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## City steps back from sign rules

### Ordinance to be altered amid injunction, suits

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah was expected to change its sign ordinance at this week's Common Council meeting to comport with a 2015 Supreme Court decision and after two lawsuits were brought challenging its constitutionality.

The city adopted its sign ordinance in 1977 and has not amended it since 2010. The ordinance was scrutinized after the

city used it to require homes in the Shattuck Middle School neighborhood to remove signs protesting rezoning efforts because the signs violated the city's time limits for portable signs.

Residents Tim and Megan Florek, who received notices to remove the violative signs, filed a federal lawsuit in January, arguing the city targeted the Shattuck sign based on its message and challenging the constitutionality of the ordinance. A federal judge issued an injunction in April prohibiting the city from enforcing the sign ordinance during the duration of that lawsuit.

Also in April, residents Gail and Margaret Minks and Gary and Kim Novak sued the city in circuit court over the ordinance, contending it imposes unconstitutional content-based restrictions. The Minks received a notice to remove political signs they had in their yard for months. A circuit court judge issued a ruling in August temporarily preventing the city from enforcing the ordinance and denied the city's request for summary judgment.

Deputy director of community development Brad Schmidt told the city's Plan

SEE **Sign ordinance** ON PAGE 11

## INSIDE



**Hollywood icon**  
Film series explores ex-city resident Hawks  
Page 6

## Animal shelter eyes bigger home

### Move will more than double current space

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Animal Shelter will break ground later this month on a new location to meet the growing needs of animals in the community.

The new shelter will be constructed on a 3.5-acre parcel at 2475 Progress Court less than a mile from the existing location.

The land for the future site was donated by local businessman John Bergstrom of Bergstrom Automotive, who also contributed to the shelter's \$2 million capital campaign for construction.

Bergstrom said his family cares about animals and wanted to support the shelter's "amazing" group of staff and volunteers.

"Our family has forever had dogs and loved dogs and if we can help, these are very nice people and we want to do our part," he said.

The existing shelter building is less than 3,000 square feet. The new location will be 7,238 square feet. Shelter board president Mary Setton said the updated facility is greatly needed.

"Our shelter that we are in right now is over 60 years old and it is just old and tired and broken," she said. "We need more space. We're busting at the seams to be able to serve the community and handle the number of animals that come through our door."

Last week, 28 cats were removed from a home and shelter staff had to find room for them in the already overpopulated building. Setton said the situation was chaotic and illustrated the urgent need for



Neenah News

Neenah Animal Shelter manager Brittany Collette works with a dog at the shelter Monday.

SEE **Animal shelter** ON PAGE 10

## Volunteer numbers take pandemic hit

By Dan Roherty  
NEENAH NEWS

Nonprofit groups and other institutions that rely on the selfless dedication of volunteers have been working to get back to a manageable post-pandemic level of recruitment but haven't seen those numbers return to help serve society's vulnerable.

Formal volunteer participation fell about 23% between 2019 and 2021, according to a recent U.S. Census Bureau and AmeriCorps survey, the largest decrease the survey has recorded since it has been tracked starting in 2002. Wisconsin was one of four states that saw double-digit percentage drops in participation.

Almost half of nonprofit chief executives surveyed nationwide last year said recruiting enough volunteers continued to be a significant challenge.

Brad Creighton, community engagement director for Volunteer Fox Cities, which serves nonprofits and volunteers

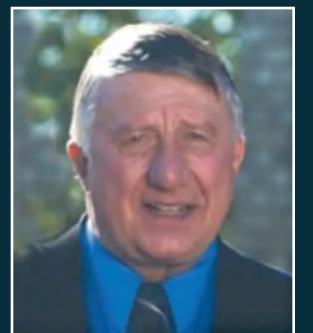
SEE **Volunteer needs** ON PAGE 9

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Neenah News

An expansion project that is expected to be completed in January continues at the Neenah Police Department.

## Police Department space expanding with update

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Construction of a \$5.8 million expansion at the Neenah Police Department is about 60% complete and is on track to be finished by mid-January.

The police department building was constructed in 1994 and will open with a 10,000-square-foot addition early next year. The expansion includes a firing range, armory, conference room, defense and arrest tactics room, and virtual 3-D training room.

Chief Aaron Olson said in a memo last year that building a new police department could exceed \$20 million and a new

building isn't necessary. He said that by instead expanding the footprint of the current location it will save taxpayers roughly \$15 million.

"By doing so, we will make the Neenah police building sustainable for many years to come and we will be more relevant," he said. "By being relevant, we will be able to attract more police officer candidates and we will reduce our drive time and setup time at other police ranges, which will keep our officers in the city, which creates a safer Neenah."

The initial plans for the addition included a much larger 18,550-square-foot expansion with additional garage space

to store police vehicles. The garage space addition was eliminated, the building reconfigured and the training room redesigned with less space after rising costs and inflation pushed the project to about \$1.4 million over budget. The final design remained at about \$282,000 over the \$5.5 million budget.

The project broke ground in May. Olson said at this stage in construction, the foundation and floors are complete along with the exterior and interior walls. Some of the plumbing and electrical has also been completed.

The expansion is on schedule with a completion date of Jan. 15.

## Woman, child taken and robbed in Grand Chute; man held

Neenah News

A 31-year-old Neenah woman and her 4-year-old child were kidnapped from a Grand Chute parking lot, robbed and carjacked Monday night, according to police.

The woman and child were approached in the 4300 block of West Wisconsin Avenue around 7:30 p.m. Monday by a 51-year-old man as they were getting into her four-door sedan, according to the Grand Chute Police Department.

The man threatened the woman with a

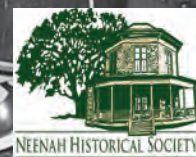
knife, took her keys and drove the vehicle with her and her child inside. Police said the man drove to area banks and forced the woman to withdraw money for him.

The woman and child were able to exit her vehicle in Neenah and contact police. She and her child were treated for non-life threatening injuries at a hospital.

Neenah police quickly relayed the license plate of the involved vehicle to neighboring agencies. Officials said through a coordinated effort with Winne-

conne police, Omro police and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, the vehicle was located and the suspect was taken into custody without incident.

Grand Chute police said the incident is under investigation and encouraged anyone with information to contact them. The suspect's name had not yet been released as of Wednesday and he was being held at the Outagamie County Jail on charges of kidnapping, carjacking, robbery and felony bail jumping.



Neenah Historical Society photo

## 1954 court and cheerleaders

Neenah High senior Ruth Pyott was elected Homecoming Queen in 1954. The Neenah Rockets hosted Kaukauna for the big football game. Other members of the court were Jan Ruthven, Sherry Spiegelberg and Marifred Buck.

## Ethics in Business event at Bridgewood

The 2023 Ethics in Business Summit set for Thursday at the Bridgewood Conference Center in Neenah will feature authors of the book "Leading with Care in a Tough World."

Bob DeKoch and Phillip Clampit will lead the discussions, drawing from their expertise and experience in the fields of ethics, business, communications and leadership. Their strategies feature five guiding beliefs and nine day-to-day practices that can inspire attendees to redefine leadership paradigms.

Samaritan Counseling Center is hosting the event with more than a dozen sponsors, with proceeds going toward community health efforts.

"Ethics in Business is an important fundraiser for Samaritan, but it's also a valuable seminar for the business community. Moral injury in the workplace is costly and counterproductive," said Samaritan executive director Rosangela Berbert. "We are living and working in a very different environment than we were a few short years ago. The summit is a time to reflect on how leaders impact the culture and strength of their team."

To register, visit [samaritanfoxvalley.com](http://samaritanfoxvalley.com).

# School district sells 16 acres for housing proposal

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District discussed a second offer to sell about 16 acres of land on Jacobsen Road in Fox Crossing at its meeting Tuesday before voting 7-1 to sell the parcel to Good Faith Funding to construct a housing development.

The newest offer came from Ryan Wirth for \$500,000. Wirth would use the site to “build a family business around cultivating the land in a sustainable way through regenerative farming and other areas of community development,” according to a memo to the school board. The sale offer came with no contingencies.

Wirth submitted his offer after the

school board’s Sept. 19 meeting. At that meeting the board discussed selling to Good Faith Funding for \$500,000 to be made into a single-family residential subdivision. The offer came with the contingencies that the Village of Fox Crossing zone the land for redevelopment and that the buyer tests the bedrock for a depth of at least 8 feet, at the buyer’s expense.

The asking price for the property is \$550,550 or about \$35,000 per acre. The school district previously accepted an offer to sell the property for \$460,000 late last year but that offer fell through due to the buyer having issues securing a loan.

The district purchased the land in 1971 for \$30,000. Situated between Spring Road Elementary and Clayton Elementary, it was considered as a potential future site for an

elementary school. The property includes just over three acres of wetlands.

Board president Brian Epley told the school board to take into consideration the offer prices and contingencies.

“I think another consideration is that the Good Faith Funding offer has the intention of producing housing, which will ultimately increase the tax base which is generally considered a good thing,” he said. “Whereas the other one will not do that because it’ll be farmland.”

Epley said if Good Faith Funding’s contingencies cause the developer to back out on the sale, Wirth may still be interested.

“And I think, you know, I’d be speculating, but based on the fact they want borings to 8 feet so they can put in basements under the houses, and the fact that this ar-

ea’s entirely surrounded by houses, I don’t think there’s going to be any significant issue,” he said. “But you never know with geotechnical investigation.”

He noted the offer from Wirth seems unfair because he was able to see the previously submitted offer and then make an offer at the same amount.

Board member Deborah Watry said the community is in need of housing.

“Part of me is to consider the needs of the Neenah district, our school district, but the whole community and the need for housing because we get less and less areas that we can develop in,” she said.

Watry made a motion to accept the purchase offer from Good Faith Funding. Lauri Asbury voted against the sale. A closing date is set for March 30.

## Retail theft suspects in custody

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Three people identified as part of a state-wide organized retail theft ring were arrested in Neenah by U.S. marshals last week.

Manitowoc police were called Sept. 24 to a Walmart on a report of retail theft in



Reilly

progress. According to a press release, while police were responding the suspects fled the scene with about \$2,000 worth of merchandise. They were not initially located or identified because the license plate on the vehicle they fled in was stolen.



Ritchie

After investigating, police and Walmart’s asset protection team identified the three as Brandon Reilly, 29, Alan Ritchie, 28, and Jade Sprang, 30, all of Neenah. A press release noted Walmart has been investigating the group for multiple retail thefts across Wisconsin.



Sprang

Documents say Reilly and Ritchie had multiple warrants issued from various agencies, with most of the warrants for theft-related offenses.

The Manitowoc and Neenah police departments coordinated to arrest the trio but were unsuccessful, leading police to request assistance from the U.S. Marshals Service-Great Lakes Fugitive Task Force.

Last Thursday, marshals located the suspects in the city of Neenah and took them into custody. They were transported to the Manitowoc County Jail where they were listed as incarcerated as of Oct. 2.

On Monday, the three appeared in Manitowoc County Court. Reilly is facing felony charges of party to the crime of retail theft as a repeater and bail jumping as a repeater. Ritchie was charged with felony retail theft as a repeater and misdemeanor bail jumping as a repeater. Sprang faces felony charges of party to the crime of retail theft and bail jumping.

The suspects may face additional criminal charges in a case being investigated by Neenah police, according to documents.

Manitowoc police are working to identify other state victims of the theft group.

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# City matches state law on tourism housing time limits

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah took action this week to change its tourist housing ordinance after a recent circuit court ruling that identified one of the requirements as inconsistent with the state statute and unenforceable.

Residences in Neenah that are rented for periods of more than six days but fewer than 30 days are considered a tourist housing property. In 2017, the city enacted an ordinance that requires tourist housing residences to obtain a permit from the city. A few months later, the state adopted its own statute regarding short-term rentals of tourist housing properties.

The Wisconsin Realtors Association filed a lawsuit last year contending the city's ordinance violates state law and landowners' rights to use their property as a short-term rental.

Last month, Judge Daniel Bissett dismissed two of the challenges to the ordinance but ruled that the city's time limit, which prevents a tourist housing property from being rented more than 120 days

within a calendar year, violates the state statute. State law allows a limit to the number of days a property may be rented, but "no fewer than 180 days."

Bissett's ruling resolved the lawsuit and the city took action this week to amend the tourist housing code to change the time limit from 120 to 180 days.

"This is a very simple change to align with state law," deputy director of community development Brad Schmidt said.

Schmidt said the city has only received a few tourist housing permit applications but he knows there are properties operating as a short-term rental without a permit. He said there are challenges with enforcing the ordinance because properties listed on websites like Airbnb don't include the short-term rental's address.

"We've done our best to enforce those," he said. "They're difficult to enforce because it's hard to see a list out there of whose renting."

Schmidt noted the city has had few complaints about tourist housing properties and the ordinance appears to be working well.



Neenah News

Aunt T's B & B owned by Tamara Hasz is a short-term Airbnb rental in Neenah.

# Treating seasonal allergies is something that may need expert care

ThedaCare Communications

If you find yourself sneezing more often these days and experiencing a runny nose and itchy, watery eyes, you're not alone. Fall allergy season is heading into full swing and many people are affected.

"Hay fever is one of the most common fall allergies people experience," said Dr. Courtney McClintic, family medicine physician with ThedaCare Physicians. "It's not actually caused by hay, but by any

number of pollens that become airborne in late summer and fall."

McClintic explained that people have allergy attacks when their immune system reacts to a foreign substance – an allergen – such as pollen, pet dander, dust mites, mold or certain foods. The body responds by producing antibodies that release histamines into the bloodstream that can inflame skin, sinuses, nasal passages and/or the digestive system, depending on the allergen.

Many plants, including trees, grasses, weeds and flowers, produce pollen that becomes airborne at various times throughout the year.

Ragweed pollen is one of the primary causes of hay fever, allergic rhinitis, in the late summer and fall. In the Midwest, ragweed is everywhere, and it begins to bloom in late July and often continues until the first frost.

McClintic recommended starting any allergy medications a couple of weeks be-

fore you expect symptoms to begin.

"Getting a base level of medication into your system before pollen counts go crazy is very helpful in keeping reactions to a minimum," she said.

If over-the-counter medication and reducing exposure to pollen no longer relieve a person's symptoms or cause unpleasant side effects, then McClintic said it's time to seek the help of a medical professional such as a primary care provider or allergist.



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Neenah News

Bona Fide Juicery opened its sixth location in August on the ground floor of 201 West.

# Juicery finds healthy fit in downtown Neenah

By Jenny Grunwald  
NEENAH NEWS

Bona Fide Juicery chose Neenah for its sixth location below the newly built 201 West apartments at 205 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Nicole Lindquist and business partner Chris Strauss opened their first Bona Fide Juicery shop in their hometown of De Pere in 2017, and business has not slowed down since. Since opening their first shop, the business has expanded throughout the Green Bay area with four locations, then entered this part of the Fox Valley when they first opened shop at 111 E. College Ave. in Appleton and now downtown Neenah in mid-August.

Bringing Bona Fide Juicery here has been in the works for the last three years as Lindquist and Strauss got to know the 201 West apartment owner, who owned another complex near their De Pere location. They thought Bona Fide would fit in great with the small-town vibe found in Neenah, similar to their hometown location.

"It's like De Pere, so we felt Neenah had a similar feel, and we have a good response from the customers and local communities, so we felt like it was a really good fit," Lindquist said.

The juice bar is open daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays.

Bona Fide Juicery prides itself on the healthy food options they have to offer their customers and the benefits their

products provide.

"We make healthy food fast for people that are on the go and just allowing people to have an alternative option to unhealthy fast food. All our options are good for you," Lindquist said.

The restaurant offers made-to-order dishes, like smoothies, and different variations of avocado toast. They also have grab-and-go items available for customers in a hurry, such as vegan bakery goods and overnight oats.

Lindquist noted that their cold-pressed juices are probably the juice bars' most popular items. Bona Fide's primary goal when it comes to what health benefits are offered in the food they make is serving up feel-good items that don't drag a person down after eating.

With plenty of outdoor and indoor seating, customers are welcome to hang out while enjoying something from their main menu or their rotating menu.

"We just want to be a solid part of the community and always be a little hangout for people to come either have a coffee, or a bone broth, or share a juice," Lindquist said.

With five other locations not that far from Neenah, some residents have had the opportunity to try some of the others, and loyal customers who reside in the area are excited to see Bona Fide in Neenah.

"I love Bona Fide Juicery. I always get the Straw Nana smoothie bowl. It's so good," said customer Lauren Schmitz.

More information and menus for each location are at [bonafidejuicery.com](http://bonafidejuicery.com).

## Child-raising issues examined in new book

Neenah business owner and author Lisa K. Anderson has released her new book titled "Loosen The Grip: Strategies for Raising Independent and Confident Critical Thinkers," drawing from her experiences as a trauma survivor, licensed counselor and parent.

"Loosen The Grip" tackles the issue of overparenting that has resulted in a generation of young individuals struggling with basic life skills. Examining the root causes of hypervigilant parenting and its detrimental impact, Anderson advocates for a

shift in parenting strategies to encourage independence and self-sufficiency.

A book-signing event will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 20 at Lawlss Coffee in downtown Neenah. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Anderson and engage in discussions about the book, which will be available for purchase and signing from the author. Event information is at [bit.ly/loosenthegrip-neenahevent](http://bit.ly/loosenthegrip-neenahevent).


Anderson owns A Healing Place, Complete Counseling Care, and L.K. Anderson Consulting.

## Business news roundup

**Deloitte's Wisconsin 75**, a ranking of the 75 largest private companies in the state based on sales revenue, has six Neenah-based companies on the 2023 list. Menasha Corp. is ranked at No. 18, Miron Construction Co. at No. 27, Bergstrom Automotive at No. 30, Secura Insurance at No. 34, Jewelers Mutual at No. 60, J. J. Keller & Associates at No. 64. To be eligible, companies must have a majority ownership by an individual, family, employee

stock ownership plan or private equity firm.

**Melissa Barry** has joined Schaper, Benz & Wise Investment Counsel in Neenah as a wealth counselor with the firm's Family Wealth Counsel division. Barry previously was at Baird for 20 years in private wealth management. Barry will help clients manage tax, estate and charitable planning matters. The firm currently manages more than \$1.3 billion in assets.



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# Hawks series illuminates early Hollywood giant from Neenah

By Dan Roherty  
NEENAH NEWS

A retired film studies instructor who moved to Menasha four years ago and hosts a classic movie program has turned his attention to one of Hollywood's most iconic directors from its golden age who grew up in Neenah.

Walt Ulbricht is host of the ongoing Hollywood Classic Directors YMCA



Hawks

Film Series in cooperation with the Neenah-Menasha YMCA, a three-part tribute to Howard Hawks, a film director, producer and screenwriter from the 1930s-1950s who is responsible for some of that era's most enduring films.

Ulbricht, who has been hosting a classic film program at the Elisha D. Smith Menasha Public Library for the past two years, is working with Kate Yates, coordinator of the new YMCA Fox Valley Forever Well program that focuses on senior health, adult learning, social interactions, arts and travel.

"She's a big fan of these movies herself," Ulbricht said in an email. "I then mentioned the unique connection between Hawks and his Neenah boyhood. We both agreed that it fell nicely into Neenah's sesquicentennial celebration this year."

The free film series launched Sept. 20 with the screening of Hawks' hit comedy "His Girl Friday," starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell. Next up is the clas-



"Red River" starring John Wayne and Montgomery Clift will be screened Oct. 18 at the Neenah-Menasha YMCA.

sic Western "Red River" at 1 p.m. Oct. 18, starring John Wayne and Montgomery Clift. The series concludes with a 1 p.m. Nov. 15 showing of the musical-comedy "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," starring Jane Russell and Marilyn Monroe.

Showings will be in the YMCA's second-floor Keller Room.

Among Ulbricht's supporting research into Hawks' life and film career was an authoritative biography of his life published in 1997 by Todd McCarthy titled

"Howard Hawks: The Grey Fox of Hollywood."

"Its 711 pages are a comprehensive view of the man, his films and his successful and often controversial life," he said of the book by McCarthy, former chief film critic for the Hollywood Reporter and Variety.

Each film presentation has a summary sheet listing details about the production and cast, along with a synopsis of the story, production notes, critical responses, selected themes and how they were developed and advanced by Hawks.

Participants are encouraged to be part of an interactive film discussion before and after the screenings. Guests also can enjoy complimentary pizza from Sammy's in Neenah.

Hawks was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Director for "Sergeant York" (1941) and earned an Honorary Academy Award in 1974.

A versatile film director, Hawks mastered multiple film styles - comedies, dramas, gangster films, science fiction, film noir, war films and westerns. Some of his other popular films include "Scarface" (1932), "Bringing Up Baby" (1938), "Only Angels Have Wings" (1939), "To

Have and Have Not" (1944), "The Big Sleep" (1946), "The Thing from Another World" (1951) and "Rio Bravo" (1959).

Critic Leonard Maltin called Hawks "the greatest American director who is not a household name" while Roger Ebert called Hawks "one of the greatest American directors of pure movies."

Hawks was born in 1896 in Goshen, Ind., the first child of Frank Hawks, a wealthy paper manufacturer there, and Helen Howard Hawks, from Neenah, the daughter of industrialist C.W. Howard, who had homesteaded in Neenah in 1862 at age 17.

Howard made his fortune in the family's paper mill. In 1898, the Hawks family moved to Neenah, where Frank began working as an executive at his father-in-law's Howard Paper Co. Frank and Helen built their home about 1900 at 433 Wisconsin Ave. in Neenah that stands today.

The Hawks family began to spend more time in Pasadena, Calif., during the cold Wisconsin winters to improve Helen Hawks' ill health before permanently moving to Pasadena in 1910.

Hawks' film creativity drew from his experiences as a World War I veteran, aviator, motorcycle and race car enthusiast, and connections with the top names in the film industry over six decades, along with close friendships with authors Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner. He died in 1977 at age 81.

While Ulbricht said he has not seen or heard of any specific references to Neenah in any of Hawks' films after studying about 15 of his 35 sound films - he also made seven silent films - there are many portrayals of a professional unit of men embodied with a work ethic to complete a dangerous job.

"That may have been born of his knowledge and stories learned about the courageous paper industry workers growing up here in the Valley in the 1910s," said Ulbricht, who taught film studies and film production at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside before a 30-year career as a manager and administrator in marketing communications for higher-education institutions.

He said if guest response is favorable, they will consider extending the Hawks film retrospective into February, March and April.

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Oshkosh Herald

## Grundman landing

Workers with Jahnke Electric run service wiring at the Grundman Boat Landing on Lake Winnebago in the Town of Vinland last week as the public landing undergoes a major reconstruction project. The \$1.8 million improvement and renovation, set to be completed in the spring, will expand the parking and staging areas, add boat launches, improve the walking trail, lighting and bathroom facilities, and add a small shelter, floating dock and kayak launch.

## NHS has two among National Merit semifinalists

Two Neenah High School seniors have been named semifinalists for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program.

Allie Bradshaw and Tristin Yun were honored for their performance among more than 1.3 million students nationwide who entered the 2024 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

A total of 16,000 semifinalists were named nationwide, representing less than 1% of seniors. The two Neenah students are each vying for one of 7,140 National Merit Scholarships, which total about \$28 million. Final scholarship awards will be announced in the spring.

Bradshaw is the daughter of Gary and Monica Bradshaw and has taken a full slate of advanced classes in high school. She participates in tennis, DECA, visual arts and Key Club.

Yun is the son of Bobby and Justine Yun and stepmother Mary Yun. He has also taken several advanced classes. Yun has participated in tennis, science olympiad, Key Club, Launch, National Honor Society, and math team and soccer.

## Amazing Fund-Racer on Fox Cities course

SOAR Fox Cities' fourth annual Amazing Fund-Racer is set for Oct. 21 and will take road rally teams starting at Tanner's Bar & Grill in Kimberly to surrounding cities, including challenges, activities and scavenger hunts in Neenah.

A local spinoff of the CBS reality show "The Amazing Race," the contest teams earn points by answering riddles, finding locations, submitting photos and completing interactive challenges. Teams with the most points win prizes.

Registration includes instructions and access to the mission list on the Goose-Chase mobile app, a swag bag, post-race celebration and a chance to win prizes including \$500 for the first-place team.

Teams of three to five people can register at [soarfoxcities.com](http://soarfoxcities.com). For more information contact Ashley Gustafson at [Ashley@soarfoxcities.com](mailto:Ashley@soarfoxcities.com) or 920-731-9831.

## School district honors top employees

Eight individuals and a staff team were recognized Monday as the Neenah Joint School District's Employees of the Year, representing each of the district's employment categories and nominated by colleagues, parents and students.

Three teachers were selected, including Kayla Plante from the elementary level, Wil Krautkramer from the middle school level and Molly Brown from the high school level. Elementary counselor Stephanie Levine-Rankin was honored from the special services area. High school educational assistant Cheryl Lehl was selected as Educational Assistant of the Year.

Employees with significant roles in the opening of a new high school and transitions at the elementary and middle school levels were honored as facilities director Cale Pulczynski was named Administrator of the Year, facilities administrative assistant Angela Zanto was selected as Administrative Assistant of the Year and Betsy Tesch, custodian at now-closed Roosevelt Elementary School and newly opened Alliance Charter School, is the Operations/Maintenance Employee of the Year.

The Team of the Year honor was awarded to the operations and maintenance staff for their contributions in providing a smooth transition with the changes. Team members include Dave Gohlke, Clark Williams, Dennis Girard, Todd Klundt, Ricky Anderson, Peter Stephany, Dave Westfahl, TJ Severson, Fred Jaen, Todd Olson, Cory Johnson,

Brian Wunsch, Luke Diedrich, Cheryl Elbe, Ken Mathewson, Dre Owens, Jared Schmidt, Sue Parman, Nathan Schaeffer, Jeffrey Wells, Chris Cummings, Marty Granius, Eric Olson, Dzenita Kolar, Steve Prosek, Dan Wiegman, John Knaus, Aaron Monte, Steve LeBoeuf, Talon Myers, Scott Konrad, Phil Tanvas, Jim Drews, Jeff Minten, Scott Bork, Sam Kinderman, Aaron Hoffmann, Jason Stoll, Tesch, Zanto and Pulczynski.

Plante is in her 16th year in the district and 15th at Hoover Elementary School. Krautkramer is starting his fourth year in the district as a sixth-grade social studies teacher. Brown is beginning her 16th year as a high school biology teacher. Levine-Rankin is in her 10th year as a counselor in the district. Lehl is in her 21st year in the district and her 17th year as a consistent presence in the high school special education classrooms.

Pulczynski has worked in the district for less than 22 months but was instrumental in helping to oversee the construction of Neenah High School and the renovations at Neenah Middle School and other elementary schools.

Zanto has also made an immediate impact in the district in the two years since her hire in coordinating the moving process for employees' equipment, furniture and keys across the district this summer.

Tesch is beginning her fifth year in the district and played key roles in the closing of one school and opening of another.

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Photo by Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation

## Public service retirement

Fox Crossing street superintendent Randy Gallow retired last week after 45 years of service to the community, which included many holiday and other special events.

## Leadership Fox Cities class selected

Forty-two area professionals have been named to the 2023-2024 Leadership Fox Cities program through the Fox Cities Chamber.

The program has shaped community leaders with immersive educational experiences and engagements since 1991. Starting in October, participants will gather monthly for daylong educational sessions focused on topics including business, education, government and media, human services, health and wellness, law enforcement, environment and the arts.

Small groups within Leadership Fox Cities will also complete community projects before their program graduation set in May.

Members of the 2023-2024 class:

- Kathy Angst, VF Corp.
- Tina Behling, Werner Electric Supply
- Kayla Beyersdorf, Family Services
- Sara Broten, Ornu Ingredients
- Stephanie Buchanan, Touchmark
- Major Cooper, Outagamie County
- Jessica Ebertsch, Miron Construction
- Kim Esselman, Appleton Housing Authority
- Amy Fairchild, City of Neenah
- Alicia Frank, United Way Fox Cities
- Jon Fredrickson, Oshkosh Corp.
- Kari Godsill, Appleton Housing Authority
- Kristine Groell, Fox Valley Technical College
- Jessica Haessly, Yoga Story
- Luke Heimlich, CR Structures Group

- Marita Hebert, Community First Credit Union
- Molly Huhn, ASP Inc.
- Kathryn Johann, Big Brothers & Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin
- Danielle Kolman, Lawrence University
- Megan La Fond, Oshkosh Food Co-op
- Brandon LaMaide, Brewster Village
- Josh Lambrecht, United Way Fox Cities
- Holly Magness, Kaukauna Area School District
- Jeannie Mahone, United Financial Group
- Maddie Mittlestadt, Prevea Health
- Tamara Nickasch, Pierce Manufacturing
- Matthew Nowak, Wipfli
- Rochelle Oskey, Outagamie County
- Terri Perkins, UW Oshkosh Fox Cities Campus
- Emily Pinzl, Herrling Clark Law Firm
- Eric Rasmussen, Winnebago County
- Kelly Riley, Ascension Northeast Wisconsin – St. Elizabeth
- Kari Seefeldt, Bassett Mechanical
- Michael Selner, American National Bank Fox Cities
- Riley Stever, Network Health Plan
- Jennifer Streb, Community First Credit Union
- Tyler Swenson, WBD Inc.
- Erich Trepanier, Fireline Sprinkler
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## FVTC offering agenda at safety conference

Fox Valley Technical College is presenting an Agricultural Safety Conference on Dec. 6 at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton to provide safety education from experts in the industry and from FVTC instructors.

Keynote speaker is John Shutske from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who will present a program titled, “The Rugged Path to Autonomy (and Automation): Opportunities for Synergy in Agriculture and Manufacturing.”

Other sessions include Hearing Health and Protection Strategies, Mental Wellness and Chemical Safety.

The final session, Animal Handling and Safety, will be facilitated by Sarah Mills-Lloyd, department chair and Agribusi-

ness and Science Technology instructor at FVTC.

This session has been endorsed and approved by the National Farm program for continuing education credits.

“Safety is key to every industry,” Mills-Lloyd said. “OSHA stresses that farm workers continue to be exposed to numerous hazards at their job, whether that be safety, environmental, biological or respiratory. This conference has been designed to provide a continued focus on safety for all who work in the agriculture sector.”

The in-person conference runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is open to anyone interested in increasing safety awareness or seeking continuing education.

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## Local college graduates

The following Neenah residents completed college degree requirements this spring.

- Jared Pietila graduated from Butler University in Indianapolis.
- Elise Braunel graduated from Marquette University with a bachelor’s degree in criminology and law studies

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# Volunteer needs

FROM PAGE 1

in Winnebago, Calumet, Outagamie and Waupaca counties, said engagement and recruitment has been generally dropping since around 2014.

“In my opinion, the pandemic accelerated the trends that we were already seeing,” Creighton said in an email. “In the early days of COVID there was actually a very large increase in the amount of people looking to volunteer. This was both having more time on their hands, and the desire to help to get everything rolling again.

“The problem was that due to the pandemic, many nonprofits had stopped recruiting, or shut down their volunteer programs in order to keep a safe environment. This led to a bad balance in the supply and demand for volunteer opportunities.”

Pandemic shutdowns equally affected health care systems and other private companies that regularly rely on volunteers for many support services at hospitals and clinics.

“During COVID, our volunteers were suspended for about a year. When we were able to bring them back we did it in stages,” said Amy Brownson, volunteer manager for Ascension Northeast Wisconsin. “Not everyone came back and we are slowly trying to build our volunteer force back up. I would say we lost about one third of our volunteer force.”

Residents provide thousands of donated hours throughout the ThedaCare health system network.

“In the Fox Valley alone, we have more than 400 volunteers,” said Laura Kemps, manager of Volunteer Services at ThedaCare. “We’re so grateful for every single one of them, they’re simply incredible.”



Fox Cities Chamber photo

Volunteer Fox Cities staff helped introduce a Future Fox Cities Career Expo volunteer project to team leaders earlier this year.

Opportunities include the hospitals, Regional Cancer Center, Encircle Health and with each of the hospice programs. They also provide support with escorting, gift shops, care carts, waiting rooms, pet therapy, assembling take home packets for patients’ post-surgery, knitting baby hats and helping at the print center.

Creighton has noticed a trend that people are looking for more group and one-time volunteer opportunities instead of committing to a long-term need right away, based on the types of requests that Volunteer Fox Cities has been seeing.

“Those group and one-time volunteer projects are helpful to the nonprofits, but they do not always translate to more volunteering, so our members are balancing how much capacity they put into those opportunities,” he said.

Creighton said the pandemic also derailed some of those who were ready to volunteer for the first time or get back into volunteering.

“To add to this, many people are stretched pretty thin at work with the cur-

rent employment culture, and the energy and time they have to give to volunteering is more limited than before,” he said. “There are many great Corporate Volunteer programs, but they are struggling to figure out that participation as they are adjusting to the hybrid work environment.

Some trends in formal volunteering based on 2019-2021 statistics:

- The rate drop was substantially larger for women (8 percentage points) than men (5 percentage points) but women continued to volunteer at a higher rate.
  - Generation X (ages 41 to 56 in 2021) had the highest rate of all generations.
  - People ages 16-17 had the highest rate of all age groups at 28%, followed by people ages 45 to 54 at 27%.
  - Parents with children under 18 formally volunteered at a higher rate (30%) than those without children in their household (21%).
- Among those who helped informally in roles not part of an official program:
- Baby boomers had the highest rate (59%) of all generations.
  - Veterans helped their neighbors at a

rate of 59%, 8 percentage points higher than nonveterans.

• People with children under age 18 helped at a higher rate (58%) than those without children in their household (49%).

Data is gathered every two years, so 2023 numbers will be released sometime early 2025.

Jan Sommerfeld, who directs Volunteer Fox Cities’ Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), saw that program’s numbers go from more than 300 pre-pandemic to currently 261.

“The average age of our volunteers is 74 and they are more reluctant to volunteer post-COVID,” she said. “I’ve been speaking with people who visit the RSVP table at recent volunteer recruitment events, and among the barriers to volunteering include being primary caregiver for a parent or spouse, lack of time due to baby-sitting grandchildren and fear of contracting COVID-19.”

Sommerfeld said RSVP has added more recruitment events this year with five, and feels encouraged after the most recent one last month where about 700 attended.

“Many folks visited the RSVP table and expressed interest in giving back to their community. More than two dozen people requested to be contacted after the event,” she said.

“I am optimistic that our volunteer numbers eventually will get back to pre-COVID times, but it will take time.”

Founded in 1995 as the Volunteer Center of East Central Wisconsin, Volunteer Fox Cities deals with a range of community needs, including mentoring, literacy and youth volunteerism. Volunteer connections can be found at [getconnected.volunteerfoxcities.org](http://getconnected.volunteerfoxcities.org).

## Neenah Public Library October Events

### Footloose Fridays

October 13 @ 10:30 am

Family dance party with songs and props.

### Monster Mash

October 21 @ 10:30 am

Halloween dancing, crafts, and a photo op. Costumes encouraged!

### Tween Create Space

October 10, 17, 24 @ 3:30 pm

Ages 9 and up

Create a different craft each week. October crafts include key chains, catapults, and notebooks.

### October Read-with-Me Challenge

Ages birth-5

Read 100 books to your little one in October to earn a free book!

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# Animal shelter

FROM PAGE 1

more space.

In addition, she said over the last few years the number of stray and surrendered pets has significantly increased, leading the shelter to be over capacity for the past several months.

“It’s not just our shelter, it’s nationwide,” she said. “All shelters are experiencing just this influx of animals.”

The economy, cost of living, shortage of housing and unemployment are all contributing to the surplus of homeless pets. The COVID-19 pandemic also played a role.



Setton

“People were basically emptying our shelters during COVID because people were home and able to stay home with their animals and animals also brought them comfort because of being in quarantine,” Setton said. “We don’t know for sure how many of the animals that are returned are because of COVID (and) people are now going out and doing more things.”

People often think of animal shelters when they want to adopt a pet, but Setton said there’s so much more that the shelter offers to the community.

“We provide services beyond taking care of the animals,” she said. “For example, people who are looking to surrender their animal for whatever reason, they want to know that there is a safe place for their animals to come and be cared for and so we can find them a forever home.”

Currently, the shelter is only open to



Neenah News

Some of the cats held for adoption are shown at the Neenah Animal Shelter, which will be moving to a larger space next year.

the public by appointment. At the new location, Setton envisions regular business hours for the public to visit and community programs such as low-cost vaccination clinics.

“Just having an animal shelter that can provide more services to the community, it’s definitely a benefit and it’s a service that the community will be proud of,” she said.

The shelter is about \$300,000 away from meeting its fundraising goal for the new location and is in need of financial donations for construction and daily operations. Setton said the shelter is also in need of volunteers.

“Everything from helping walk dogs or socializing the animals – but not only working with animals, but fostering an animal, helping with laundry and dishes and cleaning – all of that comes into play, as well,” she said. “There’s a whole host of volunteer opportunities for anybody who would be able to volunteer.”

Another way to help is to adopt an animal.

“If people are looking to bring a pet into their home, please look at adopting because there are just so many wonderful animals waiting for their forever home,” she said.

The shelter currently operates at 951 County G in the Town of Neenah. It plans to sell that property once the relocation is complete. The new location is in the Southpark Industrial Center. The land west and north includes industrial or business uses, while land south and east is agricultural land and single-family residences.

Construction will include an outdoor dog play run with a 6-foot fence and individual runs that connect to inside kennels on the north side. Off-street parking will be on the south and east sides of the building, while the west half of the parcel will remain undeveloped.

Setton said the new animal shelter will be a point of pride for Neenah.

“A service to the community is the animal shelter and just knowing that there is a safe place for the community’s animals to be proud of and where their animals can be cared for,” she said.

A groundbreaking for the new shelter is set for 1 p.m. Oct 17, with construction complete by next summer.

# Calendar of events

## 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

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park  
Mayor’s Charity Run/Walk, 8:30 a.m. registration, 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

## Wednesday, Oct. 11

Fall Garden Cleanup, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Thursday, Oct. 12

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

## Friday, Oct. 13

Footloose Friday, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

## Saturday, Oct. 14

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park  
Foxtoberfest music concert, 2:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Church St.

## Wednesday, Oct. 18

Hollywood Master Directors: Howard Hawks, 1 p.m., Neenah-Menasha YMCA



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## Annual school day informs senior citizens

Neenah News

There were 82 senior citizens from local communities at the annual School for Seniors event at St. Mark's Lutheran Church last Friday, learning from local government specialists and college instructors.

The free event is hosted by the city of Neenah in partnership with Lakeland University. Carol Kasimor from Neenah's Department of Community Development said the program has been growing since it started in 2016.

"Responses have been positive, attend-

ees have been expressing appreciation for the wide variety of information provided, and rated the sessions very good or excellent," Kasimor said in an email.

Sessions included information provided by police officer Joe Benoit and Winnebago County elder benefit specialist Kathryn Noll-Arias about scams, the new world of artificial intelligence as described by Lakeland University instructor Andrew Damp, and Joanne Murphy Spice of the Winnebago County Health Department with a session on laughter and wellness.



Neenah News

Senior citizens attended the School for Seniors free annual event last Friday hosted by the city of Neenah in partnership with Lakeland University.

## Sign ordinance

FROM PAGE 1

Commission last week that staff is proposing repealing and recreating the ordinance to alleviate inconsistencies with the 2015 Supreme Court decision in Reed vs. Gilbert, which prohibits the regulation of signs based on their content.

Schmidt said the Reed case established that sign regulations must be content-neutral or they risk infringing on a person's First Amendment rights. He said the signs may only be regulated by their size, location or construction material.

"A yard sign, as an example, is regulated differently than a real estate sign, which is regulated differently than a campaign sign," he said of the city's ordinance. "Because you have to read the content of those signs, that really is against that Supreme Court decision."

Changes to the ordinance include moving all the content-based signs into a content neutral category of "Portable Yard

Signs," which do not require a city permit.

A property is allowed to display one portable yard sign for no more than 30 days in a 90-day period. Additional portable yard signs are allowed during an election campaign and when a property is actively marketed for sale.

"It's kind of a workaround from the content-based language that we had," Schmidt said. "I think it's a little bit more beneficial to the property owner, again, because it's not telling you what type of sign you can have; it's saying you can have a yard sign under these conditions."

The signs in the Shattuck neighborhood read, "Don't Rezone Shattuck Middle School Leave R-1 Alone" and were in response to a potential rezoning of the former school site so that Northpointe Development of Oshkosh could turn the building into apartments and construct single-family homes.

The Common Council voted against rezoning the Shattuck site and the school district voted in August to sell it to Investment Creations of Neenah for \$500,001 – a dollar more than the Northpointe offer –

to be turned into apartments and homes.

Early this year the city sent letters to about 65 homes that had signs up related to the Shattuck rezoning and another 10 homes with signs unrelated to Shattuck, notifying them that the signs violate the ordinance and gave them a deadline for removal.

The city's municipal code indicates failure to comply with the sign ordinance carries a forfeiture of \$10 to \$500 for the first offense and \$25 to \$1000 for each subsequent offense, plus the cost of prosecution.

Plan Commission member Betsy Ellenberger questioned whether the city is intentionally making changes to prevent residents from displaying signs in the Shattuck neighborhood.

"The question that I had earlier when I was speaking was, this is a policy change pretty much targeting directly to the signs that the city doesn't want to allow in the city to be shown, I'm assuming with the lawsuits that are going on now," she said.

Schmidt said the sign ordinance is outdated and needs to be updated, and said

next year the city plans to rewrite it.

"I think that the lawsuit is pushing us forward to at least address the concerns with the content-based regulations," he said.

In anticipation of the sign ordinance changes passing both the Plan Commission and Common Council, the city filed a motion to dismiss the federal lawsuit as moot.

The Floreks, who are represented by the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty, filed a response last month opposing the dismissal.

"What defendants are effectively doing is trying to dismiss this case based upon future events, denying plaintiffs any remedy for the harms they have already suffered," the reply brief said.

In the circuit court lawsuit, Judge Daniel Bissett noted the constitutionality of the Neenah sign ordinance is ripe for judicial determination and that the plaintiffs have the elements or conditions met to obtain declaratory relief. A telephone scheduling conference is set Thursday for that case.

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# Neenah looks to rebound against potent Cardinals

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Losing to one of the top high school football programs in the state is going to happen.

Now the important aspect for the Neenah High School football team is to make sure the disappointment from last week's 21-0 defeat against Kimberly doesn't bleed into this week's preparation and affect the outcome of Friday night's Homecoming game against Fond du Lac.

"That's big. It's tough to recover from an emotional loss like that and then losing our starting quarterback again, too," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "But our kids are resilient. They have been focused at practice this week and we just have to take it one week at a time."

Jung said quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven suffered an ankle injury against the Papermakers and will not be available Friday. Vanevenhoven was in his second game after returning from a left arm injury he suffered in the opening week.

The junior was 4-of-5 for 30 yards before getting injured, however, the Rockets do have a backup with varsity experience as freshman Ashton Van Beek returned to the field. Van Beek played well in Vanevenhoven's absence earlier this season.

The Rockets also have one of the conference's most explosive running backs in Grant Dean – who was limited to 56 yards rushing in the game, but posted a team-high 10 tackles.

Neenah will have to test a Fond du Lac defense that has improved over the course of the year.

The Cardinals surrendered 102 points in the first two weeks, but have not al-

## Week 8 games

### Fox Valley Association

(records reflect FVA games)

- Fond du Lac (3-2) at Neenah (3-2)
- Kimberly (5-0) at Kaukauna (4-1)
- Appleton North (3-2) at Appleton East (1-4)
- Oshkosh West (1-4) at Oshkosh North (0-5)

lowed more than 24 points in any game in conference play. And Fond du Lac could be entering the game atop the FVA standings as the Cardinals' two losses were by a combined three points against Appleton North and Kimberly.

"They had a few guys dinged up early in the season but they are healthy now," Jung said. "It's going to be a battle."

Jung said the Fond du Lac offense may be one of the most explosive in the conference because of the speed the Cardinals have on the roster.

Topping that list is wide receiver Kalvin Mullins, a state-caliber sprinter, who has caught 28 passes in six games and has six touchdowns.

Jung said that the Rockets will throw a number of different defensive looks at the Cardinals in an attempt to slow down Mullins, however there is plenty more that Fond du Lac does offensively to move the ball.

"They have a very physical offensive line and a physical quarterback and they are strong at running back, too," Jung said. "The speed in their passing game is scary. Teams have to put eight in the box for the running game and that leaves 1-on-1 opportunities for their wide receivers. They can put defenses in difficult situations."

## Week 8 games

### Trailways Conference

(records reflect Trailways games)

- Lourdes Acad. (4-1) at St. Mary Catholic (1-4)
- Deerfield (1-4) at Johnson Creek (5-0)
- Pardeeville (2-3) at Randolph (4-1)
- Cambria-Friesland (2-3) at Fall River/Rio (1-4)

Neenah has struggled with defending the pass at times this season and gave up two touchdowns through the air against Kimberly on Friday night.

"We have gotten better defending the pass this season but their speed will definitely test us," Jung said.

The Neenah defense is led by Luke Jung, who has 58 tackles on the season and also had 10 in the loss to Kimberly while Connor Briones is second on the team in tackles and has a team-high nine tackles-for-loss and an interception. Aidan Carey and Will St. Clair are also among the leading tacklers for Neenah.

With just two weeks left in the regular season, getting a win will be very important.

Both teams finish with winnable games and can enter the WIAA postseason on a winning streak Friday.

Neenah, which will travel to Oshkosh North for its regular-season finale, and Fond du Lac are currently in a three-way tie with Appleton North for third place in the FVA. Getting a win on Friday will not only be helpful in generating momentum entering the postseason but could also certainly affect where each of the teams are seeded.

"No doubt you want to go in (the play-

offs) playing your best and both teams are going to want to win it for seeding, too."

## Zephyrs gear up for high-scoring Knights

St. Mary Catholic has been close to putting up some more wins in the Trailways Conference this season.

That was evident again last Friday when the Zephyrs and Randolph were tied at 6 late in the fourth quarter only to see the Rockets score a pair of late touchdowns for a 20-6 win.

The Zephyrs are hoping this Friday that things will turn out a little differently.

Facing a Lourdes Academy that has one of the top dual-threat quarterbacks in the Trailways Conference, the Zephyrs will look to crank up the defense to see if it can score a Homecoming victory.

The Knights have an offense that averages more than 30 points per game and has topped the 40-point mark four times this season.

Quarterback Wade Lindahl has thrown for nearly 1,250 yards, while rushing for more than 500. Containing him will be a big key for the Zephyrs' defense, which is led by John Schultz, Daniel Harness and Isaiah Hennessy. Schultz leads the team in total tackles, Harness tops the defense with four sacks and also has two interceptions, while Hennessy leads the team with seven tackles-for-loss.

Offensively, the Zephyrs may look to get their ground game going a bit as the Knights don't have a lot of size up front and are missing leading tackler Mason Carpenter, who was injured last week in a

SEE **Prep football** ON PAGE 15

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# Prep sports roundup

## GOLF

### Neenah nearly earns state meet berths

The Rockets had a strong showing at the WIAA Division 1 sectional meet at High Cliff Golf Course earlier this week but fell short of sending any golfers to Madison.

Neenah shot a team score of 341 to finish in third place, five shots behind Kaukauna for the second team-qualifying spot from the sectional. Bay Port won the sectional with a score of 329.

Seniors Aubrey Oitzinger and Annabelle Hodges led the way for the Rockets, finishing among three golfers tied for second with rounds of 82. The total was four shots behind the final individual qualifier for the state meet.

Fellow senior Natalie Quella finished 19th overall with an 86, while junior Anika Searles rounded out the scoring golfers for Neenah with a 91. Searles finished in a tie for 27th place.

Emma Cunningham of Green Bay Prele earned medalist honors with a 75.

## TENNIS

### Rockets breeze through subsectional

Neenah went a combined 12-0 at the WIAA Division 1 subsectional hosted by Appleton North and advanced all seven flights to Thursday's sectional meet.

The Rockets' top seeds of Izzy Murray in singles and the No. 1 doubles team of Annalise Zenzick and Paige Stielow each posted 6-0, 6-0 wins in their respective matches.

Celise Gentile won two 6-0, 6-0 match-

es at No. 2 singles, Rebekah Thomas dropped just three games in two matches at No. 3 singles, while Norah Spanbauer advanced with a pair of straight-set wins at the No. 4 flight.

Also advancing in doubles for the Rockets were Kinsey Perry and Meredith Werner at the No. 2 flight and Ava Motto and Cecelia Alexander at the No. 3 flight. Both tandems won both of their matches in straight sets, while Motto and Alexander dropped just one game in their two matches.

Results from Thursday's sectional meet were not available by our deadline.

Last week, the Rockets won their 11th straight Fox Valley Association title as every flight reached its respective championship match.

The Rockets edged Kimberly by two points to win the tournament title and shared the overall FVA crown with the Papermakers. Kimberly beat Neenah 4-3 in the dual-meet season.

Rebekah Thomas won an FVA title at No. 3 singles for the Rockets, while the No. 2 doubles pairing of Mackinsey Perry and Meredith Werner also won their flight.

### St. Mary Catholic dominates subsectional

The Zephyrs finished with 22 points and advanced all seven flights to sectionals.

All three doubles teams for the Zephyrs needed to win just one match to advance to sectionals. Kassadi Calmes and Emily Vogel posted a 6-0, 6-0 win in their only match

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 15

# Zephyrs top Lancers to claim second straight conference title

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The eighth-ranked St. Mary Catholic volleyball team came out strong against Big East rival Manitowoc Lutheran and then sealed the win in four sets, 25-18, 25-17, 21-25, 25-22 Thursday night.

The win clinches the second straight Big East Red Division title for the Zephyrs as they improve to 21-3 overall and a perfect 6-0 in league play.

"Manitowoc Lutheran is always a tough match for us and tonight was no exception," head coach Mike Mauritz said. "They showed no quit; even down two sets, they kept on battling."

Both teams led early on in the fourth set before a Stella Virlee ace gave the Zephyrs a 9-7 lead and St. Mary Catholic stayed in front the rest of the way.

Not that the Lancers made it easy, pulling to within 23-22 before a pair of unforced errors by Manitowoc Lutheran sealed the win for the Zephyrs.

St. Mary Catholic nearly put the game away in three sets, but a strong finish by the Lancers in that set extended the match.

"They outplayed us early in the third set, building a lead and we couldn't catch them," Mauritz said. "In the fourth set it was just back and forth until we finally closed them out 25-22."

Mackenzie Jaeckels had the hot hand to open the match, serving St. Mary Catholic to a 3-0 lead.

The Zephyrs extended the advantage to 9-3 and were ahead 19-11 when the Lancers mounted a bit of a charge. But



Photo by Dustin Riese

Audrey Norville goes up for a serve Tuesday.

Sammie Weiss' ability to spread the sets around to the different Zephyrs hitters helped St. Mary Catholic collect the win.

Audrey Norville then picked up several aces as part of nine straight points

SEE **Zephyrs win** ON PAGE 15

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# Price proud to help Neenah's soccer tradition roll on

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

When AJ Price was an eighth-grader, he watched the Neenah High School soccer team take second in the Division 1 state tournament.

For someone who grew up playing soccer in Neenah, it certainly made an impression.

"I watched that (state championship) game on TV and I thought that's where I want to be in four years," Price said. "Neenah is one of the best program in the state. It's a great legacy and it means a lot to be a part of that."

Price is a two-sport standout at Neenah,

**Senior Standout**




Neenah News

AJ Price is a two-sport standout for Neenah and has anchored the Rockets' stingy defense on the soccer field this fall.

also playing baseball where he committed to play at NCAA Division II St. Cloud State.

But in the fall, it's all about soccer and it has been since he was starting out as a young kid.

"My dad signed me up when I was four or five and been playing ever since," Price said. "I remember everyone being in one little group around the ball, just trying to kick it. It was a bunch of little kids running around and the score didn't really mean anything, you just fell in love with the game."

Price grew up playing just about every position on the soccer field and carried that versatility into high school. The only position he never really played was on the backline.

So, in his final season for the Rockets, where did Price end up? He is one of two central defenders for the Rockets.

"This year has definitely been an adjustment," Price said. "This year was a bit of an

adjustment. The communicating and getting to know the other guys. It took a couple of games. Luckily, we had a couple of scrimmages to work things out and we are just trying to get better every game, every half and it's been working out."

Neenah head coach Wil Krautkramer certainly had his reasons thinking Price would fit in at a key role on the defense.

"He's a great athlete and he shows great

leadership," Krautkramer said. "Obviously his size and physicality played a role because you need your center back to be strong on ball and be able to play a ball to the midfield. It was an easy choice."

Krautkramer believed in the reorganization of his defense – which lost a pair of first-team all-FVA selections from last season – but admitted there was some trepidation until he actually saw the group, includ-

ing Price, start to play.

"Absolutely, I worried all offseason of what our defense was going to look like," Krautkramer said. "They developed that chemistry in the offseason and there were some growing pains. I didn't think we would be equal to last year but they certainly are and may even be exceeding what we

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

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## RAINBOW POWER!



Eat a rainbow and win!  
 What's the prize? Energy!  
 Healthy good looks!

Kid Scoop thanks the Produce for Better Health Foundation for the ideas and information on today's page.

Total the number of fruits and vegetables you will eat, by color, today. Can you eat at least one in each of the five color groups?



### EAT A RAINBOW EVERY DAY

Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables that are brightly colored is an easy way to get the mix of vitamins, minerals and other nutrients that you need from your food. Pick foods that are brightly colored inside and out.

Here are some examples of foods that make up the food rainbow!

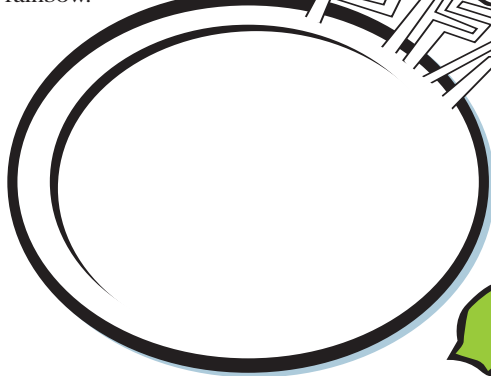
Red	Yellow/Orange	White/Brown	Green	Blue/Purple
Tomatoes Watermelon Cherries Red grapes Cranberries Strawberries Red cabbage Raspberries	Oranges Apricots Cantaloupe Carrots Lemons Pineapples Sweet corn Mangos	Garlic Onions Bananas Turnips Pears Potatoes Jicama Cauliflower	Lettuce Kiwi Green grapes Avocados Artichokes Spinach Celery Cucumbers	Blueberries Blackberries Plums Raisins Eggplant Purple grapes Prunes Elderberries

	RED	YELLOW/ORANGE	WHITE/BROWN	GREEN	BLUE/PURPLE
SUNDAY	Tomato	Corn	Banana	Peas	Raisins
MONDAY					
TUESDAY					
WEDNESDAY					
THURSDAY					
FRIDAY					
SATURDAY					

Make a chart like the one above. Then fill in which fruits and vegetables you eat, by color, each day. Can you eat at least one in each of the five colors every day?

Standards Link: Health: Make healthy food choices; group food choices in many different ways.

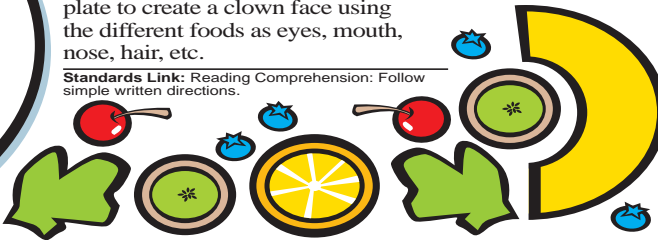
Follow the maze to place each fruit or vegetable on the plate. Color each item and its path the correct color of the rainbow.



### PUT A RAINBOW ON YOUR PLATE

Cut out these fruits and vegetables. Then paste them on the plate to create a clown face using the different foods as eyes, mouth, nose, hair, etc.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.



### Extra! Extra!

#### Health Food on the Go

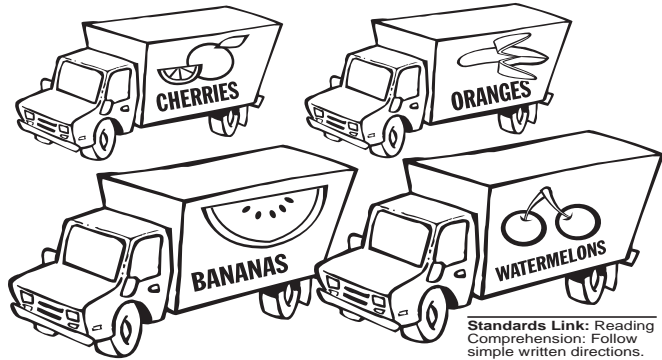
Look through the newspaper for photos or drawings of different fruits and vegetables. Cut out these pictures. Paste them into the shape of a truck or a car.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to access content curriculum.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### MIXED-UP FRUIT

Who switched these names on the fruit trucks? Draw lines to show where each label belongs. Then color the picture!



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Double Double Word Search

- RAINBOW
- RAISINS
- COLORS
- FRUIT
- MOUTH
- CHERRIES
- CUCUMBERS
- FACE
- JICAMA
- GAMES
- DOTS
- BROWN
- GARLIC
- SPINACH
- PRODUCE

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

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

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

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- 2-4 tablespoons unsweetened almond or another kind of milk

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- Place frozen banana slices and 2 tablespoons of unsweetened milk into a food processor or blender.
- Blend on high for 1 to 2 minutes.
- If blender is having a hard time blending, add a little more milk a little at a time.
- Once well mixed, your banana NICE cream will be like a soft serve ice cream. Enjoy it that way or put into a bread pan and freeze for 1 to 2 hours.

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