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## School renovation plan denied

### Shattuck project fails to get needed rezoning

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

After a contentious and lengthy meeting, the Neenah Common Council was swayed by opposition from neighboring residents and voted against rezoning the Shattuck Middle School site to be redeveloped into apartments and homes.

Hundreds of residents called, emailed and wrote council members to urge them to oppose the rezoning. Locals voiced their concerns at several public meetings,

signed petitions, put up yard signs and held up signs at the meeting that said, "Don't rezone. Leave R1 alone."

In July, the Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) agreed to sell the 27-acre property to Northpointe Development, based in Osh-kosh, for \$500,000. The sale was contingent on the city approving a master development plan and rezoning request.

Andy Dumke of Northpointe said he would spend up to \$30 million to renovate the Shattuck building and transform it into moderate-income apartments. Northpointe would also construct duplexes, townhomes and single-family homes at the site.

Dumke told the council last week that he altered his redevelopment plans based on residents' concerns, agreeing to eliminate 16 duplexes and two 8-unit townhomes. He also offered to give about 4 acres of green space to the city to be made into a park or other public space.

Northpointe's most recent proposal was to build 89 apartments inside the Shattuck school building and 49 single family homes at the site. Dumke said there was a possibility that the apartments could be designated for senior citizens. One unit would be set aside at a reduced rate for veterans.

SEE **Shattuck project** ON PAGE 7

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Photo by David Hall

## Medical overview

*ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah's modernization of its Doty Island hospital campus continues, which includes expansion of its gynecology, podiatry and urology surgery spaces. The Inspired Past, Healthier Future project broke ground this spring and the full modernization is expected to be completed by next fall.*

## Oshkosh-Neenah metro area sees home sales decline

By Randall Davidson  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The house-buying boom of the past two years seems to be slowing.

According to a new analysis by the group Construction Coverage, the Oshkosh-Neenah market saw a 24.9% drop in home sales in October 2022 versus the same month last year. Despite the decline, the median time a listing is on the market locally is now just 46 days compared with 51 in 2021.

Wisconsin as a whole saw a 27.7% decline. The median time listings remain on the market in the state is now 47 days compared with 50 last year.

Some metro areas in the state are doing worse than Oshkosh-Neenah. The biggest decline in sales was in Green Bay, which saw a 37.6% drop, followed by Appleton, down 35.0%. Janesville/Beloit was off 32.4%, the Milwaukee/Waukesha metro area dropped 30.1% and Sheboygan was lower by 28.8%.

Other Wisconsin metros saw smaller declines than Oshkosh/Neenah with the smallest drop in La Crosse/Onalaska, down 13.5%. Only Janesville-Beloit recorded an increase in the median time listings were on the market, and then only going from 47 days in 2021 to 49 days today.

Nationally, a listing is now on the mar-

ket for a median 35 days compared with 21 days a year ago and only 15 days at the height of the sales frenzy.

During the pandemic, the median home sale price in the U.S. increased by more than 38%, from \$329,000 in the first quarter of 2020 to \$454,900 in the third quarter of this year. This spike in prices along with inflation have been the primary factors driving the downturn. Potential homebuyers now have less money to save up for a home and also face higher mortgage rates.

To curb inflation, the U.S. Federal Reserve has hiked interest rates throughout the year and these higher rates have been

passed on to borrowers. The average interest rate for a 30-year fixed rate mortgage has more than doubled, from around 3% at the end of 2021 to about 6.5% now.

Nearly all areas are experiencing a drop in home sales, with the largest declines in Western states. Utah saw the biggest drop, off 43.2%. Nine of the top 10 states with the biggest slowdowns in home sales are in the West as are top 12 large metro areas with the steepest declines.

Of the 220 metro area surveyed, only six recorded sales increases.

The entire report is available at [constructioncoverage.com/research/cities-with-largest-drop-in-home-sales-2022](http://constructioncoverage.com/research/cities-with-largest-drop-in-home-sales-2022).

# 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.

### About the newspaper

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Neenah News

## Downtown vision

Cory Scott from RDG Planning and Design describes downtown Neenah development options on one of many architectural drawings on display at an open house Monday at the Neenah Public Library. The concept plan created by city planners, consultants and public input on what the downtown could look like over the next 10 to 15 years was unveiled. The Neenah Next project has been collecting and analyzing data since May.

## Food package donation program offered

Valley Pyramid Foods is offering a holiday meal program where a family or individual in need gets a meal bundle delivered to their home and participants get a \$5 gift certificate for their donation.

Participants are asked to stop at Valley Pyramid Foods at 1060 Breezewood Lane, Suite 1, between 9 a.m. and noon

through Saturday to choose between two food bundles, provide a name, address and phone number, and add any message they would like to include. Deliveries will be coordinated between Monday and Thursday.

Contact [pyramidfoods@gmail.com](mailto:pyramidfoods@gmail.com) or 920-886-9969 for details.



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Neenah-Menasha Meals on Wheels is a community collaboration of Valley VNA Senior Care, the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society, and ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah.

## Volunteer needs

**Rebuilding Together Fox Valley** is seeking volunteers who would like to use their skills to revitalize communities by performing housing repairs. Training is provided to all skill sets. Contact Rebuilding Together at 920-730-2156 or contact@rtfv.org.

**Fox Cities SCORE** is seeking an experienced working or retired accounting and finance professional to be a business mentor to small business owners. Mentor training is provided. Time commitment is 10 hours a month and can fit personal schedules. Contact [keith.keller@scorevolunteer.org](mailto:keith.keller@scorevolunteer.org) or visit [www.foxcities.score.org/volunteer](http://www.foxcities.score.org/volunteer).

**Valley Packaging Industries** is seeking volunteers to help individuals with disabilities become more independent by training them at their community job site. Volunteer training provided. Contact Amanda at 920-749-5859 or [astuck@vpind.com](mailto:astuck@vpind.com).

**ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah** is looking for volunteers for the information desk escort role. Walk patients and visitors to their destination within the hospital and assist with errands within the hospital. Volunteers need to be able to push individuals in wheelchairs. Other volunteer roles are available. Contact Brooke at [brooke.techlin@thedacare.org](mailto:brooke.techlin@thedacare.org) or 920-729-2207.

**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. Contact Angie at [angied@foxcitieshabitat.org](mailto:angied@foxcitieshabitat.org) or 920-544-7856.

**Covey** is seeking volunteers for its Covey Connects program. Support participants with disabilities as they gain independence in a variety of community events including dining out with Diner's Club, learning library skills, making art and crafts, attending fitness activities, hosting a party or one of many other opportunities. Contact Stephanie at 920-292-1120 or [sburke@covey.org](mailto:sburke@covey.org).

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# Neenah Police Department adds three officers, others promoted

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah welcomed three new police officers and promoted three existing officers during a pinning ceremony at the Common Council meeting last week.

Neenah Police Department (NPD) Chief Aaron Olson said that pinning ceremonies, used to signify a newly hired officer or an officer promotion, are one of his favorite nights.

“We chose to hire them and promote them because they are good people,” he said. “We have a lot of options and we only hire the best of the best with good character.”

The three new officers are Erica Geschrei, Bryce Sweeney and Brandon Sweeney.

Geschrei is a 19-year veteran of law enforcement who had been a Winnebago County deputy, where she held a number of positions including canine handler. Geschrei has a bachelor’s degree from Marian University.

Brandon and Bryce are twin brothers. Their father is also a police officer. Both brothers have an associate degree from Fox Valley Technical College and are enrolled in the law enforcement academy. Brandon and Bryce worked as community service assistants for NPD before becoming sworn officers.

The three promoted officers are Sgt. Rob Ross, Sgt. Sam Santiago and Lt. Wes Bone.

Ross has been with NPD for nine years. He’s currently a school resource officer. Ross is a member of the SWAT team, honor guard team, bike patrol and is the accreditation manager. Ross was formerly a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army. He attended University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

and graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Lakeland University.

Santiago has been with NPD for six years. He’s currently a night shift sergeant, canine handler, SWAT team member and department armorer. Santiago has an associate degree from UW Milwaukee and is working on his bachelor’s degree. He was formerly an Army sergeant.

Bone has been with NPD for 11 years. He was promoted to sergeant in 2017 and patrol lieutenant in August. He’s also on the SWAT team. Bone is an Army veteran and currently serves as staff sergeant in the Air Force Reserves. He has a bachelor’s degree from Southern Wesleyan University and a master’s from Lakeland College.

Olson said the officers are true people of character.

“I am confident that these officers and supervisors will treat every citizen with dignity and respect, which is what we strive for and we talk about every single day at the police department,” he said.

In other police-related business, the council:

- Voted to name the Neenah Police Department lobby the Steve Morton Memorial Lobby effective Dec. 14. Morton served on the Police Commission for 12 years and served as president for three of those years. Olson said at an earlier Public Services and Safety meeting that Morton was an ambassador for the police department both financially and through his support, friendship and mentoring. Olson said there is no better way to honor him than to memorialize his name.

- Approved NPD to participate in the Law Enforcement Agency Grant for Safer Communities. NPD was awarded about \$76,000 through the grant that



Neenah News

Neenah police officers who were either hired or promoted included (from left) Erica Geschrei, Bryce Sweeney, Brandon Sweeney, Rob Ross, Sam Santiago and Wes Bone.

will be used to purchase the Apex Officer X2 System at a cost of \$67,500 and other training-related equipment. The Apex Officer is a virtual reality training system and simulator that provides hands-on scenario-based exercises with detailed debriefing. Initial funding for the system will come from capital equipment reserve funds.

- Accepted and placed on file the Po-

lice Department 3rd Quarter Statistics Report. According to the report, from July-September police responded to 6,869 calls for service, which included 831 traffic stops. Police made 221 arrests, with roughly half of the arrests involving more serious crimes against people, property or society; and the others include less serious offenses such as disorderly conduct, trespassing and writing bad checks.

## Calendar of events

**Friday, Dec. 16**  
Fitness Friday, 9:15 a.m., Neenah Public Library

**Saturday, Dec. 17**  
Murder Mystery – The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year, 6 p.m., Bridgewood Resort Hotel  
Family Glass Art Class: Snowman Family Portrait, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

**Sunday, Dec. 18**  
Neenah Community Band Winter Concert, 3 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

**Friday, Dec. 30**  
Doo-Wop Daddies, 6 p.m., Bridgewood Resort Hotel

**Saturday, Dec. 31**  
New Year’s Eve Party, 5 p.m., Ground Round

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# Last-minute holiday gift ideas for people who love beer

As festive and fun as the holiday season can be, it's tough to find the right gift for a beer-lover.

Let's be honest here: It's risky to give these friends and family members more beer. They're likely frequent shoppers at local retailers, so they know (and have purchased) the latest brews.

Never fear! "Wife + Husband = Beer" is here to discuss gift giving and offer some suggestions.

**Wife:** Have I ever given you beer as a gift?

**Husband:** A gift, probably, but maybe not during Christmastime. I have stuffed brews into your stocking, though.

**W:** Yeah, that weight really stretches them out.

**H:** Love can be heavy. So, let's talk about giving gifts to people who appreciate beer ...

**W:** Beer geeks.

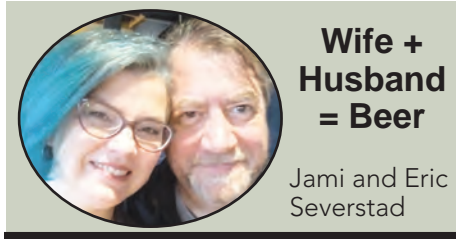
**H:** ... sure, unless you really know what they like, I wouldn't recommend buying them beer.

**W:** What about those "beer passports" or card decks? I think anybody would like to receive one of those.

**H:** The "2023 Reel Craft Pass" is a bound book that people take to various breweries throughout Wisconsin for "buy one pint, get one free" offers (one-time use per location).

**W:** At 168 pages, it'll keep an adventurous beer fan busy for a year. That's a lot of fun for a \$25 gift.

**H:** The "2023 WI Brew Deck," created by Venture Wisconsin, is more focused



**Wife +  
Husband  
= Beer**

Jami and Eric  
Severstad

on our local region, featuring 35 breweries only in northeast and central Wisconsin. Each of the 52 cards gets punched at the brewery, and you keep the card.

**W:** I like that the cards have different offers, not just all BOGOS.

**H:** Like savings on brewery merchandise.

**W:** There you go — another gift idea!

**H:** I like that you keep the cards and use them as an actual deck for cribbage, poker ... whatever card game you want.

**W:** Production of the Brew Deck is more involved than the passport booklet, so the price is higher, \$36 per deck, and all cards expire Dec. 31, 2023.

**W:** Both options encourage people to get out to unfamiliar locations and support local businesses. These can be purchased online, at breweries, and some retail outlets, too.

**H:** Hey, I saw that Lion's Tail recently made more Can Club Memberships available.

**W:** You and I talked about that in March, right?

**H:** Yep, the annual memberships let you purchase new beers before the public, cuts \$1 off tap pours, saves 15%

on merchandise, and gets two entries into the annual members-only party.

Direct message the brewery on social media to sign up your favorite Lion's Tail fan for \$100.

**W:** In a pinch, there are always brewery gift cards.

**H:** The easy way out, but always appreciated.

**W:** Beer drinkers can borrow technology from the wine world.

**H:** How so?

**W:** By using "wine saver" equipment to keep beer fresh.

**H:** Example?



These affordable holiday gift ideas encourage visits to Wisconsin breweries.

**W:** Let's say you crack into that Central Waters XXIII Anniversary barrel-aged imperial stout late on a Saturday night, and your significant other isn't helping you drink it ...

**H:** I get tired!

**W:** ... you put a stopper in the bottle, quickly pump the hand vacuum, and slow down the oxidation process until you're ready to enjoy it again. Vacu Vin is the system we use.

**H:** Those silicone lids for cans don't remove oxygen. The only can device I use is a plastic can cover to keep bugs out of my beer in summertime.

**W:** As a bookworm, it's no surprise that we have books about beer throughout our house.

**H:** The possibilities are endless: history, cookbooks, industry how-to, Wisconsin breweries, homebrew books.

**W:** Drinking games — either in book, card, or board form — are fun when you're in a beer-loving crowd.

**H:** I've heard Beer Pressure livens up a crowd and is quite sassy.

**W:** What about beer-related art? The right pieces add ambiance to an in-home bar area.

**H:** Or, just an in-home bar!

**W:** OK, we're talking about affordable, last-minute gifts here.

**H:** Classic beer signs and advertising can be really cool and memorable gifts. Maybe glassware, if that person doesn't already have enough flutes, shakers, mugs, steins and snifters.

**W:** What about a set of small sampler glasses for beer-tasting gatherings with many people?

**H:** Right! We use beer festival tasting glasses collected over the years, but some people may not have those.

**H:** Happy holiday shopping from both of us at Wife + Husband = Beer.

**W:** We truly hope you and your beer-loving friends enjoy a peaceful season filled with tasty beverages. Cheers!

Connect with Wife + Husband = Beer! Tell us what Neenah beer-lovers need to know, and we'll cover it. It's a sacrifice we make for you, dear readers. Email: [wife.husband.beer@gmail.com](mailto:wife.husband.beer@gmail.com)



Books focused on beer can make great holiday gifts.

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Submitted photo

Ron Klatt was honored, complete with royal garb, with the Mike McKinnon Award by Doty Island Development Council president Jacy Park.

## Klatt recognized for community service

Neenah News

The Doty Island Development Council (DIDC) recently honored Neenah resident Ron Klatt with the Mike McKinnon Award, established in 1989 to recognize “unsung heroes” that contribute to the community without expecting reward or compensation.

The council noted Klatt’s perseverance over the past year to preserve history and ensure the legacy of memorials, including his efforts to rename the Neenah Creek (Neenah slough); working with the city, Twin City Monument and DIDC to place a new memorial for Thaddeus Sheerin in

Doty Park; sleuthing for the missing Nicolet Boulevard plaque and having it remounted; and educating the public about the hidden Friedland & Gear memorial in Smith Park.

Klatt also has benefited his community through serving on unpaid, volunteer boards including the Neenah and Menasha historical societies, Neenah Club and the DIDC.

McKinnon was a Neenah police officer who was highly involved in the community. After his death, the public learned about the various activities he participated in to help his community.

## Work on county overdose prevention recognized

Neenah News

Winnebago County’s Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team is presenting its first We Heart You Celebration of Excellence Award to Menasha Police Chief Tim Styka for his efforts in working in his community and with the county team on substance use issues.

The award is given to a person or organization that serves the residents of Winnebago County by committing to community initiatives that increase access to substance and mental health related resources and contributing experience, data and meaningful input to help save lives.

Styka has been with the Winnebago County OFR team since 2019 and works with the Menasha Community Addiction Assistance Program to improve access to treatment and recovery services. He also is involved in the Winnebago County’s Overdose Spike Alert Pilot initiative, which tracks nonfatal overdoses and identifies potential intervention and prevention points.

Styka, who is retiring as police chief in



Styka

January after 11 years, also helped institute and find funding for the Solutions Peer Response Team, creating a way for people with that experience to connect with those struggling with substance use disorder.

“Tim has been a leader on the team, not only with his experience and perspective, but always pushing partners to do better and go beyond their boundaries,” OFR facilitator Jennifer Skolaski said.

The Menasha Police Department, along with Neenah and Fox Crossing police departments, is one of 56 partners representing 37 agencies that work on the OFR team to prevent overdose deaths by examining individual, organizational and systems level factors related to overdose deaths in Winnebago County.

“Chief Styka has created momentum in the community that continues beyond implementation of his work,” said University of Wisconsin Oshkosh acting Chief of Police and OFR team member Chris Tarmann. “His leadership, innovation and commitment to saving lives is shaping a path forward for other law enforcement leaders.”

More information about the Winnebago County OFR Team is at [winnebagopublichealth.org](http://winnebagopublichealth.org).

## Museum awarded tourism grant for festival

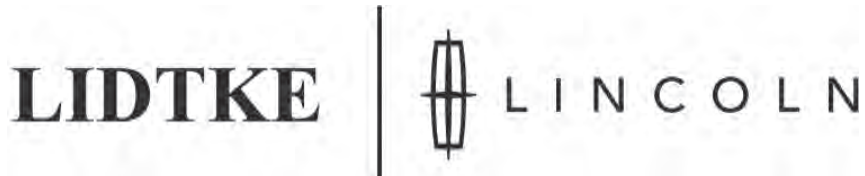
The Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau awarded the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass \$39,500 through the state Department of Tourism’s Joint Effort Marketing (JEM) grant for the promotion of its annual Glass Arts Festival.

Anne Sayers, secretary-designee of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, presented the check Thursday at the Neenah museum along with bureau executive director Pam Seidl.



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# Scrapped vehicle lawsuit against police dismissed

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A court commissioner has dismissed a small claims lawsuit against the Neenah Police Department over a stolen vehicle that ended up at a scrap yard.

The lawsuit stems from an October 2020 stolen vehicle report made by Robert Mallory of Oshkosh, who reported a 2004 Chrysler Pacifica he recently purchased, but had not yet titled in his name, was stolen while it was being repaired by a private party in Neenah.

The Neenah Police Department declined an open records request for the police report. Open records clerk Laurie Krueger stated by email that releasing the documents could jeopardize the litigation. Mallory's partner, Jessica Williams of Oshkosh, provided Neenah News with police reports from Neenah Police and Wisconsin Rapids Police.

According to the police report, Clair Visgar of Neenah agreed to repair the vehicle and was in possession of it when it disappeared. Visgar told police that once he was done fixing the vehicle he placed the keys in the car and left it unlocked, as he "wanted nothing to do with it."

Visgar denied selling the vehicle or having it towed. Police did not refer charges due to conflicting statements about Visgar's agreement with Mallory

for auto repairs, documents state.

Two months later, Wisconsin Rapids police located the vehicle in a parking lot in Wood County. While a deputy was on scene, Robert Edgerly of Wisconsin Rapids returned to the vehicle and told the deputy he purchased the vehicle a couple of months ago.

According to the Neenah police report, Edgerly told a deputy that the paperwork and his cellphone with the name and number of who he purchased the vehicle from were at a friend's house and he did not know the friend's address so he could not go and get it.

Wisconsin Rapids police reported Edgerly said he could not remember the phone number of the person who sold him the vehicle and the phone that contained the information had been run over.

The vehicle was towed by Garry's Towing where it was to be stored in a secured warehouse, according to the police report.

Documents indicate that the day after the vehicle was towed, Winnebago County District Attorney Eric Sparr informed a Neenah deputy that the vehicle would have to go through an evidence return hearing as there were multiple people who had a stake in it. The vehicle was not to be released until the hearing was concluded.

"It was decided the vehicle was to remain at Garry's Towing until it was decided who it belonged to," according to the report.



Sparr

The records do not indicate whether Garry's Towing was contacted by police after the vehicle was towed.

Documents say that in April 2021, Sparr notified a Neenah police deputy that the evidence return hearing was completed and the vehicle was awarded to Mallory. Sparr also notified the deputy that Mallory contacted Garry's Towing and the tow company crushed the vehicle.

Garry Wiskerchen of Garry's Towing said he held the vehicle for 60 days and sent two certified letters notifying the legal owner of the abandoned vehicle. Since Mallory never registered the vehicle in his name, the letters were mailed to the person he purchased it from.

After the waiting period, the vehicle was transported to a scrap yard. Wiskerchen said he no longer has records which would show the date the vehicle was scrapped. He estimated the scrap yard paid him about \$100 for it.

Williams sued Neenah police in small claims court for just over \$9,000. Court Commissioner Michael Rust presided over the case last week.

Williams said the officer involved in the incident testified that he never told Wiskerchen to get rid of the vehicle.

"What officer called Garry's Towing and told him to get rid of it?" she questioned, adding that she doesn't think

Wiskerchen is being truthful.

Wiskerchen said he doesn't recall whether he was ever contacted by an officer after picking up the vehicle. He said the issue is that while the vehicle was in his possession it was never legally owned by Mallory or Williams, because they never titled and registered it. If the vehicle were titled in either of their names, they would have received notice before the vehicle was scrapped.

He added that nearly four months had passed before the evidentiary hearing was complete, which is well past the 60-day holding period that tow yards must legally follow before selling or scrapping a vehicle.

Rust dismissed the case. Williams said she will appeal the dismissal and she plans to subpoena Wiskerchen to find out what officer told him to get rid of the vehicle.

Under state law, a person who removes and stores a vehicle at the request of law enforcement may not be held civilly liable unless they failed to exercise reasonable care, or the conduct was willful, wanton or malicious.

Wiskerchen said if he's subpoenaed, he will tell the judge that Garry's Towing never towed or scrapped a vehicle owned by either Mallory or Williams, because the vehicle that he towed was not registered in either of their names.

## WRITING OPPORTUNITIES

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Contact [editor@oshkoshherald.com](mailto:editor@oshkoshherald.com) to get more details.



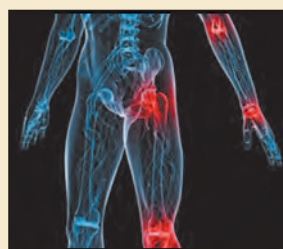
Photo from Neenah Historical Society

### Children decorating

Junior kindergarten students decorate the Christmas tree on Dec. 10, 1954. Hanging ornaments were Barbara Piekarz and Steve Seymour. This photo is from the Hoover School scrapbook of Principal Blanche Mc Intyre.



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# Shattuck project

FROM PAGE 1

Neighboring residents told the council that the proposed moderate-income apartments would attract homeless people, drug addicts, sex offenders and crime.

Dumke repeatedly assured residents that anyone convicted of manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance and registered sex offenders would be denied. Background checks would be conducted yearly. The apartments would only be available to people making between \$45,000 to \$53,000 per year.

Northpointe put in the only offer to purchase the Shattuck site. The district's other option is to raze the property at a potential cost of \$2 million.

Neenah resident Tamara Hasz told the council that she would purchase the site.

"One of the main objectives that's been given for wanting to go ahead with this is that there's no other offer," she said. "Well here, I have it, I'll buy it. My offer is that I will pay exactly what Northpointe has

offered."

The council has no authority over who the school district sells the Shattuck site to.

Although the majority of the residents who spoke at the meeting were opposed to the development, several residents spoke in support of it.

Deb Langacker of Neenah told the council that there are people in the community that would love to have a place to rent or buy.

"They're not aliens from another planet; they're going to be good tenants," she said. "They're going to be good homeowners just like everyone else was when they started out."

The meeting became heated at times, with some residents accusing council members of not listening to them. Alderman Cari Lendrum told the residents the council members' voicemails are full.

"We hear all of our residents all of the time," Lendrum said. "This is new in that this has caused a lot of angst but we always listen to our residents."

Leading up to the meeting, council president Todd Stevenson's brother, Judd, sub-



Housing developer Andy Dumke (middle right) sits in front of a sign at the Common Council meeting opposing the rezoning needed to allow renovation of Shattuck Middle School.

Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler



Neenah News

## Spirit of holidays

One of Santa's young helpers brought holiday joy to Aldi shoppers at 927 S. Green Bay Road last weekend, where a small display was set up, offering peppermints and quarters. "Take a quarter for your cart. Happy Holidays!" a sign on the display read, along with a child's handmade drawing. The random act of kindness exemplified the meaning of the season of giving.

mitted a petition opposing the development, with 846 signatures. Both Todd and Judd spoke out against rezoning at the meeting.

City Attorney David Rashid told the council that the petition met the requirements of more than 20% of neighboring residents' signatures, indicating the measure needed a super majority vote of 75% of council members in order to pass.

The council voted to reject the rezoning request, with five members opposed and four in favor.

Dumke said Northpointe will step away from the Shattuck sale agreement with the school district. The contract gave him until Dec. 15 to make a final decision.

NJSD communications director Jim

Strick said with Northpointe's departure, the school board will need to convene to decide the next steps. School Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer issued a statement on the council's decision.

"The outcome of the vote was disappointing, particularly considering the changes Northpointe made in response to the neighbors' concerns," she said.

Hasz said she emailed the school board last week, notifying them of her intent to purchase the Shattuck site.

"I plan to make it a community development," she said. "I'll be talking to my neighbors and asking them what they think they want there first before an actual hardcore plan is put forth."

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## Prep sports roundup

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Neenah rolls past Lightning in FVA tussle

Cal Klesmit finished with 22 points, 10 rebounds and five assists in leading Neenah past Appleton North, 69-49, in a Fox Valley Association game played at Shattuck Middle School in Neenah.

The Rockets closed the first half with a 10-0 run to take a 38-26 advantage and stayed in control the rest of the way.

Elliott Swanson added 12 points and Nolan Juckem finished with 10 for Neenah.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### Three players hit double figures in Rockets win

Neenah had three players in double figures as it cruised to a 64-32 win over Appleton North on the road Friday.

Allie Ziebell led the way with 19 points, while Ava Kok finished with 14 and Amaya Jones added 11 in the win.

The Rockets hit 10 3-pointers in the game, while also going 10-of-12 from the free-throw line.

#### Rockets breeze to FVA victory over Terrors

Allie Ziebell scored 29 points and Neenah remained unbeaten on the season with an

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85-28 win over Appleton West on Tuesday.

Sammie Buss added 12 points as 11 different players scored in the game for the Rockets.

Neenah is now 7-0 on the season.

#### Zephyrs bounce back from first loss

St. Mary Catholic rebounded from its first loss of the season by thumping Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah 65-41 last Friday night.

Chloe Vogel finished with 19 points and four steals to lead the Zephyrs, who limited the Resorters to just 18 points in the first half. Audrey Norville added 12 points in the win for St. Mary Catholic.

Nolie Anderson grabbed a team-high 10 rebounds.

#### Five reach double figures for Zephyrs in victory

St. Mary Catholic had five players finish in double figures as the Zephyrs routed Hilbert, 68-18, on Tuesday.

Chloe Vogel scored 16 points to lead the way for St. Mary Catholic, while Audrey Norville had 12 points. Emily Vogel, Nolie Anderson and Sienna Anderson each had 10 points.

### WRESTLING

#### Rockets dominate in winning home invite

Neenah had five wrestlers win individual titles and rolled to the title at their home invitational last Friday.

Declan Koch (120), Jacob Herm (126), Jayden Sheppard (132), Nick Novak (152) and Eli Gast (182) claimed titles at their respective weights. Koch, Sheppard, Novak and Gast each went 3-0 on the night, while Herm needed to win just two matches to earn his title. Sheppard pinned all three of his opponents to win his title

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 11

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Photos by David Hall

# Late free throws key Rockets' win

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Neenah turned away Appleton West's upset bid to stay unbeaten in Fox Valley Association play on Tuesday night.

The Rockets went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line in the final seconds to pull out a hard-earned 66-61 win over the Terrors inside the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse.

"Appleton West played with a lot of poise and toughness tonight," head coach Lee Rabas said. "All the credit goes to Coach Moede, his staff and those kids over there. They are a much-improved squad and they are going to be a tough out for everyone this season."

Leading 62-61, Cal Klesmit stepped to the foul line and made two free throws and then forced a turnover on the inbound pass that led to Brady Corso sinking two foul shots for the final margin.

Neenah didn't take control of the game until late in the second half when Corso's 3-pointer from the top of the key ignited a 13-3 run for a 57-50 lead.

The Terrors narrowed the gap back to within two points, but Neenah was able to stay in front and hold on for the win.

Klesmit had another strong game in leading the Rockets' charge. The senior finished with 23 points and nine rebounds to lead the team in both categories.

Corso added 18 points and Jackson Schломann chipped in 10.

"Our decision-making as a team wasn't very good tonight," Klesmit said. "We need to do a better job of taking care of the ball to give our offense a chance. There were also times when we struggled to finish around the rim. Those are two things we need to work to improve on."

Appleton West took advantage of a sluggish start by the Rockets to take a nine-point lead midway through the first half.

The Terrors extended the margin to as many as 10 points at 27-17 later in the period, but the Rockets were able to close within 35-30 at halftime.

It may not have been pretty, but it was a win and a game that Rabas believes his team can build on moving forward.

"The season is still very early for us, but there are a ton of things we need to improve upon," Rabas said. "That starts with us as a coaching staff as we need to help the players execute better in certain situations. We did get better as the game went on, which is good, but it was especially nice to see us make our free throws down the stretch which pushed us over the top."

# Shattuck gym farewell

The legendary gymnasium at Shattuck Middle School hosted one final basketball game last Friday night.

Neenah beat Appleton North 69-49 in the Fox Valley Association as the Rockets returned to their former home for the contest. Many former players and coaches were on hand and plenty of fans filled the bleachers on both sides of the court.

The school provided the home court for Neenah basketball from 1929, when the school opened, until 1973. The current high school opened for the 1973-74 school year and games were moved to what is now the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse.

While playing at Shattuck, Neenah won 15 conference championships and

advanced to the WIAA State Tournament 13 times.

Originally, games were held at the North gymnasium but in 1956, the school opened the Ole Jorgensen gymnasium and that became the Rockets' home court. When constructed, the 3,200-seat venue was the third-largest high school gym in the state.

Neenah won its debut in the Ole Jorgensen gym, beating Kaukauna, 74-72 on March 6, 1956.

Jorgensen was a Neenah alum who coached the Rockets from 1927-65, posting a 509-258 record. Jorgensen's picture still hangs on one of the walls inside the gym.



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# Vogel stands as lone senior on talented Zephyr squad

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Chloe Vogel darted from one spot to the next, each time hoisting a couple of 3-pointers.

It was one of those near-the-end of practice drills that challenges the player to shoot while feeling some fatigue but there was no sluggishness in the St. Mary Catholic senior's shot.

Two from the right wing – not her strong side of the court to shoot from – resulted in a pair of swishes. Two more in the right corner were good and then another one slides through the net as she moves back to the wing.

Now at the top of the key, Vogel gets in her rhythm. Catch. Gather. Shoot. Swish. Over and over.

"It usually doesn't go like that," Vogel humbly offered on her shooting display. "It was a good one."

It's Vogel that's the good one.

The four-year varsity player for the Zephyrs and two-time, first-team all-Big East North selection has been the anchor for the team's 7-1 start this season. The senior is averaging a team-best 15.9 points per game, while also dishing out a team-leading 3.6 assists per game.

Yet, as much as she could certainly direct the spotlight at herself, she makes sure that she has plenty of company as the reason for the team's success.

"Teamwork, honestly," Vogel said about the key to the team's start. "The dedication of each individual to get better works to make the team better as a whole. I think that's really special and one thing that most teams don't have."

St. Mary Catholic also has something else most teams don't have.

Vogel is the lone senior on the entire roster. It's not that big of a deal for her since she has been playing with this group since junior high and over the years there have been other players from her grade on the team.

It just so happens that this year, as a senior, she is the only one.

## Senior Spotlight

"There have been other girls (in my class) here and there that have played, but they transferred schools or aren't out anymore, so this year it's just kind of been me," Vogel said. "It's just kind of being that team leader to get people in the right spots and know where they are supposed to go so we can be more successful."

The Zephyrs are getting used to the success having won the Big East North title last season.

With that type of winning comes a bit of target as opposing teams all get fired up to play the defending champions. Some players shy away from that kind of pressure. Vogel chooses to embrace it.

"I kind of like it (the target). I enjoy the challenge," Vogel said. "Teams want to beat us, which means they are always ready to play. It's helped us knowing that we have to be at our best every moment because every team wants to be like 'I want to beat St. Mary Catholic,' and we are not going to let them do it."

In addition to being the only senior on the squad, Vogel also gets the opportunity to share the floor with her younger sister, Emily.

It's not the first time the two have played together. The first time the sisters were teammates was when Chloe was in eighth grade and Emily was in sixth grade and their father, Nathan, was the coach of the junior high team.

The two were also on the Zephyrs' varsity roster last season but Emily only saw limited playing time as a freshman. This year, they have been on the court together more often and that's certainly added some fun to the start of the season.

"I love playing with my sister. It's my favorite thing, especially this year because we are on the court a lot more together," Vogel said. "We've played a lot of one-on-one against each other so to be able to play together is something very special."



Chloe Vogel is a two-time, first-team all-Big East North selection and the lone senior on the St. Mary Catholic girls basketball team that has gotten off to a 7-1 start.

Neenah News

SEE Senior spotlight ON PAGE 11

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# Senior spotlight

FROM PAGE 10

The two sisters also spent the fall as doubles partners on St. Mary Catholic's powerhouse tennis team. The Vogels played as the No. 2 doubles team and narrowly missed out on a trip to the state tournament after taking second at sectionals.

"Normally they don't put sisters together (as a doubles team) because they tend to argue and bicker," Vogel said. "I think me and Emily help bring the competitiveness out of each other and if one of us is down, we can bring the other one up and I think that's what helps us be successful."

It hasn't always been that way, though.

"When we were younger yes, we would fight a lot," Vogel said. "But being so close in age, we have become really close through sports."

Vogel, who is also a standout softball player for the Zephyrs, said sports have always been a part of her life growing up and a part of her family.

Vogel's mom, Christy, played softball at the Division I level, while her father was a three-sport high school athlete. That led to a lot of sports being played around the house, but basketball is where most of her interest lies.

"I've probably had a ball in my hand since I could walk," Vogel said. "The most emphasis for me has probably been on basketball. That's the one I put the most time into and is probably my favorite."



Vogel

Vogel is undecided about whether she will continue to play a sport in college. She has had some offers from Division III schools to play basketball, but isn't sure if she will take that route or go to a larger school and compete in intramural and rec leagues.

But she does believe that sports will be a part of what she is doing, just as it has been a big part of her life so far.

"Sports not only builds you as an athlete, but it builds you as a person," Vogel said. "All of the connections I've formed throughout my years in sports, it's made a dent on who I am as a person and what my values are."

Vogel admits that taking off the St. Mary Catholic uniform for the final time will be difficult, but that won't be for a while.

And with as talented of a team as the Zephyrs have this basketball season, she would love for that final game to be on the Resch Center floor.

"Our goals are as high as they can be," Vogel said. "Obviously (winning) a state championship is always our goal every year, but this team is special. I can't wait to see how far we can go."

# Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 8

with the longest match lasting 1:38.

Eric Schaufelberger (220) finished second and heavyweight Nate Cleveland was third for the Rockets.

## SWIMMING

### Neenah nearly perfect in dual meet victory

Neenah finished first in 11 of the 12 events to collect a 131-55 victory over Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy in a Fox Valley Association dual meet Tuesday.

Drew Gaerthofner led the way for the Rockets by winning both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly. Other individual winners for Neenah were Joshua Youngwerth in the 200-yard freestyle, Julian Kuehn in the 200-yard individual medley, Ryan Foucault in diving, Tanner Trustem in the 100-yard freestyle, Gideon Benner in the 500-yard freestyle and David Murphy in the 100-yard breaststroke.

The Rockets also won the 200-yard medley relay with a team of Benner, Murphy, Liam Sieck and Marc Lefebber, the 200-yard freestyle relay with a team of

Youngwerth, Quinn Koeper, Kuehn and Trustem, and the 400-yard freestyle relay with a team of Kuehn, Youngwerth, Benner and Gaerthofner.

### Rockets post six wins to take Terror Relays title

Neenah finished first in six of the 11 events and took first at the Terror Relays over the weekend.

Drew Gaerthofner was a part of three relay wins on the day for the Rockets. He joined Nicolas Boyer, David Murphy and Julian Kuehn to finish first in the 200-meter breast/fly relay, while teaming with Tanner Trustem, Boyer and Liam Sieck to win the 400-meter medley relay. Gaerthofner, Quinn Koeper, Joshua Youngwerth and Jack Dorner were the winning 200-meter freestyle relay team.

Neenah also took first in the 100-meter freestyle relay with a foursome of Ryan Foucault, Marc Lefebber, Sieck and Dorner as well as in the 400-meter freestyle relay with a team of Kuehn, Koeper, Gideon Benner and Trustem.

Neenah's remaining win came in the diving event with a trio of Foucault, Kyle Joneson and Jackson Holzheu.

The Rockets also took second place in the 300-meter backstroke relay.

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Community or school program to highlight?

Neenah News

Local news for you

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**HOLIDAY GIFT, ARTIST & CRAFT SHOW** Sat Dec. 17th 8-4pm **FOX CITIES EXHIBITION CTR, 355 W. Lawrence St. APPLETON 715-526-9769 holidaygiftandcraftshow.com**

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**Please join us on December 19th for a free meal at River Valley Church, 1331 High Avenue, Oshkosh. We serve from 5 pm - 6 pm. Christmas music provided by Ambush Worship. All are welcome. Questions, please call 920-379-3371.**

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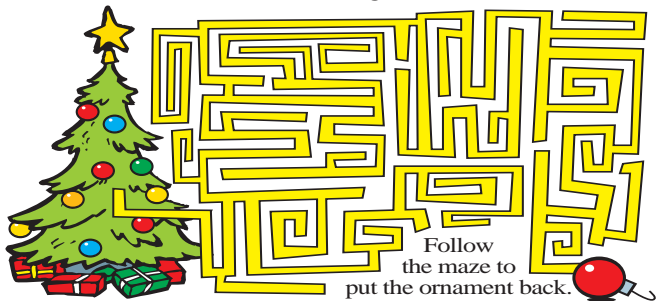
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# Kid Scoop

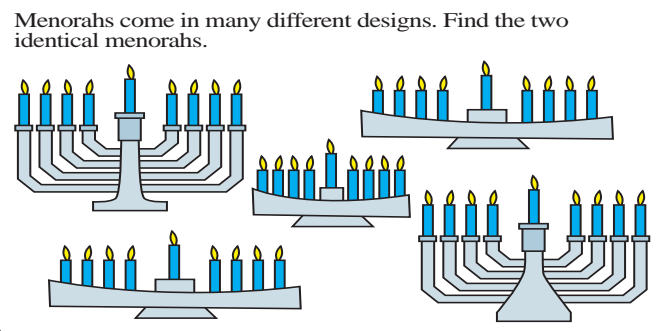
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## HOLIDAY HIGH-RISE

**APT. 15C: THE ANDERSONS**  
 The Anderson family celebrates the birth of Jesus on Christmas. They give each other gifts, sing songs and decorate their home with a Christmas tree and colorful lights.

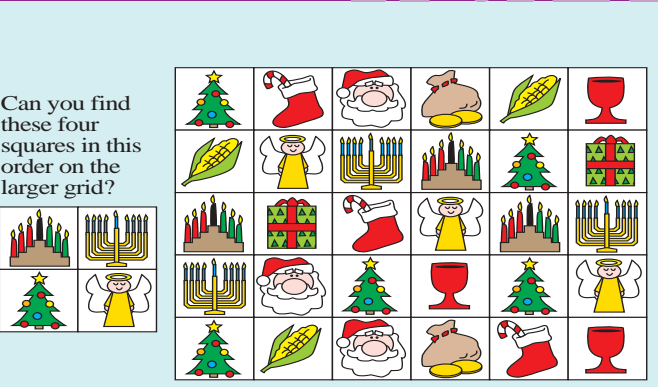


**APT. 15B: THE WALDS**  
 The Wald family celebrates Hanukkah, a Jewish festival of light. They light a candle on a **menorah** each night for eight nights. They exchange small gifts each evening, sing songs and eat delicious foods. They display their menorah in their window.

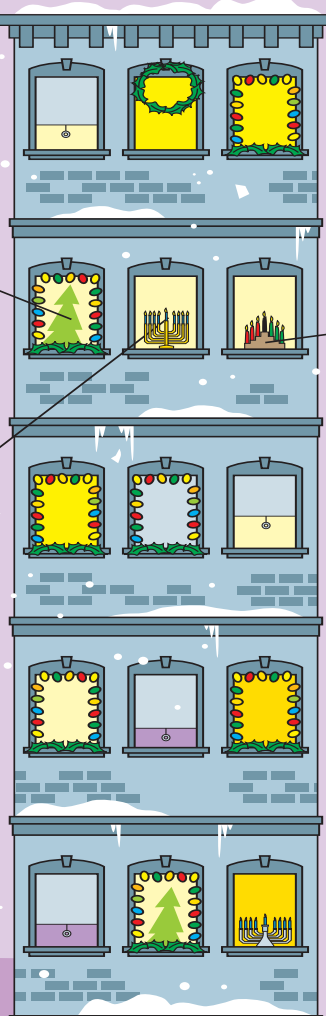


People from different cultures have a wide variety of winter celebrations, many more than can fit on this page. How does your family celebrate in December? Draw it here.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler



Standards Link: Investigation: Find identical patterns.



Welcome to Holiday Towers, an apartment building in the big city. Take a look at how the celebrations of these neighbors are alike and different.

**APT. 15A: THE MILLERS**  
 The Miller family celebrates Kwanzaa, a week-long celebration honoring African culture.

They light red, green and black candles in a **kinara** and have a feast at the end of Kwanzaa. They also give each other small gifts.



Mrs. Miller wears a kaftan during Kwanzaa. Hold this page up to a mirror to find out what this is.

**A  
K  
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B  
E**

### Extra! Extra! Holiday Dot-to-Dot

Find the letters that spell each of the following words on one page of the newspaper. Use different color crayons to connect the letters in order to spell each word.

- CANDLES
- FEAST
- LIGHTS
- FAMILY
- CELEBRATE

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

List three ways these celebrations are alike.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Double Double Word Search

NEIGHBORS  
 APARTMENT  
 DECORATE  
 MENORAHS  
 KWANZAA  
 KAFTAN  
 SYMBOLS  
 EXCHANGE  
 FEAST  
 SONGS  
 TREE  
 HOME  
 FAMILY  
 GIVE  
 RED

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

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

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

### Kid Scoop Together: Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the articles below and correct the seven spelling and grammar errors you find. The first one is done for you.

Birds  
**Counting Birds**

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This is a wonderfully simple, healthy, holiday celebration for almost any school, youth group or community organization.

Standards Link: Civics: Students understand the importance for individuals and society of commonly-held responsibilities such as being attentive to public issues.

### Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word GIFTS in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

T		G		I
	G	I		
		F		G
	S	T	G	
G		S		

### Write On!

**The Greatest Gift**  
 What is the greatest gift you could give that doesn't cost money?

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