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Distribution of federal cash revised

Supervisors critical of reimbursement plan

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

More than four months have passed since the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors voted to send \$145,000 in ARPA dollars to each of the 21 municipalities or towns primarily situated within Winnebago County, but none of those entities has received that money and County Executive Jon Doemel is calling the money a “refund” rather than an allocation.

The county was awarded \$33 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds. While other counties have moved forward on spending their ARPA dollars, Winnebago

County has changed directions and spent months on Doemel’s proposal to create a “Spirit Fund” for the money to remove federal reporting requirements. The funds must be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026 or the county loses the money.



Doemel

In March, the County Board approved moving the money to a newly created Spirit Fund and allocating \$145,000 to each of the towns and municipalities. Accepting the ARPA dollars came with several requirements.

Towns and municipalities, which have received other ARPA funding on different

levels, were required to identify the ARPA projects the county-controlled funds would be used for. They need to provide a narrative on how the projects follow the framework identified by the ARPA commission, ensure projects are completed within the county boundaries, provide documentation that local and federal procurement procedures are followed, document Spirit Fund reporting and auditing requirements, sign an agreement ensuring equal treatment and spend the allocation by Dec. 31, 2024.

Doemel is now backtracking on the County Board-approved resolution to send the money to the towns and municipalities, instead saying each entity will be reimbursed after spending the money.

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Neenah News

Zephyrs musical

The sounds of “Oklahoma!” filled the stage at St. Mary Catholic High School last weekend as Zephyrs Community Theater presented the classic American musical in four performances.

Education budget offers more questions than solutions

State funding shortfall keeps schools guessing

By Patti Lee
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

About 832,000 students – more than 84% of all Wisconsin children – attend public schools. The demographics are a daunting mix of general education, gifted, economically challenged and special needs, including physically, intellectually and emotionally challenged youth.

Each of these students enters their school doors with every hope for a quality education, with their hopes inexorably linked to the state’s education budget.

Public education advocates, school board presidents, Neenah’s superinten-

dent and Fox Valley educators gathered May 18 at Washington Park in Neenah to celebrate the park’s Discovery League Baseball Field, specially designed for athletes with disabilities, and encourage legislators to pass a Blue Ribbon School Budget. The rally was part of a vast, coordinated effort to put forward researched and bipartisan recommendations to help districts tackle the immense challenges facing public schools.

Opening the rally, Neenah Joint School District Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer explained that public schools are constitutionally obligated to accept all students.

“We serve all kids every day and we need the funding to serve all of these kids,”



Photo from Fox Valley Advocates

Neenah Board of Education President Brian Epley speaks at a rally for special education funding held May 18 at Washington Park in Neenah.

SEE **School funding** ON PAGE 9

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Home value increases detailed in appraiser report

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The median home value in the city of Neenah has more than doubled in the past 10 years, according to property appraiser Kathy Engelbreth, who gave a presentation at last week's Common Council meeting.

The city is conducting a revaluation of all properties in 2023, with the last city-wide revaluation completed in 2019. The city assessor's office is responsible for valuing residential properties by reviewing information about each house and comparing it with other houses that were recently sold.

Assessed values in Neenah are significantly lower than market values based on recent sales, according to the city's website. Engelbreth provided several examples of homes that have sold in the past year at between \$31,200 to \$71,500 over the asking price.

Neenah's current assessment to sale ratio is 86.8%. Revaluation ensures the tax burden is equitably distributed among properties in the city to better reflect actual market values.

County on new communications platform

Winnebago County has adopted the FirstNet high-speed broadband communications platform for services and public safety needs.

All county departments have adopted FirstNet by AT&T, including the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, which highlighted the public safety aspect of the platform last week in a press conference.

"The high level of availability provided by FirstNet allows our deputies to stay connected whenever needed across the

Engelbreth said the median home value in Neenah in 2012 was \$120,000, which has steadily risen to a 2022 median value of \$256,000. So far in 2023, the median home value is at \$278,000. The value is being driven up by the lack of housing stock.

"There are more people looking for homes than there are homes available," she said.

Over the past year, home listings were down 32.6%. Engelbreth said that fewer homes on the market create bidding wars and drive prices higher. "The homes that have taken the biggest hits are the starter homes and the lower to midrange condo residential units," she said.

The average assessed value of homes in Neenah will increase this year by between 30% and 35%. Notices of assessment change will be mailed to homeowners Aug. 4.

After notices are mailed, the assessor's webpage will have an illustrative tax esti-



Engelbreth

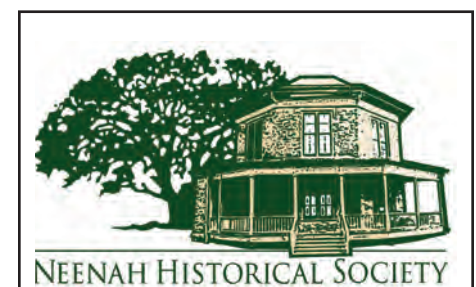
mator tool that residents can use to access the estimated amount they would expect to see on their tax bill.

The assessed values are posted online after notices are mailed. A sales book and sales map will also be available, which allows homeowners to compare their property values with neighboring values.

Open Book is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 22-24, when property owners can come to the assessor's office to discuss their assessed value. Engelbreth said owners can come into the office, call or email any time after the assessment change notices are mailed to discuss the values.

Property owners who appeal the assessed value may appear before the Board of Review, with an initial date of Oct. 4. That board reviews assessments and corrects errors or omissions.

The city assessor's website noted the purpose of a revaluation is not to increase property taxes but to ensure homeowners are paying their fair share of taxes. The revaluation does not change the total amount of property tax revenue collected by the city.



Neenah Historical Society

Island getaway

Oaway Island in Waupaca County was purchased by Mr. S.F. Shattuck in 1910. Over the years the program at Oaway has changed and evolved with the needs of our youth in the community. When Brigade first used Oaway, the camping experience was almost entirely devoted to "roughing it." Taking advantage of the Chain O' Lakes has been a time-honored tradition.



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Model Citizens 8pm

THURSDAY, 8/3

County Farm Tractor Pull 7pm
Brady Lee 8pm

FRIDAY, 8/4

Badger State Tractor Pull 6:30pm
Shotgun Jane 4pm
The Dweebs 8pm

SATURDAY, 8/5

Demolition Derby 6pm
Mistakes Were Made 1:30pm
Rock vs Country: Crankin' Yankees vs Fire on High 8pm

SUNDAY, 8/6

Small Fry Dairy & Beef Show 9am
Craft Fair 10am-2pm
Midway Rides 12pm-4pm
Fair Closing 4pm



WinnebagoCountyFairOnline.com



Zoning protest ordinance removed in city

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah voted 7-2 last week to eliminate the ordinance that allows residents opposed to a rezoning to submit a protest petition that triggers a supermajority vote requirement for the rezoning to move forward.

The ordinance is often referred to by the acronym NIMBY (not in my back yard). It was used for the first time in more than a decade in December due to a zoning conflict between residents and a developer who submitted plans to turn the vacant 95-year-old Shattuck Middle School into apartments and construct single-family homes.

Residents who live in the vicinity of Shattuck successfully brought forward a rezoning protest petition that triggered the supermajority vote requirement of seven of the nine council members needing to vote in favor for the rezoning to move forward.

The Common Council voted against rezoning the property, which caused the developer to back out on the sale agreement.

The city's ordinance has been in place since at least the 1950s. In 2017, the protest petition provision was repealed at the state level, but municipalities could still enforce an ordinance outlining a similar process. Some municipalities, including Appleton and Oshkosh, changed their code to eliminate the rezoning protest petition option.

Alderman John Skyrms brought forth a measure in May for the city attorney and community development director to examine Neenah's ordinance, with those officials recommending it be eliminated.

Gov. Tony Evers signed a bill into law in June that eliminates the supermajority requirement for rezoning statewide in 2025. Last week's council vote was on whether the city should eliminate the ordinance now, rather than waiting until the state mandate goes into effect.

Two residents spoke in opposition of eliminating the ordinance and two spoke in favor at the meeting.

Aldermen Kathie Boyette and Todd Stevenson were both vocal against changing the ordinance, stating that the council

is rushing on eliminating it in advance of the 2025 requirement.

Community development director Chris Haese said that since 1987 the city has had about 110 rezonings, on average about three per year. He estimated that the city could have as many as 10-12 rezonings before the statewide mandate eliminates the supermajority rezoning requirement in 2025.



Haese

"I mentioned it earlier, this should have happened in 2017," Haese said. "To say we're rushing, in my opinion, we're late. We're six years behind."

He added that the city needs to be equitable and each alderman deserves to have their vote count equally.

"If you look at the state Legislature's action, in 2017 they gave cities the opportunity to remove that (ordinance)," he said. "They're not making a change on January 1 of 2025, they're making a mandate. You

shall not be able to do that. So clearly, there is a feeling, at least at the state level, that the decisions at the local level haven't been good and therefore they're mandating it."

Eliminating the ordinance doesn't change any other city processes and residents can still submit protest petitions.

Mayor Jane Lang noted the vote on removing the supermajority rezoning requirement passed the Legislature with bipartisan support of 130 in favor and one against.

"We will continue to suffer from the impacts of our serious housing shortage, primarily with a shrinkage of our local workforce, if we can't attract workers and provide them with housing options," she said. "Our business community will suffer and we all lose when our businesses are struggling and failing. The removal of the protest petition language from our ordinance that requires a supermajority vote is the right thing to do."

Boyette and Stevenson were the only council members to vote against eliminating the ordinance, with the removal going into effect immediately.

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Missing man's remains identified

Authorities have identified human remains discovered in a marshy area of Little Lake Butte des Morts in April as Neenah resident Ju Lee, who was reported missing last year.

Lee, 37, was last seen on Sherry Street on Feb. 4, 2022, and was believed to either be walking or riding the bus. He was reported to Neenah police as a missing person in April of that year.

Human remains were discovered this year on April 27 by two men who were fishing from a boat in Little Lake Butte des Morts. The sheriff's office responded to the north end near Stroebe Road and recovered the remains with assistance from Fox Crossing police.

Normal methods of identification were not possible due to the state of the remains. Through other evidence found with the remains, a potential identity was developed and Lee's family was tentatively notified in May.

The sheriff's office worked with the Winnebago County Medical Examiner's Office and the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh to identify the body using DNA, further forensic examination and other biological testing.

Officials confirmed the identity of the



Submitted photo

Neenah resident Ju Lee was reported missing in April 2022.

remains as Lee last week. No other information on the cause or manner of death was released.

Neenah community policing coordinator Joe Benoit said Lee was missing for a substantial period of time and there is no information to suggest he was missing under suspicious circumstances. Police have closed the missing persons case.

Input sought on county parks planning

Neenah News

The Winnebago County Parks Department is seeking public input on outdoor recreation planning as part of its update to its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP).

The CORP is a blueprint for future recreation planning within the county and provides eligibility for participation in federal and state grant programs. The online survey – found at winnebagocountywi.gov/parks – and public meetings will gather information from current and potential park and open space users to share their ideas.

"Public engagement is a vital component to the creation of the plan's objectives and goals," said Adam Breest, county director of parks and expo. "The responses will help the County understand how the public uses our parks and recreational facilities, along with potential opportunities for the future."

The first public meeting will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the J.P. Coughlin Center in Os-

hosh.

All parks, natural areas, trails and boat landings managed by the Parks Department are evaluated for overall variety, accessibility, safety and programming to provide recommendations for each space. The Winnebago County Parks Department produces a CORP every five years, which helps it remain eligible for much-needed grant funding.

"There are millions of dollars in grants available and our CORP helps us tap into those resources," Breest said. "Funds distributed through state and federal grants are vital to the parks system."

The Parks Department oversees the management and maintenance of about 1,000 acres, which includes the Sunnyview Expo Center, Winnebago County Community Park, Asylum Point Park and Lighthouse, seven boat landings, six nature preserves, two dog parks, and nearly 30 miles of trail on the Wiouwash and Mascoutin Valley State recreation trails.

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Neenah-Menasha Meals on Wheels is a community collaboration of Valley VNA Senior Care, the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society, and ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah.

Youth Go team veterans take leadership roles

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Youth Go, which provides a safe and supportive space for area youth, has named longstanding employees Alice Zarda as executive director and Timothy Chappa as associate director, succeeding Kelly Hicks, who left in April for a position with the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley.

Youth Go is a free nonprofit drop-in center for children in fifth through 12th grade at 213 Nicolet Blvd. in Neenah. The organization offers underserved and at-risk youth resources and activities, snacks and meals, positive role models and other programs.

Hicks served as executive director for 15 of the 18 years she was with the organization. She accepted a position with the Community Foundation earlier this year and Zarda and Chappa stepped in as co-interim directors until the board filled the position.

Zarda has been with Youth Go for 22 years, most recently as outreach coordinator. Among the programs Zarda helps facilitate are a range of activities for youth that identify as LGBTQ.

"I would say at least 50% of the kids on a given night when you walk in the door are probably identifying as LGBTQIA+ somewhere," Zarda said.

She added the most meaningful programs Youth Go offers are those that give young people access to activities they normally wouldn't be able to participate in.

"When we get to take kids to a camp that they wouldn't normally get to go to, or have them participate in any of our field trips – things that maybe their family wouldn't be able to do – those types of things are the most rewarding," she said. "Just getting kids to experience something for the first time."

To offer no-cost or low-cost activities,

Youth Go partners with United Way, contracts with the Winnebago County Department of Human Services and is funded by grants, individual contributions and fundraising.

Chappa has been with Youth Go for 15 years, most recently as program supervisor. He said depending on the programming, the organization is serving up to 50-60 kids daily.

Special to Chappa is the Badges for Baseball program, which consists of Youth Go staff, local police officers and high school assistants coaching youth in grades 4-8.

"Personally, baseball is my favorite sport," he said. "So, to be able to teach baseball to kids, and telling friends that's how I'm making a living, I've had friends who are jealous of what I get paid to do."

Chappa is also known at Youth Go for his love of The Price is Right, hosting a replica of the national show for participants during the organization's family night for about 14 years.

"When I started doing my own version of The Price is Right here, that obviously led to something much bigger than I could have ever anticipated," he said.

In 2018, Chappa was selected as winner of the show's Superfan Contest. A segment of The Price is Right was filmed in Neenah and he was presented with a new Mini Cooper.

Both Zarda and Chappa said that taking over after Hicks departed came with some challenges, but when she left the organiza-

tion she knew it was in a good place and capable hands.

The pair had already worked together for 15 years before teaming up to take over the nonprofit's leadership.

"I think it's a great partnership," Chappa said. "We have strengths in different areas so we can pick up where the other person may not be able to handle something the best."

Zarda added that she and Chappa's longevity with YouthGo eased the transition.

"It was a lot easier having someone who had the experience for so long, like I did," Zarda said. "We complement each other, I think, quite well."

With Zarda accepting the executive director position in July, Chappa was promoted to a newly created associate director position, ensuring a smooth transition for the organization and familiar faces for the youth.

"Although it's a huge leadership change

for our organization to have someone there for 15 years doing everything, we don't want our community, our parents or our young people to feel like there's a change," Zarda said. "We want them to feel the way that they've always felt."

Chappa added that the biggest goal is ensuring the organization continues to support area youth.

"At the end of the day, it's about making sure that Youth Go continues to grow and continues to reach as many youth as we possibly can and make sure that we're setting them up for success, when they are no longer able to come here as youth," he said.

As newly named directors, Zarda and Chappa said they hope to further the organization's mission.

"Just seeing the kids grow up and watching them grow and mature, and go from very high-energy fifth- and sixth-graders to adults who have really set their course and found some thoughts that they're passionate about, and thank Youth Go for the part that we played in that," he said.



Chappa



Zarda

Town of Neenah park gets some updates

Neenah News

Town of Neenah Chairman Bob Schmeichel noted in his summer newsletter some updates to three town parks with improvements and additions.

A controlled prairie burn completed at Conservancy Park will allow wild flowers and grasses to flourish while the park board will continue to work with Lakeview School to promote student conservation education efforts.

Mahler Park parking lot will be repaved and striped this year and is not expected to

interfere with soccer and baseball activities nor functions booked for the pavilion.

There will be no parking along South Park Avenue from Bell Street to Commercial Street during that time.

A permanent restroom facility will be installed at Keating Park that will include two ADA-compliant spaces and a utility room. Concrete walkways around the building and a slab in front of the structure for picnic tables with an open-air overhead will be included.

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National Night Out events in city, village

Neenah News

Neenah and Fox Crossing will be hosting National Night Out events Aug. 1 where residents and families can meet local police and emergency responders while enjoying activities and demonstrations.

Neenah's event will be at Memorial Park from 5 to 8 p.m. with Neenah Police Department and Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue staff on hand with some of their equipment. The ThedaStar emergency helicopter will be landing at the park at 7

p.m.

Family activities will include a bike rodeo, dunk tank, games and prizes, followed by the movie "Clifford the Big Red Dog" starting at dusk.

Fox Crossing will have its event at Palisades Park, 2525 Theresa Ave., with members of the village fire department and Gold Cross Ambulance on hand. There will be food trucks, demonstrations, inflatables, and cops vs. kids kickball starting at 7 p.m.

Fox Cities Marathon seeking volunteer help

The Community First Fox Cities Marathon presented by Miron Construction is looking for volunteers to be part of the Kwik Trip Volunteer Squad.

The positions provide many opportunities to get involved leading up to and throughout race weekend Sept. 15-17. People can register at foxcitiesmarathon.org/volunteer.



Photo by Ryan Clausen

Youth exhibitors bring the magic of agriculture to life at the Winnebago County Fair.

County Fair opens next week

Neenah News

The Winnebago County Fair returns to the Sunnyview Expo Center grounds starting Wednesday through Aug. 6 with a full slate of grandstand entertainment, midway rides and games, kids shows and wide range of agricultural and youth exhibits.

Grandstand entertainment starts Wednesday with the T&C Rodeo and Wisconsin Freestyle Motocross featuring Cody Cavanaugh, and a fireworks show to finish the night. Thursday's grandstand hosts a county tractor pull with Farm and Hot Farm classes. NEW Motorsports and a Badger State Truck & Tractor Pull headline Friday's show. Saturday's grandstand holds the Demolition Derby presented by Hollywood Motorsports Entertainment.

The fair's Music Village lineup includes Model Citizens on Wednesday, Brady Lee on Thursday, Shotgun Jane and The Dweebs on Friday, and Mistakes Were Made, Crankin' Yankees and Fire on High for Saturday.

Family entertainment acts will be performing three times daily between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. with show hours listed at entertainment locations throughout the fair. Royal Legacy Circus, Pleasure Valley Farm, Nick's Kids Show, the Kids Celebra-

tion game show, catch-and-release trout fishing and Bear Hollow Wood Carvers are some of the offerings.

Special entertainment Friday includes the Claire Coats Memorial Horse Pull at 11 a.m. in the outdoor arena, a polka band from noon to 4 p.m. in the family tent and the Horizon Formal Dairy Show at 7 p.m.

Teacher Day is Thursday for Winnebago County elementary teachers who can attend to learn about 4-H programs that can be offered in the classroom.

Exhibition barns open at 8 a.m. daily, gate charges begin at 9 a.m., the Expo Building also opens at 9 a.m., and family and kids entertainment begins by 11 a.m.

Daily tickets are \$12 in advance until Tuesday and \$15 at the gate, and include parking, grandstand shows, live bands, family entertainment, exhibits and barns, and unlimited carnival rides. Single tickets can be used for any one day of the fair.

A five-day pass, which includes Fair Association annual membership but does not include carnival rides, costs \$35.

Go to winnebagocountyfaironline.com for schedule and events details. Volunteers are still needed to help with the fair setup and cleanup that started this week and can sign up through the fair's Facebook page.

Backpack program seeks to Stuff the Bus

Dave Mader State Farm Agency is holding a "Stuff the Bus" event in support of students in the Neenah Joint School District by donating backpacks for students in need.

Community members visiting Walmart from 2 to 7 p.m. Aug. 10 and 11 can participate by obtaining an insurance quote

from the agency and in return, a backpack will be donated to the Neenah Joint School District on their behalf.

The event is aimed to help students get the necessary resources to succeed academically through the backpack donations. Call or text 920-722-6021 or email dave@davemader.com for more information.

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Go wild with variety of local nature journeys

By Rob Zimmer
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Summer is in full swing and I've received the question many times about places to enjoy the outdoors that are close to home, even right in town.

Fortunately, we are in a prime location for outdoor and nature activities and enjoyment. Without even leaving Neenah there are a wealth of wonderful opportunities to help individuals and families get out and go wild this summer.

Whether you are brand new to the area or have been here your whole life, chances are there are places you have yet to discover.

Naturally speaking, Neenah is perfectly positioned. The Fox River channels, Little Lake Butte des Morts, Lake Winnebago – as well as wild shorelines and rich waters filled with fish and mussels and crayfish and other prey for wildlife and birds – all make our area the perfect place to enjoy wildlife watching and outdoor activity throughout the year.

One of the most beautiful and rich places to enjoy the outdoors is Kimberly Point Park at the mouth of the river. Here, year-round, birdwatching is spectacular. There is ample room for hiking, biking, rollerblading, a peaceful place for yoga in the park and so much more. Kayaking and canoeing are also popular along the waterway.

Of course, the channel at Doty Island is especially beautiful, tranquil and attractive.

Throughout downtown Neenah, the river offers wonderful wildlife watching opportunities and beautiful places to hike, bike and enjoy.

American white pelicans flock to the Neenah dam. They can also be seen frequently on Little Lake Butte des Morts and



Photos by Rob Zimmer

Natural beauty in the Neenah area is found at a wide variety of shoreline and wooded spaces.

the Friendship and Loop the Lake trails.

Bald eagles are also frequently seen all along the river, year-round.

Several wooded parks and forest trails provide quiet places to enjoy nature, bird-watching and wildflower watching.

Wilderness Park offers trails that lead through a variety of habitats. Cattail marsh, mixed forest and forest edge are highlighted here. This is an especially attractive spot to enjoy migrating birds during spring and fall.

The School Forest, as it is affectionately known, is another excellent place to explore throughout the year. Spring blooming wildflowers and migrating birds give way to rich forest shade and summer blooms. Fall color here is spectacular.

Along the west shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts, enjoy exploring the Rydell Conservancy, as well as the Wild Center, which serves as the national headquarters of Wild Ones native landscaping organization.

Other places to explore throughout the summer season are Fresh Air Camp, Riverside Park, the Neenah Conservancy off County A, and the nearby Wiouwash Trail, which can be accessed just west of the city.



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Credit card debt easier to manage in this region

By Randall Davidson
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Paying off credit card debt is easier in some areas than in others.

Cost of living, average earnings, unemployment rate and other metrics can all affect how easy it is to pay off debt in various locations. The personal finance site UpgradedPoints has studied these metrics for 345 U.S. metro areas and its formula found that residents in the Oshkosh/Neenah area may have an easier time paying off such debt.

As inflation continues to affect households, many consumers are using credit cards to help pay for basic expenses. As of May, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York

reported that U.S. consumers now owe \$986 billion on their credit cards, more than the pre-pandemic high of \$927 billion.

Inflation not only puts pressure on consumer budgets but is also affecting credit card interest rates. Increases in the Federal Reserve's federal funds target rate can drive up credit card interest rates, making it more expensive to carry a credit card balance. For the past quarter century, the average interest rate carried by a bank credit card has been between 12% and 16%, but in the past year, the average has increased to more than 20%.

The combined effects of inflation and rising interest rates make it more expensive to pay down credit card balances in

full each month.

The study by UpgradedPoints shows Oshkosh/Neenah residents well positioned to be able to pay off such debt. The area came in at No. 36 among metro areas with a population under 350,000 and at No. 49 among all metro areas.

The survey showed only 1.9% of area residents have delinquent credit card debt, having fallen behind on making at least the minimum monthly payments.

This statistic, combined with the area's low unemployment and lower-than-average cost of living, resulted in the good showing.

The Wausau/Weston metro area did the best in the entire country. Its No. 1 rank-

ing was the result of higher average median earnings and a cost of living rated 10 percent below the national average.

Other Wisconsin metro areas in the survey included Fond du Lac at No. 8, Appleton at No. 9, Green Bay at 21, Racine at 34, Janesville/Beloit at 41, Sheboygan at 43, Milwaukee/Waukesha at 66, Eau Claire at 83 and La Crosse/Onalaska at 92. As a state, Wisconsin ranks sixth best overall.

The 10 worst metro areas for ease of paying off credit card debt are all in California, with Bakersfield last in the rankings. California was the worst state overall. South Dakota had the best numbers.

The entire study is at upgradedpoints.com.



Bergstrom-Mahler Museum photo

The Glass Arts Festival returns to Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass on Aug. 12.

Glass Arts Festival returns to museum

Neenah News

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass presents its second annual Glass Arts Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 12 on the grounds and inside the museum at 165 North Park Ave.

"Focusing on our mission to provide extraordinary glass experiences, we are excited to offer our widely popular Glass Arts Festival featuring the best in glass once again," said museum executive director Amy G. Moorefield.

The admission-free, family-friendly event features glass art on display and

available for sale from more than 40 artists nationwide, along with the opening of a solo exhibition by Wes Hunting, the first-place winner of last year's juried art competition.

Glass-blowing demonstrations will be offered with the museum's new mini-dragon "Ray," where molten glass temperatures top 2,000 degrees.

Entertainment will be provided by local musicians and concessions from food trucks. Activity tents will be available for children to create their own art to bring home.

Plexus-built Habitat home turned over to family

Plexus Corp. sponsored its first Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity home build in the community where it is based, the only build in Neenah among the 19 homes the area Habitat group is building in 2023.

Started in April with 74 Plexus team members volunteering more than 600 hours of their time and construction, the project culminated Monday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and handing over the keys to the chosen family.

"We are committed to our vision of helping build a better world," said Todd Kelsey, Plexus chief executive. "By partnering with Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity, we can make a larger impact and achieve something more than we ever could have individually."

Plexus will also be the host sponsor for the Smart Girls Rock event in November presented by the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce.

Calendar of events

Friday, July 28
Riverside Players presents "All Shook Up," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park
Zephyrs Community Theater: "Dear Edwina Jr." 6 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

Saturday, July 29
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
Top of the Lake Race, 9 a.m., southeast of Doty Island
"Fiona's Guardians" book signing by Dan Klefstad, 1 p.m., Lyons Fine Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Riverside Players presents "All Shook Up," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park
Zephyrs Community Theater: "Dear Edwina Jr." 6 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

Sunday, July 30
Riverside Players presents "All Shook Up," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park
Zephyrs Community Theater: "Dear Edwina Jr." 2 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

Monday, July 31
Storytime, 10 a.m., The Plaza and

Globe Coffee

Tuesday, Aug. 1
Downtown Neenah Blood Drive, 8 a.m., DoubleTree hotel
Neenah Community Band, 7 p.m., Riverside Park Pavilion
National Night Out, 5 p.m., Palisades Park, Fox Crossing; Memorial Park, Neenah

Wednesday, Aug. 2
Daniel LeClaire & Little Big Band, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

Thursday, Aug. 3
Out to Lunch Concert with Barefoot Americans, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Friday, Aug. 4
Summer Sale, 10 a.m., downtown businesses

Saturday, Aug. 5
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
Kids' Triathlon, 8 a.m., Neenah Pool
Summer Sale, 10 a.m., downtown businesses

Monday, Aug. 7
Storytime, 10 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Tuesday, Aug. 8
Neenah Community Band, 7 p.m., Riverside Park Pavilion

Wednesday, Aug. 9
Murphy's Law, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park



Photo from Plexus

Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity and its Plexus build team provided a new home for this family with a ribbon cutting held Monday to hand over the keys.

School funding

FROM PAGE 1

she told the crowd. “We need to lift up our staff, recognize their profession and have the funding to support them.”

Most, if not all, Fox Valley school district funding has been frozen below the state average for decades. Emphasizing that point, Neenah School Board President Brian Epley said “Wisconsin’s current public education funding system is based on a decision 30 years ago to freeze funding at arbitrary levels and continues to disadvantage districts across the state. We must increase funding for low-spending districts.”

“This should not be a partisan issue,” said Oshkosh Area School District Board President Beth Wyman. “This is a student issue. We have a choice. Will we show our support for this state and keep Wisconsin a strong public school state? Or will we accept the funding policy, not increase the funding and see our performance slip away?”

Local state legislators were invited to the rally and presentation, with those in attendance including District 19 Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevera and Assembly District 55 Rep. Nate Gustafson, both Republicans, along with Rep. Lee Snodgrass, an Assembly District 57 Democrat. Cabral-Guevera and Gustafson departed early, citing previous commitments.

Throughout the budget process, representatives of the Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education (FCA4PE) met individually with every local legislator to discuss the longtime challenges facing their public schools. FCA4PE contacted members of the Joint Finance and Education committees and testified at a statewide Joint Finance Committee budget listening session during which 40% of all testimony expressed the dire need for increased education funding.

On June 27, FCA4PE representatives visited legislative offices in Madison with a plea for legislators to speak with their district school leaders before casting their budget votes.

During a July 20 Zoom meeting with FCA4PE’s Amy Nasr and Carol Lenz, the two expressed frustration with the process.

“We’ve testified in front of budget listening sessions, we’ve reached out to them, we’ve presented them this huge (more than 100 pages) resource guide – but we felt coming out of the budget that a lot of that fell on deaf ears,” Nasr said. “None of the bipartisan recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel (eight Republicans and three Democrats) were implemented in the education budget.”

The education budget can be beyond formidable even for seasoned budget wonks because so much of it is caught up in the rabbit hole of vouchers, charter, private and public schools. Assigning reimbursement has a loose methodology based upon head counts with accounting deadlines of the third week of September and second Friday in January.

Questions on how and when monies are



Submitted photo

Those attending a June 27 meeting in Madison with state legislators from districts in the greater Fox Cities area including (from left) Marcia Engen, Patti Clark-Stojke, Jackie Nider, Claire Whelan, Ann Muenster, Jim Bowman, Natalie Bowman and Carol Lenz.

allocated to the school to which a child transfers do not have a clear answer. “I’m not sure,” “I don’t know,” and “Let me get back to you” are common responses to budget queries.

State Sen. Chris Larson, a Democrat representing District 7, put forth nine amendments to SB330, all of which dealt with budget transparency. Of particular interest to taxpayers are Amendment 8, which requests monies to follow the child should they return to a public school district, and Amendment 9, which calls for disclosure on tax bills of public school spending. All nine amendments were voted down along party lines.

Under the approved budget, Wisconsin will be operating for 16 years under arbitrarily frozen spending with no adjustments for inflation. In response, district administrators and education advocates have submitted these queries to the Legislature:

\$1.2 billion total education budget increase: Please itemize what funding is included in the \$1.2B increase (i.e. public schools, vouchers, property tax credits). We request a LFB (Legislative Fiscal Bureau) analysis to outline the total funding allocations for public schools and for private schools. In that estimate, please outline the impact for school districts that are in your legislative district. Specifically confirm whether the added \$590 million school levy tax credit is part of the \$1.2 billion education increase and if this is in addition to the last budget’s \$1+ billion already allocated for the school levy tax credit.

Property tax implications: Please clearly outline what the property tax increase is for local taxpayers, and identify any potential tax increases triggered by both public and private schools. Please pass legislation to itemize both public and

private education spending on tax bills. Taxpayers deserve to know how their money is being spent.

Revenue limit adjustments:

For low-spending districts, will state general aid pay for their adjustment to \$11,000 per pupil? Or will there be more tax increases for local taxpayers? Please request a LFB analysis that outlines the impact per school district, so that school districts can make educated choices when preparing their budgets.

Even though the low revenue limit will be \$11,000/pupil, there are a significant number of districts allowed to spend over \$14,000/pupil. This budget created an additional disparity where voucher students now will receive more funding per pupil than many public school students. What are your plans to resolve this disparity? (All school districts in the Fox Cities and Oshkosh fall into the low-paying district category).

For high revenue districts, will state aid cover the \$325/pupil per year increases? Or will this result in increases in local property taxes? Please request a LFB analysis that outlines the impact per school district so that school districts can make educated choices on what to do with their budgets.

Special education reimbursement:

Justify the disparity between the 33.3% sum certain reimbursement rate for public school students, while providing a 90%+ sum sufficient reimbursement rate for

voucher students, especially considering that special education is a mandatory service in public schools. Not only do public schools service more students with special needs, they service students that require higher cost services. This can require an approximate average of 10-15% of their general funds in order to fill the funding gap, which impacts all programs and all students.

(Underfunded special education totals as of 2019 include Neenah, \$7.6 million; Menasha, \$7.5 million; and Oshkosh, \$18.8 million.)

Transparency and accountability: What are the requirements of public schools that are optional for voucher schools? All schools that receive public funding should be equally accountable and transparent. The use of public taxpayer funds requires this. Children must be safeguarded and protected. Students of all religions, sex, gender identity, socio-economic status, race, ability or disability deserve their constitutional rights in any school receiving public funding. The same school standards, rules and regulation, curriculum guidelines, testing requirements, teacher licensure, certifications, etc. should be required of all schools receiving public funds. Only the public school system is fully accountable and transparent for children and taxpayers. Only the public school is codified in Wisconsin’s Constitution.

To date, the Legislature has not responded to these queries. As expressed by Nasr and Lenz, “We get nothing but crickets” while noting that more than 71% of Fox Valley residents voted to pass local referendums in recent years in support of adequately funding public education.

Freezing the reimbursements to high-paying districts, some of which receive \$24,000 or more per student, would help sustain low-paying districts such as Neenah, which is currently receiving \$10,000 per student. Another suggestion is using a portion of the general fund surplus to give every district inflation and cost-of-living increases, and fully fund districts in an equitable manner.

Republican concerns over the tax implications of the budget and incremental assistance provided by Gov. Tony Evers’ line-item vetoes are countered by Democratic legislators pointing to a general surplus of more than \$4 billion in the General Fund and \$1.8 billion in the Rainy Day Fund to help solve the education funding shortfall.

Blue Ribbon School Budget advocates hope that with their research and policy documents, transparency issues be at least considered by the Legislature to determine what happens to the money and how it affects students.

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Funding process

FROM PAGE 1

District 1 Supervisor Rachael Dowling told Doemel at last week's meeting that she received a call from Menasha Mayor Don Merkes who said the ARPA allocations were now described as a "refund check."

"I don't remember voting on that in that specific language," Dowling said. "It was just supposed to be a check written out, and unfortunately last month it was deemed an accounting error, so I'm just curious to know."

Merkes and Village of Fox Crossing manager Jeff Sturgell confirmed they each received an email from Doemel on June 29 that included the framework and an agreement with instructions. The agreement included new information that the funds will be reimbursements, with the municipalities required to submit invoices beginning in September before the 15th of the month, with payments to be made by the 15th of the subsequent month.

Sturgell said Fox Crossing is appreciative of the funds but will wait for further information regarding whether or not the distribution process changes. Merkes said Menasha is exploring the possibility of using the reimbursement to add additional solar panels to the roof at Public Works to offset energy use and reduce the city's carbon footprint.

Doemel said reimbursements are the easiest way to ensure the municipalities are "doing the right thing" with the money.

"It's harder to hold them accountable if we just give them \$145,000 and trust them to do it and then maybe get the receipts later," he said, adding that he needs to make sure there's a process for the finance department and director of administration to track the money.

"It's going to be really hard to dole it out and then make sure that our reporting on the back end and our audits line up," he said.

District 5 Supervisor Kay Horan said many of the towns were expecting the \$145,000 but have no idea if or when that money is going to arrive.

Doemel said there's too much of a workload and he needs more staff. Shortly after securing the county executive position in 2021, he hired Republican lobbyist Ethan Hollenberger as his chief of staff without board approval, a position that didn't exist prior to his tenure.

This year, Doemel has repeatedly tried to bring forward a new innovation analyst. The board voted not to add that position, which would have cost \$65,500 this year and an additional \$365,000 in labor costs for 2024-26.

Horan said the ARPA spending process is confusing people.

"What it feels like to me is, we're playing telephone and the further down the stream

it goes, the more confused it becomes and by the time the last person hears it, it's not at all what it was at the beginning," she said.

Director of administration Mike Collard said the finance department is aware that the approved resolution was not for a reimbursement "but that's how they – at least in the present time – drew up the draft of the agreement because without seeing the receipts, they're not sure they'll have the paper, the accounting backup, to show the proper entry to demonstrate to the auditor that this money was used in accordance with the directives of the board."

District 28 Supervisor Nate Gustafson questioned whether the purpose of the previous resolution to designate the ARPA dollars as lost revenue and then move it to a newly created special revenue fund to be used for projects "in the spirit of ARPA" was to circumvent some auditing requirements.

At the time the Spirit Fund was approved in March, director of finance Paul Kaiser told the board the purpose of the change was so the county would no longer have to go through the strict regulations to have projects done under the ARPA framework.

At last week's meeting, Collard said that resolution wasn't to avoid ARPA requirements but was in relation to the reporting requirements to the U.S. Treasury Department.

Gustafson said the process is getting messy and there needs to be better communication to the municipalities about what's going on with the money they were promised, "instead of us having to come here, month after month, asking where we're at with it."

Board chair Thomas Egan said it's difficult for municipalities to spend money with the expectation of reimbursement when the county has repeatedly put off awarding the money.

Doemel said the county board approves policies and appropriates money but his position is responsible for the oversight of county operations.

"What my team needs to pull this off is what I'm trying to do," he said.

Doemel confirmed that towns and municipalities can send their bills and invoices to the county to be paid off using the \$145,000 ARPA dollars they were promised if the other conditions are met.

District 12 Supervisor Maribeth Gabert said the Town of Oshkosh was expecting a check and they're "pretty disgusted" that they have to pre-spend the money because the town doesn't have an extra \$145,000 to spend.

"This is becoming a joke," she said. "So, I get the auditor part, but it's almost like you think these towns and other municipalities don't know what they're doing. If there's all these rules that have come into play now, how come these rules weren't presented to us when we voted on it? We really don't think that we're ever going to see that money."



Wisconsin Watch photo

Wisconsin state Rep. Evan Goyke, D-Milwaukee, speaks during a meeting of the Joint Committee on Finance on June 8. Goyke supported a proposal to spend about \$960,000 over two years to create a five-person resource team to help local governments identify and apply for federal and state grants.

Proposal to help communities access federal grants denied

By Bennet Goldstein
WISCONSIN WATCH

Wisconsin's small communities could obtain slices of the billions of federal dollars allocated for infrastructure and renewable energy projects, such as upgrading drinking water systems or purchasing electric buses.

But the Republican-controlled Legislature has rejected a recent proposal to help staff-strapped towns and villages circumvent the greatest barriers for bringing home such funds: the federal government's time-consuming application and record-keeping requirements.

In his two-year budget proposal, Democratic Gov. Tony Evers pitched the creation of a five-person resource team to help local governments identify and apply for federal and state grants.

"This is a small amount of state money that can help local units of government access large amounts of federal funds," Milwaukee Rep. Evan Goyke, the ranking Democrat on the state's budget-writing committee, said during a June hearing. "And what those federal funds can do locally can be transformational, but those locals have to know the opportunity is there and they have to have the technical assistance."

However, the GOP-controlled Joint

Committee on Finance rejected the \$960,000 measure along party lines before sending the budget to the full Legislature.

Evers signed the budget July 5, vetoing 51 items from the \$99 billion plan mostly authored by Republicans, including scaling back a major income tax cut and extending school funding increases for more than 400 years. But because the state grant team under his original proposal would have created new positions, Evers could not write them back into the budget with his veto pen.

Wisconsin cities and villages, where the median population is about 1,500, often lack the staff capacity to track, apply for and manage grants.

"Wisconsin is a state of small towns. We need to recognize the limitations," said Jerry Deschane, executive director of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. "They simply don't have a bunch of bodies sitting around waiting to do federal paperwork."

In southwest Wisconsin, the village of Cassville, population 777, contracts with a local engineering firm for grant administration.

Keevin Williams, who retired as village

SEE **Grant help** ON PAGE 11

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Obituaries

John A. Zeinert

John A. Zeinert, age 95, passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 23, 2023, at



Cherry Meadows Hospice, Appleton. He was born February 16, 1928, in Neenah, son of the late Alfred and Sarah (Stacker) Zeinert.

John was a life-long resident of the Fox Valley. He graduated from UW-Oshkosh and received his Master's degree from UW-Madison. He served in the US Air Force near Augsburg, Germany, where he served as a cryptologist. On August 13, 1966, he married Karen O'Neil at Trinity Lutheran Church in Neenah. Together they enjoyed life in rural Neenah.

John began his professional career by teaching in the Kewaunee School District for two years, followed by over 29 years in the Oshkosh School District, spending most of his time teaching history at Oshkosh North High School. In 1988 he was given the Wisconsin History Teacher of the Year award. He also believed in donating blood, and he reached the 13-gallon level.

John was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Neenah-Menasha, the Fox Valley Camera Club, Retired Men's Club, and was a member of B.R.A.W. Bluebird Association of Wisconsin. John enjoyed photography, gar-

dening, blue birding, baking bread, and traveling to Switzerland, Canada, and around the United States. He supported and enjoyed concerts of the Milwaukee Symphony and the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestras.

Survivors include his sister: Carol Rosenberg, sister-in-law, Pat Zeinert, brother-in-law, Dennis (Sally) O'Neil; nephews and nieces: Peter (Lisa) Rosenberg, Lyn (Tim) McCarthy, Ann Rosenberg, Scott (Gabby) Zeinert, Brad (Jody) Zeinert, Christopher (Sarah) O'Neil, and Teri O'Neil.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Karen Zeinert, brother, Paul Zeinert, and brother-in-law, Bob Rosenberg.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, July 28, 2023, at the First United Methodist Church of Neenah-Menasha, 108 W. Doty Avenue, Neenah, with Rev. Ben Morris officiating. The visitation will be held from 9:30 AM until the time of service. Memorials may be given to the First Methodist Church of Neenah-Menasha or the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin.

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Ziebell earns gold medal with U19 USA Basketball squad

Neenah News

Neenah High School senior Allie Ziebell earned a gold medal playing with the USA Basketball U19 Women's squad at the FIBA World Cup in Spain.

Ziebell played in all seven games for the U.S. and averaged 15.7 minutes per contest. The UConn recruit averaged 6.7 points per game, including a high game of 20 points in the Round of 16 game against Argentina.



Ziebell

She also averaged 1.7 rebounds and 1.7 assists per game and notched a team-best four steals in the win over Czech Republic in the quarterfinals.

Ziebell finished the tournament as the top 3-point shooter on the U.S. squad, making 14-of-37 (37.8 percent) attempts from behind the arc. No other player on the U.S. roster made more than nine 3s during the tournament. She tied for 11th among all players in the tournament in 3-pointers made and ranked fourth in percentage among players who attempted at least 35 3-pointers.

The U.S. won the gold medal with a 69-66 win over Spain on July 23, capping off a perfect run through the tournament, which was held in Madrid, Spain.

The Americans rolled through the Group phase of the tournament by beating Mali, Germany and Chinese Taipei

by an average of more than 45 points per game.

In the Round of 16, Ziebell's 20-point effort – which included six 3-pointers – fueled a 112-36 rout of Argentina before a 121-61 thumping of the Czech Republic in the quarterfinals, with Ziebell going 3-for-4 from 3-point range to finish with nine points.

Ziebell played a tournament high 22 minutes in the win over the Czech Republic.

The U.S. then beat France 80-57 in the semifinals before taking down host Spain 69-66 in the title game, after being tied at halftime.

Ziebell was one of 12 players selected to represent the U.S. following a training camp in May.

Ziebell enters her senior season at Neenah as the reigning Gatorade Player of the Year in Wisconsin and the Fox Valley Association Player of the Year, after being a unanimous first-team selection as well as being named to the conference's all-defensive team.

Ziebell, who became the school's all-time leading scorer as a sophomore, averaged 25.5 points per game last season, while shooting 47 percent from 3-point range and 91 percent from the free-throw line. She also led the Rockets in rebounds, assists, steals and blocks.

Last December, Ziebell committed to women's basketball powerhouse Connecticut.

Grant help

FROM PAGE 10

president earlier this year after 27 years in public service, said grant applications and recordkeeping would be significantly harder to handle without outside assistance. A state team could be of great use to communities lacking that resource, he said.

But even for small municipalities that employ staff with expertise, federal programs aren't always relevant to their needs.

"Much of the funding at the federal level tends to be for projects that we just don't have," said David Carlson, administrator of Lancaster, a city of 3,907.

He pointed to a recently announced program that seeks to increase connectivity in rural areas, funded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which allocated \$550 billion dollars in new spending for water, transportation, energy and broadband internet projects. The rural connectivity program requires proposals to have a regional impact, according to grant criteria.

"Let's face it, most small communities don't have transportation projects that have regional impacts," Carlson said.

Environmental lobbyists who backed the grant resource team found most law-

makers actually supported the proposal and observed a need for it within their own communities. But a majority on the Joint Committee on Finance nonetheless opposed creating additional government staff positions.

"It's the very communities this was most supposed to help that are going to be most hurt by this rather political decision," said Jennifer Giegerich, government affairs director with Wisconsin Conservation Voters.

Committee co-chairs Sen. Howard Marklein, R-Spring Green, and Rep. Mark Born, R-Beaver Dam, did not respond to requests for comment.

Ultimately, the communities and states that aggressively invest in staff capacity will be the ones that reap the federal funding, Giegerich said.

"My hope is that in the next year, there's just gonna be so many opportunities coming down and so many communities in Wisconsin who are not able to take advantage of them, that legislators will see the error of their ways and hopefully include this in our next budget."

This story is a product of the Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk, an editorially independent reporting network based at the University of Missouri School of Journalism in partnership with Report For America and funded by the Walton Family Foundation.

Top of the Lake Race ready to set sail

Neenah-Nodaway Yacht Club's annual Top of the Lake Race is set for Saturday morning with sign-up deadline at 8 p.m. Friday.

The event, which is also open to keelboats from neighboring clubs, is a medium-distance race beginning in Neenah, going to the north end of the lake with a destination finish at Stockbridge.

The skippers meeting for participants is 7:30 a.m. with first warning to sail at

9 a.m. For spectators planning to follow event, the fleet will arrive in Stockbridge between 12:30 and 1 p.m.

The race will commemorate Josh Bevelin, a junior sailor in the club who died in 2013, who has a traveling trophy in his honor that will be awarded to the Spinnaker division winner this year.

Go to <https://nnyc.org> for more information.

Classifieds

Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad
Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m.
Tuesday. \$15 for first 20 words

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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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FIFA Women's World Cup

Hi! I'm Lily. I love soccer!

I'm Mason. I love to play and watch soccer!

I'm Zoe. And I love to READ about soccer!



These three friends put together soccer puzzles and fun facts for this special Kid Scoop page about the FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP!

Women's World Cup Teams

By Zoe

The FIFA Women's World Cup soccer championship began in 1991. It is held every four years. Soccer teams from countries around the world compete for a chance to be one of the 32 teams that make it to the Women's World Cup.

I drew flags of the countries that have hosted the Women's World Cup tournament over the years. Do the math to label each flag correctly.

$14 + 7 =$ SWEDEN $18 + 9 =$ CHINA $19 + 6 =$ FRANCE
 $11 + 11 =$ CANADA $13 + 6 =$ UNITED STATES $9 + 9 =$ GERMANY



Australia and New Zealand

By Lily

The 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup tournament will take place from July 20 through August 20. The teams will play in Australia and New Zealand.

It takes a month to play all the matches that will lead to one country taking home the trophy!

I drew a map to show the host cities where Women's World Cup matches will take place.



It takes a lot of practice to build the skills needed to compete for a World Cup. Which soccer ball belongs to each player?



How many soccer balls can you find on this page?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

The Awesome Trophy

By Mason

The Women's World Cup trophy is really cool. I tried drawing a picture of it, but it took several tries to get it right. Find the two that are exactly the same.

Use the code to learn some facts about the trophy.

Trophy height: inches

Weight: pounds

<input type="checkbox"/> = 0	<input type="checkbox"/> = 5
<input type="checkbox"/> = 1	<input type="checkbox"/> = 6
<input type="checkbox"/> = 2	<input type="checkbox"/> = 7
<input type="checkbox"/> = 3	<input type="checkbox"/> = 8
<input type="checkbox"/> = 4	<input type="checkbox"/> = 9



Extra! Extra! Soccer Search

Look through the newspaper for 10 words that can be used to describe soccer.

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

What's in a name?

By Lily

Soccer is called something else in most countries around the world. Circle every fifth letter to reveal the answer.

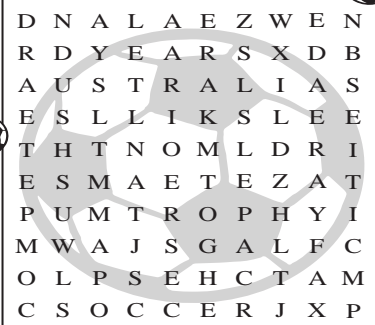
A M C P **F** R Z Y L O P N
 U V O T I L W T C A E U
 B Q I G K A J L M
 D L R U F I L

F

Double Double Word Search

- NEW ZEALAND
- AUSTRALIA
- COMPETE
- MATCHES
- FLAGS
- BALL
- CITIES
- YEARS
- TEAMS
- MAP
- MONTH
- READ
- SKILLS
- SOCCER
- TROPHY

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



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

Kid Scoop Together Sports Reporter

Interview a family member about a sport they played. Write their answers on the lines under each question.

What was your favorite sport(s) to play as a kid or teenager?

What was your favorite thing about that sport?

How did you react to winning a game?

How did you react when you lost a game?

What advice would you give young people playing that sport?

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Write On!

Sports News

Write a paragraph about a real-life sports event that you watched or played in.

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- \$25 for shoes
 - \$50 for backpack and supplies
 - \$75 to sponsor one of the 1000 local students
 - \$_____ to help meet the need of 1000 local students
- Please make checks payable to: NMES Subject: Back to School Fair

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