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## Candidates for judge seat square off

### County's Branch 1 election will start with primary vote

By Jonathan Richie  
NEENAH NEWS

Voters will go to the polls and cast their ballot in the Feb. 20 primary election for a new Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 1 judge. The three candidates seeking the position recently participated in a forum to help voters decide who to choose ahead of the spring election.

The League of Women Voters holds candidate forums – not debates – throughout the primary season where candidates talk about their qualifications and motivations for running. Last Wednesday, LaKeisha Haase, Eric Heywood and Michael Rust answered questions related to seeking the judicial seat.

Judge Teresa Basiliere is not running for re-election to Branch 1. The candidate that wins in April will serve a six-year term, joining the other five judges in the Winnebago County court system.

Haase is a private practice attorney while Heywood and Rust serve as court commissioners in Winnebago County. Heywood is a circuit court commissioner and Rust is family court commissioner.

To start the evening, the candidates were asked what is motivating them to run. Haase said she was running to have diversity and experience on the bench. Heywood said he is committed to the rule of law and keeping Winnebago County a stable place

SEE **Judge election** ON PAGE 8

## INSIDE



**Inaugural win**  
Neenah girls wrestlers take first FVA title  
Page 11

**Animal assist**  
Operational K9 team helps first responders  
Page 6

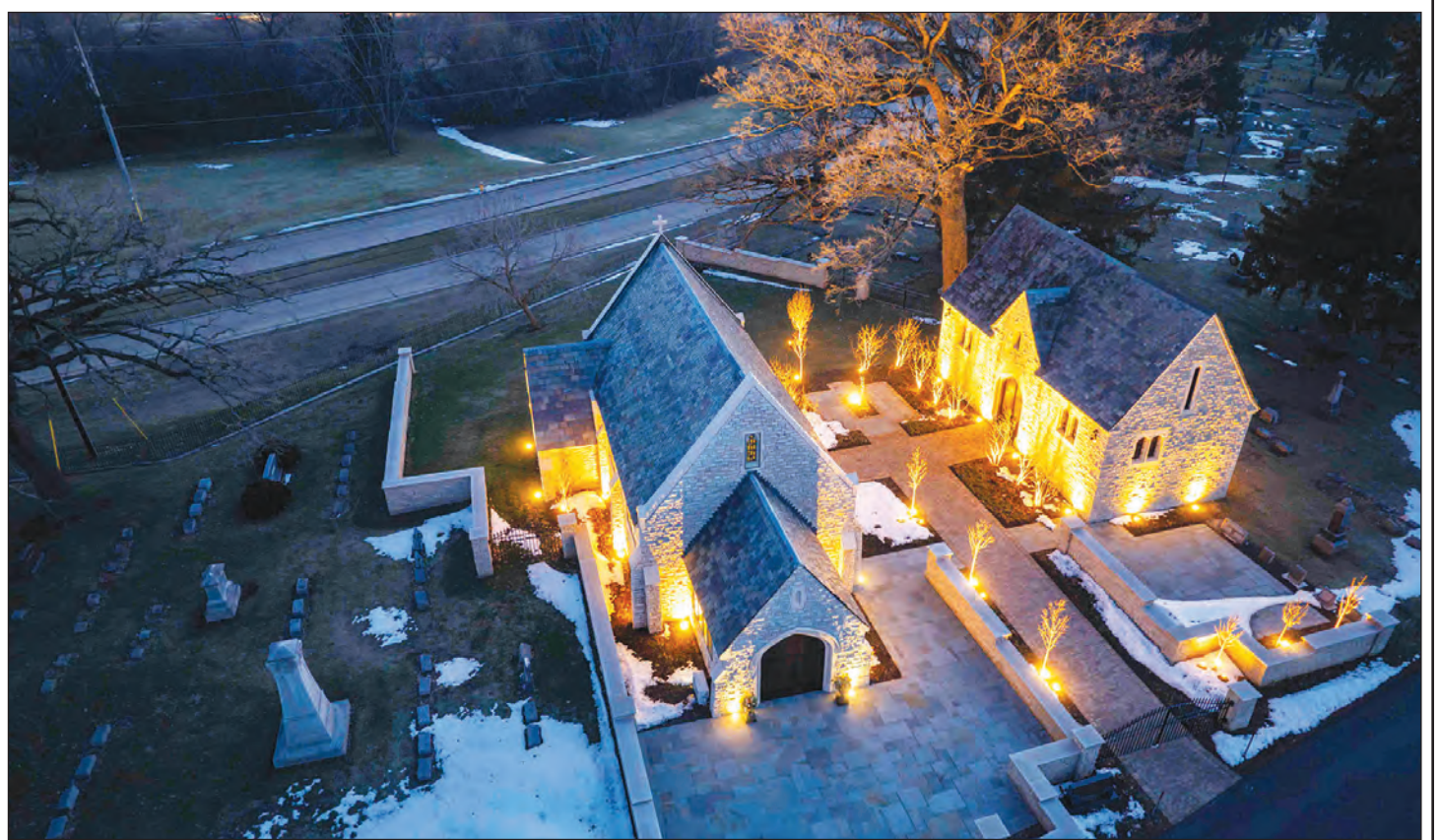


Photo by David Hall

### Illuminated chapel

The Oak Hill Cemetery chapel, which underwent a historic restoration last year, is shown at night last weekend. Local businessman John Bergstrom, whose family funded the restoration that brought the 100-year-old chapel back to life, said its lighting is modeled after cathedrals and churches in larger cities that light the windows "so they light up the night."

## Morton adds dispensing robots to pharmacy team

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Wilma and Lil Phil recently joined Phil as employees at Morton LTC pharmacy, but the new staff members are quite different from the others – they're robots that operate using automation.

The pharmacy recently completed a renovation that included the installation of two automated robots to its fleet for packaging, labeling and dispensing prescriptions.

Pharmacy manager Adam Brand said the robots won't be replacing employees, who are still needed to operate the ma-

chines and perform procedures before and after their use. Rather, the robots are expected to improve speed and efficiency.

"The staff spent hours and hours per day doing this themselves," he said. "They now have the ability to focus on other quality control consistency items so that we make sure that everything goes out exactly the same to every customer."

Morton Pharmacy was started in Neen-

ah in 1932 and grew to encompass 13 retail pharmacy locations in the Fox Valley and Oshkosh. In 2011 the company restructured, closing its retail locations and focusing entirely on providing pharmacy solutions to long-term care (LTC) providers out of its Bell Street location.

Now in its fourth generation of ownership, the company is led by chief operating officer David Morton, offering pharmacy

consulting, dispensing, on-call service, customer care, billing and deliveries.

A staff of about 100 service 70% of the Fox Valley's assisted living facilities, with a fleet of drivers making deliveries twice a day to locations within two hours of Neenah. That amounts to about one-third of the state.

Providing this sector with pharmaceuticals requires more than placing medications into a bottle. Long-term care, assisted living and community based residential facilities typically use blister packs, a type

SEE **Pharmacy robots** ON PAGE 9



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# Neenah News

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### Corrections

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

### About the newspaper

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Neenah News is owned by Oshkosh Herald LLC, 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh, WI, 54901. 920-385-4512.

# Our local news focus enters third year

At the top right on Page 1 of today's Neenah News it reads Volume 2, Issue 52.

Two years. The last 104 weeks have flown by and I tip my hat to the subscribers and advertisers who have supported us and the talented, dedicated team at the newspaper whose work provides relevant, local news to the people in Neenah communities.

Two years ago we answered the call of residents asking for a community newspaper like their neighboring communities had – hyper-local newspapers delivering relevant local news and information.

At the request of several local businesses, we converted to the USPS Every Door Delivery model in August where every deliverable address in 54956 receives a copy. That's 21,177 copies, if you are wondering.

Why would Neenah News make this investment? Because a well-informed community is a healthier community.

Local newspapers keep readers up to date in their own communities. Neenah News stays local. National and international news are accessible on many different platforms. Local news is newsworthy and community newspapers provide people the opportunity to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics.

Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses. Local small businesses improve economies in many ways from creating jobs and contributing tax dollars. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to business owners looking to connect



**Karen Schneider**  
Neenah News  
publisher

with their communities.

Local newspapers strengthen communities. Local newspapers are resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Neenah News publishes community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

Local newspapers can benefit children. Neenah News includes news items appropriate for young readers and the weekly Kid Scoop page for kids of all ages. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Over the last six months I've heard from several new readers as they share

their appreciation of the newspaper and offer their support as members, or subscribers who continued their support financially with a membership.

Community newspapers are a community effort.

How can you support Neenah News? There's many ways, but the top three:

- Support our advertisers. Advertising is the main source of revenue in providing a weekly product with local, relevant news. Interested in advertising? Give us a call at 920-385-4512.

- Become a Neenah News member or donate what you can. We compare membership in the Neenah News to a stockholder of a local NFL team. We are sustainable because of the individual support of many. Plus, as a member you receive some pretty cool incentive offers throughout the year shared in the newspaper and by email.

- Outside of 54956, but value local news? Subscribe for weekly delivery through the USPS.

On Page 7 in today's issue is a form with information on becoming a member or subscriber.

Community newspapers are a community effort. Thank you to the subscribers who've been with us during the last 104 weeks, the new members who've joined in the last six months and the local businesses who've invested in the Neenah News.

## Police review annual crime statistics

Neenah News

The Neenah Police Department responded to 18,302 calls in 2023, according to the annual report submitted at the Public Services and Safety Committee meeting last week.

Police initiated 3,561 traffic stops last year, representing a 29% increase from 2021 and a 13% increase from 2022. Chief Aaron Olson noted at the meeting that in 2024 he is putting an emphasis on officers making more traffic stops.

Traffic citations decreased by 33% from 2022 to 1,314, which is about equal to 2021 numbers. There were 982 arrests, including 37 for operating while intoxicated (OWI). OWI arrests were down 27% from 2022 and 73% from 2021.

The National Incident-Based Reporting System categorizes crimes into those against people, which includes murder, rape and assault; those against property, which include robbery, bribery and burglary; and those against society, which include gambling, prostitution and drug violations. In 2023, 61% of crimes were

against property, followed by 22% against people and 17% against society.

Police issued 1,528 parking citations in 2023, down 71% from 2022 and a decrease of about 173% from 2021. The greatest number of parking tickets were issued in Blue Lot at 214 S. Church St., Silver Lot at 119 W. Doty Ave, Primrose Lane, and Green Ramp at 109 N Church St. – a total of 322 tickets.

Ten people fatally overdosed in the city in 2023, compared with nine in 2022 and 11 in 2021. That accounts for about 21% of Winnebago County's 2023 fatal overdoses, with a record-breaking 48 lives lost.

Neenah has a designated code enforcement officer employed by the police department. In 2023, code enforcement conducted 1,168 inspections and started 438 new cases. Of those, 376 cases were closed, 50 \$50 fees were issued with five removed, 27 \$100 fees were issued with one removed and 53 municipal citations were issued. Code enforcement categories with the most violations were seasonal, property maintenance and parking.

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## Life of Isabel

Isabel Bacon-Rogers was a divorced mother when she married Wisconsin's wealthiest widower, Charles R. Smith of Menasha Woodenware. She would go on to marry silent film star Orrin Johnson and build a significant home on Doty Island. Learn about Isabel's passion for architecture and the finer things in life at the Neenah Public Library at 7 p.m. Thursday (Feb. 15).



Neenah Historical Society photo

# Stormwater pond, other updates coming to Douglas Park

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Douglas Park will soon be undergoing improvements that include the addition of a stormwater pond, looping stone trail around the pond, replacement of a swing set, installation of a park sign and other maintenance.

Douglas Park is situated on four acres abutting Galloway Co. at 121 Douglas St. It includes a picnic shelter, restrooms, picnic tables and playground equipment.

The city has been considering the possibility of adding a stormwater facility to Douglas Park to deal with street flooding on S. Commercial Street and water quality in the drainage basin encompassing the Commercial Street corridor between Cecil and Orange Street and extending easterly to Higgins Avenue.

According to a memo, city staff engaged with Galloway about its stormwater needs relative to the company's current expansion and negotiated to provide use of the pond to satisfy those requirements. Galloway's stormwater will first discharge

into the Douglas Pond and then cycle through to the Harrison Street pond.

Galloway will provide an easement along the southeast portion of its property to connect stormwater infrastructure from Douglas Park to S. Commercial and provide a future easement for pond outlet piping extending to Henry Street at no cost to the city.

At last week's meeting, Alderperson Cari Lendrum stated there will be calls about the safety of the pond and asked if there will be landscaping to help deter the public from getting close.

Neenah Public Works engineer Heath Kummerow said the landscaping will include tall prairie and aquatic plants along the safety shelf and all around the pond that will help prevent people from getting near it.

Galloway will pay up to \$50,000 as a proportionate share for the cost to design, engineer and construct the stormwater management facility equal to the percentage of the area on its site that will drain to the pond, estimated to account

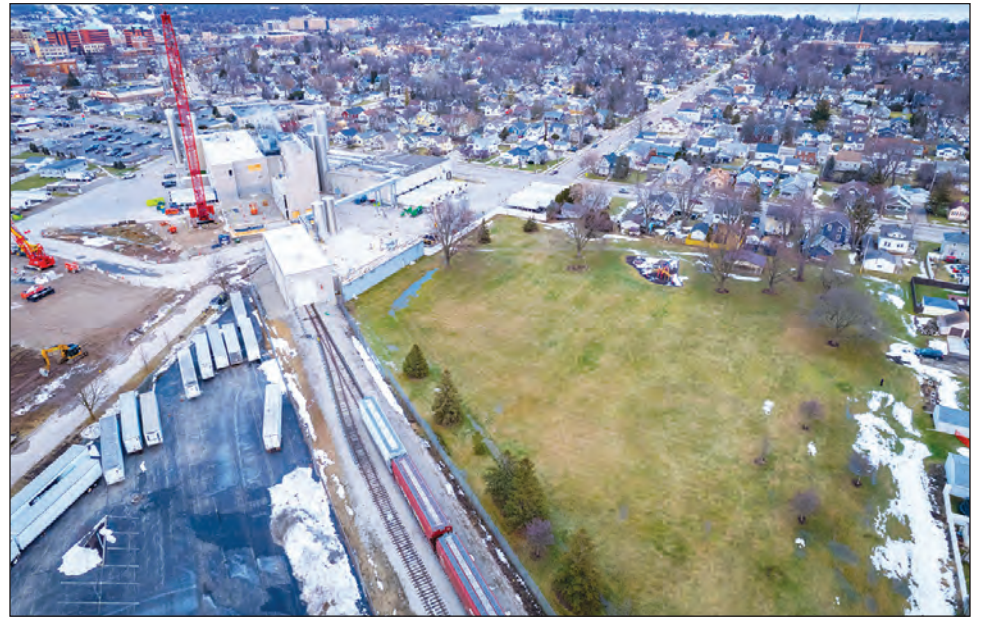


Photo by David Hall

An aerial view shows the Douglas Park area where improvements are in the works.

for 10%.

The 1.5-acre stormwater pond and supporting infrastructure is expected to cost about \$400,000. Galloway will fund \$150,000 to offset costs associated with

property acquisition and the city's stormwater utility will fund \$20,000.

Construction of the pond and other park improvements are expected to be underway later this year.

## Calendar of events

### Friday, Feb. 9

Paynes Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club Fisheree, noon, 1934 County A

Books Are Fun event, 9 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah

Uncorked & Uncapped, 7 p.m., Best Western Bridgewood Premier Resort  
After-Hours Campout, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

### Saturday, Feb. 10

Warm Your Heart, 11 a.m., downtown Neenah

Paynes Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club Fisheree, 9 a.m., 1934 County A

The Crystal Ball, 7 p.m., Ballroom at the Reserve, 116 S. Commercial St.

Dying 2 Live, 2 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road

### Sunday, Feb. 11

Paynes Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club Fisheree, 9 a.m., 1934 County A

### Monday, Feb. 12

Monday Matinees, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

### Thursday, Feb. 15

Neenah Historical program: "Lady-smith: The Husbands and Homes of Isabel Johnson," 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

### Friday, Feb. 16

King's Conquest, 6:30 p.m., Faith Global Methodist, 1025 Tullar Road

### Saturday, Feb. 17

Great Backyard Bird Count, 9 a.m., Kimberly Point & Wilderness Park

Coffee & Coaching with Gemma Donalson, 9 a.m., The Plaza & Globe Coffee

### Sunday, Feb. 18

Sunday Concert Series: Crystal River Trio, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

### Tuesday, Feb. 20

Winnebago Audubon field trip, 9 a.m., Kimberly Point and Wilderness Park, Neenah

### Wednesday, Feb. 21

Howard Hawks film series: "Scarface" (1932), 1 p.m., Neenah-Menasha YMCA

## Junior Achievement competition held

Kaylee Lamers, a 16-year-old sophomore at Brillion High School, was named Northeast Wisconsin Young Entrepreneur of the Year and was awarded \$3,000 at the Junior Achievement Young Entrepreneur competition held Jan. 22. Lamers' business, Stitches and Sweets, sells hand-made sewn items. The win secured her place to compete for \$10,000 at the Junior Achievement Young Entrepreneur statewide competition March 6.

Other competitors included Macie Hall from Neenah High School, owner of Sweet Tooth, a cake decorating company; Har-

ison Lauer, also from Neenah High and owner of YourCo.Store, a web platform that sells branded clothing and sets up custom websites; and Grace Fuss from West De Pere High School, owner of Fighting Cancer with Grace, which sells candles, home-made wooden decorations, and glassware to fund care packages for cancer patients.

During the 2022-23 school year, 971 Junior Achievement volunteers taught lessons about managing money, what it takes to run a successful business and how to prepare for a successful career.

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# Ice fishing season events recalibrate for weather

Neenah News

Unseasonably warm weather has been disrupting the ice fishing season and related events in the region, including fisherees in Neenah and Oshkosh that draw thousands to Lake Winnebago.

Payne's Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club's annual fisheree this weekend will go on but without live music in the parking lot that had been scheduled so organizers can make room for vehicles that otherwise would park on the bay ice.

Soft and water-logged ice on top of about 10 inches of base ice last week led the club to keep the parking area off it for the fisheree while holding out hope for better conditions as the sturgeon spearing season gets underway.

"It looks like the second week of spearing the temps are supposed to get back to normal and hopefully we will still have some ice that will support lightweight spearing equipment to get out on," club

officials stated on Facebook.

The Friday through Sunday event features fishing and raffle prizes with food and refreshments in the clubhouse starting at noon Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Oshkosh lake events – Otter Street Fisheree last weekend and Battle on Bago this weekend – canceled the fishing competition and focused on raffles and entertainment to maintain the fundraising efforts.

The Winnebago System sturgeon spearing season begins Saturday and lasts for 16 days or until harvest caps are reached on Lake Winnebago and the upriver system lakes.

The spearing season under state Department of Natural Resources management goes from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day and fish must be registered at a DNR-operated registration station, which includes Payne's Point, by 2 p.m. of the same day the fish is harvested.

## Winnebago ice report

By Jim Nobbe

PAYNE'S POINT HOOK AND SPEAR FISHING CLUB

I went out Sunday morning and checked the ice in the area of the fishing club.

The white ice in the bay was still measuring 11 to 12 inches but the top 4 to 5 inches is really soft and slushy, especially the later in the day it gets.

The new ice out in the main lake that is black or clear-looking has 9 to 10 inches of ice. The top 3 to 4 inches is real soft as well, and gets worse as

the day goes on.

I would suggest travel by foot or small ATV on the lake at this time, and if traveling with ATV I would suggest you get off the ice before it gets soft in the afternoons. I went out 3 miles and did notice some random sink holes in the ice that measured roughly 4 by 10 feet.

Some were smaller. I believe these formed from the last rainfall we had. Remember, the ice is never 100% safe.



The DNR's most recent Lake Sturgeon Spawning and Population Assessment for the Winnebago System estimates the watershed had 23,625 adult male lake sturgeon and 18,061 adult female fish. The report said the system has a stable number

of lake sturgeon, describing it as a "good, sustainable population."

Several fishing clubs around Lake Winnebago have advised against any vehicle traffic on the ice, including ATVs and UTVs.

# Sheriff's office moves forward on adding K9 officer

Neenah News

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is moving forward on adding another police dog to its team to replace one of the county's K9s that is nearing retirement.

The Judiciary and Public Safety Committee voted Monday to accept a donation of \$17,000 from Thomas and Penny Harenburg for an additional K9 unit, equipment and training. The resolution will go to the Personnel and Finance Committee on March 7 and County Board March 19 for a final vote.

In a memo submitted at the meeting,

Sheriff John Matz wrote that the Harenburgs previously donated \$17,500 to purchase a police canine in 2015 and \$14,700 for another in 2022.

"They fully supported the K9 program and wanted to help public safety and law enforcement in Winnebago County by expanding our existing program," Matz wrote.

The K9 Unit includes four dogs and handlers. German shepherds Tim, Athos and Haimo are considered dual purpose and trained in narcotics detection, tracking, apprehension work and area, building and



Neenah News

Sheriff's Deputy Devin Wilson introduces facility K9 Gracie to committee members at a meeting Monday.

article searches. A black labrador named Skylar is used for explosives detection.

The dogs are also used in traditional patrol work, SWAT applications, search warrants, school and correctional facility searches, and public demonstrations. The K9s are called to respond to all areas of the county and bordering counties if requested.

"The deployments of the K9 units have greatly increased the efficiency and effectiveness for drug-related patrol work," Matz wrote. "Likewise, our K9 units have also proven effective tracking fugitives, locating missing persons and security work."

In late 2023, a standard poodle named Gracie was added as a facility K9 as part of the new STAR (sobriety treatment assisted recovery) program. Gracie was in-

troduced to the committee members at Monday's meeting.

The Sheriff's Office noted in its annual report that 2023 was the first time the agency utilized four K9 teams for the entire year, with more than 180 deployments.

The K9 Unit is overseen by Lt. Chris Braman, who said the new K9 hasn't been selected yet and Deputy Alec Fenrich has been chosen as handler, with training in New Mexico from March 25 to May 3.

The dog will be replacing K9 Tim, who is 12 years old and retiring. Tim's longtime handler, Deputy Kyle Schoonover, will purchase him from the Sheriff's Office for \$1.

"He'll get to retire with the family that he spent the last decade with and he's been an outstanding dog for us," Braman said.

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# Education, support for those assisting injured animals

## Operational K9 team provides special outreach

By Cheryl Hentz  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

We've all heard stories of firefighters saving family pets from a house fire, maybe even seen a photo of a dog or cat being given oxygen after being saved.

But knowing how to make that mask properly fit the face of a family pet is not something that automatically happens or that firefighters just naturally know how to do. It must be modified to fit the face of a dog or cat. That's exactly how Operational K9 Medical Team of Wisconsin first got its start.

About 20 years ago, the Town of Grand Chute Fire Department was gifted some oxygen pet masks but had no idea how to use them. They contacted the Fox Valley Animal Referral Center in Appleton – now BluePearl Specialty and Emergency Pet Hospital – for help.

"We showed them how to modify them to fit dogs and cats and explained how they should treat pets that were involved in a house fire, a car rollover accident or something like that," said Lyn Schuh, certified veterinary technician (CVT) and veterinary relations representative for BluePearl Fox Valley & Green Bay. "It was my understanding that the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association had something called the Breathe Right Initiative and that every fire station in the state had gotten these masks.

"That was years ago, but even today, if we roll up to a firehouse and say, 'Get your masks out,' many times they haven't even gotten them out of the bag."

Seeing the need for the kind of expertise they could provide, Schuh and some other staffers at the Referral Center began providing similar services to other fire departments, law enforcement agencies and the like.

But when BluePearl, a national company that owns many veterinary clinics, purchased them, they didn't fully understand the need for or the various nuances of what they were doing and weren't supportive of continuing that kind of outreach work.

"Then COVID hit and I, along with Dr. Lisa Converse, said now is the time (to start this nonprofit)," Schuh said. "I was working from home, she was working from home, and we said that if we were going to start a nonprofit to (continue this work), we needed to do it then."

Schuh, Converse and fellow CVT Kris Eggleston at BluePearl founded the Operational K9 Medical Team of Wisconsin



Submitted photos

*The Operational K9 Medical Team of Wisconsin helps first responders better deal with animal injury incidents.*

in 2020, picking up where they had left off after BluePearl took over.

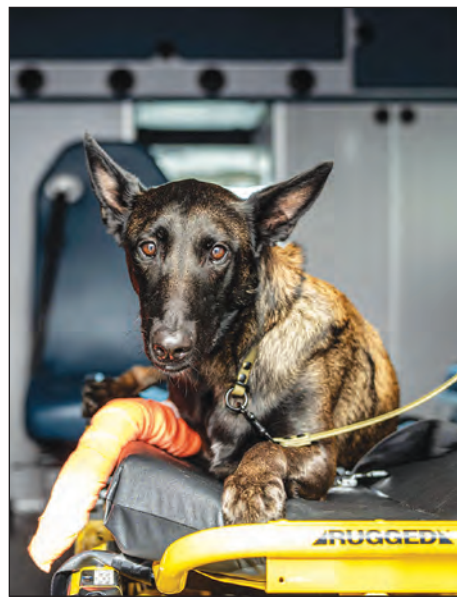
With the assistance of veterinarians, veterinary technicians and members of the human medical community from around Wisconsin, they educate first responders and K9 handlers statewide on point-of-injury and pre-hospitalization medical care for their K9 partners. The highly technical content and hands-on training covers K9 emergency medical treatment to be rendered at the scene of injury before transport to higher-level veterinary care.

In addition to law enforcement K9 teams and first responders, the Operational K9 Medical Team also educates search-and-rescue personnel, military K9 teams and firefighters. A typical class consists of lectures, basic exams and education of K9s to advance lifesaving procedures using scenario-based training.

"The class is eight hours long. It consists of lecture in the beginning. A lot of these people know that the front end (of a dog) bites and the back end poops, and that's where their knowledge stops," Schuh said. "They don't know what's normal and what's not normal; their dog could be limping for days and they may think that's just a normal gait.

"We go over the physiology of the drugs that these dogs may be exposed to and how to treat for that; we go over smoke inhalation, internal bleeding, how to place a chest seal, how to do a needle decompression, and so on."

Besides lectures, the morning session also includes break-out sessions using



their own educational dogs that are agreeable to being handled by multiple people because sometimes K9 dogs are not, especially if they're around several other K9s in a room.

"Afternoon sessions include just a little more lecture on bloat and GDV (gastric dilatation volvulus), and then we have five different break-out stations. Some are on cadaver dogs, some are on a robotic simulator, while others are just doing a scenario, such as a human handler and their K9 are both down and they have to figure out what to do," Schuh said.

The Operational K9 Medical Team of Wisconsin is one of just a handful of similar organizations in the United States. So much in demand are the services of this all-volunteer nonprofit that it cannot keep up. They all work full time, mostly in the veterinary industry, including a firefighter and a U.S. Army reservist.

"We are so far behind on requests from around the state. I truly believed when we started this nonprofit – and I still believe

this – that we could do this full-time," Schuh said. "It's just finding a way to get money to do it, because we don't charge a per-person fee; we only charge a class fee.

"We know these departments don't have (much) money; we know these guys don't get enough training that they need with their K9s. So we are adamant about not making a profit off of the information we believe they should have when they hit the streets."

They were just gifted some space at the Apple Valley Veterinary Clinic, so are in the process of moving from Oshkosh to Appleton. There they will have a 600-square-foot training facility and two offices they can use.

"They also donated us a freezer that we can store our cadavers in so we can purchase those when we can and keep them on hand instead of trying to scramble around to find them when we need them," Schuh said. "They also donated us a conference room so we can have meetings. Gold Cross Ambulance Service donated us an ambulance that we can use for training."

The team also works to help pass legislation for first responders and K9 handlers to protect them. They were actively involved in the passage of state Senate Bill 435 in 2018, which made it legal for human professionals to treat animals on the scene.

Schuh said they also have the option to decline treating some animals.

"If someone brings up an alligator from their basement in a house fire, they (don't have to provide medical attention). And that has happened."

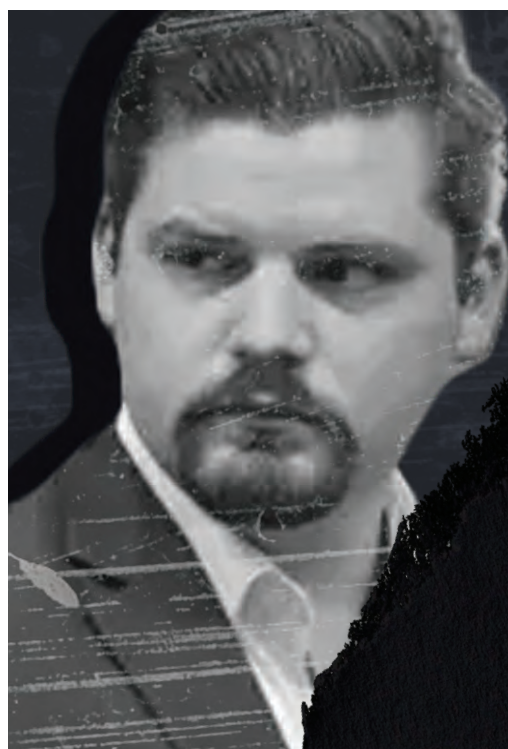
They are currently working with Wisconsin Vest-A-Dog to compile a complete Operational K9 Registry for the state.

"We're also trying to work on a transport law where ambulances and EMS – whether privately owned or owned by a hospital – would be protected if they transported an operational K9," Schuh said.

The vision of Operational K9 is to be the leading state resource on education and legislative advocacy for law enforcement, firefighters, EMS personnel and medical professionals on pre-hospital care.

"We want to be the umbrella, a first point-of-contact for these officers, these sheriff's deputies, these K9 handlers. We might not be able to solve their problem that day, but we might be able to give them an answer they'll need the next day," Schuh said.

"In-the-field treatment absolutely does work and point-of-injury care saves these dogs' lives. We just have to keep getting this training out to handlers."



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Neenah News

Bellwether Collective at 124 W. Wisconsin St. will feature the interior products of separate companies.

### Collective studio space opens downtown

Neenah News

Bellwether Interior Design has teamed up with Knox Furniture and The Saltbox Lighting in De Pere to open Bellwether Collective inside The Marketplace at 124 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Bellwether owner Leslie Mayer said the studio space will feature "some of our favorite things that we do (and) that we can showcase for our clients."

As Saltbox Lighting is beginning to do more work in the Fox Valley, Mayer thought it would be good for the company to have a retail space in Neenah after partnering with them for years.

Everything featured in the Bellwether Collective shop is for sale, with things such as home accessories and art. Lighting fixtures and lamps are sold through Saltbox Lighting. The furniture will be sold through Knox Furniture.

Mayer and her team are available by appointment and will use the space as a showroom for her clients to use as a retail space.

Bellwether Collective is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and also by appointment.

"We're trying to let everybody that I work with have a little moment," said Mayer.

### Stellar Blue agency rebrands with AI focus

Northeast Wisconsin digital marketing agency Stellar Blue Technologies has announced a rebranding to StellarBlue.ai as it evolves into new artificial intelligence (AI) technologies for its clients.



Dobinski

"At Stellar Blue, we believe the future belongs to those who embrace innovation," stated Jim Dobinski, founder and managing director of the company.

He described AI's potential as the most "usable and needed" technology for clients, and the key to simplifying complex

processes and personalizing customer experiences.

Recognizing some of the fear and confusion surrounding AI, Dobinski said the company is dedicated to educating and empowering its clients and the region it serves.

"We understand the challenges with adopting new technologies," he said. "Our goal is to demystify AI, showcase its real-world applications and help businesses leverage it to gain a competitive edge."

StellarBlue started as a website design firm in 2004 to navigate the complexities of Web 2.0 and e-commerce. Follow StellarBlue.ai on social media and at stellarblue.ai.

### Business news roundup

Galloway Co., the largest producer of cream liqueur bases in the U.S., has announced an expansion of its distribution network to reach craft distillers from Ultra Pure's newly constructed Louisville facility. The facility features a dedicated cold storage logistics center for shipping creams. The expansion comes in the eighth year of the strategic partnership between Galloway and Ultra Pure, the nation's largest bulk alcohol supplier.

Hospitals, clinics and medical centers can choose from four new onsite consulting services introduced by J. J. Keller & Associates to keep their facilities in compliance with regulatory and accreditation requirements from organizations such as The Joint Commission, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, state health departments and OSHA. J. J. Keller's new

onsite health care consulting services include Accreditation Mock Survey, Life Safety Assessment, Workplace Violence Assessment and Document Review & Support.

The Fox Cities Chamber has announced the application date for its Leadership Fox Cities program for the 2024-2025 class that opens May 1 with an application deadline of June 18. Starting in fall of each year, participants gather monthly for daylong educational sessions in the community focused on business, education, government and media, human services, health and wellness, law enforcement, environment, and the arts. They will also participate in a hands-on project in small groups. A kickoff retreat is held in September and programming starts in October.



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# Judge election

FROM PAGE 1

to raise a family. Rust said his career has been devoted to resolving conflict and that he can bring that to the position.

Haase was formerly a Branch 4 judge after being appointed by Gov. Tony Evers with the retirement of Karen Seifert in 2020. She lost an election bid in 2021 to retain the seat and was defeated by Judge Scott Woldt for his Branch 2 seat last year.

She said she also has practiced as an attorney in 10 Wisconsin counties and has experience in federal court.

"It is absolutely difficult to come into the role (as judge) as an attorney, as a court commissioner or judge without that practice experience," Haase said.

Heywood said he has experience as a public defender, prosecutor and court commissioner. He presides over a plethora of cases including juvenile cases, criminal cases, mental health guardianship and traffic cases. As circuit court commissioner he will often preside over the first steps of felony cases before they are assigned to a judge.

"I'm committed to the rule of law, to ensuring liberty and the equal access to jus-

tice," Heywood said.

Rust has mediated disputes ranging from a landscaping bill less than \$20 to multimillion-dollar company dissolutions.

"For the last 12 years I have been a professional neutral. Why is that important? Because judges have to be neutral. The rule of law has to be based on judicial neutrality and a lack of bias on the court," Rust said.

In Winnebago County, cases are randomly assigned, meaning no judge focuses on any single type of case. The next Branch 1 judge will need to be prepared for all areas of law in the courtroom.

Each of the candidates were asked about resolving conflict, how their current role prepares them for being a judge, how the mental health crisis and courts intersect, and new ideas they would bring to the courthouse.

Rust said a mental health court would be good for the county and is already in the works. Heywood said he has been developing the idea with Winnebago County circuit court Branch 4 Judge Michael Gibbs.

Haase called for more cohesion in the courts and said there should be more deliberation and thought into assigning cases as to avoid public confusion if a person has several cases in different branches.

## Downtown hosts Warm Your Heart event

Downtown Neenah will host its 10th annual Warm Your Heart event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday with businesses offering samples of warm foods, beverages and snacks to encourage shopping small and supporting downtown merchants.

The event is encouraging individuals to warm their soul as well with donations of hygiene products for Double Portion. Vouchers will be given for additional specials or discounts at businesses that day. Double Portion provides lunchtime meals

three times a week for those in need as well as a pantry of food staples and personal care items.

Space is limited to 325 participants, who can register by contacting Future Neenah at 920-722-1920 or visiting neenah.org. Cost of the event is \$25 and includes a ceramic Sunset Hill Stoneware mug to be used at participating businesses to fill with something warm and delicious.

Free parking is available in the Church Street ramp.



Photo by Sue Panek

The three candidates running for Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 1 judge – Eric Heywood, LaKeisha Haase and Michael Rust – participated in a League of Women Voters forum last week.

When asked to give a final statement, each candidate had a different approach. Haase noted that with Basiliere leaving, the court would be made up of all men.

Rust reiterated he is a professional neutral and in that role he is best suited for the position. He said neutrality in the judiciary is very important.

"I am the only candidate for this role who has more than a dozen years of being a professional neutral and will apply the law neutrally and without bias," Rust said.

Heywood said his experience and devotion to public service make him the top candidate.

"My qualifications to be judge come from the experience I gained from my choice to always work in public service for our

community. My decisions from the bench would come from that same commitment," Heywood said.

Haase said she is asking voters to look at the current gaps in the judiciary.

"I believe in the diversity of the judiciary. Right now, the exit of Judge Basiliere would leave an all-male judiciary," she said. "Diversity is important for innovation, it's important for thought and it's important for experience. I have not walked the same path as anyone else on this bench."

The top two candidates will advance to the April 2 general election. For more information on how and where to vote, what's on the ballot and other voter questions, go to myvote.wi.gov.



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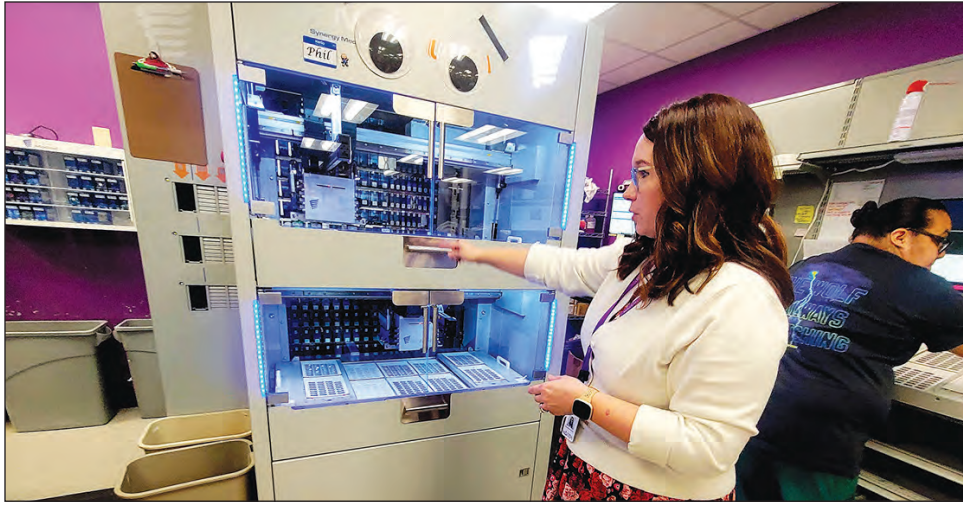
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Neenah News

Prescription-dispensing robots that operate using automation have been added at Morton LTC to improve speed and efficiency.

## Pharmacy robots

FROM PAGE 1

of tamper-resistant packaging; or pouch packs, where a single dose of medication is sealed and labeled in a small plastic pouch.

Morton first began using automation about five years ago by adding Phil to the staff. Phil is a Parata SynMed Ultra, considered the most efficient blister pack option on the market designed for high-volume pharmacies with minimal footprint.

Wilma and Lil Phil were recently installed to expand on the benefits of automation. Wilma is a Parata ATP pouch packaging system that fills, seals and labels pouches with dose and pass time. Lil Phil is a Parata SynMed XF that uses pick-and-place technology to fill blister cards at 55 doses per minute and up to 2,000 cards per day.

The total combined cost for the three robots was about \$1.2 million.

Each medication has a barcode with a lot and expiration date that the robots scan. If the medication expires within 60

days, the machine will not dispense it.

“It will give the tech a warning to replace that medication,” Brand said.

With or without automation, Morton’s overall dispensing accuracy is 99.7%.

“For us, due to the skill set of our staff, I don’t think we’ll see an increase in that because we were already at such a high bar,” he said.

While some pharmacies have turned to automation to minimize the impacts of a nationwide shortage of pharmacists, Morton hasn’t had problems in that area, with 18 pharmacists on staff.

“I think we do a very good job making the work-life balance for pharmacists much nicer than our retail friends so we’ve still been an attractive spot for pharmacists in the field,” Brand said.

Business development director Jaime Roth said Phil, Lil Phil and Wilma are a benefit to partners and staff.

“For me, all of the robots and all of the machines really just go into our continuous improvement,” she said. “We’re always looking for ways that we can be better.”

# ThedaCare opens obstetrical ER, hospitalist program

A new obstetrical emergency department and hospitalist program has opened at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah, part of the update to the Theda Clark Peters Family Birth Center.

“Through this program, a trained physician will evaluate every patient, and our goal is that expectant mothers can leave the hospital with peace of mind, focusing on the health and well-being of their family,” said Dr. Eric Eberts, department chair.

Typically located in a labor and delivery unit, providers in the OB-ED can care for pregnant women who come to the hospital for obstetrical concerns such as ab-

dominal pain or bleeding. The program would operate around the clock and be staffed by board-certified/board-eligible physician specialists.

Women who are more than 16 weeks pregnant, with concerns related to their pregnancy, will now bypass the emergency department and go directly to an obstetrical triage area. The program will supplement the care of a woman’s OB provider.

The Neenah-based program aims to provide support for ThedaCare’s other hospitals, including those in rural communities, such as telehealth consultations alongside providers at other campuses.

## Eating disorder specialists expand here

Neenah News

Inner Haven Wellness has opened an adolescent eating disorder intensive outpatient program in Neenah, marking the Madison-based group’s first expansion into a new city.

The program will treat adolescent clients ages 12-17 seeking comprehensive care for eating disorders and co-occurring conditions. It will be the only treatment program primarily focusing on eating disorders in the Fox Valley area after Evolve Healing closed its area locations in December.

Lee Neagle, executive director, emphasized the program’s commitment to families and adolescents.

“At Inner Haven Wellness, we recognize the unique challenges adolescents face in their journey towards recovery from eating disorders,” he said. “We want to em-

power each young person and provide a supportive and understanding environment. Our goal is to foster resilience and strength in our clients that will guide them towards lasting recovery.”

Margherita Mascolo, chief medical officer at Inner Haven Wellness, added, “Many adolescents in our country are suffering from devastating physical and psychological consequences of their eating disorders. Our goal is to work with adolescents as well as their families and support systems to help them find lasting recovery.”

The outpatient program will deliver specialized eating disorder treatment, including nutrition planning with a registered dietitian, supportive meals, individual and group therapy sessions, therapeutic sessions for families and skill building exercises.



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# Koch, Herm capture FVA crowns for Rockets

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Now the most important season starts for the Neenah High School wrestling team.

Coming off a third-place finish at the Fox Valley Association meet last Saturday at Oshkosh North High School, the Rockets will begin the WIAA State Series beginning on Saturday with the individual regional tournament at Kaukauna.

"Today is a way to evaluate where we are at," Neenah head coach Kory Klueskens said. "We definitely had some really good things happen today and some things we definitely need to respond to in the practice room to prepare us for what next week is going to bring."

The two teams that finished ahead of Neenah in the final standings at the conference meet – Kaukauna and Hortonville – will join the Rockets at the regional meet while five of the top six overall teams will be heading to the same regional.

Klueskens didn't mind seeing some things for his wrestlers to work on at the conference meet to prepare for this week-end's matches.

"It's going to be a lot of the same teams and same opponents at regionals," Klueskens said. "As a whole team, all 14 weight classes, I wouldn't say we are peaking right now as there are some things we need to evaluate and get better at. We want to be peaking the next three weeks. It's OK to have a setback or two here rather than next week when everything is on the line."

"(Conference) is important, but starting next week, we have to bring our 'A' game every single match."

The Rockets crowned a pair of individual champions as Declan Koch claimed the



Neenah News

Neenah's Declan Koch (left) scores nearfall points against Oshkosh West's Edwyn Schroeder during the 138-pound championship match at the FVA meet on Saturday.

138-pound title and Jacob Herm won the 144-pound crown.

Koch was dominant in winning his three matches on the day. He pinned Kimberly's Colton Kozikowski in 2:53 in the first round and then scored a 23-8 technical fall win over Lucas Collar of Appleton West.

In the title match, Koch topped Oshkosh West's Edwyn Schroeder by a 10-1 major decision after winning a pair of close matches against Schroeder during the season.

"Declan Koch, what a (title) match for him. He wrestled incredible," Klueskens said. "He just had a great mindset and if he

can keep that, he is going to be very tough to beat."

Koch said it was a four-point move – a takedown and two-point nearfall – less than a minute into the period that set the tone for the match.

"I'm pretty good when I'm on top and can get a wrist. That's how I opened the match up getting a takedown right away and a tilt that was big," Koch said. "It was just getting on top and getting my tilts"

Koch and Schroeder not only have wrestled multiple times in their prep careers but are also workout partners in the offseason.

It can be a little bit tough when the two

meet up with so much at stake but he's glad he was able to take care of business.

"It's kind of hard when we have to wrestle each other but it's all good," Koch said. "We both respect each other and we both know each other's moves. There are a couple of things I have to change when I wrestle him but a lot of it is sticking with muscle memory and going out there and wrestling."

Koch believes the conference title will give him a boost heading into the state series.

"It's good. I want to keep that train rolling," Koch said. "I want to keep going hard, keep scoring a lot of points and having a lot of fun."

While Koch was out racking up points in his final two matches, Herm was getting on and off the mat as quickly as he could.

He pinned Hortonville's Grant Schroeder in 29 seconds in his opening match and then stopped Collin Evers of Appleton West in 2:58 in the semifinals. In the title match, Herm needed just 1:28 to pin Kaukauna's Ramses Aguirre to win the title.

"It feels good. Last year I lost to (Kaukauna's Lucas Peters) so it feels good to come back and get a win," Herm said. "Early in the season, I like to work a little bit out there, but now that it's the end of the season I just want to get on and off the mat as quick as I can for injury prevention and that."

Klueskens said that was the plan for all three matches where Herm wrestled a total of 4-minutes and 45-seconds.

"Jacob is Jacob. He's doing what we expect him to do – take care of business," Klueskens said. "Our goal for him this

SEE FVA Wrestling ON PAGE 14



Neenah News

Neenah's Jacob Herm works to finish off the pin against Kaukauna's Ramses Aguirre in the 144-pound title match on Saturday.

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# Neenah captures first FVA girls tournament title

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

It wasn't necessarily about how the Neenah girls wrestling team finished on Saturday at the Fox Valley Association meet for Rockets' head coach Madison Ruckdashel.

Just being a part of the inaugural FVA girls tournament made the day at Oshkosh North High School a special one.

"I told our girls that we have a chance to make history," Ruckdashel said. "It's super nice to have this tournament. Very historic. That has been the whole part of growing women's wrestling. We have to create opportunities and now these young girls sitting in the stands can say they want to do that someday."

Participating in the first FVA Tournament was certainly special but dominating the competition brought things to another level.

Seven of the eight Neenah entrants won their respective weight classes and the Rockets won the first FVA girls title by more than double the score of runner-up Appleton West.

Neenah, whose eight wrestlers were the most of any team in the field, finished with 190 points on the day, while the second-place Terrors finished with just 77. Kimberly was third with 69 points.

"It feels really good. Our girls have been working so hard this season, it's good to see them have some success," Ruckdashel said. "Our team is young so it's exciting to see what our future can be."

The numbers for girls wrestling continue to grow, however, many of the brackets on Saturday were light on competitors.

Still, three of the Rockets' seven champions had to win two matches to claim a title and Neenah – as a team – finished 10-1 on the day.

Both Ashlynn Scheidermayer at 114 pounds and Janet Sorto at 152 pounds pinned both of their opponents en route to claiming titles.

Scheidermayer beat Annabella Hanneman of Appleton West in 38 seconds in the first round and then stopped Mya Ulmen of Hortonville in 1:25 for the title. Sorto, who was wrestling up a weight class for the conference tournament, pinned Emily Verhyen of Appleton North

in 3:06 in her first match before stopping Sarah Campbell in 1:13 to win the title.

Amari Richard also posted a pair of wins on Saturday in winning the 120-pound title. She won by injury default in the semi-finals and then beat Hannah Huza of Hortonville 10-4 in the finals.

Joelle Reay started the finals off right for the Rockets edging Appleton North's Addison Walt, 3-1, in the 106-pound title match.

Then, after title wins from Scheidermayer and Richard, Kyle Kurszewski won the 126-pound title by pinning Jarielys Torres of Appleton West in 2:17.

"We got that momentum and our girls love to feed off of each other," Ruckdashel said. "I think they feed off each other's energy and when one is up it all falls into place."

Rounding out the champions for Neenah were Lillian Granditzke at 132 pounds and Ava Armatti at 138 pounds.

Armatti pinned Stella Somers of Appleton West in 28 seconds, while Granditzke – the team's only senior – needed just 22 seconds to stop Annaleah Jacobson of Appleton West.

"This is (Granditzke's) first year wrestling and she has just been an absolute stud," Ruckdashel said. "Picking up wrestling in one year and dominating the way she does in some of these matches is pretty incredible to watch."

Neenah's Emma Verbick finished in second place at 235 pounds, falling in her only match of the day.

"We're setting our own history and I think they have done a really good job," Ruckdashel said. "They have put Neenah girls wrestling on the map a little bit."



Neenah News

Above: Kyle Kurszewski works for a pin in the 132-pound title match on Saturday. Below: Janet Sorto finishes off her opponent for the pin in the 152-pound title match.



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# Offseason work sparks Brenn's breakout season

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

It's hard to look at St. Mary Catholic senior Braeden Brenn and think he could ever be considered the runt of the family.

But when the now 6-foot-8 Brenn was a freshman in high school he had yet to clip the 6-foot plateau. And in a family where his father is 6-8 and he has a wealth of cousins in the 6-5 to 6-9 range, Brenn heard plenty about his height or lack thereof.

"It was rough. I was always the one picked on because I was the runt," Brenn said. "My dad being 6-8, we didn't know if I was ever going to get there but then I just started growing. I was definitely a late bloomer."

The same can be said about Brenn's basketball game.

Even with the height he brought to the court, Brenn played just five games at the varsity level as a sophomore. Then last year, he was a regular in the varsity rotation but didn't see a lot of minutes. He played in 20 of 29 games and averaged just 4.2 points per contest.

Yet this year, through 15 games, Brenn is leading the team by averaging 19.7 points and 10.4 rebounds. He scored a career-high 33 points in a win over Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah earlier this season and has posted double-doubles.

"We met early on after last season and he was fully committed to weightlifting and diet and skills work. He had built a whole plan really to take the opportunity and make the most of it this year," St. Mary



Catholic head coach Paul Bradshaw said. "He worked as hard as you could over those four or five months to get where he is now and it has really paid off for him."

Brenn went from a tall, skinny kid who would get bounced around inside to being one of the strongest players on the court.

That's why he's been able to have the season he has.

"I owe a lot to my parents because they really pushed me this offseason and my coaches helped me get there as well," Brenn said. "I was hoping to help the team more last year but I didn't as much. Coming into this season, this is my last shot so I have to prove myself. I worked really hard and I think I've done all right."

Brenn had an immediate impact on the Zephyrs to start the season, giving the squad both an offensive force and defensive anchor.

St. Mary Catholic, which had to replace four starters from a state tournament team a year ago, won four of its first six games and then put together a five-game winning streak in December, which included wins over perennial talent-rich programs St. Mary's Springs and Roncalli at the Holy



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Braeden Brenn is averaging 19.7 points and 10.4 rebounds for St. Mary Catholic in a breakout senior season.

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Buckets Tournament.

But something didn't feel right. There was pain and swelling in Brenn's foot and it was getting to the point where he couldn't play through it anymore.

Brenn found out he had a stress fracture in his foot and he would have to hit pause on his season immediately.

"It really hurts during your senior year to get injured and have to watch the team play without you," Brenn said. "(The doctors) said if you push a stress fracture too much it will just break. I didn't get to that point."

Part of the cause of the stress fracture was the fall soccer season where Brenn was a key figure in St. Mary Catholic's drive to the WIAA Division 4 state title game. The Zephyrs ran roughshod over nearly every opponent this past fall, but lost to Shoreland Lutheran, 2-0, in the battle for the state championship.

Brenn – who admitted he hadn't touched a soccer ball all summer before the season – finished second on the team in goals (18) and tied for second in overall points (44) in

what was a memorable campaign.

"I had a great year and it surprised the heck out of me and my parents," Brenn said. "It was a ton of fun and I'll remember it for a long time."

The success Brenn had on the soccer field also carried over into the basketball season and now that he is back healthy – he returned to the lineup with a 23-point, nine-rebound performance against Mishicot on Jan. 21 – everything is clicking for the Zephyrs.

"(Being rusty) was definitely in the back of my mind. It was a fear but at this point I'm back 100 percent," Brenn said. "We're doing well right now. We're starting to click at the right time. We had some work to do at the beginning of the season but now we are finally starting to get rolling. Then you get a couple wins in a row and everything starts building and eventually you make a run."

With the success Brenn has had on the basketball court, he is keeping open the possibility of continuing on with the sport

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 14

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# Strong first half carries Zephyrs to win

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

St. Mary Catholic just keeps on rolling. The Zephyrs jumped out to an 18-0 lead over Seymour and cruised to a 50-37 non-conference win at home Tuesday night. "Tonight, we came out and played extremely well right from the opening tip," junior Lauren Ripley said. "We struggled a little bit toward the end of the first half, but our coaching staff did a great job of talking to us during the half. We knew we had to work on a few things and I thought we did a great job of working on what we discussed during the break." A Sienna Anderson triple off the opening tip gave the Zephyrs the lead and they never looked back in leading wire to wire. Ripley, Autumn Crowe and Emily Vo-

gel also had baskets in the game-opening run, while the Zephyrs' pressure defense was keeping Seymour uncomfortable all night. "Our press was really working today as we have spent a ton of time working on our press the past week," Ripley said. "I thought we did a phenomenal job pressuring them on the defensive side and our aggressiveness paid off. They had a tough time getting into their offense and once they did you could tell they never had a great feel for it." It took nine minutes for the Thunder to score but they never threatened the Zephyrs' lead. Audrey Norville scored late in the first half to give St. Mary Catholic its largest lead of the night at 19 points, before taking a 16-point lead at the break.

The Zephyrs then opened the second half with an 11-4 run to take a 40-17 lead five minutes in. St. Mary Catholic managed only 10 points the rest of the way but remained in control the entire time. The Thunder got as close as 12 points before the Zephyrs finished with the final 13-point margin. Ripley was the leading scorer for the Zephyrs with 14 points, while Crowe finished with 11 points. "I was much more aggressive on the offensive end tonight and that helped me get to the free throw line," Ripley said. "Not only was I able to use that aggressiveness to get to the line, but I was able to get inside and make some buckets to help our offense."

## Prep sports roundup

### SWIMMING

#### Gaerthofner sets FVA breaststroke record

Neenah High School junior Drew Gaerthofner recorded the fastest 100-yard breaststroke time in the history of the Fox Valley Association at the conference meet on Saturday, leading the way for the Rockets to easily claim the team title.

Gaerthofner finished with a time of 57.88 seconds, which broke the old record by nearly a half-second. The former record was set in 2017.

Gaerthofner not only set the record in earning the win, but also led one of the strongest events for the Rockets. Behind Gaerthofner's win, Tanner Trustem finished second and Braden Loudon was third.

Gaerthofner also posted a win in the 50-yard freestyle for Neenah.

The Rockets also had three finishes in the top five in one other event as Trustem finished second in the 200-yard individual medley, while Joshua Youngwerth was third and Ryker Zarda took fifth.

Loudon added a second place in the 100-yard butterfly, while Zarda was second in the 100-yard backstroke and Kyle Joneson took second in diving. Julian Kiehn tied for second in the 100-yard freestyle.

Adding third places for the Rockets were Kuehn in the 200-yard freestyle and Gideon Benner in the 500-yard freestyle, while Benner in the 200-yard freestyle and Burke Wendell in the 500-yard freestyle were each fourth.

Marc Lefeber in the 100-yard butterfly, Youngwerth in the 100-yard freestyle and Kia Sieck in the 100-yard backstroke each took fifth place.

The Rockets also won a pair of relays on the day with Gaerthofner, Trustem, Loudon and Kuehn teaming up to win the 200-

yard medley relay and Gaerthofner, Trustem, Youngwerth and Kuehn claiming the title 200-yard freestyle title.

Neenah also finished second in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Neenah finished with 556.5 points to easily win their fifth straight conference title. Appleton West/Kimberly was the runner-up with 379 points.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Rockets stun Spartans, extend win streak

Neenah ran its winning streak to five games and the Rockets have won nine of their last 10 after a 58-44 victory over Kenosha Indian Trail on Saturday.

Charlie Wunderlich finished with 18 points, Brady Korso had 14 points and Justin Jansen finished with nine in the win.

The Rockets held Kenosha Indian Trail to just 16 points in the first half as they took a 20-point lead.

The win came one night after the Rockets downed FVA-leading Oshkosh North, 78-68. Corso went 10-of-10 from the free-

throw line and finished with 29 points and five assists in the win, while Wunderlich added 17 points and Janssen added 13.

#### Zephyrs cruise to win over Resorters

St. Mary Catholic used a big second half and pulled away for a comfortable 70-48 win over Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah last Friday.

The Zephyrs led just 37-33 at halftime but held the Resorters to just 15 points in the second half.

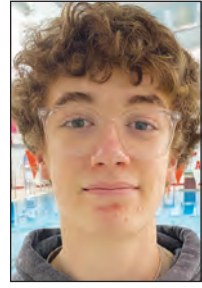
Mason Uhlenbrauck scored a career-high 24 points to lead the way for St. Mary Catholic. Braeden Brenn added 17 points, Fisher Mackenzie finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds and Preston Fields chipped in 10 points.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### Rockets keep rolling through FVA slate

Neenah put up two wins in two days in conference play, beating Appleton West

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 14



Gaerthofner

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# FVA wrestling

FROM PAGE 10

weekend was to get on and off the mat quick and stay healthy and move on to next week."

Koch and Herm capped a stretch of five straight Neenah wrestlers in the finals, with the trio that went before them each taking second.

Eli Armatti scored a pin and a decision win at 120 pounds before falling in the finals, while Logan Tessier followed at 126 pounds with a pin and a technical fall win before he lost in the final to take second.

"Those two seniors, that's great for them," Klueskens said of Armatti and Tessier.

Landen Sheppard also reached the finals at 132 pounds but ended up in second place. He scored a pin in his first match and then won a tough 5-4 decision over Oshkosh West's Damarion Williams in the semifinals.

Senior heavyweight Nate Cleveland finished 3-1 and added a third-place finish, while Jaxon Ennis (106), Garrett Nedens (113), Jaden Reay (150) and Jeremy Wiggs-Schmalz (215) each placed fourth. Connor Simons also made the podium with a fifth-place finish at 190 pounds.

# Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 13

87-53 on Tuesday and Appleton North 61-46 on Monday.

In the win over the Terrors, 12 different Rockets scored in the game. Allie Ziebell finished with 20 points to lead the Rockets, while Lydia Delene racked up 11 points and 10 rebounds. Rowan Klesmit also reached double figures with 11 points.

Against the Lightning, Ziebell hit six 3-pointers and finished with 25 points to go along with nine rebounds and four steals. Klesmit added 11.

Last week, the Rockets knocked off Oshkosh North 59-42, with Ziebell scoring 21 points, Klesmit added 13 points and Ellie Buss finishing with 11.

# Norville leads Zephyrs to easy victory

Audrey Norville finished with 22 points

in helping St. Mary Catholic dispatch Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah, 71-30.

Emily Vogel added 18 points and eight rebounds, while Lauren Ripley chipped in 10.

# HOCKEY

# Rockets skate past Homestead

Mark Sutton's powerplay goal midway through the first period broke a 1-1 tie and the Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha hockey team rolled from there in an 8-1 win over Homestead on Saturday.

Sutton and Ty Laabs each finished with a pair of goals in the game, while Cartyr Simonson, Cooper Zinda, Miles Burger and Chase Collins also scored for the Rockets. Sutton, Laabs and Cooper Zinda each finished with two assists in the game.

On Friday, the Rockets skated to a 1-1 tie with Fond du Lac as Simonson tallied the lone goal. Ben Carey and Cole Rothermol picked up the assists.

# Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 12

after high school. He also has been accepted at Marquette where he plans to attend if basketball is not an option.

But what about soccer? "After the soccer season, I got approached to play soccer in college. Never thought that was ever in my path. I really appreciated that," said Brenn, who also competes in track and field at St. Mary Catholic. "I have put a lot of thought into playing basketball.

I have received offers recently and I feel very blessed for that. I have to find the right fit for me."

There is still some unfinished business yet for Brenn, though.

After coming so close to winning a state title last winter and this past fall, it's certainly on his agenda to take care of now.

"I try not to get my hopes up too much, but I have looked ahead at what our path might be," Brenn said. "We made it to the state semifinals in basketball last year and we made it to the state title game in soccer. Now, we want to win a state championship."

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# Obituaries

## Kenneth G. McDaniel Jr.

Kenneth Graham McDaniel, Jr., age 86, of Neenah and formerly of Spring Valley, Ohio passed away peacefully on Saturday February 3, 2024. Ken was born in Queens, New York on June 22, 1937 to the late Kenneth and Charlotte (Stanton) McDaniel. Ken married his grade school sweetheart, Janet Shea on June 21, 1958 and they had three children. Janet preceded him in death in 1993. In July 1995, Ken married Barbara Minnish. She preceded him in death in



2018. Ken was an entrepreneur early on, starting his first business at age 15 (Overbrook Lawn Service). He then worked throughout the paper industry for various corporations, culminating his working career by founding Buckeye Telephone Systems in Dayton, Ohio. Ken loved his dogs, traveling and the Green Bay Packers (and not necessarily in that order). He also enjoyed antiquing, woodworking and remodeling homes. Ken's church was very important to him and he often helped with remodeling projects there. Ken's most recent hobby was building intricate Lego sets.

Ken was proud to have been featured as a model in Norman Rockwell's Boy Scout painting 'The Right Way' which appeared on the cover of Boy's Life magazine in 1955 as well as that year's Boy Scout calendar. Ken is survived by his children; Kendyle (John) Smith, Kelly Wagoner, Jim (Debbie) McDaniel, Patti (Ed) Frazier and Robert Minnish. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Ken was preceded in death by his son-in-law William Wagoner and his sister Mary Slank and great-grandchild Tru Vandenberg. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday February 12, 2024 at the

Kessler-Fahrenkrug Funeral Home 304 S. Commercial St., Neenah, WI. Visitation will be from 12:00 noon until the time of services. The funeral service will be livestreamed on the Kessler-Fahrenkrug Funeral Home facebook page. Interment will be in George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus, New Jersey. In lieu of flowers a memorial is being established for Spring Valley Global Methodist Church, 1 W. Walnut St., Spring Valley, Ohio 45370. Or you may also donate to your local animal shelter in honor of Ken's love of animals.



## Marion R. Sternitske

Marion Ruth Sternitske, 84, died February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at ThedaCare Hospital in Neenah after a brief illness. Born February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1939 in the town of Poygan to the late Henry and Francis (Langman) Gebauer. Growing up on the family farm she was accustomed to helping there including milking cows by hand before attending school. While attending Winneconne High School she helped the cooks prepare the noon meal. She never lost her love of cooking and enjoyed having the family home for some of her great meals. While at a Valentine's party she met Gareth Sternitske. It wasn't long before they were married



at St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church in Winneconne. Marion loved to do many things. At one time she had her own motorcycle, drove powder puff derby at Leo's Speedway, and was a great bowler for many years and was something she loved very much. She was even on TV for local tournaments. Her work for the Winnebago Conservation Club earned her the Woman of the Year Award. While living in San Francisco because her husband was stationed there in the Army, she learned to love that city. Returning home to Oshkosh they moved to the town of Vinland where she could display her skill at gardening. She loved to grow the biggest tomatoes and lots of slicer cukes to share with her family and friends. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, W. Gareth Sternitske, her daughters Gail Schneider, and Sherri (Darryel) Tirpe,

son Brian (Julie) Sternitske, grandson Greg Blair; grandchildren Gwen (Chris) Marcellis, Gareth (Ashley) Schneider, Colton Tirpe as well as 8 great-grandchildren. She is further survived by her sister Glorianna Zimmerman; her brother William (Jonell) Gebauer, and brother-in-law Darnell Canfield, along with a number of nieces and nephews. Preceded in her death by her parents, an infant brother, brother and sister-in-law

Henry F. and Jeanette Gebauer, brother-in-law Donald Zimmerman, and sister-in-law Sherrill Canfield. In lieu of flowers she expressed her wishes to give any memorials to the town of Vinland First Responders. There will be a private celebration of her life at a later time.



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**Miscellaneous**

**COIN SHOW: Sunday, February 18, Oshkosh Convention Center. FREE Admission. 9AM-4PM. Buy, Sell, Trade Coins, Gold, Silver, Paper Money & More.**

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

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

**Worship Directory**  
Discover a place of worship for you.  
To include your services call (920) 385-4512

**Sunday Worship**  
10:00 AM & 6:00 PM  
1750 Olde Buggy Drive, Neenah, WI  
www.applevalleypres.org  
**APPLE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Soli Deo Gloria*

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Worship Times: Sunday 9am & Monday 6pm  
407 Oak St., Neenah  
www.trinityneenah.net • facebook.com/TLCNeenah

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
1228 S Park Ave. Neenah, WI 54956  
(920) 725-0510 • www.peaceneenah.com  
Service Times: Saturdays @ 5pm, Sundays @ 9am  
Adult Bible Study: Sundays @ 10:30am, Thursdays @ 9:30am  
Sunday School: Sundays Sept. - May @ 10:30am  
Highschool Youth Group: Sundays Sept. - May @ 10:30am

**St. Paul Lutheran Church [ELCA]**  
200 North Commercial Street, Neenah  
920-725-3961  
www.stpaulneenah.org  
Worship with us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

**First United Methodist Church of Neenah Menasha**  
~Worship with us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am~  
All are welcome!  
108 West Doty Avenue, Neenah • (920)725-0166  
www.fumcnm.org • facebook.com/fumcnm

**To advertise in the Worship Directory, call 920-385-4512.**

# Kid Scoop

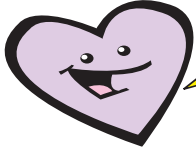
THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

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## February is the month to Love Your Body!

February is Heart Month and Dental Health Month. Use the tips on today's page to exercise your heart and be sweet to your teeth!



Your heart is a muscle. And, like all of your muscles, it works best when you exercise, rest, drink water and eat healthy. Love your heart, and your heart will love you!

### Do you feel with your heart?

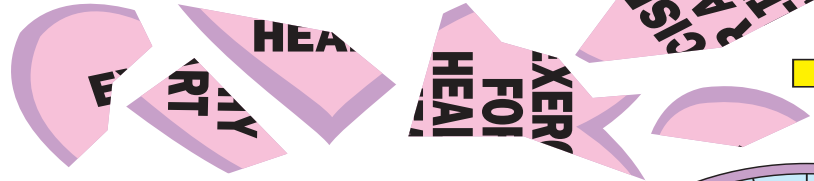
Are you making pictures of hearts and giving little heart-shaped candies to friends for Valentine's Day? When you make a promise you really, really mean, do you "cross your heart"? Or, do you listen to songs about broken hearts?

We see and hear about hearts everywhere. Long ago, people thought our feelings came from our hearts. Maybe because strong feelings can make our hearts beat faster. Now we know feelings come from the brain, not the heart.

**Standards Link:** History/Social Science: Understand the purposes of and events honored in holidays.

### Broken Heart Puzzle

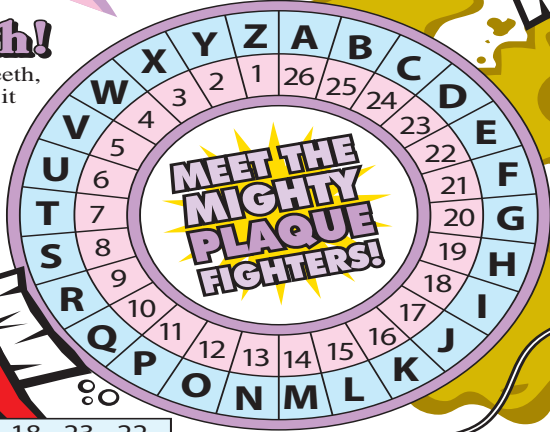
Cut out these shapes. Can you put them together to make a heart? What does the Valentine message say?



## Be Sweet to Your Teeth!

Every day a terrible troublemaker hides in your teeth, waiting to carve holes in them—PLAQUE! (Say it like *plak*, rhymes with *tack*.) You must remove it everyday, or else it will cause your teeth to decay.

How do you get rid of it? Use the secret code to find the names of the Mighty Plaque Fighters and you will learn how to keep your smile dazzling!



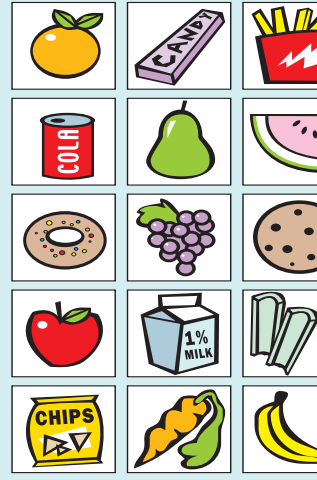
Do this after every meal to keep germs off your teeth:

**Standards Link:** Health: Understand good personal hygiene practices that include caring for teeth.

Draw a heart around the healthy snacks. Draw an X through the unhealthy ones.



## SNACKS



**Standards Link:** Health: Recognize the fitness benefits from various types of foods.

### My Funny Valentine

Make a Valentine Puzzle for your special Valentine. Cut a heart shape out of some pink or red paper. Write a message on your heart. Then cut the heart into four or five puzzle pieces. Put all the pieces in an envelope and give it to your Valentine!

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

7 - 12 - 12 - 7 - 19 - 25 - 9 - 6 - 8 - 19

## Kid Scoop Together: Jumping for Joy

Jumping rope is fun and it is good exercise. It is a workout for your legs, your arms and your cardiovascular system (your heart and lungs)! Jumping rope is a sport you can do almost anywhere! Try it—you'll LOVE it!



How fast can you find all of the letters of the alphabet in order?

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Valentine Pals

Jill and Phil are pals. They like many of the same things. How many ways can you find that Jill and Phil are the same?



**Standards Link:** Recognizing similarities and patterns in objects.

Extra! Extra!

### Teeth in the News

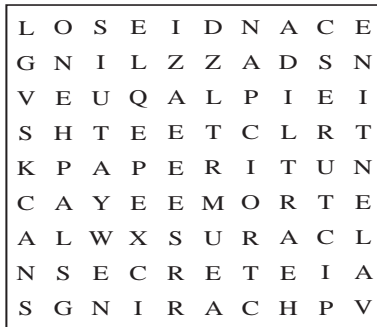
Look through the newspaper for ads and/or articles that encourage you to eat or drink things that are bad for your teeth. Can you find anything in the newspaper that encourages eating and drinking things that are good for your teeth?

**Standards Link:** Health: Recognize foods that promote good health.

### Double Double Word Search

SWEET  
HEART  
EXERCISE  
VALENTINE  
PLAQUE  
CANDIES  
PICTURES  
SECRET  
PAPER  
DAZZLING  
SNACKS  
CARING  
TEETH  
SMILE  
PALS

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



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

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## Write On!

# Move!

Name three ways kids could get exercise every day.

Oshkosh Herald & Neenah News Provide FREE weekly newspapers to local classrooms in the OASD & NJSB Because:

- Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe.
- Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.
- Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.
- Local newspapers can strengthen communities.
- Local newspapers can benefit children.

According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in NIE groups performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Join Kid Scoop today!  
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