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Submitted photo

Gabriel Langlois, 13, hopes to compete in this year's Fox Cities Marathon as he recovers from his latest surgery.

## Supervisors debate ethics of electronics

### Updated policy on use of devices goes to board

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County's Judiciary and Public Safety Committee voted to advance a policy outlining consequences for elected officials who misuse county-owned electronic devices after the county board sent the measure back to committees in May.

The resolution was brought forward by Supervisor Kay Horan after it was determined that a supervisor was using a county-owned iPad to access pornographic websites early this year. Board chair Tom Egan said at that time that there was little disciplinary action he could take because supervisors are elected.

The initial resolution included wording that unethical or illegal use of county-owned electronic devices would result in reprimand, censure or expulsion from the county board. That wording was removed after the May county board meeting when several supervisors spoke against expulsion for misuse.

Some of the supervisors questioned what is considered "unethical or illegal" conduct, noting that viewing porn is a "victimless crime" and the supervisor who accessed the websites may have done so by accident.

Director of information systems Patty Francour said at that meeting that there have been other incidents of supervisors misusing devices and she has been trying to get a similar rule passed for years.

The county's existing computer use policy states that the computer system is to only be used for business purposes and violating the policy may result in

SEE **Device policy** ON PAGE 8

## INSIDE



**Kickoff nears**  
Rockets, Zephyrs ready for new seasons  
Page 9

**Open house**  
New high school offers public viewing  
Page 4

**Sky bursts**  
Pyrotechnics pros bring event to county  
Page 5

## Marathon just latest of challenges for teen

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Gabriel Langlois has experienced more than his fair share of challenges.

The Neenah teen has been unable to walk since birth and recently underwent surgery that caused medical complications, leading to several more surgeries and hospital stays, where he remained last week.

Despite those challenges, his father, Dan, said he and Gabriel are determined to complete the full 26.2-mile Fox Cities Marathon on Sept. 17.

Gabriel is a typical 13-year-old boy who enjoys basketball and football. He has two sisters and a brother. He's funny, mischievous and laid back.

SEE **Marathon** ON PAGE 11

## Cemetery chapel preserved for future generations

### Oak Hill restoration revives 1924 structure

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The chapel at Oak Hill Cemetery for nearly 100 years has been restored to its original glory.

The cemetery, owned and maintained by the city of Neenah, dates to 1848. The chapel was built in 1924 by D.W. Bergstrom, who donated it to the city "as a gift for all of the people to say goodbye to their loved ones," according to an inscription on a plaque in front of the newly restored structure.

The chapel was designed by Eschweiler and Eschweiler out of Milwaukee and features a Tudor Revival style. The inside of the stone structure showcases stained glass windows and chandeliers.

The chapel was originally used for fu-

nerals and services during inclement weather. It had fallen into disrepair and hadn't been used for a service in about 40 years.

The Bergstrom family has been a prominent name in Neenah for 170 years. John Bergstrom said when he was at Oak Hill Cemetery in 2012 for his brother's funeral, he noticed the chapel was in rough shape.

It was being used for storing lawn equipment and other supplies to maintain the cemetery. The gates were broken and rusty, and although the grass was mowed and landscaping maintained, the chapel itself needed some work.

"It was literally crammed full of stuff like any storage shed and the floor was concrete and broken," he said. "The mortar between stones was all powdered from being hot and cold and all that stuff.

SEE **Oak Hill chapel** ON PAGE 11



Neenah News

The Oak Hill Cemetery chapel has been restored after decades of storage use.



# Neenah News

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### About the newspaper

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# Shooting on Commercial Street claims life

Neenah News

A 37-year-old Oshkosh man was fatally shot by officers from the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG) inside a Mobil gas station in Neenah on Aug. 2.

A portion of South Commercial Street was closed for about 13 hours after the shooting, which is being investigated by the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Office.

According to a press release, officers from the MEG unit attempted to take a suspect with a warrant into custody inside the gas station just before 5 p.m. A preliminary investigation suggested the suspect displayed a weapon and the two officers responded with deadly force.

The suspect was shot and medical aid was rendered. The man was transported to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center where he died from his injuries. No officers were injured.

The officers were working undercover at the time and their names aren't being released. One is a 42-year-old who has been with the Appleton Police Department for five years and has 10 years of other law



Neenah News

Public safety officials, including Neenah Police Chief Aaron Olson, are shown at the scene of a fatal shooting Aug. 2 on South Commercial Street in Neenah.

enforcement experience. The other is a 31-year-old who has been with the Outagamie Sheriff's Office for six years. Both have been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

The victim has not been identified and

the investigation is ongoing. Once the Sheboygan County investigation is finished, the findings will be forwarded to the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office, which will determine if the shooting was justified.

## Military aircraft activity noted with exercises

Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center in central Wisconsin is hosting multiple Air Force, National Guard, Marine and Navy units as part of the annual Northern Lightning Counterland training exercise through Aug. 18.

Winnebago County residents are among those in the state than can expect to see increased flight activity in the airspace between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. during that time. Residents with noise complaints related to Northern Lightning are asked to call 608-427-1260.

According to Col. Matthew Eakins, commander of Volk Field, the two-week-long exercise will increase military readiness by providing participating units a tactical level, joint training environment emphasizing user-defined objectives.

More than 1,000 participants and 60 aircraft, representing a broad range of military assets, are participating in the exercise.

There are Air Force, National Guard, and Marine assets participating from units based in Arizona, Florida, Ohio, Minnesota, Virginia and Wisconsin.

## Volunteer needs

**Habitat for Humanity** has a sign-up event for any volunteer role during August or September and become eligible to win Habitat swag and gift cards. Visit [foxcitieshabitat.volunteerhub.com](http://foxcitieshabitat.volunteerhub.com). If you're already signed up or volunteer with Habitat regularly, you will automatically be eligible. Winners will be chosen at random and notified in early October.

**St. Vincent de Paul Neenah** is seeking volunteers ages 16 and older to help stock the food pantry on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for 1-3 hours. For details, call 920-727-1766, ext. 3 or email [volunteercoordinator@svdpcneenah.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator@svdpcneenah.com).

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

**Beaming Inc.** is looking for volunteers to assist program participants with maintaining balance and control and interpreting directions given by the riding instructor during lessons. Volunteers must be 14 years old. No experience necessary and training is provided. Learn more at [beaminginc.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://beaminginc.org/volunteer-opportunities) or contact Denise at [volunteer4beaming@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer4beaming@gmail.com).

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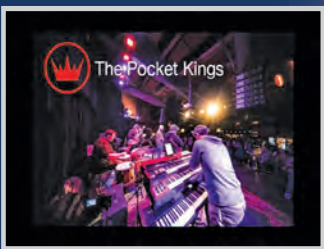
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# County cannabis fines maintained after panel vote

## Supervisor continues push for lesser penalty

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Marijuana was back on the agenda at Winnebago County's Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting Monday.

District 6 Supervisor Brian Defferding reintroduced a proposal to reduce the county's fine for possessing up to 25 grams of marijuana to \$1. People found with more than 25 grams would be subject to a felony under state statute.

The same proposal was put on hold at the committee's February meeting and followed a failed resolution that would have allowed county residents to weigh in on the legalization of marijuana at the spring election.



Sparr

Defferding's latest proposal would also remove all penalties for any amount of marijuana if the user is under the direction or prescription of a licensed physician, dentist, or other medical health professional. Paraphernalia determined to be used solely for cannabis, marijuana or THC purposes would also not be subject to penalties.

While marijuana remains illegal at the federal level, 23 states have legalized it, including bordering states Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota, with Iowa allowing medical use.

Caleb Schmidt of Fremont spoke at the meeting and asked the committee to approve the proposal. He said he isn't a rec-

reational marijuana user but has stage four colon cancer and is undergoing aggressive chemotherapy.

"In the state of Wisconsin, I don't have the option to use medical marijuana," Schmidt said. "I believe Wisconsin is losing a lot of revenue to Illinois, Minnesota or Michigan. I think it's time for the state to loosen up the restrictions as they apply to marijuana."

District Attorney Eric Sparr told the committee that regardless of whether the county ordinance is passed, marijuana users could still be subject to state and federal violations. State violations in Winnebago County would be routed through Sparr's office.

"Generally speaking, we are not issuing personal use possession cases regarding marijuana," he said, adding that there are problems distinguishing Delta-9 THC, which is illegal in Wisconsin, from Delta-8 and Delta-10, which are legal.

Sparr said local municipal ordinances would still apply regardless of the county ordinance, creating lack of uniformity, which can be problematic.

In 2022, 240 tickets for marijuana and paraphernalia were processed through the county circuit court. That number excludes citations in Neenah and Menasha, which have their own municipal courts.

Of the circuit court tickets issued last year, 150 marijuana and paraphernalia citations were issued by the Oshkosh Police Department, which uses the city's municipal ordinance and wouldn't be affected by a change to the county ordinance.

Sparr said an ordinance change at the county level wouldn't have a big impact on the prosecutor's office and would only affect about 90 cases processed last year.

Sheriff John Matz said he was told a

movement to legalize medical marijuana in the state is expected to move forward this fall. He noted that if the proposed ordinance is passed, a person would still receive a \$143.80 citation for possessing marijuana or paraphernalia because of court costs and fees set by the state.

Matz said that 25 grams of marijuana is about 90 bowls or 60 joints and questioned whether that's personal use.

Defferding brought in a bag of basil to show the committee what 25 grams looks like.

Three committee members abstained

from voting on advancing the ordinance, Defferding voted in favor of it and Bryan Stafford voted against.

The next time the same ordinance can be introduced to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee would be in April. Defferding could still bring the ordinance to the full county board for a vote, but he said he's unsure if he will do so.

"Historically speaking, if something does not pass committee, it is very unlikely to pass the full county board," he said. "Winning committee favor is the first step for this to pass."



Neenah Historical Society photo

## Sidewalk sale

Shoppers attend Sidewalk Sale Days at Fox Point Shopping center in 1984.

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# High school set to open doors for public viewing



Neenah News

Neenah High School opens its new doors this Sunday with a ribbon-cutting and self-guided tours.

## Neenah News

The community will get its first good look at the new Neenah High School during its Sunday grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and self-guided tours.

The event begins with a ribbon cutting in the competition gym at 3 p.m. followed by self-guided tours of the building within the three-hour window.

The announcement of the event and its showcasing of the school's amenities is generating excitement among the student body.

Jennifer Murphy, an incoming senior, said, "I am very excited for all the student spaces that we'll be able to have. They look comfy and cozy, and they will help create better work environments for both students and teachers."

Ben Donaldson, an incoming junior, was excited to see the cafeteria.

"It reminds me of the movie 'High

School Musical,'" he said. "I always wanted to be in that movie since it was a childhood favorite."

The Rockets football team will be hosting the De Pere Redbirds on its new field for the first time at 7 p.m. Aug. 17.

Orientation dates and school tours have also been set for students. Those entering grades 10-12 will have orientation from 8 a.m. to noon Aug. 15 and from 1 to 5 p.m. Aug. 16.

Freshman students are invited for a day of orientation, tours and other activities at 1 p.m. Aug. 17. The event will be followed by a tailgate party before the first home football game that kicks off at 7 p.m.

Students also have the opportunity for self-guided tours after having their picture taken Aug. 21 and 22. Signup links were sent to families and those with questions can contact Liz Severson at [elizabeth.severson@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:elizabeth.severson@neenah.k12.wi.us).

## Thrift shop fundraiser helps those in need

AbleLight Thrift Shop is preparing for one of its biggest annual fundraisers, National Thrift Shop Day, on Aug. 17 with all donated inventory in the store half off.

Shoppers will help support life-changing services for people with developmen-

tal disabilities. The store at 846 Fox Point Plaza will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Donations of new and gently used items will be welcome.

For more information, visit [AbleLight.org](http://AbleLight.org) or call 920-725-7467.

## Neenah man among those honored by Red Cross

The American Red Cross will honor four individuals in northeast Wisconsin, including a Neenah man, at the 2023 Northeast Wisconsin Heroes Classic set for Aug. 28 at Thornberry Creek in Oneida.

"These individuals are such a positive reminder of the good in our communities and it's our privilege to be able to honor them," said Rebecca Rockhill, execu-

tive director of the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of the American Red Cross.

This year's Northeast Wisconsin Heroes are Nate Franzke of Neenah, in the category of Emergency Response; Torre Willadsen of Plymouth, Adult Good Samaritan; Ryan Baudhuin of Wrightstown in the Military category; and Lola Levin of Appleton as Youth Good Samaritan.

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# Fireworks pros gather for week at Sunnyview

By Jonathan Richie  
NEENAH NEWS

As the Winnebago County Fair wrapped up festivities at Sunnyview Expo Center last weekend, the event space quickly shifts to host lots of bright lights and big booms with a pyrotechnics convention next week.

The Pyrotechnics Guild International (PGI) will be holding its annual convention at Sunnyview starting Sunday through Aug. 18. The convention is open to any PGI member but closed to the public except for a pair of pyrotechnic shows to bookend the schedule.

The two public shows Sunday and Aug. 18 will feature multiple fireworks displays as PGI members from around the world ascend on Oshkosh.

“People are going to see pyro devices that they would never see in any local Fourth of July fireworks display,” said Connie Widmann, chair of communications for the PGI.

The PGI is a group of pyrotechnic enthusiasts that span from hobbyists to professionals. The event usually draws in people from all over the world and in the past have been anywhere from six to eight countries represented.

Although the event is closed to the general public, anyone interested in pyrotechnics and fireworks can show up at Sunnyview and pay their dues to attend the convention to learn more about pyrotechnics and experience all the convention has to offer.

The convention is usually held in different locations, which has included Wisconsin International Raceway in Kauka-



Photo by PGI

The Pyrotechnics Guild International is bringing its annual convention to Sunnyview Expo Center starting Sunday.

na, and this will be its first in Winnebago County.

“It’s a teaching week where hobbyists can learn about different types of pyrotechnics,” Widmann said.

She said safety is always a priority when making pyrotechnics. People will be learning about how to utilize pyrotechnics properly, how to make them legally and responsibly, and will be manufactured under strict guidelines.

“We have to keep safety in mind – we’re dealing with explosives,” Widmann said. “We’re strict with safety. There’s a safety team on sight as well as our fire and medical team. There is a lot of oversight to ensure safety at the convention.”

All PGI members are licensed through

the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The organization is driven by volunteers with a board of directors and even a junior association for children that are under strict supervision for the safety of the builders.

Throughout the week there will be classes and seminars where members will build pyrotechnic devices that will be showcased during the Aug. 18 show that will close out the convention.

Sunday’s show will include a display for the national anthem. The show will also include pyro-musicals, which are highly choreographed shows that synch pyrotechnics with sound. These are usually set off with digital systems.

Parking for the public shows will be at

the Sunnyview grounds. There will be no carry-ins allowed as food and drink will be available for purchase.

There will be private shows for PGI members every night of the week.

Oshkosh Fire Department assistant chief and fire marshal Brian Bending will be monitoring activities on the grounds throughout the event.

The convention includes an art show, auction, collectors corner and trade show.

Online sales of tickets ended July 27. Tickets are available at the Winnebago County Parks Department, 625 E. County Y – suite 500, or at the Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau, 100 N. Main St. – suite 112.

If it rains on either night of the public shows, they will be moved to Aug. 14 or Aug. 19.

“People will really be missing out on something spectacular if they don’t come to the public shows,” Widmann said. “If anyone is really into fireworks they should definitely join the PGI and become members to experience the weeklong event.”

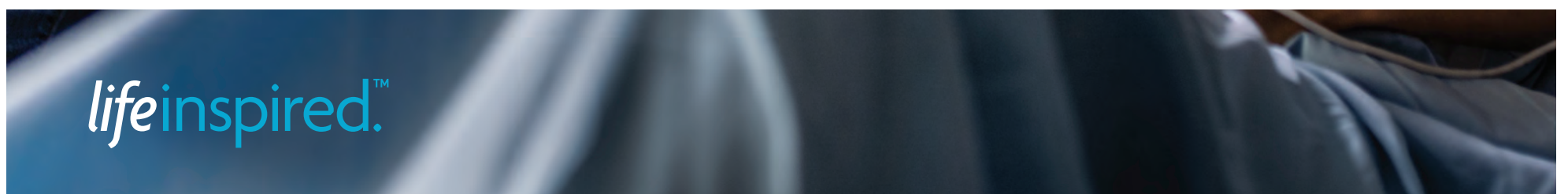
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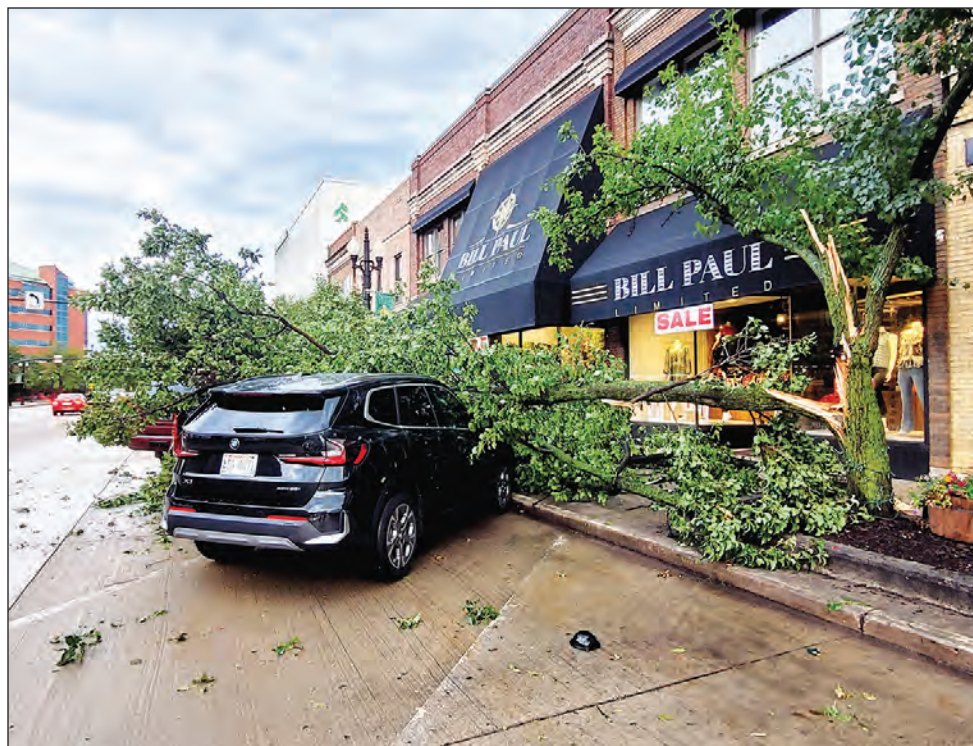
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Neenah News photos

A tree on West Wisconsin Avenue was toppled by high winds Aug. 3, striking two vehicles that were parked on the street. City crews had the scene cleared Friday morning; Right, trees and limbs came down at residences on Water Street in Neenah among other areas. Below, the roof of the Associated Bank building at 100 W. Wisconsin Ave. was damaged, causing debris to cover the sidewalk on South Commercial Street.

## Storm damages homes, businesses

Neenah News

Neenah area homes and businesses sustained damage when a thunderstorm rolled through the Fox Valley last Thursday evening, downing power lines and knocking out power to thousands.

Public Works officials in the city said wind gusts were reported up to 60 mph, bringing down trees and limbs that damaged homes, other buildings and vehicles, including at least two on West Wisconsin Avenue downtown.

There were about 1,400 people without power in Neenah, according to We Energies, and about 1,000 in Appleton.

The National Weather Service in Green

Bay said a cold front met Thursday's warm, moist air, setting up the thunderstorms. Warnings were issued from 7:15 to 8 p.m. for southeastern Winnebago County with wind speeds of 72 mph recorded south of Oshkosh.

City staff assessed storm damage and removed debris that was blocking streets, sidewalks or other rights of way. Storm debris can be placed in the terrace for pickup.

Public Works asked residents to report any trees or limbs in contact with power lines to We Energies at 800-242-9137 or Spectrum at 866-874-2389, and any others that pose a safety concern to 920-886-6240.



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# St. Mary Catholic senior works her way into music scene

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

St. Mary Catholic High School senior Norah Lee is a singer and songwriter who describes her music as “acoustic indie pop.”

The 17-year-old, who opened the evening concert series in Shattuck Park on Aug. 2, started playing guitar in sixth grade.

“I took lessons for a few years and just fell in love with playing guitar,” she said.

In eighth grade she attended a weeklong summer camp called Girls Rock Fox Cities, where she learned how to write and perform songs. She also joined the school band.

During her freshman year, Lee took a music production class that fueled her love for the industry.

Her sophomore year, she began an internship at Honeytone, a Neenah recording studio.

“They really helped me to learn how to use all this equipment to record, so I finished my first studio-produced song this summer and so I decided I wanted to have a party to celebrate that because it’s super exciting, I think,” she said.

Lee’s launch party for her new single “Online” was held Aug. 1 at The Ballroom At The Reserve. The song is available on Apple Music and will soon be on Spotify and other major listening platforms. Her original songs “Stay Here Forever” and “Home” are also on Spotify.

Lee played two of her released songs and a third original that she hasn’t recorded yet on the Shattuck Park stage last week, which she said was a wonderful experience.

“It was really cool to be on stage, setting up and hearing how the speakers sounded with all my equipment and being able to open for a band,” she said. “It was something that I’ve never done before and it

was a really cool experience and I definitely want to do more of that.”

After graduation, Lee plans to stay in the music industry. She will attend college to expand her knowledge of recording music and learn how to produce live music for traveling bands.

Lee said the community is welcoming for young musicians.

“There’s so many opportunities to get into the music and for a lot of different things that you want to do,” she said. “Whether that’s being in a band for kids that are just starting out or finding shows and gigs for you to be able to showcase all your music, the community has been super supportive.”

Locals who want to see Lee perform can catch her opening for Boogie and the Yo-Yo’z at the Future Neenah end of the summer block party Aug. 23, a free event that runs from 6 to 9 p.m. on Wisconsin Avenue.



Future Neenah photo

Norah Lee performs at Shattuck Park earlier this month.

## Calendar of events

### Saturday, Aug. 12

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

Furry Flurry, Neenah Animal Shelter Walk for Pets, 8 a.m., Riverside Park

Glass Arts Festival, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Brennand Airport fly-in, 9 a.m., 3282 Breezewood Lane

### Sunday, Aug. 13

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

### Monday, Aug. 14

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

### Tuesday, Aug. 15

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

### Wednesday, Aug. 16

Copper Box, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

### Thursday, Aug. 17

Out to Lunch Concert with Danville Folk, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Ground Round Live Music Series: Scott Dercks, 6 p.m., 1010 Cameron Way

### Saturday, Aug. 19

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

Art Mercantile, 11 a.m., The Plaza

Neenah-Menasha Elks Lodge corn roast, 3 p.m., Doty Island

### Monday, Aug. 21

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

### Wednesday, Aug. 23

Boogie Downtown street dance, 6 p.m., West Wisconsin Avenue

### Thursday, Aug. 24

Out to Lunch Concert with Rob Anthony, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Ground Round Live Music Series: Burnt Toast & Jam, 6 p.m., 1010 Cameron Way

“Tailspin” book signing by John Armbruster, 4 p.m., Lyons Fine Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

### Saturday, Aug. 26

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

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## Public urged to prevent bird-window collisions

Millions of songbirds hatched in Wisconsin over the summer will fly south for the first time starting in September, and Winnebago Audubon is asking area residents to help prevent the migrating birds from colliding with home windows.

Window collisions are a major threat to bird populations and one reason why many favorite songbird species have declined significantly over the past 50 years.

Winnebago Audubon is joining with other bird groups to offer two free webinars Aug. 23 to demonstrate three ways that residents can fix home windows to prevent bird collisions. The webinars are at noon and 7 p.m., and can be accessed by registering at [sossaveoursongbirds.org/webinar](https://sossaveoursongbirds.org/webinar).

A follow-up to the webinar is set for 3 p.m. Aug. 27 at the Oshkosh Food Co-op, 155 Jackson St. On display will be samples of the options that help prevent bird-win-

dow collisions and 10 window collision tape kits will be given away.

The webinar will be presented by Brenna Marsicek, who coordinates Madison Audubon's Bird Collision Corps volunteers who work with building owners to deal with the most problematic windows.

Marsicek will talk about why birds collide with windows and which windows are likely the biggest problems. She will demonstrate three easy ways to prevent collisions: dot decals, a curtain of paracord hanging on the outside of the window, and using tempera, or washable paint, to make a design on the outside of the window to break up reflections.

The webinar is part of the Stop the Fallout From Window-Collisions campaign by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Partnership, a collaboration of 180 conservation groups and allies.

## Device policy

FROM PAGE 1

disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from county employment and legal action.

The county board sent the resolution to the Information Technology Committee, which made some changes and then forwarded it to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee for a vote Monday.

The latest resolution states that the county board may take action allowed by state statute, including a resolution of censure against any supervisors who ignore the rules of the county's use policies, general code, ethics handbook, electronics resolution and state statute.

Supervisor Paul Eisen was the only member of the Judiciary and Public Safe-

ty Committee who spoke against the resolution at Monday's meeting, stating the language was that of a contract and a contract should not be included in the county board's rules.

"The bottom line is that this should be a policy that's adopted and this contract should be given to the IT department and have all of the county employees sign it..." he said.

Supervisor Jacob Floam disagreed, noting that the proposed rule is for elected officials and not county employees.

"This is for elected officials to hold themselves to a higher standard because they are part of the public trust when they ran for office," he said.

The committee voted 4-1 to advance the electronic devices resolution to the full county board, who will vote on it at the September meeting.



Submitted photo

An aerial shot of the Brennand Airport.

## Brennand Airport open house, fly-in set

Recreational aviation will be on display as Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 41 is hosting an airport open house and fly-in starting at 9 a.m. Saturday at Brennand Airport in Neenah.

Among the free event's attractions will be airplane rides, special airplanes on display, a radio control static display and the Theda Star helicopter, along with raffle prizes and concessions.

Chapter 41 is one of more than 900 lo-

cal chapters of the EAA, the world's largest organization dedicated to recreational flying.

Brennand Airport, at 3282 Breezewood Lane, is open year-round and serves light aircraft with a 2,450-by-30-foot paved, lighted runway. With about 50 aircraft based there, the airport has been a haven for recreational aviation since 1967.

For more information check out [eaa41.org](http://eaa41.org) or [fb.me/e/2NiorfzzZ](https://fb.me/e/2NiorfzzZ).

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# Right decision should set Zephyrs up for success

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Football coaches make hundreds of decisions every game.

Yet, it was a decision Josh Young made away from the sidelines that should set the St. Mary Catholic football team up for success as the program transitions back to 11-player football this season.

Before the start of the 2022 season, Young went to the school's administration with an idea for the junior varsity football team. Although the varsity squad was going to be participating in 8-player football, he wanted to see if his younger players could play an 11-player schedule.

"I just said, if we could play 11-player (football), it might be in our best interest. If we are playing 8-player for the underclassmen, it's not going to help them," Young said. "It was more for the experience, get the kids out there playing so when they are here now, it's not a shock to them. One hundred percent that was one of the smartest things we did, no matter how crazy we thought it was at the time."

Young said the team will be running some slightly different things from last year, but the comfort with the formations and processes is at a high level.

"It's not completely different," said senior John Schultz. "We got a lot of good experience last year in preparation for this year so I don't think it feels too much different."

The Zephyrs had plenty of success the past two seasons playing 8-player football – the program went undefeated each year – but last year's team relied heavily on a large group of seniors who have now



St. Mary Central head coach Josh Young talks to his players during a special teams portion of a practice earlier this week.

Neenah News

moved on.

Young said there are some key returnees from last season but there will also be a lot of new faces taking the field on Friday nights.

"It's very different. We only have five seniors this year," Young said. "We have some juniors stepping up into big roles and even some sophomores who played on varsity last year."

One area that Young is confident in is the team's skill-position players, led by senior running back Ashton Post.

Post was the Offensive Player of the Year and led the league in rushing in the

Zephyrs' 8-player conference last season and is expected to once again be a key contributor for St. Mary Catholic.

The bulk of the other players will be inexperienced but Young believes the talent is there.

"There is a lot of talent in the skill position players all-around, from freshmen through seniors," Young said. "John (Schultz) and Greg Wheeler will get some carries as well and we have some freshmen who are really good runners, too."

Young also has confidence in senior Garrett Wenninger, who will take over at

quarterback this season, while Maddux Dwyer is also in competition at the position.

Wenninger, who replaces two-time first-team all-conference quarterback Danny Griffin, said he's ready for the role.

"Not really," Wenninger responded when asked if he felt pressure moving into a starting role. "We got a lot of good guys. Good guys blocking, good guys at wide receiver, so I'm surrounded by a pretty good group of guys. They are dogs. We're ready."

Young said one of the question marks for the squad will be its offensive line, however, the defensive line will be led by returnees Daniel Harness and Sean Ortscheid and anchor the Zephyrs' efforts on that side of the ball.

In its return to 11-player football, St. Mary Catholic will spend this season playing in the Trailways Conference before switching to the Eastern Wisconsin Conference for the 2024 season.

Finding a home in a conference means that St. Mary Catholic has the opportunity to make the postseason – something that wasn't possible in 8-player football because of the school's enrollment.

"It's huge. When we told the kids we were playoff eligible if we can qualify, they were pretty excited," Young said. "The last two years, we won all of our games and that was it. The season is just over. Now the kids know that if we qualify, we're in the playoffs."

That's exactly where the Zephyrs want to end up.

"That's the goal and to have a long playoff run," Schultz said. "We just have to be intense. Bring the intensity every day."

SEE **Football preview** ON PAGE 10

# 2023

# Football schedules

	<b>NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL</b>	
Aug 17	<b>De Pere</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Aug 25	@ Menasha	7:00pm
Aug 31	@ Appleton East	7:00pm
<b>Sep 8</b>	<b>Kaukauna</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Sep 15	@ Oshkosh West	7:00pm
<b>Sep 22</b>	<b>Appleton North</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Sep 29	@ Kimberly	7:00pm
<b>Oct 6</b>	<b>Fond du Lac</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Oct 13	@ Oshkosh North	7:00pm
<b>Home Games – Boldface – NHS Rocket Stadium</b>		

	<b>ST. MARY CATHOLIC</b>	
Aug 18	<b>Rosholt</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Aug 25	@ Ozaukee	7:00pm
Sep 1	@ Johnson Creek	7:00pm
<b>Sep 8</b>	<b>Pardeeville</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Sep 15	@ Fall River	7:00pm
Sep 22	@ Deerfield	7:00pm
<b>Sep 29</b>	<b>Randolph</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Oct 6</b>	<b>Lourdes Academy</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Oct 13	@ Cambria-Friesland	7:00pm
<b>Home Games - Boldface – SMCS Zephyr Field</b>		

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Neenah News

The Neenah High School football team practices on the turf at its new home field.

# Neenah takes aim at another strong FVA run

Neenah News

With a pair of golfers returning who earned all-conference mention last season, Neenah looks to once again be a challenger in the Fox Valley Association.

The Rockets went 8-1 in the dual meet season and took third at the conference tournament to finish in a tie for second place in the league. Neenah's only dual meet loss came to conference champion and state qualifier Kaukauna.

## Girls golf PREVIEW

Adam Hendrickson takes over the program as the head coach, replacing Chad Berken. Hendrickson is new to the program and is looking forward to leading the Rockets into the new season.



Hendrickson

"We have a good core of returning players and a lot of eager youth. I fully expect there to be a lot of growth and improvement over the course of the season," Hendrickson wrote in a email to the Neenah News. "Kaukauna is the class of the FVA, but I expect us to have a solid dual meet season and finish in the upper half at our conference meet."

Neenah's last FVA girls golf title came in the 2010 season, while the Rockets have won six conference crowns overall in their history.

Leading the way this year for the Rockets will be a pair of seniors in Natalie Quella and Aubrey Oitzinger. Both players were honorable mention all-FVA last season, while Quella narrowly missed earning a spot on the all-conference second team.

Quella led the Rockets last season at the FVA meet, while posting a top-10 finish at Neenah's WIAA Division 1 Regional meet where the team placed third to advance to sectionals.

Oitzinger tied for the Rockets' low round at the WIAA Division 1 sectional, falling five shots short of advancing to the state meet as an individual. The Rockets placed fifth among the eight teams at the sectional meet.

Senior Annabelle Hodges is expected to be in the varsity lineup this season along with junior Annika Searles, while the final varsity spot is to be determined.

The Rockets will open up their season with a 14-team invitational at High Cliff Golf Course on Monday.

Luke Keller and returning starter at tackle Owen Grotenhuis.

Along with those three, senior Aiden Barr and juniors Alex Alatorre, Blake Fish and Tate Rajotte are also in the mix to play on the offensive line.

"All of those new guys did a great job on the offensive line on JV last year," Jung said. "This may be our best offensive line we've had in a couple of years."

As strong as the offense is looking, the defense – which returns seven starters from a year ago – may be even more impressive.

Neenah's defense held nine of its 11 opponents to less than 21 points last season, with the only team to climb above that mark was state champion Kimberly.

Dean and junior Luke Jung will anchor the secondary, while seniors Connor Briones and Aiden Carey return at linebacker.

Briones finished second on the team in solo tackles last season, while he, Jung and Carey were among the team's top six tacklers from last year. Dean led the team in interceptions with three, while Carey added two.

Briones, Jung and Carey are the top returning tacklers for the Rockets.

Seniors Sam Scheer and Hudson Tamulion will anchor the Rockets' defensive line.

"We are not going to sneak up on anybody this year," Jung said. "We have to come in with the mindset that every game is going to be a battle and we are going to have to work for every victory we get."

Victories do not come easy in the FVA either and Neenah will have to be at the top of its game on its home field.

All three of the Rockets' home conference opponents this season – Kaukauna, Appleton North and Fond du Lac – made the playoffs last season.

"The top six or seven teams in this conference are really, really good," Jung said. "Every week we know we have to work our butts off as coaches with our game plans and get the kids to work their butts off as well."

## Football preview

FROM PAGE 1

### Rockets ready to soar again in rugged FVA

There is certainly plenty for the Neenah football program to be excited about entering the 2023 season.

Not only do the Rockets get to debut their brand-new Rocket Stadium, but there will be plenty of talent taking to the turf when Neenah opens the season next Friday against De Pere.

"Our confidence coming in is high. We had a really nice offseason, the kids worked really hard," head coach Steve Jung said. "We have talent, but it's blue-collar talent. Hard work is our mantra. We tell the kids to come in and get better each day."

Spearheading Neenah's offense this season will be a pair of juniors who played key roles on last year's co-Fox Valley Asso-

ciation champions.

Quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven proved to be a true dual threat, rushing for nearly 1,200 yards and 14 touchdowns, while throwing for 11 scores while completing 67 percent of his passes. Grant Dean was one of the team's leading receivers and will make the switch to running back this season.

"Evan is special. He makes things hard on our defense in practice. He and Grant are going to be a tough duo to deal with," said Jung, who also named Joe Drawenek as a player who will get carries out of the backfield. "Coach Jorgensen is really creative in finding space for those (Evan and Grant) and we have some other guys out there that if they are keying those guys too hard, there are going to be other options as well. Offensively, we are going to be tough."

Those runners will also have some experienced senior blockers in front of them led by center Nate Cleveland, who has earned all-FVA mention the past two seasons, last year's first-team tight end in



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# Marathon

FROM PAGE 1

What sets Gabriel apart from his peers is that he was born with spina bifida, an opening of the spinal column. Paralyzed below the waist, he has no sensation below mid-thigh and uses a wheelchair.

Being physically restricted hasn't slowed down Gabriel. Starting when he was a toddler, he participated in several 5K marathons. While a student at Spring Road Elementary, he joined the running club, which culminated in completing the 5K Fox Cities Marathon in his wheelchair alongside classmates.

Last year, Gabriel completed the Fox

Cities Half Marathon, a 13.1-mile route that he forged through, side by side with his father and grandfather, who was 73 at the time. Although Dan was prepared to push his son's wheelchair if he became tired, the only time Dan pushed Gabriel was through the water stations.

"I would push him so he could grab a cup and drink it," Dan said. "But outside of that, he pushed himself the entire distance, all 13.1 miles."

That race attracted the attention of the Fitchburg nonprofit Paul's Party, which provides recreational activities for children in wheelchairs. The organization gave Gabriel a brand-new racing chair, which he hopes to use to complete the full marathon.

The Langlois family was aware Gabriel would need surgery just three months before the race, so he and Dan started preparing in advance. After school, Gabriel would put on up to five miles. On the weekends, he and Dan were completing up to 16 miles around Neenah and could often be seen in local subdivisions and on the Loop the Little Lake and Friendship Trail.

In early June, Gabriel underwent spinal fusion, a procedure where rods were placed along his spine to help straighten out scoliosis. Recovery hasn't been easy. An infection has repeatedly put Gabriel back in the hospital, sometimes for weeks at a time. He's undergone four operations to clean out the wound and quell the infection.

"Hopefully yesterday was the last one and we can get back on that path of healing," Dan said late last week while at Children's Wisconsin hospital in Milwaukee.

With race day fast approaching, Dan hasn't given up hope that he and Gabriel can still participate, but the family's focus right now is getting him home and healed. Dan said he's prepared to help his son meet his goal of finishing the marathon, even if that means Gabriel needs to be pushed in his wheelchair.

"I do believe that if he can push like two miles and I push one, it shouldn't be

an issue," Dan said. "Obviously, it's gonna slow us down quite a bit. But you know, we were never in it really to win it. We're in it to finish. So that is the plan, to finish the race."

The Langlois are no strangers to challenges. Gabriel is one of four children Dan and wife Sara adopted that have special needs ranging from fetal alcohol syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and developmental delays. But Gabriel's perseverance has made him into a sort of role model for his siblings.

"One thing that has been good for all of them to see is the way that Gabriel is willing to dedicate, and commit, and follow through on these goals," Dan said. "I think it's actually kind of inspired them and helped them to understand that life isn't all about watching YouTube videos and whatever else teen and preteen kids do, and I think they've drawn some inspiration from him as well."

When it comes to crossing the finish line, Gabriel also inspires spectators and the other participants.

"Just seeing that he's not letting anything slow him down or get in the way of what he wants to do, even though he's in a wheelchair," Dan said. "He's your typical teenage boy who just happens to not be able to walk."



Neenah News

The Oak Hill Cemetery chapel has been refurbished by local contractors.

## Oak Hill chapel

FROM PAGE 1

The windows hadn't been painted in a long time; but you could see what was."

Bergstrom said he inquired about restoring the chapel and was informed the city didn't have the funds.

"So piece by piece we got the appropriate people - craftsmen - to fix it up," he said.

Five contractors and about 15 subcontractors were brought in to restore the building. The contractors used historic drawings to preserve the chapel's integrity.

A new entranceway and gates were built and the fences repaired. The stone walls were repaired and missing stones replaced. New floors were installed and heating, electric and air conditioning added.

The original pews were no longer in the chapel, so new pews, an altar and heavy wooden doors were added. The stained glass windows were restored and designed to light up from the inside at night. A courtyard area is now situated between the chapel and the mortuary vault as a gathering space.

A security system was also added and Bergstrom funded construction of a new storage building to hold the supplies that were in the chapel.



Bergstrom

A plaque in front is dated 2024, which Bergstrom noted is when the restoration was expected to be completed, but it was restored a year early.

"Now on the 100th anniversary of this special little chapel, we as a family again bring it back to life as a thank you and a gift to the people of Neenah," the inscription reads in part.

Bergstrom said he hopes the chapel will be used for funeral services, noting the city can use it for whatever purpose it decides.

"We certainly want people to use it and enjoy it," he said.

He also plans on restoring the neighboring mortuary vault next year, which is also in disrepair. Bergstrom shared that a running joke with Jeff Ogden of Ogden Plumbing was that the contractor would only help restore the vault if he gets first pick on a cubicle space.

Bergstrom had a plate made for one of the vaults with Ogden's name, date of birth and death date listed 100 years later, and placed it one space over from the one Ogden requested.

"Just to pull his chain," Bergstrom said with a laugh, "but he loves to go in and look at his plate."

Bergstrom said he feels fortunate to be able to undertake projects like the chapel and vault restoration and feels it's his family's responsibility to give back to the community.

"I think a big part of who we are as a business is, we really believe we have to take care of our guests, our customers, our teammates and our community," he said.



Submitted photo

Gabriel Langlois, with father Dan right behind him, completes the Fox Cities Half Marathon last year.

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**FS 6.5 ACRE HORSE ETT** 4 bed 2 bath rms Barn wbox stalls arena shop ex location 3 miles W of Hortonville WI \$495K 920-878-0005 no text or message keep trying (WCAN)

**OUTSIDE THE BOX**  
with Ben Cominos

**WEEKDAYS 8:30 - 11:00 AM**



**Kid Scoop** .COM THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE  
 Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

# Kindness

A little act of kindness can go a long way toward making someone have a better day. Can you draw a smile on each of these faces?

**Do you remember a time someone was kind to you?**

Who was it?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What did they do that was kind?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

How did it make you feel?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture or write about that memory.

**Do you remember a time you were kind to someone else?**

Who was it?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What did you do that was kind?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

How did it make you feel?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture or write about that memory.

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Discuss/write about a personal experience in detail.

## Kindness Bingo

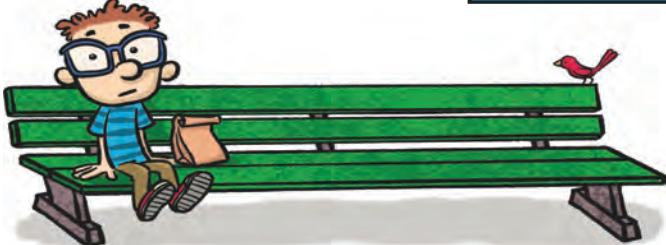
Read each of the acts of kindness on this Bingo card. Try to do each of these simple acts of kindness in the coming week. Color in a box every time you do one. Can you color in the entire Kindness Bingo card in a week?

Send a cheerful letter to a family member	Help pick up litter at school	Read a story to a younger kid	Say "Thank You" to at least three people
Share your favorite book with a friend	Help clean up at home	Draw a picture for an elderly neighbor	Clear the table after a meal
Compliment a friend or family member	Thank your teacher for all they do	Be a good sport, no matter if you win or lose	Help set the table for dinner
Invite a younger kid to play a game with you and your friends	Compliment your school custodian	Pick up your toys without being asked	Listen to a friend who seems sad or upset
Talk to a child who seems lonely	High-five your principal at school	Make a list of five great things about a friend	Make a list of five good things about you

## Create Your Own Kindness Bingo Card!


## Buddy Bench

This is Trevor. He is new at school. He's eating lunch all alone because he doesn't know anyone yet.



Draw some new friends sitting with Trevor on the bench. It's kind to introduce yourself and your friends to someone new!

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

## Kindness News is Good News!

Look through the newspaper for examples of people being kind. Cut them out and make a Kindness Poster.

**Standards Link:** Use the newspaper to locate information.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Ms. McAmity's students wrote messages of kindness in chalk on the playground. But a little rain washed away some of the letters. Use the code to fill in the missing vowels.

**CODE**  
 7 = A  
 3 = E  
 2 = I  
 4 = O  
 5 = U

**KINDNESS MATTERS**  
**YOU ARE CREATIVE!**  
**THE WORLD NEEDS YOU!!!**

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

## Double Double Word Search

BINGO  
 CLEAN  
 DRAW  
 FAMILY  
 FRIENDS  
 KIND  
 MEMORY  
 NEW  
 SCHOOL  
 SPORT  
 STORY  
 TEACHER  
 THANK  
 TOYS  
 YOU

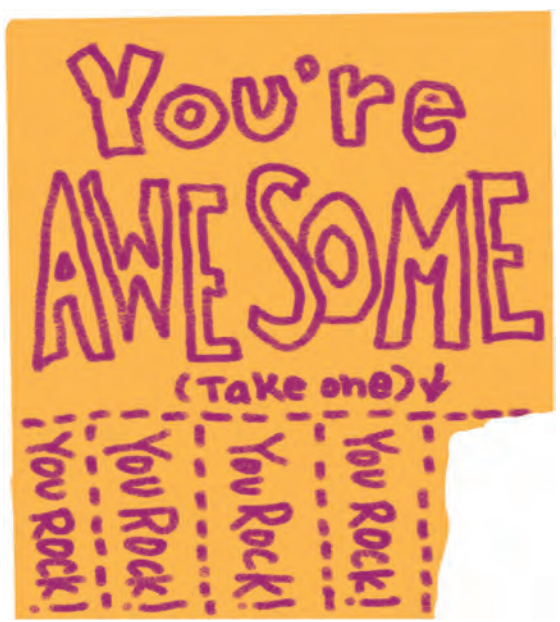
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

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

**Kid Scoop Together**  
**Kids' Messages Cheer Up Millions**  
 In March of 2022, the kindergartners of West Side School in Healdsburg, California recorded laughter and messages they wrote to cheer people up. They set up a phone number where people could call and listen to these happy messages. Their Peptok line received more than 11 million calls in a year!

**Posters That Cheer Up Your Community**  
 The teachers came up with another good idea. They asked students to make posters with positive messages and hang them around their communities. Posters are posted on telephone poles, in store windows, and on walls.



**Send Your Poster Photos to Kid Scoop!**  
 Once you display your poster, take a picture of it and send it to: [Woodward@kidscoop.com](mailto:Woodward@kidscoop.com) Include your first name, age and state. Some will be shared on our Instagram page.

**FREE DOWNLOAD: Kid Scoop Teacher Activity Pack!**  
 With hundreds of topics, every Kid Scoop® printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at: [kidscoop.com/activity-pages/](http://kidscoop.com/activity-pages/)

**Write On! Kindness Poem**  
 Write a poem about kindness.

# FREE CLASSROOM RESOURCES! ATTENTION TEACHERS!

Newspapers  
**INSPIRE**  
**TEACH**  
**INFORM**  
**EXPLORE**  
**ILLUMINATE**  
**CHALLENGE**

**Newspapers in the classroom make the grade.**  
 Are you looking for teaching strategies that will motivate your students and standards based materials to enrich your curriculum? Do you want ideas that are designed for busy teachers and ready for immediate use?  
**Register NOW for our Education Outreach Program.**  
 A copy of the Neenah News for each of your students delivered weekly with resources at [kidscoop.com](http://kidscoop.com) for:  
 • Ways to introduce newspaper reading skills.  
 • Hundreds of newspaper activity ideas across the curriculum!  
**Call 920-385-4512 today for more information!**

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