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Council, boards gain new members

Neenah voters select familiar faces for council

Neenah News

Wisconsin's spring election this week gave voters the chance to weigh in at the polls on a host of local offices including common council, school board, county supervisor and circuit court judge.

Voters also indicated their preference for president, though it was widely known ahead of the election that Donald Trump

and Joe Biden would be the party nominees.

While the presidential preference is partisan, the local elections are not. Leading up to Tuesday's vote, political tensions became heated, with both parties investing into promoting candidates running for local nonpartisan offices.

Rain and snow didn't keep voters from the polls in Neenah, with two contested seats up for grabs on the Common Council and three on the Board of Education.

Voters selected two previous aldermen

to return to the council. In District 1, Mark Ellis received 910 votes, defeating Kristen Sandvick who received 697 votes. Ellis, who served on the council in the 1980s and 1990s, will take over the seat vacated by John Skeyrms, who didn't seek reelection after a three-year term.

In District 3, William Pollnow Jr., who served on the council from 2012-2018, defeated Jeffrey Linski by a margin of 19 votes. Pollnow will replace Todd Steven-

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City purchases unit to smooth over bumps
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Neenah News

April snow showers

The saying goes April showers bring May flowers but it was snow showers making an appearance this week, causing the Kimberly Point Park lighthouse to blend in with the surrounding landscape ahead of a bigger storm that hit Tuesday night.

Neenah-Menasha firefighters note lifesaving efforts

Annual report details department activity

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue (NMFR) responded to a record high 3,394 incidents in 2023 and saved seven lives, according to a recently released annual report.

The annual report is a look back on the past year and includes information on the number and types of calls to each station, as well as inspection data and public education statistics.

There are four stations under the NMFR purview staffed by 21 employees. Neenah locations include Station 31 at 1080 Breezewood Lane and Station 32 at 125 E. Columbian Ave., which is also the headquarters. Menasha locations include Station 35 at 430 First St. and Station 36 at 1911 Manitowoc Road.

Last year the stations responded to 79 fires, about 2.2% of the total calls. Of those, 28 were building fires amounting to about \$2.3 million in losses. An estimated \$36.1 million in property was saved by the department.

Firefighters responded to more than

2,000 medical calls last year, amounting to about 65% of the total calls. Some

NMFR staff are trained in emergency medical technician (EMT) basic level and some in first responder level and provide care until an ambulance arrives to transport the person to a hospital.

During those calls, firefighters saved seven lives. Fire Chief Travis Teesch said the majority were calls to a person in cardiac

arrest, pulseless and not breathing, and responders were able to use an automated external defibrillator (AED) to regain a pulse.

One of those saves is attributed to an incident in Menasha in June, where firefighters rescued a resident from a burning home and transported them to the hospital.

NMFR also responded to 45 gas leaks, 17 water-ice incidents and 57 motor vehicle incidents. About 10% of last year's calls were for alarms, 5% for service and 13.3%

SEE **Fire report** ON PAGE 11



Teesch



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Road repair machine keys on potholes

City focuses on patching streets with unit purchase

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah is making strides to facilitate street repairs with approval of purchasing a mastic machine for asphalt and concrete patching.

During a meeting March 26, the Public Services and Safety Committee voted unanimously to purchase the equipment for working on street projects, with the council expected to give final approval earlier this week.

According to the state Department of Transportation, potholes form when water seeps into the soil under the road through a crack, which is exacerbated by heat and sunlight, combined with vehicles repeatedly driving over the pavement. Mastic is an adhesive and sealant used to patch potholes and other materials. A mastic machine is used to heat, mix and apply mastic material.

The city evaluated three quotes for a mastic machine before choosing to purchase a 2024 Crafcro Patcher II from Sherwin Industries in Milwaukee for \$85,557, and an additional \$3,000 for various hand tools for mastic application.

The lowest bid came in at about \$15,000 less but did not meet the city's specifications.

The third bid came in at about \$400 less than the final choice, but with a lead time of 250-300 days, about double the time expected for the machine selected.

The Patcher II is described as a hot mastic sealant and "techcrete" melter used for both asphalt and concrete patching.

Sexual assault awareness marked this month

Neenah News

Sexual assault service provider Reach Counseling and its partners are bringing attention to Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April with the theme "Building Connected Communities" through the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

"When people really feel like they're part of their community, they look out for each other," said Ciara Hill, Reach Counseling's advocacy program director. "It's like being part of a big family – if you see



Crafcro Inc. photo

A Crafcro Patcher machine similar to one being purchased by the city is shown.

Superintendent of Public Works Greg Radtke explained that the machine melts a special material that when cured is hard like plastic.

Fox Crossing and Menasha have this brand of mastic machine. Radtke said a few years ago Neenah borrowed Fox Crossing's machine to repair a portion of South Green Bay Road with success and is hoping to continue repairs with its own machine.

According to the manufacturer, the Patcher II is the fastest mastic sealant melter available on the market, with the ability to melt 1,500 pounds of mastic per hour or 12,000 pounds per day. Its mate-

rial vat holds 200 gallons of sealant that achieves 380 degrees Fahrenheit and is ready to pour within two hours.

Radtke said mastic material is not a fix-all but helps extend the life of road repairs until the city can replace the road through its Capital Improvement Program. Although there are limits, he said when prepared and applied correctly the mastic works much better than cold patches on road repairs.

"This machine adds another tool to our arsenal for pothole repair, manholes that our snowplows catch, and fixing concrete streets where the joints are breaking up, among other uses," he said.

something wrong happening, you're going to step up. That's because everyone shares the job of keeping the community safe."

In collaboration with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin, Lawrence University and the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, events have been planned throughout the month. Contact UWO Women's Center at womenscenter@uwosh.edu or go to reachcounseling.com for event details.

More information on national Sexual

Assault Awareness Month is at nsvrc.org/saam.

Planned Parenthood Advocates will be hosting a supply drive throughout the month for domestic violence and sexual assault service providers in northeast Wisconsin. The supply wish list is at bit.ly/saamsupplydrive.

North American solar eclipse nears

By David Hall
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

In 2017, my mom, son and I saw a total solar eclipse. It was awesome but we were unprepared on where to go if there were clouds, the massive traffic jam afterward and photographically. I feel lucky I will get a second chance only seven years later.

On Monday, there will be a partial solar eclipse, where the moon obscures 85% of the sun here in northeast Wisconsin. The eclipse will start at roughly 12:50 p.m., reach a peak at 2:08 p.m. and end at 3:20 p.m., creating a breathtaking display in the daytime sky.

This is a rare opportunity to witness a celestial phenomenon that only happens a few times a century. The next total eclipse across the continental U.S. won't occur until Aug. 23, 2044.

Don't forget to prepare. Safe viewing requires special eclipse glasses that filter out the sun's harmful rays. Regular sunglasses won't do the trick.

Where will I be? Based on my lessons from last time, I will be staying in St. Louis where there are plenty of motel rooms, less chance of cloud cover and a 2.5-hour drive to the path of totality.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Tip of the hat

The Mrs. C. Paepke Fine Millinery Shop was located at 145 W. Wisconsin Avenue (present-day Keller Plaza). Hat maker Louisa Paepke opened her Neenah location in 1886 and was held in high regard. A March 30, 1893, issue of the Neenah Daily Times stated, "She (Paepke) displays a great many rich and elegantly trimmed hats and bonnets, all in the new spring shades."

City looking at extending outdoor alcohol access

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

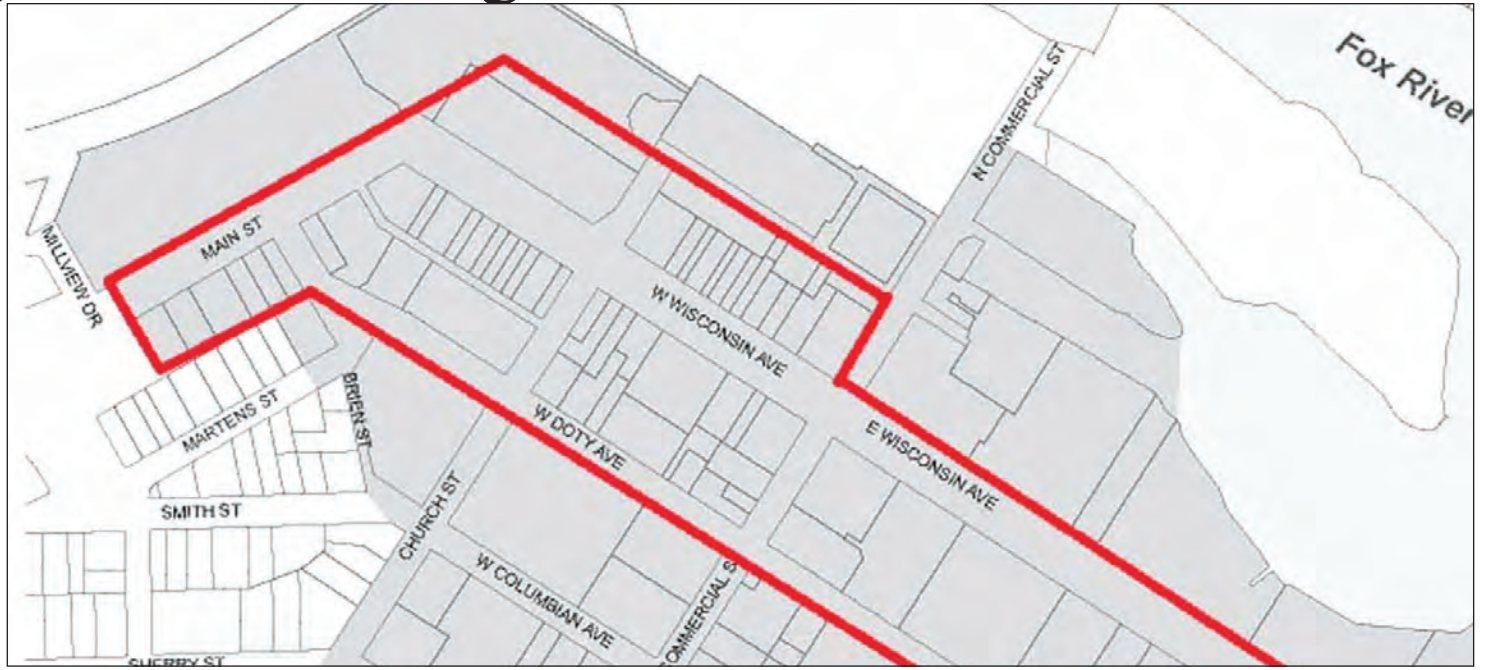
Outdoor alcohol consumption in downtown Neenah could soon be extended weekly during certain days and times within a designated outdoor refreshment area (DORA).

The DORA is a mapped-out district where adults 21 and over can purchase alcohol from businesses and carry and consume drinks in public streets, sidewalks and parking lots. A similar initiative was successfully introduced in Oshkosh in 2022 and expanded last year.

Neenah's DORA follows a plan approved last year that established the downtown as a temporary outdoor refreshment area, which allowed outdoor drinking only during certain approved and permitted events. Drinks sold for outdoor consumption had an identifying sticker to show that they were bought at a licensed establishment, were served by a licensed bartender and proper measures were taken to verify IDs.

The temporary DORA was implemented during June and August street concerts and the events generated \$43,875 in economic impact for the bars and restaurants participating, according to a memo included in the council agenda. The next phase being considered is to expand the DORA's applicability to allow outdoor drinking from 5 to 10 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays from April 1 through Nov. 30.

The DORA will commence at 210 Main St. near Gord's Pub, continuing along West Wisconsin Avenue and ending at Copperstill Bourbon Bar at 211 E. Wisconsin. The DORA also starts at Lion's Tail Brewing Co. at 116 S. Commer-



City of Neenah

A map shows the proposed DORA designated outdoor refreshment area in downtown Neenah.

cial St. and concludes at Commercial and Wisconsin.

Businesses that participate in the DORA by allowing outdoor alcohol consumption must obtain a permit and pay an annual application fee of \$350. Participating and non-participating businesses will display a decal identifying them as such.

Historically, Neenah keeps a tight lid on the sale and use of alcohol compared to neighboring communities. The city prohibits alcohol sales at gas stations and prohibits consumption in parks, public property, streets, alleys, sidewalks or parking lots. Drive-up and walk-up alcohol sales are also banned.

But the city has begun realizing the val-

ue of reducing some of those restrictions, noting that allowing outdoor drinking in the downtown attracts visitors to businesses, increases the length of time visitors stay downtown, encourages retail sales, promotes economic development and creates an enhanced experience.

Menasha also prohibits possessing or consuming alcohol in public unless specifically approved by the Common Council. At a meeting Monday, the council discussed outdoor consumption of alcohol outdoors near Curtis Reed Square, including Milwaukee, Main and Tayco Street, for Menasha Celebrates 150 Years Block Party June 21-22.

Neenah's DORA was expected to go into effect April 18, the same day as the

Future Neenah Shop & Stroll Spring Edition, permitting outdoor alcohol consumption at that event.

The plan to establish a DORA was on the agenda for the Public Services and Safety Committee meeting last month but tabled due to concerns that it conflicted with state law. Specifically, Wisconsin law prohibits a person from entering an establishment with an open container of alcohol. Oshkosh found a workaround by requiring patrons to finish their drink before entering another establishment.

Future Neenah executive director Brent Bowman said the DORA proposal will be brought to the Public Services and Safety Committee for a vote again but did not provide a timeline.

Lawrence jazz groups present library concerts

The Neenah Public Library is hosting the Lawrence University Student Quintet for a series of spring jazz concerts at 2 p.m. every Sunday in April as Jazz Month is celebrated.

This year the students will be focusing on the groundbreaking work of Charles Mingus (April 7), Ornette Coleman (April 14), Kenny Garrett (April 21) and Jaimie Branch (April 28). The all-ages shows will be held in the library's Shattuck Room with no reservations necessary.



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Community refrigerator temporarily shuts down

Hope Fridge program tackled food insecurity

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A community initiative in Neenah that fights food insecurity is temporarily suspending operations.

The Hope Fridge began operating on Curtis Avenue in Neenah and two locations in Oshkosh in 2021. It includes a refrigerator and adjacent enclosed pantry open 24 hours per day, seven days a week, free for anyone in need.

But organizers say the Neenah location has become a dumping ground for smelly clothes and expired food. Adding another challenge, the fridge and pantry need to be relocated due to the host family moving.

In addition, the organization's fiscal host recently dissolved, temporarily suspending the Hope Fridge's ability to collect financial donations until it completes the process of establishing its own nonprofit.

The issues have led the organization to seek storage for the fridge and pantry and temporarily shut down.

Community fridges are a mutual aid project that became popular during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Neenah and Oshkosh Hope Fridge locations were similar to those in Milwaukee, Madison and Chicago.

The locations operate as a self-service food pantry, with no paperwork, income requirements, nor limits on how many visits a person makes or how many groceries are taken. The set-up reduces

shame and stigma that may come with food insecurity.

Local restaurants, churches, businesses and residents regularly kept the fridge stocked with nonperishable food, meals and hygiene supplies, while volunteers cleaned, organized and discarded expired food. Families said they use the Hope Fridge to teach their children about the importance of giving back. In the past, some left special treats and meals for others during holidays.

While previously there were two Oshkosh Hope Fridge locations, last year both were paused. One was closed due to the host business remodeling, which eliminated space for the fridge. The other was quickly moved to storage due to safety concerns, according to a Hope Fridge social media post.

Founder TJ Hobbs said the organization had been working on a plan for an Oshkosh Hope Fridge to return, but that recently fell through.

"The need keeps growing, while the challenges keep coming," Hobbs said.

Now the remaining Hope Fridge in Neenah has until May 31 to relocate. As news that the fridge may be temporarily shut down began to spread, messages of support poured in.

"Thank you for being a source of hope in this dark world," Jeff Krazey wrote.

"I will forever miss the fridge as I was a huge advocate with my son and always involved in its mission," Alyssa Demerath wrote.

"You helped so many people meet a basic need that others take for granted," Kari Straus said.

Patty Hoehne wrote that she regular-



Submitted photos

The Hope Fridge on Curtis Avenue that has provided food for free to anyone in need is temporarily shutting down.

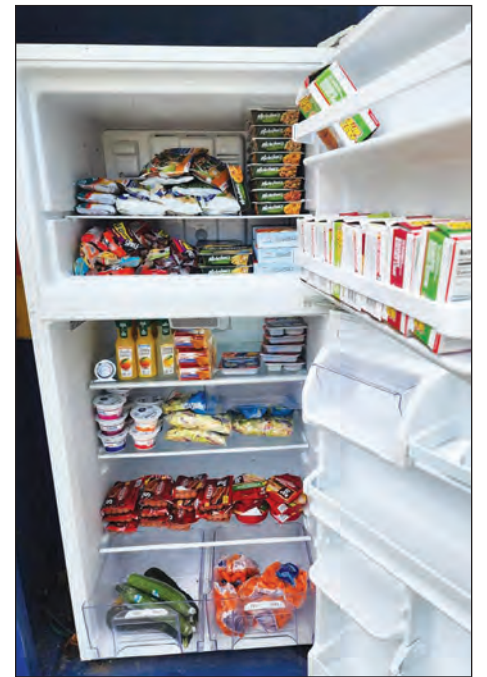
ly donates extra produce to the Hope Fridge.

"I hope you will be able to find a new location so we can help families with our fresh organic produce," she said.

Hobbs emphasized that the Hope Fridge is not permanently shutting down and plans to open again once suitable host sites are found, adding that an ideal location would be at a residence or organization with parking space available for visitors on a quiet street close to downtown and a bus stop.

The owners of the host site are responsible for electrical costs, but Hope Fridge covers some expenses such as installing an outdoor GFI electrical outlet for operation and landscaping to make the location wheelchair accessible.

For those experiencing food insecurity, Little Free Food Pantries and Blessing Boxes are similar to the Hope Fridge initiative but don't offer a refrigerator. In Neenah, the pantries can be found outside Horace Mann Middle School, First Presbyterian Church and Lakeview Elementary. Menasha locations include Jefferson Elementary and behind the Menasha Public Library.



Another option is Vinnie's Pantry, adjacent to the St. Vincent de Paul retail store on South Commercial Street, providing food to residents of Neenah and Menasha during select hours on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Hobbs said for years the Hope Fridge and its volunteers and supporters have made a real and positive difference for those in the community.

"We are proud of the great work we've done and we hope we can continue in the future," Hobbs wrote.



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Documents detail stabbing at downtown establishment

Neenah News

An argument in a bar/restaurant downtown led to a stabbing and charges of second-degree recklessly endangering safety and substantial battery for a 33-year-old Neenah man.

Benjamin Nachman is accused of stabbing a man twice in the Greene's Pour House restroom around 4:30 p.m. March 23. According to the criminal complaint, police were called and found the victim seated at the bar holding a shirt against his chest. He was transported to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center and received stitches.

The victim told police he was at the bar when Nachman sat next to him and they began playing cards. The victim said he went to the restroom and when he returned his phone was gone and he talked with Nachman about taking it. After that he refused to play cards with Nachman.

About 20 minutes later the victim said he went into the restroom and Nachman

came in behind him and accused him of taking Nachman's wallet. Documents say Nachman pulled out a small pocketknife and told him to give his wallet back and then stabbed him twice.

Nachman told police he entered the bathroom first and the victim followed him. He said the victim advanced on him and tried to grab him by the neck, which caused him to pull his knife out. He said he was "really drunk" and believed it to be self-defense.

Surveillance video shows the victim entering the bathroom first, followed by Nachman. The complaint does not indicate whether the victim's phone and Nachman's wallet were located.

Nachman left the establishment and was arrested without incident at his residence and transported to the Winnebago County Jail. He was later released on a \$1,000 signature bond and is due back in court April 11 for further proceedings.



Neenah Police Department photo

Wrong-way driver charged in crash

Neenah News

A 36-year-old Neenah man was charged with recklessly endangering safety and causing injury while intoxicated after the vehicle he was driving the wrong way on U.S. 10 in Waupaca County crashed into another car, injuring four.

Daniel Pachecobolanos, who doesn't have a valid driver's license, told police he was driving because his friends had had too much to drink after they were at a Weyauwega restaurant and returning to Neenah.

Officials responded to the crash at 7:55 p.m. March 25 in the Town of Weyauwega, near where another wrong-way crash claimed four lives Dec. 16.

Waupaca County deputies reported an eastbound vehicle driven by Pachecobolanos with two passengers was traveling in the westbound lane of U.S. 10 and collided with the westbound car that had its driver as the only occupant. All four were transported to a local hospital with unspecified injuries.

Pachecobolanos was charged with three counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety and a count of causing injury while operating under the influence at his initial appearance March 27 in Waupaca County court, where a \$25,000 cash bond was set.

He returns to court Tuesday for a continuation of his initial appearance before

Judge Raymond Huber.

In the Dec. 16 fatal crash on County X in the same town near U.S. 10, Scott Farmer of Neenah is charged with four felony counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle, fifth-offense drunken driving and operating while revoked causing death. A pretrial conference is set for April 30 in Huber's court.

The crash victims were Daniel Gonzalez, 25; Fabian Gonzalez, 23; Lilian Gonzalez, 14; and Daniela Gonzalez, 9.

Joining the force

Neenah's newest patrol officer is Owen Halls, who has joined the Law Enforcement Academy. The Kaukauna High School graduate has a criminal justice degree from Fox Valley Technical College and was a community service officer for the Appleton Police Department while also coaching baseball at Kaukauna High School.

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Neenah girl cited in wildlife poster contest

Adelaide Dorsey from Neenah was a second-place winner in the fourth-grade division of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Keep Wildlife Wild poster contest.

With this year's theme "Safe in Their Home," fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders were invited to submit posters that spread the word about keeping all wildlife healthy and, most importantly, wild.

The program began in 2014 with a focus on providing information about wildlife species' natural behaviors, tips on how to determine if a wild animal is truly orphaned and what to do if someone finds a wild animal in need of assistance. The contest's goal is to create a poster that teaches the importance of enjoying and observing wildlife in the wild and not keeping wildlife in homes or as pets.

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Mpox virus at slow but steady pace

By David Hall
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Pox viruses are a scourge to many vertebrates, including humans.

Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, is caused by a virus related to the virus that causes smallpox, according to the Winnebago County Health Department.

The current mpox epidemic that emerged from Africa in 2022 is the latest of many. Wisconsin has been affected with 96 total cases to date. There have been 50 from Milwaukee County, while Winnebago, Outagamie, Brown and Calumet counties have accounted for 13 cases total.

With an incubation period of two to four weeks, the mpox virus infection presents with a skin rash covering any part of the body with lesions that look like bumps, warts, sores or scabs. These lesions are how virus particles get back out into the environment.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, people must have close, sustained contact with an infected person to get the virus. That includes close contact with the lesions or clothing that has been in contact with the lesions.

Conquerors of the New World spread smallpox to indigenous people by trading to them clothing coated in the virus. Smallpox killed 300 million people in the 20th century before being eliminated through vaccination in the 1970s.

A vaccine was developed by Edward Jenner in 1793 but the concept of vaccination was not fully accepted until the 20th century. Jenner realized that the closely related coxopox (vaccinia virus), proved capable of triggering immunity against



Photo from SAMESH

Vaccination against mpox is available from Winnebago Public Health by appointment.

smallpox. This suggested that pox viruses are closely immunologically related, thus vaccination against one is protection against most.

Mass vaccination for smallpox ended in 1972, with smallpox declared eliminated in 1980. The elimination of a virus is an exception and not the norm. Smallpox and polio are a handful of viruses that only infect humans; if the entire population is vaccinated, the virus will effectively become extinct. However, most viruses like SARS-CoV-2, influenza and yellow fever can never be eliminated because they can hop back and forth, evolving between different animals.

Mpox has a natural reservoir in non-human primates and can jump to humans through their consumption of bushmeat. The CDC reports it can also be spread to people from animals through bites, scratches or use of a product from an infected animal.

Since the end of mass vaccination, the world population has exploded and few have been vaccinated against pox viruses, leading to the success of mpox spreading beyond Africa.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services reports mpox primarily affects gay, bisexual and other men, but there has been an increase in new mpox cases in

other populations. The Winnebago County Health Department recommends those at risk of contracting the virus get vaccinated to stop the spread.

About 70 doses of the pox vaccine JYNNEOS have been administered in Winnebago County since 2022. The vaccine is a two-dose regimen, with the first dose giving some protection and a second dose 28 days later providing stronger protection. The Winnebago County Health Department noted that the number of vaccines administered is not an indication of how many people are fully vaccinated because it is not required that someone completes the series at the same location.

By comparison, Appleton's Health Department administered 110 vaccines in 2022, five in 2023 and none so far this year.

Winnebago County is currently offering the JYNNEOS vaccine by appointment. It is not required that someone is a resident of Winnebago County to receive the vaccine at the health department. To make an appointment, contact Public Health at 920-232-3000 or email wchd.cd@winnebagocountywi.gov.

Those vaccinated against mpox will get lifetime immunity against many other pox viruses, including smallpox, providing a measure of protection in the future.

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Hong Kong Buffet owner steps away after 23-year run

Neenah News

Hong Kong Buffet in downtown Neenah changed ownership early this year after Kevin and Jenny Wang sold the business at 145 W. Wisconsin Ave. after 23 years of steady service, with the restaurant open every day.

Kevin Wang said he and his family will take some time off for personal reasons before considering a future restaurant venture. He values his customer rela-

tionships and the community's safe and friendly environment.

"Maybe in the future, maybe next year, if we feel OK, maybe we will open another one," he said.

Allen and Malinda Zhang, who moved to Neenah recently with their family from Aurora, Ill., are the new owners of Hong Kong Buffet, serving Chinese and Asian fusion food six days a week with online pickup options.

Town Council featured on PBS show

Neenah News

Town Council Kitchen and Bar in downtown Neenah was featured March 28 on PBS Wisconsin's "Wisconsin Foodie," a show that introduces viewers to the people who grow and prepare food for a living.

Host Luke Zahm met with Neenah na-

tive Jon Horan, chef and owner of Town Council. He and his wife, Kate, returned here after training abroad to open their restaurant, which focuses on supporting the local food economy.

Go to wisconsinfoodie.com for information on showings of the episode.

Unemployment rate rises in region for February

Neenah News

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County saw a jump in its unemployment rate from 2.3 percent to 2.8 percent between January and February, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Last February's jobless rate in Oshkosh-Neenah and the county was at 2.5 percent.

The non-seasonally adjusted data shows jobless rates in Metropolitan Statistical Areas increase in all of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas over the month and year. The rates decreased or stayed the same in eight metro areas.

Unemployment rates increase in Wisconsin's 35 largest cities and 72 counties over the month.

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

Business news roundup

The Fox Cities Chamber and its **Pulse Young Professionals Network** are ready to select the 14th annual class of Fox Cities Future 15 Young Professionals with nominations open through April 19. The awards recognize young professionals ages 40 and under who live and/or work in the Fox Cities region (Outagamie, Calumet, and northern Winnebago counties) and excel professionally while also giving back to the community. Those nominated will be asked to submit an application. More information can be found at business.foxcitieschamber.com.

Three staff members at the **Fox Cities Chamber** recently earned certifications through the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). **Eric Broten**, vice president of business growth and development; and **Aimee Herrick**, director of events and emerging talent, earned the ACCE's inaugural Certificate in Workforce Development Fundamentals. The certificate empowers professionals with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the intersection of economic and workforce development while closing education gaps. Additionally, Herrick and **Grace Malek**, special events coordinator, earned the Certificate in Chamber Management: Events, Programs, and Communications. This certificate provides fundamentals on event planning, including budgeting, event sponsorship and considerations for ensuring inclusive events.

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comment on the proposed application for **Kimberly-Clark Marinette** to move to Tier 2 of the Green Tier program. The Green Tier program recognizes organizations committed to going above and beyond compliance to improve environmental performance and impact. The transition to Tier 2 would enable the company to negotiate a customized environmental contract with the DNR, complete the requirements for their Green Tier registration operation permit and request additional flexibilities. KC Marinette employs 230 workers in the production of Scott Shop Towels, Scott Rags-in-a-Box, Wypall wiping products for the workplace and Viva paper towels for household use.

Volatus Infrastructure & Energy Solutions based in Neenah announced **John Sotorp** as the newest addition to its board of directors. Sotorp embarked on a career in finance, specializing in commercial lending with Old Stone Development Group where he facilitated more than \$50 million in real estate asset sales. Over the past decade, he has been instrumental in advising on the disposition and acquisition of commercial real estate while representing a German Renewable partner in expanding solar and wind projects across Latin America. He also directs Rock Capital, a UK-based real estate fund operation.

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County health assessment made available to public

Neenah News

Winnebago County Public Health has published its 2023 Winnebago County Community Health Assessment (CHA), an overview of the community's health that identifies gaps and opportunities to improve the well-being of county residents.

The assessment, which health departments are required to complete every five years, is available at winnebagocountywi.gov/health. Residents can provide thoughts and feedback at wchd.pub/chafeedback.



Gieryn

"To improve health outcomes, we have to look beyond health care and individual behaviors, and we do this with the CHA," said Doug Gieryn, director and health officer. "The CHA identifies local community conditions, the vital conditions that have the greatest impact on health, and we use this information to help with prioritizing resources and engaging the community to work together to build those community conditions where everyone has the opportunity to reach their optimal health and well-being."

Winnebago County Public Health developed the CHA with a community health assessment advisory team composed of residents from various sectors, geographies and diverse experiences.

The team analyzed data and commu-

nity feedback, led focus groups, and provided insight and guidance for the report.

"The Community Health Assessment is one of the greatest tools we have to measure how the work we do impacts our community," said Katie Jaegly, health and well-being educator for UW-Madison Extension Winnebago County. "Extension is committed to developing programs and services that address the specific needs and challenges identified within our community."

The CHA examines how conditions and factors impact health such as wealth, education, housing, transportation, social connections and access to health care.

The report highlights friendly and safe communities, libraries, parks, services and abundant natural resources. It also identifies challenges that many families in Winnebago County face, especially in light of the pandemic.

"Data and information provided in the Community Health Assessment highlight how social and economic conditions shape our community," said Winnebago County Executive Jon Doemel. "We all need to work together to make our community a better place to live, work and visit."

The CHA will be used to create a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) that outlines strategies to improve the health of residents and visitors of Winnebago County.

Election roundup

FROM PAGE 1

son, who retired after 34 years in the position.

In District 2, incumbent Brian Borchardt retained his seat unopposed.

For the Neenah Joint School District Board of Education, one incumbent and five challengers were running for three seats. Incumbent Brian Epley retained his seat with 4,218 votes, with Susan Garcia Franz and Alex Corrigan winning the other two seats with 3,772 votes each. Roxanne Schwandt-Knutson trailed behind the frontrunners by about 200 votes, followed by Chari Long and Jeb Pfeifle.

Epley, who has been on the school board for six years and is the current president, was the target of a disparaging radio ad and anti-Epley signs in some yards in the district during his campaign. On his campaign page, he expressed gratitude for voters who re-elected him.

"We crossed the finish line together and I promise to continue working hard for Neenah Joint School District kids, staff and community," he wrote in part.

In Fox Crossing, Trustee 3 incumbent Gregory Ziegler defeated challenger Nicholas Gebert to retain the seat. Trustee 1 and 5 positions were retained by incumbents Michael Van Dyke and Deb Swiertz, who ran unopposed.

Town of Neenah supervisor positions were retained by incumbents David Bluma and James Weiss running unopposed.

In the Town of Clayton, incumbent Scott Reif retained the Town Supervisor 4 position, defeating Terry Haase by a margin of 103 votes. Patti Christianson retained the Town Supervisor 3 position unopposed.

Menasha voters chose a new mayor for the first time in 16 years, selecting Austin Hammond, 26, making him the city's youngest mayor. He replaces Don Merkes, who did not seek re-election. Hammond, who moved to Menasha three years ago, defeated 11-year council member Rebecca Nichols by a margin of 102 votes.

Michael Rust was elected Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 1 judge, taking the seat vacated by Judge Teresa Basiliere. He defeated LaKeisha Haase by 1,793 votes. Haase is an attorney and former Branch 4 judge who ran for the third time in as many years, losing her seat in the 2022 election and failing to defeat Scott Woldt for a Branch 2 seat last year.

Rust currently serves as a county court commissioner. He said he's honored and excited that voters entrusted him to be their next judge.

"My sincere thanks to attorney Haase for a tough but positive campaign," he said. "I have served the people of Winnebago County for almost 12 years and I am looking forward to continuing to serve them in this new capacity."

All 36 Winnebago County supervisor seats were up for election, with 36% of those seats going to newcomers and 23 incumbents retaining their positions.



Neenah News

Residents from District 2 wards 13, 14, 15, 16 and 22 take part in voting Tuesday at the Neenah Police Department.

Districts 1-4 represent Menasha, with District 1 incumbent Rachael Dowling unopposed, 55 write-in votes for the District 3 seat vacated by Thomas Borchardt which had no candidates, and newcomer Jeffery Lutz selected for the District 4 seat vacated by Paul Eisen with no opposing candidate.

In District 2, Kristl Laux defeated Jake Ackmann for the seat vacated by incumbent Rebecca Nichols.

Districts 5-10 represent Neenah, with District 5 incumbent Kay Horan losing her seat to challenger Stefanie Holt.

In District 6, Lucas Reinke defeated Jason Kraayvanger to take over the seat vacated by incumbent Brian Defferding.

The District 7 race between incumbent Betsy Ellenberger and challenger Kate Hancock-Cooke was the closest in the supervisor race based on number of votes, with Hancock-Cooke receiving 592 votes to Ellenberger's 575, unseating the incumbent by a margin of 17 votes.

"I am feeling grateful to my campaign team," Hancock-Cooke wrote on her Facebook page, "without your endless support, those 17 people might have decided to stay home."

District 8 incumbent Jim Wise and District 9 incumbent Donald Nussbaum ran unopposed.

District 10 incumbent Bryan Stafford retained his seat over challenger Timothy Jacobson.

Districts 27-29 also represent Neenah, with incumbent Morris Cox in District 27 and incumbent Nate Gustafson in District 28 running unopposed.

Only 80 votes separated District 29 incumbent George Bureau from challenger Benjamin Frank, with Bureau retaining the seat.

District 30 represents the Town of Vindland and portions of Neenah and Oshkosh, with incumbent Chuck Farrey running unopposed.

The ballot included two statewide referendum questions which were approved by voters. Unofficial results indicate 54.4% of voters supported a constitutional amendment to prohibit the use of private donations and grants in primary, election or referendums. About 58.6% of voters supported limiting conduct during primary, election or referendums to election officials designated by law.

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Wisconsin taverns can create social connections and fun

We live in the digital age when our phones are a permanent extension of our bodies, and our brains have an expectation of almost constant entertainment or distractions.

Let's put down our phones and look to our local taverns (yes, you read that right) for entertainment or

distractions. Wisconsin has a long history that includes corner neighborhood bars and breweries, and those establishments are now serving up drinks with chasers of fun.

- Bingo is back, baby, but so are ...
- Trivia nights
- Food trucks
- Live music
- Outdoor patios, some pet friendly

- Bike rides or runs
- Board games
- Book clubs
- Cornhole, dart and pool leagues
- And, of course, the good old reliables: cribbage board, Packers game on the big screen and happy hour (or a meat raffle – can't forget the meat raffle).

You don't need to look very far to find all these activities right here at many of Neenah's bars and taverns.

Let's try social connections instead of social media. You may think, well, that's great but ... I don't drink – while a Lion's Tail brew is nice, maybe a Shirley Temple or simple soda (or is it pop?) is more your style. I'm too old – nonsense! Maybe a White Claw isn't your style but a classic like a Rob Roy is. Cheers to fun.

Free diabetes prevention program offered to Fox Valley residents

Neenah News Network Health has expanded a diabetes prevention program now open to Fox Valley residents that can help them make lasting changes to prevent type 2 diabetes and improve their overall health.

The free program is part of the National Diabetes Prevention Program led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Those who have participated are reported to have experienced weight

loss of 5%-7% and have maintained their weight loss.

Lifestyle coaches work with participants in a group setting to reduce the risk of diabetes by helping with losing weight through healthy eating, becoming more physically active, and identifying barriers to healthy eating and physical activity.

Network Health recently expanded its Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) with its first class for residents in

Oshkosh. There are already a few classes in the Fox Valley and Network Health will continue to offer more classes every other month in 2024 and then every month in 2025.

The MDPP is a proven lifestyle change program to help prevent or delay type 2 diabetes and backed by years of research demonstrating that program participants ages 60 and older can cut their risk of type 2 diabetes by 71 percent—by losing weight, eating better, and being more active.

Until recently, only Network Health members have been able to participate in the program and it is now available to all local residents with Medicare coverage.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, more than half a million adults in the state are living with diabetes, and an estimated one in three adults, or 1.5 million Wisconsin residents, have prediabetes. Prediabetes can lead to type 2 diabetes and brings a higher risk of heart attack and stroke. Without weight loss or routine moderate physical activity, many of them will develop type 2 diabetes

within a few years.

Every year in Wisconsin, an estimated 5 to 10% of people with prediabetes progress to developing type 2 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes occurs when the body does not produce enough insulin or resists the effects of insulin. This can cause serious health problems, including heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, and loss of toes, feet, or legs. Rates of uncontrolled diabetes in Wisconsin have not improved in recent years and diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the state.

Participants in the MDPP receive a full year of support from a lifestyle coach and peers with similar goals, along with tips and resources for making lasting healthy changes. The program provides weekly 1-hour core sessions for up to 6 months and then monthly sessions for the rest of the year. Participants also learn how to manage stress, set and achieve realistic goals, stay motivated, and solve problems.

For more information about the classes, how to qualify and to sign up, visit networkhealth.com/diabetesprevention.

Brigade opens summer camp registration

Neenah News The Brigade in Neenah has opened its annual registration for a variety of summer camps serving future leaders between fifth through 12th grades since 1900.

On the Chain O' Lakes in Waupaca, Camp Onaway sets the stage for adventures in the lives of youth who come to the island. The weeklong camps are held throughout the summer with a mix of competition, tailored activities, and building relationships with peers and adult leaders.

Campers engage in activities that include swimming, tubing, skiing, canoeing, crafts, team tournaments, campfires, volleyball and basketball. Based on necessity, scholarship funds are available to apply for during registration. Go to www.bgbrigade.com for details.

Boys' Camps for sixth through 11th grade run June 15-22, July 6-13 and July 20-27. Girls' Camps are June 22-29, July 13-20, July 27-Aug. 3 and Aug. 3-10.

Anchor camps for fifth-graders are set Aug. 10-13 and Aug. 17-19. Day Camps for co-ed fourth- and fifth-graders are set for June 25, July 5, Aug. 14 and Aug. 27.

Onaway Adventure Camp set for Aug. 10-17 is a co-ed experience for fifth-through 11th-graders at Hartman Creek State Park and Camp Onaway.

A Leadership Training Conference combines education and camping with speakers, leaders, team building and other activities for youth who complete grades 10-12 this spring.

Family Camp set for June 29-July 3 is currently fully booked.



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Adult Bible Study: Sundays @ 10:30am, Thursdays @ 9:30am
Sunday School: Sundays Sept.- May @ 10:30am
Highschool Youth Group: Sundays Sept.- May @ 10:30am

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Calendar of events

Friday, April 5

First Friday Concert: Erin Krebs Trio, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library
 Daddio, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive, Fox Crossing
 Rockin' Psalms, 7 p.m., Faith Global Methodist, 1025 Tullar Road

Saturday, April 6

Wingz Crave & Pitch Disc Challenge, 4 p.m., Clayton Park, 3577 Larsen Road
 Sean & Brittany Duo, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive, Fox Crossing

Sunday, April 7

Lawrence University student jazz quintet, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, April 12

B.D. Greer, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive, Fox Crossing

Saturday, April 13

Brews with the Bunny, 5 p.m., Fritsch Park, Fox Crossing
 Joe Sly, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive, Fox Crossing

Sunday, April 14

Lawrence University student jazz quintet, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Thursday, April 18

Shop & Stroll – Spring Edition, 4 p.m., downtown Neenah
 Neenah Historical Society program: Orville Babcock: Scoundrel or Scapegoat?, 7 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, April 19

Jennifer & Kate, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive, Fox Crossing

Saturday, April 20

Charleyville 2024, 6 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

Sunday, April 21

PP3: Kenny James Live event, 2 p.m., Lucky Dog'z, 157 S. Green Bay Road

Sunday, April 21

Lawrence University student jazz quintet, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Monday, April 22

Earth Day Cleanup, 9 a.m., Fox West YMCA

Thursday, April 25

Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society Kitchen Tour, 10 a.m., five local homes

Friday, April 26

Mitch McVicker, 7 p.m., Faith Global Methodist, 1025 Tullar Road

Volunteer needs

Aurora at Home Hospice is seeking hospice volunteers to visit patients. It takes as little as one hour to visit and provide companionship to a hospice patient who may not be able to see family regularly. Or consider being a phone buddy or calling our families on grief support to see how they are doing. Contact Jayne at Jayne.Syrjamaki@aah.org or 920-252-5146.

Child Care Resource and Referral seeks volunteers for outreach at Fox Valley events in spring and summer. Tasks involve distributing brochures and bags, and aiding in children's activities. Example events include Fox Cities Kidz Expo and Butterfly Festival. Shifts: 2-hour slots, various dates. Minimum age: 16. Contact 920-886-1211 for details.

Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity and ReStore is seeking cashiers to join their volunteer team. Provide excellent customer service, enforce policies, handle transactions, and operate a POS system. Training provided. Commit to one shift every other week, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or 2-6 p.m. Visit www.AppletonReStore.org/volunteer.

Miracle League of the Fox Valley, a program of Goodwill Industries, seeks Buddies to support and encourage players on the field. Buddies, aged 12 and up, attend every game that their player participates in, fostering friendships and sharing the joy of baseball. This role requires enthusiasm and compassion, with a commitment of 75-90 minutes weekly. Matches are based on age and the player's needs.

Contact Jenny at jhaberman@goodwillncw.org or 920-204-6067.

Make the Ride Happen is looking for volunteers to provide transportation to older adults during the week so they can get to essential services. Drivers are eligible to receive \$.31/mile during their route. You choose when you would like to drive. All passengers are mobile. Contact Jan at 920-832-9360 or rsvp@volunteer-foxcities.org.

Fox Valley Literacy is looking for adult education tutors to support students in basic literacy or English Language Learning through reading, writing, spelling and conversation. A teaching background or foreign language is not required, though training is provided. Contact Paola at paola@foxvalleylit.org or 920-991-9840.

Junior Achievement of Wisconsin seeks volunteers to educate K-12 students on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work readiness. New volunteers receive virtual or in-person training and teaching resources. Teachers provide support in the classroom. Contact Kristine at kkolb@javis.org or Jill at jhenshaw@javis.org.

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass is hosting a Volunteer Open House from 5 to 8 p.m. April 18 for community members who are interested in volunteering at the museum at 165 N. Park Ave. to learn about volunteer opportunities at the museum. Applications will be available and refreshments will be served. Contact Jayme at eisch@bmmglass.com or 920-751-4658 to learn more.

Volunteers sought for region's largest trash cleanup

Neenah News

More than 1,600 volunteers will remove about 7,000 pounds of trash and debris from more than 65 northeast Wisconsin locations May 4 under the direction of the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance.

Organization leaders note that garbage shouldn't be one of the signs of spring, but after the snow melts, trash and debris are

often left behind.

The 12th annual event will focus on parks, trails and waterways with registered volunteers putting in about 2.5 hours of work. After the cleanup, they are invited to Pierce Park in Appleton for a celebration picnic.

Registration will remain open until April 23. Details are at fwwa.org/cleanup.

APRIL 4-14

2024 OSHKOSH CRAFT BEER WEEK

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Explore the rich tapestry of flavors and styles that characterize craft beer, while connecting with friends who share a love for quality brews.

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 Scan here for more information on Craft Beer Week.

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To find everything going on this weekend, visit DiscoverOshkosh.com



Submitted photo

The Neenah-Menasha, Fox Crossing and Oshkosh fire departments participated in training at Station 31 on Brezewood Lane in Neenah last week.

Fire report

FROM PAGE 1

attributed to other types of calls.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sets performance objectives for fire and emergency medical service (EMS) response including turnout time, or the amount of time it takes from when the alarm starts and when they begin to travel to an emergency.

For responding to fires, NFPA standards require a turnout time of less than 80 seconds and the first engine arriving on scene within four minutes. For EMS response, NFPA sets a turnout time of less than 60 seconds and the first responder arriving at the scene within four minutes.

In the first few months of this year, NMFR's average response time for all stations for all types of calls is six minutes and 52 seconds, from the time NMFR is paged until arriving on scene.

Fire Chief Travis Teesch explained that NMFR often responds to repeated calls at assisted living facilities, community-based residential facilities and apartment complexes. Using special software, he pointed out on a map certain locations that NMFR has responded to more than a dozen times so far this year.

Teesch said the area toward the edge of the city limits surrounding South Commercial Street takes longer to respond to but is seeing an increase in call volume. If the trend continues, he said the location would be noted for a future station.

Fire prevention is also a big part of the job, with NMFR staff inspecting 2,964 commercial buildings in 2023, which includes 12 new properties. About 64% of the properties were in Neenah, while 36% were in Menasha. The inspections yielded a 70% compliance rate.

NMFR puts a focus on educating the public on fire prevention and safety, both on social media and through in-school presentations. Teesch said that's because historically, fire departments have been reactive to fires, which in recent years has shifted.

"The focus has changed from getting that reactive force, to being more proactive and getting out and getting some public safety messages," he said. "I think the easiest way for us to put out a fire is to stop one before it starts."

NMFR staff logged nearly 20,000 hours of training last year. Plans include constructing a new \$1 million emergency training facility at Station 31, funded in part by a \$500,000 award from Winnebago County's Spirit Fund.

Teesch took over leadership of the department from retired chief Kevin Kloehn early this year. Mentioned in the annual report was an accomplishment under Kloehn's leadership, with the cities of Neenah and Menasha awarded the ISO Class 1 designation, which rates the fire suppression capabilities of communities. Class 1 is the highest attainable level and NMFR is one of only 10 departments in Wisconsin and 500 nationwide that achieved the designation.

Teesch noted the successes illustrated in NMFR's annual report were the result of chief Kloehn's dedicated leadership, which he hopes to expand upon.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation for the tireless efforts of our administrative staff, firefighters, elected officials, fire commission members and every employee of the cities of Neenah and Menasha who contributes to the success of our department," he wrote. "Your dedication does not go unnoticed and I am eager to build upon the foundation that you have laid."

Herald wins statewide awards for 2023

The Oshkosh Herald received nine awards, including second place for General Excellence, in the 2023 Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA) Foundation's Better Newspaper Contest for non-daily circulation newspapers.

Oshkosh Herald LLC also publishes Neenah News and together reach more than 53,000 homes and businesses in Winnebago County.

First-place honors went to staff writer Bethanie Gengler in the Localized National Story category on community efforts against human trafficking and to freelance contributor Randy Domer in the Feature Story category for his story about Fernau's Garden.

Gengler, who is also a staff writer for

Neenah News, also took second place in the Localized National Story category with a report on public defender shortages. Freelance writer Cheryl Hentz took second place for Health Coverage with a story on potential birth injury dangers.

The Herald took third place for Best Front Page, and former staff writer Kaitlyn Scoville won two third-place honors for General News Story and Local Education Reporting.

Gengler also received an honorable mention in Reporting on Local Government with coverage of the county board's diversity committee.

Newspaper award winners from around the state were recognized during the WNA conference in Madison last month.

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Consistency key for Rockets to compete in rugged FVA

By Dustin Riese
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Taking over any high school baseball program comes with its share of challenges, and second-year head coach Aaron Nelson found that out last season.

While playing in one of the most daunting conferences, mixed with a plethora of tough nonconference games, the Rockets ended 2023 with an 11-15 overall mark and 6-12 in conference play.

The record may not have been what the Rockets were hoping for but it was a great stepping stone for this program, according to Nelson.

Baseball PREVIEW

The coach believes the groundwork for the future of this program has been started, which was the goal last season.

“First season went well with a great group of senior leaders,” Nelson said. “They bought in and helped set the foundation to what we are looking to build in the program at Neenah. As far as the first year went, it has set the groundwork for this year and years to come and is something to build off of.”

Another positive take away from last season was the number of close games the Rockets were in, but they couldn’t always find ways to get the job done.

Now that the overall groundwork for the program’s direction has been laid, Nelson is excited to see how those games turn out once the 2024 season gets underway.

“Excited to get on the field and compete,” Nelson said. “Second year, expectations are understood and leadership is ready to go. Obvious goal is to win the conference. Obviously we play in one of

the toughest conferences in the state, top to bottom, so coming out each and every day with a consistent approach to compete at a high level is what we need to do. I expect us to be on the other end of those close games with our experience returning.”

Having any sort of experience is crucial, especially in the FVA, and that is one thing that can’t be coached.

AJ Price and Mack Krause are two players to keep an eye on as they logged plenty of innings last season and will once again be looked at as the leaders on the mound.

Price missed some time early in the season with an injury and now that he is back the Rockets rotation and lineup will be a little deeper than a season ago.

Along with those two, the Rockets bring back a cast of experienced varsity players who not only will contribute at the plate but be called on to pitch at some point after giving Neenah plenty of innings a season ago.

Tavian Ramos, Isaac Verbruggen, Ethan VanDyke, Trevor Stichman, Andrew Carlson and Will St. Clair return with a number of innings under their belts and will also look to lead this team at the plate.

Even with these guys coming back and hungry to take that next step as a program, nothing will matter if the Rockets don’t play with more consistency.

They hit, pitched and played great defense at times last season, but didn’t do it consistently enough, which is why they lost so many close games.

For that to change, the Rockets need to come out the gates hungry and play with more consistency start to finish.

“Consistency is the key to our season,” Nelson said. “We need to play catch well,

make the easy plays when outs are given to us, run bases well, and attack at the plate and on the mound. We have experience and great senior leadership; if we stay connected as a team and pick each other up we will achieve what we want to when all is said and done for 2024.”

St. Mary Catholic

When Jeff Hogenson took over the SMC baseball program three seasons ago, he knew the history and success that came with it.

Now entering his third season as head coach, he and the Zephyrs are in a position to have a special season after two strong showings the past two years.

This is a team coming off an overall strong season in which they finished in the middle of the Big East Conference with an 8-4 record and a 14-6 overall mark before an early playoff exit.

What stands out the most is the amount of close games this team played as three of their four conference losses were by one run with six of their eight wins also coming by just a run.

The level of experience the players gained from learning how to play in close games will be crucial for this season. Now it is up to the Zephyrs to figure out how to win some of those close games. With most of their starting lineup returning, you have to like their chances of figuring things out more consistently.

“We are very excited to be returning seven of our nine starters from the 2023 season, with five of them being seniors,” Hogenson said. “Our goal is to be much more consistent with our offensive production at the plate as well as to build on the pressure we put on teams running the

bases. In 2023 we had 137 stolen bases with only 13 caught stealing in 20 games.

“With a very experienced roster, we have a full schedule of nonconference games against some higher-division competition in our 2024 season. We are looking to really challenge our players to help give them the best opportunity to compete for a conference title, and make a deep playoff run this spring.”

Challenging your kids is essential for them to gain the confidence they need to compete at a high level and when you look at what SMC will be bringing back this season, confidence isn’t going to be an issue.

Fisher Mackenzie will be one of the five seniors looking to lead the way after hitting .366 with 15 stolen bases last year.

Although recovering from a hand injury he suffered in the last basketball game of the season, he is expected to be ready to go from day one and will be a huge part of the rotation as well as at the shortstop position.

Joining him will be Colin Nigl, who led the team with a .426 batting average last year. Like Mackenzie, Nigl will be looked upon as being one of the offensive leaders while also getting some more innings on the mound.

Aidan Birling hit .338 with 19 stolen bases for the Zephyrs in the 2023 season. Unlike Nigl and Mackenzie, Birling only threw 10 innings a season ago as that workload will be greatly increased this season.

Those three may be the ones stealing the headlines, but there’s so much talent on this roster that SMC is in a position to

SEE **Prep baseball** ON PAGE 15



Boys Varsity

2024 Baseball Schedules



ST. MARY CATHOLIC

Apr 5	Tournament @ Woodside Sports Complex (Mauston)	9:00am
Apr 6	Tournament @ Woodside Sports Complex (Mauston)	9:00am
Apr 9	Algoma	4:30pm
Apr 13	@ Oshkosh West	12:00pm
Apr 15	@ Reedsville	4:30pm
Apr 18	Reedsville	4:30pm
Apr 20	Invitational @ The Rock Sports Complex (Franklin)	9:00am
Apr 22	Mishicot	4:30pm
Apr 25	@ Mishicot	4:30pm
Apr 27	@ Cedarburg High School	11:30am
Apr 29	Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	4:30pm
May 2	@ Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah	4:30pm
May 3	St. Mary's Springs Academy	5:00pm
May 4	Winneconne	10:00am
May 6	@ Manitowoc Lutheran	4:30pm
May 9	Manitowoc Lutheran	4:30pm
May 10	Ripon	7:00pm
May 11	Laconia (Field of Dreams, IA)	7:00pm
May 13	Hilbert	4:30pm
May 15	@ Luxemburg-Casco	4:30pm
May 16	@ Hilbert	4:30pm
May 18	@ Southern Door	10:00am
May 20	@ Fox Valley Lutheran	4:00pm
May 21	Plymouth	4:30pm

Home games in bold. Home games played at St. Mary Catholic High School Baseball Field unless otherwise noted.



NEENAH

Apr 2	@ Oshkosh West	4:30pm
Apr 3	Kimberly	4:30pm
Apr 5	@ O'Fallon Township H.S., IL	4:30pm
Apr 9	@ Oshkosh North	5:00pm
Apr 11	Hortonville	4:30pm
Apr 13	@ Slinger	1:00pm
Apr 16	@ Appleton West	5:00pm
Apr 18	@ Kaukauna	4:30pm
Apr 20	Oregon	12:00pm (DH)
Apr 23	Appleton East	4:30pm
Apr 25	@ Appleton North	4:30pm
Apr 30	Fond du Lac	4:30pm
May 2	Oshkosh West	4:30pm
May 3	@ Kimberly	4:30pm
May 7	Oshkosh North	4:30pm
May 9	@ Hortonville	5:00pm
May 10	Appleton West	4:30pm
May 11	@ De Pere	11:00am
May 11	@ Ashwaubenon	3:00pm
May 14	Kaukauna	4:30pm
May 16	@ Appleton East	4:30pm
May 18	Menasha	1:10pm
May 21	Appleton North (Timber Rattler Stadium)	4:30pm
May 23	@ Fond du Lac	4:30pm
May 24	@ DC Everest H.S.	5:00pm

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Depth a key strength for Rockets again this season

Neenah News

With a strong core of returning athletes to build around, the Neenah High School boys track and field team looks to once again be a challenger if the Fox Valley Association and beyond.

The Rockets won the WIAA Division 1 state title in the 1,600-meter relay last season and qualified two other relays to the state meet. Having a number of those athletes back and a deep roster to round

Track & field PREVIEW

them should translate into a strength for the team. "The strength of the team is a solid core of athletes who were impactful last year and performed at a high level," commented head coach Kurt Krueger. "We will need them to continue to do so this year and help pull the younger athletes to the next level. We have a nice group of underclassmen who will need to take the next step to help the team out."

Three of the four runners from the state championship 1,600-meter team return in seniors CJ Fredrickson and Owen Wise along with junior Grant Dean. Fredrickson also ran on the 3,200-meter relay team and returns along with senior Alex Thayer, while Dean is the lone returner from the state-qualifying 800-meter relay team.

Seniors Connor Briones, Will Radies, Wise and Thayer along with juniors Joe Drawenek and Ryan Mendoza will be among the runners who could fill in the sprint relay spots, while also running individual races.

In the 3,200-meter relay, seniors Wyatt Armock, Jaden Leal and Braden Louden as well as juniors Aiden Apa, Braedy Klawikowski and Harmon Posegate could compete as well as handling the distance races for the Rockets.

Dean is the lone returning individual

that qualified for the state meet, competing in both the 200 meters and long jump and will likely be one of the Rockets most consistent point scorers this season.

Dean will be a leader in the field events along with Radies in the long and triple jump, Briones in the high jump, senior Sam Scheer in the throws, junior Max Reagan in the pole vault and junior Luke Jung in the discus.

Other newcomers expected to contribute at the varsity level for the Rockets are juniors Evan Cardoza, Ben Donaldson and Jacob Machacek in the hurdles and juniors Matt Machacek, Bennett Stuckel, Evan Vanevenhoven in the sprints and junior Bly Wheeler in the middle distance.

The Neenah girls will be lead by a strong core of middle distance and distance runners as well as some state-caliber relays.

Junior Mazie Olkowski is the lone returning individual state qualifying runner having made it to La Crosse in the 3,200 meters last season as well as running a leg on the Rockets' 3,200-meter relay team.

Senior Rachel Dietrich and sophomore Natalie Willes joined Olkowski in returning on the 3,200-meter relay team, with senior Lexi Dorner and junior Brooke Veith also among the group who could run in the relay or in the middle distance and distance events.

The Rockets sent all four relays to the state meet a year ago and the majority of those runners have the potential to return this season.

Among the possible returnees on the sprint relays included seniors Chloe Dwyer, Abbie Fischer, Ava Schalow and Lilly Granditzke, juniors Julia Rangel and Janae Rodriguez and sophomore Brynn Fox.

The Rockets also will have one of the top throwers in the FVA returning in se-

SEE **Track & field** ON PAGE 15

Prep sports roundup

SOFTBALL

Zephyrs pound out 14 runs in opener

Neveah Saringer had a strong opening game in the circle and at the plate to lead St. Mary Catholic to a 14-5 win over Manawa last week.

Saringer went 3-for-4 with three doubles and six RBIs at the plate for the Zephyrs, who scored at least one run in every inning they batted. St. Mary Catholic opened the game with three runs in the first inning, followed by five in the second and three more to take an 11-3 lead.

Rhiannon Reichenbacher added a pair of hits in the win, while Jaylyn Akey drove in two runs for the Zephyrs, who also benefited from nine walks and five Manawa errors.

Saringer made all of the offense stand up, striking out seven and scattering nine hits over seven innings.

SOCCER

McCauley's two goals lift Zephyrs past Waupaca

Bitzy McCauley scored two goals and assisted on a third to lift St. Mary Catholic to a 3-0 win over Waupaca last week.

Eliana Breen picked up the third goal for the Zephyrs.

Moorea Seckling and Audrey Wanless each finished with assists in the match.

Bethany Rupert made five saves in goal to earn the shutout.

TRACK & FIELD

Neenah teams take third at Ripon Showcase

Both the girls and boys track and field teams from Neenah finished third in the large school division at the Ripon College Showcase meet held recently.

The girls totaled 64.5 points in the meet, which was a point behind Homestead and 3.5 points behind team champion Wisconsin Lutheran.

The Rockets had two individual winners on the girls side as Rachel Dietrich finished first in the 800 meters and Mazie Olkowski took first in the 3,200 meters.

Elsa Gruber in the 1,600 meters and Lydia Delene in the shot put each finished in fourth place, while Lauren Linstedt was fifth in the 3,200 meters and Lilly Granditzke was sixth in the 200 meters. Myah Wenzel finished seventh in the shot put.

The Rockets also placed third in the 800-meter relay, fourth in 3,200-meter relay and seventh in the 1,600-meter relay.

The boys finished with 61 points to finish behind Stevens Point (111 points) and Marquette University (77).

Grant Dean in the 60 meters and Will Radies in the triple jump posted wins for the Rockets, while Owen Wise in the 400 meters and Wyatt Armock in the 1,600 meters each finished third.

Neenah also won the 1,600-meter relay at the meet, while placing sixth in the 3,200-meter relay and seventh in the 800-meter relay.

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Fredrickson finds perfect pace with Rockets



Submitted photo

CJ Fredrickson ran on a pair of state-qualifying relays last spring, including Neenah's state championship 1,600-meter relay squad.

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah High School senior CJ Fredrickson is entering his fourth season on the track and field team and has run a countless number of 400s during his time as a Rocket.

Fredrickson is such an experienced quarter-miler who many times doesn't even need to look at a stopwatch to gauge how he did.

"It hurts everywhere," Fredrickson said. "That's how you know you ran a good one."

Fredrickson definitely ran a good one last spring at the state track meet last June, leading off the Rockets' 1,600-meter relay team. Owen Wise, Ethan Snider and Grant Dean followed Fredrickson's lead with strong runs of their own as the foursome claimed the state title.

It was certainly a special day for the foursome and Fredrickson recalled the special feeling climbing into the top spot of the podium.

"It was awesome," Fredrickson said. "It was a goal of ours at the beginning of the season, maybe not win, but at least place. We knew we were seeded fourth (going into the state meet) so we thought we might place, but getting first was crazy. It was something we couldn't have imagined."

"I think it was one of those days where

Senior Standout



everything clicked for us. We all ran our best split of the whole year. That day, it was just something special that day that made us run to the best of our abilities."

Running has just always been something that Fredrickson has done.

He got started running 5Ks when he was younger and made the annual trek to Chetek – his father's hometown – for the Fishy Four on July 4. Back then, it was all about just having fun.

It wasn't until middle school and the opportunity to run on a team became available.

Then the competitive bug bit.

"I played baseball and I played football for a little bit, so I never really thought about cross country or track," Fredrickson said. "When I heard about our cross country team in middle school I decided to give it a try and it's been cross country and track ever since then."

The correlation between cross country and track is a common one. But Fredrick-

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

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Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

son put a bit of a different spin on it.

While most cross country runners will naturally and understandably, take on the longer races in a track meet, Fredrickson took the opposite approach.

"I came into track my freshman year and I went up to Coach (Kurt) Krueger and he's like 'Distance or sprints?' And I was like 'Sprints.' Ever since then I have been a sprinter," Fredrickson said. "It was always let's do the shorter race. The furthest I have gone is the 800. I did cross country to stay in shape for track because I love sprinting so much more."

For Fredrickson, though, it wasn't just about running the 400 meters. It's about running a fast 400 meters.

"Just coming to practice every day ready to get better and really giving it your all in practice is the way to (improve)," Fred-

rickson said. "Ever since my freshman year, the 400 has been my race and I have been striving to get better at that. Having that thought in the back of my head, just knowing that keeps me going."

Fredrickson does compete as an individual in the 400 and 800 meters – and he enjoys it – but being one guy out on the track in a Neenah uniform running a race, isn't what the sport is about for him.

He wants to be out there toting a baton, passing it to a teammate and watching what that group of four can do together.

"I like relays a lot more. It's just way more fun," said Fredrickson, who also ran at the state meet on the Rockets' 3,200-meter relay last spring. "You feel like you are accountable to the team. If one person doesn't run to the best of their ability, then the whole team feels that. So, you feel pressure to not only to run good for yourself, but also for your teammates. I think that makes it so much more fun."

So, even though track and field is a

thought of as an individual sport – and that's what some athletes appreciate about it – the team aspect of the sport appeals more to Fredrickson and Neenah's program is the perfect fit.

"Our (1,600-meter relay) last year, I was so close to those guys and we became such good friends," Fredrickson said. "I love our team. Our camaraderie, I guess. We have good team chemistry. We love being around each other. It's fun going to practice even if it may be hard some days. Coach Krueger is one of the best coaches I have ever had. It's so much fun having him as a coach and it makes the sport so much better."

As the start of the outdoor track and field

season looms, Fredrickson said the goal is to make it back to state in both relays and he feels like both have a good chance to do so.

In the 1,600-meter relay, both Wise and Dean join Fredrickson in returning from last year's squad and so the plan is to find a fourth and get back to the top of the podium.

"That's definitely the goal. I think the three of us are just going to get stronger so I think that's the goal is to get back there and try to do it again," Fredrickson said. "Nothing in life is free. You have to work for it. We didn't get handed our state championship last year. All of us worked for it to get to that position and that's what we have to do again."

Track & field

FROM PAGE 13

nior Lydia Delene, who qualified for the state meet last year in the discus.

St. Mary Catholic

The Zephyrs will boast a returning state champion and more depth than in years past as they take aim on the new season.

Junior Nolie Anderson won the Division 3 discus state title last year by more than six feet and will be returning to defend her title. She also could be a threat to go to state in the shot put this year after making it to sectionals in that event a year ago.

The girls squad will also feature junior Lauren Ripley in the distance events. The two-time state qualifier in cross country will be one of the area's top runners in the distance events, while she was also a sec-

ondary qualifier in the long jump.

Head coach Chad McCartney also expects some freshmen to contribute this spring with Claire Higgins running in the middle distance, Luci Nackers in the sprints and Lucy Norville and Moorea Steckling in the hurdles.

Leading the boys returning athletes will be seniors Ashton Post and Harry Higgins. Post qualified for state in the pole vault last year, while also running on the team's 800-meter relay team – along with Higgins - that made it to La Crosse.

Junior Preston Fields in the long jump and high jump as well as sophomore Maddox Dwyer in the sprints are also expected to contribute for the Zephyrs this season.

"We have more athletes on the track team than we have ever had in the past," McCartney commented. "That gives us depth and the potential to score points in every event."

Prep baseball

FROM PAGE 12

have different players beat you on different days.

As long as they play with more consistency, Hogenson feels the sky's the limit for his team.

"We will need to be more consistent on the offensive side for us to achieve our goals this season," Hogenson said. "In 2023 we averaged 6.5 runs scored

while only allowing 3.4 and although our pitching staff averaged 9.6 strikeouts per game, our offense struck out 6.5 times per game as well. If we can cut down on our 130 strikeouts as a team from last season and turn two or three of them per game into productive quality at bats this season, while continuing to get strong pitching performances from our staff and continue our excellent defense efforts averaging only one error per game, I think we'll have a good chance to accomplish our goals in the 2024 season."

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2 Veteran Cemetery Plots in the Veterans area of Greenlawn Memorial Park, 1451 Green Valley Road. All burial requirements are met. \$2,000 each. Char Kiesling 920-428-5655.

4 GOODYEAR TRAIL RUNNER ATM/S TIRES 245/70R17 like new \$300 920-836-2404

ACA GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES vet checked, UTD shots, dewormed, DOB 12-30-23 \$300 **715-267-6493**

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS Shots Vet chkd Can Deliv \$650-\$700 **715-255-2661 #269146**

BOATS*BOATS*BOATS Pontoons, Runabouts & Fishing Boats, 14-28ft. Horn Ford -Marine, Hwy 10, Brillion, 800-261-4676 www.HornFord.com

Chihuahua Puppies for Sale: \$350.00. Pictures available upon request. Call Roger (715) 304-8744 or (715) 304-6160.

CORGI PUPS (Parents Reg.) Merle colors avail Vet ckd Shots/wormed Well socialized w/kids \$500 Shawano 715-758-6282 (WCAN)

DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! **1-888-686-1458 (WCAN)**

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call **1-877-920-3533 (WCAN)**

FRITZ BARN PAINTING Rusty Roofs, Metal bldings Free Est 608-221-3510 920-821-6311

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL Can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're cutting installation costs in half & offering a FREE safety upgrade! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24 **1-833-224-4977 (WCAN)**

PLYMOUTH FURNITURE: QUEEN MATTRESSES FROM \$199 40 Styles on Display! All Sizes Avail. PlymouthFurnitureWI.com 2133 Eastern Ave Plymouth WI **920-892-6006** Open Daily (WCAN)

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a GENERAC Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-year warranty w/ qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-626-1009 today to schedule a free quote. it's not just a generator. Its a power move. (WCAN)

Purebred Golden Retriever Pups shots Vet-chk \$450 Cash Greenwood **715-267-6306**

REG COCKER SPANIEL PUPS dews, shots, vet checked, wormed READY NOW \$500-\$700 **715-536-0697 or 715-316-2522 (524892) (WCAN)**

REG TOY POODLE PUPS dews/shots/vet-chk'd/wormed Non-Shed \$500-\$600 READY to go **715-536-0697 or 715-316-2522 (524892) (WCAN)**

REGISTERED CAVALIER KING CHARLES PUPS Shots/Wormed/Dews/Vet Free deliv! \$650 **715-470-0458 No text #509642DS**

REPLACE YOUR ROOF w/the best looking & longest lasting material, steel from **Erie Metal Roofs!** 3 Styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% OFF Installation + Add'l 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders) Call **Erie Metal Roofs 1-877-845-6606 (WCAN)**

SILVER LABRADOODLES non-shed shots/wormed \$200. Ready to Go! 715-660-1085

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments & No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. **BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call today! 1-877-651-1850 (WCAN)**

Miscellaneous

47TH ANNUAL AUTO PARTS SWAP MEET & CAR SHOW! April 26-27, Jefferson Co. Fair Park, Jefferson, WI. **2 DAY SWAP MEET CAR CORRAL-CAR SHOW!** Adm \$15; No Pets. Fri 8-6pm, Sat 6-4pm, madsclassics.com **608-244-8416 (WCAN)**

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.) 1-920-922-4864 www.pdsadnet.com**

WANTED Older or Vintage Camper & Older Golf Cart or Moped **Call/text (262)-903-7522**

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)**


Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: CODI JAY SEEMANN BY CODI JAY SEEMANN Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2024CV000287

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Codi Jay Seeman To: Cody Jay Seemann Birth Certificate: Codi Jay Seeman




IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Hon. Michael Gibbs Place: Winnebago County Courthouse Branch 4 Room 211, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54903 Date: May 1, 2024 Time: 11:30 am

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Neenah News a newspaper published in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin. **BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: March 27, 2024 /s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs Run April 5, 2024, April 12, 2024 and April 19, 2024 WNAXLP**



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Kid Scoop

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Solar Eclipse

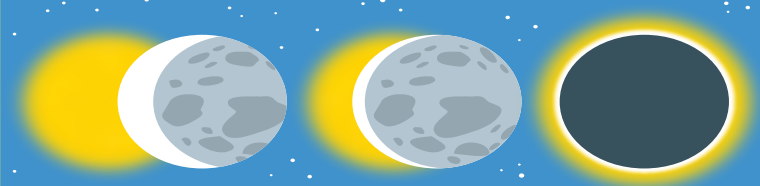
Imagine, it is daytime and suddenly the birds stop chirping. Animals curl up to go to sleep and the sky begins to darken. It isn't anything to worry about, though. **It's a solar eclipse!**

Whoa! It's the middle of the day. Why is the sky getting dark?
It's a solar eclipse!



During a solar eclipse, people and animals sometimes get a little confused!

Standards Link: Describe eclipses of the sun and moon.



A solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth. The Moon blocks all of the Sun's light. This is called a **total solar eclipse**.

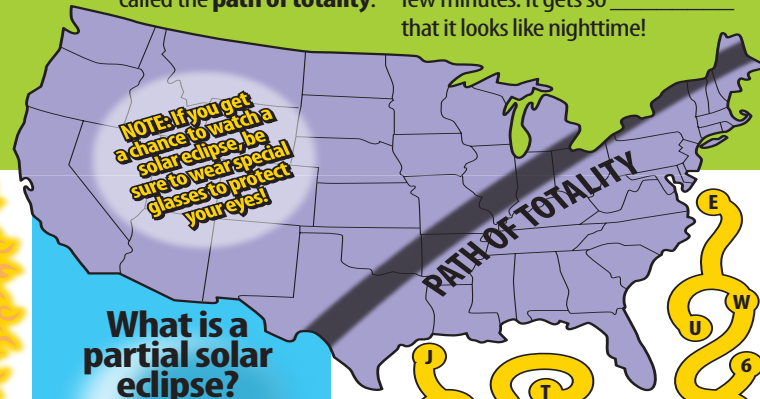
Replace the missing words.

BLOCKS SEE SHADOW DARK PATH ROTATES

Where can I watch a solar eclipse?

When the Moon blocks the Sun's light, it casts a _____ on part of the Earth. The only people who will _____ the total solar eclipse will be people in the _____ of totality.

The Moon's shadow follows a long path as the Earth _____. In that path, the Moon completely _____ the Sun's light for a few minutes. It gets so _____ that it looks like nighttime!



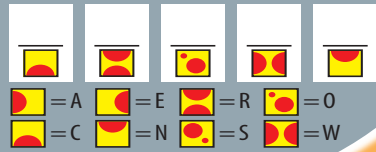
What is a partial solar eclipse?

Sometimes the Moon only blocks part of the Sun's light. This is called a **partial solar eclipse**.

Surprising Corona

The sun is surrounded by a layer of gases that are hard to see until a total eclipse. This layer is called the **corona**. The corona is very dim. It's usually hard to see because the Sun is so much brighter.

During an eclipse, the corona shines around the outside of the moon's shadow. Use the code to discover what the word **corona** means.

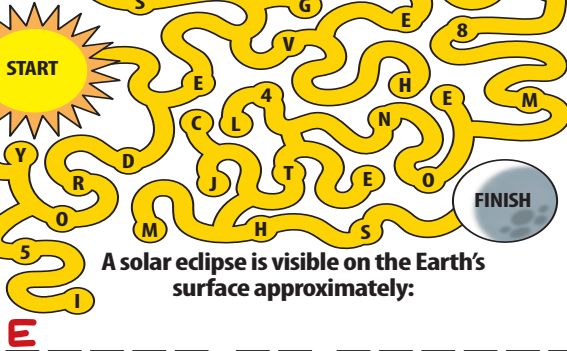


Standards Link: Describe features of the sun.

How often does a total eclipse happen over land?

It's easiest for people to see a solar eclipse when it happens over land. Use the letters and numbers found along the correct path through the maze to reveal how often a total solar eclipse is visible on land.

Standards Link: Understand the cyclical nature of eclipses.



A solar eclipse is visible on the Earth's surface approximately: _____

Extra! Extra! Grammar Eclipse

Select two sentences from the newspaper. In one sentence, black out each of the nouns. In the other, black out each of the vowels. Give the sentences to a partner. Which one is easier for them to understand? The one without nouns, or the one without vowels?

Standards Link: Recognize vowels; identify nouns.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

SUPER COOL: During a solar eclipse, the Moon not only blocks the light of the Sun, but it also temporarily blocks the Sun's warming rays. Hold this page up to a mirror to see how this can affect the air temperature in the path of totality.

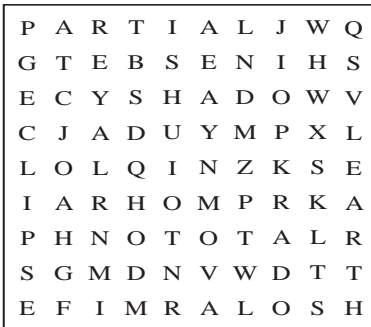


During a solar eclipse, the Moon not only blocks the light of the Sun, but it also temporarily blocks the Sun's warming rays. Hold this page up to a mirror to see how this can affect the air temperature in the path of totality.

Double Double Word Search

- CORONA
- DARK
- DIM
- EARTH
- ECLIPSE
- LAND
- LAYER
- MOON
- PARTIAL
- PATH
- SHADOW
- SHINES
- SOLAR
- SUN
- TOTAL

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



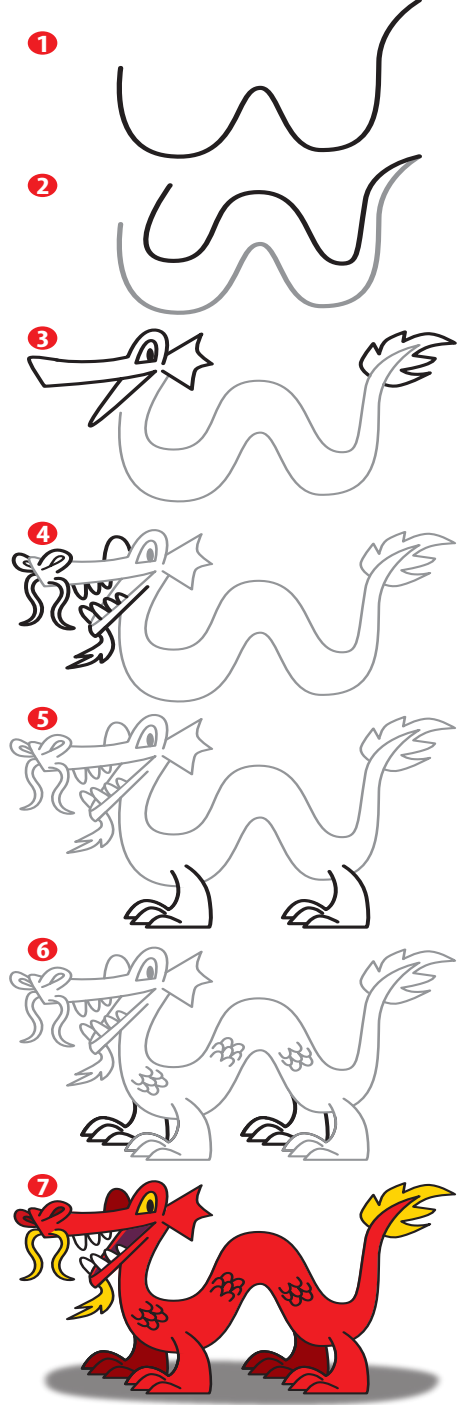
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together

Did a dragon eat the sun?

In ancient China, some believed that solar eclipses occurred when a dragon ate the Sun. People would bang drums and pots and make all kinds of loud noises during eclipses to frighten the dragon away.

Draw a Dragon



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Write On!

Sunny Person

If the Sun was a person, what would they be like?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write using descriptive details.

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