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## Accidental 911 calls tax resources

### County dispatch on track for 7,000 alerts in 2023

By Jonathan Richie  
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center is answering a growing number of accidental emergency calls that could divert resources from genuine 911 calls for emergencies.

In April, the sheriff's office noted that 234 accidental calls were received in a 48-hour

period through dispatch. They receive an average of about 140 calls every day, so 234 over two days is substantial.

"It's just an abnormally higher number than what we usually see," Lt. of Communications Jesse Jensen said. He said from Jan. 1 to May 23, there have been about 1,000 more hang-up or accidental calls than what the department received during the same period in 2022.

"Every time we get a 911 hang-up call the dispatchers have to call them back and see if there is a problem. The main thing is that

if you do accidentally call 911 make sure to stay on the line," Jensen said. "Then the dispatcher can take care of that right away."

If there is no answer when dispatch calls the number back, an officer is sent out to the location to ensure there is no emergency.

"It gives (officers) more stuff to do and takes away from real calls we're receiving," Jensen said.

Sheriff John Matz said the department is seeing an extensive amount of accidental

SEE **False calls** ON PAGE 5

## INSIDE



**Spiritual calling**  
Oak Hill headstones  
get personal care  
Page 6

## Billboards add to litigation over sign rules

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Earlier this year, the city of Neenah was sued in both federal and circuit court over its sign ordinance, but those two lawsuits were not the first challenges to the ordinance, as the city was already engaged in a lawsuit with Lamar Central Outdoor.

The city was sued by Lamar in February 2022 after denying applications Lamar submitted to repair two billboards it owns at 157 S. Green Bay Road and 2405 Schultz Drive.

Lamar is in the business of outdoor advertising and owns many billboards in Wisconsin, which it leases for commercial and noncommercial messages. The signs typically advertise messages unrelated to the onsite business where they're located.

In August and September 2021, Lamar applied for a sign permit for maintenance and repair of the Schultz Drive and Green

SEE **Billboards** ON PAGE 11



Photo from International Children's Fund

Dr. David Bruenning (center) works with medical staff in Liberia for the International Children's Fund.

## Children's Fund global work starts here

### Doctor from Neenah leads local-based effort

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A nondescript old brick warehouse on Main Street holds the U.S. headquarters of the multimillion-dollar nonprofit International Children's Fund (ICF), which provides aid to impoverished children across the globe.

Inside the warehouse are pallets of food, medical supplies and other items that

are distributed to orphanages, schools, churches, training facilities, farms and medical clinics in rural communities in Africa, India and Pakistan.

Dr. David Bruenning, who is from Neenah, started ICF in 1978 after he witnessed poverty during a trip to Honduras.

"I saw blind mothers with children begging for money to buy them food," he said. "That really touched me and I thought, how can a country so close to the United States be in this bad of condition, and nobody is doing anything? And that's when I thought, well, why don't you do some-

thing about it?"

Bruenning began training pastors and businessmen in Africa and has since made more than 70 trips overseas. He focuses on teaching them to help their own people to become successful.

"A lot of times people don't have a lot of education in some of those countries, and they're really stifled with trying to figure out how to make it work, so we give them adequate training in business and in various areas," he said.

SEE **Children's Fund** ON PAGE 10

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Advertising deadline is noon Friday for the following Friday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday for Friday.

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Photo by David Hall

Loop the Little Lake Trail connects downtown Neenah with a special out-of-town outdoor experience.

## Loop trail offers path away from it all

By Robert Barthel  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

When I am on my run or just on a bike ride, one attraction in town always ends up on my path. Free of annoying vehicular traffic and boasting beautiful views of nature, the Loop the Little Lake Trail provides a relaxing, scenic opportunity to get those miles in.

Biking or running inside the city can be treacherous. I've had my fair share of near-death incidents with speeding cars on busy roads all over the city. On top of that, I continuously have to stop and put up with traffic lights or people making turns.

All of these worries go away when I set foot or tire to the paved paths of the Loop.

The only cars in movement that I can see are those that speed past on the highway at the horizon's edge, and the rest are all parked.

The marvelous scenery around the trail makes it memorable. For instance, the northern and eastern sections of the Loop are all facing open water on at least

one side. This provides a pristine, calming view for ongoing users, especially for the segment on Doty Island.

The clean water and rocky shoreline captivate me and make me completely forget about the industrial waste treatment complex that occupies the other side of my view. And since everything is paved, I don't have to worry about getting my shoes dirty, along with being able to use my city bicycle.

The open-water position of the northern Trestle Trail lends itself well to various other activities. Almost every time I pass through there, I see fishers of all ages eagerly hunched over with rods and boats launched from the community pier at Fritse Park.

At the trail's midpoint, I can find a shaded stopping point with benches. Though I have yet to try it myself, I frequently see people sit there and gaze at the waters of Little Lake Butte des Morts. This sort of thing would allow our stressed population to finally relax for once.

On a side note, viewing a sunset from that location could provide the perfect setting for a moody date night.

These trails were built with pedestrians and cyclists in mind, and their design

shows it. Everything is on an inclined plane, so I don't have to get on or off my bike to use them.

Also, all bridges and paths are very wide, permitting many activities to co-exist within the same area. Additionally, bike repair stations adorn the various parks the trail cuts through, along with amenities such as bathrooms/water fountains.

Thankfully, local organizations acknowledge the trail's benefit to the population's health – and actively encourage residents of the area to utilize it. For the past five years, ThedaCare and Future Neenah have partnered to provide an annual summer challenge for its users. Residents can sign up at [neenah.org/log-your-loops](http://neenah.org/log-your-loops).

One Loop around the trail roughly equals 3 miles / 5 kilometers. If an individual can log at least 50 completed loops around the trail between Memorial Day and Labor Day (99 days) of this year and turn in their log sheet to the Future Neenah office (135 W. Wisconsin Ave.), they will receive a free T-shirt.

The organizations encourage users to complete their laps using whatever means they enjoy – walking, biking or even inline skating.

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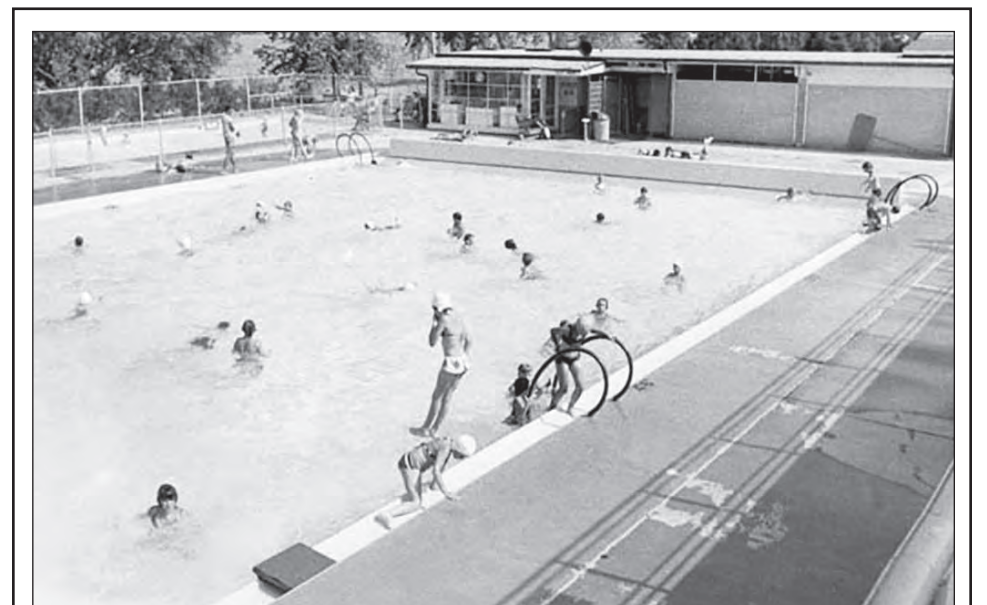
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Neenah Historical Society photo

**Back in the pool**

The Neenah Pool, pictured in 1976, has been a summer tradition for 83 years and opens this Saturday.

 NEENAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# Park webcams will shift to public control

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is taking over ownership of two livestream cameras in Riverside Park overlooking the harbor and at REC Park overlooking Lake Winnebago, with plans to continue allowing the cameras to operate.

Several Wisconsin cities operate livestream cams, which are considered attractive for tourism. The cameras are not an invasion of privacy because they record public areas, where there is no expectation of privacy.

Both of Neenah's cameras are viewable on YouTube, with the harbor cam livestreamed by Fox River System Webcam since 2020, and the REC Park camera livestreamed by resident Mike Fahrenkrug since last August. Fahrenkrug also operates a camera in High Cliff Marina in Sherwood.

Fahrenkrug made an appeal at a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting in April to install a camera in Shattuck Park to view the marina and park. The request triggered staff to evaluate the issue.

Director of Parks & Recreation Michael Kading wrote in a memo that the cameras offer no benefit to the public as a whole and private cameras connected to public Wi-Fi are a security concern.

Historically, private facilities have not been permitted on public property for private gain, Kading wrote. He noted that the city has cameras in the park for security and maintains those.

City Attorney David Rashid wrote in a letter to Fahrenkrug that the cameras are operating by virtue of a revocable permit or license granted long ago by unidentified past city officials.



Photo from Fox River System Webcam

Livestream cameras at Riverside Park will operate under the city's ownership after the equipment had been privately owned.

fied past city officials.

Rashid said the city will not permit installation or operation of any additional cameras on city-owned properties and the two cameras currently operating in Neenah would need to be operated by the city and its employees or removed by this week.

Kading wrote that city staff reached out to the Neenah Nodaway Yacht Club and the Fox Valley Sailing Club regarding use of the cameras and both clubs indicated a desire to see the cameras remain in service and appreciate the city's offer to take ownership and responsibility for

them.

The city offered to take over the cameras through donation or by purchasing them at fair market value. The alternative was for Fahrenkrug to remove the cameras or the city would remove them.

Kading told Neenah News that Fahrenkrug is working cooperatively to transition the cameras to city ownership and control via donation, which is expected to happen in the next couple of weeks. The cameras will continue livestreaming.

"We want to make sure a smooth transition occurs for the end users, the boating community," he said.

## Check for batteries ahead of disposal

Rechargeable batteries, which exist in cell phones, laptops or rechargeable tools, are also found inside a battery-containing device (BCD) that are less obvious. Some examples include the batteries in Roombas, smart watches, Bluetooth devices, game controllers, or electric toothbrushes and razors.

Winnebago County Solid Waste is urging residents to remove and properly recycle rechargeable batteries before disposing of the devices.

Near closing time a few weekends ago, a county Solid Waste employee smelled a pungent smoke coming from a waste pile in the transfer facility building. After locating the smoldering device, the employee removed it from the building and within seconds, the batteries inside burst into flames.

Had it gone unnoticed, the battery-powered unicycle could have ignited other waste materials, causing activation of the fire suppression system and a full response by the fire department.

BCDs are easily damaged in traditional waste collection methods and the batteries inside are known to spontaneously combust when pinched, smashed or otherwise damaged.

"Both garbage and recycling can catch on fire easily and it spreads fast," said Jessica Hanson, Solid Waste communications and program development specialist.

Use Tri-County Recycling's Waste Wizard ([www.RecycleMoreTriCounty.org](http://www.RecycleMoreTriCounty.org)) to determine if items should be recycled as e-waste. If not, remove the battery before disposing of the device in household garbage.

Recycle rechargeable batteries for free at locations such as Winnebago County Solid Waste or local home improvement stores. Alkaline batteries do not pose a fire risk and are safe for garbage disposal.

## WILLS vs TRUSTS

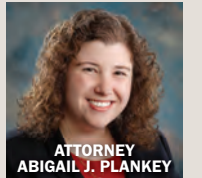
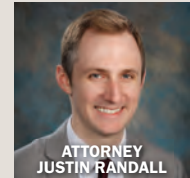
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By Tim Clue and Spike Manton

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Photo by Scott Kruger

# Fox Crossing police end child abduction

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A former youth pastor residing in Oshkosh while out on bond for sexually assaulting a 12-year-old Plover boy was arrested by Fox Crossing police last month after he allegedly sexually assaulted a 12-year-old Appleton boy at a local hotel.

Jordan Huffman, 52, was charged in Winnebago County in May with first-degree sexual assault of a child, child enticement and three counts of bail jumping.

According to the criminal complaint, in the early morning hours of May 19 a juvenile placed a call to 911 stating that he was in a vehicle at an unknown hotel after being kidnapped and he needed help.

Dispatch was able to obtain the caller's GPS location and Fox Crossing officers arrived at the Econo Lodge on Holly Road and witnessed a similar vehicle exiting the parking lot. An officer followed the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop.

As the officer exited the squad, the victim exited the front passenger door of the suspect's vehicle and ran toward the officer screaming and crying. The boy was hysterical and begged the officer to take him home, documents say.

The boy told officers he was communicating with Huffman through Snapchat earlier that day and Huffman sent him nude photos. The boy had his Snapchat location on and a little while later Huffman showed up at his house.

The boy said he was scared and thought he should call police but went with Huffman because he was "going to probably kill me or something."

Huffman began assaulting the boy during the drive to the hotel. When they arrived, Huffman went inside to rent a room and the boy stayed in the car and called 911. When Huffman returned to the vehicle, he brought the boy inside the hotel room where he continued assaulting him.

The boy told authorities that the assault went on for several minutes until he pretended his mom was calling and told

Huffman he needed to be taken home. Surveillance footage showed the boy exiting the hotel room and running to the car, with Huffman behind.

The boy dialed 911 again while in the vehicle and police initiated the traffic stop shortly after and arrested Huffman.

Huffman is incarcerated on a \$1 million cash bond, with conditions that he not contact the victim or anyone under the age of 18, not use social media or the internet and not leave Wisconsin. He's due back in Winnebago County court June 19.

Huffman was a youth pastor at Woodlands Church in Plover for 17 years before moving to a new position at Forest Lake District in 2020. He was charged last August with seven felonies and a misdemeanor for incidents dating back to 2017, when he was tasked with mentoring a 12-year-old child who was getting into trouble at school.

Documents say that boy told authorities Huffman gave him alcohol, prescription pills and marijuana, and sexually assaulted him repeatedly over a five year period. The child's parents reported the assaults to police early last year.

Huffman is due back in court in Portage County June 23, where he's expected to enter into a plea agreement.

Huffman was residing in Florida at the time of his arrest in Portage County, but was extradited to Wisconsin. He was released on \$100,000 cash bail in September.

Documents show that Portage County has Huffman's address listed in Antigo, while Winnebago County places him at a residence on County A in Oshkosh.

In a statement, Fox Crossing Police noted that last year, there were more than 32 million reports to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's tipline, which includes child sex trafficking, online enticement and sexual molestation.

"The Fox Crossing Police Department will tirelessly pursue the safety and protection of children from online predators, and with the assistance of the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office, fully prosecute any individual who exploits the vulnerability of a child to the fullest extent," police said.



Huffman

## Memorial ceremonies

Oak Hill Cemetery in Neenah held Memorial Day ceremonies Monday with military honors for deceased area veterans. Wreaths were placed at the military monument in the cemetery and a rifle salute was delivered by the Neenah-Menasha Honor Guard.



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**ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah** is looking for volunteers for information desk/hospital escort, endoscopy greeter, inpatient hospitality and birth center assembly among others. Benefits include training, fellowship and a sense of purpose. Contact Sara at Sara.Reybrock@thedacare.org or call 920-454-5571.

**Covey** is seeking individuals with a strong accounting, finance or investment background to join the finance committee. Meetings are scheduled for about an hour on a quarterly basis during normal business hours and can be attended remotely. Contact Pam at pschutz@covey.org.

**St. Vincent de Paul Neenah** is seeking volunteers to help stock the food pantry Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays for 1-3 hours. For details, call 920-727-1766, ext. 3 or volunteercoordinator@svdpcneenah.com.

**Court-appointed special advocate** sought for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. No special experience is required; we will provide initial and ongoing training and support. Learn more at casafc.org or call Leah at 920-257-4733, ext. 107.

**Beaming Inc.** is looking for volunteers to help with general maintenance, lawn care, and to maintain bird and butterfly gardens and horse paddocks. Volunteers must be 14 years old. Learn more at beaminginc.org/volunteer-opportunities or contact Denise at volunteer4beaming@gmail.com.



# False calls

FROM PAGE 1

911 calls and hang-ups this year. He added that not every hang-up call is an accident and can be from an emergency call.

In 2022 dispatch received 5,900 accidental 911 calls, which is about 11% of all 911 calls received and this year the department is on track to receive around 7,000 of these calls.

According to the sheriff's office annual report, a total of 51,077 911 calls were received in 2022, which has steadily risen every year since 2017 when the office reported 40,688 911 calls.

These accidental calls can be as simple as having your smartphone in a cup holder and a sequence of buttons randomly pushed that leads to the 911 calls.

Matz explained that he had his phone in a cup holder while he was mowing his lawn and it made a 911 call by accident. He said dispatch had called him and he didn't pick up the first time and then when he did speak with dispatch, they told him an officer had been sent to his location.

"It's being cognizant of where you are and what your phone is doing," Matz said. "Make sure you stay on the line to resolve the call."

The dispatch center inside the sheriff's office handles all public safety calls in the county. Dispatchers are looking at seven screens when taking emergency calls to best handle the situation. Those screens show where the call is coming from and other important information needed to respond to all types of emergencies.

As Jensen walks through the dispatch center, he points out that each of the eight desks has a different region or department with about five or six dispatchers working at a time.

"When we know there's an event happening - we might have all eight stations with dispatchers in preparation for a potential increase in emergency calls," Jensen said.

There's a desk primarily taking Oshkosh police calls, another for Oshkosh fire calls and one for rural fire departments, to name a few.

"All the dispatchers rotate and work at different desks and as you can hear it's 24/7," Jensen said.

As he exits the room a dispatcher asks a caller, "Is he bleeding? Are they breathing?"

"It just never stops," Jensen added.

The best way to avoid making these accidental calls is to go into the phone's emergency SOS settings and adjust the settings so something like a cupholder isn't responsible for an emergency call.

"It's important to know what these features do," Jensen said.

Matz said emergency call updates on smartphones do serve an important service if someone is in an accident and needs the service. He is not opposed to the feature but would like people to be conscious if they do accidentally call 911.

"Now if you're doing something malicious with calling over and over again then that is a problem," Matz said.

Jensen and Matz advise that by staying on the line during an accidental call or answering when dispatch calls back can help resolve the issue in two minutes and not 20. If there is no response, it will be taking time from officers who could be handling something else.

"You're not in trouble if you make an accidental call; stay on the line or answer the phone if we call back," Matz said. "We're just going to talk with you and make sure everything is OK and if the call was a mistake we'll close the call out. If something appears to be suspicious, we're going to send an officer."

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# Volunteer labor of respect restores older headstones



Photo by Susie Brautigam

Vance Pues cleans and restores headstones at Oak Hill Cemetery.

By Susie Brautigam  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Vance Pues is a force of nature. He's hard to describe or pigeon-hole, but the one adjective you leave with after meeting him is "passionate."

Born in Heidelberg, Germany, Pues, 51, was raised in Neenah and has worked in the paper industry for most of his adult life. Several years ago, he started researching his family genealogy and decided to visit the graves of some of his ancestors. The poor condition of the stones led him on a journey to restore and clean his relatives' headstones.

Being a self-described "naturally curious person," Pues was also interested in the names he saw around the city of Neenah such as parks and squares, as well as city street names, and wanted to know why they were chosen. This led him to the Neenah Historical Society.

Pues knew that they would become an invaluable resource for what he had in mind – to clean and restore personal memorial and monument stones in Neenah.

Having learned a bit more about Neenah's city leaders, the next step was to visit Oak Hill Cemetery and see the resting places for himself. Pues was dismayed by the condition of the old headstones he encountered at the cemetery. Many were covered in lichen and dirt and debris.

He wanted to know whose job it was to care for the headstones, so he reached out to the Oak Hill Cemetery foreman, Mark Alberts. The answer to his question was quite simply "the family." He also learned that before he could work on a headstone he would need family permission.

Pues spent about a year of research finding a biological, environmentally friendly solution to clean the headstones. He also had to learn about using the proper brushes and scrapers to avoid damaging the headstones.

His water source is a battery-powered portable sprayer. Pues said "patience and time are important. People think you can get a night and day difference in 10 minutes. You need to gain experience on knowing when to stop scrubbing and let the product have time to work. It's a balance of the two."

Most of the older stones he works on need more than one visit and the larger memorials can be time intensive.

Pues has been cleaning and restoring headstones for about five years now and has completed about 100, all of which he has cleaned and paid for by himself. Most are family requests.

He has traveled all over to clean and was recently asked to clean gravestones in Escanaba, Mich. Pues has visited many cemeteries over the years but says "Oak Hill is still by far my favorite. You can not only see, but feel the pride and hard work of the cemetery crew."

"In a time when you see so many negative news reports it is a pleasant reminder that people like Vance are giving," said Mark Alberts of Oak Hill Cemetery. "It is



Submitted photos

Vance Pues worked on the tombstone of a relative buried in Riverside Cemetery in Oshkosh who died in 1864 at age 6. His cleaning efforts are shown before and after.

a pleasure to work with Vance and see the quality, passion and enthusiasm he has for his work. His willingness to give back is outstanding."

Pues is also teaming up with the Neenah Historical Society to clean the gravestones of those being honored in the upcoming Cemetery Walk. The event will be held July 27 at Oak Hill and focus on the stories of four individuals who came to Neenah in the mid-1800s and helped establish the community.

"Being trusted with the initial cleaning and upkeep of some of Neenah's oldest veterans' gravestones at Oak Hill Cemetery Memorial is huge for me and makes me very proud," Pues said.

All of this encouragement and the lack of a business that offers this service has led Pues to start his own memorial and monument cleaning service called Monumental Restoration that will serve the Fox Valley area.

"I am excited to offer this service to help families care for their loved ones," he said.

## New Wisconsin highway map available

A valuable planning tool for summer road trips across Wisconsin is now available in print and online.

The latest version of the Official Wisconsin State Highway Map is a collaborative effort between the state Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of Tourism.

The new map reflects several changes since it was last printed in 2019, including:

- Populations based on 2020 Census data in the Cities and Villages index as

well as the front and back map figures.

- Amtrak service inset map updated with latest service data.
- Villages incorporated since 2019.
- Wisconsin's six Welcome Centers added.

Free printed copies can be picked up at many locations, including Wisconsin rest areas, Welcome Centers and Travel Information Centers. Single copies of the map are available by calling Travel Wisconsin at 1-800-432-8747 or ordering from Travel-Wisconsin.com.

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# Calendar of events

## Friday, June 2

Fused by Numbers: A Women's Collaborative Mural, 1:30 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass  
HAKAS celebration, Barrel 41 Brewing Co., 5 p.m., 1132 S. Commercial St.

## Saturday, June 3

HAKAS celebration, Barrel 41 Brewing Co., 5 p.m., 1132 S. Commercial St.

## Sunday, June 4

Neenah Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

## Monday, June 5

Storytime, 10 a.m., The Plaza & Globe

Coffee

## Tuesday, June 6

Neenah Community Band Concert, 7 p.m., Riverside Park Pavilion

## Thursday, June 8

Live Music Series: Stewart Ellyson, 6 p.m., Ground Round Grill & Bar patio

## Saturday, June 10

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Doty Island Rummage Sale, 9 a.m., various locations

Neenah-Nodaway Yacht Club Sailing Open House, 10 a.m., Riverside Park

Wingz Trilogy Challenge disc golf tournament, O'Hauser Park, Fox Crossing

## Sunday, June 11

Family Days at the Octagon House, 11 a.m., 343 Smith St.

## Business news roundup

The Fox Cities Chamber has partnered with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to expand its hours and have a consultant on site one day a week. Wisconsin SBDC at UW Oshkosh now holds office hours at the Chamber every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Business owners seeking guidance growing their small business, or those thinking of starting a business, are welcome to reach out for no-cost, confidential consulting and business education. Last year the local center assisted more than 260 Fox Valley area businesses to obtain nearly \$5.4 million in financing.

Dr. Mira Iliescu-Levine has joined

ThedaCare as chief medical officer of network development and innovation, where she will work to advance care delivery for patients and families of northeast and central Wisconsin. Iliescu-Levine held various leadership roles with AMITA and Ascension, specifically in TeleICU/Tele Health Services. She has also worked for Sinai Health System holding various leadership positions including chief medical officer, chair of department of internal medicine and president of medical staff. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care at Chicago Medical School.



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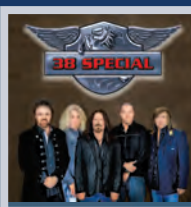
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**June 22**  
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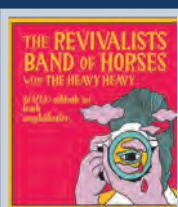
**June 29**  
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Mt Olive  
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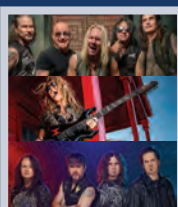
**July 13**  
Pablo Cruise  
The Jimmy's  
Lil' Davy Max



**July 20**  
Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue & Ziggy Marley  
Mavis Staples  
Robert Randolph Band



**August 3**  
The Revivalists  
Band of Horses  
The Heavy Heavy




**August 10**  
Warrant  
Lita Ford  
Firehouse



**August 17**  
Tower of Power  
Alex McMurray Band w/Paul Sanchez  
The Pocket Kings


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## Commemorating Neenah High School Alumni!

Celebrate yourself or a loved one in this special Neenah High School keepsake "Senior Yearbook" feature that will publish in a special Neenah High School section on August 25, 2023. Enjoy being part of a visit through the decades of community members near and far who are members of the NHS history. All senior photos will be published chronologically with Favorite Teacher and Favorite Memory (see example below).

2004



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# Monarchs return in ever-dwindling numbers

By Rob Zimmer  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Monarchs have returned to much of our area over the past week and excited gardeners are gearing up for a busy season of growing host plants and nectar sources for the regal butterflies.

With the recent release of data from monarch colonies on their Mexican overwintering grounds, once again, monarch lovers were hit hard with bad news this year. From population estimates, monarch numbers overwintering in Mexico last winter decreased once again, this time by 22%.

Monarch lovers here in Neenah, therefore, must be more diligent than ever when it comes to planting host plants and nectar plants to help build numbers over the summer season.

Each winter, on the cool mountain slopes of interior Mexico, monarchs are counted by researchers as they cling to the trees in large, mostly dormant clusters. Estimates of both population of these amazing insects, as well as winter habitat size in acreage and hectares are made.

Both population and amount of acreage available for monarchs decreased over the past winter.

Habitat loss in Mexico is one of the biggest factors in monarch population declines. Each year, more and more of this valuable habitat, located in the mountains of central Mexico, is lost due to illegal logging and to development. Combined with the loss of monarchs locally here in Wisconsin and other states due to habitat loss, development, pesticide use, changes in agricultural practices and other factors, the butterflies are in decline once again.



Photo by Rob Zimmer

Monarch butterflies are in need of habitats that best preserve their populations.

As gardeners and plant lovers, we can do much to help sustain monarch numbers, at least here in our area. By helping to build strong monarch populations here in the Midwest during the summer season, we give the overwintering population a better chance.

The more monarchs that make the journey, the more monarchs that hopefully

will overwinter successfully and return to Southern states in spring where the population cycle begins again.

Planting native wildflowers is, of course, a benefit to monarchs, as well as many other pollinators. Providing monarchs with a rich supply of fresh, native milkweed throughout the season is also vital.

As you likely know, monarch caterpil-

lars will only host upon species of native milkweed. Therefore, the more milkweed we can provide, the stronger the population will be when migration time comes in August and September.

Watter Farms, Neenah, offers a great selection of milkweeds for monarchs, as well as several native wildflowers.

"We host over 25 varieties of native wildflowers," said owner Brian Hans.

In addition to these native plants, Watter Farms, also offers a variety of annuals that monarchs enjoy. Verbena, salvias in many colors and many other colorful, long-blooming annuals are all great choices.

Some of the best host plants for monarchs include swamp milkweed, orange milkweed, common milkweed and whorled milkweed.

In addition to these host plants, it is important to provide nectar plants, especially for late in the season, August into October, when monarchs are on the move.

Late season native nectar plants include New England aster, ironweed, Joe Pye weed, black eyed Susan, purple coneflower, goldenrod, as well as annual flowers such as cosmos, zinnia, Mexican sunflower, salvias, heliotrope, tall verbena, lantana and others.

Look for many of these at The Garden, Neenah, as well, where great care is given to organically grown plants of all varieties.

By incorporating all of these plants, and others, in your landscape, you give monarchs a fighting chance.

## Neenah High cites top senior students

Neenah High School's top senior students in academics, fine arts and athletics were honored as senior class award recipients for the Class of 2023.

Eric Wang won the Outstanding Math Student award, Dominic Corrente earned the Outstanding Social Studies Student award, Ben Hansen received the Outstanding English Student award and Leah Kodama-Forget won Outstanding Science Student honors.

In world languages, Sam Rohlwing was the top French student, Kas Austin was the top Chinese student and Ellie Mertes won top Spanish student honors. In Technology and Engineering, Nick Novak won for engineering, Preston Hella and Hayden Hintz won for automotive, Eion Hinkle was the top woods student and Mason Romzek was the top welding student.

Outstanding Family and Consumer Science Student awards went to Kaelyn Weinke, Skylar Kelley and Courtney O'Keefe. Outstanding Art Student awards went to Piper Alberg, Victoria Czap, Jensen Haese, Molly Henry, Alicia Langlois, Ellie Mercado and Nick Miller. Katelynn Loveless received the Outstanding Business Student award.

In music, Joe Kaiser claimed the National Orchestra Award and Louis Arm-

strong Jazz Award, Drake Jesse won the National Choral Award and Evie Gruber received the John Philip Sousa Outstanding Senior Band Student Award. Bridger Wenzel was named the Neenah Community Band outstanding senior and Elizabeth Risgaard received the Semper Fidelis Marine Corps Band award.

In athletics, Jack Dorner was named Male Athlete of the Year and Lauren Tears was named Female Athlete of the Year. Awards recognizing spirit and competition were presented to Sage Kirklewski, who won the Kim Dodge Spirit Award, and Jackson Schlomann, Jayden Sheppard and Eduardo Rangel, who shared the Jerry Gollnick Award.

Awards presented to athletes for academic success, character and leadership went to Rachel Frank, who won the Connie Lambert-Jan Wisehart Trophy and David Murphy, who won the Marlon Batterman Trophy.

The Mel Northway Awards for hard work and dedication to their teams went to Kodoma-Forget for girls and Jack Zemellock for boys.

Dorner and Frank were recognized for nomination as WIAA Scholar Athletes. Six students were letterwinners in three sports: Tears, Frank, Novak, Dorner, Rangel and Layton Brandt.

## Shattuck school offers final open house

The public is invited to celebrate Shattuck School for the final time in its 95-year history with an open house from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday.

People are welcome to arrive anytime in the two-hour window. Items or memorabilia will not be available for sale or to be taken from the property.

Visitors also had the opportunity to take a self-guided tour with students for the last day of school Wednesday.

The middle school for grades 7-8 will close when Neenah opens a new high school and middle school students move into the existing high school. Shattuck was the district's high school from 1928-72.

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Submitted photo

## Church birthday party

Grace Evangelical Lutheran in Neenah marked 75 years this month with a celebration event at its 1390 Breezewood Lane church. Pastor Nathaniel Buchner leads the congregation. On April 4th, 1948, Grace Lutheran held its first service in the Neenah Recreation Building on Park Avenue and a month later was officially organized as a congregation. Grace Lutheran Chapel was dedicated Dec. 11, 1949.

## Time outdoors can benefit mental health

ThedaCare Communications

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in five adult Americans experience some form of mental illness each year. There are more than 200 diagnoses identified as mental illness. In recent years, spending time in nature has been identified as one significant way to improve mental health.

“What’s important for everyone to understand is that experiencing a struggle with mental health is not uncommon,” said Ashley Bartha, a counselor at ThedaCare Behavioral Health Walk-In Care-Neenah. “When we’re living with a mental health concern, it’s easy to feel alone and think that no one understands what we’re going through. That’s not true, many others have had similar experiences and will understand.”

Bartha defined mental health concerns as conditions involving changes in emotion, thinking or behavior (or a combination of these). Mental health can be associated with distress and/or problems functioning in social, work or family activities.

“When thoughts or feelings prevent you from coping with everyday life, then it’s time to seek some professional assistance,” said Bartha. “And we want our communities to know our care teams are here to help.”

She noted that major life events such as job changes, the ending of a relationship or the serious illness or death of a family member or friend can cause someone to

experience a change in their mental health.

“Depression, lack of support and anxiety with the unknown are common mental health concerns that anyone can experience at difficult times,” said Bartha. “Then, there are other mental health concerns that follow us throughout our whole life, and most are treatable. This is a medical issue, just like heart disease or diabetes.”

Bartha added that being in an unpleasant environment can cause us to feel anxious, sad or depressed.

“Those are the kind of feelings that could trigger some type of mental health distress,” Bartha said. “On the flip side, being in a pleasant environment can positively impact mental health and physical well-being by reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones.”

Research suggests that being in nature can provide various benefits, including improved attention, lower stress, better mood, reduced risk of psychiatric disorders and even upticks in empathy and cooperation. International studies have specifically pinpointed the amount of time a person needs to spend in touch with nature during a normal week, and those studies recommend 120 minutes.

“What’s key is the connection to nature, the experience of feeling part of something greater than ourselves and the tactile experience of touching things,” Bartha said. “Humans are curious. Being out in nature allows us to focus on things outside of ourselves and be more mindful and present in the moment. It provides respite for an overactive mind, which we all experience at times in today’s hustle and bustle society.”



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# Children's Fund

FROM PAGE 1

From there, he traveled to Zimbabwe, which set off a chain reaction. Soon he was getting offers to travel to Uganda and Kenya. He found that once he trained the people in each country they needed to be equipped, which springboarded him into relief work.

"They needed food, they needed vehicles," he said. "I think we've shipped seven



**Bruenning**

or eight vehicles, we've shipped tractors and plows, rototillers and printing presses and agricultural seeds, a lot of stuff."

The humble origins of the nonprofit have since grown exponentially. In 2021, it brought in nearly \$80 million, with 99.7% of the revenue going directly to program services. The support comes from public donations through a direct mailing program and social media fundraising.

The organization is staffed almost entirely by volunteers, with only three paid employees, which helps keep costs low.

ICF was sending about 25 shipping containers of food, medicine, clothing and various supplies to Africa each year. In recent years, Bruenning found that purchasing the supplies in each country saves on logistics and cost.

"As a result of the cost savings of buying in country, we're able to provide orphanages and our partners with not just rice, but we've been able to now send powdered milk and different meats," he said. "Sometimes it's pig's feed or pork products or smoked fish. We are really supplying them



*A girl's college is being built in Liberia, West Africa, through organizing efforts of the International Children's Fund.*

with everything they need to feed a lot of people."

ICF has partnered with several organizations to increase the volume of supplies shipped overseas. Feed My Starving Children out of Minnesota often provides pallets of food. A company out of Europe provides millions of dollars of pharmaceuticals each year, including malaria medications, antibiotics and antivirals.

ICF ships about 32,000 mosquito nets to Liberia, Ghana and Uganda each year, which are distributed free of charge, primarily to pregnant mothers. The organization drills water wells in several countries, with 15 wells completed so far this year.

"Clean water saves a lot of lives," Bruenning said.

ICF is just finishing construction of a new clinic and an orphanage in Togo, West Africa. In Liberia, ICF has a medical clinic that treats about 900 people per month. They are also constructing a Girl's College in that country.

"When you see the lives that are being changed through nursing school and medical school, we have schools and clinics that are changing a lot of lives," Bruenning said.

ICF partners with orphanages in several countries to send food, schoolbooks and laptops. Each year, the organization sends

out more than 1.5 million meals.

"We are providing an awful lot of help between the food, clean water and mosquito nets, and providing the clinic with various pharmaceuticals that they need," Bruenning said.

He shared the inspirational story of Mathew Jo, an orphan at My Brother's Keeper in Monrovia, Liberia, who arrived when he was 7. Both of his parents had died and his leg had recently been amputated.

Jo successfully overcame the odds and made a dramatic recovery. He pursued his education and passion for soccer and eventually tried out and was accepted as a member of the Liberian National Soccer team.

Jo continues to play professional soccer as an amputee and was presented with the Golden Boot award for finishing the 2021 Amputee Nations Cup as the top scorer.

Bruenning said being able to support and change the lives of people like Jo is what motivates him to continue.

"A majority of the people in the United States are among the richest people in the world and when you see people that are living in mud huts and trying to find something to eat every day, it's a whole new ballgame," he said.

He added that when he brings people overseas to experience the reality of Third World countries, it inspires them to help the cause.

"Because when they go, they see, they touch, they smell, they taste, and it changes their lives," he said.

Executive director Fran Seidl has been with ICF for three years and said she loves the work.

"I'm able to help people and I'm able to go to sleep at night knowing that somewhere, someplace, I've made a difference in the world," she said.

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Neenah News

Deteriorating billboards owned by Lamar Central Outdoors are the subject of litigation between the company and city of Neenah.

## Billboards

FROM PAGE 1

Bay Road billboards. Lamar sought permission to repair or replace four defective I-beams on the Schultz Drive sign and seven defective I-beams on the Green Bay Road sign.

Documents state that a month later, community development director Chris Haese emailed Lamar to notify them that the Green Bay Road sign cannot be repaired because it's nonconforming. The city defines a nonconforming sign as "a sign that does not meet code regulations."

Haese told Lamar that the city cannot issue a permit for the Green Bay Road billboard and would instead be issuing an order for removal. Lamar then received a notice of violation citing Neenah's sign ordinance language that deals with dangerous, unmaintained and abandoned signs and requiring that the billboard be removed. It has not received notice about whether the permit for the Schultz Drive sign repair was approved.

Lamar first appealed the denial, with the city affirming its decision in January 2022. Lamar then filed a lawsuit, asking for the permit denial to be reversed and for the court to determine that Neenah's sign ordinance is unconstitutional under the First Amendment.

According to Lamar, when the Green Bay Road billboard was constructed in 1965, it met the requirements of Neenah's zoning ordinance. Lamar has owned the billboard for nine years; but because the Green Bay Road sign contains the "off-premises" advertising distinction, it is classified as a nonconforming sign.

Lamar contends that under state statute, signs lawfully erected but not conforming to the requirements are declared nonconforming, but are not subject to removal, noting it has a right to perform maintenance on its billboard, including the repairs found in its application for sign permit.

Under the city's ordinance, it permits nonconforming signs that were in place at the time the ordinance was enacted to be continued, with exceptions. One exception is that a nonconforming sign may not be continued if structurally altered in any way other than normal maintenance and repair.

The chapter also states that nonconforming signs may not be continued if the sign "fails to conform to this chapter regarding maintenance and repair, construction standards, or dangerous and abandoned signs."

Lamar challenges the city's application of the ordinance, calling it nonsensical.

"Under the city of Neenah's theory, a sign (including a billboard) must be repaired and kept in good structural conditions, however, a nonconforming sign (which is still a sign under the sign ordi-

nance) cannot be structurally repaired in such a way," Lamar wrote in legal filings.

Lamar noted that if it submitted an application to repair three of the billboards' seven I-beams, that would be approved and then it could submit another application to repair three I-beams, which would also be approved, accomplishing what it intended to do by submitting its permit.

According to Lamar, the sign ordinance is an unconstitutional infringement of free speech rights because it states that off-premises signs are prohibited within the city.

Lamar contends that distinguishing between on-premises and off-premises signs is a content-based restriction, noting the city also places additional restrictions on the types of signs permitted in certain zoning districts.

Lamar contends that because the sign ordinance requires a permit to be issued it gives "public officials the power to deny use of a forum in advance of actual expression," which is a prior restraint not allowed under the First Amendment.

Both parties are due in court for a scheduling conference in the case June 9.

The other two lawsuits the city is engaged in over the ordinance were brought by the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty (WILL) and the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) Litigation Center.

WILL filed a lawsuit in federal court in January on behalf of residents Tim and Megan Florek, contending the city's efforts to have signs removed from homes in the Shattuck Middle School neighborhood protesting rezoning efforts are unconstitutional. WILL argues that the ordinance imposes content-based regulations, with restrictions that vary depending on whether the sign is for construction, political campaigns, promotional, yard sale or subdivision.

In April, Judge William Griesbach granted a preliminary injunction in favor of WILL, preventing the city from enforcing the sign ordinance. WILL is engaged in settlement discussions with the city. If the case is not settled, both parties have briefs due in November and the judge is expected to issue a written ruling after that.

Also in April, WMC filed suit in Winnebago County Circuit Court on behalf of residents Gail and Margaret Minks and Gary and Kim Novak. WMC argues that Neenah's ordinance prohibits signs that advertise off-premises businesses and commercial advertising on parked vehicles, and imposes time-related restrictions for certain signs. A decision hearing in that case is scheduled for Aug. 24.

City attorney David Rashid told Neenah News in January that the city's ordinance does not violate the First Amendment because it regulates any such signs throughout the city regardless of the message appearing on them. Rashid said the city cannot comment on pending litigation.

## Lakeside expands summer program

Neenah News

A nonprofit organization's commitment to drawing out the abilities of its working associates is expanding its summer program that promotes teenage creativity and play.

Lakeside Packaging Plus started a Community Summer Program for just a few teens with physical or cognitive disabilities at its Oshkosh location last year to help them pursue their interests and build on social skills they learn during the school year. Lakeside's other location is at 1040 Breezewood Lane in Neenah.

Community services director Kyra Churchill said the program will be serving about 12 students this year and expand into wellness and music inclusion that leads to positive long-term outcomes.

"We have always known that we wanted to see the program grow and be able to support more students during the summer," Churchill said. "We learned a lot last summer and after presenting to the county about how we are expanding into health and wellness options and providing a space dedicated to teens, we had even more interest."

Plans include a partnership with Special Olympics and the Reflections of Grace dance studio in Oshkosh. The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation sponsored the program additions through a Youth Summer Grant.

Churchill said they hope that in attending the summer program, teen associates use other services provided by Lakeside after high school such as Day Services, the Community Day Services – Building Full Lives program, Group Supported Employment or its Employment Services department.

"We like to focus on personal growth



Photo from Lakeside Packaging Plus

Students take part in a cafe class focused on nonverbal skills at Lakeside Packaging Plus.

and continuing to work on skills that they are using during the school year – encouraging healthy relationships and social interactions, finding creative ways to express themselves, and incorporating movement and exercise in their week," she said.

A renovated youth room will be dedicated with a ribbon cutting event at 4 p.m. June 8 that will serve as a planning area and place to relax, connect and play games. Fox Communities Credit Union is sponsoring the renovations and the Fox Club name will recognize its support.

The room will feature a computer lab, air hockey, other games, bistro-style sitting area, sensory lighting and a smart board. A large mural of Oshkosh will include partner locations.

Lakeside hopes to expand the service to its Neenah location in the next few years, but in the meantime summer students are coming from across the region.

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# Downtown farmers market prepares for Shattuck return

Future Neenah brings its 31st annual farmers market to Shattuck Park from 8 a.m. to noon starting June 10 and running every Saturday through Oct. 14.

The Neenah Farmers Market has more than 40 home-grown and hand-crafter vendors. There is live music each week from 10 a.m. to noon sponsored by Brehmer Law.

Kids' Days at the Market are back and will be held June 17 and Oct. 14. There will be FREE themed kid's activities at the Market from 8:00AM to 12:00PM including activities such as crafts, face painting, bounce houses and so much more!

A free Loyalty Card program offers vis-



itors a way to track booth visits that can earn a special gift and market tokens.

The market accepts Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food share benefits made possible by a grant from Kimberly-Clark Cares and has WIC (Women, Infants, Children) vendors.

Parking is available in the Neenah Center tower lots and surrounding street parking. More information is at [neenah.org](http://neenah.org) or call 920-722-1920.

**NEENAH COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR CAMPAIGN 2023**

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*We need your help to provide backpacks, school supplies and school appropriate clothing for the coming school year.*

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.

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- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 for shoes
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# Public library calendar

## June 5

11:30 a.m.: Free Summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under

## June 6

10 a.m.: Toddle Time  
10:30 a.m.: Library on the Move at Fritse Park  
11:30 a.m.: Free Summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under  
12:30 p.m.: Family Program: Dare to Dream

## June 7

9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)  
9:30 a.m.: Bibliocycle at Washington Park  
9:30, 10, 10:30 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under

## June 8

10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under  
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night  
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup  
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

## June 9

10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under

## June 12

11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under  
7 p.m.: Short Story Night at Lion's Tail Brewing Co.

## June 13

10 a.m.: Toddle Time  
10:30 a.m.: Library on the Move at Fritse Park  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under  
12:30 p.m.: Family Program: Beach Dance Party  
4:30 p.m.: Free Legal Assistance Clinic  
7 p.m.: The Next Chapter on Facebook Live

## June 14

9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)  
9:30 a.m.: Bibliocycle at Neenah Pool  
9:30, 10, 10:30 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under

## June 15

10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under  
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night  
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup  
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

## June 16

6:30 a.m.: Sunrise Yoga  
9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Balance & Strength  
10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under

## June 17

10:30 a.m.: Tween Scene: Pot Decorating and Planting

## June 19

11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under  
1:30 p.m.: Memory Cafe: Fishing  
6:30 p.m.: Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: "Finlay Donovan is Killing It" by Elle Cosimano.

## June 20

10 a.m.: Toddle Time  
10:30 a.m.: Library on the Move at Fritse Park  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under  
12:30 p.m.: Family Program: Super Hero Capes

## June 21

9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)  
9:30 a.m.: Bibliocycle at Washington Park  
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under  
4 p.m.: Library Board meeting  
7 p.m.: Virtual Humor Writing Workshop. Email [zaborowske@neenahlibrary.org](mailto:zaborowske@neenahlibrary.org) to register.

## June 22

10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under  
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night  
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup  
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

## June 23

11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under

## June 26

10 a.m.: MMBK - Miss Benson's Beetle  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under

## June 27

10 a.m.: Toddle Time  
10:30 a.m.: Library on the Move at Fritse Park  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under  
12:30 p.m.: Family Program: Bubbles!  
6:30 p.m.: Movie Talks: "Knives Out"

## June 28

9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)  
9:30 a.m.: Bibliocycle at Neenah Pool  
9:30, 10, 10:30 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under

## June 29

10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under  
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night  
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup  
6:00pm: Ukulele Open Jam

## June 30

6:30 a.m.: Sunrise Yoga  
11:30 a.m.: Free summer lunches for kids ages 18 and under

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# Rockets ready to run, jump, throw at state meet

Neenah News

The Neenah High School boys and girls teams are nearly mirror images of each other heading into this weekend's WIAA State Track and Field meet in La Crosse.

Both groups qualified two individuals and three relays to the state meet from last week's sectional at West Bend and both groups have the potential to bring some hardware back home with them.

The boys are led by sophomore Grant Dean, who will participate in two individual events as well as run on a pair of the Rockets' relays.

Dean finished second in the 200 meters at sectionals and was third in the long jump, and will be competing for the first time in La Crosse after making the trip as an alternate on the Rockets' 800-meter relay team as a freshman.

Dean is seeded in the bottom half of the field in each of his events, however, in a race that can be decided by hundredths of a second and a jumping event where every quarter-inch matters, the sophomore is certainly capable of moving up in the final standings.

"Grant is just having an amazing season," Neenah boys head coach Kurt Krueger said. "I think it's just going to boil down to that day and see what happens. You never know what you are going to run into at La Crosse."

Neenah's other individual boys qualifier is senior Blake Dietzen, who overcame a late-season ankle injury to qualify for state in both the shot put and discus.

It is the first trip to state for Dietzen, after only coming out for track and field as a junior. He won the sectional title in the discus and is seeded 10th in the event for the state meet – about 4 feet out of the top six – while he took third in the shot put at sectionals.

Dietzen did not compete at the Fox Valley Association meet because of injury and Krueger hopes he will be fully healthy by this weekend.

"It's really cool and a great story," Krueger said. "He was having a really good season and then completely rolled his ankle in our meet in Madison. At regionals, it was more about making sure he got a decent power throw for both shot and disc and we thought that might be able to get him through. Hopefully by the end of this week, he will be 100 percent."

Neenah's boys qualified in the 800-meter, 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter relay, finishing second in all three races at sectionals.

The Rockets enter the meet seeded just outside of the top six in the 1,600-meter relay where the team consists of seniors Charles Fredricksen and Ethan Snider, junior Owen Wise and Dean.

Dean then joins the senior trio of Snider, Jack Zemlock and Jase Jenkins in the 800-meter relay, while the Rockets' 3,200-meter relay team is made up of seniors Drew Gentile and Carson Timm, junior Alex Thayer and sophomore Braedy Klawikowski.

"I'm thinking they can go a little bit faster and I know deep in their minds and hearts, the guys think they can go faster. I think we can make up a little here, a little there and just be a little bit quicker," Krueger said. "The adrenaline of the state meet usually gets people worked up that much more and then for sure the level of competition and now you are in the thick of things."

"They are a great group of guys. We have quite a few seniors in there so they kind

have been leading all season."

The Neenah girls will be represented in individual events by junior Lydia Delene and sophomore Mazie Olkowski and will have all four relays running on the Memorial Stadium track this weekend.

"It's very exciting," said Neenah girls head coach Kelly Ellington regarding taking such a large group to state. "It really shows that we have been able to round out our team a little bit more this year."

Delene finished third in the discus at sectionals and is about 10-feet out of the top 10 among the state qualifiers, based on their sectional throws.

Olkowski is making her second straight trip to state in the 3,200 meters, where she finished 23rd as one of four freshmen in the field. She is seeded 11th in this year's field, with her time at sectionals – where she finished third – about 40 seconds faster than what she ran at state a year ago.

"Mazie is a very confident athlete, which is cool to see," Ellington said. "She's excited to have a better performance than she's had at her past state opportunities. We're working to keep her mindset positive all of the time and get her ready to race as hard as possible."

Olkowski will also run on Neenah's 3,200-meter relay team, which won a sectional title and also includes senior Lauren Tears, junior Rachel Dietrich and freshman Natalie Willes.

The foursome is seeded fifth and is about eight seconds off the pace of top-seeded Stevens Point and Ellington is hoping the group can drop some time at state.

"If they have a good day, which I think they are capable of and ready to do, they could set a PR and definitely take some seconds off," Ellington said. "It would be cool if we could make it into the 9:30s. It will be a great race. It's always fast and fun and full of excitement at the stadium."

Neenah also advanced to state with a second-place finish in the 400-meter relay and with third-place finishes in both the 800-meter and 1,600-meter relays and will be seeded in the bottom half of the field in each event.

The 400-meter relay foursome is juniors Chloe Dwyer and Abbie Fischer, sophomore Julia Rangel and freshman Brynn Fox, while the 800-meter relay team consists of Fischer, Rangel and juniors Ava Schalow and Lily Granditzke.

The 1,600-meter relay team is made up of Tears, Schalow, Dietrich and Granditzke.

## Zephyrs will have three individuals competing

St. Mary Catholic advanced three individuals to the state meet from last week's sectional meet at Horicon and all three will be making their first appearances at the state meet.

Topping the list of qualifiers is sophomore Nolie Anderson, who finished first at the sectional meet in the discus and is seeded fourth going into the state meet. Her sectional throw of 121 feet, 5 inches is 4 feet behind the top qualifier in Division 3.

The Zephyrs other two qualifiers are senior Charlie Nackers and junior Ashton Post.

Nackers tied for second in the high jump and will be one of six competitors who will enter the state meet with a seed height of 6 feet. Post finished fourth in the pole vault at the sectional meet and will be the only competitor with a seed height under 12 feet.

## Prep sports roundup

### GOLF

#### Lynch advances to state as team falls just short

St. Mary Catholic senior Spencer Lynch will return to the WIAA Division 3 state golf meet next week and was nearly accompanied by the rest of the Zephyr squad.

Lynch, who tied for the second-lowest score on the front nine with a 37, shot a 79 at Hunters Glen Golf Course in Crivitz to finish fifth overall at the sectional meet Tuesday. He grabbed the third individual qualifying spot from the sectional, finishing three shots behind the co-medalists.

Lynch finished tied for fifth at the state

meet last year.

The Zephyrs finished tied for third in the team standings with the top two teams qualifying for the state meet. St. Mary Catholic shot a team score of 344 to tie with Bonduel, two shots behind Lena. Newman Catholic won the sectional title with a score of 337.

Danny Griffith and Cole Uhlenbrauck each tied for 14th place with rounds of 86 for the Zephyrs, while Ethon Moschea added a 93.



**Lynch**

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 15

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# Rockets' season ends in sectional loss to Wildcats

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Of course there were tears after the final out of Tuesday's 3-0 loss to Oshkosh West in a WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal softball game in Oshkosh.

But for the players dressed in the Neenah red – especially the group of 10 seniors – it seemed less about what the numbers were on the scoreboard and more about not being able to take the field as a group again.

"I'm not ready for them to go," Neenah head coach Steven Gross said of his contingent of seniors. "This senior group is something special that doesn't happen very often. They have completely transformed who we are as a program and they have done it with their heads high. They will be very missed next year."

The year before that senior group stepped foot inside Neenah High School, the Rockets won just two games overall and were at the bottom of the Fox Valley Association.

The seniors will leave having reached sectionals in each of the past two seasons – the Rockets made it to the sectional final last year – both times falling to a strong Oshkosh West squad.



Neenah News

Senior Savanna Knuth had two of the Rockets' three hits in the game Tuesday.

It's been quite a transformation for the program and it was done with more than just an influx of ability or a timely coaching change.

"The record wasn't the best (when we came in) but that isn't everything, but the team chemistry wasn't good either," said senior Savanna Knuth. "The 10 seniors that came in, really brought the energy. It wasn't really the talent – and we have amazing talent – it was just the instant way things clicked and the energy we brought that really changed it up."

And the Rockets played its brand of softball all the way through the final out against the fourth-ranked and top-seeded Wildcats.

"We were all pretty nervous because Oshkosh West is such a good team, but we just wanted to play how Neenah always plays with our energy," Knuth said. "We know we are really (loud) in the dugout, but that's just how we play and we wanted to come out here to do that."

On Tuesday, the Rockets ran into Oshkosh West ace Brianna Bougie and couldn't scrape together enough offense to generate a run.

Neenah finished with just three hits and four total baserunners in the game and never had a runner advance past second base.

"Obviously to win the game, we have to score a run and Bougie has done a phenomenal job all season, any time we have seen her, of moving the ball and getting us off-balance," Gross said. "We put the ball in play, we just couldn't find any gaps. Her defense did a great job behind her."

Knuth tallied two of the Rockets' three hits in the game, leading off the second with a single and then getting a two-out base hit in the fourth.

"She's a great pitcher, her spin is ridiculous but I just looked for those good inside pitches, that's my strong suit, and she gave that to me," Knuth said. "Honestly, when I go up to the plate, I always think, 'Just don't be stupid.' That's what my mentality is at the plate."

Rockets' ace Morgan Harwood was



Neenah News

Neenah catcher Piper Alberg loses her helmet after tagging out Oshkosh West's Braellee Jodarski on a play at the plate in the fourth inning Tuesday.

matching Bougie pitch for pitch in the early innings. The senior pitched around a one-out double in the second inning and then struck out the side in the third.

In the fourth inning, Harwood got some help from her defense as Kaylee Marhefke made a diving catch in left field to rob the Wildcats Laina Hammen of a hit. Then, the Rockets executed a perfect relay on a ball hit to the right-field fence to throw a runner out at the plate with catcher Piper Alberg withstanding contact to hold on to the ball for an out.

Harwood, who finished with nine strikeouts in the game, fanned the next batter for the final out of the frame.

"There has never been a doubt whatsoever, regardless of the outcome of any game, as far as our effort goes," Gross said. "They trust one another. They play for one another and they just have fun. They worked their butts off tonight and things just didn't fall our way."

Oshkosh West would get on the board with a two-out run in the bottom of the fifth inning and the Wildcats added two insurance runs in the sixth for the final margin.

Neenah's best chance to score came in the top of the fifth when McKenna Herm smacked a one-out single and Taelyn Bauer drew a two-out walk, but the Rockets were unable to push either runner across home plate.

The loss ends Neenah's season with a 20-7 record and even though graduation will take a sizable chunk of the team's roster, Gross believes this group of seniors have left a strong path for others to follow.

"There is just so much love from our upperclassmen to even our youth kids," Gross said. "Their effort and their work has definitely paid off and made those younger kids want to come in and compete like they did and I think that will help keep the program strong."

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# Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 13

## TENNIS

### Rockets have another strong sectional showing

Neenah captured titles at four flights, finished second at two others as the Rockets claimed the WIAA Division 1 sectional crown last week at the Fox Cities Racquet Club.

The title earned the Rockets the program's 20th appearance at the WIAA Team State Tournament to be held June 9-10 at the Nielsen Tennis Center. Neenah, which finished second last year, is slated to face Brookfield Central.

The Rockets are also competing at the WIAA Individual State Tournament and have two entries in both the singles and doubles brackets.

Neenah's No. 1 doubles team of Satchel Moss and Ben Kotchen continued their impressive season by rolling to a sectional title. Moss and Kotchen won all three matches at sectionals in straight sets, losing just eight games total on the day.

The No. 2 doubles team of Brady Hildrath and Andrew Werner earned a special qualifier berth after taking second at sectionals. The duo won its first match in straight sets but lost a tight finals match to an Oshkosh West pairing, 7-6, 6-2.

The Rockets' Drew Kearny and Zack Bitter earned the sectional title at No. 3 doubles. The duo won both matches in straight sets, including a 6-1, 6-1 convincing win in the finals match.

Neenah's top two singles players will be competing at the individual state meet.

David Murphy, who competed at the indi-

vidual state meet last year, earned an at-large qualifier spot after losing his No. 1 singles sectional quarterfinal match in three sets.

The Rockets' No. 2 singles player Carl Hein qualified for state by winning the sectional title, breezing to a pair of wins to advance. Hein blanked Sheboygan North's Oliver Quintero 6-0, 6-0 in the semifinals and then beat Owen Otto of Hartford, 6-2, 6-3 in the finals.

Brady Lawatsch also claimed a sectional title at the No. 4 flight, winning both of his sectional matches by 6-0, 6-0 margins, while Tristan Yun finished second at No. 3 singles, falling in a tight 7-6, 6-2 in the finals.

The Rockets totaled 46 points at the sectional to finish comfortably ahead of second-place Oshkosh West with 38 points.

### Zephyrs qualify two flights to state

St. Mary Catholic advanced both of its No. 1 flights to the individual state meet being held this weekend in Madison.

The Zephyrs' No. 1 singles player Wesley Auth earned his second straight trip to state with a third-place finish.

Auth won a three-set match over Plymouth's Owen Plate in the first round but fell to eventual sectional champion Ma Watchmaker of University School in the semifinals. He came back to beat Ben McGuire of St. Mary's Springs in the third-place match, 6-3, 6-4.

The No. 1 doubles team of Grant and Henry Bergstrom also advanced, placing fourth at sectionals. The duo needed three sets to win their quarterfinal match and then lost in the semifinals and the third-place match.

The Zephyrs had two other flights qualify for sectionals.

Nicholas Miller dropped both of his matches at No. 3 singles to take fourth,

while Ethan Tines and George Staner lost both of their matches – both in three sets – to take fourth at No. 4 doubles.

## BASEBALL

### Neenah falls in 9 innings to Hartford in regional

The Rockets held Hartford scoreless for eight innings but the Orioles tallied a run with two outs in the ninth to edge Neenah, 1-0, in a WIAA Division 1 regional contest on Tuesday.

Beckett Davidson pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings to start the game for Neenah, while Mack Krause kept the shutout going until Hartford pushed a run across with two outs in the ninth inning. The two combined to allow just five hits, while Davidson finished with nine strikeouts.

Will Sorenson finished 2-for-3 with a walk for the Rockets, while AJ Price and Andrew Carlson also had hits in the game for Neenah.

### St. Mary Catholic ousted by Mishicot

The Zephyrs lost a 2-0 decision to Mishicot in a WIAA Division 3 regional semifinal Tuesday.

No other information was available from the game.

St. Mary Catholic advanced to the regional semifinal with an 8-0 win over Manitowoc Lutheran last Thursday.

Owen Ripley and Fisher Mackenzie combined for the shutout on the mound, while Mackenzie finished 3-for-4 at the plate with a triple and two RBIs at the plate.

## SOFTBALL

### Zephyrs drop sectional semifinal to Algoma

The Wolves struck for two runs in the first inning and St. Mary Catholic never recovered in a 5-2 loss in a WIAA Division 4 sectional semifinal Tuesday.

Rhiannon Reichenbacher scored on a wild pitch in the third inning to get the Zephyrs as close as 2-1, but Algoma scored in each of the next two innings to take a 4-1 lead.

In the top of the sixth, Addy Moder raced home on a wild pitch to get the Zephyrs as close as 4-2 but St. Mary Catholic would not score again.

Allie Strande had the Zephyrs' only hit in the game.

The Zephyrs scored a 4-2 win over Reedsville the week before to claim a regional title.

Sammi Weiss was 2-for-3 with three RBIs, while Jaylyn Akey was 2-for-3 and scored two runs.

Nevaeh Saringer scattered six hits and struck out four over seven innings to earn the win.

## SOCCER

### Neenah's season ends with tourney loss

Neenah couldn't match Homestead in a 3-1 defeat in a WIAA Division 1 regional soccer match Tuesday.

The Rockets finished with four shots on goal in the game.

No other information was available.

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Van Groll Trucking, Kaukauna

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

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Call 1-877-920-3533 (WCAN)

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

**FOR SALE: MINI BERNESE PUPPIES** 8 wks old, 1/2 price \$400 Must Go 715-896-6343

**GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS** AKC Excel Temp Genetic Guarantee Parents OFAd  
715-537-5413 [www.jerland.com](http://www.jerland.com)  
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50+ sales. See website for the most current sales.  
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## Miscellaneous

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**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)

# 2023

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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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## SUMMERTIME IS MAGIC TIME!

This summer, be sure to spend time at your local library. Did you know it is a magical place? Kid Scoop's Jim the Librarian says, "Be sure to tell your librarian the kinds of books you like to read. Your librarian is your guide to the magic of the library!"

### Meet Famous People!

Books called **biographies** introduce you to famous people. Read about the lives of some interesting people this summer!

Use the code to reveal the names of some famous people. Read more about them at your library!

A=26	F=21	K=16	P=11
B=25	G=20	L=15	R=10
C=24	H=19	M=14	S=9
D=23	I=18	N=13	T=8
E=22	J=17	O=12	U=7

**R** 26 25 10 26 19 26 14  
**A** 17 26 13 22  
**S** 10 12 9 26  
**R** 10 12 13 26 15 23

**M** 15 18 13 24 12 15 13  
**G** 20 12 12 23 26 15 15  
**K** 11 26 10 16 9  
**E** 10 22 26 20 26 13

**C** 15 18 13 24 12 15 13  
**N** 10 12 9 26  
**N** 10 22 26 20 26 13

### Magazine Shelf

Every time you spend 10 minutes or more reading a magazine, color in one of the magazines on this shelf.



### Travel Through Time!

Do you want to learn about pirates? Dinosaurs? Pyramids? History books can let you travel through time!

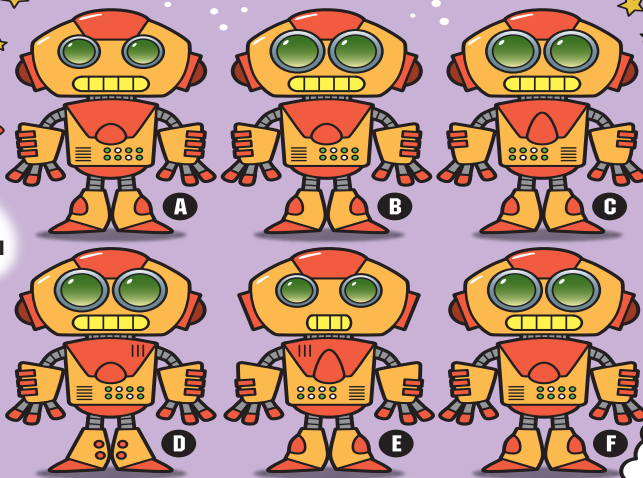


Can you find at least 10 differences between these two dinosaurs?

Playing games, following recipes and instructions for crafts all require reading!

### Escape to Fun Places!

Books and stories are set in interesting places, all over the world and even in magical places. Color in part of this rocket's trail for each real or imaginary place you read about this summer.



Can you find the two identical robots?

### Extra! Extra! Reading POPS!

Every time you do a Kid Scoop Extra! Extra! this summer, color in a firecracker!

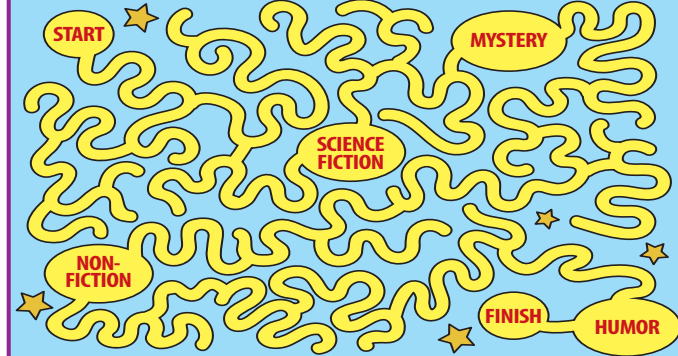


Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### Library Adventures

Follow the maze to visit each section of the library.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Double Double Word Search

- BOOKS
- FAMOUS
- GUIDE
- LIBRARY
- LOCAL
- MAGAZINE
- MAGIC
- NEWSPAPER
- READ
- ROBOTS
- SHELF
- STARS
- SUMMER
- TRAVEL
- WORLD

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

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

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

This week's Kid Scoop page is one big chart to keep track of your summer reading! Save this page and post it somewhere so you can track your reading accomplishments!

### Kid Scoop Together

## Summer Reading Bingo

Every time you do one of the following, cross out that box. Score yourself:

- 1-3 boxes: **Bright Beginner**
- 4-7 boxes: **Strong Starter**
- 8-11 boxes: **Rising Reader**
- 12-15 boxes: **Reading Rock Star**
- 16-19 boxes: **Super Summer Reader**
- 20-23 boxes: **Powerhouse Reader**
- All 24 boxes: **ULTIMATE READER!**

Read outside for 30 minutes.	Read in bed.	Read with a friend.
Read to a parent.	Read to someone older than you.	Read to someone younger than you.
Listen to a story read to you.	Play a board game.	Read a book written before you were born.
Read a book a parent enjoyed as a child.	Read under a tree.	Read a book that makes you laugh.
Read a newspaper article to a family member.	Read first thing in the morning.	Get a library card.
Read to a friend over the phone.	Read with your feet in a pool.	Read 10 comic strips.
Read a spooky story.	Read with a friend, taking turns reading aloud.	Read a story written in rhyme.
Read and follow a recipe.	Read by a campfire.	Write a story and read it aloud.

### Write On!

## Cutest Animal on Earth

What do you think is the cutest animal on earth? Why? Write a paragraph to convince others to share your opinion.

## Oshkosh Herald & Neenah News Provide FREE weekly newspapers to local classrooms in the OASD & NJSD 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.

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