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City tax assessment challenged

Retailers use loophole to cut real estate tax

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is facing another lawsuit by Walmart over what the corporation calls “excessive” real estate taxes.

This is the fourth legal action that Arkansas-based Walmart has filed against Neenah in as many years in an effort to lower its share of property taxes. The city of Oshkosh has been hit with six such lawsuits,

filed by the same attorneys representing Walmart in the Neenah litigation.

In the latest lawsuit filed by Walmart attorneys Mallery S.C. out of Milwaukee, the retailer argues that the value of its Neenah storefront at 1155 W. Winneconne Ave. is no more than \$6.5 million, just over half of the \$11.6 million value assigned by the city assessor’s office. The lower assessment would reduce Walmart’s 2023 tax burden for the Neenah location by about \$81,000.

It joins suits Walmart brought in 2019, 2020 and 2021 against the city which were consolidated into one case that’s still active-

ly being litigated, with a court trial scheduled for April. The retailer is challenging the tax assessments for its Neenah location each year from 2019-2023.

It also mirrors civil suits the retail giant has lodged across the state despite a 2023 Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling that was expected to close what’s commonly referred to as the “dark store” loophole.

Chain retail stores including Target, Walmart, Woodman’s Markets, Meijer, Walgreens, Menards, Home Depot and

SEE **Dark stores** ON PAGE 11

INSIDE



Driver death

Family in mourning after delivery tragedy

Page 4



Photo from Galloway Co.

Galloway Co. has work underway on a 12,800-square-foot addition on the south side of its existing facility on South Commercial Street.

Dairy producer grows with steady demand

Galloway adding new evaporator, logistics

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

An expansion is underway at dairy producer Galloway Co., which is moving forward on a \$68 million investment in downtown Neenah.

Construction began this past fall on a 12,800-square-foot addition on the south side of the existing building at 601 S. Commercial St., expected to be significantly completed by Sept. 1.

The 78-foot-tall building will have space for a state-of-the-art evaporator, logistics area and offices on the third floor.

The company applied for a building permit in October for an additional \$36 million, 31,000-square-foot addition, which chief executive officer Tim Galloway noted was premature but may still take place in the next five years.



Galloway

“We needed to get this evaporator project up and running and have all of our engineers focused on that one item before we can proceed on the next one,” he said.

Over the past several years Galloway has purchased and demolished adjacent properties along Austin Avenue and Jack-

son, McKinley, Henry, South Commercial and Tyler streets to be used for expansions, site efficiency and better truck and traffic circulation.

The expansion underway is to keep up with tremendous growth for the country’s leading manufacturer of sweetened condensed milk for industrial purposes; with the product sold out for two years straight.

“We’ve had to turn down new customers, we’ve had to put people on allocation, and we don’t like to do that because if customers don’t feel that there is an adequate supply in the industry, they may look for alternative methods to make the end products that our product goes into,”

SEE **Galloway growth** ON PAGE 11

Jail program sees success in recovery

STAR made available to everyone in need

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Jail has been utilizing a new program aimed at tackling addiction. Several groups are working to keep the program a success and keep the success rate high for people in recovery.

The STAR (Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery) program is available at any time to all inmates. People in the program have access to recovery coaches and other addiction-related resources throughout the community.

The program started as Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) and has transformed into the STAR program to offer more to people struggling with addiction. The jail partnered with Solutions Recovery, based in Oshkosh, in September 2022

SEE **STAR program** ON PAGE 12

Christine A. Rondeau, CFP®

Emily Cuadra | Client Service Coordinator

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General information/customer service:

Jennifer Grunwald
admin@neenahnewsnow.com
Phone: 920-486-1616
Website: www.neenahnewsnow.com

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Advertising deadline is noon Tuesday for the following Friday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday for Friday.

Publisher

Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407
karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor

Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027
editor@oshkoshherald.com

Corrections

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

About the newspaper

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U.S. Army captain honored posthumously

Neenah News

Posthumous medals were presented last week to the family of U.S. Army Capt. Raymond Perry Birdsall II for his service in Germany during its rebuilding after World War II.

Birdsall, a native of Neenah and graduate of Algoma High School, served more than 15 years in the Army and Army Reserve. Medals presented to Birdsall's family were the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp, National Defense Service

Medal, Expert Badge with Carbine Bar and Marksman Badge with Pistol Bar.

In a speech presenting the medals, U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Green Bay) said, "Ray's efforts contributed to the security and prosperity of our allies abroad while ensuring our adversaries would think twice about any plans to invade Western Europe or threaten American troops... I could not be prouder to present these medals to such an honorable service

member and selfless American."

Birdsall II earned a bachelor's degree in science from the University of Wisconsin before he was inducted into the Army on Dec. 11, 1950. He then went to Artillery School at Fort Sill, Okla., from March to May 1951. After training, he was deployed to Germany.

After Birdsall's time on active duty, he married Arlene Anderson in 1953 and they raised seven children.



Photo by David Hall

Family game time

Families gathered in the Neenah Public Library's Shattuck Room last Saturday morning for Game-A-Palooza, where a variety of table top, lawn and group games were being played by all ages.

Neenah News certified to publish legal notices

Neenah News has completed the certification process with the State of Wisconsin and is now certified to publish legal notices.

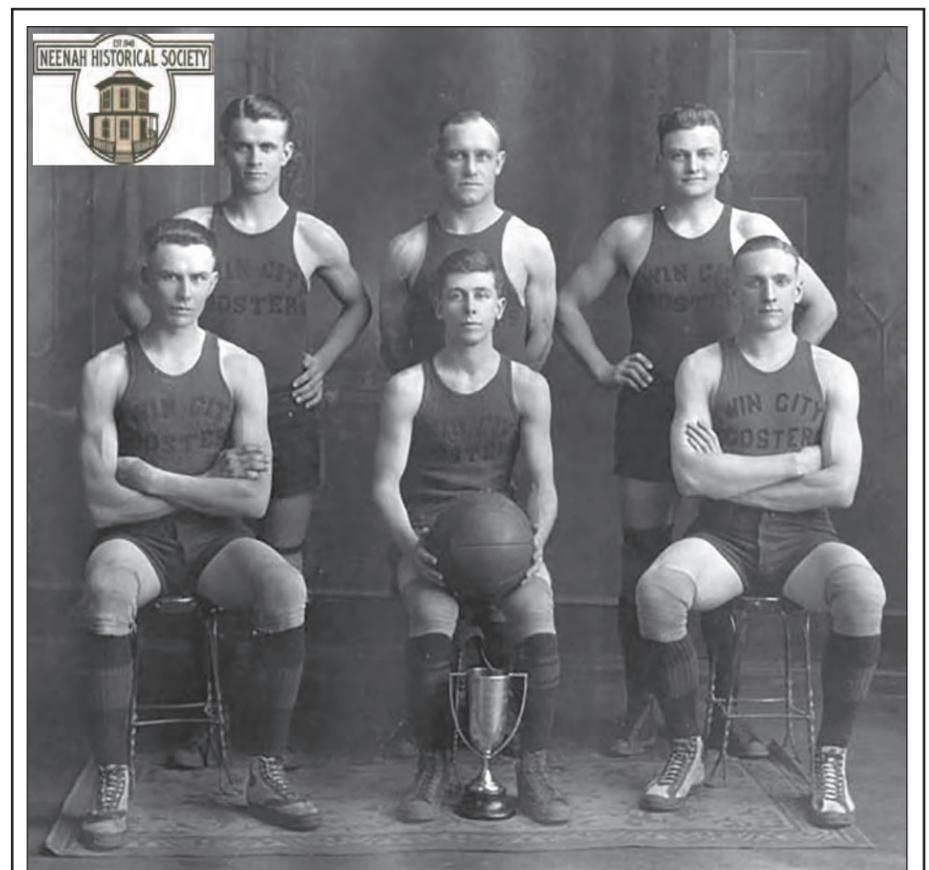
"Becoming certified to publish legal notices is a community service and an honor for our growing local newspaper," Publisher Karen Schneider said. "We're proud to be sharing news and information that directly impacts our readers."

The designation means Neenah News can publish public notices and other legal notices required under state law.

Neenah News was started by Schneider in February 2022, expanding on the success of the Oshkosh Herald, which at Schneider's helm has been delivering local news since 2018. The two newspapers have a combined circulation of more than 53,000 households.

To become certified for publishing legal notices in Wisconsin, a newspaper's content must be at least 25% news designed to inform the general reader, including recent occurrences such as political, social, moral and religious subjects, and must be published at least once a week.

There is a fee assessed for publishing legal notices that is set by state statute. To place a legal notice in Neenah News or Oshkosh Herald, contact customer service representative Julie Vandenberg by calling 920-385-4512 or emailing julie@oshkoshherald.com.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Early hoopsters

The Twin City Boosters is a Neenah-Menasha basketball team that played in the Central Wisconsin Basketball League in the 1920s. Home games were played at the S.A. Cook Armory on Doty Island. Shown are (back row, from left) Bill Bodden, Edgar Jones and Carl Gerhardt; and (front row) "Dutch" Wall, Ken Chappel and Dr. Fay.

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Guilty pleas entered in carjacking and theft

Neenah News

The 51-year-old man who abducted, robbed and carjacked a 31-year-old Neenah woman and her 4-year-old son in October pleaded guilty to three felony counts last week.

Jay Scott entered the pleas last Friday in Outagamie County Circuit Court to carjacking while possessing a weapon, bail jumping and theft of movable property. Charges of forceful abduction of a child, armed robbery and kidnapping were dismissed.

According to the criminal complaint, Scott approached the two in the Fox River Mall parking lot Oct. 2 and ordered them into the car at knifepoint. Scott took the keys and drove the woman's vehicle to two banks in Neenah in an attempt to get the woman to withdraw money, but she was unable to.

When Scott pulled up to stop at a traf-

fic light, the woman opened the door and jumped out of the car with her son near Interstate 41 and West Winneconne Avenue.

A motorist drove the woman and child to the Kohl's parking lot, where they waited for police.

The victim and her child were treated for non-life threatening injuries at The daCare Regional Medical Center.

The woman's vehicle was located in the Town of Rushford and Scott was taken into custody without incident. \$1,844 in cash and a check for about \$900 in the victim's name was found in Scott's possession.

Scott faces up to 60 years in prison on the armed carjacking charge, up to three-and-a-half years in prison on the theft of movable property charge and up to six years on the felony bail jumping charge. He will be sentenced Feb. 16.

Employee accidentally fires gun at work

Neenah News

An employee at a Fox Crossing business was terminated from his job in late December for accidentally firing a gun into the ceiling.

The shooting occurred at Americana Pipedream at 2495 Northern Road on Dec. 27 and involved a Glock 17 pistol, according to the police report.

Matthew White was working at Americana Pipedream and concealed carrying his firearm when he showed the gun to two employees and allowed them to handle it. One of the employees said he dry-fired the weapon, replaced the magazine and handed it back to White.

White allegedly cycled the slide, pointed the gun toward the ceiling, looked through the sights, and the gun went off. The hollow-point bullet left a hole in the ceiling.

Americana Pipedream is owned by Aiden Olson and Logan McGrath and sells apparel, books, knives, vintage clothing and military surplus gear.

It is in the building that formerly held

the Harp Gallery, which moved to Kaukauna in 2022.

White was dismissed by the business and sent home after the incident. The police report notes he told police he didn't realize the magazine was back in the gun and it was his fault that he discharged the weapon.

Police issued him a warning for violating the ordinance regarding discharging a firearm within village limits.



Photo from Fox Crossing Police

Thanks for service

Fox Crossing Police Officer Gerard Stephanie was recognized on his retirement after more than 29 years in law enforcement. Stephanie began his career as a community service officer in Oshkosh, as well as a part-time officer with New Holstein before accepting employment with the Town of Menasha (now Fox Crossing) Police Department in 1997.

Neenah police lose K9 team partner

The Neenah Police Department announced that its K9 Bobby passed away Monday at age 7 with his handler by his side after a short battle with cancer.

Bobby was the department's second K9 and partnered with investigator Zach Mulroy as a dual-purpose K9 who served Neenah residents since 2018, taking part in 154 narcotics detection deployments

and 91 arrests. He also had 18 patrol deployments and was instrumental in locating three people and one handgun.

"In addition to being an excellent police K9, Bobby was an outstanding partner and a friend to many," Neenah Police K9 Unit said in a statement. "His always playful demeanor and joy of life will never be forgotten."



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Amazon driver's death underscores safety issues

Woman was delivering package when struck

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

An Amazon delivery driver from Neenah was hired just two months before she was struck by a truck while delivering in the Village of Harrison and died while doing the job she loved, according to those who knew her.

Lynette and Jeff Zimmer described their daughter, Chandra, as spunky, sarcastic and loyal, and said she enjoyed delivering packages.



Zimmer

"She got this job and she just loved it and we were so happy for her," Lynette said. "She was pulling things together."

Zimmer died at the scene of the accident on State 114 near Pigeon Road around 5 p.m. Dec. 28.

The Calumet County Sheriff's Office said Zimmer was in the roadway when struck by a truck driven by a 40-year-old Sherwood man, who was uninjured. The incident remains under investigation, with police noting poor visibility due to rain is believed to be a factor.

The 2002 Neenah High School graduate was employed by delivery service partner (DSP) Excelerated Delivery of Appleton for the Amazon Distribution Center in Greenville.

Amazon's DSP program utilizes a network of third-party drivers to deliver par-



Neenah News

An Amazon driver for the Greenville distribution center was struck and killed while delivering in the Village of Harrison last month.

cels. Critics of the program say it's a way for Amazon to control employees while dodging responsibility for serious incidents.

Appleton Alderman Nate Wolff was employed as an Amazon driver in 2021 and 2022. He said Amazon monitored and increased DSP employees' routes, controlled their pay, filed complaints and even fired employees against the DSP's wishes.

"While they control basically everything you do as a driver, they are not liable for that," he said.

Zimmer had three days of internal training for the job, which included driver safety procedures. The delivery vans are equipped with flashing safety lights and DSPs purchase reflective vests and jackets from Amazon for drivers to wear. But in some cases, reflective wear isn't enough to prevent an accident.

Wolff shared an incident that occurred

on Calumet Street in Appleton while wearing reflective clothing and delivering for Amazon. He checked that the street was clear and began to cross when a car that didn't have headlights on appeared.



Wolff

"I almost got hit," he said. "Reflective gear doesn't do anything if the cars don't have their headlights on at night."

Amazon drivers are required to deliver after dark and in remote areas, which carries increased risks.

"There's no other delivery service that delivers as late as Amazon does," Wolff said. "You'll notice that when you're delivering at like 10 o'clock at night and no one else is out there. Even UPS doesn't do that."

Drivers are pressured to make deliveries as quickly as possible, often at unrealistic rates.

"Most of the time I would sprint between the van and the door to make my deliveries," Wolff said. "We always got pushed to go faster so that we all got done faster."

A class action lawsuit filed in 2022 noted Amazon expected a DSP operator in Sacramento to deliver 350-400 packages per day per van. In a 10-hour shift, that would require the driver to make a delivery every 1 to 2 minutes without taking breaks.

Zimmer's parents said they asked her if she was encouraged to be fast and deliver on time and she reassured them that the company stressed safety first.

"Even though she was sore and it was taking time for her body to adjust to the physical labor, she loved driving and delivering hundreds of packages each shift," her obituary noted.

A study by the Strategic Organizing Center found that one out of every five drivers suffered injuries while making deliveries for Amazon in 2021, with the most common being slips, trips and falls; strains such as muscle twisting; dog bites; vehicle accidents; and striking an object such as a fence post.

Excelerated Delivery owner Kevin De-

Haan said safety is a top priority.

"We regularly review working conditions, standard work procedures and safety protocols to ensure we are adhering to the highest safety standards and we feel confident in the safety measures we have in place," he said.

Wolff said injuries may occur because the driver is trying to deliver on time and may not be focused on their surroundings.

"You're looking for the house and you're not necessarily paying attention to traffic and it can be hard to hear the cars, as well," he said.

Wolff encouraged delivery drivers to carry a high-quality flashlight. For those expecting a package, he said to leave a porch light on for the delivery driver.

Zimmer still had the package in her hands when she was struck by the truck. Her parents questioned why she was required to cross a busy highway to deliver, but noted she was trying to follow company policy, which discourages drivers from pulling into driveways.

"What we would ask people to do is when they see an Amazon truck pulled over to the side of the road with their lights flashing, just to slow down, because there's a driver somewhere and I'm sure that the driver that hit her never saw her," Lynette said.

Amazon reached out to the Zimmer family to express sympathy, with spokesperson Austin Stowe issuing a statement last week.

"We are deeply saddened by this tragic incident and our thoughts are with their loved ones during this difficult time," he said.

Zimmer and her 4-year-old son, Brayden, were living with her parents in Neenah at the time of the accident.

"She was a spitfire and a great mom," Lynette said. "She loved that little boy dearly and would do anything for him."

The family is accepting donations to set up a trust fund for Brayden. Donations to the Brayden Memorial Fund can be made at any Nicolet National Bank branch.

Jeff said the loss has the family reeling. "It's hard for us to process that our daughter is never coming home."



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Private school expansion sought in Vinland

Neenah News

A private education institution is planning to expand with the purchase of about 10 acres at County A and Indian Point Road in the Town of Vinland adjacent to its current location pending Town Board and city of Oshkosh approval.

Acton Academy Oshkosh has completed a new campus plan to expand into middle school and high school education while keeping its elementary education at its current location that opened in September 2020, with anticipated completion by the end of this year. The school currently has about 60 students ages 4-7.

The Acton Academy Network has more than 250 affiliated academies in 30 states and 20 countries worldwide that promotes a "one-room schoolhouse" approach to learning. Acton Academy Oshkosh founder Carey Sharpe, who also launched The Howard entertainment venue at the former Eagle Club in 2017 with

siblings Jenna Golem and Ben Johnson, said the school's enrollment draws from both the Oshkosh and Neenah school districts while being open to a wider geographic range.

Plan Commission members asked about current zoning, traffic concerns, potential annexation of the land to the city of Oshkosh and whether the property would be tax exempt. The site borders the Town of Oshkosh on Indian Point Road north of the city.

Commission members heard a presentation at their Dec. 18 meeting from Andrew Iverson of Ganther Construction Architecture, who said Atlas Capital Group is financing the project on the land it owns and will lease to Acton. He said the rural location is ideal for Acton's expansion as students do hands-on learning projects outdoors such as working on gardens and greenhouses, and there is also a wooded area along with green space.



The area bordered in green is the site proposed for the expansion of Acton Academy in the Town of Vinland.

Disabilities fund awards \$24,500 in grants

The SAC Developmental Disabilities Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region awarded \$24,500 in grants to 14 area nonprofit organizations to support inclusive and accessible programs.

The fund has granted more than \$700,000 in grants to community organizations since it was launched, and provides annual support of \$5,000 each to SOAR Fox Cities and Special Olympics Wisconsin-Fox Cities.

Among the grants awarded in 2023:

- Lakeside Packaging Plus: \$1,000 for its Inclusive Artistry Program, which pro-

vides individuals with disabilities access to art education and opportunities for artistic expression by offering classes and open studio hours.

- Reflections of Grace Performing Arts School: \$1,000 to expand its Dance 4 All program in Oshkosh into the Fox Cities, which incorporates inclusive, adaptive, and integrated dance classes for children, adults and seniors with disabilities.

- YMCA of The Fox Cities: \$1,000 to improve assistive, gross motor and sensory equipment at Camp Hope and Camp Inspiration.

Business news roundup

J.J. Keller & Associates Inc. has named Ken Sherman as vice president of software engineering for its Technology Solutions division. He will lead a team of more than 130 development and quality assurance professionals in the design and development of software solutions and connected devices line. Sherman has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and



Sherman

communications from San Diego State University most recently served in leadership roles with Arrivia, Quake Global and Verimatrix. He will be based in northeast Wisconsin.

Jewelers Mutual Group has been certified as a platinum-level Employee Friendly Workplace in the Fox Cities by the Fox Cities Chamber. This marks the third certification in four years for the company, which was named a silver-certified Employee Friendly Workplace in 2020, and a gold-certified Employee Friendly Workplace in 2021.

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Middle school theater naming recognition OK'd

Pickard honor remains intact under district plan

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District is moving forward on naming the area encompassing Pickard Auditorium in Neenah Middle School the Shattuck Performing Arts Center (SPACE) after the plan narrowly passed the school board Tuesday by a vote of 4-3 with one abstention.

Last month the district proposed changing the name of Pickard Auditorium and the surrounding area to SPACE to preserve the Shattuck family's legacy with the closing of Shattuck Middle School and its sale to a local developer to be turned into apartments and homes.

District Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer wrote in a memo that the Shattuck family's imprint on the district and community is significant.

"The family believed in taking care of people less fortunate and they were strong advocates for education," she said. "Furthermore, the Shattuck family has been one of the most generous and giving families to our district."

After listening to community feedback on the proposal, which included some opposition, the school district presented a slightly different plan at Tuesday's meeting to change the name of the area encompassing Pickard Auditorium and the adjacent music areas to SPACE.

Pickard is named after Sam Pickard, who was president of National Manufacturers Bank of Neenah and was Frank C.

Shattuck's personal banker. Pickard assisted in organizing a fund drive for the auditorium but did not contribute to the school district.

The Pickard Auditorium name will remain until a sponsor comes forward, according to Pfeiffer, who noted that under board policy if someone were to offer \$500,000 to change the Pickard name for a 10-year period, that could happen.

One of the suggestions was to name a space at Neenah High School in Fox Crossing in honor of Shattuck. Pfeiffer talked about the suggestion Tuesday and told the board a new legacy will be created at the high school.

"The recommendation, from my perspective, honors the Shattuck name at the site where the district was impacted and there is history in our district when we think about what's named after people, it's really at the site of where they left their

legacy," she said.

Another suggestion was to change the name of Neenah Middle School to Shattuck Middle School, with Pfeiffer noting the school district chose the name of the school based on community feedback.

"To change after going to the community a year ago, that just didn't feel right," Pfeiffer said, adding that if the district doesn't name an area after Shattuck now, it may never take place.

Pfeiffer said the positioning of the SPACE at the middle school is based on the Shattuck family's significant donation "in order to make an idea become reality at that location."

"This recognition will remain a part of our district and in honor of all the Shattuck family has done for us - children, staff, our entire community and beyond," she said.

School district moves forward on superintendent search

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday to hire Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates of Schaumburg, Ill., to search for a superintendent for the Neenah Joint School District to replace Mary Pfeiffer, who is retiring.

The district received bids from seven firms and narrowed the field to three for finalist interviews. The district recommended hiring Hazard, Young, Attea at a cost of \$25,450. Other firms considered were McPherson & Jacobson at a cost of \$18,800 and School-Exec Connect at a cost of \$23,700.

Pfeiffer served as Neenah High School associate principal from 1998-2003 and selected in 2009 as the district's first female superintendent. In 2021 she was

named Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year.

Pfeiffer led the local public schools through significant changes over the past 15 years. The district recently completed more than \$180 million in improvements that included the opening of a new high school and transition of the existing high school into a middle school for grades 5-8. Horace Mann Middle School was also transformed into an elementary school.

Pfeiffer submitted her resignation letter in November, with her last day in the position June 30.

Board president Brian Epley said Tuesday's vote means the school district will enter into a contract with the firm to search for Pfeiffer's replacement, with the process expected to take a few months.

Calendar of events

Saturday, Jan. 13

Washington Park Winter Festival, 11 a.m.
Reaching Heaven's Gates, 2 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road

Sunday, Jan. 14

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

Monday, Jan. 15

Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: "Killers of a Certain Age," 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library's Shattuck Room

Tuesday, Jan. 16

Fox Cities Chamber's Celebrate: A Toast to 150, 4 p.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel

Thursday, Jan. 18

ThedaCare Community Open House, 5 p.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center

Saturday, Jan. 20

Stompin' at the Savoy Jazz Event, 7 p.m., Neenah High School atrium
Stuffed Animal Clinic, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, Jan. 23

"Dorman Season" with photographer Erinn Springer, 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, Jan. 28

Friends of Library Magazine Sale, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library



Proudly Announces the Inaugural Sesquicentennial Event

Menasha History Trivia Challenge

All are invited for an evening of fun and entertainment
Friday, January 19, 7:30-9:30 pm
Elisha D. Smith Menasha Public Library

Challenge yourself and others on notable Menasha people, businesses, buildings, landmarks and sports.

Free pizza by Parker John's BBQ and Pizza. Win gift cards. 16 teams of four people or less vie for prizes. 64 limited seats. Go to **Menasha150.COM** website for "Events" information.

Next Sesquicentennial Event: Speed Puzzle Contest

Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 4 pm-6pm
Maplewood Middle School, 1600 Midway Road in Menasha

Complete a 1,000-piece Menasha-theme puzzle as the fastest. 50 teams of four persons. 200 participants. Prizes awarded. Register at **Menasha150.com**.

Join us at Menasha's 150th birthday party!
Tuesday, March 5th at noon at Menasha City Hall

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Discrepancies noted regarding service dog licensing

Neenah News

An article published Dec. 29 in Neenah News headlined “Service dog licensing change sought in state law bid” included information provided by Alderman Kathie Boyette during testimony at a Dec. 7 state Senate Committee on Public Health hearing for Senate Bill 728 and its companion, Assembly Bill 752.

The bills 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. Documents and information subsequent-

ly provided by the Neenah Police Department indicate some of the information was inaccurate.

Boyette was first issued a verbal warning for two German shepherds running at large in February. In August, the dogs were at large again and Boyette was issued a citation for animals at large and one for not having a dog license. A police report notes that while issuing the citations Boyette stated “that because her dogs are service dogs, that they do not need to have an animal license.”

Under the Americans with Disabilities

Act (ADA), a service dog must be licensed and vaccinated if all dogs are required to be licensed and vaccinated. Neenah requires all dogs, including service dogs, to be licensed and vaccinated; however, service dogs are exempt from paying a licensing fee. To obtain an exemption, the owner is required to check a box on a form identifying them as such, answer yes or no to whether the dog is a service animal required because of a disability and describe the work or task the dog has been trained to perform.

The ADA also requires service animals to be under the control of its handler, and harnessed, leashed or tethered “unless the individual’s disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal’s safe, effective perfor-

mance of tasks. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.”

Neenah’s fine for not having a dog license is \$124, not \$250 as Boyette testified. Assistant Police Chief Jeff Bernice noted there is leeway and if a pet is licensed before the court date, the citation may be dismissed.

Both citations Boyette received for not having her dogs licensed and for animals running at large were dismissed at pretrial in September.

Boyette said her granddaughter’s dog lives with her part time and both dogs are in training to be service dogs. She noted that after receiving the citations she licensed both dogs with the city.

Radon threat in buildings gets focus

During this National Radon Action Month, the state Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging home and building owners, along with child care providers, to test buildings for the odorless, radioactive gas.

Radon is naturally present in the ground and found across Wisconsin, entering buildings through their foundations. About one in 10 homes in the state have elevated radon levels.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s action level for safety is 4 picocuries per liter (4 pCi/L). Last March, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families enacted rule changes that require licensed family and group child care providers to test for radon and install a mitigation system if radon levels exceed the EPA action level.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and it is estimated to cause more than 21,000 deaths each year in the United States, about 962 of them in Wis-

consin. High radon levels are especially dangerous for people who smoke; their risk of lung cancer is 10 times higher than nonsmokers.

The cost of radon mitigation can be a barrier for some families and businesses. Residents can visit lowradon.org to find contact information for the East Central Radon Information Center serving Winnebago County or speak with local public health department radon experts by calling 888 LOW-RADON to discuss available options.

Test kits are available from hardware stores and local public health agencies, available year-round for \$10 at the Winnebago County Public Health Department’s Oshkosh and Neenah offices, but only \$5 this month at the Health Department offices.

There are more than 100 radon mitigation contractors in Wisconsin that are nationally certified to install radon mitigation systems.

Rural health worker incentives offered

A Collaboration of Wisconsin (COW) rural health care grant was awarded to four Wisconsin workforce development boards, including the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board, to train individuals in selected health care programs who are planning to work in a rural county or community.

The grant will officially end Sept. 30 but there are grant dollars available to cover individuals who will be completing their training in either the spring or summer 2024 semesters. Enrollment must take place before the start of classes, with many Wisconsin technical schools beginning their spring semester Tuesday.

The 10 allowable training programs covered by the grant include associate degree in Nursing (ADN) Registered Nurse, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Home Health Care Aide, Licensed Practical

Nurse (LPN), medical assistant, medical and clinical lab technician, phlebotomist, substance abuse counselor, social and human services assistant, and selected telehealth training programs.

To schedule an appointment with an enrollment counselor, contact Dawn Knapp at 715-201-9514 or at dknapp@nwwib.com, or visit nwwib.com/cow and complete the COW Grant Interest Form for immediate consideration.

Send business bits

Our readers are looking for information on what businesses are doing in Neenah. Help us share the news by emailing submit@neenahnewsnow.com or calling 920-486-1616.

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YMCA gives esports enthusiasts a bigger arena

Tech Lab adds social space for young gamers

By Dan Roherty
NEENAH NEWS

The world of esports – competitive gaming often engaged from a private home space – can also be a shared experience when offered the way the Neenah-Menasha YMCA presents it at its new Tech Lab for Fox Cities youth.

YMCA sports and recreation directors Jensen Hinton for Neenah-Menasha and David Herrmann in Appleton formed an esports program in the fall of 2021 starting with Nintendo’s Super Smash Bros. competition and later adding a Fortnite League and other e-games.

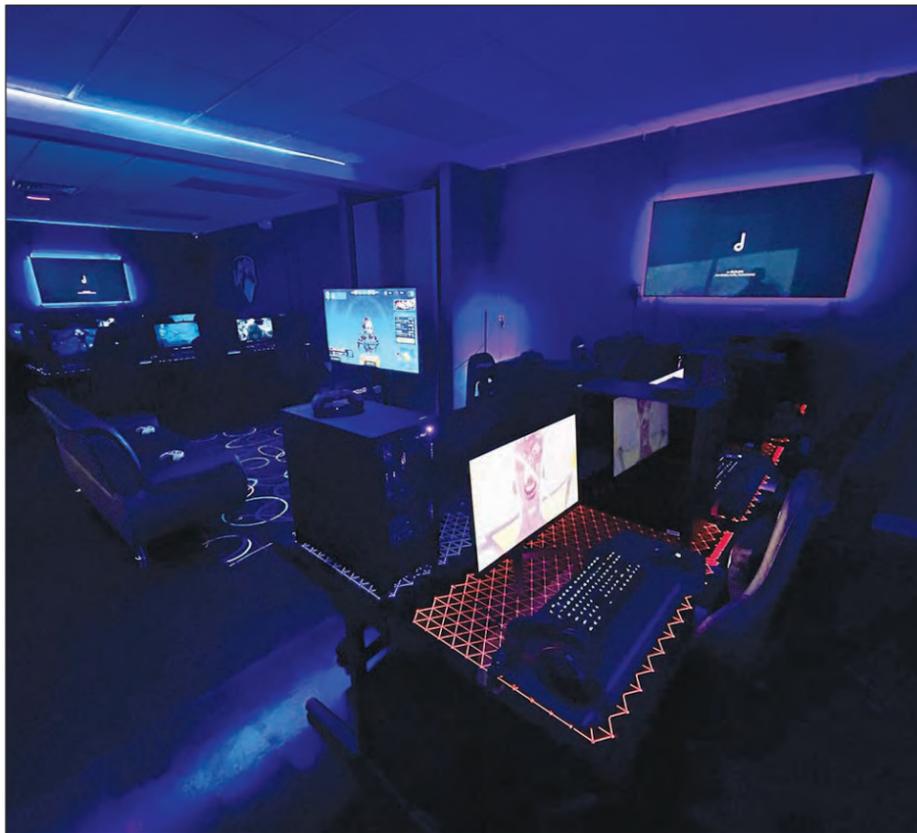
Hinton said about 20 kids were showing up weekly to play at the Neenah Y but had to bring their own Nintendo Switches and space was limited before the expanded Tech Lab opened last month.

“That was one of the big drivers behind this room was having all the equipment for the kids if they don’t have access to it,” Hinton said, “and we can also offer different games.”

Herrmann said they needed to seek out some sponsorship to help with expenses and made a successful pitch to Plexus Corp., a global technology manufacturer with a Neenah home base.

“Having 21 computers in there and desks and chairs and everything – it wasn’t a cheap room by any means,” Herrmann said.

“Plexus reached back out to us given that they are in the tech world. So that was



Neenah-Menasha YMCA photo

The YMCA’s new Tech Lab offers an expanded space for esports and other kids activities.

a perfect fit for us to work with them on that. They were generous enough to contribute and help us pay for a portion of the room.”

While the company wasn’t immediately clear about what they were being asked to support, Herrmann said corporate representatives have embraced the program and its goals.

“They have been very excited when stopping in and very interested and sup-

portive of the room,” he said.

Beyond the focus on esports competition for young people of all ages, the Tech Lab offers a safe community space with equipment and gaming access as part of regular membership fees.

Hinton said they hear plenty of interaction in the room outside of gaming action and know who the kids are playing with online.

“We focused on the social and emotional aspects of video games along with on-line safety,” he said.

He and Herrmann are both video game players who stay connected with that community but have other roles as YMCA sports and rec directors, so they rely on others to referee the esports world.

“We also have two esports specialists that work in the room as well, and they are heavily into gaming and know that whole space as well,” Herrmann said, “interacting with the kids, adapting to new games and understanding which ones are going to be appropriate.”

“Our goal is to have our esports specialists take over the room, run different programs, come help with creative programming,” Hinton added. “Seeing what our community wants as well is really important because we want to keep it interesting and new and have different things to offer them that they maybe don’t have access to at home.”

The expanded Tech Lab will also be able to host community nights, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workshops, parties and tech classes for seniors after the gaming space gets a little more established.

“Esports was kind of the main driver for this room at first but what it has turned into is more of a multiuse room for different educational purposes like STEM and tech classes, esports of course, but also use it for staff training and other things like that,” Herrmann said.

Reactions from players and parents to seeing the new Tech Lab space with its RGB lights illuminating the room have been positive.

“The first thing we always hear is, ‘Wow, this is so cool,’” Hinton said, with Herrmann adding that parents say they wish they had something similar when they were younger.

A central hangout area for kids to interact before gaming competition with a Nintendo Switch, Xbox and big TV encourages social time as well.

“That gets kids a chance to meet and interact more than on their own individual computers,” Herrmann said, “just another opportunity for bringing kids in and making friends along the way.”

Outside of esports clubs in some area high schools, the YMCA directors said there is nothing comparable for the public in the Fox Cities. They hope that schools without esports space may be able to use theirs as school club team competition continues to grow.

General play hours are from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday (unavailable 5 to 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday), 4 to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

- Esports Open Play hours are a new add-on to YMCA of the Fox Cities membership. Prices are \$8 per month for members (\$15 for two or more) and grant unlimited access based on availability.

- Super Smash Bros. Ultimate League is from 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays for ages 8-18 as a session-long competition against other players in the program.

- Fortnite League is from 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays for ages 8-12 with competition against other players.

- wwLet’s Play Esports is from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays for Youth League (ages 8-12) and 5 to 7 p.m. Thursdays for Teen League (ages 13-18), where there is access to any games while hosting challenges and activities by request.

Go to ymcafoxcities.org for details on fees for individuals and families.

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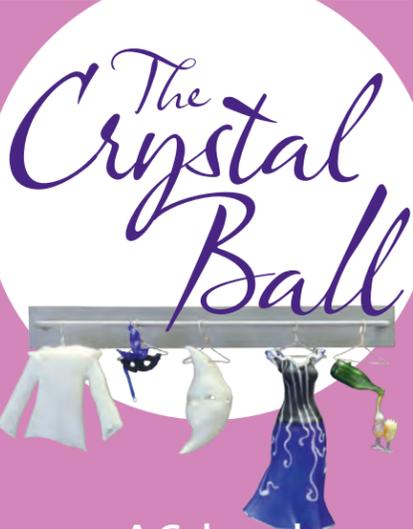
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Take a fresh look at city in the new year

Welcome January 2024. Out with the old and in with the new. Let Future Neenah help you with your resolutions – Neenah style.

Unlike that resolution to eat a stalk of celery every day, run a marathon by May 1 or finally clean out that hall closet (yikes!), let's try some Neenah resolutions on for size that you can actually keep while exploring your community.

- Have you ever visited...
- Legacy Park in downtown Neenah, which honors our deep paper history?
 - Gateway Park to play the foot chimes?
 - Baldwin Park to check out the brand-new playground equipment?
 - Carpenter Preserve off Breezewood Lane to connect with nature?
 - The Plaza to ice or roller skate, roast a marshmallow or have a hot chocolate flight?
- Wrapped your tastebuds around some Neenah grub:
- Home-baked goodies fresh out of the oven at Shellattes or Great Harvest.
 - A Friday fish fry at Batley's Grill & Bar (formerly Ground Round). Yes, we

know there's so many more places in Neenah – maybe that's a future story just about getting your perch and haddock on.

- A local pie – pizza that is – from Cranky Pat's, Stuc's, Broken Tree, Sammy's, Cannova's
- Feast Around the Fox Cities, which includes Neenah's Zuppas, Xe54 and Sante, runs through Jan. 31. Visit fox-cities.org for information.

Tapped into your creative side. Create a hand-crafted make-and-take from:

- Rooster Dreams Visual Arts
- The New Art Bus by Emma that can drive right to you
- Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass art classes
- Cre8 Lab Makerspace
- Renewed and Reclaimed's workshops

Think about all the places classified as iconically Neenah. But have you actually been to...

- Clock Tower
- Kimberly Point Lighthouse
- Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
- Historical Society Octagon House

While a marathon by May 1 may be out of the question, let's lace up those shoes and hit the trails...

- CB Trail west of the city
- Bridgewood Trail on Jewelers Park

Drive

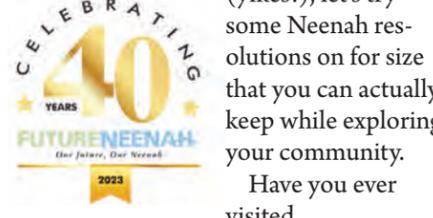
- Bill Miller Trail around Mahler Farms
- Helen Kimberly Stuart Trail on Lakeshore Drive
- Loop the Lake through Neenah, Menasha and Fox Crossing

Sampled the local talent? Get your culture on! I think you'll be surprised at the options...

- Neenah Community Band spring and holiday concert as well as a summer series at Riverside Park
- Future Neenah's Out to Lunch and Evening concerts in Shattuck Park
- Local bars and restaurants with regular music schedules
- Student dramatic and musical performances at the Pickard Auditorium, Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Center at SMC or the new auditorium at NHS

Tear this article out and use it as a beginning checklist. It's just a small sampling of places to go as well as things to see and do that can help in your resolution to better know your community. Watch for more in a future installment.

And while 2024 is a new year, Future Neenah continues to celebrate 40 years of serving the community until April 27 and the City of Neenah continues to celebrate 150 years until March 13.



Red Cross sets donation events around county

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. Blood and platelet donors are urged to make an appointment to help alleviate the shortage.

Download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 800-

RED CROSS to make an appointment. The Red Cross and NFL are partnering this month with those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma being automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas on Feb. 11.

Upcoming donation opportunities in Winnebago County:

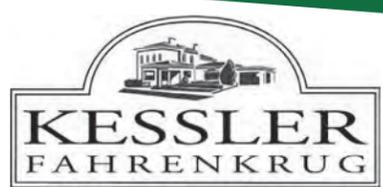
Monday: 1 to 6 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1140 Tullar Road, Neenah

Jan. 26: 1 to 6 p.m., YMCA Downtown, 324 Washington Ave., Oshkosh

Jan. 30: 11:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 746 Third St., Menasha

Jan. 31: noon to 5 p.m., Double Tree by Hilton, 123 E. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah

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Photo from Galloway Co.

An aerial view shows the Galloway Co. in Neenah in 2021 ahead of its most recent expansion project.

Galloway growth

FROM PAGE 1

Galloway said.

You won't find Galloway's sweetened condensed milk in a can at the grocery store, as all the company's product goes into other food and beverage manufacturing. The company uses 60 million pounds of sugar per year.

Galloway noted that condensed milk is often used to make caramel or confections. If you get a scoop of caramel or hot fudge on your sundae, a pump of caramel in your coffee or a cream-based Oreo, Snickers or Reese's pie, you've likely consumed Galloway's products.

"That is the reason for our expansion," he said. "We want to fully serve our customers, we do want to keep growing our business, and this new evaporator, which is the type of equipment that is needed to make sweetened condensed milk, will afford us that opportunity."

The business operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year round with a staff of about 150. The expansion will add about 6,000 square feet of office space for employees.

"We are very proud of the fact that we want to offer all of our employees, whether they be our union employees or office

employees, the best wages and benefits possible; and therefore we become an employer of choice for lots of folks," Galloway said.

With the expansion, Galloway will continue hiring more employees.

"It's kind of a neat place to work because everything you make makes people smile," he said.

The significance of having a leading dairy manufacturer in Wisconsin isn't lost on Galloway, who noted the state's ranking as No. 2 in the nation for dairy production makes it a great place for business; with easy access to materials used in the company's three product lines of sweetened condensed milk, ice cream mix and beverage bases.

"We ship everywhere and therefore we needed to be somewhere somewhat central in the country, but also where we have our raw materials," he said.

The company began operating as a dairy in Neenah in the 1920s. It has been owned and operated by the Galloway family for more than 68 years and includes four generations, with Annika joining the third generation of Todd, Tim, Ted and Pat Galloway in leadership roles.

As a family-owned company, Galloway said it was important to keep growing and expanding in Neenah.

"It's where we live, it's where we play; it's a great community," he said.

Dark stores

FROM PAGE 1

Lowe's use the dark store loophole to try to reduce property tax assessments by arguing the value of their active stores should be based on the value of "dark" storefronts, including closed and vacant properties in unpopular areas.

Oshkosh city attorney Lynn Lorenson wrote in a letter to the Common Council that assessing large box stores is complicated because the value tends to be based on the square footage of the main retail center only, without considering other structures or site amenities on the property. In addition, she said there's a tendency for large retail stores to sell only after they're no longer being used for their original purpose.

"These 'dark sales' do not provide ideal comparable properties on which to rely and must be significantly adjusted for various differences in age, location and other factors; making precise valuation of a site more difficult," Lorenson said.

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities (LWM), which supports legislation to close the dark store loophole, wrote that the strategy shifts more of the tax burden from commercial property to homeowners and small businesses. LWM noted a study of 12 communities where the tax loopholes were fully implemented resulted in residential tax bills increasing on average by 8%.

On the other side, the business association Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce has repeatedly opposed efforts to close the dark store loophole, writing on its website that a loophole doesn't exist and the efforts are a "cloaked attempt at raising taxes on small-town manufacturers and main street businesses throughout Wisconsin."

Last February, the state Supreme Court

issued a decision in Lowe's Home Centers v. City of Delavan, ruling Delavan's assessments of the Lowe's location were not excessive and the value of dark and distressed properties is not comparable to an occupied, operating property. Despite the ruling, big-box retailers have continued to lodge similar lawsuits across the state and nation.

While Walmart has failed in some of the dark store lawsuits, it has also reached settlement agreements with municipalities, particularly due to the resources required for the extended court battles.

Oshkosh entered into settlements with Walmart to resolve the six lawsuits challenging the property assessments. In 2019, Oshkosh agreed to lower the tax assessments for 2017-2019 and reimburse Walmart a total of \$141,000. This past August, Oshkosh agreed to reimburse Walmart a total of \$50,400 for tax years 2020-2023. Four months after settling with Oshkosh, Walmart filed the latest lawsuit in Neenah.

Lorenson noted Oshkosh is insured through the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, so the city had no out-of-pocket costs for outside counsel to defend the claims. While Neenah has similar insurance, city attorney David Rashid noted the self-insured retention necessitates hiring outside counsel paid for by the city.

Walmart's 2023 property taxes based on Neenah's assessment are \$185,189. The retailer is asking for a judge to reduce the property value and require the city to issue a refund for taxes paid on the portion of the assessment considered "excessive," plus interest. It's the same request Walmart is making for each of the past five years of tax bills.

In its response, the city contends Walmart fails to state any facts supporting the allegation that the assessment of the Neenah property is not uniform with other properties in the city and throughout the state.



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STAR program

FROM PAGE 1

to bring in recovery coaches and other programming for people dealing with substance use problems.

Lt. Amber Rozek works in the jail and said people are offered the chance to join the STAR program as soon as they enter the jail in the booking process and may just start with a phone call later that day. They can join the program at any time during their stay for no cost. The program is voluntary as is every step in the program.

"It's great to have that wrap-around care so people have somewhere to go or someone to talk to when they are in here and eventually get released," Rozek said. The program is beginning a new year and Rozek said the jail staff is always learning new things.

"It's a learning experience every day," Rozek said. "We are tweaking and making changes all the time as we continue with this program."

2023 was the first year of the program, and Rozek and Sheriff John Matz were both excited by its first-year success and it's why they are hoping to expand and continue the program.

Matz said 399 inmates initially inquired about the program who were dealing with all types of addiction ranging from opioids to methamphetamine to alcohol. He said alcohol is the most abused substance in the area.

"Alcohol is huge; it's still the number one most abused drug we have in Winnebago County," Matz said.

Of those almost 400 people, 63 returned and continued with the program. Matz said 29 of the people are still in re-

covery, which is a success rate that Matz and Rozek are both happy with. The success rate for inmates remaining sober outside of the jail from when the MAT program began in September 2022 through October 2023 is 46%.

County Executive Jon Doemel supports the STAR program and said his goal for addiction in the county is to work on sobriety, recovery and related services.

"To get people into recovery is always the goal. To get people sober is always the goal," Doemel said.

Solutions Recovery is working on a better way to keep track of people when they are released and that includes better data collection and more follow-up calls, texts and visits to see how someone is doing in recovery.

"Solutions Recovery is a great partner on this program," Matz said.

Megan Edwards, program director at Solutions Recovery, said MAT started in September 2022 and has transitioned into the STAR program with Solutions Recovery.

The prescription medicine Vivitrol is used within the STAR program, designed to block opioids and alcohol. It is offered in pill form as the most effective daily dose and upon release people are offered an injection of vivitrol that can last 30 days.

Edwards said that if someone has had Vivitrol and they take an opioid they will not get the euphoric high as the medicine blocks the opioid receptors.

One important aspect of the STAR program is transportation from jail to another facility where the recently incarcerated person can work on their recovery.

"We call it door-to-door service. Developing that relationship while they're incarcerated and then helping them find treatment outside the jail or a sober living house or it could be an emergency shelter

– we are there to help the transition," Edwards said.

It's often noted that mental health and addiction are connected. Rozek said there are resources for mental health, but the STAR program is focused on substance addiction.

"These people are at their lowest point when they come to jail," Matz said. "The first 10 days is when the withdrawal happens and if we can help them with addiction that's the goal."

Solutions Recovery has some recovery coaches that are also peer-support specialists. Where the recovery coaches work with people on addiction, the peer-support specialists have a focus on mental health.

"If we're working with someone in the jail and we think there should be more focus on the mental health we can get them working with one of our peer-support specialists."

Solutions Recovery is made up of people who are in recovery from addiction. Edwards said the recovery coaches use their own life experiences to help others.

Matz said this type of programming is needed due to the amount of overdoses Winnebago County is seeing. He said there were 50 overdoses in the county last year, which is 13 more than the most the county has ever seen in a year.

"It's not a record I want to break," Doemel said.

"We have to think differently. There still has to be consequences, there still has to be accountability. But there also has to be services available to end the lifestyle," Matz said.

Edwards, Doemel and Matz all mentioned when people are in the jail and they have reached that low point, they are more open and susceptible to thinking about changing their lifestyle.

The STAR program is funded by grants and the National Opioid Abatement Settlement fund. The County Board approved using \$52,500 of the opioid abatement funds to contract with Solutions Recovery. The program is funded through this year and Matz said staff are working to find funding to support the program for the coming years.

"There are grants we are looking at and there is also more opioid settlement money coming over the next couple of years," Matz said.

Doemel said he would like to continue focusing on grant funds for the STAR pro-

gram and use the opioid abatement funds for the Connect program that was recently moved into the Orrin King building. The program is available to anyone in Winnebago County looking to get connected with resources to get sober.

"Opening that first door is always the hardest," Doemel said. He noted that his brother, now three years sober, battled with a heroin addiction, and would often remind his brother about the people that care about him.

"You have no idea how many people are waiting for you to get better," Doemel said. "That's the key. Some of these people have no idea how instrumental they could be in so many others live when in recovery."

In the jail there are a few renovations going on to convert one of the spaces into a recovery pod. This area, Rozek said, will have several program options available like life skills classes and followups on how to get insurance and housing when no longer in the jail. It will be more open and more comfortable than general population pods.

"Whatever their needs are for success, we'll try to provide that," Rozek said of what the STAR program can provide.

Matz mentioned that even though these people will get a more comfortable space, they are still in jail.

"This isn't a vacation. It's still jail," Matz said. Inmates in the program still need to follow all procedures or rules for being in the jail and if they violate them they would be removed from the recovery pod.

"It will be a piece of accountability for them. If you want to be here, it's on you to keep yourself here," Rozek said.

Deputies are getting specialized training for handling situations that may arise within the recovery pod or recovery stages for inmates. The jail also plans on getting a therapy dog that will not just visit with the STAR program but with all inmates.

Edwards said a major reason the STAR program works is the community mentality for dealing with addiction is shared by all entities involved – Solutions Recovery, Department of Health Services, Public Health and the jail staff with the sheriff's office.

Matz is excited to see how the program goes this year and beyond.

"The program is really going to make a difference in our addictive population," he said. "I'm excited to see what the numbers are now that we've got more experience with the program."



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Wunderlich stepping into bigger role for Rockets

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah boys basketball coach Lee Rabas gave a little chuckle before discussing the on-court strengths of senior Charlie Wunderlich.

"I always tell him, he's very professional out there," Rabas said. "He knows where his spots are, and he is good at getting to them. When he gets there, he's tough to stop. It's just very professional the way he goes about it."

Wunderlich knows exactly what Rabas is talking about and admits having heard the term plenty.

"(Rabas) has worked with me for many years and he knows what I like to shoot – that little mid-range (shot)," Wunderlich said. "He's always telling me to get to my spot, so when I'm in the game and I get there, he likes it."

And where exactly is the spot he likes to get to?

"Either one of the elbows," Wunderlich said. "I love getting a pull-up from the elbow."

After playing a limited role as a junior, Wunderlich has emerged as a key contributor for the Rockets this season.

He is the second-leading scorer for Neenah at 12.7 points per game, while shooting an impressive 61 percent from the field. He is also one of the few players on the roster that entered the season with measurable varsity experience and brings a level of leadership to the court as well.

"Last year we had a lot of seniors who could play, so I learned a lot from them and I learned a lot from the team that won the championship the year before on what it takes to get to that level," said Wunderlich, who averaged 2.6 points while playing in every game for Neenah last season. Now this year, I've been showing my leadership and trying to make an impact on the team."

Rabas has seen the growth in Wunderlich's play.

"It was a natural maturation. He had some moments for us last year but obviously had some seniors ahead of him," Rabas said. "He's a mature kid and very skilled. He's performed at a level we thought he could."

Even with Wunderlich's efforts – which included a career-high 27 recently against Hortonville – Neenah has struggled a bit at the start of the season with a number of new faces in the varsity lineup.

Wunderlich, though, believes the team can turn it around as the season starts into its second half. He sees the talent the team can put on the floor in practice but is waiting for it to translate into games.

"We're going to keep getting better. I've just been telling everyone that they have to have confidence," Wunderlich said. "We have a lot of guys that are standouts

Senior Standout



at practice – they are unbelievable – but then they get a little nervous going into games. We are good players, good enough to win games but we just have to have confidence and then go out on the court and prove it."

Wunderlich knows the feeling of having to find confidence because it was something that he has dealt with moving up through the Neenah program.

"As a freshman, I didn't want to shoot the ball at all. I just wanted to let others do it. I was always so passive," Wunderlich said. "Over the years, I've worked on my game and I've learned that I need to get where I need to go and get my shots."

"I go into every game getting ready mentally, know the scouting report. I know the work that I've done and I just go in with confidence hoping I can help the team and hoping I can have a good game."

Basketball has been a big part of Wunderlich's life since he was a child.

Whether it was watching games or playing against his older brother in the driveway, he's spent plenty of time around the game.

"Basketball has been my thing ever



Photo by Megan Feltz

Senior Charlie Wunderlich is the second-leading scorer for the Neenah boys basketball team at 12.7 points per game, while shooting 61 percent from the floor.

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 14

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Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Big first half sparks win for Rockets

Neenah jumped out to a 49-16 lead at halftime and cruised to a 77-41 win over Appleton West last Friday night.

Brady Corso finished with 23 points and four steals to lead the way for the Rockets but was the lone player in double figures.

Luke Jung and Charlie Wunderlich each added eight points, while Joey Daun chipped in seven.

Zephyrs fall short against hot-shooting Wautoma

Mason Uhlenbrauck scored a season-high 15 points and Preston Fields added 14 but St. Mary Catholic couldn't keep up with Wautoma in a 92-66 non-conference loss.

Fisher Mackenzie chipped in eight points and Luke Fairweather added seven in the loss.

Wautoma hit 14 3-pointers in the game and bolted to a 50-28 halftime lead.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Neenah stifles Appleton West in win

The Rockets allowed a season-low 19

points and cruised to a 77-19 win over the Terrors last Friday.

Allie Ziebell led Neenah with 15 points as 13 different players scored in the game for the Rockets. Ellie Buss also reached double figures with 13 points while Rachel Dietrich scored nine.

Zephyrs bounce back from loss with win

St. Mary Catholic rebounded from its first loss of the season by pounding Fall River 77-30 at home Monday.

The Zephyrs pulled away to a 22-point halftime lead and then outscored the Pirates 34-9 in the second half.

St. Mary Catholic finished with five players in double figures, led by 14 points from Audrey Norville. Nolie Anderson added 13 followed by Autumn Crowe with 12 and Emily Vogel and Brityn Voss each with 10.

The Zephyrs were dealt a 65-60 loss to Pacelli last week with Norville leading her team with 22 points. Vogel added 15 points and Nolie Anderson finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Neenah takes third place at Lancer Invitational

Joelle Reay and Amari Richard each

took second place to lead Neenah to a third-place finish at the Lancer Invitational hosted by Brookfield Central.

Reay went 2-1 with a pin at 107 pounds, while Richard was 4-1 with three pins to take second at 126 pounds.

Ashlynn Scheidermayer at 114 pounds and Ava Armatti at 138 pounds added third-place finishes.

BOYS WRESTLING

Koch, Herm post wins against Kaukauna

Neenah was limited to just two wins by powerhouse Kaukauna as the Rockets dropped a 58-9 Fox Valley Association dual meet last week.

Declan Koch and Jacob Herm registered the victories for the Rockets. Koch scored an 18-7 major decision win over Ryan Schmidt at 138 pounds, while Herm won by technical fall over Mason Hansen at 144 pounds.

SWIMMING

Gaerthofner leads Rockets at invite

Drew Gaerthofner finished second in a pair of events to lead Neenah at the prestigious Marquette Invitational last weekend.

Gaerthofner placed second in the 50-

yard freestyle and the 100-yard breaststroke, with his runner-up finish in the 50-yard freestyle being one-tenth of a second behind the winner.

Tanner Trustem added a ninth-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke, while also picking up a top-15 finish with a 14th place in the 200-yard individual medley.

Kyle Joneson also scored a fifth-place finish in diving.

The Rockets were also fourth in both the 200-yard freestyle and the 200-yard medley relays. Gaerthofner, Trustem and Julian Kuehn swam on both relays, with Joshua Youngwerth completing the freestyle relay and Braden Loudon rounding out the medley relay.

Neenah finished eighth out of 26 teams at the invite.

HOCKEY

Rockets dealt close loss by West Bend

Ben Carey's unassisted goal was the lone tally for Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha in a 2-1 loss to the West Bend Ice Bears on Saturday.

Carey's goal tied the game at 1 in the first period and the contest stayed even until the third period when West Bend notched the game winner.

Owen Delbert made 24 saves in the game for Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha.

Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 13

since I was growing up. My dad and brother got me into watching the NBA early," said Wunderlich, who added that he followed LeBron James and Kobe Bryant the most growing up. "We'd watch a game and then go out and play my brother one-on-one and throw up shots yelling Kobe. It was fun."

Wunderlich hopes to continue to play competitively after high school, as well.

Currently he said he didn't have any solid plans but would love the chance to play basketball at the collegiate level.

"I would really like to play college basketball but not sure where yet. I have some ideas, I guess," Wunderlich said. "I have to get smarter and stronger. I've watched my fair share of college basketball and talked to a lot of college basketball players at the Division III level, it's a very physical game."

A strong finish to his final high school season may help Wunderlich earn a shot at the next level and that's exactly what he's

focused on.

Competing in the Fox Valley Association is no easy task, so getting wins in the league is something that can certainly open some eyes.

"The competition is unbelievable. You can't just walk into an FVA game and think that you are going to beat someone by 30. They are going to show up and give you their best," Wunderlich said. "I'm hoping the experience will catch on for us. We all know we are capable of being a great team and win games, but our defense has to get better and we just have to trust our coach-

and stick to the gameplans."

Regardless of how the season turns out for Wunderlich and the Rockets, he knows the experience of the last four years will be something to treasure.

"Neenah has a very rich tradition (in basketball) and it's special to be a part of. The friendships you make, the relationships you have with coaches, it's awesome," Wunderlich said. "Basketball has always been my thing. It always helps me. If I'm in a bad mood, basketball is there. If I'm in a good mood, basketball is there. It's the best."

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Pediatrician warns of high caffeine in energy drinks

ThedaCare Communications

New sports and energy drinks are gaining popularity, thanks in some part to an increased presence on social media channels such as YouTube. The advertising and videos connected to these drinks have impacted their millions of young social media followers. Many of these products have hundreds of milligrams of caffeine, which is becoming a concern for parents, families and health care says some drinks contain high caffeine levels professionals.

“Parents should know that caffeine in any amount can impact young people much more strongly than adults,” said Dr. Sneha Subbarayan at ThedaCare Physicians Pediatrics-Neenah. “It’s also important to truly understand how much caffeine is in a specific drink. For example, some of these drinks have 100-200 milligrams of caffeine. A can of caffeinated soda has about 30 milligrams.”

Energy drinks generally contain stimulants such as caffeine and guarana, a plant product which contains caffeine. These drinks also may contain sodium, vitamins, minerals and sugar protein. The American Academy of Pediatrics said some energy drinks can contain up to 14 times the level of caffeine found in some sodas.

Rapid consumption of about 1,200 milligrams of caffeine can cause toxic effects such as seizures in adults, the FDA said. Children, teens and adults can experience a range of effects from caffeine over-consumption including insomnia or trouble getting to sleep, headaches or dizziness, nausea or lack of appetite, anxiety and rap-

id or irregular heart rate, hyperactivity and increased energy, jumpiness and increased stress hormones, dysphoria (unhappiness) and impaired concentration.

“Overconsumption of highly caffeinated drinks can cause toxicity in the body, and even death,” Subbarayan said.

In May, a British primary school student suffered a “cardiac episode” after drinking an energy drink. Kids with pre-existing conditions also can be at greater risk for caffeine-related health problems. The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages any consumption of stimulants including caffeine by children, and energy drinks are never recommended for children under age 12.

“Water is the best drink for children,” Subbarayan said. “Adolescents should limit caffeine consumption to a maximum of 100 mg per day.”

Additionally, people can become physically dependent or addicted to stimulants. The FDA currently recommends that healthy adults can consume up to 400 mg of caffeine per day, though people on certain medications or who have certain conditions (including pregnancy) should talk to their providers about whether it’s safe to consume caffeine.

Sports drinks are different from energy drinks but also should be consumed with caution. They are flavored beverages that normally contain minerals, vitamins, nutrients and electrolytes, and for young people who participate in athletics, the drinks can help rehydrate them after intense activity.

Obituaries

Nancy Ney

Nancy Virginia Ney, 68, of Oshkosh passed away at home surrounded by her family after a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer on January 5th, 2024 in Oshkosh Wisconsin.

Funeral service will be held at Highland Memorial Park on Friday January 12, 2024, at 11:30AM with Dr. Robert Nix, President of Berean Bible Institute, officiating. Burial/Interment will follow at Appleton Highland Memorial Park. A time of visitation will be held from 10AM until the time of service.

Nancy was born in Los Angeles, CA to Delbert and Diane Lange on April 4th, 1955. She grew up on the family farm in Minnesota and graduated from Pine City High School in 1973. Nancy felt from an early age that God wanted her to be a missionary and share the hope of the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. She and her late husband met in missionary training with New Tribes Mission. They lived and ministered in the Loko tribe, on the island of New Britain, Papua New Guinea, from 1986 to 1999. It was such a joy to see many tribal people come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. Upon their return to the United States in 1999, Nancy got her CNA certification and worked for a number of years at the Lasata Care Center in Cedarburg, WI. She also had the pleasure of being part of the team opening the Lasata Crossings Assisted Living Center in 2010. She left in 2013 to become a full-time caregiver for her husband.

Following the death of her late husband, Nancy moved to Appleton and the Lord brought Scott Ney into her life. They were married November 14th 2015. Daily bible reading and praying together with Scott for their families, friends, and those God-arranged encounters were two daily priorities in her life. Being a mother and grandmother gave her great joy. Widows, widowers, missionaries and parents

of missionaries had a special place in her heart as well. Traveling, biking and enjoying nature were hobbies that she loved doing with her husband and family.

Nancy is preceded in death by her late husband, Scott Nichols, her father, Delbert Lange, her mother, Diane Lange, her sister, Lisa Morgenweck, her brother, Larry Lange, both sets of grandparents, Fred and Ruth Nelson, and Julius and Mae Lange.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Scott Ney of Oshkosh, three children, Nathan Nichols of Waukesha, Stacy (Michael) Creech of Waukesha, Steven (Laura) Nichols of Appleton, and two step-children, Dan (Lori) Ney of Oshkosh, and Tricia (Chuck) Olson of Oshkosh, two sisters, Linda Andrews of Anchorage, Alaska, Jeanine Lange of Eagan, MN, one brother, Steven (Kim) Lange of Pine City, MN, sixteen grandchildren, Kelsey Creech, Dylan Creech, Riley Creech, Brynn Creech, Reagan Creech, Edwin Nichols, Charlie Nichols, Audrey Nichols, Elyse Nichols, Stuart Nichols, Margaret Nichols, Jadon Ney, Nathan Ney, Hannah Olson, Emma Olson, and Timothy Olson and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family is establishing organizations for memorial donations.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the staff at the Belville & Associates Chiropractic Clinic, Michael D. Wachtel Cancer Center, and Compassus Hospice Care for their loving and compassionate care.

1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14, 18 (NLV)

“Christian brothers, we want you to know for sure about those who have died. You have no reason to have sorrow as those who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and then came to life again. Because we believe this, we know that God will bring to life again all those who belong to Jesus. ... Because of this, comfort each other with these words.”

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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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ROMAN NUMERALS

Long ago, people in the Roman Empire started a number system called **Roman numerals**. They found it helped when all of the people in their empire used the same symbols for counting and for math.

The Roman Empire was so big that the numbers were eventually used in parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Roman numerals have seven symbols: **I, V, X, L, C, D, and M**. The chart at left shows which letters represent which numbers.

I	V	X	L	C	D	M
1	5	10	50	100	500	1000

Standards Link: Mathematics: Understand different numbering systems.

How It Works

Roman numerals are combined to make different numbers. Here is a number in Roman numerals. It is three letter Is in a row.

III

To figure out what number this is, you add the three Is.

I + I + I

$1 + 1 + 1 = 3$

If you want to write the number 4, things change a bit. Instead of IIII, the number 4 is written as **IV**. This shows that the number 4 is one less than 5.

IV = 4

What is VII?

Add the Roman numerals:

V = 5 I = 1 $5 + 1 + 1 = 7$

The number 7 is written as **VII** in Roman numerals. But the number 9 is **IX**. That shows that the number nine is one less than 10. (The number 10 is **X** in Roman numerals.)

VIII	IX	X	XI
8	9	10	11

Give it a try!

Can you write each of these numbers as Roman numerals?

3	I		
16		V	
29	X		
32		X	X

Standards Link: Mathematics: Understand the Roman numeral system.



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



- I = 1
- II = 2
- III = 3
- IV = 4
- V = 5
- VI = 6
- VII = 7
- VIII = 8
- IX = 9
- X = 10

Match Up

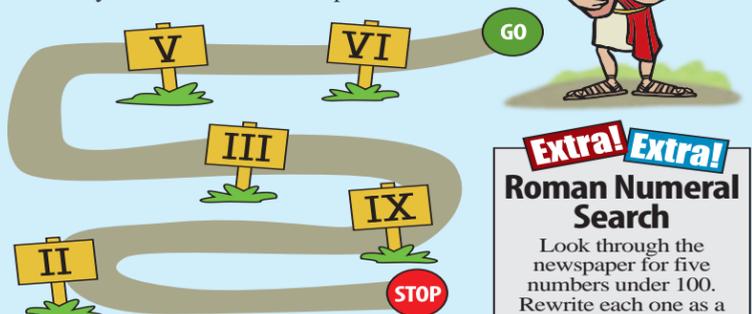
Draw a line between each number and the Roman Numeral that has the same value. One is done for you.

XIV 12 14 **XXV**
XII 24 25 **XXIII**
XXIV 23 25 **VI**

Standards Link: Mathematics: Understand that numbers can be represented in different ways.

Miles to Marketplace

Add up the Roman numerals on the signposts to see how many miles it is to the marketplace.



It is _____ miles to the marketplace.

Extra! Extra! Roman Numeral Search

Look through the newspaper for five numbers under 100. Rewrite each one as a Roman Numeral.

Standards Link: Mathematics: Practice writing Roman numerals.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Pottery Places

Number these pieces of pottery in order from lowest to highest based on the Roman numerals on each label.



Standards Link: Mathematics: Order numbers from lowest to highest.

Double Double Word Search

- ADD
- BIG
- ASIA
- CHART
- EMPIRE
- FIGURE
- LESS
- MATH
- MILES
- NINE
- NUMBER
- ROMAN
- SYMBOLS
- VALUE
- WRITTEN

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

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

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

Kid Scoop Together

Roman to Arabic

Adding and subtracting Roman Numerals is not easy. Multiplying and dividing is even harder.

To simplify things, people switched to Hindu-Arabic numerals (called Arabic numbers for short). They were invented by two great mathematicians from Ancient India, **Aryabhata** (fifth century BC) and **Brahmagupta** (sixth century BC).

The Arabic system has ten digits – 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

Roman Numerals and You

Work with a family member to answer these questions using Roman numerals.

How old are you?

What's the first number in your address?

How many hours did you sleep last night?

How many noses do you have?

How many kids are in your class?

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