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## COVID cases on rise in state, county

### DHS urging people to stay home if sick

By Jonathan Richie  
NEENAH NEWS

State tracking data show there could be an increase in COVID cases soon.

According to the Wisconsin Department Health Services, COVID patient hospitalizations have increased across the state. Since July 14, COVID hospitalizations have increased by 30% in the Fox Valley. In that same time hospitalizations have grown by 97% in northeast Wisconsin.

sin.

"We believe there is going to be a rise in cases based on several indicators," said Winnebago County Health Department Director Doug Gieryn.

The department tracks emergency room visits, hospitalizations and even discussions in the community of people becoming ill.

Another indicator for a potential COVID spike is wastewater surveillance. The county uses wastewater monitoring to gauge the level of COVID virus in the community. It can be detected in feces and health officials monitor wastewater treat-

ment facilities to get a grasp on the levels present.

"It's an indicator that shows there's likely more individuals with COVID and it helps us identify more potential cases of the virus in the community," Gieryn said.

Oshkosh is one of nine communities, including Appleton, across Wisconsin that is experiencing a significant increase in COVID. Wastewater monitoring this spring and into summer showed between 13 million and 20 million gene copies per person per day in Oshkosh's water.

SEE COVID cases ON PAGE 8

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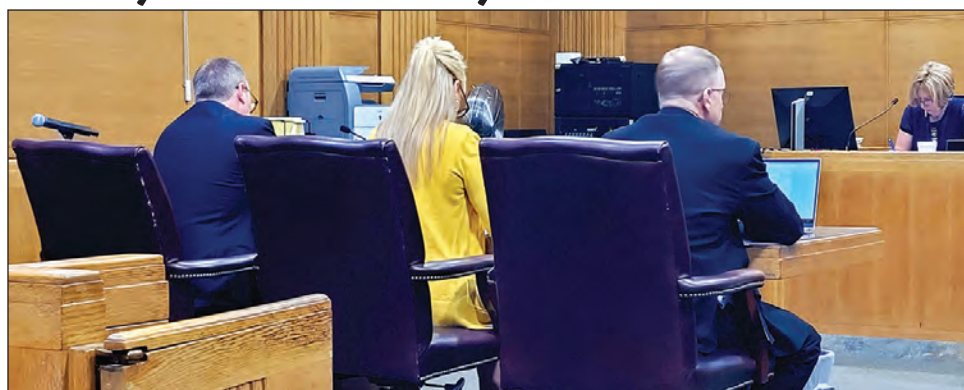


Photo from Neenah Police Department

### Community canine

McGruff the Crime Dog greets children and families during the annual National Night Out on Tuesday at Memorial Park in Neenah. The annual event held in parks and neighborhoods emphasizes crime prevention and public connections with law enforcement groups.

## City attorney reinstated amid criminal proceedings



Neenah News

City attorney David Rashid is shown (left) with attorneys Rebecca Castonia and Scott Ceman in court Monday.

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah's city attorney David Rashid resumed his duties in the office Monday, the same day that a Green Lake County judge ruled against a defense motion to dismiss two sexual assault charges against him.

Rashid had been on paid leave from the city following one misdemeanor and two felony charges filed April 30 stemming from allegations that he sexually assaulted his ex-wife while they were married during incidents between 2017 and 2022.

The Portage County District Attorney's

Office is prosecuting the case to avoid a conflict of interest as Rashid was a Winnebago County assistant district attorney when he was hired by the city in 2022.

According to the criminal complaint, an investigation began last August after an anonymous email sent to police and city officials by Rashid's predecessor Adam Westbrook, who at the time was Outagamie County's human resources director and is facing his own criminal charges.

Westbrook alleged in the email that

SEE City attorney ON PAGE 10

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### Corrections

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

### About the newspaper

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# Office space to be converted to housing

Neenah News

A former dental office on Doctors Drive is set to undergo a transformation that will convert the building into 16 new housing units.

The redevelopment aims to deal with the growing need for affordable housing while revitalizing an underused property.

The building at 1215 Doctors Drive is 4,866 square feet on about a half-acre and includes a 32-stall, off-street parking lot.

All the property surrounding the site is multifamily housing, making its change of use from an office to housing uniform with neighboring sites.

Schuelke Properties, owned by Tim Schuelke of Greenville, purchased it in 2022 for \$154,000, according to tax records.

Schuelke Properties has invested in similar housing projects in the state, including construction of 42 apartments inside a former nursing home in Appleton in 2020, 30 apartments at the site of a former church in Waupaca last year and a 45-unit development currently underway at the site of a former greenhouse in Two Rivers.

Schuelke did not respond to a request



Neenah News

A former office building at Professional Plaza and Doctors Drive will be renovated into 16 one- and two-bedroom housing units.

for comment.

Built in 1966, the building at the south-west corner of Professional Plaza and Doctors Drive will be renovated into 13 one-bedroom and three two-bedroom units that are each 500-600 square feet.

Contractor Hudson Knox Construction of Green Bay will perform an estimated

\$1.5 million in remodeling primarily in the interior, with minor exterior site improvements.

Deputy director of community development Brad Schmidt told the city's Plan Commission that the site plan review was submitted several months ago so the project should begin soon.

## Legion seeks funding for flag memorial

Neenah News

Fundraising has begun to install a new military service flag memorial in downtown Shattuck Park.

The American Legion Post 33 plans to add five flags behind the three already in the park, along with two granite donor recognition monuments. The initiative aims to honor veterans by expanding the current display, which includes the Amer-

ican flag, Wisconsin's flag and a POW/MIA flag.

The Legion, in partnership with the Veterans Association, the city and the community, plans to raise \$139,000 for the memorial and have it in place in advance of the Veterans Day ceremony next year.

Donations may be sent to American Legion Post 33, PO Box 632, Neenah, WI 54956.

## Correction

**AUG. 2, PAGE 4:** A photo of a helicopter at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center in Neenah was of a UW Health Med Flight, not a ThedaStar helicopter. Last year, the ThedaStar Air Medical Program began using a new helipad adjacent to the Emergency Department entrance. The helipad and hangar near the W.G. Bryan Bridge continue to be used.

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# Neenah's Big Lots to close amid national sales decline

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Just a year after opening, the Big Lots in Neenah is slated for closure amid inflation and declining consumer retail purchases.

In a Securities and Exchange Commission filing in June, Ohio-based Big Lots reported that in the first quarter of this year net sales decreased by 10.2%, amounting to \$114.5 million.

"In 2024, the U.S. economy has continued to face macroeconomic challenges including elevated inflation, which has adversely impacted the buying power of our customers," Big Lots wrote in the filing.

The discount chain sells furniture, food, home decor, clothing, seasonal items, electronics, toys and gifts.

Bruce Thorn, president and chief executive of Big Lots, stated in a press release that the company missed its first-quarter sales goals "due largely to a continued pullback in consumer spending by our core customers, particularly in high ticket discretionary items."

The filing noted plans to permanently close 35-40 stores by the end of the year. That number has since increased to more than 300 locations that will be shuttered amid speculation that the company may file for bankruptcy.

Big Lots has 1,392 locations, including 12 in Wisconsin. The nearby Appleton location closed early this year; locations in Fond du Lac, La Crosse, Menomonee

Falls, Mount Pleasant, Sheboygan and West Bend have been slated for closure by the end of the year.

Big Lots' plans for the remaining Wisconsin locations in Eau Claire, Green Bay, Janesville, Milwaukee and Stevens Point had not yet been made public as of Wednesday.

A Big Lots was previously in the 900 block of South Green Bay Road but closed in 2010. The current location opened last September inside the former Shopko at 699 S. Green Bay Road.

The storefront had remained vacant after Shopko filed for bankruptcy in 2019 and closed all its stores. Brothers Phil and Larry Langohr of AIG Properties purchased the site for \$1.6 million in 2021 and redeveloped it under the name Spring Creek Center II.

The building's lessees include a Five Below and a Planet Fitness, while a Noodles & Company restaurant was constructed on a new lot south of the main entrance.

Banners announcing the closure of Big Lots were placed outside the Neenah store and throughout the interior Aug. 1, with items priced from 5% to 30% off.

A store manager declined to comment on the closure and Big Lots corporate representatives did not respond to a request for more information. A store employee who answered the phone this week said the final closing date is expected to be in early October.



Neenah News

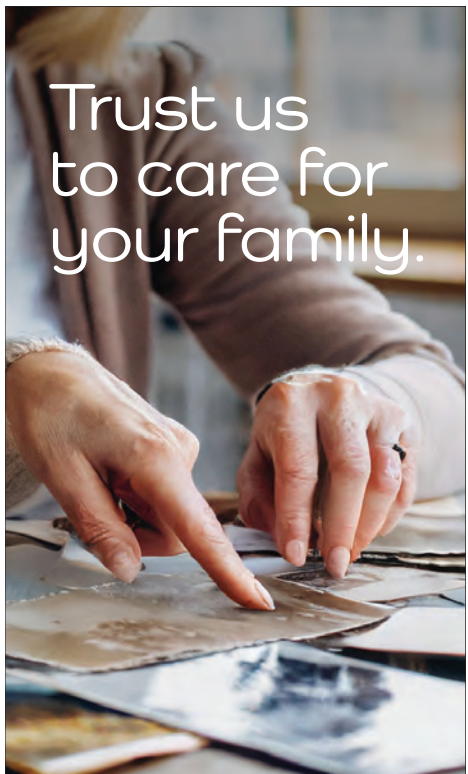
Banners outside and inside the store last week announced that the Big Lots location in Neenah is closing.

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# Fentanyl's personal impact reflected in shared stories

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 2018-2022. Many of these deaths were unintentional – and the number is rising.

In the 2023-24 Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review team's annual report, it indicates fentanyl was the primary cause of death in 31 of the 47 (66%) overdoses. So far in 2024, the county has recorded 15 overdose deaths with four other fatalities pending as to cause.

Addiction, overdose, fentanyl – these are topics many of us believe will never



**Karen Schneider**

Publisher of the Neenah News

impact our lives. You may be one of the lucky ones, but the tentacles of opioids are tenacious. One of my daughter's best childhood friends fights with addiction. Hearing the tough decisions parents take to protect their other children from one of their siblings is heartbreaking.

But what is a parent to do when

a child, released from jail on a drug charge, is back in jail within hours because the first stop wasn't going home; it was to the drug dealer. This is middle class. This is white. This is a military family. This wasn't supposed to happen to them.

This young woman is in recovery, but it wasn't – nor is it – an easy road.

The Oshkosh Herald and Neenah News are sharing personal essays of people who have been impacted by fentanyl and other drugs.

Some thought it would never happen to "me," some deal with the fallout in their careers, and some are doing the hard work in recovery.

These are the writers' stories in their own words, not retold through an interview. It takes courage to share so publicly, and I appreciate their willingness to be part of building community awareness on the ripple effect fentanyl and opioids have on our community.

Getting healthy is hard work and Winnebago County has many resources to connect with.

Winnebago County Public Health, sponsor of the fentanyl awareness series, has resources available 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.

## Sober living can be a matter of choosing the right ride

By William Winters

I first started drinking when I was 13 years old, which progressed into intravenous heroin use by the time I was 22. At that time, I was unemployed, selling drugs and living the lifestyle of a drug dealer.

I have spent many years of my life incarcerated. In 2010, I spent two years in prison due to a burglary charge and other drug-related charges.

I got out in 2012, stayed sober for a little bit, but eventually fell back into the old lifestyle again. Over the next 10 years, I spent about half of that in county jails on sanctions, holds and sentences.

On the night of Dec. 12, 2022, I was getting pulled over by the police, high on heroin, drugs in the car, and was charged with an OWI. I was

taken to Winnebago County Jail and knew I was going to go through intense withdrawals. I remember when they first asked me if I was interested in a recovery coach and saying 'f\*\*\* no'. At that point, my mind was set on getting out and continuing to get high.

After about a week of withdrawal, one of the deputies posted a Solutions flyer in the pod I was in. It was kind of crazy; the first day I finally felt good, they came in with the flyer and something changed in me. I made the phone call and the person on the other end of the call said a coach would be in the following day to see me.

I thought to myself, 'Yeah right, maybe next week'. To my disbelief, a coach showed up the next day to talk to me.

I first met with a coach and he told me his story and asked whether I was interested in getting better. For whatever reason, I started to notice some willingness



Solution Recovery provides a six-month transitional living environment for men and women.

in myself and agreed to do whatever it took for my recovery. At that point, I wasn't sure when I would be out of jail. I had a small cash bond and wanted to get out for Christmas. On Dec. 23, I prayed for the first time. I asked God to help me and that I would do anything for my recovery. I was released that night.

When I got out of jail, it was minus 30 degrees outside, I had no money and my phone was dead. I called my brother from the jail phone and told him to pick me up from Kwik Trip.

I walked to Kwik Trip and was trying to buy myself a cup of coffee to warm up. As I approached the checkout, I knew I didn't have the money. A woman behind me noticed and graciously offered me \$20. I used that money to buy that cup of coffee and a phone charger.

As I was going through my things from jail trying to find my phone, I found the Solutions card. For whatever reason, a "God thing" or something else, I decided to call the number and a recovery coach said they could be at Kwik Trip in 10 minutes to pick me up. I knew if I went with my brother, I would end up doing the exact same thing I always did. Weird part

is, my brother and the recovery coach showed up at the exact same time and I just knew I had to go with the coach.

The coach drove me to the Day by Day Warming Shelter because there were no beds open at sober living. I ended up spending Christmas at the shelter. On Christmas Day, I spent my time down at Solutions and found a sponsor who helped me in my early days of recovery.

My coach also talked to me every day and helped me get into Father Carr's while I waited for a sober living bed to open. It was hard, but with the support of Solutions and people in the recovery community, I was able to stay sober.

A bed finally opened up at Solutions and I moved in. Since being in sober living, it has been amazing. I met a bunch of awesome guys and they all were supportive and made sure I felt a part of.

Today, I have a full-time job, my relationships with my family are improving, I talk to my kids every night, and I am making amends for past harms. I had no idea that I could be capable of feeling this good in sobriety. I have been sober before, but never felt like I do now because I actually work a solid program of

### More information

**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.

recovery.

I would have never had this opportunity if it weren't for the jail program. I have never seen anything like it in any other jail I have been in. It saved my life.

*Recovery coaches from Solutions met with Will when he became incarcerated in December 2022. He was released from jail, went to the warming shelter, then lived at Father Carr's, then moved into the Sober Living Program.*



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# Keating Park targeted by spray-paint vandals

Neenah News

The Town of Neenah is installing additional security cameras in Keating Park after recent acts of vandalism.

Town of Neenah Chairman Robert Schmeichel wrote in a letter to neighboring residents that vandalism occurred in Keating Park both last year and this year, which impacts the enjoyment of the park and is costly and time-consuming to investigate and repair.

On the evening of July 14, Schmeichel said vandals marked picnic tables, rocks, the parking lot, an electrical box and trees with red and pink spray paint. Around the same time, spray paint vandalism of the same style occurred in the Town Hall parking lot.

“We have reason to believe that some of the vandalism may be caused by youth that are within walking distance of Keat-



Town of Neenah photo

Keating Park, shown in this aerial photo, was recently upgraded and the target of vandals last month.

ing Park,” he wrote.

Schmeichel urged residents to keep an eye on the park and report anything unusual to the Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department by calling 920-727-2888.

“Speak with your pre-teen and teenage

children about the impact of vandalism. It is disrespectful, costly and illegal,” he said.

The Parks Committee is installing additional security cameras and Schmeichel said the town will prosecute individuals involved in illegal activity in parks.

“Please help us to keep our parks a clean, safe and friendly place to enjoy,” he said.

The 6-acre park at 128 Klompen Court includes a baseball diamond, playground, wooded area with walking trail, picnic areas and off-street parking.

The town recently upgraded the facilities with a restroom and gazebo, and an informal open house is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 3 to celebrate the new facilities.

“We continue to work on improving our parks throughout the Town of Neenah and take great pride in the amenities offered to our residents and visitors,” Schmeichel wrote.

## Calendar of events

### Saturday, Aug. 10

- Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
- Brennand Airport Fly-in, 9 a.m., 3282 Breezewood Lane
- Glass Arts Festival, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
- Neenah Animal Shelter Walk for Pets, 11 a.m., 1010 Cameron Way
- J+ Band, 6 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive, Fox Crossing

### Sunday, Aug. 11

- Team Hope Walk – Fox Valley, 10 a.m., Riverside Park

### Tuesday, Aug. 13

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

### Wednesday, Aug. 14

- Evening Concert Series: The Britins, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

### Thursday, Aug. 15

- Out to Lunch Concert Series: Sly Joe & The Smooth Operators, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

- Live Music Series: Julio Reyes, 5 p.m., Batley’s Grill & Bar, 1010 Cameron Way

### 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



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**Monday (Free Day)**  
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# Primary set Tuesday for county, state, national offices

Neenah News

Some candidates for county, state and national offices are lined up for primary elections Tuesday, with many state elections based on new Assembly and Senate district maps approved in February.

In the Republican primary for the newly drawn 55th Assembly District will be Rep. Michael Schraa of Oshkosh, who



currently serves the 53rd District that was redrawn, facing first-term incumbent Rep. Nate Gustafson of Fox Crossing. Real estate agent and Winneconne native

Kyle Kehoe will face the winner of the primary as a Democrat.

In the state Assembly, District 53 formerly encompassed Omro and Nekimi surrounding Oshkosh. It now covers Neenah and Menasha. Dean Kaufert is making another run for the Assembly in which he served for 24 years in Madison before serving as Neenah's mayor until 2022. He will be the Republican challenger for the 53rd District facing Democrat Duane Shukoski, also from Neenah, in the November election.

Assembly District 54 remains primarily in Oshkosh and Democratic incumbent Lori Palmeri is running for a second term in the district against Republican challenger Tim Paterson of Oshkosh in the general election.

The Fox Cities are in Senate districts 1, 2 and 19 but now also includes parts of District 18. This area was previously split between the 18th District north of Osh-

kosh and 19th District just south of Neenah — both held by Republican senators. Incumbent state Sen. Dan Feyen, R- Fond du Lac, has been drawn from District 18 into District 20.

Appleton alderperson Kristin Alfheim will be seeking the District 18 Senate seat as a Democrat while Anthony W. Phillips and Blong Yang will face off in an Aug. 13 primary election to determine the Republican candidate.

Sunwest Bank chief executive Eric Hovde, UW-Stevens Point student Rejani Raveendran and farmer Charles E. Barman are the three Republicans seeking to challenge incumbent Sen. Tammy Baldwin in the U.S. Senate race.

In the 8th Congressional District, three GOP candidates are vying for the seat to replace Mike Gallagher, who resigned from the office earlier this year. State Sen. Andre Jacque, former state Sen. Roger Roth and businessman Tony Wied are facing off in that primary and will be challenged by Dr. Kristin Lyerly, an obstetrician-gynecologist and Democrat from Appleton.

In Winnebago County, three people are vying to be the new register of deeds with Natalie Strohmeier not seeking another term. They include Oshkosh Common Council member Paul Esslinger and Town of Black Wolf clerk Susan Snyder registered as Republicans, with the winner facing Christopher Larson of Oshkosh, who is the current chief deputy in that office.

District Attorney Eric Sparr is seeking another term after being appointed to the position in May 2022 and has served in the county's DA office since 2005. No other

candidates filed papers to seek that office. Also running unopposed for re-election in Winnebago County are clerk Julie Barthels and treasurer Amber Hoppa.

Two questions on the primary ballot will ask the voters 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 funds.

Republican lawmakers are backing both referendum questions as the Democratic party and voting rights groups are asking voters to reject the questions and vote no.

State Rep. Robert Wittke (R-Racine) introduced the questions last February

with a handful of Republican supporters in the Assembly and Senate.

Opponents point out that these funds are often allocated during emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic and could hurt vulnerable populations. Several other groups, including the Wisconsin Education Association Council, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, have all stated opposition to the questions.

Early absentee voting ends at 5 p.m. today (Friday). Polls in Neenah will be open Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visit [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) for more information.



Neenah Historical Society

## Hardware help

Melvin Van Marter, an employee at Krueger's Hardware, shows a customer a Stanley Tool in 1963. Krueger's has been in operation for more than 150 years. They moved from their downtown location at 107 W. Wisconsin Ave. to their present-day location on Winneconne Avenue in 1972.

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# Two charged with storage unit burglaries in Town of Neenah

NEENAH NEWS

A former La Crosse man already facing 37 felony counts of possessing child pornography, burglary, theft and drug charges in two other counties is now facing additional charges in Winnebago County for burglarizing storage units in the Town of Neenah.

Parker Barnes, 35, and Kristen Finch, 33, were in the Calumet County Jail for burglarizing storage units in the Village of Harrison early this year and stealing

more than \$5,000 worth of items when Finch allegedly admitted to Winnebago County investigators that the pair used bolt cutters to break into three storage units on Tullar Road on Jan. 30. The items stolen were valued at about \$2,500. Finch is also facing criminal charges.

Barnes was living in La Crosse and giving music lessons to children part time at a YMCA when he was arrested in June 2023 after a report from Cyber-

Tips that his IP address was being used to upload suspected child pornography to Google. While on bond, he moved to a Menasha address where he was living with Finch at the time of his most recent arrest.

Storage unit burglaries appear to be on the rise in the area. Last August, 38-year-

old Jacob Lehmann of Neenah was convicted of burglarizing 25 storage units at a location on Bergstrom Road.

Suggestions to prevent storage unit burglaries include choosing a secure facility, using high-quality padlocks or disc locks that are difficult to cut and maintaining an inventory of the items stored.

## Tech For Vets raffle supports veterans programs

Tech For Vets, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of military veterans through education and recreation, is holding a raffle that includes premium tickets to a Green Bay Packers game and a luxury stay at Lodge Kohler.

Five winners will each receive two suite tickets to the Week 18 Packers vs. Bears game at Lambeau Field and a two-night stay at Lodge Kohler for the game weekend.

Tickets at \$100 each are available by contacting Tech For Vets representatives.

The drawing will take place at 10 a.m. Nov. 11 (Veterans Day) and will be livestreamed on the Tech For Vets' Discord channel.

Proceeds support programs throughout 2025 and fund the opening of its first unmanned gamer cafe, a community space to provide veterans and supporters with a modern, tech-centric environment.

For more information, contact Zach Zabel at techvetswi@gmail.com or 920-376-5075.

## Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services sets fundraiser

Neenah News

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services is entering the final months of its capital fundraising campaign to expand services for individuals and families affected by domestic abuse through transitional living options.

To support this endeavor, the organization is inviting the community to participate in 5K for 5 Generations of DA/DV Survivors Fundraiser set for 5 p.m. Thursday at XE54 Wine & Cocktail Lounge in Fox Crossing.

The event will feature local comedian Tracy Schroeder and Home Baker DorT's Doughy DelighT's offering truffles. XE54 will present specialty cocktails starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 for a pair of VIP entries and \$50 for two general admission tickets.

Attendees with monetary donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$250,000 by the Otto Bremer Trust and Christine Ann board of directors.

For tickets and more information, contact Amy@medicare-masters.com.

## DNR seeks volunteer hunter education instructors

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking volunteers to promote safe and ethical hunting practices as hunter education instructors.

Since the program's creation in 1967, more than 20,000 volunteer instructors have trained and certified more than one million hunters across the state of Wis-

consin.

Interested volunteers can serve as apprentices under a sponsoring instructor for at least two complete courses or attend a certification training session hosted by a DNR Outdoor Skills Trainer.

For more information, contact the area outdoor skills trainer.

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Photo by Michael Cooney

## Teaching garden

Smelling, tasting and learning where food comes from is the focus of programs offered by both the University of Wisconsin-Extension and Winnebago County 4-H. During the summer various groups of young people visit the teaching garden at the county's James P. Coughlin Center where they learn about food production, preparation and even get to watch baby chicks be born.

## COVID cases

FROM PAGE 1

Oshkosh virus gene copies began increasing in June and has continued to climb. On July 24, the DHS reported 150 million gene copies per person per day in the wastewater.

"We are still educating people in an effort to increase awareness," Gieryn said as Winnebago County and the nation are seeing a rise in COVID cases as people are interacting with more and more people.

A lot of people at this time of year are in contact with people in small spaces indoors, including airports. Having large gatherings at homes also can put people at high risk.

"You can ask people to test before they come over to keep the vulnerable populations safe," Gieryn said.

Tests are available for purchase at local pharmacies and most insurance companies will cover the cost. For those without insurance, the CDC Bridge Access Program is available for free testing at Walgreens.

If flying for vacation, there are precau-

tions that can be taken to avoid getting COVID such as wearing a mask in congested areas and when on the airplane people can position an air vent directly into one's breathing space.

"Airplanes have very good air ventilation systems and keeping that vent pointed at your breathing space can protect you," Gieryn said.

The DHS also continues to track COVID vaccinations and is reporting 18.4% of all state residents have received at least one dose of the updated 2023-24 vaccine. In Winnebago County, just under 17%, or 30,584 residents, have received at least one dose of the current vaccine.

Gieryn said there will most likely be a new vaccine available in the fall and people can get the flu vaccine at the same time.

He said one other important thing is to stay home if feeling sick, which may indicate being infectious before having the full effects of the virus.

"Stay home if you're sick and then you can avoid infecting others," Gieryn said. "COVID isn't as much of a threat as it used to be. We're not seeing it as a severe illness. But there still are significant vulnerable populations that it can affect."



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2	<b>Bob Seger &amp; John Mellencamp Tribute Shows</b> Presented by National Premier Talent
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## DECEMBER 2024

4	<b>Christmas with Lorie Line</b> Presented by Lorie Line Music
7	<b>B2wins Present: Sounds of the Season</b> with the Violin Twins <i>Celebrating 20 years of the Alberta S. Kimball Foundation Series</i>
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## JANUARY 2025

20-25	<b>Missoula Children's Theatre: The Wizard of Oz</b> <i>Part of the 2024-2025 BOLDT Family Series</i>
31	<b>Steely Dane plays "Aja"</b> Presented by Steely Dane

## FEBRUARY 2025

1	<b>Assisted Living: The Musical</b> <i>Additional Support Provided by Silver Star Brands</i>
22	Good Co- Electro-Swing Band
28	Listen To Her Heart: The Tom Petty Experience

## MARCH 2025

8	<b>A Grand Night- Save the Date!</b> Featuring David Gonzalez <i>Part of the 2024-2025 Community First Credit Union ArtREACH series</i> <i>Additional Support provided by Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and the Wisconsin Arts Board</i>
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## APRIL 2025

4	<b>Always Loretta: The Ultimate Loretta Lynn Tribute</b> Featuring Emily Portman performing with THE COALMINERS <i>Celebrating 20 years of the Alberta S. Kimball Foundation Series</i>
5	<b>Mutts Gone Nuts UNLEASHED</b> <i>Part of the 2024-2025 BOLDT Family Series</i>
27	<b>The Beat Goes On</b> starring Lisa McClowry as CHER <i>Celebrating 20 years of the Alberta S. Kimball Foundation Series</i>

## MAY 2025

2	<b>The Fourth Wall: Fruit Flies Like a Banana</b> <i>Part of the 2024-2025 Community First Credit Union ArtREACH Series</i> <i>Additional Support provided by Wisconsin Public Service Foundation</i>
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# City attorney

FROM PAGE 1

Rashid was physically abusing his then-wife. Documents say the victim initially declined to disclose information but contacted the investigator a month later and said she was in the process of divorcing Rashid due to conflicts over boundaries, intimacy and his belief “that her role as a wife required her to be subservient and submissive.”

The victim disclosed that during one alleged assault she told Rashid she was not consenting and Rashid allegedly responded by stating he doesn’t need consent because she gave consent on their wedding date. During the other two incidents documents say the victim pretended to be asleep.

The defense initially sought to have the case dismissed in May, which a Winnebago County judge ruled against.

The defense then requested a substitution of the judge that was granted and a Green Lake County judge was assigned to the case.

Rashid’s attorneys filed a new motion to dismiss the two felony counts and a hearing was held Monday.

Judge Mark Slate dismissed the defense motion, stating it is reasonable to believe that consent was not given during two of the incidents. He did not consider the third

incident resulting in the misdemeanor charge as it wasn’t included in the motion to dismiss.

Slate noted state statute defines consent as “words or actions that indicate a freely given agreement to have sexual contact or intercourse.”

Mayor Jane Lang wrote in a press release last Friday that the city conducted a personnel investigation after learning of the criminal charges and the Portage County District Attorney’s Office elected not to provide the city with any information.

Lang said the city engaged in its own investigation “involving interviews with many individuals who may have had information regarding this circumstance” and found no violations pertaining to matters of the workplace.

“While the district attorney may have other information, the city’s investigation did not find evidence to support a finding that Mr. Rashid was or is a danger to others, or that he is unable at this time to perform his duties as a city attorney,” Lang wrote.

The city did not release the findings of the investigation and Lang said the city will not be providing further comment.

The decision to reinstate Rashid amid serious criminal charges is not typical. According to the state Department of Workforce Development, an employer may suspend an

employee if the pending criminal charge is substantially related to the circumstances of the particular job or licensed activity.

After Monday’s hearing, Rashid’s attorney Rebecca Castonia said he categorically denies the claims and will continue to fight to clear his name.

“Today was a big day; attorney Rashid is going back to work,” she said. “There’s been no finding of violations in the workplace, there’s been no evidence of misconduct in their internal investigation.”

Former Neenah city attorney James Godlewski, who retired in 2021 after 19 years of service, attended the court hearing in support of Rashid.

Godlewski said he and Rashid are “cut from the same cloth.”

“It’s a travesty what’s happened,” he said.

Comments on social media indicate some residents oppose the city’s decision

to reinstate Rashid.

“City of Neenah needs to reinstate his suspension until case is done, he is unable to perform his duty while facing these charges and any case he does have will be scrutinized now,” a commenter wrote. “The judge apparently feels there’s adequate evidence.”

The press release issued last Friday implied the city’s personnel investigation is complete and its results led to the decision to reinstate Rashid. Under Wisconsin law, records related to employee investigations are subject to open records requests once the investigation is complete. The city on Wednesday denied an open records request for the investigation report, stating in part, “this is still considered an open investigation.”

The next hearing in the case is scheduled for 11 a.m. Nov. 11.

## Volunteer needs

**Fox Cities Roller Derby** is seeking volunteers for its Aug. 24 Rock Paper Valley Scissors Derby Expo. Shifts are flexible and range from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information or to sign up, contact Emily at [volunteerfcrd@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerfcrd@gmail.com).

**Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance** is looking for volunteers to Adopt-A-Launch. Visit a designated boat launch at least three times a year through Nov. 1 to check for invasive species, remove plants and litter, and report issues. Training provided. Contact Chris at [chris@fwwa.org](mailto:chris@fwwa.org).





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## Neenah High names pair of spring sport coaches

Neenah High School announced two new coaches for girls varsity spring sports this week.

Chuck Coan was selected to take over as girls soccer head coach while Adam Hablewitz was tabbed to lead the Rockets' softball program.

Coan assisted with the Neenah High School program this past season and previously served as head coach of the Kaukauna High School varsity team from 2008-12. He has also coached junior varsity teams at Neenah, Kimberly and Oshkosh North at various times since 1992.

Coan also brings a wealth of collegiate ex-

perience to the position having served as head coach at Lawrence University from 1987-96 as well as serving as an assistant coach at Michigan Tech University from 2010-19.

Hablewitz has served as the vice president of Suburban Athletics, Neenah's youth softball program and has been active in the organization as a head coach at different levels.

Students, parents and community members will have the opportunity to meet the new coaches Aug. 19 in the high school atrium. Hablewitz will discuss the softball program at 6 p.m., with Coan to follow at 7:30 p.m.

## Obituaries

### Leonard McIlhone

Leonard "Joe" McIlhone, age 60, passed away peacefully at home on July 28, 2024,



with his loving wife and family by his side, following a courageous battle with cancer. Joe was born on April 25, 1964 in Neenah, son of the late George McIlhone and Harriet Kabke.

He grew up in Menasha and graduated from Menasha High School with the class of 1982. He met Julie Reichel and they were united in marriage on July 17, 1998.

From a little boy on, Joe was an avid fisherman, hunter, baseball player, and part-time golfer. Joe retired as a Shipping/Receiving Lead after 32 years of employment from Amcor (formerly Banner Packaging/Bemis). He was a hard worker with an awesome sense of humor and had so many plans for the future. He treated his

wife and dog both like Queens.

Joe loved and was loved by many and will be greatly missed by his wife of 26 years, Julie; his siblings: Deborah (Charles) Fox, Laurie (Joseph) Fernandez, Larry (Lori) McIlhone, Lana (John) Knuijt, Lisa Hartung and Yvonne (Michael) Erickson. He is also survived by his in-laws: Debra Reichel, LeAnn (Drew) Amond, Paul (Mandy) Reichel; many nieces and nephews and by his hunting companion Cricket. In addition to his parents, Joe was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Kenneth Hartung.

Memorial services for Joe will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Friday August 9, 2024 at the Kessler Fahrenkrug Funeral Home 304 S. Commercial St., Neenah. Gathering of family and friends will be from 3:00 p.m. until the time of services. A meal and celebration of Joe's life will be held at the funeral home following the services.



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**FOR SALE HAY** Good grass mix baled without rain. Round bales & small square bales. Free Delivery in Full Loads. 920-878-0005 Dale Hay Farm, No answer, try again (WCAN)

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

**JACUZZI BATH REMODEL** Can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer.) Offer ends 8/25/24 Call 833-224-4977 (WCAN)

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

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

**PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES WITH BRIGGS & STRATTON** PowerProtect(TM)

standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty 7 years (\$849 value) Proudly made in the USA. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-855-918-3220 (WCAN)

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

**REG COCKER SPANIEL PUPPIES** Vet ck, Shots, very friendly Only \$325 715-669-3923

**SHELTIE-AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES** Ready Now! \$200 715-218-2670

**THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING A NEW SHOWER?** American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call 1-844-479-1327 today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit www.newshowerdeal.com/wcp (WCAN)

**Tow Truck for Sale.** '97 Ford F450 Super Duty, Gas 5-Speed. Only 55,000 miles. Sling & Wheel Lift. Road ready. New tires. Everything works. \$11,000 Cash Firm. 920-707-4217, Not text messages or low ballers, phone calls only.

### Miscellaneous

**DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO SELL? .... GET RESULTS!** Affordable advertising that fits your budget! Reach OVER 300,000 homes! Place your ad in MANY weekly Wisconsin Shoppers & Buyers' Guide papers for as low as \$36.00 Call today! Publishers Development Service, Inc. (PDS, Inc.) 1-920-922-4864 www.pdsadnet.com

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 or venture@fvtc.edu

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

### Real Estate/Rental

**AUCTION** for the RALPH KLATT ESTATE to be held at N6535 LAKE DRIVE, CECIL, on **SATURDAY, SEPT. 7th at 11:00AM** Shawano Lake home & more, Personal Property. www.nolansales.com for details, photos & maps. Conducted by: NOLAN SALES LLC, Marion, WI 1-800-472-0290 WI Auctioneers, Lic. #165 & #142 (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**  
**WNAXLP**

# 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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## The Monk Seals of Hawaii

### Endangered Marine Mammal

Swimming in the warm, clear waters of Hawaii is a cute animal with large eyes. It's called the monk seal.

Unfortunately, the Hawaiian monk seal is one of the most endangered marine mammals in the world.

Hawaiians call the seal 'Ilio holo i ka uaua.

Circle every other letter to find out what 'Ilio holo i ka uaua means.

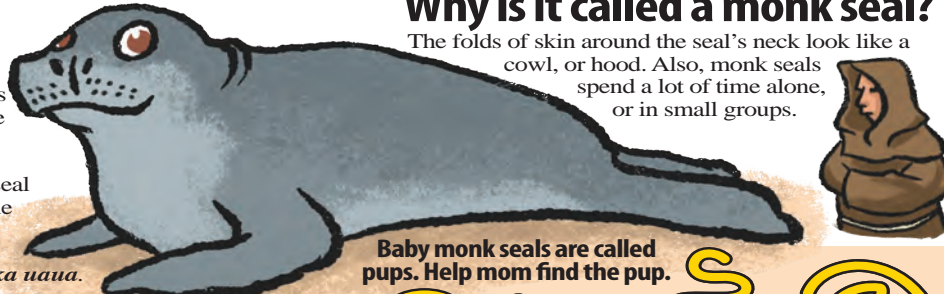
DA O L G Z T N H V A P T O R W U C  
N J S T I A N M R I O A U K G I  
H R W I A J T L E U R Y

DO \_\_\_\_\_ ER \_\_\_\_\_

### The Good News

When people realized that the number of Hawaiian monk seals was getting smaller, they started taking actions to protect them. In 2022, the Hawaiian monk seal population was estimated to be between 1,512 and 1,743. This was the first time in over 20 years that the population surpassed 1,570.

Standards Link: Understand people impact other living things.



### Why is it called a monk seal?

The folds of skin around the seal's neck look like a cowl, or hood. Also, monk seals spend a lot of time alone, or in small groups.



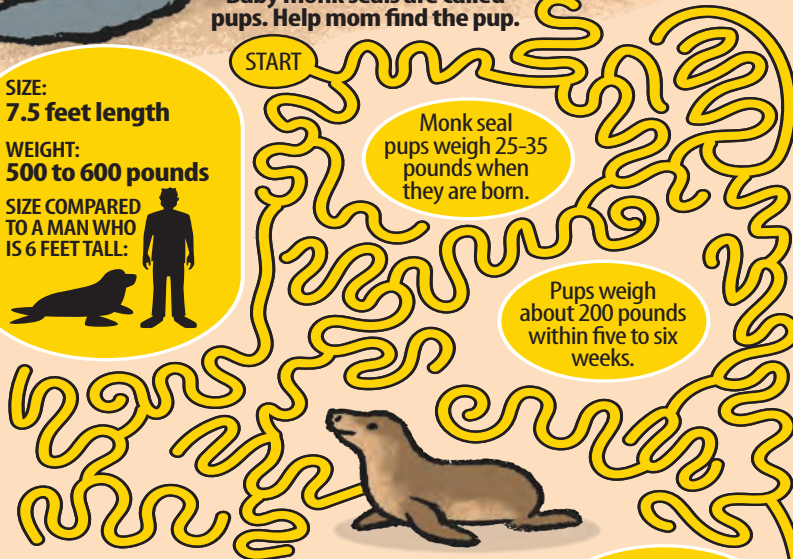
Baby monk seals are called pups. Help mom find the pup.

SIZE: 7.5 feet length  
WEIGHT: 500 to 600 pounds  
SIZE COMPARED TO A MAN WHO IS 6 FEET TALL:



Monk seal pups weigh 25-35 pounds when they are born.

Pups weigh about 200 pounds within five to six weeks.



Monk seal nostrils are small vertical slits. They close when they dive.

### Extra! Extra! The Adjective Hunt

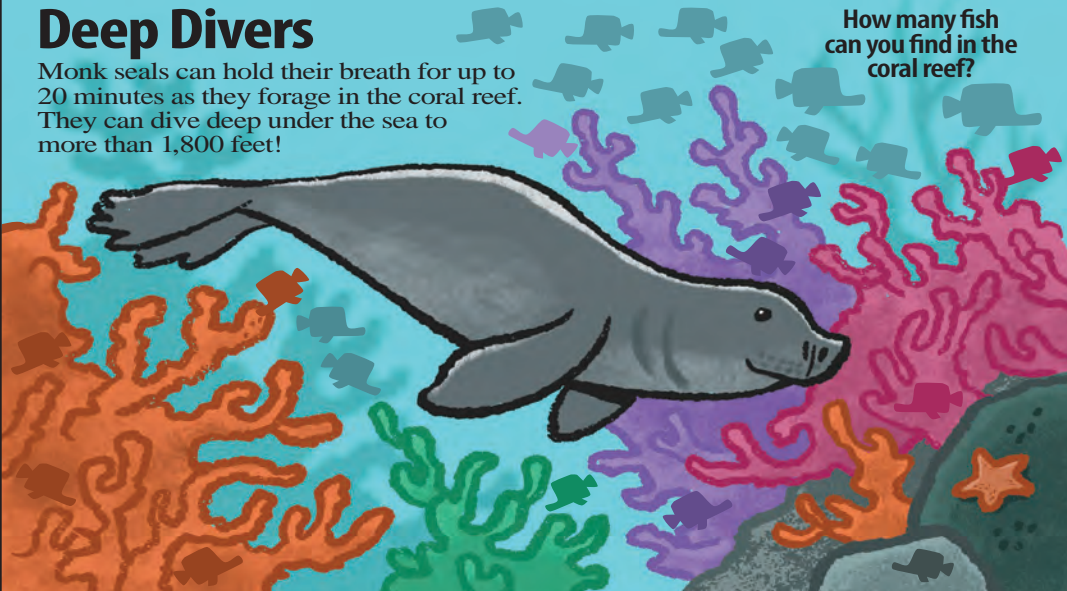
The word **marine** is an adjective, which describes the noun that comes after it in a sentence. Select one page of the newspaper and circle 10 adjectives. Underline the nouns that they each describe.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify adjectives in use.

### Deep Divers

Monk seals can hold their breath for up to 20 minutes as they forage in the coral reef. They can dive deep under the sea to more than 1,800 feet!

How many fish can you find in the coral reef?



### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Monk seals are **generalist** feeders and eat different kinds of marine animals. Circle the animals that you think a monk seal will eat. Then, check your answers by doing the math. The items that add up to even numbers are what monk seals will eat.

crab 7 + 4 + 1 =	fish 5 + 3 + 2 =	seagulls 3 + 4 + 2 =	octopus 2 + 2 + 2 =
urchins 4 + 8 + 4 =	eels 8 + 3 + 3 =	corn dogs 5 + 5 + 7 =	shrimp 6 + 8 + 2 =

Standards Link: Life Science: Understand that some animals are generalist feeders.

### Double Double Word Search

BABY  
BREATH  
CORAL  
CUTE  
EYES  
FIRST  
HAWAII  
HOLD  
HOOD  
MAMMAL  
MONK  
REEF  
SEALS  
UNDER  
YEARS

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

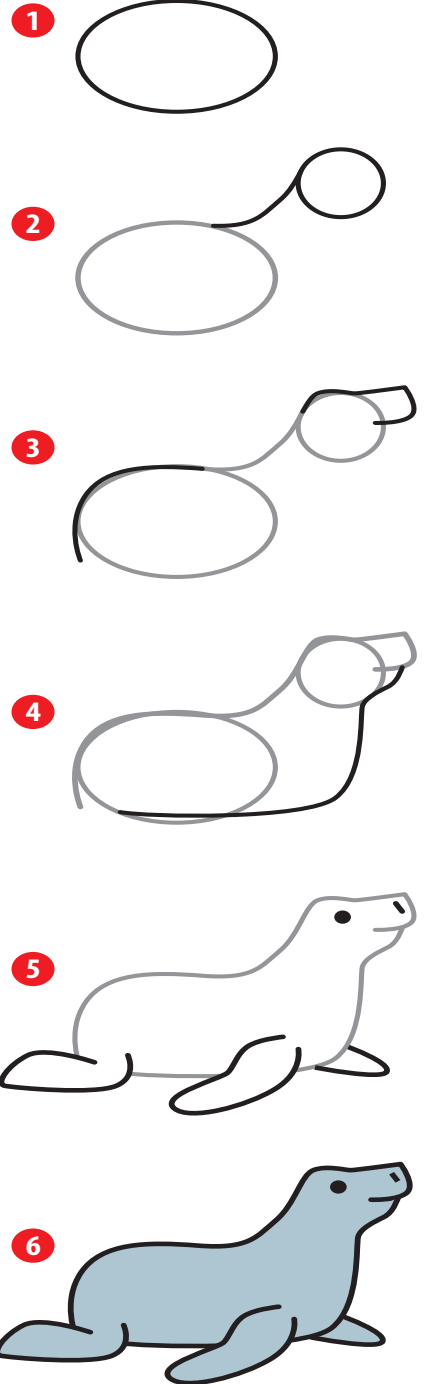
U N E T B P D L O H  
N S R Y U C O V H T  
D L E B K N O M A B  
E Y E A R S H R W C  
R O N B L A M M A M  
E Q F I R S T Z I L  
E Y P W V H S J I A  
F U E T U C X O Y J  
L N H S H T A E R B

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

### Kid Scoop Together: Let's Draw!

Read these facts about Hawaiian monk seals. Then draw one in 4 easy steps!

- BODY SHAPE:** Their bodies are long and *fusiform*, or torpedo-shaped, which helps them swim quickly and smoothly.
- FLIPPERS:** They have short flippers to help them swim and spin quickly.



### FREE DOWNLOAD: KID SCOOP TEACHER ACTIVITY PACK!

With hundreds of topics, every **Kid Scoop** printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at:

[kidscoop.com/activity-pages/](http://kidscoop.com/activity-pages/)

### Write On! Animal Family

If you were an animal, which would you be and why? Which animals would be in the rest of your family?

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