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Bus shelter move gets followup review

Doty Island convenience options called lacking

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The possibility of a heated bus shelter in Neenah and a gas station on Doty Island near ThedaCare Regional Medical Center were among the topics discussed at a Common Council meeting last week.

The downtown Neenah Transit Center used by bus riders was formerly situated

on South Church Street and relocated in November to East Doty Avenue, adjacent to City Hall.

The purpose of the relocation was to deal with traffic safety concerns. The new location was expected to generate fewer disturbances caused by special events. The city is observing and evaluating the site before committing to a permanent relocation.

Although the Church Street bus shelter was heated, the new temporary location is not. Donald Bickham, of Neenah, ques-

tioned whether the city would be building a heated location.

"In the wintertime, especially around here, a heated shelter is much more desirable than an aluminum bench, which tends to take the heat out of your body in a big hurry," he said.

Public Works Director Gerry Kaiser said the city is still in discussions with East Central Regional Planning and Valley Transit regarding the shelter. The two

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Photo by Rob Zimmer

Eagles back in form

The largest concentration of bald eagles are seen this month when open water is at a prime, especially in the Fox Valley area such as Neenah. See story about the growing eagle population on Page 3.

Weather keeps ice skating options limited for now



Neenah News

The Plaza at Gateway Park provides the most reliable option for ice skaters at this point in the winter season.

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Residents who want to go skating may be on thin ice with the unseasonably warm temperatures this year.

In past years, the city of Neenah set up ice skating rinks in Washington Park, Green Park and Memorial Park. The city needs five to seven days of extremely cold weather, with no snow falling or blowing, to get all three ice rinks up. This year, the city has no rinks set up.

Since the city does not have underground refrigeration coils, there needs to be 4 to 6 inches of frost in the ground before the city can put water down. It also doesn't have a liner to fill with water and let it freeze.

The city added three loads of water on each rink in early December, but the above-freezing temperatures and rain after Christmas wiped out the city's gains.

Washington Park's annual Winter Festi-

val is planned for Jan. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mild temperatures will not allow for an ice skating rink and there likely won't be snow on the sled hill.

Superintendent of recreation Jim Kluge said the event will have planned outdoor winter activities and games for families. There will be s'mores, hot dogs, hot chocolate and giveaways, with the warming shelter as a staging area.

For residents who are set on gliding on ice this winter, The Plaza at Gateway Park Neenah has an ice rink that is 122 feet long by 59 feet wide – the same size as the Rockefeller Center ice rink in New York. Ice skating is offered from November through March.

The buildings at The Plaza include a warming house, skate rental, restrooms and equipment storage areas, including a garage with an ice resurfacer.

SEE **Ice skating** ON PAGE 7

Neenah News

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General information/customer service:

Jennifer Grunwald
admin@neenahnewsnow.com
Phone: 920-486-1616
Website: www.neenahnewsnow.com

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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.

Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407
karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor

Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027
editor@oshkoshherald.com

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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Readers, advertisers keep us engaged

Happy 2023!

It is hard to believe how fast the last 11 months have gone. The first anniversary for the Neenah News is next month and we have learned so much about the communities we reported on this past year.

During that time, we have shared local, relevant news and information with the people in the 54956 ZIP code. From Fox Crossing and the town of Clayton, from the city and town of Neenah, the Neenah News team has been there – from last year's elections and installation of a new city mayor to the Neenah Rockets boys basketball team going to Madison to bring home the gold ball. We shared store openings, closings and features on wonderful local people.

We had our growing pains with staff turnover on the advertising side, but this was expected. We experienced the same issues when launching the Oshkosh Herald in 2018. It can be challenging in bringing any new product to market, but when folks have been hearing "print is dead" for so long it takes a good product, and time, to gain traction.

Our readers are very supportive of our advertisers (thank you!) and our Neenah



Karen Schneider

Neenah News publisher

team has achieved consistency and solidified a foundation both on the content and advertising teams.

We are now in a learning curve as we come upon our first renewal season. I'm sharing a few items on what I hope will make the renewal process the easiest for our subscribers.

First, renewal notices will be arriving in the mail in the next week or so. You can renew online, by mail or over the phone at 920-486-1616.

The renewal process online is what I want to talk about and hopefully alleviate some angst and frustration as we go through the process for the first time with our new software system.

Most of you subscribed online and set up an account for the digital access but haven't logged in since. If you choose to renew online and can't recall your pass-

word, just click for a password reset and the system will walk you through it.

If you mailed or phoned in to subscribe, we can process your renewal by phone or mail. But remember, digital access comes with your subscription. We set most of the accounts up with the email provided for username and your mailing address as one word, all lowercase as your password. If this doesn't work for you, try the password reset.

We converted to a new software program before launching the Neenah News and it's our first time working through some of the technology. We ask for your understanding and patience as we uncover any glitches in the process.

If you need assistance with our website, please call me directly at 920-858-6407 or email subscribe@neenahnewsnow.com. We will work through it together and, hopefully, after our first wave we will figure it all out.

And finally, as our first anniversary comes up – thank you for welcoming the Neenah News to the community. We will continue to bring you local, relevant news as your community newspaper.



Community Band photo

Thirty-eight members of the Neenah Community Band performed at the recent Wisconsin Gubernatorial Inauguration in Madison.

Community Band makes a Capitol performance

By Bethanie Gengler
Neenah News

Thirty-eight members of the Neenah Community Band (NCB) performed at the 2023 Wisconsin Gubernatorial Inauguration Jan. 3.

Band director Jacob Martin said the governor's office contacted NCB and asked the band to perform.

"To be part of something that happens only once every four years and to be included in something that is this special really is something that we could not pass up," Martin said.

The band is made up of volunteers ages 16 to 89 and has between 70 and 80 members. Its oldest member, Phil Abendschein, 96, who plays horn, retired after the band's winter concert Dec. 18. He was the last performing charter member, starting when the group was created in 1966.

With a limited stage size at the Capitol, only 38 members traveled to Madison to perform. The band played three songs, which Martin selected with the acoustics of the Capitol building in mind.

"All three of these pieces we played in the last year," he said. "These were pieces that we really liked playing."

NCB was the only community band that played at the event. Other performers included the Milwaukee Children's Choir, the Indian Community School and the Waukesha South High School Marching Band.

Members of the Waukesha band were among those injured in 2021 when Dar-



Community Band photo

Phil Abendschein, a 96-year-old horn player who retired from the Neenah Community Band in December, was the last performing charter member from when the group started in 1966. Abendschein is shown (center) being honored at the Dec. 18 winter concert by Parks and Recreation director Michael Kading with Phil's grandson Jason Abendschein standing behind him.

rell Brooks drove his speeding vehicle through the city's Christmas parade, killing six people and injuring more than 40.

Martin said the band is not political.

"That was something I really stressed with the band is that it doesn't matter who is the governor, it's the governor, and we get to play for that person and a celebration of democracy in our country, which is amazing," he said.

The band performs at a variety of community events, with its next concert at

Neenah High School starting at 3 p.m. March 19.

A recording of the inauguration, which includes the band's performance, is available for viewing at pbswisconsin.org.

"I'm so excited to say as a Neenah Community Band member that we're being recognized around the state as a performing group and we've done a lot of amazing performances," Martin said. "This group has really shown that we are a community and we play quality music."



Photo by Rob Zimmer

Bald eagles gather in a tree at Fritse Park earlier this week, just one of many locations in the area where they can be seen in numbers.

Bald eagle activity more noticeable this time of year

By Rob Zimmer
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Middle to late January is typically peak bald eagle season here in Neenah.

Beginning in early December and building in numbers throughout the winter season, the largest concentrations of eagles are seen from middle to late January. In a normal year, this is when open water is at a prime.

Despite warmer-than-normal temperatures the next few weeks, eagle numbers should remain good in our area as large numbers of Canada geese and ducks are still present. Bald eagles pick off weak and injured waterfowl as part of their diet.

This week, several bald eagles were seen sweeping and diving through the skies at many areas throughout Neenah.

At Kimberly Point Park, multiple birds rested quietly in the bare willows and cottonwoods along the shore. Another bald eagle rested on the limestone breakwall at the marina near the swimming pool.

Downtown, multiple eagles circled high in the sky, in perfect view right from the center of the city. This is what makes the area so special.

It wasn't long ago that bald eagles were nearly extinct. Their numbers were decimated, in large part by pesticide use, especially in the 1960s and '70s. Since then, numbers

have rebounded steadily each decade. Last year, for the first time, bald eagles were recorded nesting in every one of Wisconsin's 72 counties.

We are fortunate in Neenah to host several bald eagle nests. Some of these eagle pairs remain all winter, while others leave their territories during the winter season to gather elsewhere.

The Fox Valley, as a whole, boasts large numbers of bald eagles throughout the winter season. All along the Fox River – Oshkosh to Green Bay – hundreds of eagles may be seen on any given day during January.

This is because in many areas the river does not freeze and large numbers of waterfowl concentrate in open water areas. Eagles are also able to dive and feed upon fish, dead or alive. Bald eagles are scavengers and take advantage of any food source they come upon.

Another excellent place to view bald eagles is the Loop the Lake Trail and Fritse Park area. Bring binoculars and check the shoreline trees, the ice, as well as the skies for the magnificent birds on any given day this month.

Eagles are most active early in the morning and toward evening when they are leaving their nightly roost to seek out hunting perches and returning to the roost at night.

Annual Bird Count adds two Neenah locations

The annual Great Backyard Bird Count has two new locations this year – Kimberly Point and Wilderness Park in Neenah – where participants Feb. 18 will search for birds, count species totals and report sightings to eBird.

The activity starts at Kimberly Point (290 Lakeshore Ave.) at 9 a.m. to look for common goldeneye, mergansers and oth-

er waterfowl species. Then it shifts to Wilderness Park (940 S. Park Ave.) to search for finches, woodpeckers and other winter birds.

The event is part of global Bird Count held Feb. 17-20 to help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world. Find more details at www.bird-count.org.

State-declared energy emergency eases limits on transportation

An energy emergency declared in the state will exempt carriers and drivers of commercial vehicles from hours-of-service restrictions while obtaining and transporting residential heating fuel.

Gov. Tony Evers' executive order will run through the first week of February and was attributed to continuing challenges caused by weeks of severe weather and the impact on distribution of residential heating fuel, including oil and propane. The order is intended to allow for more efficient delivery of those products statewide.

According to the Public Service Com-

mission's Office of Energy Innovation, multiple suppliers report challenges such as long lines at terminals and having to drive farther to collect needed products.

"Over the past weeks, residents and industry alike have had to deal with the challenges of severe winter weather and its impact on everyday necessities. The health, welfare, and safety of our neighbors depend on access to fuel for home heating," Evers said. "Getting residential heating fuel like propane and heating oil moving now to those who need it will help our neighbors remain safe as we enter the next few months of winter."

Cancer support group meeting features speaker

Us TOO Fox Cities, part of a national prostate cancer education and support effort, will hold its monthly session at 6 p.m. Jan. 17 at Neenah's Fire Station 31 at 1080 Breezewood Lane.

Nurse practitioner Julia Stoffel will speak on how palliative care can help at many

stages of prostate cancer treatments. The Feb. 23 meeting will feature Little Chute pharmacy owner Nic Smith, who will provide information on prescriptions, vitamins, supplements and CBD products.

Call 920-722-0774 for more information.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Doty depiction

This painting by Chas. Beyer can be found in the Menasha Public Library and depicts the Doty Island Driving Park. The Doty Island Driving Park featured horse racing and was also a fairground, sporting event venue and a viewing grounds for yachting regattas on Lake Winnebago. Learn about this fascinating and largely unknown part of our local history by historian and presenter Jeff Heimerman at the Neenah Public Library at 7 p.m. Jan. 19.



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Radon testing receives extra priority this month

Neenah News

During this National Radon Action Month, the state Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging residents and business owners to test homes and buildings for the dangerous gas.

Exposure to radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer nationally, and easy-to-use tests are widely available.

The Winnebago County Health Department is offering radon test kits at half

price, or \$5, during the month. They are available during weekday hours at the 211 N. Commercial St. office in Neenah.

"Radon is an environmental health issue in our state. Approximately one in 10 homes have elevated radon levels across Wisconsin," state health officer Paula Tran said. "Reducing radon exposure and radon-induced lung cancer in Wisconsin depends on encouraging and supporting all Wisconsinites, including property owners

and tenants, to be proactive about testing for radon."

Radon, an odorless, radioactive gas naturally present in the ground, enters buildings through foundations. Radon causes more lung cancer among non-smokers than secondhand tobacco smoke.

An estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year among non-smokers are caused by radon, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Surgeon General, and about 962 of these deaths are in Wisconsin.

"Reduced-cost test kits are available through Radon Information Centers (RIC) in Wisconsin and test kit promotions are happening throughout January," said DHS state radon program manager Jessica Maloney.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that when a test result is at 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher, a mitigation system should be installed to prevent the gas from entering

the residence.

The Wisconsin Interactive Radon Map, which uses multiple testing sources, shows that 1,054 out of 1,948 tests in Neenah's 54956 ZIP code, or 54.1%, were at or above the 4pCi/L level.

Residents can visit lowradon.org to find contact information for the East Central Radon Information Center serving Winnebago County or speak with local public health department radon experts by calling 1-888 LOW-RADON to discuss available options. Test kits are available from hardware stores and local public health agencies.

There are more than 100 radon mitigation contractors in Wisconsin that are nationally certified to install radon mitigation systems.

Effective March 1, all licensed family child care and group child care centers in Wisconsin will be required to test for radon and mitigate if levels are at or above 4 pCi/L. It is not required for licensed day camps.

Southpark Center looks to add tenants

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city is continuing to market sites in the Southpark Industrial Center for manufacturing, service, office or research.

Located at the Interstate 41 and Bell Street interchange in Neenah, Southpark is a 300-acre planned and controlled development park that is home to more than 75 businesses.

The custom designed sites are between one acre and 15 acres in size with municipal water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, concrete streets, underground utility services, and high-pressure natural gas.

Southpark is considered a prime location for manufacturing, with transportation connections that include federal highways, two regional jet service airports, more than 45 common carriers and a rail system with freight car pooling.

One of the properties within Southpark is the former site of Loren's Auto Recycling at 2405 Schultz Drive. The city purchased the 9.5-acre site in 2018 and gave former owner Loren Rangeloff until 2020 to remove the remaining vehicles.

The city has been cleaning up the site, which included the removal of salvage material, structures and fencing. All the structures were demolished last fall and the site was cleared of salvage material.

Director of Community Development Chris Haese said employees will continue to remove incidental material from the site once the weather improves. It also will be graded.

The city identified potential environmental risks at the former auto salvage yard, such as contamination from deteriorating junk vehicles, a rail line on the western edge of the property and uncharacterized fill material. Haese said the city has reviewed remediation options but the city is in a hold pattern for now.

The former Loren's site is listed for sale but there have been no offers to purchase. Haese said the city continues to market the site and other available parcels within Southpark for sale.

"There has been interest expressed in some sites but no formal offers or agreements have been presented at this point," he said.

Neenah High School student selected to participate in Senate Youth Program

Neenah High School senior Parker De Deker has been chosen as a Wisconsin delegate to the U.S. Senate Youth Program March 4-11 in Washington, D.C.

The program, which began in 1962, selects two of the highest-achieving students from each state to meet and learn from the highest level elected and appointed officials in Washington. The delegates attend briefings and meetings with senators, the president, a justice of the Supreme Court, Cabinet members, federal agency leaders and senior members of the national media. At least 17 military officers, representing each of the military services and the Coast Guard, serve as mentors for the students during the week.

The students also receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship. The event has been funded by the Hearst Foundation since its inception. Selections are made through a competitive merit-based selection process held at the state departments of education nationwide. This year's other Wisconsin delegate is Harjasan Singh of Oak Creek High School.



De Deker

De Deker is the reigning national champion in congressional debate and has participated in national competitions. He is a four-year student representative to the Board of Education and participates in orchestra and choir. De Deker is president of the high school's student government and Key Club, while also serving as a leadership chair for the Wisconsin chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. He has already completed an undergraduate degree in international studies from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

De Deker is the third Neenah High School student to be selected as a delegate in the 61-year history of the event, joining Jill Wuethrich in 1986 and Charles Kidd in 1988.

The U.S. Senate Youth Program provides a yearly opportunity for selected students to gain an in-depth view of the Senate and the federal government overall as well as a deeper understanding of the interrelationship of the legislative, judicial and executive branches.

Students must hold or have held student body office or another elected or appointed position in their communities and show academic interest and aptitude in government, history and politics.

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Fox Valley mayors endorse Amtrak passenger rail study

Neenah News

City leaders throughout the Fox Valley expressed their unanimous interest in getting on board with a federal initiative to establish passenger rail service in the area that would connect to Amtrak's line from Milwaukee to Chicago.

The letter of interest signed by six mayors and a city manager to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) endorses being part of a national study that includes looking at linking up with Amtrak's Hiawatha Line with stops in Green Bay, Oshkosh and Fond du Lac.

The proposal is the preliminary stage of an FRA initiative to identify potential rail service corridor expansions nationally, part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) signed Nov. 15, 2021. The law directed the U.S. secretary of transportation to establish a Corridor Identification and Development Program for intercity passenger rail corridors.

"A Green Bay - Milwaukee - Chicago Amtrak service would create new connections between major metropolitan cities, medium-sized cities, and colleges and universities," the signed letter states. "Students, their families, faculty, and staff will be able to take advantage of frequent Amtrak service to avoid traffic between destinations and to enjoy greater productivity or relaxation while they travel."

The letter was signed by Neenah Mayor Jane Lang along with mayors of Green Bay, Oshkosh, Menasha, Appleton and Kaukauna, and Fond du Lac's city manager. While the initial service proposal doesn't include a Neenah stop it would create a closer connection to the Amtrak system with an Oshkosh depot.

Communities found to be best suited for passenger rail expansion would be as-

sisted by the FRA to develop an operation plan for consideration. Study selection criteria include ridership, trip times, overall public benefits, access for rural and underserved areas, projected costs and revenue, and support from operators and existing railroads.

Proposals are due by March 20.

Amtrak, created as the National Railroad Passenger Corp. in 1970 in response to private freight railroads losing too much money on their passenger services, took over most intercity passenger service in the U.S. in 1971. The Chicago and North Western (CNW) Transportation Co. joined Amtrak at that time but chose not to run an Amtrak service while continuing its remaining passenger trains until 1975 under the agreement.

CNW's early 1971 passenger schedule was two round trips daily (Green Bay-Oshkosh-Milwaukee-Chicago). One included through coaches to Ashland via Shawano, Antigo, Rhinelander and Ironwood around the Christmas holidays and during summer months. There also was a Sunday-only Chicago-Milwaukee-Green Bay-Menominee round trip via Sheboygan and Manitowoc.

"Every reason that somebody would be driving on I-43 or I-41 or I-94 is a reason they could be riding an Amtrak train. It could be to visit family and friends it could be to do business," Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari told WFRV-TV in Green Bay.

The program is part of the Biden administration's effort to improve the nation's rail networks and "reverse decades of under-investment" in rail infrastructure, FRA officials said in a press release.



Neenah News

The new temporary transit center shelter is on East Doty Avenue near City Hall.

Bus shelter

FROM PAGE 1

entities are completing a full-scale route analysis study, with the results expected in the spring.

"Part of their scope is to look at the best location for the conjunction of the route in downtown Neenah," Kaiser said. "We're looking for that study to get done and then we'll be able to present the council with those results and what they tell us as far as the best location for a shelter."

Amenities for those visiting loved ones at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center was another area of discussion. Council member Tami Erickson asked for a follow-up to a previous council directive to explore the possibility of a convenience gas station on Doty Island.

"The reason being, I was at the hospital

before Christmas and there is absolutely no way to get a cup of coffee - any type of food item - at the hospital," she said.

Erickson said the emergency room check-in process is lengthy, about four or five hours, and the hospital cafeteria closes early.

"People come in from outside the area or they're (here) unexpectedly (and) there is absolutely no way that they can get any type of food or any type of beverages," she said. "I think we need to explore this with the number of employees we have there and the upcoming emergency room update."

Erickson requested the council set a deadline to adopt the council directive. Mayor Jane Lang said she will set a date and report back at the next council meeting.

"I think it's a great thing if we can look at what we can serve our visitors and residents on the island," Erickson said.

Business news roundup

Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Specialists, a doctor-owned orthopedic, sports medicine, rheumatology and pain management practice, has added two board-certified orthopedic surgeons to its team. Both doctors will see patients at the OSMS Fox Valley clinic in Neenah and at Mercy Medical Center in Oshkosh. **Dr. Bryan Royce** completed his medical residency at University of Wisconsin Madison. He performs hip, knee, and shoulder replacements for arthritic conditions as well as arthroscopic interventions for sport and work-related injuries. **Dr. Luke Fraundorf** completed his residency at the University of Wisconsin in

Madison and his expertise includes knee, hip, shoulder and hand procedures.

Jewelers Mutual Group president and chief executive **Scott Murphy** was recently named by BizTimes Media as one of Wisconsin's most influential business leaders in 2022. Murphy came to the Neenah-based company in 2015 and under his leadership transitioned to a mutual holding company in 2020. That year the company also acquired Wexler Insurance Agency, followed by the purchase of jewelry e-commerce site Gem + Jewel in 2021. It became the "official jewelry insurance" of the Milwaukee Bucks in 2021.

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Cannabis legalization support won't gain ballot vote

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A resolution that would have allowed Winnebago County residents to weigh in on the legalization of marijuana at the April 4 spring election failed to pass the Judiciary & Public Safety and Legislative Committees this week.

The advisory referendum question would ask residents whether cannabis should be legal for recreational use, legal for medical use, remain criminally illegal or none of the above.

The measure was voted down by the County Board of Supervisors at its December meeting and sent back to the two

committees. In order to be on the ballot, the referendum request needed to pass both committees and the county board by the Jan. 25 deadline.

While many of the comments about the referendum at the county board meeting were negative, several supervisors and members of the public spoke in support of the measure at the Legislative Committee meeting Monday.

District Attorney Eric Sparr said he doesn't take a stance on the measure one way or another. He updated the Legislative Committee on a memo the DA's office issued in 2022 stating that the county has ceased criminal prosecution of personal

use marijuana cases.

Sparr said that testing laboratories have a difficult time differentiating between the different strains of THC, which include Delta-8, Delta-9 and Delta-10. Delta-8 and 10 are legal in Wisconsin, while Delta 9 remains illegal in Wisconsin and federally.

"There were challenges for law enforcement, too," he said. "They're on the street trying to, at the scene of a traffic stop for example, decide whether something's legal or illegal. It looks the same, it smells the same, even scientists aren't often able to tell the difference; so how are they supposed to tell the difference?"

He said it isn't worth it to pursue personal use possession cases, adding that those cases can still be issued a citation. His office will still prosecute people who are selling.

Another concern is the possibility of marijuana being adulterated, such as with fentanyl. Sparr said that's seen frequently with methamphetamine and heroin, but Winnebago County hasn't seen that issue with marijuana.

Committee member Tom Snider, chairman of the Veterans Service Commission,

Charges pending in death of local man

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Police have arrested a man in connection with the November homicide of a Fox Crossing man whose body was found in an Appleton home.

Eric Rogers, 53, of Appleton, is facing charges for the death of Erik Hudson, 31, of Fox Crossing, who was found dead Nov. 15 in a West Summer Street home. An autopsy was conducted by the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office the next day.

Two days after Hudson's body was found, Appleton police said the death was being investigated as a homicide. Police declined to reveal the cause but said the investigation suggested it was not a random crime.



Rogers

wasn't in attendance at the meeting. He submitted a letter in favor of the cannabis referendum, stating that while he was in the Navy in the late 1960s he "smoked enough grass to keep the Wisconsin deer herd healthy all winter."

Snider said that about 18 veterans commit suicide every day and one of the reasons is chronic pain.

"Cannabis could help," he said.

In September, Gov. Tony Evers announced he would include marijuana legalization and decriminalization in the upcoming 2023 state budget. Some supervisors have said they believe the advisory referendum is a political move.

Legislative Committee Chair Chuck Farrey said the resolution is not questioning what the committee members personally think about marijuana.

"The question before the body is should we recommend that the residents of this county, our constituents, be given the option to vote on this," he said.

The Legislative Committee voted against supporting the advisory referendum. Later that day, the Judiciary Committee also voted against it. The next county board meeting is Tuesday and the cannabis advisory referendum is not on the agenda, indicating the measure won't be on the ballot at the April election.

Court records show Rogers lives at the address where Hudson was found. Starting in October 2021, Rogers was repeatedly charged with disorderly conduct, domestic abuse, bail jumping and violating a domestic abuse order. One week before Hudson was killed, Rogers was charged with possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

Police referred Rogers for charges of first-degree intentional homicide, robbery and operating a vehicle without the owner's consent.

According to the criminal complaint, the location was a known drug house. Rogers reportedly drove the victim's car to Green Bay after the killing. He went to Oneida Casino, did drugs and stayed in a motel. He was arrested at St. John's Shelter on Nov. 20.

Rogers was charged with first-degree intentional homicide, robbery, and operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent.

Warm Your Heart returning to downtown

Downtown Neenah hosts the ninth annual Warm Your Heart event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 11 with businesses offering samples of warm foods, beverages and snacks to attendees exploring the downtown area.

Participants are encouraged to warm their soul as well by bringing a donation of canned meats and canned stews or hygiene and paper products for Double Portion. Donors will receive a voucher for additional specials or discounts at down-

town businesses that day. Double Portion provides lunchtime meals for those in need and a pantry full of food staples and personal care items.

The event has sold out the last few years and space is limited to 300. Registration is available by contacting Future Neenah at 920-722-1920 or visiting neenah.org. The cost is \$23 and includes a Sunset Hill Stoneware mug that will serve as a ticket to take to participating businesses and fill up.

Volunteer needs

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

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are needed to build relationships with children, identify their needs and give them a voice in a process that can otherwise feel lonely. Learn more at casafv.org or call Leah at 920-257-4733, ext. 107.

TheDaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah is looking for volunteers for the Information Desk escort role. Volunteers need to be able to push individuals in wheelchairs. Other volunteer roles are

available. For more information, contact Brooke at brooke.techlin@thedacare.org or 920-729-2207.

St. Vincent de Paul Neenah/Menasha is seeking friendly cashier volunteers, at least age 18, with some experience, to volunteer in four-hour shifts. Staff members are available for backup and training is provided. Contact Toni at volunteercoordinator@svdpneenah.com or 920-727-1766, ext. 3.

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. If interested in teaming up with us to make a difference in the community, contact Rebuilding Together at 920-730-2156 or contact@rtfv.org.

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Photos by David Hall

Gems of nature

The R. Harder Gallery of Gems and Minerals, founded by Jewelers Mutual at its Neenah headquarters to celebrate nature's work, houses one of the nation's largest private collections of minerals and gemstones in their natural form and is open to the public during regular business hours. Jewelers Mutual has been collecting mineral and gemstone specimens for display since 1994.



Bariatric program earns national accreditation

TheThedaCare Regional Medical Center's Neenah bariatric program, in partnership with Surgical Associates of Neenah, has been recognized as a nationally reaccredited program for patient safety and quality.

The reaccreditation is issued by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP), a joint program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). The standards ensure that metabolic and bariatric patients receive multidisciplinary medical care.

MBSAQIP-accredited centers offer pre-operative and postoperative care designed for patients with obesity.

"Our bariatric team, which is comprised of surgeons, nurses, dietitians, exercise specialists and behavioral health professionals, supports each person in all aspects of their journey – both physically and mentally," said Dr. Kevin Wasco, co-medical director of Bariatric Surgery Center. "The comprehensive care can support positive outcomes for patients."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates about 93 million adults in the United States are affected by obesity and that number continues to increase. The disease of obesity increases the risks of morbidity and mortality because of the related diseases and conditions associated with it – type II diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and cancer, among other health

risks. Metabolic and bariatric surgery have been used to help treat conditions related to obesity.

The program met criteria for staffing, training, facility infrastructure and care pathways, ensuring its ability to support patients. The center also participates in a national data registry that yields semi-annual reports on surgical outcomes and identifies opportunities for improvement.

"After applying for MBSAQIP accreditation, centers undergo an extensive site visit by an experienced bariatric surgeon who reviews the center's structure, processes, and clinical outcomes data," Wasco said. "Centers that earn accreditation are awarded a specific designation level, depending on how many people are served each year, critical care capabilities, the types of procedures provided, and other measures."

TheThedaCare is one of 12 comprehensive bariatric surgery centers in Wisconsin, and has been an accredited center with the ACS since 2006. The program coordinates care in all parts of weight loss, including nutrition, fitness and other lifestyle routines.

TheThedaCare services during bariatric weight loss surgery include a team-based approach, care coordination, exercise and nutrition counseling, and emotional support.

Since 2020, weight-loss surgery at TheThedaCare has transitioned to fully robotic-assisted, which has the potential for less

pain for the patient. The advanced technology can also help recovery for patients and potentially reduce the length of stay.

TheThedaCare is also a national observation site for robotic bariatric surgery, one of 31 in the country. While most observation sites only train in general surgery, TheThedaCare trains in general surgery and bariatrics.

"It's truly a learning destination where surgeons from around the country come to learn from some of the best surgeons," Wasco said.

Calendar of events

Friday, Jan. 13

Library After Dark, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Jan. 14

Washington Park Winter Festival, 11 a.m., Washington Park, Neenah

Sunday, Jan. 15

Retro Video Game Competition, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Monday, Jan. 16

Red Cross blood drive, 1 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1140 Tullar Road

Thursday, Jan. 19

Hidden History of Doty Island – the Driving Park, 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Meditation session with Zen River Sangha, 6 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Friday, Jan. 20

King's Conquest in concert, 6:30 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road

Thursday, Jan. 26

Meditation session with Zen River Sangha, 6 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Friday, Jan. 27

Uncorked & Uncapped, 7 p.m., Bridgewood Best Western Premier

Ice skating

FROM PAGE 1

Globe Coffee operates year-round at The Plaza. The rink features outdoor fire pits to snuggle around with some hot cocoa after skating.

During the warmer months, the rink surface is used for pickleball, concerts, art fairs, movies and exercise classes.

The cost for ice skating is \$8 per person for adults and \$5 for children. Skate rentals cost \$5. The Plaza also offers a family skating package for four for \$35, which includes skate rental.

Last month, Best Life website ranked The Plaza rink as one of the most charming ice skating rinks in the United States.

"The Neenah Plaza Rink in the heart of downtown Neenah, Wisconsin, is just as gorgeous as the Rockefeller rink without the extra crowds of people," Best Life associate editor Lauren Jarvis-Gibson wrote.



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Rockets haunt Ghosts in FVA showdown



Photo by Dustin Riese

Neenah's Sammie Buss drives to the basket against a Kaukauna defender during Tuesday night's FVA tussle in Kaukauna. Buss was one of three Rockets to finish in double figures with 13 points.

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A hot-shooting Neenah girls basketball team overwhelmed Kaukauna in the second half on Tuesday night, pulling away for a 69-41 win in a match-up of teams ranked in the top five in the state.

The fourth-ranked Rockets had three players in double figures and used a 33-16 run in the second half to grab control of the game, with the win keeping Neenah tied atop the standings in the Fox Valley Association.

"We knew this was going to be a huge game for us, and that was our focus at practice the last few days," said head coach Andy Braunell, whose team improved to 8-1 in league play and is tied with Hortonville for first place. "That team is extremely athletic and very fast in transition which was a point of emphasis. I am very happy with how we played and executed on both ends of the court."

It was the Rockets' third straight win since their lone loss of the season.

"This was a really great win for us," senior guard Sammie Buss said. "The entire team played as a unit tonight and we worked hard all game long. I think that is what helped us win this game."

Allie Ziebell led Neenah with 15 points, followed by Ava Kok with 14 points. Buss added 13 points in the win as the Rockets had three players in double figures for the first time in their last four games.

"I think as a group, we really play well off of each other and that gets us going as a group," she said. "It doesn't matter who scores for us or when they score. We know that we have plenty of players capable of making shots and all it takes is for some of those shots to go in to get us going."

One of the keys for the Rockets was some sharp shooting from behind the 3-point line.

The Rockets knocked down 13-of-24 from behind the arc with six different players making at least one trey in the game. Kok led the way with four, while Ziebell and Buss each had three.

The Rockets also outrebounded the Ghosts 28-17 in the game, led by Autumn Schabo's eight caroms.

Neenah held a 25-19 lead after a hard-fought first half and stretched the advantage to eight early in the second half before a basket from Kok ignited a 9-2 run for the Rockets that pushed the lead to double figures at 43-28.

The Rockets never relinquished control of the game the rest of the way, stifling the potent Ghosts – who came into the game ranked fifth in the state.

"Our biggest adjustment defensively was basically getting our bottom three girls to crash inside with the top two girls taking care of the perimeter," Braunell said. "It doesn't matter who you are supposed to guard at certain times. As long as everyone is working together like we were defensively tonight we can be an



Photo by Dustin Riese

Ava Kok dribbles away from a Kaukauna defender Tuesday.

elite defensive team."

The Ghosts, defensively, were able to limit Ziebell's point production as the UConn recruit was held to less than half of her per game scoring average.

Yet, the junior standout does more than just score and her rebounding and playmaking ability – which was backed by a team effort that saw 10 players get into the scoring column – helped lead the Rockets to the win.

"One of the things that stood out tonight was that we didn't turn the ball over that much," Braunell said. "When Ziebell has the ball in her hands, whether she is scoring or not, she is going to make sure our offense is set up and ready to go. If teams want to sell out to stop her, we have plenty of other options on this team which we showed tonight."

Neenah is scheduled to host Fond du Lac tonight as four of the team's next five games will be at Ron Einerson Fieldhouse. The Rockets will welcome in Marshfield in a nonconference game for next Tuesday before returning to FVA play on Friday at Appleton East.

Ice report

By Jim Nobble

PAYNE'S POINT HOOK AND SPEAR FISHING CLUB

As of Monday, I have been finding that we still have 8 to 10 inches of ice on average throughout the northern part of the lake. I will say though, that I did find a spot with 6 inches right next to shore by the clubhouse, which did not totally surprise me

due to the recent rain and warm weather that has caused runoff by shore and the real shallow areas right by shore.

I would use extreme caution around the islands

and reefs right now because I am sure the ice will be very unstable around them in the shallower waters. I talked to Don Herman from Otter Street Fishing Club in Oshkosh and he has found an average of 7 to 9 inches of ice out from Merritt Street in Oshkosh.

At this time I would only travel by foot, ATV, snowmobile or small UTV. I will do my best to keep everyone updated with any changing conditions on the Payne's Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club's website and Facebook page.

Remember, the ice is never 100% safe and if you are questioning the safety of it, check the ice depth yourself or do not go on it.



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Foucault dives into successful Neenah tradition

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

On his second trip to dive at the WIAA state meet last year, Ryan Foucault was disappointed in his finish but took away a valuable lesson from the experience.

Attitude is everything.

"I was so worried about how I was doing. Every single dive, I was like this is going to go terribly and at the end I scored like 50 points less than I should have. I realized something had to change," said Foucault, who ended up finishing 15th at the state meet. "So, the entire summer leading up to the season, after every dive I'm going to forget what happened and move on to the next one."

The approach has certainly worked.

Foucault is again diving at a high level for Neenah High School. He is undefeated in Fox Valley Association dual meets and is on pace for another trip to the state meet later this winter.

"My first meet of the year, I had a bad dive and got bad scores, but it didn't bother me. I was like, 'I'll get the points back on the next one,'" Foucault said. "The season is going great right now. Overall, the team is doing great and the dive team is doing great. We are all just learning and trying to get ready for our harder competitions."

Diving is almost a separate sport from swimming even though both swimmers and divers are part of the same team and can score the same points in a given meet.

Divers usually are working on their dives during a practice, while swimmers spend their time swimming laps or working on turns and starts. At the bigger meets, divers will often dive the day before the full roster of swimming events takes place.

Foucault said in past years, he would attend the swimming portion of a large invitational or bigger meet to support the team and this year he has taken it a step further.

"This year I asked to start swimming in dual meets so I could bridge the two because we don't really talk to the swimmers," Foucault said. "We are right next to each other but we are in our own worlds doing different things. I wanted to get into position to be a captain so I could link the team more."

Foucault is relatively new to the sport of diving, compared to many of those he competes against.

He didn't take up the sport until the summer of his freshman year in high school when he took part in a summer diving program taught by a former coach. And without a gymnastics background – he said he did have a trampoline in his yard growing up – didn't have a natural



Neenah News

Senior Ryan Foucault is a two-time state qualifier in diving and looks to make a third trip to the state meet this season.

link to diving skills.

But with hard work and some tough lessons, Foucault learned the sport quickly.

"Most people I've talked to will say that they have been doing this since they were six years old or something and then I say, I have been doing this since I was 14," Foucault said. "I'll be honest, I did not like it all. Learning the dives was immensely tough."

Foucault said he often physically felt the dives he did incorrectly and then had to be mentally strong enough to get back on the board and try it again.

"I remember learning the front 1 1/2, I would go front flip and then smack (hit the water). And front flip and then smack. And over and over again," Foucault said. "The first thing my coach told me at practice is that you have to have a mind for this."

Senior Spotlight

If you belly flop on a dive, you do not want to step up on that board and that's basically the learning experience of every dive."

But nothing matches the feeling when the hurdle of a new and more difficult dive is overcome.

"You are just happy when you do it. Your heart is pumping and it feels great when you achieve something," Foucault said. "It's awesome. Before it, you are thinking a million different things and there are a million different outcomes and when you do it and you dive into the water you come out just cheering and smacking the water and stuff."

Foucault said he has about 35-40 dives in his overall repertoire that he can use in competition. The trick is trimming it down to 11 for the larger meets and WIAA postseason competition – with five dives being required.

The more difficult the dive, the more points it is worth and that allows Foucault to get creative with what he chooses to do.

"The optional dives are where you can go crazy," Foucault said. "Now is the phase where we are starting to learn harder dives. As we go toward conference, we start fine-tuning our list to make sure we do everything good, everything right when the time comes."

There is one dive he has yet to perform in a competition, but remains on his mind as a possibility.

"I've actually talked to my teammate about if I am winning by a lot, I'm just going to cannonball it on the last dive," Foucault said with a smile. "I don't think I could do that, though."

Foucault is focused on finishing his senior year in strong fashion but already he knows that the end of the season won't be the end of his competitive diving.

Despite being so new to the sport, Foucault earned a partial scholarship to Northern Michigan University and will continue his career there next year. He made the commitment over the summer after seeing the school and meeting the other divers.

"Diving for only 3 1/2 years and being college committed is weird because people do this their entire lives and may not reach that. And for me to just jump in there and be at that level is astonishing," Foucault said. "Five years ago, I didn't know it was a high school sport. If you would have told me before freshman year that I would be going to college (to dive) I would have never believed you."

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

First half keys Zephyrs' seventh straight win

St. Mary Catholic built a 41-11 halftime lead and cruised in the second half to a 69-24 win over Sheboygan Christian in a Big East girls basketball game Tuesday.

Audrey Norville led a balanced attack in the win, finishing with 15 points and seven rebounds. Sienna Anderson and Nolie Anderson each reached double figures with 11 and 10, respectively, while Chloe Vogel and Emily Vogel each chipped in nine.

The Zephyrs, who are ranked ninth in Division 4, have won seven straight games and improved to 12-1 overall and 8-1 in the Big East North.

Rockets stifle Spartans in first half for easy win

Neenah held Oshkosh North to just 10 points in the first half and built an 18-point advantage before rolling to a 53-32 win over the Spartans in a Fox Valley Association game at Oshkosh North.

Allie Ziebell led the way with 17 points, while Ava Kok added 14 in the win.

The Rockets held the Spartans to just 9-of-26 shooting from the field, while forcing 19 turnovers.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Neenah splits pair of conference contests

The Rockets suffered their first conference loss of the season Tuesday, falling to Kaukauna, 72-61, at Ron Einerson Fieldhouse.

Neenah fell behind 28-20 at halftime and couldn't outscore the Ghosts in the second half in the loss.

Brady Corso led the way for the Rockets with 21 points, while Charlie Wunderlich added 16 and Cal Klesmit finished with

12. No other Neenah player had more than five points in the game.

The loss ended the Rockets win streak, which was extended to three by an 81-67 win over Oshkosh North last Friday.

Sam Coulthard knocked down eight 3-pointers and finished with a season-high 27 points to lead the way for Neenah. Klesmit added 20 points, while Corso and Elliot Swanson added 16 and 14 points, respectively. Klesmit added six rebounds and six assists in the win.

The loss dropped Neenah to 6-1 in FVA play, a half-game behind first-place Fond du Lac. Those two teams play today in Fond du Lac.

St. Mary Catholic dealt first loss of season

Michael Fairweather and Cole Uhlenbrauck each scored 15 points but St. Mary Catholic suffered its first loss of the year, falling 78-62 to Howards Grove last Friday in a battle of the top two teams in Division 4.

The top-ranked Tigers built a 43-34 halftime lead and then outscored the Zephyrs 35-28 in the second half to earn the win.

St. Mary Catholic made nine 3-pointers in the loss, while Charlie Nackers added nine points and Danny Griffith and Fisher MacKenzie chipped in seven points apiece.

The Zephyrs are now 11-1 on the season and 6-1 in the Big East North, one game behind the Tigers.

BOYS HOCKEY

Neenah co-op squad picks up pair of wins

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha scored three times in the first period and never looked back in posting a 6-4 win over Appleton United on Tuesday.

Chase Collins opened the scoring, while two goals from John Kriz staked the

Rockets to the 3-0 lead after the opening period. Appleton narrowed the game to 3-2, but goals from Richie Bernice and Beckett Davidson extended Neenah's lead back to three late in the second period.

Ben Kitowski added an empty net goal for the final margin.

Mark Sutton and Luke Sutton each picked up two assists in the win, while Caleb Moore finished with 31 saves.

The victory followed up a 5-4 overtime win over De Pere on Friday, with Kriz notching the game-winner 21 seconds into the extra period off assists from Calvin Zinda and Cooper Zinda.

Kriz also scored in the second period to finish with two goals in the game along with Mark Sutton. Luke Sutton picked up the other goal.

Cooper Zinda and Ty Laabs each registered two assists in the win, while John Horneck notched the win in net as he totaled 20 saves.

The Rockets are now 7-9-1 overall this season and are in second place in the Badgerland Conference with a 4-1-0 record.

The Rockets will play at Fond du Lac on Tuesday.

BOYS SWIMMING

Freestyle sweeps fuel Rockets' dual meet win

Neenah swept the top three places in three different freestyle events and also picked up wins in all three relays as the Rockets knocked off Appleton West/Kimberly 128-54 in a dual meet on Tuesday.

Drew Gaerthofner teamed with Braden Loudon and Josh Bellin to finish 1-2-3, respectively in the 50-yard freestyle. David Murphy then won the 100-yard freestyle with Quinn Koeper taking second and Bellin placing third.

Gaerthofner then added a win in the 500-yard freestyle, with Gideon Benner and Loudon rounding out the top three

finishers.

Other individual wins for the Rockets at the meet came from Tanner Trustem in the 200-yard individual medley and Ryan Foucault in diving.

The Rockets also won all three relays, starting with the quartet of Trustem, Julian Kuehn, Gaerthofner and Joshua Youngwerth winning the 200-yard medley relay.

The winning 200-yard freestyle relay foursome was Kuehn, Murphy, Bellin and Youngwerth, while Trustem, Loudon, Koeper and Gaerthofner combined to win the 400-meter freestyle relay.

Rockets place 12th in 22-team invite

Drew Gaerthofner posted a pair of top-five finishes to lead the Neenah finishers at the 22-team Marquette Invitational on Saturday.

Gaerthofner finished fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke and added a fifth place in the 100-yard freestyle at the meet. He also joined Tanner Trustem, Julian Kuehn and Quinn Koeper in placing 12th in the 200-yard medley relay.

Trustem added a 16th-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke and a 19th place in the 200-yard individual medley, while the Rockets were also 13th in both the 200-yard freestyle and 400-yard freestyle relays.

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Obituaries

LaVerne Kons

LaVerne Kons passed away at the age of 95 on Saturday, December 10, 2022. She



fought hard to stay alive even up to her last breath, but her heart was too weak to go on.

She had a difficult year battling health problems, but she always managed to keep on fighting to live and

even overcoming a bout with COVID. She would tell everyone that her kids would not let her go. She also said that she had the best kids. We heard that many times this year.

LaVerne was born on August 6, 1927 in Milwaukee to Mary (Sigl) and William Matuszak. She grew up on a farm near Seymour, and attended a one-room schoolhouse in her younger years. She was able to finish one year of high school and then she was expected to go to work to help her family. At age 15, she worked at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay. She also lived at the hospital and performed many duties such as working in the lunchroom, cleaning hospital rooms, and working in laundry. Later on, she worked in some of the mills, including Scolding Locks in Appleton.

On June 18, 1949, she married Norman A. Kons and they went on to have 11 children. Besides managing a large family, mom did volunteer work at her church, St. Patrick's in Menasha. She continued to volunteer later in life as well, even while taking care of her husband who had suffered a stroke in 1982. She volunteered at St. Joseph's Food Pantry in Menasha for 18 years and St. Vincent DePaul store in Neenah.

LaVerne enjoyed life and participated in many events in the area, especially with her younger sister, Dorothy Kons. Dorothy and LaVerne were always togeth-

er. Oktoberfest was one of her favorite events. LaVerne loved to go to dances in her younger years. She loved dancing to polka music. In fact, she met her husband Norman at a dance hall. She loved being active, especially biking all over Doty Island up to the age of 85. She learned how to swim in her 50s and cross-country ski, and golf. She did many activities with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She would love to go to their games and school events even into her 90s. She loved playing cards and board games such as Scrabble and Chinese Checkers and didn't like to lose.

Mom enjoyed going to her Rosary Club every Monday morning at St. Patrick's. She also kept a garden that her children helped her maintain in recent years. Tomatoes were one of her favorite things to eat.

LaVerne loved to travel and went on many trips with her younger siblings. She and her sisters also took annual trips to Milwaukee and Door County. One of her favorite trips had been to St. Lucia in the Caribbean. She also loved going to church picnics around the area, watching the Packers, and the World Series.

LaVerne lost her husband Norman on April 20, 1999. She is survived by her children: Luann (William) Streur, Menasha; Steve (Debbie) Kons, Menasha; Fred (Christine) Kons, Neenah; Norman (Kelle) Kons, Appleton; John Kons, Menasha; Jolene Kons, Appleton; David (fiancée Cindi Henschel) Kons, Clintonville; Mary (Tom) Kaul, Shawano; Margie (Rodney) Bastin, Menasha; Peter Kons, Menasha; and Amy (Ryan) Hanson, Livonia, MI. LaVerne is further survived by her 18 grandchildren: Nicole, Heather, Ben, Sarah, Andrea, Christopher, Kristin, Adam, Alicia, Becky, John James, Scott, Jacob, Patrick, Cassandra, Cresha, Corisa, and Conan; and 28 great-grandchildren. Also surviving her brothers: Norbert, Ronald, and Richard (Marge) Matuszak; and her sisters: Dorothy Kons, Alice Van-

den Langenberg, Barbara Socha, JoAnn (Bill) Vanden Langenberg, and Marilyn Socha; her in-laws: Jake (Lucia) Kons, Anna Mae Matuszak, Jerry (Jeannie) Kons, Marie Kons, and Sharon Kons.

LaVerne was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Norman Kons, by her sisters: Mary and Joan Matuszak, Eleanor Zakowski; by her brothers: Donald, Harvey, LeRoy, and Ralph Matuszak; by her brothers-in-law, Gregg, Alex, Bernard, Merlin, Leander, and Hugo Kons, Emil Wolff, Jerry Willems Van Dijk, Roger Zakowski, Joe and Alvin Socha, and Larry Vanden Langenberg;; sisters-in-law, Eileen Wolff Willems Van Dijk, Diane Matuszak, Rose Kons, Betty Kons, Phyllis Matuszak, Marlene Matuszak, and Kathleen Oriedo. LaVerne is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and Godchildren.

A Funeral Mass for LaVerne was held in December and she was laid to rest next to Norman at Holy Angels Cemetery, Darboy.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to LaVerne's favorite charities: St. Joseph's Food Pantry, St. Vincent De Paul, and COTS in the Valley.

LaVerne's family would like extend a special thank you to Dr. Curtis Baltz, her doctor for over 40 years, for all of his care, as well as her nurse Sherry Klein, RN for her assistance and care during her stay at

Oak Park Place.

Mom, you will be forever missed and our hearts are broken from losing you. We know you are dancing in Heaven with Dad until we meet again. Love, your children.

Mom's Journey

When my moment on Earth began to wind down, a fleeting glimpse emerged to signal my forthcoming journey.

The last night spent with a celestial existence suddenly included a familiar face embedded from within to guide me through visions of ambiguity.

With my last breath taken I began to fade away into infinite time guided by an earthly presence that entrusted me to divine spirits while awaiting the unforeseen messenger where all of my expectations gave rise to interpretations of absolute transcendence. There the children stand near to bring me to my prepared destination through the trinity between the beginning and the end.

In my triumphant goodbye to loved ones and friends I whisper the expression, Donec Iterum Conveniant (Until we meet again).

Although no longer visible, I remain within the blue of the sapphire where enigmatic communication may be the beacon to eternity.

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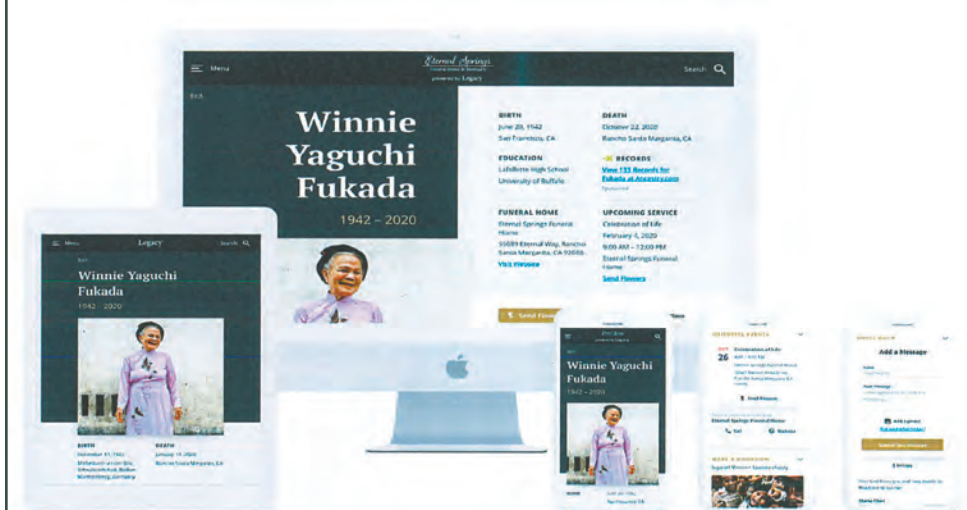
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Kid Scoop

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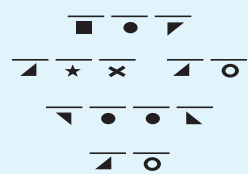
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Power of Words

The words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. helped to change the world. His words still inspire people today. He was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. His father was the minister of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, as was his father before him. Because Martin and his father had the same name, the family called him M.L.

Caring

When M.L. was young, he played with all the children who lived in his Atlanta neighborhood.

Use the code to find out what M.L.'s mother told him.



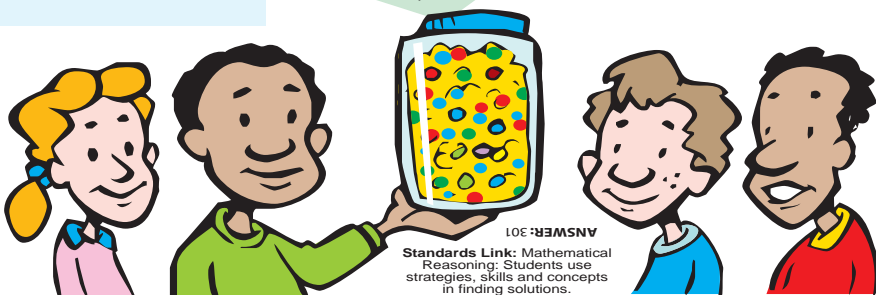
▴ = A ● = O
 ▾ = D ★ = R
 ✕ = E ○ = S
 ▽ = G ▲ = U
 □ = N ■ = Y

But when they reached school age, the white children went to a school for white children only, and M.L. was sent to a school for black children. After the first day of school, M.L. and his white friends were never allowed to play together again.

Standards Link: History: Students identify the people honored in commemorative holidays.

Use Your Marbles

Martin and his friends have been collecting marbles. They counted to see how many marbles in all. Use the clue to see if you can figure out how many marbles.



Clue: When counted by 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, or 6s, there is always one marble left over. When counted by 7s, there are no marbles left over. The answer is between 299 and 310.

Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Students use strategies, skills and concepts in finding solutions.

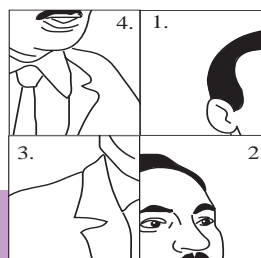
Compassion

M.L. was very sad when his friends would no longer play with him. He asked his mother why they couldn't.

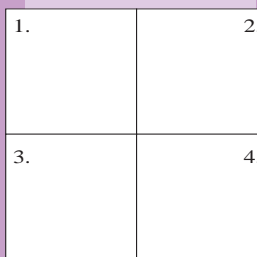
She talked about why the family didn't ride streetcars, why there was a WHITES ONLY sign on the elevator at City Hall, why there were restaurants that refused to serve black people, and theaters that allowed blacks to sit only in the balcony. She said that it was simply because some white people didn't understand that we all deserve equal treatment.

M.L. decided right then and there that someday he would try to change the world. He wanted to make it a place where white children and black children could play together and enjoy the same rights.

Standards Link: History: Students understand the importance of individual action.



Draw Dr. King by copying what you see in each numbered box.



Integrity

As M.L. grew up, he saw more and more examples of segregation. He also saw his father and others speak out against hatred and segregation. These people taught M.L. about the power of words. He learned that words could heal or hurt.

"When the history books are written, someone will say there lived black people who had the courage to stand up for their rights."

— Dr. Martin Luther King

Extra! Extra!

Word Power

Select a headline from today's newspaper and rewrite it to say just the opposite. How many more ways can you rewrite that headline. How does the impact of the words change when you write the headline different ways?

Standards Link: Sentence Structure: Students are able to write complete sentences.

Discipline

- 8 + 7 = _____ the driver forced him to give up his seat to a white person.
- 3 + 5 = _____ Once he gave a speech in another town about the rights of black people. He
- 9 + 11 = _____ with a Ph.D. in Theology. M.L. would now be addressed as Dr. King.
- 2 + 4 = _____ As M.L. started school, he discovered he could dazzle people with his words.
- 9 + 8 = _____ With hard work and study, M.L. eventually graduated from Boston University
- 5 + 6 = _____ won a prize for his speech attacking segregation laws. On the bus ride home,

The sentences in the above story are out of order. Find the correct order by doing the math problem next to each line. Then put the line in order from the smallest sum to the largest.

Standards Link: Character Education: Students identify character traits in others.

Courage

For more than 20 years, Martin Luther King spoke out against _____ and segregation. During these years, he was arrested, had his _____ bombed, and was accused of being "un-American."

In 1963, Dr. King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. "I have a dream that one day in Alabama little black boys and black girls will _____ hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and _____."

In 1964, the _____ Rights Act was passed, granting equal rights to black Americans and Dr. King received the Nobel Peace _____.

Sadly, just four _____ later, Dr. King was shot and killed in Memphis, Tenn. But his words live on.

BROTHERS

CIVIL

JOIN

PRIZE

YEARS

RACISM

HOME

Find where each of these words belong in this story.

Standards Link: History: Students understand the achievements of famous people.

Double Double Word Search

MARTIN
CIVIL
BOSTON
EBENEZER
MARBLES
ALABAMA
LUTHER
KING
DREAM
SPEECH
WHITE
IMPACT
BOYS
PLAY
HEAL

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

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

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

Quiz a Friend!

Quiz a friend or family member with the following statements. If they don't know the answers, you can use today's Kid Scoop to be the teacher! All the answers can be found on today's Kid Scoop page.

- Where was Martin Luther King born?

- From which college did Dr. King receive his Ph.D.?

- In 1964 Dr. King was awarded an important prize. What was it called?

- In what year was the Civil Rights Act passed?
 1964 1968 1970
- What was the name of the famous speech Dr. King gave in Washington D.C.?

- Give at least one example, recounted in today's Kid Scoop page, of Martin Luther King's courage.

- In what year was Dr. King shot and killed?
 1964 1968 1970
- Words were one tool Dr. Martin Luther King used to bring about social change.
 True False

- ANSWERS**
- Atlanta, GA
 - Boston University
 - Nobel Peace Prize
 - 1964
 - "I Have a Dream"
 - Continuing to speak for civil rights even after being arrested and having his home bombed.
 - 1968
 - True. (He did use actions, too. He helped with the bus boycott. He was arrested. He led protests.)

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Demonstrate comprehension by identifying answers in text.

Write On!

I Have a Dream

Write a paragraph about a dream you have for yourself, or your school, or your community, or the entire world.

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