



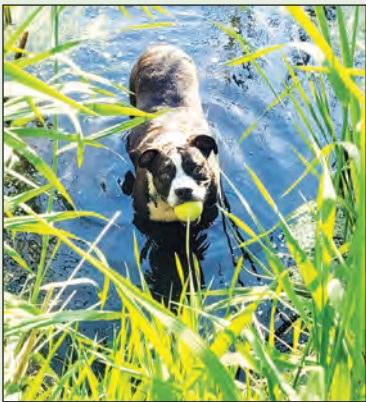
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Spirit Fund projects to be weighed

Spending analyst post sought to review funds

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County is accepting applications for capital project ideas from organizations across the county as part of efforts to distribute \$33 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds the county was awarded.

In March, the Board of Supervisors approved creation of a “Spirit Fund” for the ARPA dollars, which is divided into county government projects and government identified projects.

On June 22, County Executive Jon Doemel announced the application process for organizations seeking funding from ARPA dollars.

“With this one-time infusion of capital, community projects seeking funds should improve our county’s quality of life for

years to come,” Doemel said. “At this time, we will not be funding operations, programs or pilots; rather, we are seeking to increase the infrastructure and resiliency in our county through one-time investments.”

The county is offering financial awards from \$50,000 to \$500,000, with matching funds required. The application is open to government organizations, nonprofits and businesses.

SEE ARPA funds ON PAGE 10



Neenah News

Fur-filled meet-and-greet

A petting zoo lured children and families to visit during CommunityFest activities Tuesday at Riverside Park. For more photos from CommunityFest, see Page 6.

Complaints against judge have no response timetable

Judicial Commission has no investigative schedule

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

It could be years before voters learn whether the Wisconsin Judicial Commission will take action against a Winnebago County Circuit Court judge who threatened to retaliate against an attorney who supported his opponent in the spring election, according to a copy of the complaint obtained by Neenah News.

Neenah News first reported in May that attorney Matthew Goldin of Oshkosh brought a complaint against Branch 2 Judge Scott Woldt after he confronted Goldin during an April 25 social event for legal professionals. Woldt allegedly stated he would retaliate against the attorney and his

clients for supporting Woldt’s opponent in the spring election unless Goldin paid him \$28,000 toward the contested judicial race.

Two attorneys who witnessed the interaction confirmed the details of the complaint to Neenah News, with one stating she was also accosted by Woldt at the event.

Woldt secured a six-year seat on the bench in the April election. He did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Woldt’s behavior follows other allegations of unprofessional conduct, including in 2021 when the Wisconsin Supreme Court suspended him for a week without pay for six incidents of judicial misconduct from 2009-2016.



Woldt

The offenses included telling a domestic violence victim not to contact police after she requested that her assailant be issued a fine; and calling a 13-year-old sexual assault survivor a “so-called victim,” while referring to her 18-year-old assailant as a “very smart man” with a low probability of re-offending.

Woldt signed a stipulation admitting to the incidents outlined in the complaint, including that he held up a handgun during a sentencing hearing for a developmentally disabled man and told the man in part, “I keep my gun with me and you’d be dead, plain and simple.” He also displayed a gun to a visiting group of high school students.

The court wrote that Woldt used “undignified, discourteous, and disrespectful language” when he told a defendant he’d love to give him a year in jail for wasting his time; and in another case when he became

frustrated with an attorney and called him a disparaging term.

“These are all serious violations of a judge’s ethical duties and show an open and callous disregard of Judge Woldt’s obligation to serve the public in a fair, reasoned, impartial and courteous way,” the court wrote.

Complaints to the Wisconsin Judicial Commission are confidential until the commission has investigated and found probable cause to make a recommendation to the state Supreme Court, who issues the final disciplinary decision.

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

SEE Judge complaints ON PAGE 10

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Food pantries, retailers get connected

Feeding America puts Direct Connect to work

Neenah News

Regional food pantries are partnering with local retailers through Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin to help fill the grocery bill gap that has grown since the pandemic-related public aid boost ended earlier this year.

The Direct Connect program allows pantries to get food directly from partnering stores such as Walmart, Pick 'n Save, Aldi, Kwik Trip and Target.

A \$54,000 grant from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation helped Feeding America hire a retail sourcing assistant to support and increase Direct Connect partnerships between retailers and pantries.

Winnebago County food pantries and their retailer connections:

YouthGo- Kwik Trip
Father Carr's Place 2B: Kwik Trip, Pick 'n Save
Salvation Army Oshkosh: Target, Aldi, Pick 'n Save
Oshkosh Area Community Pantry: Walmart, Kwik Trip, Pick 'n Save, Aldi, Costco, Sam's, Meijer
Lutheran Food Pantry: Kwik Trip
Omro Community Food Pantry: Kwik Trip

Another goal of Direct Connect is to provide healthy food for a nutritious diet, making perishable items like fruit and vegetables quickly available to pantries.

"Historically, the movement of food was retail to food bank to pantry and now we are focusing on retail to pantry," said Patti Habeck, chief executive and president of Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, which operates food banks in Appleton and Milwaukee. "This has increased the amount of perishable items available



Submitted photo

Oshkosh Area Community Pantry is among the Winnebago County sites that provide food directly from retailers through Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin's Direct Connect program.

through the food pantry system."

The federal government ended extra benefits through FoodShare Wisconsin at the end of February that were put in place in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Feeding America warned at that time that all 700,000 recipients would lose about half of their benefits.

Ann Kriegel, an economic support supervisor at the Winnebago County Human Services Department, said the emergency FoodShare allotments during the COVID public health emergency brought \$2,024,129 to county residents.

"Probably the population that got hit the hardest with the change in the FoodShare were the disabled and elderly, who get about \$20 a month normally, and were getting over \$200 a month (during the pandemic)," she said.

The cuts came at a time when standard groceries are costing up to 10 percent

more than they did a year ago. Consequently, pantries are seeing as many as four times as many people since the FoodShare reduction.

"Our usage peaked in November 2022 at 2,035 families served," said Ryan Rasmussen, executive director of the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. "And while numbers have come down a bit since then, our number of first-time visitors is higher than ever. In 2022, we were seeing 50 to 80 new families a month. In 2023, we've already registered 209 new families just in January and February."

The pantry has been hearing about the challenges from its visitors.

"Money is tight," said Samantha, a mother of five and regular guest at the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. "Food, gas, rent...well just about everything is more expensive right now. The pantry is helping us make ends meet."

New statewide water use map available

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has released a new water use StoryMap, showcasing water use in the state over the past decade, and the 2021 Water Withdrawals Report.

Since the onset of the Great Lakes Compact, Wisconsin has required water users to register and annually report on any surface water or groundwater withdrawals with pumping capacity of 100,000 gallons per day. The StoryMap and report found at storymaps.arcgis.com features the compilation of data reported to the DNR.

"Analyzing the data we collected over the past ten years helps us identify trends in water use so we can better balance economic viability with the sustainability of our aquifers and the water resources that depend on them into the future," said Steve Elmore, DNR Drinking Water and Groundwater Program director.

By collecting monthly water withdrawals, the DNR can look at trends in water use, which often relate to monthly temperatures, the growing season and precipitation patterns. For example, water withdrawals often peak in the summer when energy usage is highest, and farmers need to supplement rainfall to grow crops.

Over the past decade, cities, agricultural operations, businesses and industries withdrew on average 1.9 trillion gallons, equivalent to 1.6 inches of water covering the surface of Wisconsin. The biggest withdrawers use water for power production and municipal water supply, withdrawing 84% of the total water in 2021.



Photo by Brandon Mueller

Years of growth

Twin Oaks Gardens, Neenah's only community growing space, is marking 15 years of operation that went from 18 plots in 2008 to its current 96 spaces. Situated west of the Neenah Police Department along Byrd Street, the parcel originally owned by Kimberly-Clark was given to the city in 2017 with the understanding that the community gardens remain in place. In 2020, the city developed the balance of the property into a dog park.





Photos by Shannon Davis-Foust

Lake Winnebago and other area waters are experiencing some early blue-green algae blooms that can be harmful to people and animals.

Blue-green algae alerts rise with seasonal blooms

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Blue-green algae season has started early in Lake Winnebago, with the algae blooms posing a potential health hazard to people and pets.

The Winnebago County Health Department works in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh to monitor E. coli levels and blue-green algae blooms in several locations throughout the Lake Winnebago and Poygan basin from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Shannon Davis-Foust is part of a group of researchers from UW Oshkosh who was awarded a \$1.6 million grant last fall from the National Science Foundation to study blue-green algae. UWO is collaborating with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance to conduct a four-year analysis of the blooms.

Davis-Foust said the researchers kicked off their field season in mid-June studying harmful algae blooms in Lake Winnebago. The blooms are caused by cyanobacteria, some of which are harmful to people and may be fatal to pets. Blue-green algae blooms were identified June 19 and 21 in Oshkosh's Menominee Park and June 21 in Neenah's Fresh Air Park.

Davis-Foust said a sample of the water from Menominee Park was examined under a microscope, which revealed three types of cyanobacteria. Microcystis was identified, with many strains producing a family of potent liver toxins, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Anabaena was found in the water, which may cause serious neurological damage and death in dogs and other animals who ingest it. Gloeotrichia was also identified, which can cause skin irritation and gastrointestinal symptoms.

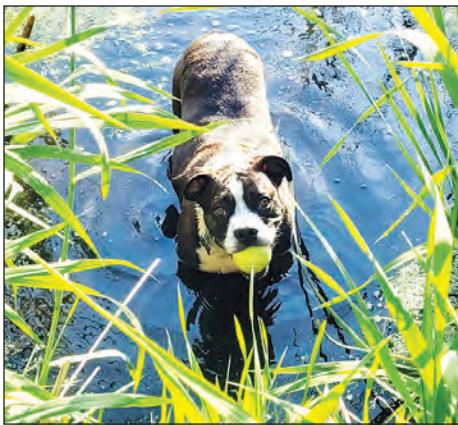
Swimming in blue-green algae may cause illness through swallowing water, breathing it in or through skin contact. Environmental health specialist Morgan Peterson said the main symptoms of exposure in people are abdominal cramps, diarrhea, vomiting and skin rashes; which are many of the same signs to watch for in dogs.

"A dog is very similar as well – panting, mainly vomiting, those are the big symptoms," she said.

Not all cyanobacteria have visible blooms or produce harmful toxins, according to the health department, which estimated between 30% and 50% of blooms are non-toxic.

The blue-green algae blooms typically occur later in the summer, but warmer temperatures increase the frequency of blooms.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, fertilizer, sewage or runoff that washes into lakes, rivers or oceans provide



Neenah News

Dogs should get special attention when around the water during algae bloom season.

nutrients for the blooms. The CDC reports that climate change may be making the algae blooms worse by warming the water.

"With warm water and large rain events that just kind of wash all of the fertilizers and farm stuff into the lake, that's a time when the algae will grow in the lake," Peterson said.

The blooms often produce a foul smell and taste, look like spilled paint or pea soup, and can change the color of the water to green, blue, turquoise, purple, tan or white, according to the health department.

"It'll look very much like paint," Peterson said. "Otherwise, if there's huge mats of the algae all floating together, that's another sign."

It is impossible to identify with a visual inspection whether an algae bloom is toxic, according to the health department, which recommends treating every algae bloom as if it could be dangerous.

"When you're in doubt of if you should be swimming or not, just stay out of the water," Peterson said.

The health department's guidance for people is to not swim or wade through algae scums; not boat, water ski or jet ski through algae blooms; not fish when algae scum is present; and to shower with soap and water after swimming in a lake.

The blooms are especially harmful and

potentially fatal to dogs. The health department recommends not letting dogs drink lake water during an algae bloom; not letting dogs eat algae scum or lick it off their fur; and to wash dogs with clean water immediately if they swim or wade in water amid a bloom.

"The symptoms would occur within 24 hours after swimming," Peterson said. "That's why we always tell people to shower any time they swim in the lake. Immediately after swimming, shower and rinse your dog off; bathe your dog."

From 2018 to date, the state Department of Health Services (DHS) has received 119 human and animal illness complaints from people who suspected the illness in question could be from blue-green algae exposure. There have been eight complaints so

far this year.

DHS noted that not every illness reported is attributed to blue-green algae and most of the cases are suspected to be linked to other causes.

DHS recommends looking for signage before recreating in the water, reminding children not to swallow water while swimming, and to bring along fresh, clean water for pets to drink.

Suspected human and animal blue-green algae illnesses may be reported to DHS by calling 608-266-1120 or filling out an illness report at the link found on the DHS blue-green algae webpage.

Information about county beach water quality advisories or closures are at www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health under the Beach Water Quality tab.

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Salon owner creates point of difference downtown

Cheveux beautifies its building and clients

By Patti Lee
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Sherry Cheveux is right where she always wanted to be. The owner of Cheveux (French for “hair”) Salon and Spa, is entering her 25th year in downtown Neenah.

She will tell you that she was always meant to be in business. Born Hartwig, Cheveux grew up in Shawano alongside her dad, Floyd, and his bottling company Twigs Beverage. Established in 1955, Twigs was the first distributor of Sundrop Beverages in the Northeast.

Cheveux holds her family in great pride.

“My parents taught me so much about business,” she said. “My Dad was kind of like, ‘You’re a woman ... you don’t have to have a spot in the business world.’ But growing up I watched him and I learned from him. He could see my determination, and he started giving me audio tapes and business advice.”

The memories are dear to Cheveux. Her grandfather had a barber shop his entire adult life.

“I did my apprenticeship there. I learned all the barbering from him; he gave that to me. Then I went to school for my license,” she said. “And my mom was a cosmetologist. It was around 1952 or ’53. She worked in a little beauty shop on that corner,” she gestures. “And all these years later, I’m just a block down the road from where she was. So, yeah, you could say it’s in my blood.”

That 206 W. Wisconsin Ave. (circa 1864) location holds a lot of history. From the drop, Cheveux knew she would be on Main Street.

“I always loved downtown (Neenah) and would come here from the time I was little. But the only thing I could possibly afford would be on this end – and at that time this end was not very nice. All the focus was on that block,” she states, motioning east.

“I loved the building across the road, but if I’d gotten that one, we wouldn’t be here anymore. When this building went up for sale I jumped because it was semi-affordable.”

Cheveux forged ahead, closing on the location – warts and all – in June 1999.

“The disarray was just huge,” Cheveux recalled. “There were holes in the roof where the rain came in. We’d tear off a wall and it would lead to something else. We found a kiln in here and had to remove all the brick from that.”

The location also came with its very own squatter. Today the space holds a beautiful courtyard oasis. But back in the day there was a dilapidated porch and a man who apparently smoked for a living hanging out in the blocked off back of the building.

“He was just in there with all of his things,” Cheveux said. “And I was so fearful that we bought a building but we didn’t buy the yard. The title company assured me that was not the case. Then we had to deal with getting him out,” she laughs.

That issue handled, it was “on and forward” for Cheveux. “I did a lot of research when deciding what I was going

to name my business,” she said. “I wanted something different, something that people ask us about – with a touch of class.” Thus the name was chosen, for the business and owner as well.

“I knew I wanted Aveda. It’s a quality, prime product with no animal cruelty and I knew it would go over well in Neenah,” she said. “I wanted this place to be a point of difference for the community. That was my big thing.”

As Cheveux was just getting off the ground, Karen Harkness assumed the executive director position at Future Neenah.

“Back then the membership fee policies were a bit loose. She really made a difference,” Cheveux said. “Karen was writing grants and creating programs for our storefronts and downtown events. We needed people to step up and pay their fees – and they did. Today we have an assessment that helps to fund downtown improvement.”

There was another big Neenah happening around that time and Cheveux was at the heart of it. Or, as she puts it, “Then the live mannequin event happened.”

“This is what I remember from my childhood,” she recalled. “My grandma would come to pick me up and it would be at night. It would be all dark and very exciting. And she would take me to Nau’s in Green Bay. It was a big department store and the only place that did this.”

Cheveux is animated as she reminisces. “The store was all lit up and there were live mannequins in the windows. When you’re a kid looking at all of this, and then some of the models would wink at you, it was almost surreal.”

“And so it was just something I thought would work really well in a downtown. I had two nice Main Street windows. I thought, ‘Well, let’s bring it up’ – and Karen was very supportive. For the first event I think we had five businesses.”

Of those firsts, Bill Paul and Cheveux Salon remain.

Cheveux recalls her 2010 live action year.

“We had two guys and they were on drywall stilts. We created boots around the stilts and gave them really tall hats. They stood on each side of our door as soldiers from ‘The Nutcracker.’ My two little nieces were in the windows sleeping under down comforters, dreaming the dream. The soldiers would step out and have a sword fight and we even had sugar plum fairies who came out and danced.”

For nearly a decade the salon shared space with an art gallery as Cheveux perfected the showroom. She added one chair, then another, gradually creating her elegant space. Cheveux took advantage of those matching grants to upgrade and remodel the Main Street storefront.

Ten years in, it was time to go it alone. Cheveux Salon and Spa stood on its own as a woman-owned business in downtown Neenah.

The bones of that original building peek through in every room. Vintage woodwork, a little side room that holds one stylist sink, a winding staircase accented by retro shadowbox cabinets leading upstairs to a quiet room that houses massage and spa services by Megan Bobbie. And, of course, the beautiful back courtyard oasis enjoyed by employees and clients.

As to the “point of difference,” Cheveux Salon and Spa was born with a mission statement.

“When a stylist joins us they sign on to the mission as well,” Cheveux explained.



Photos from Cheveux

These are before (above) and after photos of the courtyard behind Cheveux.



That mission includes community involvement as a business and as a person.

“Do something good for somebody, right? Change their life sort of thing,” Cheveux said, being a founding collaborator in the charity driven “Ultimate Ladies Day.”

“My big thing is to have goals,” Cheveux said. “I teach everyone here, set a goal because if you don’t have a goal, you’re going to flounder, you’re always back and forth. But if you have a goal, you’re going to watch it and go straight for it.”

Cheveux is proud of “her girls” and the salon’s participation in community projects, including the Fox Valley Community Table, Double Portion and the Brigade’s Christmas giving fund. The salon and spa also donates spa and comfort services for cancer survivors and their families.

“We have it in our mission statement. We give back, and we are all kind,” she said. “You know, that is huge. Not only is everyone here intelligent and talented, they are very dedicated to their service of people. It’s reflected in how we treat others and our products reflect our values – kindness to all, including the animals – no cruelty products.”

There have been many changes and a lot of growth in the past 24 years. Every business has its ups and downs but most recently pandemic stresses followed by the exit of several employees were concerning to the usually upbeat Cheveux. But in keeping with that mission statement, three special women stepped up.

“They stayed and supported me – they were just so strong,” she said. “I’d be ready to throw in the towel and they would say, ‘Don’t worry, we’re right here with you. We’ll make it through.’ They care about me, they care about this building – this very special place – and they care about this community.”

So now in her 25th year, Cheveux believes the future is bright.

“I’m to a point where I’m happy and I’m satisfied. I know the day is coming when I’m going to want to retire, take things a little slower, create some time to relax and put away my worries,” she said with a smile. “You know, when that day comes, this place is going to be in the best of hands.”

Cheveux is referring to the hands of those three employees: “The mission, the building, the business, the community... and they will get to keep the name.” And that is truly a point of difference.



Photo by Rob Zimmer

The Neenah Public Library's summer offerings extend outside in its natural surroundings.

Library's adventures into nature open to all

By Rob Zimmer
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Where else can you hopscotch across lily pads on a virtual pond? Watch with wonder as monarch butterflies feast upon native wildflowers in a monarch oasis? Read one of many recommended books all about nature and the outdoors and all of the wonders?

The Neenah public library, of course. Surrounding the building on the public sidewalks and the patio, visitors to the library can enjoy an array of fun sidewalk activities designed especially for kids. Painted elements on the sidewalks invite participants to enjoy several different activities and exercises.

In addition, a spectacular native wildflower garden, designated as an official Monarch Waystation invites visitors to take a closer look at the blooms, as well as the pollinators, such as bees, monarchs and other butterflies that enjoy these native plants in bloom all season long.

The Winnebago County Master Gardeners take responsibility for the wildflower garden and the plants incorporated into the plan.

Youth services manager Katrina Wulff said that the idea for the array of activi-

ties and natural elements around the library building and its pathways and sidewalks was inspired by a visit she made to a nature center.

"I enjoyed it and I thought that we could easily do that here," she said.

The activity trail gets a lot of use and is very popular, said blank. And not just with the kids.

"Often, we have joggers who use the area and will play hopscotch and the other trail activities as part of their run," she said.

For visitors to the library, they can enjoy quiet reading or study time indoors, and a fun activity outside.

"The action, the moving elements of the trail and being outdoors give the kids the physical activity."

As the activity trails and elements grow, Wulff has a big wish for one special feature she would like to add to the activity trail. Musical instruments inspired by nature are on the wish list and the library is currently seeking donations for the special project.

"Already, a few musical elements are in place and the plan is to add many more to bring beautiful, natural music to the outdoor activity lineup," she said.

County parks survey informs future work

The Winnebago County Parks Department is updating its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) that will help guide the continual improvement of parks, open space, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Go to surveyMonkey.com/r/winnebago-county-park to respond to the survey.

Parks officials said the plan also maintains the county's eligibility for key state and federal grants.



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Fish kills increase due to warming waters

As water temperatures are heating up, anglers may notice more dead fish than usual on their favorite waterbodies, the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) notes.

Underlying causes include pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, and environmental issues like low dissolved oxygen levels and thermal stress. The DNR reminds anglers and boaters to report fish kill events to a local fish biologist.

Fish kills need to be investigated through coordinated efforts between biologists and fish health staff to confirm the underlying cause. Because dead fish decay quickly in warm temperatures and water conditions can change rapidly, it won't always be possible to definitively determine the reason.

Those who catch a diseased or dying fish

or observe a fish kill should take these steps:

- Wear gloves or wash hands after handling dead or dying fish.
- Anglers should not actively collect fish samples from a fish kill event. If you accidentally catch a diseased or dying fish, retain the fish as a part of a daily bag limit and place the fish in a plastic bag on ice in a cooler. Do not transport the fish to a DNR office or hatchery.
- Note the waterbody, date, fish species and number of dead or dying fish and report it immediately to your local fisheries biologist or the DNR.
- If possible, take clear images of the affected area.

DNR staff will not be able to visit every potentially diseased caught fish or occurrence of dead fish.

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Photos by David Hall and Neenah News



CommunityFest fun

Top left: CommunityFest's Neenah activities kicked off Monday night at Shattuck Park with families dancing the night away Gangnam Style at Pajama Jam with Rhex Arboleda and sponsored by the YMCA and Community Fest.

At left: Neenah Mayor Jane Lang greets young participants in the Fox Cities Morning Rotary Club's Little Red, White and Blue Parade on Tuesday morning at Riverside Park.

Above: Flex Fox warmed up young participants of the Pajama Jam crowd at Shattuck Park on Monday night in Neenah.

Make the time for annual wellness visit

ThedaCare Communications

Maybe you've had it on the "to do" list to schedule an annual wellness visit with a primary care provider (PCP). Maybe you're new to the area, and the list includes a note to find a new PCP. Now is a great time to get that appointment scheduled.

"Your annual wellness visit is an important appointment to keep as it's a key touchstone in helping to prevent illness," said Dr. Kelly Mathes, a family medicine physician with ThedaCare Physicians-Neenah. "You and your care team will develop or update a plan of care for you based on your health and what risk factors you may have."

Most insurance covers annual wellness visits as a part of regular prevention screenings.

Your PCP is an important resource, serving as a type of "home base" for a person's health care needs. They provide, coordinate or help you access health care, providing referrals for more complex issues when necessary.

PCPs can be physicians, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists or physician assistants.

During a wellness visit, the PCP will talk about a person's health, family history and habits; measure blood pressure, height and weight; and ask about any health concerns. They will suggest and help schedule needed screenings for health issues such as certain types of cancers.

A PCP also will talk about getting or updating vaccines, some of which should be done on an annual basis, such as the influenza shot. Some of the potential vaccines:

- Pneumonia, with vaccination generally recommended for adults age 65 and older, as pneumonia can be life-threatening if fluid fills the air sacs in the lungs.
- Shingles, with vaccination recommended for adults over age 50, to prevent the painful blistering rash caused by reactivation of the virus that causes chicken pox.
- Tetanus, prevented with the Tdap vaccine, which also protects against diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). Tetanus is caused by a bacterial infection usually resulting from a cut or other wound. The Tdap vaccine is a good idea for new parents or grandparents to prevent passing pertussis to a newborn.

Neenah News
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Be a part of Neenah history!

The new Neenah High School is set to open for the 2023-24 school year, replacing the current school that opened in 1972. This is a rare opportunity to show your support and appreciation for the old school and new school.

Neenah News is creating a commemorative section that will feature stories, photos, memories and achievements of Neenah High School over the past five decades. You will also get a glimpse of the new school, which will offer state-of-the-art facilities, innovative programs and enhanced opportunities for students and staff.

The commemorative section will be published Aug. 25, 2023, and mailed to nearly 21,500 homes in the Neenah Joint School District. It will be in print and online, reaching thousands of readers in the community and beyond.

Whether you are a local business, organization, alumni group or individual, you can advertise products, services or messages in this special edition.

To reserve ad space in the section contact us at 920-385-4512. Space deadline is Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023.

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Mental health defense claimed in slaying

Neenah News

A Neenah man accused of killing a Milwaukee transgender woman in February and starting her apartment on fire has pleaded not guilty due to mental disease or defect to charges in both Winnebago and Milwaukee counties.

Cordell Howze, 33, was released from the Winnebago County Jail two days before Cashay Henderson, 31, was found dead in a burning Milwaukee apartment building with two gunshot wounds.

According to the criminal complaint, an acquaintance drove Howze from Neenah to Milwaukee on Feb. 25.

Howze was identified in traffic cam footage in a vehicle with Henderson near her apartment Feb. 26, around the time she was killed.

The day after Henderson was found dead, Howze showed up at the Neenah home of a male acquaintance who is not named in the criminal complaint. Howze was reportedly acting strange and pointed a firearm with a green laser beam at the acquaintance's wife's head.

Howze showed the man a video on his phone of a dead female with blood on her head and stated, "I caught a body of a disgusting (expletive) tran," which the friend knew to mean he killed a transgender person. Howze also stated that he wanted to kill several other people.

Howze later told another acquaintance that he had "popped" a "transvestite." He also gave his mother a Gucci purse and a Rolex watch, both belonging to Henderson. At Howze's grandmother's house, authorities found several letters addressed to Henderson.

"Defendant went to the victim's house, killed her, attempted to burn the house

in an attempt to cover it up, and stole the victim's purse, watch, and mail," the complaint alleges.

On Feb. 28, Neenah police initiated a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle at around 11:15 p.m. and the driver, Howze, fled into Menasha. Menasha police deployed stop sticks that slowed the vehicle. Police requested assistance from the Wisconsin State Patrol to perform a PIT maneuver and successfully stopped the vehicle on Appleton Road.

Body cam footage released last month showed Howze ignoring officers' commands and fleeing from the vehicle. A Winnebago County K9 was deployed and officers used a taser on him before placing him into custody.

In the footage, an officer is heard stating that "he's all (expletive) up. I was wondering why the dog had no effect on him."

Howze is facing charges of first-degree reckless homicide and possession of a firearm by a felon in Milwaukee County. In Winnebago County, he has been charged with felony fleeing and eluding. He entered an insanity plea in both cases and is due in court in both counties this month for competency hearings.

Henderson's death marks the third Black trans woman killed in Milwaukee in a nine-month period. Her family has started a petition demanding that Howze be charged with a hate crime.

According to the petition, Henderson was an active member of her community and was involved with LGBTQ+ organizations.

"Cashay was a bubbly, genuine, compassionate and humorous soul, and she captured the hearts of almost everyone who's met her," the petition states.



Henderson



Howze

DHS expands harm reduction efforts

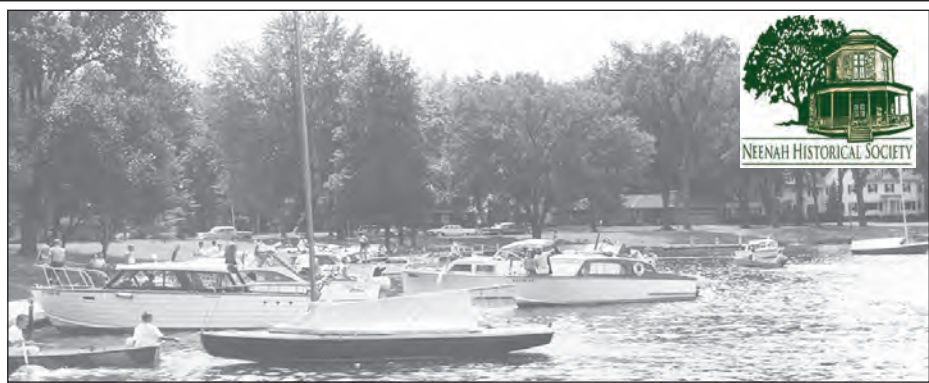
Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Kirsten Johnson joined attendees at the state's inaugural Harm Reduction Conference in Green Bay recently to announce expanded efforts to deal with the overdose epidemic and its impact on communities.

"Overdose continues to take far too many lives in Wisconsin, and I am proud to support our partners across the state who work to save lives, prevent harm, and promote hope for the future," Johnson said.

Johnson announced increased efforts to

support harm reduction strategies, which aim to minimize the harmful effects of substance use, reduce risk behaviors that can lead to injury or communicable disease, and prevent the progression to a substance use disorder.

DHS has awarded one-time funding of up to \$55,000 to 28 local partners to support the purchase and installation of public health vending machines, which can include items such as overdose prevention education, naloxone, fentanyl test strips and other harm reduction products.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Boating social

In July 1962, the Wisconsin Boating Association's third annual rendezvous was hosted by the Tri-City Boating Club of Neenah. Forty-seven boats and 264 people registered at Riverside Park. Cruise masters guided visitors to Stockbridge, High Cliff and Calumet. Activities also included a dance at the Valley Inn.

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Fish consumption advisories carry their own risks

Amid PFAS fears in water, warnings can mislead

By Bennet Goldstein
WISCONSIN WATCH

Commercial fisher Bryan Bainbridge can net several thousand pounds of whitefish or herring from Lake Superior during a successful run, but his greatest gratification comes when he returns to the dock.

Sometimes people ask if they can have some fish. He takes pride in being able to provide.

The operation is more than just business for Bainbridge, 45, a former tribal chairman of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, one of six federally recognized Ojibwe tribes in Wisconsin.

"It's a part of who we are and what we do to live," Bainbridge said.

But a recent study highlighting the potential dangers of "forever chemicals" has raised questions about the impacts of consuming fish exposed to toxins in the nation's waterways, including the Great Lakes. For Indigenous nations like the Red Cliff band, where fishing is central to tribal lifeways, culture and sovereignty, contamination could pose disproportionate health burdens.

Yet, oversimplifying or overstating the risks carries consequences.

For decades, state governments have advised the public to limit the amount or types of Great Lakes fish they eat due to the presence of mercury, a neurotoxin, and carcinogenic polychlorinated biphenyls.

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, have more recently triggered



Wisconsin Watch photo by Bennet Goldstein

Commercial fisher Donny Livingston, a citizen of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, picks cisco from gillnets after lifting them from Lake Superior onto the fish tug Ava June during a fishing run near the Apostle Islands late last year.

fish consumption advisories. The class of more than 12,000 chemicals, some linked to health problems, don't break down in the environment — hence their "forever

chemical" moniker.

Bainbridge believes Lake Superior's advisories misleadingly brand all fish as unsafe.

"Lake Superior is still one of the most pristine resources for consumable products," he said. "It's really not fair on how that can affect our market."

Experts say he has a point. When inadequately communicated, fish advisories might stigmatize fish consumption.

"That's a harm to give someone the wrong impression and discourage them from doing something that should otherwise be healthy," said Matthew Dellinger, an associate professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin, who studies risk communication and health literacy.

Still, when fish contain contaminants, the public should understand the risks. Those who issue recommendations walk a tightrope as they balance the needs for transparency and stigma avoidance.

Environmental health agencies generally base fish consumption advisories on an "average" consumer's diet. Those guidelines don't necessarily reflect the heightened toxic exposure faced by communities of color, low-income communities or Indigenous peoples.

Great Lakes region residents consume more than twice the fish as the average American, according to some estimates, while tribal nations consume up to 13 times more.

Giving up fish is not possible when people lack an alternative.

"For a county (Ashland) that's economically oppressed, we have relied on the land and the water to feed our families," said Edith Leoso, retired tribal historic preservation officer with the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. "A lot of our tribal members have a very low income" and "are strongly dependent on fish, deer meat, wild rice — anything they can get harvesting."

And when other options exist — often, processed, shelf-stable foods — they aren't typically as nourishing.

Researchers link the loss of traditional foods to nutritional health risks for Indigenous people.

"In a world where our number one killers are mostly related to cardiovascular issues, at least when it comes to chronic health conditions, you don't want to adopt a public health strategy that's just going to blanketly reduce consumption of a healthy food item," Dellinger said.

Across Indigenous communities in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, cardiovascular disease is the second leading cause of death, after cancer. It occurs at a rate significantly higher than among white residents of those states, according to the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center.

Ojibwe tribes have long resisted federal and state efforts to restrict their access to fish on the Great Lakes and inland.

In the mid-1800s, the United States forcibly acquired Ojibwe lands and waters through a succession of treaties. But the tribes expressly retained hunting, gathering and fishing rights in a region known as the Ceded Territory, encompassing portions of Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and three Great Lakes. States subsequently disregarded or rejected the treaties outright.

Tribal citizens filed multiple legal challenges over the ensuing decades, achieving a major victory in Michigan in 1971. Later court rulings required the other two states to likewise recognize treaty rights.

Encouraging people to reduce their consumption of certain fish risks simultaneously disconnecting them from a healthy food source along with tradition, history and culture, Dellinger said.

He repeatedly encounters such worries during focus groups with Ojibwe people.

"What's the purpose of a fish consumption advisory?" Dellinger said. "Is it to tell people not to eat fish, to not engage in this activity, to not value the Great Lakes and all it has to offer? Or is the purpose to try to help guide them so that they can make

SEE **Fish advisories** ON PAGE 9

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Fish advisories

FROM PAGE 8

their own decisions and navigate the risks and benefits so that they can partake of this part of life?”

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency delegates the responsibility of setting fish consumption advisories to states. The details vary. Even neighboring states adjacent to shared water bodies sometimes issue contradictory guidelines.

Michigan issued the nation's first advisory in 1971, prompted by the discovery of mercury in fish from the St. Clair River, south of Lake Huron.

Thousands more advisories followed. As of 2011, the final year in which the EPA compiled advisory data, more than 5,627 were active across 4,821 water bodies nationwide.

“The idea behind fish consumption advisories was that they were going to be temporary until things could be cleaned up,” said assistant professor Valoree Gagnon, director of university-Indigenous community partnerships at Michigan Technological University's Great Lakes Research Center. “Many people don't even question their existence as much anymore.”

An EPA illustration underscores that point. It depicts four cartoonish fish with the caption: “One fish. Two fish. Don't fish. Do fish.”

“A play on Dr. Seuss,” Gagnon said, “as if having advisories is just a normal part of life and growing up.”

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regularly publishes guidelines, urging fishers to “choose wisely.”

“We strongly encourage folks to continue to go and fish,” said Sean Strom, a DNR

fish and wildlife toxicologist. “But we just want them to be aware of any advisories that might be in place for their given body of water.”

In advisories, federal and state regulators usually cite elevated risks for children and people who are pregnant, seek to become pregnant or who are breastfeeding.

But some scholars say fish advisories unfairly direct people to avoid risk by changing their behavior, rather than requiring polluters to reduce risk by cleaning up contamination.

“We could envision a world without them,” Gagnon said. “If we thought about that, maybe we'd try harder to get on that path.”

But until cleanup occurs, people need information to make informed choices, according to the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. The federal advisory committee recommends disseminating culturally appropriate and specific material.

Experts have developed methods of conveying risk that incorporate the importance of fishing to indigenous communities.

Dellinger helped develop a mobile app, called Gigiigoo'inaan, “our fish” in the Ojibwe language, to encourage consumption within government-established safety limits.

The personalized recommendations account for age, sex, weight and portion size and rank fish from “more beneficial” to “less beneficial.” The advisories are based on data from tribal harvests and apply only to the 1836 Ceded Territory portions of the Great Lakes, which excludes several urban areas.

Gigiigoo'inaan incorporates mercury and PCB contamination in its recommendations, but not PFAS. Dellinger has reasons.

In 2022, the EPA updated draft health advisories for two PFAS — PFOA and PFOS — to levels so low as to suggest no amount of the chemicals are safe for human consumption.

Duke University and Environmental Working Group researchers considered those levels when analyzing freshwater fish sampled nationwide by the EPA from 2013 to 2015.

The study reported that consuming an 8-ounce serving of sampled fish at the median PFOS level would raise the concentration of PFOS in blood serum to a level 2,400 times greater than the EPA's latest health advisory — equivalent to drinking contaminated water for a month. If all fish consumption advisories incorporated the EPA's guidance, the authors wrote, nearly all agency-sampled freshwater fish would be considered unsafe to eat.

While such conclusions make for splashy headlines, Dellinger said, they might overstate the risks of PFOS when additional research is needed: scientists still are determining appropriate risk benchmarks, major exposure routes and hotspot locations. Unclear is whether the EPA-sampled fish represent the species most people consume or swim in the locations where most people fish.

“I'm not saying there isn't a risk,” Dellinger said. “There almost certainly is because they found these fish. But we would need to know more about where exactly these fish are coming from.”

David Andrews, EWG senior scientist, did not respond to a request for comment.

Although Gigiigoo'inaan does not provide PFOS advice, an updated version of the app will direct fishers to local resources.

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, a natural resource management organization that works with 11

tribes in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, offers guidance to promote safe eating of oga (walleye) and maazhiginoozhe (muskie). The commission publishes maps for inland lakes within the Ceded Territory that suggest a maximum number of meals per month specific to each lake for a 20-inch-long fish, offering flexibility that acknowledges traditional consumption patterns.

“We try to emphasize that the smaller the walleye, the more you can eat,” said Caren Ackley, GLIFWC environmental biologist.

Commission staff provide tribal citizens with maps when they register for the fish spearing season.

“Because GLIFWC tribal members rely on fish for subsistence and cultural lifestyles, we have to be mindful about how we communicate safe fish consumption to them,” said Hannah Arbuckle, GLIFWC's outreach coordinator. “People live off of these fish.”

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. Wisconsin Watch is a member of the network.

Business news roundup

Tricia's Treasures announced it is closing its 121 W. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, location with the final day set for July 31. The boutique clothing store, with a location in Crandon, has started a clearance sale at the Neenah store.

Engineering and architectural firm **McMahon** has hired **Daniel Ewart** as an electrical engineer, **Gerald Kuddek** as a public safety specialist, **Dylan Rass** as an architectural designer, **Amy Sedlar** as a survey technician and **Susan Tucker** as a water and wastewater designer. Ewart comes to McMahon after working five years at a full-service engineering firm in Omaha, Nebraska. Kuddek served the West Bend Fire and Rescue Department for nearly four decades, the last 10 years as chief. Rass is a new graduate of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College where he earned his associate degree in architectural technology. Sedlar brings 25 years of experience in land surveying to her new role. Tucker recently transitioned to a full-time role after working as an intern for the water and wastewater division.

The **Fox Cities Chamber** is offering a public seminar on “Low Cost Marketing for Your Small Business” on Wednesday from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Community First Credit Union, 1575 Dresang Way, Neenah. Businesses with marketing budgets that are tight or nonexistent can learn about key strategies to reach an audience that are budget friendly. The program features Jordan Kapellusch, digital marketing specialist at Network Health; and Pamela Barnes, owner of Xe54: a Wine & Cocktail Lounge. Go to

business.foxcitieschamber.com for program details.

The deadline to apply for the **Fox Cities Chamber's Leadership Fox Cities 2.0**, a program is for graduates of Leadership Fox Cities or similar program, has been extended to Monday. For questions or to request an application, contact Amy Schanke, director of Leadership Fox Cities, at 920-422-0041 or aschanke@foxcitieschamber.com.

Volatus Infrastructure has signed a memorandum of understanding with the South Korean technology company WE-FLO, which will provide vehicle sensor expertise that Volatus will use at its maintenance and repair organization facilities to assist with service and maintenance programs for electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

Keller Inc. has been chosen as the general contractor on a 6,615-square-foot interior remodel building project for Discover Little Miracles, 1421 S. Commercial St., Neenah. The family-owned facility supports families that have additional needs, disabilities and other life-limiting conditions.

J. J. Keller & Associates has become certified as a Most Loved Workplace through the Best Practice Institute, a validation based on a comprehensive look at workplace sentiment for organizations. J. J. Keller associates were surveyed on elements around employment satisfaction including level of respect, collaboration, support and sense of belonging inside the company.

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Zoom meeting photo

County officials discuss the Spirit Fund effort that will distribute federal funding in the county.

ARPA funds

FROM PAGE 1

Initial plans for the ARPA funds included about \$8 million, or about a quarter of the funds, to nonprofit organizations, but was changed after board discussion in March voted to split the funds between governmental and overall community projects.

At an ARPA meeting last week, District 1 Supervisor Rachael Dowling expressed frustration that nonprofits were again eligible for funding.

"The re-inclusion of nonprofits raises concerns of a potential conflict of interest," she said.

ARPA citizen member Beth Oswald, who also serves as executive director of Oshkosh Area United Way, has been appointed to lead scoring of the applications. Oswald said the intent of the applications was not to promise funding to anyone.

"The intent was to gather information to show the county board of supervisors what kind of projects were coming from the community," she said.

The final decision on ARPA funds allocated must be approved by the full county board.

"If the county board, as a whole, decides that we don't want to fund any community facing projects, that is your determination and then we can say that we've done our due diligence," Oswald said.

Spirit Fund information and applications are at www.winnebagoountywi.gov.

At last week's ARPA meeting, Doemel reintroduced a resolution to deviate up to 10% of the ARPA dollars into creating a sunseting innovation analyst position to ensure the adequate and smart spending

of county funds, particularly in relation to ARPA spending.

The resolution will appropriate \$65,500 this year in labor and technology costs for the new position from interest earnings on the Spirit Fund. An additional \$365,000 would be reserved for labor costs in the 2024, 2025 and 2026 annual budgets from Spirit Fund interest proceeds.

Doemel said the purpose of the position is to reduce the county's tax liability.

"So for me, this isn't just adding a position; it's bringing in somebody for three years to really do a diagnostics on our county to find out where the money we're spending and where the money we can save (is), as well as help us navigate all the other funds that are coming through," Doemel said, adding that such an addition could help the county assist towns that don't have the ability to know when this funding will be coming through.

Some ARPA commission members questioned whether the person hired would be able to be effective in a position that only lasts three years. Doemel responded with frustration.

"So, because of the fact that we don't have the ability to do all of these things, we shouldn't hire somebody to help the county?" Doemel asked. "Because of the fact that we can't do enough for the towns, we shouldn't have this ability to actually look at what we do in the county and the whole three years of not being able to do anything ...?"

The ARPA Commission voted 5-4 to advance the innovation analyst position proposal to the Personnel and Finance Committee for evaluation. If that committee approves the position, it will go to the county board for approval.

Judge complaints

FROM PAGE 1

himself after the misconduct complaint was filed and has since recused himself from presiding over all cases where Goldin is the attorney of record.

The complaint offers the public a rare look into the Judicial Commission's secretive discipline process, according to Wisconsin Equal Justice executive director Margo Kirchner.

"I wonder how many attorneys don't file complaints when there is questionable conduct, because they are afraid of seeing retaliation in future cases, and we have no idea how often that might happen," she said.

The vast majority of complaints submitted to the commission are dismissed with no action or with an "expression of concern or warning," which is not considered discipline.

In the past 14 years, the Supreme Court has suspended 15 judges, issued 12 reprimands and removed three judges from the bench. Woldt is the only judge issued a suspension in Wisconsin in the past two years. The commission's annual report revealed no cases where a judge was suspended more than once.

It is not yet clear whether the Judicial Commission has opened an investigation into the recent allegations against Woldt. Executive director Jeremiah Van Hecke declined to comment on the complaint, citing the commission's confidentiality rules.

The commission has repeatedly come under fire for its lengthy process in moving forward on judicial misconduct complaints.

Last year, the state Supreme Court wrote that the commission took no action for 600 days after former Milwaukee County Children's Court judge Brett Blomme was arrested for federal child pornography charges in 2021.

It was about four months after the federal indictment and six months after state charges were filed that Blomme formally resigned his seat on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Blomme was serving a nine-year federal prison sentence for sharing pornographic

material that one judge described as "extreme victimization" of children when the state Supreme Court sanctioned him by revoking his license to practice law.

Justice Patience Roggensack in a written opinion criticized the commission for failing to take action sooner. "The Judicial Commission protects the public," she said. "I am concerned by their inaction."

Goldin wrote in his complaint that Woldt's behavior during the April 25 inter-action was not the first time the judge intimated he would take action against those who supported his opponent in the 2023 election.

The complaint alleges that about a week after Woldt secured re-election, he was on the bench and wearing his judicial robe when he looked at Goldin while telling a group of students visiting the courtroom that the worst part of his job was campaigning for election and anyone who supported his opponent in the judicial race was "fully responsible for all of the mudslinging that occurred during the campaign."

Woldt's campaign website was recently removed, but it previously listed District Attorney Eric Sparr and attorneys Edmund Jelinski and Patrick Seubert as members of his re-election committee. Republican State Rep. Michael Schraa chaired the committee and Winnebago County Executive Jon Doemel was publicly listed as a supporter.

Kirchner said one of the issues with the state's judicial election process is that campaign involvement and donations could lead to bias.

"I think it's always possible that how elections are run for judicial office could lead to questions down the road about whether someone involved in a judge's election is being treated more favorably than other people," she said.

Kirchner said actions like Woldt's compromise the public's trust in the integrity of the courts.

"Why should anybody trust what the judge decides when it's all about favoritism anyway?" she asked, "and that really harms the entire justice system, because the justice system is based on the people's belief that what a judge says should be followed."

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Fox Valley Technical College graduates

Spring graduates of Fox Valley Technical College from the Neenah area include:

- Hunter Baar, Fire Protection Technician
- Kobe Bartlett, Digital Marketing
- Heather Behm, Small Business Entrepreneurship
- Edward Brandt, Accounting and Accounting Assistant
- Holy Brecheen, Business Operations
- Jaime Chapin, Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Teacher
- Cheyenne Culver, Digital Marketing
- Katherine Cunningham, IT - Data and Analytics Specialist
- Brendan Dohr, Auto Collision Repair and Refinishing Technician
- Mariamelia Estrada Carmona, Legal Studies/Paralegal
- Madison Frink, Baking and Pastry Production and Food Service Production
- Jennifer Goggins, Baking and Pastry Production
- Troy Gordon, Natural Resources Technician
- Madelyne Green, Medical Laboratory Technician
- Joseph Gruening, Mechanical CAD Drafting
- Kaitlyn Haas, Automotive and Light Duty Truck Technician and Automotive Technology
- Madelyn Hanagan, Criminal Justice Studies
- Emily Helwig, Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic
- Savana Hilton, Baking and Pastry Production
- Isaac Issa-Zirimwabagabo, Accounting Assistant
- Hayley Jamrose, Human Resources
- Lydia Jirikowic, Medical Laboratory Technician
- Allison Johannes, Business Management and Business Operations
- Rachael Laflash, Medical Coding Specialist
- Morrison Lamb, Natural Resources Technician
- Caleb Letson, Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
- Alina Long, Dental Assistant

- Asher Mazur, Mechanical CAD Drafting
- Averi McMahon, Metal Fabrication/Welding
- Michele McNeely, Medical Coding Specialist
- Jacob Miller, Automotive Technology GM ASEP
- Bailey Morin, Business Operations
- David Pagel, Business Operations
- Damian Pollock, Natural Resources Technician
- Jamie Popovich, Medical Laboratory Technician
- Jennifer Priessnitz, Criminal Justice Studies
- Azziza Proctor, Practical Nursing
- Megan Rasmussen, Business Analyst
- Andrew Ring, Fire Protection Technician
- Alexa Ruhland, Neurodiagnostic Technologist
- Ashley Sakis, Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic
- Tanner Schabo, GM Express Service Technician
- Kevin Schoner, Aircraft Electronics
- Sage Schultz, Criminal Justice Studies
- Kelly Schwartz, Neurodiagnostic Technologist
- Kaylee Siekert, Practical Nursing
- Riley Simonis, Farm Operation
- Jayce Spice, Industrial Welding Technology and Welding/Metal Fab Technician
- Jaxon Spiegelberg, Forensic Science
- Kierra Sprewer, Forensic Science
- Alexandra Statezny, Accounting Assistant
- Michelle Storm, Human Resources
- Rebecca Tanner, Legal Studies/Paralegal
- Jacob Thibodeau, Horticulture Technician
- Samuel Vandenheuvel, Accounting
- Carrie Walbrun, Medical Administrative Professional
- Dwayne White, IT - Information Systems Security Specialist
- Nou Xiong, Medical Administrative Professional
- Katie Zoz, Administrative Professional

College graduates from Neenah area

The following local residents received college degrees this spring at state and other Midwest schools.

UW-Milwaukee

- Savannah Ely, College of Nursing, Bachelor of Science
- Reed Gieryn, Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business, Bachelor of Business Administration
- Mitchell Jorgensen, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Arts
- Lauren Miller, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, Bachelor of Science
- Logan Morrow, Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business, Bachelor of Business Administration
- Timothy Nault, Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business, Bachelor of Business Administration
- Elena Pinchuk, College of Health Sciences, Bachelor of Science
- Jerzey Popp, Peck School of the Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Brandon Puser, College of Health Sciences, Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Quinn Rechner, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Science
- Jackson Roh, Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business, Bachelor of Business Administration
- Mackenzie Scheibel, College of Health Sciences, Bachelor of Science
- Evan Skaer, College of Engineering and

- Applied Science, Bachelor of Science in Engineering
- Kaley Waters, Peck School of the Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts

Marquette University

- Brett Bureau, Juris Doctor, Law
- Will Clark, Bachelor of Science, Accounting
- Payton Hanselman, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Sciences
- Cole Keesler, Master of Science, Specialty Certification in Endodontics
- Jennifer StPierre, Doctorate, Dentistry
- Lauren Varkoly, Master of Science, Nursing

UW-River Falls

- Grace Kaczmarek, Bachelor of Science, Sociology

St. Norbert College

- Breanna Borgen, Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, Graduate of the Honors Program
- Miranda Bornemann, Bachelor of Science
- Joseph Jung, Bachelor of Business Administration
- Isabelle Kordus, Bachelor of Arts
- Ashley Ortscheid, Bachelor of Arts
- Margaret Sigler, Master of Business Administration

Minnesota State University

- Trevor Marquardt, BS, Sport Management

Calendar of events

Saturday, July 8

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

Sunday, July 9

Neenah Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park's George Scherck Shelter

Monday, July 10

Storytime, 10 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Short Story Night, 7 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewing Co.

Monday Matinees, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, July 11

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

Wednesday, July 12

Fused by Numbers: A Women's Collaborative Mural, 1:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Copper Box, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park Pavilion

Thursday, July 13

Out to Lunch Concert with Erin Krebs, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Sesquicentennial Pub Trivia, 7 p.m., The Dome

Ground Round Live Music Series: Tim Dorsey, 6 p.m., 1010 Cameron Way

Saturday, July 15

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

Filthy Fun Kids Run, 8:30 a.m., O'Hauser Park, Fox Crossing

Sunday, July 16

Family Day at the Octagon House, 11 a.m.

Monday, July 17

Storytime, 10 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Wednesday, July 19

Brass Differential, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park Pavilion

Thursday, July 20

Out to Lunch Concert with Elvis John, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Zephyrs Community Theater: "Oklahoma!" 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

Ground Round Live Music Series: Two of a Kind, 6 p.m., 1010 Cameron Way

Riverside Players presents "All Shook Up," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Friday, July 21

Riverside Players presents "All Shook Up," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Zephyrs Community Theater: "Oklahoma!" 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

Saturday, July 22

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

Riverside Players presents "All Shook Up," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Zephyrs Community Theater: "Oklahoma!" 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

Sunday, July 23

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

Riverside Players presents "All Shook Up," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Zephyrs Community Theater: "Oklahoma!" 2 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School

Ground Round Live Music Series: Rings Band, 6 p.m., 1010 Cameron Way

Classifieds

Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad
Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m.
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Miscellaneous

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Kid Scoop

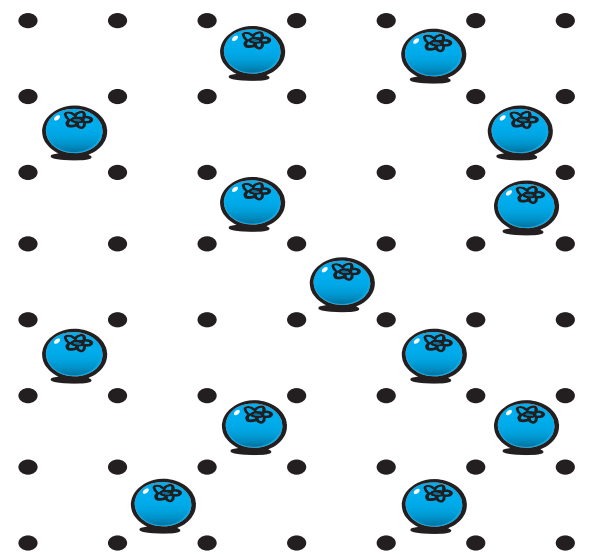
THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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Kid Scoop Together Blueberry Game

Play this game with a friend or family member. Take turns drawing horizontal or vertical lines to connect two dots. Each time your line closes a square, that's worth 1 point. If the square contains a blueberry, that's worth 3 points!



Kids in Action

Replace the missing words.

INVOLVED CROP STUDENTS GROW READ REPRESENTS

In March of 2023, the blueberry became the state fruit of Mississippi—thanks to a group of fourth grade _____ from Mannsdale Upper Elementary School.

They _____ about how students in Kansas persuaded their state legislature to name the Sandhill plum as their state fruit.

The students started by researching which major fruit _____ is produced in Mississippi. They discovered it was the blueberry. Just under 2,000 acres of land is used to _____ the fruit and produces around 8.5 million pounds of blueberries.

The class reached out to Jill Ford who _____ their area in the Mississippi State Legislature.

"Nothing thrills my soul like having children get _____ in the process," said Representative Ford after the bill making the blueberry the state fruit was signed.

JULY IS NATIONAL BLUEBERRY MONTH Time to Enjoy Blueberries!

In most parts of the country, July is the month when blueberries ripen. Do the math to discover some blueberry facts. If the answer is an even number, that fact is TRUE.

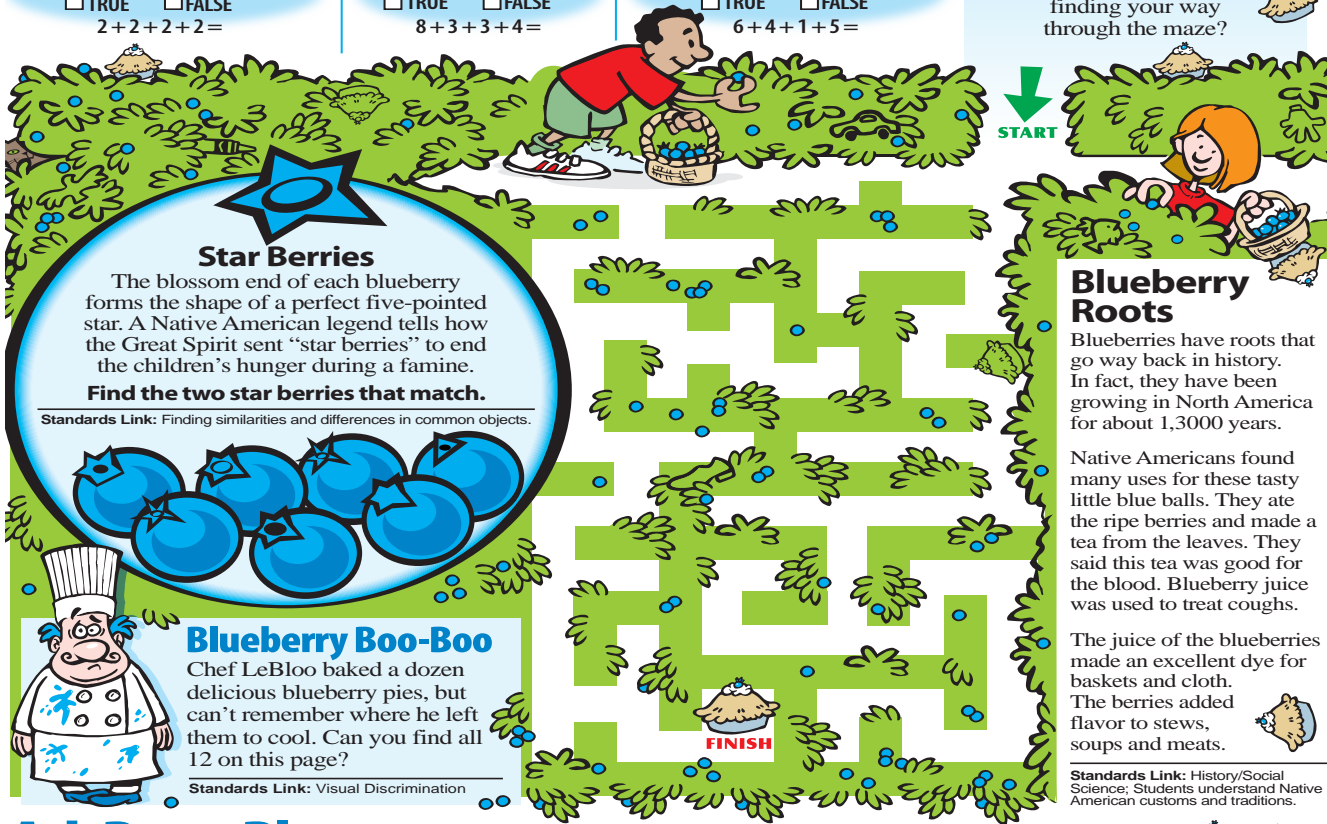
Blueberries do not ripen after they have been picked.
 TRUE FALSE
 $2+2+2+2=$

Blueberries are good for your heart.
 TRUE FALSE
 $8+3+3+4=$

A single blueberry bush can produce up to 6,000 berries in one year.
 TRUE FALSE
 $6+4+1+5=$

Berry Challenging

Billy and Betsy are picking blueberries. But what's this? There is more than just blueberries in the bushes. Can you find a car, a bird, a shoe, a crayon, a fish, a cat and a glove while finding your way through the maze?



Star Berries

The blossom end of each blueberry forms the shape of a perfect five-pointed star. A Native American legend tells how the Great Spirit sent "star berries" to end the children's hunger during a famine.

Find the two star berries that match.

Standards Link: Finding similarities and differences in common objects.



Blueberry Boo-Boo

Chef LeBloo baked a dozen delicious blueberry pies, but can't remember where he left them to cool. Can you find all 12 on this page?

Standards Link: Visual Discrimination

Ask Barry Blue

To figure out the answer to this important question, number the parts of the sentences in order. Then, write the answer on the lines below.



Dear Barry, I have a plant with blue berries in my yard. Can I eat them?

- berries without
- can be poisonous. Do not
- touch or eat any wild
- mushrooms, some berries
- an adult's permission.
- are safe to eat but others
- Absolutely NOT! Like

Extra! Extra! How Blue Are You?

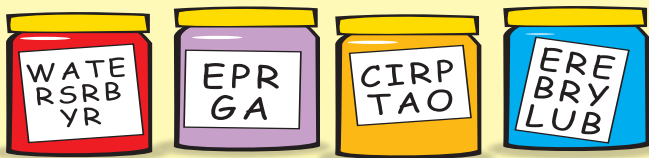
If someone says he is blue, it usually means he is sad, not painted. Look through the newspaper and find pictures or words that mean the same as sad. Then cheer yourself up by finding a word that means the opposite of each sad word.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Students understand synonyms and antonyms.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

In the 1600s, when settlers arrived in North America from England, they had to find food. The Wampanoag people showed them how to plant corn and how to gather and use native plants. An important native plant was blueberries! These could be eaten fresh or dried and stored for the winter.

Unscramble the letters on the label of each jar to discover what kind of jam is inside it.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple directions; spell common sight words.

Double Double Word Search

ABSOLUTELY AMERICA BERRIES DYE EAT GLOVE GROWING HEART JUICE JULY LEAVES RIPEN ROOTS SAFE YARD

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

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

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

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