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## Commercial St. update in the works

### Road construction plan will need land access

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is making plans to acquire portions of properties along South Commercial Street between Stanley and Tyler streets in advance of road construction scheduled for 2025.

The total project cost is estimated at just under \$3 million, which includes design, construction, real estate acquisition and

improving the intersection of south Commercial Street at Winneconne Avenue by adding a southbound right-turn lane.

The project extends from this year through the end of 2025, with street work taking place that year. The city is relocating, changing and acquiring certain land interests in advance.

The city has set aside \$150,000 for real estate acquisition with plans to obtain temporary limited easements (TLEs) for 133 parcels of land; and fee acquisitions – or legal possession – for small portions of 21 properties.

Traffic engineer James Merten said the TLE properties will only be used by the city while reconstruction is underway.

“All that really is saying is that we’re allowed to dig a little past the limits of the actual right-of-way line,” he said. “The reason why this comes into play is we are replacing sidewalk along Commercial Street and the elevation of the sidewalk may change and so we may need to re-slope the property owner’s front lawn area to the new sidewalk elevation.”

SEE **Commercial St.** ON PAGE 10

## INSIDE



**Animal house**  
Groundbreaking held for shelter in Neenah  
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Photo by Michael Cooney

Participants take in Tuesday's Take Back the Night resource fair at UW Oshkosh's Culver Center in front of an Aurora Advocate health booth.

## Domestic violence cases suffer when victims recant

### Awareness raised with educational programs

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A Fox Crossing woman told police that her boyfriend hit her on the side of the head several times while she was holding their 9-month-old baby.

He later followed her into their daughter's bedroom with a pocketknife and said he “wishes she would die in her sleep.” Then he allegedly grabbed her by the neck and restricted her ability to breathe for about 10 seconds until she kicked him off her.

Fearing for her life, she ran to a neigh-

bor's house and called 911. She was treated at a local hospital for her injuries, which included a bruised and swollen face and a broken nose.



Winder

The Fox Crossing woman's 37-year-old boyfriend was charged with substantial battery with intent of bodily harm, strangulation and suffocation, and use of a dan-

gerous weapon – two felonies and a misdemeanor.

The victim is now asking prosecutors to dismiss the charges, stating that police “twisted” her words and that the charges are excessive.

District Attorney Eric Sparr, who has been a Winnebago County prosecutor since 2005, said he isn't sure whether prosecution will continue in the case, but it illustrates a scenario all too common for law enforcement. In about 80% of domestic violence cases, the victim recants, according to the National Domestic Violence Prosecution Best Practices Guide.

“I do think it's probably a little more

SEE **Domestic violence** ON PAGE 4

## Veterinary services face care crunch

By Cheryl Hentz  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

There is a veterinarian shortage right now in the United States. It's even happening in some other countries.

In Wisconsin, and here in the Fox Valley, it's just as bad as in other places. Some have said it's even worse, while others have said they haven't noticed a problem. But whether it's a huge problem or a little one, and whether you've noticed it, if your pet needs veterinary care and you can't get an appointment, it's significant for you and your pet.

What's causing this shortage? Several things, though these are in no particular order.

**An increase in pets and owners noticing more symptoms.** At the center of the problem are more pets than ever before. About 23 million families adopted a new pet in 2020, the first year of the

SEE **Veterinarians** ON PAGE 9



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# Local animal shelter project launched

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Animal Shelter is embarking on a new era after a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday for a new 6,000-square-foot facility.

City leaders, shelter employees, volunteers, supporters and even a couple of shelter dogs attended the ceremony for the new site that will provide double the space of the existing location.

As city officials prepared to shovel dirt, a shelter dog began digging in as well to join in on the activities and eliciting laughter from spectators.

Mayor Jane Lang, philanthropist John Bergstrom, Boldt Construction executive vice president Ben Bruns, shelter director Cindy Flauager and board president Mary Setton all spoke at the ceremony.

Setton said the existing shelter location on County G is about 62 years old and is deteriorated and broken.

“Our new building will allow us to meet the ever-growing needs of our community and provide a safer, healthier, less stressful environment for animals and for the team members who work with the animals, our volunteers, our supporters and our adopters,” she said.

Additionally, Setton said the new space will help the shelter continue to fulfill its philosophy to never euthanize an animal due to space or funding.

“We will save, restore, rehome every adoptable animal we have here,” she said.

The new facility will include an exam room, surgical suite, quarantine spaces, expanded indoor areas for dogs and cats, adoption rooms, conference room, office space, and about 900 square feet of indoor/



Neenah News

Animal shelter board secretary and volunteer Barb Lukas lets Mutt Hammad Ali take part in the groundbreaking event where the new Neenah Animal Shelter will be built. Mutt is among the dogs available for adoption.

outdoor covered kennel space. Construction is expected to be complete by July.

The 3.5-acre parcel at 2475 Progress Court where the building will be situated was donated by Bergstrom of Bergstrom

Automotive, who also contributed to the shelter’s capital campaign, with the shelter still about \$350,000 away from its \$2 million goal.

“We’re happy to be able to help,” he said. “We’ve been blessed in a lot of ways and we feel it’s kind of our responsibility.”

Bergstrom said the new shelter is an example of “why we have such an amazing community.”

Lang said the shelter partners with the city to provide care to stray animals and year-to-date more than 250 animals were removed from the streets of Neenah.

“We’ve been so grateful with our partnership with the Neenah Animal Shelter and the services they provide to help make our community a better and safer place for all of us,” she said.

Lang reminisced about visiting the current shelter building with her mother as a child to adopt two dogs who became beloved family members.

“We are excited to see that the Neenah Animal Shelter will now have a modern facility of which the community can be proud,” she said.

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## Correction

**OCT. 13, PAGE 1:** In a story about Neenah’s Transportation Assessment Replacement Fee, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities should have been referenced instead of the League of Women Voters (LWV) on a definition of impervious area unit (IAU).

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# County stalls on vending machines aimed at harm reduction

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County's acceptance of grant funding to install harm reduction vending machines in Neenah and Oshkosh has been on hold for months.

Harm reduction vending machines are gaining popularity across the country after Narcan, a drug that reverses opioid overdoses, was approved for over-the-counter sales this year.

In 2021, the county saw fatal overdose rates soar to their highest level, with 41 residents losing their lives. Last year, there were 38 such deaths. As of Tuesday, the medical examiner's office confirmed 38 fatal overdoses this year, with an additional four cases pending toxicology results. Fentanyl has been identified as the leading cause of overdoses in the county.

Winnebago County was awarded an \$80,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for the vending machines to help mitigate overdose deaths amid the opioid crisis. The machines would be placed outside the Neenah Human Services building at 211 N. Commercial St. and in the county administration building's outdoor courtyard at 112 Otter Ave. in Oshkosh.

The vending machines provide access to Narcan, fentanyl test strips, Detera drug deactivation bags, educational materials, crisis contact information and treatment and recovery materials. The vending machines are climate controlled and monitored with an internet connection. A unique code is required from the health department that allows those seeking access a specific number of uses and must be renewed monthly.

A resolution to accept the grant funds was on the county Board of Supervisors' agenda in August. County medical examiner Cheryl Brehmer spoke in opposition of the vending machines during the public forum at the start of the meeting, although she did not identify herself as the medical examiner.

Brehmer said she's concerned about the health department providing drug users with supplies that facilitate use.

"Essentially, they're supplying almost everything needed for IV drug use other than the substance itself," she said. "I'm concerned

## Program promotes science careers

In an effort to inspire more young women to engage in local STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs, the Fox Cities Chamber and Plexus Corp. have teamed up to present the Smart Girls Rock! program Nov. 1.

"Smart Girls Rock! gets local female students excited about careers in STEM through this daylong, interactive mentoring event," said the Aimee Herrick, Chamber director of events and emerging talent.

About 100 freshmen, sophomore and junior female students from several Fox Cities area schools will attend the one-day event at Plexus, 2444 Schultz Drive, Neenah. The students will experience group speed mentoring with women in STEM-related professions, as well as participate in activities that will expose them to in-demand STEM careers.

During the 12 speed mentoring sessions, small groups move through interactive stations with panels of professional women as well as hands-on activities "We are continuously looking for opportunities to inspire the next generation of women in STEM, and we are thrilled to welcome this young group to our facility in November," said Todd Kelsey, Plexus chief executive officer.

that these supplies will eventually make their way into those vending machines."

Brehmer told the board that the county should be focusing on providing access to treatment resources.

"Our response to this epidemic needs to be proactive, not reactive," she said. "Sterile supplies will not save a person from overdosing; sobriety will."

The resolution to accept the grant funds was pulled from the agenda later in the meeting. It has not been brought back to the county board for a vote.

Health director Doug Gieryn issued a memo in August, noting access to Narcan reduces overdose deaths, most of which are accidental and due to fentanyl being added to opioid and non-opioid substances. He said fentanyl test strips can alert a user to its presence, allowing them to modify or avoid use to lessen the likelihood of an overdose.

"Utilizing vending machines to increase the availability of Narcan and fentanyl test strips will help save more lives," he said.

County executive assistant Ethan Hollenberger said concerns regarding the harm reduction component of the vending machines were raised during the process of accepting the grant.

"The county has been meeting internally to better articulate the implementation strategy of the public health vending machines," he said. "The county executive and other county leaders are working to ensure a focus on treatment and recovery."

A status update on the grant was on the agenda for a Board of Health meeting this morning. Hollenberger said the resolution to accept the harm reduction vending machine grant funds will return to the Board in the coming months.




Photo from Review Guru

Vending machines like the one shown provide access to Narcan, fentanyl test strips, Detera drug deactivation bags, educational materials, crisis contact information, and treatment and recovery materials.

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# Domestic violence

FROM PAGE 1

common that the cases run into problems because of witness issues, either people not wanting to attend even if they're subpoenaed, or issues with people making new statements that are inconsistent with prior statements," Sparr said.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that about 36% of women and 32% of men in Wisconsin experience intimate partner physical violence, rape or stalking in their lifetimes. Wisconsin had the eighth-highest rate of females killed by males nationwide in 2020, according to the Violence Policy Center's most recent Why Men Murder Women study.

Attorney Andrea Winder, who has represented perpetrators and victims of domestic violence, said Wisconsin has a mandatory arrest policy in these cases.

"When police are called to investigate any sort of allegation of domestic violence, they actually are required to arrest someone if they have probable cause that a crime was committed and that there's a domestic relationship between those individuals," she said. "It's a mandatory arrest policy, whether or not the victim wants them to arrest that individual."



Coenen

Winder said a common misconception is that a domestic violence victim has the option on whether to press charges against the perpetrator.

"The district attorney's office, in their sole discretion, gets to decide what to charge if anything, even if the victim is saying, 'I don't want that,'" she said. "And the state has an interest in prosecuting these sorts of things because they're trying to show the community that this behavior won't be tolerated."

In an Oshkosh case, a pregnant woman told police she was with her boyfriend in Asylum Point Park in December when he accused her of cheating and began punching her upper body, stomach and the left side of her face. He also allegedly pointed a gun at her and told her, "We're going to drive to Milwaukee to my mom's house where I'm gonna kill you."

The victim later recanted, claiming nothing physical occurred that night and that she exaggerated. The two felonies and four misdemeanors he was facing were dismissed after the victim told prosecutors she was unwilling to participate in the trial.

Christy Coenen, Harbor House Do-

mestic & Sexual Violence Center director of services, said the reasons behind recantation are as nuanced as the charges themselves. The victim may be experiencing manipulation and threats from the offender. They may be ashamed and embarrassed. They may have reconciled with their abuser or remain in communication with them.

"I think that there's a lot to consider when you're talking about having to potentially give evidence that supports a prosecution against a person that you either are currently in a relationship with, have been in a relationship with, or continue to have a connection with because of children, family situations, or a mix of all those things," she said.

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services director Carly Hirsch said those who commit violent acts may minimize the incident, deny it happened and blame the victim.

"An abusive tactic that people who harm use is trying to control that participation in the legal system," Hirsch said.

Domestic violence victims who contact authorities often want the abuse to stop, but don't want their abuser arrested and prosecuted.

"And so going through the criminal justice system doesn't necessarily stop the behavior," Coenen said. "I think it can create additional barriers or issues within the relationship that oftentimes aren't considered."

Sparr said when a victim recants it makes prosecution challenging and while prosecutors could legally arrest a victim to pursue a case, it's rare and reserved for particularly egregious violations.

"Some of those we can proceed on and some we can't," he said. "One of the difficult things for prosecutors in any case is that they have to take into account the victim's wishes."

Winder countered that while some prosecutors respect the victim's wishes, there are others who only take the victim's wishes into consideration when they align with what prosecutors want.

"If the victim is pursuing a conviction and wants to see a conviction, then the prosecutor is more than happy to make their voice heard and respect that," she said. "But then, on the flip side, a common thing I see happen is there's a domestic incident and a prosecutor will show up at an initial appearance or a bail hearing and request as a condition of bail no contact between the two parties."

Winder said having a no contact order



Photo by Michael Cooney

Participants at Tuesday's Take Back the Night resource fair at UW Oshkosh's Culver Center check out the Christine Ann Center booth at the event.

in place can strain domestic relationships, especially when the individuals were living together or share children.

"It makes them feel less empowered because they are grown adults who are trying to make their voices heard, but it's not what the state wants to hear," she said.

In some cases, prosecution may continue without the victim's cooperation, particularly if there is another witness that can testify such as a neighbor or child. Sparr said prosecutors may also provide both the victim's initial statement and later inconsistent statement to the jury.

"For (the jury) to find someone guilty, they have to conclude beyond a reasonable doubt that something happened," he said. "So, sometimes they might look at those inconsistent statements and think they have a pretty good guess of what the facts really were; but sometimes that doesn't quite meet the threshold of beyond a reasonable doubt."

Prosecutors may also reduce the charges after a victim recants, which is what happened in an incident in Oshkosh in February when a woman reported that during an argument her 30-year-old boyfriend grabbed her face and squeezed her cheeks, which were both pierced, causing her piercings to painfully dig into her face.

Documents say the woman was able to remove his hands from her cheeks at which point he allegedly grabbed around her neck with both hands, causing her to temporarily lose the ability to breathe and told her, "I'm going to kill you." He also grabbed her phone and threw it across the room, causing the screen to break.

The couple's 5-year-old child witnessed the incident and ran out of the apartment to alert the victim's mom, who lived in an apartment downstairs. The boyfriend was arrested and charged with two felonies and four misdemeanors.

One week later, the victim contacted

police and asked that charges be dropped. She said she has not had contact with the defendant and believed he was residing in Milwaukee. During a traffic stop in Oshkosh a month later, the victim was driving the vehicle and the defendant was a passenger.

Based on the victim recanting and remaining in a relationship with the defendant, prosecutors moved to amend the charges to remove the felonies and add a repeater enhancer to the misdemeanor counts, noting he has three previous convictions that include criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct and battery.

Sparr said domestic violence defendants frequently end up back in court for similar charges.

"That's a pretty common thing all around the country for domestic violence that we do see people reoffend," he said.

Coenen said the propensity to use abusive behaviors may be generational and while reoffending is common, she believes intervention programs can help.

Harbor House in Appleton offers no cost services and a shelter for domestic violence survivors in northeast Wisconsin. The organization reports a 40% increase in domestic violence services this year compared to previous years.

"We're not here to tell a person what to do, whether that be to stay or to leave, because we know that there's safety ramifications either way," Coenen said.

Harbor House is one of several area nonprofits holding events throughout October for national Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The organization's fifth annual Purple Porch Project encourages homeowners and businesses to switch out their porch and outdoor lighting with purple lights for awareness. Purple Porch kits and lightbulbs are available for purchase through Harbor House.

The Christine Ann Center in Oshkosh provides domestic violence services including legal advocacy and emergency shelter in Winnebago and Green Lake Counties. In 2022, 57% of domestic violence restraining orders filed in Winnebago County had support from Christine Ann.

Christine Ann partnered with Reach Counseling Services, Diverse and Resilient and UW Oshkosh to host its annual Take Back the Night event at the Culver Family Welcome Center this Tuesday. The event included a march to protest against sexual assault and domestic violence.

Hirsch said Christine Ann supports survivors' decisions about whether to participate in domestic violence prosecution and offers a 24-hour help line at 800-261-5998.

"There are supports available to them," she said.





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Photo by David Hall

## Halloween at the market

The Future Neenah Farmers Market took on a Halloween-costumed theme last week with family activities and treats around Shattuck Park downtown.

## Assistant chancellor for UWO dies

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's assistant chancellor for access campuses died unexpectedly last weekend.

Martin Rudd, 53, was appointed regional executive officer and dean for the three-campus Northeast Region of the UW Colleges in 2016 before being named an assistant chancellor at UW Oshkosh in 2018.

"Martin was not just a colleague, but a friend and an integral part of students' and our organization's success," UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said in a state-

ment Monday.

Rudd had a bachelor's degree in chemistry and doctorate in inorganic chemistry from the University of Warwick in England. He was an assistant professor of chemistry at Northwestern State University in Louisiana before teaching at UW-Marathon in Wausau from 2002-2003.

Rudd served as interim campus executive officer and dean at UW-Manitowoc in 2010-11, returning to the Fox Cities campus as chief executive and dean.

## Basketball Booster Club fish fry slated

The Neenah High School Boys Basketball Booster Club and varsity head coach Lee Rabas are presenting the sixth annual Fish Fry Fundraiser dinner Nov. 1 at the Best Western Bridgewood Resort Hotel.

The evening will celebrate the winning program and raise funds with a fish fry buffet, speakers, silent auction and raffle baskets. The evening speaker will be a question-and-answer program with a basketball personality and moderated by Rabas.

"Our fish fry is an event that is about people and relationships. People will attend for one of two reasons, Neenah or basketball, and hopefully in many cases,

both," Rabas said. "My hope is for this event to be one of the times each year when former players, parents, coaches, fans and people of Neenah come together to re-establish, strengthen and perhaps even begin new relationships."

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner follows at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$80 per couple, \$300 for a table of eight, or \$30 for former players or Neenah Joint School District staff members. Tickets may be purchased at [neenahboyshoops.com](http://neenahboyshoops.com) and clicking on Fish Fry Dinner or by contacting Rabas.

## Drug Drop program promotes safe disposal

Winnebago County Public Health and other community organizations are promoting an easy way for residents to safely dispose of unused medications with its Drug Drop program.

The annual National Drug Take Back Day is being recognized Oct. 28 with a variety of dropoff locations.

Medications can be brought to one of the designated drop-off locations and deposit them in a secure box. The medications are sorted and safely and properly disposed of. The program is free and anonymous, and no personal information is collected.

By disposing of expired or unused prescription medications in the Drug Drop, it helps improve the water quality of Lake

Winnebago, prevent prescription drug misuse and accidental poisonings.

In 2022, health department staff assisted with sorting about 2,300 pounds of medication from the Oshkosh location. For more information, including permanent drop-off locations and accepted medications, visit [winnebagocountywi.gov/node/3771](http://winnebagocountywi.gov/node/3771) or contact 920-232-3000.

This event, which happens two times each year, encourages the public to remove unneeded medications from their homes.

Last year more than 55,000 pounds of unwanted medications were collected across Wisconsin, the most in the nation. Get additional information on the National Drug Take Back Day from DHS.

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# Local beers capitalize on the seasonal pumpkin craze

You've likely heard of (or maybe tasted) Starbucks' Pumpkin Spice Latte, or PSL. Since the drink was introduced two decades ago, Starbucks has sold more than 600 million of them, according to Fortune.

The craze is so strong that the chain releases PSL earlier and earlier each year, six days sooner in 2023 than 2022, according to Axios. Those impressive numbers reflect the overall popularity of pumpkin spice flavor during this time of year.

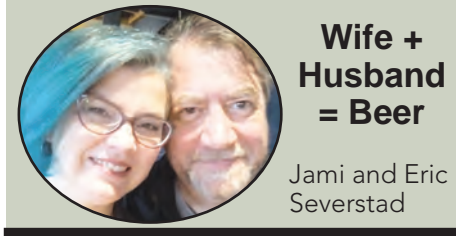
Of course, other businesses are capitalizing on the hype. Locally, you can get a pumpkin walnut scone from Great Harvest Bread Co., a pumpkin curry at Little Siam, and even a "Pumpkin Spice Loan" (well played, Verve).

As overdone as pumpkin spice may be (in the humble opinion of this article's authors), our wonderful readers may need even more spice, especially in liquid form. So, we're here to steer you in the right direction when it comes to beer.

Let's tip a pumpkin beer or two, which is an actual category in the annual World Beer Cup competition. All of these are available locally, but not for long. Similar to other pumpkin-spiced products, they're released earlier each year, too.

One quick thing: We're going to mention when any of these uses real pumpkin in the beer. That isn't a given; some breweries just use spices to attain the flavor profile they want. Oddly enough, it wasn't until 2015 that Starbucks began using actual pumpkins in its PSL.

Gourd Vibrations Pumpkin Ale from Lion's Tail Brewing uses real pumpkin, pie spices and vanilla beans.



**Wife +  
Husband  
= Beer**

Jami and Eric  
Severstad

Wife: I'm getting cream soda, both in aroma and taste (with added spices). This one is easy to drink.

Husband: The pumpkin flavor is super light. There's a flavor wheel on the can's label, and it isn't quite accurate. Instead of heavy on pumpkin and light on sweet, I taste the opposite.

Pumpkin Lager from Lakefront Brewery also uses real pumpkin and specifies the spice blend (cinnamon, allspice, ginger, nutmeg, cloves and mace).

Husband: I know lagers usually don't excite you. How about this one?

Wife: Bright flavor on the front end, but it needs more malt backbone. The blend of spices is appropriate. It's very approachable.

Husband: It has a classic color and nose, but it tastes a bit weak overall.

Pumpkin Shove It from The Brewing Projekt is a pastry sour ale with pumpkin, milk sugar, nutmeg, cinnamon, granola and vanilla.

Husband: This one is an oddball because the label says it's a sour, but it doesn't taste sour at all! It's sweet and captures a full pumpkin pie taste.

Wife: Yes, it's spice heaven. Smells and tastes just like a pie! The creaminess of the topping, the taste of the crust (must be the granola), and the fruit puree. The flavors keep coming.



The next two can be considered sisters, both being from Southern Tier Brewing (New York) and both checking in at 8.6%. Pumking Imperial Pumpkin Ale and Warlock Imperial Pumpkin Stout are brewed "with pumpkin and natural flavor added."

Wife: Pumking has been a favorite for years, but this is not as good as I remember. Where's the malt? It's so bitter, I'm wondering if there's a new hop profile.

Husband: Its boozy nose is followed by a jump in the spice; it's intense. A quick web search says they use pumpkin and spices, but nothing more specific.

Wife: Warlock is smoother. Not as much pumpkin and kind of smoky.

Husband: It's more balanced. The roasted malt and maybe some chocolate round out the flavor profile, although it's a bit thin for a stout.

Other notable pumpkin beers not reviewed today but definitely worth a try: From Stevens Point, Whole Hog Pumpkin Ale is a gold medal-winning (2019 Great American Beer Festival) pumpkin ale brewed with pumpkin pie spices, natural cinnamon, nutmeg and real pumpkin. Mashing Pumpkins Ale (Badger State Brewing in Green Bay) is brewed with ripe puréed pumpkins and a "special pumpkin pie spice blend." Ichabod Pumpkin Ale from New Holland Brewing (Michigan) is brewed with real pumpkin, cinnamon and nutmeg.

We recommend sampling our neighborhood businesses that offer pumpkin-themed food items, yet if you want to try baking with a pumpkin beer, here's a solid recipe.

Southern Tier Pumpkin Cheesecake Brownies by Chelsea Mitchell for PorchDrinking.com

**Ingredients:**

1 ½ cup Southern Tier Pumking  
1 ½ cup Southern Tier Warlock  
2/3 cup + 2 tbsp all-purpose flour

¼ tsp salt  
½ tsp baking powder  
1 cup semisweet chocolate  
1 stick butter, cut into 6-8 chunks  
1 cup sugar  
3 eggs  
8 oz cream cheese (room temperature)  
¼ cup sugar  
1 egg yolk

Preheat oven to 325 °F. Mix the dry ingredients in a small bowl. Pour each beer into separate pots cooking on medium-high heat until simmering, then decrease to a heat low enough to keep them bubbling. Reduce both the Warlock and Pumking to a bit less than a quarter cup. Set aside to cool.

In a large pan, melt the chocolate and butter on low heat. Stir in the sugar and Warlock reduction. Let the mixture cool and whisk in the eggs, one at a time. Slowly whisk in the dry mix, a little at a time. In another bowl, mix the cream cheese, sugar, egg yolk and Pumking. Use a hand mixer to get the beer worked in.

Line a 10x7x2 dish with parchment paper. Pour in half the brownie mix then dollops of cream cheese mix around the dish. Repeat the layers and run a spatula through the dish. Bake in oven for about 60 minutes, then remove when a toothpick comes out a bit fudgy; don't wait until it is dry. Let them cool completely before serving with a glass of Warlock or Pumking. Cheers!

A recent meme we couldn't resist: "A Pumpkin Spice Latte contains 380 calories. One slice of bacon has 27 calories. Choose wisely, friends."

A non-pumpkin item to cover: One of our local breweries has an anniversary coming up, and you're encouraged to help them celebrate. Barrel 41 Brewing's fifth anniversary is Saturday, Nov. 11, starting at noon. Cheers!

We're here for our readers. Let us know what we should cover in the next W+H=B column. Email us: [wife.husband.beer@gmail.com](mailto:wife.husband.beer@gmail.com).

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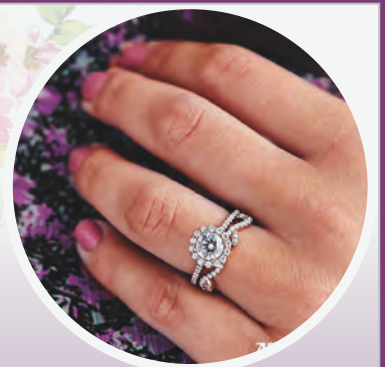
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# Woman jailed for stabbing in domestic dispute

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

An 18-year-old Neenah woman is in jail facing charges of attempted first-degree intentional homicide for stabbing a woman at a residence in Menasha earlier this month.

According to the criminal complaint, police were dispatched to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center in Neenah around 1 a.m. Oct. 8 for a report that a Menasha woman had arrived with stab wounds. The victim was taken into surgery due to a deep laceration in her abdomen.

A 19-year-old male witness spoke with police at the hospital, telling them he had broken up with Kaiden Strong of Neenah

about an hour before the incident and then went to the victim's house in the 600 block of 9th Street in Menasha. The witness said he had an on-again, off-again relationship with the victim and while he was at the house Strong called and texted the victim stating she was coming over to fight her.

The witness said when Strong got to the victim's house, the victim went outside to fight her while he stayed in the house. When he went outside, he said he could see Strong on top of the victim as they were on the ground in front of Strong's car.

The witness said he walked over to where the women were fighting to try to break them up and heard the victim say

"help." He pushed Strong off the victim twice and the victim ran into the house. Strong got back up and tried running after the victim, which is when the witness noticed Strong had a knife.

The witness said he shoved Strong back to the ground and ran inside. The victim was bleeding heavily so the witness took his shirt off and pressed it down on her wounds and drove her to the hospital.

Documents say Strong left the scene and called her mother, stating she stabbed someone and needed to be brought to a hospital for mental health treatment. Police recovered a folding knife with a 4-inch blade from the front lawn of the Menasha

residence.

Strong allegedly admitted to police that she stabbed the victim and repeatedly made statements that she should have "killed that (expletive)." A preliminary breath test indicated Strong's blood alcohol content was 0.083.

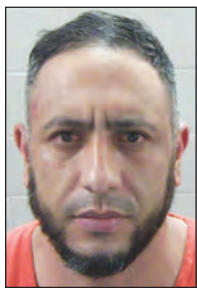
The victim sustained a wound to her lower left abdominal area that required four staples and an L-shaped wound to the left side of her ribs that required six staples. Two wounds on her left forearm required six stitches each.

Strong remained incarcerated at the Winnebago County Jail as of Wednesday on a \$500,000 cash bond.

# Case of multiple vehicle thefts goes to plea hearing

By Jonathan Richie  
NEENAH NEWS

A man has been charged with multiple counts of taking vehicles without consent from a Fox Crossing auto dealer and stealing other property throughout Winnebago County. The case was set for a plea hearing last week before the defendant's attorney said his client was talking with police about the case and needed to delay the hearing.



Sarabia

Sergio Sarabia, 39, Berkeley, Ill., went into court last week facing 10 felony counts spanning from take and drive vehicle without consent to theft of movable property over \$100,000. Every count comes with a modifier of party to a crime that could lead to a harsher sentence.

The case was set for a plea hearing last week. In a Winnebago County courtroom, Sarabia's attorney Amaro Lopez informed Judge Michael Gibbs that they will need a couple of months before a plea hearing because Sarabia was speaking with police about the case.

Sarabia sat in court in custody and was able to participate in the hearing with the help of a translator. He remains in custody on a \$50,000 cash bond.

Gibbs allowed for this extra time and set a new plea hearing for Dec. 11.

According to the criminal complaint, a state trooper was parked on Interstate 41 and saw a white pickup truck towing a red pickup truck and a trailer with ATVs/UTVs on June 14, 2022, in North Fond du Lac. The vehicle was located at Stretch Gas Station when the trooper attempted to make contact with the vehicle.

The trooper saw a man, later identified as Sarabia, allegedly exit the white pickup truck, unhook the red pickup truck and drive off in the white pickup truck. There was a man with the red pickup truck that said he did not know Sarabia. The red pickup truck was reported stolen out of Chicago.

Online records show Eliud B. Quiroz-Gutierrez, 39, Chicago, was charged with the same 10 felony counts Sarabia is facing along with every count having the party to a crime modifier.

In June, Quiroz-Gutierrez pleaded no contest to four counts of theft of movable property and one count of take and drive vehicle without consent, the remaining five charges were dismissed but read in for sentencing purposes. He was sentenced to five years of probation.

There were two ATVs and one UTV on the trailer at the gas station that were registered to several people and businesses. One of the businesses was in the Town of Oshkosh and another in the Town of Algoma.

The complaint states the white pickup truck was stopped in Washington County and driven by Sarabia. Washington County sheriff's deputies reported finding several keys and key fobs inside the truck, which was stolen from a business in Algoma.

The investigation by the Fox Crossing Police Department and deputies with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office continued with an auto dealership employee contacting police about an apparent burglary in Fox Crossing.

There were three vehicles missing from the auto dealership lot along with between 18 and 20 keys to other vehicles still on the lot. Police reviewed surveillance video of the business allegedly showing a man carrying a crowbar and then another man approaches and the door is pried open.

Chicago police reported finding one of the vehicles June 11 and Carol Stream police in Illinois reported a different stolen vehicle linked to the case June 18.

Authorities allege there is video from a business in the Town of Vinland on June 10 showing all three vehicles reported stolen from the Fox Crossing dealer. The video shows a 24-foot trailer being attached to

one of the alleged stolen vehicles and the men attempting to load two UTVs and one ATV onto the trailer. One of the UTVs fell off the trailer and sustained damage when the vehicle drove away.

A warrant was obtained by authorities to search the initial red pickup truck that was pulled over driven by Quiroz-Gutierrez. Inside the vehicle there were allegedly items linked to the various victims' businesses.

Sarabia was at the Fond du Lac County Jail on June 15 when he agreed to speak with officers. He told an officer that the other suspect, Quiroz-Gutierrez, was his boss and at one point had a gun pointed at his head.

When police searched the red truck, they allegedly found a semiautomatic handgun with bullets and 13.7 grams of methamphetamine.



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# Be the U in community engagement

Future Neenah is a community-based nonprofit, quality-of-life-organization, which means we work in partnership with the community. We challenge you to think, for just a moment, about all the different ways, large and small, that you individually support your community.



We're hoping the following questions get you thinking about how you can be the U in community:

- I regularly support the following local Neenah businesses ...
- I volunteer for the following Neenah organizations or nonprofits ...
- I donate to the following Neenah organizations or nonprofits ...

- I actively participate in or attend community activities: Riverside Players, Community Band, Farmers Market, athletic events, other.
- I am engaged with entities that lift up community: service organizations like Rotary, Church, YMCA, other.
- I do many small things that really make a difference: picking up trash on a walk, holding a door open for someone, a positive business Facebook feedback, even a smile and a good morning to a fellow customer when picking up morning coffee.

While you're certainly welcome to share your answers with Future Neenah at [info@neenah.org](mailto:info@neenah.org), what we really hope is that this brief exercise got you thinking about the vital role you play in creating that important sense of community in the greater Neenah area.

## Jewelers Mutual offers cybersecurity help

Neenah News

As jewelry businesses face an increasing threat of cybercrimes, Jewelers Mutual Group is taking extra measures to enhance the safety and security of the industry.

In recognition of Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the insurance and business solutions provider has launched cyber education courses within its Safety and Security Academy. The free online courses are designed to equip jewelry business owners and staff with essential knowledge to help safeguard their digital assets and protect customer data.

According to the Internet Crime Report of 2022, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center has documented cyber-related losses totaling \$27.6 billion over the last five years with losses nearly doubling from 2021 to 2022.

The courses offer practical insights and guidance on various aspects of technology and cybersecurity, including establishing a security-aware culture, responding to ransomware events and implementing technical and employee controls.

"Education is the first line of defense against cybercrimes," said Grant Hansen, chief information security officer at Jewelers Mutual. "In today's evolving digital landscape, every jewelry business owner and their staff need to refresh themselves on cyber safety and security best practices regularly to stay vigilant and take preventive action to help reduce the likelihood of becoming a target."

To access resources, learn about the education courses or request additional security support, visit [JewelersMutual.com/riskservices](http://JewelersMutual.com/riskservices).



Photo from J. J. Keller

Educational institutions can learn about specific safety and regulatory requirements with a free webcast being offered by J. J. Keller & Associates.

## Safety, compliance webcast keys on schools

To help educational institutions better understand their regulatory risks and responsibilities, J. J. Keller & Associates is presenting a free webcast titled Navigating OSHA and DOT Regulations in Educational Institutions: Safety in Education Relies on Worker and Transportation Compliance.

Presented by J. J. Keller subject-matter experts Cindy Pauley and Mark Schedler, the one-hour webcast will be shown at 1 p.m. Nov. 9 and cover:

- Major federal OSHA compliance topics for education, including emergency preparedness, medical services and first aid, chemical/hazard communication, injury/illness recordkeeping, workplace violence, and maintenance and janitorial safety.
- Federal DOT compliance topics for education, including fleet safety regulation applicability, non-CDL and CDL driver qualification, vehicle inspections, hours of service, and driver training.
- Regulatory enforcement and the risks of noncompliance.

"Many schools and colleges don't realize that if they use vans or buses to transport students or employees across state or international borders, they need to comply with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs)," Schedler stated in a press release. "And even if they don't cross any borders, there's a good chance their state still enforces those FMCSRs or adopts the safety regulations."

"There are also many hazards lurking in the halls," added Pauley. "With everything from hazardous chemicals to ventilation, slip hazards, janitorial and maintenance equipment, and more, all of these hazards must be identified to determine which OSHA standards apply and how to stay compliant. This can be especially problematic at educational institutions where the person in charge of safety and compliance is wearing multiple hats and may not be an expert in that area."

This is J. J. Keller's first webcast designed for staff at educational institutions. For more information and registration, visit [JJKeller.com/events](http://JJKeller.com/events).




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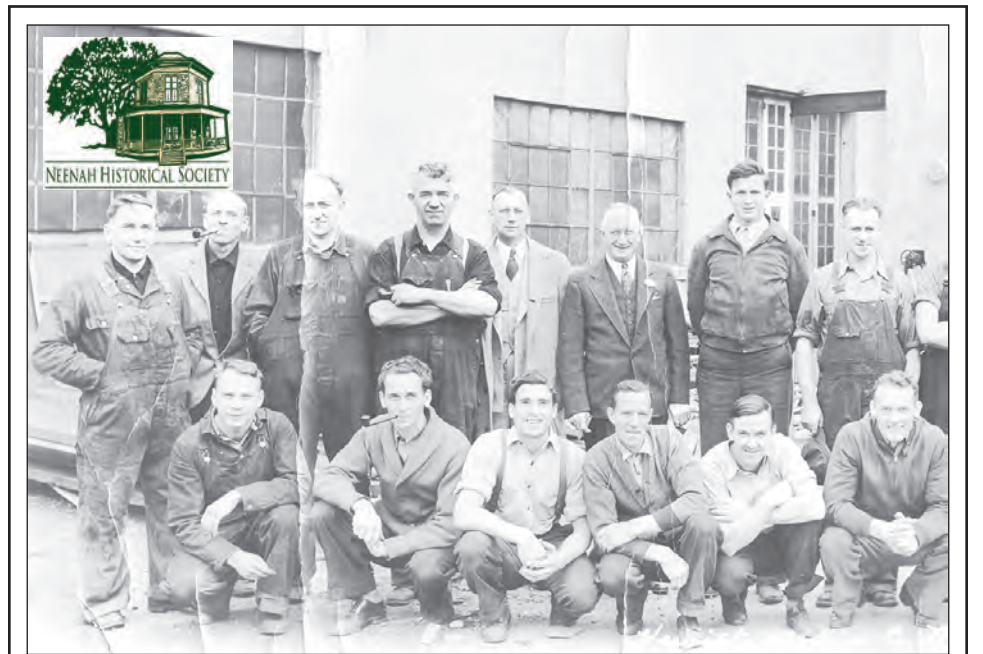
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Neenah Historical Society photo

## J.W. Hewitt Machine

Workers pose outside of J.W. Hewitt Machine. Founded in 1910 and incorporated in 1933 by J.W. Hewitt Sr., the machine company serviced the paper industry. Located on what was known as Hewitt Island, the building was demolished in 1993 and is now parking for the Neenah towers.

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# Veterinarians

FROM PAGE 1

COVID-19 pandemic. But pet ownership was increasing pre-pandemic and today, according to a February report from the World Animal Foundation, a whopping 70 percent of U.S. households own at least one pet.

Because of the pandemic, millions of people started working from home and became more aware of their pets' behaviors and daily routines. If their pet started coughing, developed diarrhea, began vomiting or started showing some other health problem, they were more apt to notice and call the vet. So, there is a higher demand for veterinary services.

**Pet life expectancy has increased.** Pets are living 12% to 15% longer, according to 2016 data from the Bureau of Labor & Statistics. Many veterinarians think that trend is continuing. And a pet's senior years are when they have the most intensive health needs.

**Burnout, compassion fatigue, empathy overload, even suicide.** Vets are overworked, understaffed, frustrated and worn down when they can't treat all the pets that need medical attention. They also can't save every pet. Compounding this problem is that their patients can't tell them what's wrong or how they're feeling. Veterinarians also bear the burden of having to euthanize pets that could be saved but whose owners can't afford the necessary care. These factors have led some vets to commit suicide. According to studies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one out of six veterinarians in recent years has considered suicide.

**Many vets are working fewer hours.** While the veterinarian business was once primarily male-dominated, that is no longer the case. And female vets are choosing to have a comfortable and manageable work/home-life-family balance. That means they are not necessarily willing to work 60 and 70, or more, hours a week, as a lot of male vets were known to do.

"A large percentage of new veterinarians are women and they have competing lifestyle desires, too. Working full time isn't always in their plans," said Lowell Wickman, a doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM) and owner of Badgerland Veterinary Clinic in Oshkosh. "If you're pushing out people who only want to work part time, you have to push out a lot more people. It's just a lot of factors coming together and the pandemic has made it even worse."

Some male veterinarians are not working as many hours as they once did.

They're recognizing that if they are going to be in top form to care for their patients, they need to care for themselves as well.

**COVID-19 fallout.** The pandemic caused problems for most businesses to one degree or another – veterinarian clinics have been no exception. It was hard on many vets and some clinics were forced to closed.

**The veterinarian population is aging with many retiring.** When one vet retires, it puts an even greater strain on the remaining veterinarians. And there aren't an equal number of vets graduating veterinarian school to take their place. Even before COVID, the country was losing more than 2,000 veterinarians a year just to retirement. That number went way up since COVID.

It takes about five years to get through veterinary school. And only about 2,600 students graduate each year. On top of that, veterinary colleges can only push out so many graduates per year. There are currently only 32 veterinary schools in the United States, and the incoming class was only 3,000 students, total, in the nation.

"For every person looking for a veterinary job, as a doctor of veterinary medicine, there are 18 positions posted. A lot of places don't even post their positions anymore because it's a waste of money," Wickman said. "We saw this coming when we opened the practice in 2012 and were having trouble finding a veterinarian (to join the practice). But the American Veterinary Medical Association has only just recently recognized that this is a problem."

While there are efforts being made to open more veterinary colleges, not every veterinarian who goes to school wants to work in private practice, according to Wickman.

"There's a lot of opportunities within the government, a lot of opportunities to teach, a lot of opportunities to do research," he said. "And a lot of veterinarians who are coming through don't want to work in general practice; they want to specialize, and that really reduces your numbers serving the general population."

Heidi Burnett, DVM with Animal Hospital of Oshkosh, said, "It's misleading to think of it only in terms of how many bodies we have, though. A full-time equivalent veterinarian might be working 40 hours a week of appointment times, but what the general public doesn't see is how much other work veterinarians do that is not in the exam room.

"There's a lot more time spent researching complicated cases, a lot more communication with owners, and a lot more medical record-keeping than there

used to be."

**Appointments have increased and standard of care has risen.** In 2021 alone, pet care appointments increased by 6.5%. Television ads and other media have increased the standard of care being provided.

"There's a lot more depiction of specialties in ads and other media. People are a lot more demanding of those kinds of services. They know that they can get a specialist to take care of their dog's eye, for example," Burnett said. "So they come see me, in order to get a referral to see a specialist. I'm not doing the work in-house, but then you have this siloing of information and that's less efficient. So, I'm sending patients (somewhere else) and then I have to get back those reports of what happened and I have to have time to read those.

"That's non-billable time. I'm not in an exam room taking care of a given pet, but I'm still taking care of that pet because I'm having to keep up to date on everything that's going on with it that might affect that pet going forward. Along with that is more record-keeping. So, efficiency is down and we're actually working harder on many cases. The public doesn't always see that."

When the pandemic started, many local veterinarians doing general practice went into emergency mode, much like the rest of the country. It shut down most clinics in the area for two to four weeks.

"With that happening, it put all of those wellness appointments that much farther behind and we're still playing catch-up from some of that. To call sooner is better for annual wellness visits and vaccinations," said practice manager Stephanie Zeddies, a certified veterinary technician at Valley Veterinary Hospital. "It also put

a huge hurt of the Animal Referral Center (now Blue Pearl in Appleton). People were going there when they couldn't get in with their regular vet. They had huge wait times; they still do, because now there's less veterinarians out in the world.

"When I worked at the Referral Center in Appleton, we were experiencing eight-to 12-hour wait times or service pauses during COVID, where the veterinarian on staff could not physically see anyone else. The severity of the cases in-hospital were that much that they couldn't see anyone else."

Severe cases – pets hit by vehicles, lacerations, bloat, pets that were dying or bleeding – had to take precedence over a broken toenail or an ear infection.

"(The Referral Center) felt this huge influx and would either have incredibly long wait times or go into service pause mode just to accommodate what was in the hospital," she said.

The shortage is not just with veterinarians; it's vet techs, receptionists and other support staff. According to Veterinary Practice News, there's a shortage of veterinary technicians as well as vets. They noted that by 2030, the U.S. will need 40,000 vets and 133,000 vet techs to meet the needs of companion animals. That number will replace practitioners retiring or otherwise leaving the business, but also accommodate the growth in the pet market.

Not every veterinarian office is experiencing this kind of problem, but for those that are, it's a pretty significant problem – not only for the veterinary clinic and staff, but for clients and patients.

*Next week: Things pet owners can do to make a bad situation somewhat better.*

## 20th Annual Antiques Sporting Advertising & Collectible Show

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# Calendar of events

## Friday, Oct. 20

“Loosen the Grip” book signing with Lisa Anderson, 4:30 p.m., Lawlss Coffee, 124 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Rocket Players: “Mamma Mia!” 7 p.m., Neenah High School

## Saturday, Oct. 21

Electronics Recycling Event, 8 a.m., Neenah City Garage, 1495 Tullar Road  
Monster Mash Dance Party, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Author Meet & Greet with Malissa Chapin, 11 a.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Rocket Players: “Mamma Mia!” 7 p.m., Neenah High School

## Sunday, Oct. 22

Rocket Players: “Mamma Mia!” 2 p.m., Neenah High School

## Friday, Oct. 27

Pumpkin carving and painting, 1:30 p.m., The Brigade, 109 W. Columbian Ave.

Costume Skate, 5 p.m., The Plaza & Globe Coffee

## Saturday, Oct. 28

150 Years of Fashion Fundraiser, 6 p.m., Alta Bank building, 101 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Author Meet & Greet with Gordon D. Lind, noon, Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

## Tuesday, Oct. 31

Trick or Treating in Neenah and Fox Crossing, 4-7 p.m.

Movie Talks: “The Sixth Sense,” 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Wednesday, Nov. 1

NHS Boys Basketball Fish Fry Fundraiser, 5:30 p.m., Best Western Bridgewood Hotel

## Thursday, Nov. 2

Holiday for the Horses, 5:30 p.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood, 1000 Cameron Way

## Friday, Nov. 3

First Friday Concert Series, pianists Linda Sparks and Nell Buchman, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Saturday, Nov. 4

Book Cake Tour, 11 a.m., The Plaza & Globe Coffee

## Valley Academy to present Nutcracker at Grand

Valley Academy for the Arts will present its inaugural production of Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Ballet on Dec. 15 and 16 at The Grand Oshkosh.

The performance will feature youth and adult students of Valley Academy for the Arts, a not-for-profit arts school that has served the Fox Valley since 2002, including those from their pre-professional com-

pany, Vision Dance Theatre.

Founded by Anne Marie Brunner-Abderholden, Valley Academy provides dance instruction for students whose families might not otherwise be able to afford it, focusing on classical ballet for ages ranging from 7 to 82. Valley Academy also has provided free community performances often to underserved populations.

## Commercial St.

FROM PAGE 1

The land requiring legal possession ranges from the smallest acquisition of 2 square feet of Keen Capital Management’s parcel at 201 E. Winneconne to the largest acquisition of 421 square feet of Neenah Plaza Condominiums’ parcel in the 1400 block of Commercial.

The Neenah Plaza parcel is required because the existing and proposed signal infrastructure is outside the right of way on the east side of the Commercial and Alcott intersection. The change is to modify the right of way to include the traffic signals.

The other three largest acquisitions include 130 square feet of O’Brien Investment Properties, 112 square feet of Florek Henderson Dental and 107 square feet of Kaleka Enterprises.

Merten said the areas the city is looking to take ownership of are very small parcels around or at intersections. He said the city would not normally obtain property through TLEs or fee acquisitions for reconstruction projects but because the city is using federal funds it’s required to obtain those.

There are also standards for putting in handicapped sidewalk ramps or curb ramps that the city is required to follow.

“Where the street meets the sidewalk, the state has a new standard that they’ve put out there that we have to apply to this, and basically none of those corners match that,” he said. “And so what the fee titles are for is, in order to meet those pretty rigid standards, there are some situations on corners, depending on where the crosswalks all lined up and what the elevations look like, that we’re required to purchase little corners of land to make the design work.”

Property owners whose parcels will be utilized on a temporary basis will be reimbursed a standard amount, while property owners with portions of their properties requiring legal possession will negotiate with the city for reimbursement.

The process of acquiring the properties has already begun with the city sending letters to affected property owners. An informative meeting will be held in January that will go into detail about the proposed construction.

The road will have the same layout including two bike lanes, two drive lanes and a two-way, left-turn lane. It will be narrowed slightly in the business area and in the residential area the road will be narrowed more significantly due to the city removing a parking lane on one side of the street.

Merten noted that it’s less costly to have a narrower roadway and there isn’t enough parking utilization in the area to warrant usage of both sides of the street.

Residential property terraces between the sidewalk and curb will be expanded from the current size of about 1 to 2 feet to 5 to 7 feet.

“They’ll have more separation between the road and their homes,” Merten said. “We think that’ll be a benefit and hopefully they will see it as a benefit for themselves.”

Providing a larger terrace to residents will also help alleviate snow removal challenges.

“That is an issue with the street being as wide as it is, and through the residential area when the plows come through there’s really no place to put the snow and it ends up on their sidewalks and they end up having to shovel the sidewalk multiple times,” he said.

Along the corridor in the business area the terrace will be paved with colored concrete and trees will be added in tree boxes or planters. In residential areas, the terrace will be grass and trees will also be planted.

Merten said that next year the city will add a right-turn lane to Commercial Street at Winneconne Avenue to tie in with the reconstruction and help improve traffic flow during the project and after completion.

Construction on Commercial Street will begin with storm sewer work in March 2025, continuing with road work that will likely stretch into the fall.



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# Neenah girls tennis excited about return to state

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah's girls tennis program has an illustrious history that includes the second most trip to the WIAA Team State Tournament.

But that history had a hiccup a year ago when the Rockets fell short of making the trip to the Nielsen Tennis Stadium, bringing an end to a run of 10 straight appearances.

This year's crew of Rockets, though, rectified that situation by winning their WIAA Division 1 sectional a couple of weeks ago and are getting ready to take on Whitefish Bay in a quarterfinal match on Friday.

"It's very exciting. We're very proud to represent Neenah down (at state) again," said senior Annalise Zenzick, part of the Rockets' No. 1 doubles team. "I think we have a pretty deep team this year. We have good girls up and down the lineup. We have had different variations of the lineup and working through the adversity has gotten us ready to go to team state."

Neenah head coach Dan Grassl said the team put in a lot of hard work over the course of the season to earn the program's 20th appearance at the team state tournament – only Eau Claire Memorial has more with 22.

"All of these girls worked really hard and deserve this," Grassl said. "We did everything we could during the season to get back to state as a team and so it's rewarding. We didn't have as many individuals at state as we have had in the past but by getting the whole team there makes up for that."

Neenah also had to sweat through a close sectional tournament as the Rockets and Green Bay Notre Dame went toe-to-toe the entire day.

Both teams finished the tournament with 45 team points but it was Neenah claiming the crown in the tiebreaker – most head-to-head wins at the sectional – to punch their ticket to Madison.

"So as the day was unfolding and we are beating them here and losing to them there, we knew it was really tight," Grassl said. "It was extremely exciting when we found out we had made it."

Although the Rockets did not make the trip to team state last year, they do have some experience competing at the state tournament.

Zenzick and No. 1 singles player Izzy Murray played on Neenah's state championship team in 2021, while Paige Stielow joined Zenzick at the Individual State Tournament last week at No. 1 doubles.

Having the experience at a venue as



Submitted photo

The Neenah High School girls tennis team will face Whitefish Bay in a Division 1 quarterfinal at the WIAA Team State Tournament that begins Friday in Madison. The team consists of (from left) head coach Dan Grassl, Rebekah Thomas, Celia Gentile, Izzy Murray, Paige Stielow, Cecelia Alexander, Ava Motto, Norah Spanbauer, Kinsey Perry, Annalise Zenzick, Meredith Werner and assistant coach Brian Hankel.

unique as Nielsen Tennis Stadium should be a plus for the Rockets.

"It definitely helps with experience and getting the feeling of the courts and vibes of state," Stielow said. "It will be exciting to get that feeling back for team state."

With Zenzick and Stielow leading the doubles lineup, the Rockets will have senior Kinsey Perry and junior Meredith Werner at the No. 2 doubles flight, while sophomores Ava Motto and Cecelia Alexander make up the No. 3 doubles pairing.

The singles lineup will have Murray, a junior, at the top flight followed by freshman Celia Gentile, freshman Rebekah Thomas and junior Norah Spanbauer.

With only three seniors in the lineup, this year's trip could be the start of another string of appearances for Neenah.

"With the depth of our team, it is going to set them up for the future," Zenzick said.

Neenah's quarterfinal opponent will be a familiar one, too.

The Rockets, who are seeded sixth at the state tournament, faced third-seeded Whitefish Bay in a dual meet earlier this season, coming up short against the Blue Dukes. But having the experience of playing against them is something that Grassl feels could help his squad.

"We know how we line up against each one of their flights and while we lost to

them last time, there is definitely an opportunity to beat them if we play and win the flights that we can," Grassl said. "When you get down to that point, these teams are all so good, one match one way or the other could be the deciding factor."

The winner of Friday's quarterfinal match will face either second-seeded Arrowhead or seventh-seeded Eau Claire Memorial in a semifinal match on Satur-

day morning, with the title match to follow later that day.

The Rockets are hoping to make sure their season is extended to include both days.

"It feels amazing. I'm excited to make some noise at state," Murray said. "I have trust in our team. I think our whole team is really locked in and we will be ready to play. We're ready to go."



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# Rockets ready for first step of postseason road

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

The new Rocket Stadium will get a taste of postseason football on Friday night.

Neenah will host DC Everest in a WIAA Division 1 Level 1 playoff game at 7 p.m. as football's second season gets underway around the state.

"It feels good," said junior running back Grant Dean. "It feels like a fresh start to everything. I'm excited for it."

The Rockets come in as the fourth seed in their playoff regional with the Evergreens – who finished second in the Valley Football Association – are the No. 5 seed.

DC Everest features the leading passer in their conference, Logan George, who threw for 1,462 yards and 17 touchdowns this season in leading the Evergreens to a 7-2 overall record.

"They like to pass the ball, more than what we see in the FVA usually, and they are a good passing team," said senior linebacker Aidan Carey. "Facing teams like Kaukauna and De Pere gave us a good look at (that type of offense) and I know the coaches will come up with a good scheme."

Neenah head coach Steve Jung said that he's been impressed with the way George can throw the ball on the run and the athleticism of the DC Everest receivers.

George has nine interceptions this season and has on occasion thrown a ball up for grabs, which could open the door for some potential interceptions. But Jung said that some of that is by design.

"His receivers are so good at high-pointing the ball, so there are occasions on film where he will throw one up but it's a reflection of how much he trusts his receivers," Jung said. "So he has had occasions where he has

## WIAA playoffs

### Division 1 Level 1

(all games Friday, 7 p.m.)

- Chippewa Falls (4-5) at Hudson (8-1)
- D.C. Everest (7-2) at Neenah (7-2)
- Wausau West (7-2) at Stevens Point (8-1)
- Appleton North (6-3) at Kimberly (7-1)

thrown the ball up but a lot of times that ball is caught."

Despite the passing attack, the Evergreens scored more than 21 points just once in its final six games and were held to less than 20 points by each of the four other playoff teams in the VFA.

Instead of a high-powered offense, DC Everest has relied on stingy defense that has allowed about 13 points per game this season and enters the postseason having given up just seven points in its previous two games.

"Defensively they get nine hats to the ball every play, which means they fly to the ball," Jung said. "But there is no question, I like our offense right now."

The Rockets' offense revolves around the talented Dean, who has rushed for more than 1,400 yards and 21 touchdowns – despite missing a game earlier this season.

He had 272 yards and five touchdowns on 22 carries in the Rockets' regular-season finale against Oshkosh North last Friday and is ready to face a stacked box from the Evergreens on Friday.

"We have to possess the ball on offense," Dean said. "There will be a lot of people in the box but there will also be some guys on an island, so hopefully we can extend it a little more than we usually do."



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Grant Dean (right) and Luke Jung (15) celebrate one of Dean's five touchdowns against Oshkosh North last Friday.

Junior quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven is expected to miss the game because of an injury, however, freshman Ashton Van Beek has filled in admirably this season and is the team's leading rusher.

The Rockets also boast a physical offensive line that will look to pave the way for Dean.

"(Our offensive line) is a great group of guys for sure. They are always laughing, always having fun," Dean said. "I love them and I have confidence they will get the job done."

Jung said the physicality of the Rockets'

offensive line is based on the team's style of play and the league they play in.

"In their league, there is more spread of offenses but in the FVA are playing tight end football. It's power and counter and not spread football," Jung said. "That's what we play and I think it builds a mentality of being really physical up front."

Neenah enters the postseason off its most lopsided win of the season, having dispatched Oshkosh North last week, 43-0. The Rockets also topped playoff qualifier Fond du Lac, 14-7, in Week 8 and have won four of their last five games heading into the playoffs.

Jung said he likes the way his team has played the last two weeks and hopes they can carry that momentum into Friday.

"Our last two games we have played really well and we phrased it as we are surging into the playoffs," Jung said. "We got two wins in our last two games and right now we are in a good place."

The winner of Friday's game will face either top-seeded Chippewa Falls or Hudson in a Level 2 game, while FVA powerhouse Kimberly and a talented Stevens Point squad are lurking on the other side of the bracket.

But this week, the team's focus was solely on DC Everest.

"That was the first thing our coaches told us, to focus on this game," Dean said. "It's hard not to look forward but we have to focus on them."

No matter who lies ahead for the Rockets, having experienced an FVA season should have the team ready for any opponent.

"The FVA is the toughest conference in the state I would say, so it definitely has us prepared," Carey said. "I would say we are definitely battle tested."

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# Neenah's Feavel making last lap around WIAC

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

For some players, it would have been a dream situation.

A senior with only a couple of games left playing on the kickoff return teams gets a little pop-fly kick in the fourth quarter of a game that has been decided.

But instead of trying to take off down-field and showcase some hidden moves, Caleb Feavel did what he was supposed to do. He caught the ball and hit the ground.

"No. Absolutely not," Feavel said when asked if he thought of trying to make a return. "All I'm thinking is catch the ball and do my job and let the offense go to work."

Feavel, a Neenah High School alum, is in his final season with the Blugolds, who played at UW Oshkosh last weekend in a WIAC matchup.

The linebacker, who also plays on special teams, was credited with one tackle in Eau Claire's 35-7 loss but said that he enjoyed getting back to the Fox Valley and playing in front of familiar faces.

"It's always nice coming back home, seeing friends and family that are in the area," Feavel said. "It's always really special getting back into familiar territory."

Feavel was a first-team all-VFA South linebacker following the 2017 season at Neenah and said the coaching he received in high school helped prepare him to play in one of the toughest Division III conferences in the nation.

Feavel credits current head coach Steve Jung and Steve Camber, who was Neenah's defensive coordinator at the time and now the team's strength coach, for his success.

"The combination of those two coaches was a big influence," Feavel said. "We play a very high caliber brand of football at Neenah and in the FVA so being able



Photo by Jim Koepnick

UW-Eau Claire's Caleb Feavel, a Neenah High School alum, locks up with a pair of UW Oshkosh blockers during Saturday's game at Titan Stadium.

to play under those guys got me prepared for college ball."

Feavel's first season on the field for the Blugolds was the 2019 campaign when he played in seven games. He played in nine games in 2021 when he recorded 17 tackles, including nine tackles-for-loss and a sack.

Last year, he was limited to just five games, while this year he has posted nine tackles and a half-sack for the 2-4 Blugolds.

On Saturday, Eau Claire never got going against the Titans, falling behind 14-0 at halftime and didn't score until the fourth quarter.

"It's on both sides to play better," Feavel said. "When offense lacks, defense has to hold up their end of the bargain and

when the defense struggles, the offense has to. We are one cohesive unit and one team at the end of the day."

Although most of his snaps are at the linebacker position, Feavel is also part of a unique defensive package for the Blugolds.

Throughout the game, the Eau Claire defensive will utilize a stand-up interior defensive lineman with the hopes to slow down an opponent's running game. Feavel is usually the player that steps into that role.

"It's something we like to do and I love it," Feavel said. "It throws a little spice into things."

Feavel said he keeps tabs on his former high school team but hasn't had the chance to see the new high school or the new Rocket Stadium yet.

"I haven't been able to stop by there yet. I've been pretty busy but hoping to stop by their soon," Feavel said. "I wish them the best in the future and maybe if I come back to the area I can give back in the future some day."

With only four games left in his collegiate career, Feavel realizes the day is nearing when he will peel off the pads for a final time.

As tough as that day may be, he's also enjoyed his time at Eau Claire and will have plenty of memories to savor when he's done.

"It's been a ride," Feavel said. "I've made some amazing friends and been coached by some amazing people. I've been there a long time, this is year six and unfortunately it will be my last one, but I'm grateful for everything football and this coaching staff has given me."

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# Cortina continues family tradition in Neenah swimming

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Naomi Cortina didn't have to look far for motivation as a young swimmer.

She just had to look up.

With older sisters Isabel and Rachel shining on the Neenah High School swim team, Naomi had all the inspiration she needed to follow suit and the current Rocket senior has done just that.

"Watching my sisters achieve things, they were definitely great swimmers, so it was easy to follow in their footsteps," Cortina said. "There definitely was some competition when we were young, and it definitely motivated me to be a better swimmer."

Having older sisters around the pool meant that Cortina was introduced to swimming at a young age.

She said that she learned to swim when she was just 2 years old and simply never left the pool.

"I followed my sisters' path to everything and then eventually got to my own," Cortina said. "I just kind of always did it. It was never something that I was like, 'I could be great.' I was raised in a family that worked hard at swimming and so I just kind of did it, too."

Both of Cortina's sisters, who graduated in 2018 and 2020, respectively, qualified for state during their time at Neenah, with Isabel making the trip to Madison all four years.

Naomi is on the same path.

As a junior, Cortina qualified for the state meet in both the 100-yard freestyle and 200-yard freestyle, while also swimming legs on both of the Rockets' state-qualifying freestyle relays.

Cortina had also qualified for state as a freshman and a sophomore, but both times were as part of relays. Last year was the first she competed as an individual.

"It was really cool, especially since I had two events, but it was overwhelming a bit," Cortina said. "I had never experienced it and



I went right into two (events), which was difficult. The 200 was an event I hadn't really focused on before so it was interesting to race it at state."

Cortina hopes to return as an individual qualifier again this season and believes that her experience from last year will help.

"I think it will be different this year based on where I am as a swimmer but I hope my experience with last year will help," Cortina said. "A lot of last year was that I was nervous but excited and the thrill of it all maybe got to me a little bit and now it's just about swimming fast if I make it."

As much as Cortina appreciates taking the pool for a solo event, she said the real fun is in the relays.

There may be a little more pressure when there are four swimmers making up a race, but that is something Cortina seems to thrive on.

"I tend to do better with that kind of pressure especially on relays because I'm doing it for my team. My best splits have been on our relays," Cortina said. "There is so much chemistry with our relays. They are so much fun, especially with the group of girls we have. Our connection is just awesome."

That has Cortina and the Rockets setting some high goals this season.

Last year, Cortina was one of three individuals to qualify, while the Rockets also sent the two relays. This year, they hope to send a larger contingent.

"We definitely have an exciting team this year, so I'm excited to see how we do in our closing meets," Cortina said. "I know it's time to start cranking things up and this is



Neenah News

Senior Naomi Cortina has followed in the footsteps of her sisters in becoming a successful swimmer in the Neenah High School program.

the time when the workouts really count but we are far enough in the season that it does start to drag on. But I know I have to just push through because it will pay off at the end."

The fact that the sectionals and state are just around the corner also means something else for Cortina.

As a senior, she knows that her time as a Rocket is drawing to a close.

"We just had Senior Night and we are getting to the last of everything. It's crazy that I'm almost done," said Cortina, who will swim for her club team once the high school

season is done. "Not being a Rocket anymore is definitely hitting hard."

Cortina's high school career may be nearing an end but that doesn't mean her influence on the program has to stop.

She remembers watching how much success the program had when her sisters were there and she values being a part of the successful legacy of the program.

"I was such a young girl watching my sisters and seeing all of their traditions that they had and that just made me want to be

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

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# Rockets drop two close sets in loss to Kaukauna

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A rough first set didn't get the Neenah boys volleyball team down.

The Rockets just couldn't find a way to sneak out a win against Kaukauna.

After a lopsided opening stanza, Neenah made Kaukauna earn the sweep as the Ghosts collected a 25-10, 27-25, 29-27 win in a Fox Valley Association match Monday night.

"I was pleased with the way we battled tonight, especially the last two sets," head coach Jake Coenen said. "When we play with energy and quickness we become a much better team. Kaukauna is a good scrappy team and serving team that got us out of system at times, which made us struggle getting out of rotations."

Kaukauna's serving overpowered Neenah in the first set, but after that the Rock-

ets provided a stern test for the Ghosts.

Julien Kuehn played a significant role in the team's resurgence during the second set as the 6-4 outside hitter started to make his presence felt up front.

Not only did Kuehn lead the team with eight kills, but he also recorded a pair of blocks as Neenah held a 13-10 lead midway through the second set.

Ben Donaldson also emerged for the Rockets, registering three of his four blocks late in the second set along with four of his six kills as Neenah tied the set at 25.

The Ghosts were able to withstand the Rockets' pressure and scored the next two points to take a 2-0 lead in the match.

"We had some guys step up for us during that second set which was good to see," Coenen said. "Junior Julian Kuehn had a phenomenal game at the front of the

net for us with fellow junior Ethan Duncan and freshman Trevor Ricketts coming up huge when called upon. Although it doesn't always show in the stat column, these three provided us with the energy we lacked in the first set."

The third set started as a seesaw affair with both teams taking turns at the lead until Neenah's Miles Weaver and Jackson Dennis started to take over.

The duo helped the Rockets build a lead, but the Ghosts came roaring back and the set would eventually be tied at 25.

Knowing this was their final home match of the season, Neenah continued to battle back and once again forced the match to continue as things were deadlocked at 25 before the Ghosts closed out the win.

Unlike the second set that saw the Ghosts score quickly to end things, Neen-

ah kept hanging around with the score knotting up at 26 and 27.

Unfortunately, that would be it for the Rockets and a potential comeback bid as the Ghosts responded with two quick points to put things away.

Weaver was active both offensively and defensively as he came away with six kills and two blocks on the evening while helping to neutralize the Kaukauna front line. Dennis' ability to get on the floor helped save possessions and kept things alive for his team.

Dennis and Malachi Vang combined for 15 digs on the defensive end with Kuehn also adding eight.

Dennis also was the key catalyst when it came to getting things set up for the offense as he led the Rockets with a team-high 22 assists.

## Prep sports roundup

### STATE TENNIS

#### Calmes, Vogel post win

St. Mary Catholic senior Kassadi Calmes and junior Emily Vogel posted a victory in the Division 2 doubles bracket at the WIAA State Tennis Tournament in Madison last week.

Calmes and Vogel beat Ava Sukanen and Molly Merrill of Newman Catholic, 6-2, 6-1, 10-7 to advance to the second round, where the Zephyr duo fell in straight sets to fourth-seeded Bella Bauer and Josie Rondestvedt of Altoona.

In singles, sophomore Adel Schneider lost a heartbreaker, rallying from a first set loss before falling in the third set, 6-4, 1-6, 10-4 to Susanna Hundy of St. Joan Antida.

### CROSS COUNTRY

#### Rockets roll to titles

Both the Neenah High School girls and boys cross country teams claimed conference titles at the Fox Valley Association Meet held last week.

It was the 21st conference championship for the Rocket girls, while the boys claimed the 28th title in program history.

The girls placed all five runners in the top 10 to edge Kaukauna by six points – 32 to 38 – for the title. Appleton North was a distant third with 96 points.

Mazie Olkowski led the Rockets with a second-place overall finish, while Elsa Gruber took fourth and Natalie Schultz finished fifth. Natalie Willes in ninth and Maddie Schoonover in 10th rounded out the scoring runners for the Rockets.

The boys also had their five scoring runners in the top 10 with Neenah pushing six straight finishers across the line.

Wyatt Armock in sixth place was followed by Zack Verhagen, Braedy Klawikoski, Harmon Posegate and Nolan

Smith. Jaden Leal came in 11th place and Charles Fredrickson was in 13th as all of Neenah finishers ended within 24 seconds of each other.

Neenah finished with 40 points to easily win the boys title as Kimberly was the runner-up with 73 points.

#### Zephyrs have strong run

Both St. Mary Catholic cross teams finished fifth in their respective races on Saturday at Mishicot.

The girls finished just three points behind Kohler on a close final leaderboard.

Lauren Ripley led the Zephyrs by finishing second at the meet, while Addison Dinka was the next runner to finish in 21st place. The next four Zephyr runners all finished in a group as Haley Gustafson was 33rd, Katharine Schoeni was 35th, Maria Marti was 36th and Norah Lee was 38th.

The boys finished just ahead of Manitowoc Lutheran in fifth place.

Ian Albino led St. Mary Catholic in 16th place, followed by Benjamine Schoeni in 20th, Nathan Seiske in 29th, Ethan Auer in 36th and Noah Valentine in 66th.

### FOOTBALL

#### Zephyrs drop Trailways tilt

Garrett Weninger threw for 128 yards and posted a rushing touchdown but the Zephyrs fell on the road to Cambria-Friesland 34-12 last Friday.

Daniel Harness finished with six catches for 101 yards for the Zephyrs, who also got a kickoff return for a touchdown from John Schultz.

Schultz also led the defense with 17 tackles.

### SWIMMING

#### Neenah holds on for win

Naomi Cortina won a pair of individual

you can do for a long time," Cortina said. "It's relaxing."

Whether her competitive career is extended or not, Cortina will certainly take plenty with her when she steps away from the sport.

Of course there were the friends she has made in the pool over the years as well as the wealth of medals she can show off.

But there is more to it than the wins and the smiles and all of the success she's had swimming for Neenah.

"Discipline is the biggest thing I have taken away from swimming," Cortina said. "There are times things are not going to feel good, it's going to hurt and it's going to be hard. But you know you have to do it to see an outcome and get something good out of it."

events and the Rockets posted victories in all three relays to collect an 88-73 win over Oshkosh West.

Cortina finished first in both the 100-yard freestyle and 200-yard freestyle, while Alliyah Lima in the 200-yard individual medley, Addy Benner in the 500-yard freestyle and Rylie Bauman in the 100-yard breaststroke also collected wins.

### VOLLEYBALL

#### St. Mary Catholic nets win

The Zephyrs broke a 1-1 tie by winning the final two sets to hand Weyauwega-Fremont a 25-17, 14-25, 25-17, 25-18 loss last week.

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## Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

a Rocket more," Cortina said. "Now that I'm here, I still get to do those traditions, but we are making our own that I know are going to be passed on to generations."

Even with her success entering this season and the wins and fast times she has racked up over the past couple of months, Cortina isn't sure if she will continue swimming competitively after high school.

But that doesn't mean she won't be spending time in a pool.

"It's not really hard on any of your joints and you can do it easily, so it is something

# Meet the **BERSERKERS!**

The most ferocious Viking warriors were called Berserkers. (That's where the phrase "going berserk" comes from.)

**Standards Link:** Language Arts: Vocabulary: Understand the origins and meaning of words in English.

## Who were the Viking warriors?

Long ago, a people called Vikings lived in what is now Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Rocks and thin soil

made it difficult for Vikings to grow crops or raise animals for food. The people were often hungry.

Some Vikings even tried to live in America. In 1002 (more than 400 years before Columbus), a Viking called Leif (pronounced "leaf") Ericson landed with a group of people and set up a village in North America.

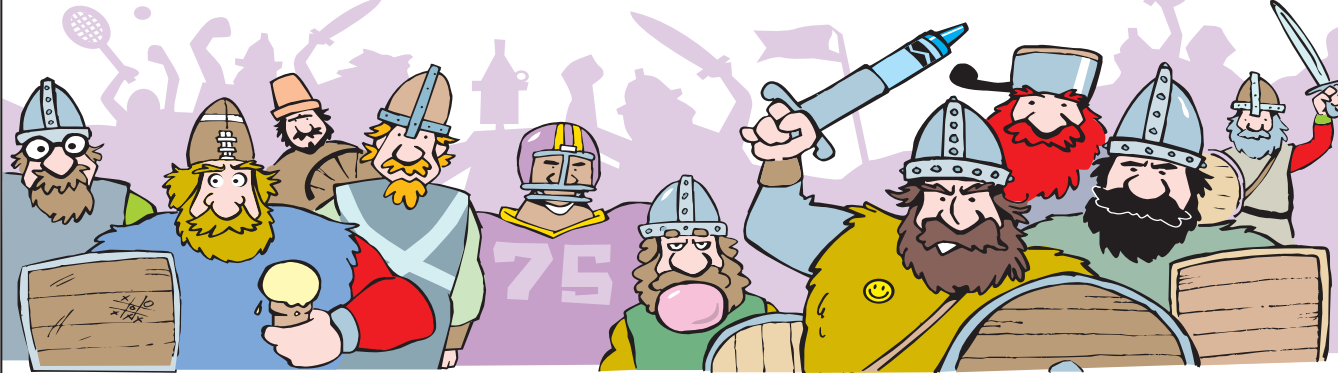
They stayed about two years. Difficult conditions forced them to leave.

**Standards Link:** History: Explain the aims, obstacles and accomplishments of the explorers.

In 1016, a Viking became king of England. His name was King Cnut. He was a wise ruler who brought peace.



Viking men built ships and sailed to England and France. There they attacked towns, robbed them of food and took prisoners. Sometimes they stayed and took over the towns. At one time, the Vikings ruled most of what is now England and the Normandy area of France.



How many silly things can you find in this bunch of Berserkers?

### Rune Code

The letters in the Viking alphabet are called **runes**. The word rune means *secret* in their language. Use the runes to find out why the letters were called secret.

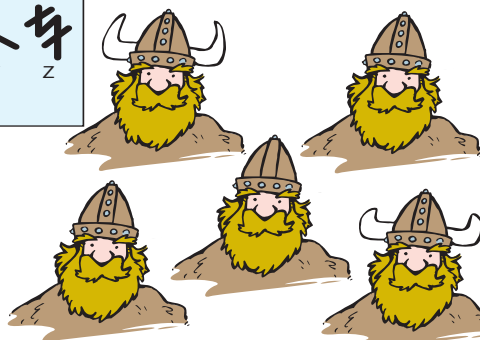


Vikings didn't have paper and ink. Messages were carved in wood or stone. That is why the runes are made of straight lines only; curves are hard to carve.

### Viking Helmets

You have probably seen comic strips or movies that show Viking helmets with horns. But most Viking experts doubt that Viking helmets actually had horns.

Can you find the two Vikings that are identical?



**Extra! Extra!**

### Explore the Newspaper

Search through the newspaper to find:

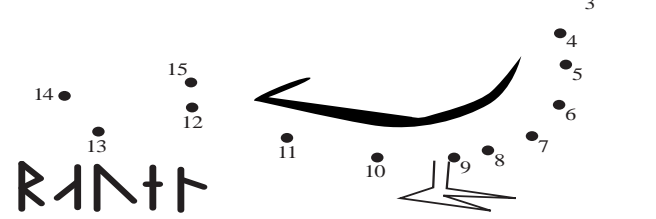
- Something a Viking might have had.
- Something ferocious.
- Something that means the opposite of ferocious.

**Standards Link:** Language Arts/Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### Good Luck Symbol

This animal was brought along on many Viking sea journeys. If the captain of the ship lost his way, he would let this animal go. It always headed toward land, showing the Vikings which way to go. A Viking ship often had a flag with this animal's picture. What was it? Connect the dots and use the runes to find out.



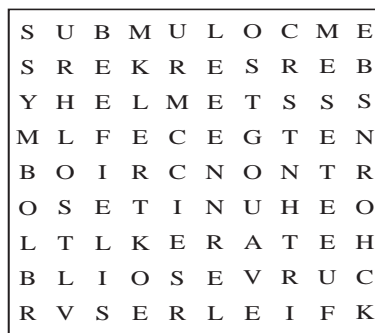
**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Double Double Word Search

#### BERSERKERS

- VIKING
- CNUT
- RUNES
- SECRET
- HORNS
- FRANCE
- SYMBOL
- HELMETS
- STONE
- COLUMBUS
- CURVES
- LOST
- LEIF
- SOIL

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.

### You'll Rune Everything!

Practice writing in runes. Rewrite each of the following words with runes. Then spell each of your spelling words in runes!

Viking

Secret

England

Berserk

France

Newspaper

School

Teacher

Helmet

Give yourself a point for each word you translate into runes.

**SCORE:**  
Write 5-10 Words:  
**JUNIOR VIKING**

11-15 Words:  
**WORD WARRIOR**

16-25 Words:  
**TOTALLY BERSERK!**

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Answer questions based on information in text.

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