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## Village developing site for growth

### Fox Crossing site preps for housing options

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Construction that includes blasting, excavation and grading is underway near Jacobsen Road and County CB in Fox Crossing to install a stormwater pond and other infrastructure in preparation for a potential future housing development.

The parcel is on the north side of Jacobsen Road midway between County CB and Irish Road, and bordered on the north by U.S. 10. Entrances to the site are on Irish Road and across from the junction of Symphony Boulevard and Jacobsen Road.

Director of community development George Dearborn said the Village of Fox Crossing purchased the parcel from a church about three years ago, leading the project to be called the Church Pond.

With the state DNR and U.S. EPA re-

quiring municipalities to reduce phosphates and particulates in stormwater flows, Dearborn said Fox Crossing is using available land to construct stormwater ponds, rather than tearing down existing buildings to install ponds as some communities have had to do.

“This was a location that clearly would benefit our requirements to meet the particulate reductions and reductions in

SEE **Site work** ON PAGE 11

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Neenah News

### Nightly apparitions

Area houses are already getting decked out in Halloween themes, including this home on Main Street in Neenah featuring 12-foot-tall skeletons, a dragon and other spooky sights.

## Turn lane addition approved for Commercial, Winneconne

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah approved construction of a southbound right-turn lane on Commercial Street at Winneconne Avenue at a Common Council meeting last week.

South Commercial between Stanley and Tyler streets is scheduled for construction in 2025. In order to match the proposed layout for the project, a southbound right-turn lane was proposed at Commercial and Winneconne. The lane is expected to reduce vehicle merge conflicts.

Part of the adjoining land where the former Boost Mobile is situated will be

obtained by the city to construct the lane. The acquisition is estimated to cost \$150,000 for land and easement purchases. An additional \$100,000 was allocated for professional services for design of street construction, storm sewer construction and real estate management. The construction costs for the lane are estimated at \$100,000, bringing the entire project to \$350,000.

At a Public Services and Safety Committee meeting earlier this month, public works director Gerry Kaiser said the right-turn lane will open up traffic movement

SEE **Intersection** ON PAGE 10



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Traffic flow at the intersection of Commercial Street and Winneconne Avenue will be updated.

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### Corrections

It is the policy of Neenah News to correct all errors of fact. For correction information call 920-385-4512.

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# Pet licensing for service dogs reviewed

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Common Council will vote at its Wednesday meeting on whether to issue a council directive to examine the city's pet licensing ordinance and consider changes to make it more inclusive to service dogs.

Under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. The tasks performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability.

Emotional support, therapy, comfort or companion animals are not considered service animals under the ADA because they haven't been trained to perform a specific job or task.

City residents who own a dog or cat are required to obtain a license each year. The cost is \$8 for altered pets and \$13 for unaltered. The city also assesses a \$5 late fee if the pet is registered after April 1, unless the resident is new to Neenah or obtained a new pet after that date.

Dogs kept only for educational or scientific purposes or specially trained to lead blind or deaf persons or to provide support for mobility-impaired people are exempt from the licensing requirements.

Alderman Kathie Boyette told the council that the ordinance was written in the 1980s and is outdated and discriminatory to service dogs and those with disabilities.

"I understand that we have adopted what the state has, but according to the ADA state and federal, it's discrimination and I feel like we need to fix that before we get into something that we don't want to," she said.

Boyette said there are other types of service dogs that aren't covered in the exemption.

"For instance, there are some dogs that can sense somebody's low blood sugar and I'm quite certain that wasn't something that was popular in the '80s," she said. "There are dogs that can detect and are trained for seizures for epilepsy and that's not listed in here as well."

Boyette suggested the city adopt the ADA definition of a service animal rather than listing out the definition as seeing-eye dogs, hearing dogs and mobility-assistance dogs.

"As somebody that has a family member



Neenah News

City officials are looking at the current pet licensing ordinance to determine whether to make updates.

that has some of those (other) issues, I feel that that is discriminatory against their disability and I don't want that to become an issue for the city," she said.

City Attorney David Rashid said the ordinance was recently researched by his office and he disagrees that it's discriminatory.

"We've actually looked at it from a federal and state law perspective and our current ordinance in that regard does not violate either federal or state law," he said.

According to the ADA website, service animals are subject to local dog licensing and registration requirements and must also follow local animal control or public health requirements for vaccinations.

The city's pet license application includes a check box noting that there is no cost to license a service animal. The application asks whether the dog is a service animal required because of a disability

and what work or task the dog has been trained to perform.

According to the ADA, those are the only two questions an entity is allowed to ask to determine if a dog is a service animal.

"Staff are not allowed to request any documentation for the dog, require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability," the ADA website states.

Boyette said it isn't fair to residents for some service animals to be exempt from the licensing fee, while the owners of animals that perform different services are required to pay.

"But I think if we could be proactive with changing that we could be the leader," she said. And again, I wouldn't stop with us; I would go to the state as well to maybe update it."

## Town Hall forum set for local legislators

All state legislators representing the Fox Cities region have been invited to participate in a virtual Legislative Town Hall meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 2 organized by League of Women Voters chapters from northern Winnebago County, Appleton-Fox Cities, Greater Green Bay and Door County.

The Town Hall will give viewers an opportunity to submit nonpartisan questions and hear from their elected representatives about their priorities for the current legislative session.

Those invited include state senators Andre Jacque, District 1; Robert Cowles, District 2; and Rachael Cabral-Guevara, District 19; and Assembly representatives Ron Tusler, District 3; Joy Goeben, District 5; Nate Gustafson, District 55; Dave Murphy, District 56; and Lee Snodgrass, District 57.

The deadline for online questions was this week but audience members can submit questions during the event as time allows. Registration is required at lwvappleton.org or on the LWV Facebook page.

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# County policy on electronics misuse adds censure options

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved a policy outlining consequences for supervisors who misuse county-owned electronic devices at a meeting last week.

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 county 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.

The new 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 Karen Powers said she’s against changing the policy because the supervisors’ rights are being eroded.

“Deciding which ditch we’re going to die in over morality is going to nullify or overturn the constitutional democratic vote of the people,” she said. “If people don’t like what someone has done, let them vote their own supervisor out or let them have a recall election, but this is overreaching.”

Supervisor Nate Gustafson said the policy will help clarify what supervisors can and cannot do on their devices.

“This isn’t about the morality of what conduct is done, it’s that the conduct is done on county-issued property and at the end of the day you are accountable to, yes, your constituents, but you’re also accountable to everybody else in the county if that device was issued to you from the county,” he said.

Supervisor Bryan Stafford said the policy doesn’t impede someone’s ability to express their opinion.

“This is about doing it on government property,” he said. “It is the county’s property, not the person’s, and I think the county has every right to ensure that their property is being utilized effectively and to mitigate any potential issues that the county might be held accountable for in the misuse of the devices.”

Supervisor Jacob Floam said the IT department has been trying to pass a similar policy since 2014. At a meeting in May, director of information systems Patty Francour confirmed there have been other incidents of supervisors misusing devices and she has been trying to get a similar rule passed for years.

“The point is that if you’re running for county office, specifically county board supervisor, you should be able to hold yourself to a higher standard on county property and county issued property,” Floam said. “That’s all this resolution is explaining and going over so if you believe you can do that you should have no problem with this.”

Several supervisors voiced concerns that the policy is only dealing with county board supervisors when, in their opinion, it should encompass all elected officials in Winnebago County, including the sheriff and county executive.

Supervisor Jim Wise acknowledged the concerns but said maybe the change needs to start with the county board.

“Start with us first and show that we are able to address this issue and put rules and regulations on ourselves first and maybe then it will give some teeth to it for the IT committee,” he said.

The board voted 26-7 to approve the policy, with Powers, Steven Binder, Rebecca Nichols, Julie Gordon, James Ponzer, Andy Buck and Morris Cox voting against. The new policy on use of county-owned devices went into effect immediately.



Neenah News

## Downtown parking

Resurfacing of the parking lot area behind the downtown Marketplace and other businesses on West Wisconsin Avenue was completed last week with a final coat of asphalt and restriping. The project included a complete surface removal with two contractors involved for the lot and concrete aprons. The affected area encompassed the Silver Lot through Great Harvest.

## Build-A-Scarecrow project at Riverside Park

Neenah Parks & Recreation offers its annual Build-A-Scarecrow event for families from 10:30 to noon Oct. 14 at the Riverside Park pavilion.

Families can decorate their own

scarecrow with adult clothes and props from home or picked up at a thrift store.

The frame, twine and straw will be provided. The cost is \$5 per family.



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# Industrial door maker cleared for Southpark plant

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A new manufacturing facility will be constructed in the Southpark Industrial Center after the city approved a development agreement that includes \$400,000 in support at a Common Council meeting last week.

Edgewater Door, which also goes by Neenah Door Properties, plans to construct a new 45,000-square-foot building at 2455 Schultz Drive to accommodate projected growth. The future site is across from Plexus near the intersection of Jensen Road and Schultz Drive. The business' existing operations are at 175 N. Western Ave.

Edgewater Door manufactures heavy-duty commercial industrial fiberglass doors and frames constructed of composite materials to prevent rotting or corrosion. The doors are often used in wastewater and water treatment plants, pools, zoos, schools, food processing and paper mills.

Community development director Chris Haese wrote in a memo that the manufacturer has been in discussions with the city for several months about the site, which is just under 10 acres and has been available for years. In that time the site was compromised by the placement of unauthorized fill and wetland encroachment, documents state.

The fill material will need to be dealt with and the property requires grading, wetland mitigation and soil management before development. The city was able to secure a wetland exemption for 1.5 acres of previously delineated wetlands, at a savings of \$120,000 in mitigation costs.

With the exemption, the developable area of the site is limited to about 6 acres,



Neenah News

This site at 2455 Schultz Drive will see a new door manufacturing facility after city approval of the development plan.

which Haese wrote is of sufficient size to accommodate both Edgewater's initial building and an anticipated expansion of similar size.

The city is amending Tax Incremental District (TID) 9 to provide a maximum of \$400,000 of tax incremental finance (TIF) assistance to support the development. The assistance will be provided in an annual payment from the additional tax revenue collected from the project and payments are expected to continue for 14 years.

TIF is an economic development tool where some municipalities assign parcels in need of development into TIDs, collect tax revenue on the base value of the properties within the TID and divert the surplus tax revenue from the city, school district, county and technical college toward economic development projects.

According to the development agreement, the project would not occur without the use of TIF, which the city uses to encourage economic development, eliminate slum and blight, expand its tax base

and create new jobs.

The city is also providing a maximum reimbursement of \$50,000 to assist with the moving of non-native materials from the site. The project was brought to the city by a local real estate broker, who will receive an 8% commission from the city for his efforts.

Edgewater is purchasing the site for \$195,000, with closing on Nov. 30. The anticipated value of the new facility is \$2 million, with construction beginning within the next six months.



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## Library calendar

- Oct. 1**  
1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library
- Oct. 2**  
2 p.m.: Adult Afternoon Program:  
6 Pillars of Brain Health
- Oct. 3**  
10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime
- Oct. 4**  
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time  
10 a.m.: Musical Movers Storytime  
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup
- Oct. 5**  
10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime  
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night  
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam:
- Oct. 6**  
9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Boot Camp  
10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga  
2 p.m.: First Friday Concert Series:  
Sean Gaskell
- Oct. 7**  
8 a.m.: Yoga with Sarah Broda
- Oct. 8**  
2 p.m.: Sunday Concert Series: The  
Driftless Plowboys
- Oct. 9**  
10 a.m.: Wild Child Adventure Story-  
time at Riverside Park  
1 p.m.: Monday Matinee: "You Hurt My  
Feelings," (R, 1 hour, 33 minutes)  
6:30 p.m.: Movie Night: "Mamma Mia!"  
7 p.m.: Short Story Night
- Oct. 10**  
10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime  
Noon - 2 p.m.: BadgerCare Plus Renewals  
1:30 p.m.: Tech Talk Tuesday: A Guide  
to Google Drive  
3:30 p.m.: Tween Create Space- Macra-  
me Key Chains  
4:30 p.m.: Legal Assistance Clinic  
5-7 p.m.: BadgerCare Plus Renewals  
7 p.m.: Next Chapter on Facebook Live!
- Oct. 11**  
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time  
10 a.m.: Musical Movers Storytime  
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup  
6:30 p.m.: Fall Garden Cleanup
- Oct. 12**  
10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime  
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night  
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam: Friday
- Oct. 13**  
10:30 a.m.: Footloose Fridays
- Oct. 14**  
8 a.m.: Yoga with Sarah Broda  
Sunday, Oct. 15  
1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library
- Oct. 16**  
1:30 p.m.: Memory Cafe: John Muir's  
Yellowstone Tour  
7 p.m.: Halloween's Folklore and Histo-  
ry on Zoom
- Oct. 17**  
10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime  
3:30 p.m.: Tween Create Space-Candy  
Catapults program
- Oct. 18**  
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time  
10 a.m.: Musical Movers Storytime  
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup
- Oct. 19**  
10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime  
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night  
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam  
7 p.m.: Neenah Founders and Settlers:  
Amos Page and the Rev. O. P. Clinton
- Oct. 20**  
9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Balance &  
Strength  
10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga
- Oct. 21**  
10:30 a.m.: Monster Mash Dance Party

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Neenah News

Bar 22 ownership is closing its doors on West Wisconsin Avenue this week.

## Bar 22 on W. Wisconsin ends 11-year run

Neenah News

Bar 22 will permanently close as of Saturday, according to a social media post made by the business.

Bar 22, at 218 W. Wisconsin Ave., is the second downtown tavern that announced its closing in as many months, after the closure of Paper City Pub at 212 W. Wisconsin in August.

Bar 22 operated in Neenah's downtown for 11 years. In a post, Becky Hilgers announced the business is closing and thanked the community, current and former staff, friends and family for supporting them.

"I am forever grateful for you all," Hilgers wrote.

Several patrons commented on the social media post to express support.

"I'm so sad to say goodbye to Bar 22," Carli Pagel wrote. "It's been truly an amazing experience working there."

"Sorry to hear that it hasn't worked out," Tim Niemuth wrote.

"You all will be greatly missed," Sylvia Sharp wrote. "Thank you for the good times."

The business did not disclose the reason for closing and didn't respond to a media inquiry for more information.

## Business news roundup

Neenah's Water Utility will be installing an advanced metering system for its water meters under a network-sharing agreement with **We Energies** and **Landis & Gyr**. Under the multiyear agreement, the city utility will deploy more than 11,000 Landis & Gyr Gridstream RF Interpreter Register water modules for existing and new water meters that allow the utility to receive interval data from all meters, including alerts. Data will be transmitted over We Energies' existing network operated by Landis & Gyr for electric metering. We Energies will lease access to its existing network and Command Center head end software through a services agreement with Landis & Gyr.

**Will Flett** has joined ThedaCare as chief financial officer, leading operational controls, procedures and people in place



Flett

to grow the organization. Flett most recently served as the vice president of finance at Aspirus Health. He has also held various financial leadership roles at numerous hospitals systems in the Midwest. Flett is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, a member of the Healthcare Financial Management Association and is a certified health care financial professional. Mark Thompson, current chief operating officer and chief financial officer, will serve as chief transformation investment officer in the new structure created by Froedtert Health and ThedaCare's planned combined organization.

A Milwaukee-based commercial real estate firm and affiliate of **Phoenix Investors** will convert its Fox Crossing property at 2225 American Drive into a large self-storage facility with about 65,000 rentable square feet. Phoenix said it will add up to 600 units and offer more than

100,000 square feet of RV and boat storage parking, and executive office suites. The office building was built in 1981 and underwent updates and renovations in 1999 and in 2020. The facility will be branded and operated by Store Here Self Storage.

The Fox Cities Chamber Regional Partnership has officially launched **Fox Cities Economic Development**, an annual magazine produced in partnership with Livability Media. The publication will focus on economic development and talent attraction/retention by telling the story of the Fox Cities and its quality of life. Businesses are encouraged to use the magazine as a talent retention and attraction tool and to promote the region. Print copies are available by emailing [ebrotten@foxcitieschamber.com](mailto:ebrotten@foxcitieschamber.com). An interactive digital version is available at [livability.com/foxcities](http://livability.com/foxcities).

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) celebrated the environmental leadership of Green Tier participants and Legacy Communities on Sept. 12 with the second of four regional **Green Tier Connections** events geared at highlighting partners and their participation in the program, including **Kimberly-Clark Corp's** Neenah Cold Spring and Kimtech facilities, which marked five years in the program. Learn about the program at [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/GreenTier](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/GreenTier).

Newsweek's annual rankings for the Top 100 Most Loved Workplaces has listed **J. J. Keller & Associates** as No. 74. The rankings derive from a collaboration with the Best Practice Institute (BPI), a leadership development and benchmark research company. The results were determined after surveying more than 2 million employees from businesses with workforces ranging from 50 to more than 100,000. The list recognizes companies that have created a workplace where employees feel respected and inspired, and at the center of the business model.

**Volatus Infrastructure & Energy Solutions** has entered into a joint venture with Australian-based electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) company Ace VTOL. The joint venture will establish an advanced air mobility infrastructure ecosystem in the Oceania region, develop a wheelchair accessible solar-powered lift and integrate Ace's open-sourced artificial intelligence unmanned traffic management to greater insure safety flight management.

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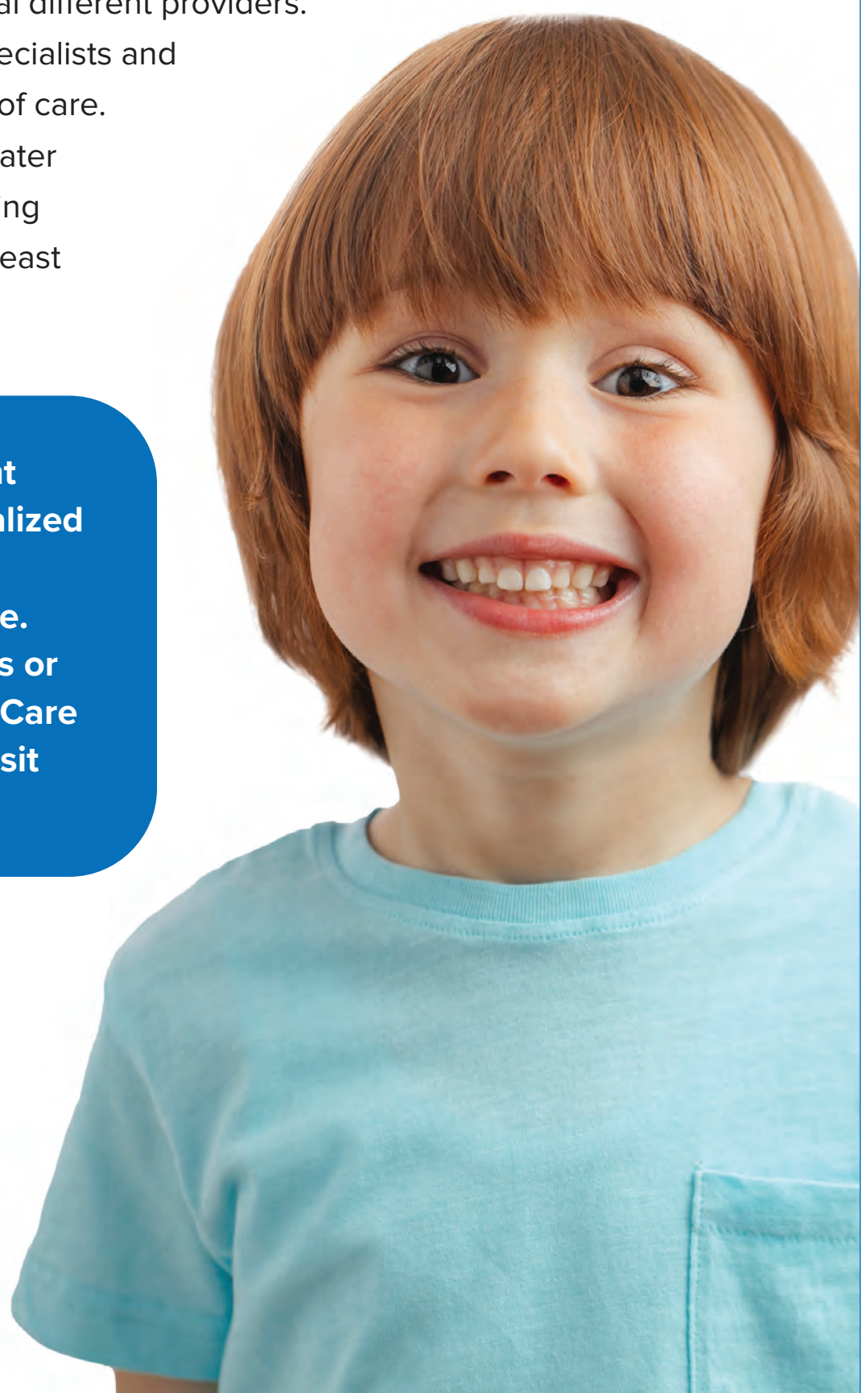
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# Summer events quickly merging into fall fun

The window of opportunity for summer fun in Wisconsin is somewhat limited. The long, warm days of summer fade fast. This often means our summer calendars are jam packed with endless opportunities for fun events.

Over the years that trend has been changing and that window remains open well into fall. Seldom will you find a September or October weekend that doesn't have more than one activity to get out into the community to enjoy.

Future Neenah's wine walk event is coming up Saturday. On its third year, the event is relatively new to us and the Neenah calendar. Cheers to fall fun in downtown Neenah. It has sold out the last two years, but we do have a limited number of tickets still available. Gather some friends and grab your spots before they are gone.

Future Neenah's Saturday morning Farmers Market at Shattuck Park runs well into fall with the final Market of the season Oct. 14 including special kids pre-Halloween fun activities. Some of the best produce is late season. Grab some local beets or pickles for canning to be enjoyed over Wisconsin's winter or get that last eggroll for the season.

The Plaza is not just for winter ice skating – rent some skates (roller skates that is!) and take a few laps around the rink.

Get reconnected with your spooky side at YouthGo's Hallows Haunted Trail Walk at Memorial Park, which opens today (Friday).



The Little Lake Trestle Loop is an all-seasons recreational amenity. Grab your bike or walking shoes and get out to enjoy the Autumn colors on the Loop. The Mayor's Annual Charity Run/Walk is on the Loop Oct. 7.

Although not new, what's fall without catching some local high school football action too?

This is just a small sampling of the offerings; we're just scratching the surface. The Library, Parks & Rec, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass and so many more businesses and organizations are offering fall fun like build a scarecrow, create a glass pumpkin platter or attend a monster mash dance party. Arts, music, hands on activities, shows, crawls – we are blessed to have a community that offers something for everyone.

We hope to see you out in the community enjoying all that there is to offer.

For a comprehensive annual calendar and to list your events, visit [Neenah.org](http://Neenah.org).



Habitat for Humanity photo

## Doty Island fixups

Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity's Rock the Block program targeted homes in the Doty Island neighborhoods of Neenah and Menasha last weekend with volunteers, sponsors and city officials teaming up on home projects and community spaces. Projects included many home repairs along with work at the YMCA, Doty Park, Cook Park and the river walk landing in Neenah. Habitat officials said they will continue to partner with Doty Island homeowners in over the next year to take on larger projects.

## Warehouse fire causes damages in Neenah

A warehouse fire at 2240 Harrison St. in Neenah on Sept. 15 caused an estimated \$75,000 in damage when boxed resin material ignited, Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue officials reported, leading to a multiple emergency response to locate the source of the fire and remove the materials.

No injuries were reported in response to the fire call at 6:02 p.m., which was in a commercial building operated by Warehouse Specialists. Fire officials said the

building has a fire sprinkler system that activated and helped contain the fire, while crews had to remove the palletized resin material in order to locate the source of what was described as moderate smoke conditions.

Neenah-Menasha Fire was assisted at the scene by fire departments from Fox Crossing, Town of Neenah, Town of Oshkosh, Town and Vinland, Village of Harrison and Appleton.

## Metro area jobless rate rises to 3.9% in August

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County saw a jump in its unemployment rate from 2.9% to 3.4% between July and August, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Last August's jobless rate in Oshkosh-Neenah and the county was at 2.9%.

The non-seasonally adjusted data shows jobless rates in Metropolitan Statistical Areas rose in all of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas over that period. Unemployment rates also rose in all of Wisconsin's largest cities and counties.

Estimates of unemployment and employment statistics are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Creek bridge work closes Jewelers Park trail

Work to replace the Neenah Creek bridge, which will be the primary entry point into a multifamily housing project development at the former Bridgewood Golf Course, is underway.

Jewelers Park Drive Trail at the board-

walk and about 200 feet north of that point will be closed for about two months, the Public Works Department announced.

Developers are building a 60-unit apartment complex along Harrison Street and another 206 units in 26 eight-unit buildings.

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# As other states go dry, Wisconsin's water use drops

Wisconsin Policy Forum

Wisconsin seemingly swims in an abundance of fresh water. Unlike some western states that struggle with empty reservoirs and limits on growth imposed by water shortages, our municipal water supplies facing little threat, even during summer droughts.

Beyond our inheritance of abundant water resources, another explanation is that during the past generation, the state's water utility customers have steadily purchased fewer gallons. The volume of water sold by Wisconsin's water utilities has fallen to near its lowest level per person in at least a generation, and likely much longer.

State data show that 574 Wisconsin utilities sell more than 138 billion gallons of water annually for use in homes, businesses, factories and, to a small extent, irrigation. Since 1997, the earliest available year in our data, statewide total water sales have fallen by 18%, or 30.4 billion gallons -- about the same amount of water held in Madison's Lake Monona.

The record low for water usage was 134.6 billion gallons in 2019, but 2022 was not far behind, at 138.4 billion. This was down from a high of 175 billion in 1998. On a per capita basis, the drop is even more pronounced at 28.5%, from just over 33,400 gallons per person in 1998 to a near record low of 23,300 in 2022.

Of all categories -- residential, commercial and industrial -- industrial usage has declined the most, dropping by more than 17.2 billion gallons, or 34%. Like other utility customers, industrial plants have grown more efficient over the decades in water use. Another impact was a decline in

overall industrial activity, including paper-making and, at least in some communities, food production.

One important caveat: These data include only gallons sold by water utilities, not total withdrawals of water. It includes water use by business and residential customers who represent the vast majority of water consumers, yet excludes the biggest uses of water such as power generation and agricultural irrigation. To examine those trends, we also analyze data from the Department of Natural Resources, which tracks water withdrawals from all sources.

Overall withdrawals in 2021 were 6% lower than the annual average since 2012, and nearly 400 billion gallons less than the amount withdrawn in 2011. The drop was driven by a decrease in withdrawals by power plants -- by far the biggest water users -- accounting for 73% of withdrawals.

Though Wisconsin has plentiful water resources, reduced consumption has benefits including opportunities to serve new homes and factories more cheaply, lower energy use by water utilities to pump and treat water, less stress on sewer systems and sewage treatment plants, and fewer disruptions to aquatic ecosystems.

As the climate warms and drought becomes more likely across the country, stable access to clean water could make the state increasingly attractive to residents and businesses. Understanding these data can help policymakers monitor and tout this advantage.

*This information is a service of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state's leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government research and civic education.*



Submitted photo

## Hallows trail

Youth Go brings back *The Hallows*, its haunted trail walk through the woods of Memorial Park in Neenah, starting this Friday and Saturday and also Oct. 6 and 7. Ticket sale profits go toward funding Youth Go's recreation, education, and support and wellness programming.

## Corn Promotion Board nominations sought

The state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is accepting nominations through Nov. 1 for three seats on the Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board. Producers who grow and sell corn in District 3 -- which includes Winnebago County -- and districts 5 or 6 are eligible to nominate producers or to be nominated to the board.

Producers who grow and sell corn in

those counties are eligible to nominate a producer or to be nominated. DATCP will mail nomination forms to any producer who requests one by contacting DATCP-MarketOrders@Wisconsin.gov or calling 608-224-5116.

The board is composed of nine producers in nine districts across the state and oversees the collection and use of about \$1.7 million in assessment fees paid by Wisconsin corn growers.



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## Chronic wasting disease monitoring help sought

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites the public to help report and manage chronic wasting disease (CWD) this fall.

The contagious, fatal neurological disease that affects the nervous system of deer, elk, moose and caribou is known as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) or prion diseases.

Infected deer can appear healthy for months before showing signs of illness, such as drastic weight loss, drooped head and ears, loss of coordination, excessive salivation and reduced fear of humans.

The Adopt-a-Kiosk and Adopt-a-Dumpster programs enable hunters and volunteers to take an active role in CWD response efforts. The DNR's self-serve CWD kiosks provide hunters with unlimited access to CWD sampling materials

and test kits.

Testing deer for CWD provides the DNR data to understand disease distribution in the state and informs hunters about the potential status of their harvest. Making CWD testing more available and increasing participation are vital to the state's CWD monitoring efforts.

Program partners work with the DNR to implement convenient deer carcass disposal locations. In areas where disposal options are limited or unavailable, the DNR prefers to locate adopted dumpsters on private land.

Groups may be able to host a dumpster on public land with consultation from the DNR.

Proper carcass disposal keeps potentially infected deer off the landscape and slows the spread of CWD in wild herds.

## Intersection

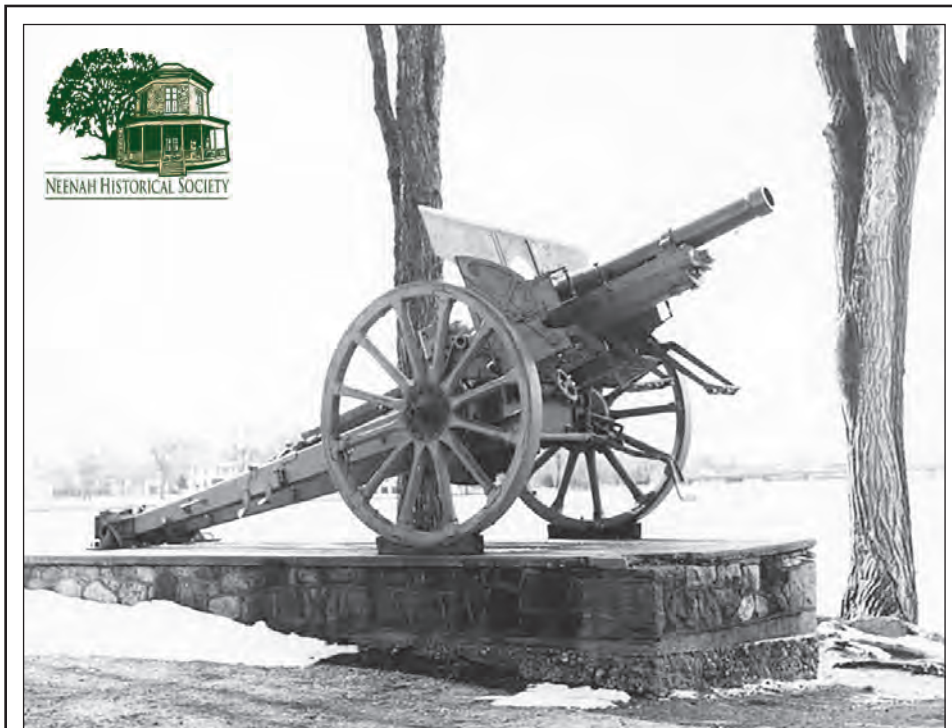
FROM PAGE 1

and help the southbound vehicle queuing at Wisconsin and Commercial. He said southbound vehicles are beginning to queue in the curb lane because of the traffic pattern in the area.

Alderman Todd Stevenson stated that his concerns are the ramifications the right-turn lane will have at Church Street and also leaving the property on the northwest side of the intersection underutilized.

Kaiser said Church Street will become self-regulating and people will quickly learn that making a left turn is difficult. As an example, Kaiser cited the intersection of East Doty Avenue and South Commercial Street, noting that drivers that approach the intersection know that turning right is the best option because of the difficulty turning left. Whether drivers consciously think about it or not, they develop an understanding of their street network and reroute themselves, he said.

The intersection work is proposed to be completed in 2024 to maintain traffic flow during construction for the 2025 project.



Neenah Historical Society photo

## Riverside memorial

The cannon in Riverside Park is actually the second one in that location. The first was donated to a World War II scrap drive in the 1940s. In 1948, after the war had concluded, the Japanese 75mm Model 38 was placed in the park.

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# Calendar of events

## Friday, Sept. 29

Youth Go's Hallows Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park  
 Lisa Weyerhauser, 6:30 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road

## Saturday, Sept. 30

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park  
 Future Neenah Wine Walk, noon, 16 downtown locations  
 Youth Go's Hallows Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

## Sunday, Oct. 1

Neenah Police Benevolent Association fundraising concert, 7 p.m., Best Western Bridgewood Conference Center  
 Town of Neenah Fire Department open house, 10 a.m., 1600 Breeze-wood Lane

## Friday, Oct. 6

First Friday Concert Series, Sean Gaskell, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library  
 Youth Go's Hallows Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

## Saturday, Oct. 7

Mayor's Charity Run/Walk, 8:30 a.m., Loop the Lake Trail  
 Vendor & Craft Blitz, 9 a.m., 2425 Industrial Drive, Neenah  
 Youth Go's Hallows Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

## Sunday, Oct. 8

Sunday Concert Series: Driftless Plowboys, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Monday, Oct. 9

Movie Night: "Mamma Mia!" 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Thursday, Oct. 12

Author Barbara Wulf: "The Cellar Spider Who Went Outside," 4 p.m., Lyons Fine Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

## Movie Night promotes 'Mamma Mia!' on stage

To celebrate and promote the upcoming "Mamma Mia!" musical, the Neenah Public Library in partnership with the Neenah High School Drama Club will be showing the movie "Mamma Mia!" at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 9 in the library's Shattuck Community Room.

There will be a raffle to win two tickets to the musical, which will be presented at the new Neenah High

For more information, contact 920-886-6315, email [Library@neenahlibrary.org](mailto:Library@neenahlibrary.org) or visit [neenahlibrary.org](http://neenahlibrary.org).

## Seminar looks at working with online reviews

The Fox Cities Chamber is offering a Grow Marketing Seminar on reviews and reputation management from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Oct. 11 at Community First Credit Union in Neenah.

Studies show that 93% of consumers read online reviews about a local business before purchasing a product or service. The seminar will explore how to combat negative reviews and turn positive reviews into marketing tools.

Presenters are Lisa Piikkila, owner/creative director of Coalesce Marketing and Design, and Sterling Feathers, digital marketing manager at Coalesce.

The seminar is free for Chamber members and \$25 for nonmembers. Signup information is at [business.foxcitieschamber.com](http://business.foxcitieschamber.com).

## Site work

FROM PAGE 1

phosphorus for the communities," he said. "This became available, we purchased it as it was in a good location, and now we are building upon it right now."

Fox Crossing completed construction of a \$1.6 million stormwater management facility called Rocket Pond at Irish Road and American Drive about a year and a half ago. That pond is on land owned by the school district, which has listed it for sale. With the inclusion of the Church Pond, the village has three stormwater ponds currently under construction with plans for several others.

"It's a very big challenge right now but the goal is, of course, to clean up the lakes and streams," Dearborn said. "It's an admirable goal, but it's very costly for communities."

The project encompasses construction of the pond and installation of gravel roads, water, sewer and stormwater utilities. The total cost is just under \$3.7 million, which includes about \$3.2 million for the stormwater, gravel street and storm sewer costs; about \$295,000 for water and \$204,000 for sanitary sewer.

Dearborn said Fox Crossing is one of several communities spending millions on detention ponds. The village decided to also rough in utilities and a road in preparation for selling the remaining land to a developer.

"It will probably be mostly single-family development," Dearborn said. "It's identified as low-density residential."

Funding for the project comes from the Fox Crossing Stormwater Utility. Village manager Jeffrey Sturgell said when the land is eventually sold, the proceeds will



Neenah News

Development work at Jacobsen Road and County CB in Fox Crossing is underway.

be returned to the stormwater utility to offset costs of the pond.

The site has no subdivision plat and has not been rezoned, with the village utilizing land use amendments for construction. If a developer purchases the site, that company would be responsible for initiating rezoning.

A sign posted at the site notes the wet pond will reduce stormwater pollution and assist the village in complying with DNR storm sewer requirements. Once complete, the area will be planted with prairie, wildflower and wetland foliage to promote a natural environment.

Significant construction and blasting for the pond began in August. The vil-

lage doesn't own the property to the west of the site but obtained permission from the property owner to use it as a feed-in for construction purposes to minimize the impact to the properties on Jacobsen Road.

Dearborn said the road to the site will extend from Symphony Boulevard, but he's unsure if the street extending to Church Pond will have the same name.

"The ultimate plan is to reconstruct Jacobsen Road in the next year or two and continue the trail, as well," Dearborn said. "It's something that's very needed to be done and the benefit of doing this pond will help us to meet the requirements for stormwater, as well, for that project."

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<b>SPIRITS OF THE GRAND TOURS</b> OCT. 15-18 & 20-21	<b>GLOW YOGA WITH INNER SUN YOGA</b> OCT. 23   6:00 P.M.	<b>TRICK OR TRIVIA</b> OCT. 24   6:00 P.M.	<b>TAROT CARD CLASS WITH MYSTICKARMA</b> OCT. 25   6:00 P.M.
			
<b>CHRIS MOON: PSYCHIC MEDIUM / PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR</b> OCT. 27   7:30 P.M.	<b>HALLOWEEN EVE</b> OCT. 30   3:00 P.M.	<b>HALLOWEEN BASH</b> OCT. 31   5:00 P.M.	<b>PARANORMAL SLEEPOVER + INVESTIGATION FEATURING C.A.P.S.</b> OCT. 28   7:00 P.M.

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## Groppel needs only one season to be three-sport athlete

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Being a three-sport athlete at the high school level isn't an unusual occurrence.

Seeing as there are three sport seasons – fall, winter and spring – in a school year, many athletes will choose one sport in each season to participate in, especially at smaller high schools.

St. Mary Catholic's AJ Groppel is one of those three-sport athletes.

But instead of waiting an entire school year to earn his three varsity letters, he's chose to have it all wrapped up by the time the calendar hits November.

The St. Mary Catholic senior is one of the leaders on the Zephyrs undefeated soccer team, plays defensive back and kicks for the football team and still finds the time to help out the boys cross country team when he can.

"It adds a little bit more of a challenge, but I like challenges," Groppel said following an afternoon of practices earlier this week. "A lot of people have told me not to do it because I will get burned out or it's not smart, but I like to prove people wrong. It kind of stokes the fire to do all three and keep on pushing through it.

Groppel has only done three fall sports the past two years. He started his high school career playing soccer – the sport he grew up playing and had a passion for – and running cross country where he was part of the Zephyrs' state-qualifying team as a freshman and qualified as an individual for state as a sophomore.

### Senior Standout



Then, there is football.

As a sophomore, Groppel didn't play but helped out the team when he could as a manager and began to appreciate the camaraderie that encompasses the football team. But there was a bit of an issue.

"My parents were worried about me getting hurt," Groppel said. "The way I convinced my parents was telling them I was only a kicker but going out for football."

But being just a kicker was never the plan.

"I know this program doesn't kick a lot so I wanted to be an actual field player, too, and they put me at cornerback," Groppel said. "My parents didn't know that until the first scrimmage. They weren't too happy. Well, my dad was excited, and I guess my mom was more scared than upset. Now they have gotten used to it."

Being a part of three sports means a busy day for Groppel, starting with before-school workouts in the weight room.

Then, after a full day of classes where he is one of the top students in his class and carrying a 3.87 GPA, football practice normally is the first after school activity until about 5:30 p.m., followed by a



Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic senior AJ Groppel competes in three fall sports for the Zephyrs.

roughly two-hour soccer practice.

And building his stamina for cross country?

"That's just the cardio from soccer and football," Groppel said. "I've tried to do running before school, but it takes a lot more out of me than lifting weights."

Groppel said he deals with conflicts as they come up and in the past has even participated in two sporting events in the same day, running a sectional cross country meet about midday before returning for a soccer match later on.

One of his goals this season is to return to the state cross country meet, play in a WIAA football playoff game and lead the Zephyrs to an appearance at the WIAA State Soccer Tournament.

The most prominent of those would be leading the Zephyrs back to the state tournament, a level the program hasn't reached since 2005 as St. Mary Central, and the team seems to be on the right path to get there.

Following Tuesday's win over Sheboygan Lutheran/Christian, the Zephyrs are 13-0 on the season and leading the Big East/Eastern Wisconsin Conference. The fact the team is doing so well isn't a big surprise.

"Going into this season we knew we had a really strong team. We knew we had a true potential to make it to state and play at Uihlein (Park) and that's always been my goal," Groppel said. "The playoffs will be a really good challenge for us and the goal is to make it to state and then who knows what happens there."

Groppel's role on the Zephyrs has changed a bit as a senior.

He was one of the top goal scorers on the squad since stepping foot on the varsity field as a freshman, playing as a striker on the squad. This year, he plays in the midfield to help control that area for St. Mary Catholic before turning to the attack and setting up teammates.

"I'm playing more of a midfield role this year, which means I don't have as many goals, but I am racking up the assists serving the ball to Kiernan (Barrientos), Braeden (Brenn), Nathan (Seiske) and everybody up top," Groppel said. "It's always been a situation where we haven't always controlled the midfield but now we can with me there and we still have a strong frontline to really push and get those goals against the hard teams.

"It's a great feeling being able to trust everyone and know if I get someone the ball in front of goal, he's going to put it on frame, he's going to put it in the back of the net."

Groppel still has the opportunity to score goals but admits being able to set up an opponent for a goal is a pretty good deal, too.

"It's a different feeling scoring versus getting an assist but once you hit that right ball for an assist it's a great feeling," Groppel said. "Knowing I put it where it needed to be and it's in his hands now is great as opposed to scoring a goal, which is pure adrenaline."

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

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# Rockets take aim at solving powerhouse Papermakers

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

The way to beat a state powerhouse like Kimberly isn't simply coming out and performing well on a Friday night.

According to Neenah head coach Steve Jung, if the Rockets are going to knock off the top-ranked Papermakers in Kimberly on Friday night, the only route to that win was through the practices leading up to the game.

"We have to have a great week of practice. The way we look at it, is we have to go 1-0 every day in practice this week," Jung said earlier this week. "We know they prepare very well so this game is going to be won through preparation."

It's been 18 years since a Neenah football team has beaten Kimberly. Not since the final regular-season game in 2005

## Week 7 games

### Fox Valley Association

(records reflect FVA games)

- Neenah (3-1) at Kimberly (4-0)
- Kaukauna (3-1) at Appleton North (3-1)
- Oshkosh North (0-4) at Fond du Lac (2-2)
- Appleton East (1-3) at Oshkosh West (0-4)

when the Rockets pulled out a 42-28 on a Wednesday night has Neenah walked off the field a winner over the Papermakers.

The Rockets nearly changed that in last year's WIAA Division 1 Level 2 playoff game when Neenah led nearly the entire game only to have Kimberly score with about a minute left, to claim a 29-28 victory in the final game at the old Rocket Stadium.

Jung said his program can definitely take a boost from that experience last year, knowing they can compete with Kimberly. But that doesn't change the fact that Kimberly is once again one of the top teams in the state and presents a bevy of problems for opponents to deal with.

"They are very good in all three aspects of the game," Jung said. "Defensively, they are very sound and their defensive line is really physical so they can dominate that side of the ball. Offensively, they do so much and if you try to take one thing away, they are prepared for that and can hurt you in another way.

"It's the hardest thing to do to get prepared for them because they do so many things."

Neenah will create some challenges of its own, though.

Junior quarterback Evan Vandenhoven returned from injury in last week's hard-fought 7-6 win over Appleton North and led the team with 73 yards rushing, while also throwing for 65 yards on 9-of-13 passing.

"It was really nice having Evan back calling the shots on offense. He was champing at the bit to get back and the downhill running he gives us is so good," Jung said. "He has been practicing with us for some time just not able to play and he played much better than I thought he would coming back from injury."

The return of Vandenhoven gives the Rockets the potent backfield tandem as junior running back Grant Dean continues to churn out yards and touchdowns

SEE **Neenah football** ON PAGE 15

# Zephyrs will look for winning formula against Randolph

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

The sentiment all season surrounding the St. Mary Catholic football program was that the team had the potential to make the WIAA playoffs.

The Zephyrs will now experience what it's like to play must-win playoff games. The time will just come three weeks ahead of when it was originally schedule.

Following last Friday's 29-27 loss to Deerfield, which dipped the Zephyrs Trailways Conference record to 1-3, St. Mary Catholic must win its final three games – starting with Friday night's Homecoming matchup with Randolph – to automatically qualify for the postseason.

"The last three conference games are

playoff games basically so were trying to go into this week with that mentality," St. Mary Catholic head coach Josh Young said. "Every week is like a playoff game and we have to win out to be guaranteed a spot in the playoffs at the end of the season."

Teams who finish with a winning conference record automatically qualify for the postseason, however, the majority of teams who finish 3-4 in their respective conferences also made last year's playoff field.

That does allow the St. Mary Catholic some wiggle room but the Zephyrs are intent on qualifying for the postseason with a winning record and Young believes the team can rattle off wins in the next three

## Week 7 games

### Trailways Conference

(records reflect Trailways games)

- Randolph (3-1) at St. Mary Catholic (1-3)
- Johnson Creek (4-0) at Fall River/Rio (1-3)
- Lourdes Academy (3-1) at Deerfield (1-3)
- Pardeeville (2-2) at Cambria-Friesland (1-3)

weeks.

"I think so if we can get things going in our direction and get a win. We have two home games in a row now and that should be beneficial," Young said. "If we can get some things going our way, put some points on the board and get a few stops that will point them in the right direction."

That won't be easy against a Randolph team that has scored at least 36 points in each of its four Trailways Conference games this season and is coming off a big 38-14 win over Cambria-Friesland last Friday.

The Randolph Rockets have attempted only 30 passes in six games this season but have two players with more than 500 yards rushing on the season and two more with more than 350.

"Offensively, they run the ball about 90 percent of the time," Young said. "They have a good line, a good running back and quarterback runs well too. We're just trying to get the defense in that mentality of how it's going to be Friday night."

SEE **Zephyr football** ON PAGE 15

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# Prep sports roundup

## GOLF

### Neenah takes second at WIAA regional

Neenah edged Appleton North by one shot to take second at the WIAA Division 1 regional held Tuesday at Buttes des Morts Country Club in Appleton.

The Rockets finished with a team score of 350 and will advance to next week's Division 1 sectional meet at High Cliff Golf Course.

Leading the way for the Rockets was Aubrey Oitzinger, who shot a round of 84 to tie for sixth place overall. She finished nine shots behind medalist Jenna Schumacher of Kimberly.

Oitzinger was joined in the top 10 by Annika Searles, who tied for ninth with a round of 87 while Natalie Quella carded an 88 to tie for 11th place and Annabelle Hodges tied for 15th with a score of 91.

Kaukauna won the regional title with a team score of 334.

Last week, the Rockets took third at the Fox Valley Association meet held at Chaska Golf Course. The Rockets finished with

a score of 347 to place behind only Fond du Lac (344) and Kaukauna (328).

Oitzinger once again led the way with a score of 82 to tie for sixth overall, while Quella added an 85, and Hodges and Searles each had 90.

## SOCCER

### Zephyrs stay unbeaten

St. Mary Catholic picked up a big Big East/Eastern Wisconsin Conference win on Tuesday by blanking Sheboygan Lutheran/Christian 3-0 on the road.

Kieran Barrientos scored a pair of goals, while Braeden Brenn picked up a goal and an assist as the Zephyrs scored all three goals in the first half en route to the win.

AJ Groppe had a pair of assists in the victory.

### Rockets earn ties in pair of contests

Neenah played to a 1-1 tie with Wauwatosa West on Saturday and then earned a 0-0 tie with Oshkosh West on Tuesday in a showdown between two of the top teams in the FVA.

AJ Price scored off an assist from Keegan Vander Hei against Wauwatosa West, while Justin Gallmeier had three saves.

Gallmeier had five saves in the tie with the Wildcats.

## SWIMMING

### Neenah collects title as invite hosts

Seniors Emma Bottensek, Naomi Cortina and Alliyah Lima combined for a 1-2-3 finish in the 100-yard backstroke to highlight Neenah's team title as hosts of the Neenah Invitational on Saturday.

It was the only individual event that the Rockets would win at the meet but one of two where Neenah had three swimmers in the top 10. In the 50-yard freestyle Rylie Bauman took third Anna Mulroy was fourth and Breigh Maurer was seventh, while Mulroy was third, Lima was fifth and Kacie Stamm was ninth in the 100-yard butterfly.

Other top individual finishes for the Rockets were: Bottensek, second in the 200-yard individual medley; Cortina, fourth in the 100-yard freestyle; and Bauman, fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Neenah was also first in the 200-yard medley relay with a team of Cortina, Bauman, Bottensek and Mulroy.

## VOLLEYBALL

### Zephyrs fall to Wabeno/Laona

St. Mary Catholic dropped a close match to Wabeno/Laona last week, falling 25-23, 13-25, 15-25, 25-21, 15-12.

Lauren Fischer finished with 21 kills and 14 digs, Eliana Brenn had 11 kills and nine digs and Rhiannon Reichenbacher with 11 kills. Sammie Weiss and Stella Virling finished with 25 and 22 assists, respectively, while Audrey Norville posted 21 digs.

### Rockets finish 2-3 at invitational

Neenah posted a pair of wins at the Pewaukee Sprawl on Saturday.

The Rockets beat Sheboygan North and Kettle Moraine in three sets, while falling to Pewaukee, Oshkosh West and Muskego.

The Rockets also picked up an FVA win over Oshkosh North last week, 25-15, 25-16, 25-10.

Makenna Baker had seven kills in the match, while Claudia Merizon and Elaina Kramer each had six. Leia Kersten finished with 11 assists.

Elizabeth Oldenburg led the team with eight digs, while Ella Lindgren had a team-high two aces.

## CROSS COUNTRY

### Neenah girls second at Midwest Invitational

The Neenah girls cross country team finished in second place at the prestigious Midwest Invitational held in Janesville on Saturday.

The Rockets finished behind only Madison West in the 42-team field, which included squads from Illinois and Wisconsin.

Mazie Olkowski led the Rockets by placing 12th overall, followed by Natalie Schultz in 33rd, Elsa Gruber in 38th, Natalie Willes in 51st and Rachel Dietrich in 77th. There were a total of 273 runners in the girls race.

The Neenah boys finished 14th overall led by Braedy Klawikowski in 46th place, Jaden Leal in 68th place and Harmon Postgate in 75th place.

### Higgins, Groppe lead Zephyrs at invite

Claire Higgins finished in 19th place to lead the St. Mary Catholic girls squad to a seventh-place finish at the 16-team Rosholt Invitational on Saturday.

Lauren Ripley was the second Zephyr runner to finish in 31st place, while Addison Dinka was 45th.

The boys finished 10th overall led by AJ Groppe in 42nd, Benjamin Schoeni in 48th and Ethan Auer in 58th.



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# Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 12

Groppe began playing soccer when he was very young but didn't develop the passion for the sport until his family moved to Germany for two years when he was 8.

Soccer is the most played sport in Germany and so Groppe had plenty of opportunities.

"From when you start walking over there it's soccer. At school at recess, it's soccer. They did that all year around solely soccer," Groppe said. "It's really only soccer they care about which was a cool experience."

The soccer experience was good for Groppe, but when he first arrived it was not much fun.

"At first I hated it. I honestly hated it. I was 8 when we moved and I despised it. I wanted to move back. The first year was tough for me," Groppe said. "Once I realized how good of an experience it was being that young and being at a new place, and I knew I'd be able to take what I learned there and put it into my life I appreciated it more. I still remember pretty much everything and looking back it really set me up for life. It helped me be independent even if I hated it at the start."

In his two years in Germany, Groppe became pretty fluent with the language and also was able to travel around Europe with his family.

"My parents were adamant about my sister and I getting to travel and experience those things," Groppe said. "In Europe, countries are a lot closer than people think. We would drive to Italy or Spain and it was a good thing to get to experience all of that. It was a blessing and we took advantage of all of that."

Moving to a different country at a young age is a tough obstacle to overcome but it

pales in comparison to the biggest challenge that he has dealt with.

Groppe was born with a stutter and still speaks with it, although it has improved over the years.

Groppe said he went through speech classes in elementary school to develop techniques to deal with it and recognize some of the trouble spots for him. That helped him improve his speaking skills but it didn't take the stutter away.

"My stutter has been a challenge in my life. I've always had it. It's always been there. In elementary school because it was really prominent then and obvious to the point where I didn't really like to talk," Groppe said. "It's helped me as a person. It's gotten better over the years to the point where I love talking now."

Having a stutter as a kid did lead to some tough experiences and Groppe said some still try to get at him for it now.

"Some kids loved to poke fun at it but eventually came to peace with it," Groppe said. "If they figure that's the way to get at me, go for it. I'm not going to let them have that satisfaction of them seeing me get angry or pick a fight over it. That's showing who they are and I'm going to stay strong to who I am."

Groppe isn't sure where his future will lead him or what he will be doing.

Although he had been being recruited to play collegiate soccer, he has backed off from that and is exploring options about possibly kicking a football in college. He knows that he will always be involved in sports and being active in some manner, though, so he knows that will take care of itself.

"I'm always going to be active and wanting to do something, whether it's kicking in college or playing intramurals or just being active," Groppe said. "I'm leaving those doors open and focusing more on academics than sports for my next years and we'll just see what happens."

# Zephyr football

FROM PAGE 13

One advantage the Zephyrs might have is that Randolph has not had to defend many passing teams this season.

In its four conference games, three of their opponents attempted less than 10 passes while Berlin only tried six passes in the season-opener.

Deerfield, though, completed 23-of-37 passes for 327 yards and three touchdowns while putting 33 points on the board in their Week 5 meeting with the 33 points being the second most scored on Randolph this year.

# Neenah football

FROM PAGE 13

for the Rockets.

Dean, who had the lone touchdown against the Lightning with a 16-yard run in the third quarter, is closing in on 1,000 yards for the season and is averaging a whopping 9.2 yards per attempt and more than 173 yards per game.

Mix in a productive passing attack highlighted by Luke Keller and Caleb Schaefer and the Rockets have the potential to move the ball and score points against the Papermakers.

"We need to be able to hold the ball offensively on long drives and we need to make them also use long drives to score," Jung said. "Our defense has played pretty well but this is the best offense we will face so that's a challenge."

Neenah's defense, which has not allowed more than 20 points in a game since

Maddox Dwyer completed 15-of-31 passes for St. Mary Catholic against Deerfield last week, and could get that many attempts this week in the Zephyrs' aerial attack. St. Mary Catholic also got its ground game going against the Demons with John Schultz registering a season-high 115 yards, while Ashton Post averaged nearly 14 yards per carry.

"I like how the kids aren't giving up," Young said. "We've just had things pop in a game where we have a bad break or things didn't go our way and we're trying to overcome those obstacles. The big thing is just trying to play a complete, four-quarter game which I don't think we have done that this year."

Week 1, held Appleton North to just 203 yards of total offense in the win Friday. The Lightning had been averaging about 34 points per game heading into last week.

Luke Jung and Connor Briones are the Rockets leading tacklers so far this season and will try to limit an offense led by quarterback Carson Pendelton and running back Gavin Tyson.

Kimberly has outscored its last two opponents 90-27 in its last two games, but the Papermakers have also had success in close games, posting a three-point win over Bay Port in the season-opener, while rallying for a 22-21 win over Fond du Lac in Week 4.

"When it all comes down to the end, we have to play sound football on both sides of the ball and on special teams if we are going to have a chance," Jung said. "We try to keep things simple and we try to make sure our kids can line up, recognize their formations and be able to do our jobs against them."

# Neenah High homecoming parade route changed

The start location of the 2023 Neenah High School Homecoming parade, which begins at 5 p.m. Oct. 6, has changed due to construction in the Neenah Public Library area.

The parade will start on Doty Island near Ace Hardware, line up on Clybourn Street and go south on Commercial Street, then turn right on Wisconsin Avenue to Church Street.

# Obituaries

## Mark A. Grunwald

Mark A. Grunwald, also known to many as "Gruny", passed away unexpectedly on September 8, 2023, at home.



Mark was dedicated to his work, and with the help of his wife Susie, created a community- and customer-focused business with Mark and Susie's Piggly Wiggly which they retired last year.

Mark is survived by his wife, Susie, daughters Sara (Aaron Zakowski) Grunwald and Jennifer Grunwald, son Michael (Larissa) Grunwald, grandson Eli and granddaughter Gemma, brothers Tom

(Diane) Grunwald and Tim Grunwald, sister-in-law Christine Grunwald, nephews Eric (Cheryl) Grunwald and Nathan (Taegan) Grunwald, and niece Jill (Carlos) Talbot. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Jerry, and nephew Matthew.

A celebration of life will be held at Konrad-Behlman Funeral Home, 100 Lake Pointe Drive in Oshkosh, from 11am-2pm on Sunday, October 1, 2023. Stop by anytime, wearing your Milwaukee Brewers attire. In lieu of flowers, monetary or food donations in Mark's name can be made to the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry.



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# Kid Scoop

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## BE A REPORTER!

Are you curious? Do you like to ask questions? Then you might want to be a reporter!

Below is a silly news story written by an imaginary reporter named I.B. Curious. It's a news report that could have happened in this fairy tale:



Use the code!

- = A
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- = D
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- = I
- = L
- = N
- = R

### What's a Reporter?

Reporters, also called journalists, gather facts to tell people what is happening.

Some reporters work for newspapers. Some work for online news. Some work for television news or radio news. There are many ways to be a reporter.

Fairyland Morning Post

PAGE 2A

## SHOE FOUND: PRINCE SEARCHES FOR OWNER

By I.B. Curious  
STAFF WRITER

FAIRYLAND PALACE – Just after midnight last night, the Prince of Fairyland found a glass slipper on the grand stairway outside the palace entrance, according to Captain Turret of the Palace Guard.



His majesty Prince Kevin III.

Captain Turret revealed that Prince Kevin III discovered a single glass slipper on the staircase moments later.

“His majesty has declared that he will lead the search to find the young woman, visiting every house in the kingdom to find the woman whose foot fits this tiny shoe,” said Turret.

“Prince Kevin III met a young woman last evening at the Royal Ball,” said Captain Turret. “His majesty wished to ask her out on a date. But the young woman suddenly ran off, just as the clock struck midnight.”

Several guests reported seeing the mysterious woman speeding off in a beautiful, golden coach pulled by a team of white horses. Dozens of witnesses said that she appeared to be wearing only one sparkling shoe.

An official announcement from the Prince’s assistant requested that anyone with any information about the identity or location of the unknown woman contact the nearest Palace guard immediately.

### Your News Report

Follow the steps below to write a news report about an event in your classroom, at your school, or in your neighborhood.

#### STEP 1

Pick something to report about. It should be about an upcoming event. Answer each of the following questions about the event.

1. What is happening?
2. When will it happen?
3. Where will it happen?
4. Why will it happen?

#### STEP 2

Ask people about this event. Write down what they say. You might find a way to include a quote from one or more in your news report.

#### STEP 3

Use your notes to write a report about the event. Fill in the blanks or write it on another piece of paper.

\_\_\_\_\_ announced that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ will be happening at the \_\_\_\_\_

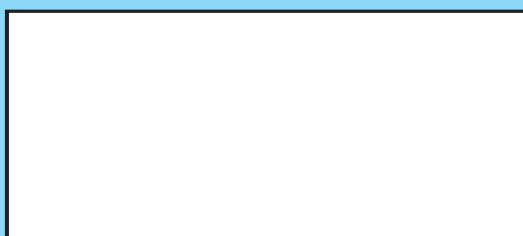
on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ said, “\_\_\_\_\_”

QUOTE SHOULD BE ABOUT WHY THE EVENT IS HAPPENING

#### STEP 4

Draw a picture or take a picture.

Below the picture, write a caption telling who or what is in the picture.



### Extra! Extra! Fact Check

Real news articles report on facts. Look through a page of a newspaper. Underline facts in green. Circle opinions in red.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written instructions.

5. Who is involved?
6. Add additional facts or details.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### Matching Glass Slippers

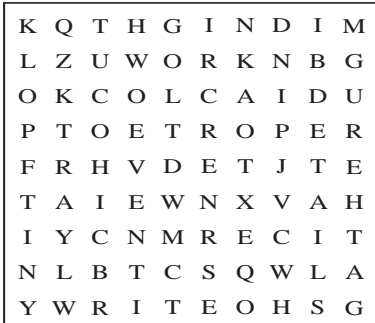
Can you match each pair of glass slippers in under two minutes?



### Double Double Word Search

- CLOCK
- DETAILS
- EVENT
- FACT
- GATHER
- MIDNIGHT
- NEWS
- PRINCE
- QUOTE
- RAN
- REPORT
- SHOE
- TINY
- WORK
- WRITE

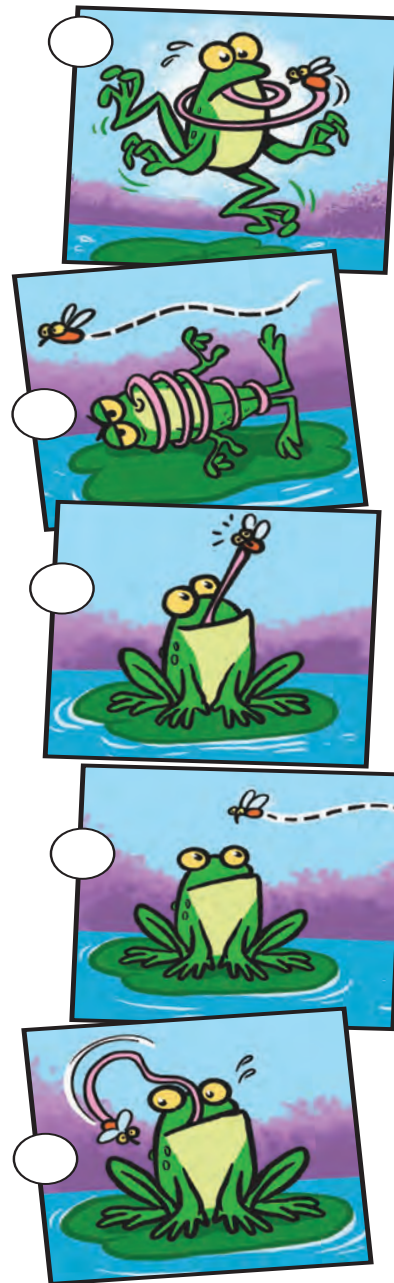
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



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

### Kid Scoop Together Scrambled Story

The pictures below tell a silly story, but they're out of order. Can you number them to show the correct order? On another sheet of paper, write the story in words.



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### Write On!

#### Report On It!

Write a report about some news in your life. Be sure to include facts about *who*, *what*, *where*, and *when*.

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

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

According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in NIE groups performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

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