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Candidates line up for local seats

Judicial, supervisor, council, board races set

Neenah News

There will be at least two new members on the Neenah Common Council this spring after incumbents in districts 1 and 3 decided not to run for another term.

Voters go to the polls in April to place their preferences for Common Council, Neenah Joint School District Board of

Education, Winnebago County Board of Supervisors and Winnebago County Branch 1 Circuit Court judge. It will be the same day voters participate in the presidential primary election.

Council members John Skyrms, who has represented District 1 since 2021, and Todd Stevenson, representing District 3 since 1989, have both filed noncandidacy paperwork with the city clerk's office. Kristen Sandvick, Mark Ellis and Brian Roeh are running for the District 1 seat, with a primary taking

place Feb. 20. William Pollnow Jr. and Jeffrey Linski are running for the District 3 seat.

A District 2 seat is also up for election, with incumbent Brian Borchardt running unopposed. He was appointed to replace Alderman Chris Kunz, who passed away in September 2020, and went on to be elected in April 2021.

Two Town of Neenah supervisor positions are up for re-election, with

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Service, therapy dogs fill critical roles
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Photo by David Hall

Wisconsin artist featured

A visitor to the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass views the work of Wisconsin-based glass artist Wes Hunting now on display. The blown and cast glass vessels and sculptures feature colorful palettes and murrine inspired by past and present creations of artists working in Murano, Italy. The museum exhibit is open to the public through February.

Valley VNA resident spreads her ageless charm



Photo by Patti Lee

Erma Peters has been a Valley VNA Senior Care resident for all of its 25 years.

By Patti Lee
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Erma Peters is a popular Valley VNA resident but lately she's been getting even more attention than usual. And she's quite enjoying it.

"It is fun," said Peters, dressed in festive Christmas attire. "But I keep wondering why I'm still around at 106."

That's not a typo: Peters is 106 years old and her recent birthday has created quite the hubbub in the halls.

She has resided at Valley VNA Senior Care for 25 years and was its first resident. Back in 1998 she picked out her brand-new apartment while it was still under construction and as soon as it was ready she left her home on Hazel Street.

Several years ago, Peters transitioned to

assisted living, still energetic, smart and sassy, and happy to be around friends and folks she knows so well.

Born in Abbotsford, Erma Colby was the middle child in a family of 10 kids. Abbotsford is in a cluster of small towns that straddle Clark and Marathon counties.

"There was Abbotsford, Unity and then Colby, which was named in honor of my great-uncle Charles," Peters said. "It was just a little town," she adds with a laugh.

Turns out that little town is pretty famous. When the Wisconsin Central Railroad was building the line headed toward Lake Superior, the 1872 construction season ended with rails completed to the site of what is now Colby. Called Section 53, the railroad renamed the location in honor of Charles L. Colby, partner in the railroad

construction company.

It also happens to be the birthplace of Wisconsin's own Colby cheese, created by Joseph Steinwand in 1885.

Peters moved to Neenah after graduating from Abbotsford High at age 17. She wanted to become a nurse but the school wouldn't accept students under age 18. Living with an aunt at the time, Peters needed to help out with the bills.

"So I went to work for a Mrs. Stacker - she had arthritis. But I wasn't making enough money there. So then I got a job at Gilbert Paper."

While employed at Gilbert, Erma Colby met John Peters at the Bungalow Bar in Neenah, where she enjoyed having a sloe

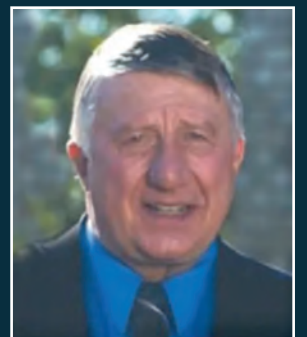
SEE **Birthday party** ON PAGE 11

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County considers increase to boat launch fees

Revenue would go toward improvements

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Parks Department is asking for an increase in the fee assessed at the seven boat landings maintained by the county to keep up with maintenance costs and make the boat landings more self-sustaining in the future.

Winnebago County maintains boat launches at Butte des Morts, Eureka, Black Wolf, Boom Bay, Lake Poygan, Grundman Park and Asylum Bay.

Boaters who park an attached or detached trailer in any county park or boat launch are required to pay a daily, annual or multiyear parking fee. The fee ranges from \$7 daily to \$100 for a three-year pass for a nonresident.

In a memo, parks director Adam Breest wrote that the boat landing fund currently has \$168,705 in reserves, with \$125,000 scheduled to be spent fixing the Eureka boat landing in 2024. The county was projected to net less than \$15,000 in the fund in 2023.

A downward trend in boat landing revenue was noted in 2020 and 2021, with a combined loss of \$100,454 those years. The county closed out 2022 with a profit of \$36,347. With the losses and profits averaged over the past four years, the fund has a combined deficit of \$49,107.

The Parks Department noted the long-term goal is to make the fund self-sustaining so that biannually or triennially the county can take on a larger boat landing improvement project. Some of the future projects include the Eureka and Poygan concrete landings; adding parking and bathrooms at Butte des Morts; dredging Butte des Morts, Eureka, Boom Bay, Poygan, Black Wolf and Asylum Bay; paving



Neenah News

The Asylum Bay boat landing is one of seven Winnebago County launches that could see an increase in parking fees under a plan being considered by the county board.

the parking lots at Boom Bay, Poygan, half of Black Wolf, Asylum Bay and Eureka; and the future expansion of parking at Black Wolf.

Under the plan, the annual tri-county permit that covers all Calumet County, Fond du Lac County and Winnebago County-owned launches on Lake Winnebago would remain the same at \$50 yearly. Winnebago County's daily fee would increase by \$1, while the annual resident, nonresident, senior and supplemental fees would increase by \$5.

Three-year resident and nonresident supplemental fees would increase by \$20 and \$25, respectively, and three-year resident, nonresident and senior fees would increase by \$45-\$50. In addition, the Parks Committee recommended raising the age for a senior pass from 55 to 62 years old.

One year after implementing the increases, the fund balance is expected to sit at just under \$40,000, steadily increasing each year to an estimated \$395,000 in 10 years.

Four residents and several supervisors spoke in opposition of increasing the fees at a county board meeting Dec. 19. One of

the concerns was that the increase would drive boaters to use city and town launches, which typically have a lower fee than county launches.

Supervisor Thomas Swan called the boat launch parking fee "triple taxation."

"The county itself should be paying for this lake access out of the general fund that we charge taxpayers on our tax bill," he said. "These boaters have to pay a fee at the boat landing and they have to pay for license fees if they're a fisherman."

Historically, the county has used boat landing fees to fund installation, removal, repair and maintenance of buoys. In 2022 the buoy expenses were moved to the general fund. Breest estimated that from 2018-2021, \$477,000 in boat launch fees were diverted to buoy maintenance.

Swan said boaters should not be charged more "until that money is put back in and utilized for what it was supposed to be utilized for."

Earlier this year the board voted to replace the cash boxes at the county's seven boat launches with automated pay stations that accept credit cards or cash, funded with \$120,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

Supervisor Steven Binder requested that the county wait to change the boat launch parking fees to see whether the pay stations result in an increase in revenue. Supervisor Doug Nelson said he's familiar with the automated pay stations and their success in Winneconne.

"When the (pay stations) went in not only did the receipts go up some, but I believe the tickets that were issued tripled," he said, adding that it's easy to cheat the collection boxes but more difficult with an automated pay station because users are issued a sticker stating they paid.

During the discussion, the county board deliberated on an amendment that would increase only nonresident fees, with concern that it may not generate enough revenue. Nonresidents purchased 248 passes in 2022, making up about 26% of the 964 passes sold that year.

The board voted to send the fee increase proposal back to committee. It's expected to be sent back to the county board for a vote early this year.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Water work

William Pearson used a horse-drawn wagon with a water tank to fill cisterns in private homes circa 1915. Cisterns collected and stored water for household uses and were common in basements before municipal water utilities.

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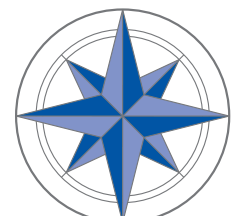
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Neenah News

The Washington Street bridge was closed for about four hours Sunday as police investigated the scene of this fatal car crash.

Fatal car crash at mill under investigation

Neenah News

One person is dead and another was in critical condition Sunday after their vehicle crashed into the Sonoco Paper Mill in Menasha.

Menasha police responded around 8:40 a.m. Dec. 31 to the intersection of Washington and River streets for a single-vehicle crash. The 84-year-old passenger was unresponsive and first responders began CPR at the scene. She and the 85-year-old driver were transported to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center in Neenah.

The passenger died of her injuries and the driver was listed in serious condition. Police withheld their names pending notification of the family.

Police said the vehicle was traveling northbound when it struck the paper mill and the cause of the crash remains under investigation. The Washington Street bridge, serving as one of the two major connections between Neenah and Menasha, was closed for about four hours after the incident.

Menasha police, Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue, Gold Cross Ambulance, Menasha Public Works, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office and the Neenah Police Department all responded to the scene.

Man charged with endangering safety in crash

Neenah News

A Neenah man is facing charges for crashing his vehicle into a telephone pole in November, allegedly in an attempt to kill his ex-girlfriend and unborn child.

According to the criminal complaint, police were dispatched Nov. 12 around 11 a.m. to the intersection of County JJ and Woods Edge Lane in the Town of Neenah for a vehicle that crashed into a utility pole.

Tire tracks indicated the vehicle was eastbound when it entered the south ditch and struck the pole at a high rate of speed, with the speedometer stuck at 82 mph.

Dispatch advised that before the crash a female called and said her companion was driving crazy. The female was removed from the vehicle by first responders and the driver, James Plaisance, 28, was still

trapped in the driver's seat.

Plaisance initially told an officer he was sober. While waiting to be extricated from the vehicle he pulled out a vape pen and started inhaling from it. Plaisance said the vape pen had THC in it and refused to give it to the officer, asking to keep smoking it because he said he was going to prison and admitted he was high. Documents say the officer was eventually able to reach the vape pen and remove it.

The fire department removed Plaisance from the vehicle and he was transported to the hospital with extensive injuries. The victim suffered a broken neck, broken bones and possible internal injuries.

Plaisance told an officer the accident occurred because he and his passenger were arguing and he was trying to get the cellphone from her that she used to call 911 when he drove off the road into the pole.

The victim, who was 20 weeks pregnant, told police that she and Plaisance used meth a few hours before the crash. While Plaisance was driving she said he began to

hit her so she got into the back seat. She said she threatened to jump out of the car, which caused Plaisance to accelerate. The victim said she called 911 and when Plaisance found out he intentionally swerved into the utility pole.

Plaisance was issued citations for unreasonable speed, failure to keep a vehicle under control and felony counts of first-degree recklessly endangering safety with domestic abuse assessments and injury by intoxicated use of a vehicle.

In a separate incident, Plaisance was convicted of criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct with domestic abuse assessments in April for a February altercation with his girlfriend. She reported to police at that time that during the incident she feared for her life.

Plaisance is free on a \$5,000 signature bond and is due back in court in February for a pretrial conference. Each of the felony charges carry a maximum fine of \$25,000 and up to 12 and a half years in prison.

Fox Crossing woman struck, killed by truck

Neenah News

A Fox Crossing woman was struck and killed by a truck while walking in the Village of Harrison last week, according to the Calumet County Sheriff's Office.

The incident occurred around 5 p.m. Dec. 28 on State 114 near Pigeon Road when the 40-year-old victim was hit by a westbound truck while she was in the roadway. She was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver, a 40-year-old Sherwood man, was not injured.

Police said poor visibility due to rain is believed to be a factor in the crash. The incident remains under investigation and the names of those involved have not been released.

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Service, therapy dogs filling critical needs in society

Agencies, organizations rely on trained help

By Cheryl Hentz
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

We've all seen service dogs and the people for whom they help. But many don't understand what a service dog is and does.

These special canines are specifically trained to assist people with disabilities of one kind or another. One person may have a disability that affects one or more of their limbs, another may experience seizures, someone else may be blind or have hearing loss, yet another may be autistic.

Service dogs can open doors, turn lights on and off, pick up large or small objects, get things off shelves, pull a wheelchair, or act as a brace for someone who has fallen and needs help getting up.

Then there are other dogs, such as in the case of Journey Together Service Dog LLC, that serve people with anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They are taught behaviors that help to ease the trauma associated with triggering events. They can provide a physical barrier between the person they're partnered with and the public, giving gentle pressure against their partner to help reduce stress; or serve as a conversation starter that helps lessen their partner's stress level.

Journey Together is now training dogs for people with Type 1 diabetes to alert them when their blood sugar levels are too high or low.



Cirricione

"We are currently working with a potential client on diabetic alert. I have six dogs that are doing well in that program right now. They're all young so they're not ready for placement just yet. But we will be working on placing at least one next year," said Brenda Cirricione, Journey Together's founder and current director of training. "We're interested in (hearing from) other people with Type 1 diabetes that might be interested in participating with us. I have multiple dogs that are turning out to be doing a really good job at it."

Since Journey Together is new to training for diabetic alert work, they're taking it slow in these early stages.

"We're trying to go very deliberately and very carefully through the process. We're also dependent on Type 1 diabetic alert samples from people to be able to do it," Cirricione said. "Our dogs are alerting right now to both blood sugar highs and lows. What we'll next be looking for is we're doing some proofing exercises so that the dogs don't alert when it's not a high or a low. We're making sure that they're understanding the ranges that we're looking for, for them to alert to."

Journey Together has 16 dogs in training and looking at placement possibilities for 2024. They also placed a couple of dogs just before the year's end so that some with anxiety or PTSD had a wonderful Christmas gift.

Therapy dogs – also called emotional support dogs – also play a huge role in today's society as the number of people diagnosed with mental illness has been growing.

According to Stress in America 2023, a nationwide survey conducted by the Har-



Oshkosh Police Department photo

K9 Magic is shown with behavioral health officer Scott Sopata and mental health crisis specialist Kayla Rodriguez.

ris Poll for the American Psychological Association, people ages 35 to 44 experienced the highest increase in mental health diagnoses in recent years: 45% reported a mental illness in 2023 compared with 31% in 2019, with adults 18 to 34 still reporting the highest rate at 50%.

As a result, working in emergency services has become more challenging, leading these agencies to add facility and therapy dogs to their teams.

These dogs work at police, fire and emergency departments, where staff can receive comfort and relief from stress but also go out on calls when mental health issues are involved.

"There is something very powerful that happens when a human connects with

an animal. The stress of the day can melt away as your hands stroke the soft fur of a gentle dog," said Lynsie Bernier, a therapy dog trainer and member of the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. "A warm conversation with a welcoming stranger can turn into a lasting friendship. This is the therapy dog experience."

"The Fox Valley is lucky to have an active community of certified therapy dog volunteers. Many travel throughout the Valley and spend time bringing joy in a variety of settings."

Though not a member of the Alliance, one such dog was K9 Magic, a facility/emotional support dog donated to the Oshkosh

SEE **Service dogs** ON PAGE 5

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Service dogs

FROM PAGE 4

Police Department by Journey Together.

Not quite 4 years old when she joined the department in March 2022, the golden retriever had 364 deployments before becoming ill and passing on Nov. 27 of last year.

She worked closely with partner and behavioral health officer Scott Sopata and mental health crisis specialist Kayla Rodriguez. Together they responded to behavioral health-related calls and highly sensitive calls for service.

K9 Magic also emotionally supported employees of the Oshkosh Police Department after they were involved with and affected by critical incidents.



Bernier

Sopata and K9 Magic also made impactful regular appearances in the community such as at the Day By Day Shelter, Solutions Recovery, local emergency rooms, Winnebago County Crisis Center and Sheriff's Department Dispatch.

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services' emotional support dog is a 7-year-old mixed breed named Ross who joined the center in 2019 and provides support to abuse survivors.

"It's really common for schools, nursing homes, care facilities, hospice settings and so on to want to have a therapy dog program to support their clients. But they're not always sure how to go about that," Bernier said. "The Alliance of Therapy Dogs lines their certified teams up with places looking to have a therapy dog program."

Any organization wanting a therapy dog to help with clients or patients can contact

the Alliance at TherapyDogs.com. Likewise, if a person who owns a dog they think would make a good therapy animal, they can get information on how to get their dog registered.

There are other organizations nationwide that test and certify therapy dogs, but the Alliance has been around for several decades and also provides registration, support and insurance for members who volunteer their dogs in animal-assisted activities.

While service and therapy dogs both provide a wonderful and much-needed service, there are distinct differences.

A therapy dog is trained to provide comfort and affection to people in hospice, disaster areas, retirement homes, hospitals, nursing homes and schools.

A service dog is certified and trained to help people with disabilities – visual impairments, mental illnesses, seizure disorders, diabetes, etc. Service dogs must be allowed into businesses and it is illegal to ask about a handler's disability. They can be asked if the pet is required due to a disability or what tasks the dog is able to perform.

There are also emotional support animals (ESA) that provide owners with therapeutic benefits through companionship. They do not require training but their human companions may need to be screened by a mental health professional to see if they qualify.

The lines among these three types of dogs can sometimes get blurred. For assistance about any of these services, talk to a physician, mental health provider or professional organization to see which kind of dog could best help and how to go about getting one, or having one's own pet declared an ESA.

Whether a person has a service, therapy or emotional support dog, they all contribute to a more full life for their companions.



Photo from Neenah Public Library

Pop star artistry

The Neenah Public Library closed out the year Saturday with an after-hours Swifty Party carrying a theme celebrating Taylor Swift featuring a DJ, photo station, crafts and cookies.

Metro area unemployment rate drops to 2.4%

Neenah News

3% to 2.5%.

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County saw a drop in its unemployment rate from 2.7% to 2.4% between October and November, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Last November's jobless rate in Oshkosh-Neenah and the county was at 2.2%. The city of Oshkosh saw its rate drop from

The non-seasonally adjusted data shows jobless rates in Metropolitan Statistical Areas declined in all of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas over that period. Unemployment rates also decreased in 32 of Wisconsin's 35 largest cities and in all but one county.

Estimates of unemployment and employment statistics are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



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Menasha ready to mark 150 years

Neenah News

The city of Neenah wrapped up events in honor of its 150th anniversary in 2023 and now Menasha is hosting its own sesquicentennial celebrations throughout 2024.

Affectionately referred to as the Twin Cities of the Fox Valley, Neenah and Menasha were incorporated only a year apart in 1873 and 1874. Connected by Doty Island, the cities share a common history.

Curtis Reed, considered the founder of Menasha, together with Gov. James Doty dammed the north (Menasha) channel of Doty Island in 1847.

A replica of Doty's cabin is situated in Neenah's Doty Park as a museum.

The southern (Neenah) channel of Doty Island was dammed at the same time by Curtis' brother Harrison, who was one of the original owners of the Milwaukee Sentinel and one of Neenah's founders.

According to PBS, the founding of two separate settlements has resulted in a long-standing rivalry and competition between the two communities. While Neenah features its downtown and nightlife with a population of 27,000; Menasha has more shoreline than any other Fox Cities community and a smaller population of 18,000.

Sesquicentennial steering committee member Walt Ulbricht shared several historic facts about Menasha:

- A plaque next to Menasha's Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building (1928) marks the landing of French-Canadian fur trader Jean Nicolet, who arrived in the area in 1634 and met the Menominee Tribe. Nicolet was the first European to arrive in Wisconsin, paddling in a canoe by himself more than a thousand miles from French Canada through the Great Lakes.

- The Menasha Wooden Ware Co. was considered the world's largest producer of wooden containers in the 19th century. Now called Menasha Corp., the global enterprise is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year as one of the 10 oldest privately owned companies in America.

- Elisha D. Smith was one of the early founders and longtime president of Menasha Wooden Ware, starting in the late



Menasha Historical Society photo

The Elisha D. Smith Library's original 1898 building is shown in this undated photo.

1840s. Smith funded the namesake Menasha Public Library in 1898, including its property, construction and financial endowment for its perpetual support.

- Smith also purchased and landscaped the 24-acre Smith Park on Doty Island and donated it to the city in 1887. The park preserves several prehistoric mounds.

- George Bernard "Dave" Koslo was a lifelong Menasha resident and professional baseball left-handed pitcher in the 1940s and 1950s with the New York Giants, Baltimore Orioles and Milwaukee Braves. Koslo pitched for the Giants in 1951 against the legendary New York Yankees, including future Baseball Hall of Famers Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle. A local Menasha park is named in his honor.

- Menasha's Isle of Valor is dedicated to residents who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and "gave the last full measure of devotion." Staff Sgt. Kenneth E. Stumpf and First Sgt. Elmer J. Burr are honored on the Fox River as recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Events celebrating Menasha's sesquicentennial will be held throughout the year. A button hunt is already underway, with participants earning collectable buttons from businesses, nonprofits and other organizations. A Menasha history trivia challenge is set for Jan. 19 at the Elisha D. Smith Library, followed by a speed puzzle competition with prizes at Maplewood Middle School on Feb. 3.

Celebrations continue with a birthday

party at city hall March 5, featuring a special visit from Menasha's first mayor, O.J. Hall. In April, the city will start a new era as residents vote in a mayor to replace Don Merkes, who has held the office for 16 years and is not seeking re-election. Aldermen Rebecca Nichols, Stan Sevenich and Austin Hammond will join resident Kyle Coenen in vying to be the city's 41st mayor.

Other events include planting 150 trees for Arbor Day in April, a historic house hunt and walk in May, a citywide blood drive in June with a goal of supplying 150 pints to the Community Blood Center, followed by an exhibit honoring Menasha at the UW Oshkosh-Fox Cities Aylward Gallery from June 20 through Aug. 15.

Plans for a 150th celebration weekend June 21-22 in downtown Menasha are still in the works. The city has launched a website dedicated to sharing information on the celebrations at menasha150.com.

The Neenah Octagon House Museum at 343 Smith Street will be continuing the joint Neenah-Menasha 150th anniversary exhibit through October, which includes Menasha Historical Society treasures on display.

Steering Committee chair Sarah Bauer said the events are designed to highlight "Menasha's remarkable heritage for local residents or any of our neighbors in the Fox Valley."

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Calendar of events

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

Monday, Jan. 8
Monday Matinee: "Barbie," 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library
Short Story Night: Author Rita Chang-Eppig, 7 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewing

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

Monday, Jan. 15
Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: "Killers of a Certain Age," 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library's Shattuck Room

Thursday, Jan. 18
ThedaCare Community Open House, 5 p.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center

Urban Market store, cafe prepare for downtown opening

By Jenny Grunwald
NEENAH NEWS

Urban Market grocery store and cafe will be coming to downtown Neenah in early 2024.

Rich Van Sistine and his wife, Kimberly, have always had a love for good, healthy food. When the lower level of the new 201 West apartments in the heart of downtown Neenah became available, the Van Sistines decided to turn their passion into a business with the hopes of bringing more local, naturally sourced products to the area.

The Van Sistines hold ownership of the business but the store and cafe will be managed by husband and wife Spencer and Anna Anvelink, who currently own Honeyland Juicery, a Neenah-based juice bar that's operated out of a food truck. Katie Sampson has been hired to run the cafe.

As the downtown bustles with coffee and food choices, the Urban Market will bring in more naturally based and locally sourced products, along with Neenah's

only downtown grocery store. According to the Van Sistines, the grocery store and cafe will be split into two different areas. The grocery side will have refrigerator and freezer items, dry goods, flour, seasonings, snacks, treats, candies and chips.

"Obviously, there's a lot of restaurants in the area, but what we don't really have is a neighborhood grocery store. We're going to have a really good selection where people will be able to purchase what you need to fill your pantry or to make a meal," Rich Van Sistine said.

The cafe side will have the same touch to it with fresh and organic ingredients, offering breakfast and lunch food items.

"It's all natural and organic minded. We're sourcing local; we're sourcing organic products," he said.

Van Sistine and Anvelink are striving to make the Urban Market a business that brings light to not only local and healthy food with their organic products, but also to community with a family-friendly vibe



Neenah News

Preparations are underway for Urban Market to open in downtown Neenah this year at the 201 West building.

with a fun aesthetic.

"(It's going to be a) cool place to hang out, (a) cool place to grab lunch with a friend or family, and we'll have space for everyone," Anvelink said.

Along with getting a bite to eat or ingredients to make dinner, customers can enjoy a glass of organic wine, specialty beers and cocktails while children can have fun making frozen treats with organic custard

and choice of toppings.

"It'll be organic, sustainable foods. There's definitely going to be a focus on where it comes from and what it is, but a real focus on how it tastes too," Van Sistine said. "We've got a really good cafe manager that makes delicious food that makes you feel good."

Urban Market's hours are to be determined, along with a grand opening date this spring.

Spring election

FROM PAGE 1

incumbents David Bluma and James Weiss running unopposed.

In Fox Crossing, Trustee 1, 3 and 5 positions are up for election for two-year terms on the Village Board. Incumbents Michael Van Dyke and Deb Swiertz are running unopposed, while Trustee 3 incumbent Gregory Ziegler will be challenged by Nicholas Gebert.

Board of Education

Three seats will be on the ballot for the

Neenah Joint School District Board of Education for a three-year term, currently held by president Brian Epley, member Kristian Sahr and treasurer David Williams. Epley and Sahr are seeking another term, while Williams is not seeking re-election.

Aside from the two incumbents, the candidates for the three seats include Roxanne Schwandt-Knutson, Chari Long, Alex Corrigan, Jeb Pfeifle, Susan Garcia Franz and Tom Hanby. A primary will take place in February which will narrow the field to six candidates.

Winnebago County

Voters will select a new circuit court

Branch 1 judge for a six-year term as Teresa Basiliere is not seeking re-election. Court commissioners Eric Heywood and Michael Rust and former Branch 4 judge LaKeisha Haase are running for the seat. A primary in February will determine the two candidates that will be on the April ballot.

All 36 county supervisor seats are up for election in the spring. Neenah News is focused on seats that represent our readers in districts 5 through 10 and 27 through 29. The county clerk's office reported that supervisors in districts 8, 9, 27 and 28 are incumbents running unopposed.

In District 5, incumbent Kay Horan will face challenger Stefanie Holt. District 6 Supervisor Brian Defferding is not running for another term, with Jason Kraayvanger and Lucas Reinke vying for his seat. District 7 incumbent Betsy Ellenberger will be challenged by Kate Hancock-Cooke.

Bryan Stafford in District 10 will face challenger Timothy Jacobson, while District 29 supervisor George Bureau squares off against Benjamin Frank.

All 36 supervisor district maps can be seen online at winnebagocountywi.gov/county-board/supervisory-districts.

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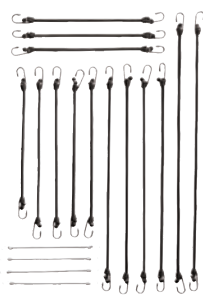
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Volunteer needs

Children's Wisconsin is looking for certified therapy dog teams to visit with patients and staff at its Fox Valley locations. Teams must be certified by Pet Partners International or Therapy Dogs International. Contact George at gdavis@chw.org or 920-967-9129.

Fox Valley Literacy has an adult student who wants to join their classes but needs someone to take care of her 3-year-old during class. The volunteer will play with the child while the mother attends her English class in another room at Fox Valley Literacy from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Volunteers must be 16 or older. Contact Paola at paola@foxvalleylit.org.

Loaves & Fishes of the Fox Valley is seeking volunteers to bag to-go meals every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3 to 4 p.m. Volunteers must be 18 years old. Fill out an application before signing up for shifts. Applications can be found at loavesandfishesfv.org/volunteer. Contact Sue at staff@loavesandfishesfv.org or 920-750-0964.

Make the Ride Happen is seeking volunteers to provide transportation to older adults during the week so they can get to essential services. Drivers are eligible to receive 31 cents per mile during their route. All passengers are mobile and sit in the rear of the vehicle. Contact Jan at RSVP@volunteerfoxcities.org or 920-832-9360.

SCORE Fox Cities is looking for experienced professionals to be mentors for small business owners and entrepreneurs. Mentor training provided. Learn more at score.org/foxcities/volunteer or contact Monica at monica.duebbert@scorevolunteer.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Neenah/Menasha is looking for donation sorters. Volunteers must be 16 or older. Minimum shift length is two to three hours. Contact Ana at volunteercoordinator@sudpneenah.com.

ThedaCare At Home is seeking veterans to support veterans and families on ThedaCare's hospice service. Activities could include administrative/clerical tasks, veteran recognition and support, socialization, companionship and supportive presence. Volunteers must be 18 or older. Contact Shana at shana.farrell@thedacare.org or 920-422-7583.

Covey is seeking individuals with a strong accounting, finance or investment background to join the finance committee. Meetings are scheduled for about an hour on a quarterly basis during normal business hours and can be attended remotely. Contact Pam at pschutz@covey.org.

Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes is looking for troop leaders and assistant troop leaders. When you embrace leadership in all forms and show girls what it means to be resilient, they learn to lead on their own terms. That is the power of being a Girl Scout troop leader. Contact Kinat at skinat@gswgl.org or 920-955-3356.

Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to join the Senior Crew, an elite group of core volunteers who commit to a somewhat regular, yet flexible, schedule. For more information, contact Angie at angied@foxcitieshabitat.org or 920-544-7856.



Submitted photo

Megan Edwards and Trevor Fenrich from Solutions Recovery were presented with the 2023 We Heart You Celebration of Excellence Award.

Solutions Recovery staff honored for lifesaving work

Solutions Recovery executive director Trevor Fenrich and program director Megan Edwards were recently honored with the 2023 We Heart You Celebration of Excellence Award from the Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team.

Edwards is considered pivotal in creating the Solutions Peer Response Team program that connects people in crisis to recovery coaches with lived experience. Through a rapid response to a substance use crisis, the program minimizes the risk of overdose by guiding individuals through resources and access to care and treatment.

Edwards led an expansion of the services by implementing the Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) program in collaboration with the Winnebago County Jail. Individuals receive support and guidance from recovery coaches during their time in jail and after release.

"Megan's work in the jail is some of the most important work I've seen in my 21-year career," said Winnebago County Corrections Lt. Amber Rozek. "Megan and the Solutions Recovery team have become the face of change and hope in our facility. Her passion for the recovery community sets the tone for the programs."

Fenrich was a lead technician behind the We Heart You mobile app launched earlier

this year, which connects people to substance use resources in Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie counties. The app's 24/7 live chat function connects people with the Solutions Peer Response Team. Fenrich represents Solutions Recovery in various OFR committee activities.

"Trevor's dedication to combatting substance use and increasing recovery efforts have truly made a difference in our community," said Jennifer Skolaski, OFR program manager.

"Trevor and Megan have gone beyond their professional roles and inspired amazing work within the OFR team and throughout the community."

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh chief of police and OFR team member Chris Tarmann added, "They translated the discussions and ideas of the OFR team into meaningful activities that are having a positive impact on our community."

Solutions Recovery is one of 47 partners representing 36 agencies that work together on the OFR team to prevent overdose deaths. The team examines individual, organizational and systems level factors related to overdose deaths in the county. More information is at winnebago-countywi.gov/health. To learn more about Solutions Recovery, visit solution-recovery.org.

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Birthday party

FROM PAGE 1

gin cocktail. Peters walked her home from the bar.

"Then I couldn't get rid of him," she quipped. "Well . . . eventually he died."

Peters was forced to quit her job at Gilbert Paper after she married.

"They didn't want any pregnant women coming in to work there at Gilbert. Women had to quit if they got married," she explained.

Peters took another job at Ann's Gifts located at the corner of Commercial and Division streets.

"It was right across from Galloway," she recalled. "That was lots of fun. I got to talk to so many people."

The couple went on to have twin daughters, one of whom died during the COVID pandemic.

"I think she got it," said Peters. "She coughed herself to death." Her surviving daughter, Susan, lives near Milwaukee.

"She doesn't like to drive," Peters said, "but we talk nearly every day. And she sends me packages with lots of sweets. I love candy and sweets."

Martha Siebers, Peters' longtime caregiver, attests to that.

"I've seen her fridge," she said. "Lots of sweets and especially pie."

A recent 106th birthday party for Peters saw about 20 Valley VNA and First Presbyterian friends join in the celebration and the confections.

"There were two cakes," Peters exclaimed. "I don't know why I don't seem to gain weight. I weigh 97 or 98 pounds, but I eat all the sweets."

Siebers said Peters has always been kind to everyone she meets.

"She was very active with church activities at First Presbyterian for many years," Siebers said, "and her knitting – scarves, hats and blankets – went wherever she saw a need."

"I made a hat for the maintenance man," Peters noted, along with dishcloths for staff and winter hats for their children. She even reused old furs, turning them into teddy bears.

These days Peters enjoys her daily appointment viewing of "Wheel of Fortune" and lunches with Siebers.

"We used to go out when she was a little more mobile," Siebers said. "These days I'll go to McDonald's and get the nuggets, or Culver's. Sometimes I'll pick up Chinese for something different."

"I like shrimp," chimes Peters.

As the year draws to a close, Peters still can't figure out exactly why she's lasted so long but attributes most of it to friendship. It's at the top of her list of what's needed for a happy life. Not a fan of technology, she believes that life was better before people spent so much time on computers and phones.

"There were things to do, people got together," she said. "It was more fun with things like bowling and games and lots of activities with friends."

Siebers concurs. "Erma has so many friends. We can't get a foot down the hallway without 'Hi Erma, how are you Erma' from everyone who sees her."

"Make lots of friends," Peters advised, then added with a grin. "And have some shrimp."



Plaza Globe & Coffee photo

Putting 2023 on ice

The Plaza ice rink in downtown Neenah hosted a New Year's Eve party for people of all ages with an early ball drop and ice skating games.

Larsen Road project to get public airing

The Town of Neenah is hosting an informational open house from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Town Hall, 1600 Breezewood Lane, to share design plans for Larsen Road reconstruction scheduled for 2025.

There will be a presentation at 6 p.m. with a general overview of the project. Design plans for road reconstruction and stormwater management will be available for review with town officials, staff and engineers available to answer questions.

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Senior Standout is brought to you by: 

Calm, cool Louden making plenty of noise for Rockets

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

A high school swim meet is loud and generally filled with a lot commotion and action.

From the swimmers in the pool splashing around, to teammates on the deck shouting encouragement with even coaches walking the edges of the pools shouting instructions, it's the kind of setting where it's more chaos than calm.

Neenah High School senior Braden Louden is the exact opposite of the sport he thrives in. He is quiet and polite when answering questions with body language that looks more library than swimming pool.

Even during meets, Neenah head coach Carrie Raeth said Louden is as calm and laid back as they come. Until he actually gets in the pool.

"In the pool, he's got some really good skills, but outside the water he is just calm," Raeth said. "He brings a sense of calmness to his teammates and has found a good balance so that he is always ready to compete. He has figured it out."

Louden, one of the captains of this year's squad, said that being one of the returning swimmers does push him into more of a leadership role.

But just because he's not the one yelling and screaming in the locker room and team huddles, doesn't mean he is not setting a certain tone for the team.

"I think a lot of it is just to get everyone



to connect well and just have fun together," Louden said. "Being a senior, it's a little bump up in responsibility and I had to step up into big shoes to fill.

"But (this season is) honestly a blast. I enjoy coming to practice every day, hanging out with these guys and getting better."

Being in the pool has always been about having fun for Louden, starting in third grade when he first started swimming with a club team.

"At the younger ages, some took it more serious than others. I was there more for fun and to stay in shape. I just enjoyed being in the water," Louden said. "Now, I still like having fun but now it's also about getting better."

Louden has not only emerged as a leader for this year's squad but also has become one of the team's more consistent swimmers.

He regularly fills spots on the Rocket relays, while settling on the 100-yard butterfly as his main event.

"To swim butterfly you have to make sure you have good form," Louden said. "You have to get a rhythm going with the butterfly. Butterfly is the most tiring stroke, so if you are not being efficient you will get



Neenah News

Braden Louden brings a quiet demeanor to the Neenah High School swimming and diving team, but his performance and leadership make plenty of noise.

tired out pretty quickly. You will get worn out before you finish."

Although exposed to the stroke at different levels as most swimmers are, Louden was somewhat thrust into competing in it late last season.

Neenah had a strong 200-yard medley relay but lost their butterfly swimmer to injury. In stepped Louden and the foursome – along with Drew Gaerthofner, Tanner Trustem and Joshua Youngwerth – qualified for the state meet where it finished 15th.

"I had to step in and it was a little bit scary," Louden said. "(Going to state) was a lot of fun. A really cool trip and it was fun to see a bunch of fast guys. It was a really good experience."

Louden said there is a definite difference in the mindset between swimming on relays and individual events.

"I think there is a little more pressure (swimming relays) because I don't want to let down my teammates," Louden said. "As

an individual, if you don't do well it sucks, but it is just affecting you. In a relay, if you mess up you have three other people that are hurt, too."

Louden is eyeing a return trip to the state meet later this winter and Neenah is once again likely to send a strong contingent to compete at the Waukesha South Natatorium.

Being well represented at a state meet is part of the tradition of the Neenah program and that is something that Louden is mindful of.

"It is definitely a cool feeling that we have a history of success," Louden said. "That helps us because we know we have to work hard to live up to the past. We want to show the alumni that we are working hard and living up to their legacy."

One things swimmers need to compete is plenty of fuel and Louden, who also runs

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15



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Neenah girls fall in overtime to Hortonville

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Down the stretch in close games, execution is so important.

Neenah made some big shots. The Rockets got some important stops on defense. But the overall execution fell a little short for Neenah head girls basketball coach Andy Braunel.

“We felt like down the stretch and into overtime, we looked a little flustered a couple of times and turned the ball over in some situations that we typically don’t,” Braunel said after a 62-60 overtime loss to Hortonville in a matchup of state-ranked teams on Tuesday. “It was a learning opportunity for us. There are things we need to do better as coaches in getting them ready for those in-game situations and that’s something we have to keep getting better with.”

Leading 48-45 with less than two minutes to play, second-ranked Neenah would commit turnovers on three of its final four possessions of regulation, including one off an inbound pass after a Hortonville made basket that allowed the Polar Bears to take a 49-48 lead.

Allie Ziebell answered with a 3-pointer with 1:02 remaining to boost Neenah back in front before Hortonville knotted the score at 51 with 38 seconds left. The Rockets called a timeout on the next possession with about 12 seconds left, but turned the ball over on an errant pass trying to get the ball back in play.

Hortonville, which was ranked seventh in last week’s Division 1 poll, had two shots to win it in the closing seconds. However, the Rockets came up strong defensively and the game went to overtime.

“I think down the stretch we had some big turnovers,” Ziebell said. “We didn’t have a ton, but we had some big ones that really defined the game.”

Ziebell’s jumper about 30 seconds into overtime tied the game at 53, but Hortonville hit a 3-pointer on its next possession

and led the rest of the way, despite making just 6-of-12 free throws in the final 2:30.

Ziebell hit two free throws with eight seconds left and then drained a 3-pointer with a little less than a second to play to close the final margin.

Ziebell finished with 24 points and at least seven assists in the game, while Ellie Buss added 11 and Rowan Klesmit finished with nine.

Neenah also got a lift from senior reserve Kayla White, who knocked down two jumpers in the final five minutes to keep the Rockets in the lead.

“(Kayla) knocked down some big shots. She’s a kid we know we can count on in those situations,” Braunel said. “She’s improved so much that we trust her in those situations.”

Amaya Jones also had her strongest game of the season providing an inside presence for the Rockets as she continues to return from a knee injury suffered last season, while senior Rachel Dietrich spearheaded the defensive charge for Neenah.

“The team effort was awesome,” Ziebell said. “I think we really stepped it up in practice and just over the course of the couple of tough games we had, we’ve been trying to learn through those situations and grow.”

Braunel also hopes to see his team learn from the loss moving forward.

“Give credit to Hortonville, they have an incredible team,” Braunel said. “We told the girls afterwards that it is a loss but it only becomes a defeat if you repeat those mistakes. If you learn from it, that’s what we want to see.”



Neenah's Ellie Buss (3) drives along the baseline in the second half of Tuesday's FVA showdown against Hortonville.



Neenah's Rowan Klesmit (11) tries to put a shot over Hortonville's MiKayla Werner in the first half on Tuesday.



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Prep sports roundup

BOYS BASKETBALL

Zephyrs post two wins at Holy Buckets tourney

St. Mary Catholic earned a pair of victories to claim the title at the annual Holy Buckets Holiday Classic hosted by Roncalli this season.

The Zephyrs topped St. Mary's Springs, 84-44, in the first game of the tournament, jumping out to a 42-19 lead at halftime. Preston Fields registered a triple-double in the win finishing with 11 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists in the win.

Fisher Mackenzie knocked down seven 3-pointers and finished with 30 points, while Braeden Brenn added 22 points and 19 rebounds.

The Zephyrs then edged Roncalli 64-60 in the title game, getting 21 points and 12 rebounds from Brenn. Mackenzie added 17 points and Noah Czarneski added 10 points.

Rockets suffer close loss to Hortonville

Neenah outscored the Polar Bears in the second half but fell just short of the win on the road, losing to Hortonville, 84-82, in a Fox Valley Association game on Tuesday.

Charlie Wunderlich led Neenah with a career-high 27 points and was one of three players in double figures for the Rockets.

Justin Janssen finished with 14, while Brady Corso chipped in 13 for Neenah,

which trailed 40-36 at halftime. Joey Daun also added nine points in the loss.

The Rockets were coming off a 79-50 loss to powerhouse Wisconsin Lutheran over the holiday break.

Corso hit six 3-pointers and finished with 28 points to lead the Rockets, but was the lone player in double figures for Neenah. Wunderlich was the next highest scorer with six.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Rockets pick up win over Monona Grove

Allie Ziebell finished with 39 points and nine rebounds and the Rockets combined for 11 3-pointers on a 77-69 win over Monona Grove at Justagame Field House last week,

Rowen Klesmit added 21 points for the Rockets, who led 36-26 at halftime.

Zephyrs win two games at Green Bay Preble tourney

St. Mary Catholic extended its win streak to start the season to 11 games with wins over Mosinee (57-28) and Oshkosh North (61-40) at the Green Bay Preble Holiday Tournament last week.

Nolie Anderson finished with 18 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Zephyrs against Mosinee, while Audrey Norville chipped in 15 points. The Zephyrs led by just six points at halftime before outscoring Mosinee 32-9 in the second half.

In the win over Oshkosh North, St. Mary Catholic again pulled away with a strong second half outscoring the Spartans 37-19 after halftime.

Norville led four players in double figures with 22 points, while Lauren Ripley finished with 12 points and Emily Vogel and Anderson each had 10. Anderson also finished with 13 rebounds.

SWIMMING

Neenah tops Oshkosh West in FVA dual meet

Drew Gaerthofner and Braden Loudon each won two events and Neenah posted a pair of 1-2-3 finishes in a 122-54 win over Oshkosh West in a Fox Valley Association dual meet.

Gaerthofner won both the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke, while Loudon finished first in the 500-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke.

Both swimmers led the way on a 1-2-3 finish for Neenah. Gaerthofner was followed by Burke Wendell and Rylan Mendoza in the 100-yard backstroke, while it was Loudon, Joshua Youngwerth and Liam Siek in the 500-yard freestyle.

Tanner Trustem picked up a win in the 200-yard individual medley and added a second place in the 100-yard freestyle, while Julian Kuehn finished first in the 100-yard butterfly and was second in the 50-yard freestyle.

Kyle Joneson also added a victory by taking first in diving.

Neenah also finished first in all three relays at the meet. Trustem, Loudon, Kuehn and Youngwerth won the 200-yard medley relay; Gaerthofner, Trustem, Ryker Zarda and Loudon won the 200-yard freestyle relay; and Kuehn, Youngwerth, Gdeon Benner and Gaerthofner won the 400-yard freestyle relay.

BOYS WRESTLING

Herm leads Rockets at On The Water

Jacob Herm put on an impressive display to claim an individual title and lead Neenah at the On The Water Classic in Oshkosh over the holiday break.

Herm improved to 23-0 on the season and reigned over the 144-pound division over the course of the two-day tournament. The junior registered two pins among his five victories at the tournament and scored a 9-1 major decision over Oshkosh West's Edwyn Schroeder in the championship match.

The Rockets also had a pair of third-place finishes on the day.

Freshman Landen Sheppard finished 6-1 with three pins at 132 pounds and knocked off Hortonville's Cash Botting, 3-1, in the third-place match. Sophomore Declan Koch followed that up by taking third at 138 pounds, posting a 5-1 mark, including three pins, and beat Sugar River's Mason Mau by an 8-0 major decision in the third-place match.

The only other Rocket to place in the tournament was 120-pound senior Eli Armatti, who finished 5-4 to take 12th.

Kaden Roth (165) picked up four wins, while Nate Cleveland (285) had three wins, but neither were able to place.

Neenah finished 10th out of the 70 teams in the field.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Kurszewski leads Rockets at Bi-State Classic

Kylee Kurszewski took second place at 120 pounds to lead Neenah at the Bi-State Classic Tournament last week.

Kurszewski finished 4-1 with three pins on the day, falling to La Crosse Logan's Amelia Adams in the title match.

Amari Richard finished fifth at 126 pounds, posting a 5-1 records with four pins. Joelle Reay (107) took seventh, while Ashlynn Scheidermayer (114), Ava Armatti (138) and Janet Soto (145) each took eighth.

The Rockets finished in a three-way tie

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 15

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Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 12

cross country and track for Neenah, said he certainly likes to load up on energy – even if he has to cook it himself.

“I like to eat a lot,” Loudon said. “If I don’t feel too lazy, I will cook and I like to make fried rice with just about any kind of meat.”

Cooking and swimming are two things that anyone can use over the course of a lifetime and Loudon figures he will be

around pools even when he gets older.

But the sport has also taught him some valuable lessons and those he can take with him for the rest of his life as well.

“Discipline. It’s hard when you wake up 5 in the morning to go to swim practice and you don’t feel like working hard, but you still have to work hard,” said Loudon, who was unsure if he will continue to swim competitively in college. “Even when you don’t feel like doing things, you still have to work hard and I think that has helped me with a lot of things in life.”

Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 14

for sixth among the 56 teams in the field.

HOCKEY

Rockets finish 2-1 as holiday tournament hosts

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha went 2-1 in three games at their own holiday tournament last week, posting wins over

Tomahawk (5-1) and Eau Claire North (6-1), while falling to Bay Port (3-1).

Ben Carey was the leading scorer for the Rockets in the three games, totaling two goals and four assists.

Ty Laabs, Ryan Johnson and Cartyr Simonsen each added two goals in the three games, while Laabs and Mark Sutton each finished with two assists.

John Horneck was in goal for the Rockets against Tomahawk, while Owen Deibert got the win in net against Eau Claire North.

Obituaries

William F. Denney

William Francis Denney, 90, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully at home in his favorite chair on December 22, 2023.

William, or Bill as he was more commonly known, was born on October 12, 1933, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Tony and Mary (Foley) Denney. The youngest of two children, he graduated from the Portsmouth Abbey School in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, in 1952 and matriculated to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. During summers in college he lifeguarded on the Atlantic Ocean in Cape May, New Jersey, a location that would remain special to him his entire life. Upon graduating from the Wharton School in 1956 he was drafted into the U.S. Army and earned a commission as a second lieutenant. Among his experiences in the Army was a trip behind the Iron Curtain.

Upon leaving the Army he opted to accept a position on the oil tanker SS Penn-

sylvania Sun. While on the Pennsylvania Sun he transited the Suez Canal and visited ports across the world such as Bombay (Mumbai), India. In 1960, while on leave in Cape May, he met Sheila Kelly. He never returned to the tanker and on June 3, 1961, they were married. He would settle into the more traditional field of accounting and worked for the Amstar Corporation in New York City while residing in Yardley, Pennsylvania.

In 1970 he was offered a position with a subsidiary of Amstar, the Hoffmaster Corporation, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He rose to Vice President of Finance at Hoffmaster, a position he retained until the early 1980s. Later he accepted a position with the Plexus Corporation in Neenah, Wisconsin, where he served as Controller, Vice President, and Treasurer until his retirement in late 1999.

During retirement he embarked on two tiger cruises on the USS Nimitz and USS Peleliu with his cousin Captain Francis Foley, chaplain. The excursions brought back fond memories of his time in the military and on the seas, while allowing him to develop a wonderful relationship with

Francis. He and Sheila also discovered Sanibel, Florida, and spent a portion of many winters there. They developed many great Sanibel friendships and loved having visitors. Early falls were spent in Cape May Point, New Jersey, with visits from family near and far.

One of his proudest accomplishments is his role in the growth of St. Raphael’s the Archangel Catholic Church in Oshkosh. He and the family joined the church, then known as Good Samaritan, in one of its first masses in 1971. In numerous roles he contributed to leading the mission church to parish status and eventually the building of two churches.

One of his greatest pastimes was the Green Bay Packers. Ironically, as a Philadelphia Eagles fan in 1960 he saw his Eagles beat the Lombardi-coached Packers in the NFL Championship game at Philadelphia’s Franklin Field. Little did he know that just ten years later his conversion to Packer fan would begin. He was known for strongly expressing his opinions during games. In 1997 he and his three sons watched the Packers win the NFC Championship from the stands at Lambeau Field.

His greatest joy was his family and spending time with his wife, sons, grand-


sons, and great-grandchildren. He was affectionately referred to as G-Dawg by his great-grandchildren. With the entire family together, he celebrated his 90th birthday this past October.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Tony and Mary Denney, and sister Peggy Denney Cancelmo. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Sheila; his children William (Karen), Drew, and Christopher; grandsons Thomas (Kathryn) and Peter (Samantha); and great-grandchildren Addie, Alex, Will, Emily, Noah, Finley, and Charlie.

Services were held on January 4, 2024, at St. Raphael’s the Archangel Catholic Church in Oshkosh at 11:00 a.m. with The Most Reverend Daniel Felton presiding with concelebrants Father Tom Long and Father Francis Foley. Visitation is scheduled between 9:30 a.m. until shortly before the service. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Raphael’s the Archangel Catholic Church, 830 South Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh Wisconsin 54904, are appreciated.

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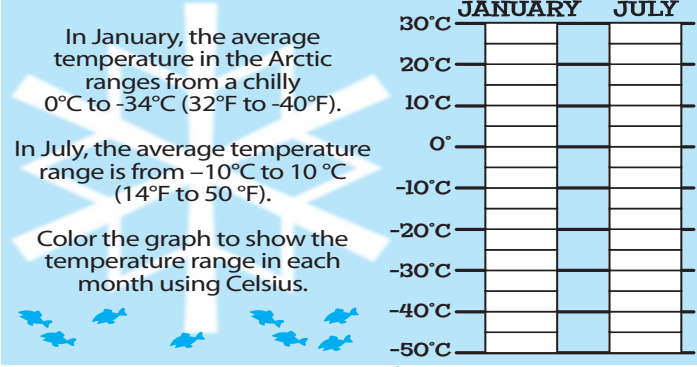


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Big and white, fluffy and furry, these are adjectives that describe a polar bear! Can you think of other adjectives that would describe this animal?

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B	B	O	B	O	E
G	V	S			

Polar Bear Paws

Polar bear paws can grow to be 12 inches across (31 centimeters) and help distribute weight when treading on thin ice.



When swimming, their broad forepaws act like large paddles and the hind paws serve as rudders for steering.

Black footpads on the bottom of each paw are covered by small, soft bumps known as papillae. Papillae grip the ice and keep the bear from slipping. Tufts of fur between their toes and footpads may help with purchase as well as can their claws.

What's another name for a polar bear's layer of fat? The letters along the correct ice path reveal the answer.

START →

Extra! Extra!

Verbs and Adjectives
Look through the newspaper and find five **adjectives** that describe a polar bear. Then find five **verbs** that describe how a polar bear moves. Write one or more sentences about a polar bear using your adjectives and verbs.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Write the answer here: L _ _ _ _ E

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Polar Bear True or False

These statements are either all true or all false. Check your answers by adding up the numbers next to each of your answers. If the total is 33, you've got it right!

Polar bear young are called cubs.
 TRUE (10)
 FALSE (8)

Polar bear cubs are born without hair and are blind and deaf.
 TRUE (16)
 FALSE (7)

A polar bear's nose can smell a seal on the ice 20 miles away!
 TRUE (5)
 FALSE (9)

Polar bear skin is black.
 TRUE (2)
 FALSE (12)

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- REFLECTS
- FOOTPADS
- THERMAL
- HOLLOW
- ARCTIC
- POLAR BEARS
- LAYER
- WHITE GUARD HAIRS
- DENSE
- TUFTS
- OILY
- PAWS

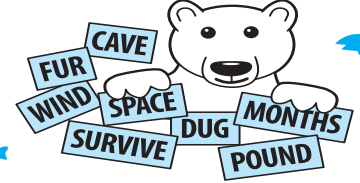
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

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

Kid Scoop Together Life of a Polar Bear Cub

This little cub has taken some of the words out of this article. Can you find where each one belongs? Have a parent check your work.



A polar bear starts its life in a den or ice _____ that its mother _____ into the snow. The den protects the mother and the cubs from _____, cold and predators. The den stays warm inside as heat from the mother bear warms the tight _____ and the frozen walls trap the warm air.

A polar bear cub weighs only about one _____ when it is born and are about 12 to 14 inches long.

These little guys grow up to be BIG. A male polar bear can grow to be 1,200 pounds. A female about 650 pounds.

They start to get _____ at about eight weeks. They stay in the den drinking mama bear's nutritious milk for about three to four _____.

Young polar bears stay with their mothers until they are around 30 months old. By then, they have learned how to _____ in the cold and find food on their own.

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