



Matthew Brehmer
Attorney at Law

BL
BREHMER
LAW LLC

- Estate Planning
- Business Law
- Tax Law

117 W. Wisconsin Ave
Neenah, WI
(920) 502-7100
www.brehmerlawllc.com



Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue photos

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue divers conduct regular training on the ice in preparation for winter emergencies.

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Rescue teams share lifesaving focus

Training ramps up ahead of ice fishing events

By Dan Roherty
NEENAH NEWS

Ice rescue training is an ongoing priority for Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue and other regional emergency departments, and takes on added emphasis ahead of two large ice fishing events on the Winnebago lake system.

Multiple departments worked together on response coordination and training on Lake Butte des Morts in Oshkosh recently that Neenah-Menasha assistant chief of training Jim Peglow said went beyond individual team training that often coordinates with Winnebago County resources.

Peglow said last winter generated more agency interaction, including emergency responses to a February snow squall across the region, that helps teams better know each another's equipment capabilities and personnel.

Those recent experiences and the upcoming Winnebago system spearfishing season (Feb. 11) and Battle on Bago (Feb. 17-18) prompted crews from Neenah-Menasha, Oshkosh, Winneconne, Omro, Poy Sippi and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office to share their training and tools.

"It was an eye-opener and we all worked well together, but it reminds everybody we can be doing a little bit more training together," Peglow said.

He said it was good to see the different airboats and their capabilities, be able to operate at unfamiliar boat landings to identify any issues, and share tips on best



Three more Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue team members completed dive certification recently through Mountain Bay Scuba.

use of GPS datums that are used between boat systems and cellphones.

Staffing goes up for Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue to help support spearfishing season and Battle on Bago.

"Just the sheer number of people, you're

going to have everything from medical emergencies to people lost on the ice, to cars and snowmobiles and four-wheelers not starting," Peglow said.

SEE **Ice rescues** ON PAGE 7

Agencies, police combat human trafficking

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Situated along the Interstate 41 corridor, the Fox Valley is considered a hot spot for human trafficking.

With motels and hotels lining the interstate and many large events that can draw thousands of visitors from all over the country, the span between Milwaukee and Green Bay is considered especially attractive for sex trafficking.

Human trafficking involves the exploitation of a person through force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of commercial sex or forced labor, accord-

ing to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



Gonzalez

Nora Gonzalez Carvajal is an anti-human trafficking victims advocate at Reach Counseling in Neenah.

Reach helped 58 survivors of trafficking in 2021 and about 70 survivors in 2022. Most of the cases involve people living in the Fox Valley.

Gonzalez Carvajal said the human trafficking survivors come from all backgrounds and ages. About 40% of the survivors are black women.

"This is because traffickers often think they'll land less jail time if caught trafficking black women in comparison to white women," she said.

Victims are targeted by traffickers

SEE **Human trafficking** ON PAGE 7

Murder trial set in 2021 stabbing

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

An April jury trial date has been set for the man charged in the stabbing death of Roger Ridgeway near Gord's Pub in Neenah in 2021.

Mandel Roy, 26, of Minnesota, has been in jail since that time on a felony murder charge. His case was repeatedly delayed after his state-appointed public defender stopped showing up for court. Last November, the court appointed an attorney to represent Roy at county expense.

Roy's accomplice, Terran Colwell, 30, of Minnesota, was convicted of substantial battery and harboring or aiding a felon last September and was sentenced to three years in prison.

Charles Hoofman, 53, of Neenah, was sen-



Roy

SEE **Murder trial** ON PAGE 4

Neenah News

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124 W. Wisconsin Ave.
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General information/customer service:

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

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Publisher

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

Editor

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

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Miss Rural Winnebago sparks leadership

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Waukau Youth Group is seeking applicants for the 55th annual Miss Rural Winnebago contest June 11.

Miss Rural Winnebago (MRW) is a youth leadership position with the goal of promoting rural life and agriculture in Winnebago County.

The public figure position is held for a year and includes participating in a variety of events such as parades, public speaking and service activities.

It aims to provide young women with a unique experience and stronger interpersonal skills.

MRW was started in 1969 by the Waukau Youth Group that operates out of the Waukau Youth Center at 2711 State 116. The organization hosts multiple family-friendly events each year.

MRW program coordinator Jodie Weyland, 23, was born in Neenah and later moved to Winneconne. She held the MRW title in 2016 and the Winnebago County Fairest of the Fair title in 2021.

Weyland enjoys helping others. During her reign as MRW she developed a professional network that she said remains impactful today.

"As a coordinator, I want to help each Miss find her own interests; her own passions through this program," she said.

The 2023 MRW will have the opportunity to participate in agricultural and rural tours within the county and make connections with local businesses.

"Each time she tours these places she



Weyland

learns information that she goes on to talk about with other people and she also uses what she learned to promote those businesses, as well as the Miss Rural program, on the social media platforms that we use," Weyland said.



Submitted photo

Miss Rural Winnebago Macy Dodd (right) is shown with Fairest of the Fair Meghan Numrich.

learns information that she goes on to talk about with other people and she also uses what she learned to promote those businesses, as well as the Miss Rural program, on the social media platforms that we use," Weyland said.

The 2022 MRW, Macy Dodd of Winneconne, will be passing on her crown and title June 11 at the Youth Days Chicken BBQ at the Waukau Youth Center.

The program is open to females ages 13-17 who reside or attend school in Winnebago County. No agricultural background or related experiences are required. Applicants will speak with two judges during the interview process and participate in etiquette training.

"We give them some tools that they can take home and to their communities to help them feel more comfortable talking with people that they might not usually feel more open to going up to," Weyland said.

No matter how the contest ends, applicants will leave with new experiences.

"If someone is afraid to apply, there is no fear," Weyland said. "It's very casual and they will take skills away, whether they have a crown or not, at the end of the process."

The application period for the 2023 contest is open through May 31. Applications are available at missruralwinnebago.wixsite.com/mrw.

County promotes proper recycling of electronics

Winnebago County Solid Waste is urging residents to be mindful of how they dispose of electronics as they're turning off the old and booting up new devices. State law bans most electronic devices from Wisconsin landfills.

"We've seen electronics come into our transfer station on recycling and garbage trucks that service communities from across our county," said Kathy Hutter, solid waste operations manager.

"That means someone put it in their waste or recycling container at home without knowing that broken electronics and

their batteries can expose our workers to hazardous materials or start fires in refuse carts, collection trucks and our facilities."

Recycling electronics benefits the community's safety and helps the environment.

"Electronic devices contain a variety of materials that can be salvaged, recycled and reused," said Jessica Hanson, solid waste communications and program development specialist. "Recycling electronics through drop-off programs conserves natural resources and ensures that data left on the device is properly de-

stroyed."

County residents with household TVs, computers, monitors, printers, DVD/VCR players, gaming systems, tablets and cellphones can bring them to Winnebago County Solid Waste at 100 W. County Y for cost-efficient recycling year-round.

Visit WinnebagoCountySolidWaste.com for more information.

Chamber leadership programs set new season

The Fox Cities Chamber has set application dates for its two leadership programs, Leadership Fox Cities and Leadership Fox Cities 2.0, that will be available starting May 1.

Starting in fall of each year, participants gather monthly for daylong educational sessions in the community focused on topics including business, education, government and media, human services, health and wellness, law enforcement, environment, and the arts.

A kickoff retreat is held in September and programming starts in October.

Small groups also will complete community projects during the session. To learn more, visit foxcitieschamber.com/leadership-fox-cities.

Leadership Fox Cities 2.0 was created exclusively for graduates of Leadership Fox Cities and other community leadership programs.

The advanced development program is an extension of the original program that takes a deeper dive into community topics. 2.0 sessions will be held Oct. 24, Jan. 23, 2024, March 26, 2024, and April 23, 2024. Each session will run from 8 a.m. to noon.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society



Ice harvesting

Before refrigeration was common, ice harvesting allowed things to be kept cold throughout the year. In 1903 a total crop of 100,000 tons of ice was cut from the Neenah shore of Lake Winnebago to fill the ice houses, cold storage plants and adjacent country ice houses.

Lawsuit filed to support Shattuck area yard signs

Neenah News

A federal lawsuit has been filed against the city of Neenah challenging efforts to enforce a sign ordinance in the Shattuck Middle School neighborhood.

The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) is representing Tim and Megan Florek of Neenah. WILL filed the lawsuit Monday, stating that the city's efforts to have signs removed from homes in the school neighborhood protesting rezoning efforts for the property are unconstitutional.

The Shattuck site will be vacant later this year as the district restructures with the completion of the new Neenah High School in Fox Crossing.

The Common Council voted against rezoning the site to be made into apartments and homes at a meeting in early December. The signs stating "Don't Rezone Shattuck

Middle School Leave R-1 Alone" have remained in the yards of dozens of homes to protest any future rezoning efforts.

The Floreks, who live on Congress Street near Shattuck, were one of about 65 homes who received a letter notifying them that the signs violate city ordinance and giving them until Feb. 8 for removal.

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.

Documents indicate the initial letter stated that the Floreks' sign is considered a "temporary sign" because there is no pending action with the council regarding rezoning but notes if a rezoning request is filed again the sign would then be permitted to be displayed because the issue would be pending.



Neenah News

A sign ordinance in the city of Neenah is facing a federal lawsuit.

WILL sent a response letter to the city, notifying them that the ordinance violates the First Amendment and requesting that the city withdraw it.

The city then issued the Floreks an amended violation notice, which was substantially the same but with wording removed that relates to the Floreks' opportunity to display the sign if a rezoning request is filed again.

WILL argues this is evidence that the city has targeted the Shattuck sign based on its message, adding that if the sign was a "For Sale" sign the city would allow the sign to be displayed for 30 days after the sale of the property, which may never happen.

"But because the Floreks have chosen to display a sign which contains a political message instead of a sign which contains a for-sale message, the city has resorted to an apparent default classification of the message as a portable sign, thereby limiting the Floreks to a single sign of smaller

size and subjecting them to more stringent time limitations for displaying their sign," WILL attorneys wrote.

City Attorney David Rashid said last week that the city's ordinance is content neutral because it regulates any such signs, regardless of the message appearing on them. He noted another 10 residents received notices of violation for signs with messaging that was not pertaining to Shattuck.

WILL contends the Floreks have a First Amendment right to display the sign on their residential property as a means of expressing their opinion on a controversial issue.

"The city does not get to decide what issues its residents can speak on, nor does it have the authority to limit its residents' political speech in this manner," WILL wrote.

WILL is asking for an 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.

Convention & Visitors Bureau officers, members named

The Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau this week named its 2023 board of directors and executive committee.

Board officers include:

- Chair Ryan Batley, Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort
- Vice chair Abe Weber, Appleton International Airport
- Secretary Matt Carpenter, History Museum at the Castle
- Treasurer Jim March, Town of Grand Chute

Other executive committee members include:

- Amanda Hedtke, Fairfield Inn & Suites Appleton
- Randy Kliment, Hampton Inn Appleton

- Beau Bernhoft, Village of Little Chute
- Chris Haese, City of Neenah
- Chuck Gifford, Comfort Suites Appleton

Newly elected board members include:

- David Kress, City of Appleton
- Ryan Moede, Wisconsin Timber Rattlers

Other returning board members include:

- Linda Garvey, Hilton Appleton Paper Valley
- Norb Karner, Village of Kimberly
- Jeff Sturgell, Village of Fox Crossing
- Chef Jeff Igel, Fox Valley Technical College
- Peter Rank, CopperLeaf Boutique Hotel & Spa

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.



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Transport vehicles' safety locks updated after death

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Outagamie County Sheriff's Office has made changes to all its transport vehicles after a woman jumped from a moving police vehicle on State 441 in Fox Crossing and died last May.

Details of the incident were first shared by Neenah News last October.

Outagamie deputies James Stordock

and Thomas Van Horn were transporting 43-year-old Xee Yang of Grand Chute from St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton to Winnebago County Mental Health Institute in Oshkosh on May 30 when Yang exited the moving vehicle while it was traveling about 65 miles per hour. She died while en route to the hospital.

Witness statements vary on whether Yang jumped or fell from the vehicle. The

incident was reviewed by the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office, which concluded Yang jumped from the van on her own volition.

It was determined Yang was able to exit the moving vehicle because the child safety locks, which would have prevented her from opening the back doors from the inside, were not engaged.

Stordock and Van Horn each retained legal counsel and refused to consent to an interview about the incident if it was recorded. According to a written summary of the interviews, both deputies said they believed all transport vans had their interior handles disabled or inaccessible and did

not know to check the child safety locks.

Sgt. Nathan Borman said in response to the incident that the Outagamie Sheriff's Office reviewed the locking mechanisms on all vehicles and made changes to ensure the interior handles cannot function.

In patrol vehicles, the interior door handles are completely covered. In other transport vehicles, the interior door handles were disabled by a mechanic and would require disassembly of the door to bypass.

The DA's office determined there was no basis to criminally prosecute the two deputies transporting Yang because their only role in her death was failing to check that the locks were engaged.

Opioid death case brings felony charges

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A Milwaukee man is headed to trial on a homicide charge for selling drugs to a person who fatally overdosed in Winnebago County in late 2021.

Andre Body, 31, was charged in Winnebago County last year with first-degree intentional homicide for delivering drugs resulting in death. He was also charged in Milwaukee County with five felony drug charges as the second offense.

Documents indicate the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department responded to a home in the Town of Wolf River for an overdose Dec. 27, 2021. An adult male was pronounced dead at the scene. Drug paraphernalia was also located.

The victim's girlfriend told authorities that he was watching television with her and her daughter when she fell asleep. She said when she woke up she found the victim unresponsive and not breathing.

An autopsy conducted on the victim revealed he died from heroin and metonitazene toxicity. Metonitazene and isotonitazene are novel synthetic opioids with a potency similar to fentanyl that are sometimes mixed with heroin.

The victim's girlfriend initially failed to tell authorities that she and the victim traveled to Milwaukee earlier in the day to purchase heroin. A source told police that the victim's girlfriend didn't turn the drugs into authorities and did the same

drugs the next day. She overdosed and was revived.

After questioning the girlfriend and reviewing the victim's cellphone, it was determined that the drugs were purchased from a dealer referred to as "Blue." The Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) began conducting controlled buys from Blue.

From Jan. 13 through Feb. 28, DCI purchased a total of 23.8 grams of heroin for about \$1,800 in four controlled buys. The drugs tested positive for heroin with additives including fentanyl, metonitazene and isotonitazene.

After the fourth controlled buy, Blue was positively identified as Body. He was arrested and charged in April.

Sentencing for the drug charges in Milwaukee County is set for Feb. 2. A jury trial is scheduled for May in Winnebago County for the reckless homicide charge.

Body has a lengthy criminal record including a felony conviction for a 2015 incident where he punched his girlfriend and stabbed her in the arm several times with a steak knife.

The overdose victim's mother wrote in an impact statement that the victim was a father of two who was more than an addict.

"Our prayers and heartaches weren't enough to keep him here but our love for him never has and never will waiver," she wrote.

Third man sentenced in robbery shooting

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The third man involved in a 2021 armed robbery in Neenah where a person was shot in both legs was sentenced last week for his role in the crime.

Tyrell Anderson, 21, of Oshkosh, pled no contest Jan. 27 and was convicted of party to the crime of armed robbery as a repeater. He was sentenced to three years in prison and three years of extended supervision.



Anderson

In September, Javontae Mabry, 23, of Oshkosh, was sentenced to four years in prison and five years of extended supervision for party to the crime of armed robbery with use of force as a repeater.

Last February, Trino Sanchez, 21, of Oshkosh, was sentenced to four years in prison and five years of extended supervision for party to the crime of reckless injury and recklessly endangering safety.

The three men went to a house on Primrose Lane in Neenah on Aug. 3, 2021, to a knife and Ridgeway's wallet, which was never located.

A witness told police that Roy had blood on his hands. All of the parties involved said they didn't see a knife and didn't know who stabbed Ridgeway.

Roy's attorney, Scott Ceman, filed a Deny notice last week, indicating that he intends to show evidence at trial that Colwell and Hoofman committed the crime.

According to the notice, there is evidence that Colwell started the fight with Ridgeway and during the altercation she was knocked to the ground. She later told an investigator that this caused her to become "pissed" and pushed her to do some "crazy (expletive)."

Ceman alleges that Colwell obtained a

buy drugs. Documents say the woman living in the basement of the home told the men she didn't have drugs to sell. The encounter escalated to an armed robbery.

Sanchez pointed a gun at the woman and repeatedly struck her in the face with it while Mabry tackled her to the bed. The men stole two cellphones and a box that contained marijuana and suboxone, a medication used to treat opiate addiction, and about \$22 in cash.

As the men were exiting the home, the homeowner returned with his son and another man. The third party ran after the fleeing men.

Sanchez, Anderson and Mabry jumped into their vehicle. One of them pointed a gun out the back seat window and shot the man pursuing them in the leg. The bullet traveled through both of his knees and down into his left leg. He was hospitalized for his injuries.

The robbery victim sustained a facial injury that she sutured herself. All three men were later arrested and charged.

A handgun similar to the one used in the robbery was recovered from a vehicle during Sanchez's arrest. None of the men admitted to being the shooter.

knife from Hoofman that she used to fatally stab Ridgeway.

While incarcerated, Roy has been charged with two misdemeanor counts of criminal damage to property for breaking jail windows, one count of disorderly conduct for refusing to comply with corrections officers who tased him and one count of battery for beating an inmate who called him a racial slur.

A three-day jury trial has been set for April 3 for the felony murder charge, which carries an enhanced sentence of 15 years in prison, in addition to the maximum sentence for the underlying felony committed when the murder occurred. Felony armed robbery carries up to 40 years in prison.

Murder trial

FROM PAGE 1

tenced in late January to 60 days in jail for being a felon in possession of a firearm after police executed a search warrant for the murder weapon and located a loaded gun. He has not been directly charged in the murder.

Ridgeway, 22, of Fox Crossing, was found stabbed six times near Gord's Pub on April 21, 2021, and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Court documents indicate police were called to Gord's earlier in the evening due to an altercation involving Ridgeway's mother and several members of the Hell's Lovers

motorcycle club. Ridgeway went to Gord's around 10:30 p.m. to inquire about the altercation.

Surveillance videos show Ridgeway leaving Gord's a short time later with Roy, Colwell and Hoofman. They walk to a grassy area in a nearby parking lot where a fight breaks out.

Roy is captured on video beating Ridgeway with a tire knocker. Colwell jumps in and at some point is recorded calling for a knife. Documents indicate Roy and Colwell continued beating Ridgeway while he tried to get away.

Roy and Colwell were recorded running around the block and entering Eagle Nation Cycles. Colwell was seen in footage carrying

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Submitted photos

The Art Bus by Emma is getting ready to roll this spring in the community.

Art will be on the move in Neenah with Emma's efforts

By Jenny Grunwald
NEENAH NEWS

Starting April 1, Neenah residents may start noticing a teal school bus with flowers painted along the sides traveling around the community.

The Art Bus by Emma is a mobile studio where adults and children of all ages can learn about art all while creating their own artwork onboard. The bus is run by Neenah High School art teacher Emma Santiago, who says having a roving art studio has been a dream of hers.

When Santiago's husband came across a painted school bus on Facebook, Emma said they knew they had to have it. They went to look at the uniquely colored vehicle that was for sale and bought it on the spot.

The bus will host private events for things like birthday parties, ladies' nights and corporate outings. Santiago plans to partner with businesses around the community to be able to cater to events outside of their office space. She plans to take the bus to homes, parks and other locations around Neenah where they can park the bus and do classes as a way to give everybody a chance to learn about art.

"My long-term goal would be to be able to service home-school kiddos and be able to provide not only art classes or workshops, but art education and be able to teach people about the arts, not just do classes," she said.

The bus will be configured with counters and stools and fit a party of 10 to 12 people. The bus will run workshops and classes ranging from beginners to advanced levels as a way for people to not only do something fun but get something out of it, like learning a new skill.

"I just want people leaving with some-



Neenah High School art teacher Emma Santiago is creating a mobile art studio for the community this spring.

thing they're proud of" Santiago said. She wants the community to know they can make just about anything happen."

From elaborate birthday ideas to custom private events, the options will be open-ended and original from what other businesses cater to.

Santiago hopes to have a busy summer.

"I'm just excited to offer stuff to everybody. Everyone can benefit from this because there's so many options" she said.

Look for Santiago and her teal bus this spring, follow at theartbusbyemma.com or her Facebook page, facebook.com/theartbusbyemma.

Future Neenah names partnership awards

Future Neenah has recognized individuals and businesses that have best contributed through partnerships with the organization in 2022.

Corporate Citizen of the Year Award went to The Boldt Co., which created the new holiday alley downtown and also came to Future Neenah's rescue by repairing an office roof leak.

Neenah With Pride Award: The Plaza at Gateway Park, a destination that brings people into the central city with a year-round play/entertain atmosphere.

Friend of Neenah Award: Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel and Conference Center, voted best conference center in Wisconsin in 2022, hosted a Fu-

ture Neenah board and planning meeting in 2022 and will be hosting its 40th anniversary gala this year.

Downtown Business of the Year Award: Elements Unleashed, a small retail boutique that opened in 2012 and fully embraced the downtown Neenah Unequaled brand.

Future Neenah Champion Award: Mike and Kim Cannon, Future Neenah ambassadors and team players. Mike began working with the organization in 2021 and brought in wife Kim with their creativity in the Spring Fling flower bed, Live Mannequin Window Display and representing Future Neenah in the Communityfest Parade.

Orbis Corp. selects Kukuk as new president

Orbis Corp., a subsidiary of Menasha Corp. and a global leader in reusable packaging, has announced the upcoming retirement of president Bill Ash and appointment of Norm Kukuk to succeed him effective March 31.

Ash joined Orbis in 2003, was named vice president of finance in 2004 and assumed the role of president in 2009.

"It was a privilege to have served Orbis," Ash said. "I worked with incredible employees, customers and community members, and am confident in ORBIS' continued success and growth under Norm's leadership and vision."

Kukuk started his career with Orbis in 1998 as an associate product manager. He

assumed the role of executive vice president of sales in 2020 and in 2022 added marketing and product management to his responsibilities.

Composed of two companies – Menasha Packaging Co. and Orbis – Menasha Corp. products and services are used by food, beverage, consumer products, industrial/automotive, health and beauty, pharmaceutical, and electronics companies.

Established in 1849 and based in Neenah, Menasha Corp. is one of America's oldest privately held, family-owned manufacturing companies. The company employs more than 7,000 in 100 facilities in North America and Europe.

Business news roundup

Plexus Corp. announced financial results last week for its fiscal first quarter that ended Dec. 31 and guidance for its second quarter ending April 1. First-quarter 2023 revenue was \$1.094 billion, with GAAP diluted earnings per share of \$1.49. The company reporting adding 29 manufacturing programs during the quarter representing \$158 million in annualized revenue when in full production. Plexus bought back \$11.5 million of its shares at an average price of \$99.12 per share under its repurchase program, leaving \$35 million available under a \$50 million authorization. Second-quarter revenue guidance was set at \$1.02 billion to \$1.07 billion.

Suneer Patel, who has spent more than a quarter-century in area manufacturing,

has joined the board of directors of **New North Inc.** He was advanced by New North's board development committee and approved by the board. Patel is president and CEO of FyterTech Nonwovens, a manufacturer of technical nonwoven fabrics and spill-control products based in De Pere and operating globally.

The **Neenah Police Department** is hiring community service aides, who work about 15-20 hours a week with duties that can include parking enforcement, animal complaints, assisting officers and directing traffic. The program can serve as a step toward employment as a law enforcement officer. Go to governmentjobs.com/careers/neenahwi for more information on the positions and others in the department.

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Calendar of events

Friday, Feb. 3

“Eurydice” by Neenah High School 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 Gyp-

sy Swing Ensemble, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

“Eurydice” by Rocket Players, 2 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Monday, Feb. 6

Famous Hikes Around the World, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

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

Thursday, Feb. 16

Founders and Settlers Series: George Mansur, 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

New theater group plans for summer production

Neenah News

A theatrical arts collective based in the Fox Valley and directed by Neenah native Josh Thone has been formed to produce accessible and affordable semiprofessional theater in the region.

A Fox Cities PAC Center Stage Award winner and Jimmy Award nominee, Thone is an actor making his directorial debut this summer through Josh Thone and Company with a reimagined produc-

tion of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” starring Memphis native Brima Gassama.

The show will run for a limited engagement in July and the company will be filled with many other Fox Valley theater artists. Thone also will be performing live to raise funds for the production.

For information on how to get involved or about the events, go to @joshthoneandco on either Instagram and Facebook.

Riverside Players set summer lineup

Riverside Players, the city of Neenah’s community theater program, has announced its lineup for the 2023 season of Theatre in the Park.

Now in its 67th season, Riverside Players’ first show will be “Fireflies,” directed by Christy Dubey and performed June 21-25.

The musical “All Shook Up,” directed by Amanda Petersen, will run July 20-23 and July 26-30.

Show tickets go on sale May 2.

Auditions are held in March or April with dates, times and locations announced in arts organization literature and local media.

Paid staff positions are available including directors (artistic, musical, vocal, technical), choreographer, orchestra members and costumers. Volunteer positions are also available.

More information can be found on auditions or ticketing by visiting www.neenahgov.org.

Caravan Gypsy ensemble takes stage at library

The Caravan Gypsy Swing Ensemble will perform at the Neenah Public Library at 2 p.m. Sunday with a range of musical styles and instruments blended for a unique sound.

Based in Madison, Caravan has been inspired by instrumental acoustic jazz influenced by Roma Gypsy jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt. The ensemble also pulls influences from American jazz, European folk music, traditional Latin and Parisian

waltz.

Friends of the Neenah Public Library and Neenah Public Library Trust Fund present this free Concert Series. Free-will donations are accepted.

If accommodations are needed to attend, contact the library at least 24 hours in advance. For more information, contact 920-886-6315 or library@neenahlibrary.org.

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Photo by David Hall

Sledding fun

Recent snow made for good sledding conditions at Memorial Park this week.

Winnebago ice report

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

As of Monday, I am finding 9 to 12 inches of ice in the bays, and 10 to 14 inches on the main lake body in the areas out from Payne's Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club. Yesterday we put one of our ATV/ UTV/ snowmobile bridges on the main working crack. The bridge is located 1.9 miles east of our clubhouse toward Faro Springs Road on the east shore. It is just south of Stevens Reef and is marked with a Christmas tree standing next to it.

We followed the crack yesterday to the north for a couple of miles and determined that it must run into shore east of Fire Lane 8 and in the area of High Cliff. To the south it hits Blackbird Island then



runs south to Garlic Island, then toward Oshkosh.

Travel on the lake is still pretty easy, there is a few inches of snow on the ice are with drifts up to a foot tall in places. With the cold weather we have coming this week, it will really help us make some ice by the shorelines where we are seeing the least amount of ice currently.

From what I have heard, water clarity is pretty good as of right now. Hopefully that stays true as runoff continues to work through the lake from the recent rain we received. I will do my best to keep updates to changing conditions on Payne's Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club's website and Facebook page. Remember, the ice is never 100% safe.

A cold-water survival presentation for rescue team members set for Thursday in Neenah City Hall will feature a woman who survived a fall through Lake Winnebago ice with her father in a vehicle about 15 years ago who were both saved. The city's medical control physician Dr. Mark Westphal, also will speak.

Peglow said surrounding communities are very fortunate to have Lake Winnebago but "it adds some challenges on the law enforcement, search-and-rescue and medical side of it – reaching these people, protecting them and serving them in the emergency response aspect that may develop."

Most of the funds to support the team come from annual fundraising efforts, which covers training and equipment needs.

Human trafficking

FROM PAGE 1

because of a variety of vulnerabilities. Children are especially targeted through social media, mobile devices and interactive gaming.

A common misconception is that human trafficking victims are snatched off the street. Gonzalez Carvajal said traffickers are more subtle in their approach and will groom their victims.

"Traffickers will look for a need they can fill," she said. "This may simply be buying the victim something new like a phone, jewelry, clothes; or giving them cash, drugs or alcohol."

She added there is a correlation between addiction and sex trafficking because once victims are hooked on drugs or alcohol, the trafficker becomes a source of supply, making it harder to leave.

"Anything to hook them," Gonzalez Carvajal said. "Sometimes traffickers demand sex as a repayment and will use fraud, force or coercion to exert control over the victim."

Grooming also involves showing the victim affection, attention and false promises or providing support to a young person who isn't getting it at home.

Neenah Police Department public information officer Joe Benoit said young people are particularly at risk of grooming.

"Don't get caught up in the thought that it could never happen to my kid or my kid could never do that," Benoit said. "The pressures to get involved sexually or do other things, those pressures are greater sometimes than the morals instilled by their parents."

Human trafficking generates \$150.2 billion in illegal profits each year, according to the International Labor Organization.

Fox Crossing community liaison officer Daniel Wiechman said events like Packers games, PGA tournaments, EAA AirVenture and music festivals make the community especially susceptible to human trafficking.

When victims are trafficked in an unfamiliar location, it makes it more difficult for them to leave. Because of the grooming involved, victims may not even be aware they are being exploited.

Benoit said cases of human trafficking in the Fox Valley are often underreported and prosecuting the perpetrators brings challenges.



Benoit

"Either there's not a prosecution at all because there's uncooperative victims or they essentially get a slap on the wrist or a municipal citation," he said.

Some common indicators of human trafficking include a person who isn't allowed to speak for themselves, appears disconnected or refuses to make eye contact, shows signs of physical abuse or sexualized behaviors.

A person who is being trafficked is often in the company of someone who seems to control where they go and who they talk to.

Gonzalez Carvajal said human traffickers are extremely dangerous.

"If you're worried a friend or loved one is actively being trafficked it is critical that you reach out to local law enforcement for support," she said.

For survivors of human trafficking, several local resources are available.

- Reach Counseling at 1509 S. Commercial St. offers support for survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking including medical advocacy, legal advocacy, personal advocacy, basic needs assistance and licensed therapists. It also offers a 24-hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line at 920-722-8150.

- Damascus Road is a nonprofit in Oshkosh that began in 2009 dedicated to raising awareness and assisting victims of human trafficking in the Fox Valley and statewide. Since 2017, Damascus Road said it has assisted more than 550 survivors of trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation. More information is available at damascusradproject.org.

- 5-stones is a nonprofit organization started in 2010 in the Fox Valley that works to increase awareness of human trafficking, decrease the demand for commercial sex, prevent victimization and network with other organizations that fight against human trafficking. More information is available at www.5-stones.org.

In correlation with Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January, Attorney General Josh Kaul announced the creation of a Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force to support survivors of human trafficking and ensure justice is served to those who commit a crime.

The task force is a partnership of federal, state and tribal law enforcement, and victim service providers.

"This task force will enhance efforts in Wisconsin to combat human trafficking and provide support for survivors," Kaul said. "By bringing law enforcement and victim service providers together, we can help ensure that Wisconsin is taking a comprehensive approach to fighting this crime."

Ice rescues

FROM PAGE 1

The department went from seven certified divers last year to 11 who are full-time firefighters volunteering for the position. Divers are tested annually and have a minimum of five open water dives and one ice dive every 18 months to maintain certification. The quarterly training covers a variety of water conditions and potential rescue scenarios.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Dive Team partners with NMFR on water rescue operations and shares boat access, including airboats used in ice rescues. Waterways are broken into response zones for fire departments throughout the county.

The most common incident continues to be vehicles falling through the ice.



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Neenah tops Oshkosh West for second straight win

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Two games with Cal Klesmit back in the lineup and the Neenah Rockets have a pair of wins.

Klesmit had a strong all-around effort and the Rockets held off Oshkosh West, 68-54, on Tuesday.

"I thought we did a lot of nice things on the court tonight," head coach Lee Rabas said. "We did a fantastic job sharing and protecting the ball. We shot the ball better than what we have and most importantly we had a strong showing from multiple players."

After a rough early start, Neenah got rolling, taking a 10-point lead into the half before the Klesmit show started to take over in the second half.

Leading 39-33, Klesmit scored seven straight points and nine of his team's next 11 to extend the Rockets lead to 50-34.

Jackson Schlomann came away with eight points in the second half to help the Rockets keep the Wildcats at bay.

"Schlomann is one of those players that gets overlooked a lot in our program," Rabas said. "He is not going to be an elite scorer, but he does a lot of the little things well and isn't afraid to do what the coaching staff asks him to do. Every team needs a guy like that."

Elliott Swanson and Schlomann scored the final eight points of the night for Neenah as the Rockets secured the win to remain within striking distance of an FVA title.

Rabas was happy to see them play a complete game.

"I am happy we were able to protect the home floor tonight, especially after a few losses at home," he said. "This was one of our better showings in a while, but we still need to be better defensively to get where we want to go."

The Wildcats raced out to the 11-3 lead with Sam Coulthard scoring the first bucket of the night for Neenah.

After a quick timeout, it was all Rockets the rest of the way as Schlomann started what was a 10-2 run for the Rockets to bring things back to even at 13-13.

West made the next basket to regain the lead but once again it was the Rockets offense that was starting to take over.

A couple baskets from Klesmit and Brady Corso and what was a tie game was now a 25-17 Rockets lead as they started to take complete control. The Klesmit and Corso duo was just getting started as they scored 12 of the Rockets final first half points in the first half to build a 39-29 lead at the break.

Individual scoring statistics from the game were not available.



Neenah News file photo

Neenah's Brady Corso drives to the basket during a game earlier in the season.

Ziebell, Rockets prove to be too much for Wildcats

Neenah News

As much as the talent runs deep on the Neenah girls basketball roster, it's still awfully nice to have a player like Allie Ziebell to crank things up every so often.

Tuesday night, in a 67-49 win over Oshkosh West, Ziebell was certainly the show.

The junior UConn recruit scored 11 straight points during a key stretch in the first half and finished with 30 points overall in the win. It was her second straight 30-point game and fourth time this season she scored at least 30 points in a game.

Ava Kok was the next highest scorer for the Rockets with nine points, while Rowan Klesmit finished with seven. Amaya Jones was off to a strong start with five points and five rebounds in the opening minutes but left with an injury midway through the first half and did not return.

Neenah only trailed once in the game when Oshkosh West took a 7-5 advantage about five minutes into the game.

Klesmit then hit a 3-pointer to put the Rockets ahead and then Ziebell took over.

She made two free throws after being fouled on a drive and then hit a 3-pointer following four missed free throws by the Wildcats as Neenah extended the advan-

tage to 13-7. Ziebell had 16 of the team's 34 first-half points and capped the opening stanza with a drive to the basket for a 34-23 advantage.

The Rockets stretched the lead to 13 points early in the second but the Wildcats answered and narrowed the gap to 41-33.

Kok then drained a 3-pointer to stem the West momentum and push the lead back to double digits and the Rockets led by at least 10 points the rest of the way.

Four different players hit 3-pointers in the game for Neenah as the Rockets finished with seven 3s for the game. Oshkosh West had just one made shot from behind the arc.

Overall, The Rockets shot just 32 percent from the field in the game, but did make 14-of-17 from the free-throw line and forced the Wildcats into 16 turnovers.

The third-ranked Rockets ran their winning streak to nine games with the victory and improved to 19-1 overall. Neenah is 13-1 in the FVA and tied for first place in the league with Hortonville – the only team to beat the Rockets this season.

Neenah plays at Kimberly on Tuesday before hosting the Polar Bears on Friday.

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- 9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.** Networking Break and Sponsor Expo brought to you by TDS Telecom
- 9:20 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.** Change Leaders Burst Session brought to you by Arctic Wolf
- 10:20 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.** Networking Break and Sponsor Expo brought to you by TDS Telecom
- 10:40 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.** Wisdom of the Crowd Panel Session brought to you by Sadoff E-Recycling and Data Destruction and Lincoln Labs
- 12:00 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.** Luncheon Keynote Presentation with Dennis Winters, Chief Economist with Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Buss hits milestone as Rockets collect win

Sammie Buss scored 12 points to surpass the 1,000-point plateau as Neenah knocked off Appleton North 67-58 last Friday night.

Allie Ziebel posted a triple-double to lead the way for the Rockets. The junior finished with 30 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists in the victory.

Ava Kok chipped in 13 points and Amaya Jones logged seven points and 12 rebounds for Neenah, which trailed 32-31 at the break.

The two teams combined to shoot 20 free throws in the game, with Neenah finishing 20-of-30 from the foul line, while the Lightning were 14-of-20.

Big second half carries Zephyrs to easy win

St. Mary Catholic erupted for a 52-point second half to overcome a halftime deficit and collect a 74-61 win over Sheboygan Lutheran on Tuesday night.

The Zephyrs trailed 27-22 at intermission but held the Crusaders to 32 points in the second half.

Chloe Vogel led the charge for the Zephyrs with 27 points for St. Mary Catholic. Audrey Norville added 15 points, while Emily Vogel chipped in 14 points and a team-high eight rebounds.

St. Mary Catholic used a big advantage at the free-throw line to help claim the win.

The Zephyrs finished an impressive 20-of-26 for the game, while Sheboygan Lutheran was just 5-of-10.

Zephyrs hit 12 3s in win over Rams

St. Mary Catholic hit 12 3-pointers – more than half of their total field goals – and held off Random Lake in the second half for a 67-62 win last Friday.

The Zephyrs finished 12-of-31 from behind the arc with Sienna Anderson leading the way with five treys accounting for all 15 of her points.

Chloe Vogel scored 19 points to lead four players in double figures for St. Mary Catholic. Emily Vogel added 16 points and Audrey Norville finished with 11 points.

Nolie Anderson registered 10 rebounds in the game.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Strong first half fuels Rockets' victory

Neenah held Appleton North to just 14 first-half points and cruised to a 62-41 win in a Fox Valley Association game last Friday.

Behind the strong defense, the Rockets took a 31-14 lead at intermission.

Brady Corso led the way for Neenah with 19 points. Cal Klesmit returned to the court and added 10 points, while Elliot Swanson finished with 10 points.

Neenah had a strong night from the free-throw line going 18-of-22 to help contribute to the win.

Zephyrs hold off Crusaders for close win

St. Mary Catholic withstood a second-half charge from Sheboygan Lutheran to hold on for a 44-43 win as Cole Uhlenbrauck blocked a final shot from the

Crusaders.

Charlie Nackers scored 18 points to lead the way for the Zephyrs, while Daniel Griffith added 12 points

The 44 points were the lowest point total in the Zephyrs' last 34 games.

SWIMMING

Rockets finish sixth at Middleton Invitational

Drew Gaerthofner and Ryan Foucault each posted top-five finishes to help lead Neenah to a sixth-place finish at a 14-team invitational hosted by Middleton.

The Rockets finished with 131.5 points to edge Waunakee (130) and Verona (126) for the spot.

Gaerthofner had the best individual finish at the meet tying for second place in the 50-yard freestyle. He also picked up a fourth place in the 100-yard breaststroke. Foucault placed third in the diving competition.

Neenah's best finish in a relay was in the 200-yard freestyle relay by the team of Tanner Trustem, Julian Kuehn, Joshua Youngwerth and Gaerthofner.

The Fox Valley Association meet will be held Saturday at Appleton North with the Division 1 sectional slated for the following week in Neenah.

BOYS HOCKEY

Rockets post second straight win with shutout

The Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha co-op hockey team scored a 5-0 win over Homestead on Tuesday night.

No other information was available from the game.

WIAA adjusts football-only realignment

The WIAA Conference Realignment Task Force modified its original proposal from last year and introduced the new plan at its January meeting.

The preliminary proposal would have seen 105 teams change conferences in 11-player football beginning with the 2024 season, with only 17 of the 49 conferences not impacted in some way.

The new realignment plan was released after school representatives had the opportunity to express concerns about the realignment.

The Fox Valley Association was one of the conferences affected by the realignment. The league would lose Oshkosh North as one of its eight teams, with Hortonville sliding in to round out the roster.

The other seven teams in the league would continue to be Appleton East, Appleton North, Kaukauna, Fond du Lac, Kimberly, Neenah and Oshkosh West.

St. Mary Catholic, which will return to 11-player this fall as an independent and not affiliated with any conference, will join the Eastern Wisconsin Conference for the 2024 season.

The rest of the conference is made up of Brillion, Chilton, Kiel, Kohler co-op, New Holstein, Roncalli and Valders. The Zephyrs will be replacing Two Rivers on the current league roster.

The new plan will be voted on at the March 7 Board of Control meeting. The Board of Control has the authority to approve, reject or send the realignment plan back to the task force.

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Neenah's Sheppard aims to finish career with flourish

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

This time of the year can be a double-edged sword in high-school wrestling circles.

It's the joy and relief of advancing to another match, another weekend and potentially earning a coveted trip to the Kohl Center in Madison at the end of the month against the suddenness of a season – and possibly a career – coming to an end.

Jayden Sheppard is focused on the former. The Neenah High School senior has compiled a 27-2 record this season and enters the tournament season – starting with the Fox Valley Association meet on Saturday in Neenah – and ready to finish his final prep season with a flourish.

"Most guys in the state, myself included, our goals are defined by this time of year where we can prove to the state what we have," Sheppard said. "It's exciting for sure. Just knowing you kind of build up all year long and this is the end. You have to make sure you are doing everything right beforehand to put all you can out on the mat for the final stretch of the season."

Sheppard has experienced both sides of how February can treat wrestlers.

As a freshman, he ended his season at the Kohl Center where he earned a spot in the 120-pound bracket at state. He lost in the first round to an eventual placewinner.

But the next two seasons, Sheppard would fall short of earning a trip to state. He reached the sectional tournament both times but failed to advance, finishing fourth in a tough 126-pound bracket last season.

"(Not making it to state) affected me, but there were some variables involved and I'm not letting them get to me at this point," Sheppard said. "I know what it's like and I want to get back. I'm focusing and working on the little details that are going to help me get back."

For wrestlers with aspirations like Sheppard, it can be a difficult balance preparing for the state series.

With the goals so close, it can be hard to



Neenah News

Jayden Sheppard is currently 27-2 this season and is looking to earn his second trip to the WIAA State Wrestling Tournament.

maintain focus on each step it takes to get there but Sheppard knows the importance of taking each match as it comes.

"It's hard to do but it's crucial to perform," Sheppard said. "This time of year,

you do see a lot of upsets just because guys are looking past other opponents because they are excited and ready to get to that next level of the series. We can see the end is close but obviously taking that perspec-

Senior Spotlight

tive of one match at a time is important."

And in the final practices leading up to the start of tournament season, Sheppard has a plan to help bolster his efforts.

"Just get in there, drill at a high pace and make sure you are feeling smooth and feeling efficient," Sheppard said. "It's about focusing on making sure you are in the best possible shape you can be so you can go all six minutes hard."

One of the things helping Sheppard keep his focus has been his work in the wrestling room.

The senior often spends his practice time working against freshman Declan Koch and sophomore Jacob Herm and he credits that work for helping elevate his performance this season.

"We are some of each other's best friends but when we lock in at practice, we go to war and wrestle hard," said Sheppard, who along with the other two have a combined 86-8 record. "It's fun having those guys in the room that can push me. It's very easy to stay focused with each other through practice."

"We all have different things we are good at and we all have different things we can work on so getting different feels really helps me gain on some things that I am working on."

Wrestling has basically been a lifelong endeavor for Sheppard, who was attending a cousin's youth tournaments before he could wrestle and then joining him once he could.

So when he officially started with the sport is a bit hazy.

"I started early, like kindergarten maybe. I'm not sure but as soon as you could start I was out there," Sheppard said. "I grew up around the sport. I was always at my cousin's youth tournaments when I could hardly even walk and it was cool seeing him and then being able to go out there myself."

SEE **Senior Spotlight** ON PAGE 11

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Senior Spotlight

FROM PAGE 10

Sheppard doesn't remember much of his early accomplishments on the mat but there was definitely a turning point in his wrestling success.

"In third grade, I had a good run at the state tournament and that's probably where the switch flipped for me," Sheppard said. "That's when I started doing Freestyle and Greco and it really was the start of the whole journey I've been on."

The journey hasn't just been out collecting wins and trophies, or racking up certain statistical totals either.

Sheppard said that being a wrestler has shaped the type of person he's become.

"The values I've gained from the sport and the ups and downs have taught me how to handle adversity. It's also given me some of my best relationships in my life with my coaches and some of my best friends are wrestlers on the team. It's just who I am," Sheppard said. "There's never going to be a point in life where wrestling isn't going to be a part of my life."

Sheppard said he plans to continue wrestling at the collegiate level next year

and then hopes to find his way into some aspect of coaching.

He credits current Neenah head coach Kyle Klueskens for setting an example he hopes to follow.

"Coach K has done so much for Neenah wrestling. He has built what we have today," Sheppard said. "I'm very grateful to have all of the opportunities he provides for us. Just leading us to be the best people we can be in the classroom as well as on the mat. It's an awesome experience to know that I'm a part of something special, part of something bigger than myself."

Sheppard still has some work to do in his high school career, though.

Obviously at this point he doesn't know what awaits him on his tournament season path but he's ready to see where it leads.

"I think it's special that I get one more opportunity to wrestle for Neenah but I'm not thinking about (being a senior) too much more than any other year. That's going to affect my performance," Sheppard said. "At the end of the day, it's just you versus another guy and all you have is the amount of hard work and dedication you have to put in. You lose sometimes, which is difficult obviously, but all of the values you gain from the sport is something special."

Ice Age Trail experiences to be recounted

An adult program on famous hikes around the world by a freelance travel writer and author of "Thousand-Miler: Adventures Hiking the Ice Age Trail" is set for 2 p.m. Monday at the Neenah Public Library.

Melanie Radzicki McManus has hiked more than 8,800 miles over the last decade in locales around the globe. She is currently in the midst of hiking all 11 of America's National Scenic Trails. In 36

days, McManus hiked 1,100 miles around Wisconsin, landing her in the elite group of Ice Age Trail thru-hikers known as the Thousand-Milers.

The free hourlong program will take place in the first-floor Shattuck Community Room. If accommodations are needed, contact the library in advance. For information, contact 920-886-6315, email Library@neenahlibrary.org or visit neenahlibrary.org.



Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue photo

Catching some help

Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue thanked Steve Krueger (right) for his donation of fishing supplies to the For the Sake of Jake Fishing Program that Krueger helped form, which provides free fishing equipment to youth in Neenah and Menasha. The fire station at 125 E. Columbian Ave. in Neenah has some equipment available for pickup.

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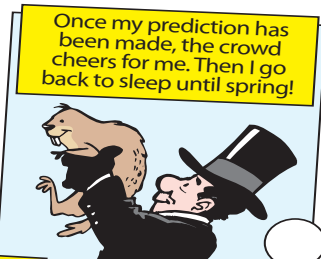
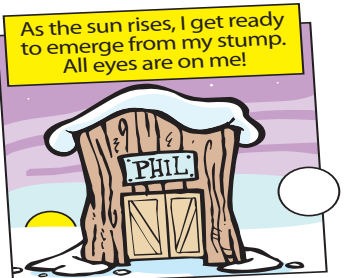
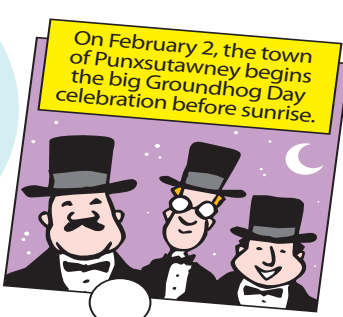
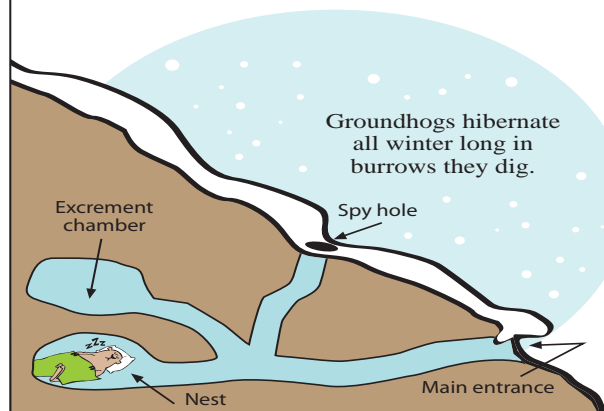
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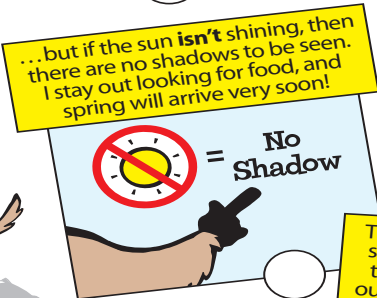
WAKE UP, PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL!

On February 2, weather forecasters all over the United States look to the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania for a little advice. Legend says that the groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil can foretell the weather!

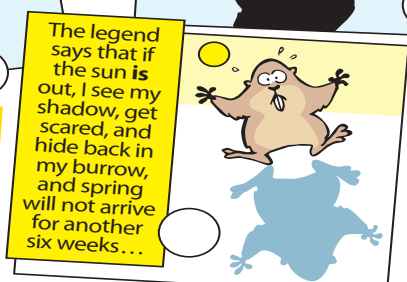


Shadow Search

Find the shadow that matches Phil exactly.



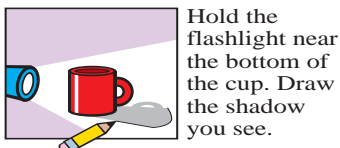
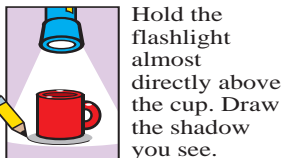
Oh oh! Phil's snoring shook this story out of order. Number the panels from 1-5 in the correct order.



Why do shadows change size?

Robert Louis Stevenson said a shadow is like a rubber ball because it grows and shrinks throughout a day. Try this experiment to find out why shadows change size.

Stuff you'll need: cup, pencil, flashlight, paper



Think About It: What time of day would Punxsutawney Phil have his long shadow?

Early Morning Noon

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step directions.

Extra! Extra!

Guess What!
 Here is a guessing game to play with one or more friends. Each player cuts out shapes and pictures of objects from the newspaper and holds them up, one at a time, in front of a light source. Take turns guessing what kind of shape or object is casting the shadow.

Standards Link: Physical Science: Objects can be described in terms of their physical properties (shape).

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Spell a message to Punxsutawney Phil by solving these math problems. Use the number code to see what letter belongs under each answer.

$1,190$	169	$2,222$	521
$+ 530$	$+ 362$	$+ 1,211$	$+ 213$
○	○	○	○
$1,697$	$2,763$	Number Code	
$+ 234$	$+ 1,226$	531 = A	3,989 = P
○	○	734 = E	1,931 = U
		3,433 = K	1,720 = W

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Find the sum of whole numbers to 10,000.

Double Double Word Search

GROUNDHOG	Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?
WEATHER	
SHADOWS	
BURROW	
BROWN	
LOUIS	
CHAMBER	
SPRING	
SOURCE	
FOOD	
WEEKS	
PHIL	
FEBRUARY	
SIX	
WAKE	

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

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



SMART FUN AT HOME

One important thing to understand when you read is **cause** and **effect**.

For example, in the legend of Groundhog Day, when the groundhog sees his shadow, he goes back in his burrow. In this case, the **effect** is that the groundhog goes back in his burrow. That is what happens. What **causes** him to go back in his burrow? Getting frightened by his shadow.

Try It!

1. With a parent or learning buddy at home, select an article from today's newspaper. Read the headline. Discuss what you think caused the news reported in the headline.
2. The headline usually tells what happened. This is called an **effect**. Read aloud to your learning buddy the first paragraph of the article. Does this tell you the **cause**? Read the rest of the article aloud. After each paragraph, stop and discuss what you have learned about what caused the news reported in the headline.

Complete the following:

HEADLINE (effect):

CAUSE(s):

NAME: _____

NAME OF LEARNING BUDDY: _____

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Distinguish between cause and effect in text.

Write On!

When is it spring?

How do you know when winter is over and spring has begun? Write a paragraph explaining how you know.

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