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## Bird scooters fade from Fox Valley

### Two-wheelers have been pulled from communities

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Recent visitors to downtown Neenah may have noticed something missing: Bird scooters have flown the coop.

Bird Rides Inc. removed all the two-wheeled vehicles that users find and ride

with a smartphone app from Neenah, Menasha, Fox Crossing and Appleton last month after discontinuation of the Appleton program.

Bird was founded in 2017 by Travis VanderZanden, an Appleton North High School graduate. The scooters initially made their way to the Fox Valley in Appleton in 2021, with Neenah, Menasha and Fox Crossing adding them in 2022.

Appleton and Neenah's initial agree-

ments with Bird required the company to reimburse the cities 10 cents per ride, which was increased last year to 20 cents. Menasha's yearly agreements required reimbursement of 10 cents per ride, while Fox Crossing received no reimbursement.

In December Bird filed for bankruptcy listing between \$100 million and \$500 million in debt, with its largest creditor

SEE **Bird scooters** ON PAGE 12

## INSIDE



### Public spaces

Police station update, animal shelter unveiled

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### Getting HELP

County program puts residents on right path

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Photo by David Hall

## Summer market view

A drone view from above shows the weekly Future Neenah Farmers Market last Saturday at Shattuck Park downtown. The market runs Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. until noon through Oct. 12.

## Middle school's Pickard Auditorium poised for updates



Neenah News

School officials and architects presented renderings and details of proposed improvements to Pickard Auditorium last week.

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Pickard Auditorium inside the Shattuck Performing Arts Center at the Neenah Middle School is poised to undergo renovations to modernize the aging theater while preserving its rich history.

A meeting on the plan for Pickard was held last week, where school officials and Somerville Architects presented renderings and details of the proposed improvements and accepted community feedback.

Pickard opened in the fall of 1972 with an audience capacity of 1,609 and what was considered at the time state-of-the-art light and sound systems. The theater has served as a hub for concerts, drama department productions, lectures and community groups for more than five decades.

Pickard has undergone few changes or

upgrades since its opening and in recent years its aging infrastructure and outdated amenities have posed challenges for performers and visitors alike.

Director of facilities Cale Pulczynski said the district is focused on cost-effective renovations that will refresh the space while preserving the structure.

Plans include adding a center aisle and accessible seating areas for those with disabilities, removing wall coverings and refinishing walls with paint or new wall coverings, upgrading the wood grain to a lighter wood grain finish, removing existing wood and acoustic material and adding new acoustic panels, replacing lighting, redoing the stage floor, new carpeting and repainting railings.

SEE **Pickard** ON PAGE 13

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# DNA technology cracks 1960s cold case

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County investigators have cracked a decades-old cold case using DNA technology, Sheriff John Matz announced at a Judiciary and Public Safety

Committee meeting this week.

The homicide case dates to the 1960s and though Matz was unwilling to provide specific details Monday pending notification of the victim and suspect's families, he said the case was solved due

to advancements in technology.

"It was one of those things where we had about five years ago sent DNA in, but with the improvements in DNA that company recontacted us and were able to identify the suspect and it was one of the individuals that had been looked at and that we had talked to on a couple of occasions," he said.

Though not confirmed, the details align closely with the 1963 unsolved murder of Wayne Pratt, who was stabbed 53 times in a gas station he managed along U.S. 41 between Neenah and Oshkosh. The 24-year-old's body was found by his wife on June 13, 1963, face down in a storage room with wounds that investigators said at the time were sustained in "at least two" attacks.

For decades the case was cold and in 2015 Pratt's remains were exhumed from Oak Hill Cemetery in Neenah for a second autopsy, during which additional DNA samples were collected. Those DNA results came back inconclusive. At that time a sheriff's detective said investigators had identified a primary suspect.

In 2020, the sheriff's office announced its intention to submit DNA evidence from four cold cases – Pratt's being the oldest – aiming at leveraging technological advances for new insights.

Another decades-old murder case in the Fox Valley was recently closed with the conviction of Gene Meyer in the 1988 slaying of Betty Rolf in Appleton. The investigation continued for decades, including a familial DNA search in 2019 that identified Meyer as the primary suspect. An Outagamie County jury convicted the 68-year-old man May 21 in a one-week trial.

In the Winnebago County cold case from the 1960s that was recently solved, Matz said the murder suspect would have been prosecuted but he passed away about a year and a half ago. He did not disclose the suspect's connection to the victim or their motive.

"We're going to come out with the information but because there can't be a trial – you're innocent until proven guilty – we're working with the DA's office with how we put that out and notifying the families of the victim as well as the suspect," he said.

The sheriff's office plans to disclose further details, including the identification of the victim and suspect, within the next two weeks, bringing closure to a mystery that has haunted the community for more than 60 years.



Neenah Historical Society photo

## Special treats

Archie and Betty Reiser purchased the Dairy Queen on Commercial Street from Leonard Matthias in 1966. The location had been selling popcorn, but Archie's secret recipe turned into what everyone enjoys today. The Neenah staple became known as "Archie's Famous Popcorn" and was trademarked in the 1980s. It can only be purchased at the 405 S. Commercial St. location.

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## Correction

**JUNE 28, PAGE 11:** In a story about new state legislative district maps, it incorrectly said Rep. Nate Gustafson was now outside of the Assembly's 55th District after boundaries were changed this year. He is running for re-election in the newly drawn 55th District.

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Facebook Group: Neenah High School Class of 1979

# Public gets a first look at police center, animal shelter

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Community support and a shared commitment to public service were at the forefront of two celebrations last week to welcome significant additions to Neenah's infrastructure: a modernized police training center and state-of-the-art animal shelter.

Both facilities opened their doors to the public, showcasing their improved buildings and missions.

Last Thursday, residents and city officials were given a first look at the Neenah Police Training Center, a \$5.8 million addition to the police department at 2111 Marathon Ave. Attendees toured the precinct, met officers and learned about the department's initiatives in crime prevention and community outreach.

The 10,000-square-foot addition includes a firing range, armory, conference room, defense and arrest tactics room, gym and virtual 3-D training room. The center is equipped with advanced technology and designed to enhance community policing efforts, representing a substantial investment in public safety.

Just a mile and a half away, the Neenah

Animal Shelter held a ribbon cutting and tours last Friday, drawing families, pet lovers, local officials, donors and supporters to 2475 Progress Court.

The shelter replaces a much smaller outdated facility in the town of Neenah and is designed to provide a safe haven for stray and abandoned animals.

Animal shelter staff will work closely with police to care for stray animals picked up in the city, with a designated area for police to bring in strays after hours.

The 6,000-square-foot shelter boasts spacious indoor and outdoor kennels, a dedicated veterinary exam room and surgical suite, "catio" space for cats to safely enjoy the outdoors and adoption rooms aimed at finding forever homes for animals in need.

Representatives from Plexus Corp., Galloway Co., Boldt Co. and Bergstrom Automotive were among the donors present.

Businessman John Bergstrom donated the parcel where the shelter was constructed and was influential in supporting the \$2 million fundraising campaign. Bergstrom, who is a dog owner, had a big smile on his face as he toured the upgraded facility.

"We all love our animals so much," he told attendees. "This was another demonstration where everybody pitched in."

During lunch, a dog jumped up and snatched a bite of Bergstrom's sandwich, eliciting laughter as Bergstrom eventually relinquished the remainder of the sandwich to the dog.

Mayor Jane Lang told attendees Friday that the new animal shelter reflects a broader commitment to improving the quality of life for all residents.



Neenah News

Visitors check out the modernized police training center last week.



Neenah News

Neenah's new animal shelter was dedicated by community leaders, including John Bergstrom (center) and Mayor Jane Lang (left) last week.

## Calendar of events

### Saturday, July 6

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

### Sunday, July 7

Neenah Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

### Wednesday, July 10

Evening Concert Series: FBI & the Untouchable Horns, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

### Thursday, July 11

Out to Lunch Concert Series: Hailey James "Swiftie" concert, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Live Music Series: Jim & Nancy, 5 p.m., Batley's Grill & Bar, 1010 Cameron Way

### Saturday, July 13

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Filthy Fun Kids Run, 8:30 a.m., O'Hauser Park, Fox Crossing

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

Live Music Series: The Rings Band, 5 p.m., Batley's Grill & Bar, 1010 Cameron Way

### Tuesday, July 16

Neenah Community Band Concert, 7 p.m., Riverside Park pavilion

### Wednesday, July 17

Evening Concert Series: Rising Phoenix, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

### Thursday, July 18

Out to Lunch Concert Series: Hailey James "Swiftie" concert, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Riverside Players: "Lend Me a Soprano," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park pavilion

Live Music Series: Tim Dorsey, 5 p.m., Batley's Grill & Bar, 1010 Cameron Way

### Friday, July 19

Riverside Players: "Lend Me a Soprano," 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park pavilion



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# County sees success with homeless prevention program

## HELP work to keep people in their homes

By Jonathan Richie  
NEENAH NEWS

The HELP (homeless, eviction and loss prevention) program cannot solve the homeless population and cannot help every unhoused person, but it is making great strides to not allow the vulnerable population to grow in Winnebago County.

The grant funded program has been in the county for more than a year and has helped hundreds of people stay in their homes.

“We’re helping people where they’re at,” Sara Brown said.

Brown is the supervisor for HELP, which operates in the ADRC inside the County Health Department building. HELP has three specialists that meet with people every day to discuss their situation and come up with solutions.

Beth Roberts is ADRC director in Winnebago County and said there are four things the HELP program is based upon: looking at all resources and collaborating with other agencies to make the resources accessible, helping people wherever they’re at, promoting the program so people know to reach out for assistance before they’re evicted or lose their home, and having a follow-up process.

“This program is designed to slow the feed of people entering the homeless community by trying to look at housing stability,” Roberts said. “It’s really looking at how do we help people before they get to that point of foreclosure or eviction or losing their housing.”

Roberts said a main focus is advocacy,

such as helping people who have lived in the same place for 18 years when a corporate entity is raising their rent.

“We can make a phone call to the local person and help explain the situation and come up with a solution to make sure that person doesn’t lose their housing,” she said.

This can include showing someone what resources are available for rent assistance or helping fight an eviction.

One person’s story that Brown and Roberts shared during an interview with the Herald was a woman who was being evicted because her landlord believed the woman had too many interactions with police at the residence.

“We contacted police and requested the reports of the woman’s interactions with police at her home. We found out there was nothing. The landlord was mistaken about the calls and the woman was not evicted,” Roberts said. “This isn’t all about money and public program. It’s just about understanding how to maneuver in the system.”

Another example of what HELP can do is assist someone behind on a \$600 power bill and either facing eviction or having their power turned off as a result.

Roberts said after meeting with a specialist they came up with a plan where HELP paid \$200, another agency paid \$200 and the individual paid \$200 to cover the costs of the bill.

“It’s very nominal funds we disperse,” she said. “Most of our clients don’t receive any funding.”

Each visit with a HELP specialist is dif-

ferent depending on the situation. Someone who cannot afford an increase in their rent will have different needs than someone who recently lost a job and has a mortgage.

The Wisconsin Neighborhood Investment Grant Program awarded Winnebago County \$10.3 million last year and those funds have been dispersed among many groups, including the Day by Day Shelter, the Tiny House Village and Solutions Recovery. HELP is funded through 2025 by money from the grant and after that Roberts says there will be state funding options to continue the program.

“The state has already reached out to us to share our program with other counties to help them start their own program,” Roberts said.

HELP came from Roberts as a way to provide assistance and guidance to keep people housed and secure to stem the increase in homeless people in the county.

Brown, Roberts and HELP specialists receive thank-you cards and follow up visits where people express their appreciation for the group’s efforts. They schedule follow-ups three, six and 12 months after first contacting HELP. The followup can be important as some continue to need resources to help keep their housing.

Brown said one woman found a place to live that she could afford but then needed

assistance for how to pay for everything that comes with it such as electricity, water and heat.

HELP requires people to be 18 years old and Winnebago County residents and has helped more than 500 people ensure they have a place to live.

The program has received more than 1,200 phone calls and walk-ins asking about the program who range in age from 20 to 89. A majority are over 60 years old.

“A lot of these people are on a fixed income,” Roberts said. “They aren’t expecting their rent to go up.”

The success rate of the program is around 80%.

Brown said residents should reach out to HELP the moment they feel their finances are shifting because if they wait until they are behind it could be too late.

“The first step would be to contact your landlord,” she said. “Then you can reach out to our office for assistance.”

“This affects everybody. It doesn’t matter what your socioeconomic background is or your race. Anybody can find themselves in a situation of housing instability.”

For more information or to speak with a HELP specialist, email [HELPProgram@winnebagocountywi.gov](mailto:HELPProgram@winnebagocountywi.gov) or call 920-509-7629. HELP also takes walk-ins at the Oshkosh Human Services Building, 220 Washington St., third floor.



Roberts

## Barbershop Music Appreciation Day celebrated

The Fox Valley Chorus will mark Barbershop Music Appreciation Day with Sweet Adelines International (SAI) by inviting the public to visit Tuesday evening rehearsals at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church, 200 Church St., Neenah.

The global event recognized July 13 was created in 2005 to commemorate the day of SAI’s founding in 1945, now one of the world’s largest singing organizations for women, with a membership of nearly 21,000.

The close four-part a cappella harmony, without instrumental accompaniment, is

characterized by the sound of its “ringing chords.” Along with traditional songs, barbershop music now includes more current styles of music – including pop, rock and show tunes.

As the current champion of its Northern Lights Region, the Fox Valley Chorus will represent the region on the Sweet Adeline International stage in Columbus, Ohio, next year.

The chorus welcomes women of all ages, and prior musical experience or ability to read music is not necessary. Vocal training and music education are valuable components of members’ many benefits.



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# Allens' Produce returns for another harvest season

By Randy Domer  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

If you're a fan of home-grown fruits, vegetables and especially that old-fashioned summer treat of corn on the cob – fear not. Allens' Produce is coming back for another season of home-grown delights.

The Allen family of rural Allenville has been satiating appetites for fresh picked strawberries, buttery sweet corn and a wide assortment of home-grown fruits and vegetables for more than 30 years. Russell Allen and wife Chris are not only married but are true business partners in the farm goods business. Recently they celebrated 43 years of wedded bliss and in that time raised two boys.

Their farm is just west of Oshkosh and Neenah in the tiny unincorporated town of Allenville on County G in the Town of Vinland.

The Allen family has been in the farming business for many years. As Chris explained, "Russell's dad (John Allen) and uncle (Ted Allen) started out as dairy farmers. Ted's son, David Allen and his two sons, still run the dairy operation today."

But Russell was not cut out to be a dairy farmer.

"In the early years we tried raising hogs when the hog market was good. But once the market went south, we decided to give it up," Chris shared.

Russell attended college at UW Madison and graduated with a degree in history. After college, he was looking for work when he heard someone in nearby Winchester was looking to sell a greenhouse. Russell bought the equipment



Photo by Randy Domer

Russell and Chris Allen have owned and operated their farm product business in Vinland for more than three decades.

and moved it to Allenville, where he decided to rent a farm from the Baer brothers who had farmed there for many years.

"We started by growing corn and sold it in front of the house in Allenville," said Chris. Over the years, the business

grew and the Allens expanded to include other varieties of produce. Today, in addition to the ever-popular strawberries and sweet corn, you will find pumpkins, squash, cabbages, cucumbers, beans, peppers, tomatoes, along with a complete host of miscellaneous vegetables at the farm stand.

Russell and Chris are now in their 70s, and a year does not go by without them considering retirement.

"We work long, hard days. During the growing season, Russell's routine starts around 5 a.m. and we will put in 12-15-hour workdays," she said.

Chris' work involves opening and closing the farmstands, replenishing inventory throughout the day as needed. You will also find Chris working the Allenville stand, answering the phone, taking orders and everything else that needs to be done.

Managing a farm business of this size requires about 10 seasonal workers, mostly immigrants that include Ecuadorians, Mexicans and Hmong. The Allens are proud of the work ethics of their farmhands.

"They are all very hard-working people and do 'stoop labor' that not everyone likes to or is capable of doing," he said, referring to jobs that require a lot of bending for planting and picking.

You can find their stands in Neenah on Saturdays at the Future Neenah Farmers Market, in Oshkosh in front of Revs Bowl Bar & Grill and in Winneconne in front of the Family Dollar Store. Or you can take a drive in the country and visit the stand at the farm.

## Company grant helps Sunnyview Expo barns

Neenah News

The Winnebago County Fair was one of 61 recipients of a Compeer Financial's Fund for Rural America grant that will be used to make improvements in the barns at the Sunnyview Expo Grounds in Oshkosh.

Improvements that the \$4,000 will go toward include electrical upgrades and installation of barn fans to keep animals cool and healthy in the heat and be focused primarily on the Dairy Barn.

The farm credit cooperative's giving program supports county fairs across the Upper Midwest, with this year's grants totaling \$241,850.

"County fairs are an integral part of summer experiences for rural communities," said Karen Schieler, senior corporate giving specialist at Compeer Financial. "These grants aid fairgrounds in supporting necessary updates, which improve the



Photo from Winnebago County Fair

A dairy exhibitor is shown at the Winnebago County Fair, where a \$4,000 grant will go toward improvements at the dairy barn.

experience for exhibitors and are enjoyed by the thousands of visitors attending fairs each year."

Since the program was established in 2018, the fund has awarded 422 grants for a total impact of more than \$1.4 million.



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# Residents reminded to obtain proper fire permits

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

With summer underway, city of Neenah residents are reminded that a burn permit is required for recreational campfires.

A burn permit is an authorization that allows open burning activities within specified guidelines. A permit is required for campfires and other recreational fires but is not required for outdoor cooking within a grill or other device designed for cooking.

The cities of Neenah, Menasha, Appleton and Oshkosh require a burn permit, which is typically obtained through the Finance Department and requires an annual fee. The cost in Neenah is \$17 and in Menasha \$20.

Neenah finance director Vicky Rasmussen said the revenue generated from the permits is allocated to cover administrative expenses related to processing permits, as well as costs associated with firefighters or police responding to complaints about recreational fires.

There were 998 burn permits issued in Neenah in 2023, bringing in \$16,966. So far this year, 892 burn permits have been issued, amounting to \$15,164 collected in fees.

Town of Neenah and Village of Fox Crossing residents that have recreational fires are not required to obtain a permit, though in some parts of the state a permit is required by the Wisconsin DNR to conduct burning outdoors. The DNR maintains an interactive map of all counties with active burn restrictions on its website.

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue Chief Travis Teesch said the burn permits are a way to educate residents on fire safety.

“When people get the permits, it’s a chance to tell them the rules about it,” he

said.

He added that the permits bring awareness to where fires can be in proximity to property lines and buildings.

“There’s checks that can be put on in that way,” he said.

Teesch said firefighters are not actively monitoring for non-permitted recreational fires and police and fire department responses are complaint-based. When a complaint comes in, dispatch sends the appropriate agency.

“Does it sound more like a police matter or does it sound like more of a fire department matter?” he asked. “Are they burning a couch in their backyard or is it just a nice clean wood fire? And people don’t like the smoke, because the winds are blowing in the wrong direction.”

City residents who have a fire without a burn permit can be ticketed, though Teesch said it’s rare. Generally residents are issued a verbal warning and required to obtain a permit to become compliant.

“Sometimes people start having a little too much fun, though, and decide to throw

the picnic table on it,” he said. “Well, then we’re probably showing up and telling them it’s not good for you to burn an entire picnic table.”

If firefighters identify issues, Teesch said residents are given the option to put out the fire themselves or firefighters will put it out.

“Usually us showing up is enough to correct a bad behavior,” he said. “And if we show up and everything’s fine, everything’s fine.”

Each city has its own ordinance that outlines the requirements for open burning. In Neenah, recreational fires are only permitted from 4 p.m. to midnight and bonfires are prohibited. Fires must be contained in an in-ground pit or portable fire pit located a minimum of 10 feet from any structure, fence or combustible material.

“Common sense dictates a lot of what should go on,” Teesch said. “But I don’t necessarily know that common sense is common.”

In general, Teesch said residents should only be burning clean dry firewood without paint or varnish. Garbage, recyclable

items and petroleum-based materials are not permissible for burning.

Fire suppression equipment must be available, with Teesch recommending residents have a garden hose or fire extinguisher present in case the fire gets out of hand. He emphasized the importance of restricting the fire’s size, ensuring children are kept at a distance and minimizing potential tripping hazards.

Burning is prohibited when wind speeds are in excess of 7 miles per hour. A drought or high winds can cause the DNR or other agencies to put out a burn warning, and Teesch said during those times people should not have a recreational fire.

Residents are also required to monitor recreational fires, with an adult attending the fire at all times. If a fire becomes out of control, Teesch said to call 911 and try to safely extinguish or confine the fire.

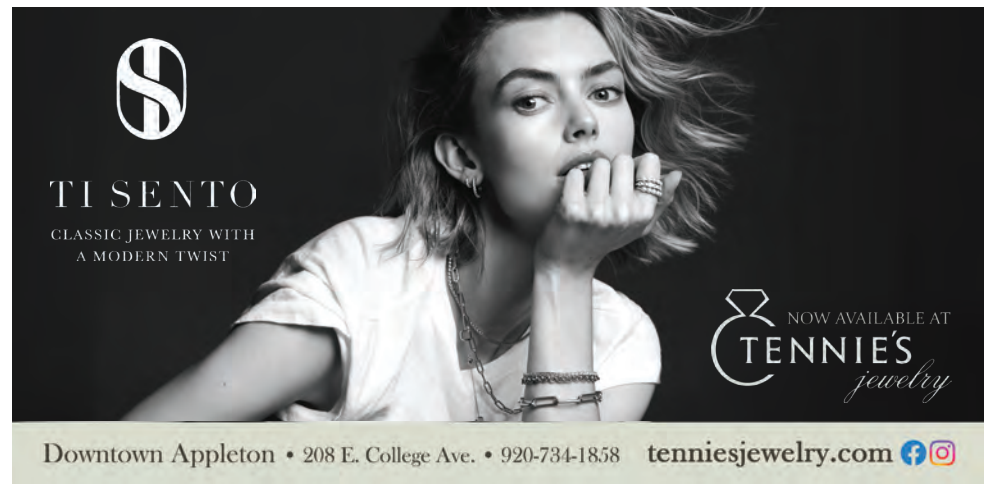
The message from Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue is that when it comes to recreational fires, a burn permit is more than a piece of paper – it’s a safeguard against potentially devastating consequences.



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## State loan approved for housing

Neenah News

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) has approved up to a \$1 million loan and about \$401,000 for infrastructure work to a redevelopment that is turning a former Kimberly-Clark office building into senior apartments at 2001 Marathon Ave.

The Vacancy-to-Vitality, Restore Main Street, and Infrastructure Access Loan Application was accepted for Marathon Flats, which has completed 31 studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments with another 30 on track for completion this month. One portion of the building is still being used by K-C for consumer testing.

Park Place Holdings of De Pere purchased the 148,000-square-foot, single-story building and surrounding 21 acres for \$3.75 million and began construction in 2022. Future development plans include an additional six townhouses with 12-14 units each.

Park Place Holdings apartments are designated for ages 55 and older. Rental cost ranges from \$895-\$1,395 per month.

WHEDA works with lender, developers, local government, nonprofits and community groups on housing projects.

### 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](mailto:submit@neenahnewsnow.com) or calling 920-486-1616.

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Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue photo

## Show of support

The firefighter training room at Fire Station 31 at 1080 Breezewood Lane was re-named last week to the Todd Stevenson Training Room to commemorate more than three decades of service Stevenson provided to the community and Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue (NMFR). Stevenson retired from public service in March after 34 years and during that time served 24 years on the NMFR Joint Finance & Personnel Committee. NMFR staff acknowledged his support of the fire department, Local 275 and its annual Santa Float. Stevenson is shown at left along with Mayor Jane Lang and Fire Chief Travis Teesch. Lang said in a statement, "It has been an honor to work with former alderman Stevenson for the past 10 years, and we were happy to recognize his over three decades of service to the city of Neenah."

# Longtime residents' garden on the move to new home

By Rob Zimmer  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

What is one to do after living in their home 37 years, amassing a collection of more than 500 varieties of hostas and hundreds of other perennial plants and shrubs, when it comes time to move?

That is the challenge facing Neenah gardeners Nancy and Mark Goodman, who recently decided to make the move to Wrightstown from the home they've lived in almost their entire marriage on the city's west side.

"Because of my mobility issues, living in a quad-level home was becoming more and more difficult, so I needed to find a ranch-style home," Nancy said.

That led to a search for homes throughout the area and the couple settled on a beautiful new construction ranch in Wrightstown.

As a Master Gardener volunteer, Goodman has become quite the plant collector, with a focus on hostas that fill the beautiful shade beds surrounding the home in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors.

Over 500 varieties, in fact. Many rare and collectible treasures adorn the shade beds beneath gorgeous maples started from seed by Mark decades ago.

In addition to the vast garden beds, Mark Goodman constructed a series of one-of-a-kind raised bed gardens for his wife due to her mobility issues. Unfortunately, this array of raised bed gardens are too big and heavy to make the journeys to their new home. The new owners will hopefully appreciate the handcrafted work that went into these beautiful and efficient raised gardens.

Now that the indoor move is nearly complete, it's time to dig up and transport as many of the plants as possible to their new home.

The process already began last fall, as many varieties of colorful hostas were potted up in containers and spent the winter that way, sprouting anew with the coming of spring.

Moving such a large variety and number of hostas will take some time, but the Goodmans are up for the challenge and can't wait to transform their new property into a hosta and perennial oasis.

"We start from a clean slate at our new home. There are garden beds around the home and a small hillside in the back with a trio of maples that will be the perfect setting."

Rather than start anew at the new home, the heirloom plants and hosta treasures Goodman has collected for so many years are a priority for the landscape and gardens. There are too many memories and too many unique plants to let go.

"Some of these hostas are plants that you won't see anywhere else," Goodman said. "I've been collecting them, as well as other unique perennials, for a long time. Some of these are my grandfather's plants."

Goodman points to a collection of heirloom irises, as well as lush clematis varieties that have been in the family for generations. Moving these to their new home is a priority before their property goes up for sale. Some are pretty tolerant of the long move, others will be a risky venture.

Over the next few weeks, these living memorials and botanical treasures will make the long journey to their new home.



Photo by Rob Zimmer

The Goodman family has had hundreds of varieties of hostas outside their Neenah home.

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# Public library calendar

**July 7**  
LEGOs in the Library: 1-3 p.m.

**July 8**  
Short Story Night at Lion's Tale: 7-8 p.m.

**July 9**  
Toddle Time Storytime (12-24 months): 9:15-10 a.m.  
Storytime for Everyone: 10-10:45 a.m.  
Family Program: Puppet Creation: 1-2 p.m.  
Legal Assistance Clinic: 4:30-6:30 p.m.  
Mah Jongg Meetup: 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**July 10**  
Baby Time Storytime (birth-12 months): 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
Musical Movers Storytime (all ages): 10-11 a.m.  
Bibliocycle at Neenah Pool: 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Lunch with the Library at Schildt Park: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Outreach at Primrose Apartments: 5-6 p.m.

**July 11**  
Wee Read Storytime (ages 2 & up): 10-10:30 a.m.  
Open Chess: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**July 12**  
Bibliocycle at Fritse Park: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**July 13**  
Tween Craft: DIY Bouncy Balls: 10-11 a.m.

**July 15**  
Memory Cafe: Concert with accordionist Micah Sommersmith: 1:30-3 p.m.  
Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club: 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Tips and Tricks for Food Preservation: 6:30-8 p.m.

**July 16**  
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months): 9:15-10 a.m.  
Storytime for Everyone: 10-10:45 a.m.  
Family Program: States of Matter: 1-2 p.m.  
Mah Jongg Meetup: 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
Cookbook Book Club: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**July 17**  
Baby Time Storytime (birth-12 months): 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
Bibliocycle at Neenah Pool: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Musical Movers Storytime (all ages): 10-11 a.m.  
Lunch with the Library at Schildt Park: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Library Board meeting: 4-6 p.m.  
Outreach at Primrose Apartments: 5-6 p.m.

**July 18**  
Wee Read Storytime (ages 2 and up): 10-10:30 a.m.  
Open Chess: 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam: 6-7:30 p.m.

**July 19**  
Sunrise Yoga: 6:30-7:30 a.m.  
Bibliocycle at Fritse Park: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**July 20**  
Volunteers! 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**July 21**  
LEGOs in the Library: 1-3 p.m.

**July 22**  
Monday Morning Book Klatch Book Club: 10-11 a.m.

**July 23**  
Toddle Time Storytime (12-24 months): 9:15-10 a.m.  
Storytime for Everyone: 10-10:45 a.m.  
Family Program: Tie-Dye: 1-2 p.m.  
Mah Jongg Meetup: 5:30- 8:30 p.m.

**July 24**  
Baby Time Storytime (birth-12 months): 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
Musical Movers Storytime (all ages): 10-11 a.m.  
Bibliocycle at Neenah Pool: 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Lunch with the Library at Schildt Park: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Outreach at Primrose Apartments: 5-6 p.m.  
Strolling Photo Workshop with Photo Opp: 6-7 p.m.

**July 25**  
Wee Read Storytime (ages 2 and up): 10-10:30 a.m.  
Open Chess: 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam: 6-7:30 p.m.

**July 26**  
Sunrise Yoga: 6:30-7:30 a.m.  
Bibliocycle at Fritse Park: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**July 27**  
Pollinator Program: Moths Matter: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**July 28**  
Repair Cafe Fox Valley: noon to 3:30 p.m.

**July 30**  
Toddle Time Storytime (12-24 months): 9:15-10 a.m.  
Storytime for Everyone: 10-10:45 a.m.  
Family Program – Summer Studio: 1-2 p.m.  
Mah Jongg Meetup: 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
Movie Talks: The Straight Story: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**July 31**  
Baby Time Storytime (birth-12 months): 9:15-10:15 a.m.  
Musical Movers Storytime (all ages): 10-11 a.m.  
Lunch with the Library at Schildt Park: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Outreach at Primrose Apartments: 5-6 p.m.  
Strolling Photo Workshop with Photo Opp: 6-7 p.m.

## Attend Classes and Camps at YOUR Museum this Summer!

### Paint a Pint Glass Tuesday, July 9

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# Neenah News

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Neenah News

## Kind words

Children listen to a story about kindness and afterward did crafting around that topic during Camp Kindness, a family program last week in the Shattuck Room of the Neenah Public Library.

# True cost of free events could use public support



Our future, Our Neenah

My favorite part of staying home sick as a child was watching "The Price Is Right." The best contest was the clock game. Guess the price of a fabulous prize while Bob Barker guided your estimates with high / low prompts.

In my mind, that game was a guaranteed win if you played smart. In real life the true cost is not always so simple to see or determine.

Summer event season is upon us and that means Future Neenah's summer concert series in Shattuck Park. While free for you to attend and enjoy thanks to our sponsors and donors, what are the true costs ...

- Insurance
- Talent: musicians and bands
- Permits
- Equipment such as stage rental, sound, tents
- Staff
- Advertising and promotion
- Printing of fliers and banners
- Event supplies such as trash bags, water and signage

When you break down those true costs:

- An investment of \$53 pays for a single song.
- An investment of \$98 pays for a song/stage/sound.

Help us to keep the music scene alive and well in Neenah with an investment in Future Neenah (neenah.org) to cover these true costs. No act of generosity is too small. All donors will be acknowledged at the July 24 or July 25 donor appreciation concerts. We look forward to seeing you at our concerts all summer long.

NMES members collaborate with both the Neenah and Menasha school districts to reach out to children in need. Children are identified by schools, social service agencies and other sources.

The Fair is held in August of each year. Each child receives a backpack containing supplies for them to start the school year prepared to achieve academic success and a certificate for a pair of shoes redeemable at Rogan's.

Please donate by completing and mailing your donations by July 21, 2024 to:

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Submitted photo

A launch party for the Network Nexus drew more than 65 people June 25 where the social platform introduced its mission.

## Network Nexus group ready to connect

Neenah News

A new networking group dedicated to collaboration among businesses, nonprofits and entrepreneurs has been formed with more than 300 members on board after a June 26 launch party.

Network Nexus is presenting a collaborative environment where all input is valued and ideas freely exchanged. The group is open to anyone looking to grow and connect, and can be found on Facebook at Network Nexus or on LinkedIn at Network Nexus – Fox Valley.

New members are encouraged to in-

troduce themselves on the group's social media platforms, share some information about their business or organization, and attend scheduled events to meet other members and find potential collaborators.

"At Network Nexus, we believe in the power of community," group organizer Jessica Williams of Whimsical Celebrations stated in a press release. "Let's work together to support one another and achieve great things."

For more information, contact Williams at whimsicalcelebrationsllc@gmail.com.

# Report details Winnebago County, UW-Madison partnership

The Wisconsin Idea Database project, which tracks the University of Wisconsin-Madison's connections with communities across the state, released data on the educational, workforce and economic partnerships between Winnebago County and the university.

Data from 2022-2023 shows UW-Madison and 44 county businesses and organizations brought nearly \$1.21 million in purchasing agreements to Winnebago County in fiscal year 2023, while county undergraduates received \$1,617,852 in grants, scholarships and other merit- or need-based gift aid.

"UW-Madison's tradition of improving lives beyond campus, known as the Wisconsin Idea, is integral to the university's culture and mission," notes Crystal Potts, senior director for state relations and statewide outreach.

As of last fall, of the 400 undergraduates from Winnebago County enrolled at UW-Madison, about 15%, or 59 students, were receiving aid covering the full amount of tuition and fees through either Bucky's Tuition Promise or the Badger Promise.

At least 3,189 UW-Madison alumni

live in Winnebago County, including 721 who graduated in the last 10 years.

UW-Madison works with more than 500 health care facilities around the state to place students in internships, rotations, preceptorships and other placements, including 11 in Winnebago County. At least 331 alumni of its School of Medicine and Public Health, School of Nursing, and School of Pharmacy currently live in Winnebago County.

UW-Madison partnered with at least 44 Winnebago County businesses and organizations in the 2022-23 fiscal year,

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## Student's grant support helps fund middle school program

Neenah Middle School is benefiting from the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region's Girl-Powered Giving program.

A group of girls have an opportunity to manage \$10,000 in grants for local non-profit organizations while each receives a mini grant to support causes important to them.

Taniya, a student at Neenah High School, used her mini grant to purchase exercise equipment for special needs students at Neenah Middle School. She reached out to fifth-grade teacher Stacey McGee to find out what equipment students could benefit from.

With her \$200 grant, Taniya purchased an individual trampoline along with medicine balls to enhance the students' physical education experience.

Women's Fund executive director Julie Keller said the contribution ensures that special needs students will have access to beneficial exercise equipment for years to come.

"July is Disability Pride Month, a time to celebrate the diversity and contributions of people with disabilities, so sharing Taniya's efforts highlight how young leaders can play a pivotal role in fostering an



Photo from Women's Fund

Neenah Middle School was given exercise equipment for special needs students through a mini-grant from the Women's Fund.

inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive," Keller said.

spending nearly \$1.21 million on goods, services and other expenses.

The Wisconsin Idea Database website details collaborations between UW-Madison and state communities, including 372 projects that benefit Winnebago County.

The UW Division of Extension supports local leaders and volunteers in focus areas that include agriculture, health and well-being, families and finances, and natural resources. In Winnebago County, 2,612 people attended Extension events in 2022-23.

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# ThedaCare honored for organ and tissue donation

Three ThedaCare hospitals were recently recognized by UW Organ and Tissue Donation (UW OTD) for the ongoing commitment to saving and improving lives through organ and tissue donation.

ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah earned the Gold Award of Hope, ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Appleton earned the Silver Award of Hope and ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano earned the Excellence in Tissue Donation recognition.

The UW Organ and Tissue Donation Award of Hope recognizes the comprehensive work of hospitals that achieve or exceed goals that maximize organ donation. The award is based on two measurements. One is the true conversion rate, which calculates the percentage of medically eligible donors that become actual donors.

The other measurement is organs transplanted per donor, which evaluates the average number of organs recovered from each donor. Hospitals can earn a gold, silver or bronze Award of Hope. A rate of organs transplanted per donor of 3.25 earns a bronze award, a true conversion rate of at least 75% earns a silver award, and meeting both metrics earns a

gold award.

The Excellence in Tissue Donation Award is given to partner hospitals that achieve at least a 60% consent rate from families when asked by care teams about organ donation. This metric measures the collaborative work between the hospital staff and tissue bank in coordinating communication with patients and families around tissue consent conversations.

UW Organ and Tissue Donation is a federally designated organ procurement organization serving more than 100 hospitals in Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois.

Dr. Laurin Bellg, a critical care specialist who practices at ThedaCare Regional Medical Centers-Appleton and Neenah, was also named as the winner of the 2023 Dr. Donn Dexter Physician Excellence Award from UW Organ and Tissue Donation.

The award recognizes the comprehensive work of one physician who exemplifies the highest standards of donation support.

To learn more about organ and tissue donation, and to sign up to be an organ, tissue, and eye donor, please visit: [DonorRegistry.Wisconsin.gov](http://DonorRegistry.Wisconsin.gov).



Neenah News

Bird scooters first started in Neenah in 2022 with 25 units and later peaked at 75.

## Bird scooters

FROM PAGE 1

Amazon with a claim of \$4.8 million. More than 300 municipalities, including Neenah, Menasha and Appleton, were listed as creditors. The scooters were expected to continue operating throughout the bankruptcy proceedings.

Appleton opted to end its ties with Bird earlier this year amid financial concerns with the company's bankruptcy. A memo in April noted Bird had not submitted timely payment of fees due to Appleton nor fulfilled its reporting obligations from the 2023 season.

In addition, the memo stated the scooters were the cause of many complaints and issues related to accessibility and safety.

"Bird must bring a solution to properly and consistently dock or park the rental scooters out of the right of way, parks, and private resident property," Appleton Public Works director Danielle Block wrote.

The popular scooters were also the source of complaints in Neenah. Similar to Appleton, the main issue was the location where riders discard them when they're finished riding them.

Bird reported 105 complaints in Neenah in 2022, though 90 of those were submitted by one individual. Eleven complaints were submitted to Community Development.

In 2023, Bird received 111 complaints in Neenah, with 101 of those from the same person. Three complaints were submitted to Community Development.

Earlier this year Neenah, Menasha and Fox Crossing entered into memorandums of understanding to extend the program through 2024, though Menasha later rescinded approval of the extension agree-

ment and added that it be contingent upon Neenah and Appleton's approvals.

The Appleton council voted in June to discontinue negotiations with Bird and create an ordinance prohibiting short-term rental of electric scooters to the general public.

Bird government partnerships manager Jimmy Gilman sent an email to Neenah, Menasha and Fox Crossing in mid-June stating that Appleton's choice to discontinue the program has strained operations and user experience in the area.

"If you have any relationship with staff or officials in Appleton, we encourage you to reach out to them with the message that a program that is geographically unified best serves residents of Neenah, Menasha and Appleton alike," Gilman wrote. "Our users have reiterated that message to us, and we hope Appleton decision makers will take these voices into greater consideration."

According to the email, Bird is temporarily pausing service to Neenah, Menasha and Fox Crossing while working with Appleton to reintroduce the scooters.

A fleet of 25 Bird scooters landed in Neenah in 2022, with additional scooters added bringing the total to 75. That first year more than 2,800 separate users took about 11,000 rides and traveled more than 30,000 miles. In 2023, Bird reported 8,853 rides in Neenah and 20,554 miles traveled.

Though all Bird scooters have been removed from the Fox Valley, community development specialist Samantha Jefferson said Neenah has not discussed working with other e-scooter companies and noted Bird called the removal temporary, indicating the scooters may return in the future.

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# Pickard

FROM PAGE 1

Patrons who were poked by a spring while sitting in one of Pickard's uncomfortable orange-and-brown audience seats will be pleased to learn that all the seats will be reupholstered in "Rocket-red." That includes a full replacement of the seat pan, springs and padding, "so the comfort should match a complete new seat," Pulczynski said.

The outdoor entrance will be refreshed with new signage. The pre-function space where people socialize before the show would be transformed with new carpet that includes a stripe directing attendees where to go and new red wall coverings, with architects suggesting adding monitors for announcements.

Improvements behind the scenes include plumbing, HVAC, electrical, asbestos removal and adding a deluge fire protection sprinkler system. The theater will seat nearly 1,500 and look similar to the Performing Arts Center at Neenah High School in Fox Crossing, which has a capacity of 850.

The opinion of probable cost comes in at just under \$4.5 million, which includes an additional 6% to account for escalating costs if the project were to be completed next year, which is when the district is anticipating if funds are raised.

Funding will be through private donations and sponsorships and won't involve a referendum. Community input will also play a role in shaping the final design and features of the refurbished auditorium.

District Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer, who retired Sunday, told meeting attendees that the next step in the process is to create a committee to lead a fundraising campaign.

"We're going to need people coming together to be able to one, finalize what these plans would be, and then to create that subcommittee, as well as the place where people can send donations," she said

Those interested in assisting with the committee may contact Jon Joch at 920-751-6800 ext. 10102 or [jjoch@neenah.wi.us](mailto:jjoch@neenah.wi.us).



Somerville Architects

Renderings show proposed improvements to Pickard Auditorium at Neenah Middle School.

renderings

Once construction is underway, renovations are expected to take about six to eight months. The district said efforts will be made to minimize disruptions to scheduled events and activities.

Pickard Auditorium is inside the Shattuck Performing Arts Center, which also encompasses the lobby and music suites and was renamed early this year to honor the Shattuck family's legacy and support with the closing of Shattuck Middle School after the 2022-23 school year.

The theater is named after Sam Pickard, who was president of National Manufacturers Bank of Neenah and Frank C. Shattuck's personal banker.

He assisted in organizing a fund drive for the auditorium, leading a group of anonymous donors who in 1969 gave the school board \$750,000 to support it. He died in 1973.



Neenah News

The current interior of Pickard Auditorium is shown.

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# Gaerthofner competes at U.S. Olympic trials

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Drew Gaerthofner got a glimpse of what he hopes is in his future recently.

The senior-to-be at Neenah High School qualified for and participated in the Olympic Trials for swimming held at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on June 15. Gaerthofner finished 28<sup>th</sup> among the 84 competitors in the 100-meter breaststroke, posting a time of 1-minute, 2.18 seconds.

“It was very surreal for me,” Gaerthofner said. “I kept walking out on the deck and I couldn’t stop smiling.”

Gaerthofner, who has verbally committed to swim collegiately at the University of Wisconsin, finished third in his heat at the Olympic trials and was the fifth fastest junior swimmer – participants born in 2006 or later – in the event.

He was a little more than two-tenths of a second out of finishing in the top 40 of the event. Nic Fink turned in the fastest time at the Olympic trials with a mark of 59.24 seconds, one of just five swimmers to finish in under a minute.

Gaerthofner, who qualified for the Olympic trials at a meet in Madison in early June, said he was pleased with the way he competed at the trials.

“I was super happy about how I swam,” Gaerthofner said. “I was really nervous beforehand and to be pretty much be right

on my best time in that atmosphere was great. I basically put together as perfect of a race as I could, the one chance I got.”

Gaerthofner entered the trials knowing that he was an extreme longshot to make the U.S. Olympic team that will compete in Paris, but he also dismissed the idea that there wasn’t any real purpose to him being there.

“I never want to say my goal is whatever happens, happens but I didn’t really have like a set goal for the trials,” Gaerthofner said. “My goals were to go there and have fun, enjoy the racing, take in the atmosphere and learn what the big-name athletes do and how they get themselves ready. Take this experience to the next trials in four years and have more of a better understanding of what it’s going to be like.”

Gaerthofner arrived in Indianapolis two days before he was going to compete and spent the day prior to his race getting accustomed to the surroundings.

What made this meet unique was the fact that an entire swimming area was built inside a football stadium. Lucas Oil Stadium is the home for the Indianapolis Colts as well as serving host to many col-



Gaerthofner

lege football games.

“It was pretty awesome. I went to the trials in 2021 just to watch and it was nothing near what was in Omaha,” Gaerthofner said. “Nothing like that had ever been done but they did a good job of while you are swimming, you don’t see the stands. You got on pool deck and it just seemed normal. You were just on any normal pool deck getting ready to swim.”

Gaerthofner, who finished third in the 100-yard breaststroke at the WIAA state championships last spring and is a three-time state qualifier, had been hoping to qualify for this Olympic trials while swimming with his club team of Oshkosh.

He knew exactly what he needed to earn the trip but had almost given up hope of earning a spot in this year’s field. At a meet last March, he had a strong swim but was still eight-tenths of a second short of the qualifying mark.

“At that point, I was like it isn’t going to happen this year,” Gaerthofner said. “I didn’t put it out of the question, but I came to the realization it wasn’t going to happen.”

Then came the Jack Pettinger Invitational held in Madison the first weekend of June.

“I was feeling good. After swimming in the morning session, I was like I’m going to go for this,” Gaerthofner said. “I did my normal thing (in the finals) and ended up

making the cut. Everyone went crazy. That was pretty fun.”

Now that he has competed in his first Olympic trials, Gaerthofner is already looking to the return to this level of competition four years from now.

He said that he certainly has a chance to make the Olympic team in 2028.

“I think I still have a lot of maturing to do both physically and mentally. Then, just keep grinding,” Gaerthofner said. “I know the coaches when I get into college, I have a lot of trust in them and they have a lot of background in big-time swimming in the long course pool. I don’t see why the Olympics would be out of the question.”

Gaerthofner is already back in the pool, preparing for YMCA Nationals later this summer and is looking forward to his senior season with the Rockets.

He said his break was getting to watch the trials for a couple of days in Indianapolis before returning home and is glad to be back in the pool.

“It’s back to eight practices a week and then lifting a couple of days, too,” Gaerthofner said. “The meet is just the end of the cycle. What you do now is really what matters, the work that you put in. I came to the realization that once you get there, it’s so fun being there that when you don’t want to do something or jump in the pool that day, it’s like no, I want to get back there and get farther than I was this year.”

## Volunteer needs

**Aurora at Home Hospice** is looking for Memory Bear Crafting volunteers. The role involves creating personalized and comforting memory bears from cherished fabrics, offering a tangible and lasting keepsake for grieving families. Contact Jayne at Jayne.Syrjamaki@aah.org or 920-252-5146 to learn more.

**Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass** seeks volunteers to become museum docents to guide tours and help visitors connect with the museum’s collection. No

experience needed; volunteers complete a thorough training program focused on art and cultural history, arts education, and the museum collection. Contact Jayme at eisch@bmmglass.com for more information.

**Make the Ride Happen** is looking for volunteers to provide transportation to older adults during the week so they can get to essential services, such as the grocery store, pharmacy, dentist and medical appointments. Drivers are eligible to re-

ceive 31 cents per mile during their route. All passengers are mobile. Contact Beth at 920-832-9360 or [rsvp@volunteerfox-cities.org](mailto:rsvp@volunteerfox-cities.org).

**Reach Counseling Services** is seeking volunteer advocates to provide crisis intervention and emotional support to survivors of sexual violence through the 24/7 hotline. You will also have the opportunity to work alongside medical and legal professionals while supporting survivors to reduce further trauma. In-depth training and

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# Neenah's offense goes quiet in loss to Appleton Post 38



Photo by Dustin Riese

Neenah's Zachary Waite puts the tag down on an Appleton Post 38 baserunner in a cloud of dust at third base on Monday night.

By Dustin Riese  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Wins have been tough to come by this season for the Neenah Post 33 American Legion baseball team.

On Monday night Neenah was held to one hit by Appleton Post 38 and dropped a 12-0 decision to fall to 1-11 this summer.

"This was a competitive game through three innings," Neenah head coach Matthew Waite said. "Our problem is that we fall behind by a run or two and then we tighten up. We feel we have to be perfect in order to win and when you play like that things begin to slip away."

Neenah starter Adam Lorrig held Appleton scoreless for the first two innings and the Legion trailed just 2-0 after three innings.

But in the fourth, Appleton pounded out seven hits and erupted for six runs to break the game open.

"This was one of those times where things went bad and we just tightened up," Waite said. "I would like for us to get out of that mentality and fight back to either tie things up or take the lead. It's something we have to learn as a team. Once we can do that a few times maybe we can turn the corner as a team."

Neenah only registered one baserunner

in the game when Owen Martin singled and stole second in the fourth inning.

That would be all the offense Neenah could muster off Appleton starter Gus Rieckman, who struck out seven in five innings.

Appleton ended the game by the mercy rule by adding four runs in the fifth.

It was the second time in the last three games that Neenah had been shut out after dropping a 5-0 decision to the Appleton Double Days last Wednesday.

Isaac Verbruggen, Ty McNeely and Wilson Balthus all had hits in the game for Neenah, which also racked up six walks in the contest but were unable to put a run on the board.

Lorrig allowed just three hits in six innings, while striking out four but took the loss for Neenah.

The following night Neenah lost at Appleton Post 38, 12-3, committing six errors in the loss.

Jackson Crowder had a pair of hits in the game, while Hunter Hilgers, Ryan Schnabl and Crowder each drove in runs in the loss.

Neenah will host Manitowoc Legion on Friday, before road games at De Pere on Monday and Oshkosh on Tuesday.

## Area's jobless rate for May was 2.8%

Neenah News

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County saw a slight increase in its unemployment rate from 2.6% percent to 2.8% percent between April and May, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Last May's jobless rate in Oshkosh-Neenah and the county was 2.5%.

The preliminary non-seasonally adjusted

data shows jobless rates in Metropolitan Statistical Areas increased or stayed the same in nine metro areas over the month; rates increased in 11 areas over the year.

Unemployment rates increased or stayed the same in 30 cities over the month; rates increased or stayed the same in 29 cities over the past year.

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

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## America's Independence Day

### Too Bad, King George!

On July 4, 1776, people living in the American Colonies declared their independence. They wanted to be independent, or free, from the rules of King George III of England. They wanted to form their own country.

They wrote a document to send to King George. It was called the Declaration of Independence, signed on July 4, 1776. This famous document says that all people are created equal and with certain rights.

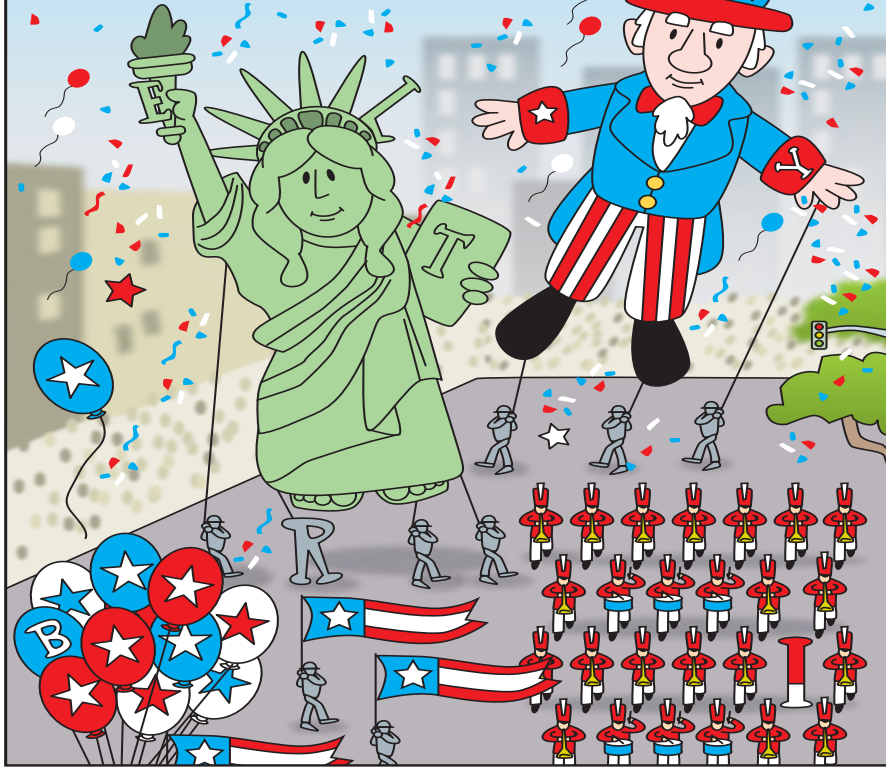
Unscramble the words to discover the rights mentioned in the Declaration of Independence.

**EFLI**  
**BILTEYR**

**PINESPHAS**

### Parade Puzzle

Can you find the letters L-I-B-E-R-T-Y hidden here?



How many stars can you find below?

**BONUS:**  
 How many stars can you find on this page?

Which two picnic pictures are the same?

**Extra! Extra! POP! BOOM! ZING!**

Onomatopoeia describes words that sound like the sound they make when you say them. For example, when you say, "Pop!" it sounds a bit like a pop. Look through the newspaper. Can you find three to five examples of onomatopoeia?

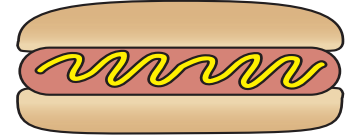
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### Fourth of July by the Numbers

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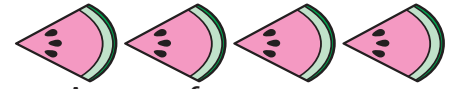
- = 0
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Number of hot dogs that are eaten by Americans on Independence Day:



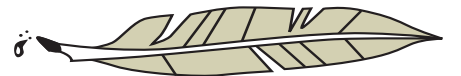
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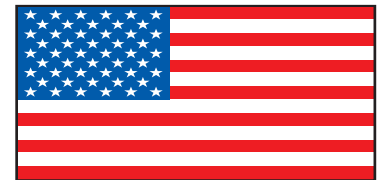
Amount of money spent on watermelon for the July 4th holiday:



million



Number of people who signed the Declaration of Independence:



Percentage of Americans who own an American flag:



%

Sources: History.com, WalletHub.com

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### Founding Father Favorite Food

One of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence visited Europe and fell in love with pasta. He brought back a machine to make macaroni and later, he became the first president to serve macaroni and cheese as part of an official state dinner. Which Founding Father was this? Circle every fourth letter to find out!

ASDT**F**J**K**H**D**ZMOVWYMLNR  
 AQMP**S**L**W**B**J**V**C**T**E**K**O**L**F**D**Q**N  
 F**T**R**Y**E**L**O**S**R**G**B**X**S**U**T**R**O**M**B**W**N

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Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Double Double Word Search

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

MACARONI  
 ENGLAND  
 SIGNERS  
 PARADE  
 FATHER  
 CHEESE  
 GEORGE  
 PEOPLE  
 RULES  
 PASTA  
 EQUAL  
 WORDS  
 KING  
 FREE  
 LIFE

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

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

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### Write On! My Best Birthday

Write about the best birthday you have had. What made it feel so special? Be sure to give at least five details.

Standards Link: Write descriptively using main idea and supporting details.

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