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## Roosevelt future awaits sale interest

### Elementary school will shift to Horace Mann site

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District has received several offers to purchase Roosevelt Elementary School, which is closing after the 2022-23 school year.

The Board of Education voted 6-3 last December to close the school, which is nearly 100 years old, as part of its Long-term Facility Plan.

The first phase of the plan includes closing Roosevelt and moving students from there and Wilson Elementary School to the Horace Mann Middle School building. The Alliance Charter School, which is also based inside Roosevelt, will be moved to Wilson.

Once the new Neenah High School is complete in 2023, middle school students will move to the former high school and Horace Mann will become an elementary school.

The district currently operates 10 elementary schools in nine buildings. The buildings range from 59 to 99 years old and all have had additions.

In a December memo, director of elementary learning and leadership Steve Dreger wrote that despite relatively stable enrollment, each school is at full capacity.

“No classroom space exists at this time should there be the need to add a class section,” he wrote. “Moreover, many schools do not have dedicated classrooms for art



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Roosevelt Elementary School is in its last year of classes on Doty Island near ThedaCare Regional Medical Center (seen at right) and the site will take on a new identity based on an eventual buyer.

and music, and spaces such as former locker rooms, closets and hallways are being used for small group instruction.”

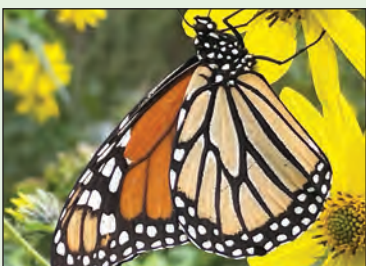
Dreger said that implementing the long-term plan will result in increased enrollment capacity for future growth, greater efficiencies, an expanded charter school, and enhanced environments for teaching and learning.

Roosevelt was chosen for closure because it's the oldest and smallest of the elementary schools and lacks the opportunity for expansion. The site is also considered appealing due to its proximity to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center, which is expanding.

ThedaCare owns the green space on the Roosevelt campus, which it leases to the district at no cost. At the time the district voted to close Roosevelt, there had not been any discussions between ThedaCare and the district regarding acquisition. A ThedaCare spokesperson did not immediately respond to an inquiry regarding whether it had put in an offer to purchase the school.

Communications director Jim Strick said the Roosevelt building is listed for sale and the district has received offers for purchase. He said the sale will be discussed in a public board meeting, likely in October.

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## Kimberly-Clark set the stage for Neenah 150 years ago



Neenah Historical Society photo

The first headquarters for Kimberly, Clark and Co. is shown in this undated photo. Kimberly-Clark Co. was incorporated in 1928.

### Paper giant expanded from local beginnings

By Becky Heidke Kwiatkowski and Tom Sutter  
NEENAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Imagine: The Village of Neenah circa 1872. It's mostly dirt roads and there are only two parks: The Green and Laudan Park. The major industry – the flour mill – relies on the waters of the Fox River for power.

Farmers come to the village to sell their crops and the millers turn it into flour. It is a time of great change and opportunity if you're willing to take a risk.

That year, two businessmen were running the Kimberly and Babcock Store, a successful general store that catered to Neenah residents and the farmers coming to sell their goods to the flour millers.

J.A. Kimberly was the store manager and Havilah Babcock one of his salesmen. They were approached by a young man, Charles Clark, who had an idea.

He knew one of the millers in the city had started producing paper instead of flour. Paper was a year-round product, being used daily, both by businesses and the villagers. Opportunity was knocking, but Clark didn't have the necessary funds to get started. He approached Kimberly and asked for help.

Kimberly quickly got on board and persuaded his business partner, Babcock, and a traveling salesman, F.C. Shattuck, to join them. The partnership agreement for Kimberly, Clark and Co. was signed in March 1872. The business was later incorporated in 1880. After the death of the last founder, Kimberly in 1928, Kim-

SEE **Kimberly-Clark** ON PAGE 6



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# County's diversity panel at impasse

## Disagreement over role brings calls to dissolve

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County Executive Jon Doemel said at a county board meeting last week that he may repeal the Diversity Affairs Commission (DAC) due to disagreements over its functional role.

The Board of Supervisors established the DAC in 2020 with a mission of embracing diversity, inclusion, and belonging, and encouraging the community to act in ways that help people thrive. The group is overseen by the UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee.

At the DAC's September meeting, the commission discussed implementing a diversity leadership position for the county. DAC chairperson Jared Longsine said at that time that it has no authority to implement the position and that recommending Human Resources implement any position is outside the scope of the DAC.

The DAC discussed dissolving itself at its last two meetings. Longsine said that the reasons for dissolving the DAC are "a lot less political and a lot more fundamental and functional."

He said the DAC has repeatedly been asked to do things that are outside of their bylaws or purview and that the only func-

tional purpose of the commission is to put on educational programs.

DAC vice chair Rachael Dowling said the strategic plan as approved by the county board does not allow for the commission to host or support diversity events in the community.

Longsine read off a resolution to recommend dissolution of the DAC, contending the commission's bylaws, strategic plan and mission statement render it ineffective. The Education and Agriculture Committee has not exercised oversight of the DAC and the relationship has been called dysfunctional.

The DAC voted unanimously to recommend dissolution of the commission.

The proposal was sent to the Education and Agriculture Committee, which discussed it at its Sept. 15 meeting. District 9 Supervisor Donald Nussbaum and District 26 Supervisor Conley Hanson spoke at the meeting in support of dissolution.

The committee will vote on the proposal to dissolve the DAC at its October meeting. If the proposal is approved, it will be sent to the Board of Supervisors for a vote.

At the Sept. 20 county board meeting,



Doemel

Doemel gave several reasons why he was considering repealing the commission. He said the employee facilitating the commission was promoted to a new position outside of Winnebago County. He said he has struggled to maintain a full commission, appointing each position multiple times. He added that the DAC has become political and the seven commission members have been unable to "craft a message in unison."

He proposed replacing the commission with strategic goals and then reporting back on the progress of those goals a year later.

"Diversity is about loving your neighbor, period," he said. "We can serve the refugees, we can serve the poor and others without this commission or the political buzzwords that upset citizens and create divide amongst this board."

Dowling said Doemel does not have the authority to dissolve the commission and can only affirm the decisions the commission has made. She said she shared Doemel's concerns about how the commission is being run and hopes the executive works with the county board to uphold the decision the DAC has made.

"No matter the future of the Diversity Affairs Commission, I am pleased to see that our community is organically making efforts to help diversity thrive in Winnebago County," she said.

# Neenah family gains special Menasha home

## Habitat for Humanity, J. J. Keller make it happen

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A ribbon-cutting and dedication on a brand-new home for Ha Chang, Mai Vang and their nine children, who live in a three-bedroom rental in Neenah, was held Monday in Menasha. The family received the house keys from Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity and Neenah's J. J. Keller & Associates, who partnered for the home build that started in May.

With seven bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms, it is the largest home Fox Cities Habitat has ever built. The Chang family was on a waiting list for more than two years before the build began. 84 Habitat volunteers and 241 Keller associates spent more than 3,200 hours building the home. The families selected for the program agree to contribute time to help build the home, which is referred to as "sweat equity."

Habitat works to build or rehab houses that are then sold to low-income families with affordable financing terms. Fox Cities Habitat has built 300 homes in north-



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Ha Chang and Mai Vang accept the keys to their new home from J. J. Keller associate Jesse Steffens that was built by Keller employees working with the Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity.

ern Winnebago, Outagamie, Waupaca and Calumet counties. J. J. Keller has partnered with Habitat to build a home each year for the past 17. The J. J. Keller Foundation makes a significant contribution to fund the build and employees contribute volunteer hours.

Before the dedication started, elders spiritually cleansed the home using smoke, a tradition in the Hmong community. During the dedication ceremony, the family was presented with housewarming gifts including handmade benches, a blanket, door plaque, welcome mat and a \$150 Festival Foods gift card.

Terri Dougherty, editor on the human resources publishing team at J. J. Keller, congratulated the family on the hard work they put into the home.

"Our teammates were able to come onsite here and work for a great cause so thanks for giving us that opportunity," she said.

Three of the Chang children cut the ribbon on the new home. Chang thanked Habitat, J. J. Keller and Lopez Roofing for giving the family the opportunity to own a home.

"We want to thank any of the homeowners or anyone else in the community who has put a nail in our house, whether that nail was straight or crooked; you guys have really impacted our family," Chang said. "Thank you."



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

A traditional smoke/cleansing ceremony is performed outside of the new home of the Chang family by elders in the Hmong community.

# Booster vaccines, flu shots encouraged by health department

Neenah News

The Winnebago County Health Department and other local health care leaders are urging residents to stay up to date on COVID and flu vaccines as they offer the new updated bivalent COVID-19 booster to those ages 12 and above.

On Sept. 1, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that everyone ages 12 and older in the United States receive an updated booster before a possible surge in COVID-19 illnesses later this fall and winter. The updated doses help restore protection that might have gone down since one's last dose and give extra protection to individuals and those around them against the

most recent variants.

County health officials will continue to offer primary series vaccines (first and second doses) to anyone 6 months or older and booster doses to those ages 5 through 11.

"The last two years have shown us the important role immunizations play in helping protect one another," said Dr. Mark Cockley, ThedaCare chief clinical officer. "Immunizations, particularly for influenza and COVID-19, can greatly decrease the risk of becoming seriously ill or passing an infection to a loved one."

The CDC also recommends that everyone 6 months and older get a flu shot, preferably in September or October as the

flu is typically active between October and April, peaking between December and February. Cockley said it takes two weeks for the vaccine to provide immunity.

The updated COVID boosters have been authorized by the Food and Drug Administration and are the first Omicron-specific vaccines available in the United States. They target the original strain of COVID-19, as well as the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants.

The highly contagious BA.5 Omicron subvariant is the dominant strain of COVID-19, making up about 90% of cases nationally.

ThedaCare patients and residents can schedule influenza vaccines and COVID boosters online, and a COVID booster clinic is set from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at ThedaCare Physicians-Appleton Gateway, 3925 N. Gateway Drive, Appleton. Walk-ins are welcome but preregistering is encouraged at [vaccinate.wi.gov](http://vaccinate.wi.gov).

Other vaccine locations:

- Theda Care Neenah at 333 Green Bay Road offers vaccines from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, including Pfizer shots for ages 5 and older and Moderna for ages 6 months and older.

erna for ages 6 months and older.

- Fox Crossing Fire Department, 1326 Cold Spring Road, offers Pfizer and Moderna vaccines subject to availability and additional doses and boosters from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays. Participants are asked to bring their vaccination cards and no appointment is necessary.

- Vaccinations can be scheduled at Aurora and Ascension medical facilities, Deerwood Pediatrics, and at pharmacies including CVS, Hometown Pharmacy, Pick n Save, Walgreens and Walmart.

- The Walk in Wednesday COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Winnebago County's Sunnyview Expo Center has extended hours from 1 to 6 p.m.

At-home COVID-19 test kits are now available through the newly launched Say Yes! COVID Test program. Some of these test kits may have an expiration date that has passed but the FDA granted a three-month shelf-life extension for the iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test, which extended the shelf-life of all iHealth tests from six to 12 months.

Visit [www.wcvaccine.org](http://www.wcvaccine.org) or call 920-232-3026 for details.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

## Mayor Carpenter

Marigen Carpenter, shown explaining the workings of city government to a Brownie Scout troop from Clayton Elementary School in 1986 when she was Neenah mayor, is one of five being inducted in the Neenah Joint School District Hall of Fame this weekend.



## Coollest Thing Made competition underway

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) received more than 100 nominations for its seventh annual Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin contest that were narrowed down to 16 this week.

Neenah-based businesses nominated included personalized lithopanes from Another Turn Woodworks, Quidel Savanna molecular analyzer from Plexus Corp., handcrafted mugs from Sunset Hill Stoneware and Big Bag Yellow Popcorn from Valley Popcorn Co.

Plexus' Quidel Savanna was named Wednesday among the top 16 finalists.

This year's nominees include mining equipment, yachts, an EV fire truck, cheese curds, a home generator, beef jerky, sports complex lighting, frozen pizzas, a cargo ship and intermodal chassis.

The 16 finalists move on to Manufacturing Madness – a bracket-style tournament that features head-to-head matchups of Wisconsin-made products. The ultimate winner will be announced Oct. 19.

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# Homecoming festivities, game set

Neenah News

Neenah High School will celebrate Homecoming today (Friday) with a parade and tailgate party that begin at 5 p.m. before the 7 p.m. football game against Kaukauna.

The parade will run its traditional route from the city pool west down Wisconsin Avenue through downtown Neenah to the Plaza. School officials said that parade route will continue after the move to the new high school.

A tailgate party will be hosted by the school's Fusion Academy from 5 to 7 p.m. inside Rocket Stadium that will cost \$5 and include food. A game ticket is needed to enter the stadium.

This will be the final regular season varsity game at Rocket Stadium. Halftime features the marching band performance and introduction of the 2022 NJSD Hall of Fame class. Tickets at the gate are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Those ages 62 and over are admitted free.

## Latest high school project site tour offered

The public is invited to visit the new Neenah High School site from 4 to 5 p.m. Oct. 10. for the latest look at construction progress at Winchester Road and Clayton Avenue in Fox Crossing.

Miron Construction staff will lead visitors through an informational visit with specific explanations about the interior drywall installation and painting, exterior

brick, metal fabrication and windows installation and an overall site tour.

The event does not require hard hats, but visitors are advised to dress accordingly and wear closed-toe shoes. This is the third Milestone Moment offered during the construction process. Additional events will be held periodically leading up to the school's opening in the fall of 2023.

## Fox Crossing electronic recycling event set

An electronics recycling event is set for 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 8 at the Fox Crossing Village Hall, 2000 Municipal Drive, sponsored by the village and Recycle That Stuff Resource Solutions.

Many electronic items will be accepted for free while other specific items such as

televisions and monitors will be charged a fee. Call 920-955-3750 for information.

Vehicles will be unloaded by volunteers at the event so there is no need to get out of the vehicle. Batteries and light bulbs should be removed from the electronic items before recycling them.

## Baby-sitting classes offered through Parks & Rec

The Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation Department is offering a Home Alone & Babysitter Safety class for three sessions Oct 15, Dec. 28 and Feb. 20.

The class is geared for those looking to have 10-year-olds start staying home alone or learning about baby-sitting. Classes in-

clude four hours of CPR instruction and four hours of safety lessons with a combination of hands-on skills training, videos and discussion.

The fee is \$70. Contact 920-720-7108 or parkrec@foxcrossingwi.gov for more information.



Photo by Rob Zimmer

Monarch butterflies are making their way along area's waterways.

# Monarch butterflies maintain shoreline presence in region

By Rob Zimmer  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

With all the concern about the status of monarchs in Wisconsin, as well as the United States, it is assuring to know that good numbers are migrating through our area right now.

The last week or so has seen a massive migration of monarchs, especially here along the shore of Lake Winnebago and our area rivers. Monarchs traditionally follow waterways south on their journey and there are many wonderful places to get out and see them over the next few weeks as migration peaks.

There are many native wildflowers still in bloom, especially along the northern shore, where an example of a shoreline restoration project has been installed, featuring dozens of species of native wildflowers including many late season bloomers that draw in the monarchs.

In Neenah and the surrounding area, there are a number of places to see monarchs as they migrate through. Monarchs will continue to straggle through at least until the middle of October, often even beyond that.

The Wild Center, situated on the northwest corner of Little Lake Butte des Mort, is classified as a Monarch Waystation. Since monarchs follow waterways, very generally, this is an ideal spot to seek them out.

The native perennial gardens at the Neenah Public Library are also an excellent place to watch for monarchs on warm sunny days.

Monarchs following the lake shore south often gather at Kimberly Point Park. On peak migration days, one can sit along

the waters edge and watch monarchs streaming by on their journey south.

With its vast plantings of native wildflowers, the Neenah Conservancy draws large numbers of monarchs during September and October. Late blooming asters, goldenrod and other sources of nectar keep them well fed as they continue south.

Mahler Park is another excellent place to find monarchs during the fall migration. Watch the wildflower plantings, as well as the forest edge where monarchs roost in the trees at night.

Monarchs are seen regularly throughout the month as they traverse the western shore of Lake Winnebago. At Asylum Point near Oshkosh, a sea of goldenrod and fall asters welcome the monarchs as they move south.

Just a short distance from Asylum Point, the Coughlin Community Natural Area, an expansive area of native wildflower prairie and plantings draws large numbers of monarchs.

The many trails and display gardens here are planted with native plants, including many late season prairie bloomers that draw monarchs on migration. Walk the trails and observe the many interpretive signs to learn more about this area, the plants and wildlife that thrive here.

The Wiouwash Trail and its many restored prairie plantings make an excellent destination for observing monarchs during fall migration. A virtual corridor of native plants such as Joe pye weed, turtleheads, asters, goldenrod and more make this a literal Monarch Highway during migration.



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# Corr Opticians mark 70 years of steady vision

By AJ Mikkelson  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

One of the many things that make a community special is the desire of neighbors to support local small businesses. There are not many small businesses operating today that opened their doors seven decades ago and have served patrons in the same location for nearly 50 years. One business that does meet both of those criteria is Corr Opticians.

In 1952, John Corr opened Corr Opticians on North Commercial Street near High Street. Corr remained at that location until the current building, located at 250 First St., was built in 1973. The business focused on optician services into the late 1990s when optometry services were added and an optometrist was on site.

Dr. Rachel Romenesko began working at Corr in 2013. She grew up in the Fox Valley, attended undergraduate college in Milwaukee and went to optometry school in Chicago. She returned to the area after graduating and put her roots down here.

After beginning at Corr, she immediately felt at home and informed then-owner John Janke that he “basically couldn’t get rid of me, I’m going to be here a long time, I hope you’re ok with that.”

Romenesko became the fourth owner of Corr Opticians when she purchased the business Jan. 1, 2020. Buying the business just shortly before the COVID 19 pandemic presented extra challenges. Romenesko and her staff of four found creative ways to continue to serve customers during a time when they weren’t

seeing patients in person. Corr remained available for glasses service and repairs.

“Some of my competitors weren’t answering their phones during the shutdown,” Romenesko said, but Corr continued to offer some services that didn’t require face-to-face visits and were able to serve some of their competitors’ customer needs.

For a time, the availability of some products was slowed, sometimes taking four times as long to get. Some of her staff also retired in the past couple of years, but the family-like atmosphere has allowed her to find quality staff and retain them.

“Our staff works great together,” Romenesko explained, and that is evident to the customer.

Another aspect that sets Corr Opticians apart is “the time we spend with the customer,” said Romenesko. “When you come to Corr Opticians for an eye exam, it’s just me that you’re working with,”

Each part of the exam is done by Romenesko, rather than moving through a few different rooms with different staff or assistants.

Romenesko also enjoys being a piece of what makes Neenah a great place to live. She loves how the residents are purposeful about supporting local businesses and also enjoys community events, Parks and Recreation programs for the kids, and the parks.

One of the positive things about the last few years for Romenesko has been seeing customers and patients return after things began to open back up, a kind of loyalty that is high on her list of what makes the community special.



Submitted photo  
Pictured is the current opticians team at Corr Opticians in Neenah. The company is celebrating 70 years in business.

## Chamber names business award winners for 2022

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce announced its 2022 Business Awards recipients, which included Neenah-based Jewelers Mutual receiving the Company Innovation Award in the large employer category.

The Business of the Year Award went to Milis Flatwork of Kaukauna in the large employer category and CarePatrol Fox Cities senior care service based in Appleton among small employers.

Proceed.app, a visual-based training and communications specialist, received the Company Innovation Award in the small employer category.

The Chamber acknowledges organizations that have identified opportunities and executed creative thinking, taking calculated risks to bring innovation to the marketplace. This year’s recipients are:

The Corporate Citizen/Leadership Award, which encourages and supports corporate social responsibility and community leadership, went to Winch Financial based in Appleton.

The Rising Star Award for relatively new small businesses went to Whisk & Arrow Sugar Studio in Appleton.

“The Fox Cities Chamber Business Awards are truly a special event where we pay tribute to businesses that represent leadership and achievement in our community,” shared Becky Bartoszek, president/CEO of the Fox Cities Chamber.

Recipients will be recognized at the Chamber’s Business Awards luncheon Nov. 14 at the Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel in Neenah from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



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# Kimberly-Clark

FROM PAGE 1

berly-Clark Corp. was incorporated in the state of Delaware on June 30, 1928.

The men knew this was a big risk, as there were no guarantees that they would be successful. They had seen many of their fellow businessmen fail. Their first move: build a mill to make newspaper, as it was the major source of communication of the time.

Paper was produced by cutting up old rags, soaking them for the fibers, and then recombining the fibers. At the time, all the mills in Neenah were too small to handle the operation. So, the new partners built the Globe Mill, which opened for business Oct. 22, 1872, the very day that J.A. and Helen Kimberly's daughter, Jessie, was born.

The founders established four major principles to guide their new business: manufacture the best product possible,



Neenah Historical Society photo

The early Kimberly, Clark and Co. Badger Mills in Neenah is shown.

serve customers well to gain their confidence and goodwill, deal fairly with employees and only expand capacity when demand justified it, relying on earnings to finance any expansions. The company was also to be family orientated. This included not only the men in the company but the women as well.

The Kimberly Clark Co. hired men and women to run Globe Mill. The women sorted the rags and removed buttons and other unwanted material. As the company expanded, the founders looked for new places to build mills, including Kimberly, Niagara, Appleton and Grand Chute. The founders' wives would remind their husbands that in order to build a community, the women needed proper training in household and domestic tasks.

As the papermaking process evolved from using rags to wood, the founders and their descendants relied on product diversification to keep the company growing. They hired world-class researchers and developers to find the most efficient and cost-effective ways to produce paper. Later, they would start developing new products.

These innovations would eventually lead to the creation of Kleenex, Kotex and Huggies. The company created thousands of jobs in Neenah, with generations of families working in the same factories. Much has changed in 150 years as the company became an international powerhouse, and in 1995, merged with Scott Paper Co.

The founders, their families and descendants also contributed to the betterment of the city as a whole. They purchased land and provided funds for projects from the library and theater to parks. They helped establish and run various local nonprofit organizations, including VNA, The Brigade and the Neenah Historical Society.

Kimberly Clark has gone from little more than a dream and a hope to a highly successful global corporation. Happy birthday, Kimberly Clark. And thank you for all the contributions you have made to the Neenah community. Imagine what Neenah would have been like if Kimberly-Clark had never been.

More information on the history of Kimberly-Clark Corp. can be found in various books at the Neenah Public Library and Neenah Historical Society.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Founders of Kimberly, Clark and Co. are shown in this undated photo.

# Calendar of events

## Friday, Sept. 30

The Hallows: A Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

School for Seniors, 8:45 a.m., St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 140 S. Green Bay Road

## Saturday, Oct. 1

Mayor's Charity Run/Walk, 8 a.m., Loop the Lake Trail (start at The Plaza)

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Wine Walk, noon, downtown locations (start at 135 W. Wisconsin)

Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

The Hallows: A Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

## Friday, Oct. 7

The Hallows: A Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

First Friday concert, 2 p.m., Cedric Bae'tche, Neenah Public Library

## Saturday, Oct. 8

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Build-A-Scarecrow, 10:30 a.m., Riverside Park

The Hallows: A Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

## Sunday, Oct. 9

The Driftless Plowboys, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Sweet Adelines Concert, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Church St.

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# Family sues over Wausau death review

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Police Department is being sued by the mother and step-grandmother of a 7-year-old who died in 2020 over the department's refusal to release records pertaining to their review of the Wausau Police Department's handling of the death investigation.

Neenah police were called in to assess the way Wausau police investigated the death of Eliana Froom, Alyssa Froom's daughter and Julie Leist's step-granddaughter.

Eliana collapsed at her father's Wausau home on Sept. 26, 2020. She was taken by ambulance to the hospital where she died two weeks later. The medical examiner's report indicates she died of myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart typically caused by a viral infection. The specific viral cause was undetermined.

The Wausau police investigation into Eliana's death revealed she died of natural causes. Froom and Leist have challenged that finding, stating that they believe Eliana died due to neglect from her father. They both filed complaints against Wausau Police Chief Ben Bliven and six officers who they said mishandled the investigation.

In February, the Wausau Police and Fire Commission dismissed the complaints against Bliven and ordered him to select an outside law enforcement agency to investigate the six officers named in the complaints. Neenah Police Chief Aaron Olson was selected to conduct the investigation.

At a June 22 Wausau Police and Fire Commission meeting, Froom said she believed Eliana's death could have been prevented.

"Her death was caused by negligence by so many people, including her father that had a duty to protect my daughter," she said. "Instead, he withheld her well-being from me and I couldn't do anything to protect her."

Olson presented his findings at the meeting. He said there were about 60 items that Froom and Leist said the department did wrong, which he determined to be unfounded.

## United Church of Christ focuses on youth mental health

Neenah News

Congregational United Church of Christ in Neenah is joining a statewide and national initiative among its affiliated congregations on how it can be welcoming, inclusive and engaged with those affected by mental health challenges.

As part of the process to become a WISE (welcoming, inclusive, supportive and engaged) Congregation for Mental Health, the church is offering a youth mental health first aid class from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 8 at its 1511 Nicolet Blvd. location. The interactive class provides information and practical skills.

The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ introduced the process of becoming and being a WISE Congregation for Mental Health at its last annual meeting.

Adopted at the 2015 United Church of Christ General Synod, the national initiative encourages congregations to become

Among the complaints is that Wausau police failed to satisfy open records requests. Olson said he exonerated the department of that complaint because although he found the violation occurred, it wasn't because of ill intent, it was because of a process error.

"No one wants to deal with a child death because it's horrible and Detective LaPorte did a great job investigating this because he tried to uncover every stone, but no stone led him to that path that said there was ill intent, so for that reason this is unfounded," Olson said.

Olson's recommendation was for each detective to be issued a body-worn camera. The Wausau Police and Fire Commission dismissed the complaints after the meeting.

Documents indicate Froom and Leist filed open records requests with Neenah police on June 27, requesting Olson's report and footage of the interviews he conducted during his investigation into Wausau police. Their requests were denied, with officials stating by email that the police records cannot be released until a 30-day appeal timeline has passed.

On July 8, Froom and Leist both filed lawsuits against Neenah police, asking the court to enforce open records laws.

An open records request submitted by Neenah News after the 30-day appeal timeline was not fulfilled. Open records clerk Laurie Krueger wrote in an email that the request was not denied but is delayed due to the lawsuit filed by Froom and Leist.

"I have been advised by our attorney that no documents will be released in association with the Wausau Police Department investigation at this time," she wrote.

Wausau police supplied a 40-page investigation report in response to an open records request.

On July 25, Froom and Leist both filed civil lawsuits against the Wausau Police and Fire Commission, asking for a court to review the actions of the agency.

Froom and Leist's lawsuits against both the Wausau Police and Fire Commission and Neenah police are scheduled for status conferences in October.

more welcoming to individuals and families living with mental health challenges, brain disorders and substance use issues.

The class is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people – parents, families, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers – how to help an adolescent experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or is in crisis.

The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews adolescent development, and teaches a five-step action plan for how to help in crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders and eating disorders.

The Neenah class is taught by Cindy Czarnik-Niemeyer and Tracy Aliota, and will provide lunch, snacks and drinks for free. Register at [mary@namioshkosh.org](mailto:mary@namioshkosh.org).

## Volunteer needs

**ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah:** Volunteers are needed for the Information Desk escort role to walk patients and visitors to their destination within the hospital and assist with errands. Volunteers need

to be able to push individuals in wheelchairs. Other volunteer roles are available. For more information or to request an application, contact Brooke at [brooke.techlin@thedacare.org](mailto:brooke.techlin@thedacare.org) or 920-729-2207.



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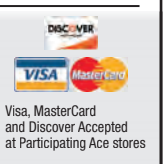
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# Zephyrs ready for temporary return to 11-player football

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Things will be a little different for the St. Mary Catholic/Valley Christian football team this week.

After spending the last three-plus seasons playing 8-player football, the Zephyrs will switch over for one week only to play an 11-player game at Menominee (Mich.) on Friday night.

"We've been looking forward to it since our athletic director got it on the schedule," Zephyrs' head coach Josh Young said. "We had been doing 11-player stuff in practice a little bit every day just to get the kids acclimated. Last week we hit it a little harder and this week our preparation will be specifically for 11 player."

This week's contest will serve as a precursor for the 2023 season when the Zephyrs plan to return to 11-player football full time. The game will allow the team to play a competitive game in that style at the varsity level.

The Zephyrs' junior varsity team has been playing 11-player all season, which has helped in the preparation for Friday's matchup for both the players and the coaches.

"That's a big deal because the varsity kids have gotten to watch it. Some of the kids who have played JV will be playing in this game, so they are already acclimated to it," Young said. "As coaches, we have been coaching it on the JV level all season so it's not foreign although most of us came from 11 player before so it's just getting back into it again."

Young said that many of the offensive

plays and play calls will be very similar to what the Zephyrs' do in 8-player – although obviously with three more players in the formation. And having run the offense on the junior varsity level should help ease the transition to Friday's game.

But it's on the defensive side where the biggest changes are because there aren't many similarities between the 8-player and 11-player.

"The defense is completely different because your front is completely different, your secondary is completely different," Young said. "You are adding in more players so we are taking kids who don't normally play on offense or defense and moving them over or taking kids who are normally reserves and making them starters."

"We have an idea of what we want to do. It's just a matter of watching film on Menominee and transitioning it to the varsity kids now."

St. Mary Catholic is the No. 2 ranked team in Wisconsin in 8-player football, having knocked off Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah 96-7 last week, which ran the program's winning streak to 14 straight games.

Young would like to add another victory on Friday, but knows that the experience the kids gain against Menominee is the most important aspect of the game.

"Whether we win or lose as long as it's a competitive game and the kids are in it throughout, we will chalk it up as being a successful trip," Young said. "Obviously, you want to win, but it would be good for the kids just to be competitive on that level."



Neenah News  
Neenah quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven finds some running room behind the block of Chase Collins (46) against Oshkosh North.

# Big plays proving to be big key for Rockets

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Another week, another win for the Neenah football team.

And that means another big matchup this Friday.

A strong second half carried the Rockets to a 42-20 win over Oshkosh North last Friday to remain undefeated and tied with Kimberly atop the Fox Valley Association standings. Neenah, which moved up to No. 4 in this week's Division 1 rankings, will host a potent Kaukauna squad with the hopes of staying perfect on the season.

The Ghosts enter the game having won three straight contests, including last week's 30-28 nail-biter at home against Fond du Lac, and are expected to put the Rockets through another test.

"They are really well coached and defensively they play hard. We've got to be ready for the physicality of the game," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "They also have some really talented offensive threats."

Kaukauna is led by quarterback Finnley Doriot, who ranks second in the FVA in passing yards and has thrown 12 touchdowns to just two interceptions this season, and running back Noah Hoffman, who is second in the FVA in rushing yards and averages 6.3 yards per carry.

"(Hoffman) hits the hole hard and makes great cuts. They have a good quarterback and their receivers can go up and get the ball," Jung said. "We struggled defensively in the first half last week, but our defense played a good second half and we were able to get some key stops."

After allowing 20 first-half points against the Spartans last week, the Rockets' defense turned in a shutout after intermission allowing the team to pull away.

Connor Briones led the Neenah defense with nine tackles in the game, while Trevor McGinnis finished with seven.

The Neenah offense was stopped on the first drive of the second half against Oshkosh North, but scored touchdowns on its next three possessions and didn't secure the win until a 10-yard scoring run by Jase Jenkins, who finished with 126 yards on the ground to move past the 1,000-yard mark for the season.

"A lot of the games in the FVA are four-quarter games. You expect that," Jung said. "You like the games not to be close in the fourth quarter so you can rest your starters and then your backups gain valuable game experience. North came out with a good game plan and played well

## Week 7 games

### Fox Valley Association

(all games at 7 p.m., unless noted)

Kaukauna (4-2) at Neenah (6-0)  
Kimberly (6-0) at Fond du Lac (3-3)  
Appleton North (4-2) at Oshkosh West (1-5)  
Oshkosh North (1-4-1) at Appleton East (1-5)

and didn't let that happen."

One thing that was key in the win over the Spartans was the Rockets' ability to hit the big play on offense.

All three first-half touchdowns for the Rockets came on plays stretching at least 57 yards. Quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven, who rushed for 135 yards and completed all six of his pass attempts, took Neenah's first play from scrimmage 65 yards for a score, while Grant Dean had a 57-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

Dean also returned a punt 69 yards for a touchdown and finished with three touchdowns in the game – one rushing, one receiving and one on the punt return.

"It's nice to get those big plays," Jung said. "Coach (Steve) Jorgensen does a great job of finding a way to get a hat on everyone and we have some really talented backs that put their foot in the ground and run north and south."

Kaukauna has been susceptible to allowing the big play, too.

The Ghosts have allowed two rushing touchdowns of at least 70 yards and three passing touchdowns of more than 30 yards. Kaukauna has also given up an 82-yard kickoff return.

If the Rockets can hit on a big play or two early, they might get to rest some key players ahead of next week's showdown with Kimberly. But Jung isn't counting on that.

He expects it to be the typical FVA battle and that means four full quarters of football.

"We have the mantra that we are going to play 48 minutes. That's our expectation each week," Jung said. "We talk a lot about winning each day at practice to prepare for every game. We put a lot of time into keeping them in the present and being where their feet are and they have done a nice job with that."

## Correction

**SEPT. 23, PAGE 7:** Rocks senior linebacker Trevor McGinnis played against Appleton North. He was listed as out of the lineup in the game story.

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# Quella leads golfers Zephyrs cruise to conference crown at FVA tournament

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

After a strong regular season, the Neenah golf team kept things rolling at the Fox Valley Association tournament held last week at Chaska Golf Club.

The Rockets carded a score of 369 to finish third overall on the day and ended up tied for second with Appleton North in the final league standings.

“We had a great season,” Rockets head coach Chad Berken said. “Although we came in third place today, we ended up tied for second place in a tough FVA conference. That is everything you can ask for and more as a coach, especially when golfing in this league.”

Natalie Quella had a terrific day for the Rockets as she led the way for her team with a career-best 89. Tying for ninth place overall.

“The conditions were tough, with the wind and colder temperatures, but I was able to keep the ball in play all day and hit a fair amount of the greens,” Quella said. “The greens proved to give me some difficulty though. Luckily, my drives and iron play were able to almost make up for the fact that my putter was giving me some grief.”

Emma Buss was right on her heels as she fired a 91 to take second on the team, while Aubrey Oitzinger took third on the team with a 94.

One stroke behind Oitzinger came Amber Miller and Dawson Anderson to round out Neenah’s scoring golfers.

“We are excited for a great challenge for the postseason,” he said. “We have plenty of golfers on this team capable of making it to state and now it is time they go out there and show everyone how good they can be.”

Added Quella: “In the end, the team was disappointed with the final result of the Conference tournament, but we are proud of the great season we have had. We are all looking forward to a strong finish to the season in Regionals and Sectionals and hopefully some of us can make it to state this fall to cap off what has been a great season.”

Kaukauna won the team title with a score of 349, followed by Appleton North at 354.

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Looking to get into postseason play on a high note, the St. Mary Catholic put on a dominant performance on Saturday afternoon scoring 73 points to claim the team title at the Wisconsin Combined Tennis Conference. St. Mary’s Springs was a distant second with 45 points.

“We have a great group of girls this year with loads of leadership,” head coach Lizzy Auth said. “We are 15-1 as a team this year and all of our conference matches have been 7-0 victories so we knew we were sitting in a good spot to be conference champs.”

The Zephyrs grabbed a first-place finish at No. 2 singles as No. 4 seeded Gabby Ruback upset top-seeded Ava Huempfnr and then took down Ailish Mains from Oshkosh Lourdes in straight sets 6-3,6-4.

“As this being my first real match ever, it was very intimidating going up against the first seed as the fourth seed,” Ruback said. “I was just a fill-in as I only joined the tennis program two weeks ago. I want to thank all of my coaches for giving me this opportunity and chance to play because it is something I will never forget.”

Ruback’s win was one of three singles titles for the Zephyrs as top-seeded Vanessa Thiede won at No. 3 singles and Kassidi Calmes claimed the No. 4 singles title, also as the top seed.

Thiede started with a win over Gracie Steede of Clintonville, before rolling past Ava Geffers of Lourdes Academy 6-1, 6-1 to claim the title. Calmes picked up a pair of straight set wins to claim the title, dropping just three games on the day.

At No. 1 singles, the Zephyrs’ Adel Schneider finished second.

“I am very proud of myself and the team for our performance this past weekend,” Thiede said. “We all showed the hard work that we have been practicing for and being able to win conference as a team again is something we should be proud of.”

Chloe Vogel and Emily Vogel, who are in their first season out for tennis, put on perhaps the most dominant



Submitted photo

The St. Mary Catholic girls tennis team claimed the title at the Wisconsin Combined Tennis Conference tournament this past weekend. The Zephyrs finished first in five of the seven flights, while adding second-place finishes in the other two.

display of the tournament, winning the No. 2 doubles title without dropping a game in either match.

“Winning the conference championship was such a cool moment,” Chloe Vogel said. “Not only did my sister and I win our doubles bracket, but we also took home the conference championship as a team. We are blessed as a team to have some of the best coaches in the sport that have led us to seven straight conference championships. Deciding to go out for tennis for the first time this year and getting to play in doubles with my younger sister has been an experience I will never forget.”

At No.3 doubles, Lily Hansen and Bryn Korth advanced to the title match via a forfeit and then beat second seeded Jasline Loynes and Lucile Rathke from St. Mary’s Springs to claim the title.

The Zephyrs’ No. 1 doubles team of Eva Schneider and Olivia Bergstrom posted a 6-0, 6-0 win on their first match but lost a three-set match in the finals to take second.

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**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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# Harmon finds unexpected passion for volleyball

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

The plan was simple. Noah Harmon, the basketball player, would play some volleyball with the Neenah boys' team to help strengthen his jumping ability. But basketball, the sport he had played since he was a youth, would remain his No. 1 priority.

So he started playing volleyball. "I kept getting better at it and better at it and better at it," Harmon said last week after a practice. "Sophomore year was my last playing basketball because I had to choose between the two and I chose volleyball because I was better at it. Now, the sport is a part of me."

## Senior Spotlight

With volleyball becoming his passion, Harmon was forced to relinquish the sport he grew up playing.

Although he knows he made the right choice opting for volleyball over basketball, it doesn't mean it was an easy one.

"It was tough to leave something behind that I had been doing my whole life," Harmon said. "Volleyball just kept becoming more of a love for me."

Harmon has certainly worked to improve his game since taking up volleyball, but he admits there was a natural skill level he discovered from the first time he stepped foot on the court.

"Most of my career I have been telling people that all of my ability is pure talent and not much skill," Harmon said. "My first year playing, I had people asking me if I had been playing club (volleyball) because they saw me as someone with experience. So, I picked it up pretty quickly."

Not only did he pick things up quickly, he thrived in the sport.

Harmon led the team in blocks and finished second in kills, while earning honorable mention all-Fox Valley Association as a junior. He was one of only five non-seniors to receive

all-conference recognition last season. He has kept things going this season, too, leading the team in both blocks and kills, while helping the Rockets start 2-2 in the rugged FVA.

Although he leads the team in both categories from his middle hitter position, Harmon definitely has a preference as to which stat he likes to accumulate more of when he's on the court.

"I've seen a ball go straight down off a block and it's a great feeling, but I'd rather connect with a ball and put it away. It's a lot more fun," Harmon said. "My setter, Justin Sina, he can get me balls perfect. He puts them right to the spot and I put them down for a point. I'll hit the ground and flex my arms and it's just like a rush of adrenaline when you hear the crowd. It's an amazing feeling."

Harmon said he's had some memorable kills over the course of his career, but his favorites are on overpasses then he can drill back at an opponent, often without having to worry about a blocker.

He also recalled playing Appleton East at the FVA Tournament earlier this month when the Patriots took the Rockets to a decisive third set. Harmon, who rotates into the lineup in the front row only, was on the sidelines as the two teams battled past the usual 15-point set, returning to the court with the score tied at 19.

"I had to wait so long to get back into the game and when I did, Justin set me twice and I put both of them away to end the match," Harmon said. "Those two were definitely big spikes."

Taking on a lead role this season with the Rockets has thrust Harmon into the spotlight as a boys volleyball player and it wasn't until this season that he realized what that meant.

Boys volleyball continues to be a rising sport in Wisconsin. There are only about 60 teams that play in WIAA – some programs also co-op between schools – but that number is growing and more young players are getting interested in the sport.

Some of them are in the Neenah area be-

SEE **Senior spotlight** ON PAGE 11



Oshkosh Herald

Noah Harmon got started playing volleyball as a way to get better for basketball. Now he is one of the top players in the Fox Valley Association and a leader on the Neenah squad.

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# Prep sports roundup

## CROSS COUNTRY

### Neenah girls fifth at invite

The Neenah girls placed three runners in the top 20 to place fifth among 39 complete teams at the Midwest Classic in Janesville on Saturday.

Mazie Olkowski led the way for the Rockets with a 10th place, while Lauren Tears was 19th and Lexi Dorner finished 20th.

The Neenah boys placed sixth out of 48 teams at the meet.

Jack Dorner was the top Rocket runner, placing 24th among the more than 300 runners at the event.

### Zephyrs run at Rosholt

Benjamin Schoeni finished 30th and Nathan Seiske was 36th to lead the St. Mary Central boys at the Rosholt Invitational. The Zephyrs placed 10th overall in the boys race.

The St. Mary Central girls were 14th led by Lauren Ripley and Maria Mari in 43rd and 46th, respectively.

## BOYS VOLLEYBALL

### Neenah falls to Terrors

Neenah rallied to force a fifth set but couldn't complete the comeback as the Rockets fell to Appleton West 25-20, 23-25, 22-25, 25-17, 15-8.

Noah Harmon finished with 13 kills, followed by Zac Freundt and Chip Calcaterra with 12 and 11 kills, respectively.

## SOCCER

### Barrientos fuels Zephyrs

Kieran Barrientos needed less than 19 minutes to tally a hat trick as St. Mary Catholic blanked Cedar Grove-Belgium, 6-0, in a Big East soccer match Tuesday.

Barrientos and AJ Groppe each had a hand in five goals during the win. Groppe assisted on two of Barrientos' goals, while Barrientos picked up assists on both of Groppe's goals, which came in the first eight minutes of the second half.

Groppe also assisted on Braden Brenn's goal, while Grant Bergstrom also had an assist in the game.

Hunter Schreiber had to make just one save to earn the shutout.

On Saturday, it was Groppe who notched a hat trick, scoring three goals in a 4-1 win over Winneconne. Emiliano

Romero also found the net in the win, while Bergstrom finished with two assists and Barrientos had one.

Schreiber made five saves in goal.

### Neenah collects two wins

The Neenah soccer team posted a pair of wins to extend its winning streak to five games.

On Saturday, the Rockets toppled Stevens Point, 4-1, while earning a 1-0 win over Kaukauna on Tuesday.

No other information was available.

## GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

### Neenah falls short of win at West Bend Sprawl

Neenah lost all six of its matches at the West Bend tournament on Saturday.

Stat leaders for the Rockets were Carly Stamm with 25 kills and 14 blocks; Claudia Merizon 21 kills and 45 assists; Jenna Latsch with 89 digs and six aces; and Leia Kersten with 45 assists and seven digs.

## TENNIS

### Neenah splits dual meets

Neenah split a pair of dual meets at Nicolet on Saturday, beating Shorewood 7-0 while falling to Franklin 5-2.

Meredith Werner posted a 6-0, 6-0 win at No. 3 singles against Shorewood, while No. 1 singles player Annalise Zenzick and the top doubles team of Kinsey Perry and Paige Stielow each won three-set matches.

Against Franklin, both the No. 2 doubles team Sophie Hodek and Gabby Hackbarth and the No. 3 pairing of Ava Motto and Cecilia Alexander each collected wins.

## SWIMMING

### Rockets 2nd at own invite

Neenah racked up 459 points to finish behind only Appleton West/Kimberly at its own invitational Saturday.

Emma Bottensek had the highest individual finish for the Rockets with a second place in the 100-yard backstroke, one spot ahead of Anna Mulroy. In the 50-yard freestyle, Rylie Bauman was fifth and Bottensek was sixth. Mulroy also picked up a third place in 100-yard freestyle.

Other top finishers for the Rockets were Naomi Cortina, fourth in the 200-yard freestyle, fifth in the 100-yard freestyle and Alliyah Lima, third in the 100-yard butterfly and fourth on the 200-yard indi-

vidual medley.

vidual medley.

The Rockets were also second in the 200-yard medley relay, third in the 200-yard freestyle relay and fourth in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

### Neenah wins dual meet

Neenah scored 1-2-3 finishes in three events as the Rockets topped Oshkosh North/Lourdes 137-48 on Tuesday.

In the 50-yard freestyle, Anna Mulroy, Kacie Stamm and Molly Henry grabbed the top three spots, respectively, while Naomi Cortina, Rachel Frank and Morgan Bernhardt were the top three finishers in the 100-yard butterfly. In the 100-yard backstroke, it was Cortina, Alliyah Lima and Stamm sweeping the top spots.

Lima and Bernhardt also went 1-2, respectively in the 200-yard freestyle, while Emma Bottensek and Rylie Bauman post-

ed a 1-2 finish in the 100-yard freestyle.

Bauman in the 200-yard individual medley and Bottensek in the 100-yard breaststroke also posted wins.

Neenah also finished first in all three relay events.

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# Senior spotlight

FROM PAGE 10

cause of what Harmon and his teammates have showcased.

"It's a shock to me that what I do makes a difference to people and that they are watching me and they are seeing something they want to be," Harmon said. "Being in an up-and-coming sport like this, it's exhilarating to see more and more people show up at each and every game."

Men's volleyball at the collegiate level is also becoming increasingly popular, however, that's not a path Harmon is likely to follow.

Instead, Harmon plans to spend his time after graduation working at an orphanage in Guinaca, Honduras - something he has done with his mother for a month each summer for the past seven years.

"It's changed my life," Harmon said. "It's such a great atmosphere down there. I just love being down there and being happy."

Harmon - the middle of five children - said that his mother would start taking care of his siblings when they reached age 11. On his past few trips, he has worked with an electrician at the orphanage and gets to interact with

the 500 or so children at the complex.

"One of the last days I was there last year, all of the kids were in the gymnasium singing and when they were done, they all turned around and ran up to me. They circled around me and started hugging me and crying with me," Harmon said. "That's the moment I knew that's where I had to be."

"All my life, I've never known what I wanted to do as an occupation, so going to college for me I'd be lost. Going down there is something that I want to do."

That trip will have to wait for a while, though, as Harmon does have other things on his plate right now.

It starts with the final weeks of the boys' volleyball season and a potential lengthy tournament run for the senior-laden Rockets.

That kind of success would definitely be great, but the wins and the spikes and the blocks are only a small portion of what Harmon enjoys about playing volleyball.

"The best thing about volleyball is being with my friends on the team and on the court," Harmon said. "We have that connection on the court, knowing that we are all there for each other. That's something, to me, that I value."

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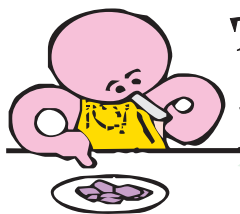
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## Gelett Burgess: The Nonsense Expert

Born January 30, 1866, Gelett Burgess is remembered as a nonsense expert. In fact, he may be one of your favorite authors, even though you have probably never heard of him.

He invented such great words as "blurb" and "goop."

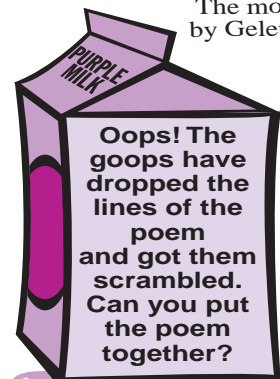
Goop comes from the many tales he told of the boneless, ill-mannered and sort-of-human characters he named "goops."



The goops, they lick their fingers;  
The goops, they lick their knives.  
They spill their broth on the table cloth.  
Oh, they lead disgusting lives.

## The Purple Cow

The most quoted poem of the 1890s was a little ditty by Gelett Burgess called "The Purple Cow."



Oops! The goops have dropped the lines of the poem and got them scrambled. Can you put the poem together?

A But I can tell you anyhow,

B I'd rather see than be one.

C I never hope to see one

D I never saw a purple cow

ANSWER: The correct order is D, C, A, B.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

## How to Draw a Purple Cow



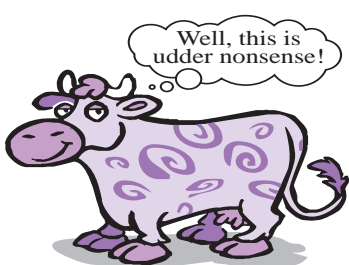
STEP 1

Draw big, simple shapes for your cow's body with a pencil. Draw very lightly. A cow's body is a rectangle. Cows have short legs and a long tail. Draw ovals for the head and feet.



STEP 2

Still drawing with a pencil, start adding details like eyes, hooves, udders, and horns. Remember to draw lightly with the pencil because you'll be erasing the pencil lines.



STEP 3

Draw over the pencil lines in ink. Make sure the ink is dry, then erase all the pencil lines. Color your cow and add spots, stripes, or wild & wacky patterns.

Well, this is udder nonsense!

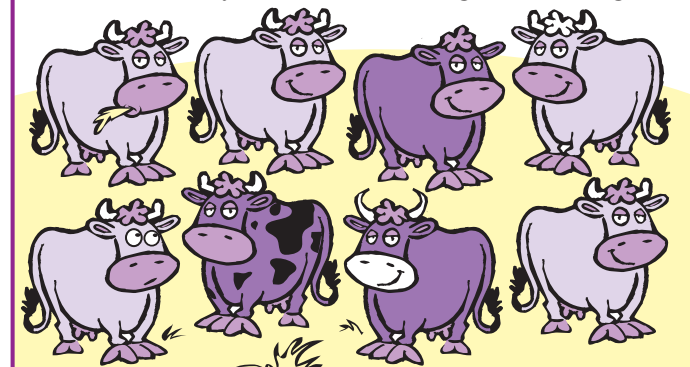
## Extra! Extra!

**Nonsense Dot-to-Dot**  
Select one page of the newspaper and find all of the letters that spell the word NONSENSE. Circle each letter. Draw a line from the 'N' to the 'O' and so forth until you have connected all the letters. What kind of picture can you make from the design created by these dots and lines?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step directions.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Only two of these kooky cows are identical. How fast can you find them? Better get moo-oo-ving!



Standards Link: Visual discrimination: Recognize objects that match.

## Double Double Word Search

- NONSENSE
- PURPLE
- EXPERT
- GOOPS
- BLURB
- ALPHABET
- POEM
- VERSES
- BROTH
- NEVER
- WORDS
- COW
- LOUD
- TEETH
- LICK

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

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

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

## Kid Scoop Together: Missing Words

Here are some limericks written by Kid Scoop readers. Use the words in the Word List to make each limerick rhyme.

There once was a clever young lad  
But sometimes he gets really \_\_\_\_\_  
He found a big clover  
It flipped him right \_\_\_\_\_  
In the end he was very glad.  
— by Sam G.

Hey, it's free pizza day \_\_\_\_\_  
All the towns people cheered, "Horray"  
But the fools didn't \_\_\_\_\_  
'Cause they went with the flow  
That I was going to yell April Fools Day!  
— by John D.

I was sitting in my comfy \_\_\_\_\_  
Eating like a big grizzly bear  
I just couldn't \_\_\_\_\_  
I thought I would pop!  
Now I'm fat, but I really don't \_\_\_\_\_!  
— by Cece D.

I love playing in the bright \_\_\_\_\_  
Oh my it is so much good fun  
To play in a \_\_\_\_\_  
But always stay \_\_\_\_\_  
It is so sad when the day is done.  
— by Audra P.

- CARE
- POOL
- OVER
- KNOW
- CHAIR
- SAD
- SUN
- COOL
- TODAY
- STOP

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Identify words that rhyme.

## Write On!

### Sticky Situation

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