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School policing plan endorsed

Neenah backs SRO pact pending district approval

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

After months of back and forth, the city of Neenah has approved an agreement for Neenah police to continue to supply two school resource officers to the Neenah Joint School District, with the city taking on more of the costs.

The agreement is not final until the Board of Education votes on it late next month. Fox Crossing remains in negotiations with the district.

Formerly called the police school liaison officer, school resource officers (SROs) are responsible for law enforcement activities occurring at the school during school

hours, but not general student discipline.

With the new Neenah High School being built in Fox Crossing, the district is reconfiguring. Middle school students will move to the current high school site. Roosevelt and Wilson elementary students will move to Horace Mann and Alliance will move to the existing Wilson elementary.

Once the reconfiguration is complete, the district will have one high school and middle school, nine elementary schools and one 4-year-old kindergarten elementary school. With the exception of the new high school, all of the schools are in Neenah.

Neenah police will continue to supply SROs at the schools in Neenah, but not the high school in Fox Crossing. The district informed Neenah police that it only wants to fund one SRO in Neenah because the district will also be funding SROs in Fox Crossing.

Police Chief Aaron Olson said at an earlier Public Services and Safety meeting that the new school configuration is going to be a challenge for police. He said it is unsustainable to expect one Neenah SRO to cover the middle school and all 10 elementary schools.

Negotiations between the district and Neenah have been ongoing for months with the district unwilling to maintain the current funding level of reimbursing the city 75% of



Olson

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Photo by David Hall

Chess challenge

Gus (left) and Eric challenge each other in a game during a Thursday open chess night at the Neenah Public Library. The game is just one community activity offered starting at 5:30 p.m. on the second floor. See the library calendar on Page 8.

New signs will point out Doty Island's special history



DIDC photo

Signs noting the historic significance of the Doty Island area are being installed.

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Doty Island will soon have new signs installed honoring the historic significance of the area as part of a two-year project by the Doty Island Development Council (DIDC).

The aluminum "Historic Doty Island" signs will be 8 inches high and 16 inches long with a black background and white lettering. They will be placed on the street name signs, with 82 in Neenah and 44 in Menasha. The city is donating the labor to install the Neenah signs.

The island encompasses parts of Neenah and Menasha and is named af-

ter James Doty, who first traveled to the area in 1820. After finishing his second term as governor of the Wisconsin Territory in 1844, Doty and wife Sarah built a home and settled on Doty Island in Neenah.

DIDC is a nonprofit group that works to preserve the historic significance of the island area. Plans for placing street sign toppers in Doty Island began at a DIDC meeting in 2019. The process was delayed due to the pandemic.

DIDC president Jacy Park said Menasha wanted to create a neighborhood sign policy before considering the DIDC's request to place the signs.

Menasha completed its policy last April. In December, Menasha approved the placement of the signs. Last week, the Neenah Common Council gave its approval.

DIDC is donating the signs and brackets to each city for a topper to be added to every street sign. One sign will be placed at each intersection, with the signs facing the street more frequently traveled.

The total cost is \$12,000; with \$5,000 estimated for Menasha and \$7,000 for Neenah.

SEE **Doty Island** ON PAGE 6

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Corrections

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

About the newspaper

Published every Friday and mailed to subscribers through the U.S. Postal Service and available online at www.neenahnewsnow.com.

Neenah News content serves the Neenah Joint School District geographical footprint.
Cover price: \$2.00

Neenah News is owned by Oshkosh Herald LLC, 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh, WI, 54901. 920-385-4512.



Neenah News

Tim and Megan Florek have retained an attorney to prevent the city from enforcing an ordinance that would require them to remove this sign from their Congress Street front yard.

Signs against school rezoning at issue

Residents retain legal help to fight ordinance

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is receiving push-back from residents in the Shattuck Middle School neighborhood due to efforts to enforce a sign ordinance.

Signs displayed in front of homes in the Shattuck neighborhood state, "Don't Rezone Shattuck Middle School Leave R-1 Alone."

The signs refer to the Common Council's recent vote on rezoning the Shattuck Middle School site so that a developer could build apartments and single-family homes after Shattuck is vacated by the school district later this year.

The rezoning request failed to pass the Common Council last month, but the signs remain. Under Neenah ordinance, residents may display one portable sign of 6 square feet or less for a period of 30 days within a 90-day period.

The city sent letters to property owners notifying them that the signs violate the ordinance and gave them until Feb. 8 for removal.

City Attorney David Rashid said there were about 65 homes that had signs up related to the rezoning.

Another 10 residents who had signs that were not related to Shattuck also received notices of violation. Rashid said many of the residents that received the violation letters removed the signs.

The penalty for noncompliance is a fine of up to \$500 for the first offense and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense. Each day the sign is displayed is considered a separate offense.

Two residents who received a notice of violation letter, Tim and Megan Florek, who live on Congress Street, retained counsel with the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty (WILL), a nonprofit law firm out of Milwaukee.

Tim said the Shattuck rezoning is an important issue for his family and the community.

"We simply want to be able to continue expressing our opposition going forward," he said. "This sign is one way in which we can get our message across."

Deputy counsel Lucas Vebber said WILL is helping the residents stand up and fight back.

"Unfortunately, it is becoming all too common for government actors at all levels to use their authority to silence opposing voices," he said.

WILL sent a letter to Neenah last week, stating that enforcing the ordinance is a violation of the First Amendment.

"The Floreks have a First Amendment right to display the yard sign on their property," WILL wrote in the letter. "As the United States Supreme Court has made clear, signs are a form of expression protected by the free speech clause."

In order for the city's sign ordinance to be enforceable, it must be content neutral. WILL argues that Neenah's ordinance is not content neutral because it places dif-

ferent restrictions based on the content of the signs.

The regulations vary based on whether the sign is for construction, political campaigns, promotional, yard sale or subdivision.

City Attorney David Rashid said the ordinance is content neutral because it regulates any such signs throughout the city regardless of the message.

If the signs are up for more than 30 days within a 90-day time period, "then they're in violation of Section 24-132(8) and must come down," he added.

WILL cites the 2015 Supreme Court decision in *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*, in which the court struck down a town's sign ordinance because it targeted specific subject matter for differential treatment.

According to WILL's letter, the Floreks will not be removing their sign. WILL demanded the city withdraw the notice of violation and provide assurances that the sign ordinance will no longer be enforced. If Neenah does not comply, WILL wrote that it will take legal action against the city.

Rashid said the city does not plan to withdraw the notice of violation that was sent to any of the residents who have signs that violate the ordinance.

"If the rest of those who got notices do not remove the violative signs by the deadline stated, then further action may be taken," Rashid said.

Earlier this week, about 30 homes in the Shattuck neighborhood continued to display the signs at issue.

Winnebago ice report

By Jim Nobbe

PAYNE'S POINT HOOK AND SPEAR FISHING CLUB

As of Sunday, I found an average of 8 to 11 inches of ice in the bays, and an average of 9 to 13 inches of ice out in the middle of the lake.

The only major working crack I saw runs from Blackbird Island north-northeast toward the Fire Lane 8 area from what I can see. Payne's Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club will most likely

put an ATV bridge out in the next week on that crack.

There is about 2 inches of snow on the lake, and travel is good right now. I recommend ATV, UTV or snowmobile travel at this time.

Remember, the ice is never 100% safe.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society



Skating traditions

A group of boys enjoy ice skating on the frozen dam. News records show that it was common for skaters to fall through cracks in the ice. Ice skating on only recommended at Washington Park or The Plaza downtown.

Doty Island convenience store options have hurdles

Ways to serve hospital visitors, residents aired

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council last week continued the discussion on potentially bringing a convenience store to Doty Island with a particular need for those visiting patients at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center.

Council member Tami Erickson said the closest convenience store available to people on Doty Island late at night is the Kwik Trip on Green Bay Road.

“There is absolutely no place on the island that you can go (to) a convenience store if you’re a visitor, an employee at Theda Clark, or there’s no place for residents of Doty Island to have access to a convenience store.”

Director of Community Development Chris Haese gave a presentation on the feasibility of bringing a C-store to the island. He said most of the modern C-stores in the Fox Valley are built near a four-lane highway system and are rarely seen more than a mile from one.

A C-store on Doty Island would be more than two miles away from the closest highway exit. Interior builds are possible but they’re much less desirable due to the investment required.

Haese said there are few sites on Doty Island that can accommodate the size requirements of a C-store, which often include a car wash as an ancillary service. The most feasible location on the island is the former Custom Marine site on First Street.

“It’s not my favorite location for a C-store,” he said. “I feel that particular site has a higher and better use but perhaps if it was packaged with the C-store you may have something that could work.”

Haese said the city reached out to Kwik Trip and representatives liked that ThedaCare Regional Medical Center plans on staying at the location and is putting new investment into the building. He said Kwik Trip would prefer to be on North Commercial Street, which has more traffic.

A store on Doty Island would rely more on neighborhood and local traffic versus highway traffic and its success would be dependent on a full product line due to reduced traffic and lower fuel sales.

Haese said other C-stores such as Casey’s, Speedway and Kum & Go aren’t making as many investments in Wisconsin as Kwik Trip is. He said a local chain on the island likely wouldn’t have the extensive product line that Kwik Trip has. He added that Kwik Trip is interested but only if it can bring a full line of items.

Kwik Trip locations typically sell beer and malt beverages. Neenah is one of only a handful of communities in Wisconsin that prohibits the sale of alcohol at gas stations. Past attempts to change that ordinance have failed.

City Attorney David Rashid told the council that changing the ordinance is a necessary step in attracting C-stores to Neenah.



Haese

The C-store council directive was sent to the Public Services and Safety Committee. Mayor Jane Lang said the council will take the appropriate steps to have the item on an agenda soon.

In other action, the council:

- Approved a lease amendment agreement with Youth Go to continue leasing space in the city garage on Cecil Street.

Youth Go formerly leased space at the location to host its annual haunted house that it discontinued and replaced with an outdoor haunted trail walk called The Hallows at Memorial Park.

The lease amendment provides Youth Go with continued use of the city garage storage room situated above the lunch room, which they will use for costume and prop storage for The Hallows.

The amendment also allows Youth Go continued use of the former tool room. Public Works Director Gerry Kaiser wrote in a memo that Youth Go plans to vacate that space in the next year.

Kaiser said the spaces that Youth Go is vacating will be used by the city for storage of seasonal equipment including bypass pumps, fountains, snowblowers and traffic control.

Youth Go has leased space in the city garage for \$292 per month since 2005. The lease amendment is with a decrease in leased square footage at \$100 per month. Kaiser said the lease agreement is comparable in cost and square footage to the agreement the city has with Kids Kart Club, which also leases space in the building.

- Approved a 2023 intermunicipal agreement with Appleton for Dial-A-Ride cost sharing.

Dial-A-Ride offers reduced fare trans-

portation for residents who are 60 years and older of the cities of Neenah and Menasha through Valley Transit.

The agreement allows Valley Transit to use state and federal funds toward program costs for Neenah and Menasha residents, with 2023 program costs estimated at about \$44,677.

- Approved the purchase of parking enforcement software and parking enforcement hardware, to include 13 printers and one tablet, at a maximum estimated cost of \$16,500.

The new parking enforcement software purchase was necessary as Neenah’s previous parking enforcement software provider was acquired by another company.

- Approved a 2023 contract for an interim market update assessment with Associated Appraisal in the amount of \$50,000.

State law requires municipalities to assess real estate to plus or minus 10% of market value. Neenah’s assessment ratio currently stands at 13.2% below market value.

The city last conducted a revaluation in 2019 and since that time the city’s median home value has increased by 35%.

Deputy director of community development Brad Schmidt wrote in a memo that the market update will ensure all property owners are paying their fair proportional share of real estate property taxes consistent with market conditions.

The assessment and appraisal will be completed by late summer. At that time a notice of assessment letter will be sent to property owners.

Funding for the assessment and appraisal was budgeted as an ARPA one-time expenditure.

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Churches deal with trend of declining attendance

Congregations work on post-pandemic growth

By Kaitlyn Scoville
NEENAH NEWS

A recent Gallup study titled “In U.S., child churchgoing habits fade in adulthood” found that while 67% of adults regularly went to services as a child, only about 30% still do.

The results, which were collected from more than 2,000 Americans ages 18 and older, suggest adults’ experience as children was like that of their parents, but today’s adults have very different religious habits. Across Gallup’s polling in 2022, an average of 21% of U.S. adults have no religious preference.

The Rev. Jon Strasman, pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, 809 S. Commercial St., said he has noticed that a lot of younger people have been “saturated” with activities and other busyness in their lives.

“They really want the church to be relevant and are tracking where their views are,” Strasman said. “Young people today want to serve and do missions and maybe aren’t as interested in weekly worship attendance.”

Before everything shut down, attendance was strong, according to Strasman. Now, numbers are about two-thirds to three-quarters of what they were pre-pandemic. Even before COVID, they were livestreaming sermons on Facebook and YouTube. Most attendees are older, but they recently hired a new director of children, youth and family ministry and are “noticing a good return of young families and parents.”

Even so, 58% of adults under age 35 say they went to church every week or almost every week growing up, compared with 70% of adults aged 35 and older. Trinity Episcopal Church in Oshkosh pastor, the Rev. Chris Corbin, said this could be attributed to a cultural shift in the mid-1900s.

“When you look at generational demographic trends, one of the things that happened with baby boomers as parents is that they had a tendency to emphasize the child’s ability to meet their personal choice above other considerations,” Corbin said. “What that often meant was that there would be less explicit religious instruction related to the faith that the parent associated with in the home.

“My personal experience was that it was an expectation that if I lived in the same house as my parents, we would all go to church. There would be more likelihood that as children begin to grow into adoles-



Photo from Our Savior’s Lutheran

The Rev. Jon Strasman conducts a children’s sermon recently at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.

cence, they will be given more independence for it. As a result, a lot of teenagers were not expected in the same way that predecessor generations would have been expected as teenagers to continue at the church.”

Trinity Episcopal has seen a gradual comeback from the pandemic, averaging 53 churchgoers each week in 2022, compared to 48 in 2020 and 50 in 2021.

Corbin said that over the past several centuries, churchgoing was simply something you had to do to be a functioning member of society. It was similar to today’s Rotary clubs or being a member in chambers of commerce.

“They saw church as a place where you could see your friends, you could make business deals and you could be seen by the community, and that’s just not required anymore,” he said.

Pastor Steve Spence of MillCity Church, 120 N. Lake St., has a rather different demographic than what’s seen nationally.

Since its inception in 2015, the church has seen consistent growth each year and peaked in January 2020. When they closed that March due to the pandemic, they were already livestreaming.

With an average Sunday attendance of about 450-500, Spence said about 50% of attendees are 18 and under, while only about 5% are above 60.

“We’re very much a young congregation,” Spence said. “What we believe is that being together, we’re stronger people. Separation causes a rainbow of problems, and we don’t believe that’s healthy. We’re confident in who we are and what we’re called to do. It isn’t rocket science. A huge win for us is having a ministry for everyone at their age. I believe that certainly has played a role in our attendance.”

Although the goal of most ministries is to hold an authentic worship of God, part of the effort to attract and retain parishioners is to make the space welcoming and all-encompassing.

“The church should stand for something, and I believe that most people will respect someone who takes a stand. We get our stand from the Bible, from the word of God,” Spence said.

The threshold for what investing in those ministries would look like becomes higher and higher, Corbin said.

“It becomes this feedback loop where the older your congregation gets, the easier it is to keep getting along, and the harder it is to start getting younger because the resources are going to go into those older congregants.

“It doesn’t matter how many people you get in your door if they can’t feel comfortable staying in there,” he said. “You have to look at how we build the infrastructure so

that young adults can actually flourish in your congregation, and one of the things that I often said was that part of how you do that is treat young adults like adults.”

Strasman said that another key is to consider multiple intelligences in sermons in such a way that connects young people to what’s relevant today.

“I think that matters to people as well, putting your money where your mouth is. If all are welcome, you live that out,” Strasman said. “I try to bring in things that are relevant and what’s happening in the world, but there’s a real fear among congregation members if you share something political; they get real skittish.”

Another thing Strasman and Our Savior’s has been trying to do is host smaller ministries that can be held at places such as residences or coffee shops.

Corbin said too that while attendance may shift generationally, the key to keeping it up is all in the habit.

“It’s something that has to become a habit. In order to make it a habit, that means you have to go even when you don’t want to, even when it’s inconvenient. I have a sneaking suspicion that your kids are much likely to keep going to church, if they saw you going, even when you were on vacation, even if it meant putting off going hunting a day. Setting the example says this is the most important thing.”

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FVTC, two UW campuses form degree alliance

By Dan Roherty
NEENAH NEWS

Fox Valley Technical College formalized two collegiate transfer agreements last week with the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and UW-Green Bay that expand on connecting its associate degree programs with other colleges in Wisconsin.

FVTC received approval from the UW Board of Regents last spring to offer the two-year liberal arts associate of science and associate of arts degrees that have since gained accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission.

The associate degrees will meet general education requirements at UW Oshkosh and UWGB to give the students junior standing toward a bachelor's degree. A similar agreement was signed in May



Lanter

between FVTC and Lakeland University, which has its Fox Cities Center at 2320 Industrial Drive in Neenah and has served hundreds of FVTC graduates over the past three years.

Jennifer Lanter, vice president of learning and chief academic officer at FVTC, said the work on this landmark agreement started in fall 2021 to end the uncertainty over course and program transfers that have been treated individually instead of as a whole.

"Whatever course you pick will go in as a course to the four-year school, and you will go in with the full 60 credits as a junior, which is important for registration and other reasons," she said.

This new association also allows FVTC students to create a degree program that is eligible for financial aid, opening the opportunities for financially conscious students who want to explore college but unsure of their career plans while earning credentialed credits.



Photo from FVTC

UW-Green Bay Chancellor Michael Alexander (from left), FVTC President Chris Matheny and UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt signed separate agreements last week connecting their campuses' degree programs.

"One of the key parts to this is that it provides a financial aid option for students that they didn't have before at (FVTC)," Lanter said. "Students could not just come here and take general education courses that they would want to transfer if they weren't part of a program."

Thursday's signing ceremonies marked completion of all requirements among the learning institutions and are official with last week's start of the spring semester for FVTC students to begin pursuing these degrees. Lanter said about 35 students from FVTC campuses are already transferring this semester to one or the two UW campuses with the help of a campus adviser.

"UWO and Fox Valley Technical College are again leveraging our two institutions' proximity and distinctive but complementary missions to strengthen our academic relationship and bring us even closer in service to students," said UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt. "It

is really about deepening our ongoing commitment to enhance opportunities for student access and success in higher education to citizens of northeastern Wisconsin and, specifically to learners in this region."

Lanter said the agreement makes it seamless for students who won't have to wait for course reviews when transferring.

"This is almost doing the front end of the work for the students," she said. "This is us taking all of these courses and giving them to (UW Oshkosh and UW-Green Bay), saying these are the courses the student would bring to you."

A significant number of the courses

will be offered both in person and online, while Lanter foresees an enhanced experience for students in the classroom.

"It will provide them with a diverse opportunity here to learn with students who are studying in other areas as well because they're taking general education classes as part of their program," she said.

She also noted that the new science labs on FVTC's Oshkosh Riverside campus add to opportunities for degree programs to be completed using all locations.

"These agreements create new educational pathways for students in our district who have shown interest in beginning their college coursework at Fox Valley Technical College and then transferring to another school in pursuit of a bachelor's degree," said FVTC President Chris Matheny.

While technical colleges continue to grow connections to UW campuses, the four-year universities gain another needed source for funneling students into their educational system. Differences remain among UW campuses as far as class transfers while all schools in the Wisconsin Technical College System mirror each other's programming.

Lanter said FVTC will continue to work with the UW schools to help build specific degree tracks for career programs and pursue similar agreements with other private universities such as Ripon College and St. Norbert College.

"It's just going to continue to expand and take the work off of the student in trying to navigate the transfer system," she said, "because it's complicated and takes time."

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

Restaurant Week underway in Fox Cities

Restaurant Week Fox Cities 2023 begins today (Friday) and runs through Feb. 5 with diners having a chance to win a daily giveaway courtesy of TDS Telecommunications.

On Instagram or Facebook, diners can post a picture of their breakfast, lunch or dinner experience before midnight and tag @restaurantweekfoxcities and @TDSFiber,

including #TDSFiberRWFC in the caption.

In addition to a \$50 restaurant gift card announced each day, entries will be registered to win an \$800 private chef pairing dinner for six at Osorio's Latin Fusion.

Participating restaurants, including Wissota Chophouse in Fox Crossing, and menus are at restaurantweekfoxcities.com.

Crane count in Winnebago County set for April

Crane conservation efforts are supported by those participating in the annual Midwest Crane Count set from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. April 15, which includes 45 designated sites in Winnebago County.

Participants can pick one of the locations online and check with Evelyn Meuret at 920-573-7828 or evelynmeuret57@att.net on availability to secure the site. The

sites of those who counted in 2022 will be saved until the end of March.

Those not able to count this year are asked to contact Meuret so she knows the site is available.

Winnebago County site maps, a data sheet and other information is found at the International Crane Foundation website: savingcranes.org.



Photo by David Hall

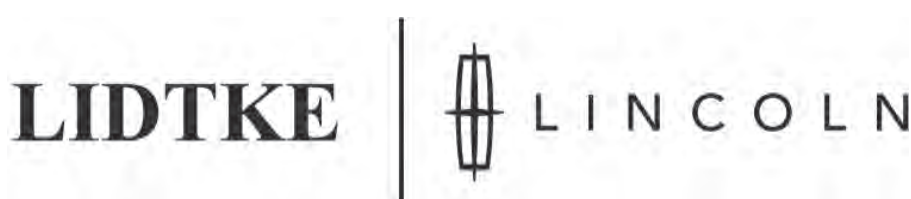
Healthy lesson

Stuffed animals arrived at the Neenah Public Library for their annual well-animal "checkup" performed by trained professionals Saturday. Visits included height and weight measurements, pretend shots, blood pressure tests and Band-Aids. The program, which also was held Thursday, helps children learn about the importance of kindness and not to fear doctor visits.



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A screen shot from Steel Highway magazine's online railcam shows the Canadian National tracks along Harrison Street just north of Cecil Street.

Neenah train watching finds online interest

By Randall Davidson
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

People who enjoy watching trains go by have a new way to do so in Neenah.

Rail enthusiast magazine Steel Highway is hosting a webcam near the Canadian National tracks in Neenah. It's along Harrison Street just north of the Cecil Street overpass. The live feed looks both north and south and includes both live sound at the site and audio of railroad radio transmissions.

Steel Highway hosts about two dozen of these so-called "railcams," nearly all in the Midwest. In addition to the Neenah installation, they have three others in Wisconsin: one on either side of Stevens Point on the Canadian National and one in Trempealeau aimed at the BNSF Railway's Chicago-Twin Cities mainline and the Mississippi River.

There are more than 400 railcams in operation, some of which are at railroad

museums. An operator called Virtual Railfan has more than 80 cameras at present, including one in Waupaca.

It's not uncommon for the Waupaca stream to have more than 100 viewers from around the world on weekday afternoons to watch the local freight train from Neenah make deliveries to the adjacent Waupaca Foundry.

These railroad video operations are part of a larger trend. Aviation enthusiasts can access airport cams around the world and there are also maritime installations. In our region, the Door County Maritime Museum hosts a live feed of Sturgeon Bay's waterfront and the Manitowoc Marina has a similar feed.

Live video is also available for watching Great Lakes boats in Duluth and at the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

The Neenah railcam and others from Steel Highway can be accessed at youtube.com/c/SteelHighwayRailcams.

Doty Island

FROM PAGE 1

Funding for the signs comes from a donation from the late Mowry Smith Jr. that was earmarked "Sign Fund" when Mowry served on the DIDC.

"Mowry passed away in 2013 but we believe he'd approve of the Historic Doty Island signs being used to help better identify the Doty Island area and demonstrate our community pride," Park said.

The signs are in accordance with state and federal guidelines. Neenah's signs will be manufactured locally at WG Inc. on North Commercial Street. Menasha will be creating their signs in-house.

Park noted the DIDC will have additional signs made and provide replacements for signs that are stolen or damaged. The DIDC plans to have the signs made this spring, and all installed by the end of the year.

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have the pulse on the community? Interested in feature stories or prep sports?

We are looking for writers interested in creating community features, news stories or sports reporting on a freelance basis for either the Oshkosh Herald or Neenah News weekly newspapers. Submissions would need a local focus that also can connect to broader topics. Compensation is on a story-by-story basis.

Contact editor@oshkoshherald.com to get more details.



Calendar of events

Friday, Jan. 27

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

Monday, Jan. 30

Red Cross blood drive, noon, Best Western Hotel & Conference Center, 1000 Cameron Way

Thursday, Feb. 2

"Eurydice" by Rocket Players, 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Friday, Feb. 3

"Eurydice" by Rocket Players, 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Saturday, Feb. 4

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

"Eurydice" by Rocket Players, 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Sunday, Feb. 5

Sunday Concert Series: Caravan Gypsy Swing Ensemble, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

"Eurydice" by Rocket Players, 7 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Friday, Feb. 10

Rusty Drake & the Watchmen, 6:30 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road

Saturday, Feb. 11

Warm Your Heart, 11 a.m., downtown

Fox Crossing overdose death brings felony plea

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A woman charged with helping hide the body of a person who died of a drug overdose in a Fox Crossing home entered into a plea agreement last week to an amended charge of harboring or aiding a felon.

Rhonda Jacobson, 47, of Menasha, was initially charged with party to the crime of hiding a corpse. Erik Averbeck, 45, pled no contest and was found guilty in September of hiding a corpse and was sentenced to two and a half years in prison.

Jacobson and Averbeck lived in a home on Fatima Street in Fox Crossing at the time of the incident. A relative of the victim told authorities they dropped her off at the home on Dec. 11, 2021. The victim was staying in the basement, where Averbeck said he found her dead Dec. 14.

Under Wisconsin law, a person who supplies a drug to an individual who fatally overdoses can be charged with first-degree reckless homicide. Averbeck and Jacobson panicked when they found the body. They purchased a tarp from a hardware store, rolled the victim inside and wrapped it in duct tape. They left the corpse in the basement.

Documents indicate a short time later the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Fox Crossing Police received reports about an overdose and arrived at the home to conduct a visit.

In the basement, authorities found the tarp with the body inside. Also inside the home authorities found drug paraphernalia. An autopsy determined the victim died of a drug overdose attributed to fentanyl.

The victim was believed to have a cell-phone that was never recovered. The District Attorney's office said there wasn't enough evidence to charge Averbeck and Jacobson with homicide.

Jacobson entered into a plea agreement Jan. 19 to a single count of harboring or aiding a felon, with a sentencing recommendation of three years' probation. Her sentencing is set for May 3.

Overdose fatalities continue to be a leading cause of death in Winnebago County. Forty-one people fatally overdosed in the county in 2021. In 2022, there were 31 confirmed overdose deaths and seven more possible overdose deaths, which are pending toxicology results. The majority of those deaths are attributed to fentanyl.



Menasha Police Department photo

A vehicle struck power pole lines and flipped on its side Saturday on Plank Road in Menasha.

Drunken driving arrests draw attention

Neenah News

Two local women were arrested on separate operating while intoxicated charges in Menasha and Wausau, both on Jan. 21, with photo and video footage from the incidents being shared widely on social media.

Around 4:30 p.m. last Saturday, Menasha police responded to the 800 block of Plank Road for an accident with injuries. Police found a vehicle on its side next to a power pole with the driver trapped inside.

Witness statements indicate the vehicle was traveling eastbound while swerving and it nearly struck a vehicle head-on before hitting the pole's support lines, going airborne and landing on its passenger side.

The driver, a 72-year-old Fox Crossing woman, was arrested for first-offense OWI. She was transported by ambulance to a hospital for evaluation.

Menasha police posted photos of the accident on social media.

"This is a reminder to please find alternatives to driving while intoxicated," they

wrote. "This crash could have been much worse."

At around 10:30 p.m. that evening, Wausau police responded to State 29 after receiving reports of a wrong-way driver headed toward the city.

The responding officer's dash cam video, which Wausau police shared on social media, shows the driver nearly colliding head-on with the officer's vehicle. The driver then stopped her vehicle.

The driver was identified as a 34-year-old Neenah woman. She was found to be intoxicated with a preliminary breath sample of 0.29%, which is more than three times the legal limit.

Officers also discovered the woman was supposed to be caring for a family member's child in Wausau and had left the child alone. Officers responded to the home and found the child was safe.

The driver was transported to jail and charged with OWI third offense and neglecting a child.



Omro Rushford Volunteer Fire Department photo

Water rescue coordination

Winnebago County ice rescue exercises drew teams from Neenah-Menasha, the county and other municipalities last Saturday on Lake Butte des Morts in Oshkosh.

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue's assistant chief of training Jim Peglow said the on-water operations allowed crews to share information and experiences in dealing with waterways that are otherwise broken into response zones for fire departments.



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Public Library calendar

Visit neenahlibrary.org for details.

- Feb. 1**
Musical Movers (all ages), 10 a.m.
Mah Jongg Meetup, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 2**
Wild Child Adventure Storytime at Memorial Park (all ages), 10 a.m.
Open Chess Night (all ages welcome), 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 3**
Fitness Friday: Boot Camp, 9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga, 10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 5**
LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+), 1 p.m.
Sunday Concert: Caravan Gypsy Swing Ensemble, 2 p.m.

- Feb. 6**
Adult Afternoon Program: Famous Hikes Around the World, 2 p.m.
Short Story Night at Lion's Tail Brewing Co., 7 p.m.
- Feb. 7**
Toddle Time (ages 12-24 months), 9:15 a.m.
WeeRead Storytime (all ages), 10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 8**
Musical Movers (all ages), 10:00 a.m.
Mah Jongg Meetup, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9**
Wild Child Adventure Storytime at Memorial Park, 10 a.m.
Open Chess Night (all ages welcome), 5:30 p.m.

- Feb. 13**
Monday Matinee, 1 p.m.
- Feb. 14**
Toddle Time (ages 12-24 months), 9:15 a.m.
WeeRead Storytime (all ages), 10:30 a.m.
Tech Talk Tuesday: A Guide to Google Drive, 1:30 p.m.
Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30 p.m.
The Next Chapter on Zoom, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 15**
Musical Movers (all ages), 10 a.m.
Mah Jongg Meetup, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 16**
Wild Child Adventure Storytime at Memorial Park, 10 a.m.
Open Chess Night (all ages welcome), 5:30 p.m.
Founders and Settlers – George Mansur, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 17**
Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength, 9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga, 10:30 a.m.

- After-Hours Campout (kids of all ages), 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 19**
LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+), 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 20**
Memory Cafe: Painting Rocks, 1:30 p.m.
Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: Case Histories by Kate Atkinson, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 22**
Mah Jongg Meetup, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 23**
Open Chess Night (all ages welcome), 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 25**
Friends of Neenah Public Library Magazine & Media Sale, 10:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.
- Feb. 26**
Friends of NPL Magazine Sale – free day (No AV will be available), noon to 4 p.m.
- Feb. 27**
MMBK – “Eleanor” by David Michaelis, 10 a.m.

School policing

FROM PAGE 1

the cost for two SROs for 52 weeks. Last week, the Common Council voted 8-1 in favor of approving an SRO agreement, with the city taking on a greater share of the costs. Under the approved agreement, the district will continue to fund two SROs by reimbursing the city 75% of the cost, but only for 39 of 52 weeks. The city will fund the remaining 13 weeks.

District negotiations with Fox Crossing regarding two SROs at the new high school are ongoing. Director of finance Jeremy Searl said at an earlier meeting that the biggest change to the Fox Crossing Police Department's 2023 budget is the onboarding of the two SROs.

The police will need two vehicles for the SROs, with the plan being to use two ve-

hicles the department already has that are set to be replaced.

Fox Crossing Police Chief Scott Blashka told the village board in late 2022 that he's unsure if the district will pay for any of the onboarding expenses for the SROs, which include weapons, shields and tactical helmets. Blashka said the equipment is necessary for the officers no matter who is paying the bill.

Village Manager Jeffrey Sturgell said late last week that it's Fox Crossing's hope to finalize an SRO agreement with the district in the next couple of months. District communications director Jim Strick said the district can't share any information about the Fox Crossing SRO contract due to the ongoing negotiations.

Neenah's SRO contract will be discussed at the Feb. 7 Board of Education meeting for a first reading with a potential vote Feb. 21.

Altrusa seeks annual scholarship applicants

Altrusa International Club of Oshkosh will award five scholarships totaling \$7,500 this spring to individuals who are a high school senior or an undergraduate or graduate student planning to attend a university, technical college or institute.

Altrusa has worked as a part of the Oshkosh volunteer community since 1949 by providing volunteer services and financial support to projects that enhance many areas of life. Literacy is at the foundation of the organization.

Scholarship applicants must be a resident of the Altrusa International Club of Oshkosh Inc. service area (Neenah, Oshkosh, Menasha, Omro and Winneconne) and have high school senior status or be an undergraduate or graduate student.

All completed applications must be postmarked no later than April 14. Applications are available at districtseven.altrusa.org/Oshkosh.

Contact Barbara Kamp at bkamp@northnet.net for more information.



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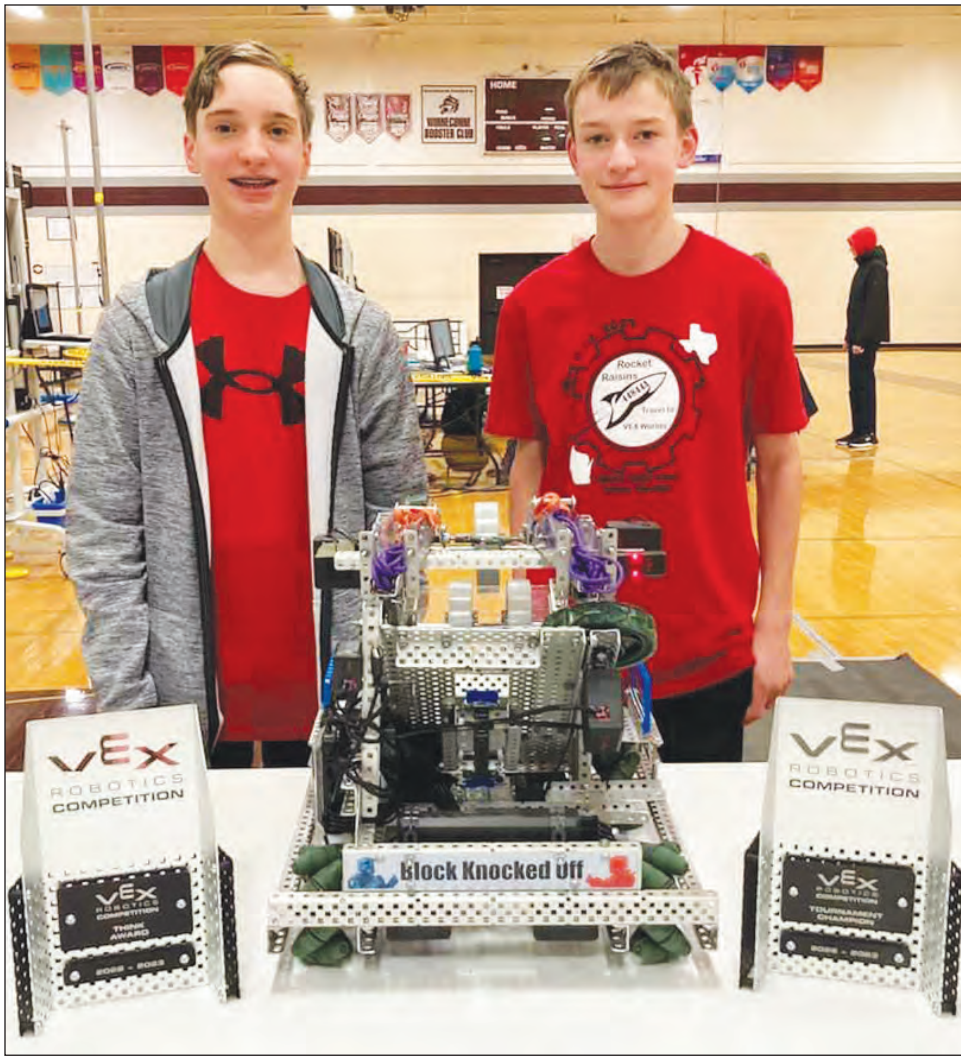
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Neenah Joint School District photo

Robotics success

Neenah High School's robotics team had six teams compete in Winneconne this past weekend, including a pair of freshmen who won the overall title. Jack DeMenter and Jack Henry took home the title in their first tournament and were also awarded the Think Award recognizing their autonomous programming skills.

Volunteer needs

Make the Ride Happen is seeking volunteers to provide transportation to older adults during the week so they can get to essential services. Drivers are eligible to receive 31 cents/mile. Contact Jan at 920-832-9360 or rsvp@volunteerfoxcities.org.

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. Contact Brooke at brooke.techlin@thedacare.org or 920-729-2207.

Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to join the Senior Crew, an elite group of core volunteers who commit to a somewhat reg-

ular schedule. Contact Angie at angied@foxcitieshabitat.org or 920-544-7856.

Covey is seeking volunteers for the Covey Connects program. Support participants with disabilities as they gain independence in a variety of community events. Contact Stephanie at 920-292-1120 or sburke@covey.org.

St. Joseph Food Program is seeking a donation attendant to assist people who would like to drop off donations by unloading and providing receipts on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8-11 a.m. This activity includes lifting and using a pallet jack. Contact Peggy at plynch@stjoes-foodprogram.org or call 920-734-9461, ext. 313.

Bridgewood housing project update notes some delays

Neenah News

An update on the multifamily housing project underway at the former Bridgewood Golf Course noted some delays in foundation work for two buildings and some of the bridge engineering needed for the development.

Developers' plans in the 46-acre overall space include a 60-unit apartment complex along Harrison Street and another 206 units in 26 buildings. Access to the estimated \$22 million development would be created from Jewelers Park Drive and Harrison Street.

Community Development director Chris Haese told the Common Council at last week's meeting that foundation work couldn't be completed in the fall and developers are also awaiting permits on roof work. The overall project was approved in May with an initial hope to have some of

the living units ready by this fall.

A new bridge is being constructed by the city across Neenah Creek at the primary entry point into the development. Public Works director Gerry Kaiser told council members there was an expected issue in getting the hydraulics for the bridge to work without affecting the upstream flow of the creek during a high-water event.

He said the city has been working through the issue and with the project designer to update the road plan to accommodate that and put the project in a better position to meet DNR standards.

The overall project, which is expected to add about \$20 million to the city's tax base, includes a pedestrian connection to the new public recreational trail along Jewelers Park Drive that will connect with the Bridgewood and Harrison trails.

Business news roundup

BAGO Bar & Grill is holding a grand reopening party starting at 11 a.m. Feb. 4 at 6392 County A. Formerly known as Vinland Still & Grill, the business has been owned by Katie Samuelson and Hank Klundt for more than 19 years and will feature a new menu. Hours are Mondays and Tuesdays from 3 to 10 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m., Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 1 a.m. and Sundays from noon to 9 p.m. More information at bagobargrill.com.

Club Carwash has opened at 1201 W. Winneconne Ave. Through Sunday the

business is running a promotion with \$1 car washes that benefit the Neenah Animal Shelter. Business hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays.

Relish and Roots, which specializes in ready-to-go meal kits using locally farmed foods, has opened at 206 N. Commercial St. The business owned and operated by Rhonda and Kevin Mesko, also has a kitchen and retail space. Go to relishandroots.com or email meals@relishandroots.com for more information and its weekly menu.

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Big second half carries Rockets past Ghosts

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

For the second time in two weeks, Neenah's fourth-ranked girls basketball team was facing a showdown with a talented Kaukauna squad.

And for the second time in two weeks, the Rockets walked off the court with a win.

Led by the outside shooting of Allie Ziebell and the inside presence of Amaya Jones, Neenah cranked up the offense in the second half to pull away to a 71-52 win in Fox Valley Association action on Tuesday.

"Kaukauna came out and played a very good defensive game," head coach Andrew Braunel said. "The first three quarters of the game their game plan to focus on Ziebell was working extremely well and it took us a while to get going."

Neenah held a slim three-point lead at halftime before outscoring the Ghosts 43-27 after intermission.

Ziebell scored 19 of her game-high 26 points in the second half, including back-to-back 3-pointers early in the half to extend the lead to 36-27.

As the Kaukauna defense limited Ziebell's looks, seniors Sammie Buss and Ava Kok each drained 3-pointers. Ziebell then



Photo by David Hall

Head coach Andrew Braunel and the Rockets girls basketball team are 17-1 overall this season and tied for first in the Fox Valley Association.

continued her strong second-half scoring 10 of her team's 14 points in one stretch to push Neenah's lead to 61-43.

"The last nine minutes of the game were outstanding, and we played some of our best basketball this season," Braunel said. We started to get into our groove offensively, and that helped create tons of open looks for our shooters. Defensively, we had some moments where things didn't go the way we hoped, but we picked up our

intensity to shut them down."

Jones backed Ziebell's performance with her best game of the season.

The junior finished with a season-high 15 points and also had a strong night on the glass for the Rockets.

"I thought today we played a really solid game as a team," Jones said. "We kept our intensity that we love to bring even when we were going through some of the downs. That is one thing I have always loved about

this team. We have such amazing team chemistry that it allows us to pick up each other all the time."

Jones believes that matchups against quality opponents like Kaukauna will benefit the team down the road.

"I find that it helps to not only improve my play in matchups like this, but also helps every one of my teammates play," she said. "Whenever we are faced with a tough challenge or during adversity, we know that we can always count on each other. That is something that you can't coach and the bond we have on the court together is unbreakable."

Jones scored six early points as the Rockets grabbed a 12-2 lead at the start and held a double-digit advantage through the opening stages of the game.

Kaukauna answered with a 13-2 run to take its first lead of the game at 15-14 and the lead seesawed between the two teams for much of the half.

As intermission neared, Ziebell and Jones combined to score the final eight points and give Neenah a 28-25 lead.

The Rockets remain tied with Hortonville at 11-1 atop the FVA standings and will host Appleton North today.

Neenah's offense sluggish without Klesmit in loss to East

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

It was like eating at a nice restaurant only to find the best part of the menu was not available.

Sure, the meal is going to be good, but it could have been so much better.

Neenah's boys basketball team gave a strong defensive effort against Appleton East last Friday night and held the lead in the second half, but without leading scorer Cal Klesmit they couldn't finish things off in a 46-38 loss at Ron Einerson Fieldhouse.

"Playing without your leading scorer and one of your top playmakers is hard with only a few days' notice," head coach Lee Ra-

bas said. "We competed and played well on defense. Just couldn't make enough shots and didn't do enough to win."

Even without Klesmit, who is averaging 20 points and six rebounds per game, the Rockets had the lead with about five minutes to go.

Ethan Hoelzel drilled a 3-pointer to give the Rockets a 38-34 lead but those would be the final points the Rockets would muster as the Patriots closed the game on a 12-0 run to secure the win.

It was the third straight Fox Valley Association loss for Neenah, which slipped to 6-4 in league play and 9-7 overall.

"East has a couple really good players so we knew it was going to be a tough game,"

senior Elliott Swanson said. "I thought we competed and played hard on the defensive end. We had a couple guys get in foul trouble too so that hurt, but overall I thought we played hard but just didn't execute offensively at times."

Swanson finished with 11 points, including three 3-pointers, to lead the Rockets, while Brady Corso added 10 points.

"With Cal out we lose our leading scorer and someone who helps our offense flow a lot but our game play didn't change," Swanson said. "Normally I don't start off the game shooting a ton but if I'm open I'm pretty confident that I'm gonna make it. This game was one where I got a lot of open looks and just made the most of them."

Neenah led 25-18 at halftime but went scoreless for the first five minutes of the second half, which allowed the Patriots to tie the game at 23. Sam Coulthard hit a basket to snap East's run, but the Patriots came right back to go ahead 26-25.

Corso scored eight straight points for the Rockets as Neenah built a 33-30 lead before Hoelzel's 3-pointer later extended the lead to four.

But East hunkered down on the defensive end to keep Neenah from scoring again and then salted the win away at the free-throw line.

"They just got the lead and we had to foul, Rabas said. "That was the difference at the end."

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Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Zephyrs top century mark in easy win

St. Mary Catholic's potent boys basketball team matched its season-high point total in a 108-66 win over visiting Cedar Grove-Belgium on Tuesday night.

Five players reached double figures for the Zephyrs, who hit nine 3-pointers in the game and went 15-of-18 from the free-throw line.

Cole Uhlenbrauck led the way for St. Mary Catholic with 26 points, followed by Fisher MacKenzie's 21 points. Michael Fairweather (16), Danny Griffith (13) and Braeden Brenn (10) also reached double figures in the win.

St. Mary Catholic, which scored 108 points against Mishicot earlier this season, led 59-38 at halftime.

The Zephyrs nearly hit 100 points against Mishicot again last Friday as they picked up a 98-40 win.

Fourteen different players scored in the game for St. Mary Catholic, led by Brenn with 15 points, Uhlenbrauck with 13 and Griffith and MacKenzie each with 12. MacKenzie also added nine rebounds.

Rockets come up short against Ghosts

Brady Corso scored 20 points to lead three players in double figures, but Neenah fell short on the road against Kaukauna, dropping a 67-60 decision in a Fox Valley Association contest.

Elliott Swanson added 14 points and Jackson Schlomann chipped in 10 points.

It was the second straight loss and fourth in the last five games for the Rockets, who played without standout guard Cal Klesmit for the second game in a row.

The Rockets will play at Appleton North on Friday.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Vogel pours in 30 points in Zephyrs' win

Chloe Vogel tallied a season-high 30 points as St. Mary Catholic pulled out a 61-60 win on the road against Cedar Grove-Belgium on Tuesday night.

It was the 11th straight win for the Zephyrs, who are the eighth-ranked team in Division 4.

Vogel scored 21 points in the second half to help fend off the Rockets. She was also an impressive 14-of-15 from the free-throw line in the game. The 30 points was four points off her career-high of 34 set against Ozaukee during her sophomore year.

Emily Vogel and Audrey Norville each chipped in 10 points in the win.

St. Mary Catholic, which held a six-point halftime lead, was outscored 39-34 in the second half.

The Zephyrs will be back on the road on Friday when they travel to face Random Lake.

Buss' big night fuels Rockets over Patriots

Sammie Buss knocked down nine 3-pointers and finished with a season-high 29 points to lead Neenah past Appleton East, 82-57, Friday night.

The 29-point effort matched her career-high, which was set during her freshman season at Xavier against Fox Valley

Lutheran. She finished 9-of-16 from 3-point range as Neenah knocked down 16 3-pointers as a team.

Allie Ziebell finished with 23 points and 15 rebounds, while Ava Kok chipped in 13 points.

SWIMMING

Trustem, Gaerthofner lead way in Neenah's win

Tanner Trustem and Drew Gaerthofner were each a part of four wins as Neenah swam past Appleton North/East, 131-54, in a Fox Valley Association dual meet on Tuesday.

Trustem finished first in the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard butterfly at the meet, while Gaerthofner won the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard backstroke. The two were then each a part of the 400-yard freestyle relay, while Trustem was on the winning 200-yard freestyle relay and Gaerthofner swam a leg on the first place 200-yard medley relay team.

Quinn Koeper in the 50-yard freestyle, Julian Kuehn in the 100-yard freestyle and Joshua Youngwerth in the 500-yard freestyle each added individual wins for Neenah.

Youngwerth and David Murphy rounded out the winning 400-yard medley relay team, while Koeper, Murphy and Kuehn joined Trustem to win the 200-yard freestyle relay. The winning 200-yard medley relay team consisted of Youngwerth, Kuehn and Koeper, along with Gaerthofner.

WRESTLING

Herm leads Neenah at Highlander Invitational

Jacob Herm went 5-0, with three pins, to claim the 126-pound title at the Highlander Invitational hosted by Homestead High School on Friday.

Herm stuck his first three opponents before beating Kewaskum's Ethan Immel, 3-0, in the semifinals. He went on to score an 8-0 major decision over Jayden Yauck of Oconomowoc in the title match.

Eric Schaufelberger added a second-place finish at 220 pounds as the senior picked up four pins – all in the first period – before falling in the championship match.

Declan Koch (120) and Nate Cleveland (285) each added third places and posted two pins apiece, while Eli Gast was fourth at 182 pounds.

Germantown won the team title at the meet with 356 points, while Kewaskum was second with 314 points and Neenah was third with 312.5 points.

Rockets drop dual meet to powerhouse Ghosts

Defending state champion Kaukauna proved to be too much for the Neenah wrestling team as the Rockets dropped a 53-15 decision in the final dual meet of the regular season.

Nick Novak opened the meet with a win at 160 pounds, pinning the Ghosts' Peyton Lee in 5:30.

But Kaukauna won the next six matches to take control of the dual meet and collect the win.

Declan Koch added a pin of Moses Hammen in 5:15 at 120 pounds, while Eli Armatti scored a 5-3 decision win at 113 pounds for Neenah's remaining team points.

Obituaries

Meredyth King

Our loving, caring and kind-hearted mother, sister and friend, Meredyth



King (Meyer), 76 of Hixton, WI (formerly Neenah, WI), left us for her beautiful garden in the heavens on January 16, 2023 following a fight with brain cancer. As the oldest sister of eight, Meredyth was always taking care of others, helping with her younger siblings and enjoying a long, fulfilling career as a registered nurse. Meredyth lived on a beautiful farm with her partner of 15 years, Bob Darkow, and dog Izzie. She loved spending summers outside tending to her garden, always finding new recipes for canning, pickling and preserving the abundance of fruits and vegetables she cultivated. She played flute in her com-

munity band and attended Northfield Lutheran Church. Meredyth was deeply loved and will forever be missed by family and friends.

Meredyth is survived by; her son Brad (Julie) King, and grandchildren Wyatt, Eden and Landon; her daughter Amy (Troy) Heflin, and grandchildren Bodie and Saige; her partner Bob Darkow; and her siblings Mike, Margo, Melissa, Marcus, Mindy and Murray.

Meredyth was preceded in death by her parents Jack and Joanne Meyer (Neenah, WI), and sister Mia Meyer.

A private celebration of life will take place at a later date. Please feel free to make a donation in Meredyth's name to The Serenity House, 601 Straw Street, Tomah, WI 54660, or to SeedSavers.org.

The Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home, Tomah is assisting the family. Online condolences can be offered by visiting www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com.

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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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What Happened and Why: Cause and Effect

One event makes something else happen. That's cause and effect!



News articles tell about the cause and the effect of things that happen. News articles report on something that happened and explain why. The headline tells **what** happened—or the **effect**. The article gives more details

and tells **why** it happened—or the **cause**. A good headline sparks your curiosity and makes you want to read the article to learn more.

Caution! This article is not real news! It is just for fun!

Discovering Cause and Effect

Read this silly article to answer these questions.

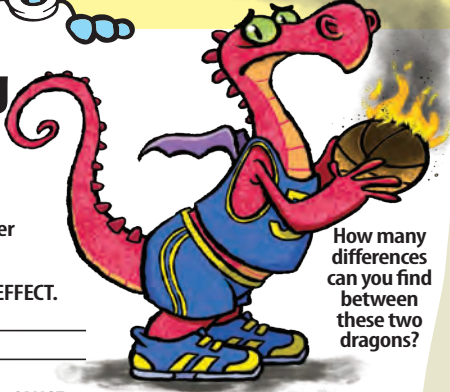
WHAT happened? This is the EFFECT.

WHY did it happen? This is the CAUSE.

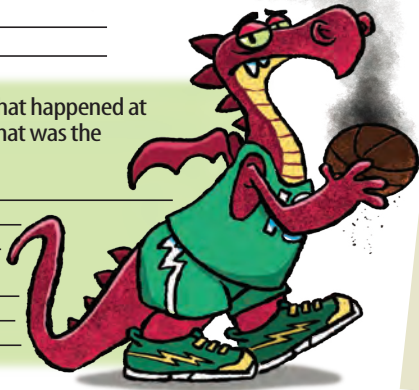
Think about something that happened at your school this week. What was the CAUSE and EFFECT?

CAUSE: _____

EFFECT: _____



How many differences can you find between these two dragons?



Dragon Burp Burns Ball

BLAZETON – Karly Kindling sparked surprise in the people watching last night's basketball game between the Southside Scorchers and the Eastside Embers at Flaming Torch High School.

"I ate a burrito just before the game," said Karly. "I overdid it with the hot sauce I added. The burrito caused my stomach to be a bit upset when I started the game."

The burrito caused stomach gas to form in the belly of the star forward for the Eastside Embers. Just as she caught the ball from a teammate, she burped.

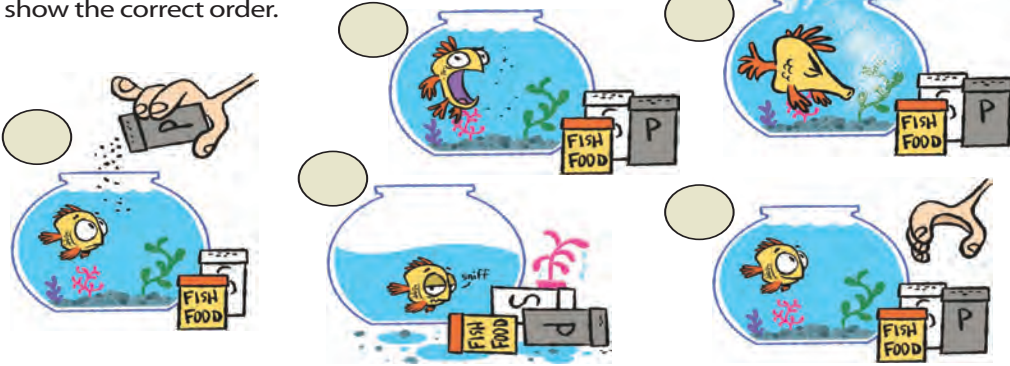
The burp caused a burst of flame to shoot out of her mouth, burning the basketball to a crisp.

"Karly took it well. She took a big breath and got right back in the game, shooting a three-pointer with a new ball moments later," said coach Coalsworth.

"But from now on," said Coalsworth, "our players will be sticking with orange slices and ice water before a game!"

Scrambled Story

Look at the pictures below. They tell a silly story of cause and effect. But they are out of order. Number the pictures to show the correct order.



Extra! Extra!

Before and After

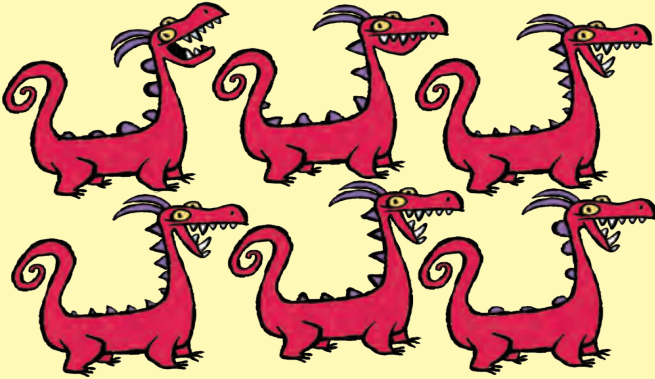
The cause of something happens before the effect. Look at a photograph in the newspaper. Try to imagine what happened before the picture was taken. Why do you think that?

Standards Link: Identify cause and effect using visual cues.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Dragon Doubles

Only two of these dragons are exactly alike. Can you find them?



Double Double Word Search

- BASKETBALL
- BURP
- CAUSE
- DETAILS
- DRAGON
- EFFECT
- EMBERS
- FLAMES
- HAPPEN
- NEWS
- ORDER
- READ
- THINK
- WATER
- WHY

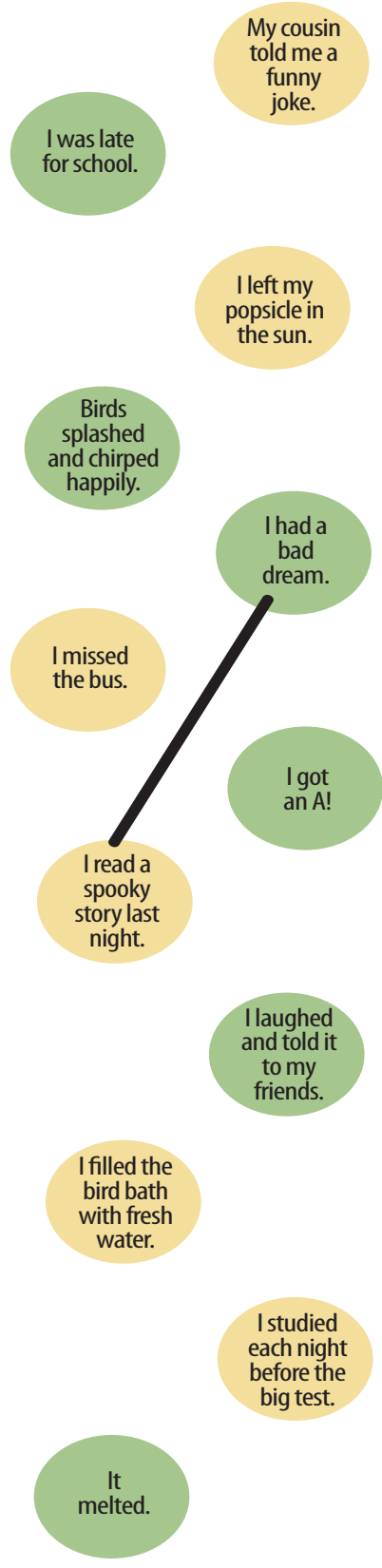
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

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

Kid Scoop Together Cause and Effect Matchup

Work with a family members to draw lines to connect each CAUSE with its EFFECT.



Write On!

What's your scoop?

Write a sentence or short paragraph that tells the who, what, when and where of some news happening in your school.

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