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## Fentanyl crisis gets county focus

### Law enforcement unites on growing presence

Neenah News

Winnebago County efforts against illegal drug trafficking, specifically fentanyl and opioid-based cases that have led to a steady increase in overdose deaths in recent years, received extra emphasis last week by state and regional law enforcement.

Members of the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan (LWAM) Enforcement Group's drug unit, composed of 15 police agencies in Winnebago, Outagamie, Fond

du Lac and Calumet counties, held a press conference March 23 at the Oshkosh Police Department to highlight the surge in fentanyl-tainted drug seizures in the area and statewide.



Kaul

Attorney General Josh Kaul was in attendance to note the LWAM alliance reported an "alarming rise in fentanyl seizures" with some 6,300 grams of illegal substances containing the drug last year in the four-county region. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid similar to morphine but 50 to 100 times

more potent and a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses.

"The volume that we have seen is a serious concern because we know that while law enforcement is working hard to intercept packages and to hold drug traffickers accountable, that there are going to be drugs that get through and that puts the safety and health of Wisconsinites at risk," Kaul said.

There were 41 overdose deaths in Winnebago County reported in 2021 with 28 of them having fentanyl involved. That follows 11 fentanyl-related county deaths in 2019 and 28 in 2020, according to the

SEE **Fentanyl surge** ON PAGE 16

## INSIDE



**Fond farewell**  
Iconic Einerson  
Fieldhouse remembered  
Page 13



Photo by Rob Zimmer

Tundra swans have been dotting the skies of Winnebago County in recent weeks as they migrate northwest.

## Song of the swan returns to waterways

By Rob Zimmer  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The arrival of strong east winds this past week resulted in a spectacular wave of incoming tundra swans that alighted upon open waters along the shore throughout Neenah, all the way south to Oshkosh and Fond du Lac.

On just about every patch of open water along the west shore swans could be found, sometimes in spectacular numbers. Just south of the Neenah Municipal Pool, nearly 3,000 tundra swans were counted resting upon the ice edge along Bayview and Lime Kiln roads.

More swans were found on Ricker's Bay, as well as by the Paynes Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club, south to Oshkosh at

the end of Murdock Street, as well as the Menominee Park area.

Even larger numbers of swans were spotted in areas free of ice all along U.S. 45 south to Fond du Lac.

Tundra swans migrate east to west during the spring. This is quite different from most birds that are traveling south to north. This is because the swans overwintered just to our southeast on Chesapeake Bay.

During spring migration, they travel across Pennsylvania to lakes Ontario and Erie, as well as Lake Huron. Here they wait, gathering in larger and larger numbers over several weeks from mid-February to mid-March. When the winds become favorable, namely out of the east,

the swans depart the Lake Huron area in waves, traveling across Lake Michigan into our area.

These flocks train across the sky. Wave after wave form a literal train of birds across the heavens. As they arrive in our area, they seek out traditional, ancestral staging and feeding areas here.

Lake Winnebago, especially when the water is open at this time, is a favored spot. Other spots farther inland such as Rat River Wildlife Area, Lake Butte des Morts, Lake Winneconne, as well as marshes and wetlands throughout our area, draw large numbers of swans.

These swans will remain a few days or

SEE **Swan song** ON PAGE 16

## EPA directive on PFAS eyed by utilities

Neenah News

New guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is anticipated to roll out by the end of the year for municipalities across the country to regulate the amount of PFAS chemicals in public drinking water.

While the federal standards proposed are more stringent than current guidance from the state Department of Natural Resources, area municipalities that draw from Lake Winnebago have found levels from source sampling that started in 2020 that are either undetectable or no more than half of the proposed EPA levels.

Earlier this month, the EPA released its intentions to roll out the first national standard for PFAS levels in public water supplies.

"If finalized, the proposed regulation will require public water systems to monitor for these chemicals. It will also require systems

SEE **PFAS levels** ON PAGE 10

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Photo by David Hall

Colorful displays from the Northern Lights were seen throughout the region, including this view from Fox Crossing last Thursday night.

## Spring solar storm brings fantastic aurora

By David Hall  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Northern Wisconsin was graced with clear skies permitting a beautiful display of the Northern Lights Thursday night into Friday morning last week. The strongest solar storm in more than half a decade slammed into our planet to create amazing displays.

When the charged particles from the solar wind enter the Earth's atmosphere and magnetic field, they collide with gas molecules, causing them to become excited. As these particles return to their normal state, they emit light of various colors, creating the spectacular display.

The color of the Northern Lights depends on the energy of the solar particles

and the type of gases that the charged particles collide with. Oxygen molecules produce green and red light, while nitrogen molecules produce blue and purple light.

The Aurora Borealis is most often seen in the most northern and southern latitudes such as Alaska, Canada and Iceland. Thursday's light show was driven by a particularly strong coronal mass ejection three days earlier, 20 times the size of the Earth, that allowed those in the area and most of the northern hemisphere to be dazzled.

Several factors must come into alignment for a spectacular display. There must be a strong solar wind. Charged particles of the solar wind are ejected from the sun during solar flares and coronal mass

ejections. The particles must be headed toward Earth and properly interact with its magnetic field during a clear night for visibility.

Fortunately, there are satellites circling the planet to detect solar activity because violent solar storms can disrupt communications and damage satellites. A variety of apps are available to let you know when, where and how strong the solar wind will hit the Earth.

If you missed Thursday night's show, do not despair. The sun goes through 11-year cycles of activity. Solar activity is predicted to reach its peak in July 2025.

*David Hall's blog at [cercatrovaphotography.com](http://cercatrovaphotography.com) has more information on how to chase and photograph the aurora.*

## Library to close second floor for update

Neenah Public Library will begin a carpet replacement project on the second floor next month, which will close that section of the library starting Monday through April 30.

Carpet tiles will replace the original broadloom carpeting, installed when the building was constructed in 2000. Pneumatic equipment will be used to move large sections of full shelving and adhesives will be used in the installation process.

To ensure the safety of patrons, adult and teen material collections and all meeting rooms will not be available during this time.

The first floor will be open to the public with an adult and teen browsing collection along with computers, Wi-Fi printing, faxing and notary services.

Questions or concerns can be sent to library director Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm at [director@neenahlibrary.org](mailto:director@neenahlibrary.org) or 920-886-6300.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

## House history

*The Vermont House was in the 100 block of West Columbian Avenue, constructed in the 1850s by Lovell Stowe, who was Neenah's justice of the peace. During the Civil War, the Vermont House was used as headquarters for the two companies of soldiers being recruited from the Neenah area. After the Civil War the building was made into apartments. It was demolished in 1947 to make way for a Presbyterian church.*

## Volunteer needs

**Aurora Health at Home Hospice** is seeking bilingual Hmong/English-speaking volunteers to work with hospice patients and their families in the Fox Valley. Contact Jayne at 920-252-5146 or Jayne.Syrjamaki@Aurora.org.

**Beaming Inc.** is looking for volunteers to help with lawn care and the maintenance of bird and butterfly gardens and horse paddocks. Volunteers must be 14 years old. No experience necessary; training is provided. Learn more at [beaminginc.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://beaminginc.org/volunteer-opportunities) or contact Denise at [volunteer4beaming@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer4beaming@gmail.com).

**St. Vincent de Paul Neenah/Menasha** is seeking friendly cashier volunteers, at least age 18, with some experience, to volunteer in 4-hour shifts. Staff members are available for backup. Training is provided. For details, contact Toni at [volunteercoordinator@svd-pneenah.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator@svd-pneenah.com) or 920-727-1766, ext. 3.

**Court Appointed Special Advocate** is seeking advocates for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. No special experience is required; initial and ongoing training and support is provided. Learn more at [casafc.org](http://casafc.org) or call Leah at 920-257-4733, ext. 107.

**Fox Valley Literacy** is seeking volunteer tutors for about an hour a week to work with adult students getting their GED, learning English and preparing to get American citizenship. Training and ongoing support is provided. For information, contact Paola at [paola@foxvalleylit.org](mailto:paola@foxvalleylit.org) or 920-991-9840.



Neenah News

## Sizable snow bunny

Making use of a spring snowstorm last weekend that dumped about 17 inches on Neenah as Easter draws near, a rabbit snow sculpture emerged in the front yard of 1219 Honeysuckle Lane.

## Regional app keys on substance use issues

A new We Heart You App that will make navigating local resources related to substance easy to use was launched this week.

The regional app for Winnebago, Outagamie and Calumet counties is targeted to individuals struggling with substance use, family members or friends who want

to connect to loved ones, or professionals.

Resources include treatment information, support meetings, access to Narcan and harm reduction tools, outside support services, mental and behavioral health screeners, and a live chat feature.

Find app at [weheartyou.org](http://weheartyou.org).

## Tomato growing primer presented by expert

Horticulture educator Madisen Potratz from the UW Extension Winnebago County will present a class on the essentials for growing tomatoes at 6:30 Wednesday at the Neenah Public Library.

Participants will learn about choosing the right location, preparing soil and se-

lecting tomato varieties, along with tips for watering, fertilizing, pruning and dealing with common tomato pests and diseases.

Interested individuals are welcome to attend the free event. For more information, contact 920-886-6315, [Library@neenahlibrary.org](mailto:Library@neenahlibrary.org) or go to [neenahlibrary.org](http://neenahlibrary.org).

# Winnebago County tree planting efforts reviewed

Neenah News

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department helped plant more than 15,000 trees in the county and surrounding areas as part of its annual tree sale with the state Department of Natural Resources.

According to the Conservation Department's 2022 annual report, 10,640 trees were planted in county lines and 5,600 were planted on regional land outside the county. The trees came mostly from the DNR's Wilson Nursery in Boscobel that were delivered last April.

As part of the tree distribution, Land and Water Conservation offers homeowners and landowners with the materials and tools to ensure a healthy tree.

Last year, the department sold 40 bags of root gel, 1,275 fertilizer tablets and 99 four-foot tree shelters. It also offers tree planter rentals for landowners with large numbers of trees. Five landowners took advantage of the rental tree planter last year to plant 14,100 trees.

"Landowners may purchase the trees and shrubs for installing riparian buffers, creating a wildlife enhancement area or for tree production," the annual report reads. "Often, landowners purchase trees as part of an incentive program which may include the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program or Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law."

Additionally, the Land and Water Conservation Department installed three shoreline habitat restorations for developed areas, funded through the county's

Water Quality Improvement Program.

These restorations reduce pollutants entering lakes and streams by stabilizing the bank and filtering runoff from neighboring yards through native planting. They typically have a width of 20 to 35 feet landward and can be combined with other practices like a rock riprap.

"Native plantings provide beautiful color throughout the warm months as well as an attractive draw for pollinating insects, birds and animals," the report said. "The projects completed in 2022 varied from 616 square feet to over 10,000 square feet."

The installation process begins with the killing of the existing vegetation to prepare the site and the planting of native plant plugs or a seed mix. Mulch or other materials can be used between plant plugs to deter weeds.

"Part of the appeal of shoreline restorations such as these is that landowners can install them on their own or with the help of a contractor," the report reads. "Landowners also get to select a mix of native plants that suit their needs and desired appearances that will blossom throughout the year."

For the first few years after installation, maintenance must be done regularly to aid in establishment of the plants. Landowners can expect blooms and benefits within a year of planting, which will provide years' worth of decreased pollutants to water bodies and native plants for birds, butterflies and animals.

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department is on Facebook or at [co.winnebago.wi.us/LWCD](http://co.winnebago.wi.us/LWCD).



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# Body language expert offers blueprint for success

## Organizations benefit from personal training

By Jennifer Parmley  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

For many, public speaking is the stuff of nightmares. Even making a comment to a small group of co-workers can be intimidating if it's out of your comfort zone.

But Kristin Bock is convinced that even the most shy and awkward among us can learn how to command a stage or inspire an audience simply by learning how to own our presence and physical expression. Just as we would with any other professional skill, she says we all can easily learn how to become a body language master through facial expressions, posture, gestures, eye contact and creating space with the body.

"You don't have to be perfect to be likable," Bock said. "In fact, your imperfection allows you to truly tap into others' emotions and make them feel seen and heard."

She calls that imperfection one's "charisma factor," and it's the secret to making friends and influencing people.

As founder of Body Language Blueprints, Bock provides training and coaching to individuals, organizations and employees in businesses of all types and sizes. She has worked with clients such as J. J. Keller & Associates, Thrivent, Oshkosh Corp. and St. Norbert College. She has given several talks about connecting with people virtually, has coached TEDx speakers, and has been featured on The List, an Emmy award-winning TV show.

She develops custom presentations based on an organization's goals. Topics

can include how to cultivate charisma in the world of IT, how to build an executive presence and understanding how you present to others. She points out that peo-



**Bock**

ple can exude warmth and can exude competence, but few people naturally exude both. She said one of the rare examples of someone who is gifted at both is Oprah Winfrey, whom people trust because she is both competent and warm.

"It's all about dialing up or down your warmth or your competence," Bock said.

Diane Miller hired Bock for a recent presentation for PLUG (Packerland User Group), an organization composed of various companies in Wisconsin and surrounding states who use JD Edwards software.

"I was very pleased with Kristin's presentation and how amazing and educational it was," Miller said. "Since we are mostly comprised of IT personnel, she also covered tips for meetings using video and cameras. She is a wonderful speaker and taught our group so many things. In fact, she was our first presentation in the morning and all throughout the day, we could see the attendees following key points from what Kristin covered and people were very mindful of how they were standing or what they were doing nonverbally."

Bock commands the stage during her presentations, engaging participants with her easygoing delivery. But that did not come naturally.

She said that while she enjoyed high school, she was incredibly shy and wondered how a good friend seemed so at ease with her peers.

"I thought, 'What is she doing? How can some people just stand in front of room and own it?' It was compelling, and I knew I needed those skills," Bock recalled. "That was not intuitive to me, but it led me on a journey."

The Oshkosh resident earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and worked at a nonprofit for more than 25 years for adults with cognitive disabilities, many nonverbal. She began to observe various cues as to when residents would get upset and learned how to intervene to guide them down a different path. She did more research and eventually was asked to train others.

Eventually she studied in earnest and

became a certified body language trainer through The Science of People under Vanessa Van Edwards, national best-selling author of "Cues" and "Captivate." In 2018, Bock left that job to pursue her work with Body Language Blueprints. She feels now more than ever people need different skills to navigate the world personally and professionally.

"I often get, 'These concepts are really basic, but I needed to hear them,'" she said. "I work hard at making the concepts easy to understand."

"Kristin is an engaging and genuine speaker, and a very trustworthy and knowledgeable person who I have recommended to several other groups," Miller said. "One thing that really resonated with me is how powerful body language is to successful communication."

## Kitchen tour features outstanding area homes

The 14th annual Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society (NMES) Kitchen Tour fundraiser is set from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 27, featuring five designed kitchens on Doty Island and Kimberly Point, and an exhibit at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass with glass once displayed in one of the homes.

There will be a mix of innovatively renovated kitchens featuring styles from English Tudor Revival, Modern Craftsman, Classic Colonial, and a 1937 George Fred Keck International Style home. Each home will feature unique demonstrations and tastings by local area eateries such as The Howard, The Sweet Lair, Bedrock Coffee Roasters, FOME, XE54 Wine and Cocktail Lounge, and Tight Barrel Distillery.

The Kitchen Tour is the organization's largest fundraising event and helps to support ongoing efforts to prevent homelessness and provide for core needs, according to event co-chair Anastasia Horan.

NMES holds one of the largest back-to-school fairs in the area each August in collaboration with school districts, social service agencies and other sources. Children in need receive a backpack of supplies and a certificate for a pair of shoes redeemable at Rogans. People are referred to NMES by social services and other recognized organizations such as the Winnebago County Health Department, public health nurses, public and private school administrators and counselors, LEAVEN and Goodwill.

To learn more and for advance tickets, go to [www.nmesociety.org](http://www.nmesociety.org).

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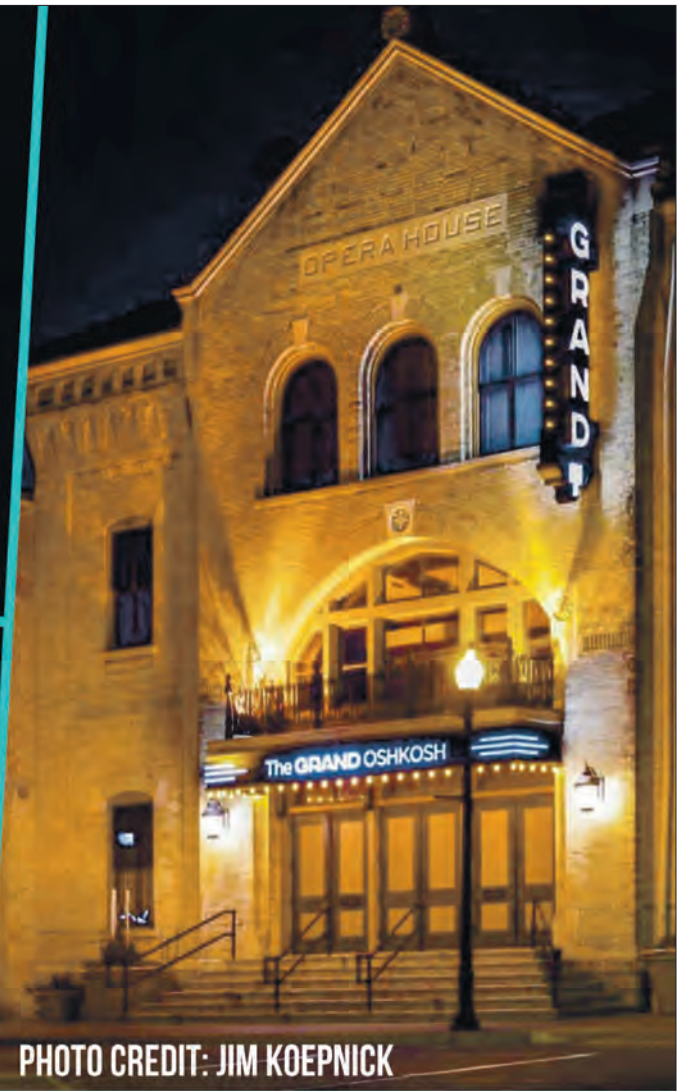
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# Childhood weight issues get new detailed guidance

## Updated tools offered for eating disorders

By Kaitlyn Scoville  
NEENAH NEWS

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has provided new guidance in dealing with childhood obesity, which some say is too intense for young people and may lead to disordered eating.

According to National Public Radio (NPR) article "New childhood obesity guidance raises worries over the risk of eating disorders," the guidance recommends intensive health behavior and lifestyle therapy in addition to possible prescriptions of weight-loss drugs or even bariatric surgery.

"In addition to therapy, the AAP now says doctors should offer weight-loss drugs to adolescents diagnosed with obesity at age 12 or older and should evaluate teens who are 13 and older with severe obesity for bariatric surgery," the NPR article states.

The intensive lifestyle therapy, the guidance suggests, is at least 26 hours of in-per-

son treatment including coaching on nutrition, exercise and behavioral changes.

"Supporters of the new guidance acknowledge that it will be a while before this type of intensive therapy is widely available, though there currently are other, more accessible alternatives," the article reads.

In the years 2020 and 2021, Wisconsin was ranked 34th in the nation for its childhood obesity rates at 14.9%. Nationally, about one in six youth are obese.

Aimee Schneiderhan with the Winnebago County Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program in the county's Health Department said healthy feeding begins once a child is born.

"You, as a parent or guardian, are providing the foundation of a healthy relationship when providing foods for your children. Our job as providers is to offer regular meals and snacks during the day and provide a wide variety of foods from all of the different food groups," Schneiderhan said. "The job of our children is to self-regulate their own hunger and fullness, which means that they get to eat when they are hungry and stop when they are full."

"By allowing children to regulate their own hunger, fullness and independence, you are setting them up for a successful and positive relationship with food."

Dr. Richa Aggarwal with Rogers Behavioral Health is a board-certified psychiatrist and routinely works with children's mental health. She said the new AAP guidance might be trying to target children working

on healthy relationships with food and lifestyle changes.

"When they say somebody struggles with this chronic disease, there has to be multiple factors that are involved in this. There could be lifestyle changes, there could be some medical reasons," Aggarwal said. "It depends on how you want to say it; you want to say the glass is half empty, or you want to say the glass is half full, how you word it is going to impact your brain."

She also said these invasive treatments might be necessary because other lifestyles haven't worked for some. However, the concern for disordered eating is still present as teenagers ages 12 to 19 begin to experience body shaming and other behaviors stigmatizing being overweight.

"That is when they're forming their identity. We all want to attain the maximum benefit of health. But if we're saying, 'Hey, you are obese, you need to lose weight,' that is going to lead to more disordered eating," Aggarwal said. "If we can work on creating a healthy relationship with food so they can attain the maximum benefit of health, then we can take losing weight and all of that out."

Mara Eifolla, who owns Rose Wellness in Oshkosh, is a nutritional therapy practitioner who works with children and adults with a range of issues from infertility, allergies, eczema, weight loss, hormone issues, gut issues and mystery illness through a "whole foods" lens.

Eifolla said the AAP guidance "treating (obesity) like a disease will cause children to possibly have disordered eating."

"We're treating it like cancer or COVID, and they're at an age where they're already influenced by a lot of other things."

Eifolla said obesity generally runs deeper than genetics or socioeconomic status.

"The standard American diet has a huge effect on it; we're eating such unhealthy foods," she said. "What I teach my clients is balanced because I was in a place where I had disordered eating and I had high restrictions, and then you just get into this obsessive cycle. I always remind them to base 80% of their diet off those whole foods but that doesn't mean carrots and salad every day."

The goal in the end, Eifolla said, is to focus on the child's whole health and not just their weight.

"I know a lot of people go to the doctors who struggle with obesity, and they say, 'The doctor just tells me to eat better and exercise.' There can be other things that are causing these people to hold on to weight that doctors don't necessarily look into," she said.

Aggarwal said she has had children who have experienced so much body shaming that they refuse to eat around their peers in school, and that this avoidance and isolation may lead to depression.

"If they're avoiding meals, they're isolating themselves. They're finding excuses not to eat with the family or keeping themselves busy during the meal, all those are red flags for eating disorders," Aggarwal said. "One thing I would emphasize is to have a healthy relationship with food and to promote the maximum benefits of health."



Aggarwal



Eifolla

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## Basic Needs nonprofit evolves regional approach

The Basic Needs Giving Partnership, which in January launched a single regional organization to centralize and coordinate its activities, will be distributing close to \$1 million this year in addition to the more than \$3 million being granted to previous multiyear commitments.

Through the hardships brought on by the pandemic, the Basic Needs Giving Partnership released an additional \$5 million of grant funds with flexible guidelines during a critical time for northeast Wisconsin nonprofits.

As the organization works as its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2023, it plans to focus on a new strategy within its grant-making cycle in support of people and places in northeast Wisconsin that advance equity and economic well-being.

The largest portion of available grant

funding is committed to economic stability, education, health and wellness, family support and social connectedness.

The partnership this year will follow through on current commitments to challenges that have been made worse by the pandemic. Those include learning setbacks for young children, exacerbated challenges related to housing access, and the impact on mental health with increases in the rates of anxiety, depression and substance use.

Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is being invested in communities with many cities and counties focusing on early care and education, and housing. Basic Needs Giving Partnership funding will accompany those funds with general operating support.

To learn more about eligibility, guidelines and priorities, visit [www.bngpwi.org](http://www.bngpwi.org).

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# Hazardous materials clean sweep event coming in April

Farmers, households and businesses are invited to dispose of unwanted pesticides, chemicals and other hazardous materials at a special Clean Sweep event from 3 to 6 p.m. April 24 at the Neenah Public Works Garage, 1495 Tullar Road.

Participants must be a resident, farmer or business of Winnebago County and

event registration is required.

Residents and farmers can participate for free and need to register by April 19 at [WinnebagoCountyCleanSweep.com](http://WinnebagoCountyCleanSweep.com) or by calling 920-232-1802.

Businesses can participate at their own cost and should contact Zach Davis at 262-253-3504 for qualification and regis-

tration assistance by April 14.

Hazardous products may be labeled with words such as Poison, Flammable, Combustible, Corrosive, Caution, Warning or Danger. Materials accepted at the Clean Sweep include pesticides, herbicides, poisons, lead and oil-based paint, spray paint, solvents, gasoline, household cleaners,

degreasers, mercury and pool chemicals.

When disposed of improperly, hazardous materials can compromise the quality of drinking water, increase algae bloom in waterways and create health and safety risks for sanitation workers. Hazardous materials left around the house and garage pose an accidental poison risk to children and pets.

## Public library calendar

- April 2**  
1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+)  
2 p.m.: Giants of Jazz: Herbie Hancock
- April 3**  
2 p.m.: Adult Afternoon Program: The Miracles of Feng Shui
- April 4**  
9:15 a.m.: Toddle Time  
10:30 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)
- April 5**  
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (ages birth-12 months)  
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)  
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup  
6:30 p.m.: Suburban Homesteading-Growing Tomatoes
- April 6**  
10 a.m.: Wild Child Adventure Storytime at Riverside Park  
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam
- April 7**  
9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Boot Camp  
10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga
- April 9**  
Library Closed

- April 10**  
1 p.m.: Monday Matinee: "A Man Called Otto"  
6 p.m.: Injury Prevention-For Athletes, Coaches and Fitness Enthusiasts
- April 11**  
9:15 a.m.: Toddle Time  
10:30 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)  
4:30 p.m.: Legal Assistance Clinic
- April 12**  
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (ages birth-12 months)  
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)  
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup
- April 13**  
10 a.m.: Wild Child Adventure Storytime at Riverside Park  
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam
- April 15**  
10:30 a.m.: Tween/Teen D&D Open Play Free Event
- April 16**  
1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+)

- April 17**  
1:30 p.m.: Memory Cafe: NewVoices Choir  
6:30 p.m.: Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: "The Last Child by John Hart"
- April 18**  
9:15 a.m.: Toddle Time  
10:30 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)  
6:30 p.m.: Suburban Homesteading-Gardening Without Chemicals
- April 19**  
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (ages birth-12 months)  
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)  
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup
- April 20**  
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam  
7 p.m.: History of Indigenous Voices During the Removal Era
- April 21**  
9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength  
10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care  
10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga

- April 22**  
10:30 a.m.: Earth Day Celebration: The Curious Chemistry of amazing Algae
- April 23**  
2 p.m.: Giants of Jazz: Thelonious Monk
- April 24**  
10 a.m.: MMBK - "Bird Box"  
6:30 p.m.: Author Visit: Kate Albus
- April 25**  
9:15 a.m.: Toddle Time  
10:30 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)  
6:30 p.m.: Movie Talks: "The Usual Suspects"
- April 26**  
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (ages birth-12 months)  
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)  
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup
- April 27**  
10 a.m.: Wild Child Adventure Storytime at Conservancy Park  
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam
- April 30**  
2 p.m.: Giants of Jazz: Blue Note Groove



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

# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 39, No. 17

## World's Biggest Bee

The world's biggest bee, called **Wallace's giant bee**, disappeared almost 40 years ago. Scientists thought it was gone forever, or **extinct**.

In 2019, scientists traveled into the forests of Indonesia. There, they discovered a living Wallace's giant bee!



### How Big?

Use the code to discover why the giant bee causes such buzz in the scientific community!

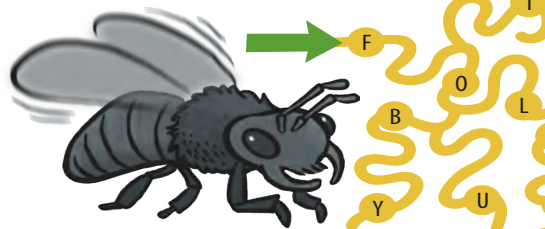


Wingspan: \_\_\_\_\_ inches ( \_\_\_\_\_ cm)

About as long as an adult human thumb: \_\_\_\_\_ inches long ( \_\_\_\_\_ cm)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### Giant Jaws

The giant bee has enormous jaws called **mandibles**. It uses the mandibles to scrape sticky **resin** off trees. They use the resin to build burrows within termite nests, where females raise their young.

### Does it sting?

Wallace's giant bee **does** sting. But, unlike the honeybee, it does not die when it stings.

### What does a giant bee eat?

Like other bees, they feed on nectar and pollen but they don't make honey. Follow the maze and write down the letters along the correct path to discover how much larger Wallace's giant bee is than a typical honeybee.



How much larger is Wallace's giant bee than a typical honeybee?

F \_\_\_\_\_

### The Big Bee with Many Names

Use the code to discover different names this big bee is called.

Indonesians call it *Raja Ofu* which means:

7 19 22 16 18 13 20

12 21 25 22 22 8

The scientists who found it called it:

21 15 2 18 13 20

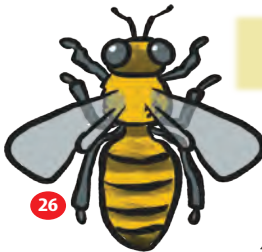
25 6 15 15 23 12 20

#### CODE

26 = A	13 = N
25 = B	12 = O
24 = C	11 = P
23 = D	10 = Q
22 = E	9 = R
21 = F	8 = S
20 = G	7 = T
19 = H	6 = U
18 = I	5 = V
17 = J	4 = W
16 = K	3 = X
15 = L	2 = Y
14 = M	1 = Z

### What bees are these?

Do the math to label each of these bees!



- 14 + 17 = Pigmented Miner Bee
- 17 + 11 = Western Bumble Bee
- 18 + 18 = Valley Carpenter Bee
- 13 + 13 = Western Honeybee



### Extra! Extra! Big, Bigger, BIGGEST

Look through the newspaper for pictures of three things. Cut them out and glue them to a piece of paper in order from big, bigger to biggest. Do the same thing to show things that are small, smaller and smallest.

Standards Link: Understand comparative and superlative forms.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### The Cutest Bee on Earth

These bees, with scientific name *Amegilla bombiformis*, look cute and cuddly. If you want to snuggle up with one of these bees, you're in for a treat because the male bees don't sting. These bees live in Australia. Circle every other letter to reveal the nickname for this bee.

C T R E L D N D W  
Y K B C E H A J  
R V B U E F E

T \_\_\_\_\_

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

### Double Double Word Search

- BEEES
- BUZZ
- CARPENTER
- EXTINCT
- GIANT
- HONEY
- JAWS
- MINER
- NECTAR
- NESTS
- RESIN
- STING
- THUMB
- TREES
- VALLEY

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

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

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

### Kid Scoop Together

## World's Smallest Bee

Unscramble the letters to find the missing words.

One bee is teeny tiny. Scientists call it the *Perdita minima*. Many people call it the **YRIAF EBE**.

The fairy bee lives in the American southwest. It lives alone and makes a tiny nest in sandy desert.

**LISO**

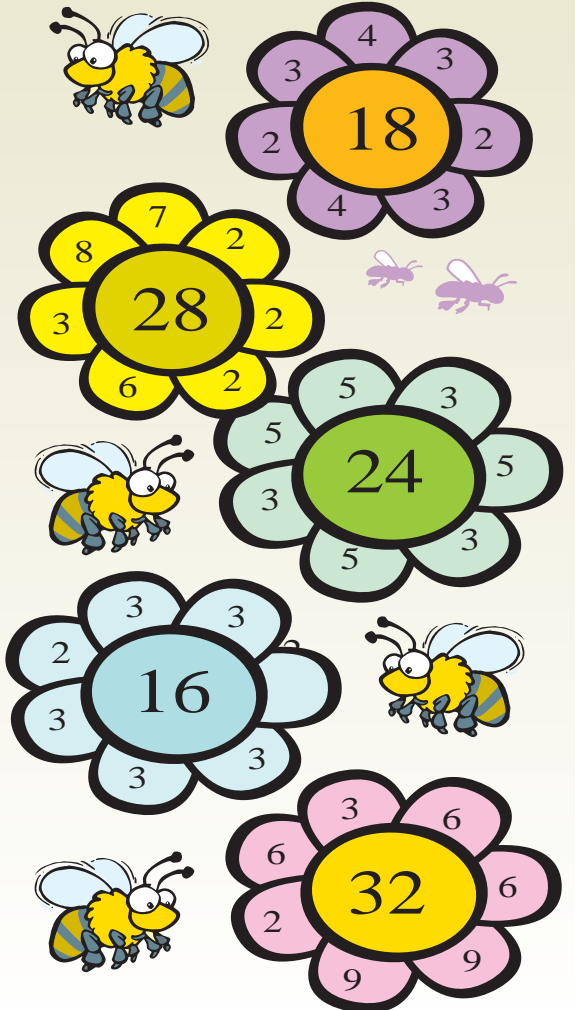
The fairy bee grows to be less than two millimeters long. Its entire body can easily fit on the head of an averaged-size bee.

People who look for this tiny bee look for its shadow on the ground. It is easier to find its shadow than the bee.

This bee is so small that it can easily pass through the mesh of insect **TENS**.

Standards Link: Spell grade appropriate words correctly.

The numbers on the flower petals add up to the number in the center of the flower. **Oops!** All but one petal, that is! Figure out which petal on each flower needs to be plucked so that the numbers on the petals add up to the number in the center.



Standards Link: Calculate sums and differences.

### Write On!

## Buzzy Day

One day I woke up and I was a bee. Then ...  
*Finish this story.*

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# Neenah High School names new associate principal

After leading the Neenah Joint School District's equity and inclusion efforts for the past two years, Sae Yang will take on a new role as an associate principal at Neenah High School.

Yang has been the district's equity and inclusion coordinator since the start of the 2021-22 school year. She replaces Mike O'Neill, who is retiring after 21 years in the position.



Yang

Yang has led several district initiatives, including an equity audit, data analysis and closing the achievement gap for students. She created student focus groups around belongingness and equity and worked closely with student behavior and mental health issues.

A major focus of her work has been in helping principals and staff look for culturally responsive instructional practices in classrooms.

In 2022, she was one of two recipients of the Fox Cities Women of Distinction

Award by the Mid-Day Women's Alliance. She is involved with Harbor House, United Hmong American Association, Appleton Public Library and the Hmong American Partnership. She has also worked with several district diversity groups and assisted newcomers and refugees in their transition.

"Sae is someone who will push our team to new thinking," Neenah High School Principal Brian Wunderlich said. "Her depth of understanding in curriculum, student behaviors and so many other areas will be invaluable to our entire staff."

Yang was previously an English Learner teacher for seven years at Appleton West High School. She also worked as an instructional coach at Appleton West for two years, helping to lead professional development on instructional practices and literacy at the building and district level. Yang served on the Appleton Area School District's Achievement, Community and Equity Committee for six years.

Yang has a bachelor's degree in education and a master's in educational leadership from the UW Oshkosh.

## Bowling fundraiser returns to Rolling Thunder

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin is relaunching Bowl for Kids' Sake, its largest and longest-running fundraising event, April 29 at Rolling Thunder Lanes in Neenah.

After a three-year hiatus, the fundraiser features a 1970s theme and kicks off at 1 p.m. with bowling, food, games and prizes.

To participate as a team of family, friends or co-workers, register at [bbbsecw.org](http://bbbsecw.org). The cost is \$50 for adults and \$25 for

children under age 16, which includes a T-shirt, two hours of bowling, shoe rental and refreshments.

Bowl for Kids' Sake raises awareness for the need of volunteer mentors, with more than 100 young people in the community waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister.

More information about Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin is at [bbbsecw.org](http://bbbsecw.org). or on social media.

# Business news roundup

**The Natural Boutique**, 125 W Wisconsin Ave., held a grand re-opening earlier this month with its plant-based and all-natural products. The business has been open for over 20 years and has recently welcomed new owner Amy James.

**New North Inc.** and **Blueprint365**, a free-access news outlet covering Wisconsin's diverse business community, has announced a partnership to highlight entrepreneurs, executives and other business leaders from the New North region's communities of color. Blueprint365 with a reporting staff based in the Fox Valley and Madison will produce and publish promotional and sponsored content for New North Inc. and affiliated businesses.

**RGL Logistics**, based in Green Bay with offices in Neenah and Appleton, has been named a PULSE Champion of Young Professionals by the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce. The designation recognizes employers who pledge support and a positive work environment for young professionals within their company. RGL Logistics is a warehousing, distribution and transportation management company in business for 120 years that works with shippers and carriers nationwide.

**Lessons That Last Dog Training** has a

new suite location at 976 American Drive in Neenah, now operating from Suite 9.

Neenah-based **Jake's Network of Hope** is hosting its first fundraiser Hits for Hope, a pro wrestling event, on April 29 at Lawrence University's Alexander Gym in Appleton. Partnering with Frontline Pro, the event will feature wrestlers Tatanka, Jacob Fatu, Vampiro, Brian Pillman Jr. and Billy Gun. Funds raised will help purchase disposable products to re-stock Jake's warehouse shelves at 2396 Industrial Drive.

**Trilliant**, parent company of Victor Allen's Coffee, has launched its newest flavor innovation, Victor Allen's Snickers and Twix Ready-to-Drink Iced Coffees. The drinks are available nationally in 13.7-ounce bottles at 220 calories. Trilliant Food and Nutrition has a manufacturing facility at 300 N. Lake St. in Neenah.

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce has certified **ThedaCare** as a platinum-level Employee Friendly Workplace, the highest level of this award. They are only the second company to reach the platinum level, and the first Fox Cities health care provider to achieve that certification, which recognizes employers who demonstrate a significant commitment to promoting work-life integration by creating a positive environment and experience.

## Memorial Day Parade entries being accepted

Those seeking to enter the 127th annual Neenah-Menasha Memorial Day Parade can send an email to [mr42@new.rr.com](mailto:mr42@new.rr.com) asking for information or call Dave at 920-851-2306.

The parade is set for May 29, starts at 9

a.m. in Menasha and ends in Neenah at Doty Street. Registration ends April 22.

American Legion Post 33 from Neenah also is having its annual car show/bake sale that day at Lucky Dog's in Neenah from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

# 2023

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# Crane count volunteers are sought

Winnebago Audubon is looking for counters to cover 45 designated sites in Winnebago County for the 47th Annual Midwest Crane Count.

More than 1,800 volunteer participants statewide and in portions of Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio and Minnesota participate in the spring survey on the abundance and distribution of cranes in the Upper Midwest. The International Crane Foundation sponsors the count as a part of its mission to conserve the world's 15 species of cranes and the natural commu-

nities on which they depend.

Winnebago County ranks high in the number of crane sightings.

Go to [savingcranes.org](http://savingcranes.org) to find the site maps for Winnebago County, then contact county coordinator Evelyn Meuret to check availability and secure a site.

An optional in-person meeting is set from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Oshkosh Food Co-op, 155 Jackson St., Suite 1, where a site can be chosen with other counters. Crane call identification and data entry will be reviewed.

# Easter event for adults mixes beer and eggs

Neenah News

The Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation Department is bringing back the adult-themed Easter event Brews with the Bunny on April 15 followed by an adult Easter egg hunt at Fritsch Park.

There will be live music, food trucks, craft beer, ax throwing and Easter-themed games from 5 to 7:45 p.m. for the Brews with the Bunny portion of the event.

The Easter egg hunt starts at dusk with a mad dash to collect as many of the more than 2,000 scattered eggs as possible. A variety of prizes will be awarded through the support of local businesses. Preregistration is required for the hunt.

Proceeds generated will go toward youth recreation programs.

Contact Fox Crossing Park & Recreation at 720-7108, [foxcrossingwi.gov](http://foxcrossingwi.gov) or on Facebook for more information.

# New microgrants support diverse businesses

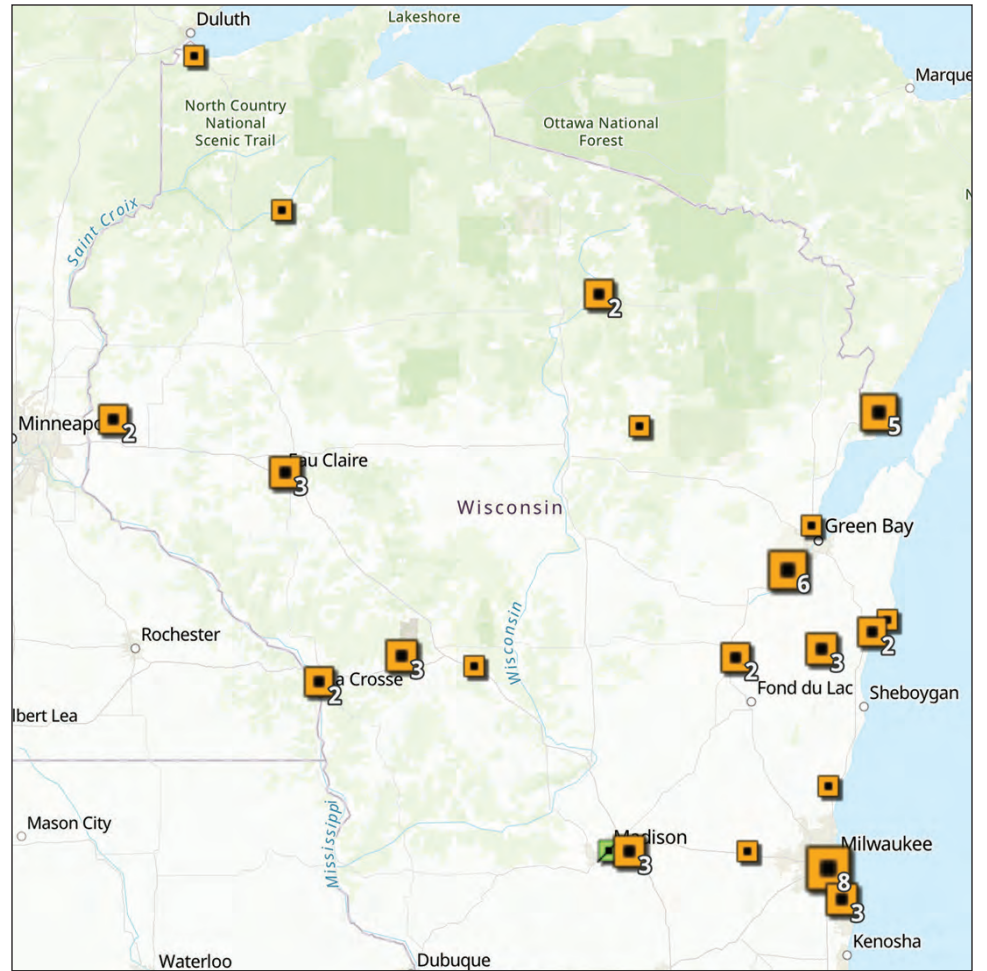
New North Inc., in partnership with The Business Council (TBC) and the Ethnic & Diverse Business Coalition (EDBC), has established a microgrant fund to help fund nonprofit organizations in the region that support ethnic and diverse businesses in their startup or growth phase.

The application for grants up to \$20,000 – for initiatives or events taking place before Dec. 31 – is available at [thenewnorth.com](http://thenewnorth.com) until April 30. A second round of applications may be funded later this year.

Examples of projects eligible include training, supplier diversity and business

events, entrepreneurial support, classes to remove language barriers for business customers, workshops on sales and marketing, an ethnic business showcase, and other initiatives that work to remove barriers and promote success.

TBC is a business membership organization, serving as the architect of high-quality resources, education and tools to assist ethnically diverse businesses. Members of the TBC include the EDBC, whose respective organizations work to improve the business environment in Wisconsin.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

A map shows the approximate locations of state Department of Natural Resources PFAS contamination investigations. The numbers by each marker represent the number of open investigations in each community.

# PFAS levels

FROM PAGE 1

to notify the public and reduce PFAS contamination if levels exceed the proposed regulatory standards," the release states. "EPA anticipates that if fully implemented, the rule will, over time, prevent thousands of deaths and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-attributable illnesses."

Neenah water utility director Tony Mach said that while the levels here have been low and there are no immediate plans to change the current process related to PFAS, he would rather not see the level at a point where findings above that number could spark an excess reaction.

"Municipalities that have higher levels, where they actually have to physically remove that chemical, now you've created a concentrated waste and so you have to do something with that waste as well," he said.

"They're not at that point where they've come up with a good solution for it."

Background testing that the DNR did in 2020 had PFOA and PFOS around 1.5 to 2.0 parts per trillion in the Fox River and Lake Winnebago. Those levels are half or less of the proposed regulatory requirements after three tests since last August, which lies in the range of what the DNR found.

Neenah City Water Works uses granulated activated carbon to remove chemicals from Lake Winnebago surface water.

"We don't have the same worries as groundwater sites do because a lot of that (PFAS) material was used for firefighting foam so a lot of it was sprayed onto the

ground and it made its way into the groundwater," Mach said. "We just don't have those point sources of contamination around us like they do in other places. We're fortunate that we take from the lake."

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are widely used, long-lasting chemicals – components of which break down slowly over time, according to the EPA, and are typically found in water, air, fish and soil across the nation. PFAS chemicals can be found in many consumer, commercial and industrial products, which "makes it challenging to study and assess the potential human health and environmental risks," the EPA states.

Federal regulations for PFOA and PFOS may be set at 4 parts per trillion (ppt), and the health-based water concentration (HBWC) of other chemicals to be set at "1 unit." HBWC in Neenah's drinking water is also well below that number.

Mach said that regardless of how federal and state guidelines evolve to regulate drinking water, his department takes those safety measures personally.

"At the water utility, we care a lot," he said. "We live here. We care about our people and we do the best we can with the tools that are available at the time and the best available technology. But at the end of the day, nature always wins."

Outside of PFAS found in water supplies, most fire departments around the state – including Neenah's – have phased out and properly disposed of fire-extinguishing foams that have contained PFAS chemicals. In a statewide collection effort.

## 2023 MENU GUIDE

Pick Up, Take-Out or Dine In?

Be at nearly 52,000 Neenah & Oshkosh readers fingertips for their dining decisions. Space is limited. Hurry and reserve your space today!

**PUBLISH DATE: Wednesday, May 17, 2023**  
**Space & Copy Deadline: Noon Friday, April 28, 2023**

The Summer Menu Guide will be inserted into the **May 17 Oshkosh Herald** and **May 19 Neenah News** reaching nearly 52,000 diners.

Call 920-385-4512 or your Account Executive to reserve your space now. Pages are limited so DON'T delay!

[www.oshkoshherald.com](http://www.oshkoshherald.com)

[www.neenahnewsnow.com](http://www.neenahnewsnow.com)

# Calendar of events

**Saturday, April 1**  
 Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

**Sunday, April 2**  
 Giants of Jazz Series: Lawrence Jazz Quintet, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

**Thursday, April 6**  
 Open Chess Night, 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

**Monday, April 10**  
 Short Story Night, 7 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewing Co.

**Saturday, April 15**  
 Brews with the Bunny, 5 p.m., Fritsch Park, Fox Crossing

**Ongoing**  
 Spring Scavenger Hunt in downtown Neenah through April 7. Information at Future Neenah, 135 W. Wisconsin Ave.

**Friday, March 31**  
 The Rocke Brothers, 6:30 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road

# Neenah, St. Mary Catholic eye successful softball seasons

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

There is certainly plenty for the Neenah High School softball team to be excited about entering the 2023 season.

The Rockets return a handful of players who earned all-conference recognition a year ago from a roster that has a definite veteran vibe and they are coming off a season where they reached the sectional final. Neenah has depth in the pitching circle, a lineup that can produce top to bottom and a defense that should be solid at every level.



Gross

All of that has head coach Steven Gross looking forward to getting the games going.

"This year, so far, our energy and overall team chemistry has been very good," Gross said. "I think they are all super motivated to get back to where we were last

year, but then hopefully get one step further which is obviously everyone's goal. But I think the girls are doing a nice job so far of sticking together and continuing to improve."

One of the key areas for the Rockets will be on the pitching rubber where Morgan Harwood returns after earning second-team all-Fox Valley Association honors a year ago. Harwood struck out 148 batters in 116 innings last season, while finishing the year with a 1.99 earned run average.

"Right now, we see Morgan having the ball in her hand a lot," Gross said. "Having that consistency back is great and returning Morgan back on the mound will be huge."

Harwood, who may miss some early games while competing at nationals for pow-

## Softball PREVIEW

erlifting, is expected to anchor the Rockets' efforts in the circle, but she will hardly be the only one to log some innings.

Savanna Knuth was Neenah's No. 2 pitcher last year and returns after tossing more than 30 innings during the season last year, while Gross said that freshman Kyleigh Mathe could also figure into the mix in the circle for the Rockets.

"We're real excited for the pitching staff we have," Gross said. "It's going to be nice having several options to be able to go to so that each one of them, they don't feel like they have to do all of that. They can give us everything they have on the mound knowing that if they need a break, we've got someone to go in for them."

Offensively, the Rockets return the top four hitters from last year, including Marwood who led the team with a .407 batting average and four home runs.

Bella Coulman, Quinn Marnocha and Piper Alberg also return after batting over .300 last year to help bolster the offense. Coulman and Alberg were second-team all-conference selections last year, and Marnocha - who has committed to play at South Dakota State next season - was an honorable mention choice.

Gross expects the Rockets' offense to be improved this season but it's not necessarily because the players will be hitting the ball that much better. He believes his experienced lineup will be able to wait on pitches better to make opposing pitchers work harder.

"We return a lot of kids from our lineup and all of them have made huge strides as far as their awareness in the batter's box. Our

patience in the box has gotten a lot better," Gross said. "I'm very excited to see all of the kids' hard work really show for them in games. I think we are going to have a lot of fun on offense."

In many conferences, Neenah's offense would likely be able to rack up runs at a dizzying pace, but Gross knows that's not likely to happen in the FVA.

"The pitching within the FVA is so good," Gross said. "But I think our kids are excited for the challenge."

Neenah finished 8-10 in the FVA a year ago (14-12 overall) and the conference remains one of the top leagues in the state.

Yet, Gross believes his Rockets can certainly compete with the top teams in the league and with the talent and experience Neenah boasts, are capable of challenging for the conference title.

"That is always our goal but our conference is just very tough," Gross said. "From top to bottom in our conference, it doesn't matter who we play, the quality of athletes in our conference is so good there is genuinely no night off. You have to bring it and be ready to go. But our kids are motivated to compete. If we compete like we are capable of, I definitely think we would have a shot to compete at some of those spots at the top of the conference."

## Rodman takes over reins at St. Mary Catholic

First-year head coach Jennifer Rodman can't wait for St. Mary Catholic's softball team to finally start playing some games.

Partly because it would mean that spring will have finally arrived in Wisconsin, but more importantly, she's excited to finally see what her team can do on the field.

"We have a lot of talent on our team this

year and I'm just super excited to watch them put it all together," Rodman said. "It's one thing seeing them at practice and seeing what they can do. But games are another thing, and I can't wait to see it happen on the field."

Rodman, who came to St. Mary Catholic after coaching in the Appleton East program, said the transition to her first head coaching post has gone smoothly and she credits the veteran roster for helping her get settled.

St. Mary Catholic returns 12 players from the varsity roster a year ago, including two players who earned all-Big East Conference recognition a year ago, and the experience the team brings back will be a definite asset for the new coach.

"We have a good core of returning and it's been nice to rely on those kids coming back, especially for me as a first-year coach," Rodman said. "I can rely on them to provide information that I need."

Rhiannon Reichenbacher was a second-team all-conference selection last year and was the team's leading hitter with a .333 batting average and 16 RBIs.

Nevaeh Saringer was the top hurler on the team, pitching nearly 91 innings on the season, while totaling 68 strikeouts.

Saringer threw all but 20 innings last season for the Zephyrs, but that could change this season. Reichenbacher, who logged 14 innings pitched last year, is expected to take on a bigger role in the circle this year, while Rodman said freshman Samantha Weiss



Rodman

SEE **Softball preview** ON PAGE 12



# Girls Varsity

# 2023 Softball Schedules





## ST. MARY CATHOLIC

BOLD designates home games

Mar 28	Shiocton	4:00pm
Apr 1	Manawa	10:00am
Apr 4	Sheboygan Area Lutheran	4:30pm
Apr 11	@ Reedsville	4:30pm
Apr 13	Oostburg	4:30pm
Apr 15	Iola / Scandinavia (DH)	10:00am
Apr 18	@ Mishicot	4:30pm
Apr 20	Manitowoc Lutheran	4:30pm
Apr 22	Xavier High School	10:00am
Apr 25	Hilbert	4:30pm
Apr 27	@ Elkhart Lake	4:30pm
May 2	@ Cedar Grove / Belgium	4:30pm
May 4	@ Peshtigo	4:30pm
May 5	Random Lake	4:30pm
May 9	Lourdes Academy	4:30pm
May 11	@ Howards Grove (DH)	4:00pm
May 16	Wittenberg / Birnamwood	4:30pm



## NEENAH

BOLD designates home games

Mar 30	Manitowoc Lincoln	5:00pm
Apr 1	West Bend East	10:00am
Apr 3	@ West De Pere	4:30pm
Apr 4	@ Hortonville	4:30pm
Apr 6	Oshkosh West	4:30pm
Apr 11	@ Appleton North	4:30pm
Apr 13	Kimberly	4:30pm
Apr 15	Marinette	11:00am
Apr 18	@ Appleton East	4:30pm
Apr 20	Oshkosh North	4:30pm
Apr 21	@ Fond du Lac	5:00pm
Apr 22	Freedom	10:00am
Apr 25	@ Kaukauna	4:30pm
Apr 27	Appleton West	4:30pm
Apr 28	Hortonville	4:30pm
May 2	@ Oshkosh West	4:30pm
May 4	Appleton North	4:30pm
May 5	@ Kimberly	4:30pm
May 9	Appleton East	4:30pm
May 11	@ Oshkosh North	4:30pm
May 12	Fond du Lac	4:30pm
May 16	Kaukauna	4:30pm
May 18	@ Appleton West	5:00pm
May 19	@ Stevens Point (SPASH)	4:30pm

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## Softball preview

FROM PAGE 11

could also figure into the pitching mix.

"We are looking forward to see what they can do on the mound together. We are very lucky and blessed to have two quality pitchers and we have (Samantha), too," Rodman said. "It's nice even for practice to have multiple pitchers pitch batting practice. We're fortunate to have the pitching we do."

Rodman expects the pitching to be solid, but offensively, she sees room for improvement for the Zephyrs this season.

Rodman said the team finished the year with a .211 team batting average. Led by the likes of Reichenbecker and Saringer, Rodman hopes the lineup will be more productive and is counting on the likes of Chloe Vogel, Allie Strande, Addison Moder and

Emily Vogel to help bolster the offense.

"A big goal is getting our batting average up from last year," Rodman said. "That is one of our biggest focuses, getting that average up and being able to produce at the plate and be able to get those runs up so we can help (Saringer and Reichenbacher). Putting those runs up is going to be key."

If the Zephyrs can pick up the offense, they should be able to challenge in a pretty loaded Big East Conference.

St. Mary Catholic finished fourth in the league a year ago but are hoping to take some steps up.

"I think there is a lot of talent in our whole conference so we have to be ready every single day to play your best softball no matter who you are going against," Rodman said. "We have our work cut out for us, but the girls are all enthusiastic and ready for the season to start. We are all looking forward to it."

# Rockets aim to build off strong finish to last season

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The 2022 girls soccer season can be viewed as a success for a variety of reasons for the Neenah Rockets.

For starters, they finished 8-5-3 overall, including 5-3-1 in FVA play. That alone landed them in the top four in the conference, which is always an impressive accomplishment.

While those accolades are good, it is how the Rockets finished the season that stands out.

Not only were the Rockets playing great soccer the final month of the season, but they were playing their best soccer of the year when it mattered most before falling in the postseason.

## Soccer

### PREVIEW

The Rockets are hoping the way they finished 2022 can help set the tone for

2023.

"Last season was good, a little variable at times, but overall good," head coach Lars Nordang said. "Our goal is to make it to state, and we are working hard on the process which will take us there. The process is/are things that we can control, and that will take us toward our goal. The student athletes are taking ownership and driving our process."

The Rockets have seven returning players from last year's team that played a huge role and will be set to take on even bigger roles this season. Leah Forget, Mia Wasco, Kayla White, Nicole Schmidt, Bella Jones, Sage Kirklewski and Marina Kummerow will play important parts for the Rockets this season and should help fill the void left from the graduating 2022 class.

Along with that group, the Rockets have plenty of unknowns and that mainly stems from the underclassmen.

Nordang always has a few surprise players that contribute. This season will be no different as there are several underclassmen that Nordang feels are varsity ready.

"We are always looking to bring 2-3 freshmen along, when they can contribute from a starting point," Nordang said. "We have several exciting underclassmen that will have their chance to impact our season in a positive way."

Given the competition level in the FVA, the Rockets may not be seen as the favorites right now, but they shouldn't be taken lightly. They have a strong cast of players leading the way, have some players returning from injuries and have a great attitude to come to work every day.

This may be one of the younger teams the Rockets have had in a while, but the future

looks bright as the excitement is building.

"We will be young. However, I am excited about our incoming underclassmen," Nordang said. "We need to gel early, learn to battle with and for each other, and stay injury free. If we can do that, I like our chances against anyone as our future in this program is extremely bright."

## Paroubek set to carry on Zephyrs' soccer tradition

For the first time in more than two decades, the St. Mary Catholic girls soccer team will have a new coach patrolling the sidelines as Gary Kruger retired following an 8-6-3 season that saw his team go 4-4 in conference play.

Taking over in his place will be Andrew Paroubek who was also the coach of the boys team this past fall.

Looking to take over for someone like Kruger is going to be a tall task, but the Zephyrs have a lot of talented players returning that could make the transition easier than most would expect.

"We are starting off this season with a bunch of new girls so establishing a cohesive team is essential," Paroubek said. "Our team goal this season is to create a solid foundation as a program we build upon."

That foundation is going to have to be formed without the presence of five strong seniors from last year's team.

It is up to the returning players to step up which is what the Zephyrs squad must do this season.

Olivia Bergstrom and Audrey Norville both played important roles for St. Mary Catholic last season. They will be tasked with shouldering a much bigger load this season and their play will help set the tone for the Zephyrs and their success. Paroubek knows this season will take a collaborative effort to have the success they want to have.

"We are a team and all players play important roles for our team throughout the season," Paroubek said. "It does not matter who scores the goals, we just work together as a team to do the best we can."

The Big East is expected to be a deep conference as several teams have the ability to make a playoff run this season. St. Mary Catholic is hoping to be one of those teams, but there is a lot of work that needs to be done for them to put themselves in that position.

"Health is going to be the biggest key for us," Paroubek said. "If we can stay healthy and play together as one, than I like our chances to be competitive against anyone."

## Prep sports roundup

### TRACK AND FIELD

#### Ruback paces Zephyrs at indoor invitational

Senior Gabby Ruback finished in the top five in three different events to highlight the night for St. Mary Catholic at the UWO Small Schools Invitational indoor track meet Tuesday.

Ruback's best finish came in the triple jump where she finished in second place, while adding a third place in the long jump. She also placed fourth in the 60-meter hurdles.

Two other St. Mary Catholic individuals posted top-five finishes as Katharine Schoeni took second in the 3,200 meters and Lauren Ripley was third in the 1,600 meters.

St. Mary Catholic also posted a third-place finish in the 3,200-meter relay.

The Zephyrs placed ninth overall among the 41 teams that scored in the meet.

#### Olkowski posts victory at Large School invite

Neenah's Marie Olkowski raced to a first-place finish in the 3,200 meters to lead the way for Rockets at the UWO Large School Invitational indoor track meet Monday.


Olkowski finished with a time of 12:03.30 to win the event, which was more than seven seconds faster than the second-place finisher.

Lydia Delene added a second-place finish in the shot put for the Rockets.


Neenah also scored well in the relays, placing second in the 3,200-meter relay and fourth in the 800-meter relay.

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# Einerson Fieldhouse ends its varsity sports run

## Iconic venue part of Neenah landscape

By Tim Froberg  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Sports facilities are more than just places to play ball. They are practically portals to the past where millions of memories have been made and can be revisited at a moment's notice.

The buzzer-beater that dropped, the controversial call that decided the game, the come-from-behind win that sealed the conference title and the roar of the crowd that followed.

Magic moments? The Ron Einerson Fieldhouse was the indoor playground where many of them happened. That's why the army of prep athletes that competed at Einerson and the countless fans who watched both thrillers and blowouts at the venerable gym for the past half-century may have a hard time saying good-bye.

Einerson Fieldhouse is transitioning to a lesser role in Neenah athletics. It will no longer host high school basketball and volleyball games and will be replaced in that capacity by another fieldhouse that will be part of a new high school expected to be ready when fall classes begin in 2023.

Named after Neenah basketball coach Ron Einerson, the gym isn't facing a wrecking ball and will continue as a middle-school athletics facility and host



Photo by David Hall

Former girls basketball coach Jean Kessler (being hugged by current Neenah girls coach Andy Braunel) was honored by the school in February.



Photo by David Hall

The Ron Einerson Fieldhouse will close its doors to varsity competition with the opening of the new high school next fall.

some high school track meets. Team practices of different sports will also continue there.

"For me, it's mixed emotions," said Jim Strick, the district's communications director and the primary public address announcer at Neenah athletic events. "We're so excited about the new building for so many reasons, especially academic reasons. It's going to be a tremendous

learning environment for kids and really a sense of pride for them to be able to go to school in a building like that.

"But if there is one thing we could take with us, it would be the fieldhouse. That's certainly a facility that will be missed. But the great thing is that it's not going anywhere. It'll still be used as much as it is now – just in different ways.

Strick said it's currently booked solid from before school until late at night.

"Whether it's soccer, lacrosse or baseball practice or a youth tournament," he said, "whenever an hour of time opens up, someone scoops it up right away. It's still going to be a very busy place and I don't see that changing."

The 40,000-square-foot facility features four basketball and volleyball courts along with a 160-meter running track. Its seating capacity is 3,200 – second largest in the state. The new sports facility under construction won't be quite as big but will have multiple basketball and volleyball courts along with a balcony. The seating capacity is estimated at 3,000.

"The new building is going to be a little bit of a smaller environment," said Strick. "It won't have as much space around the court and there won't be quite as much bleacher seating. We wanted something that might be more intimidating for op-

ponents, more on top of the action and not so spacious. But we're still talking 3,000 seats."

In the final varsity boys' basketball game played March 4 at Einerson, the Rockets beat Appleton West, 81-71, in a WIAA Division 1 regional tournament game.

"It was just incredible foresight by the people on the school board and the administration in the early 1970s to have the vision to put in a facility like that," Strick said. "I'm sure at the time that it wasn't easy for them to get it done. But they did it and it stood the test of time. It's still one of the best gyms in the state – no doubt about it. It still looks modern even to this day. The exterior has maybe aged a little, but that's about it."

If sports facilities could talk, Einerson Fieldhouse would have plenty to say. It was the site of countless triumphs and heartbreaks, life lessons and coming-of-age moments for the athletes who played basketball, volleyball and ran track for the past 50 years. It was also a source of quality entertainment and social gatherings for the thousands of fans who packed in on Tuesday and Friday nights.

"You know, it's funny, I still have

SEE **Fieldhouse** ON PAGE 14

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# Fieldhouse

FROM PAGE 13

dreams of playing games there and so do some of the guys that I played with and against," said former Neenah basketball player Kress Williamson. "Oh, it was an exciting place to play at."

Williamson was part of a Rockets squad that played the inaugural game at Einerson Fieldhouse in 1973 against Beaver Dam. He now resides in Stevens Point, but for years has made the 60-minute drive to Neenah to catch at least a few games.

"The memory I'll always have was a January 1974 game against Kimberly," Williamson recalled. "I was told by old-timers that it was the largest crowd ever at Einerson Fieldhouse. I'm guessing there were between 3,500 and 4,000 people in there."

"When we ran onto the floor, we almost had to crawl over people to get on the floor. The fire marshal probably had a field day. There were way too many people in there for safety. It was amazing. There was just an electricity in the air. It was so cool."

Season tickets for loyal Neenah basketball fans was a norm back in Williamson's prep days. Pair that with an always boisterous student body and the Rockets were extremely tough to beat there.

"Many times, we had the game won before it was even played because the other team was intimidated," Williamson said. "There were just so many people. We'd have the visiting team outnumbered in fans by like a 5-to-1 margin."

Williamson recalls the intense rivalries the Rockets had with FVA opponents like it was yesterday.

"We had tremendous rivalries with Kimberly and Appleton West," he said. "Many times it was harder to get a ticket for a Kimberly-Neenah game than it was to get tickets for a Packers game - I'm not kidding. Kimberly was coached by Jack Wippich and Appleton West by Dick Emanuel and those rivalries were just so intense."



Photo by David Hall

The Rockets boys completed their last varsity season at Einerson as defending state champions.

Jon Joch, chief financial officer of the Neenah Joint School District, also played for Einerson's teams (the 1991 and '92 squads) and agrees that opponents had to bring their A-plus game to win.

"What gave us a big advantage was the fans," Joch said. "Back then, there were probably 600 people on that season ticket list and then you add the student body. In the 1980s and '90s, there just weren't as many things to do as today, and it was more of a social thing. You put 3,000 people into that gym and that's a tremendous advantage, because most gyms just aren't that large."

In addition to being a former Rockets player and an athletic director at the school, Joch has been a life-long Neenah sports fan. He has attended Neenah basketball games since he was a wide-eyed 6-year-old. Joch has also worked in different capacities at Neenah games as a game

statistician and with crowd control.

"I have so many memories of it," Joch said. "One of the nights I remember the most was in 2003 when we named the fieldhouse after Ron. We did the dedication and brought back his 1978 team, which went 26-0 and won the state championship. It was their 25th anniversary and the whole night was just special."

"I also remember hosting the state volleyball tournament there in the 1990s. Just seeing all the faces and eyes of so many people coming to watch and hearing them talk about our gym. They were so impressed that we had such a large facility. I think we kind of took the fieldhouse for granted."

The childhood memory that sticks out the most with Joch was always seeing a firefighter at Neenah home games.

"I was just 6 or 7 years old and went to Neenah games every Friday night," Joch

said. "You'd see all these people packed in and I never understood why a fireman was always there. I just thought firemen went to basketball games. I didn't know until years later that they were there to make sure we weren't breaking fire codes regarding the amount of people in the facility."

Strick, a 1993 Kimberly graduate, did more than just watch games there. He played there as a member of the Papermakers boys' basketball teams and recalls the energy and sense of excitement he always felt when walked onto the court for an FVA showdown against the Rockets.

"It was my favorite place to play in the FVA," Strick said. "It just had more of a big-game feel than other gyms. It was almost like an arena-feel that was totally different than anywhere else we played. I always looked forward to it. Those were memorable games."

Einerson was a social studies teacher at the school and coached boys' basketball from 1968-1995. He posted an outstanding 556-235 career record and currently ranks seventh in state history in victories. Einerson's teams won WIAA state titles in 1975 and 1978 and made 10 state tournament appearances, finishing as a runner-up four times. They also won 12 FVA titles. He's a member of the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame and previously served as president.

"I knew as a young man that it was a privilege to play at Neenah and for a hall of fame coach," Joch said. "The lessons you learned from Coach Einerson when you were 16 or 17 were lessons you applied to life years later when you were grown up and raising a family. They were never just about basketball. They were about hard work, discipline and dedication."

Williamson added, "He was a demanding, intense coach, but it was fun playing for him and so exciting to be a part of those teams. It was just a great, great experience. I feel very fortunate to have played for Coach Einerson and the Neenah Rockets. I'm proud to be a Neenah Rocket."

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# Pulling for Honor helps Old Glory Honor Flight

Neenah News

Regional teams will see how far they can pull a 200,000-pound jet plane when they participate in Pulling for Honor on Sept. 16, a fundraiser that gives local veterans a free flight to Washington, D.C., to visit war memorials erected in their honor.

The event is the primary fundraiser for the Old Glory Honor Flights and last year raised \$132,000 to fully fund one flight of veterans to the nation's capital.

Neenah area companies that have participated include Menasha Corp., N&M Transfer and Cranky Pat's Pizza.

Appleton International Airport will host the fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 16 at the Appleton Flight Center. Community members can register teams of up to 20 people and each team is required to raise \$1,500 to participate (\$75 per person).

Teams will use a rope to pull a 200,000-pound FedEx A300 aircraft 12 feet and the team with the fastest time

will win the competition. Prizes will also be awarded for the top three fastest pulls, most funds raised and slowest pull.

The winning team for past years has been the Green Bay Rugby club with a winning time of 11.285 seconds to pull a 200,000-pound plane 12 feet.

"The community response to this event has been overwhelming," said Diane MacDonald, Old Glory Honor Flight of Northeast Wisconsin executive director. "No matter the relationship to the veteran, this event proves our community values and respects the service our veterans have given to our country and our freedom."

Old Glory Honor Flight has given 5,450 veterans the opportunity to visit their memorial.

"Our staff has embraced this event with open arms," said Abe Weber, Appleton Airport director. "It takes about 40% of our team to ensure all participants have a fun and safe experience and we are proud to invest that time as a thank you to our veterans."

## Parent resource hours offered in county

The Winnebago County Health Department is offering twice-monthly Parent Resource Hours in Neenah and Oshkosh for breastfeeding support, developmental screenings, child vaccines, and guidance on safe sleep and car seat safety.

The casual environment allows caregivers to chat with staff and other new parents about the stages of nutrition, socialization and mental health. No appointment is necessary unless interested in vaccines or a car seat check.

Parent Resource Hours are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every fourth Thursday in Neenah at 211 Commercial St. and 1 to 4 p.m. every second Tuesday in Oshkosh at 112 Otter Ave.

This month's focus is developmental screenings that help identify a child's progress through milestones by looking at the ways they play, learn, speak and act. The screenings are not a diagnosis but can

help indicate if a child is on track developmentally or if a specialist should take a closer look.

Additional resources offered:

- Learn about childhood development, early signs of autism and other developmental disorders. Find checklists to monitor a child's development, information on how to talk to a doctor, and other resources.

- Track a child's milestones from age 2 months to 5 years with easy-to-use illustrated checklists; get tips for encouraging child development; and receive texts with age-appropriate activities to do with children.

- First 5 Fox Valley connects families to developmental services and provides resources to help children ages 0-5 reach their potential.

For more information on Parent Resource Hours, visit [winnebagopublichealth.org](http://winnebagopublichealth.org) or call 920-232-3000.

## Scouting for Food Drive slated to return

The Bay-Lakes Council's 2023 Scouting for Food Drive will be underway with scouts distributing door hangers with food drive details on April 15 and collecting the bags of food beginning at 8 a.m. April 22.

The Bay-Lakes Council is working with more than 100 food pantries in eastern

Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan that will benefit from the donations. Suggested items include proteins (nuts, peanut butter, seafood and poultry); fruit (dried or packed in juice); low sodium soups; whole grains (pasta, rice and cereal); and canned vegetables, but nothing perishable, frozen or in glass containers.

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Photo by Rob Zimmer

Tundra swans have been dotting the open water of Winnebago County in recent weeks as they migrate northwest.

## Swan song

FROM PAGE 1

weeks, depending on when the next wind arrives to carry them across Wisconsin. When they reach the Mississippi River, the swans begin to turn more northwest, moving along on their journey to the Arctic tundra in northern Alaska and northern Canada.

In addition to the swans along open water in Neenah, tundra swans were also spotted at Jefferson Park in Menasha, Kimberly Point Park in Neenah, as well as small flocks on Little Lake Butte des Morts.

In Oshkosh, large numbers of swans were seen in the bay at Menominee Park, as well as open water at the end of Murdock Street. South of Oshkosh, incredible numbers of tundra swans are patiently waiting the next east wind along the shore, visible from U.S. 45 in many spots.

Swan numbers will continue to grow most likely over the next few weeks, peaking by this weekend.

## Fentanyl surge

FROM PAGE 1

Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review Team.

Wisconsin overdose deaths related to opioids more than doubled from 680 in 2019 to 1,427 in 2021, according to the Department of Health Services.

Jeremiah Winscher, LWAM project director, said that while methamphetamine and heroin seizures have remained constant, fentanyl-laced drugs in the form of counterfeit prescription pills that resemble oxycontin or oxycodone pills are showing “an exponential rise.” He said the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has found that six of every 10 of the counterfeit pills have lethal doses of fentanyl.

Oshkosh Police Chief Dean Smith, whose department is providing more officer support to the task force that focuses on larger-scale drug traffickers, said there were 13 overdose deaths in the city last year that represent more than just a number.

“That’s 13 families changed forever,” he said, “forever with a hole that cannot be filled. The faces of these deaths could be a neighbor, they could also be a friend, they could be a sister or a brother, a daughter or a son.”

Smith said city police investigated 64 overdose cases last year, eight so far this

## Apricity offers support for those impacted by substance use disorders

Apricity, a nonprofit organization that provides those impacted by substance use disorders with treatment, employment and support services, joined organizations across the country last week to spread awareness about drug and alcohol use disorders and the road to recovery.

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (NDAFW) shares facts about substance



Oshkosh Media photo

Attorney General Josh Kaul speaks at the Oshkosh Police Department surrounded by law enforcement agencies involved in Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group’s drug unit.

year and three overdose deaths this month alone that were likely related to fentanyl. Police reported \$800,000 worth of narcotics seizures in 2022.

Without the lifesaving abilities of Narcan (naloxone) used by law enforcement and emergency medical teams responding to overdose cases, Smith said those numbers would most certainly be much higher.

Winnebago County District Attorney Eric Sparr said prosecutors and law enforcement have been working more closely with substance use agencies such as Solutions Recovery and county Human Services to get additional support to resi-

dents at risk “in ways that we just haven’t before because the risks are so much more tremendous than they were.

“One of the scariest parts of this compared to the risks that drug users had in the past is that fentanyl can be present in things where they just don’t expect it,” Sparr said. “Fentanyl test strips are one way to make that determination and assess the level of risk that is there.”

He said prosecutors’ response to this high-risk crisis is to seek harsh penalties such as prison time for the drug traffickers and to deal with drug users with more emphasis on treatment needs.

use and starts conversations about the science of drug use and addiction.

Apricity has a social media campaign on Facebook and Instagram dealing with common perceptions about drug and alcohol use and whether they are fact or myth. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in seven Americans reports experiencing a substance use disorder

and nearly 75% of overdose deaths in the U.S. involve opioids.

Treatment and support are available from Apricity and other organizations across the state, no matter where people are in their addiction or recovery journey. Apricityservices.com provides information about its treatment programs and support services.

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