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District considers theater name change

Pickard renaming would honor Shattuck legacy

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District is considering changing the name of the Pickard Auditorium to the Shattuck Performing Arts Center for Education (SPACE) to preserve the Shattuck family's legacy with the closing of Shattuck Middle School.

The Pickard Auditorium at 1275 Tular Road is in the former high school and current Middle School. The 95-year-old Shattuck Middle School building closed in June. Shattuck was sold to local businessman Umer Sheikh of Investment Creations, with closing on the property taking place in early January.

District Administrator Mary Pfeiffer wrote in a memo that Shattuck's imprint on the community is significant. Franklyn C. Shattuck was a founder of the Kimber-

ly-Clark Corp. and his son S.F. Shattuck was K-C's vice president and director of personnel.

"S.F. Shattuck believed taking care of people less fortunate than himself was important," she said. "He was also a strong advocate for education. The greater good of the community was something he prioritized."

Pfeiffer said S.F. Shattuck's son, Frank,

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Neenah News

Cashing in on TIFs

Neenah Joint School District Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer (left) accepts a check from Mayor Jane Lang and Community Development Director Chris Haese during a celebration last week. Proceeds from the closure of TIF districts 5 and 6 generated \$44 million in a new tax base for the community. Read the story on page 10.

Service dog licensing change sought in state law bid

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A bill that started as a Neenah Common Council directive relating to the city's licensing requirements for service dogs has made its way to the Wisconsin State Capitol with the help of Alderman Kathie Boyette.

Senate Bill 728 and its companion, Assembly Bill 752, were introduced in November after earlier Common Council discussions on changing the city's dog licensing policy to make it more inclusive to service dogs.

City of Neenah residents who own a dog are required to obtain a license each year. Dogs kept only for educational

or scientific purposes or dogs specially trained to lead blind or deaf people, or to provide support for those who are mobility impaired, are exempt from the licensing requirements.

City attorney David Rashid researched the ordinance at the directive of the council and determined it aligns with state law. But Boyette, who represents the city's 1st District, argued that the law is discriminatory to service dogs that perform different tasks. She said the law has not been updated since the 1970s and the science of medicine has evolved since then.

The discussions in city hall prompt-



Photo from WisconsinEye

Alderman Kathie Boyette (center) sits with state Rep. Nate Gustafson and Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara while giving testimony at a Senate Committee on Health public hearing Dec. 7.

SEE **Service dogs** ON PAGE 11

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Entrepreneur molds 3D printer hobby into service

Home business makes replacement parts

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A broken espresso machine tray led Randy Roethle to launch a small business out of his Neenah home.

Roethle, who calls himself “a maker,” purchased a 3D printer to tinker with and create small items as a hobby.

“My wife told me the drip tray for the espresso machine was broken. I looked at it and wondered if I could create a replacement part with my 3D printer,” he said.

After a little work to create the part, he was successful. Thinking other people might also need a new drip tray — the company does not sell replacement parts — Roethle created a store on Etsy, Limitless 3D Design, to sell the parts.

“I really hit a nerve. I didn’t know how much of a need there was out there for new trays,” he said. “Instead of people replacing the machine, they could just purchase the replacement tray. It saves them money and it keeps the machine out of the landfill. What started as a hobby grew into a small business.”

In the basement, Roethle has several machines, including two different types of 3D printers, that he uses to create products. His fused deposition molding (FDM) machines work by depositing melted filament over a build platform layer by layer until the part is completed. The Resin MLSA machine uses a large ultraviolet light source to cure resins layer by layer until the part is finished.

“The project determines which machine is used. The Resin MLSA machine



Photo by MaryBeth Matzek

Randy Roethle started a small business out of his Neenah home creating 3D printer parts.

can produce items with amazing details,” he said.

A civil engineer by trade, Roethle worked extensively with Autodesk, a design software, which he uses in his work. Last May after discussions with his family, he left his full-time job to focus on his side gig and being a stay-at-home dad.

In addition to selling various replacement Nespresso parts, he also sells Apple Watch charging stands and a support sleeve for the Medela Freestyle pump called the Milk Crate.

“I am always trying to figure out some potential needs out there and then make items to fit those needs,” Roethle said.

Before purchasing his first 3D printer, Roethle made batteries as a hobby.

“I kept hearing more and more about 3D printers and what they could do so I got one and began tinkering around with it,” he said.

Roethle rented a spot at the Future Neenah Farmers Market to sell some of his products and educate people about the potential of 3D printing.

“I’m passionate about 3D printing. I wanted people to get excited about 3D

printers and what they can do,” he said. “I wanted to show how you can make replacement parts for things instead of buying something new.”

One day a woman approached him about the handle on her sliding door that had broken off. She gave him a piece of the handle, which Roethle scanned. He was able to reverse engineer the part, which he then created.

“She was so happy about it,” he said. “When I started out making things with my 3D printer, I had no clue how rewarding it would be to make parts for people to solve their problems.”

Roethle also helped an event planner in Miami who found him on the Internet and needed small table signs created for a party. He was able to create and ship them in time for her event. He has since worked with her on some other items.

“I love taking an idea and making something. I feel fortunate I have been able to take something I love and turn it into a business,” he said.

To learn more, visit limitless3ddesign.com or Roethle’s Etsy site at limitless3design.etsy.com.

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Neenah Historical Society photo

Holidays at the hospital

Nurses at Theda Clark Hospital decorate the Christmas tree for patients to enjoy.

Neenah man charged for stabbing brother

Neenah News

A Neenah man accused of stabbing his brother more than 17 times last week previously told police he was going to kill his brother and asked to be arrested.

Darnell McCauley, 26, remains incarcerated at the Winnebago County Jail on a charge of attempted first-degree intentional homicide for the Dec. 18 incident.



McCauley

According to the criminal complaint, officers were dispatched to a weapons call at around 11 p.m. in the 2100 block of Marathon Avenue, across from the Neenah Police Department. Officers found blood on the carpet, wall, couch and clothes in the area. A kitchen knife with a 12-inch blade was found in the

middle of the living room.

The victim was in a corner with multiple knife wounds and transported by ambulance to the hospital. Medical personnel treated him for stab wounds to his head, neck, face, arms and shoulders; with one wound puncturing his lung.

A female witness told police she was drinking with McCauley and the victim that evening when the two men got into an argument. She said McCauley was acting "crazy" and made comments about killing her and the victim. At some point she said McCauley hit her in the face.

She and the victim were able to defuse the situation but a short time later she said she heard McCauley and his brother fighting again. The woman said when she returned to the living room McCauley was holding two knives and stabbing his brother.

Police used a taser on McCauley and took him into custody. He told paramedics that he has ADHD, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, and was not taking any medication for those conditions. When questioned by police, he said he stabbed his brother in self-defense.

The complaint references a Nov. 26 incident where McCauley walked into the lobby of the police department with a knife and scissors in his pockets and asked to be arrested, stating he was going to kill his brother. The report notes that due to homicidal and suicidal comments, crisis was contacted.

McCauley was in court this week for a preliminary hearing. He faces up to 60 years in prison if convicted.



Neenah Joint School District photo

Robotics battles

Neenah High School hosted 65 high school and middle school teams from across the state in its inaugural VEX robotics tournament earlier this month. Neenah's team of Jack Henry, Jack DeMenter and Braden Wendt won the championship with an 11-0 record and qualified for state competition. The team of Asher Brotherton, Nate Brotherton, Aidan Colby, Jace Ostermeier, Connor McNulty and Logan Tauscher went 9-2 and also advanced. Neenah had 12 teams competing overall.

Child porn activity brings three-year prison sentence

Neenah News

A 49-year-old Neenah man will spend three years in prison and three years on extended supervision for possessing nearly 400 images of child pornography.

Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Teresa Basiliere sentenced Christopher Rougeux last week on three counts of possessing child pornography, with a three-year sentence on each count, served concurrently.

Documents say the Neenah Police Department received a report from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children CyberTipline last year and executed a search warrant at a home on Marathon Avenue where Rougeux lived with his mother.

A forensic examination and extraction of phones and electronic devices revealed about 384 images of child pornography depicting children approximately 3-8 years old. Rougeux told police he would take screenshots of child pornography from searches and forums he was looking at but never directly contacted or spoke to anyone.

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Drug safety vending machines set for county vote

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Vending machines stocked with Narcan, fentanyl test strips and recovery materials could soon be in Neenah and Oshkosh pending county approval, increasing access to resources in the wake of the county's deadliest year for accidental drug overdoses, with fentanyl identified as the leading cause.

Winnebago County health director Doug Gieryn told the Board of Health last week that the purpose of the vending machines is to increase access to Narcan, the brand name for naloxone, a lifesaving drug that reverses opioid overdoses, and provide test strips that identify the presence of fentanyl and can also save lives when used appropriately.

"It's about having the Narcan available because you have a family member or a group that you associate with where there's a potential risk for overdose, and having that Narcan available will buy you time," he said. "It may save a life or at least extend the time frame in which EMS (emergency medical service) has to respond."

This year there have been 42 fatal overdoses in the county as of November, with an additional seven cases pending toxicology results. That surpasses the county's previous record of 41 such deaths in 2021.

There are currently about 60 harm-reduction vending machines placed throughout the state using Wisconsin Department of Health Services grant funding, but none in Winnebago County.

Controversy around a proposal to use the \$80,000 grant to install the vending machines outside the Human Services building at 211 N. Commercial St. in

Neenah and in the county administration building's outdoor courtyard at 112 Otter Ave. in Oshkosh has delayed the process.

The proposal to accept the grant was on the Board of Supervisors' agenda in August but abruptly pulled after medical examiner Cheryl Brehmer spoke in opposition, stating she's concerned about the health department providing drug users with supplies that facilitate use and the county should be focusing on providing access to treatment resources.



Gieryn

"Essentially, they're supplying almost everything needed for IV drug use other than the substance itself," she said. "I'm concerned that these supplies will eventually make their way into those vending machines."

Gieryn addressed Brehmer's comments at last week's meeting.

"We heard from our medical examiner in relation to her concern in having the harm-reduction materials in a machine and that she's concerned that by having these materials in the machines that we're promoting drug use and overdose – and certainly that's not the intent of these machines," he said.

He noted that having clean materials prevents the spread of disease from one drug user to another when sharing supplies "and helps people not end up with a lifelong disease that they have to recover from in addition to trying to navigate their addiction."

Gieryn said the resolution was modified

to take up Brehmer's concerns and include that hypodermic syringes, needles or other objects used for injecting substances are prohibited from the inventories of the vending machines "but that we'd still be able to have Narcan, fentanyl test strips and a variety of other products that are designed to help support individuals in our community."

Vending machine access would be restricted, requiring users to consult with the health department and obtain a code to use them.

"If we're restricting access, we're only doing it in a way where somebody is calling us, explaining a need and giving a code," he said.

Gieryn noted if the county isn't going to have sterile supplies such as needles in the machines there may not be a need for restricted access.

Added to the newest resolution was wording from County Executive Jon Doemel that other public health materi-

als may be included in the machines, including CPR masks, hats, gloves, water and food, with county executive approval. Gieryn said the wording was added to consider people who are skeptical about what may go into the machines and their oversight.

"We're trying to make sure everyone feels comfortable just to get them placed," he said. "Even if the only thing we can ever put in these machines is Narcan, it would still be worth it."

The Board of Health voted to advance the proposal to the Personnel and Finance Committee. If approved it will go to the county board, which is expected to take action on it early next year.

"We want to have naloxone available like we have CPR machines because accidents happen," Gieryn said. "You can't always predict when that will occur and we want to make sure that the community has access to these materials so that people can survive."

Respiratory illnesses rise during holiday season

ThedaCare Communications

As we enter December and prime time for family and social gatherings, respiratory illnesses are also on the rise.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services reported in mid-November that flu, COVID-19, and RSV cases are increasing. In particular, the state has seen an increase in hospitalizations of young children infected with RSV.

Cases of respiratory illnesses of all kinds tend to spike in the colder months as people begin to spend more time indoors, and that's just what we're seeing, said Dr. Montgomery "Monk" Elmer, of the ThedaCare Primary Care and Continuous Improvement Leadership Teams.

For many, it's hard to determine which illness they have when they experience respiratory symptoms. What matters most is not which virus you have, but rather the care steps you take.

For otherwise-healthy people, the treatment is "chicken soup and the sofa." Other home care measures include staying hydrated and taking over-the-counter fever-reducing medications as needed.

The guidance does vary for COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) still recommends isolating for a period of at least five days if you test positive, regardless of symptoms. Individuals should also mask for 10 days after testing positive.

In general, seek care if you have symptoms that concern you, if your fever isn't going away after three days, or if you're short of breath.

Seek emergency care if you experience any of the following symptoms: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, pale, gray or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone.

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Mexican restaurant owner backs out of Doty Island site

Neenah News

Plans for a Cozumel Mexican Grill to open a second location on Doty Island adjacent to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center this spring have fallen through, with no word on what business will move in at the former OptiVision site.

Alejandro Torres owns the Oshkosh Cozumel location which opened in 2016. He previously submitted an application for a liquor license to open a Cozumel bar and restaurant at 240 1st Street on Doty Island but abruptly withdrew the application last week.

City clerk Char Nagel said the Cozumel owner is considering changing the location to the former Applebee's site on Westowne Drive and asked that the liquor license be removed from the agenda.

David Miller of 611 Properties is de-

veloping the Doty Island site which has already been substantially cleared to make way for the one story restaurant that will feature an outdoor patio surrounded by a fence. Miller previously told the city's Plan Commission that he hoped to have construction complete and the restaurant opening in early May.

With Cozumel backing out on the location, it's unclear what business will go in the site and Miller told Neenah News he isn't able to provide information due to the ongoing negotiations.

Earlier this year the common council discussed the shortage of food options on the island central to Neenah and Menasha, with a particular need for those visiting patients at the adjacent hospital. The city has been unsuccessful in attracting a convenience store or restaurant to the area.

J.J. Keller announces leadership change

Neenah News

J.J. Keller & Associates board chairman Robert L. Keller is retiring effective Monday and will be chairman emeritus as current chairman and board vice chairman James J. Keller becomes new chairman.

The brothers are the second generation of the Keller family to have led the family-owned company started by their father. John founded in 1953 as a consulting firm for the transportation industry, it has become a diversified company with more than 2,000 associates.

Starting with J.J. Keller in 1957 at age 11 to help his father by doing odd jobs, Rob-

ert Keller has spent his entire career with the company. After earning an economics degree from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, he held a series of leadership roles before becoming president in 1974, chief executive in 1988 and then chairman of the board.

James Keller also began working for the company at age 11. He served as president beginning in 2006, president and CEO from 2012 to 2013, along with holding vice chair and treasurer positions on the board.

He will work closely with chief executive Rustin Keller and the executive leadership team during the transition.

Business news roundup

Aimee Herrick, director of events and emerging talent at the Fox Cities Chamber, has been named to the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) 2023 Forty Under 40 list of emerging leaders shaping the chamber of commerce industry. Herrick, a former high school teacher, has helped the Chamber succeed with an eye for detail, planning, communication and a working knowledge of schools. The annual recognition program showcases 40 of the industry's top emerging leaders who have made significant contributions to the communities they serve.



Herrick

performer of the year categories. WAMI is a volunteer organization that educates and recognizes the achievements and accomplishments of individuals in the Wisconsin music industry.

Capital Credit Union, with offices in Neenah and Oshkosh, has been certified as a Gold-Status Employee Friendly Workplace by the Fox Cities Chamber. Some of the initiatives that contribute to Capital Credit Union's certification include the option for remote work, paid time off for both full-time and part-time employees, health and wellness incentives, tuition and training advance reimbursement, and incentivized volunteer time.

Think Hallmark Real Estate has been named a PULSE Champion of Young Professionals by the Fox Cities Chamber, a designation that recognizes employers who pledge to provide support and a positive work environment for young professionals. Think Hallmark Real Estate offers an educational program designed to equip agents with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in real estate.

Wayne Salzmann II, a drummer, educator, author and composer from Neenah who recently returned from a national tour with Grammy winning guitarist Eric Johnson, has been nominated for the 2024 Wisconsin Area Music Industry (WAMI) awards in the percussion/drum kit and

County urges recycling of holiday string lights

The City and Town of Neenah and Village of Fox Crossing are participating in the holiday string lights recycling program sponsored by Winnebago County Solid Waste. String lights can be deposited in the collection box in the Neenah Town Hall or Fox Crossing Municipal Building through January 16 and in Neenah City Hall through January 31.

Broken or unwanted string lights should never go in recycling carts because they tangle the sorting equipment used to

process recycling. There is no charge for recycling the lights at the participating locations. The program does not accept other decorations such as ornaments, bulbs, tinsels and yard or house light displays.

Winnebago County Solid Waste began collecting holiday string lights in 2019 for recycling in an effort to divert more materials from the landfill. Last year, about 300 pounds of holiday lights were collected county-wide for recycling.

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A look back at newsworthy stories this year in Neenah

Neenah News

As 2023 draws to a close, we offer a summary of some of the people, places and ongoing topics that made the news over the past year.

January

The city of Neenah received pushback from residents in the Shattuck Middle School neighborhood due to efforts to enforce its sign ordinance. The signs displayed in the yards of dozens of homes referred to a failed vote on rezoning the Shattuck site so that a developer could build apartments and single-family homes. Tim and Megan Florek, who received a notice of violation letter, retained counsel with the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty and filed a federal lawsuit against the city, alleging the sign ordinance is unconstitutional.

The Neenah Police Department kicked off a yearlong weekly treasure hunt in celebration of its 150th anniversary, coinciding with the city's sesquicentennial celebrations. Police hid bronze medallions throughout the city each Monday and posted clues that led treasure hunters to the prizes hidden at city parks and public property within Neenah.

February

Multimillion-dollar local company Adam's Specialty Products celebrated 25 years making cages and aquariums seen at most major zoos across the United States. The business was started by Adam Keller as a hobby building reptile enclosures in his apartment while attending the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Keller started with \$5,000 in capital and in 2001 moved to a new production facility in Neenah, later adding three more buildings and an expansion. The company includes Custom Cages, Custom Aquariums, Vision Products and Serenity Aquarium and Aviary Service.

Winnebago County Clerk Sue Ertmer retired Feb. 24 after more than 44 years of service to the county. She was hired in 1979 as a clerk and typist, moved up the ranks to deputy county clerk from 1983 to 1998 before being elected clerk in 1998 and went on to be re-elected seven times. Ertmer provided services to residents and municipalities and was chief election officer. The position also acts as a secretary for the County Board and its committees and commissions.

March

The city of Neenah kicked off its 150th



Neenah News

The sale of Shattuck Middle School and the rezoning of the site was one of the top stories in Neenah in 2023.

anniversary with a birthday party March 13. Events celebrating Neenah's sesquicentennial were held throughout the year and included an Arbor Day celebration April 28, a historical bike tour June 10, Community Fest with fireworks July 1 and a Future Neenah community party in the street Aug. 23.

The 100-year-old Roosevelt Elementary School on Doty Island permanently closed its doors as part of the district's restructuring plan with the completion of a new high school in Fox Crossing. Local businessman John 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. The building was slated for demolition beginning in the fall to make room for ThedaCare's adjacent helipad.

Winnebago County established a "Spirit Fund" for \$33.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds after a similar proposal failed in January and reversed previous activity and rulings related to the funds. Among the expenditures approved after the fund's establishment was to grant each of the county's 21 towns and municipalities \$145,000 for general purposes.

April

A federal judge issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting the city of Neenah from enforcing its sign ordinance. A second lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the sign ordinance was brought against the city in circuit court by the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Litigation Center on behalf of residents Gail and Margaret Minks and Gary and Kim Novak, asserting that the ordinance violates the First Amendment right to free speech.

Common Council member Cari Lendrum held off a close challenge from Alexander Collins to retain her Alderman District 1 seat in the spring election. Aldermen Tami Erickson in District 2 and Scott Weber in District 3 ran unopposed. On the Board of Education, incumbent Deborah Watry retained her board seat while Lindsay Clark and Michelle Swardenski won the other two openings, vacated by Amy Morrissey, who did not seek re-election and Tom Hanby, who fell short on gaining a new term. In the judicial race, Winnebago County Circuit Judge Scott Woldt retained his Branch 2 bench seat against challenger and former Branch 4 Judge LaKeisha Haase.

May

A month after securing re-election, Winnebago County Judge Scott Woldt, who was suspended for judicial misconduct two years ago, faced another complaint after he allegedly approached an attorney during a social event and threatened to retaliate against him for supporting his opponent in the Branch 2 judicial race, unless the attorney reimbursed him \$28,000 for his campaign. Neenah News first reported the story after obtaining the Judicial Commission complaint, which was attached as an exhibit in a motion to have Woldt substituted in a case he was presiding over.

The Neenah Show Choir known as Vintage prepared to celebrate its 50th anniversary by taking the stage at the Pickard Auditorium for its annual Finale performance. Currently composed of 24 singers and dancers and 12 band members, Jim and Sue Vine have led the choir for nearly three decades.

June

The Future Neenah Summer Kickoff

Concert took place, marking the first event since the Common Council voted to establish the area as a Temporary Downtown Outdoor Refreshment Area (TDORA), paving the way for outdoor drinking during approved and permitted events.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center has been answering a growing number of accidental emergency calls that could divert resources from genuine 911 calls for emergencies. They receive an average of about 140 calls every day and recently received 234 over two days, which is substantial. In 2022, dispatch received 5,900 accidental 911 calls, which is about 11% of all 911 calls received and this year the department is on track to receive around 7,000.

Mandel Roy was sentenced to seven years in prison for his role in the stabbing death of 22-year-old Roger Ridgeway near a local bar in 2021. His accomplice, Terran Colwell of Minnesota, was sentenced to three years in prison. Roy and Colwell were both initially charged with felony murder but entered into plea agreements to lesser charges after authorities were unable to definitively determine which individual fatally stabbed Ridgeway.

July

The Neenah Public Library changed its policies to ban open or concealed carry of weapons after a man walked through the library carrying a long rifle. At the time the resident visited the library with the gun it had no policies on open or concealed carrying of weapons. His visit prompted at least nine complaints to library staff, the 911 dispatch center and police department.

Winnebago County approved plans in July for its own mobile morgue unit for temporarily storing bodies in response to the opioid epidemic and the possibility of a mass casualty event. The County Board voted to accept the donation of a mobile morgue unit from the Fox Valley Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition. Bodies that require autopsies are currently transported to Fond du Lac County. A permanent morgue and sheriff's office evidence storage is being planned at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million.

August

A new Neenah High School opened its doors in Fox Crossing, featuring a 26,000-square-foot practice gym with four basketball courts, a competition

SEE Year in Review ON PAGE 7

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Neenah News

The new Neenah High School opened its doors for the start of the 2023-24 school year.

Year in Review

FROM PAGE 6

gym with a 3,100-person capacity, two academic wings, technology education spaces, shop spaces, a wrestling room and a courtyard. The school's performing arts center includes an 850-seat auditorium and 200-seat black box theater. Athletic fields and supporting infrastructure are all on one campus.

The Neenah Joint School District voted to sell the Shattuck Middle School to Umer Sheikh of Investment Creations who plans to construct lots for 50 to 60 single-family homes and 34 to 48 apartments inside Shattuck. The Neenah company has purchased and remodeled several local buildings, most notably The Marketplace at 124 W. Wisconsin Ave. and the Equitable Reserve building at 116 S. Commercial St.

The chapel at Oak Hill Cemetery for nearly 100 years was restored to its original glory with the help of local businessman John Bergstrom, who funded the project. Five contractors and about 15 subcontractors were brought in for the restoration using historic drawings to preserve the chapel's integrity. Bergstrom plans to restore the adjacent mortuary vault next year.

September

A U.S. federal judge dismissed a civil rights lawsuit filed by five people who were held hostage during a 2015 standoff at the former Eagle Nation Cycles shop. The lawsuit sought unspecified compensatory and punitive damages on behalf of the hostages, alleging their constitutional rights were violated when the officers improperly detained and arrested them after another hostage – Michael Funk – was mistakenly shot and killed by police who were responding to the disturbance started by Brian Flatoff. The judge ruled the responding officers acted reasonably considering the circumstances and they're entitled to qualified immunity.

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October

The Neenah Animal Shelter broke ground on a brand new location to meet the growing needs of animals in the community. The new shelter will be constructed less than a mile from the existing location on a 3.5 acre parcel at 2475 Progress Court. The land for the future site was donated by local businessman John Bergstrom, who also contributed to the shelter's \$2 million capital campaign for construction. At the same time, the fate of the pet cemetery at the existing location that holds the remains of about 1,000 animals became uncertain. Two listening sessions were held with options presented.

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 that includes a firing range, armory, conference room, defense and arrest tactics room, and virtual 3-D training room.

November

Neenah Joint School District Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer, who led the local public schools through significant changes over the past 15 years, announced her retirement effective June 30. The Board of Education will begin the process of hiring a search firm to conduct a national search for the new superintendent.

Vinnie's Pantry celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting signifying completion of an expansion that moves the food pantry from the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store's retail space to a 27,000-square-foot space next door at 1421 S. Commercial St. The pantry supports 2,000 families, supplying an average

of 50,000 pounds of food per month to residents of northern Winnebago County.

More people than ever are dying from drug overdoses in Winnebago County, with 42 recorded deaths and an additional seven cases pending toxicology results with two months left in the year. Previously, Winnebago County's greatest number of overdose fatalities were in 2021 with 41 deaths. At the same time, a countywide effort to use grant funds to install harm reduction vending machines stocked with the overdose-reversing medication Narcan and fentanyl test strips has stalled after Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer spoke in opposition of them at an August county board meeting.

December

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors voted to strip the health director of some of the powers granted during the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Supervisors Brian Defferding, Conley Hanson and Jacob Floam brought forward the changes, with Defferding noting the purpose is to make it challenging for the Health Department to issue a general order such as the Safer at Home order the county issued in May 2020 that put strategies in place to protect residents.

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue achieved the highest fire-protection rating nationally, joining nine other departments in Wisconsin that have achieved the ISO Class 1 designation. Fire Chief Kevin Kloehn, who led the department since 2016, was recently recognized by the Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association as fire chief of the year. Kloehn is retiring and will be succeeded by Travis Teesch.

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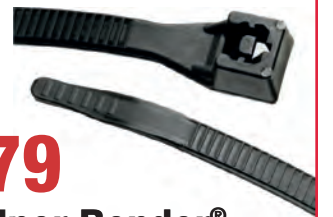


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City marks \$44 million in new tax base with closing of TIFs

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

City of Neenah and business officials celebrated the successful closure of two tax incremental financing (TIF) districts last week, signifying the creation of more than 3,000 jobs and \$44 million in new tax base for the community.

Proceeds from the closures of TIF districts 5 and 6 will provide more than \$800,000 toward workforce housing and housing stabilization efforts in the city.

Community Development Director Chris Haese explained that TIF is an economic development tool where tax revenue generated from the incremental property value created within the district is used by a community to pay back into its investment made within that district. Partnering jurisdictions only collect revenue on the base value of the property until the investment is repaid.

“However, once the district completes its financial obligation, these jurisdictions will receive the full benefit of the increased property values, which in the cases of TIF 5 and 6 is over \$44 million,” he said.

Haese noted funding of the TIF districts occurs without increasing property taxes in the city.

“So no one sees an increase in their tax bill as a result,” he said. “In fact, generally speaking, once the full value of the district is closed and the full value goes back on the rolls, it helps to stabilize our property taxes.”

Officials met at the Plexus facility in the Southpark Industrial Complex to commemorate the closing of the two districts. The Plexus location is significant as it’s the largest single-built building to date in the



Neenah News

City, school and county officials recently toured the Plexus facility on Schultz Drive, which was developed with the assistance of tax incremental financing.

city and its development was facilitated by assistance within TIF District 6.

Plexus chief executive Todd Kelsey thanked those in attendance for making the facility a reality.

“You’ve supported the economic growth of the city of Neenah and the state

of Wisconsin, and you’ve helped us continue to live our vision: We help create the products that build a better world,” he said.

Notable improvements in District 5 include restoration of the former Equitable Reserve Building, redevelopment of

Shattuck Park and the Neenah Riverwalk, and the development of the One, Two and Three Neenah Center towers.

TIF partners also receive a proportionate share of surplus revenues that are collected during the life of the district. Haese and Mayor Jane Lang provided revenue checks to the partners at the event last week. Fox Valley Technical College received \$48,729, Winnebago County received \$246,890 and the Neenah Joint School District received \$413,063.

Lang expressed gratitude to the partnering entities for their collaboration and commitment.

“It signifies the success of our community-driven approach to development and highlights the collective achievements of residents, businesses, our partnering jurisdictions and city officials,” she said. “Neenah is poised for continued success, and we look forward to a great future.”

Haese said the closing of the two TIF districts “reflects a culmination of achievements and positive outcomes that have surpassed initial expectations. Both districts have played a pivotal role in fostering economic development, improving public infrastructure and enhancing the overall quality of life for Neenah residents.”

The city has six remaining TIF districts, including the Westside Business Corridor, Doty Island Business District, I-41 South Industrial Redevelopment District, Downtown Gateway Redevelopment District, Pendleton Development Area and Bridgewood Redevelopment.

Haese said to date the city has created about \$300 million of value within the TIF districts, which is about 10% of the city’s tax base.

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Name change

FROM PAGE 1

donated millions of dollars to area organizations such as Lawrence University, the Neenah-Menasha YMCA, Tri-County Ice Arena, Boys' & Girls' Brigade and Pickard Auditorium.

"Pickard Auditorium was made possible by Frank Shattuck as he was the person who provided funding for the auditorium and even increased the size of the original design," Pfeiffer said.

She noted Pickard is named after Sam Pickard, who was president of National

Manufacturers Bank of Neenah and was Frank C. Shattuck's personal banker. He assisted in organizing a fund drive but did not donate toward the auditorium nor contribute to the school district.

"Based on all of the changes that took place this past summer in our district, including the closing of Shattuck Middle School, we believe it is the right time to remove the Pickard name and preserve the Shattuck legacy in our district," Pfeiffer said.

Three members of the public spoke on changing the name at the meeting. One woman suggested that the district name one of the two new theaters that don't

have names rather than renaming Pickard.

"While I agree that we should honor the contributions the Shattuck family has provided to our community, I don't agree that we should be erasing the huge impact that Pickard Civic Auditorium has had in our community and the Valley over the past 50 plus years," she said.

Resident Scott Becher posted on social media about the proposal in advance of last week's meeting, with the majority of commenters against the change, some calling it cancel culture. Becher told the board to start a committee and build a consensus on the naming, "because we should all remember the role of Shattuck

and Pickard and so many other people ... so we should honor that legacy."

A Neenah High School student said no matter what the name is it will continue to be called Pickard.

"I think we should honor that reason by keeping it as Pickard and name the new theater Shattuck," the student said.

Along with changing the name, the district would establish an opportunity for an auditorium scholarship. The SPACE would encompass the auditorium and adjacent music areas.

Last week was the first of two readings before the board takes action on the proposal.

Service dogs

FROM PAGE 1

ed Boyette to take action at the state level with the help of Sens. Rachael Cabral-Guevara of Fox Crossing, Tim Carpenter of Milwaukee and Mark Spreitzer of Beloit, who co-sponsored a bill to change the service dog requirements statewide.

Representatives Nate Gustafson of Fox Crossing and Lori Palmeri of Oshkosh joined 12 others in introducing it.

At the federal level, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability that are directly related to the person's disability.

The bill being considered would exempt any dog that is a service animal under the ADA from the dog license tax, and every person owning a service dog would receive a free dog license annually. It would not impact therapy dogs or emotional support animals that would still need to follow the city's licensing requirements.

Boyette has a personal stake in the mat-

ter as her 8-year-old granddaughter, Averi Conner, has significant health challenges requiring a service dog. Conner was featured in two recent Neenah News articles as her family successfully raised more than \$10,000 to buy her a special bed after insurance denied covering it.

Boyette brought a copy of the Neenah News with Conner's story in it to a Senate Committee on Health meeting Dec. 7 and passed it around to the senators. She told the committee that while fundraising for Conner's special bed the family received a citation from police because the seizure dog Boyette purchased for her was not licensed.

"We were under the impression that the ADA says that service animals do not need to pay for a licensing fee," Boyette said. "We got a \$250 ticket. Went to our local municipality and they said, 'Well, the state law is what we've adopted at our local level and it says sight, hearing and mobility dogs. That's it.'"

Boyette explained that the tasks service dogs are trained to perform include more than sight, hearing and mobility services.

She said soldiers with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) have service dogs and "we have kids with seizures that get

dogs, we have diabetics that have dogs that smell for their blood sugars, we have dogs for cardiac, etcetera - all of those are not exempt from this fee."

The licensing fee varies by municipality but in Neenah it's \$8 for altered pets, \$13 for unaltered pets and a \$5 late fee if the pet is registered after April 1.

Boyette noted the fee isn't excessive but could still be challenging for those whose only income is disability benefits.

"But what's really the problem was the \$250 fine you're going to get because you didn't know your dog was not exempt from paying this fee," she said.

Cabral-Guevara explained that the bill's purpose is to ensure state law aligns with the ADA.

"What we're asking with this legislation is that it also include guide dogs, signal dogs, seizure dogs, diabetic alert dogs - so just broadening it slightly," she said.

There are still more steps that the Senate and Assembly must take before the bill can become law. If it passes three readings in the Senate it will go through the same procedures in the Assembly. If it's accepted in both the Senate and Assembly, it will be sent to Gov. Tony Evers to consider signing into law.

Calendar of events

Friday, Dec. 29
Starfire, 6 p.m., Winncrest Banquet Hall, 2788 Towne Court, Neenah

Sunday, Dec. 31
New Year's Eve party, 6 p.m., Bately's Grill & Bar, 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

Saturday, Jan. 6
Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Monday, Jan. 8
Monday Matinee: "Barbie," 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Jan. 13
Washington Park Winter Festival, 11 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 14
Board Games & Baked Goods, 9 a.m., Neenah Public Library



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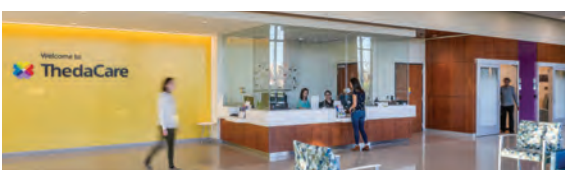
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Public library calendar

- Jan. 3**
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup
- Jan. 4**
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
- Jan. 5**
9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Boot Camp
10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga
- Jan. 6**
10:30 a.m.: Game-A-Palooza (all ages)
- Jan. 7**
1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+)
- Jan. 8**
1 p.m.: Monday Matinee: "Barbie" (PG-13)
7 p.m.: Short Story Night: "The Miracle Girl" by Rita Chang-Eppig
- Jan. 9**
10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care
10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months)
1:30 p.m.: Tech Talk Tuesday: Just the Ticket: How to Navigate Online Travel Websites
4:30 p.m.: Free Legal Assistance Clinic
7 p.m.: The Next Chapter (Facebook Live)
- Jan. 10**
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup
- Jan. 11**
10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open J a.m.
- Jan. 12**
10:30 a.m.: Footloose Fridays
- Jan. 13**
10:30 a.m.: Tween Program: DIY Snowglobes
- Jan. 15**
9 a.m. – Noon: Board Games and Baked Goods drop in program.
1:30 p.m.: Memory Cafe: Bingo
6:30 p.m.: Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: "Killers of a Certain Age" by Deanna Raybourn
- Jan. 16**
10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care
10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months)
- 6:30 p.m.: Cookbook Book Club: Soups and Stews
- Jan. 17**
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)
4 p.m.: Library Board meeting
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup
- Jan. 18**
10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open J a.m.
- Jan. 19**
9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength
10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga
- Jan. 20**
10:30 a.m.: Stuffed Animal Clinic (ages 3+)
4:30 p.m.: Games Triathlon-Register online or call 920-886-6315
- Jan. 21**
1 p.m.: Legos in the Library (ages 5+)
- Jan. 22**
10 a.m.: MMBK: "The Measure"
- Jan. 23**
10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care
10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months)
7 p.m.: Dormant Season with photographer Erinn Springer
- Jan. 24**
9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (birth-12 months)
10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)
5:30 p.m.: Mah Jongg Meetup
- Jan. 25**
10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)
5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam
- Jan. 27**
10:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m.: Friends of NPL Magazine Sale
- Jan. 28**
Noon to 4 p.m.: Friends of NPL Magazine Sale - free day
- Jan. 30**
10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care
10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (12-24 months)
6:30 p.m.: Movie Talks: "Insomnia"



Neenah News

A judge ruled last week that an amended complaint against the City of Neenah will be allowed.

Amended complaint granted in sign lawsuit

Alterations in response to ordinance changes

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A circuit court judge ruled last week that the Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) litigation center will be allowed to file an amended complaint against the city of Neenah in a lawsuit that challenges the constitutionality of the city's sign ordinance.

The Common Council voted in October to change the city's sign ordinance to comport with the 2015 Supreme Court decision in Reed v. Gilbert, which prohibits the regulation of signs based on their content. The ordinance amendments included moving all the content-based signs into a content neutral category of "portable yard signs," which do not require a permit from the city.

WMC conceded that the city's amendments to the sign ordinance alleviated at least two of its concerns, but argued the city left most of the challenged provisions intact and requested leave to file an amended complaint to conform to the new version of the sign ordinance. Judge Daniel Bissett granted the request.

The sign ordinance drew scrutiny after the city tried to require homes in the Shattuck Middle School neighborhood to remove signs protesting rezoning efforts because they violated the time limits for portable signs.

The signs stating "Don't Rezone Shattuck Middle School, Leave R-1 Alone" were in opposition of a plan to rezone the site so a developer could make the former school into apartments and construct homes. The Common Council voted not to approve the rezoning and the school district later voted to sell the site to local businessman Umer Sheikh of Investment Creations, who plans to construct apartments inside Shattuck and sell lots for single-family homes.

Lawsuits contending the city's sign ordinance is unconstitutional were brought on behalf of residents Tim and Megan Flore, who retained counsel with the Wisconsin Institute of Law and Liberty and filed in federal court in January, followed in April by the circuit court case WMC filed on behalf of residents Gail and Margaret Minks and Gary and Kim Novak.

A temporary injunction was granted in both lawsuits preventing the city from enforcing its sign ordinance during the ongoing litigation.



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Getting defensive works well for Zephyrs' Norville

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

In a Big East North matchup against Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah last week, St. Mary Catholic's biggest concern was high-scoring senior forward Coryn Fromm.

Fromm entered the game averaging a shade under 25 points per game – no other Resorter player scored more than 6.4 points per game – so slowing down Fromm would be a big key for the Zephyrs.

When it comes to defense, Zephyrs head coach Jeff Chew knows exactly where to turn.

"Audrey usually plays on the best offensive player on the other team, whether it's a post or an outside player, point guard, it doesn't really matter. She's just an all-around versatile player," Chew said. "She just does a really nice job defensively for us and then plays point guard for us on offense and runs the show."

And how did Fromm fair in the match-up.

"My goal was to keep her to four points," Norville said. "She scored zero."

Norville's play on the defensive end has been a key to the strong start to the season for the sixth-ranked Zephyrs, but it's hardly her only contribution.

The four-year varsity performer currently ranks second on the team in scoring at 14.7 points per game, while her 18 3-pointers are tied for the most on the team. She also ranks second on the team in both assists and steals, while grabbing the third most rebounds per game on the squad.

"I think our season is going great so far. We are working as a team on the court, making sure we are getting the ball around," Norville said. "The same person (doesn't lead us in scoring) every game and I think that's important. It shows a lot about our team. I think it's a key part of the team having multiple players that can score."

Norville said the unselfishness of the team was something emphasized with the team this season.

"We had Chloe (Vogel) the past couple of seasons and she was our main scorer but this season coach really put an emphasis on that we didn't have to have just one main scorer," Norville said. "We're not going to be putting a lot of emphasis on (scoring) stats when it comes to playing time."

Basketball isn't the only court that Norville has starred on this school year.

She was also a key player on the Zephyrs



St. Mary Catholic senior Audrey Norville is a three-sport standout for the Zephyrs who has played on the varsity basketball team since she was a freshman. She is committed to Black Hills State University to continue her basketball career.

Neeah News

Senior Standout



volleyball team that qualified for the state tournament. Norville is also an all-conference defender in soccer in the spring for the Zephyrs.

Playing all three sports can be a bit cumbersome at times, however, she's never given any thought to picking just one or two to play.

"Ever since I've been little, I've played multiple sports. I've just wanted to keep myself busy. If I didn't play multiple sports, I honestly don't know what I would do," Norville said. "I honestly haven't thought about (specializing) because I think the other sports help me in basketball. Basketball is 100 percent my favorite sport but if I didn't have the other sports, I don't think I'd be as good at basketball."

The special season she experienced in volleyball also has had a carryover effect into basketball but more so as an individual and not as a team since there were only a couple of players that were on the volleyball roster.

"It was amazing and it was a surreal experience. It was a really cool experience to be out there on the court in front of all the fans," Norville said. "I wouldn't say much there was much carryover for the whole team, but for me personally, it makes me want to be better and get back there, even if it is for a different sport. It would be really cool."

Norville and the Zephyrs nearly made the trip to state in basketball, falling by one point in the sectional final to fellow Big East Conference member Mishicot – a team the Zephyrs had beaten twice in the regular season.

That loss has been a motivating factor for this season and the team has talked about making sure if the opportunity is there in March, they take the next step and make it

to Green Bay.

"I think that game motivated us a lot. It put something in our minds where we know we have to keep working and fighting every single practice and every single game," Norville said. "I think we have a great chance to make it to the Resch. It's going to take a lot of focus and hard work."

Whenever Norville's season ends, her basketball career is far from over.

Norville signed a National Letter of Intent in November to attend Black Hills State University, located in Spearfish, S.D. She said she made the decision to attend the school in October, which was something that was important to her to get done before the season.

"For me, my timeline was to commit before the season. I didn't necessarily need to sign before the season but I wanted to commit so it was out of the way," Norville said. "Not that it's something that is not important, but I wanted to make sure I could focus my mind and everything season."

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Huge second half carries Neenah to FVA win

The Neenah girls found themselves leading an upstart Oshkosh North just 21-20 at the half of last Friday's Fox Valley Association matchup.

The Rockets didn't let the Spartans hang around in the second half.

Neenah erupted for 50 points after half-time and pulled away from North for a 71-39 victory at home.

Rowan Klesmit's baseline runner with 15 seconds left in the first half gave the Rockets the one-point lead at intermission while Neenah opened the second half with a 14-4 run to seize control. Allie Ziebell scored six points in the run while Ellie Buss added a pair of 3-pointers, the second pushing the Rockets' advantage to 35-24 about six minutes into the half.

Oshkosh North got as close as seven points near the midway point of the second half, but the Rockets' defense held the Spartans to just three points over the next six minutes and to break the game open.

Ziebell finished with 30 points and eight rebounds to lead the Rockets, while Buss scored all 16 of her points in the second half. Klesmit also reached double figures with 11 points.



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Neenah's Ethan Hoelzel knocks the ball away from an Oshkosh North player during last week's 73-59 loss to the Spartans in Oshkosh.

Zephyrs breeze past Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah

St. Mary Catholic jumped out to a 26-point halftime lead and cruised to a 66-25 win over the Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah Resorters last week.

Emily Vogel led the Zephyrs with 15 points, while Nolie Anderson finished with 2 points. Autumn Crowe and Sienna Anderson each chipped in nine.

BOYS BASKETBALL

St. Mary Catholic posts pair of wins

The Zephyrs went into the holiday

break off of back-to-back wins, starting with an 85-65 win over Sturgeon Bay last week.

St. Mary Catholic trailed by three points at halftime but outscored the Clippers 42-19 in the second half to collect the win. Fisher Mackenzie poured in 29 points, while Braeden Brenn added 24 points and nine rebounds.

Noah Czarneski also reached double figures with 13 points.

The Zephyrs followed that win with a 76-47 victory over Wittenberg-Birnamwood with Mackenzie (18 points), Brenn (17 points and 13 rebounds) and

Czarneski (15 points) leading the way. Preston Fields also put up nine assists in the win.

Neenah drops road game at Oshkosh North

The Rockets held the lead midway through the first half but the Spartans were able to rally for the lead by halftime and handed Neenah a 73-59 loss in a Fox Valley Association contest last Friday.

Brady Corso finished with 22 points to lead the Rockets, followed by Charlie Wunderlich with 11 and Justin Janssen with 10.

BOYS HOCKEY

Rockets see win streak snapped by Bay Port

Mark Sutton scored an unassisted, short-handed goal for the Rockets who dropped a 4-1 decision to Bay Port last week.

Sutton's tally knotted the game at 1 after the first period, but the Pirates answered with three goals in the second period to take control of the game.

Owen Dobbert made 21 saves in goal for Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha.

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Submitted photo

Local racer wins in Florida

Neenah native Jack Brucks won the 250cc division of the Panhandle Clash motorcycle world championship in Pensacola, Fla., earlier this month. Motorcycle racers from around the world gathered for four days of racing at four different tracks in Escambia County. Brucks, who is backed by Ecklund Motorsports, won all his heats and the main event for the 250 division.

Safe rides home available on New Year's Eve

Neenah News

The Neenah Police Department has hired a local cab company to give residents a free safe ride home on New Year's Eve.

Fox Valley Cab will be offering pickup from licensed establishments in the city from 10:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. and will

drop residents off at their place of lodging. The delivery area must be south of Broad Street or Winchester Road, east of State 76 and north of County GG.

The service is only for Neenah businesses and only to take people home. Those needing a ride can call 920-225-9191.

Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 13

The university is located in the far western part of South Dakota, which will allow her the opportunity to continue one of her non-sports related hobbies – hiking.

Yet, her focus is on what she can accomplish on the court.

"I have to get better at my shooting and then just my physicality to play in college," Norville said. "I have to get in the weight

room and make sure I'm lifting. The physicality is a lot different at the collegiate level."

Playing in college is something that will be in the future and right now she is focused keeping the Zephyrs on the winning track in her senior season – her final basketball season as a Zephyr.

"For me, (my high school career ending) is not hitting me right now," Norville said. "I'm sure its going to hit at the end of the season but I'm just really focused on our games. Right now, I'm just focused on what we are doing well and helping us every game."

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Kid Scoop

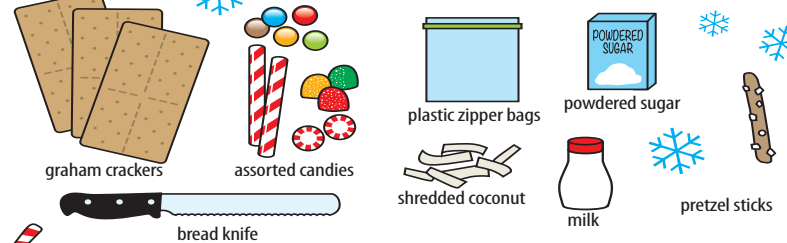
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9. Frost roof and sprinkle with coconut flakes.
10. Use icing and pretzel sticks to make a fence for your house.

Seeing Double
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How many candy canes are on this page?
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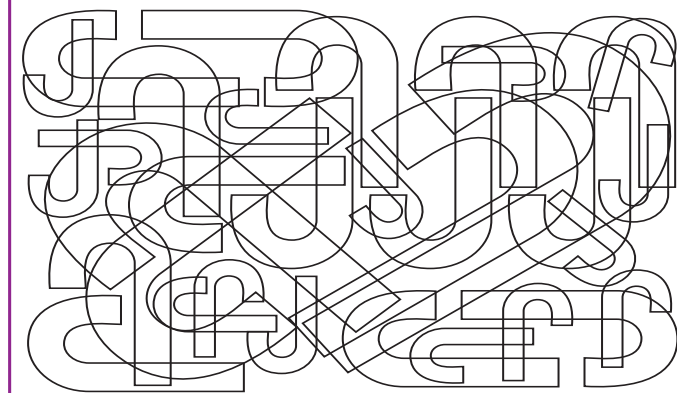
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Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How many candy canes can you find in this box?



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

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COCONUT
GRAHAM
ZIPPER
HOUSES
DOUBLE
SAWING
IDEAS
ICING
SUGAR
CANDY
MILK
WHIP

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

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

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

Fill in The Blanks!

Ask a friend to come up with three nouns (person, place or thing) and three verbs (action words like swim and walk). Use them to fill in the blanks in this story. Read it aloud to share some holiday humor!

- NOUN 1: _____
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NOUN 3: _____
VERB 1: _____
VERB 2: _____
VERB 3: _____

Ricky Reindeer wanted to get a special gift for his friend Sadie Squirrel. He walked deep into the forest, and was surprised to find a shiny, new

_____ in the snow. He picked

it up and started to _____

back home. He wrapped the gift in

_____ and put a nice big

_____ on top.

Sadie was thrilled with the gift. She was so happy, she began to _____

around in the snow. Ricky was happy,

too. So he began to _____

merrily while jumping for joy.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand text from context clues.

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Write On!

I built my house of ...

Finish this sentence and then write five details about your home.

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