

# Neenah News

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## INSIDE



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Photo by David Hall

## Tranquil elegance

The historic lighthouse at Kimberly Point Park is seen at sunrise last Saturday. Named after businessman H.E. Kimberly, the lighthouse was built in 1945 with classic aesthetics that make it a picturesque element of the local landscape.

## Roadwork fee increase approved

Street projects funded by extra \$17 annually

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Homeowners in Neenah will see a \$17 annual increase in their utility bill next year, while businesses and nonprofits will see the largest increase to a maximum of \$1,530 annually after the Common Council was expected to approve an increase to its transportation assessment replacement fee (TARF) Wednesday.

The Finance & Personnel Committee recommended the council approve an increase to the TARF from \$23 to \$40 per impervious area unit (IAU), which measures impervious area on a property's hard surfaces such as roof tops, driveways and parking lots to determine the impact that a parcel has on the street system.

The city implemented a TARF in 2019 as a replacement for special assessments for street reconstruction, resurfacing, and sidewalk and trail in-fill projects. While some communities use a charge against a registered vehicle called a wheel tax to generate revenue to help cover the cost of road projects, the city considered a TARF the more equitable approach.

Previously, homeowners could be billed thousands for special assessments – about \$6,000, according to public works director Gerry Kaiser – who said with skyrocket-

SEE **Roadwork fee** ON PAGE 9

## Expanded middle school emerges as state's biggest

Principal pleased with early transition work

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

With about 2,000 students, the Neenah Middle School opened its doors this year as the largest in the state.

The school's opening was part of the Neenah Joint School District's restructuring, which included several changes:

- The Neenah High School opened in a new building on County II in Fox Crossing, making it the second largest high school in Wisconsin.
- The former high school became Neenah Middle School for grades 5-8.

- Shattuck Middle School closed its doors permanently, with the site sold to local developer Umer Sheikh of Investment Creations.



Munoz-Ellman

- Horace Mann was repurposed into an elementary school for students attending Roosevelt and Wilson elementary schools.
- Roosevelt Elementary was permanently closed, with the building sold and being demolished.

- Alliance Charter School moved to the former Wilson Elementary site, doubling its size.

## Inside

Elementary school boundaries to shift / Page 8

Middle school Principal Jackie Munoz-Ellman provided the Board of Education with an update on the progress of transitioning to the new middle school at a recent meeting.

She said staff began preparing their rooms at the middle school months in advance.

"That's kudos to our staff who came in on the weekends to paint, to clean, to organize rooms, to help on unpacking boxes – you name it" she said. "I just think of the collective efficacy it took for this school

to come together to open and open in a manner that we were proud of was really incredible and we could not have done that without all of our staff."

The new middle school's biggest logistical challenge from day one was student dropoff and pickups.

"We had 2,000 kids coming to our school and how do we get them there safely, in a timely manner and off of our public streets so that our communities around us, our neighborhoods around us, could have access and then, again, reassuring the safety of all involved," she said.

Munoz-Ellman said on the first day of school the process took about 26 minutes.

SEE **Middle school** ON PAGE 8

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### Corrections

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# Teller machine skimming investigated

Neenah News

Three area Prospera Credit Union ATMs were recently the target of card skimming devices.

Skimmers are card readers hidden within a targeted card reader that collect data from each card that is swiped. Prospera Credit Union risk manager James Guard announced last week that the three ATMs were compromised by skimming devices between Oct. 17-24.

The card skimmers were removed and he said Prospera's ATMs were thoroughly checked to ensure they're secure to use.

"We have identified those individuals who have been affected and are contacting them to take the appropriate steps to ensure that members are aware, help them protect their accounts, and to address any unrecognized transactions," Guard said. "At this time, only a small number of accounts appear to have unauthorized transactions."

Guard said no personal data other than card numbers and pins were accessed by the devices. No security breach took place and Prospera's computer systems were not affected.

"This incident was focused on ATMs and a limited amount of debit cards, and ensuring Prospera's member data continues to be safe and secure," he said.

Director of marketing Crista Gordon declined to identify the specific locations of the ATMs targeted. The individuals suspected of placing the devices were arrested at the Menasha Prospera location Oct. 24.

Skimmers often go undetected because the small device is concealed within a valid card reader. Gordon said Prospera em-



Neenah News

Automated teller locations in the area were targeted by people using skimming devices to defraud customers.

ployees continue to monitor the ATMs daily for skimmers.

"We are looking into tools that will help us continue to strengthen the security of our ATMs against these types of threats," she said.

Gordon said before inserting a card into an ATM, customers should observe the card reader and look for signs of tampering.

"Attempt to wiggle the card acceptor and the keypad. If anything seems loose, do not use that machine," she said. "Always protect your PIN while you are entering it, you can do this by placing your hand over the keys as you are typing it in."

If the card doesn't slide into the reader smoothly, that could be another sign that something is wrong and should be reported to the owner of the ATM.

## National Civics Bee coming to Wisconsin

Fox Valley middle school students will have the opportunity to compete in the National Civics Bee for the first time during the 2023-2024 school year.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, organizer of the National Civics Bee, has named the Fox Cities Chamber as an official partner to host a local competition in 2024.

This opportunity extends to students in grades 6, 7 and 8, who can enter the competition by submitting an essay online beginning Nov. 13.

For educators, the program offers a teacher guide to introduce the opportunity to their students. Other resources are available through the Fox Cities Chamber.

The National Civics Bee is expanding its reach this year to students in 28 states,

with plans for a national competition in 2024. A three-year, \$4.5 million grant from the Daniels Fund will allow the U.S. Chamber Foundation to reach all 50 states by 2026.

"In these challenging times, fostering a deep understanding of civics and government among our young students is of utmost importance," said Hilary Crow, vice president of civics at the U.S. Chamber Foundation. "The National Civics Bee provides a unique platform for them to not only showcase their knowledge but also become active and engaged citizens of the future."

For more information visit [civics.us-chamberfoundation.org/national-civics-bee](http://civics.us-chamberfoundation.org/national-civics-bee) or [foxcitieschamber.com](http://foxcitieschamber.com).

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# Roosevelt school building makes way for hospital space

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

About a month after Roosevelt Elementary School on Doty Island turned 100 years old, work began last Friday to demolish the building.

Local businessman John Bergstrom told Neenah News that the process began from the inside in advance of demolition, with school and other officials removing materials that were reusable.

"The school system took some things out that they needed and we tried to figure out if there was anything of consequential value that we could reuse, and it's a 100-year-old building so it's pretty well shot up," he said. "But anything of value that the school system needed or that could be used, we're doing that and have done that."

Roosevelt permanently closed after the 2022-23 school year as part of the district's restructuring plan with the completion of the new high school in Fox Crossing.

Roosevelt was chosen for closure because it's the oldest and smallest of the elementary schools, lacks the opportunity for expansion and had low enrollment.



Neenah News

Demolition work is underway at the former Roosevelt Elementary School.

Bergstrom and other community members purchased the site at 215 E. Forest Ave. for \$1 million and donated it to the adjacent ThedaCare Regional Medical Center.

Bergstrom said acquiring the Roosevelt parcel and removing the school building will minimize the impact on residents

calls, texts, and chats from all 72 Wisconsin counties and nine of the 11 federally recognized tribal nations with members in Wisconsin.

These contacts resulted in 78,646 referrals to agencies providing substance use disorder assessment services, counseling, inpatient care, residential care, outpatient care, medication-assisted treatment and supports from people in recovery from a substance use disorder trained to help others.

from ThedaCare's helipad, which is about 1,000 feet away.

"We've got room to expand and we've got a buffer for the helicopter and the people living there, and it will be very nice and we're really glad it's working out this way," he said.

The Roosevelt building site will be landscaped. Future uses for the parcel would be decided by ThedaCare. With demolition underway, Bergstrom said he expects the razing to be substantially complete by Dec. 1.

Bergstrom said investing in ThedaCare has made an "almost unbelievable" impact on the community and health care is "one of the heart and blood things that makes a community a top-quality community."

"The Roosevelt School is just a small part of it, of course, but that was the genesis of when the school closed and that opportunity presented itself for us to control that property so we could continue to grow quality health care for everyone in this community," he said. "It was a tremendous proposition for us to be able to make."

## Business news roundup

The J. J. Keller Foundation Board announced the approval of Marne Keller-Krikava as its chair/president. She becomes the second board chair/president to lead the Foundation Board as Robert Keller has held the role since its inception in 1990.



Keller-Krivaka

James Keller was reaffirmed as vice president, a role he has held since 1990, and vice chairman, treasurer and secretary. Bob Keller will remain a member of the four-member board of directors along with Brian Keller.

Luxury Spa has opened at 1075 South Lake St., Suite 205, in Neenah. Owned by Natalya Chernov, the spa is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day except Sundays. Details on the services offered can be found at [luxuryspawi.square.site](http://luxuryspawi.square.site). A free consultation and 20% off the first service is being promoted.

ReMixx at 8386 State 76 is in the top five nominees for the Wisconsin Drag Awards as best safe space and employee Missy Larsen as best bartender. Several of ReMixx's regular drag performers have also been nominated for awards. Voting is now through Nov. 19, with a link to vote on the Wisconsin Drag Awards Facebook page. Winners will be announced Jan. 14 at an awards ceremony held at Five Nightclub in Madison.

## Addiction Recovery Helpline marks five years

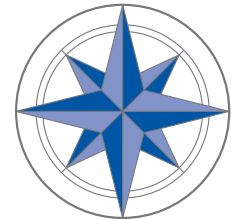
The Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline has reached five years of connecting state residents experiencing substance use concerns with local services and support.

The free and confidential service supported by a grant from the Department Health Services (DHS) and managed by 211 Wisconsin debuted in October 2018 as part of efforts by state officials to reduce drug overdoses.

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# Options for pet cemetery land, remains discussed

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A pet cemetery in Neenah that holds the remains of about 1,000 animals could be excavated and relocated as the animal shelter that maintains it prepares to move to a new location next year.

About 338 marked graves and an estimated 700 unmarked plots hold the remains of beloved family pets including dogs, cats, two guinea pigs, a rabbit, a parakeet and a monkey named Charlie Brown in the nearly 60-year-old Memorial Pet Cemetery.

The cemetery parcel is situated between the Neenah Animal Shelter building and a pond, without a private entrance or parking. Between 1966 and 2005 the shelter sold pet cemetery plots measuring about 3.5 by 4 feet for \$10 each and an optional \$5 charge for a box, to raise funds. The last burial took place there in 2010.

The nonprofit shelter held listening sessions Monday to discuss options for the pet cemetery, with the shelter making plans to move to a new location less than a mile away at 2475 Progress Court next year and the current location at 951 County G slated for sale.

Shelter board treasurer Craig Fisher moderated the discussion and said the existing shelter location is appraised at about \$200,000, which could vary if the building is left in place because the property is worth more without it. The proceeds would help offset the about \$350,000 still needed to construct the new building.

Fisher said the Town of Neenah was contacted about the parcel and had no interest in operating it as a dog park or pre-



Forrest Run Pet Cemetery owner Patrick Fahrenkrug (right) discusses the possibility of relocating pet remains from Neenah to Sherwood. Shelter volunteer Chuck Wismer (left) and treasurer Craig Fisher also participated in the discussion.

serve, and the headstones pose a safety hazard that would require insurance.

Options presented at the meeting:

- The shelter could continue to maintain the property and cemetery at its expense. It was noted that the shelter doesn't

have enough funding or volunteers to maintain two properties. In addition, the shelter would lose revenue expected from the sale.

- The shelter could sell the pond and building, and keep the cemetery parcel that separates the two. It was noted that the pond and building have little value as standalone sales and it's unclear whether the pond could even be sold. Shelter staff are working with the town to determine whether the pond is a retention or recreation pond.

- The shelter could relocate the cemetery headstones to a memorial at the new shelter and leave the remains in place, turning over ownership to the future buyer and losing access to the cemetery. Maintenance of the memorial would be part of the new shelter and the property sale revenue would benefit it.

A fourth offer presented at the meeting was the possibility of relocating all the remains and headstones to Forrest Run Pet Cemetery in Sherwood.

Local resident Patrick Fahrenkrug owns Forrest Run and Kessler-Fahrenkrug Funeral Home in Neenah. He also has two family pets buried at the Neenah pet cemetery. Fahrenkrug offered to donate a

1-acre section of Forrest Run's pet cemetery to relocate the remains from Neenah.

Fahrenkrug noted the process would be an extensive undertaking and it likely wouldn't be possible to disinter every pet due to the large number of unmarked plots and natural decomposition. Instead, the area would be excavated and the "sacred ground" would be transferred to Forrest Run.

Fahrenkrug said Forrest Run is protected and deeded as a pet cemetery so it can never be used for anything else. A perpetual care fund is in place to maintain it.

"It's like an endowment fund that if anything ever does happen there's money there to keep maintaining it," he said.

The shelter would be responsible for the labor and expenses of relocation. It would have the option of moving just the headstones to Forrest Run or relocating both the headstones and the remains.

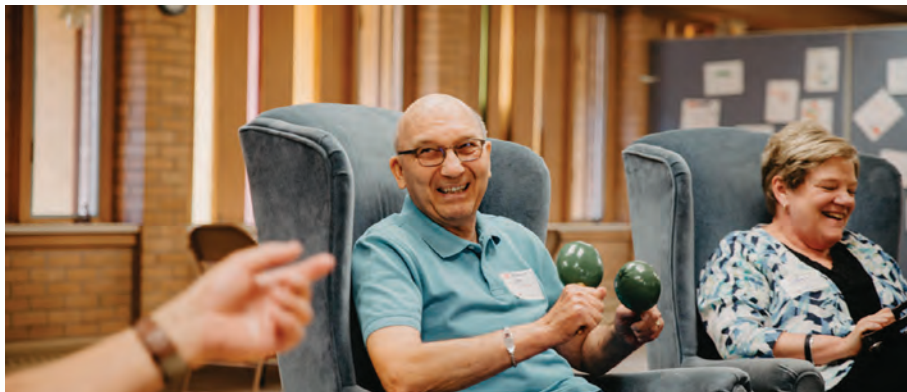
Executive director Cindy Flauager said the shelter will also work with those who want to collect their pets' remains to relocate themselves.

Paula Jansen's family dogs Maxwell and Sneaker were buried in the Neenah pet

SEE **Pet cemetery** ON PAGE 5



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### Pet cemetery

FROM PAGE 4

cemetery in the 1970s. She was one of several residents who attended a listening session and expressed support for moving the remains from Neenah to Forrest Run.

“At Forrest Run, it would be an eternity like we expected these (graves) to be because they can never do anything with it,” Jansen said.

Fisher expressed empathy for those with pets buried at the cemetery.

“Regardless of where they’re buried, regardless of anything else, they are still with us and I truly believe that,” he said. “And I would say I believe that probably some of them are with us today and they’re here to comfort us and let us know that things are OK with them.”

The shelter is expected to make a final decision on what will happen to the cemetery early next year.

### Leftover candy can have a sweet destination

Neenah News

Neenah residents finding themselves with Halloween candy leftovers are encouraged to donate them to the local American Legion Auxiliary, which will ship sweet treats to troops from the area deployed overseas.

The candy is boxed up and sent to military troops deployed, according to auxiliary president Kathie Boyette, with a note

enclosed with donors’ first names on it. She said last year they were able to send six large boxes out.

There is a tote bin on the porch at 807 Nicolet Blvd. in Neenah for drop-off donations. She said cash donations are also needed to pay for the shipping, which is about \$20 a box.

“We want them to know Neenah cares,” Boyette said.



Neenah Historical Society photo

### Jersild Knitting Factory

After returning from a trip to his native Denmark in 1899, Jens Jersild brought knitting machines to Neenah. Quickly outgrowing production in his home, Jersild opened a mill that would be expanded several times. After WWII Jersild sweaters became extremely popular nationwide. The company closed in the late 1980s.

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# Downtown sidewalk, curb replacement work near completion



Neenah News

Sidewalk and curb work was focused on two blocks of West Wisconsin Avenue, Church Street and Doty Avenue.

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Sidewalk and curb replacement work in the area of West Wisconsin Avenue in downtown Neenah is expected to wrap up this week, although some utility work affecting a small area will continue through November.

Traffic engineer James Merten said the entire downtown was this year's target area for sidewalk replacement but due to budget constraints, and to minimize the impact on area businesses by completing more work in a concentrated area, the project was narrowed to the 100 and 200 blocks of Wisconsin and parts of Church Street and Doty Avenue.

"Usually when we do that target area we set a little bit of a higher bar with the hopes and theory that we won't need to be back there in a longer period of time," he said.

The work began in mid-October, with the corners finished early this week and the Marketplace bumpout being the last area that still needed to have concrete poured as of Monday.

The project follows a monthlong closure of the parking lot behind the Marketplace and other businesses for resurfacing,

which was finished in late September.

Merten said utility work by a contractor in the 100 and 200 blocks of Wisconsin began Monday and is separate from the city's work.

"It will be much less impactful but they'll still be there and there will be some impact," he said.

Merten said when complaints come in about lifted or cracked sidewalks, he inspects them, verifies the issue and adds the sidewalk to a task list for replacement.

Next year, sidewalk replacement will continue in the downtown area, including the Commercial Street corridor north of Winneconne, from Winneconne to Neenah Creek, and streets in the business improvement district including Columbian Avenue, Oak Street, East Wisconsin and East Doty.

"My strategy is to be focusing on higher pedestrian or higher vehicle count corridors, so Commercial Street, downtown, Winneconne Avenue, Main Street, and then cycle through those a little bit more often than your neighborhood streets," he said.

He added that issues in neighborhoods will be dealt with as needed when the city comes across them or when residents issue complaints.

## Veterans Days programs set in Twin Cities

Neenah-Menasha veterans will conduct their annual Veterans Day programs Nov. 11 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Shattuck Park.

The Menasha program will begin at 11 a.m. at the public library, 440 1st St.

American Legion Post 33 will lead the

Neenah ceremonies while VFW Post 2126 leads the Menasha program.

Veterans groups will have a dinner that night hosted by the Stone Toad Bar and Grill in Menasha.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by calling 920-851-2306 or 920-886-8150.

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# Doty Park, Kimberly Point shoreline work proposals outlined

Neenah News

Shoreline improvement needs identified at Doty Park and Kimberly Point Park were outlined recently in a consultant's report to the city that recommends repairing or replacing some failing structures, restoring shoreline areas and increasing public safety and access to the water.

Edgewater Resources worked with the Neenah Shoreline Task Force to help form concept designs for both parks, with Kimberly Point getting first priority where its promenade is considered vulnerable to winter damage along with shoreline work to add protection against ice shoves.

For Doty Park the main goals include improving stormwater drainage in the southern area and dealing with erosion of the timber seawall along the majority of the shoreline.

Preliminary cost estimates made this summer for the overall work, which would be separated into two phases for each park, were put at \$6,483,000. Doty Park would take the most effort at \$3.1 million for the first phase and \$1.35 million for the second phase. The Kimberly Point work is estimated at about \$1.2 million overall. The costs are subject to change as construction wouldn't begin for at least one to two years.

With erosion along the seawall identified as most severe along the channel side of Doty Park, the first phase of that project would include timber seawall demolition, a vegetated cobble beach on that side, a concrete seawall along the channel and a water circulation feature.

The ADA boardwalk and kayak launch at Doty would be the primary work in the second phase, increasing accessibility throughout the park.

At Kimberly Point, the focus is on a new concrete promenade near the historic lighthouse as part of a system of shore protection that includes steel structures offshore to reduce or eliminate ice impacts on the promenade. Shoreline protections would be the focus of the second phase that is characterized as more of an improvement than an immediate need.

The timing and sequence of the projects will depend on available funding. Outside of available capital improvement funds, other funding sources would be pursued through available federal, state and local grant programs.

Edgewater Resources recommended additional data gathering and research, including regular review sessions with the Neenah Parks Commission and studying the feasibility of a test section of natural shoreline throughout a one-year cycle and looking at similar-scale shorelines in the Midwest.

Doty Park, situated on the north side of the channel, is 9.25 acres that were donated to the city in 1922. Main features include the historic Doty Cabin, two stone arch bridges connecting to the island, tennis and pickleball courts, a playground, a gazebo, and an events location. The boat launch parking lot west of the park has about 15 parking spaces and 12 trailer spaces with two launch ramps.

Kimberly Point Park is across the channel from Doty Island, a 4-acre plot added to Neenah's park system in 1929 and the Kimberly Point Lighthouse erected in 1944 for sailors to recognize the mouth of the Fox River. The fishing boardwalk has been a high-traffic fishing area for walleye, perch, bass, catfish and carp, with about 830 feet of total shoreline.



Figure 1. Site map indicating park locations and existing shoreline features.

Work concept maps are shown for Kimberly Point Park (above) and Doty Park.



## NPL

neenah public library

### ADULT PROGRAMS:

**Hollywood vs History: Ancient Rom**  
Monday, November 6th at 2:00pm

**Sunday Concert Series: Christo's Novelty Combo**  
Sunday, November 26 at 2:00 pm

**Caring for Holiday Houseplants**  
Monday, November 27 at 6:30 pm

**The New Art of Coffee with Author Ryan Castelaz**  
Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 pm

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

**Toddler Drive-in:**  
November 13 @ 10:30 am  
Ages 2 and up  
*Make a car out of a box then "park" and watch a short movie. Boxes, supplies, and movie refreshments provided.*

**DIY Christmas Cards & Wrapping Paper**  
December 2 @ 10:30 am  
ages 5 and up  
*Create your own unique DIY Christmas cards, gift bags and wrapping paper! Come join NPL staff for this drop-in program from 10:30-12:30. Project ideas and materials will be provided!*

**Tween Create Space**  
Tuesdays @ 3:30 pm  
ages 9 and up

November 7	Balloon Powered Cars
November 14	Duct Tape Wallets
November 21	DIY Compass

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# Public elementary school boundaries taking new shapes

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Plans are underway to revise elementary school boundaries in the Neenah Joint School District, affecting some students who would attend a different school next year.

The school district currently operates eight 4K through sixth grade elementary schools and one charter school. The proposed boundary changes would affect students at Lakeview, Horace Mann and Coolidge. Students at Tullar and Hoover may also see changes.

The district noted that Horace Mann

is only using about 60% of its capacity this school year and Coolidge has also seen decreases to about 83% of capacity. Lakeview is currently over its intended capacity by about 6%. Population shifts over time necessitate the district redrawing its boundaries to more efficiently use resources.

The district said on its website that it will try to keep students who live close to one of the schools at that school but noted one of the complexities of the process is that Lakeview, Coolidge and Horace Mann are all in close proximity of each other.

Boundary exemptions may be granted

for students looking to attend a school outside their assigned boundary area. The bus parameters will remain the same regardless of the boundaries.

Virtual discussions over the proposed changes began this month in the second phase of the district's elementary facilities plan. The long-range plan includes the possibility of closing schools, although the district said there are no imminent plans to close any schools at this time.

The facilities plan also includes operating all elementary schools as three- or four-section schools, meaning there would be three or four classes in each grade lev-

el. Horace Mann is a three-section school that would change to four sections, while Clayton, Taft and Hoover are operating as two-section schools.

The district is gathering feedback from parents while determining the boundaries, which will be presented in December and reviewed and voted on in January. Families with children changing schools will be notified after the vote.

The district acknowledged that the changes may be difficult for elementary-age children but said staff will make efforts to ensure the transitions are as comfortable as possible.

## Middle school

FROM PAGE 1

The school partnered with the Neenah Police Department and the city to streamline the process and staff has now gotten the time down to about five or six minutes.

The middle school has a dedicated bus lane, multiple entry points and crossing guards for safety.

"I have to say we have gotten such an incredible amount of positive feedback from our family and community about the strength of our crossing guards," she said. "And again, for the safety of our children, that's something that we always want to hear and celebrate."

One change that needed to be swiftly dealt with was the amount of food provided at lunch. Munoz-Ellmann said staff underestimated the number of fifth- and sixth-graders that would eat take-out lunch.

"But I promise our public everyone was well fed," she said.

With a new location comes new safety procedures and Munoz-Ellmann said staff began preparing in advance and was ready on the first day.

"We need to ensure to our public that we were safely able to, no matter whether it be day one or day 100, that their children were in safe hands," she said.

Moving forward, Munoz-Ellmann said staff will consider schedules because right now a fifth-grade, sixth-grade and combined seventh- and eighth-grade schedule are operating in the middle school building at once.

"When we look to the future of what we want for our students, what's best for our students, and then maximizing our resources, that's definitely something as a team that we're prioritizing of how we can have a more unified schedule," she said.

As far as construction and maintenance needs, Munoz-Ellmann said small improvements will continue but there are no large construction projects set for this summer. Staff and students are impressed with the amount of natural light in the new school, the width of the hallways and access to facilities, including expanded spaces for music, tech, labs and collaboration, she added.

Board president Brian Epley questioned what the plans are for adding playground equipment for fifth- and sixth-graders.

Munoz-Ellmann said they have repaved, put up basketball hoops and painted lines for foursquare. Ga Ga ball pits also recently arrived. With the increase in space for recreation, the school will consider adding fitness equipment or Ninja Warrior-type activities and equipment that targets older students.

One of the highlights of the first couple of months for Munoz-Ellmann was watching middle schoolers participate in homecoming activities and hearing the roar and cheer of engagement.

"It was one of those moments that as administrators, we are walking around, and you just have to take that moment and stop and breathe and just be like, this is exactly why I do what I do," she said. "Just to see our kids in action, just being authentically themselves, and our staff engaged, our students really participating."

# Future Neenah marks 40 years of fun and progress

It's the year 1983, the United States invades Grenada, President Ronald Reagan proposes the Strategic Defense Initiative, the video game Mario Bros. was first released as a Nintendo arcade game in Japan, the first mobile phones are introduced to the public by Motorola, the final episode of M\*A\*S\*H airs, Cabbage Patch Dolls are the hot holiday toy and a group of concerned, community-minded citizens, businesses and government officials gather with a single minded mission – to improve Neenah's downtown.



Future Neenah (then Future Neenah Development Corp.) was incorporated on April 27, 1983. 2023 marks our 40th year of service to the community. Future Neenah's original goal was downtown revitalization, but in the early 1990s our scope expanded to include the Greater Neenah community.

Future Neenah's services and programs fall into three main categories: economic development, community partnerships and community events. Our mission: Future Neenah is a community-driven, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the economic and cultural vitality of Neenah. The Future Neenah tagline motto is, "Our future, Our Neenah."

The end goal in all Future Neenah's projects, programs and events is to contribute to the quality of life in the greater Neenah area. Future Neenah has had a remarkably busy 2023 and the remainder of our anniversary year promises to generate even greater enthusiasm for now and well into the future.

We recognize those partners who invested their time, talent and treasure in us, so we could invest in the community. Thank you for your support.

Here's to the next 40 years of Future Neenah delivering successful and prosperous economic development and cultural vitality.



Neenah News

## Novel-writing event offered at library

The Neenah Public Library is hosting a three hour NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) event at noon Sunday.

Participants can bring a laptop or writing utensils and let the words flow in a stress-free environment. Games, prizes

and other surprises are featured for those that want to write a novel and have fun doing it.

The event will take place in the library's first-floor Shattuck Room. No reservation is necessary.

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## Characters on a roll

Costumed skaters were at The Plaza & Globe on Friday night for a fall roller-skating opportunity.

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Photo by Alexis Olsen

## Tricky trail

Cranked Bike Studio held its Little Bike Shop of Horrors fourth annual haunted trail last Saturday. The family-friendly trail meandered through the bike path behind the building at 407 S. Green Bay Road. The event included a costume contest and concluded with a haunted slow roll bike ride around the Loop the Little Lake Trail.

## Roadwork fee

FROM PAGE 1

eting costs that amount would be about \$10,000 today. The TARF replaces the special assessments, reducing the cost impact on residents.

“The TARF more fairly distributes the cost of street and sidewalk replacement by apportioning the fee to those properties who generate the most usage, rather than by property value through the tax levy,” Mayor Jane Lang said in a letter outlining next year’s capital improvements budget.

Neenah’s TARF was set at a fixed rate of \$23 per IAU through Dec. 31, leading the city to review it this year. Kaiser said an increase in the TARF is necessary due to general construction cost increases since 2020 and an increased volume of work performed.

The city previously discussed increasing the rate to \$48 per IAU but settled on the lesser amount of \$40. The city will also begin evaluating the TARF annually.

At the current rate of \$23 per IAU, the

annual revenue generated by the TARF is about \$468,000. By increasing the fee to \$40 per IAU, the city will generate about \$814,000 annually; which would cover about 39% of the estimated \$2 million per year project costs.

The TARF revenue is only used for street reconstruction, resurfacing and sidewalk construction and does not eliminate special assessments for sanitary sewer lateral replacement and new street construction.

The TARF charge for all developed single-family residential properties is based on one IAU, billed quarterly. Businesses and nonprofits are charged based on their calculated IAUs, up to a maximum of 90.

Next year, a residential property owner will see an increase in their quarterly utility bill from the current rate of \$5.75 to \$10. For property owners at the 90 IAU cap, their quarterly TARF charge will increase from \$517.50 to \$900.

Under the plan the council was expected to approve Wednesday, the TARF fee is waived for five years for properties that were specially assessed for new street construction in 2023.

# Calendar of events

### Friday, Nov. 3

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

### Saturday, Nov. 4

Helping Hands Art and Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Neenah Middle School gymnasium  
Book Cake Tour, 11 a.m., The Plaza & Globe Coffee

Neenah Rotary Dodgeball and Pickleball Tournament, 8:30 a.m., 5000 W. Champion Drive, Appleton

Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

### Sunday, Nov. 5

Kris Kringle Market, 10 a.m., The Plaza & Globe Coffee

za & Globe Coffee

Wingz Discraft Zone GT Battle singles tournament, noon, Clayton Park, 3577 Larsen Road

### Wednesday, Nov. 8

Fox Valley Women’s Connection Program, 1 p.m., Calvary Bible Church, 1450 Oakridge Road

### Thursday, Nov. 9

Downtown Shop & Stroll, 4 p.m.

### Saturday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day observance, 10:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Speed Puzzling Tournament, 5 p.m., Neenah Public Library

### Wednesday, Nov. 15

Hollywood Master Directors: Howard Hawks and “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes,” 1 p.m., Neenah-Menasha YMCA

### Saturday, Nov. 18

Neenah Animal Shelter Pop-up Shop, 8 a.m., Marketplace downtown

## Winter coats going to refugees settling in Valley

Neenah News

Goodwill North Central Wisconsin (Goodwill NCW) is partnering with World Relief Fox Valley to provide nearly 50 children and adult coats for refugees newly settling into the community.

“We are glad our partners at World Relief reached out to us to help meet this need for refugee families,” said Jill Henselin, Goodwill NCW retail leader. “Owning warm winter wear is a critical part of adjusting to a healthy, productive life in Wisconsin.”

Daniel Vang, resource coordinator at World Relief Fox Valley, said the coats

could not come at a better time. World Relief Fox Valley welcomes refugees into local communities during the initial resettlement period with services such as basic necessities, securing housing and enrolling children in school.

“We value our partnership with World Relief Fox Valley, which extends beyond meeting basic needs. We also provide skill training sessions that focus on helping refugees transition into the workforce as they look for sustained employment to become financially stable,” said Mike Garrigan, manager of programs and partnerships at Goodwill NCW.

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# Neenah News

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# Pandemic brings telehealth boom, but barriers linger

By Hina Suzuki and Tyler Katzenberger  
WISCONSIN WATCH

Marshfield Medical Center family nurse practitioner Brianna Czaikowski says telehealth appointments are a game-changer for some patients. But in serving a mostly rural community, Czaikowski often fights spotty connections and miscommunication when providing virtual care.

“They feel a lot that I’m talking over them, which sometimes I probably am because (of) the delay,” said Czaikowski, a doctor of nursing practice and pediatric urology specialist who sees patients as far away as Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. “You’re not getting that full connection.”

Fresh off a COVID-19 pandemic boom, telehealth is increasingly connecting Wisconsinites living in remote areas to a web of health resources. Telehealth claims in 2020 swelled to a 6.3% share of total claims in Wisconsin — an increase of more than 2,400% from the previous year, according to a report from the Wisconsin Health Information Organization. Some northern counties reported high gains compared with the rest of the state.

Helping fuel that growth is the federal government’s COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration, which eased regulatory barriers that previously blocked telehealth access. That included relaxing rules for certain prescriptions and changing regulations pertaining to appointments and reimbursement for those on Medicare or Medicaid.

But lingering gaps in broadband access continue to limit services in many rural communities, where telehealth use lags behind better-connected urban communities. Meanwhile, the federal government

ended its emergency declaration in May, leaving questions about how long some telehealth flexibilities will last. Legislation made some changes permanent, but others are set to expire by the end of 2024 or before.

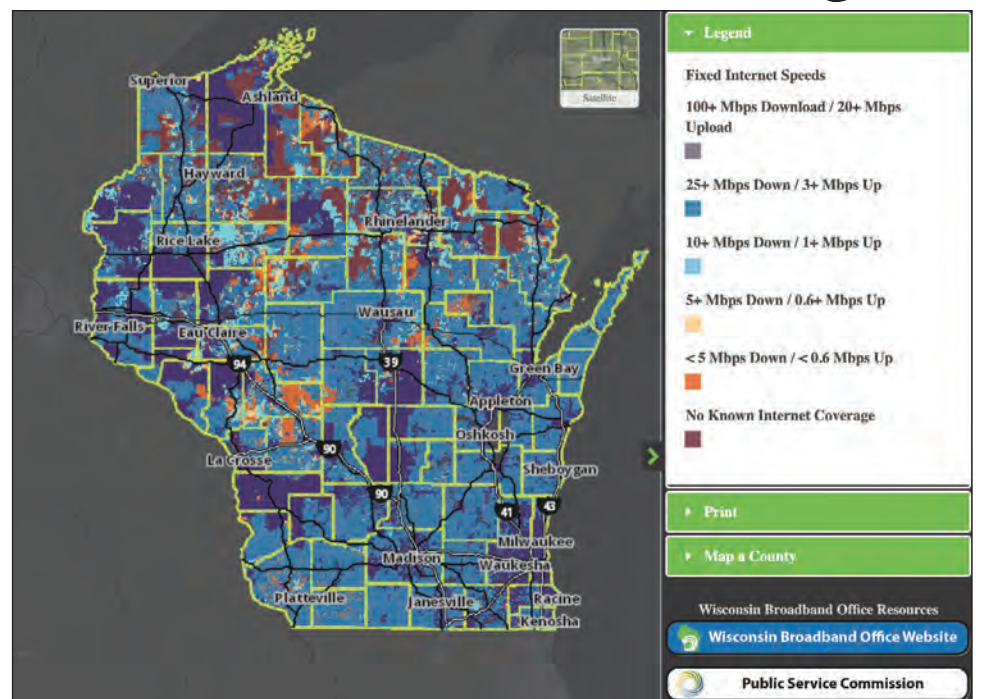
Without action, some of the state’s most vulnerable patients could lose telehealth options they gained during the pandemic.

After the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March 2020, the Biden administration announced initial telehealth flexibilities that Congress further expanded temporarily — igniting a 63-fold increase in Medicare patients seeking telehealth services that year, according to a federal Department of Health and Human Services report.

Pandemic-era changes, for instance, allowed all eligible Medicare providers to deliver telehealth services that patients could access in their home and outside of previously designated rural areas. The changes waived geographic restrictions on telehealth services and increased options to receive them.

The changes cleared a “huge hurdle” that previously blocked telehealth growth, said Mary DeVany, associate director for the Great Plains Telehealth Resource and Assistance Center.

The pandemic ushered in significant growth for telehealth services for behavioral and mental health. And it has also increased options for certain types of primary care, DeVany said. Remote patient monitoring software, for instance, allows doctors to keep tabs on weight, blood pressure and other vital signs for patients with chronic health conditions, meaning patients with chronic conditions need less



frequent hospital or clinic visits.

Telehealth has its limitations. “We can’t see certain things that we could see in the office,” Czaikowski said. That could include immediately spotting signs of child abuse or diagnosing ailments that might not be on a patient’s radar.

But expanded telehealth options have proved “really beneficial” for Czaikowski’s patients in many ways. Although most of her patients still use in-person visits, she said, telehealth visits allow families to check in more often or get simple diagnoses without having to pull their kids out of school and drive long distances for a short in-person visit.

“I see people from Michigan,” Czaikowski said. “They have to drive six hours just to see me. And then to have a 10-minute visit and tell them that their kid is just constipated? Or that they wet the bed — okay, here’s your medicine. That’s a lot for the families to have to give up.”

But not all telehealth options are equal — or accessible to all.

Czaikowski conducts telehealth appointments over video or phone. She prefers video appointments when possible, allowing her to see patients and keep their attention. But she said the majority of telehealth patients she treats rely only on phone calls. That’s in line with national trends among rural patients.

“People will call you from work or when they’re driving and not really give you their full attention,” Czaikowski said. “You have to be really talented in what questions you ask as a provider.”

While phone visits work well for those with less tech literacy or working parents with multiple kids at home, they reduce opportunities for children to communicate health information that parents might not think or want to mention, Czaikowski said.

“The kids tell the truth. When we’re on the (phone) visit, you don’t really hear the kids, it’s more the parent.”

Poor internet service ranks among the top reasons Czaikowski’s patients choose phone appointments over video, which generally should work at download speeds of 25 megabits per second and upload speeds of 3 Mbps — the federal standard for broadband access.

Nearly 22% of rural Wisconsinites lack adequate broadband services — a rate far above the rest of the state, according to a 2021 Federal Communications Commission report. And data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey show 38% of low-income households in Wisconsin lack an internet subscription.

State leaders are working on solutions.

In 2020 Democratic Gov. Tony Evers established the Governor’s Task Force on Broadband Access, which assists rural communities, many with older populations that want high-quality internet but don’t know where to start.

“They didn’t mind not having broadband, maybe they didn’t see the importance of it,” task force chair Chris Meyer said. “But as their communities age, telehealth suddenly becomes a reason.”

Telecommunications companies find it more lucrative to provide broadband to densely populated urban areas. For-profit businesses happily make the initial, and often heavy, infrastructure investment because they expect to have a large customer base.

But sparsely populated areas are less enticing for private companies. The cost of burying miles of fiber optic cables — one of the fastest and most reliable ways to deliver the internet — can be prohibitive. While a mile of internet service could serve hundreds of homes in a metropolitan area, it would cover only a few homes in northern Wisconsin, Meyer said.

Wisconsin has directed at least \$340 million to broadband expansion and connected about 390,000 people to the internet since Evers launched the task force, Meyer said. The state had previously spent about \$20 million.

Despite the task force’s increase in spending, Meyer said many people, especially those in northern Wisconsin, have yet to gain high-speed service.

Without broadband access, telehealth is “not a cure-all,” said Kirk Moore, Covering Wisconsin’s navigator who connects northern Wisconsinites to health insurance.

“Just to be able to take on the task of telehealth is a barrier.”

Meanwhile, low-income rural Wisconsinites may not make full use of the internet even after fiber optic cables arrive in their communities.

Rural households tend to earn less than urban households in Wisconsin, federal data show. And while a growing share of rural Wisconsinites own a computer, Moore said, “they have a computer but they don’t have the broadband access to be able to hook up to a physician or a behavioral health person through a video.”

The federal government made some telehealth flexibilities permanent before the emergency declaration ended, particularly for those related to behavioral and mental health. Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics, for instance, may continue providing such services to Medicare patients without previous geographic restrictions — including over audio-only platforms.

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# Neenah girls take second at state cross country

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah girls cross country team found itself in a familiar position on the medal stand at the WIAA Division 1 State Cross Country Meet on Saturday.

Unfortunately, it was one step short of the highest view.

The Rockets finished second for the eighth time in program history – the most for any girls program in the state – with a team that could return in full next year.

“We ran pretty well,” Neenah girls head coach Mike Heidke said. “Our goal was to run as fast or faster than we did at sectionals and we had four of our seven run faster and two that ran the same, which I thought was a good accomplishment, given it was a tough course and there was a lot more pressure with a state meet.”

The Rockets improved nine places from last year’s finish and recorded its best placement as a team since taking second in 2012. In addition to its eight runner-up finishes, Neenah has won the state title three times.

Slinger, which placed four runners in the top 25, was the only team to finish ahead of the Rockets, totaling 78 points to Neenah’s total of 114. Fellow Fox Valley Association member Kaukauna was third with 143 points.

Neenah was actually the first team to have its five scoring runners cross the finish line, however, Slinger’s group in the top 25 was too much to overcome.



The Neenah High School girls cross country team finished second at the WIAA Division 1 State Cross Country Meet at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids on Saturday.

Submitted photo

“I knew Slinger had four up there and four in the top 25 is pretty tough to beat,” Heidke said. “I knew we were in pretty good shape but I really didn’t know exactly where Slinger’s fifth runner was.”

Leading the way for the Rockets was Elsa Gruber, who earned a 20<sup>th</sup>-place finish in her first state meet appearance.

Gruber was 31<sup>st</sup> after the first mile but moved up eight spots before the second-mile mark and then passed three more runners before the finish line. She edged both Mary Worden of Fort Atkinson and Isabelle Yttre of Brookfield East by a tenth of a second at the finish to gain the spot in the top 20.

“A year ago, Elsa won the JV conference meet and one year later she is 20<sup>th</sup> at the state meet and that’s an incredible improvement. She earned that by her hard work,” Heidke said. “Top 20 in state is outstanding for anybody, especially someone who ran JV the previous year.”

Natalie Willes and Natalie Schultz were the next two finishers for the Rockets about a second apart in 32<sup>nd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> place, respectively, while Mazie Olkowski was about seven seconds behind the duo in 43<sup>rd</sup> place.

Neenah’s fifth runner, Maddie Schoonover, finished in 49<sup>th</sup> place, which was 21 spots ahead of Slinger’s No. 5 runner.

Eme Olkowski in 71<sup>st</sup> and Rachel Dietrich in 90<sup>th</sup> place also competed at the race for the Rockets.

Dietrich is the only senior among the state group and Heidke believes the experience will motivate his runners to return even stronger next fall.

“I thought they had a legitimate chance to win, which they obviously did, and I think now they will have higher expectations knowing we have a lot coming back,” Heidke said. “I think it will really focus their training. They did a great job this summer but they will be even more excited about training plans and mileage this

summer now. That will help them achieve that next step at state.”

## Verhagen, Klawikowski lead Rocket runners

The Neenah boys finished 17<sup>th</sup> among the 20 teams in the Division 1 standings, coming in just eight points behind Pewaukee.

The Rockets were the lone FVA team in

SEE **Cross country** ON PAGE 15



Submitted photo

Sophomore Elsa Gruber led the Rockets on Saturday with a 20<sup>th</sup>-place finish.

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# Strong senior nucleus spearheads Zephyrs' success

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

At some point this weekend, it may feel like the end of an era for the St. Mary Catholic soccer team.

As the Zephyrs take the field at Uihlein Soccer Park in Milwaukee for the WIAA State Tournament, they will be doing so with a nucleus of seniors that have spearheaded the team's rise to prominence and highlighted the program's unprecedented season.

A total of 12 seniors hold spots on the St. Mary Catholic roster. Some started when they were freshmen or played key roles over the past four years but all have contributed to the team's success and are looking forward to one more weekend of playing together.

"A lot of us have played club together ever since we were 12. For a long time, we have all just kind of played together," said Henry Higgins. "It's been a good team since really young on. We always played well together and won quite a few tournaments. We had quite a bit of success."

The group has carried that successful play into this season where the Zephyrs sport a 20-1 record and are the top seed among the four teams in the Division 4 state field. St. Mary Catholic will play Washburn/Bayfield in a semifinal on Friday at 4:30, with the winner of the game getting to play for a state title on Saturday night.

That's where the Zephyrs hope to be. "We definitely wanted to be here. We knew we had a big senior class and knew this year, our senior year, and we wanted to win it all," aid Braeden Brenn. "It means the world to us. We're a team. We're a family and we want to win it all for sure."

It was a goal shared by the entire senior group – as well as the rest of the team – even if it was rarely talked about amongst



Submitted photo

The St. Mary Catholic soccer team's run to the WIAA State Tournament has been fueled by a strong senior class made up of Hunter Schreiber, Harry Higgins, Alex Campbell, AJ Groppe, Charles Cedergren, Theodore Higgins, Grant Bergstrom, Will Lawniczak, Braeden Brenn, Nathaniel Pable, Ray Pingel and George Staner.

the players.

"I don't know how much we actually talked about it," Grant Bergstrom said. "We've all just always seen it as a goal."

Having such a veteran team has also been a benefit for first-year head coach Elias Efthimiou.

"I have 12 seniors so that is a lot of experience and that helps me as a first-year coach," Efthimiou said. "Having that extra knowledge to help the younger players really helps out immensely and has helped out the whole season. They are all really good role models."

One of the biggest ways the senior class has affected the team is by developing team chemistry.

That can be seen in the way the group

brings an enjoyment to things off the field – Tuesday night much of the group engaged in a post-practice snowball fight – but it also relates to the way the team plays on the field.

"You basically know where everybody is, like how they play, where they are going to be. It's great," Bergstrom said. "It's like another sense."

As the chemistry developed, it translated into success.

"Our chemistry improved and we just became a very good team," Higgins said. "(The seniors) were the starting lineup for the majority of the time since our freshman year and we just grew and grew over the years."

What has helped the group succeed is

that it has stayed together over the course of their high school careers as well.

No specializing for a different sport or choosing a different athletic path. The senior group has remained constant and that has helped with the transition and development from year to year.

"I feel like this senior class has helped develop the program significantly. Coming in freshman year, we obviously weren't the same size or skill level we are now but we came in and gave an impact right away," AJ Groppe said. "That helped us a lot with the team aspect where we know who is coming back every year and what we need to work on."

The chemistry, mixed with a strong competitive drive, has helped the group develop the natural talent of all individuals on the squad.

"We know how to get into each other's heads and that makes for some interesting practices where we just put each other to our limits and get better each day in practice," said Hunter Schreiber. "It's pretty competitive. There's a lot of trash talk but that's just part of being part of a team and knowing each other so well."

That closeness can also lead to some tension.

Just like with a family, there can be times when it's not total harmony on the practice field, but when it comes to crunch time the Zephyrs sport a united front.

"There are times where than can be a little bit of butting heads but then we get right back to it," Bergstrom said. "It's like a family. Every family butts heads every now and then but you always know you are going to make up and be there for each other."

With the potential of just two games left

SEE **Zephyr seniors** ON PAGE 15

# St. Mary Catholic bounces Xavier to earn state tournament berth

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A pair of goals late in the first half sparked St. Mary Catholic's boys soccer team to a 3-1 win over Xavier in a WIAA Division 4 sectional final Saturday afternoon at Zephyr Stadium.

The victory earned the program its third WIAA State Soccer Tournament appearance – the last coming in 2005 – as the Zephyrs will take on Washburn/Bayfield in a state semifinal Friday afternoon at Uihlein Soccer Park in Milwaukee.

"These guys are the greatest team I've ever played with," Braeden Brenn said. "We have believed in ourselves since the beginning of the season and we made it a goal to win state. I couldn't ask for any-

thing better."

Brenn played a key role in the win for St. Mary Catholic – which beat Kiel, 2-1, in a sectional semifinal last week – scoring two of the three goals while assisting on the third.

Neither side was able to get much of anything going consistently early in the first half until Xavier swung control its way for the better part of 10 minutes. A great scoring chance for Xavier was saved by Hunter Schreiber before the Hawks tallied a goal to take the lead.

The Zephyrs' offense struggled to get



Brenn

anything going. Kieran Barrientos ripped one from 35 yards out that was turned away by Xavier goalie Martin Vargas.

But that shot seemed to jumpstart the Zephyrs' offense as they started to put the pressure on the Hawks' defense, resulting in several corner kicks. On one of the corners, Brenn was in the right spot at the right time as the ball deflected off his thigh and into the net to tie the match.

Less than 30 seconds later it was the Zephyrs coming away with another goal as Brenn drew the attention of the defense and played the ball back to AJ Groppe, who put it top shelf to give the Zephyrs a stunning 2-1 lead at the half.

"Those two goals right before the half were the difference in the game," head

coach Elias Efthimiou said. "Our overall effort was outstanding from start to finish, but it was the defense that set the tone for us all day. Despite Xavier scoring first, these kids continued to battle and held them to very few shots on goal."

A Schreiber save in the 55th minute on a great scoring chance for Xavier kept the Zephyrs in front before St. Mary Catholic was able to add to its lead.

In the 58th minute, William Lawniczak played the ball forward to Groppe, who took that pass and dribbled upfield before getting the ball to Brenn. The senior fired what looked to be a crossing pass to the far post, but instead it resulted in his second

SEE **Zephyr soccer** ON PAGE 15



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# Zephyrs gear up for first state tourney trip

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Things didn't start out the way the St. Mary Catholic wanted them to in last Saturday's WIAA Division 3 sectional final volleyball match.

But instead of being left reeling by a first set loss to Marshall, the top-seeded Zephyrs took something a little different after falling behind.

"I honestly think that fired us up," senior Audrey Norville said. "It showed us that not every game is going to come easy to us. We can't just expect to win everything. I think it was a wake-up call. I think we bounced back right after that set and it was good for us."



Norville



Fischer

St. Mary Catholic rattled off wins in the next three sets to claim the 21-25, 25-15, 25-23, 25-12 victory at Hartford to earn the program's first state tournament appearance this weekend.

The Zephyrs will take on fellow Big East Conference member Howards Grove in a state semifinal on Friday at 11:30 a.m. at the Resch Center.

"Saturday night, it was a crazy feeling. We reached the accomplishment we had been working so hard for and we all kept our heads up this whole process and worked hard for each game," senior Lauren Fischer said. "When we finally won, it was like, 'We finally won. We finally did this.'"

Unlike St. Mary Catholic, Howards Grove brings a program to the Resch Center that's seasoned in state tournament experience.

The Tigers have won four straight Division 3 state titles and earned the top seed in this year's four-team field. The two teams faced each other during the conference tournament about a month ago and the Zephyrs were able to take one set from Howards Grove in the loss.

St. Mary Catholic head coach Mike Mauritz said that set win certainly gives his team some confidence.

"We played really well in that set and we understand that if we want to play (for the title) on Saturday, we will have to have three of those sets on Friday," Mauritz said. "They are a quality opponent, well-coached. It will be an uphill battle but they are looking forward to the challenge."

St. Mary Catholic is the No. 4 seed in the field after going through regionals and sectionals as a No. 1 seed and now being the underdogs is a role the Zephyrs don't mind filling.

"I'm totally fine with that because what's better than an underdog being



Submitted photo

The St. Mary Catholic volleyball team will face Howards Grove in a WIAA Division 3 state semifinal at the Resch Center on Friday.

victorious?" Fischer said. "Our team isn't a team that gives up. When there is anything that gets in our way, we push and do better, we push harder."

Mauritz believes the foundation for this year started over the summer when the team first started to set goals.

The Zephyrs won the Big East Red Division title a year ago, too, but lost in a regional final. When the summer offseason hit, the team went to work.

"They decided early in the summer (making it to state) was a goal and they have been pushing themselves all summer and fall to achieve that goal," Mauritz said. "They have exceeded my expectations. They have been consistent and they have stepped up when they've had to."

In reaching that goal it means a showdown with a talented Howards Grove team, which is riding a 23-match winning streak into the state tournament.

"We just have to play our game," Norville said. "Everybody has a role on the court and nobody has to do more than their role. If everyone does their role and we play our game, we have a great shot of this."

Mauritz said in order to compete with the Tigers, the Zephyrs must continue to have a strong night in two key areas.

"It's been the same key all year – serve and serve receive," Mauritz said. "We've done really well with our serve keeping teams out of system and then serve receive because if we can't pass, then we won't have any opportunities and we have to earn more opportunities than they get to have a chance."

The Zephyrs also feature a balanced attack the net and a pair of veteran setters to key the offense.

In the win over Marshall, four different hitters had at least seven kills in the match led by Fischer with 14. Right-side hitters Rhiannon Reichenbacher and El-

## WIAA Volleyball

### WIAA State Tournament

at Resch Center, Green Bay

### Division 3 Semifinals

Friday, 11:30 a.m.

St. Mary Catholic vs. Howards Grove

Cuba City vs. St. Croix Falls

lie Altfillisch each had eight, while Norville finished with seven.

In the four-set win over Bonduel in the sectional semifinal, it was Fischer – who has been the team's leading hitter all season – leading the way with 19 kills, while

Norville added 10.

"I think it's important (to be balanced) because good teams will focus on Fischer and it seems that every round of the playoffs, somebody else steps up," Mauritz said. "The setter's do a nice job of choosing who they set and when they set them. You can't be one person dominant because if she's struggling or they have a matchup that gives us fits at the net then it's a long night."

Setters Stella Virlee and Sammie Weiss combined for 44 assists in the win over Marshall and 42 against Bonduel.

SEE Zephyr volleyball ON PAGE 15



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# Rockets gear for another matchup with Kimberly

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

For the fourth time in a little more than a year, two old friends will reunite on the football field Friday night.

Neenah and Kimberly are set to square off at Papermaker Stadium in a WIAA Division 1 Level 3 playoff contest with the Rockets looking for its first win against its Fox Valley Association rival since the final game of the 2005 season.

The Papermakers blanked Neenah, 21-0, earlier this season but the fourth-seeded Rockets are hoping Friday is the night they can cook up the recipe for an upset against second-seeded Kimberly.

"I think it comes down to us having a belief we can play with Kimberly because they have had our number over the years," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "Our kids have played some really good games this year and we just have to rely on each other and execute and grind."

The two teams met at the same level in

last year's playoffs in what would be the final game at the old Rocket Stadium. The Papermakers used a late touchdown to sneak out a 29-28 win after Neenah had led almost the entire game.

Throw that matchup into the yearly battles in the FVA and there is certainly a level of familiarity between the two teams. That means there won't be too many surprises when the teams collide.

"We each have our offenses and defenses that have been used and have worked against each other, so I think it really comes down to execution," Steve Jung said. "For us, we have to value the ball, we have to be penalty free and we have to find a way to keep their offense off the field."

Neenah's defense notched its third shutout of the season in last week's 21-0 win over Chippewa Falls in a Level 2 matchup.

The unit has allowed just 35 points over the last four weeks and seems to be peaking at the right time.

"Our defense is playing really well right now. Obviously, we have really good coaches who are getting us prepared and we all know what we need to do," said junior Luke Jung, who had a team-high eight tackles against Chippewa Falls. "We have to play together and push to be our best on every play."

The Papermakers, who stormed past Stevens Point 35-18 last Friday, feature a balanced attack that can move the ball on

## WIAA playoffs

### Division 1 Level 3

(all games Friday, 7 p.m.)

- Neenah (9-2) at Kimberly (9-1)
- Fond du Lac (6-5) at Marquette (8-2)
- Verona (10-1) at Hamilton (11-0)
- Muskego (10-1) at Franklin (11-0)

the ground or through the air.

Running backs Gavin Tyson and Marcus Doucette have each gained over 600 yards this season while combining for 15 touchdowns in the running game. In the passing game, Carson Pendleton has thrown for more than 1,200 yards and 17 touchdowns with Bryson Vieth serving as his top target with 42 receptions, including seven touchdowns.

"Obviously they run the ball well and they have a good quarterback and a couple of good receivers," Luke Jung said. "We have a good scheme and we just have to be fundamentally sound and be ready for how they come at us."

Steve Jung said a key defensively for the Rockets will be making sure they give Kimberly different looks to deal with.

"Defensively, we can't just go line up and stop them. They are too good for that," Steve Jung said. "We always have to be sound defensively but we also have to mix it up so we don't always line up

the same way so they know how they can block their best plays against us."

As impressive as the Papermakers are offensively – Kimberly is averaging about 26 points per game and have topped the 30-point mark four times this season – it's the other side of the ball where they really make their mark.

Kimberly only has two shutouts this season on defense but both have come against playoff teams – Neenah and Appleton North. They have allowed more than 20 points in a game just once in nine games and held high-scoring Kaukauna to just 14 points in a loss earlier this season.

"They are one of the best defenses in the state. Statistically, they don't allow big plays so we will have to go in there and grind it out," running back Grant Dean said. "I think we have a good scheme going into it and we just have to stick with that."

Dean will likely be the focus of the Rockets' offensive attack as he continues with his breakout season.

The junior has already rushed for 1,661 yards and 25 touchdowns this season and is averaging a whopping 7.8 yards per carry. He has topped the 200-yard mark four times this season and rushed for 145 yards and a touchdown last week against Chippewa Falls.

SEE **Neenah football** ON PAGE 15

## Prep sports roundup

### SWIMMING

#### Rockets finish second at FVA Meet

Naomi Cortina posted the lone individual win and the Rockets had impressive swims in the 100-yard backstroke and 400-yard freestyle relay en route to finishing second at the Fox Valley Association Meet last weekend.

Cortina finished first in the 100-yard

freestyle, winning the race by less than two-tenths of a second. Cortina also teamed with Emma Bottensek, Alliyah Lima and Anna Mulroy to win the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Neenah's highest scoring event at the meet was the 100-yard backstroke where Bottensek, Cortina and Lima finished second, third and fourth, respectively.

Rylie Bauman earned a pair of second-place finishes for the Rockets, earning the runner-up spot in both the 50-yard

freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke. Bottensek in the 200-yard individual medley and Anna Mulroy in the 100-yard butterfly added third places.

Picking up fourth places were Mulroy in the 200-yard freestyle and Breleigh Maurer in the 200-yard individual medley, while Lima in the 200-yard freestyle and Sydney Hansman in diving were each fifth.

The Rockets finished with 448 points, one ahead of Appleton West/Kimberly

for second place. Appleton North won the conference title with a total of 508 points.

### SOCCER

#### Neenah bows out in sectional semifinal

The Rockets were knocked out of the WIAA Division 1 Tournament with a 1-0 loss to Homestead in a sectional semifinal last week.

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# Zephyr soccer

FROM PAGE 12

goal and extended the Zephyrs lead to 3-1. Brenn gave all the credit to his teammates for making his job easier throughout the game.

“While individual stats are nice, this is a team win,” Brenn said. “None of this would be possible without my teammates. I’m not the reason for the success we had today. All of us play together as one and that is the reason we were able to have the success we had.”

The defense made the lead stand up and when the final seconds ticked away, St. Mary Catholic had earned its state trip.

“Going to state means everything to not

only me, but to this group,” Brenn said. “This was a goal that we set early in the season and through all of the hard work we have put in so far we have not achieved this goal. We are not finished as the goal now shifts to winning state.”

Not only do Brenn and the players feel they have an opportunity to bring some hardware home, so does Efthimiou as he is eager for the season to continue.

“This team has been getting better all season and we are starting to come together at the right time,” Efthimiou said. “These kids have believed in themselves all season even when things looked tough. If they continue to believe in themselves, we can win the whole thing and bring a gold ball back to St. Mary Catholic.”

# Zephyr volleyball

FROM PAGE 13

Fischer believes that as well as the Zephyrs have played to get to this point, they can still improve.

“We keep getting better and better each game and we haven’t reached our peak yet,” Fischer said. “We’re saving that for state.”

The Zephyrs just hope they can show

case their skills twice at the Resch Center this weekend, but the team did not spend the week thinking about hoisting a gold volleyball. Instead, the focus this week was solely on Friday’s match.

“Obviously, (winning a state title) has been a thought, but the biggest thing is focusing on the game for Friday,” Norville said. “It would be great to win and hold that (gold volleyball) but we have to focus on Friday. If we think too far ahead, it’s not going to end up our way.”

# Zephyr seniors

FROM PAGE 13

in their high school careers, the seniors are looking at it as an end that will come when the season is officially.

Now, they are just focused on getting to play one more weekend together that will hopefully end with a shiny golden trophy.

“I came into the season with high expectations and high hopes and we are going to

state,” Schreiber said. “It’s an amazing feeling that my high school career could end with a golden soccer ball in my hands.”

Added Groppe: “We all know the challenges we have been through the past three years and we all have the same urge to keep on pushing through. I have a lot of confidence in this team and I know everyone else does. We know the skill we have and we know how to play and if we play our game we’ll hopefully be bringing a state title back here to Neenah.”

# Cross country

FROM PAGE 11

the Division 1 boys field.

Zach Verhagen led the way for the Rockets finishing just inside the top 100 in 99<sup>th</sup> place. Braedy Klawikowski was the next runner to finish, placing 104<sup>th</sup> about three seconds behind Verhagen.

The rest of the Neenah scoring runners were Jaden Leal in 124<sup>th</sup> place, Harmon Posegate in 128<sup>th</sup> place and Wyatt Armock in 132<sup>nd</sup> place.

Stevens Point, which beat Neenah at the sectional meet, easily won the team title with Hudson taking second and Oconomowoc finishing third.

# Neenah football

FROM PAGE 15

However, Kimberly held Dean to a season-low 56 yards and 3.7 yards per carry average during the regular season and limited the Rockets to less than 100 yards rushing in last year’s playoff meeting.

“They are a really good defensive team and that’s where the challenge comes for us. We struggled moving the ball the first time we played them so we have to come up with some ways to get yardage,” Steve Jung said. “Every team practices their shot plays and we have those but for the most part, to win a game like this, you have to be able to move the ball offensively.”

# Zephyrs complete state meet run

Ian Albino finished in the top 100 to lead the St. Mary Catholic boys team in the Division 3 race, placing 83<sup>rd</sup> overall.

Benjamin Schoeni was the next Zephyr to finish, placing 106<sup>th</sup>, followed by Nathan Seiske in 119<sup>th</sup>, Ethan Auer in 126<sup>th</sup> and AJ Groppe in 129<sup>th</sup>. Both Seiske and Groppe would play in St. Mary Catholic’s soccer sectional final later in the day.

The Zephyrs also were represented in the Division 3 girls race as Lauren Ripley finished 51<sup>st</sup> overall. The junior was in the top 40 after the first mile and among the top 50 at the two-mile mark.

Rockets are likely to be without junior quarterback Evan Vanevenhoven, who is still recovering from injury, meaning freshman Ashton Van Beek will be starting his third straight playoff game.

Van Beek ran for a team-high 173 yards and a touchdown against Chippewa Falls, while also throwing for a touchdown in the game.

“Ashton just keeps getting better and better,” Steve Jung said. “He comes to practice to work every day and he’s getting more and more comfortable in there.”

The winner of Friday’s game will face either Fond du Lac or Marquette in a state semifinal game the following weekend. Kaukauna is also still alive in Division 2, meaning that there are four FVA teams still playing.

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**KRAUS SNOWPLOW CO** Hiniker-Snow-Way-Western-Meyer-Used Boss; Sales/Service 920-894-2488 or 920-948-2812

**Labradoodle Pups** Yellow or Black F-\$400 M-\$350 Shots/dewormed 715-229-4936

**MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPS** \$800 Cute and Socialized! Vet Checked. 715-409-0533

**MINI GOLDENDOODLE PUPPIES** 1st shots, vet checked, \$400 715-773-2985 No Sun Calls

**PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY** with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote! Call now before the next power outage: 1-877-626-1009 (WCAN)

**PUPS FOR SALE! GERMAN SHEPHERDS \$800 & MINI POODLES \$550** Call/text 715-316-2617

**REGISTERED CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL PUPS** Vet/ Shots/worm/dews \$900 Call 715-470-0458 Lic#509642-DS

**REPLACE YOUR ROOF** w/the best looking & longest lasting material, steel from **Erie Metal Roofs!** 3 Styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% OFF Installation + Add'l

10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders) Call Erie Metal Roofs 1-877-845-6606 (WCAN)

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments & No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. **BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call today! 1-877-651-1850 (WCAN)**

**TURN KEY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY!** L-7604: Well-kept cafe on Main Street, Marion. Family owned for 40 years!! Very good income producer w/seating for 60+. \$275,000 Contact **NOLAN SALES LLC** Marion, WI 715-754-5221 or 800-472-0290 www.nolansales.com (WCAN)

**WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications** review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact **The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)**

## Miscellaneous

**DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO SELL? .... GET RESULTS!** Affordable advertising that fits your budget! Reach OVER 300,000 homes! Place your ad in MANY weekly Wisconsin Shoppers & Buyers' Guide papers for as low as \$36.00 **Call today! Publishers Development Service, Inc. (PDS, Inc.) 1-800-236-0737 www.pdsadnet.com**

**FLORIDA BOUND EMPTY TRUCK** Can move household & Cars - CHEAP! Local 414-520-1612

**WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications** review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!** For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact **The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)**

## HOLIDAY WISH LIST



**WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT KING**

Help us make the holidays brighter by donating **NEW items** listed on the Veterans Home Wish List.

**The home can accept new items only**

- Jeans (W30 & Up; Inseam 29 & longer)
- White & colored T-shirts with and without pockets Sports & Military themed apparel
- Sweatpants
- Sweatshirts (crew neck and zip-up)
- Socks Regular - Diabetic
- Handkerchiefs
- Shoes (slippers, lounge shoes, Velcro tennis shoes, X-wide width)
- Body Wash (Men & Women)
- Body Lotion
- Facial Tissue
- Alcohol Free Mouthwash
- Denture cleaner
- 100-piece or less puzzles
- Bags of individually wrapped chocolate candy
- Cans or bags of coffee (regular and decaf)
- Hot chocolate
- Prepackaged Treats & Healthy Snack Options
- Books with large pictures (travel, animals, planes, variety of subjects)
- Large print playing cards
- Puzzle books (large print word search, sudoku, crossword)
- Walker & wheelchair bags
- Digital clock with day/date display for Elderly

**PLEASE BRING DONATIONS TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS THROUGH NOVEMBER 15, 2023.**

**OSHKOSH**



36 Broad St. #300



11 Waugoo Ave.



24 E. Gruenwald Ave.

**NEENAH**



124 W. Wisconsin Ave. #090B



1060 Breezewood Ln. #101



109 W. Wisconsin Ave.

# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 39, No. 48

KID SCOOP FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES

## Kids to the Rescue!

Life can be expensive at times. Families work hard and don't have money to waste. YOU can help keep your family from overspending on groceries, energy bills and more!



### Checkout Challenge

You're at the grocery store with your parents. Suddenly, you see something you'd really like to have! Snack food, candy bars, toys, magazines and more grab your attention.

What you are feeling is an impulse to buy something. An impulse is something you do without thinking about it. (The tempting items are displayed right at a kid's eye level for a reason!)

By skipping these items, you'll be healthier, and you'll save your family a LOT of money over time. It all adds up!

Standards Link: Economics: Students learn to differentiate between wants and needs.

### Staying on Track

Kevin loves collecting toy racing cars. But the price of these little cars went up recently. His family is spending more on groceries, too. Kevin wanted to help.



He didn't ask his mom to buy him another car on this week's grocery shopping trip. Instead, Kevin traded some cars with his friends Evan and Oscar. Now all three have different cars to play with from time to time. For each of the boys, it's like getting a new car without spending any money at all!

Find the two identical cars.



Standards Link: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

### Avoid the Impulse!

Steer this shopping cart to the produce aisle, avoiding the impulse-buy items along the way.



### What would it cost?

If you bought a \$2 candy bar every week for a month?

If you bought a \$2 candy bar every week for a year?

Standards Link: Math: Solve word problems in two or more steps.

### On the Ball

Replace the missing words.

Olivia wanted a new soccer ball. There wasn't anything \_\_\_\_\_ with the one she already had, but the new one had cooler colors. It was expensive, but she had enough money in her \_\_\_\_\_ to buy it.

Olivia decided not to buy it right away. She \_\_\_\_\_ making an impulse buy.

Each time she went to the store, Olivia \_\_\_\_\_ at the new ball but didn't buy it. Instead, she went home to \_\_\_\_\_ about it. Did she really need it? She found that the longer she waited, the less she thought about the new ball. And her ball was still in \_\_\_\_\_ shape.

If her ball starts to wear out, she has the \_\_\_\_\_ saved and can buy the new ball at the store.



### You Have the Power!

Circle every other letter to reveal one of the most powerful ways you can help your family save money at home.

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

T U \_\_\_\_\_ A  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
H \_\_\_\_\_ V E T  
O O \_\_\_\_\_

### Extra! Extra! Money-Saving Headlines

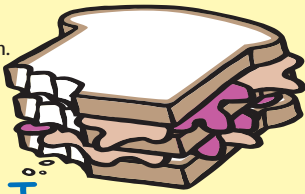
Cut words out of newspaper headlines to make a message about saving money. Use magnets to post the message on your refrigerator. Example: DON'T WASTE FOOD

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple step directions.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### Don't Waste It!

Steven was hungry. He made a huge sandwich. After a few bites, he was full! Wasting food wastes money. Use the code to discover a shocking fact about food waste.



M \_ \_ \_ \_ S  
18 10 14 6 11 16 18 9 5  
\_ T \_ \_ \_  
2 18 5 4 14 18 17 8 3 4  
O \_ \_ \_ R  
13 8 6 4 1 7 14 6 16 14 9 4  
\_ H \_ \_ D  
8 13 4 12 14 13 8 8 15  
\_ C \_ \_  
7 6 8 15 3 16 14 15  
\_ V \_ \_ A \_  
14 14 6 1 1 14 18 6

#### SECRET CODE

18 = A 9 = N  
17 = B 8 = O  
16 = C 7 = P  
15 = D 6 = R  
14 = E 5 = S  
13 = F 4 = T  
12 = H 3 = U  
11 = I 2 = W  
10 = M 1 = Y

### Double Double Word Search

ADDS  
BILLS  
BUY  
CART  
HELP  
HOME  
IMPULSE  
LESS  
MONEY  
NEED  
SPENDING  
STORE  
TEMPTING  
THINKING  
WRONG

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

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

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

## Kid Scoop Together Saving Together

Work with a family member to come up with ideas to save money on each of these items.

### GROCERIES

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### ELECTRICITY

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### CLOTHING

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### ENTERTAINMENT

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### GASOLINE

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### FREE DOWNLOAD: Kid Scoop Teacher Activity Pack!

With hundreds of topics, every Kid Scoop printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at:

[kidscoop.com/activity-pages/](http://kidscoop.com/activity-pages/)

### Write On!

## Report On It!

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

*Beautiful crafts, gifts, and home decor from local artisans.*

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