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Senior Standout

Brady Corso helps lead Rockets basketball Page 14

Funding help

County approves **ARPA** distributions Page 4

New fire chief named for cities

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue picks new leader

Neenah News

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue has a new chief with the Fire Commission announcing the appointment of Travis Teesch, who will replace Kevin Kloehn after he announced his retirement in August after nearly 32 years of service.

Teesch, who was fire chief with the Watertown Fire Department in Dodge and Jefferson counties, brings 30 years of experience to the position, beginning his career in 1993 as a volunteer with the Valders Fire Department in Manitowoc

County. His full-time career began in 1999 with the Kaukauna Fire Department, where he became assistant chief.

Teesch has a techdiploma for emergency medical technician paramedic from Lakeshore Tech-

nical College, an associate degree in fire science from Fox Valley Technical Col-

Teesch

lege, a bachelor's in fire and emergency management from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and a master's in administration from the University of South Dakota.

"The city of Neenah is very happy to welcome Chief Teesch to the team," stated Neenah Mayor Jane Lang. "We look forward to working with him."

Menasha Mayor Don Merkes stated, "I'm pleased that our partnership with Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue has allowed us to recruit such a highly qualified

SEE Fire chief ON PAGE 10



Taking in the scene

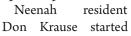
Young train enthusiast Lincoln takes in the model displays last weekend at the Neenah-Menasha Model Railroad Club's open house with his mother Abbie Douglas and grandmother Beth Durie. Read more about the event on Page 7.

Holiday horns deliver good cheer, musical aspirations

By Bethanie Gengler Neenah News

The rich, warm sound of dozens of horns playing holiday music in harmony

will fill the air during the upcoming Horns A Plenty Christmas concert, and for one local instrumentalist performance is an annual testament to a life dedicated to building up those performers.



Horns A Plenty Christmas about 23 years ago. The lively, silver-haired Krause sports

Krause

glasses, a crisp voice and a sharp memory to recall details from decades ago. He's been playing horn - commonly called French horn though the instruments aren't French – for 71 years.

Krause is a self-taught musician without a college degree. Despite no formal musical education, Krause's natural talent for horn has reverberated throughout his life. He has worked as a band director at a parochial school, a staff horn teacher at a public university and at age 83 continues to offer music lessons to aspiring horn players out of his home.

He's performed with the La Crosse, Fox

SEE Horns leader ON PAGE 10



Submitted photo

Horns A Plenty returns with its annual holiday concert Dec. 16 led by Neenah resident Don Krause.

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Corrections

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

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Early ice unsafe with changing temps

Neenah News

The public is being reminded to practice ice safety on all area and Wisconsin waterbodies as early ice is forming.

Frigid overnight temperatures often leave a thin layer of ice across smaller bodies of water, which the state Department of Natural Resources warns is not strong enough to support the weight of a person or machine.

"After we have these first cold nights, we start to see the early ice forming. It may look solid to the naked eye, but it's not," said Lt. Jacob Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle administrator. "There can be cracks and changes in the ice thickness that you won't see until it's too late."

Temperature swings, strong winds, currents, underground springs feeding lakes and rivers vary widely across Wisconsin, and even across a given lake or river. These factors and more are why no ice is ever considered safe, especially not this early in the season.

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions. If your plans include access to or use of an ice-covered waterbody, contact a local fishing club such as Paynes Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club, along with bait shops or outfitters, for ice conditions.

"These places routinely check ice conditions and can give you the best and most current conditions," Holsclaw said. "If you can plan your outing without any travel over ice, do it. And if you are going to be on some ice, let someone know your plans and follow them."

Fox Cities Habitat gains matching gift

Neenah News

Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity is receiving a \$50,000 match opportunity provided by an anonymous supporter in the community.

All gifts made to Fox Cities Habitat will be matched up to \$50,000 through December in this end-of-year match campaign.

"There is nothing quite like the feeling of having a home for the holidays, and we know through our work how difficult that is to attain for a vast population in our community," said John Weyenberg, president and CEO of Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity. "That's why we are so grateful to everyone in our community who chooses to support our mission with a year-end gift, and especially the anonymous donor who is matching those gifts and doubling their impact."

So far this year, Fox Cities Habitat has helped more than 50 families with home repairs or homeownership, including its 300th family achieving homeownership.

More information about Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity is available by calling 920-954-8702 or at foxcitieshabitat.org.

Each waterbody can have its own characteristics. Check if the lake has inlets, outlets, narrows that have currents or is spring-fed, all of which can thin the ice. Some smaller lakes can have aerators that are run throughout the winter, either covering a large area toward the center of the lake or may have smaller aerators placed by private property landowners adjacent to their shore and piers.

It is equally as important to stay alert for pressure ridges or ice heaves. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and resulting open water. They are often created, move or grow with changes in temperatures and high winds. Pressure ridges and ice heaves can happen on Lake Winnebago, the popular home to sturgeon spearers, and the Bay of Green Bay.

A few basic ice safety tips:

• Carry a cellphone and let people know where you are going and when you'll re-

turn.

- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a life jacket or a float coat, to help stay afloat and help maintain body
- Wear ice creepers attached to boots to prevent slipping on clear ice.
- Carry a spud bar to check the ice while walking to new areas.
- Carry a few spikes and a length of light rope in an easily accessible pocket to help pull yourself – or others – out of the ice.
- If you fall in, remain as calm as possible. While attempting to get out of the water, call for help. Anyone who attempts to rescue you should use a rope or something similar.
- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas or at night.

Have a plan in place noting where you will be and when you plan to return. Check out the DNR's Ice Safety webpage for more information.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Family fun

The Jasperson children return from holiday shopping with Marjorie Dorin in 1940. The Jaspersons lived at 225 High St.



Edward Jones

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County reviews outdoor space feedback

Neenah News

Winnebago County received public feedback on what its outdoor recreation priorities should be for the next five years, with improvement requests including more soccer fields, pickleball courts and an indoor athletic complex, along with added restroom facilities, off-road trails and water access.

A public survey went out this summer to gather information from current and potential park and open space users to share their visions for the future of outdoor recreation spaces throughout the county. A separate survey focused on Winnebago County Community Park.

The comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP) survey was taken by 548 people and 291 took the Community Park survey.

Those responding to a CORP survey question about preferred locations for more biking trails suggested better Oshkosh-to-Neenah routes, a route that includes Sunnyview Expo Center, better connections between existing trail systems and safer ways to cross Interstate 41.

Most respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the condition of county parks and facilities while agreeing that additional funds be allocated to new parks, park maintenance and trails/side-

CORPs provide an overall survey of existing outdoor recreation facilities, as well as future recommendations for specific areas. County parks, natural areas, trails and boat landings are evaluated for overall variety, accessibility, safety and programming that can be used to make recommendations for improvement and variety. The CORP also provides eligibility for participation in federal and state grant programs.

Those responding to the Community Park survey said they mostly use either the pathways and trails, 36-hole disc golf

course, playground equipment, dog park, picnic shelters or soccer fields among other sporting options. Most were satisfied with the condition of those offerings.

Asked about potential park improvements, some suggested a kitchen in the pavilion, more and better-surfaced pickleball and tennis courts, a public swimming area and updates to shelter structures.

Go to co.winnebago.wi.us/parks under the CORP link to see the full survey results. An updated master plan for the Community Park is being developed with the overall input.

Stakeholder group meetings were held in September for specific user groups, including soccer and rugby sports clubs, snowmobile clubs, trail groups and other local organizations.

where the Parks Department reviewed the survey findings.

A second public meeting was held Thursday at the James P. Coughlin Center

Cockfighting charges pending for Fox Crossing man

An arrest warrant was issued Monday for a Fox Crossing man who failed to appear in court on charges of instigating animal fights and possession of THC.

Youa Xiong, 61, is wanted on two felony counts related to a law enforcement search

According to the criminal complaint, a search warrant was executed at the home in the 700 block of Fair Oaks Drive for suspected child abuse, drug abuse and reports of cockfighting. Xiong was in the juana and drug paraphernalia that included a straw and plastic bag which tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine. Two hens and a rooster were also located in the home with injuries consistent with claw marks.

The basement had plastic sheets stapled to the ceiling and several items associated with cockfighting. Videos found on Xiong's phone also depicted cockfighting.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, cockfighting involves instigating gamecocks to fight for gamlegs to inflict more damage.

"As federal and state law enforcement can attest, cockfights are often associated with other criminal activities such as illegal gambling, drug trafficking, gang activity and illegal weapon sales," the Humane Society noted on its website.

The Fox Valley Humane Association assisted with the investigation and removed the birds from the Fox Crossing home and later euthanized them. A necropsy was performed on the rooster that concluded the bird had several wounds consistent with fighting.



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- ▶ How veterans or their spouses can receive money to help pay for medical expenses.
- Why signing your home over to your kids might be a huge mistake.
- ▶ How planning in advance can help you and your spouse afford quality care.



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Federal funds distributed to county entities

Fire equipment, abuse services help included

By Bethanie Gengler

Winnebago County continued the process of allocating more than \$33 million received in federal COVID-19 relief last week, funding county departments and nonprofit projects.

The county received the money under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and started deliberating on how to use it last year. The process stalled for several months while the county renamed its ARPA Commission the Spirit Fund Commission and established a new Spirit Fund for the ARPA dollars to circumvent federal auditing requirements.

Counties have until the end of next year to allocate the funds and until the end of 2026 to spend them. Just over \$3 million of the ARPA dollars are earmarked to be dispersed equally among each of the 21 municipalities or towns primarily within Winnebago County.

In June, County Executive Jon Doemel issued a press release and application for organizations seeking funding from the ARPA dollars. About 65 government organizations, nonprofits and community members submitted applications, with requests totaling more than \$34 million.

The applications were evaluated by the Spirit Fund Commission, with those requests deemed to meet the criteria for the federal funds sent to the full County Board of Supervisors for a vote. Last week the board voted to disperse \$3.4 million to nonprofits and county departments.

Here's where the money is going:

Fire Chiefs Association

\$2.1 million of the county's ARPA dollars were appropriated for the Winnebago County Fire Chiefs Association to purchase radios and radio equipment.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office operates and maintains the county's only public safety dispatch center. More than a decade ago the county upgraded its system and purchased all the radios needed. The planned obsolescence of the radios is seven to 10 years.

With the radios needing to be replaced, the association surveyed the 15 fire districts across the county and received requests from 14 departments for 436 portable radios and components, 82 mobile radios and components, and two DVRS radio repeaters and components.

Quotes for replacing the radios and components ranged from \$2 million to \$3.2 million. The radios and radio equipment purchased will be distributed equitably among the fire departments.

Domestic Abuse Services

\$500,000 was appropriated for Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services as part of a larger \$6.3 million initiative to acquire the Beach building at 240 Algoma Blvd. in Oshkosh for use as an emergency shelter, transitional housing and providing space for expanded community partnerships.

Christine Ann's current building has one bedroom that sleeps seven, two bedrooms that sleep five, and seven bedrooms that are limited to a maximum of four individuals. Only three of the 10 bedrooms are ADA (Americans with Disabilities

Act) accessible. The configuration limits the number of large families, disabled, older and pregnant survivors it can accept.

The Beach building is three-stories, 36,000 square feet and is ADA compliant. The first floor will include a waiting room, reception desk, staff and community partner offices, conference and meeting rooms, and a community kitchen and dining area.

The second floor will feature 11 apartments for emergency shelter, increasing bed capacity from 37 to 60. Eleven apartments on the third floor will be transitional housing for up to two years, along with case management "to help survivors build the life skills and self-sufficiency they need to break generational cycles of abuse and poverty," according to a memo.

The Beach building will become the new home to Christine Ann next fall.

St. Vincent de Paul food pantry

\$500,000 will go toward renovating and expanding the St. Vincent de Paul Neenah/Menasha food pantry, now called Vinnie's Pantry, with the entire project coming in at just over \$1 million.

Vinnie's Pantry supports more than 2,000 families, supplying an average of 50,000 pounds of food per month to residents of northern Winnebago County. The nonprofit held a grand opening last month on an expansion that moved the food pantry from the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store's retail space to a 27,000-square-foot location next door.

The new pantry is designed like a grocery store, with an area for bread, canned and dry goods, fresh produce, meat and perishable foods. The location includes a reception and waiting area, separate room for hygiene items and an expanded storage area with a 40-foot walk-in cooler and freezer.

Winnebago County Jail

\$314,600 was appropriated for engineering, demolition, relocation and construction at the Winnebago County Jail to

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remove the existing officers' stations and combine the area in the existing programs room.

According to a memo, the jail has six housing pods; with three considered indirect supervision, where the inmates are separated from the deputy by glass and lockable cells in each smaller unit within the pod, and three units that are direct supervision, where a deputy is stationed with up to 68 inmates without separation.

During the pandemic, the jail experienced an increase in deputy vacancies due to illness, partially attributed to the inability to separate from inmate populations, according to a memo. Moving the officers' stations to the current programs room adds a layer of separation and protection.

Although it wasn't written in the memo or resolution submitted at the meeting, it was noted that the proposal is to expand the Solutions Recovery Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) program, available to inmates with substance use disorders.

The STAR program provides Vivitrol, an FDA-approved injection to treat substance use disorders, to eligible jail inmates. The program also offers recovery coaches, peer support and a recovery hotline. Inmates can continue the program after they are released from jail.

Captain of corrections Dave Mack told the board the county is seeing a 46% sobriety rate in inmates who continue the program for six months after being released from jail. Mack said the STAR program ties into the resolution because one of the pods being relocated will be used as a recovery pod.

The plan will eliminate one existing officer station from the jail, although it was noted that the population in that section is classified as minimum security. Mack said constructing and relocating the pods will result in a \$40,000 reduction in overtime pay because deputies will be able to cover each other's breaks when they're leaving that pod.







Holiday crafting

Christmas decorations were being created last weekend at the Neenah Public Library by young artists and their families.

Alarms trigger high school evacuations

Neenah News

Problems with the HVAC system at the Neenah High School that opened in Fox Crossing this fall caused classes to be moved to virtual learning last Friday and a brief evacuation of the school Monday.

The Fox Crossing Fire Department responded to a fire alarm that was activated at the school Friday, according to an email from the Neenah Joint School District.

Students and staff were initially moved to academic wings of the building after receiving clearance from the fire department. The district then sent students home for a virtual learning day as a precaution.

The district noted everyone remained safe during the incident and the fire department and electricians were investigating the origin of the alarm, which was suspected to be an air handler that services

Then on Monday, a second HVAC leak triggered a fire alarm and resulted in a brief evacuation of the school.

In a note to parents, the district said the same unit involved in Friday's evacuation was leaking refrigerant Monday. The fire department responded to the school and cleared it for students and staff to return to classes shortly after the evacuation. The district said the fire alarm system is working properly. Contractors and fire department officials were on site Monday to repair the HVAC system.

The school has a new geothermal HVAC system that cost \$5 million and will be paid off in 13 years. District officials previously noted the system is expected to yield a savings of \$300,000 per year.

Business news roundup

ThedaCare has named Joshua Prostek as vice president of ThedaCare at Work,

which offers services that help care for employees of local businesses and organizations by dealing with specific health care issues. Since joining ThedaCare in 2020, Prostek has served in various leadership roles and is current-



Prostek

ly director of retail pharmacy. Under his direction, ThedaCare opened five retail pharmacies, enhanced long-term-care pharmacy operations and tripled the value of the 340B program. Prostek studied biochemistry at the University of Wiscon-

sin-Milwaukee and earned his doctorate in pharmacy at UW-Madison.

NEW Compost LLC, an eco-friendly business idea of Chilton-based entrepreneur Connor Freimuth, was the winner of the NEW Launch Alliance Pitch Event held Nov. 30 in Green Bay. Preempt Physical Therapy LLC of Oshkosh and Kids in Combat Boots based in Sheboygan took second and third place, respectively. The three winning entries emerged from a group of 12 entrepreneurial pitches that had advanced from local pitch competitions in mid-November. Along with prize money, the three winners are invited to give an update to an even wider investor and business audience during the New North Summit on June 6 at Lambeau Field.



Chamber to celebrate 150 years

The Fox Cities Chamber's Celebrate: A Toast to 150 event is set for Jan. 16 at Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel, where 2023 Chamber Lifetime Achievement Award winners will be honored and the Chamber kicks off its 150th anniversary year.

Highlights include a cocktail hour with music by saxophonist Michael Prusinsky, a new dinner show about the history of the Fox Cities performed by Let Me Be Frank, a toast to the 150th anniversary and a silent auction.

The Lifetime Achievement Awards recognize individuals who embrace principled leadership, strategic thinking, balanced workplace values and an unrelenting pursuit of excellence. Recipients

Gus A. Zuehlke Distinguished Service Award: David G. Voss Jr. - president and CEO, Miron Construction

Joyce Bytof Exceptional Mentor Award: Mary Beth Nienhaus - philanthropist and retired physical education teacher, coach and LPGA golf pro

ATHENA Leadership Award: Maiyoua Thao – president, ABC Staffing

Business Leader Hall of Fame: Mike Weller - CEO, Mike Weller & Associates and Robert DeKoc - past president & COO, The Boldt Co.

General admission is \$150 for Fox Cities Chamber members and \$175 for nonmembers. Tables of 10 are also available for \$1500/\$1,750.

Tree seedlings offered ahead of Arbor Day

The state Department of Natural Resources is offering free tree seedlings to every fourth-grade student in Wisconsin as part of its annual Arbor Day tree planting program.

Fourth-grade principals, teachers and those who homeschool can now place seedling orders and coordinate delivery by completing the 2024 Arbor Day application by March 15 at dnr.wisconsin.gov/ topic/treeplanting.

Arbor Day is April 26 and dedicated to

increasing the number of trees across the country to help improve the environment. The DNR provides interactive education to students around the importance of trees within the environment and provides about 50,000 free tree seedlings to fourth-graders.

Seedlings come protected to keep backpacks clean and shipments include educational information on how to best plant and care for seedlings and trees.

Keep Wildlife Wild poster contest launches

The 2024 Keep Wildlife Wild poster contest is open to students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades enrolled in public, private, parochial or home schools in Wisconsin.

The state Department of Natural Resources program began in 2014 to create a poster that teaches the importance of enjoying and observing wildlife in the wild and not keeping wildlife in homes or as

Judging will take place in February. All submissions must be received electronically via email or by mail and must include the student's entry form and artwork by Feb. 16. Details can be found at dnr.wisconsin.gov or emailing KeepWildlifeWild@wisconsin.gov.



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Dollar General stores penalized for overcharges

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

Neenah's Dollar General store is one of 157 locations across the state named in a settlement alleging customers were overcharged for items that scanned at a higher price than was posted.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) announced the settlement late last month, with Dollar General paying \$850,000 in civil forfeitures, surcharges and fees. Customers won't see any of that money, with the penalty going to the state.

The settlement resolved 662 alleged violations of price accuracy laws and 53 alleged violations of refund policy disclosure requirement laws, although Dollar General did not admit any violation of Wisconsin law under the agreement.

Between Jan. 30 and Feb. 10, DATCP conducted price verification inspections at 238 Dollar General stores in Wisconsin, checking 7,344 products to ensure that prices charged at the register matched or were lower than prices posted on store

shelves.

DATCP alleged that 662 of the items scanned at a higher price than was posted, resulting in customers being overcharged for 9% of the inspected products. On average, the products scanned at a 17% higher cost than the stated price.

Local Dollar General stores found to be overcharging included Neenah, Appleton, Kaukauna, New London and Ripon.

Wisconsin law requires that merchants using electronic price scanner systems refund at least the difference between the posted price and the price charged and post a sign informing customers of the law. DATCP alleged that 45 Dollar General stores were missing the required signage during the initial inspection and eight stores were missing the signage upon re-inspection.

"The accuracy of prices on store shelves is among the most basic and essential protections consumers have," said DATCP secretary Randy Romanski. "Consumers should be able to trust that the prices advertised to them are accurate, and they



The Dollar General location in Neenah was one of 157 stores penalized for overcharges.

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have a right to be informed of the laws protecting them."

The settlement follows a 2018 settlement where Dollar General was penalized \$10,586 for similar violations. Between that settlement and the 2023 statewide inspection, DATCP conducted 89 routine price accuracy inspections at Dollar General stores in Wisconsin and concluded 76 of those inspections failed to meet the national standard of 98%-or-greater price accuracy. DATCP sent 11 warning letters to Dollar General during that period.

DATCP noted Dollar General has spent about \$70,000 to verify price accuracy since learning of the violations early this year and expects to spend about \$300,000 annually to support price accuracy in Wisconsin going forward. It will also conduct internal price accuracy checks at every store in Wisconsin at least once every 45

Dollar General issued a statement that the retail chain engaged in a constructive approach to resolving the matter with DATCP.

"Dollar General is committed to providing customers with accurate prices on items purchased in our stores, and we are disappointed any time we fail to deliver on this commitment," the statement said in part. "When a pricing discrepancy is identified, our store teams are empowered to correct the matter on the spot for our customers."

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200 North Commercial Street, Neenah

Model railroad enthusiasts share their creations

By Bethanie Gengler NEENAH NEWS

Trains chugged around the Neenah-Menasha Model Railroad Club during an open house last weekend, attracting visitors and delighting children.

The club, also called the Milwaukee and Northern Railway Historical Society, has resided in a 141-year-old historic railroad depot at 323 West Forest Ave. for nearly 60 years.

Inside, a track stretches three stories of the building, spiraling up. The club is modeling a rail line that extends from Milwaukee to Green Bay and a branch that comes from Hilbert Junction, through Sherwood and Menasha and ends right outside the building.

President Wally Rogers and members Dennis Wittmann and Jacob Woelfel were among those on site Saturday during the annual event to share their passion with visitors.

"We're all from the same area but we've all experienced different railroad generations," Woelfel said of the members.

Woelfel has been involved with the club since he began visiting the depot as a child. He explained the rail is modeled in O scale and O gauge, which is the same scale used to make trains for children in the 1930s and 1940s, and is also a common dollhouse scale.

"It's kind of a neat thing, too, that you can see the progression of the hobby," Woelfel said. "There are some models here that are brand new, some are considered scale and some have every little rivet and detail."

Model railroading involves carpentry, building, woodworking, metalworking,



Model Railroad Club president Wally Rogers (center background) talks with an open house visitor (left) along with club member Jacob Woelfel.

electricity, photography and history. Woelfel said the hobby is not as popular as in the past but continues to attract enthusiasts of all ages.

Among the models on display for visitors is a train produced between 1949 and 1951 and made of cast bronze. Woelfel allowed open house attendees to hold the model to demonstrate how heavy it is.

Those who paid close attention to the track could find hidden Easter eggs such as a crime scene with police arresting a perpetrator.

The club's attention to detail was evident, with the rail line including a model of the depot itself and other notable city

landmarks including the Bergstrom Paper Co. tower.

The mini train depot is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 10 p.m., which is when members are working there each week. Those who want to become involved can find the organization on Facebook and through their website at mnrhs.org.



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CREDIT UNION

Page 8 I Neenahnewsnow.com

Holidays are here



Neenah News

A Very Neenah Christmas arrived last weekend that drew holiday crowds downtown to visit retail stores both inside and out, where live mannequins were featured in many colorful storefronts. Future Neenah activities also included a Christmas village and alley, roaming carolers, Gateway Park activities, a Peace Puppet show, visits with Santa, ice skating at The Plaza and live reindeer.



Photo by David Hall



Photo by David Ha



Neenah Nev



Consumer responsible for taxes. While supplies last





ThedaCare photo

A retail pharmacy is open for business at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah.

ThedaCare opens new on-site pharmacy

ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah's retail pharmacy has opened at the hospital campus, marking the next phase in its \$100 million modernization.

The pharmacy features onsite services and curbside pickup for patients, community members and ThedaCare employees. Hours this month will be 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday 9 a.m.to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and closed daily from 12:30 to 1 p.m., as well as major holidays. In January, the pharmacy will be open all hours, seven days a week.

"To help simplify and advance the communities' care experience, we are excited to expand pharmacy services at the hospital," said Lynn Detterman, senior vice president of ThedaCare South Region.

The new pharmacy provides patients with medications and a wound care kit at discharge, eliminating the need to stop on the way home to pick-up prescriptions and care supplies. The pharmacy will also deliver medications to the bedside when patients are discharging from the hospital.

Studies have shown patients with appropriate medication possession before leaving the hospital have better health outcomes and decreased readmissions.

Caregivers also can view the patient's financial responsibility to consider any barriers before leaving the hospital. If a an option for assistance through the 340B drug pricing program.

"By growing our pharmacy infrastructure, we are confident the program will meet patients where they live, and provide meaningful solutions to manage their medications," Prostek said.

The next areas of focus for the modernization of ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah include continued construction of Main Street, where key diagnostic outpatient services will be located on the first floor of the hospital; and a new dining area on the main floor for visitors and team members.

The full modernization is expected to

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Page 10 I NEENAHNEWSNOW.COM **DECEMBER 8, 2023**

Don Krause has led the Horns A Plenty Christmas concert for decades in the Fox Valley.

Horns leader

FROM PAGE 1

Valley, Green Bay and Rochester symphonies. A painting on the cover of a 1960s Time Magazine depicts Krause holding a horn at the Coulee Region Festival of Arts in La Crosse.

But Krause's biggest labor of musical love is Horns A Plenty, where each year dozens of horn players from across the state gather to play holiday tunes, with the concerts typically taking place in the Fox Valley. Past performances included Milwaukee, Madison and Washington, D.C.

The concept is similar to TubaChristmas, where concerts are limited to instruments in the tuba family. But Krause pointed out one key difference is that horns have the widest octave range of all brass instruments.

"Because French horns can play so very high and very low, that is why they can perform 16 different parts of music at the same time," he said.

Krause takes no compensation from Horns A Plenty and donates his personal funds each year to cover expenses for guest musicians to teach a master class and play in the concert. This year's guest is concert horn soloist Robert Fant, who has played with orchestras in the United States, Asia, South America and Europe.

Past guest musicians have included the American Horn Quartet, Horns of the Apocalypse, Genghis Barbie, and members of President's Own U.S. Marine Band and Pershing's Own U.S. Army Band.

Krause led Horns A Plenty to a Guinness World Record for the largest French horn ensemble in 2007, with 85 participants playing in The Avenue mall in Appleton, now called City Center Plaza.

It isn't just about the music. Each year

Horns A Plenty awards scholarships to talented young players, with more than \$20,000 awarded to date. Donations and fundraising efforts support the scholarships and this year the concert will include the sale of CinnaCakes, with a goal of raising \$500 for the fund.

Playing horn isn't just a passion for Krause – it may have extended his life. Diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and myocardial ischemia (heart disease), he underwent quintuple coronary bypass surgery and had six stents placed in his heart.

Two years ago he became the first person in the world to undergo a clinical trial for heart disease that involved using his own stem cells instead of donor cells. Krause considers the procedure successful and a pulmonologist told him last year that his decades of playing horn - an instrument controlled by the player's lungs and diaphragm – also likely contributed to his recovery and longevity.

"To have a pulmonologist tell you that the reason you're surviving as a human being is because of playing French horn for 70 years, how many people can say that?"

Horns A Plenty has only one rehearsal leading up to the free performance at 2 p.m. Dec. 16 at Fox Valley Lutheran High School in Appleton. About 30 horn players ranging from middle school age to 83 (that's Krause) will play 26 songs for a crowd of up to 300 during the one-hour

Attendees will see Krause direct some of the songs and also perform. His wife, Nancy, will accompany on piano during one song. Expect to sing along to holiday favorites during the special performance that will also include what Krause considers the most challenging piece of Christmas horn music ever arranged.

Krause bragged about the musical successes of the many students he's given lessons to - more than a hundred over the years - and the nationally renowned players he has conducted. But when it came to his own musical prowess, he was modest.

"I don't know about if it's true talent or not; but I've been very lucky; I really have," he said.

Fire chief

FROM PAGE 1

candidate. Chief Teesch's combination of experience and education is an excellent fit to maintain the high standards and core values of the department."

Teesch will begin his duties Jan. 6 upon Kloehn's retirement.

"My family and I are excited to be returning to the Fox Valley area," Teesch said in a statement.

Some of Kloehn's accomplishments during his tenure here included helping spearhead the Joint Recruit Training Academy with the Oshkosh Fire Department, which allows each agency to share resources and staffing in the training of newly hired recruits. Since the inception of the academy the departments have trained 34 recruits.

He led the process on a five-year strategic plan for the department and worked with management and union staff to have task books for all positions.

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue was recently given a top public protection classification by the Insurance Services Office (ISO), one of only nine other fire departments in the state to achieve the ISO Class 1 rating. Communities with that rating are often viewed favorably by businesses, insurers and investors.

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Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Rockets fall short in showdown with Warhawks

In a matchup of two of the state's top girls basketball teams, second-ranked Arrowhead scored with less than five seconds to play to hand top-ranked Neenah its first loss of the season, 69-68, at Arrowhead on Tuesday night.

The Rockets took a 33-29 lead at halftime of the hard-fought nonconference contest but couldn't hold off the Warhawks at the end.

Once again Allie Ziebell led the way for the Rockets, pouring in 39 points. The senior standout knocked down 7-of-11 3-pointers and finished 6-of-6 from the free-throw line in the game. Ziebell also had a team-high seven rebounds in the

Rowen Klesmit chipped in 10 points, while Abbie Fischer added seven and Ellie Buss had a pair of 3-pointers for six points.

Last week, the Rockets knocked off Kimberly 68-67 in a Fox Valley Association game.

Ziebell posted a double-double with 26 points and 10 rebounds, while Klesmit added 15 points and Buss finished with

BOYS BASKETBALL

High-scoring duo lifts Zephyrs past Wolves

Braeden Brenn and Fisher Mackenzie each scored 21 points as St. Mary Catholic topped Winneconne, 75-67, in a nonconference game last week.

Noah Czarneski finished with nine points, Luke Fairweather added eight and Preston Fields finished with seven points and six assists.

Mackenzie also grabbed a team-high 10 rebounds.

Slow start stings Rockets in loss to Kimberly

The Papermakers scored 43 points in the first half and took a 16-point lead at intermission in handing the Rockets a loss last week.

Brady Corso and Charlie Wunderlich each scored 13 points in the game for

BOYS WRESTLING

Neenah splits pair of FVA dual meets

The Rockets rolled past Oshkosh North and then lost a heartbreaker to Hortonville at a triangular meet on Tuesday night.

Neenah pummeled Oshkosh North, 71-6, winning 12 of the 14 matches in the

Jaxson Ennis (106), Jaden Reay (150) and Tyler Gillig (157) each won by pin against the Spartans, while Aidan Carey (190) earned a 17-0 technical fall victory. The Rockets also won seven matches by

Against Hortonville, the Rockets built a 31-10 lead over the first 10 matches before the Polar Bears won the final four bouts three by pin - to rally for the 32-31 win over the Rockets.

Neenah got pins from Garrett Nedens (113), Eli Armatti (120) and Jacob Herm (144), with Herm's win staking the Rockets to the 21-point lead.

Ennis picked up a win by major decision, while Landen Sheppard (132), Declan Koch (138) and Nate Cleveland (285) all won by decision for the Rockets.

Over the weekend, the Rockets finished a close third at the Gunslinger Invitational, hosted by Slinger.

Koch and Herm each collected titles to lead the way for the Rockets. Koch won the 138-pound title, while Herm pinned three of his four opponents to capture the 144-pound championship.

Cleveland added a second-place finish at heavyweight - losing a one-point decision in the title match - while Ennis took third at 106 pounds and Reay was fourth at 150 pounds.

The Rockets finished with 329 points, trailing only Kewaskum (350.5) and Muskego (345.5).

GIRLS WRESTLING

Reay, Armatti claim titles for Rockets

Neenah crowned a pair of champions at the Kimberly Invitational on Saturday.

Joelle Reay finished first at 107 pounds, registering three pins in four matches before scoring an 8-7 win over Appleton North's Addison Walt in the title match.

Ava Armatti captured the 138-pound championship, pinning all four opponents on the day. Her first three matches lasted a total of 52 seconds.

Amari Richard placed second at 126 pounds, losing a one-point match for the title, while Janet Soto was third at 145 pounds and Ashlynn Scheidermayer was fourth at 114 pounds.

BOYS HOCKEY

Rockets upend powerhouse Ledgers

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha a pair of first-period goals to take the lead and then held on to beat St. Mary's Springs, 3-2, on Tuesday night.

Evan Hans and Cooper Zindda scored even-strength goals in the first period as the Rockets never trailed in the game.

The Ledgers scored first in the second period, but Ty Laabs answered with a goal for Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha to help secure the win.

Mark Sutton added a pair of assists in the game, while Zinda, Zach Verhagen and Ben Carey each had one.

The Rockets fell to the Brookfield Stars, 6-2, on Saturday, with Cartyr Simonson and Chase Collins providing the goals.

SWIMMING

Rockets take second at season-opening invite

Tanner Trustem won a pair of individual events and Neenah finished top two in two of the three relays to take a solid second at the nine-team Oshkosh West Invitational last weekend.

The Rockets finished behind only powerhouse Bay Port in the final standings.

Trustem posted his wins in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard breaststroke to lead the Rocket individuals.

Julian Kuehn picked up a fourth place in the 100-yard freestyle and was sixth in the

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 15

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Page 12 I NEENAHNEWSNOW.COM **DECEMBER 8, 2023**

Fast start propels Rockets to first win of the season

By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

After two losses to start the season - including one less than 24 hours earlier the Neenah boys basketball team needed a boost at the start of its nonconference contest against Hudson on Saturday eve-

Enter Brady Corso.

The talented senior guard scored the team's first eight points to ignite a 15-0 run and the Rockets were able to stay in front the entire way to post a 68-55 victory for their first win of the year.

"We've had two bad starts (to start the season) so we had to have a good start today otherwise we would have to do some things to switch things up," Neenah head coach Lee Rabas said. "They responded and we got off to a good start. It felt a lot

Corso opened the scoring with a driving layup and then drained a 3-pointer. He then scored another basket before hitting one of two free throws to make it 8-0 about three minutes into the game.

As the most experienced member of the Rockets, Corso wanted to set the tone for his team and make sure the Rockets got off to the start they wanted.

"It was very important to get off to a good start," Corso said. "I was trying to set an example for some of the underclassmen and showing them what Neenah basketball is all about. Trying to get off on the right foot after starting slow the first couple of games. It's not what you want to get into, getting into a hole at the start of games. Getting off to a great start is where we found our success."

Nick Schultz and Justin Janssen fol-

lowed with baskets for Neenah and Corso scored the final three points of the open-

Hudson finally got on the board with a 3-pointer more than six minutes into the

"We were engaged to start the game," Rabas said. "They missed a couple of shots which helped us. We were better offensively, moved the ball and didn't settle for bad shots early in the game, which was a big help."

Hudson was able to get as close as eight points in the first half before Neenah took a 36-26 lead into halftime.

The Rockets scored the first six points of the second half on baskets by Charlie Wunderlich, Janssen and Schultz and Neenah led by double digits the rest of the

"(We kept the lead) by just playing fundamental basketball, playing Neenah basketball the way we were taught," Corso said. "Being strong in the halfcourt, playing really good defense. Really emphasizing the defensive side, which is what Coach Rabas is well known for."

Corso finished with 32 points, including a 9-of-11 performance at the free-throw line, to lead four players in double figures for the Rockets. Wunderlich chipped in 11, while Janssen and Schults each finished with 10.

Ethan Hoelzel was the only other player to score for the Rockets with five points, while grabbing a team-high eight rebounds.

Most importantly, the Rockets were able to make a mark in the 'W' column.

"This is a huge win, first win of the

SEE Neenah boys ON PAGE 13



Neenah's Nick Schultz goes up for a layup during the first half of last Saturday's win over Hudson.

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Justin Janssen looks to make a move in the lane against Hudson.

Neenah boys

FROM PAGE 12

season," said Corso, who also chipped in seven assists. "Going back to the film and learning what we did good and what we can improve on and keep building and getting better every day."

Rabas was pleased with the win but said the team does need to keep improving.

He said there was a three- or four-minute stretch in the first half when the offense struggled to generate good positions, while the team committed 10 of its 14 turnovers over the final 17 possessions.

But it's a lot easier to attack improvement coming off a win.

"(The win) should jumpstart us a little bit and make us feel a little bit better about where we are at," Rabas said. "We're process oriented. Whether we win or lose, we want to play a certain way. We're happy to get a win, but we want to play more consistently. That's what we are searching for right now."

Zephyrs knock off Lancers

By Dustin Riese News contributor

Coming off last season's success, the St. Mary Catholic's girls basketball team knows it wears a bull's-eye on its back.

Manitowoc Lutheran took aim at that target Tuesday night.

St. Mary Catholic pulled away from a single-digit lead in the second half to open the Big East Conference season with a 73-48 win over the Lancers to remain unbeaten on the season.

"The girls played well tonight against a good Manitowoc Lutheran team," head coach Jeff Chew said. "We did struggle at times and got a little out of sorts with some sloppy play, but we managed to recover. That is a sign of an improving team as the girls did a great job adjusting as the game went on."

It took awhile for the Zephyrs' big guns Audrey Norville and Emily Vogel to get rolling, but St. Mary Catholic jumped to a 7-2 lead, boosted by Nolie Anderson.

Although early in the game, it was a lead the Zephyrs wouldn't give up as their ability to play pressure defense to help create offense helped SMC race out to an early 15-4 lead.

The Lancers scored the next seven points to narrow the gap before a 3-pointer from Autumn Crowe pushed the lead back to seven and ignited an 8-0 run.

The lead would grow to 30-13 with Anderson coming away with several second- chance buckets before the Lancers closed the gap to 34-25 at halftime.

The Lancers were able to stay within striking distance to start the second half trailing 40-31, but then the Zephyrs took over.

St. Mary Catholic ended the game on a 33-17 run and most of that came from fast- break opportunities stemming from

Norville and Vogel played a significant part in that run and Chew knows his team is at their best when they are leading the way.

"Any time you have a pair of players who are capable of putting the ball in the bucket anywhere on the floor it does make things easier on offense," Chew said. "They are going to get theirs every game, but they do so much more than that for the offense. They do a great job setting the table for the rest of the girls and getting everyone else involved. When that happens we are a tough team to beat."

As much as the offense got cranked up, it was the Zephyrs' pressure defense that was the key to the second-half surge. At one point, it felt like St. Mary Catholic built a wall at the 3-point line, making it impossible for Manitowoc to get anything done on the inside.

"We pride ourselves on defense and using our defense to turn into offense," Chew said. "The more we can pressure an opponent and make them uncomfortable, the more likely it is that we can force them into making mistakes. The girls did a great job of doing that tonight, especially in the second half, and that played a role in our late-game run."

The Zephyrs finished with five players in double figures led by Autumn Crowe's 16 points. Norville and Nolie Anderson each finished with 14, while Vogel and Sienna Anderson each chipped in 11.







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info@sheaelectricllc.com www.sheaelectricllc.com Page 14 I NEENAHNEWSNOW.COM **DECEMBER 8, 2023**

Senior Standout is brought to you by: National Bank



Corso grows into driving force for Rockets

By Steve Clark NEENAH NEWS

Neenah head coach Lee Rabas had a unique description of how senior Brady Corso attacks the game of basketball.

"He goes full speed all of the time," Rabas said after last Saturday's win over Hudson. "It's like he's going 75 mph in 70 mph zone the entire game."

And Corso has been doing it for three years now.

Corso played a key reserve role as a sophomore on Neenah's undefeated, state championship team two years ago and then held his own on a senior-dominated squad that made a return trip to the Kohl Center last year.

This season, he's carrying the top-billing for a team that looks to once again contend in the rugged Fox Valley Association and make a third straight trip to the state tournament.

"It's awesome being a part of a great program," Corso said. "Just representing the program is important to me. Being a role model for the youth and playing for a successful, wise and experienced coaching staff that push you every single day to get the best out of you."

Corso is in his third year of wearing the Rocket varsity uniform and has broadened his game over the past three seasons.

The talent was always there but in taking on the lead role on the Rockets' roster, it's been more than just about improving what he could do between the lines.

"He's going to get held, he's going to get pushed, he's going to get bodied up and banged around. Everybody is going to treat him rough the entire year because he's our best player and a scholarship kid," Rabas said. "The amount of time he's put in skill-wise but developing his body to handle and take that abuse."

As a sophomore, Corso averaged 10

Senior Standout

points per game and provided an energy burst off the bench for the Rockets. Much of his contribution, though, was from behind the 3-point line where nearly twothirds of his field goals made that season were 3-pointers.

"It was a great experience sophomore year. Some of the seniors took me under their wing and helped me with whatever it was," Corso said. "I remember for the first couple of games, I definitely had a little bit of nervousness but I feel like it was just the excitement to play because I just love playing the game."

The topper of that sophomore season was winning the WIAA Division 1 state title, a moment that Corso said will be with him forever.

"It was something that there are no words for. Hearing the buzzer sound, there's just a huge rush of all sorts of emotions," Corso said. "Knowing all of the hard work you have put in throughout the season and in your past has paid off."

Corso remains a dead-eye 3-point shooter for the Rockets but over the last two seasons has expanded his game. Give him space and he will definitely hoist a shot from distance, but try to take that away and he's just as comfortable - and capable - of getting into the lane and scoring or getting to the free-throw line.

Corso said driving to the basket and pulling up in the midrange game has always been part of his skill set. It's just that

SEE Senior Standout ON PAGE 15



Brady Corso is a three-year varsity player for the Neenah Rockets and is averaging 24 points per game so far this season.

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Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

those skills weren't as in demand for the team to be successful.

"I feel like I've always tried to be the best all-around player I could be, but just in the setting that I am in, I'm just doing whatever it takes to win the game and be the best for my team," Corso said. "Playing the role I got the opportunity to play is what I was focused on."

This year, in addition to spearheading Neenah's offense, he's also had to take on more of a leadership role this season.

Only one other player on this season's roster – Charlie Wunderlich – played in more than 20 varsity games last season, meaning that Corso is by far the most experienced player for the Rockets.

"It's awesome to experience what it's like to get to be the senior and the alpha dog," Corso said. "It's about helping all of my teammates out, giving them constructive feedback, positive feedback to lift them up. Just trying to come together as a team and helping them be the best they can be because I want to keep this program where it's at right now and be even better when I leave it."

Corso has set some lofty individual goals for himself this season but he's more focused on making sure Neenah remains an FVA and state power.

He believes that, despite lacking much varsity experience, this group can certainly achieve the same results as the past two Neenah squads.

"I definitely have all the faith in the world that this group will get there," Corso said. "Really just focusing on our craft and playing Neenah basketball is what it takes"

Ending a third straight season at the Kohl Center would be a tremendous accomplishment but this would certainly have a different feeling. In the previous two trips, Corso always had another high school season to look forward to.

That wouldn't be the case this year, although there will be plenty more basketball ahead for Corso.

The senior is committed to attend St. Leo University in St. Leo, Fla., and join its NCAA Division II program. Corso said he was attracted to the people at the university and in the basketball program and is looking forward to joining the Monarch program.

"I have to keep rounding out every single aspect of my game, try to get a little bit better at everything possible," Corso said. "Working on my strength to get a little stronger and faster for the next level because it's another step up from the level of varsity high school basketball."

Corso said there are a number of fellow Wisconsinites on the roster and on the coaching staff which should ease the worries about being so far from home.

And it was a decision he wanted to get out of the way before his senior season started with the Rockets so he can focus solely on what he hopes to accomplish over the next few months.

"My goal was to make my decision before the start of my senior season just so I could get everything out of the way. That way I could focus on my senior year in high school, playing basketball. Just being in the present and getting better each day in practice and be prepared for every game," Corso said. "I'm thankful to the coaching staff for giving the opportunity but I'm trying to stay as focused in the present as I can, staying in the moment."

And those in and around the program can enjoy each moment Corso is on the court.

"He went from being down the scouting report as a sophomore to being near the top of it or sharing the top of it last year to now he is the top of it," Rabas said. "That maturation and watching him evolve and grow has been really special."

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Experienced, talented roster has Rockets eyeing FVA crown

Neenah News

An experienced roster loaded with talent has the Neenah High School boys swimming team looking to repeat its Fox Valley Association title from a year ago.

The Rockets have won the last four FVA titles and eight of the last nine. Overall,

Swimming PREVIEW

the program has won 4 FVA championships.

The Rockets return a total of five

swimmers who competed at the WIAA state meet last winter, including a pair that qualified in two individual events.

Junior Drew Gaerthofner finished fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke at the state meet last year, while he also was 16th in the 100-yard freestyle – finishing about seven-tenths of a second out of the top 10.

Sophomore Tanner Trustem had a big freshman season, qualifying for state in both the 200-yard individual medley (19th place) and 100-yard breaststroke (21st).

Having both swimmers back certainly will be a boost for the Rockets, according to head coach Carrie Raeth.

"They are leaders for our team and set the standard for work ethic and teamwork," Raeth commented. "They keep their goals in mind at each practice, so they work hard every day."

The Rockets also return all four members of the 200-yard medley relay team that finished 15th at the state meet. That foursome includes Gaerthofner, Trustem, senior Braden Louden and junior Joshua Youngwerth.

Junior Julian Kuehn joins Gaerthofner and Trustem from last year's 200-yard medley relay team that placed 10th at state.

That group will form the nucleus of this year's squad while Raeth believes freshmen Burke Wendell and Ryker Zarda will also contribute to the team.

The Rockets graduated their top diver from last year in Ryan Foucault, but do return senior Kyle Joneson to fill that void.

Prep roundup

from Page 11

200-yard freestyle, while Braden Louden added a fifth place in the 100-yard butterfly.

Other top-10 finishes for the Rockets were: Joshua Youngwerth, seventh in the 100-yard butterfly and eighth in the 100-yard backstroke; Ryker Zarda, seventh in

the 100-yard backstroke; Burke Wendell, seventh in the 500-yard freestyle and 10th in the 100-yard breaststroke; Louden, eighth in the 200-yard individual medley; and Gideon Benner, 10th in both the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle.

The Rockets also won the 200-yard medley relay with a team of Youngwerth, Trustem, Louden and Kuehn, while the same foursome took second in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

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The Christmas tree grows to an enormous size and a great battle begins between the Mouse King and the Nutcracker, who comes to life to lead an army of toy soldiers.

Clara uses her A to kill the Mouse King and save the Nutcracker's life.

Standards Link: Reading Compr the sequence of events in a story.

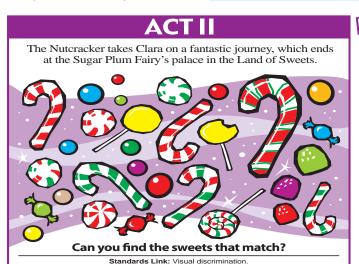


CODE: **A**=□ **E**= **B H**= **T O**= △ **S**= △

- 5 holiday
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1 gift for a special person

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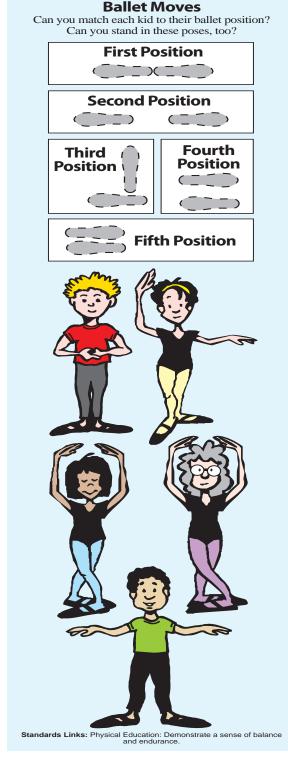
Double Word Search

NUTCRACKER **MOUSE** BALLET TOYS **SOLDIER CLARA PLUM SUGAR FAIRY** CLOCK TREE **PARTY** KING ARMY **GRABS**

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

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