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## Housing fix-up program endorsed

### City implements new improvement initiative

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is implementing an initiative to support qualifying homeowners in renovating their homes and improving the attractiveness of neighborhoods after Common Council approval last week.

The new Houses Into Homes (HIH) program will initially be available in the Doty Island area for homes included in

an eligibility map, but community development specialist Samantha Jefferson said the pilot program's coverage area could be expanded.



Jefferson

The HIH program was made possible due to the closure of tax incremental finance (TIF) districts 5 and 6 last year, which provided the city with \$850,000 to fund an affordable housing initiative.

Jefferson told the council the program

was created to improve the quality and choice of affordable housing, stabilize property values, encourage investment in Neenah's existing housing stock and enhance the quality of life, attractiveness and positive community impact of affordable residential neighborhoods.

"We saw a gap in our community and the gap is a lot of people own homes but a lot of people maybe can't afford to upgrade or upkeep these homes," she said.

Jefferson said the city did extensive research on similar programs in neigh-

SEE **Housing projects** ON PAGE 11

## INSIDE



**State champ**  
Neenah's Herm captures title at Madison  
Page 13

## County board approves \$2.7M in ARPA projects

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors denied funding for Neenah and Menasha for police barriers this week but approved \$500,000 for Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue to build an emergency services training facility.

Neenah was seeking \$300,000 and Menasha was asking for \$184,957 from the county's Spirit Fund to purchase mobile traffic barriers for public safety during parades and other large events.

Supervisors Steven Binder, Rachael Dowling and Brian Defferding spoke against funding the barriers, with Dowling and Defferding stating the request was a result of the two cities' irresponsible budgeting.

Supervisor Karen Powers countered those claims, stating that if Neenah and Menasha hadn't had to divert money to COVID-19 related expenses the cities would be able to afford the barriers without seeking federal funds.

SEE **ARPA funds** ON PAGE 12



Neenah News

Police Chief Aaron Olson stands inside the firing range at the new Neenah Police Training Center.

## Police facilities grow into existing space

### New training center updates current site

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

With an eye toward long-term sustainability, Neenah Police Chief Aaron Olson's vision for an expanded police department has become a reality.

The \$5.8 million Neenah Police Department (NPD) Training Center is essentially complete with only a few odds and ends to finish up, with the project coming in under budget by about \$180,000.

In the 30 years since the police station on Marathon Avenue was constructed, additional personnel and technology were added, taking up space. Many of the exist-

ing facilities also needed updates. While a new police department could exceed \$20 million, Olson said by expanding the footprint of the current location it saved taxpayers about \$15 million.

Last week, Olson pointed out the highlights of the 10,000-square-foot addition, which include a firing range, armory, conference room, defense and arrest tactics room and virtual 3-D training room.

Initial plans included a much larger expansion but the building was reconfigured after rising costs and inflation pushed the project over budget.

"We're very fortunate we have a very supportive and thoughtful city council and mayor, and they understand that we need things for training and they're willing to give us the budget to get this done,"

Olson said.

Previously, NPD didn't have its own firing range, with officers traveling to Fox Valley Technical College or the Menasha Police Department to use the ranges there. The new in-house range will provide a resource for officers to use during their down time when call volumes have slowed.

The armory provides a designated secure space for storage and maintenance of weapons, while a conference room features two 86-inch televisions and seating for up to 100 people.

The defense and arrest tactics room has padded mats on the floors, providing officers with an area to practice drills. In the

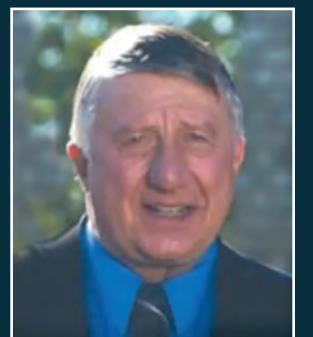
SEE **Police facilities** ON PAGE 12

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

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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.



Photo by David Hall

## Puzzlingly fun

The Neenah Public Library's speed puzzling tournament last weekend had 47 teams enter, with a line to enter waited 30 minutes before registration opened and all slots filled within 3 minutes. Teams are assigned an unopened 1,000-piece puzzle and have 150 minutes to complete it. Prizes were awarded to the top two teams. Team Klick was the first to finish at 1:17 and Where's the Piece came in second at 1:41.

## Lakeside Book closure impacts 339 workers

Neenah News

Lakeside Book Co. is closing its print production facility in Menasha in June, citing "changing market conditions" that will end employment for all its 339 workers.

Dirk Hiler, president of book operations, stated in a letter to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development that the company expects to begin layoffs June 7 and will continue until the plant is closed June 21.

Each employee will receive a written 60-day notice of position elimination and will be paid all earned wages and agreed-upon

benefits at the time of their termination. Some employees are represented by District Council 1 Fox Valley Local 77-P, Graphic Communications Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the Banta Maintenance Department Employees Union.

The former R.R. Donnelly plant became LSC Communications in 2016 as the company started providing specialized publishing services to brands, retailers and merchandisers. Atlas Holdings acquired LSC as part of a \$347.5 million bankruptcy sale in December 2020.

LSC Communications closed its two Lancaster County, Pa., factories last year, citing a decline in demand for print catalogs and magazines, which affected 654 workers there.

The company was required to publicly announce the layoffs under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN).

## Competitive dance program forming at NHS

Neenah News

Neenah High School will field a competitive dance program for the 2024-25 school year under the guidance of four experienced coaches.

The season will run from August through March and the team intends to participate in up to four competitions as well as the state dance competition. The team will also perform at halftime of select football and basketball games.

Middle school teacher Hannah Brown will serve as head coach. She is an all-star coach with Impact Elite Athletics.

Assistant coaches include Allison Eastman, Leeah Justman and Jocelyn Tapia. Eastman is a Zumba instructor and participated in jazzercise, tap and ballet before competing for four years on her high school dance team.

Justman, a middle school teacher, has been dancing since age 3 and captained a national championship team at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh while leading a third-place national finish in jazz routine.

Tapia, a high school teacher, specializes in hip hop and Latin fusion styles and looks to assist students in expressing individuality.

Students entering grades 9-12 in the fall are encouraged to participate.

A pre-tryout clinic with the UW Oshkosh alumni dance team is set for March 23. Tryouts will begin with a welcome meeting May 17 followed by tryouts May 25.

## Send business bits

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

**ADULT PROGRAMS:**

- Adult Afternoon: Monster Sharks: The Paleontological History of Jaws**  
March 4 at 2 pm
- Powered by Yarn Knitting and Crochet Group**  
March 5 at 6:30 pm
- Author Presentation: A German Bohemian Immigration**  
March 7 at 6:30 pm
- Magic: The Gathering for Beginners**  
March 9 at 1 pm
- Phosphorus in Our Waterways**  
March 13 at 6:30 pm
- Cookbook Book Club: Countertop Cooking**  
March 19 at 6:30 pm

**YOUTH PROGRAMS:**

- Tween/Teen Programs (ages 9-16) Dungeons & Dragons Open Play**  
March 16 | 10:30 am - 2:30 pm  
*Calling all paladins, druids, and bards of all levels. Bring your own campaign. No sign-up required.*
- Tween Create Space**  
Tuesdays at 3:30 - 4:30 pm
- March 5 Bath Bombs
- March 19 Slim Circuits
- Storytimes - March 11-April 26**  
**Baby Time (ages 0-12 months)**  
Wednesdays at 9:15 am
- Toddle Time (ages 12-24 months)**  
Tuesdays at 10:00 am
- Wee Read (ages 2 and up)**  
Thursdays at 10:00 am
- Storytime for Everyone (all ages)**  
Tuesdays at 10:00 am at Valley VNA
- Musical Movers (all ages)**  
Wednesdays at 10:00 am

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# Bridgewood hotel expanding with TIF boost

Neenah News

The Bridgewood Resort Hotel will begin expanding this year by adding 40 rooms with the help of tax incremental financing (TIF) after Common Council approval last week.

The council unanimously approved a development agreement with TIF assistance from District 12 for the planned expansion of the hotel at 1000 Cameron Way, which will increase the capacity of the 95-room facility by about 42%.

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

Bridgewood's development will achieve a minimum value of \$1.5 million and an anticipated overall incremental value of \$3 million. Under the plan, the city will provide a maximum of \$630,000 in annual TIF assistance from District 12 to support the development from the additional tax revenue collected on it for 17 years.

General Manager Ryan Batley told the council that Bridgewood requested TIF funding to assist in the project due to unsuitable soil conditions and the need to mitigate wetlands and floodplain challenges. Without the city's assistance Batley said the project would not move forward.

Alderman John Skyrms said that assuming 50% occupancy of the 40 additional rooms, it would result in 7,300 additional stay nights per year, with the hotel industry assuming that for every \$100 spent on



Bridgewood Resort photo

The Bridgewood Resort Hotel will begin an expansion this year that will add 40 rooms.

lodging, \$220 is spent at the destination.

"An excellent return on the city's investment," Skyrms said.

Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau executive director Pam Seidl said by email that Bridgewood tends to host weddings and sells out most weekends. She said adding the 40 rooms opens an opportunity to serve sports tournament travelers who spend an average of \$416 per night.

From a group meeting perspective, Seidl said the average spend is \$323 per night "so 40 rooms would be \$12,920 per night additional to the Neenah economy and we would be able to accommodate larger groups in the facility."

The three-story addition will extend easterly from the approximate midpoint of the building and include a small addition to the Batley Grill & Bar, a secondary elevator, remodeling of the hotel lobby

and additional parking. A 5-foot-wide sidewalk will also be constructed from the hotel adjacent to Cameron Way to the Jeweler's Park Drive Trail.

Construction will begin this year and is expected to be completed within 18 months.

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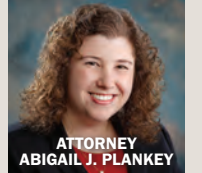
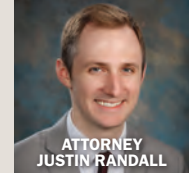
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# Monroe man sentenced for April apartment shooting

Neenah News

An 18-year-old Monroe man will spend a year in jail for a shooting at a Neenah apartment complex on West Bell Street last April.

Donavyn Mueller pleaded no contest Feb. 22 to charges of first-degree recklessly endangering safety and possessing a firearm as an adjudicated delinquent of a felony, avoiding a jury trial. Two misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer were dismissed but read into the record.

Police responded to a report of gunshots and yelling at an apartment complex on Bell Street around 8:30 p.m. April 23, according to the criminal complaint. Simultaneously, an officer responded to a

parking lot on South Commercial Street and found Mueller with multiple gunshot wounds.

Subsequent investigation revealed Mueller arrived at the Neenah apartment for a drug deal with the intention of robbery. Investigators believe Mueller fired a round at the apartment occupant during an initial altercation near a bedroom.

Mueller continued shooting at three people in the living room when a 16-year-old girl grabbed a gun and fired back, striking Mueller, who was then dragged out of



Mueller

the apartment by his friend. The teen who shot Mueller was not charged.

The apartment occupant was transported to the hospital for medical clearance and then taken into custody on drug charges. Neenah News is not naming him because the charges were dismissed after he died June 3.

Last week, Winnebago County Judge Scott Woldt sentenced Mueller to a year in jail on each of the two charges served

concurrent, meaning he will serve both sentences at the same time.

Mueller is also facing charges in Fond du Lac County for an incident that occurred about two weeks before the shooting in Neenah.

Documents say Mueller knowingly sold fentanyl-laced percoctet pills in connection with an 18-year-old Ripon man who overdosed and was found dead on a sidewalk.

# Jury issues guilty verdict in Fox Crossing death

Neenah News

A 54-year-old Appleton man was convicted of homicide last week for the death of Erik Hudson, 31, in 2022.

After a four-day trial the jury found Eric Rogers Sr. of Appleton guilty of first-degree intentional homicide, robbery with use of force, taking a vehicle without consent with use of force, and misdemeanor bail jumping, all with a sentence modifier as a repeater.

Hudson, of Fox Crossing, was found dead Nov. 15, 2022, with gunshot wounds in a "known drug house" on Summer Street in Appleton, according to the criminal complaint.

Rogers resided at the home and after the killing drove the car Hudson had arrived in to an apartment in Green Bay, where he went to a casino, stayed in a motel for a night and then at a homeless shelter, where he was arrested five days after the killing.

Rogers denied killing Hudson or taking his car and said the victim was sleeping when he left the house.

Rogers' DNA was found on the key and steering wheel of the vehicle Hudson was driving, which was corroborated by video evidence of Rogers driving it shortly after Hudson was believed to have been killed.

Rogers faces a mandatory life term at sentencing scheduled for May 10.



Neenah Historical Society photo

## Hotel history

The Valley Inn Hotel on Wisconsin Avenue was designed by Edwin Bergstrom, a Neenah native who also designed the Pentagon. In an effort led by local businessman F.J. Sensenbrenner, the hotel opened in 1917. The Spanish style architecture was a unique addition to Neenah. The original structure was torn down, its contents being sold off in public sales. In 1971, the Ramada Inn opened in its present location. John and Richard Bergstrom purchased the hotel in 1976 and renamed it the Valley Inn, incorporating the spirit of "Old Neenah." Bergstrom Hotels dissolved and sold the location in 1997.



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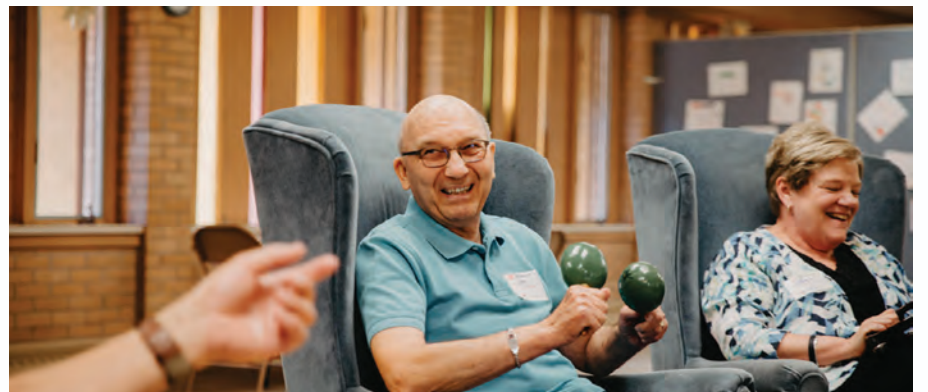
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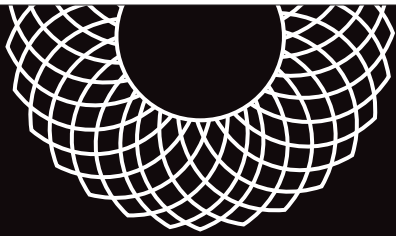
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**FEBRUARY 23-  
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**Greater Fox Cities Habitat recognizes community partners**

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity celebrated volunteers and community partners with an event at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley Hotel on Tuesday.

Neenah's own Plexus Corp. was honored with Community Partnership of the Year. The engineering and manufacturing company sponsored a Habitat home build in Neenah in 2023 and pledged to sponsor a build in Appleton this year.

The city of Appleton and the Empowering Rural Communities Fund also received Community Partnership awards. Andy Irvine was named Volunteer of the Year, with Paul Ruthven and Dave Opsteen also receiving Volunteer awards.

The nonprofit Fox Cities Habitat offers several programs to build or rehab houses that are then sold to low-income families with affordable financing terms. The families agree to contribute time to help build the home, referred to as "sweat equity."

There are about 1,000 Habitat affiliates throughout the United States, with Fox Cities Habitat consistently ranking in the top 40 affiliates based on families served.

Nineteen homes were built by Fox Cities Habitat in 2023, with a total of 67 families impacted by the organization's Home Repair, Rock the Block and Lead Safe Home programs. More than 1,500 volunteers helped on build sites and at the Appleton Habitat ReStore, which diverted more than 1.15 million pounds of usable materials from local landfills.

The organization shares 10% of unrestricted contributions with Habitat colleagues around the world to help deal with affordable housing and in 2023 supported the building of homes in Zambia and Viet-



*Plexus Corp. president and CEO Todd Kelsey (left) accepts an award from Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity donor relations manager Troy Isajiw during an event Tuesday.*

nam.

Fox Cities Habitat president and chief executive John Weyenberg shared that some of the special builds in 2023 included one involving various faith groups; a youth build where local high school students engaged in Habitat's work; and an all-women team building a home next door to the first Fox Cities Habitat women-built home constructed in 2000.

Habitat's Rock the Block focused last year on critical home repairs and community projects in Chilton and Doty Island in Neenah and Menasha. The Doty Island

initiative will continue this year with more than 50 households and community projects benefiting.

In the 30 years since Fox Cities Habitat started serving area families, the organization has built or rehabbed 325 homes, logged more than 1 million volunteer hours and served 2,500 people.

Weyenberg said the organization has changed lives and transformed communities.

"What ignites us is a mission that every family has a safe and affordable place to live," he said.



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# UW Oshkosh proposes realigning school programs

Neenah News

A realignment of academic programs at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh has been proposed with the goal of strengthening connections to career clusters and reducing some administrative costs that have placed financial hardships on its campuses in Oshkosh and Menasha.

The proposal developed by a university workgroup over the last several months includes two college structure model options, both career-cluster oriented while preserving academic programs. Faculty members will be asked to recommend and ratify one of the two models sometime during the upcoming spring semester.

Model A proposes a shift from three to four UWO colleges and a new structure within those containing six new "schools." The colleges are titled the College of Business, Media and Communication; the College of Culture, Society and Education; and the College of Nursing, Health Professions and STEM.

Model B also proposes three colleges but with eight new schools. The colleges include College of Business, Science and Technology; College of Culture, Society and Education; and the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Ed Martini, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, announced the plans to students, faculty and staff members last week, which include new academic planning recommendations to enhance student success, add more focus to research work, prepare for new technologies in teaching and learning, and help UWO close its structural deficit.

"These new ways forward were imagined, built and advanced by UWO's people," Martini said. "The models are designed to meet the needs of our current and future learners and the needs of our region and state. Both reflect hard choices, trade-offs, and clearly have seized an opportunity to re-imagine how we organize ourselves administratively and how we deliver our academic offerings for the short term and into the future."



Martini

With the proposed models now released, the UWO community will have opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback through town hall meetings, open forums and other college-specific meetings in the near future. The approved restructuring model would be operational in 2025.

This proposal comes just after 72 faculty members signed a petition calling for

a vote of no confidence for UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt. The Herald has confirmed that a referendum vote using a secret ballot could be held as early as this week.

A faculty member who asked not to be named said the issues at the university stem from two things – finances and leadership. UWO had more than \$48 million in reserves when Leavitt took over in 2014 and last year announced the university was looking at a potential \$18 million deficit.

The university announced layoffs of 140 administrative employees and staff in August with about 1,100 employees subject to layoffs and furloughs in January. The university cited declining higher education participation rates and an aging demographic; lack of state legislative support; and increased reliance on tuition revenue amid a decade-long tuition freeze.

The faculty member said there is a strong sense within the university faculty and staff that Leavitt is not the right per-

son to get UW Oshkosh out of this situation and that has led to the vote of no confidence petition.

In December, Leavitt reported an improved financial outlook, telling staff and students in a letter that its deficit gap by June 30 will be reduced to about \$3 million.

"This is a testament to the incredibly difficult but necessary measures we have undertaken and continue to carry out within the Institutional Realignment Plan," Leavitt stated.

UW Oshkosh's Fond du Lac campus became a victim of statewide cost-cutting measures when UW officials announced in October that in-person instruction would end there and at UW-Milwaukee in West Bend by June. UW-Green Bay Marinette also will end in-person classes after the spring semester, it was announced Jan. 20.

Details on UW Oshkosh's academic plans and restructuring models are at uwosh.edu/academic-affairs/academic-planning.



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# Book access proposals withdrawn

Neenah News

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors was expected to vote at this week's meeting on a proposal to ban minors from accessing controversial books in the county's libraries but that resolution and a companion were both withdrawn by their sponsors.

The resolution, introduced by District 32 Supervisor Shanah Zastera and District 29 Supervisor George Bureau, would require libraries to create a secure adult-only section and a minor section. Youth would be required to show "proper authorization" to check out materials not specifically in the minor section of the library.

At the Neenah Public Library, parents

or guardians also have the right to decide what material is appropriate for their children. For those under age 16, the policy notes the library will restrict a child's ability to check out materials if specifically asked to do so by a parent or legal guardian.

The resolution would have required public libraries to comply within six months by preventing minors from accessing materials considered "obscene, sexually explicit or graphic" or lose all funding from the county.

An additional resolution on the agenda submitted by Zastera and Bureau would prevent libraries in the county from using any funds for or in association with the American Library Association.

# Neenah Arts Council photo contest underway

Neenah News

The Neenah Arts Council has opened its third annual photo contest starting today with submissions accepted through March 31.

This year's themes are Hometown Pride, Mood/Emotion and Creatively Enhanced.

Photos must have been taken in the 54956 ZIP code with up to two photos in each of the three categories. Novice photographers can submit up to three photos

total. Entries must be submitted both in print and digitally.

Photos will be displayed April 11-24 at the Neenah Public Library. Winners will be announced April 19 after being judged on impact, presentation, style, technical excellence and composition.

For complete rules and submission information, visit the Neenah Arts Council Photography Contest link at [neenahlibrary.org](http://neenahlibrary.org), call 920-886-6335 or email [neenahphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:neenahphotocontest@gmail.com).

# Public library calendar

## March 1

- 9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Boot Camp
- 10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga
- 2 p.m.: First Friday Concert Series: Steven Paul Spears and Linda Sparks

## March 2

- 1 p.m.: Game-A-Palooza

## March 3

- 1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+)
- 2 p.m.: Sunday Concert Series: Fox Valley Flute Choir

## March 4

- 2 p.m.: Adult Afternoon Program: Monster Sharks: The Paleontological History of Jaws

## March 5

- 3:30 p.m.: Tween Create Space - Bath Bombs
- 6:30 p.m.: Powered by Yarn-hour of yarn and camaraderie.

## March 7

- 5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
- 6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam
- 6:30 p.m.: Author Presentation: A German Bohemian Immigration

## March 8

- 10:30 a.m.: Footloose Fridays

## March 9

- 1 p.m.: Magic: The Gathering for Beginners

## March 11

- 1 p.m.: Monday Matinee: "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" (PG-13, 2 hour, 34 minutes)
- 7 p.m.: Short Story Night

## March 12

- 10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care
- 10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months)
- 1:30 p.m.: Tech Talk Tuesday: Just the Ticket! How to Navigate Online Travel Websites
- 4:30 p.m.: Legal Assistance Clinic

## March 13

- 9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (ages birth-12 months)
- 10 a.m.: Musical Movers (all ages)

- 6:30 p.m.: Phosphorus In Our Waterways: A Necessary Nutrient Turned Nuisance

## March 14

- 10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)
- 5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
- 6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

## March 15

- 9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Balance & Strength
- 10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga

## March 16

- 10:30 a.m.: Tweens and Teens - Dungeons and Dragons (Ages 10 to 16)

## March 17

- 1 p.m.: LEGOs in the Library (ages 5+)

## March 18

- 6:30 p.m.: Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: Peg and Rose Solve a Murder by Laurien Berenson

## March 19

- 10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care
- 10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months)
- 3:30 p.m.: Tween Create Space- SLIME circuits
- 6:30 p.m.: Cookbook Book Club: Countertop Cooking (From air fryers to waffle irons, cooking beyond the stove)

## March 20

- 9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (ages birth-12 months)
- 10 a.m.: Musical Movers
- 4 p.m.: Library Board meeting

## March 21

- 10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)
- 5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
- 6 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam
- 7 p.m.: History Program-Neenah Red Cross Chapter in World War II

## March 25

- 10 a.m.: MMBK Book Club- Infinite Country (Fox Cities Reads title)

## March 26

- 10 a.m.: Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA Senior Care
- 10 a.m.: Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months)
- 6:30 p.m.: Movie Talks: Guys and Dolls

## March 27

- 9:15 a.m.: Baby Time (ages birth-12 months)
- 10 a.m.: Musical Movers

## March 28

- 10 a.m.: WeeRead Storytime (ages 2+)
- 5:30 p.m.: Open Chess Night
- 6:00 p.m.: Ukulele Open Jam

## March 29

- 9:15 a.m.: Fitness Friday: Boot Camp
- 10:30 a.m.: Chair Yoga

**Registration now open for baseball, softball, and t-ball. Registration ends March 25th.**  
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# Valor Classical offering new private school option

Neenah News

A new private Christian school will open in the fall in Neenah to serve Fox Valley students in kindergarten through sixth grade with plans to add classes toward an eventual K-12 education program.

Valor Classical Christian Academy is nondenominational and self-described as Evangelical Christian with enrolled families from a variety of churches. Located at 1025 Tullar Road, the school is leasing a portion of the building with access to classrooms, a gymnasium, lunchroom and space to expand.



Radford

Neenah resident Joy Radford, the new school's board president, saw a need for the

Classical Christian Education approach that she was seeking for her three daughters and other area families. She said it's a specific educational philosophy that's based in the liberal arts "with a lot of reading" – history, literature, languages, math and sciences – using a rigorous learning model.

"It's basically a 'less is more' approach," Radford said. "You're focusing on the fundamentals, a lot of content and learning how that content is related – and going deeper."

As an administrator who helped start up Seattle Classical Christian School more than two decades ago that has since expanded to a K-12 program, Radford moved to Wisconsin in 2019 and was interim administrator at Fox Valley Christian Academy before it closed in 2022 as it was shifting to a classical teaching model.



Valor Classical Christian Academy is launching this fall from its 1025 Tullar Road location.

That left Providence Academy in Green Bay as the closest faith-based classical education option.

The classical Christian education approach emphasizes biblical teachings and liberal arts, and incorporates a three-stage teaching model: grammar, logic and rhetoric. This form of education begun by the Greeks and Romans was a standard method of education until about a century ago when progressive education became standard.

"It's a very independent model, so the people who are signing up really have to be on board with what we're doing, and that's what we're finding," Radford said. "We're forming a small and mighty group and just need to get the wheels off the ground."

Valor Classical Christian Academy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) incorporated in the state with its other board directors who include Katie Hofman as vice president and Ann Nikchevich as board secretary.

Hofman has been teaching classically for more than 10 years and was a middle

school teacher in Madison and Naperville, Ill. Nikchevich was a principal in a classical Christian school in Illinois and has a political science degree from Northwestern University and a master's in biblical studies from Wheaton College.

While Radford has been lead organizer in the school's formation, she equally credits the overall work and passion to Hofman and Nikchevich.

"It's really been a full board effort. We have really come at this together."

The board oversees a headmaster, who implements the mission of the school and handles day-to-day leadership and operations, including supervision and support of staff and students. Ron Jung has been named to fill that role with a vice principal and other teachers in the process of coming on board.

Radford said the school will initially have full- and part-time teachers and some blended classrooms with from eight to 10 students per grade. There will be one

teacher for kindergarteners with other instructors taking two grades – first/second, third/fourth, fifth/sixth.

"I have a heart for creating an environment where teachers are really well cared for, and well trained and treated as professionals," she said.

"We're wanting to be thoughtful about how we hire and how we care for our teachers, and I'm really excited about that."

Valor does not accept government funding in the form of vouchers and its income will be generated from tuition and fundraising. Valor is a member of the Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS) and the Society for Classical Learning.

Radford said that by the time the school opens for the fall semester it will have been about two years in the making.

"This sort of education is too rich for us not to have an offering in the Valley," she said.

For more information, contact [info@valorclassical.org](mailto:info@valorclassical.org).

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## Business news roundup

**Pierce Manufacturing's** new podcast, *Firefighters' Locker*, launched last week offering an inquisitive look at what it takes to succeed on the frontlines of firefighting. From fire apparatus tools and technology to equipment, trends and processes, the podcast offers an insider look at the dynamic world of firefighting. Guests will include industry experts, firefighters and fire industry personnel offering a 'boots on the ground look' at the industry. Go to [piercemfg.com/podcasts](http://piercemfg.com/podcasts) for more information and to sign up.

The 35th Annual **Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year (MOTY)** Awards were presented recently in Milwaukee that honored 36 finalists, including a Grand Award in the Mega Category for **Menasha Corp.**

and a Special Award to **Plexus Corp.** for global collaboration and local precision. The program recognizes companies dedicated to quality careers, financial growth, innovative processes and reinvestment into local communities.

**Volatus Infrastructure & Energy Solutions** has appointed Jeremiah Behling as its board chairman and Hugh Weaver to its newly created board of directors. Behling is founder and president of Utmost Capital Connection. Weaver has more than 37 years of strategic and comprehensive project management, planning and engineering design experience for capital improvement programs.

## Volunteer needs

**Reach Counseling Services** is seeking volunteer advocates to provide crisis intervention and emotional support to survivors of sexual violence through the 24/7 hotline. They will also have the opportunity to work alongside medical and legal professionals while supporting survivors to reduce further trauma. Contact Kylena at [volunteering@reachcounseling.com](mailto:volunteering@reachcounseling.com).

**Jake's Network of Hope** is looking for dedicated and friendly individuals to become front desk volunteers. Volunteers must be 18 years old and commit to at least one shift per week. Contact Jenn at [jenn@jakesnoh.org](mailto:jenn@jakesnoh.org) or 920-502-0002.

**Junior Achievement of Wisconsin** is seeking BizTown volunteers to inspire and support students as they develop skills re-

lated to running a business. Volunteers are assigned to a business to support a small group of students through their day at BizTown. Training is provided. Contact Jill at [jhannemann@javis.org](mailto:jhannemann@javis.org).

The **Weis Earth Science Museum** at UW Oshkosh-Fox Valley is seeking volunteers to help with museum tours, museum collections, cleaning and maintenance, social media content creation, exhibit construction and docent work. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. Email [infowesm@gmail.com](mailto:infowesm@gmail.com).

**Beaming Inc.** is looking for horse handlers and side walker volunteers. Volunteers must be 14 years old; no experience necessary, as all training will be provided. Contact Denise at [volunteer4beaming@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer4beaming@gmail.com).



Neenah Joint School District photo

## Middle school message

Neenah Middle School students were treated to an entertaining and thought-provoking assembly Monday with motivational speaker Terrence Talley (second from right), who had other school staff and community members on stage at Pickard Auditorium. Talley's message was that while some students feel alone at school, everyone has someone who is there to support them. Later that day Talley later gave a free community presentation at the school.

## Residents offered free class on recycling

Winnebago, Brown and Outagamie counties, together as Tri-County Recycling Partnership, is inviting local residents of all ages to brush up on recycling skills with a Recycle Right Master Class set from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Neenah Public Library.

The free introductory program gives participants the tools needed to teach family, neighbors, friends and co-workers how to recycle right, learn what goes in

and stays out of a recycling bin, and get recycling questions answered. Specific topics include the importance of recycling, a look at the Tri-County Recycling Facility, local recycling basics, common contaminants and what happens to recycled materials.

Participants can sign up at [recyclemoretricity.org/classes](http://recyclemoretricity.org/classes). For more information, visit [WinnebagoCountySolidWaste.com](http://WinnebagoCountySolidWaste.com).

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# Housing projects

FROM PAGE 1

boring communities, including Menasha, which it used to model its program after.

“We wanted to get their ideas and make sure we weren’t making the same mistakes they made the first couple of years and so we have kind of built ours similarly to theirs,” she said.

The program will be divided into two sub-programs: Curb Appeal, and Refresh and Renew. In order to qualify for either program a property’s total assessed value must be \$209,000 or less for a one-unit structure or \$267,000 or less for a two-unit structure. Both programs require matching funds from residents.

The Curb Appeal program is primarily for exterior projects such as landscaping, roofing, windows, siding, painting and front stoop repair or replacement. Qualifying applicants would be eligible for a grant to reimburse up to 50% of project costs for owner-occupied properties and up to 25% of project costs for residential investment properties. The grant would provide a maximum match

of \$5,000, with landscaping projects set at a maximum match of \$250.

The Refresh and Renew program is for larger, more comprehensive projects such as mechanical upgrades, driveway paving, exterior restoration, garage construction, and kitchen and bath remodels.

Projects funded under Refresh and Renew must have a minimum cost of \$3,000 and the maximum loan amount available is \$15,000. Determination and approval for the Refresh and Renew program would be made by the Loan Assistance Board.

Residents with eligible projects would apply for a loan through the city with no interest, with the city providing deferred mortgage loans for up to 50% of project costs for owner-occupied properties and 25% of project costs for investment properties.

Both programs will require a non-refundable \$100 application fee, with applications accepted up to twice per calendar year, per property.

Applications for the program will be available on the Community Development’s page of the City of Neenah website before the end of the month.

# State’s Public Access Lands Atlas available

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the 2024 Public Access Lands Atlas now available for purchase.

From state natural areas to state trails, lakeshores to rivers, Wisconsin has a wealth of public lands for everyone to enjoy. Updated every two years, the atlas can be purchased from the University of Wisconsin Bookstore (uwbookstore.com) for \$104.95.

The atlas contains 441 maps covering statewide public lands, roads and waterways that help locate a state park, county forest or lake for a hike, hunting or fishing outing.

Atlas information and maps can also be accessed by DVD, individual county booklets, downloadable county PDF maps and the Public Access Land online mapping application.

# Quiet sturgeon season runs its course

Neenah News

The 2024 Winnebago System sturgeon spearing season ran its full 16-day course this year as warmer temperatures limited access to the lakes that experience either thin or no ice in many places.

There were a total of 302 sturgeon registered, according to the state Department of Natural Resources, of which 130 were taken from Upriver Lakes. Only nine of the fish were more than 100 pounds.

That compares with 1,405 sturgeon harvested in the Winnebago System last season, 1,519 taken in 2022 and 1,832 in 2021.

The number of sturgeon speared systemwide failed to reach even 20% of the annual system caps. Two days of the season yielded only five sturgeon each, with none harvested on the Upriver Lakes on Thursday.

“Wow, what a year,” Don Herman from Sunk? Dive and Ice Service in Oshkosh remarked on what he said could be his final

ice conditions report of the season Thursday on Lake Winnebago. “I didn’t do a lot of ice reports because the ice hasn’t really changed. ... There are ducks still swimming, geese out there.”

Spearmen found ways to head out onto the ice, and into last weekend most of the harvesting action was on the southwest portion of Lake Winnebago while other registration stations closed early.

Throughout the season, about half of the harvest for the entire system was registered at the Southwest registration station.

Lake sturgeon will soon start their migration up the Wolf River to spawning sites on the rocky substrate near the surface. Because of this spawning behavior, the Sturgeon Guard ensures the sturgeon can spawn without interference and disturbance.

Those interested in learning more about the Sturgeon Guard or want to help guard at a spawning site can sign up at [dnr.wisconsin.gov](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov).

# Vinland seeks historical info for its 175th

In preparation for the Town of Vinland celebrating its 175th anniversary in September, the Winchester Area Historical Society is collecting historical information for a book on the area’s history.

Stories and photos about families, farms, businesses, schools, churches, clubs, organizations and notable residents are welcomed by the society for putting together a book and a CD of photographs.

Submission deadline is April 1 and plans are to have the book ready for sale by Sept. 14 with topics that include presettlement history, early town history, military veterans, schools and outstanding residents.

More information on the project is available from the historical society at 920-836-9513, Vinland Town Hall (920-235-6953) or emailing [175teamvin@gmail.com](mailto:175teamvin@gmail.com).

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# Calendar of events

## Saturday, March 2

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

## Thursday, March 7

A German Bohemian Immigration, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Friday, March 8

Joe Guerra, 6:30 p.m., Faith Global Methodist Church, 1025 Tullar Road  
Meet-and-greet with author Vivian Probst with Anne Wondra, 4:30 p.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Jake Deringer Project with Modern Joey, 9 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

## Saturday, March 9

Jim Hart Scholarship Fund Concert, 7 p.m., The Ballroom at the Reserve, 116 S. Commercial St.

## Thursday, March 14

"Shrek the Musical," 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School, 1050 Zephyr Drive

## Friday, March 15

"Shrek the Musical," 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School, 1050 Zephyr Drive

## Saturday, March 16

MPK Christian Celtic Band, 2 p.m., Word Fellowship, 1020 Tullar Road  
"Shrek the Musical," 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School, 1050 Zephyr Drive

## Sunday, March 17

"Shrek the Musical," 2 p.m., St. Mary Catholic High School, 1050 Zephyr Drive

## ARPA funds

FROM PAGE 1

While funding for barriers failed, the board approved funding a new Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue training facility that will be utilized by fire departments and other agencies throughout the county.

Supervisors approved awarding just under \$2.7 million in ARPA funds to nonprofits and local governments at the meeting Tuesday, with a request for \$350,000 for Child Care Resource and Referral sent back to committee.

Here's where the latest funding is going:

- \$500,000 to NOVA Counseling Services in Oshkosh to expand its building.
- \$343,000 to the city of Omro to update water and sewer lines under the Fox River.
- \$75,000 to NEW Mental Health Con-

nection of the Fox Valley to implement innovative features on its service directory online, and update technology and website content.

• \$403,625 to Tri-County Dental Clinic, based in Appleton and serving Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie counties, to purchase equipment to provide better dental care to those in need.

• \$50,000 to Pillars of Appleton for its Ascend Program, which serves young adults on their journeys to independent adulthood.

• \$324,500 to the Village of Winneconne to upgrade parks, remodel the barn, extend parking and improve boat ramps and piers, fish cleaning stations and larger bulk heads.

Winnebago County received \$33 million in COVID-19 relief funds awarded by the federal government and has spent about half of the money as of this week, with an estimated \$15 million remaining, plus interest earnings.



Neenah News

The NPD's fitness room has been relocated and upgraded with new equipment.

## Police facilities

FROM PAGE 1

virtual 3-D training room, officers train in real life scenarios, gaining experience in de-escalation tactics and crisis intervention.

Olson noted that NPD stresses physical fitness so that officers aren't injured. NPD's fitness room was relocated and upgraded with new equipment as part of the expansion. Phase two will include turning the former fitness room, briefing room and mat room into three or four offices for additional planned growth.

Miron Construction broke ground in May, with an official open house planned for later this year. Olson noted the company was "phenomenal" to work with.

"We can't say enough good things about Miron," he said.

Despite a few setbacks, the Training Center is now about 99% complete and being used by NPD's 42 sworn officers.

Olson started with NPD as captain in 2015 and was selected chief in 2018, succeeding Kevin Wilkinson. He's been planning for a training center for nearly eight years.

"It just took years of proving the need because obviously it's a big expense and you need to have proof that you need it," he said.

Olson took over NPD during a contentious time, when public confidence was at an all-time low after a 2015 inci-

dent involving police who fatally shot a hostage during a standoff at Eagle Nation Cycles. The incident made national news, spawning several lawsuits and a petition demanding police accountability.

"It was a challenge but I welcomed the challenge," he said.

Olson immediately went to work to change the department's reputation, starting with the hiring process by focusing on applicants with good morals.

"You can train anyone to do any job, for the most part, but you can't train somebody to be a good person and you can't fake that for very long," he said. "So that's what we look for in our hiring: Are you a good person?"

He also put a focus on community policing, trying to strengthen the partnership among officers and residents.

"We can arrest somebody or give them a citation, but do it with dignity and respect," he said. "No one should be treated poorly and our officers have adopted that culture through and through, every single day."

Olson hopes the new Training Center will be sustainable for many years, benefiting current employees and helping attract additional qualified police officer candidates.

"The thing I'm most proud of that we've done is created a culture where we treat everyone with respect," he said. "I firmly believe this is the best the Neenah Police Department has ever been."




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# Neenah's Herm captures title at state tournament

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

In his first two trips to the WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament, Neenah's Jacob Herm had to endure a pair of gut-wrenching losses in title matches.

Last Saturday, the junior turned things around and ended his season with a celebration.

Herm earned Neenah's first state title since 2020 when he dominated Stoughton's Cole Sarbacker before pinning him in 3:37 in the 144-pound title match at the Kohl Center.

"It's been quite the journey since my freshman year so it feels good," Herm said in a phone call Monday. "There's a relief, a lot of relief that I got it done."

Herm, who placed second at 106 pounds as a freshman and took second at 126 pounds last season, finishes the campaign with a perfect 47-0 record to earn Neenah's first state title since Marcus Kools capped an undefeated season with the 195-pound title in 2020.

Not only did Herm enter the state tournament without a loss, he also drew the No. 1 seed in his bracket to only increase the size of the bull's-eye on his back. Yet, he didn't buckle under the pressure posting three pins in his four state wins to go along with a major decision.

"That pressure helped me rise to the occasion," Herm said. "I live by one of our core values of living in the moment. Good things will happen when you do that and just trust your training and trust your process."

Sarbacker was the No. 2 seed in the Division 1 144-pound field but Herm seized control of the match right from the start.

Herm scored a takedown about 20 seconds into the match and rode Sarbacker the entire period, notching a two-point near-fall along the way to take a 4-0 lead. After Sarbacker chose the neutral position to start the second period, Herm scored another early takedown, worked for the pin and eventually got the win with 43 seconds left in the second period.

"It was definitely electric in there when I got the pin. I pointed to the Neenah crowd and my family and the coaches," Herm said. "I feel it would have been like that if I had won by decision but to get that fall it was a perfect cap off of the season."

Herm said that being in the top position for nearly the entire first period helped him when he was back there in the second.

"I was definitely filing stuff away in the first period," Herm said. "Going into the second period, I was confident after get-



ting the takedown because I had found some things he was weak at and I was able to capitalize."

Herm certainly was no stranger to pinning his opponents this season, especially when the matches started taking on a larger importance.

He pinned all three of his opponents in winning the FVA title and then in his 10 state series matches, he recorded pins in eight of them. At state, he stopped Rojello Garcia of Kenosha Bradford in 3:04 in his first match and then needed only 1:44 to stick Waukesha North's Ben Lauer.

"That's just a lot of work with my coaches in practice. We work a lot from the top (position)," said Herm, who won an 11-2 major decision over Eli Rabideau in the semifinals. "I also get to work with Declan (Koch) a lot in practice and working with him, I feel like I can turn anybody."

Koch not only joined Herm at state but also turned in an impressive run, before falling to Tyson Peach, 5-1 in the 138-pound title match.

Koch, who took third as a freshman last season, is now 8-2 in his two state tournament appearances after posting a 3-1 mark this year.

The sophomore pinned Mukwonago's Wendell Brausch in 2:36 in the first round of the tournament and then beat Wilmot's Joel Sullivan, 6-2 in the quarter-finals.

Koch, who finishes the season with a 45-3 record, then scored a pin in 5:18 against Preston Kratochvill of Holmen in the semifinals.

For the Neenah girls, Amari Richard went 2-2, including a pin, in her first state appearance but fell just short of reaching the medal rounds. Both of the wrestlers she lost to placed in the top five.

Kylee Kurszewski, who was making her second trip to state, lost in the first round and did not get the chance to wrestle in the consolation bracket.



Submitted photos

Top: Neenah's Jacob Herm closes in on the pin of Stoughton's Cole Sarbacker during the 144-pound final at the state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center last Saturday. Above: Jacob Herm points to the fans after winning the 144-pound state title.

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Neenah News

## Ziebell honored

Neenah High School girls basketball standout Allie Ziebell was honored before the start of last Friday's WIAA Division regional semifinal. Ziebell was recently selected to participate in the prestigious McDonald's All-American game this summer in Houston and was awarded an honorary jersey by Mike Wells, a representative of the game. Ziebell is just the seventh girls basketball player from Wisconsin to be selected to play in the game.

## Prep sports roundup

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### Neenah rolls into sectional semifinal

The Rockets posted a pair of easy wins en route to advancing to Thursday's WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal game. Third-seeded Neenah was slated to play second-seeded Hudson on Thursday night, with the winner advancing to a sectional final game Saturday at Appleton East.

Neenah opened the tournament with a 75-29 dismantling of Wisconsin Rapids last Friday.

Allie Ziebell and Ellie Buss each had 19 points in the win, while Ziebell also picked up a team-high nine rebounds.

Rowan Klesmit added 15 points in the win.

The following night, the Rockets disposed of fellow FVA member Appleton East, 69-50 to claim the regional title.

The Rockets led by only one at halftime against the Patriots but then outscored Appleton East 42-24 to extend their season.

Ziebell once again led the way with 29 points, eight rebounds and six assists, while going 12-of-12 at the free-throw line.

Klesmit chipped in 17 points in the win, while Abbie Fischer added a season-high 10 points.

#### St. Mary Catholic cruises to regional final win

The Zephyrs posted WIAA Division 4 tournament wins over Manawa and Crandon at home last weekend to collect a regional title.

St. Mary Catholic was set to face top-ranked Laconia on Thursday night in a sectional semifinal with the winner advancing to a Saturday sectional final at Oshkosh North.

In the 75-22 win over Manawa on Friday, Emily Vogel led the Zephyrs with 20 points and eight steals, while Nolie Anderson posted a double-double with 17

points and 10 rebounds. Autumn Crowe also reached double figures with 14 points.

Audrey Norville led the Zephyrs with 14 rebounds.

On Saturday, St. Mary Catholic toppled Crandon, 72-45 behind 24 points from Vogel.

Anderson finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds, while Norville chipped in 14.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Neenah ends regular season on win streak

The Rockets edged Appleton North 43-38 in the regular-season finale last week to enter the WIAA Division 1 playoffs having won its last nine games and 13 of its last 14.

Brady Corso scored 10 points to finish as the only double-digit scorer for the Rockets, who were held to a season-low point total in the game.

Charlie Wunderlich added nine points and Cal Juckem finished with seven.

The Rockets were set to host Eau Claire North in a Division 1 regional semifinal Friday.

#### Zephyrs top century mark in win over Kohler

St. Mary Catholic had five players in double figures and tallied a season-high point total in outdueling Kohler 109-104 in the final game of the regular season last week.

Braeden Breen led the offensive explosion with 35 points and 11 rebounds, while Preston Fields added a season-high 28 points and finished with 11 assists.

Mason Uhlenbrauck and Fisher Mackenzie each scored 16 points and Luke Fairweather added 10 points in the win.

Mackenzie also had double-digit rebounds with 10.

The Zephyrs were slated to face Weyauwega-Fremont in a WIAA Division 4 regional semifinal Friday night at the McClone Gymnasium.

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# Obituaries

## Douglas P. Chartre

Longtime Neenah resident Douglas P. Chartre, age 78, passed away February 11, 2024, due to complications from a stroke. Doug was born in Menominee, Michigan on June 16, 1945, to the late Patrick and Beulah (Cappaert) Chartre.

After graduating from Menominee High School in 1965, he joined the U.S. Army National Guard and served in the Ready Reserves until 1979. Douglas was employed in the paper mill at Kimberly-Clark for 35 years. After his retirement in 2001, he took a part-time job with US Venture.

Doug had many hobbies, including working on bicycles, restoring old cars, woodworking, and tinkering in his garage shop. He loved going to car shows and spending time with his Fiero Fanatics Car Club friends.

He is survived by his three children: Michelle (Tony) Rowe of San Diego, Jennifer (Tom) Powledge of Los Angeles, Douglas J. (Kathya) Chartre of Chicago; his stepdaughter, Andrea McComas of Appleton; and his sister, Judith (Jon) Pietsch of Denmark, WI. He was preceded in death by his brother, Raymond Chartre.

The absolute light of Doug's life and his pride and joy were his five grandchil-

dren: Kate, Reid, Jack, Cruz and Aidan. A private burial service will be held in Stephenson, Michigan. Doug's family would like to thank the staff at Rennes Health & Rehab in Appleton for the compassionate care they provided during his long illness.



## Donald J. Ebben

Donald J. Ebben, age 93, passed away on February 24, 2024. He was born on



November 19, 1930 to William and Gertrude (Linskens) Ebben at home in the town of Vandebroek. On October 30, 1953 Don was united in marriage to Dorothy Olson and they enjoyed 71 years together.

A funeral Mass for Donald will be held on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. with full military honors at St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church, 411 Vandebroek St., Little Chute. Visitation will begin at the church at 9:30 a.m. and will continue until the time of the service. For online condolences, please visit [www.verkuilenfh.com](http://www.verkuilenfh.com).



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## Fun With Money!

Finley, Fabian and Fiona Frog each have \$30 to spend at the Spring Blossom Festival. They each made a list of things they want to spend money on at the Festival.



Take a look at the prices of the items each frog wants to buy. Then, use your math skills to answer the following questions:

1. Which frog will have the most money left over after buying everything on their list?

2. Which frog won't have enough money to buy everything on their list?

3. What items could this frog remove from their list to stay at or under \$30?

How many blossoms can you find on this page?

The Spring Blossom Festival is lots of fun, but you have to watch your spending! Help your froggy friends!

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### Muddy Money Maze

Do the math to find out which path has the highest value.

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences.

## Spending Spree

Frankie Frog LOVES munching on pond popcorn at the Spring Blossom Festival. A box of it costs \$2.75. Circle the coins that add up to that amount.

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences.

## Look-Alike Ladybugs

Faye Frog won a bunch of cute stuffed toy ladybugs at the Spring Blossom Festival. One of them is different from the rest. Can you find it?

Standards Link: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

## Signs of Spring

Look through the newspaper and find five things that let you know it is springtime. Write the name of each in alphabetical order.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow written instructions.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Frieda Frog wants to buy a treat at the Spring Blossom Festival, but she can't remember how much is in her piggy bank. Can you count it for her?

Frieda has \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in her piggy bank.

Standards Link: Math: Calculate money amounts.

## Double Double Word Search

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- MONEY
- MUDDY
- PRICES
- SPRING
- TULIP
- USE

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

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

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

## Kid Scoop Together High-Flying Frogs

Felix and Finn Frog are seeing who can jump highest. Color in the spaces that add up to an even number. The frog with the most colored spaces is the winner.

FELIX	FINN
3 + 2 =	7 + 4 =
3 + 6 =	1 + 2 =
6 + 5 =	4 + 4 =
7 + 2 =	6 + 2 =
5 + 2 =	1 + 1 =
2 + 2 =	3 + 5 =
4 + 2 =	2 + 8 =
3 + 3 =	6 + 6 =
2 + 6 =	1 + 3 =
9 + 1 =	5 + 5 =
3 + 5 =	4 + 4 =
4 + 8 =	6 + 8 =
8 + 8 =	7 + 7 =
4 + 4 =	2 + 6 =

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Write On!

### Kids Help Families Save

Write three to five ways that kids can help their families save money.

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