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Common Council sets budget for 2023

2.2% tax rate increase part of spending plan

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council approved a 2023 budget last week that will include a 2.2% increase to property taxes.

Mayor Jane Lang said the city's general fund budget was about \$2 million more than projected revenue. She requested a reduction of about \$945,000 from the budget.

The city will use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds toward balancing the

budget and dealing with cost increases related to gas, oil and supplies.



Lang

The city is estimated to bring in about \$14.6 million in property taxes next year.

Lang denied budget requests from four departments for additional staff. The council last week agreed to add one of the previously denied positions, a behavioral health officer for the Neenah Police Department at a cost of \$116,760.

"As much as I would like to be able to

add what our departments view as necessary for their improved function, I simply cannot both add employees and also provide more appropriately for our current employees," she said.

Lang prioritized an increase of 3.5% in salaries and wages for city employees. The highest paid position will be the city attorney, with a salary of between \$103,000 and \$147,000 per year. Police chief, fire chief and other leadership positions will pay between \$93,000 and \$132,000. On the low end of the spectrum, various clerical positions will pay between \$40,000

SEE **City budget** ON PAGE 11

INSIDE



Peppy puppets
Ministry show charms young and old
Page 4

In the courts
Appeal filed in fatal bar shooting
Page 6

Girls hockey
Fox Cities Stars eye return to state
Page 10



Photo by David Hall

Skating season

Young visitors got their early-season balance when visiting the ice rink that opened last weekend at The Plaza in downtown Neenah. The rink will be open from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Check The Plaza and Globe Coffee Facebook page for details.

Public opposition to Shattuck development heard

New housing project rezoning challenged

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city is set to vote Tuesday on a proposal to rezone Shattuck Middle School so that it can be turned into a 100-unit apartment building, with opposition from dozens of residents who attended public hearings to voice their concerns.

The building will be vacated after next school year with the completion of the new Neenah High School in Fox Crossing. The middle school is moving to the current high school site.

The Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) listed the 27-acre Shattuck property for sale for \$500,000 and the only offer received was from Oshkosh-based Northpointe Development. The other op-

tion is to raze the property at a potential cost to the district of more than \$2 million.

The school district voted in July to sell the Shattuck property to Northpointe to be transformed into 100 apartments, 36 single-family homes, 16 duplexes, and 16 townhomes. The district will maintain ownership of the tennis courts and the adjacent parking lots. The district's Health and Wellness Center will remain in place under the agreement.

Rezoning and a future land use amendment is the first part of the developer's plan. If approved, development would begin in late 2023 or 2024.

Andy Dumke of Northpointe spoke at a public hearing during the Common Council meeting last week. He said Northpointe will use a property manage-



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

The future of Shattuck Middle School was discussed at a public hearing at the Common Council meeting.

SEE **Shattuck school** ON PAGE 7

Neenah News

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Advertising deadline is noon Friday for the following Friday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday for Friday.

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Corrections

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

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Virus protection being urged heading into holiday season

Neenah News

The state Department of Health Services (DHS) has issued an alert to health care providers and urges everyone to get all recommended vaccines, including the updated COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine, to help prevent and slow the spread of respiratory illnesses.

With respiratory viruses such as COVID-19, influenza and RSV circulating at high levels nationwide, the 2022-2023 respiratory season has the potential to be severe, especially for young children and older adults.

"Wisconsin hospitals are already seeing an alarming number of hospitalizations due to respiratory illnesses," said DHS Secretary-designee Karen Timberlake. "It is essential for Wisconsinites to get their updated COVID-19 booster and annual flu vaccine to protect their health, especially with the holiday season right around the corner."

The DHS' most recent Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report shows the state's northeastern region, which includes Winnebago County, is seeing the highest level of influenza-like illness activity, with respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) the predominant illness. Wisconsin overall is reporting lower levels of those illnesses compared with most of the rest of the country.

All residents ages 6 months and older can get their COVID-19 and flu vaccines at the same time. The updated COVID-19 booster provides increased protection against Omicron variants that cause most of the current cases. Less than 15% of Wisconsinites have gotten their updated booster.

DHS officials said it is especially important for older residents, people with chronic health conditions, people who are pregnant and young children to get vaccinated.

Environmental tool details initiatives

Neenah News

The state Department of Natural Resources is collaborating with the departments of Administration and Health Services, and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., on a data-driven initiative called the Wisconsin Environmental Equity Tool.

In bringing climate change and environmental equity to its work, the DNR has released an action report at dnr.wisconsin.gov/climatechange highlighting agency accomplishments in 2021 and future goals.

The online mapping tool is intended to enable the public, agencies and others to pinpoint Wisconsin's most impacted communities and better understand challenges they face from pollution, changing climate, socioeconomic factors, and other environmental and health hazards.

"Climate change is one of the defining issues of our time. By working together we can make a real difference for Wisconsin's climate resilience and the most vulnerable amongst us," stated DNR Secretary Preston D. Cole. "The DNR is committed to climate action and addressing the impacts of climate change on the state's resources, communities and people is a top priority for the department."

Some areas where the DNR has increased its environment focus:

- A greenhouse gas emissions inventory developed in 2020 uses U.S. Environ-

Rapid COVID test kits available free

The state Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging Wisconsinites to order free at-home rapid COVID-19 tests and have them delivered directly to their house through the state-supported Say Yes! COVID Test program.

All Wisconsin households are eligible to place an order at sayyes-covidhometest.org every month for one free test kit that contains five rapid antigen COVID-19 tests.

"With the holidays coming up, we want to give Wisconsinites the tools they need to safely celebrate with their loved ones," said DHS Secretary-designee Karen Timberlake. "These free self-tests are delivered right to the door, allowing people to take a COVID-19 test at home and make decisions that will keep those around them safe."

Members of BadgerCare Plus and most Wisconsin Medicaid programs can also receive COVID-19 tests from Medicaid-enrolled pharmacies using their Forward-Health ID card.

In addition to vaccines, state residents are urged to take additional steps when planning holiday celebrations because respiratory viruses spread more easily indoors.

Visit the DHS website for up-to-date information about COVID-19, the flu, and RSV. Additional information about the 2022-2023 respiratory season can be found in the DHS Weekly Respiratory Report.

mental Protection Agency tools so that emissions rates can be compared with other states. In 2021, the department updated the inventory using Wisconsin-specific data to better examine emissions locally.

- Looking broadly at types of emissions, especially landfills where the DNR started an effort to discover how to reduce the amount of food waste going into them.

- The Trillion Tree Pledge, an effort to conserve 125,000 acres of forestland and planting 74 million trees in rural areas and 1 million in urban areas by 2030. In the first year of the pledge, 2021, partners planted more than 9.3 million seedlings.

- Working with communities to help them plan for ways to make infrastructure like roads and culverts resilient to more frequent and severe flooding, high heat days and damaging storms, including improvements to the dam safety program.

- Working with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to develop a habitat connectivity toolkit to help key aquatic and land-based wildlife that need to shift their range and movements to adapt to climate change.

These actions support many of the recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change and Wisconsin's commitment to the U.S. Climate Alliance and the Paris Climate Accord.

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- Have a retirement account (IRA, 401k).
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- Are concerned that Nursing Home or long term care costs will deplete your life savings.
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- Wish to learn more about Probate and how to avoid it.
- Have a Will that is more than 3 years old or it was created in another state.

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- ▶ How you can protect your children's inheritances from predators, greedy non-family members, and bad marriages.
- ▶ How veterans or their spouses can receive money to help pay for medical expenses.
- ▶ Why signing your home over to your kids might be a huge mistake.
- ▶ How planning in advance can help you and your spouse afford quality care.



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County's diversity commission retained after vote

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County's Diversity Affairs Commission (DAC) will not be dissolved after a committee vote last week.

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 DAC is overseen by the UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee.

In August, Jared Longsine was elected as DAC chair and Rachael Dowling was elected vice chair, with Longsine then motioning to dissolve the DAC, which Dowling seconded.

According to the resolution to dissolve, the commission's bylaws, strategic plan and mission statement render the DAC ineffective. The Education and Agriculture Committee has failed to oversee the DAC and the relationship has been dysfunctional.

County executive Jon Doemel said during a September Board of Supervisors meeting that he was considering disbanding the commission, stating he has struggled to maintain a full commission and the DAC has become political.

District 13 Supervisor Steven Binder said last month that Doemel has done everything in his power to dismantle the DAC. He said he offered Doemel qualified candidates to be on the commission and Doemel didn't appoint any of them.

The Education and Agriculture Committee voted against dissolving the DAC last week. District 22 Supervisor Doug Zellmer said the committee will request additional assistance through the University of Wisconsin Extension.

At a meeting Nov. 17, the DAC continued discussing implementing a Diversity Leadership position for the county. Longsine said the DAC can only make recommendations to Doemel and has no authority over the decision he makes based on those recommendations.

Longsine said some supervisors have made statements recently that included

assumptions or a misunderstanding of the original bylaws.

The DAC discussed updating its bylaws and strategic plan. According to the updated bylaws, the purpose of the DAC is to create educational events in Winnebago County.

"We will make every effort to treat all people with the same respect we expect to receive," according to the bylaws.

District 26 Supervisor Conley Hanson encouraged the DAC to adopt the updated bylaws.

"I remain committed, of course, to active discussion and participation because if discussion ceases then so does understanding," he said. "I really like the bylaws that are being presented and I would encourage everyone to vote for them because it really shows that there would be an interest from the community and encourage involvement and also greater attendance."

The commission voted to postpone voting on the bylaws and to continue the discussion at its January meeting.



Photo from Youth Go

Youth Go will focus its Halloween fundraising on its Haunted Trail Walk through the woods of Memorial Park after announcing the end of its haunted house project.

Youth Go's indoor haunted house closing

Neenah News

Youth Go will be closing its Haunted House annual fundraiser after 37 years, the past 19 of which were in Neenah's former city garage, citing the challenges of having enough volunteers, staffing and general safety concerns that included building updates that would be needed to continue at that location.

The fundraising project had grown to three different events that spanned the month, including The Hallows trail walk and a children's day at the haunted house, raising an average of \$21,000 annually from 2010 through 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic forced the event to be suspended.

Youth Go will focus its Halloween efforts in October on the expanded The Hallows trail walk at Memorial Park in Neenah, which raised \$13,800 this year.

"One positive thing that came out of the pandemic reset was our ability to re-imagine and expand the outdoor trail walk which has generated an overwhelmingly positive response from the community since reopening," said Timothy Chappa,

Youth Go program supervisor.

"Our haunted trail walk has been two weekends since 2021, and we look forward to providing this entertaining four-night community event in October for many years to come."

Youth Go executive director Kelly Hicks praised the city's cooperation and assistance with the event over the years, while noting that a 2021 fire inspection found updates that were requested to be completed before opening the Haunted House after this year. The city is expected to make use of the former garage space in the future.

"Many individuals have made significant contributions over the years and Youth Go will be eternally grateful for everything they did for the organization and the project," said Hicks, citing many volunteers who made the event happen, including Willie Sabel and Mark Ellis.

Youth Go is a drop-in center at 213 Nicolet Blvd. for young people in grades 5-12 that was founded in 1969 by youth and supportive adults looking for a safe gathering place.

Fox Crossing man found dead in home

The death of a Fox Crossing man whose body was found in a home in Appleton is being investigated as a homicide, the Appleton Police Department said.

Police and first responders were called to an address in the 700 block of West Summer Street around 11:30 a.m. Nov. 15 after a relative discovered a possibly deceased person.

Officers found the body of Erik B. Hudson Jr., 31, of Fox Crossing, and began an investigation.

An autopsy was conducted by the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office the next day.


Police announced Nov. 17 that the death is being investigated as a homicide. They declined to reveal the cause of death but said the investigation suggests it was not a random crime.

No arrests have been made and the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information may contact Detective Lidbury at 920-832-5500.

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Peace Puppet Ministry charms young and old

Show has resurgence with creative growth

By Patti Lee
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

There is a fellow named Reuben and he's got a real issue.

Reuben is about as ticklish as a guy can get and when Reuben gets tickled he laughs. He throws his head back, mouth wide open and bellows. "They call me Ticklish Reuben," declares the puppet, hilariously handled by Judy Daly.

Reuben is one of many puppets in the Peace Puppet Ministry, an outreach program led by Daly in coordination with Peace Lutheran Church in Neenah.

The ministry began in 1990 when kids in the Peace Lutheran youth group attended the National Youth Gathering at Redrocks in Morrison, Colo. Children from all over the nation took part and the Neenah kids saw other groups performing with puppets and talking about their outreach programs.

The Peace Lutheran kids came back inspired and excited by the Puppet Ministry. They started fundraisers, eventually purchasing the puppets still used in the ministry to this day. Their first outreach was to Bethesda Group Home, local nursing homes, and the Peace Lutheran Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

During those years, Daly and her family lived near Hales Corners where there was a thriving parish puppet ministry.

"It was huge," Daly said. "They had three big stages and this group put on shows for about 50 different venues between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The woman running the program was just remarkable."

"They started the kids around sixth grade and the program ran all the way through high school. My daughter was involved in puppet ministry during sixth and seventh grade. She went on to participate in her high school theater program. These kids came to develop deep bonds and relationships."

That puppet ministry inspired Daly to remain involved when the Dalys retired and moved to Oshkosh and eventually the Fox Valley.

"It felt like it was meant to be. I had all these years of experience, I knew I wanted to be involved with youth, and nobody was managing the puppet ministry," she said. "So, we happily took over the leadership about 10 years ago."

The rejuvenated program started small with a similar mission: Vacation Bible School, local nursing homes such as Valley VNA. Then they were asked to be part of a camp at Beaming Equine-Assisted Services

south of Neenah where they performed a short, well-received puppet show. The experience piqued Daly's interest.

"I did some research on puppet therapy for people with memory issues, dementia and Alzheimer's," Daly said. "I discovered that puppets were found to be very helpful in providing a way for patients to act out their emotions or remember their childhood through singing, talking and acting with the puppets."

Peace Puppets then did a program with the memory care patients at American Grand Assisted Living.

"We talked about puppets from their past – Punch and Judy, Lamb Chop, Charley Horse, and Topo Gigio. They started to get more comfortable with the idea of puppets."

The kids followed with a short show that included some hymns from their past. The memory care patients started humming, some sang, and a few smiled when a puppet laughed. Daly noticed the staff looking at one another, so pleased at the patients' reaction.

Then the kids gave puppets to the patients and went around the room encouraging people to try it. Daly instructed a little on puppeteering.

"I said, 'Your puppet's sad now, your puppet is happy and excited ... how would that look?' It started out slowly but then it came to life," she said. "We always got them engaged."

A grant from Thrivent allowed Peace Puppet Ministry to leave eight puppets at each facility for the patients.

The pandemic put a halt to this outreach. The group is actively looking to bring the puppets back to hospitals and nursing homes. In the meantime, Peace Puppet Ministry will be participating in the Very Neenah Christmas program downtown Dec. 2.

"We started with Very Neenah Christmas in 2019," Daly related. "We'd been out in the community puppeteering and we wanted to be involved. I went to Future Neenah hoping for a window. They advised me that those live model windows are spoken for years in advance."

Future Neenah said that if a new vendor or opportunity came up they would let her know. About three weeks before the event, Daly received a call from the organization. Patrick Fahrenkrug from Kessler Funeral Home wanted to get involved and open his doors to the puppets.

"Patrick was very excited to do a live model window and for the ministry to do their puppet show inside the beautiful building," Daly said with a smile. "We suggested throwing in hot chocolate and cider to boot. He



Photo by Patti Lee

Judy Daly is shown with Ticklish Reuben, featured in her Peace Puppet Ministry that will be part of A Very Neenah Christmas celebration.

was all in for everything. It was about opening his doors and inviting people to come in and gather for a happy occasion. This way they could also get to know the staff who would be serving the hot beverages."

The show was on, taking place in the hospitality area that seats about 30. There were children dressed up as shepherds, waving and guiding folks to come to the show. Guests would enter, get their hot drink and sit down for the 10-minute puppet show. On the way out there was a treat bag prepared for the kids.

"Well, no sooner did they leave and we'd have another 30 or 40 people waiting for the show. We did this for two hours straight and gave out over 300 gift bags," Daly exclaimed.

The shows are prerecorded Christian parodies of popular songs. 2021 was a parody of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" ("The Bethlehemian Rhapsody").

"We had 16 puppets depicting the entire nativity scene from Jesus, Mary and Joseph to all the animals performing," Daly said. "Four kids in each row each with two puppets for a total of 16 going at one time or another during the song."

This year's script is Mary and Joseph singing to "Jack and Diane," Three Wise Men transform to ZZ Top's "Sharp Dressed Man," and group song "Listen to the Angels," is a parody of "Listen to the Music."

Judy Daly has been hard at work preparing a script for every kid/character. The scripts are in front of them for the perfor-

mance with highlights and stage directions. Entrances, exits, a sway, head nod, turn right or left, are scripted. The kids switch roles in practice so they know each other's roles as a backup.

"It makes them read the script and get engaged. I teach them to 'be one with your puppet. Make it come alive.' The kids are great at keeping the puppets engaged and interacting with all the puppets around them," said Daly, exhibiting pride in her mentees. "The scripts are funny and all ages have a great time."

A Very Neenah Christmas is a holiday tradition and Fahrenkrug is really opening up the place. Folks will enter through the front door off Commercial Street, enjoy the presentation and then move into the Hospitality Room for refreshments, leaving out the side door. They will also get to enjoy the live model window.

"The beauty of puppets is that the kids are behind the curtain. Nobody knows who's running the puppet unless they want to be seen. They're not in the spotlight but their puppet is singing, laughing, being dramatic, and spreading the work of God, all from behind a curtain," Daly said. "I've seen really shy kids come out of their shell. The puppets give them the confidence to go out and do other things. It's great for the kids, the church and the community."

A Very Neenah Christmas takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 2. It is hosted and coordinated by Future Neenah.

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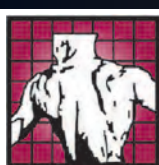
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'Ed Gein, the Musical' gets new distribution

Neenah News

Dan Davies' independent movie "Ed Gein, the Musical," filmed in 2009 around the Fox Valley, is getting a re-release and national distribution that will include a Dec. 2 screening at UW Oshkosh in Menasha.

Filmed primarily in Omro along with other Fox Cities locations – including Neenah – the burgeoning cult classic is being distributed this fall by SRS Cinema after a decade out of circulation.

Inspired by the story of the 1950s Wisconsin killer and grave robber from Plainfield, Davies created, directed and starred in the low-budget but original twist on the bizarre crimes that drew national attention. The central Wisconsin case inspired the 1959 novel "Psycho" and subsequently Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 film of the same name among many other later films.

Davies lived in Neenah during the time of the filming and fondly recalled being in walking distance of the YMCA and downtown restaurants and night spots.

"We filmed one of the seminal scenes with my character Ed Gein driving a 1950s Ford truck on Commercial Street heading into Tayco Street on Doty Island and I actually lived on Forest Avenue while we were filming in 2009," Davies recalled.

The PG-13 rated film had more than 500 screenings in 11 states when it opened and also aired on Retro TV Network and PBS stations.

Among the reviews when it was released: "It's deliciously tasteless" (Roger



A film poster for "Ed Gein, the Musical" that was originally released in 2009.

Ebert Reviews), "It fills a niche that few knew even existed" (Arizona Daily Star) and "It's appropriately grisly & creepy but also funny and showstopping" (Chicago Reader).

Davies later had a co-starring role in the 2016 Nigerian comedy drama "A Trip to Jamaica," which aired on Netflix in 2020-21.

The Dec. 2 screenings at the 350-seat Perry Hall on the UW Oshkosh, Fox Cities campus will be at 4, 7 and 9 p.m., followed by question-and-answer sessions with Davies and live music by Will Keizer & The Ed Gein All-Star Band.

Calendar of events

Saturday, Nov. 26

Small Business Saturday promotion in downtown Neenah

Sunday, Nov. 27

Sunday Concert Series with Stuck on Blue, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, Dec. 2

First Friday Concert Series with Erin Krebs and Jeff Johnston, 2 p.m., Neenah

Public Library

A Very Neenah Christmas, 6 p.m., downtown Neenah

Saturday, Dec. 3

Holiday Vendor & Craft Fair, 8 a.m., DoubleTree Neenah

The Grinch Family Breakfast, 9 a.m., Washington Park shelter

Museum Open House, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Monday, Dec. 5

Bald Eagle Ecology program, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Dec. 10

Ugly Sweater Shuffle, 8 a.m., Loop the Lake trail

Christmas Community Dinner, 11:30 a.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church

Holiday event features downtown activity

Future Neenah Inc. will host its 25th annual A Very Neenah Christmas from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 2 featuring window shopping of a different sort at downtown businesses.

Window scenes with live mannequins are part of the special event presented by Community First Credit Union. Other activities include:

- Santa's reindeer at Church and Wisconsin.
- Ice sculpture garden with an ice throne at Gateway Park.
- Photo station on an authentic sleigh at Gateway Park.
- Christmas Alleyway next to Future Neenah office.
- Roast marshmallows in front of Future Neenah.
- Santa and Mrs. Claus at Associated Bank along with the handbell choir.
- Princesses inside the Alta Resource

training building.

- Craft station inside the Alta Resource training building.
- Suzuki String students perform inside the Alta Resource training building.
- Light dancers and madrigal singers roaming downtown.
- Christmas Puppet Show at the Kessler-Fahrenkrug Funeral Home.
- Ice skating at the Plaza while Kurt Stein Musicians perform.
- Holiday movie playing outside at Gateway Park.

Foot traffic will flow in a counterclockwise position to help with mannequin window viewing. One-way signs will help in this effort.

All events are free other than ice skating fees. Wisconsin Avenue will be closed from Commercial Street to Main Street. There is free parking around the event and in the Church Street Green ramp.



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Photo by David Hall

Fading light

On a chilly fall day last Saturday, looking toward Little Lake Butte des Morts near downtown Neenah, Arrowhead Park's sculpture captured the sunset.

Appeal gets filed on fatal bar shooting conviction

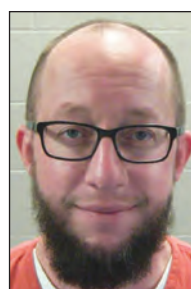
Short Branch killing brought 40-year term

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A Menasha man convicted in a fatal bar shooting in Neenah is appealing a judge's ruling on his request to withdraw his no-contest pleas or have his conviction vacated due to prosecutorial vindictiveness.

Casey Cameron, 39, was convicted last year of fatally shooting Kevin "Hollywood" Hein while robbing the Short Branch Saloon in Neenah in 2019.

Cameron initially fled the scene but was later arrested after police, acting on a tip, staked out his home and recovered a cigarette he discarded from a vehicle that matched DNA found at the crime scene.



Cameron

Court records indicate Cameron was initially charged with three felonies. His trial attorney filed a motion to dismiss the case in January 2020 because the prosecution had failed to file information within the required time period of 30 days from the preliminary hearing.

Records show assistant district attorney Amanda Folger sent two emails asking the defense to withdraw the motion to dismiss. When the defense failed to withdraw the motion, Folger moved to dismiss the case and then the same day refiled it with an additional four felonies.

Cameron pled no contest and was sentenced in April 2021 to 35 years in prison on a felony count of murder and five years in prison on six felony counts of first-degree recklessly endangering safety.

In September 2022, Cameron filed a motion for post-conviction relief, asking a judge to withdraw his no contest

pleas and vacate the conviction based on prosecutorial vindictiveness.

The defense alleges that the addition of the four felonies was retaliation against Cameron and the charges were only filed because the motion to dismiss was not withdrawn.

Hein, 59, was employed at Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton for more than 30 years. About 20 people attended a hearing on the motion last month, some wearing "Justice for Hollywood" shirts.

Folger told Circuit Court Judge Scott Woldt that the additional charges were not to punish Cameron but were a part of the give-and-take of plea bargaining.

"The initial offer extended in this case always contemplated the reading in of the recklessly endangering safety counts," she said. "This was not an effort to place him in prison any longer or have him subject to any additional penalties."

Woldt dismissed Cameron's motion for post-conviction relief, stating that as long as there is probable cause to support the offenses charged, there's no vindictiveness.

Several of Hein's friends said they were relieved by Woldt's decision to dismiss the motion.

Last week, Cameron appealed the judge's ruling. Under state law, if a prosecutor retaliates against a defendant by bringing additional charges, a presumption of vindictiveness applies.

In a similar case in Texas, a judge last December dismissed murder charges against Ivan Gabaldon, of El Paso, citing prosecutorial vindictiveness.

Gabaldon is accused of killing a 63-year-old man during a sexual encounter. The defense successfully argued that prosecutors were vindictive in charging Gabaldon with the death penalty because he was asserting his constitutional right to a speedy trial.

An appeals court will review Cameron's case and determine whether the lower court's ruling was correct.

Business news roundup

Jason Mathwig, a regional professional with extensive experience in developing community partnerships, will join **New North Inc.** as industry alliance director. Mathwig, who comes to New North from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

where he has served as executive manager of education outreach, will lead outreach and engagement efforts through strategic partnerships with regional employers, as well as workforce development, educational and community-based organizations.

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Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Andy Dumke of Northpointe spoke at a public hearing at last week's Common Council meeting regarding the Shattuck Middle School development project.

Shattuck school

FROM PAGE 1

ment company to manage the apartments and there will be restrictions on who can rent them.

Among them, anyone who has an open bankruptcy, an eviction in the past three years, has been convicted of manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance, or a registered sex offender would be denied.

Dumke said to qualify to live in the apartments, the renters must earn between \$45,000 to \$53,000 per year. No more than 30% of a tenant's income can go toward rent.

The city has received letters, emails and a petition signed by more than 550 residents who oppose the development. About 100 residents attended the public hearing about the rezoning proposal.

Many in attendance expressed concerns about the increased traffic and safety issues the neighborhood would see with the development. Other concerns centered around whether the apartments would be for low-income residents and if that would bring increased crime.

Brielle Smith, who lives across the street from the school, wrote an email stating that the rezoning would ruin the neighborhood.

"If you guys pass this zoning, you're bringing in lower-income people, more people than this street can handle, crime, more problems in general," she said. "It's not fair to every single resident in this neighborhood to have this come into our neighborhood."

Kathryn Noll-Arias of Neenah voiced concerns that the development would

bring down property values.

"I just ask you, when you think about what this rezoning does to the families who have worked hard to establish themselves in this neighborhood, the same families you are talking about putting in this housing unit, you're breaking us," she said.

Although the majority of the attendees were against the rezoning, several spoke in favor of it.

Resident Warren Bergmann told the council that failing to rezone is excluding moderate- and low-income families from affordable housing.

"The campaign to block the development of affordable housing makes us feel unwelcome there," Bergmann said. "These comments make broad, unfair assumptions about people like me who need affordable housing. Should I not be allowed to live here? Am I a threat to your community?"

The Plan Commission is scheduled to vote Tuesday on its recommendation to the council regarding the rezoning. If it passes, the decision will go to the council for a vote at its Dec. 7 meeting.

Northpointe estimates that renovating just the Shattuck school building will cost around \$25 million, which includes about \$1 million in asbestos abatement. The project is also dictated by historic preservation requirements for the schoolhouse, which was built in 1928.

School district communications director Jim Strick said the district and developer have not closed on the sale of Shattuck and there are contingencies built into the agreement. If the city declines to rezone the property, Northpointe can back out of the sale.



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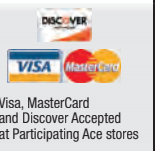
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Grow-your-own movement blossoms in state

By Lydia Slattery and Maiah O'Rourke
WISCONSIN WATCH

Sarah Bressler fell in love with growing food during an internship in urban farming her senior year of college. Now, she is the farm manager at the Hunger Task Force based out of Milwaukee, where she manages a 208-acre farm that provides half a million pounds of produce to its food bank each year.

The core labor force of The Farm is roughly 5,000 volunteers who pass through each season, and they, along with a full-time staff, grow about two dozen different fruits and vegetables, Bressler said.

The growing season is year-round, thanks to two hoop houses, also known as high tunnels, that allow them to grow crops during cold months. This is how urban farming combats food insecurity, even during Wisconsin winters.

"It's a form of a greenhouse, but it's in the fields," she explained. "So it's literally surrounding the growing space, so you're actually still growing in the ground, but you have a structure around the growing space that has plastic wrapped on the top of it."

The Farm is part of a growing local food movement in Wisconsin aimed at supplying healthy, high-quality fruits, vegetables and meat — hearkening back to an earlier time when nearly all food was produced locally.

The movement includes farmers markets, urban farming initiatives, community supported agriculture and food banks that provide local produce and, increasingly, offer programs aimed at meeting the needs of the 1 in 12 Wisconsinites who are food insecure.

During a February visit to the hoop houses, the temperature was 32 degrees outside, but a steamy 80 degrees inside, providing the necessary climate for spinach, carrots, collard greens and mustard greens to grow.

Still, the hoop houses are no replacement for the bounty of a summer harvest.

"It's obviously a lot less," explained Bressler, referring to the winter and early spring harvests, "but at the same time, we are still able to supply those fresh fruits and vegetables, and the hoop houses also give us an extension even in the spring."

The Farm is about much more than giving people healthy food. It's about changing habits and diet for a healthier life, especially for the 41% of Milwaukee children who live below the poverty line, Bressler said.

"Almost half of children don't have enough to eat, let alone the right vitamins and minerals and nutrients that they need to grow and to use their brains in school," she said.



Wisconsin Watch photo

There is a grow-your-own food movement gaining momentum across Wisconsin.

"When they go to see a food pantry and they're picking out their collard greens, they're excited about leaving there and making something with them," Bressler added. "There's dignity there."

Before the U.S. food system nationalized, people spent the summer and fall canning vegetables and stockpiling potatoes. Now large farms grow food year round in temperate climates like California's Central Valley and ship it to grocery stores across the country.

Lydia Zepeda, a former University of Wisconsin-Madison professor and an expert on sustainable food movements, said most government agriculture policies do not support small, local farms, many of them passed down within families. This makes it unaffordable for almost anyone outside of large corporations to start a farm.

One movement pushing back against so-called factory farms is community supported agriculture, more commonly known as a CSA. It is a crop-sharing system in which the consumer takes on some of the farmer's risk by buying produce or meat for a set price in advance of the harvest. This means that customers buy what's available from the farmer — regardless of how well the growing season goes.

While there's no official definition, CSAs generally involve farmers who deliver boxes of food or leave them at a central collection site on an agreed-upon schedule. Some weeks, those boxes could be full of tomatoes, while other weeks there could be other vegetables, depending on what's ripe.

Organizations like Madison-based CSA FairShare Coalition connect local, organic farmers with consumers. Not everyone can afford organic CSAs, since they tend to be expensive, said Sarah Janes Ugoretz, the apprenticeship program coordinator for the nonprofit.

That's why FairShare created the Partner Shares Program, which helps cover between 25% and 75% of the costs of joining

a CSA each year by connecting low-income families with CSA farmers. The program allows someone who signs up for the program to get a 50% discount on the \$600 cost per growing season for a standard share or the \$400 cost of a small share.

Janes Ugoretz said households apply to be a part of the program and assess their own financial needs for the application. This year, 152 families were enrolled in the program, which receives grant funding for serving low-income families.

In pursuit of creating a culture of dignity surrounding food assistance, some food pantries and food banks have pushed to incorporate more produce into charitable food systems.

Organizations such as the River Food Pantry, which provides groceries and meals to people in the Dane County area, has begun providing more fresh produce in the groceries and meals it provides to its clients.

In 2021, the pantry received a \$422,500 grant from the Inland Empire Community Foundation, a California-based nonprofit that provides grants to organizations working with vulnerable populations, said Helen Osborn-Senatus, director of operations for the pantry. With the grant, the organization bought produce from 35 local farmers, she said, spending roughly half of the nonprofit's monthly budget on produce.

"Prior to COVID, money just wasn't really spent on produce by most pantries or food banks, and now that's a huge change," Osborn-Senatus said.

Osborn-Senatus also works with Scott Williams, who owns the Mount Horeb, Wisconsin farm Garden To Be. Williams is an aggregator, supplying the pantry with produce from another two dozen farms. The River also gets donations of excess corn, tomatoes and squash from area farmers and gardeners, she said.

Farmers markets have also launched efforts to help food insecure families. The Dane County Farmers' Market jumped into the movement head first, seeing a near-

ly three-fold increase in the program which accepts FoodShare cards used by people receiving government food assistance. FoodShare recipients can get equivalent "market dollars," to be used with any vendors who sell eligible products.

Chrissy Ramakrishnan, the food access coordinator for the Dane County Farmers' Market, oversees that program and others, including the Double Dollars Program. A Madison and Dane County program, Double Dollars provides a money match of FoodShare funds used at the market up to \$25 for users each time they attend a local summer farmers market.

Usage of the FoodShare card program and the Double Dollars program has increased significantly in the past year, Ramakrishnan said. In 2019, a total of \$40,000 FoodShare dollars and Double Dollars were distributed, which dropped to \$30,500 in 2020.

In 2021, however, more than \$114,500 in FoodShare dollars and Double Dollars were distributed, she said. There were 1,371 program users attending the farmers markets in 2021 — and almost all of them were new users, Ramakrishnan said.

In addition to FoodShare, approximately 1,000 farmers participate in a statewide program that provides extra benefits to people receiving WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) benefits. One time per growing season, this program provides \$30 checks to pregnant or postpartum parents and to children at least nine months old to be redeemed at local farmers markets.

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program helps low-income seniors aged 60 or older purchase fresh produce from local farmers markets. Indigenous people can participate if they are over 55. The program issues checks worth \$25 per participant per season.

"Everyone has the right to be involved within our food system," Ramakrishnan said. "So whatever we can do to try to make that possible within the means that we have is so crucial and important."

Zepeda said local food systems are an integral part of tackling food insecurity at a community and national level. She recommends that people vote with their dollars by buying from farmers markets. They can also ask lawmakers to support policy that supports small farmers, Zepeda said.

"The pandemic, if nothing else, has shown that food systems can be completely disrupted," she said.

The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch (www.WisconsinWatch.org) collaborates with WPR, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

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Vinland earns DNR recycling excellence award

In honor of America Recycles Day, the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced last week the winners of the 2022 Wisconsin Recycling Excellence Awards, which included the Town of Vinland's plastics collection initiative.

The winning businesses, nonprofits, schools and local governments were chosen for demonstrating Wisconsin's commitment to waste reduction and recycling through projects and initiatives, innovation or special events.

Under the Projects or Initiatives category, Vinland took on a six-month challenge to collect 500 pounds of plastic bags and plastic film from its residents. Information was provided to residents on the town website and mailings to encourage involvement.

In total, 545 pounds were collected in the town and sent to Trex, a company that awarded the town with a resin bench made from the plastic. The program successfully made residents aware of the benefit of recycling, and another six-month challenge is underway.

Others winners included:

- Box-Me! (Innovation), a minority-owned cardboard recycling business operating in the Milwaukee area.

- Bucket Ruckus (Overall Program) – Started with an idea from a group of UW-Stevens Point students and an advisor, the program diverts organic waste from landfills using a curbside collection system.

- City of Platteville (Special Events) – In 2021, the city revamped its Spring Clean-up into a Spring Swap. Previously held in May around the end of the UW-Platteville school year, the event was moved to April and promoted as a free, city-wide yard sale.

- Compost Crusader (Overall Program) has been active in southeastern Wisconsin since 2014 diverting food scraps from landfill disposal.

- Green Bay Packaging (Overall Program) began the operation of a new Green Bay mill in 2021, which is taking water, energy, greenhouse gas reduction and fiber recovery to the next level.

- Greener Bay Compost (Overall Program) is a two-person, family-run composting business with the goal to "make

Green Bay a little greener every day."

- Lakeshore Recycling Systems (Innovation) has a new materials recovery facility in DeForest that began operation in 2021 and utilizes circular design processing equipment.

- LaPointe Materials Recovery Facility (Overall Program) on Madeline Island developed a new vision for operations and customer service.

- Milwaukee Area Technical College of Culinary Arts (Projects or Initiatives) has reduced the program's landfill output by 70%.

- Nestle USA (Overall Program) chocolate manufacturing facility in Burlington aims to send zero waste to landfills, and it utilizes circular economy concepts and partnerships to do so.

- Village of Bayside Public Works Department (Overall Program) is consistently working to become more environmentally friendly. Residents can drop off items at the village hall to be recycled or reused.

More information about why waste reduction and diversion are important to the award winners are on the Wisconsin Recycling Excellence Awards webpage.



Photo from Neenah Public Library

Present station

The Neenah Public Library's second-floor reference desk area offers residents a free present wrapping cart for the holiday season. No library card is required to take advantage of the service.

Memory Maker Kits available at library

Memory Maker Kits, designed to support caregivers and those living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias and cognitive disabilities, are available at the Neenah Public Library.

The kits contain meaningful activities that a person can engage in independently or with someone. Each kit was created around a theme and can be checked out for 28 days.

The kits were made possible by a grant from Bader Philanthropies.

Call 920-886-6315 to place a hold or place a copy level hold on the kit through the online catalog at neenahlibrary.org.

Volunteer needs

ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah is looking for volunteers for information desk escort. Volunteers need to be able to push individuals in wheelchairs. Other volunteer roles are available. For more information, contact brooke.techlin@thedacare.org or call 920-729-2207.

Fox Cities SCORE is seeking an experienced retired banking professional to be a business mentor to small business owners in the Fox Valley. Mentor training is provided. Time commitment is 10 hours per month. Contact keith.keller@score-volunteer.org or visit foxcities.score.org/volunteer.

Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to join the Senior Crew. This is an elite group of core volunteers who commit to a somewhat regular, yet flexible, schedule. For more information, contact angied@fox-

citieshabitat.org or call 920-544-7856.

Make the Ride Happen is seeking volunteers to provide transportation to older adults during the week so they can get to essential services. Drivers are eligible to receive 31 cents per mile during their route. You choose when you would like to drive. All passengers are mobile and sit in the rear of vehicle. Contact Jan at 920-832-9360 or rsvp@volunteerfox-cities.org.



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Revamped Fox Cities Stars eye another state trip

By Tim Froberg
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Every prep coach wants a team committed to the chase of a state championship.

Blake Hackbarth believes he has that in his Fox Cities Stars.

"The day I was hired, the girls told me there's no point in even playing if the goal isn't to win a state championship," said Hackbarth, the new coach of the Stars girls' hockey program.

It's a lofty goal that few teams achieve, but the Stars have good reason to aim high. The co-op program – consisting of high school players from Neenah, Menasha, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Fox Valley Lutheran, Hortonville, Wrightstown and the Appleton schools – returns several players from a state-qualifying team that went a rock-solid 22-4-1 overall.

The Stars have built a strong program over the years and playing in the state tournament is nothing new. The team won back-to-back state titles in 2019 and 2020.

"I always try and set realistic goals, but I feel like something like that (a state title) is realistic and obtainable," said Hackbarth. "It's not like this group won one game last year. My job is to help create the best scholar-athlete I can, but I'll do everything I can to help the girls reach their goal."

"We have our work cut out for us because this is a totally different team from last year – a different type of team. But I'm excited that the girls are setting their goals high."

Hackbarth succeeds Jeff Fox, who guided the team to its previous state ti-

ties. Hackbarth is a former player and assistant coach with the Neenah-Hortonville-Menasha boys' hockey team. He played a few years of junior hockey in Illinois, Massachusetts and Southern Wisconsin, and is the owner of Fox Valley Hockey Training.

"My full-time job is coaching hockey players and I coached girls in Knoxville before returning to the area, so this is nothing new to me," Hackbarth said. "To me, hockey players are hockey players."

Stars' players have been impressed with Hackbarth's energy and enthusiasm. "He's been awesome," said Stars defenseman Lily Schmeier, a junior from Neenah. "You can tell he absolutely loves what he does. He's just a ball of energy. That projects on us and makes us want to skate and practice."

The Stars need to replace elite players McKayla Zilisch and Grace Rentmeester along with a third top starter, Parker Beyer. That won't be easy. Zilisch, an Appleton North graduate, was one of the state's top scorers with 39 goals and 26 assists for 65 points. She is currently playing hockey at NCAA Division I Bemidji State.

Rentmeester added 33 goals and 23 assists for 56 points, while Beyer had six goals and 10 assists for another 16 points.

"Overall, I believe we lost something like 160 points from last season," Hackbarth said. "I'm not expecting this team to score like it did the last couple years when I believe we outscored opponents by a six-to-one margin. We're looking at trying to replace multiple D-1 hockey players."

"What happens now is that we give others opportunities. I trust our players and their abilities. I think they're going to step to the plate and perform. We're going to have to rely on effort and understand that we aren't the same team we were last year and have to play a little different type of hockey to be successful."

The Stars' top returning scorer is junior

forward Maleiyah Streck, who was third in goals with 12. The Stars also return senior forwards Megan Tesky (Menasha High School, two goals, five assists) and Mikayla Dorton (Kimberly, two goals) along with junior forwards Julia Lindemann (Appleton North, five goals, seven assists) and Peyton Smith (Appleton North, five assists) and junior defenseman Schmeier and Peyton Hewitt (Fox Valley Lutheran).

Streck, a team captain from Hortonville, is expected to lead the first line and be joined by promising freshmen Evelyn Mursau (Kaukauna) and Margaret Thomas (Appleton North).

"The two freshmen are really good," Hackbarth said. "I'm really looking forward to seeing how that first line comes through. The freshmen really lit it up during our scrimmage."

Smith, Lindemann and another newcomer, Ellen Merritt (Xavier) will comprise the second line, while the third line will likely consist of Tesky, junior Teagan Tomoda (Appleton North) and either junior Evelyn Jelinek (Hortonville) or sophomore Brynn Patten (Appleton West).

"I really think we have a one-two punch," said Hackbarth. "I know everyone is going to be keying on that first line and we're going to come back with a haymaker in our second line."

Schmeier is also confident the Stars will put the puck in the net.

"It's tough losing players like McKayla (Zilisch) and Grace (Rentmeester), but we have some very good players back and some really, really good freshmen," Schmeier said. "I think they will step up and fill those shoes."

The Stars have the luxury of an experienced goalie in Ella Sciborski: a senior from Hortonville who was a starter on the 2019 state championship squad. Sciborski had 356 saves last season, a 1.43 goals-against-average and a .920 saves percentage.

"Having an experienced player like that back at such a key position makes a big difference," Hackbarth said. "Ella is a workhorse. She always asks me for extra work and is always trying to get better. She's technically sound and very quick. She wants to be good and is dedicated to her craft."

Additional returning players from last season looking to make contributions are junior defenseman Renee Stoeger (Kimberly) and sophomore defenseman Talia Bellotti (Kaukauna) and Lillian McCracken (Hortonville).

"We can't rely on the type of scoring we had last year, so we're going to have to play suffocating defense and be smart about what we do," Hackbarth said. "That's what is going to propel us. We're not going to score six goals every single game."

The Stars finished second last season in the highly competitive Eastern Shores Conference at 7-0-1. Bay Area is the defending league champion at 7-0-0.

"Every team in our conference looks rock-solid," Hackbarth said. "I feel that iron sharpens iron. That's good because we get to play some really good teams. It's going to be a dogfight all season."

The Stars are scheduled to play three games this weekend in the Warbirds Tournament at Fond du Lac's Blue Line Ice Center. They will face Northern Edge Nov. 25 at 7:30 pm followed by two Saturday games against Icebergs (noon) and Warbirds (7 p.m.).

The Stars will then host Arrowhead Dec. 2 at the Community First Champion Center in Appleton. The remainder of their home games will be at the Tri-County Ice Arena.

"I love this team," said Schmeier. "We all come from different schools, but we have such a good bond on and off the ice. Even the incoming freshmen fit in well with us. I think it will be a really good season."

Girls hockey PREVIEW



Schmeier

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Rockets open season with easy victory

Allie Ziebell nearly opened the season with a triple-double and led four players in double figures as the Neenah girls basketball team throttled Stevens Point, 87-54, in a non-conference game on Friday.

Ziebell finished with 23 points and 15 rebounds, while picking up eight assists in the win for the Rockets, who lead 49-25 at halftime before coasting in the second half.

Sammie Buss knocked down five 3-pointers and finished with 17 points in her first game for Neenah, while Sophia

Kok finished with 13 points and Ava Kok added 10 points.

The Rockets finished 14-of-30 from the 3-point line in the game.

St. Mary Catholic rolls past Winneconne

The Zehyrs had three players in double figures and used a big first half to collect the nonconference win last week.

St. Mary Catholic held Winneconne to just 13 points in the first half in taking a 19-point lead at intermission.

Chloe Vogel and Audrey Norville each had 14 points to lead the way for the Zephyrs, who improved to 2-0 on the season. Emily Vogel chipped in 12 points for St. Mary Catholic.

City budget

FROM PAGE 1

and \$57,000 per year.

“Retention of our employees at this difficult time of labor shortages is extremely important to me,” Lang said. “The ability to recruit new employees as current employees retire or simply move on is also obviously important.”

The total 2023 budget comes to \$73.6 million, a 4.1% increase over 2022.

Included in the spending plan is a new downtown master plan for Arrowhead Park, planned redevelopment at Cook Park and new play equipment at Baldwin Park.

Major street improvements will include South Commercial Street and the Winneconne Avenue intersection. Other street upgrades are planned for Chestnut, Dieckhoff, Burr and four courts in the Memorial Park area. New street work will be

conducted in the Liberty Heights subdivision, the Integrity Acres subdivision, and the Arthur and Cardinal plats.

Another notable development includes the use of tax incremental financing for the Bridgewood housing development area to enable bridge construction and storm pond modifications. Upgrades to the Neenah Library, City Garage and City Hall will also be undertaken in 2023. A parking ramp will be allocated in the 2024 Capital Improvement Plan.

“We are incredibly fortunate that our downtown has continued to grow and thrive in spite of all the challenges of the past few years,” Lang said.

She said the budget spending was thoughtfully and carefully considered to create a responsible plan.

“As I stated at the outset, our goal is to continue to provide our absolute best to the citizens of the city of Neenah,” she said. “I’m firm in my commitment to do that.”

ATV helmet, seatbelt use promoted

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) urges ATV/UTV riders and passengers to wear helmets and seatbelts while out on the trails this fall.

So far this year, 17 people have died in ATV/UTV crashes statewide. Most of the victims were not wearing seatbelts or helmets. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 71% of fatally injured ATV riders were killed in

crashes involving no other vehicles in 2020.

“ATVs are popular for work and recreational purposes such as trail riding and hunting,” said Major April Dombrowski, DNR Recreational Safety Section chief. “Protect yourself and loved ones by always wearing a helmet. It’s the single most important piece of protection an ATV or UTV rider can wear.”



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Olen collection

November marks Native American Heritage Month. Neenah is home to a once prized but often forgotten collection of Native American artifacts. Pictured here is Charles Velte in front of the Olen Collection that is still on display in the lobby of Neenah City Hall. Join us Wednesday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m. in the Shattuck Room at the Neenah Public Library for a free presentation by Karen Ann Hoffman, a Native American artist.



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Contact editor@oshkoshherald.com to get more details.



Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2022 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 38, No. 51

THANK YOU, CHARLES M. SCHULZ!

COMIC STRIP GETS STAMPED: The United States Postal Service has created the **Charles M. Schulz Forever** stamps to celebrate the fact that the creator of the **Peanuts** comic strip would have been 100 years old on November 26, 2022. Find out more about this legendary cartoonist on today's *Kid Scoop* page!



WHO WAS CHARLES SCHULZ?

When Charles Schulz was a child, people called the newspaper comic pages "the funnies." And Charles was a boy who really *loved* the funnies.

Schulz read his local newspaper every day and wanted to make his own funnies one day. He started drawing as a youngster and kept drawing cartoons every day.

SLOW START

Later in life, Schulz became one of the world's most successful cartoonists. But as a young man, he had a hard time finding a newspaper or magazine to buy his comic strip. He worked odd jobs to pay his bills.



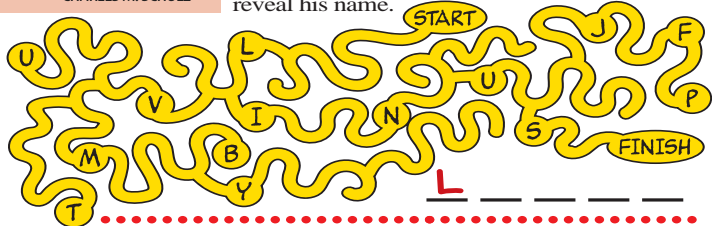
"The only thing I ever wanted to be was a cartoonist. That's my life. Drawing."

— CHARLES M. SCHULZ

ARMY TO ART SCHOOL

During World War II, Charles was drafted into the United States Army. He brought a sketch pad and kept on drawing.

When he came home to Minnesota, he got a job teaching at the art school where he had studied. It was there he met a man who would become a friend for life. The letters on the correct path reveal his name.



PEANUTS BEGINS

In 1947, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* bought his comic strip, which was called *Li'l Folks*. In 1950, the strip's name was _____ to **Peanuts** because another comic strip had a name that was too _____.

From that small start, **Peanuts** became very _____. It was eventually _____ in more than 2,600 newspapers and 75 countries!

Charles Schulz wrote and _____ every single **Peanuts** comic strip himself for the next 50 years, inspiring generations of _____ cartoonists.

Replace the missing words.

- CHANGED
- PUBLISHED
- FUTURE
- POPULAR
- SIMILAR
- DREW



PEANUTS CHARACTER MATCH

Do you know the names of these famous **Peanuts** characters featured on U.S. postage stamps? Do the math to label each character.

- 7 + 7 = Charlie Brown
- 8 - 2 = Schroeder
- 11 + 7 = Peppermint Patty
- 13 + 3 = Lucy
- 18 - 6 = Franklin
- 9 - 4 = Linus
- 8 + 5 = Pig-Pen
- 4 + 4 = Sally



PEANUTS BY THE NUMBERS

- Charles drew **17,897** **Peanuts** comic strips.
- There have been **5** feature-length **Peanuts** movies.
- There have been **45** **Peanuts** television specials.

SNOOPY

The **Peanuts** character **Snoopy** is based on a pet dog that Charles had as a child. Use the code to find out the name of this pet.

- = A
- = C
- = E
- = H
- = I
- = K
- = P
- = S



Extra! Extra!

Make a Comic Book

Every day, cut out your favorite comic strip from the newspaper. Glue the strips onto blank paper and make your own comic book!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

BEYOND COMIC STRIPS

The **Peanuts** characters were so popular that they were made into books, TV shows, a musical stage show, greeting cards, toys and even movies! Circle every other letter to find out the name of the first **Peanuts** television special, which aired on CBS in 1965.



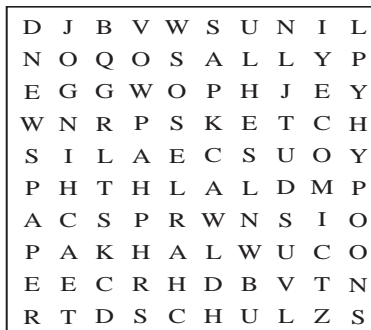
A V O D H N A S R
T L W I K E J B U R
I O Z W X N Q C
B H P R D I V S
R T L M U A I S Y

CH A

Double Double Word Search

- NEWSPAPER
- CHARLES
- SCHULZ
- PEANUTS
- SNOOPY
- DRAW
- COMIC
- SKETCH
- DOG
- BOOKS
- LUCY
- LINUS
- SALLY
- PET
- TEACHING

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



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

Kid Scoop Together

Charles' Favorite Sport: Hockey

Because Charles Schulz made so many comics featuring hockey, he was admitted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame.

Growing up in St. Paul, MN, Charles used a hockey stick to hit tennis balls in his grandmother's basement. His mother helped him make goalie pads out of gunny sacks with rolled-up newspaper sewn inside. His father made an ice rink in their backyard where Charles and his friends played hockey whenever they could — even by streetlight at night.

Charles's love of hockey lasted his entire life. His five children all learned to skate.

In 1969, when a local ice arena closed, Charles bought it and opened the Redwood Empire Arena near his studio in Santa Rosa, CA.

Today, the ice arena is called Snoopy's Home Ice and is located next to the Charles M. Schulz Museum.

How many differences can you find between these two hockey players?



To learn more about Charles M. Schulz, visit www.schulzmuseum.org

Write On!

Happy Birthday, Charles M. Schulz

Write a short "Happy Birthday" note to Charles M. Schulz who would be 100 this year.

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