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Neenah ready to mark 150 years

Birthday party starts with March 13 recognition

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is hosting several events in honor of its 150th anniversary, with the celebration kicking off with a birthday party March 13.

The word Neenah means “water” or “running water” in the Ho-Chunk language. Native Americans inhabited the Lake Winnebago area for thousands of years before Neenah was incorporated as a city on March 13, 1873. It has grown to include more than 27,000 residents.

Settlers to the area constructed water-powered flour and lumber mills, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society. Paper mills began taking over the industrial landscape in the 1870s, transforming the Fox River Valley into one of



Neenah News

The city will celebrate its sesquicentennial with a mix of events this year.

the leading paper producers in the nation.

Some well-known companies in Neenah include Essity, Theda Clark, Plexus, Neenah Paper, J. J. Keller & Associates,

Kimberly-Clark, Neenah Foundry and Miron Construction.

SEE **150 years** ON PAGE 7

Downtown welcomes housing addition



Neenah News

201 West apartments are close to joining the downtown Neenah neighborhood.

Neenah News

The apartment building at 201 W. Wisconsin Ave. next to The Plaza at Gateway Park is expected to be completed this month, with tenant leases starting April 1.

Tadych Investment Partners of De Pere began construction on the 39-unit building in 2021. The initial building plan included a six-story structure with retail space on the first level along with five levels of apartments.

Community Development director Chris Haese said the first floor had high ceilings due to the interior parking system. With escalating costs, the developer took advantage of the extra space and created an additional office level. This resulted in a seven-story building without increasing the height of the structure.

With the first two floors retail and office space, the remaining floors consist of one- to three-bedroom apartments and top-floor penthouses.

Development of the 201 West apartments was delayed due to supply-chain issues that included a six-week setback caused by difficulty obtaining an elevator. Construction equipment and supplies on the upper floors either needed to go up on a crane or be carried up the stairwell.

SEE **New apartments** ON PAGE 4

High school students gain free look at the future

Dual class program sparks career paths

By Kaitlyn Scoville
NEENAH NEWS

To make students college, career and community ready, the Neenah Joint School District and Fox Valley Technical College have had an ongoing partnership to give students real-world work experience for high school and college credit.

FVTC is one of the top colleges in the Wisconsin Technical College System for the number of high school students tak-

ing dual credit classes that earn credit at their school and at FVTC at no cost to them or their district.

In the 2021-22 school year, 6,500 regional high school students took dual credit classes through FVTC, earning more than 24,000 credits and saving \$3.8 million in tuition.

The big takeaway is that students can save a lot of money by taking these classes in high school, ac-



Hendries

ording to FVTC director of K-12 partnerships Mary Hansen. There have been cases where students graduate from high school with a technical diploma or even an associate degree.

“When you think about that, in terms of cost savings to families, and those students getting a head start on their college career, it’s a huge benefit for our partners and for families and for students as they’re starting to plan for life beyond high school,” Hansen said.

Hansen works directly with more than 30 school districts across Winnebago, Waushara, Waupaca, Calumet and Out-

agamie counties to certify teachers and bring these opportunities to students with classes in horticulture, business, culinary arts, manufacturing, welding and early childhood education.

Neenah Joint School District technology and engineering chair Adam Hendries said in the 2022-23 school year, more than 1,400 students requested their career and technical education dual credit courses.

“I think the biggest thing is it’s providing opportunities for an ever-changing

SEE **FVTC program** ON PAGE 7

Neenah News

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Corrections

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Primary voting higher than expected

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A greater-than-expected turnout at the polls for the primary that featured a Wisconsin Supreme Court race led to a shortage of ballots in some Winnebago County municipalities last week.

About 20% of the state's voting-age population turned out to vote in the Feb. 21 primary, casting more than 960,400 ballots.

Historically, the Supreme Court primary has a lower turnout, according to the Wisconsin Elections Commission. The 2023 primary turnout was one of the largest in recent years.

The Elections Commission said most local clerks reported few major issues during the primary.

The County Clerk's office confirmed several municipalities in Winnebago County ran low on ballots. Towns that were short on ballots were able to contact the printer and obtain overruns to finish out the election.

The county's ballot machines can also accept photocopied ballots, which are used the same way as pre-printed ballots. The only town that had to photocopy ballots was the Village of Fox Crossing due to the greater-than-anticipated voter turnout.

The clerk's office noted that if the machines do not accept the photocopied ballots, which can happen if the paper is too thin or if the ballots shifted during photocopying, then the ballots would have to be hand counted, with the results tallied and reported to the clerk's office. None of the municipalities had to hand count ballots.

County Clerk Julie Barthels said the office works directly with each municipal clerk to determine how many ballots are needed.

"With the primary election the turnout is usually lower, but I think the times are changing and more people want to voice their opinion on who is elected," she said.

In preparation for next month's election, the clerk's office is ordering extra bal-

lots to eliminate the possibility of running out again.

"Each election is a guessing game," Barthels said. "We don't know how many voters are going to turn out but we try and do our best to plan accordingly and sometimes it works; but in elections you never know."

On the ballot for the primary were conservatives Daniel Kelly and Jennifer Dorow, and liberals Janet Protasiewicz and Everett Mitchell. Kelly and Protasiewicz emerged as the two candidates on the April 4 ballot.

This year's state Supreme Court election is considered especially contentious, with access to abortions at the forefront. Abortions became illegal in Wisconsin after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court last year.

The state Supreme Court is currently made up of four conservatives and three liberals. The election could shift the court's balance of power.

Winter legends topic of library speaker

Strange tales of Santa Claus, the Wendigo, weather predictions, mysterious creatures, and bizarre customs and holiday rituals are part of a Winter Legends and Lore speaker presentation set for 2 p.m. Monday in the Neenah Public Library's first-floor Shattuck Community Room.

Paranormal researcher and author Chad Lewis has traveled the back roads of the world in search of the strange and unusual. From tracking vampires in Transylva-

nia and searching for the elusive monster of Loch Ness to trailing the dangerous Tata Duende through remote villages of Belize and searching for ghosts in Ireland's haunted castles, he has scoured the earth in search of the paranormal.

He has been featured on the Discovery Channel's "A Haunting," William Shatner's "Weird or What," ABC's "Scariest Places on Earth" and "Monsters and Mysteries in America."

Night at the Museum fundraiser event set

John Nelson and Evangeline Bergstrom.

Complimentary appetizers and a speak-easy cash bar will be available. Bids can be made on art and other treasures in a silent auction. Register at bmmglass.com. Tickets are \$50.

Proceeds will fund the museum's educational and community outreach programs.

The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass is hosting a Roaring Twenties-themed party from 7 to 10 p.m. March 11 with a Night at the Museum.

Participants can don their best retro garb and win a prize, take an exclusive tour and explore the past of the museum building at 165 N. Park Ave., the 1929-built, former home of

County seeks submissions for scholarships

The Winnebago County Board Scholarship Program is offered to high school seniors who reside in the county and plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution.

The program was developed to promote an awareness and an understanding of county government. Up to nine \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

Applicants must write a 500-800-word essay addressing the question: "If I were to run for any Winnebago County office, which position would I run for and why?"

Scholarship recipients will receive the first installment of \$500 at a County Board Award Presentation in the summer. The second installment of \$500 will be awarded upon submission of a 2.5 GPA report at the conclusion of their first semester of higher education.

Entries must be postmarked no later than March 31 and sent to Winnebago County Clerk, P.O. Box 2806, Oshkosh, WI 54903-2806. Winners will be determined no later than May 5.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society



Women's fellowship

To celebrate Women's History Month, here is a photo from the YWCA photograph collection. Friday Nighters in the Putter Shop are shown in November 1939. The YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) was formed in 1929 as an offshoot of the Tuesday Club to bring women and girls together in fellowship.

Business news roundup

Nori Sushi & Grill restaurant has opened in Neenah at 1137 Winneconne Ave. that includes pickup and delivery services. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (norineenah.com).

Pierce Manufacturing Inc. has secured a purchase order from the city of Madison Fire Department for a Pierce Volterra electric pumper. The purchase order agreement follows an 18-month placement of a Pierce Volterra pumper at the department's busiest station, Station No. 8, making it the first electric fire truck in service in North America. The Madison Fire Department was one of three across the United States to collaborate and provide daily operational data to assist with the final development, evaluation, and on-highway certification processes.

Stacie Hazlett-Rothe, a longtime volunteer with the **Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region**, is the fund's new communication and outreach specialist. Since graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh with a degree in communication studies with an emphasis in organizational communication, Hazlett-Rothe has worked for several non-profit organizations, most recently at CAP Services Inc. where she served as engagement and communications specialist.

Volatus Infrastructure has signed a memorandum of understanding with electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) vehicle manufacturer **Plana**. Volatus and Plana will support each other and work together on vertiport development and integration of eVTOL operations to strengthen the advanced air mobility industry. Plana, founded in 2021, focuses on hybrid powertrain systems with a differentiated market strategy, and its VTOL aircraft can carry up to six passengers with one pilot and a cruising speed of 190 mph with a range of more than 310 miles.

Send business bits

Our readers are looking for information on what businesses are doing in the Neenah area. Help us share the news by emailing submit@neenahnewsnow.com or calling 920-486-1616.

New finance director finds welcome fit

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah has welcomed Vicky Rasmussen as the new director of finance, filling a vacancy left open since October.

Rasmussen, who was sworn in Feb. 15, was previously employed as Omro's city administrator and spent five years as Winnebago County's finance director.

The position was most recently held by Mike Easker, who retired in October. Deputy finance director Andy Kaul held the position in the interim while the city searched for a qualified candidate.

Rasmussen and husband Joellive in Oshkosh, where she raised her two children, Emily and Jeremy. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration accounting from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and a master's from Marian University in organizational leadership.

She's a certified public accountant and taught classes in governmental accounting at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

Rasmussen said she applied for the finance director position because she thought it would be a good fit based on her interests and experience.

"I realized that my true passion, and what makes me happy in my wheelhouse, is finance director," she said.

She previously spent time working in Neenah and fell in love with the area and how prosperous it is.

"There's just so much potential in this city and I was excited for the opportunity to try for this," she said. "I'm also impressed with the direction with the new mayor that it's been taking. She's been a joy to deal with so far."



Neenah News photo by Bethanie Gengler

Vicky Rasmussen has taken over the city's finance director position that had been vacant since October.

The director of finance oversees the city's budget process, working with each department to compile the yearly budget.

The position is responsible for developing the five-year Capital Improvement Plan, which outlines how capital is spent. The department is in charge of payroll, paying bills, issuing invoices and collecting taxes.

Rasmussen said with recent inflation, supply-chain issues and a diminishing workforce, finance directors have to be creative with funding and balancing the operating and debt levy. She hopes to use her work experience to update some of the systems and policies in Neenah and to

automate some areas where it would make sense.

"Just to help support the other departments to succeed and help give them the tools they need," she said, "looking at efficiencies which will give people more time to get their job done."

In her first few weeks in the role, Rasmussen said she has been impressed with the city's engagement with staff.

"So far the culture has been really wonderful here and I'm very happy with my decision," she said. "I'm just excited to be part of a prosperous, growing community that takes pride in where they live and where they work."

UW graduates

Just over 1,750 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison during a commencement ceremony at the Kohl Center on Dec. 18.

Graduates from Neenah included:

Maggie Dawson, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of science, psychology

Elizabeth Groshek, College of Engineering, bachelor of science-chemical engineering

Charlie Hildebrand, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of arts-journalism

James Perras, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of science-applied mathematics, engineering and physics

Madelyn Reilly, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of science, biology

Jakeb Thurber, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of arts, communication arts

David Xiao, College of Letters and Science, bachelor of science in the liberal arts, biochemistry

These students from Neenah completed degree requirements at UW-La Crosse in December:

Joe Judnic, bachelor of science, exercise and sport science

Brandyn Schetter, bachelor of science, management

Gage Valeri, bachelor of science, biology major

These students from Neenah completed degree requirements UW-Eau Claire in December:

Abigail Gibson, Arts and Sciences, bachelor of arts, psychology

Jaden Mikoulinskii, Arts and Sciences, bachelor of arts, sociology

Emily Nickolai, Education and Human Sciences, bachelor of science, special education

Kinley Regan, Nursing and Health Sciences, bachelor of science in nursing

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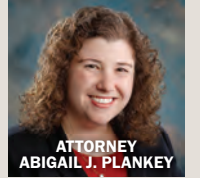
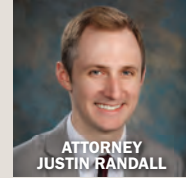
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YOU SHOULD ATTEND IF YOU:

- Have a retirement account (IRA, 401k).
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- ▶ Why you shouldn't add a child to your bank account and how beneficiary designations might ruin your will.
- ▶ How you can protect your children's inheritances from predators, greedy non-family members, and bad marriages.
- ▶ How veterans or their spouses can receive money to help pay for medical expenses.
- ▶ Why signing your home over to your kids might be a huge mistake.
- ▶ How planning in advance can help you and your spouse afford quality care.



Practicing Since 1996

Bankruptcy claims denied in work fraud cases

Contractor still on hook for home projects

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A Neenah man who allegedly accepted about \$50,000 for contracting work that he never completed through his window installation business will not be able to discharge any of his debt through bankruptcy, a judge ruled in February.

Tyler Frantz, 32, operated Wisconsin Windows out of a residential home on Washington Avenue from 2017-22.

Customers say they paid thousands of dollars to Frantz for window installation or other general contracting work, which he never completed or botched.

Martha Baker of Baileys Harbor said she gave Frantz \$4,000 to replace windows in her home in April 2021. Frantz did not complete the work and Baker only learned Wisconsin Windows was out of business a year later when a local supply company called to ask if she still wanted the windows Frantz ordered for her home.

Dennis and Stephanie Drewa of Neenah said they hired Frantz in October 2021 to install two egress windows, paying \$3,500 down and purchasing their own supplies. The couple said they're out more than

\$10,000 after paying a different company to repair the damages caused by Frantz.

An elderly couple told police last year that Frantz took \$1,240 in payment for contracting work and did not hear back from him. Another victim told police they paid Frantz \$1,000 to install a sliding door and he missed five appointments and did not complete the work.



Frantz

At least six victims have filed police complaints and 10 small claims lawsuits have been lodged in the past two years in multiple counties.

Last May, Frantz filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, reporting he is nearly \$200,000 in debt. The filing showed 34 creditors, including 18 Wisconsin Windows customers with losses totaling \$48,337.

In October, the U.S. Trustee Program filed a complaint, asking a judge to deny Frantz's request to have his bankruptcy debt discharged for fraudulently misrepresenting his financial affairs.

The complaint indicates Frantz did not provide a satisfactory explanation for the disposition of the Wisconsin Windows customer debts he listed in his bankruptcy

filing. He also failed to disclose personal and business bank accounts he opened within a year of his bankruptcy filing.

Frantz obtained two Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans in April and May 2021, totaling more than \$45,000. He did not initially disclose the PPP loans in his bankruptcy statement and later amended his filing to include the loans after being questioned by the U.S. Trustee. He also failed to keep any records demonstrating that the funds were used for business expenses.

Frantz gave testimony that he did not use the Wisconsin Windows bank account for personal expenses when a review of the account revealed that in 2021 he made \$945 in purchases at Pawn America; \$3,321 in transfers to relative Tracy Frantz; \$5,590 in checks issued for whom the payee is not identified; and \$16,921 in electronic transfers to Kate Meyer, whom he lived with.

An attorney for the U.S. Trustee wrote that Frantz's errors and omissions demonstrate "his intent to defraud or his reckless indifference for the truth."

Fraudulent information or acts by the debtor are grounds for denial of a discharge and may be punishable as a criminal offense, according to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The U.S. Trustee's Office did not respond to an inquiry on whether the office will be pursuing criminal action

against Frantz.

Last month, Frantz entered into an agreement stipulating judgment in favor of the U.S. Trustee. The voluntary agreement states Frantz's bankruptcy discharge request is denied and he remains liable for all debt existing at the time his bankruptcy petition was filed.

Individuals who file Chapter 7 bankruptcy may file another bankruptcy in eight years. Any debt listed in a prior Chapter 7 bankruptcy case that was denied for any reason may not be listed. The permanent ban means Frantz will never be able to discharge the Wisconsin Windows customer debts through bankruptcy.

Although Frantz cannot discharge the debt, none of the Wisconsin Windows customers that Neenah News spoke with have been successful in collecting on small claims judgments against him.

The Drewas were awarded \$7,616 in their small claims lawsuit against Frantz. Even though Frantz's bankruptcy was denied, they're unsure if they will ever recoup their losses.

"Sounds like it's good for us, but we're not sure where to go from here as our case was kind of left in limbo," Stephanie said.

In total, Frantz owes more than \$53,000 in small claims judgments.

Frantz has been criminally charged in Door County with a felony count of theft in a business setting and in Winnebago County with two misdemeanor counts of theft by false representation.

The felony carries a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to 3.5 years in prison. The misdemeanors each carry a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to nine months in jail.

Frantz pleaded not guilty in Door County Circuit Court last week. He's set to enter a plea in Winnebago County at a hearing April 3.

New apartments

FROM PAGE 1

The pet-friendly units include stainless steel appliances, washers and dryers, floor-to-ceiling windows, Wi-Fi and heat-

ed parking. Nearby amenities include The Plaza, downtown shopping, Arrowhead Park and access to the Loop the Lake trail.

The city provided up to \$2.2 million in public assistance for the development, based on a guaranteed taxable project value of \$9 million.

201 West is a new community development by CUR8 Cos., who also developed the 320 East apartments on College Avenue in Appleton and the 102 on Broadway apartments in De Pere.

Apartment rent ranges from \$1,500 to \$3,500 per month.

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PRESENTED BY LOURDES ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL
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Calendar of events

- Saturday, March 4**
Charleyville live music, 5 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.
Art Activity Day: Fish magnets, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
- Sunday, March 5**
Giants of Jazz Series: Lawrence University Jazz Quintet, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Monday, March 6**
Winter Legends and Lore, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library
Short Story Night, 7 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewery
- Thursday, March 9**
Open Chess Night, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Friday, March 10**
The Price is Right!, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Saturday, March 11**
Night at the Museum fundraiser, 7 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
- Sunday, March 12**
Fox Valley Chorus, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Church St.
- Monday, March 13**
Neenah's 150th Celebration Kick-off, noon, City Hall, 211 Walnut St.
Monday Matinee: "Ticket to Paradise," 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Bourbon and barrels all in one place on Main

Duncan brothers opened new store in November

By Jenny Grunwald
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Sixteen years ago, brothers Brian and Chad Duncan were doing some woodwork projects and decided to purchase 11 retired bourbon barrels from Lion's Tale Brewery. The two built some tables out of the white oak barrels and decided to post them online.

Their inbox started blowing up with messages of interest, with about 40 in a half-hour, they recalled.

The brothers knew they were onto something and continued to get more barrels.

Before they knew it, the two were getting semitrailer loads of them from all over the country and the business grew from there over the next decade.

A few years ago, the woodworking duo got a laser engraver to etch artwork into the base of the barrels and barrel tops, which also grew in popularity.

In November, the brothers opened Grainworks Old + New/Wisconsin Whiskey Barrel Co., a small shop at 200 N. Main St. in downtown Neenah. They had previously discussed the idea but it was Brian's fiancée, Andrea Simonis, who pushed to make the store a reality.

"She said Neenah is a great place for small businesses and she was right," Brian said.

The store has drawn new customers every day with a mix of products. While they still do barrel woodworking and wood art engraving, the shop has more of a focus on bourbon whiskey.

Duncan says the bourbon aspect of it completes the store. The shop inventory ranges from bottles of bourbon to bourbon-scented candles, lotion and body



Neenah News photos

Grainworks Old + New/Wisconsin Whiskey Barrel Co. offers everything bourbon and barrels at its new 200 N. Main St. location in Neenah.

wash products. The store also has socks, hats and drinking glasses.

The Duncan brothers hope to continue to expand their shop by adding more products, but in the meantime are enjoying where they are at and the community of customers they have met along the

way.

Brian takes a sense of pride and enjoyment when someone new walks through their shop doors.

"Just seeing everybody's face when they walk through the door because they have never seen anything like this before

– watching their face light up just feels good," he said.

Grainworks Old + New/Wisconsin Whiskey Barrel Co. is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. They have a web page at facebook.com/Grainworks84.

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Neenah resident shares weight loss surgery journey

ThedaCare Communications

When Paul Amond's mother died in 2018, he reached his breaking point.

As Paul watched his mom's five-year struggle with dementia, he became increasingly depressed. He was also battling his own physical health issues, including crippling back pain and morbid obesity. He gained more than 100 pounds during his mom's illness alone.

By the end of 2018, Paul weighed about 380 pounds and was stuck in a vicious cycle. He was in so much pain, he could hardly work, much less stay active.

"I went through treatments and cortisone shots and just kept gaining weight," he said.

Eventually, Paul reached 410 pounds, and the shots stopped helping with his pain. He met with his back surgeon, who told Paul he would need to lose 100 pounds before he could have surgery. The surgeon recommended he consider bariatric surgery.

Paul thought about it for a few weeks and in June 2019 had his first meeting with the ThedaCare Bariatrics team. The experience led him to find his resolve.

"I just decided then, I don't want to live like this," he recalled. "My back was so bad, I couldn't work. I couldn't bend over to brush my teeth or bathe. Everything hurt, no matter what I did."

And with that, Paul's metamorphosis began. His insurance required him to complete six months of meetings with dietitians and counselors before he could have weight loss surgery. During that time period alone, he lost 100 pounds.

Paul opted to have Roux-en-Y gastric



Photo from ThedaCare

Paul Amond's recovery path has included competing in regional race events.

bypass surgery. In the procedure, the surgeon creates a small pouch from the stomach and connects it directly to the small intestine. It promotes weight loss by restricting the amount of food a person can eat.

When the day of his surgery arrived in January 2020, Paul, now 49, was ready.

"I wasn't too worried about it," he said. "I was at the end road of either I do something about this or I'm going to die in my late 40s or 50s the way I'm going."

Reflecting on his journey, Paul says the surgery itself was one of the easiest parts. He had a few minor discomforts afterward, but didn't need any pain medication beyond acetaminophen. He also had to follow a liquid diet for a week following the procedure.

The surgery helped resolve many of his other health issues, including hyperlipemia, type 2 diabetes, acid reflux and high blood pressure.

When Paul got down to 250 pounds five months later, he was ready for his back surgery in May 2020. The good habits he developed following his bariatric surgery helped him through the experience, and he was up and walking the day after his procedure.

Just five weeks later, Paul decided to try something new. He walked his first-ever race — the Fox Firecracker 5K in Kaukauna. From there, he participated in several more walking events that summer.

By that fall, Paul started running and he hasn't stopped. In November 2020, he ran his first half marathon and has gone on to complete many additional races, including a half marathon in Las Vegas and a 20K race in Madison.

"Running gets your adrenaline flowing, and it's fun," he said. "Preparing is tough, and it's so satisfying when you're out there running with other people. You get to share your story with them."

Dr. Raymond Georgen, who co-leads the ThedaCare Bariatrics program and performed Paul's surgery, explained the

healthy habits Paul has adopted have helped accelerate his weight loss.

"Paul definitely was one of our patients who embraced what he needed to do and continues to show how successful you can be," said Georgen.

Weight-loss surgery is no easy solution. In fact, keeping weight off for the long term takes a lifelong commitment. Paul has stayed true to that, even through adversity.

In June, he had skin removal surgery that was painful and led to complications. In addition, unlike most surgeries where getting up and moving is part of the recovery process, this procedure required Paul to rest for two months afterward.

He had established a routine around eating and exercise, and the setback proved challenging. When he had to give up activity, his weight began to creep back up.

Now several months out from his latest surgery, Paul is back to his habits of careful meal planning and walking three times per day — 30 minutes after every meal. He's also proud to say he's returned to running races at his usual 10-minute-per-mile pace.

Paul, who now weighs around 235 pounds, has found such great success that he chose to become a patient champion for the ThedaCare Bariatrics program. Patient champions help others along their weight loss journey and lend a hand in support groups.

Through the celebrations and tough times, one assurance keeps Paul going.

"I still think to this day that my mom is looking down on me and that she helped me through all of this," he said. "I know that she would be proud."

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FVTC program

FROM PAGE 1

world like theirs," Hendries said. "It's sometimes hard to keep up because we're training students to get certain skills but at the same time, we want to teach them to be good people, adaptable and be good problem solvers so when they get to a business, they can learn what they want them to do."

Hansen said there really isn't a career path that's unpopular at FVTC because of the continued demand for almost anything in the Fox Valley and beyond.

"Our agriculture, horticulture and natural resources areas are very popular because (FVTC) offers a number of unique agriculture programs. We have many students from around the state that come to Fox Valley Tech specifically for our agriculture, horticulture and veterinary science programs," Hansen said. "We try to offer as many opportunities through dual credit to our capable partners as we possibly can. Every pathway that a high school builds is really a constant conversation."

There are different levels of opportunity depending on what students are looking for, according to Hendries.

"We're always trying to get connections with businesses for students. There are students walking out of here with fantastic jobs and they're still in high school," he said. "There's constant contact from across the community about how they can get involved with our kids, which is awesome."

Any business that deals with manufacturing are "huge" partners with the district, he added. Students can do internships with them for hands-on activities.



NJSD photo

Ava Yoblonski oversees STEM learning at Hoover Elementary School in Neenah.

"I think every business in the Valley is looking for kids, and not just from our high school. They're trying to tap our students as early as possible, which I totally get," Hendries said. "There are awesome opportunities for students in apprenticeships where they'll never go into debt, they can sign on with the company and the company will pay their tuition. There are just some amazing programs out there for students right now."

Something Hansen said she brings up with parents is that today's dual credit

experiences are different from even a decade ago.

"It's such a great alternative for students. We're not the technical college of our parents' generation," she said. "We're a high-tech, quickly changing and emerging type of learning environment for students. We graduate students at such a high graduate placement rate and high salary levels. I think parents are starting to really see us as a different option than maybe they had even five years ago."

150 years

FROM PAGE 1

Events celebrating the sesquicentennial will be held throughout the year, with some of the activities already underway.

Police are hosting a treasure hunt, with a commemorative bronze medallion hidden in parks and public property within the city each week in 2023. Clues to the location are posted on the department's Facebook page each Monday. Finders get to keep the medallion and are asked to scan a QR code and submit a picture of their group.

The Neenah Arts Council and Neenah Public Library are hosting a photography contest and exhibition highlighting the city's 150th anniversary. Entries are accepted through March 31 with a focus on capturing the spirit and beauty of the community.

The yearlong celebration officially kicks off March 13 with a birthday party from noon to 1 p.m. at City Hall, 211 Walnut St., including a cake and music by the Neenah High School jazz band.

Also that day, the Neenah and Menasha historical societies are partnering to open a new exhibit featuring an overview of the people, places and things that make Neenah and Menasha special.

The festivities continue with an Arbor Day celebration April 28, a historical bike tour June 10, Community Fest with fireworks July 1 and a Future Neenah community party in the street Aug. 23.

The events are designed to honor the convergence of water, ideas and people for centuries past and those to come, according to the city's website. More information about the events is at ci.neenah.wi.us/150-year-celebration.

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Rockets drop regular-season finale to rival Spartans

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

With the postseason set to begin tonight for the Neenah Rockets boys basketball team, the defending Division 1 state champions had one more order of business to take care of as they closed out their regular season against Oshkosh North.

The Rockets were able to keep things close most of the night until the Spartans' dynamic duo of Steven Clark and Xzavion Mitchell took over down the stretch and handed the Rockets a regular-season-ending 73-59 defeat.

"Offensively we struggled shooting, especially from 3 point range and had too many turnovers," head coach Lee Rabas

said. "Defensively we gave up too many shots around the rim and baskets in transition. Brady Corso was not feeling well and was unable to play in the second half, which hurt us."

Corso, who averages about 16 points per game as the team's second leading scorer, tallied nine of Neenah's first 15 points but did not score after that.

The Rockets trailed 35-33 at the half. Jackson Schломann scored the first five points of the second half to boost Neenah into the lead at 38-35 but the advantage would be short-lived.

Clark and Mitchell helped jump-start the offense and North went on an 11-0 run to regain the lead.

"Clark and Mitchell are both Division I

scholarship players," Rabas said. "Both are skilled. Both know how to play. Both can score at multiple levels. The other kids can all knock down shots as well. Makes them very tough to defend."

"We did a good job keeping things close throughout, but didn't have enough gas in the end."

Elliot Swanson and Schломann answered that with a pair of baskets to cut North's lead to 58-53, but that would be as close as Neenah could get as the Rockets struggled to find their rhythm against the Spartans' changing defenses.

"They switch things up and are always good on that end of the floor," Rabas said. "We just needed to make open shots."

Cal Klesmit finished with 14 points

to lead the way for the Rockets, who finished just 7-of-23 from 3-point range in the game. Schломann also reached double figures with 10 points, while grabbing a team-high six rebounds, and Nolan Juckem chipped in eight.

Clark (28 points) and Mitchell (23) combined for 51 of North's 73 points in the game.

The quest for a repeat state title begins tonight for the Rockets as they play host to No. 11 seed Stevens Point in what could be the final high school game at legendary Ron Einerson Fieldhouse.

The winner will face the winner of Oshkosh North and Appleton West on Saturday.

Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Zephyrs roll past Wolves in regular-season finale

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Spencer Lynch led three players in double figures with 21 points as St. Mary Catholic rolled past Hilbert, 79-45, in the team's final game of the regular season.

Danny Griffith and Cole Uhlenbrauck each added 19 points. St. Mary Catholic played without starters Charlie Nackers, Michael Fairweather and Fisher MacKenzie.

The Zephyrs made 14 3-pointers in the game, including five each by Griffith and Lynch.

St. Mary Catholic held Hilbert to just 15 points in the first half in building a 31-point lead.

The Zephyrs finish the regular season with a 22-2 record and will host Manawa in a WIAA Division 4 regional semifinal Friday night.

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Neenah wrestlers rocket to state tourney medals

Neenah News

Four Neenah wrestlers brought home medals from the WIAA State Tournament last weekend, with an unprecedented three Rockets finishing in the top three in state while the program also saw its first girl state placewinner.

Sophomore Jacob Herm reached a state final for the second straight year and placed second at 126 pounds, while freshman Declan Koch (113) and senior Eric Schraufnagel (195) each ended up in third place. All three wrestlers finished the state tournament with one loss and each lost to the eventual state champion in their weight class.

Freshman Kylee Kurszewski became the first Neenah girl to make the podium as she finished sixth at 114 pounds.

Head coach Kyle Kleuskens said he was proud with what the individuals accomplished in Madison and believes it is a credit to the entire program for having such a strong showing at the state meet.

Herm highlighted the team's finish with his second straight runner-up finish at the Kohl Center. He opened the tournament by pinning Noah Koss of Whitnall/Greendale just before the end of the first period and then won an 8-5 decision over Trevor Moelter of River Falls.

In the semifinals, Herm knocked off Milton's Matt Haldiman, 7-4, taking a 7-0 lead midway through the second period before giving up some late points for the final margin.

Herm ran into a familiar foe in the title match in Kaukauna's Lucas Peters and it was Peters scoring a pair of takedowns in the first period to take a 4-2 lead. Herm added a pair of escapes in the second period to trail 6-4 before tying the match at eight with a minute left to go in the third.

Peters scored an escape to regain the advantage and then scored a takedown with 19 seconds left to seal the win.

Koch was also beaten by a familiar face as he lost to Hortonville's Wyatt Skerba, 4-0, in the quarterfinals, but came back to win his next four matches to take third.

Koch pinned Broc Ambrosius of Pulasaki in 3:58 in his first consolation match before scoring a 12-1 major decision over Cael Zelinski of Mukwonago. In the consolation semifinal, Koch took down Maximus May of Brown Deer with just over a minute left in the match to secure the 3-1 victory.

Finally, in the third-place match, Koch pinned Alois Schrimpf of Bay Port in 1:52.



Photos courtesy of Craig Hoffman

Neenah wrestlers competed at the state meet last weekend. (Clockwise from upper left) Jacob Herm looks to turn Noah Koss of Whitnall/Greendale onto his back; Eric Schaufelberger overpowers Thomas Reilly of Kenosha Bradford; Declan Koch works for control of Evan Fahey of Oregon; and Joelle Reay (top) looks to make a move against Audrey Hanson of Grafton.

Like Koch, Schraufnagel was wrestling in his first individual state tournament and opened with a 12-8 victory over Thomas Reilly of Kenosha Bradford. He then lost to eventual champion and nationally ranked Connor Mirasola of West Bend West, but was the only Mirasola opponent at the state meet not to be pinned.

Schraufnagel rebounded to pin Chris Pena Soto of Waukesha North in 57 seconds, won a 4-1 decision over Owen Sjoberg of Watertown and then used a takedown with 37 seconds left to secure a 5-3 win over Hunter Jibben in the con-

solation semifinal. In the title match, he dominated Brennan Kincade of De Pere 9-0.

Neenah's fourth qualifier on the boys side, Eli Gast, lost a 10-2 decision to Shawano's Caden Young - who ended up taking second - in a 170-pound preliminary round match and then lost a 7-5 decision to Santino Butitta of Badger in a consolation bracket match.

For the girls, Kurszewski lost her first match at the state tournament but came back to pin Lauren Buehler of Whitewater in 25 seconds in her first consolation match and then beat Ashley Danielson

of Wausau West 5-1 to reach the medal rounds where she suffered a pair of losses to finish sixth.

Freshman Joelle Reay, who was in her first season of wrestling, came up one match short of reaching the medal rounds. She won a 10-2 decision over Audrey Hanson of Grafton in her first match, but would fall in the quarterfinals.

She rebounded to pin Ruby Brandt of Horicon in 2:07 in her first consolation bracket match but lost to Holmen's Nora Lee in the next round and was eliminated.

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Neenah drops Stevens Point to capture regional title

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Neenah High School girls basketball team claimed a WIAA Division 1 regional title by topping Stevens Point, 65-44, at Ron Einerson Fieldhouse last Saturday night.

With the win, the Rockets improved to 25-1 on the season and advanced to a sectional semifinal matchup with Eau Claire Memorial, which was played Thursday night.

Neenah wasted little time securing the sectional trip, knocking down eight 3-pointers in the first half against the Panthers and building a 33-19 lead.

"I think we came out with a lot of energy right away, made shots early and kept our feet on the gas the entire time," junior guard Allie Ziebell said. "Once we got up early in the first half, we settled in defensively and we just kept going from there."

The Panthers had a distinct size advantage over the Rockets coming into the game, and that was a concern for the Neenah coaching staff. But Neenah



Photo by Dustin Riese

Senior Sophia Kok looks to make a pass around a Stevens Point defender.

Rockets cruise in tourney opener

Allie Ziebell scored 29 points and the Neenah High School girls basketball team topped the 80-point mark for the third time this season in an 81-36 thumping of Wisconsin Rapids in a WIAA Division 1 regional semifinal Friday night.

Twelve different players scored in the game for the Rockets, who opened up a 42-20 halftime lead and cruised in the second half.

Ava Kok added 15 points, while Rowan Klesmit finished with nine in the win.

The Rockets went 13-of-22 from 3-point range, including a 7-of-10 performance from Ziebell.

relied on its quickness to get open shots and were able to knock them down.

"I was very happy with how some of our younger kids were able to body up with some of their girls," head coach Andrew Braunel said. "One advantage we have is that we have a ton of quickness and if we can use that quickness to beat our opponents to the spot it makes it tougher for them to defend. We did a nice job getting open and most importantly we knocked down the shots when we were open."

The Rockets extended their lead to start the second half as Sammie Buss started things with a quick steal and finish, followed by baskets from Ava Kok and Rowan Klesmit.

Buss hit another 3-pointer early in the second half that was followed by the Abbie Fischer triple to build the Rockets lead to 45-22.

Stevens Point was never able to threaten the Neenah lead as the Rockets closed out the win.

Ziebell and Buss each finished with



Photo by Dustin Riese

Rowan Klesmit plays defense against a Stevens Point player during the WIAA Division 1 regional final at Ron Einerson Fieldhouse last Saturday night.

19 points, while Kok finished with nine points for the Rockets, who were 11-of-23 from 3-point range.

"Our whole offense prides itself on moving, getting open and doing whatever you need to do to find a shot," she said. "No one cares how many points anyone scores on a given night. As a team we know that we want to find the hot hand and whoever has the hot hand is going to knock down those shots."

This win was extra special as it was the final game that this group of girls will play at the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse.

"How else do you want to go out?" Braunel said. "For me, I have been here 24 years coaching high school basketball so it is weird knowing no games

will be played here next season. If we are going to go to a new venue next season, this is the way everyone wants to go out."

Ziebell reflected on the memories of the fieldhouse and just what it meant to finish things off in the right way.

"As sad of a moment as this is, this is also special knowing that we are the final team to play in this building," Ziebell said. "There are a lot of memories that this team has built in this gym over the past few seasons and it will be hard to leave those memories here. However, being the first class to make the transition to the new venue allows us to create more memories next season and we are just excited to keep going."

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Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic's Chloe Vogel puts up a shot over a Princeton/Green Lake defender during Friday's WIAA Division 4 regional semifinal.

Zephyrs breeze to pair of wins for sectional berth

Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic's girls basketball team breezed to a WIAA Division 4 regional title last weekend, winning a pair of games on its home court to earn a spot in a sectional semifinal.

The Zephyrs, who improved to 25-1, were slated to face second-ranked Westfield in Ripon on Thursday night. Results of the game were not available for this edition.

St. Mary Catholic opened its tournament run with a 78-24 thumping of Princeton/Green Lake as the Zephyrs' offense had four players finish in double figures, while the defense allowed just eight field goals the entire game.

"We talked about how it is a new season and just coming out with intensity, playing hard and taking care of the ball," Zephyrs' head coach Jeff Chew said. "Those were the main points we were trying to achieve tonight and I think we did that."

St. Mary Catholic allowed the Tigersharks just one field goal in the first 10 minutes of the game and had built a 39-3 lead.

Chew was pleased with the start, not allowing Princeton/Green Lake any momentum to hang around and keep the game close.

"It was a great thing we could just jump on them and do the things we have been talking about," Chew said. "Those starts are what we are looking for and they achieved that tonight. They were focused on doing the right things to start the game."

Chloe Vogel scored 15 of her 19 points in that opening burst, while Sienna Anderson and Audrey Norville each hit two 3-pointers to help the Zephyrs build their lead.

"We all had a mindset of we have to win because if you don't, you're out. That's what we came out with," Anderson said. "We all worked as a team to get the job done."

Anderson added 12 points in the win, finishing 4-of-7 from 3-point range, while



Neenah News

Nolie Anderson (12) and Sienna Anderson (14) combine to trap a Princeton/Green Lake player in the first half last Friday.

Norville and Emily Vogel each scored 10 points.

The Zephyrs finished with 18 assists – led by five each from Norville and Anderson – on 25 field goals as St. Mary Catholic showcased the unselfishness and chemistry that has been a key to their success all season.

On Saturday, the Zephyrs were led by Emily Vogel's career-high 27 points in a 77-56 win over Auburndale.

Emily Vogel also finished with nine rebounds and five assists, while Chloe Vogel chipped in 20 points and five steals.

Anderson added nine points and a team-high seven assists, while Lauren Ripley and Norville each finished with eight points.

The Zephyrs led 38-28 at halftime.

Golf Digest honors golf instructor

Neenah News

Neenah native Tim Boegh, a Golftec franchise owner and director of instruction in Madison, was named one of the 2023-24 Best Young Teachers in America by Golf Digest.

Boegh is a 2007 Ferris State University Professional Golf Association Golf Management alumnus who first made the Best Young Teachers roster in 2021-22 and was twice included in the publication's Best Teachers in Wisconsin list. He now owns four Golftec locations and said PGA program alums and administrators made an immediate impression during his first visit to Ferris as a teenager.

"Another Neenah native, Jason Rasmussen (class of 2004), gave me a tour,

which included a visit with program director Matt Pinter," Boegh said. "I fell in love with the school and the atmosphere of PGAGM."

Boegh credits a solid educational foundation in Ferris' PGA Golf Management program as a springboard into his professional career. His passion for teaching has since blossomed.

His other professional honors include golf industry and media awards for his instruction and club fitting skills, along with a place in Golftec's newly established Hall of Fame.

The Best Young Teachers list started in 2008 and is published every two years. The field includes 160 instructors under age 40 who serve at country clubs and resorts in the United States.

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MINI BERNEDOODLES & GOLDENDOODLE PUPS, Health Certificate & vet checked \$1200 715-409-0533 (WCAN)

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

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STANDARD & MINI AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD PUPS 1 yr. Health guar. shots/vet check, \$200-\$500 715-754-2682 (513867)

TRACTORS Kubota MX135 4x4 135hp Like New \$3950; 1970s JD4020, 4390hrs, Awesome \$28,500; 70s JD4020 7400 hrs \$15,650; JD2355 4x4 Alamo Ditch Mower \$16,950; Cat Oliver H668 PTO Pulley 2 row front cultivator very rare \$11,650 920-878-0005 no mess (WCAN)

TRUCKS 99 Ford 350 4x4 7.3 diesel Alum Bed Like New \$23,500; 99 Freightliner FL90

Garage/Estate Sales

WINNEBAGO LAND SPORTSMAN'S RUMMAGE SALE MARCH 4 Sat. 8am-2pm. Adm: \$3. New & Used Sporting Items. FOND DU LAC FAIRGROUNDS 920-922-2373 Vendors Welcome!

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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Mountain to Monument



Have you ever looked at a stone, a cliff, or even a mountain and thought you could see a face?

In 1924, the American sculptor Gutzon Borglum was invited to the Black Hills in South Dakota to turn a mountain into an enormous sculpture. When he looked at one of the mountains, he saw that he could carve the faces of four of our presidents there.



The people of South Dakota hoped the monuments would attract tourists to their state. And attract tourists they do. Nearly 3 million people visit Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial every year.

Who is carved into Mount Rushmore?
Four presidents were chosen to be carved into Mt. Rushmore. Unscramble the name of each president. The clues will help you.

ARMAAHB COLLNNI
Our 16th President ended the Civil War and slavery.

OREGEG TAWGONHISN
The first president of the United States.

MOTSHA FEFEJORSN
Third President of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence.

DOORTHEE VELSTROEO
The 26th U.S. President helped to grow the country at home and abroad.

Crazy Horse Memorial

A mountain in the Black Hills is being carved in the shape of a man. It is a giant carving of Crazy Horse, a fearless and famous Lakota war leader.

When finished, the Crazy Horse Memorial will be the biggest sculpture in the world.

Chief Standing Bear and other Native American chiefs invited sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski to carve the Crazy Horse Memorial out of a mountain. Work began over 70 years ago, and it will take many more years to complete it.

Extra! Extra!

Carve Out the ABCs

Choose one page of the newspaper. Find five or more words and write them on another sheet of paper in ABC order.

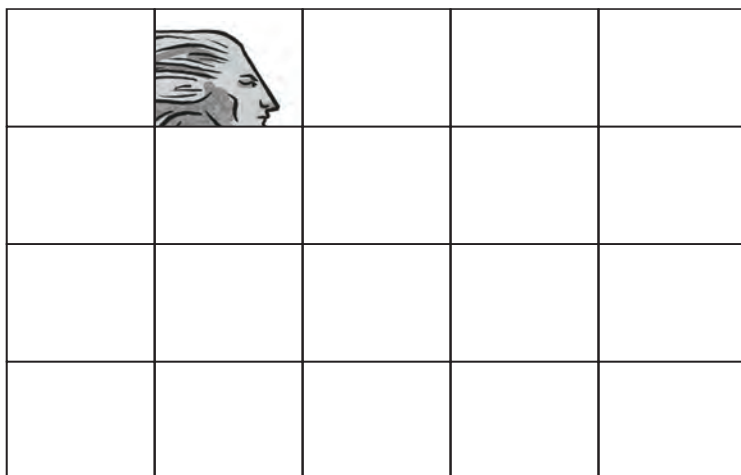
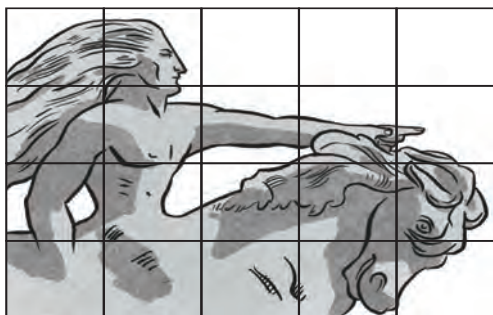
Standards Link: Identify cause and effect using visual cues.

Grow a Picture

You can make a small picture larger in much the same way Borglum and Ziolkowski expanded small sculptures into mountain-sized ones.

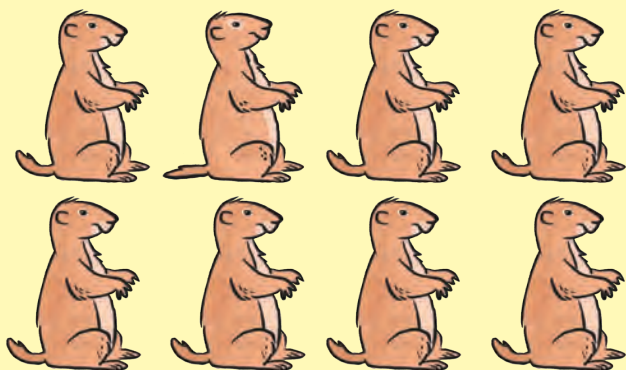
Look at the small drawing of Crazy Horse. It is drawn in a grid of small boxes.

To the right is a grid with larger boxes. Copy the drawing of Crazy Horse, one box at a time, and you will make a drawing that is larger than the original. One box is done for you.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

The Black Hills are filled with wildlife. Prairie dogs romp and play in the fields and meadows. Can you find the prairie dog that looks different than all the others?



Double Double Word Search

AMERICAN
CARVED
CHIEF
FACE
FOUR
GIANT
GRID
HILLS
HORSE
NATIVE
PRESIDENT
SCULPTURE
STATE
VISIT
WORK

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 Together

Monument Fun Facts

Have a family member take a guess at answering these questions. Use the code to check their answers.

- = 0
- = 1
- = 2
- = 3
- = 4
- = 5
- = 6
- = 7
- = 8
- = 9

1. How tall are the faces on Mt. Rushmore?

_____ feet tall

2. How wide are the eyes on Mt. Rushmore?

_____ feet wide

3. How long are the noses on Mt. Rushmore?

_____ feet long

4. How wide are the mouths on Mt. Rushmore?

_____ feet wide

5. How tall is the face on the Crazy Horse Memorial?

_____ feet tall

6. How long is the outstretched arm on the Crazy Horse Memorial?

_____ feet long

7. How long is the pointing finger on the Crazy Horse Memorial?

_____ feet

8. How tall is the horse's head on the Crazy Horse Memorial?

_____ stories tall

Learn more about these monuments by visiting:
crazyhorsememorial.org
www.nps.gov

Write On!

If I Were President

Imagine that you have been elected President of the United States. What would you do? What would you change?

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