

The Breakwater Podcast
DON'T USE THE F WORD: EPISODE SS07
www.breakwaterwi.org
Prevent & Reduce Youth and Adult Substance Use

WE LOVE YOU
HELP IS ONE CALL OR TEXT AWAY!
CALL 2-1-1 OR TEXT YOUR ZIP CODE TO 898211

INSIDE



Senior spotlight
Neenah's Kok shares spotlight with sister
Page 10

Long way around
Circuitous route leads to home in Neenah
Page 6

City parks
Arrowhead Park plan seeks public input
Page 2



Photo by Patti Lee

Josh Preissner displays some of the colorful sturgeon decoys he handcrafts at his Neenah home.

Great-uncle's legacy on lake stays afloat

Decoy maker continues spearing season tradition

By Patti Lee
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Arnie Lau was pretty darn famous in some cold and icy places on the east side of Lake Winnebago.

This time of year those places are inhabited by a big community of sturgeon spears and among those folks Arnie is the stuff of legends. His 120-pound, 77-inch sturgeon speared Feb. 16, 1978, about 2 miles west of Nemitz Access Road that hangs in The Fishtail Bar & Grill is memorable enough.

But Arnie's great-nephew, Josh Preissner, can tell you that's only the beginning.

"Arnie was my dad's uncle and he was pretty much a hero to me," Preissner said. "I saw him as the 'Fred Bear' of sturgeon spearing."

Preissner grew up on the east side of Lake Winnebago, one of a long line of sturgeon spears. His great-uncle was a noted spearer but was most renowned for the sturgeon decoys he hand-crafted for nearly 50 years.

"As a child I was enamored by the hand-made decoys Uncle Arnie had given to my father," he said. "They looked like something from days gone by, a different era when folks made everything by hand."

Lau started making decoys in the 1940s. Sturgeon spearing was a great source of

SEE **Sturgeon decoys** ON PAGE 8

School police agreements take shape

Funding being reworked with city, village shares

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Board of Education considered an agreement with the city of Neenah for two school resource officers (SRO) to continue providing law enforcement to the district at a meeting Tuesday.

Historically the Neenah Joint School District (NJSJSD) has funded two SROs by reimbursing the city 75% of the cost for the 52-week school year. With the new high school opening in Fox Crossing next year, the district balked at funding a Fox Crossing SRO and two Neenah SROs.

Police Chief Aaron Olson has said that it's 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.

The final contract considered by the board Tuesday will shift more of the cost to the city. The district will reimburse the city 75% of the cost, but only for 39 weeks of the school year. Taxpayers will fund the remaining 13 weeks, an estimated \$50,000.

The final calculated cost for the district for the first year of the agreement is \$80,000 per officer. The amount will be recalculated for the second and third years pending other expenses.

The district will no longer pay an officer for wages incurred before 7:30 a.m. or after 4 p.m. and the police department will be responsible for those wages. If the district specifically requests officers outside those hours, it would be required to pay overtime.

Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer told the board that during discussions with Neenah and Fox Crossing a more concise list of goals for the SRO program was developed.

The four major goals include improving school safety for students and staff, pro-

SEE **School board** ON PAGE 4

Memory care programs geared toward everyone involved

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Those experiencing memory loss – along with family and friends – can socialize at an upcoming Memory Cafe at the Neenah Public Library, as one of many available to residents throughout the area.

The Fox Valley Memory Project (FVMP), situated at 1800 Appleton Road in Menasha, holds Memory Cafes several times per week at locations in Winnebago, Calumet, Outagamie and Waupaca counties. The one at the library set for 1:30 p.m. Feb. 20 will include rock painting as a socializing activity.

The cafes provide an opportunity for individuals experiencing dementia, cognitive decline or other types of memory loss to sing, play games, participate in activities and develop friendships. The themes for the cafes change each week.

Dementia is a term for several brain disorders that affect a person's ability to remember, think, make decisions and complete everyday activi-



Rohrkaste

ties, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia.

More than 6 million Americans – most 65 or older – may have dementia, according to the National Institute on Aging. Wisconsin's population ages 60 and older made up about 25 percent of the state's total in 2020.

FVMP executive director Mike Rohrkaste lost his mother to dementia about 15 years ago.

"It was a tough time," he said. "I didn't understand, she didn't understand, the care program where she lived in Ohio was

nonexistent; so it was a sad way for her life to end."

Rohrkaste represented the Neenah area in the state Assembly from 2015 through 2020, where he led a bipartisan study and task force on Alzheimer's and dementia support in Wisconsin. He later left office and began working for FVMP.

After a dementia diagnosis, there's little medical treatment available and doctors can't slow the progression, he explained. As it progresses it becomes more challenging, with the final stage resulting in

SEE **Memory care** ON PAGE 4

Neenah News

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

124 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Suite 090-B
Neenah, WI 54956

General information/customer service: Jennifer Grunwald
admin@neenahnewsnow.com
Phone: 920-486-1616
Website: www.neenahnewsnow.com

News tips and story ideas
submit@neenahnewsnow.com

Support the Neenah News

Subscribe
\$70/year - print edition and E-edition delivery
\$60/year - E-edition.
\$5/month - Monthly access to E-editions.

Go to www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe or call 920-486-1616.

Deadline to subscribe for the next issue is Monday by 10 a.m.

Advertising
advertising@neenahnewsnow.com
920-486-1616

Classified advertising
classifieds@neenahnewsnow.com
920-486-1616

All advertisements are subject to the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from our Advertising Department. All ads are subject to approval before publication. Neenah News reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject, classify or cancel any ad at any time. Errors must be reported in the first day of publication. The Neenah News shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from an error in or omission of an advertisement. No refunds will be given for early cancellation of an order.

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
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.

Arrowhead master plan seeks public input

Park developments outlined to city council

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council was updated on the Arrowhead Park master plan progress, approved shoreline design services for Doty and Kimberly Point parks and approved the purchase of police vehicles at a meeting last week.

Arrowhead dates back to 1950 and is situated at the south end of Little Lake Butte des Morts, just west of downtown Neenah. It sits atop land created from mill waste from the former Bergstrom Paper Co.

There have been four independent concept plans for Arrowhead since 1950, with the most recent plans developed in 2016 and 2017.

Mike Bell with RDG Planning & Design gave a brief presentation to the council on Arrowhead. RDG is tasked with developing an updated master plan for the site before the city moves forward on additional redevelopment.

RDG is working with a technical committee and the Arrowhead task force to develop the plan. The design firm will also open up a survey and hold an open house as opportunities for residents to provide input.

"It's a wonderful 30 acres that, much like some of the projects I've worked on, has been left somewhat untouched and now it has this great opportunity right in front of you," he said.

Bell said plans for the park will have local and regional draws that will add great value to the community. RDG will have the master plan completed in May, which will include a cost estimate and phasing for the city to use as a guide to move forward on the redevelopment.

Mayor Jane Lang said the Arrowhead task force had the opportunity to meet with business leaders last week, who expressed excitement for the park development.

"It's a great opportunity for businesses to have a place to help them recruit business workers and retain talent in this community so business leaders are very excited about this project and we're very excited to be working on it," she said.



Neenah News

Arrowhead Park connects to downtown Neenah along with its loop trail.

Kimberly Point and Doty parks' shorelines are the next Neenah locations to undergo some redesigning after council approval of Edgewater Resources for design services. The project cost is \$47,000, using budgeted capital improvement funds.

Other notable expenditures include council approval for the purchase of two 2023 Ford Hybrid marked police vehicles, one 2022 Chevy Silverado investigator vehicle, and a 2023 Sure-Trac enclosed evidence trailer at a maximum cost of \$208,000.

Fleet maintenance specialist Adam Streubel told the council the police department has been using a 1996 ambulance as a crime scene evidence response vehicle, where all its equipment is stored for investigations. He said police have outgrown the vehicle, the diesel odor is noxious and it's unreliable.

Streubel said police came up with the idea to use a trailer in place of the evidence response vehicle and add a truck as an investigator vehicle, making it available to pull the trailer to crime scenes.

Bergstrom Automotive notified police about a Chevy Silverado that's being cycled out as a loaner vehicle and is available for purchase, at a savings of \$8,000.

The benefits of using a trailer as the evidence vehicle include more space and sav-

ings in cost and maintenance.

For additional cost savings, Streubel will outfit the trailer himself, an estimated six-month process. The trailer will include power, a heater, storage units, bins, a generator, dry toilet and flood lighting on the outside.

Police also need a vehicle for the new behavioral health officer, a position approved for the 2023 budget last fall. The current investigator's car will be assigned to the behavioral health officer, keeping the department under budget.

"Buying the truck and trailer instead of a box truck is saving us enough so we can pay for the squads, which this year are \$4,000 more than they were last year," Streubel said. "So the big picture is we're saving a lot of money that we can use towards cars to stay in budget."

The two hybrid vehicles are being added as part of the police department's plan to replace existing squads with hybrids.

Menasha has been using hybrid vehicles for three years, with the cars averaging about 17 miles per gallon, which is a 50% increase over their gas-only squads.

The hybrid vehicles will be replacing vehicles that average 11.3 mpg, which amounts to about \$10,000 in fuel savings over four years.

City's sign ordinance paused as lawsuit continues

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah has temporarily halted enforcement of a sign ordinance in response to a federal lawsuit that challenges its legality under the First Amendment.

The decision to halt enforcement comes about two weeks after city attorney David Rashid said the city would move forward on enforcing the ordinance and fining any of the about 65 homes displaying the violative signs who did not remove them by Feb. 8.

The signs stating "Don't Rezone Shattuck Middle School Leave R-1 Alone" are in front of dozens of homes in the Shat-

tuck neighborhood, protesting efforts to rezone the property to allow for a housing development.

The Common Council voted against rezoning late last year, but many of the signs remain in place to protest future rezoning efforts.

The city sent notice of violation letters to residents in mid-January, stating that if the residents don't remove the signs by the deadline, they face a fine of up to \$500 for the first offense and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense or day that the sign is displayed.

Tim and Megan Florek, who live in the Shattuck neighborhood, retained counsel

with the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty (WILL) who last week filed a lawsuit against Neenah, stating that the sign ordinance is unconstitutional.

WILL wrote in court documents that the city is targeting the signs based on their message and is attempting to limit its residents' political speech.

The city contends the ordinance is content neutral and residents who displayed violative signs with messages unrelated to Shattuck also received letters.

WILL attorneys filed a temporary restraining order to stop enforcement of the ordinance while the judge considers a preliminary injunction preventing the city from taking any further action on the notice of violation or enforcing the sign ordinance. WILL is also asking for an award of damages, costs and attorney fees.

During a telephone conference before Judge William Griesbach last week, an attorney for Neenah agreed to voluntarily halt enforcement of the ordinance in lieu of granting the temporary restraining order, while the court considers WILL's motion for a preliminary injunction.

The city's response to the lawsuit is due by March 6.

Handgun found in student's backpack

Neenah News

A report of a Neenah High School student in possession of a stolen handgun Tuesday led to recovery of a gun in an empty classroom at the school and the student being taken into custody.

Neenah Joint School District officials said a high school resource officer received a call with a tip that the firearm was being kept at a residence. The student was

at school and brought in for questioning, the district reported, which led to the search of his backpack where the unloaded handgun and ammunition were found.

Once law enforcement secured the weapon, it was deemed to be an isolated incident and there was an increased police presence for the remainder of the afternoon. A lockdown drill previously scheduled for Tuesday afternoon went on as planned.



Photo by David Hall

Canine gathering

The newly developed dog park at 2122 Brooks Ave. in Neenah recently had visitors for a winter outing. A group of residents formed Friends of the Neenah Dog Park to help raise awareness and funds for the recently developed park. For more information, contact neenahdogpark@gmail.com.

Ice report

By Jim Nobbe
PAYNE'S POINT HOOK AND SPEAR FISHING CLUB

As of Monday, I am seeing 12 to 15 inches of ice in the bay and 14 to 16 inches of ice on the main lake out from Payne's Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club.

There is currently one major working crack that runs from Oshkosh to Garlic Island, to Blackbird Island then from there cuts north-northeast toward High Cliff. We currently have an ATV bridge on the crack 1.9 miles east of our landing toward Faro Springs Road on the east shore.

At the time of this writing, we do not have a tree line out or any truck bridges. I suggest parking vehicles and trailers at least 200 yards offshore if you're taking an ATV, UTV or snowmobile out. There is a fair possibility we will put our truck bridges and tree line out this week. If that happens, the key to us keeping our truck bridges out will be slow speeds approaching shore and the bridges, one at a time on the bridges and stay back 100 feet from bridges while waiting to cross.

I will also say that with continuously changing weather conditions the club may have to remove the bridges with short notice this year if we put them out. The clubhouse will be the best place to stay up to date.

Lake Park Sportsmen's Club has a tree line out 4 miles off Fire Lane 8, Lower Cliff Fishing Club has a tree line out 1.4 miles, Brickyard Fishing Club has a tree line out 4 miles off Calumet County Park on the east shore, along with most of the other clubs south of there on the east shore. Currently no club on the west shore has a tree line out.

Remember, the ice is never 100% safe.



Calendar of events

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

Monday, Feb. 13
Monday Matinee, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, Feb. 14
Jaime Jorge in concert, 7 p.m., Fox Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church, 265 S. Green Bay Road

Thursday, Feb. 16
Founders and Settlers Series: George

Mansur, 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library
Open Chess Nights, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Thursday, Feb. 23
LWV Candidate Forums, 6:30 p.m., Neenah City Hall, 211 Walnut St.

Open Chess Nights, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Feb. 25
Tolerated Vandalism, 9 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.



Inspired to Lead.

INNOVATIVE SURGEON. TEACHER. TRAILBLAZER.

Dr. Ray Georgen is widely recognized across northeast and central Wisconsin for delivering some of the area's most innovative patient care through robotic-assisted surgery. While learning leading-edge techniques, Dr. Georgen was inspired by the mentors who pushed him past the status quo. Today, as a care provider and clinical professor, he finds great purpose guiding the next generation of surgeons as they learn the latest methods and find new possibilities in providing life-changing patient care.

Dr. Georgen is one of 7,000 ThedaCare team members who are inspired to create a healthier future for all.



Learn more at
ThedaCare.org/inspired

Supervisor removed from panels for computer misuse

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

District 20 Supervisor Mike Norton has resigned from several committees as part of an agreement for using his county-provided iPad inappropriately.

Norton, of Oshkosh, resigned from the Park View Health Center, Parks & Recreation and Information Systems committees.

When supervisors are issued a device they sign a computer use policy agreeing that the county's computer system is to be used for business purposes only. Violating the policy may result in disciplinary action, dismissal from county employment or legal actions.

In now-deleted social media posts, Norton shared screenshots of upcoming committee and Board of Supervisors agendas. The screenshots showed additional tabs open for websites that included OnlyFans and Chaterbate.

A commenter questioned whether the

screenshots were from a county provided iPad. Norton responded that the images were from his own device.

Chair Thomas Egan announced at a Board of Supervisors meeting last month that a supervisor was under investigation.

Egan said at the board meeting Tuesday that an outside agency examined Norton's device and nothing criminal was found. It was determined that the device was used outside of county policy.

He added that the main issue was that the activity was on a county-owned iPad. Norton will not have access to a county owned iPad until April 2024.

"Everyone makes mistakes and this was one," Egan said.

Norton's resignation from the committees was noted at the meeting and committee replacements were appointed.

Norton apologized for his actions.

"I'm very sorry that it happened and I still think I can do a good job of representing the people," he said.

School board

FROM PAGE 1

viding a school environment conducive to learning, increasing confidence and understanding between youth and police and providing information about other resources to students, parents and staff.

Pfeiffer said the goals stress the importance of training, particularly in de-escalation,

and the importance of making sure that students become connected with the SROs and aren't afraid of them. Students will be given a survey annually to measure the success of the program goals.

The Neenah Common Council approved the agreement last month. Fox Crossing remains in negotiations with the district. The school board is expected to vote on it Feb. 21. If approved, it would start next school year.

Memory care

FROM PAGE 1

end of life.

"You eventually might have to take the car away and that's a really big shock to the person with dementia and it's hard on the caregiver, too," he said. "Eventually you might have to make the decision to put your loved one into a facility because it's not safe for them to stay at home any longer."

FVMP provides guidance and resources for the entire family throughout the progression. It offers support groups for caregivers where they can share care strategies with each other.

"It's equally important you make sure the caregivers are taken care of themselves and they're able to take care of their loved one who has the disease," he said.

One key program FVMP offers is Memory Link, which employs two full-time resource navigators to guide those with dementia and their families through diagnosis, managing symptoms and easing the transition between stages.

"Sometimes people with dementia get agitated but if you can be patient and learn some de-escalation skills that they use in mental health, they actually can calm them down because parts of the brain are still working very well, so you just have to figure out what their need is and try to help them through that," he said. "So that's how we help the caregivers."

Mindworks is another offering. The three-hour recreational therapy classes are for people with early to midstage dementia or memory loss. The caregiver doesn't stay during the class, which gives them a brief respite.

"It gives them an opportunity to take a break, take care of their own health needs or take care of errands that would be harder to do if they also had to care for their

loved one," he said. "We're keeping their loved one physically, mentally, socially active and engaged for three hours."

Rohrkaste said the programming is designed to tap into parts of the mind that are still working well, which often includes long-term memories.

"They're memories of music if music was a part of their life," he said. "People will remember songs from 40 years ago and can still sing them and know every word but they might not remember what they had for breakfast this morning; but that doesn't matter. What matters is that they can enjoy that song, or a dance, or something from their past. That's what we try to do with some of our programming."

He added that the best thing to do for people who have dementia is to keep them physically and socially active and keep their minds working.

The programs are free or low cost. The organization is supported by federal and county funds, United Way Fox Cities and fundraising efforts.

Beaming Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides equine-assisted services in Neenah, is also offering its own form of memory care sessions with free Equine-Assisted Memory Cafes the second Monday of each month, the first session set for Feb. 13.

FVMP has seven full-time and two part-time employees, and about 75 volunteers. More information and a calendar of upcoming events is available at foxvalley-memoryproject.org.

"The biggest thing is if people believe themselves or someone in their family or friends might have significant memory loss, to reach out to us," Rohrkaste said. "We want more people to know that there are support services for them out there. It's OK to ask for somebody's help and to get the support that you need."

State group pushes passenger rail plan funding

Neenah News

Passenger train service advocates are urging state residents to comment on the Department of Transportation's draft Rail Plan 2050 that currently excludes funding to help plan passenger rail service through the Fox Valley.

NEW Rails, an affiliate group of the Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers (WisARP), said the DOT acknowledges it did not plan for federal funding that could be awarded by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for corridor expansion of Amtrak's Hiawatha Service that currently services through Chicago and Milwaukee to add Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Appleton and Green Bay connections.

The group believes the state DOT needs to include the Green Bay extension in the plan for 2024-25 funding or at least commit from available state funds and what should be budgeted from Wisconsin's surplus fund. The FRA award of federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds is in jeopardy without that update, according to the group, as funds are only available until the end of the fiscal year in 2025.

City leaders throughout the Fox Valley have expressed their unanimous interest in getting on board with the federal initiative to add passenger rail service in the area through Amtrak.

Comments are being accepted through Feb. 26. Go to wisconsindot.gov under News releases.



Amelia Earhart

On Feb. 11, 1935, Amelia Earhart spoke at the S.A. Cook Armory. The event was sponsored by the James P. Hawley Post of the American Legion and reserved tickets cost \$1. Earhart came by train as there was no suitable landing field for her to travel by air. She stayed at the Valley Inn and was entertained at the home of Helen Kimberly Stuart, where this photo was taken.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

UWO
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
OSHKOSH

UWO NOW

UWO Now, a new biweekly podcast from UW Oshkosh, delves deep into today's most relevant issues.

Host Wendell Ray interviews faculty, staff, students and alumni to bring the wealth of knowledge on UWO's three campuses to the local community.

Listen on your favorite podcast platform or tune in biweekly at 5 p.m. on 90.3 WRST-FM.



League of Women Voters candidate forums set at City Hall

Neenah News

Public forums with candidates for the Neenah Joint School District Board of Education and for Neenah Alderman District 1 will be held Feb. 23 at City Hall.

The first forum at 6:30 p.m. will include school board candidates, incumbents Deborah Watry and Tom Hanby, as well as challengers Brian Roeh, Lindsay Clark, Michelle Swardenski and Rocky Schafer. Voters will determine who will fill three seats on the board. Board member Amy

Morrissey is not seeking re-election.

The second forum will start at 7:45 p.m. between District 1 incumbent Cari



Lendrum and challenger Alexander M. Collins.

Questions for the candidates will be solicited from the audience and be screened, directed at all candidates and relevant to the positions the candidates are vying to fill.

The forums are organized by the League of Women Voters of Winnebago County and the first is co-sponsored by Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education. Both are nonpartisan local organizations.

Find links to the recordings about a week later, as well as other election information, at LWVWinnebago.org.

In addition to school board and local government offices, spring elections include candidates for other nonpartisan offices such as Wisconsin Supreme Court

justice and Winnebago County Circuit Court judge.

Sample ballots can be viewed at MyVote.wi.gov, which can also be used to register to vote, find a polling place, request a mailed ballot and information on voting. Read candidates' responses to questions asked by LWV on Vote411.org.

Early voting at municipal clerks' offices begins March 21. Election Day is April 4, when polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Call or text the LWV hotline at 608-285-2141 with questions.

Business news roundup

The **Applebee's Grill & Bar** at 1111 Westowne Drive in Neenah closed permanently last week, along with a location in Racine, the company announced. The vice president of Wisconsin Apple, the franchisee of 25 state Applebee's locations, said the closures were due to a lack of profitability at those locations.

Three community leaders will join the **ThedaCare** board of trustees, the governing body for the local, not-for-profit health care organization. They include **John Pfeifer**, Oshkosh Corp. president and CEO; **Alan Loux**, president and CEO of Rawhide Youth Services; and **Dr. Steven Price**, founder and managing partner of the Neuroscience Group. They will begin their three-year terms this month.

Pam Seidl, executive director of the Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bu-

reau, has been elected as chair of the **Destinations Wisconsin** board of directors. She has served on the board for the past six years and will begin a two-year term. Formed in 1993, Destinations Wisconsin supports destination marketing organizations by providing educational, marketing and advocacy opportunities.

Neenah-based **Volatus Infrastructure** has signed an agreement with Bellefonte Airport in Pennsylvania. Volatus will build a public use electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) vertiport with up to eight landing pads including a charging station at each pad. The vertiport is expected to be operational later this year. Volatus has a modular designed vertiport that allows for quick on-site construction as well as scalable growth to expand with the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) industry as it grows.

Absentee, early voting underway in primary

Neenah News

The Wisconsin Supreme Court race is the only statewide election appearing on ballots for the Feb. 21 primary. Four candidates are seeking to replace conservative Justice Patience Roggensack in a race to decide the court's ideological balance.

The liberal candidates are Dane County Circuit Judge Everett Mitchell and Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Janet Protasiewicz. The conservative candidates are former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Dan Kelly and Waukesha County Circuit Judge Jennifer Dorow.

While Supreme Court elections are officially nonpartisan, the court is considered to have a 4-3 conservative majority. The two candidates who receive the most votes will advance to the April 4 spring election.

Absentee ballots for the primary can be returned to the Neenah City Clerk's Office by mail with postage paid, or in-person by the voter named on the ballot or by agent if utilizing ballot return assistance,

between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday or 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 17.

Early in-person voting at City Hall, 211 Walnut St., is available from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 5 p.m. Friday.

Other early in-person absentee voting hours:

Village of Fox Crossing: Clerk's Office, 2000 Municipal Drive, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 17.

Town of Neenah: Clerk's office, 1600 Breezewood Lane, open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Town of Clayton: Clayton Municipal Building, 8348 County T, Larsen, noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 17 or by appointment.

Town of Vinland: 6085 County T, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Voters must show a photo ID and ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on election day to be counted.

Northside
NOT-ALL-WHO
WANDER-ARE-LOST
Bar & Grill

FRIDAY FISH FRY
All You Can Eat
with Drink Purchase
DINE IN ONLY

Choice of:

- Haddock
- Pike/Perch
- Bluegill

Comes with side of coleslaw, choice of potato and marbled rye.

2126 Algoma Blvd
Oshkosh Wi 54901
920-233-2400
Serving 11am-8pm
For our complete menu please visit us on Facebook or check us out at Northsidebarngrill.com

Valley VNA Senior Care

Memory Care Respite

in Neenah and Oshkosh

A safe and engaging activity for people with memory loss. A chance to rejuvenate for their care partners.

- Two hours of respite
- Care provided by Valley VNA Senior Care staff
- Volunteer-led program includes activities, music, and snacks
- Care partners can participate or take time for themselves
- FREE

Neenah Respite	Oshkosh Respite
First and Second Monday of each month 1:30-3:30 p.m. St. Paul Lutheran Church 200 N. Commercial Street, Neenah	Fourth Tuesday of each month 1:30-3:30 p.m. Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1860 Wisconsin Street, Oshkosh
Call 920-383-1180 to Pre-register	Call 920-727-5555 to Pre-register

Brought to you by Valley VNA Senior Care in collaboration with Memory Care Respite Partners. Call 920-727-5555 to learn more.

LOW BACK PAIN?

If you are one of the millions who suffer from low back pain, our experienced doctors will give you the personalized service you're looking for.

Treatments are custom suited and may include spinal adjustments, laser therapy, and therapeutic exercise.

STRONG
CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE S.C.
"Strong on Health"

Complimentary Consultation
Exam & Initial Treatment
(if needed)
Expires 2/28/23
Limit one coupon per NEW PATIENT

www.strongchiropractic.com

OSHKOSH OFFICE
2100 Omro Road STE. B
(920) 426-9898

NEENAH OFFICE
1426 S. Commercial St
(920) 725-0800

APPLETON OFFICE
1801 N. Richmond St
(920) 831-4110

A circuitous route led to new home in Neenah

By Jennifer Hartley
FOR NEENAH NEWS

If you were to plan a bicycle trip that circled the U.S., you might not think Neenah, Wisconsin, would be a stop along the way. But, in fact, it was a very memorable weekend stop in July 1985 for the 50 of us who had left St. Simon's Island, Ga., just six months before on a chilly February morning.

We were part of Wandering Wheels, a biking group out of Indiana that set out to circle the country's perimeter in 10 months covering more than 11,000 miles in total, Circle America, Perimeter '85.

The map of our bicycle route was stuck to the side of our faithful repairs van with a red line marking our way out of Georgia, around Florida, west to Texas, southward to San Antonio and on to El Paso. The red line did not, however, mark the rising temperatures as we made our way through Arizona and California.

Dipping our toes in the Pacific was a welcome relief. We hugged the coastline northward as we took in views of the ocean most of the way to Seattle. From there we cut in and made our way east over mountain passes and national parks.

Fighting headwinds and fatigue through Wyoming, South Dakota and Minnesota we rolled into the thriving farmlands of the Dairy State making our way to a small town most of us had never heard of: Neenah.

On this warm summer afternoon, our group of riders ranging from 17 to 52 years old, pulled into the Calvary Bible Church parking lot (when it was on Green Bay Road) and rested our tired bodies, our 18-speed Schwinn bikes, a semi-truck



Submitted photo

The Wandering Wheels biking group is shown on its route across Wisconsin from Minneapolis to Neenah in 1985.

(turned bunkhouse), a school bus (turned meal truck) and the repair van, where we extended our red line another inch or two and let the ink dry for the weekend.

We didn't anticipate the kind of Midwestern hospitality that awaited us. Church members and the Mercer family who had connections with Wandering Wheels (thus the stop in Neenah) swarmed around us, offering to host us

in their homes, and kindly chaffered us around the Fox Cities to enjoy the many generous offerings provided.

The Neenah-Menasha YMCA opened its doors for us to swim and play basketball; the Golden Corral fed all 50 of us and Calvary Bible Church provided a potluck

after their Sunday church service. It was there our group presented song and testimony of the grace of Jesus Christ and his faithfulness to us through all our miles.

We highlighted our weekly routine, five days a week riding 30 to 60 miles per day, work projects on Saturdays and worship with a presentation on Sundays. After a refreshing weekend in this town we grew to love, we packed up and headed north to Green Bay and by November, four months later, we gave thanks for the miles, the memories and for reaching our long awaited destination, right where we started, St. Simon's Island, Ga.

I didn't know then that the road I was on would one day lead me back to Neenah. I hung up my bike and finished college in Indiana, grad school in New England, packed the car with a new bicycle in tow, said goodbye to my parents in Pennsylvania and started an internship near Milwaukee. After falling in love, marriage and a baby, a move to Texas and then 10 years in Vermont, my family of seven headed back to Wisconsin where my husband found a job in none other than, you guessed it, Neenah.

We've lived here almost 13 years and our five kids have enjoyed the same pool at the YMCA where I swam almost 40 years ago, we have eaten a few times at the Golden Corral and some of our kids attended Calvary Bible church's youth group.

It is so good to now call Neenah home and be part of the community that years ago welcomed a 17-year-old girl and her bicycle for a weekend she never forgot.



Submitted photo

Jennifer Hartley paints during a Saturday morning work project while on the road in the Midwest.

Assisi Homes of Neenah Independent Living Community

- Affordable housing for Seniors Age 62+
- One bedroom apartments include heat and water
- Many activities and wellness programs offered
 - Income restrictions apply
 - Smoke free facility

05267767

Phone: 920-729-1771

Fax: 920-729-1797

TTY: 800-924-1973

210 Byrd Avenue, Neenah



Professionally Managed by Mercy Housing



Final Markdowns 30%-80%

HERGERT SPORT CENTER

MARINE - SPORT - SKI

Everything must be sold, Summer & Winter



Downhill Skis & Boots
30%-50% OFF

SNOW SHOES
30% OFF

Underwear
starting at \$9

SNOWBOARDS

Ski Jackets
Extra 40% OFF

Ski Pants
Extra 40% OFF

70% OFF
Hockey Skates

40% OFF
as marked
HATS & CLOTHING

MERCURY OIL
30% OFF

SOCCER ALL SHORTS
\$5.00
SOX \$2.00

TUBBS
STORMY KROMER **Old Town KAYAKS** **MAD BOMBER**
speedo **Smartwool**

CONNELLY
Water Sports
WATER SKIS
TUBES
WAKEBOARDS
ROPES
VESTS

920-231-8520 • www.hergertsports.com | 1232 N. Sawyer St., Oshkosh WI | M-F 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm

Beat the winter blues with some indoor greenery

By Rob Zimmer
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The winter season can get long and once the holidays are over, the winter blues often set in. One of the best ways to beat those blues and bring some color and cheer into your home is to enjoy the beauty and greenery of fresh flowers and house plants.

Even better, supporting local, small businesses that are often struggling this time of year benefits one and all.

Mary Stewart, owner of Go in' to Pot



Photos by Rob Zimmer

African violets, prayer plants and orchids can brighten up the dreary winter months indoors.

The Neenah GARDENER

Orchids in Neenah, encourages those who feel down because of the weather to fill their homes with the colors and fragrances of beautiful orchids. In fact, the National Garden Bureau has proclaimed 2023 as the Year of the Orchid.

"An orchid in the window or brightening a room is a great way to experience the flavor of the tropics," Stewart said.

Offering a variety of orchids in all shapes and sizes, as well as repotting services for those who aren't comfortable repotting their own orchids, Stewart enjoys interacting with plant lovers of all ages who enjoy these amazing plants.

In addition to orchids, house plants in general can fill our homes with fresh greenery and colorful foliage throughout the winter season and year-round.

At Watters Farms in Neenah, owner Brian Hans encourages plant lovers of all ages and experience levels to stop by and check out the selection.

"We have the largest selection of rare and unusual house plants in the area," he said.

Indeed, for house plant enthusiasts, a visit to Watters Farms is a must. With the largest variety of philodendrons, Hoyas, ferns and succulents, this is a destination for plant lovers looking for a way to brighten their homes during the winter.

Floral arrangements and greenery are the specialty at Seven Thymes downtown. An exciting and elegant array of colorful blooms fills the shop daily. Colorful spring blooms such as tulips are available for cheerful arrangements and bouquets for the home.

In addition to indoor floral arrangements and green plants, Seven Thymes also offers drop-in containers for porches and patio entranceways. These can be made using a variety of greenery and silks.

To make a cheerful bouquet, bring containers or vases and the talented designers will create something beautiful to warm up a home.

Wild Ones conference

Native wildflowers were the talk of the town when the annual Wild Ones conference brightened up the Culver Family

Welcome Center at UW Oshkosh recently. Toward Harmony with Nature is the name and theme of the yearly conference dedicated to native wildflowers, native plants, butterflies, birds and other native landscaping themes.

This year's conference moved to a new location from previous years. The new space allowed vendors and speakers, along with participants, to all be in the same space. In previous years, the vendor hall was separate from the presentation area.

Landscaping and gardening with native wildflowers and plants is a requirement for restoring native species and assisting other wildlife in thriving here in Wisconsin. It is time that we take this responsibility seriously. That was the theme of many programs throughout the speaker series.

Stanley A. Temple spoke on the resilience of nature and land health and the work of Aldo Leopold not only here in Wisconsin, but worldwide. Jennifer J. Wilhoit spoke on native plants and ecotones and drawing wisdom from nature, proclaiming that we cannot do without native plants. David Stevens spoke on the

importance of native trees and shrubs for wildlife and birds. Making your yard and landscape wildlife friendly was the theme of Randy Powers' program.

Intrusive, non-native species were also the focus of multiple speaker presentations.

Ryan Wallin outlined how our yards and gardens are becoming more and more dominated by non-native species in his program "The Exotic Invasion of Our Native Landscape," along with ways to combat this threat. Anne Pearce gave an encouraging presentation of just how we, as citizens, can help in her informative presentation "Taking Action on Invasive Plants Through Citizen Science."

The Wild Ones Fox Valley area chapter is based at 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road, Neenah. Toward Harmony with Nature is the only annual conference in the area dedicated to native plants and native landscaping.

Helping monarchs and songbirds, as well as the plight of the endangered Rusty-Patched Bumblebee and other pollinators, has created a need for even more of this type of offering here.

Violinist brings music ministry in concert

Violinist Jaime Jorge, whose expressive mastery of the violin has been featured in more than 2,500 concerts on six continents, is performing at Neenah's Fox Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church at 265 S. Green Bay Road at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The concert is free and open to the public.

Jorge has dedicated his talents through sacred and classical concerts and special appearances, and through 15 albums and more than 2,500 concerts in more than 80 countries.



Jorge

Born in Cuba in 1970, Jorge began violin studies at age 5. When he was 10, his family immigrated to the United States and he began lessons with violinist Cyrus Forough, a student of the great David Oistrakh. He has been practicing his music ministry for more than two decades.

Drapery made by hand in beautiful downtown Neenah. 37 years and counting!

Sew Biz
DRAPERY + BLINDS

220 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Neenah
(920)729-6799
sewbizdrapery@yahoo.com

CATCH THE BUG!
Retro Radi
102.3 FM
www.thebug.fm
HometownBroadcasting.com

Quality
Waste Disposal Inc
Weekend rates starting at \$325
Locally Owned & Operated
Neenah, WI
920-312-6616
www.qualitywastedumpsters.com

Health Care Credit Union
CD SPECIAL!
11 Month - 4.90% *APY
15 Month - 4.65% *APY
\$5,000.00 New Money Required!
*APY = Annual Percentage Yield
429 North Sawyer St. • 920.233.1140
Or visit our website at www.healthcarecu.org

Sturgeon decoys

FROM PAGE 1

food and the decoys helped in that endeavor.

Lau passed in 1990 and the decoys eventually became rare. Spearers stopped hanging them in the holes due to fragility. One night in 2018 Preissner and his dad were sitting at The Fishtail when Josh overheard two old-timers talking about Lau's decoys, saying they were afraid to put them down because they were antiques. They were afraid to lose them.

Josh leaned over to his father and said, "You know, I should start making replicas of Uncle Arnie's decoys. They work great and I could help keep the legend alive."

Realizing the opportunity to introduce a whole new generation (including his children) to Uncle Arnie, Josh went home that night and cut a few rough decoys.

"I had a yellow one of his downstairs and I copied it," he said. "I've gotten pretty good at it."

So have his son, William, 9, and daughter, Flora, 11. Preissner uses a William decoy in the hole, and Flora's hangs in the shop with great pride. Four-year-old Felicity can also be found in the workshop, Preissner's self-proclaimed carving partner. Rounding out the fan club are wife Amanda and daughter Winnie, 2.

"Uncle Arnie would make up to 100 decoys a year," Preissner said. "I try to make about 50, enough to keep the supply going. Yellow and white were his favorite colors so I use a lot of that."

Preissner allows that Lau wouldn't have used the multicolors or beads that adorn some of his decoys. "That's pretty much my vision," he smiles.

Sumac was Lau's wood of choice and Josh



Photo from Josh Preissner

Arnie Lau is shown with his 120-pound sturgeon in February 1978.

agrees.

"It's everywhere, it's indigenous," Preissner said. "Arnie had a big growth by his house and that's what he used. It's a yellow wood, and it will glow in the hole so that's kind of neat."

Preissner cuts the decoy faces with a band saw while tails and fins are cut with a scroll saw. Once that's done, he uses a carving knife to round everything off and the rough cut is intentional.

"They're not very complicated," Preissner admitted. "But they're effective. That's all that really matters ... they work!"

For those unschooled in spear fishing, decoys are meant to be dropped into the hole when a spearer first gets into the shanty.

"Arnie used to stack them up to three deep," Preissner recalled. "You drop them down about 8 feet or so. You want to be able

to see them. That's another reason for the white and yellow."

The sturgeon come up from the bottom where they are feeding on redworms.

"They don't want to eat the decoys, they're just curious," Preissner said. "When they come up to check out the decoy you spear them."

Preissner sells about half his decoys in bars, which is enough to pay for paint, beads and tin for the next year's supply. But the real joy is in the other half.

"When we cut in on Friday I'll go around with my dad and we leave them at the shacks with a special note: 'This is a replica of one of the decoys that Arnie used. He always stacked them three high, and they were so enticing they lured in the sturgeon you see on this tag. So opening morning when you drop down this decoy, give old Arnie a toast. Because we know he's looking down, smiling on all of us out on the ice. From Arnie's family to yours. Thank you and Good Luck Spearin!'"

"People aren't even there and we drop them off on the door so when they come opening day they're surprised by something special," Preissner said. Amanda smiles and chimes in, "Santa Claus of the Lake."

Preissner is almost shy and his eyes mist a bit.

"I was in The Fishtail with my dad one night and I won a prize. When I came back with it I heard some guy whisper, 'That's Santa Claus of the Lake.' My dad said, 'You know they're talking about you, right?' I said what do you mean? My dad said, 'That's what they call you ... Santa Claus of the Lake.'"

Preissner smiles with pride. "I couldn't believe it. Giving them away is the best part of it all. It really warms my heart knowing that people enjoy them and remember Arnie."

Sturgeon season opens this weekend

Neenah News

The Winnebago system spearing season opens at 7 a.m. Saturday and lasts for 16 days or until any of the sex-specific harvest caps have been reached on Lake Winnebago and the upriver lakes (Butte des Morts, Winneconne and Poygan).

The season length is usually dictated in part by water clarity. Warmer temperatures this winter prevented Department of Natural Resources biologists from safely conducting water clarity assessments until this week. There is an average of 13.0 feet of water clarity around Lake Winnebago with generally clearer water on the eastern shores as well as farther from shores along the west side of the lake.

DNR officials said warm weather could deteriorate ice conditions that may reduce spearing success. Recorded low chironomid densities (lake fly larvae/red worms) this year may also impact sturgeon distribution around Lake Winnebago.

Registration stations will be open again after the COVID pandemic restricted participants to a drive-thru process. Payne's Point Bar & Grill, 1557 Paynes Point Road, Neenah, is a local registration station.

Spearers can fish from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day the fishery is open and are required to register their sturgeon at a DNR-operated registration station by 2 p.m. of the day the fish is harvested. Length, weight, sex, and tagging information are collected and used to determine season length.



T1W·2023

TOWARD ONE WISCONSIN

A CONFERENCE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

April 25-26, 2023

HILTON APPLETON PAPER VALLEY HOTEL,
APPLETON, WI



REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Join us at the fourth Toward One Wisconsin Conference on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 25-26, 2023 in Appleton. Businesses, organizations, and individuals from across Wisconsin will come together to break barriers and build bridges. Hope you can join us!

[VISIT T1W.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION](https://www.t1w.org)

CONFERENCE TRACKS:

- Track I: Increasing Opportunities for Inclusion in Wisconsin's Workforce
- Track II: Creating Inclusive Communities
- Track III: Cultivating Equity in Education
- Track IV: Building Health Equity in Wisconsin

Zephyrs' offense keeps rolling in easy victory

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The St. Mary Catholic Zephyrs offense continued to roll right along.

Led by Cole Uhlenbrauck and his game-high 36 points, the Zephyrs hit the century mark for the third time this season and topped a very good Kohler team 100-70 on in a boys basketball game Tuesday night.

"I was very pleased with our effort tonight," head coach Paul Bradshaw said. "We came into this game with some specific objectives around defense and rebounding. I felt like our effort on the defensive side was excellent from the beginning and that the guys communicated very well to force some turnovers and get into transition."

The Zephyrs led 61-30 at the break but they didn't just pack it in. Uhlenbrauck opened the second half with four quick points ahead of a Charlie Nackers bucket for a 67-32 lead before stretching the advantage to 76-46.

Nackers was one of five players in double figures for St. Mary Catholic as he finished the game with 10 points. He was joined by Uhlenbrauck, Danny Griffith (13 points), Michael Fairweather (12 points) and Fisher MacKenzie (11 points).

Griffith and MacKenzie scored the next nine points for St. Mary Catholic to build an 87-53 lead and continued to maintain a near 30-point cushion the rest of the way.

"We shot the ball extremely well tonight and I thought we did a fantastic job moving the ball in our half-court offense," Bradshaw said. "There have been times this season

where our offense becomes stagnant. The movement we demonstrated tonight allowed our shooters to get some open looks early on, which led to us attacking the basket as the game went on."

The Zephyrs secured control of this game early, using a defensive-sparked 16-0 run early in the game to take a 24-7 lead. St. Mary Catholic extended the advantage to 30-10 before booking the 31-point halftime lead.

With the win, the Zephyrs improve to 18-2 on the season and 13-2 in Big East play. They are two games behind Howards Grove in the standings with four to play so their rematch with the Tigers on Friday is definitely important.

"I feel like this team has been coming together all season and that we are starting to play our best ball," Bradshaw said. "Not only do we have the great senior leadership a coaching staff loves, but we have 15 guys who are constantly involved and that is helping us come together down the stretch."

Uhlenbrauck knows the magnitude of tonight's game, but knows that the team is treating it like an ordinary game.

"Howards Grove is a great team and proved why they are the best team in the state last time out," Uhlenbrauck said. "The past few weeks have seen us play our best ball of the season and that has prepared us not only for tonight, but what is to come in the WIAA tournament. As a group, we continue to take the one game at a time mindset and the Tigers are next for us."

Prep sports roundup

BOYS HOCKEY

Rockets capture Badgerland tourney title

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha topped St. Mary's Springs, 6-5, in overtime to claim the Badgerland Conference tournament title last Saturday night.

Calvin Zinda scored a power play goal less than two minutes into the extra period to lift the Rockets to the win, which extended their winning streak to four games. John Kriz assisted on the goal.

The Rockets led 3-2 after the first period before the Ledgers rallied to start the second, scoring twice in the first 2:15 of the period to take its first lead of the game.

Ryan Johnson scored midway through the period to tie the score, while a shorthanded goal by Kriz pushed the Rockets back in front 5-4 heading into the third period.

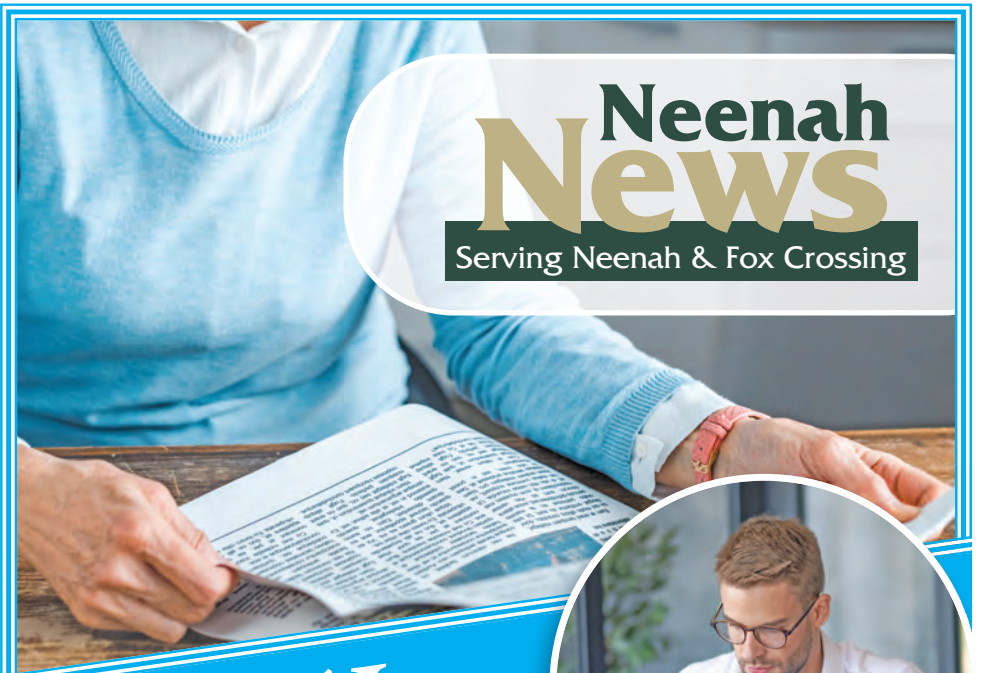
Springs knotted the score at 5 with about three minutes left in regulation before the Rockets got the win.

Ben Kitowski, Ty Laabs and Mason Hart scored in the first period for the Rockets, while Kriz finished with three assists in the game.

Caleb Moore had 32 saves in goal.

The Rockets advanced to the title game with a 3-0 win over Fond du Lac on Friday night as Moore stopped all 23 shots he faced for the shutout.

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 11



Neenah News
Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

LOCAL, RELEVANT NEWS DELIVERED WEEKLY

For only \$70/year you can have local, relevant community news delivered to your mailbox.

Local government, business and community news every Friday with a subscription to Neenah News.

SUBSCRIBE for only **\$70**/year at
www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe or call 920-486-1616

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Mail check to 124 W. Wisconsin St. #090B, Neenah WI 54956 • Call 920-486-1616 to subscribe with a credit card over phone or visit www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe

Open to the Public
No Minimum
Cash or Check Only

1060 Breezewood Ln., Ste. 101,
Neenah

<p>SALMON'S Ribeye or New York Strip \$16 2 pk 12 oz ea.</p>	<p>SALMON'S Whole USDA Choice Ribeye \$10⁸⁰ lb.</p>
<p>ANCHOR Cheddar Cheese Stuffed Jalapenos \$15 2 lbs</p>	<p>SACRAMENTO Bloody Mary Mix 46 oz \$2⁵⁰</p> <p>Tomato Juice 5.5 oz 75¢</p>
<p>HORMEL Canadian Bacon 2 lbs \$7</p>	<p>FRY FOODS Battered Cheddar Cheese Curds \$12²⁵ 2 lb pk</p>
<p>MCCAIN 5/16" Straight Cut \$3 2.5 lbs</p>	<p>HEINZ Chicken Dumpling, Cream of Potato w/Bacon, Cream of Chicken w/Rice. \$10 ea. or 3/\$28 More than 40 varieties Available</p>
<p>SALMON'S Jumbo Wieners/ Cheese Wieners \$6 5 pk, 1 lb</p>	<p>Natural Casing Wieners \$6 10 pk, 1 lb</p> <p>Precooked Brats \$11 Family pk, 2 lbs</p>

Email, Text or Call to order:
pyramidfoods@gmail.com • 920.886.9969
Wednesday 9-4 • Thursday-Saturday 9-12
<https://www.facebook.com/PyramidFoodsInc>

Oshkosh Herald LLC dba
Neenah News, 124 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 090B, Neenah WI 54956
920-486-1616 • www.neenahnewsnow.com

Kok aiming to cap Rocket career with special finish

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Playing basketball for Neenah High School senior Ava Kok isn't just about the time spent in her Rockets' uniform playing the best the Fox Valley Association has to offer a couple of times a week.

That's certainly part of the fun, for her the sport means so much more.

"For me, basketball is definitely a place where I can branch out with my friends and have fun. I really live for having fun with my friends," Kok said before a practice last week. "Winning is nice, of course, but for me it's about having a good time on and off the court."

"I loved it when I started playing YMCA ball and I still love it just as much now."

And long after hanging up her sneakers for the final time and when her class reunions move well in double figures, she expects to remember her basketball career.

But it won't be what happened on a Tuesday night in January against Oshkosh West, it will be the array of teammates and the fun they had over the course of four years.

"Honestly, I will probably not remember the games as much as my teammates," Kok said. "We have a really great team chemistry that we have built here. We hang out all of the time even if it is not on the court."

Kok is a three-year varsity performer who is the second-leading scorer for the Rockets this year, averaging 11.2. She averaged a little more than 10 points per game a season ago, earning second-team all-FVA honors.

Kok brings a strong perimeter shooting touch to the court and has already matched her season-total from last year in 3-pointers. It's a skill that was developed through plenty of practice.

"Definitely getting the reps in and getting the shots up," Kok said. "And I have my dad (who coached her Neenah Hoops Club teams growing up) critique my shot and help me with it."



Neenah High School senior Ava Kok is the second-leading scorer for the Rockets this season and has played a key role in the team's success.

Kok has also had a shooting partner over the years.

Kok has a twin sister, Sophia, that also plays for the Rockets and Ava said the two of them spent plenty of time together get-

ting shots up.

"It's nice to have someone so you are not just doing it by yourself," Ava Kok said. "It's not that it gets boring, but it gets repetitive. So, it's nice to have that some-

Senior Spotlight

one you can talk to and rebound for."

Together the Kok sisters also earned an addition to the family.

Tasked with getting 500 shots up every day one summer, the sisters were able to land a Bernadoodle puppy for their efforts.

"His name is Luka," Kok said. "Not specifically for (Dallas Mavericks' star Luka) Doncic, but there is a relationship there."

Having a twin sister on the team can get interesting at times – apparently teammates can tell how well the ride to practice went by how closely the two are walking as they enter the gym – especially because the sisters are two different individuals.

"She doesn't like to get to practice early – or get to anything early really – and I'm really big on wanting to be on time," Ava Kok said.

Yet, as much as the siblings will squabble from time to time, there is also the appreciation for each other that overrides any issues.

"Sometimes at practice we go at each other harder than most teammates do but I really like playing out there with her," Ava Kok said. "Once we both go to college we won't be seeing each other as much either and that will be hard. So, it's really nice to have these last few weeks."

These last few weeks should make for some exciting games for Kok and the Rockets, too.

Starting with Friday's showdown against Hortonville that could decide the FVA title, Neenah will then take aim at a WIAA tournament run that will hopefully take them to the Resch Center in early March.

"We have to dig in and get it done," Kok said. "We really just need to band together and get into the right mindset. We can't have any lulls. We just have to go and get it done."

SEE **Senior spotlight** ON PAGE 11

BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

Call **920-486-1616** or email advertise@neenahnewsnow.com to include your business every **FRIDAY** in the Business Services Directory.

FOUNDATION REPAIR

AREA
WATERPROOFING & CONCRETE LLC

**Foundation Repair
Basement Waterproofing
Bowed and Cracked Walls
Concrete Flat Work**

**Free Estimates
Residential and Commercial**

920-830-3788
www.areawaterproofing.com

PAINTING

DOUG'S PAINTING

- Interior and Exterior
- Wallpaper Removal
- Residential & New Construction
- Over 30 years experience!

Call 920-722-5832
No pay until you're satisfied

GET YOUR PHONE TO RING RING RING

Neenah News
Local news for you.

By advertising your service business here every Friday!

Call 920-486-1616
or email
advertise@neenahnewsnow.com

REAL ESTATE

RE/MAX ON THE WATER

HELPING EMPTY NESTERS FIND A NEW NEST

JD Williams, REALTOR®
(920) 252-3633 Cell
920-230-8880 Office
814 Knapp St · Oshkosh
www.sellwithjd.com

MRP

CARPET CLEANING

Best of WINNEBAGO COUNTY
2021 WINNER
COMMUNITY CHOICE AWARD

**CARPET CLEANING
UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
RUG CLEANING
SPOT/STAIN REMOVAL SERVICES**

VOTED BEST CARPET CLEANING COMPANY

\$95 FOR TWO ROOM CARPET CLEANING

Aquire 920.2.AQUIRE

GET YOUR PHONE TO RING RING RING

Neenah News
Local news for you.

By advertising your service business here every Friday!

Call 920-486-1616
or email
advertise@neenahnewsnow.com

PLUMBING

KASCADE PLUMBING L.L.C.

Well & Septic
920.582.7304
www.kascadeplumbing.com

- Residential • Industrial
- Commercial • M.P. #255145
- Licensed and Insured

Not only service, We provide solutions!

E-RECYCLING

SE SADOFF E-RECYCLING & DATA DESTRUCTION

A SADOFF IRON & METAL COMPANY

Destroying Your Past to Protect Your Future

Certified Electronics Recycling & Data Destruction
Drop-off Service for Residents
Pickup Services for Businesses

(920)232-7373
www.sadoffecycle.com
36 E. 10th Ave Oshkosh

TROPHY

AS

All-Sport Trophy & Engraving
856 S Commercial Street, Neenah, WI. 54956
(920)722-0146
E-Mail Allsporttrophy@aol.com • Website allsporttrophy.com

**TROPHIES * AWARDS * RIBBONS
ENGRAVABLE GIFTS * MEDALS**

Neenah - Menasha's Complete Awards Center

INSURANCE

Erie Insurance®

Karen Schibline, CPCU
920.385.0782

Home • Auto • Life

Oregon Office Center
1429 Oregon Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902

INSURANCE SERVICES by KAREN

Trusted Erie Agent since 2001

Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 9

Ryan Johnson, Chase Collins and Calvin Zinda each scored for the Rockets, while Kriz, Laabs and Luke Sutton each finished with two assists.

WRESTLING

Koch, Schaufelberger claim conference titles

Declan Koch and Eric Schaufelberger each topped their bracket at the Fox Valley Association tournament last Saturday as the Rockets finished a close third in the team standings.

Koch won the 120-pound title by beating Tristan Ellerman of Hortonville and Aiden Fonder of Kimberly by a combined 18-0. Schaufelberger won his championship at 195 pounds, pinning all three of his opponents en route to the title, including Kimberly's Blake Berry in the title match in 5:01.

Eli Armatti (113), Jacob Herm (126), Jayden Shepard (132), Nick Novak (160), and Eli Gast (170) each earned second-place finishes for the Rockets, while Nate Cleveland was third at heavyweight.

Reigning state champion Kaukauna won the team title with 280.5 points, while Hortonville totaled 185 points, two ahead of the Rockets.

SWIMMING

Neenah's FVA dominance continues

The Rockets captured their eighth conference title in the past nine years, easily outscoring the rest of the FVA teams in Fond du Lac.

Neenah finished with 608 points to take the title, with Oshkosh West finishing a distant second at 447.

Drew Gaerthofner led the way for the Rockets by being a part of four victories at the meet. He finished first in the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke, while also swimming legs on Neenah's winning 200-yard medley relay and 200-yard freestyle relay.

The Rockets boasted three other individual winners in Ryan Foucault in diving, Tanner Trustem in the 200-yard individual medley and Quinn Koepfer in the 50-yard freestyle.

Trustem joined Gaerthofner on the winning medley relay team with Braden Loudon and Joshua Youngwerth, while



Photo by David Hall

Neenah swimmers root for a teammate during a race at the Fox Valley Association meet in Fond du Lac last Saturday.

Koepfer and Gaerthofner were joined by David Murphy and Julian Kuehn on the winning 200-yard freestyle relay team.

The Rockets also won the 400-yard freestyle relay with a team of Kuehn, Youngwerth, Loudon and Trustem.

Koepfer in the 100-yard freestyle, Trustem in the 100-yard butterfly and Gideon Benner in the 500-yard freestyle were second in their respective events, while Kuehn in the 200-yard freestyle and Youngwerth in the 200-yard individual medley and 100 backstroke were each third.

Adding fourth places were Benner in the 200-yard freestyle, Loudon in the 100-yard butterfly, Kuehn in the 500-yard freestyle, Nick Miller in the 100-yard backstroke and Murphy in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Fifth-place finishes were collected by Kyle Joneson in diving, Murphy in the 200-yard freestyle, Loudon in the 200-yard individual medley and the 200-yard and 400-yard freestyle relay teams.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Neenah rallies in second half to collect victory

The Rockets charged back from a five-point halftime deficit to collect a 48-46 win on the road against Kimberly on Tuesday.

Neenah improved to 21-1 on the season and has won 11 straight games heading into Friday's crucial showdown at home against Hortonville. The Polar Bears, who are a half-game back in the FVA standings, are the only team to beat Neenah this sea-

for the Golden Eagle basketball teams. At least most of the time.

With current teammate Allie Ziebell committed to attend UConn in the future – both Marquette and UConn are in the same conference and play at least twice a season – Kok has already promised to leave the blue and gold at home when the Huskies are in town.

"I already told her I would support her," Kok said. "My mom even got me some UConn merch at Christmas that I can wear."

Some players might be a little frustrated sharing the court with such talented teammates but Kok relishes the opportunity.

It's the reason the Rockets are 21-1 so far this season and have the potential to make the team's first state appearance since 2009 and just the second in more than 40 years.

"Allie is obviously amazing. You can't find better in the state. Sammie coming in is such a great help because she can really hit shots when we need it," Kok said. "Everyone is good at assisting and finding the open players when we need to so it's really fun to be a part of this team."

son.

Allie Ziebell led the way in the win over the Papermakers with 30 points and was the lone Rocket to finish in double figures. Sammie Buss was the next highest scorer for Neenah with nine points. Ava Kok added five points and had a team-high seven rebounds.

Neenah was boosted by a strong night at the free-throw line, finishing 19-of-22. Kimberly was just 2-of-3 from the foul line.

Vogel helps lead St. Mary Catholic past Kohler

Chloe Vogel finished with 22 points as St. Mary Catholic cruised past Kohler 71-

42 in a Big East North contest on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs led 38-20 at halftime and never had their lead threatened in the second half as they moved to 15-1 in league play and remained atop the conference standings.

Emily Vogel added 12 points and Siena Anderson finished with 10 for St. Mary Catholic.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Zephyrs pull away in second half for win

Five players finished in double figures as St. Mary Catholic rolled past Random Lake 82-70 last week.

Cole Uhlenbrauck led the team with 22 points, followed by Daniel Griffith with 18. Fisher MacKenzie scored 13 points, while Michael Fairweather and Charlie Nackers each had 12.

Neenah drops close game to Fond du Lac

Neenah couldn't hold off Fond du Lac in the second half as the FVA-leading Cardinals edged the Rockets 68-66 at Ron Einerson Fieldhouse.

Neenah led by five points at halftime but the Rockets were outscored 41-34 in the second half.

Cal Klesmit led the way for the Rockets finishing with 19 points and five assists. Brady Corso added 13 points and Sam Coulthard chipped in 12.

Both teams shot extremely well from the free-throw line in the game as Neenah finished 15-of-16 and Fond du Lac was 19-of-21.

Classifieds

Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad
Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m.
Tuesday. \$15 for first 20 words

Employment

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING YOUR OWN BOSS? Learn to do Commercial Roofing using our proven systems with higher profit potential! Call Clem 417-235-2323 (WCAN)

OTR TRUCK DRIVERS FT/PT Put Your Career in Gear!! Competitive wages & full benefits. Mileage, Drop pay, Paid weekly Home weekends, NO east/west coast, 28 central states. Van & Hopper Division. Agriculture experience a plus. Fox Valley company since 1958 Call Frank 920-788-6242 or 920-858-0238. Van Groll Trucking, Kaukauna

For Sale

2023 SPRING BEE PRE-ORDER
5 Frame Nucs, Singles, Doubles & Pallets
www.bradsbeesandhoney.com
Brad 262-749-0716
Take 15% off with bee15wi (WCAN)

AKC Mini Schnauzer pups Born 12-3-22 M, shots/wormed parents on site
920-526-3512

AKC YELLOW MALE LAB PUPS shots/worm/vet, 9 Available \$425
715-257-1330 (267331)

AUSSIE DOODLES, REDS & RED MERLES
vac/wormed/dews Family Raised \$600
715-721-0246

BERNEODOODLES & POODLES \$200 shots vet chk'd wormed dewes 715-218-9247, 715-721-5375 No Sun Calls (WCAN)

DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today!
1-888-686-1458 (WCAN)

FLORIDA BOUND EMPTY TRUCK Can move household & Cars - CHEAP! Local 414-520-1612

FRITZ BARN PAINTING Rusty Roofs, Metal bldgs Free Est 608-221-3510
920-821-6311

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES Full AKC, Your New Best Friend awaits! \$450 715-267-6470

KRAUS SNOWPLOW CO Hiner-Snow-Way-Western-Meyer-Used Boss; Sales/Service 920-894-2488 or 920-948-2812

Mini American Eskimo Puppies Males & Females Ready Now! Great Pets!
715-754-5004

MINI BERNEODOODLE PUPS Cute! Health Certificate, \$1800 Call/text 715-409-0533

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote! Call now before the next power outage:
1-877-626-1009 (WCAN)

POMERANIANS 8 wks friendly, playful shots/dewormed vet chk \$600 715-654-5149

REG COCKER SPANIEL PUPS dewes, shots, vet checked, wormed \$500 Ready Feb. 16th! 715-536-0697 or 715-316-2522 (WCAN)

TEDDY BEAR PUPPIES 6 wks old vet checked UTD shots \$1000-\$1200 715-703-8981

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149/mo! **BCI Bath & Shower.** Many options avail. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now & SAVE 15%! Call today! 1-877-651-1850 (WCAN)

THE GENERAC PWRcell a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-855-707-0232 (WCAN)

THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING A NEW SHOWER? American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call 1-844-479-1327 today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit www.newshowerdeal.com/wcp (WCAN)

TRI AUSSIES \$400; BORDER COLLIES \$300; MINI AUSSIE MIX \$250, shots 715-250-2793

WINTER MARKET Feb 9th-13th Pop culture Comics Toys Collectibles Small Businesses
FOX RIVER MALL APPLETON INFO ZURKO 715-526-9769

Miscellaneous

Coin Show: Sunday, February 19, Oshkosh Convention Center. FREE Admission. 9AM-4PM. Buy, Sell, Trade Coins, Gold, Silver, Paper Money & More. Further information call Randy @ 920-231-6161.

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO SELL? GET RESULTS! Affordable advertising that fits your budget! Reach OVER 300,000 homes! Place your ad in MANY weekly Wisconsin Shoppers & Buyers' Guide papers for as low as \$36.00
Call today! Publishers Development Service, Inc. (PDS, Inc.) 1-800-236-0737
www.pdsadnet.com

WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact **The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)**

YOUR CAR, BOAT OR MOTORCYCLE helps Rawhide provide mental health services that redirect local Wisconsin youth & adults from harmful decisions. Donate Today!
888-653-2729 (WCAN)

Senior spotlight

FROM PAGE 10

The Rockets came within one game of making it to state last season, losing to conference rival Appleton East in the sectional semifinal.

Kok admitted that loss was certainly a tough one to take. However, the next day was the unofficial start to this season and the team was already looking forward to what was lying ahead.

"That loss was pretty tough but we knew it was only going to help us," Kok said. "We knew we had a lot of girls coming back and we had a really great team chemistry. We knew that we wanted to do more.

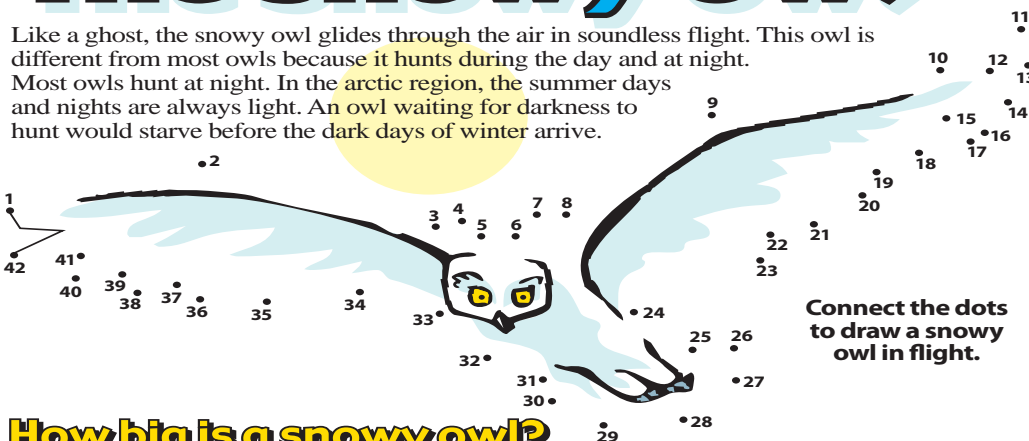
"Sammie (Buss) just popped right in with us and we built our team chemistry over the summer. You can see how much that translates on the court."

Kok doesn't plan on continuing her basketball career at the collegiate level, at least not outside of playing intramurals.

She plans to attend Marquette University and study business and likely root

The Snowy Owl

Like a ghost, the snowy owl glides through the air in soundless flight. This owl is different from most owls because it hunts during the day and at night. Most owls hunt at night. In the arctic region, the summer days and nights are always light. An owl waiting for darkness to hunt would starve before the dark days of winter arrive.



Connect the dots to draw a snowy owl in flight.

Why White?

Many animals can blend into their environment. This is called camouflage. There are few trees on the tundra, so the snowy owl's white plumage blends with the snowy world of the northern arctic.

In the spring, when the snowy owl makes a nest, the snow has started to melt and the brown earth shows through patches of white snow. The female snowy owl's soft white feathers are streaked with brown so she cannot be seen as she nests on the ground.

Here are three other animals that blend into their habitats, or homes. Can you unscramble their names?

**POLEDAR
REDE
EGIRT**

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have external features that help them thrive in the different environments they inhabit.

How big is a snowy owl?

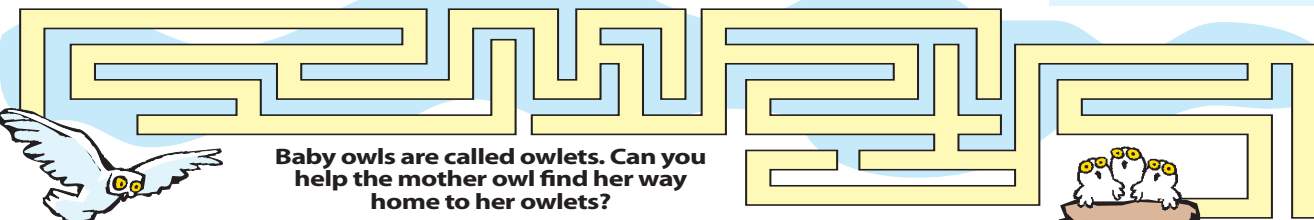
The snowy owl is one of the largest owls, with a height of about 27 inches (69 cm) and a wingspan of up to 60 inches (152 cm). Wingspan is the measurement from wing tip to wing tip, when the wings are fully stretched.

Microwave oven	25 inches (63.5 cm)
Teacher's desk	40 inches (102 cm)
House cat	25 inches (63.5 cm)
Baseball bat	33 inches (84 cm)
Tennis Racket	27 inches (69 cm)
Small car (width)	67 inches (170 cm)

How many of the things in this chart could fit into a snowy owl's wingspan?

Measure 60 inches (152 cm) on the floor. Now lie down with your arms outstretched along the line. Measure your outstretched arms. How do you compare?

Standards Link: Measurement: Students compare the length of objects by using direct comparison of standard units.



Baby owls are called owlets. Can you help the mother owl find her way home to her owlets?

Owl Eyes

All owls have excellent sight so that they can spot creatures like mice that run fast along the ground. Owls' eyes are not the same as human eyes. We move our eyes in their sockets to see from side to side. The owl must turn his head to see in different directions. Owls also have a third eyelid, which protects the eye.

It is a milky white eyelid that comes up from the bottom of the eye. Its purpose is to clean and refresh the owl's eyes. This third eyelid is called a *nictitating membrane*.

Standards Link: Life Science: Adaptations in physical structures improve an animal's chance for survival.



The Eyes Have It

The snowy owl has round, yellow eyes. Can you find the pair of eyes that match?

Standard Links: Visual Discrimination: Students compare and sort common objects.

Count the Eyes

Look through the newspaper and count the number of eyes that you find. How many are human eyes? How many are the eyes of other animals?

Standards Link: Number Sense: Count and name a number of objects.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Don't chew your food, dear. Swallow it whole.

The snowy owls need to eat a huge amount each day—enough to equal their own body weight. They don't chew their food—they just swallow their prey whole, including fur, claws, teeth and bones. Then they spit out a pellet of all the parts they can't digest.

What silly things can you find on this owl's dinner plate?

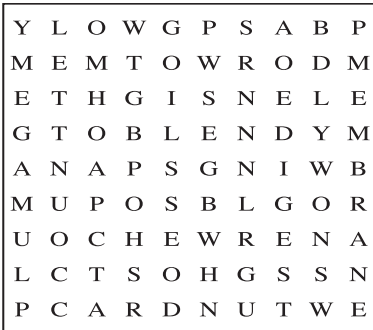
Standards Link: Life Science: Animals need food for survival and have physical structures to help them survive.



Double Double Word Search

- SNOWY
- OWL
- WINGSPAN
- MEMBRANE
- DIGEST
- BONES
- COUNT
- TUNDRA
- SPOT
- SIGHT
- CHEW
- PREY
- BLEND
- GHOST
- PLUMAGE

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



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

Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Try these exercises to have fun and exercise the owl way!



Fly like an owl.

Stretch your arms wide apart and swoop around outdoors.

Perch like an owl.



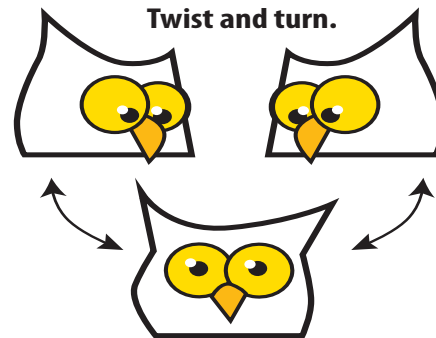
Squat down like you are sitting on a tree branch watching for mice on the ground. Fold your arms into wings with your thumbs in your armpits. How long can you stay in this position?

Hop like an owl.



Start in the perch position. Then hop to the right, hop to the left, hop forward, hop backward.

Twist and turn.



While sitting in the perched position, turn your head as far to the right as you can. Then turn your head as far left as possible.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Understand the health benefits of physical activity and exercise.

Write On!

Animal Report

Write a paragraph reporting on your favorite animal. Include at least three facts about this animal.

Proudly sponsored by



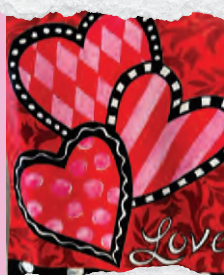
1197 W. Winneconne Ave



Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

Beautiful crafts, gifts, and home decor from local artisans.

Come visit Cedar Ridge and be amazed!



Cedar Ridge CRAFTS & GIFTS

1197 W Winneconne Ave, Neenah, WI (920) 722-9600 • Open Mon-Sat 10-5

Follow us on Facebook