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Neenah News photo

Neenah residents Paul McAvoy and Ellen Ruffing visited the R. Harder Gallery recently.

Gem gallery quietly shines with its natural collection

Jewelers Mutual gives showcase to beauty

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A hidden gem exists off Jewelers Park Drive, where a private collection of gems and minerals from around the world is on display.

The R. Harder Gallery near the lobby of Jewelers Mutual Group showcases one of the nation's largest private collections of minerals and gemstones in their natural form.

Natural gemstones are minerals that originated from beneath the earth's surface. A stone identified as natural means it has not been treated, enhanced or altered.

For 30 years Jewelers Mutual has been displaying minerals and gems, first under the name Jayem Gallery. In 2006, the gal-



Neenah News

This cavanisite on stilbite is from the Wagholi Quarry in Maharashtra, India.

lery was renamed the R. Harder Gallery in honor of former Jewelers Mutual president and CEO Ron Harder.

Harder joined Jewelers Mutual in 1973 and served as president from 1982-2007. He began collecting specimens to display at the gallery from gem and mineral shows in Arizona.

SEE **Gem gallery** ON PAGE 10

Supervisor pay options reviewed

Self-organized method allows for per diem update

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors is expected to vote on an ordinance to move to a self-organized county in an effort to adjust supervisors' compensation.

Earlier this year, the board authorized a task force to examine per diem pay for committee and board meetings.

County supervisors are reimbursed \$50 per committee meeting they attend and \$75 for each board meeting. The per diem reimbursement adds up, with some supervisors claiming thousands more than others.

Supervisor Jacob Floam said the goal of the task force is to reduce county spending in a responsible way.

Chairman of the per diem task force Jim Wise said the group has met three times since late February and found that any compensation changes must be voted on at the annual meeting, which isn't until next April. The changes would apply to new members in 2026.

The other option is to move to a self-organized county, which is considered more flexible in how it operates.

Without self-organization, the board is bound by state statutes regarding the compensation of supervisors. Fifty-two of Wisconsin's 72 counties are self-organized.

There are three primary policies that would be affected by moving to a self-organized county:

- The county could use staggered terms for supervisors and elect half of them each year rather than electing all supervisors each even-numbered year.
- Supervisors' per diem compensation

SEE **Supervisor pay** ON PAGE 4



Wise

County judge's comments to lawyers draw complaints

Attorneys say Woldt lacking impartiality

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A month after voters re-elected Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Scott Woldt, who was suspended for judicial misconduct two years ago, he is facing another complaint after he allegedly threatened to retaliate against an attorney who supported his opponent in the Branch 2 judicial race, unless the attorney paid him \$28,000.

Woldt was appointed to the Branch 2 bench in 2004 and was re-elected four

times. This year was the first election facing opposition after the Wisconsin Supreme Court suspended him for a week without pay in 2021. He retained the Branch 2 position, defeating LaKeisha Haase by about 1,300 votes.

The latest misconduct complaint, filed last month by attorney Matthew Goldin of Oshkosh, requests that Woldt be investigated for threatening to retaliate against Goldin for supporting Haase's Branch 2 election cam-



Woldt

paign.

On April 25, Goldin attended a get-together for attorneys and other legal professionals at Ruby Owl Tap Room in Oshkosh, where he encountered Woldt and his wife, Missy, who is a judicial assistant for Branch 3.

Documents say Woldt pulled Goldin over to talk to him, with the exchange witnessed by Missy and two other attorneys.

Woldt allegedly told Goldin that the attorney was dead to him for allowing Haase to put a campaign sign on his property in Omro and there would be ramifications for his support of Woldt's opponent.

"He said I now needed to advise my clients of this new situation with the judge and that from now on there would be consequences as a result of my allowing the Haase sign," Goldin wrote in the complaint.

Documents say Woldt indicated he would take out his "anger and fury" on Goldin.

"Then he said I could write him a check for \$28,000 to pay for the contested judicial campaign and then we'd be square," Goldin wrote. "I told him that would be unethical."

Under Wisconsin law, a judicial candi-

SEE **Court complaints** ON PAGE 9

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Corrections

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

About the newspaper

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

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

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

Basic Needs begins new grant cycle

Neenah News

The Basic Needs Giving Partnership, which transitioned into a single regional organization this year to centralize its activities in support of people and places in northeast Wisconsin, is launching its first grant cycle this summer.

Executive director Lynn Coriano and director of grant-making Stephanie Gyldenvand hosted a virtual information session in late April with details about its grant process that drew 75 participants representing nonprofits in the region.

Grants in this cycle will be unrestricted, allowing nonprofits to direct resources where needed most, in the amount of \$30,000.

An Intent to Apply form needs to be completed by Monday as the first phase of the process, with grant applications due by June 15 and recipients announced at the end of July.

Coriano said the organization's move to its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit allows an added strategy within its grant-making cycle to support efforts that advance equity

and economic well-being.

"We aspire to show up in genuine partnership with organizations and individuals – whether working together to co-create solutions, or stepping back and listening while others lead," she states on their bngpwi.org website.

Originally funded through the U.S. Venture Open golf event in Appleton since 1986, the Basic Needs Giving Partnership has a 10-county footprint that includes Winnebago County. This year's golf event is set for Aug. 9.

U.S. Venture's role in supporting the Basic Needs Giving Partnership remains the same as well as the partnership with the region's three community foundations.

"The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region has been a key partner in the Basic Needs Giving Partnership (BNGP) program since the inception of the U.S. Venture Open in 1986," said Curt Detjen, president and chief executive of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region. "The BNGP provides transformative funding of vital work to

end poverty in our region. We are eager to see the impact of this regional approach and we remain committed partners in this work and look forward to our continued collaboration."

Close to \$1 million will be distributed this year in addition to the more than \$3 million being granted to previous multi-year commitments.

The partnership 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 had a deep impact on mental health with increases in the rates of anxiety, depression and substance use.

The largest portion of available grant funding is committed to economic stability, education, health and wellness, family support and social connectedness.

For information on how to apply, visit www.bngpwi.org. Additional questions not answered in the Grant Guidelines or information session can be sent to s.gyldenvand@bngpwi.org.



Photo by David Hall

Volunteers brave the rainy weather to clean up Doty Island last Saturday as part of the regionwide annual Fox-Wolf Watershed Cleanup. People lined up to register at the Smith community building to receive a T-shirt and instructions before heading out to help work on the island neighborhood.

Doty Island cleanup part of regional effort

Neenah News

The Doty Island Development Council, which has led an annual island cleanup event for 32 years, partnered again with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance last weekend while dodging steady rain showers.

Council president Jacy Park said when the Fox-Wolf group started its event a few years ago, it fell on the same day as the Doty Island Cleanup, so to avoid dividing volunteers and making them choose between the

event, they joined forces.

It was raining early Saturday and continued until the 9 a.m. start time for the cleanup when the 100-plus volunteers set out.

"Apparently a little rain doesn't deter diehard volunteers from protecting the environment," Park said.

The entire alliance group had 1,700 people signed up for the regional event at locations that included Kimberly Point in Neenah and downtown Menasha.

One Doty Island group was led by retirees Jann and Bill McBride, who partnered with a Boy Scout troop that helped them clean Doty Park. Jann is one of the docents for Doty Cabin. This year they filled 10 lawn bags of yard waste and collected a large pile of sticks.

Within the three-hour island cleanup, volunteers collected enough trash to fill two large dumpsters, 22 lawn bags, and a large pile of brush and sticks.

Prenatal instruction

Arleen Rimmel from the Valley Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) teaches a mothers class to expectant women in 1963. VNA began offering prenatal classes in the 1940s.



Neenah Historical Society photo

City updates social media content rules for its staff

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah has adopted a social media policy that outlines its use by city employees and establishes guidance for those acting in a personal capacity when using social media.



Rashid

In a memo, City Attorney David Rashid wrote that Neenah's existing social media policy only related to employee's use of platforms but did not consider what administrators of city social media pages should do with inappropriate or undesirable content from users interacting with content posted by the city.

The policy, adopted by the Neenah Common Council last week, outlines which employees are allowed to moderate and make posts under the city's official social media accounts. It also identifies the circumstances that would necessitate content removal.

Social media administrators are only allowed to remove content that is considered profane, threatening, solicitation,

violates the law, infringes on intellectual property rights or is malicious or harmful software or malware.

The city may not deny access to its social media pages but can block a user if they violate city policy.

When posting from a personal account, employees are required to make clear that the person is speaking as a private citizen and not a city employee.

The policy notes that social media posts are widely accessible, easily shared and replicated but not easily retractable. Personal activity must follow the city's policies, directives and expectations.

Employees are required to report any suspected violations of the policy to their department supervisor. City employees who violate the policy are subject to termination.

The city's adoption of the policy follows the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors' approval of a social media policy for county employees in January, which does not apply to the supervisors themselves, as they are elected.

The county board is expected to vote at an upcoming meeting on a rule outlining the consequences for supervisors who misuse county-owned electronic devices.

Retired Winnebago educators meeting set

Winnebago County Retired Educators invites all retired school personnel having worked in the county to the last meeting of the school year set for 11 a.m. May 18 at the Ground Round in Neenah.

After check-in there will be a short busi-

ness meeting before dining. The program will feature a group of young dogs demonstrating their techniques with prisoner trainers. Those interested in attending should contact Lisa by Friday at 920-379-2090.



Photo by David Hall

Tree centerpieces

Downtown Neenah now features more than 30 tree beds decorated by area businesses and organizations with whimsical art. This art installment runs through June 11 from The Plaza at Gateway Park on the west to the public library on the east. New for this year will be five artistically inspired painted benches on Main Street.

Leadership program applicants sought

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce has opened applications for both of its leadership programs: Leadership Fox Cities for aspiring leaders, and Leadership Fox Cities 2.0 for graduates of the first program or a similar community program.

Fox Cities professionals in the chamber's region - Calumet, Outagamie and northern Winnebago counties -- are invited to apply for the 2023-24 class.

About 40 participants will be selected. Tuition assistance is available, and many employers provide professional development funds. The class gathers monthly from September through May for educational sessions focused on community topics.

Applications are being accepted through June 26. For more information, contact Amy Schanke, director, at 920-422-0041 or aschanke@foxcitieschamber.com.

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Woman gets jail time for role in hiding body

Neenah News

Rhonda Jacobson, 47, was sentenced last week to 90 days in jail for helping to hide the body of a person who died of a drug overdose in a Fox Crossing home.

While waiting to be sentenced, she received several letters of support and has completed an addiction program.

Erik Averbeck, 45, pled no contest and was found guilty in September of hiding a corpse and sentenced to two and a half years in prison.



Jacobson

Jacobson acknowledged to police that Averbeck told her the female victim was in the basement deceased. Documents say Jacobson went to see her probation officer without saying anything about the victim in the basement.

Authorities have not released the victim's name.

Jacobson and Averbeck lived in a home

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

That same day, surveillance footage from Home Depot shows Jacobson with Averbeck, who is holding a blue tarp. Averbeck and Jacobson rolled the victim inside the tarp, wrapped it in duct tape and left the body in the basement.

Documents indicate that on Dec. 15, the Department of Corrections and Fox Crossing Police received reports about an overdose and arrived at the Fox Crossing home to conduct a visit.

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

Jacobson was initially charged with party to the crime of hiding a corpse. She pled no contest and was convicted in January of an amended charge of harboring or aiding a felon.



Photo capture from Oshkosh Media

Winnebago County Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer (right) reports to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee last week on overdose deaths.

Drug deaths, prevention reviewed

Winnebago supervisors hear overdose concerns

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Fatal drug overdoses continue to rise, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now ranking overdoses as the third leading cause of death in the United States and fentanyl as the primary threat.

County Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer provided an update on overdose deaths in Winnebago County so far this year at a Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting last week.

By the end of April there were 11 confirmed fatal overdoses countywide for the year, with 10 involving fentanyl. An additional six pending cases are awaiting toxicology results, with preliminary testing showing four of those as positive for fentanyl.

The county recorded 41 fatal overdoses in 2021 and 38 in 2022.

There was a seizure of about 600 grams of fentanyl earlier this year and the Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group reported the county has experienced a 360% increase in fentanyl seizures this year compared with all of 2021.

Between 2016 and 2021, overdose deaths in the U.S. involving fentanyl increased by 279% to 21.6 per 100,000 people, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Brehmer said there also has been an increase in overdoses involving xylazine, a non-opioid, large-animal tranquilizer often used in conjunction with fentanyl. The drug is so prevalent in Pennsylvania that

90% of street opioid samples contained xylazine in 2021, according to its Public Health Department.

"The last I heard Milwaukee had 17 fatal overdoses in less than seven days in this last month and they believe that those will probably show xylazine as well," she said.

Narcan, a drug that reverses opioid overdoses, does not work on xylazine.

"The only thing you can do is protect their airway," Brehmer said, adding that xylazine slows down heart rates and respiration and is not meant for human consumption.

Sheriff John Matz said that just when officials find ways to mitigate certain drugs, a new one comes out.

In March, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the sale of Narcan over the counter. Milwaukee became the first in Wisconsin to install Narcan vending machines, offering fentanyl test strips and Narcan at no cost.

"The only thing I'll say about Narcan vending machines, I've heard that they want to put them in high schools possibly," Matz said. "At some point, we become complicit. It's perpetuating drug use. We've got to be careful that we're not doing that, that we're not making it easy."

Earlier this year, the sheriff's department was authorized to purchase one TruNarc Narcotic Analyzer and two TruNarc Solution kits, which a representative demonstrated at the meeting.

TruNarc is a handheld portable testing device that can identify 250 narcotics and test drugs using laser technology, so officers don't have to come in contact with the drug.

Supervisor pay

FROM PAGE 1

and mileage could be changed.

The county could adopt its own policies for filling supervisor vacancies rather than using current policy, which requires the board chair to fill vacancies with approval from the board.

Approving the move to a self-organized county does not mean the three policies are immediately dealt with. Changes would require the board to adopt a separate resolution for each proposed policy change.

Corporation counsel Mary Anne Mueller said if the board votes to move to a self-organized county, the legislation

would then go to Wisconsin's secretary of state.

It was noted at the May 2 meeting that the board does not intend to move forward on changing policy related to staggered terms and county supervisor appointments. The primary focus of the change is to deal with supervisor per diem compensation.

"The reason this whole self-organization came into play is because becoming self-organized would allow the board to perhaps be more creative regarding the per diem piece," Mueller said.

Supervisor Ralph Harrison said he supports the move to a self-organized county.

"This doesn't hurt you," he said. "It brings us more flexibility as a task force to bring suggestions to you."

The Judiciary and Public Safety Committee deliberated on moving to a self-organized county last week, with the discussion becoming heated.

Supervisor Paul Eisen accused Supervisor Bryan Stafford of demeaning him in a public forum. The altercation was quickly ended when the committee decided to call the question and vote on the proposal.

The final vote was 4-1 in favor of approving the move to a self-organized county, with Eisen voting against the change. The proposal is expected to be presented for a final vote at Tuesday's County Board meeting.

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Photo by David Hall

Log Your Loops trail trip returns

Future Neenah is launching the fifth annual Log Your Loops initiative to get people out and enjoying the Loop the Little Lake Trestle Trail this summer.

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, trestle loop users can bike, run, walk or skate as they try to log 50 loops in 99 days, which will also earn them a commemorative T-shirt. Registration is required but the program is free through sponsor ThedaCare.



Loop the Little Lake Trail includes two trestle bridges that close the Lower Little Lake Butte des Morts loop traveling through Neenah, Menasha and Fox Crossing. A full loop is 5 kilometers.

“People love this challenge as it keeps them motivated for that race they are training for or for that last five pounds they want to lose,” said Future Neenah executive director Brent Bowman. “We love hearing all the stories and we are expecting another big year.”

To register or for more information, visit neenah.org or call 920-722-1920.

Star Wars holiday

Star Wars fans gathered last Thursday – as in May the 4th Be With You – at Riverside Park in Neenah to celebrate all things in that science fiction universe. The unofficial Star Wars holiday marks the movie franchise nationwide.

Neenah native among UWO students to earn Chancellor’s Award

A student from Neenah is among those honored with the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Chancellor’s Award for Excellence for their exceptional record of leadership and service throughout campus and the community.

Eleven spring 2023 and three fall 2023 graduates earned the prestigious honor.

“Each of these Titans has shaped one-of-a-kind journeys through UWO and earned some remarkable achievements. I am proud to extend to them this dis-

inction, and I know they will continue to enjoy success throughout their lives beyond graduation,” Chancellor Andy Leavitt said.

Sarah Kleinschmidt, an environmental studies and geology double major with a certificate in geographic information science from Neenah, is an integral

member of the geology department community.

She is active in a wide range of student organizations from the Green Fund to the Geology Club and the Sustainable Solutions for Tomorrow Club. She has an outstanding work ethic as a geology lab technician and research assistant. She plans to graduate this fall.

The students were honored at the Celebration of Student Leadership in the Reeve Memorial Union Ball Room.



Kleinschmidt

Rebuilding Together event set at Beaming

Neenah News

Beaming Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides equine-assisted services in Neenah, has been chosen by Rebuilding Together Fox Valley as its location for National Rebuilding Day set for May 20.

Rebuilding Together Fox Valley focuses on modifications and repairs to homes and facilities to make them safe and healthy. They give special priority to older adults, people living with disabilities, families with children, and veterans.

National Rebuilding Day brings teams of volunteers together to provide neighbors

in need with critical repairs. Locally more than 200 volunteers, many in teams from businesses, will volunteer at the Beaming Barn, 2692 County GG, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. They will repair horse shelters, install fencing, build benches, hang plywood, fix doors, paint and groundskeeping.

They also will be pouring concrete for the organization’s new Community Empowerment Circle.

Guests attending will include Neenah Mayor Jane Lang, Assembly Rep. Nate Gustafson and state Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara.

Jake’s Network sets Toys for Tots event

Jake’s Network of Hope, which will be one of the state sites for the annual Toys for Tots Unplug & Play toy distribution, is holding a free community day in conjunction with the effort.

From 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at 2396 Industrial Drive in Neenah, families can partake in different games and activities. Snacks will be available, including fresh popcorn, and each child will get to pick out a toy, coloring book and activity book to take home.

Biggy Coffee will be providing coffee, and apple juice and other beverages will be served. Monty from Monty’s Secret Theater will be entertaining with magic tricks.

Veterans groups plan Armed Forces Day event

Twin Cities veterans organizations will sponsor their annual Armed Forces Day event May 20 at the Isle of Valor in Menasha that will include the Neenah-Menasha Honor Guard, VFW Post 2126 from Menasha, and American Legion posts 153 and 33.

The event will start at 11 a.m. across from Smith Park. There will be a speaker, music by the Neenah Community Band and songs by Joe Scala. The program will end with the sounding of Taps.

WRITING OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Contact editor@oshkoshherald.com to get more details.

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Winneconne Village Hall
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911 E Main St, Winneconne

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Congratulations
2023 Graduates!

4-H Scholarship, Key Award winners named

The Wisconsin 4-H Key Award Program, which recognizes those who have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement and applied their leadership skills, named a Neenah High School student among its scholarship winners.

Among those selected for a Stevenson Memorial Scholarship was Madison Plungy, a senior at Neenah High. She has been a member of Ridgeway 4-H Club for six years where she has been active in the photography, foods and cultural arts projects. She is also an active 4-H youth leader serving as a 4-H Ambassador, a 4-H camp counselor, holding several club officer positions, and also serving on the Winnebago County 4-H Leaders Association Board.

Plungy plans to attend UW Oshkosh in the fall to study rehabilitation science.

Calendar of events

Friday, May 12

Steven Paul Spears & Linda Sparks., 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Rocket Way Blast Off pro wrestling, 7 p.m., Einerson Fieldhouse, Neenah High School

Flatgrass Regional Showdown soccer tournament, Memorial Park and Neenah High School soccer complex (neenahsoccerclub.org)

Saturday, May 13

Glass Art Class: Garden Yard Art, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum

Flatgrass Regional Showdown soccer tournament, Memorial Park and Neenah High School soccer complex (neenahsoccerclub.org)

Sunday, May 14

Cookies With Mom, 8 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Flatgrass Regional Showdown soccer tournament, Memorial Park and Neenah High School soccer complex (neenahsoccerclub.org)

Thursday, May 18

Downtown Neenah Blood Drive, 8 a.m., DoubleTree Neenah Hotel, 123 E. Wisconsin Ave.

Suburban Homesteading-Container Gardening, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

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

Friday, May 19

Storytime for Everyone, 10 a.m., Valley VNA, 1535 Lyon Drive

Saturday, May 20

Electronics Recycling Event, 8 a.m., Neenah City Garage, 1495 Tullar Road

Neenah Animal Shelter's Plant and Garden Sale, 9 a.m., 951 County G

Art Mercantile, 11 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Greene's Pour House Street Party, 1:30 p.m., Church Street

Monday, May 22

Village of Fox Crossing Blood Drive, 9 a.m., 2000 Municipal Drive

Red Cross blood drive, 6 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1140 Tullar Road

Friday, May 26

Start Fire, 6 p.m., Winncrest Banquet Hall, 2788 Towne Court

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5:00-7:30 P.M.



Kids Carnival Games (Outside between Thompson Studio and The Grand Oshkosh). Games include basketball, fishing, and pick a duck- all with the possibility to win prizes. Additional activities include a bounce house, tattoos, and face painting.

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8:30 P.M.



Vegas, Baby! Performance: Welcome to the biggest hits from the Las Vegas Strip: from Elvis to Elton John, and Frank Sinatra to Wayne Newton. This unforgettable concert includes hits like "Luck Be a Lady" (Sinatra & Streisand), "Viva Las Vegas" (Elvis), "It's Not Unusual" (Tom Jones), and of course, "Danke Schoen" (Wayne Newton)!

UW showcases Winnebago County impact in report

A newly released series of reports from the University of Wisconsin-Madison showcases how the university connects with each of Wisconsin's 72 counties, including Winnebago.

Drawn from 2021-2022 data, the reports outline enrollment trends, alumni counts, community partnerships, projects and financial connections. The reports are products of the Wisconsin Idea Da-

tabase project, which highlights the ways UW-Madison benefits the state through career preparation, economic development, innovative partnerships, and workforce development.

About 419 of the approximately 17,000 in-state undergraduate students at UW-Madison today are from Winnebago County. The university provides about \$69 million a year in financial aid to Wis-

consin resident undergraduates, including more than \$1.5 million in 2022-23 to Winnebago County undergrads.

Nearly 20% of all state undergrads, which includes 76 from Winnebago County, receive financial aid that covers the full amount of tuition and fees through either Bucky's Tuition Promise or the Badger Promise.

UW-Madison partners with more than 500 health care facilities around the state, including at least nine in Winnebago County, to provide on-the-job training to UW-Madison medical, nursing and pharmacy students. This total includes state-

wide and regional health care systems and retail pharmacies, nonprofit and public sector institutions of all sizes, and small hometown businesses and clinics.

More than 18,000 alumni of UW-Madison's School of Medicine and Public Health, School of Nursing, and School of Pharmacy currently live in Wisconsin, including 322 in Winnebago County.

Overall, about 178,000 UW-Madison alumni live in Wisconsin, with an estimated 3,097 in Winnebago County.

The Winnebago County report is at <https://go.wisc.edu/winnebago-impact>.

Veterans Benefit & Ride set with poker run

The Winnebago Detachment Marine Corps League No. 357 and Auxiliary will hold its 12th annual Veteran's Benefit and Ride on June 3 at its 4715 Sherman Road, Oshkosh, location.

A self-guided poker run for motorcycles or any other type of vehicle is planned with eight stops. Registration is from 8 to 10 a.m. June 3. There will be raffles with donations from the Green Bay Packers Foundation, Milwaukee Brewers, overnight stays at casinos, and other items from area businesses.

During the day there will be food and refreshments from 2 to 6 p.m. with live

music by Kitty Corona.

Proceeds from the event support the Winnebago Detachment Marine Corps League, other community programs and nonprofit organizations. In recent years, the detachment partnered with Winnebago County Veteran Service Office, Journey Together Service Dogs, Old Glory Honor Flight and Camo Quilt Project among other, and made donations to residents and offered student scholarships.

Call 920-235-2222, visit the Veterans Benefit and Ride Facebook page or go to winnebagodet357.org for more information.

Business news roundup

New Perspective Island Shores in Neenah has been named one of the best senior living communities in the country, according to a new list compiled by U.S. News and World Report. The Best Senior Living Communities 2023 rankings recognize excellence in assisted living, independent living and memory care. New Perspective Island Shores was honored for the outstanding care it provides.

ThedaCare has named **Barbara Beuscher** as chief philanthropy officer and senior vice president. She will lead the ThedaCare Family of Foundations that support philanthropic growth opportunities. Beuscher received her undergraduate degree and executive MBA from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. She recently was vice president for advancement at Gannon University in Erie, Pa.



Photo from Fox Crossing Fire Department

Firefighters work the scene of a house fire Tuesday on Plummer Avenue in Fox Crossing.

House fire displaces Fox Crossing resident

Neenah News

Fox Crossing Fire Department responded to a house fire Tuesday morning in the 200 block of Plummer Avenue that started in a bedroom and displaced the homeowner.

The first engine on the scene reported smoke coming out from the back of the single-family home. The homeowner was evacuated but a cat was still inside.

A fire was located in the back bedroom of the home and extinguished within 15

minutes of arrival. A search of the home located the cat in the basement. The cat received oxygen and water by firefighters and is expected to live.

No injuries were reported and early damage estimates were not available. The resident was being assisted by Red Cross and Midwest Restorations.

The Grand Chute Fire Department, Town of Neenah Fire Department, Clayton Fire Rescue and Gold Cross Ambulance also assisted on the scene.

Winnebago Waterways director stepping down

Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance's Winnebago Waterways director Korin Doering will be leaving the organization to take a new position, the organization announced last week.

Doering has spent the last six and a half years as Winnebago Waterways director and has been dedicated to building the program, FWFA executive director Jessica Schultz said.

"The level of outreach and education she

has provided has given many individuals a greater understanding of the Winnebago System," Schultz said. "We are grateful for the many successful projects that she has managed, the partnerships and support she has built, and the strong foundation she has laid for the future success of this program."

Katie Reed will continue as Winnebago Waterways coordinator, and she will work in partnership with the rest of the Fox-Wolf staff to ensure a smooth transition as it begins to look for the next director.

For organizational questions, contact jessica@fwfa.org. For information specific to Winnebago Waterways, contact Reed at katherine@fwfa.org.



Neenah Police Department photo

New city officer

Neenah's newest police officer Brent Wittman was sworn in by City Clerk Char Nagel on Monday. Wittman brings 10 years of patrol experience from outside agencies.

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Court complaints

FROM PAGE 1

date may not personally solicit or accept campaign contributions. Judges are also prohibited from accepting gifts, favors or loans from attorneys if they have appeared or are likely to come before the judge.

The complaint alleges that during the conversation Woldt confirmed that comments he made to a group of students visiting his courtroom a week after he was re-elected were directed at Goldin.

Woldt allegedly looked at Goldin while telling the students that the worst part of his job was campaigning for election and anyone who supported his opponent in the judicial race was “fully responsible for all of the mudslinging that occurred during the campaign.”

“Judge Woldt was on the bench, in robe, and essentially scolding me for being somehow disloyal,” Goldin wrote.

During the conversation at Ruby Owl, Goldin defended his support of Haase, who is a Black woman, by stating the importance of having a minority on the bench for diversity.

Documents say Woldt responded by pointing to his leg and stating he’s the only disabled judge on the bench.

Media reports indicate Woldt’s leg was amputated in 1980 due to injuries he sustained when he veered his motorcycle into an adjacent lane and collided with a vehicle. Woldt’s passenger, 18-year-old Susan Berndt, died from her injuries.

Goldin wrote that he acknowledged Woldt was the only disabled judge and congratulated him on re-election. Woldt wasn’t receptive, instead blaming Goldin for the contentious judicial race.

“He said, ‘I’m 61 years old, what am I supposed to do if I lost an election?’” Goldin wrote. “I told him I did not understand his anger towards me.”

Documents say Goldin has been a practicing attorney for 32 years and has never filed this type of complaint against a judge, but the circumstances necessitated it.

“Throughout the conversation at Ruby Owl, Woldt appeared threatening that he would utilize his judicial power to punish me, my clients and my practice for some sort of perceived entitlement to loyalty,” Goldin wrote. “I was disgusted by his statements and left Ruby Owl.”

Attorney Nicole Morley was at Ruby Owl that night and said Woldt accosted her before he started in on Goldin. She confirmed that she witnessed part of the interaction and began taking notes due to Woldt’s unprofessional behavior.

Attorney Ty Gasperek confirmed that he witnessed the events outlined in the complaint. Woldt did not respond to a request for comment.

The Wisconsin Judicial Commission evaluates complaints against judges. Last year, 588 complaints were made in Wisconsin. Of those, the commission evaluated 34 new requests for investigation and authorized 11 new investigations.

Sanctions for misconduct include reprimand, censure, suspension and removal from office.

A judicial misconduct suspension is uncommon, with only 15 judges suspended in the state from 1978-2022. Woldt is the only judge in Wisconsin suspended in the

past two years.

A Reuters examination of judicial misconduct cases nationwide from 2008 through 2019 revealed that 9 out of every 10 judges sanctioned for misconduct are allowed to return to the bench.

The Judicial Commission first filed a complaint against Woldt with the Supreme Court in 2020, based on six incidents of misconduct that occurred from 2009-2016.

The most egregious offenses included referring to a 13-year-old sexual assault survivor as a “so-called victim” while referring to her assailant as a “very smart man” with a low probability of re-offending; displaying a gun at a sentencing hearing for a developmentally disabled man and to a group of visiting high school students.

The state Supreme Court wrote in 2021 that an unpaid suspension was necessary “to impress upon Judge Woldt the seriousness of his misconduct and the need for him to change how he treats the jurors, lawyers, litigants, witnesses, victims, and staff with whom he interacts.”

A recent suspension for misconduct puts a judicial candidate at a disadvantage during a contested election. Woldt ran for election in 2011 and 2017 unopposed.

This year’s race for Branch 2 became heated, with the candidates clashing on social media and at a public candidate forum.

Woldt mocked Haase for failing to be re-elected or secure a court commissioner position.

Haase fired back by contending that 30% of Woldt’s sentences are overturned and bringing up his repeated incidents of judicial misconduct.

Haase told the Neenah News that going against Woldt is career suicide.

“As a judge, seeing what is going on in our county, especially in the justice system, it’s disgusting,” she said.

Woldt’s campaign committee included attorneys Edmund Jelinski, Patrick Seibert and District Attorney Eric Sparr.

Sparr said prosecutors and attorneys frequently choose to support candidates in judicial elections.

“It is important for everyone in the criminal justice system that judges not show favoritism or bias towards attorneys or participants in the court process, based on support during an election, or based on any other factors,” he said.

Judicial complaints are not released publicly until the commission has investigated and found probable cause to make a recommendation to the state Supreme Court, who issues the final disciplinary decision. The lengthy complaint process may take years.

The recent complaint against Woldt became a public record when it was filed as an exhibit in a motion to have him substituted with a different judge in a hit and run case he was presiding over, where Goldin is representing the defendant.

“A judge is required to disqualify himself if the judge determines that for any reason he cannot be impartial,” the motion states.

Woldt recused himself from the case one day after the misconduct complaint was filed.

Information session on honeybees offered

Cedar Ridge Crafts & Gifts is hosting conversations about honeybees and other important pollinators from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday at 1197 W. Winneconne Ave. and presented by Dick’s Bees.

Experienced beekeeper Dick Sturm will

be on hand with live bees in a secure, enclosed, people-friendly observation hive. Equipment necessary for safe beekeeping, including bee suit, smoker and other hive tools, will be on display, as well as products of the hive.

Dance school finds grace in its simplicity

By Kaitlyn Scoville
NEENAH NEWS

“Something was up” with one of Alisa Eaton’s dance students. The kid kept floating around the room when she was supposed to be sitting and listening, and not making eye contact.

After a little bit, Eaton caught on and began teaching her without eye contact, too. It turned out this student was both nonverbal and autistic.

Through lessons, Eaton would face this student, point down at her toes and say, “Do what I do.”

After a few more lessons, the student’s foster mother came in and told Eaton that she’s begun singing words she’s never even spoken before. She’s singing the songs from dance class.

“Think about the different types of music you can get her to feel,” Eaton said. “If she can find music that shows she’s angry or she’s joyful, and she can learn those lyrics, she can communicate.”

Eaton is executive director of Reflections of Grace Performing Arts School, where she began adaptive dance classes two summers ago to help destigmatize the perfectionism of other performance organizations.

“Dance was something that helped me because I had a place to be, but it was also a hard environment. It was ‘wear this, wear that,’ make sure you’re totally skinny. And if you’re not, stop eating,” Eaton said. “I was gifted, talented and I was teaching by the time I was 14, but it did nothing for my mental health. I was always the girl on stage that was the fattest.”

“I want a place where girls can see their value on the inside first. I decided we’re not going to do crazy costumes and bright makeup, and my recitals are chill. There’s enough perfection called on our society, on social media, that I don’t want it to be here.”

Reflections of Grace is a nonprofit organization that offers faith-based, noncompetitive outreach focused and affordable dance instruction, serving children and adults in the Neenah and Oshkosh area communities.

After receiving support from the Women’s Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, Reflections of Grace recently moved into its new space at 317 City Center in Oshkosh.

Since then, its adaptive “Dance 4 All” program has grown exponentially, Eaton said, expanding into teaching students at other organizations such as Lakeside Packaging Plus and Covey.

“I’m meant to do this. I have a big heart and I’m mercy directed. I let anybody come in whether they have money or not,” Eaton said. “Grace can be a biblical grace, which I completely believe in, or it can just be beauty. And man, things have just skyrocketed.”

“You can’t walk away from teaching those people without smiling,” she added. “They love you every way you come. You learn their personalities as you go, and they start to open up and dance. You can be in a wheelchair or with a walker. These kids need to be needed.”

More information can be found at ReflectionsOfGrace.com or by emailing ReflectionsOfGraceSchool@gmail.com.

2023

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Neenah News

This 600-pound piece of malachite is the first large mineral the gallery obtained.

Gem gallery

FROM PAGE 1

The first mineral Harder obtained was a 600-pound piece of malachite that was transported to Wisconsin by train. The mineral was so large that Harder considered displaying it outside the building.

It was decided that the malachite would be showcased inside, where it remains today. When employees and visitors began



Murphy

asking about the specimen, it sparked the idea for a gallery.

President and chief executive Scott Murphy said the purpose of opening the gallery was to raise community awareness of the beauty of gemstones and minerals and to encourage young people to consider a career in the jewelry industry.

“The more the public is exposed to gems, minerals and pieces, the greater appreciation they will have for the jewelry trade,” he said.

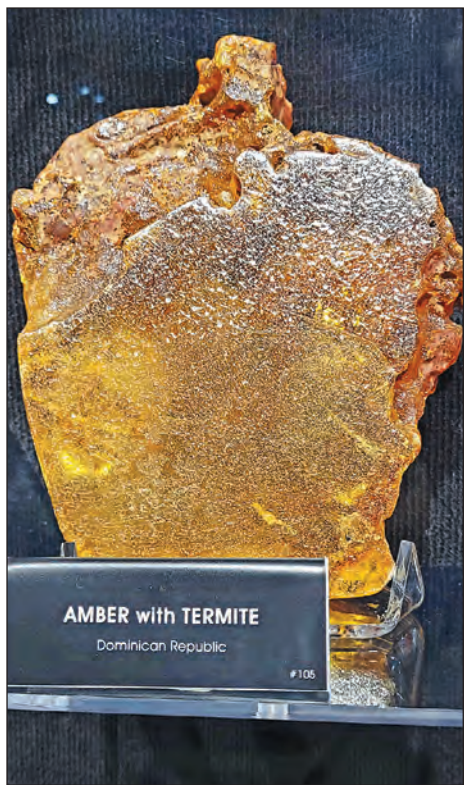
One hundred and thirty-eight gems and minerals from Harder’s collection are on display throughout the Neenah office, with the bulk of the specimens located in the gallery.

Included are sulfur with aragonite from Italy and tourmaline on quartz with cookeite from Brazil. Some of the pieces are small enough to be part of an engagement ring, while others are so large they needed to be transported by rail.

The collection includes the fossilized spiral shell of a cephalopod called ammonite, a Jurassic Park-esque piece of amber with a termite preserved inside and a piece of the Fukang meteorite that was found in China in 2000 and traveled billions of years before colliding with the Earth.

One of Harder’s personal favorites is a rhodochrosite specimen that was found in a mine in Colorado that he had the opportunity to visit.

The majority of the minerals in the col-



Neenah News

A piece of amber with a termite preserved inside is among the collection.



Neenah News

The R. Harder Gallery is located at Jewelers Mutual headquarters in Neenah.

lection come from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Bombing in those areas closed down some mines but also led to new discoveries.

Murphy said the collection’s pieces will often travel to tradeshows, educational exhibits and other events.

Several years ago, Jewelers Mutual acquired more than 500 carats of rough diamonds to display in the gallery. The diamonds weren’t placed on display because Jewelers Mutual instead donated them to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., to provide ongoing education to the jewelry industry, researchers and others.

About 17 years ago, Jewelers Mutual partnered with the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region to create an endowment to sustain the gallery. Each year it awards scholarships in Harder’s name to local students who are studying geology and students studying gemology at the Gemological Institute of America.

Visitors to the gallery can participate in a self-guided tour where they learn about the raw materials, some of which are used in the jewelry industry. In recent months, the gallery has had visitors from Tanzania, Africa and England.

Neenah residents Paul McAvoy and Ellen Ruffing visited the gallery last month.

“It’s a must-see thing,” Ruffing said. “I’m amazed. I can’t believe this.”

McAvoy, who knows Harder, said the gallery is a labor of love.

Schools and other groups are also permitted to tour the R. Harder Gallery. It is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and admission is free.

Jewelers Mutual has been involved in the industry since 1913, calling Neenah home for 110 years.

Murphy said what surprises visitors to the gallery is the impressive number of mineral specimens on display in their natural state.

“Each time I walk through the gallery I notice something different and gain a deeper appreciation for each stone’s rare natural beauty,” he said. “I guarantee you will see things you have not seen before.”

Tree climbing sessions set at parks

The Neenah Recreation Department is offering a Tree Top Explorer tree climbing sessions this summer at two park locations for people ages 7 and up.

Participants learn recreational climbing and safety from a facilitator with gear

provided. Three class sessions each are set for June 8, July 19 and Aug. 15 with a \$45 fee. The Aug. 15 sessions are designated as family climbs.

Go to Parks and Recreation at www.ci.neenah.wi.us for sign-up information.

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Rockets erupt in second half to topple Spartans

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Whatever Neenah soccer coach Lars Nordang said to his team at halftime of Tuesday's game against Oshkosh North, he might want to remember it.

Or patent it.

The Rockets exploded for seven goals over the final 39 minutes to pull away from the Spartans for an 8-0 win in a Fox Valley Association match.

"We had some girls really start combining in the second half," Nordang said. "We started looking for each other and playing together and all of a sudden we get those nice, easy tap-ins. It's good to see."

Neenah controlled possession the entire match, rarely letting Oshkosh North threaten in its offensive third.

But in the first half, many of the Rockets forays toward goal ended with a long shot that missed the mark or the ball would be turned over to the Spartans before getting close enough for a good shot. In the second half, Neenah's attacking players fixed that.

"I think it was more of us focusing on the second ball (on the attack) and then we hit more balls on the goal," senior Leah Forget said. "More balls on the goal and more people following those shots."

The Rockets' attack also fine-tuned its approach to dealing with the Spartans' aggressive back line.

North's defenders were pushing forward throughout the match, creating space between the players and the penalty area. Neenah tried to exploit that strategy but had a handful of early attacks whistled for offsides.

Once they adjusted, the scoring chances came often for the Rockets.

"I think it took a little bit too long (to adjust)," Forget said. "It's an opportunity for sure because you will have that space. If you have the speed and you have that space behind the (defensive back) line, you can create chances. You have to keep your composure, play possession and

play good through balls."

Annabelle Perry scored the first goal of the second half about eight minutes after intermission on a cross from Mia Wasco. Wasco had stolen the ball from a North player on the right wing and drove a low into the penalty area that found the foot of Perry, who easily tucked it in the net.

Forget then scored off a turnaround shot from about 20 yards out to give the Rockets a 3-0 lead.

Lily Flottesmesch then drew a foul in the penalty area that resulted in a free kick and Wasco was able to get her attempt – which was partially blocked by the North keeper – to trickle into the net.

Rhyan Brockman and Nicole Schmidt then scored about four minutes apart, before Flottesmesch got the final two goals with the second – off an assist from Tessa Pagel – ended the game because of the eight-goal margin with just more than 90 seconds to play.

"Being able to make more passes in a row and have that lead to those goals with combinations, builds our confidence," Forget said.

It took nearly 30 minutes for Neenah to get on the scoreboard in the first half.

With just more than 10 minutes to go before halftime, Flottesmesch controlled the ball in the right corner with a Spartan defender pushing her to the sideline. Flottesmesch was able to spin around the defender, drive to the net along the end-line before cutting a pass to an open Pagel, who hit a rising shot into the back of the net.

The Rockets ended up getting eight goals from seven different players, while a couple of others picked up assists.

And that total could have even been more except that the Rockets banged shots off the crossbar or one of the posts at least a half-dozen times.

"We have a very talented team," Nordang said. "Some girls who hadn't played many minutes before played 80 minutes tonight so we are really proud of their efforts."



Neenah News

Neenah's Mia Wasco (2) works around an Oshkosh North defender in the first half Tuesday.



Neenah News

Lily Flottesmesch (15) fends off an Oshkosh North player to keep possession of the ball in the first half. Flottesmesch would get past the Spartan player to set up Neenah's first goal.

NMES members collaborate with both the Neenah and Menasha school districts to reach out to children in need. Children are identified by schools, social service agencies and other sources.

The Fair is held in August of each year. Each child receives a backpack containing supplies for them to start the school year prepared to achieve academic success and a certificate for a pair of shoes redeemable at Rogan's.

Please donate by completing and mailing your donations by July 21, 2023 to:

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Ruback running, jumping at high level for Zephyrs

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

With all of the success Gabby Ruback has experienced in track and field, May 26, 2022, was not a good day.

Competing in her first WIAA sectional meet and with her sights set on advancing to La Crosse, the St. Mary Catholic then-junior finished 10th in the triple jump and 16th in the long jump. Her season was over.

An ending like that might push some athletes away from the sport. But Ruback's passion for the sport never wavered. In fact, the struggles of last May have helped fuel her this season and she's ready to make the most of the meets she has left.

"I had a lot of high hopes and it ended up being my worst meet of the season. It was disappointing to see my season end like that because I really didn't even come close (to making it to state)," said Ruback, who regularly competes in the long jump, triple jump, 100-meter hurdles and on the 800-meter relay team. "I'm using it for motivation this year. I'm looking to get back to sectionals and possibly state. It fuels me."

After an early-season ankle injury slowed her a bit, Ruback is getting back in stride.

She said she finally started feeling better at the Rosholt Invitational in late April and has gotten even stronger since. Ruback won the triple jump at the Hilbert Invitational on May 5 and then placed in the top five in all three individual events – including a win in the long jump – at Weyauwega-Fremont earlier this week.

"All the rest in practice and trying to balance things out, finally paid off," Ruback said. "It feels like I'm on the upward curve now."

Although Ruback is chasing her first trip to the WIAA State Meet in La Crosse, Ruback has competed at a state meet before – just not this state.

As a sophomore, Ruback competed in the triple jump at the Maryland high school state meet and was a part of a championship winning team. It's an experience that sticks with her.

"That was amazing. It's something I will remember forever," Ruback said. "It was sad leaving (Maryland) but it was nice to get introduced to a new team."

Ruback, who is the only senior girl on the Zephyrs' roster, enrolled at St. Mary Catholic for her junior season after spending the last "five or six years" living in Maryland. She had lived in the area before and had attended St. Margaret Mary school when she was younger, so it wasn't a complete new beginning.

Senior Spotlight

Plus she had sports to smooth the transition.

Ruback played two years of volleyball at St. Mary Catholic, while also going out for tennis as a senior, where she claimed the No. 2 singles title at the Wisconsin Combined Tennis Conference meet last fall.

During the winter, she competes in powerlifting where she participated in the national tournament as a junior. She qualified again this year but opted not to make the trip to compete.

That feeds into the track season, which is a sport she has competed in since sixth grade and certainly has a passion for.

"I love having the combination of both where it's a team sport, but it's also an individual sport," Ruback said. "You can have your own events, but I also love running the (relay). It's fun to have the team go out there with you."

Ruback said she has always enjoyed running and so track was a natural fit but her roster of events has metamorphosized over the year.

She has done the long jump the longest and that dates back to her start in the sport. In Maryland, middle school meets do not include hurdles, so she didn't start competing in that event until the indoor season of her freshman year – a campaign that was later cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unlike some hurdlers, Ruback doesn't compete in both hurdling events, opting for the 100-meter hurdles – the shorter of the two races.

"I'm fine with the hurdles, it's the 300 (meter) part that started to get to me," Ruback said.

As a sophomore, Ruback added the triple jump to her repertoire, based off her experience as a long jumper – although she did have to swim a bit against the tide to be good at both.

"My coach said it's easier for triple jumpers to be long jumpers, but a lot of long jumpers can't be triple jumpers because it takes so much coordination and balance," Ruback said. "For me, it wasn't hard to (learn the triple jump) and I'm so glad I'm not stuck solely with the long jump. I find the triple jump really fun to do."

So far this season, Ruback has had success in both jumps, finishing first at different meets in both events.

But she rarely excels at both at the same meet.

"It goes on and off between the long jump and triple. Usually, I will do way



Submitted photo

Gabby Ruback has overcome an early-season ankle injury to regain her spot as a top jumper and hurdler in the area.

better at long jump at one meet and then I will do way better at triple jump at another meet," Ruback said. "I'm so indecisive about which one I'm better at. I guess I'm better at which event I get to first."

That's one of the issues Ruback faces every meet. The field events begin right away at the start of the meet and she said there have been times the two events have overlapped.

In addition, the 100-meter hurdles are also one of the first races on the track, which means that Ruback spends much of her time chasing from one place to the next and back again.

"It's honestly really difficult. I feel like sometimes in my jumps I don't do as well then because I'm sprinting all over the place to get to everything," Ruback said. "I see other people who have their events all spaced out and I'm done with mine in like 30 seconds."

After all of that chasing around, Ruback

finally gets to chase down other runners. She started running on the Zephyrs' 800-meter relay team this year and it was a perfect fit.

The distance is right in her wheelhouse and running the anchor leg for the relay gives her a chance to thrive on the track.

"It's the maximum amount of distance where I can go just full out sprint where I don't have to pace myself. I could keep going after 100 (meters), but the 200 is just the perfect distance for me where I can burn out the whole time," Ruback said. "I love being the anchor. If there is any gap to make up, I always love the chase. I think that fuels me so much. It's so ... I love that feeling of being so close and then finally passing that person ahead of you, putting your all into it and hearing everyone cheer. There's no feeling that can beat that."

SEE **Senior spotlight** ON PAGE 13

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Rockets stung in extra innings for second straight game

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Another close loss stung the Neenah Rockets baseball team Tuesday.

Appleton North scored twice in the top of the eighth inning to break a 4-4 tie and went on to hand the Rockets a 6-4 loss, the second straight extra-inning defeat in Fox Valley Association play for Neenah.

“We have been competing with each team, other than two games really all year,” first-year head coach Aaron Nelson said. “The boys are fighting, with slight lapses in concentration that are allowing innings to be extended or giving free bases. In the FVA, the teams will take advantage of extra bases and putting guys on.



Photo by Robert Barthell

Starting pitcher Mack Krause fires a pitch to the plate on Tuesday.

The boys keep showing up and battling, staying together, good things will continue to come.”

Appleton North took advantage of a Neenah error to score three runs in the third inning to take the lead against the Rockets.

Allowing multi-run innings has been an issue for the Rockets and it stung them once again Tuesday.

“Big innings have been what has hurt us all season,” Nelson said.

The Rockets answered in the bottom of the inning as singles by Peyton Miller and Isaac Verbruggen followed by a walk to Elliott Swanson loaded the bases with nobody out.

Ethan Van Dyke then plated all three runs with a one-out double to bring the game back to even.

Mack Krause came through with an RBI-single in the fifth inning to retie the score at 4 and the game stayed even until the Lightning surged ahead in the top of the eighth.

Neenah would get a single from Will Sorenson in the bottom of the inning to bring the tying run to the plate, but were unable to push any more runs across.

Andrew Carlson finished 2-for-3 to lead the Rockets’ offense, which tallied eight hits in the game.

Krause turned in another solid start allowing three earned runs over five innings.

“It was a pretty good game today against a really good team,” senior Elliot Swanson said. “We battled for all eight innings but came up just short. Mack Krause pitched well today like he has all year and Ethan Van Dyke had a huge day for us at the plate.”



Photo by Robert Barthell

Neenah’s Ethan Van Dyke (center) is congratulated by teammates after scoring a run in the fifth inning Tuesday.

The loss drops Neenah to 4-8 in the FVA and 8-8 overall, but the team remains upbeat as the regular season winds down.

“We still have nine games to go,” Nelson said. “The boys are battling, pitchers are keeping us in games, bats need to be more consistent. The little things within a game need to be improved upon, moving runners, driving runners in when in scoring position, and continue to put quality at bats together when we get teams on the ropes. Having the put away instinct when we have teams down, being able to keep

the pressure on. Consistent game to game approach, looking to continue to get good at bats from top to bottom.”

A key for the Rockets will be to get their offense cranked up.

“These next couple weeks we really have to lock in and start getting the bats hot,” Swanson said. “All year our pitching and defense has been extremely good. Now we just have to get our bats to catch up. We have a couple regular season games left before playoffs so our goal is to finish strong leading into regionals.”

NHS sophomore on national high school fishing team

Neenah High School sophomore Julian Gallmeier is one of two Wisconsin high school students and 52 nationwide named to the Bassmaster High School All-State Fishing Team.



Gallmeier

The award is based on tournament success, academic achievement and leadership in conservation and in the community. Gallmeier is now eligible to be one of the 12 students chosen to compete in the Bassmaster High School All-American competition in Orange, Texas, set for June 1-4.

Gallmeier is the second Neenah High student to earn the honor, joining Bradley Gumtow, who won the award as a senior in 2017.

Hayden Fry, a senior at Brookfield East High School, was this year’s other state honoree.

“Julian is an incredibly talented angler who is in his element when he’s on the front deck of a bass boat,” Neenah coach Chris Jones said. “He’s very likely hiding a set of gills underneath his fishing team sweatshirt.”

Gallmeier is also one of the top golfers on the Neenah varsity team this spring and played varsity soccer as a sophomore.

Senior Spotlight

FROM PAGE 12

Running on the 800-meter relay is also almost a cathartic way for her to end her day.

Her other three events are pretty technical – it’s as much about form and technique as it is about raw athleticism. But when Ruback runs her leg of the relay, it’s only about running.

“I know I can always just put my all into it and I’m pretty sure I will do well,” Ruback said. “With jumping, it depends on (so much). It’s way different from running and it’s a whole different mental game.”

Although she has received interest from colleges about her track abilities, Ruback doesn’t intend on continuing on after high

school. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin and focus on her education, while competing with the school’s powerlifting team.

It’s a new chapter she is definitely excited about seeing unfold but her focus remains on what she has yet to accomplish this year.

“I like picturing myself going far and imagining it because there is a lot of power in what you think you can do. If you don’t think you can do something, you are going to bring yourself down,” Ruback said. “Last year, although it did suck that it was a bad meet and I didn’t get to go to state, it was my junior year. Now it’s really setting in that it’s my senior year and if I don’t make it, I don’t get another chance.

“I’m going to use everything in my power, everything that I can control, to make sure everything goes perfectly that day.”

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Prep sports roundup

TENNIS

Neenah breezes past Kaukauna in FVA dual

The Rockets won all seven matches in straight sets and dropped a combined four games in beating the Ghosts.

Carl Hein, Tristin Yu and Brady La-watsch each posted 6-0, 6-0 wins at No. 2, No. 3 and No 4 singles, respectively, for Neenah, while David Murphy cruised to a 6-0, 6-2 win at the No. 1 flight.

In doubles, Brady Hildreth and Andrew Werner at the No. 2 flight and Drew Kearney and Zack Bitter at the No. 3 flight also posted 6-0, 6-0 wins. The Rockets' top tandem of Satchel Moss and Ben Kotchen won 6-1, 6-1.

GOLF

Lynch posts top-five finish at Blackwolf Run

St. Mary Catholic senior Spencer Lynch fired a 77 at Blackwolf Run to tie for fourth place among more than 70 golfers Monday.

Lynch finished six shots behind the co-medalists at the meet.

Led by Lynch, the Zephyrs finished 13th among the 15 teams with a team score of 374. The other scoring golfers for St. Mary Catholic were Danny Griffith with a 93, Ethon Moschea with a 99 and Cole Uhlenbrauck with a 105.

Neenah finished one spot ahead of St. Mary Catholic in the team standings, carding a total of 358.

Julian Gallmeier led the Rockets with an 86, while Luke Abing and Sam Coulthard each added 90s. Tucker Brackin rounded out the Neenah scoring golfers with a 92.

Rockets collect dual meet win over Hortonville

Luke Abing earned medalist honors with a round of 40, one shot ahead of Sam Coulthard, as Neenah picked up a dual meet win over Hortonville at Ridgeway Country Club on Tuesday.

The Rockets posted a score of 171, which was 11 strokes better than the Polar Bears.

Julian Gallmeier and Blaise Beckman each shot 45 to round out the Rockets' scorers.

Neenah fell short in a dual meet against Kimberly held at High Cliff Golf Course on Friday.

The Rockets finished with a team score of 180, while the Papermakers posted a 155.

Abing led the way for Neenah with a round of 42. Coulthard added a 43 for the Rockets, while Tucker Brackin posted a 47 and Gallmeier totaled a 48.

Zephyrs take first at Big East North mini-meet

Spencer Lynch earned medalist honors to lead St. Mary Catholic to a win in at a Big East North Division mini-meet played at Fox Hills Resort on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs finished with a score of 166, four shots better than Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah. Mishicot was a distant third at 206.

Lynch led all individuals by finishing with a 1-under par 35. He finished four shots ahead of runner-up Carson Mersberger of Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah.

Ethon Moschea finished fifth overall and turned in the team's second lowest score with a 42. Dane Anderson added a 44 and Cole Uhlenbrauck finished with a 45.

Coulthard leads Rockets at MACC Fund invite

Sam Coulthard carded an 85 at LaBelle Country Club to lead the Rockets at the MAC Fund Invite on Saturday.

Neenah finished 21st among the 28 teams with a score of 373. Edgewood won the team title with a score of 305.

Julian Gallmeier added an 86, while Tucker Brackin had a 96 and Blaise Beckman added a 106 for the Rockets.

BASEBALL

Zephyrs suffer loss to Random Lake

St. Mary Catholic was held to just three hits and were shut out for the first time this season in a 3-0 loss to Random Lake

last Friday.

The Rams scored single runs in the first, fifth and seventh innings in the win.

Aidan Birling, Noah Decker and Colin Nigl recorded hits for the Zephyrs.

Fisher Mackenzie allowed just two runs and five hits over five innings, while striking out eight in taking the tough-luck loss.

The Zephyrs also came up short in a 6-5 loss to Ozaukee on Tuesday as the Warriors rallied for two runs in the bottom of the seventh to force extra innings and then tallied the game winner in the ninth.

Joseph Pirillo and Mason Wagner each had three hits in the game for St. Mary Catholic, while Owen Ripley and Nigl added two hits apiece. The Zephyrs out-hit the Warriors 11-6 in the game and was boosted by five Ozaukee errors, but left six runners on base.

Matthew Betchner allowed three earned runs in six innings while striking out five but did not figure in the decision for the Zephyrs. Ripley took the loss on the mound, despite not allowing an earned run and striking out five in 2 1/3 innings.

Neenah falls to Oshkosh West in 10 innings

The Rockets dropped a heartbreaker on the road Friday as Neenah fell to Oshkosh West, 3-2, in 10 innings.

Neenah tied the game at 1 with a run in the top of the sixth and then took a 2-1 lead in the top of the eighth only to see the Wildcats tie the game in the bottom of the frame.

Elliott Swanson had two of Neenah's four hits in the game, while Ethan Van Dyke added an RBI on a sacrifice fly. The Rockets also finished with eight stolen bases in the game, including four by Swanson.

Zakary Vanlerberghe struck out 7 in 7 2/3 innings while allowing just three hits and one earned run but did not figure in the decision. Blake Griesbach took the loss on the mound for Neenah.

SOFTBALL

Neenah picks up win over Kimberly

The Rockets broke a 1-1 tie with two runs in the top of the seventh to secure a

3-1 win over Kimberly on Friday.

Kyleigh Mathe allowed just four hits and one unearned run while striking out four in the complete-game win.

Piper Alberg went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs, while Taelyn Bauer chipped in a pair of hits in the win for the Rockets.

The Rockets followed that win up with a 5-1 nonconference victory over West Bend East as three different players – Alberg, Bauer and Quinn Marnocha – finished with two hits in the game. McKenna Herm had the lone RBI for the Rockets.

Morgan Harwood struck out nine in four innings and allowed just three hits and an unearned run to collect the win.

Neenah then suffered a tough 3-1 loss at home to Appleton East on Tuesday as the Patriots struck for two runs in the top of the eighth inning to collect the win.

Both teams scored single runs in the sixth inning.

The Rockets pounded out nine hits in the game with Marnocha, Harwood and Savanna Knuth each tallying two, while Harwood also drove in the Rockets' lone run in the loss.

Mathe pitched all eight innings for the Rockets, allowing just three hits while striking out a whopping 18 batters.

St. Mary Catholic pummels Lourdes

The Zephyrs needed just two innings to put up 16 runs as they rolled to the 16-1 nonconference win over Lourdes Academy on Tuesday.

St. Mary Catholic scored seven runs in the first inning highlighted by Nevaeh Saringer's two-run single and an RBI-base hit from Rhiannon Reichenbacher. In a nine-run second inning, Sammi Weiss recorded a two-run triple, while Chloe Vogel knocked in a pair with a double.

Saringer and Emily Vogel each finished with two hits in the game while the Zephyrs also benefited from three walks and six errors by the Knights.

On Friday, the Zephyrs fought back from a pair of two-run deficits to pull even but Random Lake tallied a run in the top

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 15

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Prep roundup

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of the seventh and held on for a 4-3 win. Random Lake scored two runs in the top of the first but Chloe Vogel tripled and scored in the bottom of the inning to cut the lead in half. The Rams got the run back in the top of the second and held a 3-1 lead until the bottom of the fourth when Saringer belted a two-run to pull the Zephyrs even.

Chloe Vogel and Adel Schneider each finished with two hits for the Zephyrs.

TRACK AND FIELD

St. Mary Catholic boys take title at Hilbert

The Zephyrs had three individuals winners and posted a pair of relay victories to take first at the 10-team Hilbert Invitational on Friday.

St. Mary Catholic finished with 120 points to finish comfortably ahead of Ozaukee (103) and Chilton (92).

Charlie Nackers in the 100 meters, Benjamin Schoeni in the 1,600 meters and Ashton Post in the pole vault posted wins for the Zephyrs, while each added another top-5 finish. Nackers in the high jump and Schoeni in the 3,200 meters were second, while Post took fourth in the 200 meters.

St. Mary Catholic also posted wins in the 400-meter relay and 1,600-meter relay, while taking second in the 3,200-meter relay.

Alexander Groppe and Nathan Seiske finished second and third, respectively, in the 800 meters, while other top finishers for the Zephyrs were John Romnek, who took third in the shot put, Harry Higgins, who placed fourth in the 100 meters and Kail Koeper, who took fifth in the 400 meters.

St. Mary Catholic finished third in the

girls standings, placing behind Suring and Sheboygan North.

Nolie Anderson and Gabby Ruback each posted a victory and two top-five finishes for the Zephyrs.

Anderson won the discus and took fourth in the shot put, while Ruback was first in the triple jump and fourth in the long jump.

Katherine Schoeni took second in the 3,200 meters, while Norah Lee in the 400 meters and Lauren Ripley in the long jump were each third. Addison Dinka added a fourth place in the 800 meters.

St. Mary Catholic also won the 3,200-meter relay and took second on the 800-meter and 3200-meter relays.

Delene leads Rockets at Bay Port invitational

Lydia Delene won both the shot put and discus to highlight the Bay Port Invitational for the Neenah Rockets girls track team.

The Rockets also got a win from the 1,600-meter relay team of Julia Rangel, Lauren Tears, Rachel Dietrich and Ava Schalow as Neenah finished seventh overall in the team standings.

Dietrich added a second place in the 400 meters, while Mazie Olkowski and Natalie Willes placed second and fifth, respectively in the 3,200 meters for the Rockets.

Neenah also finished second in the 3,200-meter relay and fifth in the 400-meter relay.

Ripley, Ruback, Anderson lead Zephyr girls

The St. Mary Catholic girls finished third at the 10-team Weyauwega-Fremont Invitational on Monday.

Gabby Ruback posted three top-five finishes, including a victory in the long jump. She also took fourth in both the 100-me-

ter hurdles and the triple jump.

Lauren Ripley collected a win in the 1,600 meters and took second in the long jump, while Nolie Anderson won the discus and finished second in the shot put.

Katherine Schoeni added a second place in the 3,200 meters, while Norah Lee was third in the 400 meters and Alejandra Cunillera Fernandez was fourth in the 800 meters.

St. Mary Catholic also picked up a win in the 3,200-meter relay, while taking second in the 1,600-meter relay, third in the 400-meter relay and fourth in the 800-meter relay.

The boys finished eighth in the team standings, posting one win in the 3,200-meter relay. The Zephyrs were also second in the 400-meter relay and fourth in the 1,600-meter relay.

The top individual finishers for the Zephyrs were Alexander Groppe, who was second in the 400 meters, and Benjamin Schoeni in the 3,200 meters and Braeden Brenn in the high jump were each third. Connor Riehl added a fourth place in the discus and John Romnek a fifth in the shot put.

Neenah boys win

FVA home triangular

The Rockets posted four 1-2 finishes as they outdueled Kaukauna and Appleton East for a win in a Fox Valley Association triangular Tuesday.

Alex Thayer and Jaden Leal finished first and second, respectively, in the 1,600 meters, while it was Braedy Klawikowski and

Nolan Smith sweeping the top two spots, respectively, for Neenah in the 3,200 meters.

Kyle Schultz and Luke Jung in the discus and Trevor McGinnis and Max Reagan in the pole vault also earned first and second places, respectively.

Other wins for Neenah came from Ethan Snider in the 100 meters, Grant Dean in the 200 meters, Drew Gentile in the 800 meters and Ben Donaldson in the 300-meter hurdles. The 800-meter relay team of Jack Zemlck, Elijah Houston, Jae Jenkins and Dean.

Adding second-place finishes for the Rockets were Donaldson in the 110-meter hurdles and Dean in the long jump.

The Neenah girls finished second in their triangular and were led by Elsa Gruber and Lauren Linstedt, who took first and second, respectively, in the 3,200 meters.

Lydia Delene picked up a pair of second-place finishes in the shot put and discus, while Abbie Fischer in the 200 meters, Natalie Willes in the 3,200 meters, Alyssa Ross in the 100-meter hurdles, Ava Schalow in the high jump, Korianna Bartman in the pole vault and Soukeye Gueye in the long jump were also second.

SOCCER

St. Mary Catholic can't keep pace with Oostburg

Audrey Wanless scored on a penalty kick to tie the match at 1, but Oostburg rattled off the next four goals to collect a 5-1 win.

Bethany Rupert finished with five saves in goal for St. Mary Catholic.

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OLD or Very OLD Camper/T.T Golf Cart or Sm Motorcycle Call or text **262-903-7522**

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

Neenah News

Local news for you

In partnership with Legacy.com

Obituaries



Honor your loved one with the timeless tradition of an obituary

- Provide the community with timely service and memorial details
- Give friends and family a convenient place to offer condolences and make charitable donations
- Have an easy way to share the notice on social media
- Create a permanent record of your family member's legacy for future generations to explore

To place an obituary in the Neenah News submit through

Your Funeral Director • obits@neenahnewsnow.com • 920-486-1616

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
 Find Kid Scoop on Facebook
 © 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 39, No. 23

Advertising: Fact or Opinion?

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

When companies want you to see something, they advertise their products. Their ads are carefully crafted to make you want to buy what is being advertised.

Just the Facts
 Look at the bike ad at right. Some things an advertiser claims to be true are **facts** and some are **opinions**. **Facts are statements that can be proven true or false.** Such as:

- ✓ The bike has three gears.
- ✓ The bike is available in red or blue.
- ✓ The price of the bike is \$99.

The best bike in town!

The 2023 Cruise Star is more fun to ride than other bikes. That's because it has an easy shift for 3 speeds, a softer saddle and cushion-grip rubber handgrips. And you get it all for just \$99.

Available at Bike-O-Rama

Available in red or blue, the Cruise Star will make you the coolest kid on the block.

Cruise Star
 Made in the USA since 1923.



That's Your Opinion
 Opinions, on the other hand, are true for some people, but may not be true for others. For example:

- ✗ This bike is the best.
- ✗ This bike is more fun to ride.
- ✗ This bike will make you popular.

Look at these two ads. With a **GREEN** crayon, circle the **FACTS**. With a **RED** crayon, circle the **OPINIONS**.

A movie packed with double-decker laughs!

The non-stop comedy hit for the whole family is now on DVD and Blu-Ray. Available for a limited time only at BigBox Mart.

★★★★★
 —Meghan Usher, Film Fans

From the director of RUNAWAY POPCORN CART

\$19.99

RUNAWAY OMNIBUS



Chips so crunchy, they'll wake your neighbors.

We've been making potato chips for 100 years. They're the crispiest, most delicious chips in America. Try a bag today.

ELI'S POTATO CHIPS



Let's Talk About It
 Which would you rely on to decide whether or not to buy a product: Fact, opinion or both? Discuss this with your family this evening.

Try This:
 Watch a TV commercial. How many facts can you count? How many opinions can you count?

Design an Ad
 In the space at right, design an ad for a product you like. Include at least two facts but no more than two opinions. Have a friend circle the facts and opinions.

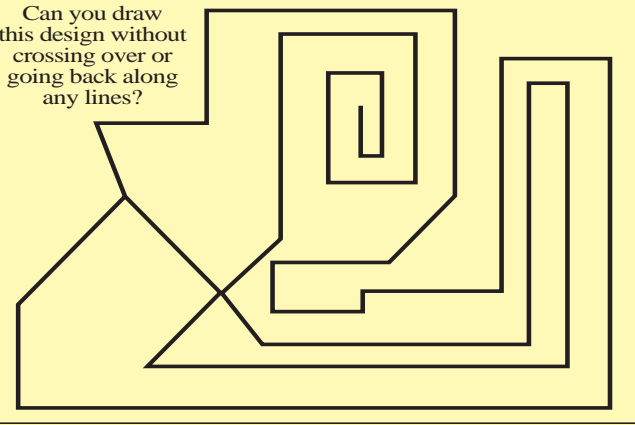
Blank space for designing an advertisement.

Extra! Extra! Ad Study
 Look through the newspaper and select five or more ads. Count the number of facts in each ad. Count the number of opinions. Draw a graph to show your results.

Standards Link: Math: Summarize informational data in a graph.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you draw this design without crossing over or going back along any lines?



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Hand-eye coordination.

Double Double Word Search

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

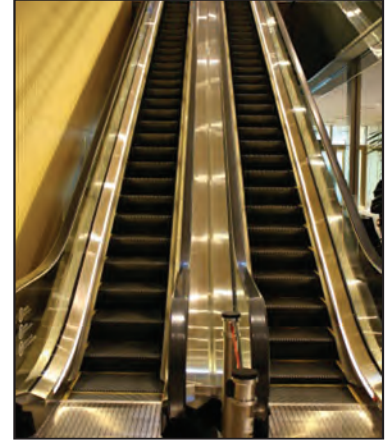
ADVERTISE
 COMPANIES
 PRODUCTS
 OPINION
 CLAIMS
 DESIGN
 CREATE
 PROVEN
 CRUISE
 FALSE
 FACT
 TRUE
 KNOW
 BUY

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

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

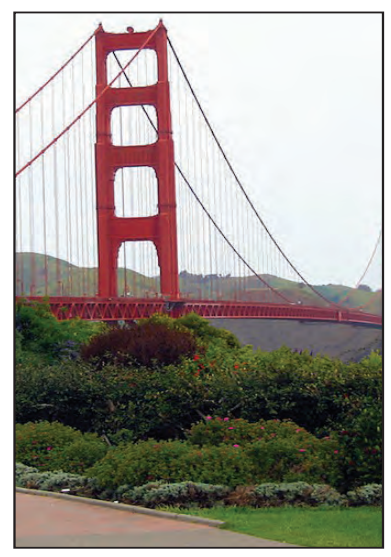
Kid Scoop Together: Photo Finish

Look at the pictures below. Then write three facts and three opinions about each photo.



FACTS:

OPINIONS:



FACTS:

OPINIONS:

Write On! Just the Facts

Write three sentences describing your classroom. Only use facts. No opinions.

Oshkosh Herald & Neenah News Provide FREE weekly newspapers to local classrooms in the OASD & NJSB Because:

- Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe.
- Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.
- Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.
- Local newspapers can strengthen communities.
- Local newspapers can benefit children.

Additional Studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Learn more about the Program By Calling 920-385-4512

Oshkosh Herald **Neenah News**
 Bringing Oshkosh news home Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing



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