years ago to be closer to their family. The children range in age from 3 months to 20 years. They currently live in a three-bedroom Habitat rental in Neenah.

In an introduction letter, the family wrote that the project will make their dream of home ownership a reality.

SEE **Habitat home** ON PAGE 11

Students encouraged to trust open dialogue

By Kaitlyn Scoville
NEENAH NEWS

“More times than I can count.” Oshkosh West High School guidance counselor Lynn Swoverland has had students tell her they were using addictive substances. And while she can’t provide direct help to her students to begin the steps to recovery, she has all the external connections she needs to get them in the right hands.

“When a student is talking with me more about general use and they’re clearly not in imminent danger, I work with them to build rapport and establish trust, not come off as judgmental or begin lecturing them,” Swoverland said. “That’s not helpful at all – they’re going to shut down

immediately.

“As much as I can help reinforce and develop that strong relationship with students, that is my number one priority. Without a relationship, they’re not going

to listen to anything I have to say. I want to help them see that I’m a trusted adult at school; I’m there to help them with their overall well-being so

they can be successful at school and beyond.”

Oshkosh West Assistant Principal Aaron Herm was a teacher for at-risk students before moving to his current position, and has encountered students who were using

addictive substances “quite a bit.” However, in his new position, students usually don’t see him as a trustworthy adult.

“It’s only when they’ve been caught red-handed,” Herm said. “We’re going to have a substance-free school, and I have a job to uphold that. But at the end of the day, I’m concerned about you as a person.”

Herm said most students at West who are caught with substances, are in possession of THC vape pens.

Often times, students get their substances through friends “and a lot of times they’ve been using for years, since middle school if not earlier,” Swoverland added. “And for a lot of them, their families have



Third in a series

SEE **Be Courageous** ON PAGE 10



Photo from Breakwater

Oshkosh North classmates Cally (left) and Kierstyn host a recent podcast for Breakwater.

Neenah News

Local news for you

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Finance, attorney positions vacant

Neenah News

The Common Council at its meeting last week voted to fill the vacant positions of director of finance and city attorney.

Current City Attorney Adam Westbrook is stepping down from his position. He has been in the position since January 2020.

The city attorney provides legal services

for city employment matters, litigation, contracts, legislation and claims, and supervises the prosecution of municipal violations, according to the job listing. The position pays between \$46 and \$57 per hour.

The director of finance is responsible for planning, guiding and directing city financial management and fiscal affairs, including accounting, reporting, control,

debt and investment activities, and related staff supervision, according to the listing. The position pays between \$44 and \$55 per hour.

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that public-sector employment has declined nationwide after the pandemic.

The council voted to fill both vacant positions and to fill any openings that would result if an internal candidate is selected.

Party primary election includes local contests

Neenah News

Wisconsin voters are choosing candidates in the upcoming Aug. 9 primary election ahead of the Nov. 8 midterm elections for governor, U.S. Congress and state legislatures, which includes local representatives for the Assembly and state Senate.

Wisconsin's open primary system allows voters to select any single party ticket but can only vote for candidates from that party for all races.

With a recent state Supreme Court ruling that barred the use of absentee ballot drop boxes, the Wisconsin Elections Commission administrator and other election officials recommend the ballots either be delivered by mail or by the person who filled it out to the local clerk's office to assure they are received and counted.

Absentee ballots must be witnessed and signed with an address by an adult U.S. citizen.

The state Senate's 19th District, where

Sen. Roger Roth is not seeking re-election while running for lieutenant governor, will have a contested Republican primary between incumbent Rachael Cabral-Guevara and Andrew K. Thomsen. Democrat Stefanie A. Holt is unopposed in her primary and will face the Republican winner.

Assembly District 55 will pit Republican Nate Gustafson against Democrat Kristin M. Alfheim, who have no challengers in their primary races for the seat being vacated by Cabral-Guevara.

Fox Crossing voters in Assembly District 57 will see incumbent Democrat Lee Snodgrass and Republican Andrew Fox running unopposed in their party primary.

U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman is being challenged by Douglas H. Mullenix in the Republican primary for Wisconsin's 6th congressional district. Democrats did not field a candidate to challenge the longtime GOP-held seat.

In Winnebago County, two uncontest-

ed races for sheriff and clerk of courts are underway for incumbents John Matz and Tara Berry, respectively.

Information on candidates and their priorities is available on Vote411.org depending on their participation in the League of Women Voters' nonpartisan efforts on voter education.

County Clerk Sue Ertmer said despite the state Supreme Court's decision, processes are status quo at the county level, whereas separate municipalities were most affected as the main junction between absentee voters and Ertmer's team.

One of the changes that's been made at the county is the size increase of the physical ballot. This year being the gubernatorial primary, several candidates of the same parties are seeking a spot on the November ballot.

As is true for the rest of the state, Ertmer said photo identification is required at polling places, and same-day voter registration is allowed.

Event safety

FROM PAGE 1

July Community Fest and a Very Neenah Christmas – in which confused drivers almost entered a closed road.

“Over the past several years it has been more common to see vehicles entering a special event as a result of an intoxicated, elderly or confused driver,” he said.

On a broader scale, Bernice said there have been more than 70 of these incidents worldwide in the past five years. He noted that in 2016 a man in Nice, France, drove a truck into a crowd, killing 86 people and injuring 458. In 2017 a man in Barcelona, Spain, drove a van through a tourist district, killing 13 and injuring 100. Also in 2017, a man in New York City drove a truck down a bike path, killing eight and injuring 12.

The city has been implementing some safety strategies during events such as positioning city-owned vehicles along strategic avenues of approach, Bernice said, and he urged the city to develop additional mitigation strategies to enhance roadway safety during outdoor events.

“Safety and security are the key components of every special event held in our city, and several departments plan and



Photo from Traffic Safety Warehouse
An example of Jersey barriers used to deter vehicles is shown.

coordinate to create a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for attendees,” he said.

Bernice outlined several safety options including Jersey barriers, portable modular vehicle barriers, permanent hydraulic barriers or a hybrid system.

Jersey barriers are large concrete obstacles used to block roads. Bernice said Jersey barriers must be stored elsewhere, moved by heavy equipment, and then removed when the event is complete.

Portable modular vehicle barriers are L-shaped safety devices used to block vehicles. Bernice said the portable modular

vehicle barriers are time consuming to construct and remove. He said the cost to place these barrier systems on both sides of Main Street was estimated at just above \$315,000.

A permanent hydraulic barrier system involves installing devices in the roadway that could extend and retract when needed for events. Bernice said a permanent barrier system would be costly but require fewer staff hours.

A hybrid system involves using a combination of the different barriers.

Bernice said the city does not want to create a negative atmosphere during special events by using extreme defensive measures.

The committee last month determined that the best way to proceed with determining mitigation strategies is to establish an inventory of event locations and of the city's existing barriers. The next step is for staff to prepare an inventory of events and equipment and present it at an upcoming meeting.

Bernice emphasized that the city has always been focused on the protection of its residents.

“They are constantly trying to create the best environment for our community when it comes to roadway access to events,” he said.



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Calendar of events

Friday, July 29

Riverside Players presents "The Addams Family the Musical Comedy," 8 p.m., Riverside Park

Saturday, July 30

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
Riverside Players presents "The Addams Family the Musical Comedy," 8 p.m., Riverside Park

Sunday, July 31

Riverside Players presents "The Addams Family the Musical Comedy," 7 p.m., Riverside Park
Sunday Music with Neenah Ambassadors Big Band, 11 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Tuesday, Aug. 2

Neenah Police Department National Night Out, 5:30 p.m., Washington Park
Fox Crossing Police Department National Night Out, 5 p.m., O'Hauser Park
Movie in the Park, "Toy Story," 8:30 p.m., Washington Park

Wednesday, Aug. 3

Evening Concerts with The Pocket Kings, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park
Night Games, 7 p.m., Memorial Park

Thursday, Aug. 4

Future Neenah Out to Lunch with Brad Emanuel, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park
Pattie Shack Music Series with Greg McMonagle, 6 p.m., Ground Round

Downtown Neenah Summer Sidewalk Sale, 10 a.m.

Friday, Aug. 5

Friday Family Fun, Chalk the Plaza, 6 p.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee
Downtown Neenah Summer Sidewalk Sale, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Aug. 6

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
Downtown Neenah Summer Sidewalk Sale, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 7

Sunday Music with Stelly & Jim Morgenstern, 11 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Tuesday, Aug. 9

Neenah Community Band concert (Sesquicentennial Celebration), 7 p.m., Riverside Park
Fox Valley Chorus of Sweet Adelines, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 200 Church St.

Wednesday, Aug. 10

Evening Concerts with Murphy's Law, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

Thursday, Aug. 11

Future Neenah Out to Lunch with Randy Peterson, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park
Pattie Shack Music Series with Stewart Ellyson, 6 p.m., Ground Round

Friday, Aug. 12

Friday Family Fun, 6 p.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Saturday, Aug. 13

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
Furry Flurry Walk for Pets, 8:30 a.m., Riverside Park
Glass Arts Festival, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Prison sentence ordered in crash death

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A Grand Chute man who tested positive for drugs after a trailer dislodged from his vehicle in the Town of Clayton, killing another motorist, will spend two years in prison for the incident.

On Jan. 30, 2020, Richard Gleason, 60, was traveling north on Clayton Avenue toward West American Drive and County CB on his way to pick up a skid steer when the accident occurred.

Gleason told police there was a dip in the road and he slowed down and noticed a vehicle traveling southbound approaching his location.

When the auto passed him, Gleason said he felt a tug on the trailer and heard a loud noise.

Gleason told police that the vehicle struck the trailer, causing the trailer to become unhinged from the vehicle. The trailer slammed into the front driver's side quarter panel of the vehicle, causing it to go in the ditch.

Gleason pulled over and approached the victim, Christine Smith, 58, of Neenah, while a witness called police. Smith was reclined in the front driver's seat and stated she was OK but her legs were hurt and she needed help. Documents indicate Smith was impaled by the trailer and died at the scene before medical personnel could extract her.

A blood draw revealed THC and cocaine in Gleason's system. Under Wisconsin law, any detectable amount of a restricted controlled substance while operating a vehicle is illegal. Gleason was charged with homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle. He pleaded not guilty and the case went to trial earlier

this month.

The jury found Gleason guilty of homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle.

At the sentencing hearing July 19, Assistant District Attorney Adam Levin said Gleason has two prior convictions for operating while intoxicated.

"He had drugs in his system and he was rushed and he didn't do it right and those decisions killed Ms. Smith," Levin said.

Winnebago County Circuit Judge LaKeisha Haase sentenced Gleason to two years prison, six years extended supervision, and revoked his driver's license for five years. Gleason was also ordered to complete 40 hours of community service for every year he's on extended supervision and to maintain absolute sobriety.

Haase said that the sentencing was one of the most difficult she has ever done.

"It's difficult because it was such a tragic accident in which a woman lost her life, her family lost her (and) Mr. Gleason loses his freedom," she said.



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- Experience at the Plant Manager or Assistant Plant Manager level is required

About Neenah Enterprises Inc., a subsidiary of Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company – Neenah Enterprises has been a leader in the construction castings industry for 150 years. The company's product lines include cast iron manhole covers, grates and industrial castings.

About Charlotte Pipe and Foundry – The company was founded in 1901 and is privately held. Charlotte Pipe is a leader in the cast iron soil pipe and fittings and plastic pipe and fitting industries, as well as the production of gray iron commercial castings.

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Health officials stay vigilant on pandemic, monkeypox

Neenah News

The world is now working around both the ongoing COVID pandemic and the latest onslaught of the monkeypox virus, including here in the Fox Valley.

According to the state Department of Health Services, there has been an average of more than 1,500 confirmed COVID cases each day as of late last week. In Winnebago County, there has been an average of 44 cases per day and 15 hospitalizations since July 21.

The latest county vaccination data shows nearly 70% of residents have completed the initial vaccine series from Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson, plus a booster. However, those in the county who received an additional booster dose is around 34%.

Earlier this month, the BA.5 variant became the dominant Omicron strain of COVID around the world, driving up cases and reinfections, according to a National Public Radio report.

Additionally, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced there may be a new booster dose available this fall to target these newer variants.



Gieryn

Winnebago County Health Department director Doug Gieryn said with how quickly the variants mutate, the first series of shots are becoming less effective.

“We’re seeing that the immunity conferred by the vaccination is waning with the duration of the whole pandemic, and we need to continue either boosters or new vaccines in order to be effective,” Gieryn said. “We definitely have a long road ahead of us yet, but on a positive note, we’ve really reduced severe illness, hospitalization and death.”

The FDA also recently approved distribution of more than 3 million doses of the new Novavax vaccine, which Gieryn said the traditional dose – similar to what we get for the flu – may be more appealing to those who were hesitant to get the newer mRNA vaccines.

But with all these tools in the toolbox, Gieryn said, “it certainly appears this is not going away anytime soon until we reduce the number of people becoming infected.”

Community level of spread of the virus has risen to medium after having been low since July 9. Gieryn also said the percent-

age of positive cases increased lately, citing an indication that testing is not being done enough.

“The best defense right now is for individuals that are going to go to group events, going to see others to take a test. They’re widely available – we give them out free in the Health Department and other locations,” he said.

Recommendations to stay safe and to not infect others with COVID remain: Wear a mask and quarantine for at least five days if a positive test is returned.

“We’re practicing interventions less than we did earlier in the pandemic,” Gieryn said. “As a result we’re seeing more transmission in the community because we’re not taking steps to protect others like we did before.”

On the other hand, the monkeypox epidemic has been grasping parts of the country since it made landfall in the U.S. a couple of months ago. There have been two confirmed cases in Appleton as of Monday afternoon.

Symptoms of monkeypox, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, include those similar to smallpox – fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, exhaustion and pox, a rash that can look like pimples or blisters appearing around the body. The illness typically lasts around two to four weeks.

Contrary to COVID, monkeypox is not as easily transmissible, occurring mostly through close personal contact. Gieryn said it could be passed by intercourse or simply sharing the same towel. It’s been found to be more predominant in the MSM (men having sex with men) population.

“In the cases we’ve seen so far, many come from people having a large number of partners,” he said. “We ask that if they’re meeting up with people they use protection, which will help but may not stop transmission.”

Gieryn noted this outbreak differs from Wisconsin’s in 2003, where prairie dogs were being infected when encountering other exotic animals.

Aside from getting tested as soon as possible, Gieryn also suggested refraining from anonymous sex.

“We’re prepared to help facilitate detection as early as possible so we can begin treatment and contact tracing,” he said. “That’s our best defense, and isolating, waiting out that incubation period so as to not infect others unintentionally.”

Those who may be experiencing symptoms of monkeypox can get tested at their local health care provider.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society



Sailing the harbor

Neenah has had a long tradition of sailing on the lake. The Neenah Nodaway Yacht Club was established in 1864. Their club promotes the sport of sailing and has held races on Tuesday nights for many years.

Electronic recycling efforts create safer solutions

By Amber Brockman
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Since it took effect in 2010, Wisconsin's electronics recycling law has kept more than 350 million pounds of electronics out of landfills and expanded recycling access for state residents, according to the most recent E-Cycle Wisconsin report.

The law makes it illegal to put electronics such as TVs, computers and cellphones in the trash and requires electronics manufacturers to help cover the cost of responsible recycling.

"In general, our surveys and informal conversations have found that most people store electronics they are done using, because they are not sure exactly what to do with them," said Sarah Murray, E-Cycle Wisconsin coordinator for the DNR. "We encourage people to reuse or recycle old electronics — including cords, chargers

and other accessories — so that the materials can be used in new products."

It's also important to understand that electronics and batteries can't go in curbside trash or recycling bins, Murray said.

"Rechargeable batteries in electronics can cause fires if crushed or damaged, which is likely to happen during the collection process for recycling and trash," she said. "Electronics need to go to specialized recycling facilities (not the same place cans, bottles and cardboard go), where workers and equipment can safely handle the complex mix of materials in electronics, including toxics like lead and mercury."

Goodwill North Central Wisconsin (NCW) locations, including in Neenah, and Winnebago County Solid Waste are permanent collection sites that accept most electronics from schools and house-



holds, including cellphones, desktop computers and accessories, and laptops among other items, according to the up-to-date list the DNR maintains.

"In general, after people take electronics to a drop-off site, such as a local government recycling center or a retailer, the electronics are sent to a processing facility where workers dismantle them using a combination of manual disassembly and machines," Murray said. "The materials in electronics are sorted into different commodities and sent to refiners and processors that specialize in preparing the plastic, metal and glass for use in new products."

Neenah residents can drop off electronic waste products at the Winnebago County Landfill for a fee (call 920-727-2884 for details) or through private recycling centers such as Napuck Salvage & Supply.

For every 1 million cellphones recycled, 35,000 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered, the E-Cycle Wisconsin report states.

During the 2021 program year, Goodwill NCW sent 271,511 pounds of eligible electronic devices to registered recyclers or collectors under the E-Cycle program.

"Electronics contain hazardous materials such as lead and mercury that pollute the environment and can be harmful to human and animal health," said Ann Ward, logistics and post-retail sales operations manager for Goodwill NCW Warehouse Distribution. "We are committed to providing products to a certified recycler to ensure proper e-cycling to avoid a negative impact on the environment and unsafe conditions for the people handling them."

Post-retail sales to salvage vendors and recyclers divert 1,200 semi-trailers from the landfill every year, enough to fill Lambeau Field 12 times, according to Ward.

All laptops, computers and cellphones donated to Goodwill NCW are wiped before they are sold, and all e-cycled items are sent to a company certified through the DNR. This ensures data security won't be compromised and provides Goodwill NCW with a certificate of recycling.

The only Goodwill NCW location that accepts TVs or monitors is the Outlet Store at 1341 W Spencer St. in Appleton. All TVs or monitors — regardless of size and screen type — are \$15 each to donate for e-cycling.

Other electronics such as laptops, computer accessories and cellphones can be donated to any Goodwill at no cost. Donation hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

For more information on collection sites, mail-back programs and other electronics recycling information, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Ecycle.

McMahon selects new team members

Engineering and architectural firm McMahon has hired Alex Klarner and Renae Nider as structural designers, Zach Peirce as a mechanical design engineer, Alrik Ristau as a water and wastewater operations specialist, Kirsten Smith as an electrical designer and Jacob Thompson as a municipal and civil engineering technician.

Klarner is a recent graduate of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC), where he earned an associate degree in architectural technology. Before McMahon he worked for a construction company.

Nider comes to McMahon after working in residential design for a building material supply company. She earned an architectural technology degree from NWTC in 2022 and has degrees in interior design and kitchen and bath design from Fox Valley Technical College.

Peirce is a new graduate of Michigan

Tech where he earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. His role will focus on plumbing and HVAC engineering. Peirce held two internships for a defense company before joining McMahon.

Ristau has a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. He has experience operating and managing anaerobic digesters. Ristau will be joining McMahon's affiliate company, Integrated Public Resources.

Smith graduated from NWTC with an associate degree in architectural technology in 2022. She was a McMahon intern while pursuing her degree and began her electrical designer role full time after graduation.

Thompson graduated from UW Oshkosh with a degree in environmental science. He previously worked for Vilas County, removing invasive species from lakes.

Nightclub gun incident under investigation

Neenah News

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's help in identifying five men involved in an altercation involving firearms at the Peppermint Hippo, an adult entertainment club in Neenah.

Deputies responded to an incident at 4:20 a.m. July 10 at 1413 Green Valley Road.

The initial caller reported that multiple individuals had entered the Peppermint Hippo with semiautomatic handguns and later fled the scene.

A witness reported that a large group

of people were in the after-hours portion of the club when a verbal argument ensued and two males displayed guns, but no shots were fired. The group fled the scene in a newer-model black or dark blue Chevrolet Equinox with an out-of-state license plate.

In a press release, the sheriff's office said that surveillance video indicates at least four of the men involved were likely armed.

Police are seeking the identity of five men involved in the incident.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Randy Woldt at 920-236-7368.

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Auto salvage yard site seeks brand-new future

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city continues to make progress toward redeveloping the former site of Loren's Auto Recycling at 2405 Schultz Drive.

The 9.5-acre site is situated near the Breezewood Lane and Bell Street interchange on the south side of the city. The location is adjacent to the city's Southpark Industrial Center, making it desirable for redevelopment.

The salvage yard dates to the mid-1980s. About 3,000 salvaged vehicles accumulated on the property over the years, according to a state Department of Natural Resources press release.

City staff was in discussions with the owner of the property – Loren Rangeloff – since 2012 in an attempt to acquire it.

The city identified potential risks involved with the purchase including contamination from deteriorating junk vehicles, a rail line on the western edge of the property and uncharacterized fill material at the site.

The Common Council voted to purchase the property in 2018 for \$900,000 to be redeveloped. As part of the purchase agreement, Rangeloff was given until late 2020 to remove the remaining vehicles.

In November 2020, the city was awarded a grant for contractor services from the DNR's Wisconsin Assessment Monies (WAM) program that offers public funding to redevelop run-down or underused properties.

DNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program chief Jodie Peotter said the salvage yard was not attractive to potential



Submitted photo

Some of the thousands of junked vehicles at Loren's Auto Recycling on Schultz Drive are shown in this undated photo.

buyers in its former condition.

"With the DNR's help, the city will determine the true environmental conditions at the property, address any necessary cleanup issues and then market the property to a new buyer," she said.

Director of Community Development Chris Haese said the city did an initial environmental assessment before acquiring the property and the DNR grant was used to complete a phase two assessment.

"We're now in the process of determining a remediation plan with the site to deal with the environmental issues or challenges that are on the site, which are fortunately not significant but still need to be addressed at some point," he said.

Haese said initial phases of the cleanup



Neenah News

were focused on removing salvage material, structures and fencing, adding that work is continuing.

"The site is essentially ready for development right now as any more remediation work on the environmental impacts to the site will likely occur with development of the property," he said. "The city is actively marketing the site and would entertain development proposals that are

consistent with other uses currently within the Southpark Industrial Center."

According to the city website, Southpark Industrial Center is a planned, controlled development park of more than 75 businesses on about 300 acres.

Haese said the former Loren's Auto Recycling site offers a special development opportunity due to its high visibility from Interstate 41.

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Photos by Rob Zimmer

Maribeth Knutson's city home garden carries the plants and memories of her other family homes in the area, along with garden art made by her father.

Knutson's city home hosts a garden of memories

By Rob Zimmer
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

From the quiet, peaceful shores of Cowling Bay to a serene neighborhood in the heart of Neenah, heirloom plant treasures grace the gardens of Maribeth Knutson, recalling many of her fondest moments at the old home and memories of her parents who carefully tended to these traditional blooms.

"Memories. It is so nice to have these memories," Knutson said. "I have memories of my parents in these garden plants and wooden projects, this garden art."

Throughout her gardens, beneath the shade of dancing maples, Knutson has found a new home for the very same

The Neenah GARDENER

original plants that grew in the gardens of her childhood home, as well as the home her parents shared just south of Neenah on Cowling Bay.

"These plants are previously from the yard of the home I grew up in, in Menasha, as well as from the home my parents built on Cowling Bay just outside of Neenah."

While many gardeners dream of recreating the gardens of their parents and grandparents, Knutson has taken that one step further by gathering some of the most treasured plants and transporting

them to her own home.

"The clematis that I have was divided up from our original home in Menasha. It is now over 40 years old," she said.

The tremendous, rich purple clematis now climbs freely along the side of the garage, blooming profusely under the July sun.

"A yucca plant that I have is also from the house in Menasha. I dug it up around three years ago and moved it and for the last two years it has bloomed beautifully. Every time it blooms it reminds me of home."

"The original hostas from the Cowling Bay Road house amaze me year after year as they continue to grow wonderfully," Knutson said, pointing out the massive

hostas in shades of green and blue that adorn all parts of the yard.

In addition to her collection of original plants from 30-40 years ago, Knutson also displays unique wooden garden art and accents made by her father.

"I have these beautiful memories of my father in the form of all of these birdhouses that he made and painted, as well as these old painted signs and patriotic wood art."

Knutson feels the tradition and bond of love that gardening created in her family every time she steps out into the garden.

"All of this makes me smile when I walk out my door. I think the sprinkles of love from Heaven help my garden grow."

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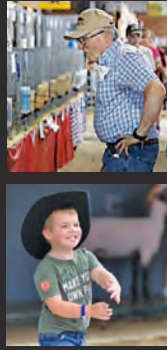
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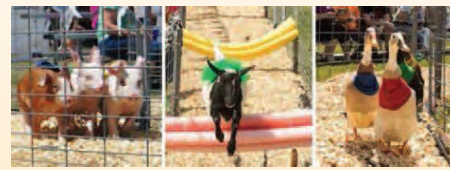
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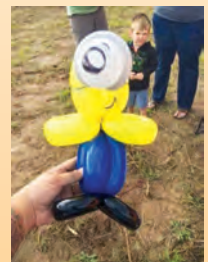
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Be Courageous

FROM PAGE 1

substance use issues too.”

Kierstyn, a senior this year at Oshkosh North and an active member of its Communities program, hosted two episodes of the Breakwater podcast with classmate Cally. They spent their time listening to the stories of those who have had experiences with substance use, including their own peers.

“It’s important for kids to be able to talk about this,” Kierstyn said. “The number one thing that made me realize how important this was is that these are people I’m going to school with. They have their own experiences with such a powerful topic. I didn’t expect it to be people I went to school with and how close to home it hit.”

Another thing she noticed in her work with Breakwater is the topic being an adult-dominant subject, that sometimes young people aren’t given credit for knowing what they’re talking about when it comes to substance use.

“Sometimes, adults have this view that kids don’t know what they’re talking about because they don’t have the same experiences as them being so young,” she said. “And I think a lot of times, adults have a hard time listening to kids about topics like this.

“When their own child opens up about something like that, I think adults go straight to that punishment aspect. Instead, I think they just need to listen to the kid and understand why they did that and what’s going on in their life that made them think it was a good option. Take kids into thought more.”

Swoverland has observed students’ use of addictive substances as a way to escape uncomfortable feelings, especially if they’re working with extensive anxiety or depression. It’s a temporary escape.

“That’s what a lot of students tell me, that ‘I feel better when I’m using,’ ‘That’s the only time I feel OK,’ or ‘It’s the only time I can think clearly or shut my mind

About the series

Through a partnership between the Neenah News and Breakwater, this six-part series aims to help reduce the reluctance of having difficult conversations and asking tough questions in the household surrounding alcohol and substance use.

Youth want you to ask questions; they need you to help them make decisions. For youth, people in your life – coach, teacher, youth leader, friend – are there to talk about the things you have questions about. Be courageous; start the conversation.

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off.’ It’s a coping skill,” she said. “In absence of having healthy coping strategies at their disposal, (substances) may be an easy one to go to.

“We don’t get a guidebook for how humans cope. It’s really important for kids to get exposure to healthy activities, getting involved and finding something they’re passionate about, and school is a great time to do that.”

Swoverland also uses gentle challenging techniques to help students understand why they might be resorting to addictive substances; it often stems from a larger mental health concern.

“I do think that there’s a lot of trepidation that comes with that self-disclosure,” she said. “I’m a firm believer as a counselor that every behavior has a purpose.”

Herm suggested that parents, in addition to creating a safe space for their children, keep an eye on their media intake and approach the young ones with appropriate interventions.

“Create that safe space for your child to be able to say they need help,” Herm said. “In the absence of that, I think that’s the easy way for students to self-medicate and escape their situations.”

Districtwide, there are resources for students, including its Rise Up program

in conjunction with Catalpa Health and Samaritan Counseling. This framework, according to the Oshkosh Area School District website, incorporates a multilevel system of support, depending on the level of need.

Sources of Strength, established during the 2017-18 school year for West and North high schools, broadly focuses on suicide prevention, particularly changing unhealthy norms culture, “ultimately preventing suicide, bullying and substance use.”

“I want to take out the fear factor of being able to talk to somebody,” Herm said. There’s no blame, shame or judgment. Even the kids who have gotten caught with me – and there has to be a consequence – I’m proud to say that’s usually the beginning of a relationship.”

Swoverland also said her position allows her to let students reach levels of empowerment separate from their home situation and help them realize what aspects of life are in their control.

“You can’t control what your parents are going to do, but if that’s causing you distress and you’re uncomfortable with the environment you’re exposed to at home,

what could we do to help your life look different? How can we get you there?” Swoverland said.

“We want to help them realize that high school is the time to prepare for what happens when they turn 18 and help them start picturing what their life is going to look like, what they want it to be.”

Conversely with parents, she said they have to listen to their kids. If a student is acting out or using addictive substances, it’s commonly taken as a failure by a parent.

“It has nothing to do with that. When kids do open up, just listen,” Swoverland explained. “We need to be able to get students where they need to be when they’re ready.

“I think there’s a lot of kids who might be using or realize they’re addicted to something and want to get help but think they’re going to be judged, their parents are going to be mad or the school is going to expel them. Whatever it is, that’s not how it works.”

A full list of the Breakwater podcast episodes is at breakwaterwi.org/podcast. More information on the Be Courageous campaign can be found at breakwaterwi.org/be-courageous.

Breakwater: Substance use, language matters

Words and language carry great weight. Last week, Breakwater released an article in the “Be Courageous” series titled Overdose, alcohol abuse stats show costs. Terms such as “substance abuse” or “addict” shift how people who have substance use disorders are viewed in society and further alienates them.

Breakwater would like to take this opportunity to apologize for using these terms in the article. Negative, dehumanizing language such as this causes further isolation and increases feelings of judgment. Changing language to be more inclusive with phrases such as “a person with substance use disorder,” or “a person in long-term recovery” puts the person first and does not define them by their disease.

This series is meant to bring understanding and compassion to the disease of addiction. Our goal is to lift up lived experience, educate the community that people with substance use disorders are more than their disease, and demonstrate that our language plays a vital role. “Be Courageous” is an opportunity to cultivate a safe, inclusive and supportive community, and it starts with using person-first language.

To learn more, go to Shatter Proof’s – Addiction Language Guide at tinyurl.com/yurca7y5 or visit breakwaterwi.org.

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Habitat for Humanity photo

The Chang and Mai Vang family will be moving into their new home later this year.

Habitat home

FROM PAGE 1

“We just want to say thank you for giving us an opportunity to grow up in our own home and to live in a good neighborhood,” they wrote.

Fox Cities Habitat builds an average of 17 homes per year in northern Winnebago, Outagamie, Waupaca and Calumet counties. Volunteers are used on about 22 build days per home, stretched out over three to four months. For the homeowner, the process typically takes about 18 months from the time they’re accepted into the program to when their home is dedicated.

J. J. Keller is a management consulting company with a focus on transportation, workplace safety, construction and human resources. The J. J. Keller Foundation is a private family foundation that awards grants to nonprofits in the Fox Valley.

Last week, 22 volunteers were on site working on the home, including 11 employees from J. J. Keller’s Content Department. The company pays its employees for eight hours of volunteer time to help on the build.

There are 241 J. J. Keller associates volunteering throughout the summer on the Deerfield Court build. Terri Dougherty, editor on the human resources publishing team, said this year’s turnout is bigger than ever.

“People were just so eager to come out and get together and volunteer because over the past few years it’s been touchier because of COVID,” she said. “It was tough to get volunteers, and people were working from home, and some people are maybe a little farther away, but this year everyone that’s in the area is really enthusiastic about helping out.”

As a company that focuses on safety, Dougherty said the Habitat build gives the J. J. Keller employees hands-on experience in the construction field.

“You spend your day wearing your safety glasses and you learn about ladder safety, and here you’re putting it into practice, so that’s really good, too,” she said. “We’re definitely a safety company and this gives us a chance to practice what they preach.”

Rachel Krubsack, editor for the environment, health and safety team, said this is her second year volunteering on a home build.

“I had a good experience and decided to give it a try again,” she said. “It’s helping someone else in a small way for one day and it’s a good feeling.”

Several volunteers said they were grateful for the support from their employer.

“It really makes you proud to work for J.J. Keller when you see what they do to help support their community and so it definitely is a source of employee pride when you see that your company is so willing to help

out,” Dougherty said.

Habitat volunteer Jo Ann Lang said working on Habitat home builds has kept her busy after retirement.

“I wanted to give back and wanted something physically active but what I really got out of it was the satisfaction of working for future homeowners that have gone through a lot of challenges and it’s neat to help them and create a better life for them and their families,” she said.

The Deerfield Court build started in May and is expected to be finished by Sept. 10.

Dougherty said volunteers experience the satisfaction of seeing a physical structure go up.

“There’s so many rewarding things about volunteering for Habitat,” she said. “It’s just so neat to know you’re helping out a really good family. It’s helping them get a good foundation, a great place to live and it’s helping the community.”

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Truck crash claims infant’s life

Neenah News

A semitrailer truck crashed into an occupied residence Monday in the Town of Vinland, causing the death of an 8-month-old boy.

The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department started receiving 911 calls at around 6 p.m. about a semitrailer traveling on Interstate 41 southbound that had veered off the highway, through the fence line, crossing the frontage road and into the residence on Green Valley Road just north of Oshkosh.

The driver of the semi was identified as a 63-year-old male from Little Chute who sustained minor injuries during the crash,

which is still under investigation.

As a result of the crash, Green Valley Road was closed between State 76 and County GG for cleanup for nearly 11 hours.

The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office was assisted by the Wisconsin State Patrol, Neenah Police Department, Menasha Police Department, Town of Vinland Fire Department, Town of Oshkosh Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance, ThedaStar Air Medical, Wisconsin Public Service, Fox Cities Victim Crisis Response Team, Winnebago County Highway Department and the Winnebago County Coroner’s Office.

Kobussen mechanic’s success featured in Bus Tours magazine

Kobussen Buses lead mechanic Dave Meyerhofer, who works out of Neenah, is featured in the current issue of Bus Tours Magazine.

Meyerhofer is a three-time winner of the United Motorcoach Association’s Maintenance Competition. The story can be read at issuu.com/bustourmag in Volume XLV, No. 8.

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Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad
Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m.
Tuesday. \$15 for first 20 words

For Sale

“GO FISH - CANADA!” KINGFISHER RESORT
Cabin-Boast-Motor-Gas \$85 per person/day.
JULY/AUG/ SEPT SPECIAL \$80 per person/day
800-452-8824 www.kingfisherlodge.com (WCAN)

SUMMER SALE!!! FLUFFY AKC COCKER SPANIEL PUPS shots/vet 920-563-3410
pennylanecockerspaniel.com (#268588) (WCAN)

AKC BERNESE MTN DOG PUPPIES Shots/Vet Checked, dewes, dewormed \$1000 No Sunday
Calls: 715-409-3321 (495932) (WCAN)

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVERS shots/wormed/dewes/vet \$800 Ready Now
715-470-0458 #509642-DS

AUSSIE DOODLE PUPS shots/dewormed, 1 yr health guar. All colors \$800-\$1200
715-754-2682 No Text (WCAN)

BOAT FOR SALE: 16’ Steury Runabout
1975 Newer Mercury 90 H.P. Optimax and Shorelander Trailer. One Owner – Excellent Condition. \$6,300.00.
920-231-8520

DON’T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today!
1-888-686-1458 (WCAN)

FINAL LIQUIDATION STOREWIDE-UP TO 90% OFF, Lots of Inventory and Includes store fixtures! WoodworkersDepot.com
M-Sat 8-4, Oneida St., off 41, 2965 Ramada Way, Green Bay 1-800-891-9003 (WCAN)

FRITZ BARN PAINTING Rusty Roofs, Metal bldgs Free Est 608-221-3510
920-821-6311

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS AKC Excel Temp Genetic Guarantee Parents OFAd 715-537-5413 www.jerland.com #268001-DS (WCAN)

HOSTAS! Over 600 Field Grown varieties!
Open Daily - THROUGH LABOR DAY
12-5pm. 14028 Louis Corners Rd, KIEL, WI
920-894-2905 & 920-298-8334 CASH OR CHECK ONLY

MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPPIES \$995,
1 yr Health guar. Microchipped shots
715-409-0533

POMERANIANS DOB Apr. Family Farm
Raised cute dewormed UTD shots \$600
715-654-5149

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY
with a GENERAC home standby generator.
\$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote! Call now before the next power outage:
1-877-626-1009 (WCAN)

REG. CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL PUPS \$900 Ready Now!
715-470-0458 #509642-DS

REG KING CHARLES CAVALIER PUPS \$1200;
Mini Poodle Pup \$1800 Vet Ck/wormed/Dews/Shots 715-536-0697 No Sun calls

THE GENERAC PWRcell a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today.
Call 1-855-707-0232 (WCAN)

THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING A NEW SHOWER? American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call 1-844-479-1327 today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit www.newshowerdeal.com/wcp (WCAN)

TOP OF THE RIDGE KENNEL has puppies from our house to yours Cavapoo’s, Pomsky’s Toy Poodles, all shots given
Text/call 608-344-0707

TOY COCK-A-POOS Gentle & Loveable, Hypo-allergenic, Non-shedding, All colors, shots/vet checked F-\$850, M-\$750
715-758-2433

UPDATE YOUR HOME with Beautiful New Blinds & Shades. FREE in-home estimates make it convenient to shop from home. Professional Installation. Top Quality - Made in the USA. Call for free consultation: 877-544-2415 Ask about our specials! (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)

HUGE CRAFT SALE: OVER 400 ITEMS FOR SALE. Thursday & Friday, July 28 & 29. SALE ON FROM 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. 1747 SKYVIEW AVE. Oshkosh.

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

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

WANTED: Old/Vintage Travel Trailer & Older Moped/Golfcart Call/text 262-903-7522

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)

Real Estate/Rental



FOR SALE BY OWNER: 3094 Spring Street, Eureka. Quiet Country Living 20 minutes from Oshkosh. Appraised at \$92,000. Make An Offer. Anytime by Appointment Call Tom 920-509-1268

Garage/Estate Sales

Garage Sale 5120 Island View Dr., Oshkosh. Thurs. - Sat. 9-3 Household goods, Christmas decorations, storybook dolls, many misc. items 25 cents to \$1.00.

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

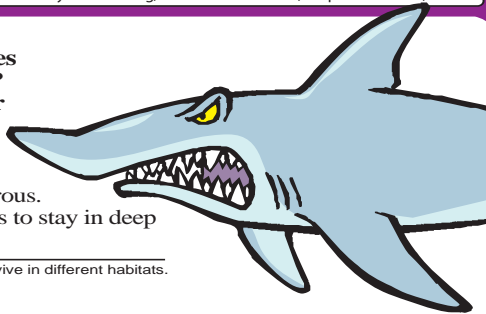


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SHARKS!



Which scares you more? A shark or a bee?



Most people are more afraid of sharks than bees. Yet bee stings have killed more people than sharks! Out of around 500 different kinds of sharks, most are not dangerous. The Great White shark is the most dangerous of all, but hardly anyone sees it. It likes to stay in deep ocean water where most people don't swim.

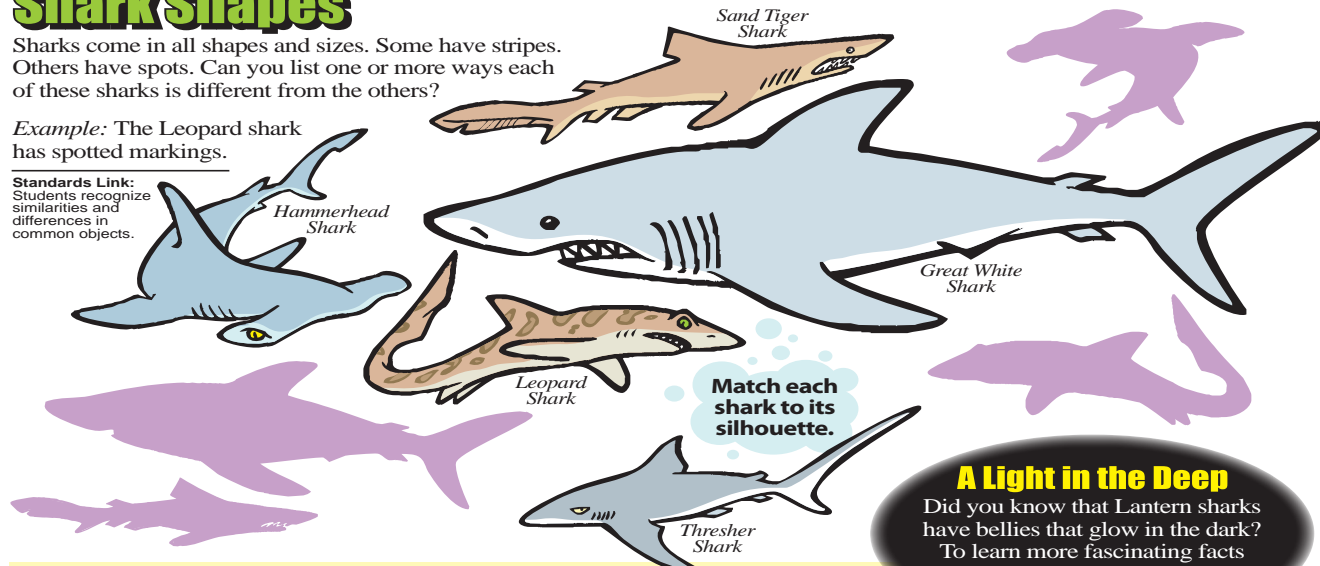
Standards Link: Life Science: Students understand that animals have different external features that help them survive in different habitats.

Shark Shapes

Sharks come in all shapes and sizes. Some have stripes. Others have spots. Can you list one or more ways each of these sharks is different from the others?

Example: The Leopard shark has spotted markings.

Standards Link: Students recognize similarities and differences in common objects.



A Light in the Deep

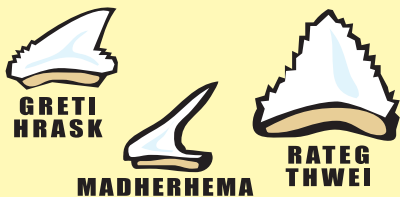
Did you know that Lantern sharks have bellies that glow in the dark? To learn more fascinating facts about sharks, take a dive into your local library!

Nothing but the Tooth

No two kinds of sharks have the same kind of teeth. Scientists can tell what kind of shark a tooth came from just by the way it looks.

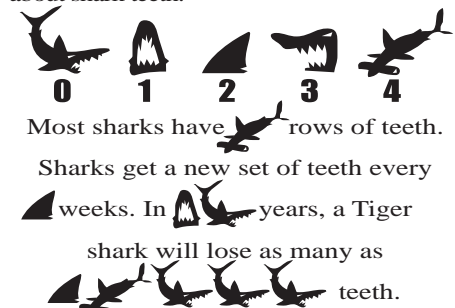
To find out what type of shark each tooth came from, unscramble the words.

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have features that help them survive in different environments.



Shark Teeth

Use this code to find out more amazing facts about shark teeth.



Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have features that help them survive in different environments.



How Do Sharks Float?

Shark livers are full of oil. To find out how oil helps sharks float, try this experiment.

- Put two tablespoons of cooking oil in a small jar.
- Fill the jar half full of water and put on the lid.
- Shake the jar.
- Set the jar down and watch what happens to the oil and water. Which one floats?

Standards Link: Physical Science: Conduct a simple investigation and analyze results to develop a logical conclusion.

Extra! Extra!

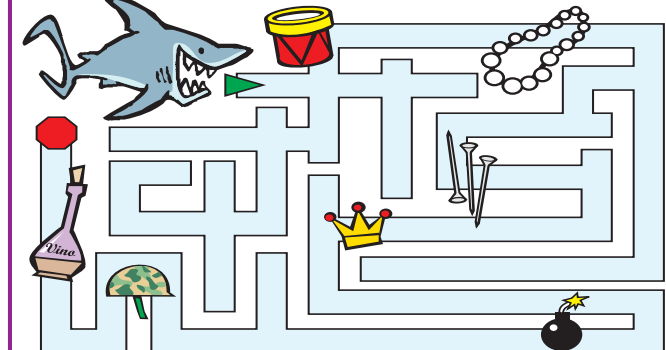
Dive into the newspaper to find:

- A word that starts with "sh"
- Five words that describe a shark
- A headline that is as long as the smallest shark
- Something sharp

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Students follow simple directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Some sharks eat almost anything! Follow Chomper's trail to find some of the surprising things that have been found inside shark stomachs.

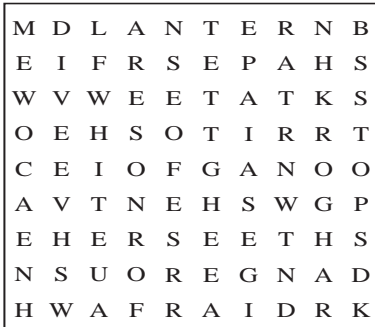


Standards Link: Environmental Science: Pollution in the environment can have detrimental effects on animals.

Double Double Word Search

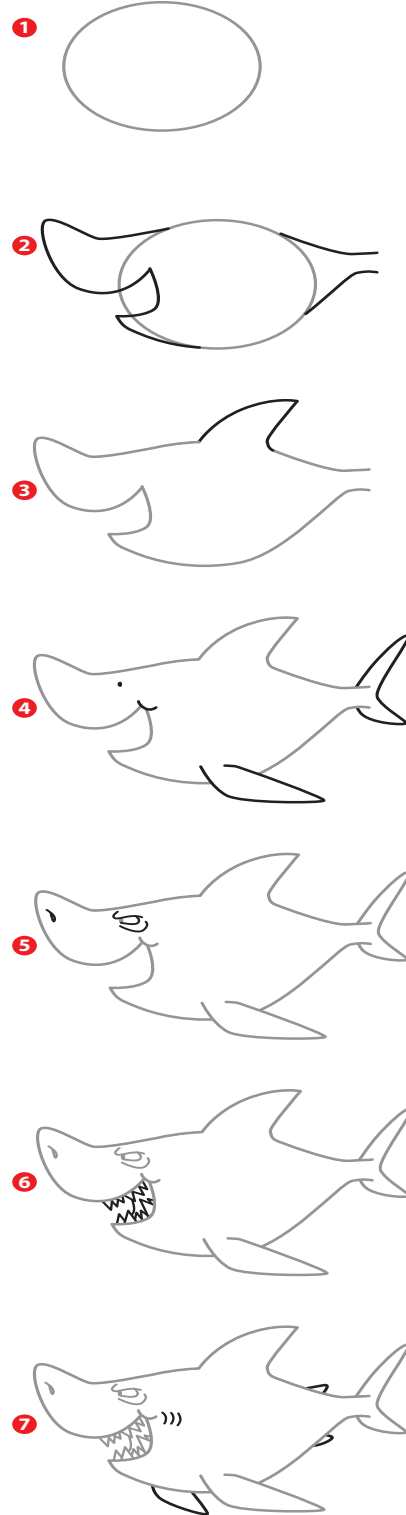
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

- SHARKS
- SHAPES
- DANGEROUS
- STINGS
- TOOTH
- WATER
- WHITE
- OCEAN
- SPOTS
- SWIM
- TIGER
- LANTERN
- DIVE
- AFRAID



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

HOW TO DRAW A SHARK



Write On!

Best Family Adventure

Tell about a fun outing you went on with your family.

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On sale through July 31, 2022