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Shattuck rezoning advances

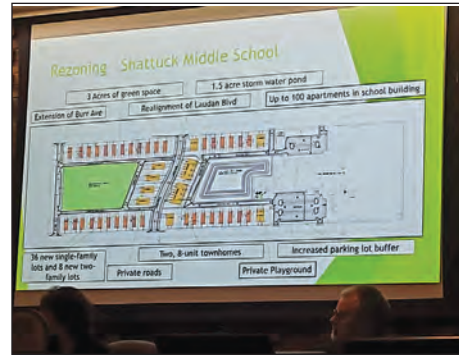
Housing plan for middle school sent to council

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A proposal to rezone the Shattuck Middle School site so that a developer can build apartments, single-family homes and townhomes was advanced by the Neenah Plan Commission on Tuesday night.

Dozens of residents living near the site have opposed the development, voicing their concerns at public hearings. Locals have started petitions and sent letters and emails urging the city to deny the developer's rezoning request.

Concerns expressed by neighboring



Neenah News

A rezoning plan for the Shattuck Middle School site is displayed at the Plan Commission meeting.

residents include the fear that the housing is for low-income individuals who would increase crime and cause traffic

and safety issues.

Northpointe Development, based in Oshkosh, put in the only offer to purchase the Shattuck site from the Neenah Joint School District for \$500,000. The sale is contingent on the city approving a rezoning request.

If Northpointe backs out on the sale, the district will be left with the property, which will be vacated after next school year with the completion of the new Neenah High School. Shattuck students will move to the current high school site.

Under the agreement with Northpointe, the district's Health & Wellness Center will remain in place, saving the

SEE **Shattuck school** ON PAGE 7

INSIDE



Award winners

Neenah High students honored for one-act play
Page 5

Good grades

Neenah Joint School District nets high marks
Page 2

Aiming high

Neenah swimmers, wrestlers eye success
Page 10



Photo by David Hall

Dressed for holidays

Trees and businesses along Neenah's Main Street are brightly shining for the holiday season as seen in this aerial view on a recent evening.

Longtime mission of local club endures, evolves

Woman's Tuesday Club was first formed in 1885

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

For more than 137 years, women of Neenah have fostered friendship and camaraderie over tea and discussions in one of the area's little-known organizations, the Woman's Tuesday Club.

The Tuesday Club began in 1885 as a reading and study group of about 10. In the early years, the women attended a four-year course and members were assigned lesson topics including parliamentary procedure, pronunciation tests and spelling bees. A portion of each meeting also included a travel talk on foreign countries. In the 1890s, meetings included a history lesson and literature studies.

The founders were the wives of the industrialists that settled Neenah. According to a 1986 Post Crescent article, early club members included names that are still familiar in the Fox Valley today – Bergstrom, Babcock, Gilbert, Kimberly, Perry, Shattuck, Smith, Conant.

The group was first named the Thackeray Club, which changed to Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Club in 1886. In 1900, they adopted the name the Woman's Tuesday Club of Neenah. The group also wrote a constitution and adopted the motto, "Study to be what you wish to be" that year.

The club is credited for establishing a young woman's club in 1911 which became the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in 1929 and later

SEE **Woman's club** ON PAGE 8



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Gail Goetz (center) serves tea at the Woman's Tuesday Club's recent meeting. The group has fostered friendships and camaraderie in Neenah since the 19th century.

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

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District report card shows good grades

Neenah schools' results top others in Fox Valley

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Most schools in the Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) exceeded expectations for the 2021-22 school year, according to the district report cards released in November by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

The report cards are published yearly and measure student achievement, growth, target group outcomes and how on-track students are for graduation, utilizing data from the three previous years, excluding 2019-20 when report cards weren't produced due to the pandemic.

The report cards rank each school and district into five ratings indicating they significantly exceed expectations, exceed expectations, meet expectations, meet few expectations or fail to meet expectations.

Report cards score each school and district between 0 and 100, which is calculated by averaging the three priority areas and includes attendance and graduation data.

NJSD includes 10 elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school. NJSD's overall score was 71.8, an increase of 2.2 points from the previous year, earning it a rating of exceeding expectations.

Neenah scored higher than several neighboring districts including Menasha, which scored 66, Appleton, which scored 66.6, and Oshkosh, which scored 68.7.

Three schools in the Neenah district significantly exceeded expectations, eight schools exceeded expectations, one school met expectations and one school met few expectations.

The DPI wrote in a press release that of the 377 public school districts receiving report cards for 2021-22, 95% met, exceeded or significantly exceeded expectations.

Elementary schools

Of the NJSD elementary schools, Lakeview earned Neenah's highest score at 93.1, exceeding expectations and ranking 17th among elementary schools across the state. Alliance and Tullar also earned the significantly exceeds expectations designation.

Clayton, Coolidge, Roosevelt, Spring Road, Taft and Wilson exceeded expectations, with Coolidge experiencing the sharpest average increase in the district, up nearly 7 points from the previous year.

Hoover earned the lowest rating in the district, with an overall score of 49 out of

100, indicating the school meets few of the expectations. Any score below 49 is considered failing to meet expectations. Hoover's average score was down nearly 13 points from the previous year.

Hoover's lowest score was in growth, which measures year-to-year student progress on statewide tests. Hoover scored 35.6 in growth, in comparison to Lakeview, Tullar and Alliance, which each scored 100, 91.7 and 71.7, respectively.

Director of curriculum Tim Kachur said the district has allocated resources to support intervention work at Hoover, ensuring the students are growing toward grade-level proficiency.

"We are deploying coaching support for our staff to focus on constructive student talk, student goal setting, and small group instruction structures," he said. "Under the leadership of the Hoover principal, Lyzette Maroszek, the Hoover team is focused on creating and supporting a culture for their students and families that is built on high expectations and engagement."

Middle schools

Horace Mann Middle School earned the exceeds expectations designation with an overall score of 71.5, while Shattuck Middle School scored 64.8, earning the met expectations rating. Shattuck's overall rating increased by 2.6 points from the previous year.

Shattuck's lowest ranking was in target group outcomes, which evaluates students with the lowest test scores, referred to as the target group. Shattuck scored 51.8 in target group outcomes, in comparison to Horace Mann's score of 59.3.

The rating is designed to promote equity by helping schools focus on learners who need the most support while also improving outcomes for all students, according to DPI.

Kachur said the school staff does an amazing job identifying students who are in need of support.

"These teams place a priority on providing the structures and resources necessary to help our students experience success and constantly reassess their work to adjust as necessary," he said.

High school

Neenah High School exceeded expectations, earning a score of 71.7, an increase of 4.4 points from the previous year. The

high school's biggest area of improvement was growth, which measures year-to-year student progress on statewide tests. The school's growth rating increased by 10.4 points from last year, followed by an 8.4 point increase in target group outcomes.

With the completion of the new Neenah High School next year, the fifth-through eighth-grade students will be moved to Neenah Middle School, which will be at the former high school site. Kachur said the changes will help bolster district report cards.

"This is exciting because it will bring our staff under one roof, allowing for unique collaborative opportunities and, ultimately, the creation of student experiences that will be targeted at supporting the growth of all students, which we believe will result in outcomes that our staff, students and community can be proud of when report card results are released in the fall of 2024," he said.

Analyzing the results

Compared with the 2020-21 school year, the only school in the district whose category rating increased was the high school, which exceeded expectations, compared with the previous year where it met expectations. Eight schools experienced no change in category from the previous year and four schools moved down a category.

The number of students in the district that reached a proficient or advanced status in both language arts and mathematics increased by 3% from the previous year.

NJSD was one of 24 districts out of 377 to move up at least one category in rankings. 269 districts experienced no change and 84 districts moved down at least one category.

Kachur attributed the increase to factors including the support of staff and parents and the district's emphasis on identifying the needs of each student in order to help them grow.

"While the state report card is an important measure of our work and certainly impacts the planning that is done to ensure we are meeting our strategic goals, it is important to remember that our schools are more than a number," he said. "They are a home for our students to live and grow in and to learn the skills that will ultimately help them to become a thriving member of the Neenah community."

Each school's report card may be downloaded through the Department of Public Instruction website at dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards or on the NJSD website under the Academics tab.

Jobless rate drops in cities, county


Unemployment in the Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell from 2.9% to 2.5% between September and October, according to the state Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates for Wisconsin metropolitan areas, major cities and counties showed jobless rates decreased in all 12 Wisconsin metro areas over the month of October, while rates decreased or stayed the same in all of Wisconsin's 35 largest cities.

Preliminary October unemployment rates decreased or stayed the same in 71 of 72 counties over the month, including Winnebago where the October rate fell from 2.9% to 2.5%. The county's jobless rate in October 2021 was 2.3%.



Kachur



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Successful downtown TID district ending

Status of other city development areas noted

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council closed a successful downtown tax incremental district (TID) last month and discussed the status of the existing districts.

Tax incremental financing (TIF) is an economic development tool used by the city to administer TIDs, which are parcels in need of development or redevelopment. Taxing entities that include the city, school district, county and technical college district collect tax revenue on the base value of the properties within the TID and the surplus tax revenue goes to a TID fund rather than to overlapping jurisdictions.

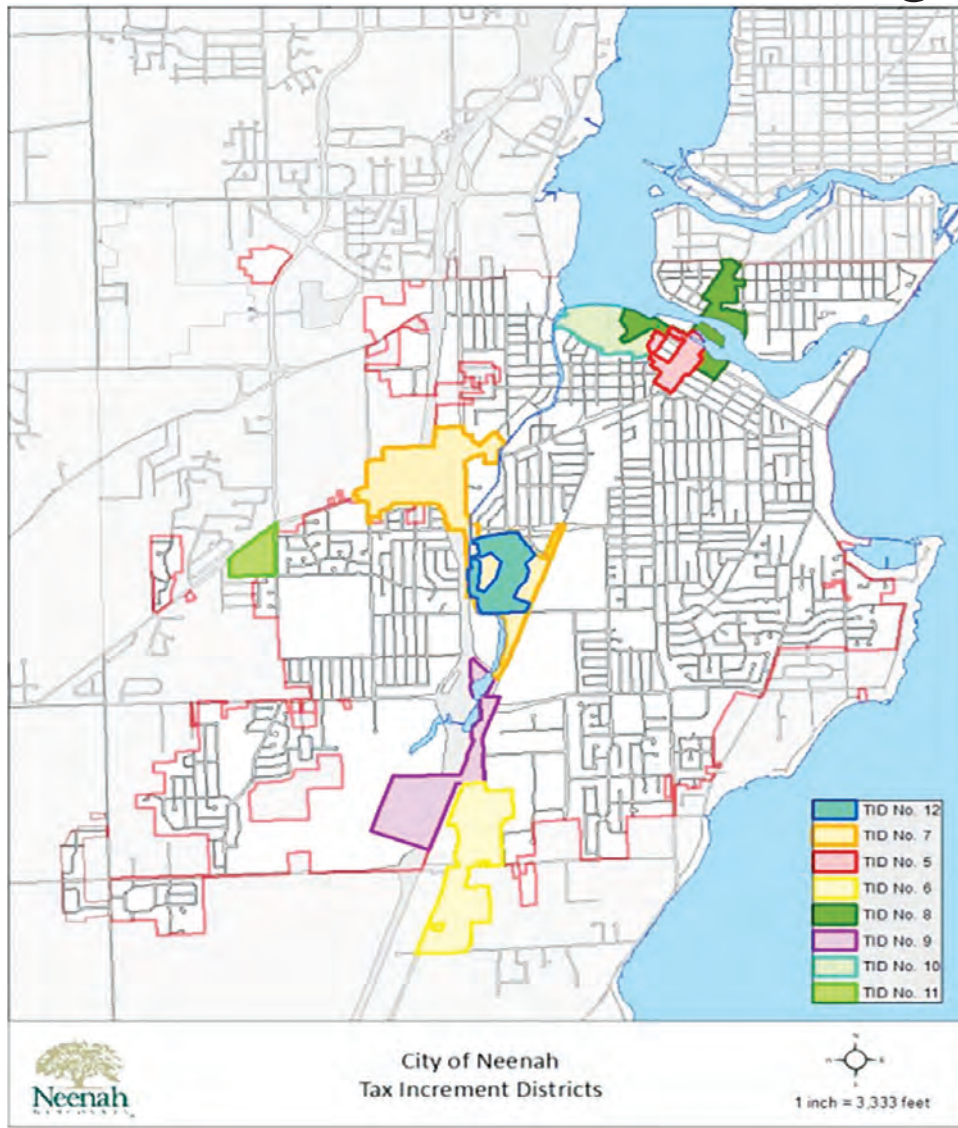
The surplus funds are used for municipal projects and to develop commercial and industrial parcels and expand employment opportunities.

Neenah has seven remaining TIDs, the oldest established in 1997 and the newest this year. They include the Southpark Industrial Center (TID 6), Westside Business Corridor (TID 7), Doty Island Business District (TID 8), I-41 South Industrial Redevelopment District (TID 9), Downtown Gateway Redevelopment District (TID 10), Pendleton Development Area (TID 11) and Bridgewood Redevelopment (TID 12).

According to the city's 2022 Tax Incremental District Analyses and Report, TID 6 had previously been supported by annual advances from the city, but it has repaid the advances and is expected to close next year.

Property values in TID 7 have tripled and the TID is self-supporting. TID 7 is a donor to TID 8, which is not self-supporting but has been designated as distressed, with advances anticipated to be recovered and the TID closed by 2032.

TID 9 is projected to have an additional increment of \$2.5 million in the next three years, and annual revenues are anticipated to exceed annual expenditures beginning



Tax incremental financing districts in Neenah are shown in color.

in 2026.

The incremental value in TID 10 has increased by more than \$16 million since inception but is projected to eventually have negative annual balances.

TID 11, which was created in 2017, has already generated more than \$17.6 million of incremental value.

TID 12, created in August, is projected to generate \$22 million in incremental value by 2029.

TID 5 was created in 1993 and was amended in 1999 and 2007. The district is credited for the successful transformation of the downtown area, including develop-

ment of the Neenah Center, restoration of the Equitable Reserve Association building and improvements to the Riverwalk.

More than \$15.8 million in new value was created as the result of TID 5, supporting the creation of hundreds of jobs in downtown Neenah. Notable businesses in the district include ThedaCare, Bergstrom Automotive Group, Legacy Private Trust Co. and Lion's Tail Brewing Co.

As a result of that success, the council voted to close TID 5 last month and create an Operating Budget Stabilization Fund, with the city's share of TID 5 surplus dollars directed to it.

Deer harvest numbers released for county, state

Neenah News

The 2022 gun deer hunt in Wisconsin had preliminary numbers released by the state Department of Natural Resources showing that hunters registered 203,295 deer for the season that ended Sunday. That included 98,397 antlered and 104,898 antlerless deer. Since archery season opened Sept. 17, hunters have registered 301,540 deer statewide.

Compared with 2021, the total firearm deer harvest was up 14.4% statewide, with the antlered harvest up 14.7% and antlerless harvest up 14.1%.

In Winnebago County, 526 antlered deer and 521 antlerless deer were registered, totaling 1,047 for this year's gun season so far.

This fared slightly above the county's five-year average from 2017-2021, which was 513 antlered and 496 antlerless, totaling 1,009.

Winnebago County's 2022 numbers had a 1.9% increase in harvests compared

with last year, according to the DNR.

This year's archery and crossbow deer seasons have been ongoing since September and will last until Jan. 8. Winnebago County has harvested 284 deer by archery and 430 by crossbow this season, which is about halfway complete.

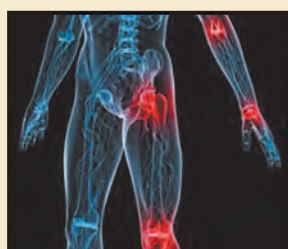
The youth season, which ran in early October, yielded 44 deer in the county.

Statewide, sales for gun, bow, crossbow, sports and patron licenses reached

795,072. Of that total, 436,423 were for gun privileges only and 554,898 were for all gun privileges including gun, sports and patron licenses. Year-to-date sales for all deer licenses are down 1.6% from last year.

Deer hunting license and harvest authorization sales will continue throughout the remaining hunting seasons. Hunters came from 21 different countries to deer hunt in Wisconsin.

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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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- ▶ Why you shouldn't add a child to your bank account and how beneficiary designations might ruin your will.
- ▶ 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.

Correction

NOV. 25, PAGE 5: The film "Ed Gein, The Musical" that is being re-released was directed by Steve Russell, not Dan Davies, who wrote and starred in the film. Screening times at UW Oshkosh's Perry Hall in Menasha today (Friday) are at 4:30, 7 and 9:30 p.m. with Will Keizer playing music ahead of the showings.



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Local gift ideas for gardeners and nature lovers

By Rob Zimmer
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Holiday shopping season has arrived and what better way to give this season than to shop our many wonderful local small businesses to find unique and wonderful treasures. This week, a look at some of my favorites to explore for the nature and garden lover on your list.

Goin' To Pot Orchids

For the orchid lover on your holiday shopping list, look no further than this longtime Neenah treasure. Owner Mary Stewart proudly stands by her selection of incredible orchids, many of which you won't find elsewhere. Additionally, as the name implies, Stewart is an expert orchid caregiver and will repot orchids of any shape, size and age, as well as other

The Neenah GARDENER

indoor plants. Purchase plants or gift certificates for all of her services. gointopotorchids.com

Cedar Ridge Crafts and Gifts

This cozy, comforting shop, filled with treasures for nature and garden lovers, is a must visit destination this season. Decked to the nines in holiday splendor, gardeners and nature lovers will enjoy the selection of indoor and outdoor decor, books and puzzles, unique, locally made gifts, fused glass creations and nature-themed holiday ornaments. cedaridgegifts.com



Photos by Rob Zimmer

Garden gifts from local businesses warm up the holidays for both plant and bird interests.

Watter Farms

With the largest selection of unique and unusual house plants north of Milwaukee and east of Minneapolis, this incredible Neenah greenhouse is a must visit for the plant lover on your list. You'll enjoy walking in the aisles and exploring the incredible selection of house plants and gift ideas. You'll also find a beautiful selection of unique containers and decor items, as well as all of your re-potting needs. Purchase that one-of-a-kind plant



or a gift certificate to share this plant lover's paradise. watterfarms.com

The Wild Perch and Paw

For the bird lover, you'll find top-of-the-line selections for feeding wild birds in your backyard. Tried and true blends to attract the greatest variety of birds, as well as ideas to keep pest animals away. In addition, you'll find a large variety of unique and beautiful nature and garden gift ideas. wildperchandpaw.com

The Garden

Offering a wide variety of garden themed classes and workshops, a visit here is always welcoming. Choose a gift certificate for one of their many classes or find a unique and beautiful garden-themed gift. thegardeninneenah.com

Neenah Vintage Mall

Stroll through the incredible array of vendor booths to find a treasury of vintage nature books, wildlife art, statuary, prints, vintage garden art and elements and so much more. So many gifts a nature and garden lover will enjoy and all unique. <https://m.facebook.com/100063618458141>

Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Give the gift of gardening this year by offering a membership to the Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association. Visit them to find out when the next classes begin and gift your loved one with a lifetime of gardening mastery. winnebagomastergardeners.org



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Judicial elections topic of LWV presentation

The League of Women Voters of Winnebago County is sponsoring the second of its two programs on state judicial elections and their influences on the court system from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday at the James P. Coughlin Center in Oshkosh.

“Outside Influences on Our Courts” will be led by former Outagamie County Judge Joseph Troy at the 625 E. County Y location.

A recording of the event will be made available on YouTube.

Neenah Public Library to host job help session set

The Neenah Public Library is hosting a program titled “Find Your Joy: Land a New Job Opportunity” with Raisa M. Ramos, a human resources professional and coach, at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Ramos will share insights and practical tools to help visualize, focus on what someone wants and begin taking steps toward career goals.

The session will include best practices for a resume and tips on how to prepare for an interview.



Photo from NJSD

Members of the Neenah High School student cast of “Back Cover” took home top awards at the recent state theater festival.

Students’ one-act play wins top honors

Neenah High School’s one-act play “Back Cover” swept the awards at the Wisconsin Interscholastic Theatre Festival last month in Whitewater.

outstanding acting awards: Sienna La-Tonzea, Erin Heyes, Becca Konkle, Marcus Gallatin and Jonathan Rieger.

The cast won a Critic’s Choice Award, the highest honor a show can receive. The cast also received an outstanding ensemble award and a team of students received an outstanding technical theater award in the State Technical Theatre Competition.

Three students also won individual event awards in the technical competition. Avery Cowell took first in the sound category, Owen Holecko took first in the lighting category and Maddie Lewis took first in the knot-tying category. Neenah students also swept the podium in the lighting and knot-tying categories. Advisers for the technical crew are Aaron Hoffmann and Jason Stoll.

Advisers Sylvia Dums and Kaitlyn Bergmann received an outstanding directing award. Five students received individual



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Downtown decorations

Downtown Neenah in 1969 was lit up for Christmas. Today from 6 to 8 p.m. visitors can enjoy downtown and all of its holiday cheer during A Very Neenah Christmas event presented by Future Neenah and Community First Credit Union.



December at The GRAND OSHKOSH



John Berry's 26th Annual Christmas Tour
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Rob Anthony
Downtown Saturday Night
Dec. 17 | 8:30 P.M.
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LITTLE CISCO
Downtown Saturday Night
Dec. 10 | 8:30 P.M.
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BID plan advanced for next year

Neenah News

Neenah's Finance and Personnel Committee this week recommended approval of a 2023 operating plan for the city's downtown Business Improvement District (BID), which focuses on maintaining and upgrading the central city's business vibrancy.

The plan includes \$144,797 in assessments from downtown interests to help fund ongoing programs and maintenance, an increase of \$1,066 from 2022, and will be carrying over \$17,145 in funds from the previous budget.

The Common Council will vote on the BID operating plan at its Wednesday meeting.

The BID's Executive Committee set priorities that include partnering with the city to promote any new parking and residential developments, implementing a market analysis and branding study, and staying involved with district development especially on its western corridor.

Among work priorities by the BID's Maintenance Task Force for 2023:

- Continue ongoing work with the city toward WiFi and placement of cameras.
 - Deal with emerging issues that may arise with west-end development.
 - Promote full use and maintenance of green areas, especially tree and flower bed areas, through private contracted services.
 - Continue ongoing banner program and seasonal banner and a bracket rotation plan.
- Among priorities of its Recruitment and Retention Committee:
- Continue sign, sandwich board and awning grant programs, and increase funding available for awnings and signs due to higher costs.
 - Order professional photos of the district for recruitment, retention and promotion, including the two new housing developments.
 - Work with Community Development on implementing the new downtown plan.
 - Promote grant funds and the small business loan program to new and existing businesses.
 - Advocate for parking solutions including a new ramp.



- Work with city, developers, businesses and residents to capitalize on west-end developments.

Among priorities of BID's Marketing and Public Relations Committee:

- Ongoing initiatives to enhance the image and marketability of the district to attract a wide array of consumers, promote shops, restaurants and other attractions.
 - Public relations to raise awareness of shopping, dining, business and entertainment opportunities.
 - Update map and directory to help consumers locate businesses incorporating the new brand system.
 - Welcome any new employee groups and residents that may join the district with potential west-end developments.
 - Secret Shopper Program to look at businesses through a customer's eyes and provide feedback about the experience.
 - Promote gift certificate program to increase district sales and work toward on-line sales capability.
 - Brand identity activities such as business rebates, branded elements and promotion of public art projects.
- The city's BID also works with the not-for-profit development group Future Neenah on business partnerships and promotions.



Photo by David Hall

Jazz at the library

Jazz trio *Stuck on Blue* performed at the Neenah Public Library as part of the Sunday Concert Series.

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 920-729-2207.

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 920-544-7856.

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



Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue photo

Packing the aisles

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue members shopped earlier this week to support Brigade Neenah's Christmas giving program.

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WREATH FACTORY



Neenah News

Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer speaks to the city's Plan Commission in support of housing development plans for the Shattuck Middle School site.

Shattuck school

FROM PAGE 1

district about \$600,000 in relocation fees. The estimated cost to raze the 27-acre property is more than \$2 million.

Northpointe estimates that renovating just the Shattuck School building will cost up to \$30 million, including about \$1 million in asbestos abatement.

Northpointe's original plan was to turn the existing middle school building into 100 apartments and add 36 single-family homes, 16 duplexes, and two 8-unit townhomes to the site.

At Tuesday's Plan Commission meeting, Andy Dumke of Northpointe said he has altered the plan based on residents' concerns, eliminating all of the duplexes.

Dumke said the single-family homes planned for the site will be owner occupied, which will lower the number of rentals.

"If somebody owns their own home they can still rent it out but that won't be us," he said.

Northpointe will donate some of the green space to the city to be made into a park or other community space.

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

Anyone who has an open bankruptcy, an eviction in the past three years, convicted of manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance or registered sex offenders would be denied. Background checks would be conducted yearly.

Residents at the meeting told the council that the development would

bring down neighboring property values. Community Development director Chris Haese said he evaluated similar developments and the average corresponding property sales were well above fair market value.

Edward Palmer, who has lived in Neenah for 25 years, spoke in support of rezoning and the addition of affordable housing to the community.

"I really do not want to see Shattuck sitting empty for a couple years while another option is on the table," Palmer said. "I think it's a great opportunity to improve our neighborhood and keep our wonderful city going."

Mayor Jane Lang became emotional while discussing the Shattuck building, which is nearly 100 years old.

"It is no small task to consider and envision what this site could become," she said. "Having spent my entire childhood in this neighborhood, and having attended Shattuck for ninth and 10th grade, and having bought our first house in the adjacent neighborhood, it is frankly difficult to imagine it being anything but the school property we've all known it as."

Lang said the job of the Plan Commission is to recommend or deny the proposal based on whether it fits the appropriateness test.

"I support this proposal," she said. "I think it's the highest and best use for the Shattuck building and the surrounding property and I will be voting in favor of it."

The Plan Commission voted 6 to 1 in favor of the rezoning, with Betsy Ellenberger opposing.

The recommendation will now go to the council for a vote at its Wednesday meeting. If approved, development would begin in late 2023 or 2024.

Calendar of events

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

Monday, Dec. 12

Monday Matinee, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library Shattuck Room



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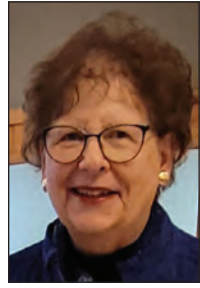
Woman's club

FROM PAGE 1

merged with YMCA and opened to all genders.

It was reported that in 1920 the Tuesday Club and other women's groups pressured the Neenah City Council to elect a woman to the school board.

The purpose of the Tuesday Club is to promote the "ethical, intellectual and social culture of its members and to further all measures for the betterment of the community," according to president Leesa Erickson.



Erickson

Although the club was initially limited to Neenah women, the group has opened it-

self to all women.

Meetings were initially held in members' homes and were later moved to the library and the Whiting boathouse. The Tuesday Club has been meeting in the Brigade building at 109 W. Columbian Ave. since 1957.

Meetings are currently held weekly on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. through March. Starting next year, meetings will be held from late October through February.

The club starts and ends the program year with a luncheon at North Shore Golf Club in Menasha. They host a festive holiday tea during the Christmas season and also celebrate Valentine's Day.

Erickson said the Tuesday Club has some traditions that are not seen in most modern organizations. Meetings con-



Neenah Historical Society photos

The Woman's Tuesday Club is shown in photos from 1958 (above) and 1970.

sist of a brief business discussion and a 45-minute presentation by an outside speaker followed by tea.

Presentation topics are designed to entertain, educate and inform.

"We've had speakers from government, nonprofits, services and musical entertainment from local high schools, which is generally done at the Christmas season," she said.

This week's speaker was Paul Timm, author of "Lost Lady: The Lady Elgin Tragedy," who writes under the pen name M. Paul Hollander. Timm gave a presentation on the Lady Elgin, which sank in



Lake Michigan in 1860 and it is considered the worst loss of life in the history of the Great Lakes, with an estimated 302 deaths.

After meeting in the Brigade auditorium for the program, the ladies retired to the Shattuck building for formal tea using

silver tea service.

"It's an opportunity for our membership to socialize with their friends and people they've known through the years at a Tuesday Club," Erickson said.

The club has about 120 members, who pay annual dues, and sees about 60 members at each meeting. More than two dozen have been attending for more than 25 years. New members often find the group through word of mouth.

Anne Mortell of Neenah has been a Tuesday Club member for 13 years.

"I love the formality, I love the presentations, I love all the women, I love older people," she said. "We need more members so we've made a good effort to make sure people are welcome and they don't just stand and talk to the three people they know."

Erickson said one of the challenges the group sees is that with so many women working full time, they're often unable to make a commitment to the weekly or bi-weekly meetings.

"But I think it's important to know our members come when they can," she said, adding that each woman is an ambassador for the organization.

Mortell said the group works to build and sustain the community.

"Our service is merely creating a community and becoming more well informed," she said. "This is a community - we meet more people, we learn something new, and we bring our information and knowledge back to the community."

Erickson encouraged local women to join.

"Well, I think it's probably one of the best-kept secrets and it's open to women who would be interested in programming as well as the socialization," she said.

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Neenah boys to play at Shattuck gym

Varsity basketball will be played for a final time at the Ole Jorgensen Gymnasium at Shattuck Middle School when the Rockets host Appleton North in a boys basketball game Dec. 9.

Shattuck hosted Neenah basketball from 1929 through 1973. Games moved to the newly constructed fieldhouse at the current high school for the 1974-75 season. During the years at Shattuck, Neenah won 15 conference championships and advanced to the state tournament 13 times.

The last varsity game played at Shattuck was a regional final March 4, 1973, when Appleton East beat Oshkosh North 77-46. North had beaten Neenah in the regional semifinal the previous night. The Ole Jorgensen Gymnasium debuted March 6, 1956, with a 74-72 Neenah win over Kaukauna. The Rockets played in the North Gymnasium at Shattuck from 1929-56.

Shattuck will close after the school year when a new Neenah High School opens in the fall and the current high school becomes a middle school for grades 5-8.

"This is a unique opportunity for us to recognize the tradition of Neenah boys basketball and celebrate the history of the Ole Jorgensen Gym one final time," said activities director Mike Elkin. "We expect it to be a fun and memorable experience for the players on both teams and our entire community."

The Ole Jorgensen Gym was the third largest in the state when it opened in 1956. Its 3,200 seats trailed only Beloit and Wisconsin Rapids. The gym was built at a cost of \$535,000. The opening of the gym was delayed five weeks due to construction issues.

Neenah won the state title in its first season playing at Shattuck in 1929-30. The Rockets



Neenah Historical Society photo

A Neenah High School basketball game at Ole Jorgensen Gymnasium is shown from 1956.

played at the Roosevelt Elementary School gym from 1923-29 with the exception of Neenah-Menasha games that were played at the Armory until 1933. Before 1923, Neenah played at the Kimberly High School building, which now serves as the Administration Building on Commercial Street.

Seating capacity in the gym today is

about 1,400. All tickets will be sold in advance. Each school will be allocated tickets for team members' families. Remaining tickets will be made available to the general public. The freshmen will play at 4:15 p.m. followed by junior varsity at 6 p.m. and varsity at 7:30 p.m.

Prep roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Rockets open season with win over Panthers

The potent Neenah boys basketball team kicked off the season with an 83-55 win over Stevens Point at home Tuesday night.

Cal Klesmit scored 19 points in his first game back for Neenah, while Brady Corso also netted 19 points in the win.

Jackson Schlomann chipped in 12 points, while Ethan Hoelzel finished with 10 points and a team-high eight rebounds.

Zephyrs top 100-point mark in easy victory

Four players reached double figures as St. Mary Catholic breezed to a 108-47 win over Mishicot in its Big East Conference opener on Tuesday night.

The Zephyrs erupted for 65 points in the first half in building a 36-point lead and cruised in the second half to the win.

Danny Griffith led St. Mary Catholic with 24 points, while Cole Uhlenbrauck added 23. The duo combined for nine of the team's 14 3-pointers in the game.

Owen Ripley with 15 points and Braden Brenn with 13 points also reached double figures for the Zephyrs, while Preston Fields chipped in nine points.

St. Mary Catholic, which was ranked fourth in the first Division 4 rankings of the season, opened the season with a 91-81 win over The Prairie School on Saturday.

Uhlenbrauck hit five 3-pointers in the

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 11

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Neenah swim team looks to maintain championship status

By Tim Froberg
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Tradition alone doesn't guarantee athletic success.

It sure doesn't hurt, though, especially in prep sports where rosters are either blown up or revised every year.

Neenah's rock-solid boys' swimming program will look to maintain its tradition as a power in the Fox Valley Association despite graduating most members from a formidable squad that claimed another FVA title with a perfect 5-0 mark and won a sectional championship. The Rockets placed 17th at the WIAA Division 1 state swimming and diving meet with 43 points.

The FVA title was Neenah's third straight and seventh in the past eight years. The Rockets have won 23 FVA titles in the last 28 years.

To extend its streak, Neenah will need several young athletes to step up. The Rockets graduated a whopping 16 swimmers and divers, including several who won a boatload of medals in conference, sectional and state competition.

Boys swimming PREVIEW

Carrie Raeth returns for her 17th year as head coach, while Chris Hansman is back for his fourth season as the Rockets' diving coach. Neenah opens FVA action Dec. 13 at home against Oshkosh North/Lourdes.

Raeth and Hansman will build around productive returning athletes like seniors Ryan Foucault, Nicolas Boyer and Quinn Koeper, junior Braden Loudon and sophomore Drew Gaerthofner.

Raeth has solid numbers to work with along with some eager athletes looking to step up and make an impact. All have seen the Rockets' past success in the pool and that's where tradition usually factors in, inspiring returning athletes to either match or exceed standards set by previous teams.

"We have a lot of boys from last year's team who will be moving into contributing roles," said Raeth. "Our seniors and upperclassmen have done a great job of getting the season started with a lot of en-

ergy.

"We have a good-sized team that should allow us to have depth in the events. We have good upperclass leadership which will help us fill spots that need to be filled due to a large graduating class."

Gaerthofner is coming off a big freshman season. He was a conference champion in the 200-yard individual medley (2:07.77) and 400 freestyle relay (3:20.11) and was conference runner-up in the 100 breaststroke (1:04.42). Gaerthofner was also part of the 200-yard medley relay team to place ninth at the WIAA state meet and was also a state qualifier in the 100-yard breaststroke, taking 22nd at 1:01.32.

Boyer placed second at the FVA meet in the 100-yard butterfly (58.23) and 200-yard medley relay (1:47.62). Koeper was part of the 200-yard medley relay, while Loudon received all-FVA honorable mention in the 100 fly.

Freshman Tanner Trustem – a versatile swimmer who excels in the backstroke – is among the newcomers expected to make contributions.

Foucault is the Rockets' top returning

diver and could make a run at a state medal. Foucault took second at the FVA meet with a personal record score of 399.70 and was a state qualifier, placing 15th in Division 1 with a 389.65 score.

Foucault is a talented diver who has made a verbal commitment to compete collegiately for Division 2 Northern Michigan University.

"I've had Ryan since he first started diving and he's always had a knack for the flipping and twisting that's involved in diving," said Hansman. "I don't think he had a background in diving, but he's always understood where he was in the air and has been able to find his feet or his head. It's made him grow pretty quickly in the sport.

"He's very teachable and he's a real hard worker who puts in the extra time needed to succeed."

Even with the heavy graduation losses, Raeth expects her team to push for another FVA title.

"We're looking to defend our conference and sectional titles as we grow each day," she said.

Rocket wrestlers setting sights high for upcoming season

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

The sky might be the limit for a talented Neenah wrestling team this season but for the squad to reach many of its highest



Kleuskens

goals there is an obstacle that this group of Rockets will have to overcome.

Kaukauna.

The two-time defending Division 1 state champions have won the last 17 Fox Valley Association titles and won or shared

23 of the last 24 league crowns. And Neenah head coach Kyle Kleuskens knows that getting past the Ghosts is necessary for the

Wrestling PREVIEW

Rockets to accomplish what they are setting out to do this season.

"Kaukauna brings back a great team and we have a lot of respect for them," said Kleuskens, in his eighth season as the Rockets head coach. "If we are going to be a state champion or win the FVA, we will have to go through them at some point. Our guys have put way too much into this to not be thinking positively about facing them, but we will have to settle it on the mat."

The Rockets gave the Ghosts one of their closest dual meets all season last year

and then finished just 10 points behind them at the WIAA Division 1 regional a year ago.

So, Neenah is certainly in the neighborhood of being able to knock off the Ghosts and gained confidence from last year's results that it can compete with Kaukauna.

"Given the results last year, we know we can compete with them," said Kleuskens, who also tabbed Hortonville as a top contender in the FVA. "That (dual meet) loss actually gave us a lot of confidence. Our kids really started to believe in the things we have been talking about for a long time."

The two teams are scheduled to meet Jan. 19 in Kaukauna, which means that the Rockets will have to get past plenty of talented FVA teams first. And if the Rock-

ets are going to claim their first outright FVA title since 1997 – Neenah shared the league crown with Kaukauna in 2004 – Kleuskens knows there is plenty to accomplish before that.

"We want to focus on just getting better each day at practice," Kleuskens said. "We will take it one day at a time and one match at a time and just try to improve every day."

Kleuskens certainly has a lineup that can challenge the Ghosts as the Rockets return a pair of state qualifiers from a year ago and boasts the deepest team the coach has had in his tenure with 44 wrestlers out.

Topping the list of returning wrestlers is sophomore Jacob Herm, who was the

SEE **Wrestling preview** ON PAGE 11

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 9

game and finished with a career-best 32 points. His previous career high was 31 points set last season.

Griffith added 13 points, while Fields and Charlie Nackers each scored 10 points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Rockets open FVA play with victory

Neenah built an eight-point halftime lead and then held off Fond du Lac for a 72-61 win to begin the Fox Valley Association schedule Tuesday night.

Allie Ziebell paced the Rockets with 22 points, while Ava Kok finished with 19 points and Sammie Buss chipped in 15 points.

Neenah, ranked second in Division 1, is now 4-0 on the season.

The Rockets also picked up a 64-50 nonconference win over Brookfield East at the Kettle Moraine Thanksgiving Classic on Saturday.

Ziebell hit all 10 of her free throws, while Kok knocked down six 3-pointers as each finished with 21 points to lead the way in the win. Rowan Klesmit also reached double figures with 10 points.

Strong first half helps boost Zephyrs to win

St. Mary Catholic held Pacelli to just 14 points in the first half en route to collecting a 55-35 nonconference win Monday.

Chloe Vogel led St. Mary Catholic with 15 points, while Sienna Anderson hit four 3-pointers to finish with 13 points. Emily Vogel also reached double figures with 11 points.

St. Mary Catholic improved to 4-0 on the season.

BOYS HOCKEY

Offense erupts as Rockets roll past Waupun

Ty Laabs and Luke Sutton each scored twice as Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha rolled to an 8-2 win over Waupun in Appleton on Tuesday.

Laabs tallied both of his goals in a four-goal first period for the Rockets, while John Kriz and Richie Bernice also scored in the period.

Waupun notched the only goal in the second period and then trimmed the deficit to 4-2 early in the third period before the Rockets would rattle off four straight goals, including three on the power play.

Luke Sutton scored both of his goals, while Mark Sutton and Mason Hart also found the net.

Bernie led the team with three assists in the game, while Kriz, Hart and Calvin Zinda each scored two.

Caleb Moore made 12 saves in goal in the victory.

On Saturday, the Rockets won their first game of the season, steamrolling Madison West 8-3.

The Rockets trailed 2-0 after the first period, but answered with eight straight goals – including five in the second period – by six different players to collect the win.

Luke Sutton started the second-period barrage and then scored again seven minutes later to cap the five-goal outburst.

Mark Sutton, Kriz and Hart also tallied goals in the second period, while the Rockets got goals from Laabs and Kolden Hunter in the third period, before Mark Sutton tallied his second goal of the game to cap the Rockets' scoring.

Cooper Zinda, Calvin Zinda, Hart and Cole Calkins each finished with two assists in the game.

John Horneck stopped 20 of the 23 shots he faced in the game.

WRESTLING

Neenah splits pair of FVA dual meets

The Rockets went 1-1 at an FVA double dual at Appleton West.

Neenah pummeled the host Terrors, 78-6, while falling to Hortonville 41-31.

The Terrors were no match for the Rockets as Neenah posted nine wins, all by pin, in the 10 contested matches.

Aidan Caray set the tone for the match when he posted a 32-second win over Connor Simons at 182 pounds. Eli Gast followed with a forfeit win before Eric Schaufelberger won by pin in 2:31 at 220 pounds.

Heavyweight Nate Cleveland kept the momentum going, needing just 33 seconds to stop Randy Chang, followed by a Jaxson Ennis pin at 106 pounds. After back-to-back forfeit wins from Eli Armatte (113) and Declan Koch (120), Jacob Herm won by pin in 38 seconds followed by a 24-second win – the fastest pin of the match – by Jayden Sheppard.

Rounding out the winners by pin for Neenah were Preston Hella (138), Jaden Reay (145) and Nick Novak (152), while Zach Kramp won by forfeit at 170 pounds.

In the loss to Hortonville, the Rockets got pins from Sheppard (132), Gast (182) and Schaufelberger (220).

Herm (126) and Novak (152) each won contested matches for Neenah, while heavyweight Cleveland won by forfeit.

Wrestling preview

FROM PAGE 10

Division 1 state runner-up at 106 pounds a year ago, falling in overtime in the title match. Herm set a school record with 47 wins last season and anchors a trio of lightweights that will be one of the strengths of the roster.

Freshman Declan Koch, an accomplished youth wrestler who has had success at the national level, is expected to fill the 120-pound weight class, followed by Herm at 126 and Jayden Sheppard – a senior who qualified for state as a freshman, but was saddled with injuries a year ago – at 132 pounds.

“Declan will make an immediate impact for us and will be a state title contender along with Jacob,” Kleuskens said. “Jayden is fully healthy now and to have those three guys in a row, it’s kind of like iron sharpens iron. It’s pretty awesome watching those guys compete with each other every day and push each other.”

Senior Nick Novak is a returning state qualifier who is again expected to hold down the 152-pound weight class, while senior Eli Gast – who finished third at sectionals last year, just short of a state trip – is slated for the 182-pound weight class.

Kleuskens is also looking forward to a couple of his heaviest wrestlers where Eric Schaufelberger returns to the lineup after missing all of last season because of a knee injury and is expected to fill the 220-pound slot. At heavyweight, junior Nate Cleveland will hit the varsity lineup after the departure of two-time state qualifier Bryce Fochs.

Kleuskens said those seven wrestlers will give the Rockets the opportunity to score a lot of points on the mat and should make them a tough tournament squad, but he believes the rest of the lineup will be solid, too.

“We have a lot of other guys who are seniors and great leaders who have been around the program or other underclassmen that will be stepping into some of the spots in our varsity lineup,” Kleuskens said. “We’re proud of the product we are putting out on the mat this year.”

That’s where the team’s depth will be a factor.

“It will be competitive to see who ends up starting at some of the weights because we have a lot of quality kids and quality wrestlers in those weight classes,” Kleuskens said. “We have more depth than we have in the past which is a good thing.”

The Rockets also have a handful of female wrestlers on the squad this season after not having any on the roster last year.

Highlighting the group will be Kylee Kurszewski, who will be competing for varsity time in the 106-pound weight, while all five will look to have a shot at wrestling at the girls state tournament at the end of the season.

“Kylee is a talented young lady and will do very well when she competes against the females but also against the males she will be tough,” said Kleuskens, who added that the team now has a female assistant coach on staff, Allie Grobarchik, to help coach the girls. “I’m very confident in the team we bring back. Year after year we are consistently a top-10 program in Division 1 and I think we will be right there again.”

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Kid Scoop

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Kid Scoop Together: Try This At Home

Your name: _____

Learning buddy's name: _____



How Jason Got the Robot Fish

I got the pet robot fish by first setting a goal to save the money to buy it. The fish costs \$59!

That seemed like an enormous amount of money, but Wendy suggested I think of the \$59 as a series of smaller goals.

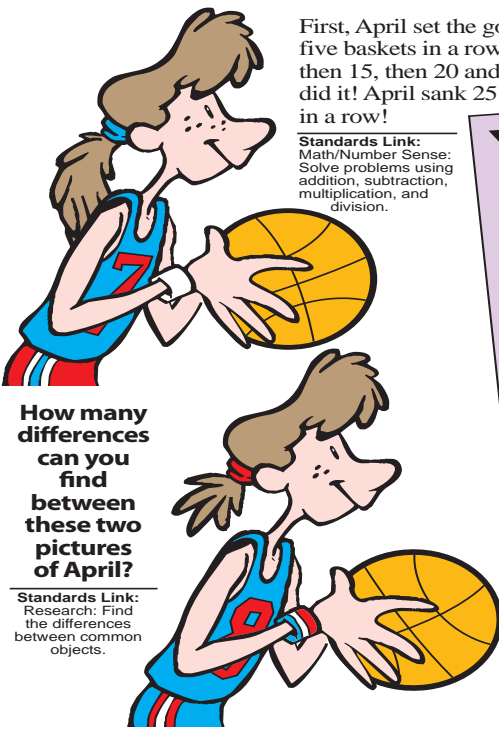
So I made a goal to save \$10. After I did that, I made the goal to save \$10 again.

HOW MANY TIMES DID JASON HAVE TO SAVE \$10 TO GET THE \$59 HE NEEDED TO BUY THE TALKING PET ROBOT FISH?

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Solve problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

My Basketball Goal

April wanted to be able to sink 25 baskets in a row. At first she could only sink about three in a row. Twenty-five was a big goal, but breaking it into smaller goals saved the day.



First, April set the goal of sinking five baskets in a row. Then 10, then 15, then 20 and finally—she did it! April sank 25 baskets in a row!

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Solve problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

How many differences can you find between these two pictures of April?

Standards Link: Research: Find the differences between common objects.

I worked hard for my money. Put a check in the box next to each job that I did. If you checked the right boxes, they add up to exactly \$10.

- Mowed the lawn \$3
- Made my bed (mom expects me to do that every morning!) \$0
- Walked the dog \$2
- Took out the trash one night \$1
- Did the dinner dishes five nights \$5

You Can Do It!

What is a big goal you would like to achieve? Is it saving money, improving how well you play a sport or completing a big homework project?

My Goal: _____

Break your goal into smaller goals:

First: _____

Second: _____

Third: _____

Fourth: _____

Goal!

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write brief expository responses to a prompt; main idea and details.

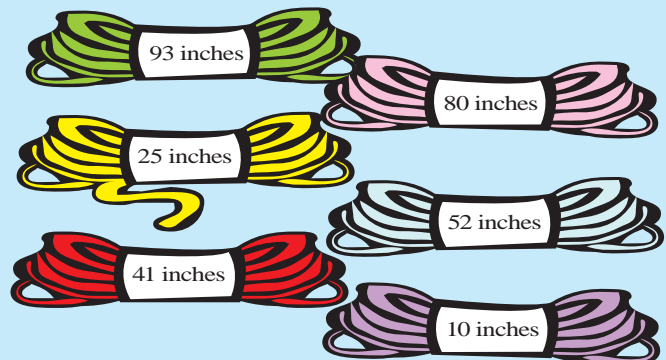
Extra! Extra! Newspaper Search for a Successful Person

Find an article from the newspaper about a person you believe has achieved success. It might be an athlete, actor, businessperson or community volunteer. Write the name of the person and the success that he or she is recognized for. List the things you think that person had to do to succeed.

Standards Link: Civics: Identify examples of civic responsibility.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

George is knitting a scarf. He needs four more yards of yarn. Help him find three skeins of yarn that equal exactly four yards of yarn.

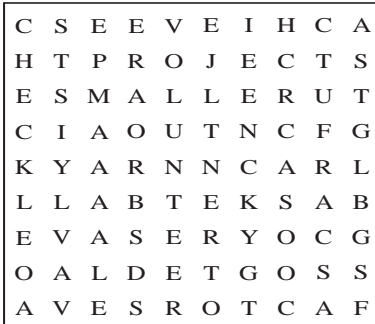


Standards Link: Measurement: Calculate inches to yards.

Double Double Word Search

- BASKETBALL
- VOLUNTEER
- GOAL
- PROJECT
- MONEY
- TRASH
- CHECK
- ACHIEVE
- SMALLER
- SUCCEED
- RENT
- YARN
- SCARF
- FACTORS
- SAVE

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.

Can you predict?

PART 1:

Look through the newspaper and find a headline that interests you. Read the headline and look at any photos that accompany the article. With your learning buddy, discuss what you think the article will be about. Make a list of information you both expect to find in the article:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

PART 2:

Now read the article together. Which of your predictions were accurate? Which were not? List five facts you learned from the article:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Identify main idea and supporting details in expository text; make and check predictions.

Kid Scoop-doku

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



Write On!

Money Problems

Write a word problem using money. For example: If Tom has \$2 and Annie has \$4, how much money do they have altogether?



\$999⁹⁹

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