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Neenah News

## Menagerie of glass

Considered the nation's only outdoor all-glass art event, the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass Arts Festival on Saturday drew 43 artists from around the nation and beyond to the grounds of the museum on a sunny summer day.

## Primary voters pick Gustafson and Phillips

### County register of deeds, U.S. House races also set

Neenah News

First-term incumbent Rep. Nate Gustafson of Fox Crossing prevailed over Rep. Michael Schraa of Oshkosh in the Republican primary for the newly drawn 55th Assembly District that Schraa was shifted to from the 53rd that he has represented for 12 years.

Real estate agent and Winneconne native Kyle Kehoe will face Gustafson in November as a Democrat for that state seat.

Gustafson received 4,643 votes compared with 3,787 for Schraa in the Assembly district that covers Fox Crossing, Grand Chute, Omro and Winneconne, along with portions of south and southwest Oshkosh.



Gustafson

"I am beyond thankful," Gustafson posted on Facebook after the votes were tallied. "Onward to November."

Schraa, an Oshkosh native and owner of Leon's Frozen Custard, has been in the Assembly since 2012 serving the 53rd District that was remapped earlier this year with boundaries farther north of the Oshkosh area. He expressed his gratitude for serving the district in a Facebook post.

"The election results were not what

SEE **Primary election** ON PAGE 8

## INSIDE



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## Immanuel United ending long legacy as city congregation

Neenah News

Immanuel United Church of Christ will be closing its doors in Neenah after 150 years in the community, citing declining congregation numbers that were further challenged by the pandemic.

The Rev. Tom Fritz said the church's assets will be put into an endowment fund to support the community in perpetuity. Funds have been contributed over the years to Neenah public schools to aid low-income youth, among other initiatives.

Fritz, who has been interim pastor since 2019, said the church will close on the last Sunday of the year or earlier if they find a buyer for the building at 118 Oak St. at the corner of Doty Street.

Immanuel United was founded by 60

members of a Wisconsin Lutheran Synod seeking an independent Lutheran Church when they purchased the building in 1874 from the English Methodist Church, according to the church's website.

"As I understand it, it's the oldest structure of a church in the city," Fritz said.

In 1922, it joined the Evangelical Synod of North America and started services in English instead of German. The name Immanuel United Church of Christ of Neenah was sent in to be registered as its official name in 1961.

IUCC has held a community meal program twice per month with the part-

SEE **Church closing** ON PAGE 9



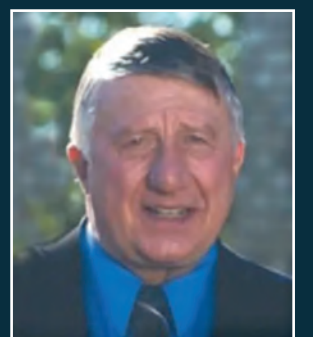
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# Police note traffic backups between cities

Neenah News

Recent vehicle traffic congestion in Menasha on Nicolet Boulevard, Ahnaip Street and the Racine Street bridge corridor is related to closure of Washington Street for traffic signal reconstruction at River Street.

Menasha police said Neenah is monitoring the signals at Ahnaip and Nicolet and at Washington and Nicolet, which Neenah controls, to reduce the conges-

tion that carries over onto Doty Island and into Neenah.

Road construction on Interstate 41 has caused additional traffic to divert through the two cities and with the Tayco Street bridge closed since August 6, the Racine Street bridge is currently the only intercity connection between Neenah and Menasha.

The project is expected to last until late August with a target completion date be-

fore Labor Day.

“There will be daily congestion and we ask drivers to be patient and plan for additional travel times,” Menasha police said in a statement. “Aggressive, inattentive and reckless driving will only cause crashes and add to the congestion and delays.”

Boat traffic has priority over vehicular traffic on the Racine Street bridge, which opens for boats, except in the event of an emergency.

## Art show features Neenah artist’s works

Neenah News

“Chasing Stars: Faces in Art,” a pop-up art show with Neenah native Ben Erickson, is set from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 17 and 18 at the Ballroom at The Reserve, 116 S. Commercial St.

The free show hosted by Future Neenah will feature more than 40 of Erickson’s paintings in his first art exhibition. The Neenah High School alumnus has painted more than 150 portraits with some incorporating mixed-media elements such as bottle caps, rhinestones, glitter, soda/beer labels and candy wrappers. Each painting comes with its own story about either the process or how he came to the final result or encounter to obtain an autograph.

Some of his notable subjects include Jordan Love, Aaron Rodgers, Brett Favre, Simone Biles, Jerry Seinfeld, Odell Beckham, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Steph Curry, Clayton Kershaw, Aaron Judge, Charles Barkley, Barry Bonds, John Daly, Dwyane Wade, Christian Yelich, Giannis Antetokounmpo, Post Malone and Luke Combs.

There will be a cash bar and live music Sept. 17 by Mary McCurdy.



Neenah Historical Society

## Downtown cinema

Bikes are parked outside of the Neenah Cinema in August 1996 with the movie “Twister” showing. The cinema was demolished in 1998 to make way for the Neenah Center Towers.

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# Vinland couple's sunflower field blooms into attraction

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

By the time you read this, the vibrant, golden-yellow sunflowers blooming in a field just outside the city will have faded, but their seeds will continue to provide nourishment for birds all winter long.

This marks the fourth year Paul and Heather Kuehnl of Vinland Farm Co. have cultivated a sunflower field on part of their 50-acre property in the Town of Neenah. They also welcome the public to enjoy the field for one special day each year.

While in previous years about a hundred people would show up, this year the sunflowers generated a buzz of an estimated 1,000 people who visited to take pictures, learn about agriculture and enjoy the brilliant blooms.

Paul loaded the back of a pickup truck with fresh-cut sunflowers that visitors could purchase and the line to snag one stretched to the road. While visiting the sunflowers, patrons also walked past field corn and sweet corn crops.

"People not only saw sunflowers, they asked questions about, why does this corn look different than that corn?" Paul said. "It's nice to get people out and experience local agriculture more than just the sunflowers."

Paul shared that the inside of a sunflower head is packed with hundreds of tiny flowers within its central disk. The florets attract pollinators, including honeybees seen collecting nectar from the blooms. Each floret may develop into a seed.

A fourth-generation farmer, Paul said he and wife Heather decided to start growing black oil sunflowers for something different to put in their farm stand at their home property near the intersection of County A and Nelson Court in Vinland.

If you've ever driven the Lake Winnebago lake road between Neenah and Oshkosh, you've probably seen the little red self-serve farm stand that's open year-round and seasonally stocked with sunflower seeds, deer corn, sweet corn, pumpkins and gourds.

Both Paul, 45, and Heather, 43, have full-time jobs. The farm stand provides supplemental income and a hobby.

"There's good days and bad days," Heather said. "You know, farming definitely takes a lot of time and dedication."

Paul added that it can be frustrating



Neenah News

Heather and Paul Kuehnl of Vinland Farm Co. have opened their sunflower field to the public each of the past four years at 3073 County G, attracting visitors each year before the flowers are turned into seeds to be sold at a local farm stand.



when the couple want to go and do something but instead needs to tend to the crops while the weather is good.

Last week, the sunflowers stood tall in the sunshine, ranging from just a few feet, to 6 feet or more. A rustic barn created a picturesque background as the flowers shifted and swayed in the summer breeze.

The breathtaking sight has quickly become a popular spot for photographers. Brooke Bornemann of Borne Brave Photography in Omro traveled there to take photos of Ripon High senior Sienna Dahlvig.

Bornemann said she and Dahlvig showed up at a sunflower field in Ripon but the flowers were too far past their

prime for photos.

"I cannot thank Vinland Farm Co. enough for allowing us to come out tonight to soak up all the beauty of their land," she said.

This week, the sunflower heads – called inflorescence – are beginning to droop in the farm field on County G as the flowers form seeds.

In early fall, the seeds will be harvested, stored in 20-pound bags and placed for sale in the farm stand. An acre of sunflowers yields about 2,000 pounds of seeds that provide a variety of wild birds with an important food source, especially during the cold Wisconsin winter.

Though the stunning visuals of the sun-

flowers in bloom have faded, those interested in seeing them will have an opportunity again next year as Paul said the couple plan to continue growing them. Information on the field and farm stand is shared on the Vinland Farm Co. Facebook page.

"I like to get people back in touch with agriculture because that's what's changed," he said. "If you go back to my generation or even two or three generations, everybody was more in touch with agriculture."

The sunflower field stands as an example of how a bright idea can blossom into something beautiful.

"We've always been out here, but we're maybe the little hidden secret."

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# District mourns passing of Tullar Elementary principal

Neenah News

The recent passing of Tullar Elementary School Principal Amber Zernzach is being mourned in the Neenah Joint School District after she was diagnosed with neuroendocrine cancer in April.



Zernzach

Zernzach, 36, was principal at Tullar for the past two years after a year as principal at Rosendale-Brandon Elementary School. She previously worked three years as a literacy coach and reading interventionist at Webster Stanley Elementary School in Oshkosh and taught fifth grade for a year at Roosevelt Elementary in Oshkosh. She began her career in teaching at Winneconne Elementary School where she was employed for five years.

"Amber made a significant impact on our

district and her students in her short time in Neenah as shown by the outpouring of support during her illness," said Neenah Joint School District Superintendent Steve Harrison. "This is a devastating time for all of us in NJSD. We extend our deepest sympathies and support to her family as well as the students and staff at Tullar Elementary."

The Kenosha native earned a degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and a master's in education from UW-Stout. She is survived by her husband, Ryan, and their three daughters.

A celebration of life for Zernzach was held Monday and her family suggested that in lieu of flowers or gifts that contributions be made to the Amber Zernzach Memorial at Verve Credit Union to support her children's educational aspirations.

Bill Richardson, a longtime counselor and administrator in Neenah until his retirement in 2022, has been assisting at Tullar and will continue as interim principal.



Neenah News

## Airport appearance

The ThedaStar air ambulance helicopter visited the Brennand Airport Fly-in last weekend west of Neenah. The annual event is the main fundraiser for EAA Chapter 41 with proceeds supporting the Fox Cities Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

## Local man convicted in four fatalities

Neenah News

A 48-year-old Neenah man was convicted last week in Waupaca County Court in the deaths of four siblings by intoxicated use of a vehicle Dec. 16 in the Town of Weyauwega.

Scott Farmer reached a plea deal in court by pleading no contest to four counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle and one charge of operating while intoxicated.

Other charges that included several traffic violations were dropped but read into

the record.

Farmer was driving the wrong way on County X at U.S. 10 on that Saturday night when he crashed head-on into a vehicle, killing Daniel Gonzalez, 25; Fabian Gonzalez, 23; Lilian Gonzalez, 14; and Daniela Gonzalez, 9.

He had four previous OWI convictions and his driver's license is revoked for life. A sentencing date has been set for Nov. 22.

An online fundraiser was created for the family of the victims, who were originally from Ecuador.

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# Law enforcement experiences can have personal impact

By Kyle Sorensen

As the saying goes, time goes by like the blink of an eye. It feels just like yesterday when I began my law enforcement career. While saying the year was 2010 seems like nothing, saying it was over 14 years ago already makes me feel somewhat shocked.

Fresh out of college and the police academy, I found myself in my new, crisp uniform, full duty gear, boots shined and the feeling of eagerness to begin responding to calls for service in the small Wisconsin community I was serving. As I would quickly find out, it wouldn't take long to

get sent to my first call for service.

It was a cool spring night, and I was just an hour or so into my first ever shift when my badge number came over the radio.

To say I was excited would certainly be an understatement. My excitement quickly turned into severe concern as it was a medical call in reference to a 17-year-old male who was pulseless and not breathing (PNB).

When I arrived, I was met by the father of the patient who was screaming, crying and absolutely distraught. As I tried to pull information out of the father about what had happened, we found ourselves in the attic of the residence where the father had found his son with a needle in his arm, overdosed on heroin. This was before the

## Programs await families looking for the help they need

By Sally Patterson

Please be aware that drug abuse can happen in any family. Abuse does not target one age group, nationality, sex, economic status or religion.

We were a "normal American family." We raised our three children in Neenah — small town, safe. We had a dog and cat and cottage at Lake Poygan. I was very involved in our children's lives — in PTO, room mother, chaperone on field trips.

The DARE program was invited to Neenah schools to equip the students with knowledge about drug abuse and skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with drugs and alcohol. Parents were invited to attend the sessions so they also could learn more about these issues and become aware of the signs of possible experimenting, the smell, etc.

I did not attend these DARE program sessions — my children would never be using drugs, I told myself. When Ryan, our middle child, was in third grade he attended his first DARE program. He came

### About the series

August is Fentanyl Awareness Month, highlighting the impact of a drug that has contributed to 59% of the more than 150 overdose deaths in Winnebago County from 2018 to 2022. Many of these deaths were unintentional and the number is rising. The Oshkosh Herald and Neenah News are sharing personal essays of people who have been impacted by fentanyl and other dangerous drugs.

Winnebago County Public Health, sponsor of the fentanyl awareness series, has resources at [www.co.winnebago.wi.us/node/13313](http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/node/13313) or by calling 920-232-3000. Substance use harm reduction services are available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

availability of Narcan. At this time, only some paramedic units stocked Narcan in their ambulances, certainly not law enforcement officers.

As the medical call progressed, lifesaving measures were performed and it felt like an eternity due to response rates in the area at that time. When paramedics and first responders arrived and took over, I watched as what seemed to be a lifeless body began to show life. The male was transported and ultimately made a full recovery. The family put their son into treatment and I'm happy to report that after 14



Pink fentanyl and related drug paraphernalia were seized during a Winnebago County drug case earlier this year.

Photo from Kyle Sorensen

years, he is alive and thriving.

This problem hits everywhere, from large cities to small. From young to old, from rich to poor. Addiction has no boundaries. Addiction doesn't care where you live, where you work or what your life story is. While I have been involved with countless drug related calls and investigations in my career, this next example has stuck with me and is a testament to my claims that addiction has no boundaries.

Back in early 2019, I was dispatched to a welfare check involving a family who had just moved into the community I was

servicing. The house they built was the nicest on the street, with eye-catching design, pristine landscaping, you name it. There was turmoil in the family and the husband and wife decided to divorce.

I learned that the couple's children had reported that "mommy" was spending a lot of time in the bathroom. They referred to a cupboard in the bathroom as "mommy's corner." A somewhat older child had taken a picture of what she had seen within mommy's corner and showed it to me. Un-

SEE **Sorensen** ON PAGE 11

### More information

**Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)** is a nationwide education program that tries to prevent use of controlled drugs, membership in gangs and violent behavior. (<https://dare.org>)

The **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** of Oshkosh is a nonprofit organization dedicated to education, advocacy and support to those affected by mental illness. NAMI Oshkosh partners with local crisis, law enforcement, social services agencies and community groups ([www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)).

home very excited and said, "Mom don't ever use drugs. — they can fry your brain." I replied, "Thank you. I will remember that."

A few minutes later he came down from his bedroom and pasted a sign he had been making on the wall. It was a no-smoking sign. He said, "Mom, no one smokes in our family.



Submitted photo

Sally Patterson and her son Ryan.

I am putting this sign up in the dining room in case visitors come that do smoke. They will know it is not allowed in this house."

Ten years later, Ryan was a freshman in college and his life started turning and so did ours. The children's bedrooms were upstairs and after Ryan had come home from college on a holiday visit I went up the stairs. There was a terrible odor. I asked Ryan about the smell and he said one of his roommates smokes and the smell must

have gotten into his suitcase.

We went on a family vacation that winter. We would come back to our rental and often there was this "smell." I asked two of our children who were with us about it and no one seemed to know anything.

Our awareness continued — bad grades, estrangement, walking around "doped up for 20 years." My message besides being aware is that there is always hope. Our family has had counseling, NAMI education classes and support groups, 12-step programs like Al-Anon and CoDa, church services, Bible studies.

Drug abuse can be turned around into a new life, a better way to live through supportive groups, healthy relationships. Or drug abuse can end in death, suicide or living an empty, isolated life.

One of every four people either is an addict or has someone in their family or a friend that is. Becoming aware, asking for help is the first step. There is always hope and support.



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# Nationwide program turns bags into benches

## NexTrex recycling challenge engages communities

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Turning trash into treasure has a new meaning to several local organizations and municipalities that are collecting thousands of pounds of grocery bags and other plastic to be made into park benches as part of an innovative nationwide recycling program.

Plastic bags are not recyclable through curbside recycling programs, with most ending up in landfills. The Larsen-Winchester Lion's Club and the towns of Neenah and Vinland are among the local entities collecting polyethylene (PE) film plastics, including grocery bags, bread bags, produce bags, ziplocks, bubble wrap, food wrappers and shrink wrap, as part of the NexTrex recycling challenge.

Participants sign up to collect more than 1,000 pounds of soft film plastics in a 12-month span and those that success-

fully complete the challenge are awarded a bench made from recycled plastics.

The NexTrex challenge is hosted by Trex, a composite decking company out of Winchester, Va. Trex collects PE plastics and mixes them with wood waste such as sawdust from flooring and cabinet manufacturers to turn them into decking, benches and outdoor furniture.

Trex recycling programs coordinator Emily Whitacre said there are benefits to using recycled plastic for decking and benches over traditional materials, with some lines warranted to last from 25 to 50 years.

"You don't have to maintain it in any way," she said. "I mean, once a year it might need a wash down. But it's not affected by insects, it doesn't fade, it doesn't stain. It's a fantastic product."

Each year, the company repurposes about 400 million pounds of plastic film.

"Over the past 16 years, our partnerships with schools and community groups have become a primary channel for sourcing this key ingredient for our products and we



Neenah News

A bench made of recycled plastic and wood waste is shown in Trailhead Park in Larsen, installed by the Larsen-Winchester Lion's Club that received it as part of the NexTrex recycling challenge.

want to make it as easy as possible for these like-minded organizations to be part of our upcycling process," she said.

The NexTrex challenge is open to municipalities, schools, civic groups, houses of worship and university organizations. The company reports that more than 2,500 groups and schools have participated nationwide, recycling more than 1.8 million pounds of PE film.

"With the NexTrex program, you not only know where your recycled plastic film is going, but also how it will be used," Whitacre said. "With the help of thousands of community partners across the country, we are able to divert millions of pounds of plastic waste each year from ending up in landfills and give it new life as beautiful and sustainable Trex decking."

Trex also has more than 3,000 drop-off

locations for PE plastics nationwide. In Wisconsin, those include Family Fare, Festival Foods, Fresh Thyme, Hyvee, Kohl's, Metro Market, Meijer, Pick 'n Save, Piggly Wiggly, Roundy's, Save-A-Lot and Webster's Marketplace.

Whitacre shared that one of the easiest ways to determine if material is a PE plastic suitable for recycling through the program is to check if the material stretches.

"If you can press your fingers into it and leave a dimple, it's generally the right type of plastic," she said.

Frozen food and chip bags, pet food bags, meat packaging and candy bar wrappers are not acceptable in the program.

The plastics are bailed and transported to a Trex manufacturing center where the

SEE **Plastic recycling** ON PAGE 7

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Neenah News

Larsen-Winchester Lion's Club President Beck Hilliker shows a trailer that is used as a drop-off site for polyethylene film plastics that are later turned into outdoor living products through an innovative recycling program.

## Plastic recycling

FROM PAGE 6

materials are made into outdoor living products. Trex estimates a 20-by-20-foot deck contains more than 1,500 pounds of recycled and reclaimed wood and plastic film.

The Larsen-Winchester Lion's Club has been participating in the NexTrex challenge for about three years, recycling more than 13 tons of PE plastic. A trailer outside its warehouse near Trailhead Park in Larsen is open to the public to drop off PE plastics any day or time.

Club president Beck Hilliker said he weighed it out and 1,000 plastic bags weighs about 18 pounds, meaning it takes about 55,000 recycled bags to reach the 1,000 pounds of plastic required to complete the NexTrex challenge.

The club has obtained about 20 benches through the program that are placed in local parks, including two in nearby Trailhead Park. Hilliker said the Lion's Club is in discussions with the city of Neenah to place some of the benches in Arrowhead Park, which is undergoing improvements.

The Town of Vinland began participating in the challenge in 2021 and collects plastic in curbside bins at the two town hall entrances at 6085 County T, on the east and north side of the building. Overflow PE plastic is also collected inside.

Clerk Karen Brazee said the town has received two benches from Trex through the program and is on its way to a third. One will be placed near the town hall in an area earmarked for a memorial for retired staff, while the second one is being raffled off to raise money to support accessorizing the town's new fire truck. Raffle tickets may be purchased in the office or at the Vinland 175th celebration from 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 14

at the town hall, with the winner selected that day.

In the Town of Neenah, Clerk Ellen Skerke said this is the town's first year participating in the challenge and began collecting plastic July 1. In less than two months, the town has already achieved 12% of its goal for collection.

The town hall has a drop box outside the front door at 1600 Breezewood Lane, so residents can drop off plastics any day or time. Skerke also encouraged area businesses to participate.

"There's probably a lot of small businesses that have this type of plastic, as well," she said. "It could be shrink wrap from when pallets and materials come into their building, or when they purchase products and are putting them out for sale, but I'm just thinking that smaller businesses might have an opportunity to save this type of plastic and keep it out of the landfill."

Skerke said even after the yearlong challenge is complete, the town will continue collecting plastic.

"Of course the bench is a nice thing and any time you can get something like that for free is a good thing for the town, but really the ultimate goal is to keep this plastic out of the landfill so if we reach that goal we're not just going to cut it off and say it's not our problem," she said.

Though a location for a bench made from recycled plastics hasn't yet been selected by the town, Skerke said Keating Park, which recently had new restrooms and a gazebo added, would be an ideal location.

"I think any of our parks could probably use another bench," she said.

In Neenah, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is also participating in the challenge; while First Congregational Church, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, Lakeside Elementary and Oakwood Elementary are among participants in Oshkosh.

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# Calendar of events

## Saturday, Aug. 17

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

Fox Valley Fish Fair, 11 a.m., Double-Tree Neenah Hotel

## Tuesday, Aug. 20

Community Band concert, 7 p.m., Riverside Park pavilion

## Thursday, Aug. 22

Out to Lunch Concert Series: North-soul, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

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

## Saturday, Aug. 24

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

## Tuesday, Aug. 27

Movie Talks: "When Harry Met Sally," 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

## Wednesday, Aug. 28

Boogie Downtown, 6 p.m., Wisconsin Avenue

## Thursday, Aug. 29

Out to Lunch Concert Series: Luma Knotty, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

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

## Saturday, Aug. 31

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

## Monday, Sept. 2

Labor Day parade and Labor Fest, 10 a.m., 157 S. Green Bay Road

# Primary election

FROM PAGE 1

we had hoped for last night," he said. "I finished with integrity, keeping my word that I wouldn't run a negative campaign. I will be forever grateful to my family, my campaign team and all the voters who trusted me to represent them these last 12 years."

Anthony W. Phillips defeated Blong Yang for state Senate District 18 in the area's only other primary challenge for the state Legislature, receiving 8,602 votes over Yang's 5,225

Phillips will now face Appleton alderperson and Democrat Kristin Alfheim for that redrawn Senate district that now covers the Oshkosh-to-Appleton corridor. State Sen. Dan Feyen, a Fond du Lac Republican who had represented District 18, is now running for District 20.

In Winnebago County, Town of Black Wolf clerk Susan Snyder defeated Oshkosh Common Council member Paul Esslinger as Republicans vying to be the new county register of deeds with Natalie Strohmeier not seeking another

term. Christopher Larson of Oshkosh, the current chief deputy in that office, is the Democratic candidate who will face Snyder.

Wisconsin voters also rejected two questions on the primary ballot asking if they think the state constitution should be amended to give the Legislature more control and limit the governor's power when it comes to federal fund distributions.

Unofficial results posted by The Associated Press showed both referendums failed by a margin of about 58 to 42 percent. The outcome was a victory for Gov. Tony Evers and other Democrats who campaigned against the measures. Critics argued the amendments would have introduced too much red tape by making it harder for Wisconsin to distribute aid quickly during an emergency.

Former Neenah mayor and Assembly member Dean Kaufert will be the Republican challenger for the new 53rd District covering much of Neenah and Menasha against Democrat Duane Shukoski, also from Neenah, in the November election. Neither candidate had an opponent in the primary.

In the 8th Congressional District, businessman Tony Wied defeated former state Sen. Roger Roth and state Sen. Andre Jacque to become the GOP candidate seeking to replace Mike Gallagher in the House of Representatives.

Wied will be challenged Nov. 5 by Kristin Lyerly, an obstetrician-gynecologist and Democrat from Appleton.

Sunwest Bank chief executive Eric Hovde easily advanced in the Republican primary over two other candidates to earn the right to challenge incumbent Sen. Tammy Baldwin in the U.S. Senate race.

# Neenah News

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

Questions! Questions! Let us introduce ourselves!

## Who owns the Neenah News?

Neenah News is family-supported by Jeff and Karen Schneider of Oshkosh. Karen is the sole owner of Oshkosh Herald LLC, parent company for both the Oshkosh Herald and Neenah News. She has worked at several newspapers since the mid-1980s where she got her start in the A/R department of the Arizona Republic.

We are locally owned and operated and not affiliated with any other media organization, nor are we a rebranded News-Record.

## Why Neenah?

Schneider likes to say that after receiving many requests to expand the Herald, which debuted in January 2018, in different communities over the years one writer from Neenah/Fox Crossing "caught me at a weak moment" and the expansion to Neenah began in February 2022.

## Why did I start receiving it every week in the mail?

Our mission began as a quest to have better-informed communities by filling the void of local news.

Originally launched as a subscription model, Neenah News increased its distribution using bulk mail to every address in ZIP code 54956 in August 2023 with a special issue featuring the new Neenah High School.

Nearly 1,000 families and several local businesses supported Neenah News from the beginning, knowing community news is vital for a healthy community. What the businesses learned is that "print is not dead" as an advertising vehicle and requested Neenah News to follow the bulk mail model of the Herald.

## How many newspapers get mailed every week?

We now mail just over 21,300 copies in ZIP code 54956 of the Neenah News. The Herald has a mailing of 32,000. Together we reach more than 53,000 homes and 88,000 readers in Winnebago County.

## Is a weekly newspaper sustainable?

Great question! One thing to understand is the Schneiders' investment is in paper and postage. Unlike brick-and-mortar stores that may put their capital in equipment and inventory, our investment's value is in the information we share - which isn't something you can take to the bank.

The newspaper is a "community" product. Its sustainability is based on the support of advertisers and community members who support our mission. The advertising will be sustainable if we "shop local." We often hear how a reader shops at XYZ because they advertise in the News or Herald. We receive donations from readers and we have a Membership program where readers join for \$50 annually. Members and supporters receive offers throughout the year as a Thank You for their support.

If you have questions, please email karen at karen@oshkoshherald.com.

To become a member visit [www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe](http://www.neenahnewsnow.com/subscribe) or call our office at 920-486-1616.



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Neenah News

A court shown in Trailhead Park in Larsen has been revamped to serve as both a basketball and pickleball court.

## Pickleball court nears completion in Larsen

Neenah News

A new pickleball court at Trailhead Park in Larsen will be ready for public use by the end of the month, funded by the Larsen-Winchester Lion's Club.

The pickleball court shares space with a basketball court. The pavement of the basketball court has been sealed so it's non-slip and pickleball lines have been painted, dividing the playing area.

Pickleball is a popular racquet sport similar to tennis and badminton, with a net that's slightly lower than a tennis net.

The Lion's Club has been working with Larsen to improve the park adjacent to the club's warehouse at 8348 Trailhead Drive and previously purchased and installed playground equipment in the park.

In recent years, the club installed a pavilion at a cost of \$15,000 and a basketball

court at a cost of \$25,000, which features adjustable height hoops to accommodate players of different ages, skill levels and physical abilities.

President Beck Hilliker said the club initially considered constructing a separate pickleball court but the cost was prohibitive. With the basketball court not seeing much use, the club instead decided to repurpose it so that the court could be used for basketball or pickleball.

The club invested about \$6,000 into repaving the court for dual use. This week, a portable pickleball net was ordered and once it arrives the courts will be ready for players. The net is on casters, so if a person wants to play basketball, it can be moved.

Hilliker said the new pickleball court is one of the many ways the Lion's Club is giving back to local communities and organizations.

## Church closing

FROM PAGE 1

nership of New Hope Lutheran Church that will continue as long as the church remains open. That program could continue as part of the endowment fund or in the event another church occupies the building.

The 18,600-square-foot building on about one-third acre was recently listed by J. Ross & Associates for \$700,000.

Endowment details will be determined this fall when church leaders know the disposition of the building. If there isn't a buyer before the end of the year the church will be deeded over to its regional conference, which will disperse the funds.

"That way our presence in the community will not die; it just morphs into another kind of ministry," Fritz said.

"Even though our church is closing, our presence here in Neenah will continue forever."

The church shared a pastor with a Lutheran church in Oshkosh before Fritz, who also was co-founder of the re-

gion's LEAVEN assistance organization, stepped in as interim leader. He said deficit spending and declining congregation numbers forced the tough decision to end the church's time as an active congregation.

Financial assets will be put into a fund earning interest as the congregation decides who and what programs will be supported indefinitely.

"We will be leaving a legacy, and it will be a legacy of service to the community for programs that have a human need," Fritz said. "We just have to figure that part out."

The church's council will organize its historical records that will be transferred to the Neenah Historical Society, which will process it for its archives. Museum coordinator and archivist Miranda Ridener said the procedure allows them to review and note significant documents and input that information in its system for research needs.

Immanuel United's final service is tentatively set for Dec. 29 and open to anyone in the community who has had a connection with the congregation.

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# Neenah's Rabas gets taste of international basketball

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

When Lee Rabas glanced across the basketball court last month, the Neenah boys basketball coach wasn't seeing the best players the Fox Valley Association has to offer.

He was looking at Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Rabas spent part of his summer vacation serving as an assistant coach for the Bahamas nationals men's basketball team, which was trying to qualify for the 2024 Olympic games.

"It was a very unique experience," Rabas said. "The word I kept telling people was that it was a little bit surreal."

Rabas earned the chance to be a part of the Bahamas program because of his relationship with the team's head coach, Chris DeMarco. DeMarco, who is also an assistant coach for the Golden State Warriors, played for Rabas at Xavier High School in Appleton.

DeMarco contacted Rabas in the summer of 2023 when he had returned to Appleton for two funerals. While the two talked, DeMarco made the offer for Rabas to come to Puerto Rico in August to help prepare the team for a tournament in Argentina.

Before departing, DeMarco told Rabas he would call him the next day for his answer.

"The next day he called out of the blue

and asked me if I asked my wife about making the trip," Rabas said. "I said hold on and asked my wife if she minded if I went to Puerto Rico for a week and she was like, 'What?'"

After explaining the situation to his wife, Dawn, Rabas accepted the offer and in August flew down to Puerto Rico alongside AJ Storr, who played with the Wisconsin Badgers last season. Storr was brought in to practice against the Bahamas team.

Following the week of practice, Rabas returned to Neenah while the Bahamas team traveled to Argentina where it won a tournament to earn a spot in this summer's Olympic qualifier. When the groupings for the Olympic qualifiers were released in October, Rabas got another call from DeMarco.

"He called me and said, 'Get your passport.' I want you coming along for the whole thing this year," Rabas said. "It was very kind of Chris to give me this opportunity."

The preparation for the Olympic qualifier began in mid-June with a five-day practice stint in Houston. When that was concluded, Rabas and the team flew to Greece for more preparation, which in-

cluded exhibition games against Montenegro and Greece – which was led by Antetokounmpo, the star of the Milwaukee Bucks.

"My wife and son are back here in the states watching a game and we have a time out and the camera is on me," Rabas said. "All of a sudden it shifts over to the other side and Giannis is there."

After the two exhibition games, the team traveled to Valencia, Spain, for the qualifying tournament. The Bahamas topped Poland and Finland in pool play and then beat Lebanon in the semifinals to advance to the tournament final – with the winner earning a spot in the Olympics.

But Spain was able to knock off the Bahamas, 86-78, ending the team's hopes of playing in Paris.

"Watching the Olympics and I'm watching the Spanish team on TV and I am literally ... those guys were in our hotel and on the practice floor. I saw those guys every day for eight or nine days.

"It was a great opportunity. My wife and family were very supportive of it because I was gone for three weeks. And our program, all of my assistants stepped up for me when I was gone and did a lot of stuff so that was much appreciated."

The Bahamas national team included three NBA players in DeAndre Ayton, Eric Gordon and Buddy Hield but Rabas said that he felt comfortable being around the players and the coaching staff.

"(The NBA players) were really good guys and so respectful," Rabas said. "Every other coach on that staff works for an NBA team or a Division I college ... and then there is me. But they gave me the same respect they did everybody else. They were very good to me."

Rabas said his role on the staff wasn't necessarily defined, but rather he simply chipped in wherever he was needed.

"I did what I could, just all of the little things. I was kind of a utility guy," Rabas said. "Just being the older person there and with experience, and just being able

to say you are doing the right thing or are on the right track – just reinforcing what they were doing – was something I brought."

Although Rabas felt comfortable in his role, he said there were definitely some differences in dealing with that team compared to one of his Rocket squads.

"I told people that a lot of times it was like if I should be in Algebra I, and they put me in Calculus and I'm playing catch-up to all of these smart kids. Sometimes in our meetings that's what I felt like," Rabas said. "I had to do a lot of adjusting because they talk in NBA terms."

The opportunity to be on the coaching staff will also be a benefit when he returns to the Neenah bench this winter.

As much as he was helping out the players and coaches on the team, he was also trying to be a bit of a sponge and soak up all of the knowledge he could.

"There were little things that I'll take with me and try to implement moving forward. A lot of stuff to think about," Rabas said. "The really good players and NBA players are meticulous about their skill work and their shooting. You try to tell kids to work on your technique and take care of the little details and sometimes I think kids dismiss that. But you watch guys at that level and see how meticulous they are about their technique."

The Bahamas national team has never made it to the Olympics but Rabas said the team will be trying again in four years when Los Angeles serves as the host.

Rabas isn't sure if he will be a part of the coaching staff in four years – or if DeMarco will remain in charge of the team – but he certainly hopes to see the team succeed and help however he can.

"I'm hoping to continue to help them out. Hopefully, they considered that in my time with them I brought some value," Rabas said. "I enjoyed the people that I met and worked with. They are really fantastic people. Hopefully, I can continue to help them out in whatever capacity they ask me to."



Rabas

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# Sorenson

FROM PAGE 5

fortunately, after viewing the photo, I knew exactly what was in mommy's corner.

I ultimately ended up drafting a search warrant for the residence and served it a few hours later. As we entered the residence, I'll never forget how clean it was – spotless. There were family pictures on the walls, the rooms were nicely decorated, the pantry and fridge were fully stocked... I had an odd feeling, wondering if what I had witnessed in the picture could actually be located in a residence such as this. I made my way to the main bathroom and over to

the dark corner where the cupboard was located. As I opened the cupboard, it was like I had entered a different world.

There were several forms of drug paraphernalia strewn about. A glass mirror seemed to be the main focal point of the cupboard that held the contraband. As I opened a large unlabeled pill bottle, a somewhat sizable chunk of heroin sat at the bottom.

As I would later find out, the female's husband was a doctor. Throughout their marriage, the wife had become addicted to prescription pain killers, which drove her life. During the divorce, the source for the pain killers had apparently dried up, causing withdrawal symptoms and unbearable

cravings. Instead of getting treatment, she turned to heroin.

While the female went to jail that day, then later to several months of intense in-patient treatment, I never heard from her again. From time to time, I will check records, and to date, I have yet to see another opioid related charge on her record. I like to think she succeeded.

Looking back, it's safe to say opioid-related cases have certainly impacted my career. Some of these, however, have turned positive, and those are the ones us as law enforcement officers love to see and experience.

I know there are those that can certainly

be helped if given the right environment to do so; I have seen this. While I unfortunately believe opioids will remain a serious problem in our society for the unforeseeable future, individuals who have fallen victim to this type of addiction can and do prevail.

There are a variety of resources available in our county. If you or someone you know is struggling with opioid addiction, you can contact a Winnebago County Public Health office near you: Oshkosh – 920-232-3000 or Neenah – 920-727-2894. You can also contact your local police department to request guidance, while remaining anonymous, if you choose to do so.

## More information

**Winnebago County Public Health** ([www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health](http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health)) provides substance use harm reduction services from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday with offices at 112 Otter Ave. in Oshkosh and also has an office in Neenah at 211 N. Commercial St. The Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review team reviews local fatal overdose data and offers recommendations for preventing overdoses in the county. Free Narcan training sessions are offered periodically.

**Solutions Recovery Inc.** provides sober living, peer support and a recovery center. Staff are available at 621 Evans St., Oshkosh, from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and there is also a 24/7 Recovery Hotline to assist with addiction-related needs at 866-465-0010, or by stopping by the facility or going to [solutionsrecovery.org](http://solutionsrecovery.org) and through its Facebook page for more information.

**Day by Day Shelter** at 420 Ceape Ave. provides temporary shelter, individualized services and opportunities for self-sufficiency to empower the most vulnerable adults in the community. Go to [daybydayshelter.org](http://daybydayshelter.org) or call 920-203-4865 for more information about its services.

**Father Carr's Place2B** at 1062 N. Koeller St. in Oshkosh carries on its namesake's mission of supporting community needs that began a half-century ago with a youth center and evolved into a multiservice center for food, housing and health essentials. Go to [fathercarrs.org](http://fathercarrs.org) or call 920-231-2378 for more information.



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See details at the store.

# Classifieds

Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad

Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday. \$15 for first 20 words

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**ACA RED GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS** shots/wormed Born 5-22-24 \$350 715-229-4929

**AUSSIE PUPS** Blue Eyed Merles & Tris Family Raised Super Friendly \$400-\$600 715-250-2793

**CAVAPOO PUPPIES** 1-M, 2-F Non-Shedding, Vet/shots wormed \$600 715-701-2066

**COCKER SPANIEL PUPPIES** shots/wormed/dews/vet No Sun Calls 715-257-1158

**CORGI PUPS** (Parents Reg.) Vet checked Shots/wormed Well socialized with kids \$600 Shawano 715-758-6282 (WCAN)

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

**POMERANIANS APRI REGISTERED** Full of love, Friendly Very Cute, Great fun! Vet chk, shots, \$800 Unregistered Litter \$600 715-654-5149

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**REG GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS** Shots/Wormed, Vet Ckd \$500 715-267-6370 No Sun Calls

**REG YORKSHIRE TERRIER PUPPIES** Vet checked/ wormed/dews \$1100 No Sun Calls 715-409-3321 (495932) (WCAN)

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### Miscellaneous

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**Start Your OWN Business! GROW your Small Business! Enroll in E-Seed Express in Appleton or Oshkosh! Sessions start in September. Grant Funding for E-Seed Express is available. Contact: [www.fvtc.edu/VentureCenter](http://www.fvtc.edu/VentureCenter) or [venture@fvtc.edu](mailto:venture@fvtc.edu)**

### Real Estate/Rental

CRANDON, WI (Forest County) 10 acres on a town road, power available, Land Contract Available, \$89,000; Also 142 Acre Active gravel pit. Call Fred 715-493-6121 (WCAN)

### Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE

NAME CHANGE OF: AJAIVEER RANDHAWA SAMUEL

By (Petitioner) JASLEEN KAUR RANDHAWA

By (Co-Petitioner) HEMANTH KUMAR SAMUEL

**Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing** Case No. 24 CV 705

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:** A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: [First] Ajaiveer [Middle] Randhawa [Last] Samuel To: [First] Ajaiveer [Middle] [Last] Randhawa-Samuel Birth Certificate: [First] Ajaiveer [Middle] Randhawa [Last] Samuel

**IT IS ORDERED:** This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Michael S. Gibbs Place: 415 Jackson Street, Rm 211 Oshkosh, WI 54903 Date: September 5, 2024 Time: 11:00 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4848 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

**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 (Oshkosh Herald) a newspaper published in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin.

**BY THE COURT:** DATE SIGNED: July 26, 2024 /s/ Hon. Michael Gibbs

Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Runs: Aug 9, 2024, Aug 16, 2024 and Aug 23, 2024 WNAJLP



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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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

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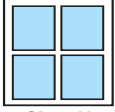
## SUMMER JOBS FOR KIDS

Are you looking to earn some money this summer? You can become an entrepreneur! That's a person who starts a business.

Fill in the missing vowels to discover some ideas for types of businesses YOU can start this summer!



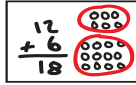
H LP ELDERLY  
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CL N  
W ND WS



P LL  
W DS



TUTOR  
A Y NG  
K D



R N  
RR NDS



H LP  
C CH  
A SP RT



HAVE A  
Y RD S LE



M KE  
SM TH ES



P T ON A  
P PP T SH W



P NT  
F NGERN LS



S LL  
Y R OLD  
T YS OR B KES



S LL  
P PC RN

### What's an entrepreneur?

An **entrepreneur** (on-trah-preh-nyur) is a person who sees a way to earn some money by solving a particular problem.

For example, lots of kids have learned that thirsty people on hot days will pay for a cold glass of lemonade.

### Entrepreneurial Thinking

Can you see the job opportunity in each of these pictures? Look at each picture. What problems do you see here? What kind of help might they be willing to pay for?



**Standards Link:** Economics: Students know that entrepreneurs are people who use resources to produce innovative goods and services they hope people will buy.

### Who wants to make money?

One way to make money is to get a job. But that is not possible for everyone. Often times kids can't get jobs because they are too young.

But that hasn't stopped kids around the world from finding clever ways of earning some cash. Some kids, like Jason, turn doing something they love into a way of earning money.

Look at each of the following pictures. Write down ways a business you could start might be able to help.

**PROBLEM:** Litter around the neighborhood.

**SOLUTION:**

---



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**PROBLEM:** Neighbor who works all day has new kitten.

**SOLUTION:**

---



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**PROBLEM:** Weather heat wave.

98°	101°	104°	106°	103°	99°	95°
SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI

**SOLUTION:**

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**Extra! Extra! Business Search**

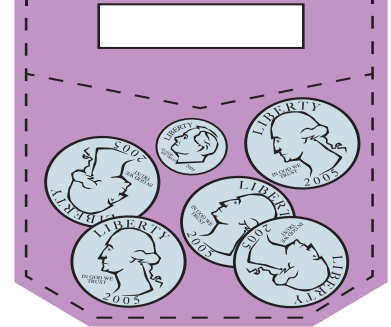
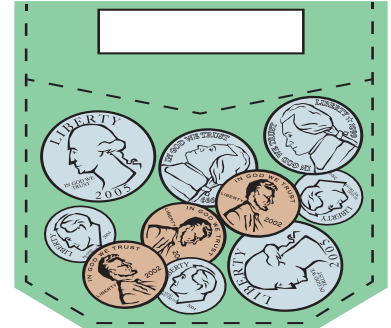
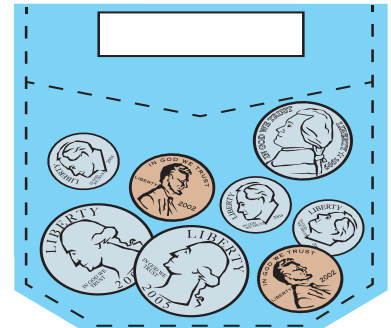
Look through the newspaper and make a list of all the businesses mentioned. Group these businesses into groups such as restaurants, stores, manufacturers, etc. Put each list into alphabetical order.

**Standards Link:** Research: Organize information from research into categories.

### Kid Scoop Together: Pocket Change

Label each pocket with each person's name.

- Chris: \$1.35
- Beth: 87¢
- Kate: \$1.03
- Amy: 93¢



### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Do the math to reveal the answer to this riddle.

**What has a mouth but doesn't eat, a bank with no money and a bed but never sleeps?**

$\frac{\quad}{22}$	$\frac{\quad}{26}$	$\frac{\quad}{5}$	$\frac{\quad}{27}$	$\frac{\quad}{9}$	$\frac{\quad}{26}$
--------------------	--------------------	-------------------	--------------------	-------------------	--------------------

$13 + 9 = A$	$33 + 6 = G$	$15 + 11 = R$
$24 - 6 = D$	$28 + 4 = H$	$18 + 7 = S$
$17 - 8 = E$	$16 - 11 = I$	$34 - 7 = V$

**Standards Link:** Number Sense: Addition and subtraction to 40.

### Double Double Word Search

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

LEMNADNE  
SOLUTION  
BUSINESS  
THINKING  
PROBLEM  
IDEAS  
START  
OFTEN  
JOBS  
CASH  
HELP  
MAKE  
BANK

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

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

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**Write On! What's the Difference?**

What is the difference between a "want" and a "need"? Give an example of each.

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