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Neenah News

Advocates carried signs and handed out fliers in downtown Neenah recently to urge support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

## Solar field project OK'd by Vinland

### 30-acre location set to power We customers

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Clean energy is coming to the town of Vinland with construction set to begin this spring on a 30-acre solar field.

The Town Board approved a conditional use permit Monday for OneEnergy Renewables to construct the solar field after the project was initially delayed for more than a month due to runoff concerns.

The location is 850 feet back from County GG, with a junkyard to the west and neighbors to the south with a 40-acre field in-between.

The 6-megawatt, ground-mounted solar electric generating facility will be on a portion of a 47-acre parcel of which the property owner will lease 30 acres for solar and use the remaining 17 for farming. The size of the project is equivalent to about 23 football fields.

OneEnergy is a solar development company that's constructed 40 similar facilities throughout the state. The company either sells the project to a utility or sells the power generated to utilities through long term purchase agreements.

Eric Udelhofen with OneEnergy told Neenah News the company prefers solar fields rather than installing solar panels on rooftops of buildings because the cost of energy from a large-scale ground mounted system is about half the cost of energy from a roof-mounted system.

"What we're trying to do with these larger fields is produce at wholesale rates where we can produce enough power at

SEE **Solar project** ON PAGE 11

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## Equal rights advocates make amendment push

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

On a chilly afternoon last week, local advocates for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) marched through downtown Neenah to support equality for all genders.

Organized by the Appleton area chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), the march kicked off at the Neenah Public Library, proceeded to the downtown and circled around to the Statue of Liberty replica before concluding at the library with a meeting and showing of the documentary "Ratified."

Participants carried signs that read, "Publish the ERA today," "ERA now," and "President Biden, sign the ERA." The event highlighted ongoing advocacy for equal rights and called attention to a national push to certify and publish the ERA as the 28th Amendment.

The ERA is a proposed constitutional amendment that states, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Approved by Congress in 1972, the

SEE **ERA support** ON PAGE 10

## County sees decline in overdoses, increase in suicides

Neenah News

Winnebago County is seeing a sharp decline in overdose deaths from last year, while the number of suicides is on the rise, according to medical examiner Cheryl Brehmer.

Brehmer gave an update at the county's December Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting on the preliminary overdose and suicide rates as of early this month.

Last year was the county's deadliest for overdose rates, with 47 deaths. As of this December, Brehmer said the county has seen a confirmed 20 fatal overdoses, with

three cases pending. To have the number of overdoses drop by about half this year "is amazing," she added.

However, the county has seen 26 suicide deaths as of December, six more than at this time in 2023. The county saw 27 such deaths last year and 23 in 2022.

Brehmer said the age of the suicide victims vary, though the recent deaths have been younger people. At a

meeting in October, she noted an upward trend in suicides by hanging and a significant decrease in suicides by firearm.

The Medical Examiner's office has been extremely busy this year. Though typically the county averages about eight autopsies per month, Brehmer said there were 17 autopsies in November. Winnebago County transports decedents to Fond du Lac County for autopsies.

The county is in the process of constructing a morgue with cold storage which will include the medical examiner's office and an exam room. The new

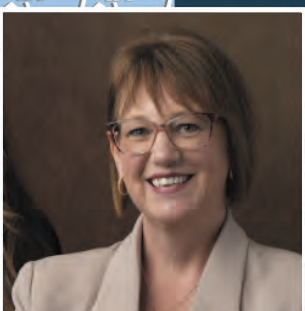
morgue is an addition to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office at 4311 Jackson St. in Oshkosh.

A mobile morgue unit donated by the Fox Valley Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition is being used until the permanent morgue is completed and then will be used in the event of a mass casualty or when the morgue is over capacity.

Brehmer said construction of the morgue is moving along, with HVAC recently installed. The Medical Examiner's office expects to begin operating out of the new morgue in mid-February.



Brehmer



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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.

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# Early-season ice cover unsafe, DNR warns

Neenah News

Temperature swings that mark the final weeks of the year can create ice covers that hide currents, debris and underground springs still feeding lakes and rivers.

"These factors and more are why no ice is ever considered safe – no matter the month," said Lt. Jacob Holsclaw, off-highway vehicle administrator for the state Department of Natural Resources.

"After we have the first cold nights, we start to see the early ice. It may look solid to the naked eye, but it's not. There can be, and often are, cracks and changes in the ice thickness that you will not see."

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions but are monitored locally by fishing clubs and bait shops that are the best sources for conditions.

If an outing involves travel over a waterbody, check if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows, is spring-fed or has currents, which can thin the ice.

Some smaller lakes can have aerators that are run throughout the winter either covering a large area toward the center of the lake or smaller aerators placed by private property landowners adjacent to their shore and/or piers.

Pressure ridges or ice heaves also can be dangerous due to thin ice and open water and often are created, move or grow with changes in temperatures and high winds, especially on Lake Winnebago.

More safety tips:



Neenah News

Last Sunday's sunset overlooks Little Lake Butte des Morts from Doty Island.

- Carry a cellphone and let people know where you are going and when you'll return home.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a personal flotation device or a float coat to help stay afloat and help slow body heat loss.
- Take an extra pair of mittens or gloves so hands can remain dry and warm.

- Wear creepers attached to boots to prevent slipping on clear ice.
- Carry a spud bar to check the ice while walking to new areas.
- Carry a couple of spikes and a length of light rope in an easily accessible pocket to help pull yourself or others out of the ice.
- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas or at night.

## Orthopedic, sports clinic expanding in Neenah

Neenah News

Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Specialists (OSMS), a doctor-owned orthopedic, sports medicine, rheumatology and pain management practice, has announced an expansion of its Fox Valley Clinic in Neenah to meet growing patient demand.

Construction began this month with the objective to begin using the extended physician dictation space and 12 patient exam rooms in the beginning of March.

"Currently, we are utilizing 75% of the space we had originally created when we built the Fox Valley clinic in 2020," stated Amy Seehafer, chief operating officer. "We built eight hallways, but at the time, only needed six, so the extra space was created with anticipation of continual growth for our Neenah clinic."

"Expanding exam room and dictation space will enable us to continue growth of all disciplines at OSMS while satisfying and meeting the expectations of our patients."

OSMS, which has brought on 13 physicians within the past two years, is also expanding its capacity for X-ray imaging with an additional X-ray room by January.

The practice has other clinics in Green Bay, Oshkosh and Marinette. Services include hip, knee and shoulder care; hand and wrist care; foot and ankle care; sports medicine; work-related injuries; fracture care; rheumatologic care; spine care; and pain management.



Neenah Historical Society photo

## Holiday cheer

Employees of Theda Clark Hospital decorate the Record Room for Christmas in 1958.

## CHRISTMAS EARLY AD DEADLINES

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### December 27th issue:

**Space Deadline**  
Thursday 12/19 Noon

**Classified Deadline:**  
Friday, 12/20 Noon

**Obituary Deadline:**  
Monday, 12/23 Noon

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### January 3rd issue:

**Space Deadline**  
Thursday, 12/26 Noon

**Classified Deadline:**  
Friday, 12/27 Noon

**Obituary Deadline:**  
Monday, 12/30 Noon

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# One arrested in connection with homeless man's death

Neenah News

A Neenah man has been arrested in connection with the death of a homeless man found outside last month in the 200 block of East Doty Avenue.

The Neenah Police Department announced last week that the death of 73-year-old Keith Rieskamp, who was living in area parks, is being investigated as a homicide and persons of interest have been identified.

Rodney Franklin, 52, is incarcerated at the Winnebago County Jail on charges of theft from a person or corpse and second-offense possession of THC after police searched his apartment and found items belonging to Rieskamp and a small amount of marijuana.

Rieskamp's items recovered from Franklin's apartment included a pair of shoes and boots, wristwatch, bracelet and wallet, with some of the items appearing to be covered in blood, according to the criminal complaint.

At around 8:30 a.m. Nov. 24 police responded to a caller who through a Spanish interpreter stated that outside the house on East Doty was a person who "was hit" and found Rieskamp outside in 30-degree weather, partially unclothed and covered in blood behind Franklin's apartment.

Rieskamp was pronounced dead at a local hospital. At the scene, an officer located blood on the handle of a nearby shed, on the back of the garage facing East Columbian Avenue, on items of clothing

found near the garage and shed, and on a brick nearby.

Documents say Rieskamp had recently been staying in the basement of the apartment building but had gotten kicked out and then started staying in a shed behind the building. One person interviewed by police said she had asked Franklin to tell Rieskamp he had to leave.

Franklin denied knowing Rieskamp but said he will occasionally take food over to homeless people staying in Shattuck Park. When questioned about Rieskamp's belongings in his apartment, documents say Franklin stated he didn't know anything about the items and had no idea how they got into his apartment.

Police obtained surveillance video from Shattuck Park showing that the night before the body was found a homeless man referred to in the complaint as "AP" put Rieskamp's items on the fireplace hearth and he and Franklin went through the belongings and took items.

Documents say AP returned and went through the items again at 3:07 a.m. and 7:59 a.m.; about 40 minutes before Rieskamp's body was found. As of Monday, AP had not been charged.

Police said they are continuing to investigate the homicide and said there is no threat to the public. Anyone with information may contact Winnebago County Crime Stoppers at 920-231-8477 or visit winnebagocrimestoppers.org to submit a text tip.

# Required driving logs aided by J. J. Keller system

Neenah News

Motor carriers operating in the state will be required to use electronic logging devices (ELDs) by April 1 when Wisconsin becomes the last to mandate the system for intrastate commercial drivers.

J. J. Keller & Associates is offering its ELD Quick Comply Program to facilitate compliance featuring its Encompass Fleet Management System.

ELDs have been required for interstate drivers since 2017, with individual states later adopting the requirement for intrastate drivers to maintain any state-specific intrastate hours-of-service limits. The device requirements are part of Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs).

"The ELD Quick Comply Program is ideal for Wisconsin's intrastate carriers who need to get up and running right away with a reliable, driver-friendly system," said J. J. Keller technology solutions product leader Eric Kind. "Our program includes ELDs that are compatible with

all vehicle classes, a mobile app for drivers with 24/7 support, implementation assistance and 60 days of free access to the Encompass back office."

The Neenah-based company's system automates hours-of-service compliance for drivers and carriers. It accommodates all state ELD requirements, including tracking compliance of drivers' weekly cycle hours, daily limits, workshift limits, personal use and yard moves. The Encompass back office audits all logs automatically.

Those transit carriers needing to acquire ELDs are encouraged to get ahead of the state deadline to get them installed and operating.

"Though April 1st is several months away, it's important for motor carriers to begin the process of obtaining and implementing ELDs now," said J. J. Keller senior editor for transportation safety Jill Schultz.

More information about the system can be found at KellerEncompass.com.



Photo from Future Neenah

## Window scenes

Live mannequin displays in the windows of downtown businesses were just one of the many visual happenings last Friday at the annual Very Neenah Christmas celebration.



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# County agencies honored for overdose prevention work

Neenah News

The Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team is presenting its third annual We Heart You Community Award of Excellence to Winnebago County Public Health and the Winnebago County Medical Examiner's Office.

The 2024 award winners were chosen by their OFR peers for going beyond their professional roles and inspired work within the OFR team and throughout the community. Winnebago County Public Health provides technical assistance and support to the project manager and team. The Medical Examiner's Office collaborates with the team to select review cases, provide staff to support the process and work with departments and organizations to implement recommendations.

Winnebago County Public Health is credited with playing a pivotal role in securing grants and funding to sustain initiatives such as the OFR, Solutions Peer Response Team, and Fox Cities Victim Crisis Response Team among other community efforts.

"The department's staff supports this important work and helps other organizations prevent future overdoses collaboratively," stated OFR project manager Jennifer Skolaski. "Winnebago County Public Health has exemplified innovation and compassion in their mission to create healthier, safer communities, which the other OFR partners have recognized."

In addition to providing review cases, Medical Examiner's Office staff participate in every review, offering insights on

family support and guiding interventions to prevent future tragedies. Its Overdose Spike Alert System issues timely prevention and intervention messaging and brings the Victim Crisis Response Team to the Oshkosh area.

"Above all, the Medical Examiner's Of-

fice staff relentlessly advocates for families, ensuring they receive the support needed to prevent future overdoses, underscoring their commitment to community well-being," Skolaski said. "They are a pillar of compassion in our fight against substance use and mental health challenges."

# UW Oshkosh faculty early retirement program offered

Neenah News

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt announced a voluntary retirement incentive options program (VRIOP) being offered to 57 eligible faculty members who would have the option to serve in programs that can absorb the loss of positions.

Eligible employees will have into early 2025 to decide on the retirement program to help determine a participation number. Leavitt said the program helps the university avoid layoffs, furloughs and program closures.

The new VRIOP is funded with support from the Universities of Wisconsin, which met with UW regents last week to discuss progress in reducing structural deficits statewide.

"In a few fundamental ways, this program is different than other programs we

have offered at UWO. It is smaller than past versions, it is more selective and it will be funded with the support of the Universities of Wisconsin," Leavitt said in a statement.

Leavitt, who previously announced he will be retiring in June, said UWO Provost and Vice Chancellor Ed Martini will work with Human Resources and his leadership team in Academic Affairs to define the parameters of the program.

"This new program is a critical step in achieving a stable and sustainable UWO," Leavitt said. "As we receive the response from eligible faculty members in the next few months, the provost, the other vice chancellors and I will keep (the university community) informed about the VRIOP's progress along with our other initiatives containing costs, stabilizing enrollment, transforming our academy and continuing to move us forward."

# Fox World Travel announces IMPACT program

Neenah News

Fox World Travel has launched Fox IMPACT, a community enrichment program that fosters engagement and support within the company's teams, travel industry and communities that it serves.

IMPACT (Inspiring meaningful philanthropy and community transformation) is dedicated to pressing issues that affect Fox Travel associates, clients and communities.

Fox Travel has three cornerstone organizations for global support:

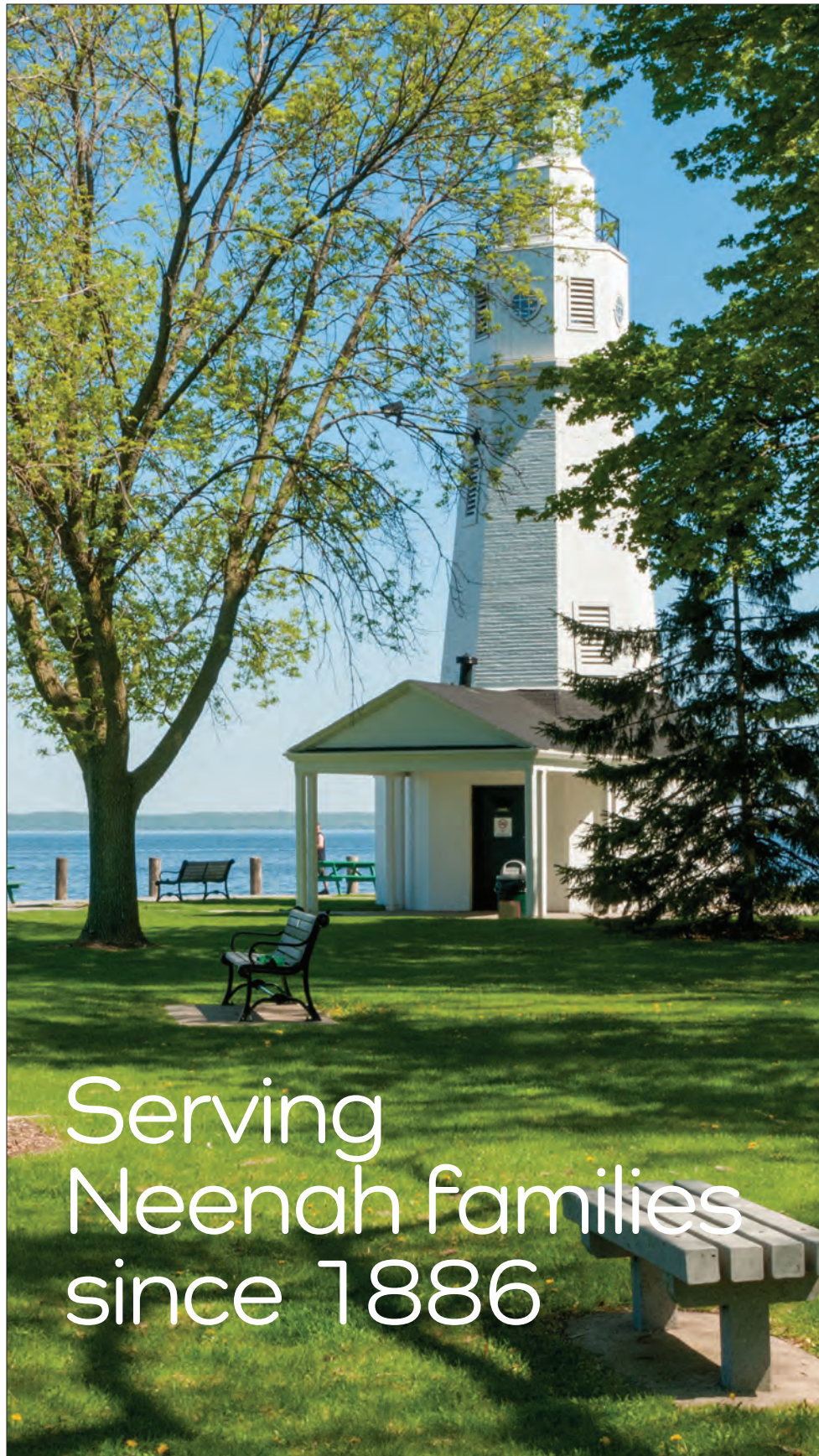
- PACT: A partner since 2019 and core

focus on the People Pillar.

- Arbor Day Foundation: Supporting Planet Pillar with a commitment to sustainability.

- Travel Elevates: Aligning with its Principles Pillar to enhance the travel experience

Fox IMPACT is intended to streamline the process for community support requests, making it easier for organizations to connect with Fox. Those interested in applying for support can visit fox-worldtravel.com, navigate to the "About Fox" menu and select IMPACT.



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# Art After Dark

Thursday, December 19  
5:30-8:30pm

## The Event of the Season

Dearest gentle reader,

It is with the utmost excitement that this author announces The Event of the Season at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass. Regency-era festivities will include musical entertainment by the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra, creating your one-of-a-kind fan, sweetmeats, and more. It promises to be the most splendid social gathering.

Yours Truly,  
Lady Evangeline



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# Stay informed on education's impact on taxes

By Steve J. Harrison  
NJSD SUPERINTENDENT

The month of December typically brings two significant expenses for homeowners: holiday shopping and the annual property tax bill. A common question school districts receive during this time is, "What determines the school district tax levy on my property tax bill?"



Harrison

In Wisconsin, the school district tax levy is a cornerstone of public education funding. It represents the amount of money a school district collects through property taxes to support its operations.

These funds are essential for paying teacher salaries, maintaining facilities and providing educational programs. Understanding how this levy works and its impact on local communities is crucial for taxpayers and stakeholders alike.

### What is a school district tax levy?

At its core, a school district tax levy is a property tax assessed on residents within a school district's boundaries. The revenue generated goes directly into the district's budget, covering essential expenses such as instructional services, special education and extracurricular programs.

Each year, school districts develop a budget based on anticipated expenses for the upcoming fiscal year. The tax levy is then determined by the funds needed to

meet these costs, after accounting for other revenue sources like state aid or federal grants. To calculate the levy, the district multiplies its mill rate (the tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed property value) by the total taxable property value within the district.

### How does the levy affect property taxes?

Property owners contribute to the tax levy based on their property's assessed value. For example:

- If a district establishes a levy of \$10 million and the total taxable property value is \$500 million, the mill rate would be \$20 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
- A homeowner with a property valued at \$200,000 would owe \$4,000 in school taxes:  $\$200,000 \div \$1,000 = 200$ ;  $200 \times \$20 = \$4,000$ .

Since the levy is tied to property values, homeowners in areas with higher property values generally pay more in taxes, even if the mill rate remains consistent.

### Levy limits and state aid

Wisconsin imposes levy limits to cap the amount school districts can raise through property taxes. These limits aim to curb the growth of property taxes and ensure predictability for taxpayers.

State aid also plays a crucial role in shaping a district's tax levy. When state aid increases, districts may not need to rely as heavily on property taxes. Conversely, reduced state aid often forces districts to raise their levies to fill the gap, impacting local taxpayers.

### Why is the tax levy important?

The school district tax levy has a direct and lasting impact on a community's educational quality.

- It influences:
- Classroom sizes: Adequate funding can reduce overcrowding.
  - Resources: Well-funded schools can provide up-to-date materials, technology and facilities.
  - Program availability: Extracurriculars, arts and special education programs thrive when budgets are robust.

For homeowners, the levy also plays a critical role in determining property tax rates, affecting the affordability of living in the area.

### What it means for taxpayers

Understanding the school district tax levy helps taxpayers make informed decisions and hold districts accountable. As districts strive to balance their budgets and address community needs, residents should be aware of the relationship between state funding, local levies and quality of public education.

It is also important to note the school district levy is just one component of a property tax bill. Other entities, such as the city of Neenah and Fox Valley Technical College, also impose levies that contribute to the total property tax amount.

By staying informed, taxpayers can actively participate in discussions about school funding and advocate for sustainable policies that support both education and affordability.

## Educator nominated for LifeChanger Award

Neenah High School attendance clerk Anne Marsh has been nominated for National Life Group's 2024-25 LifeChanger of the Year award, which recognizes the best K-12 educators and school district employees across the United States who are making a difference in the lives of students.

Marsh was nominated by an anonymous student for her outstanding support and positive influence.

"I'm grateful to Mrs. Marsh for the meaningful conversations, advice and positive attitude that brightened my day, even when mornings were rough. In a school filled with incredible teachers, she was always the one to make me smile, even as she handed me a tardy pass," shared the student.

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## Volunteer needs

**Big Brothers Big Sisters** is seeking mentors (Bigs) to be matched with youth in their community-based or site-based program. Matches meet 2-4 times a month in the community to explore hobbies and interests together. Site-based matches meet weekly at the Little's school during their lunch to share stories and play games. Bigs must be 18 years old and fulfill a 12-month commitment. Learn more at [bbbsecw.org](http://bbbsecw.org).

**ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah** needs volunteers in its Gift

Gallery. No experience needed. Openings: Tuesday 1-4:30 p.m. or Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m./1-4:30 p.m. Contact Sara at [sara.reybrock@thedacare.org](mailto:sara.reybrock@thedacare.org) or 920-454-5571 for more info or to apply.

**Beaming Inc.** is looking for a volunteer horse handler, side walker, event helper, or for in non-horse roles. Perfect for individuals and families—no experience needed. Contact Denise at 920-851-6160 or [volunteer4beaming@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer4beaming@gmail.com) to learn more.

**Girls on the Run of Northeast Wisconsin** is seeking diverse community members to join its board of directors. No prior board experience required, but expertise is needed in finance, fundraising, legal, marketing or strategic planning. Term: six years. Contact Kathy at [kathy.olson@girlsontherun.org](mailto:kathy.olson@girlsontherun.org) for more details.

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# Increased purchasing options affect Neenah beer drinkers

A beer drinker is similar to any other consumer: They value convenience, price, variety, quality and service. Locals who enjoy beer now have to weigh those factors even more closely since the Neenah Common Council voted to repeal a ban on alcohol sales in convenience stores (businesses that also dispense gasoline).

There are now four additional retail options within the city limits that sell beer, yet what beer drinkers get isn't what they might expect upon hearing the news. That's why your local beer imbibers and column writers, Wife and Husband, did some research to help you determine what options you have in Neenah when it comes to purchasing your favorite beverage.

Kwik Trip pushed hard for the Neenah law change, yet other convenience stores have also benefited. Currently, in addition to Neenah's only Kwik Trip (903 S. Green Bay Road), these other retailers now sell beer, hard seltzer, hard ciders and hard teas: Neenah Mobil (700 Main St.), Main Street Amoco (1013 Main) and Krist Oil Co. (1305 S. Commercial St.).

Our recent purchase at Kwik Trip – for research purposes – found coolers containing many popular brands that are mostly owned by large beer conglomerates, including Miller, Budweiser, Coors, Corona, Leinenkugel's and Modelo Especial (America's most popular beer brand since May 2023, knocking Bud Light from that spot after a 22-year reign).

There are a handful of what many consider to be "craft brands" to be found, too: New Belgium, Bell's and Kona, all of which are fully or partially owned by large companies.

If you want to support local brewers, your options are limited: Stone Arch Brewing (one style, Scottish Ale) and Fox River Brewing (again, one style, Blu Bobber). New Glarus Brewing isn't local, but it's certainly independent and proudly "Wisconsin only." In addition to beers, the convenience stores also sell hard seltzers, Mike's Hard Lemonade and Twisted Tea, the 5% ABV "hard iced tea" made by Boston Beer Co., along with other similar malt beverages.

As these new beer-buying options have surfaced, what does that mean for traditional retailers that specialize in alcohol sales?

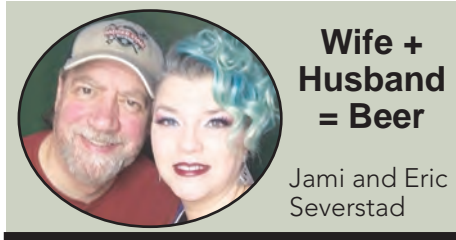
Dustin Davies, store manager at Cellars Wine & Spirits on N. Green Bay Road, has already experienced a sales impact from the new law, but none of this caught him by surprise.

"This ordinance has been constantly voted on. Just in my duration (at Cellars) since 2017, it's been brought up four times. I knew it was going to happen. I was ready for it," Davies said.

When asked if the new ordinance has already impacted his business, Davies replied, "A little. The laws are still pretty strict on what they can carry."

As a quick review of the new ordinance, convenience store retailers must meet certain requirements in addition to malt beverages, including limited packaging sizes, no single cans/bottles, no kegs, and a maximum of four cooler doors that must be lockable. Simply put, beer in 6-packs and 12-packs (what we consider convenient packaging), with no wine or hard liquor sales. Beer signage is not allowed outside the store, and at least one on-duty employee must have a bartender's license when alcohol sales occur.

Your authors' recent research adventure to Kwik Trip went smoothly with just one minor hiccup. The checkout



**Wife + Husband = Beer**

Jami and Eric Severstad

person was younger than 18, so another associate had to be called over to ring up my sale. That's a common occurrence at the grocery store, so nothing shocking. A Bud Light sign, along with "BEER" in-store signage, guided us to the right cooler sections, four of which contained the ordinance-approved "malt beverages" mentioned earlier. A nearly identical beverage selection was available at Main Street Amoco, so you now know what to expect.

Convenience is one thing, yet price is usually a factor when buying beer.

"Pricing can get tough. A grocery store makes their money on groceries, so they can lower their alcohol prices. Yet, we (Cellars) remain very competitive on everything. We pride ourselves on fair pricing," Davies said.

When Wife and Husband ran a quick, (and far from thorough) price comparison, it yielded little difference in the price of popular beers. For instance, when comparing two new convenience stores, the Stone Arch Scottish Ale is \$10.99/six-pack at Main Street Amoco, a dollar cheaper than Kwik Trip, so pricing among those options isn't consistent even though the selection seems to be. At Kwik Trip, a six-pack of Modelo Especial cans is \$9.49, compared with Cellars' price of \$8.49.

"For those places, it's all about convenience. You get your gas, you get your beer. But, you're not getting your good craft (beer)," Davies said. "We drink a lot of the beers we carry. In my single-can section, we have 250 single-can craft beer options that are available for a consumer. Every time a new beer comes in, we price it, mark some for single cans and put the rest out there. We've got a really good staff, and they're knowledgeable. That's a competitive advantage."

Your friendly authors, Husband and Wife, concur. We've seen an employee of Cellars at local and regional brewery special events, enjoying and researching the latest in craft beers. That knowledge is invaluable when shopping.

"(He) will drive to 3 Sheeps Brewing in Sheboygan on his day off, or to Chicago just to try some craft beers. If you have a question, our people will answer it or we'll find someone who can or we pull out a phone and look it up. That's a service that's not applied at a lot of convenience stores," Davies said.

Some beer brands you'll find at beer-focused retailers are unique within that city or region. How can one shop sell brews that others can't?

"Self-distribution is a thing you can do. If a brewery isn't signed with a distributor, we can drive and pick it up (and sell it)," Davies said. "We were the first to have Phase Three (Lake Zurich, Ill.) in the Fox Valley. I bought 15 cases, threw them in the back of my vehicle and drove them up here. When Hop Butcher for the World (Chicago) expanded distribution to our area, I said I'll take every release, every single time, because I love that beer. When Hop Yard (Appleton) puts a different beer on tap, I have to try it. It's a fun thing to do."

That enthusiasm level for great beer is rare to see, and beer lovers are rewarded.



Photo by Rune Severstad

Some local retailers, such as Cellars Wine & Spirits, take pride in offering many beer purchasing options, including single cans.

While convenience stores selling malt beverages may make some quick sales, they're not likely to pull in true beer enthusiasts for additional sales. The selection isn't impressive, there's no price advantage and beer knowledge is negligible.

"That's something we're passionate about; making sure you're drinking fresh beer. We pay attention to everything that's in there. We want to make an enjoyable shopping experience," Davies said. Searching out beer expertise and

knowledge may not be convenient but it is valuable.

"Kwik Trip is going to try to take every piece of the pie that they can," Davies said. "(The ordinance) pushes business toward Kwik Trip, and that's going to take business away from other gas stations around town. It is taking away from Neenah's small business. Yet, we remain Neenah proud."

What beer-related topic should we tackle next? Let us know: [wife.husband.beer@gmail.com](mailto:wife.husband.beer@gmail.com).



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# Holiday horn concert looking to set performance record



Neenah News

Musicians perform at last year's Horns A Plenty holiday concert led by Don Krause.

## Neenah News

The annual Horns A Plenty Christmas concert will bring dozens of horn players to Belfry Hall in Appleton next Saturday to perform holiday music and an attempt to set two world records.

Started by 84-year-old Neenah resident Don Krause about 24 years ago, the Horns A Plenty concert is free to attend and starts at 2 p.m. Dec. 21 at 900 N. Mason St. in Appleton.

Krause is a former band director at a parochial school and staff horn teacher at a public university who's been playing horn – commonly called French horn – for 72 years and continues to offer music lessons to aspiring horn players out of his home.

His former student Alexandra Reuning, who is now in the Wisconsin National Guard Band and attending UW Madison to become a band instructor, is the featured guest musician at this year's concert.

The concept is similar to TubaChristmas, an annual event started in New York in 1974 where tuba and euphonium players of all skill levels perform a free public concert; only with horns instead of tubas.

This year, Krause hopes to attract 50 horn players of all ages from across the state to perform at the concert and establish the Guinness World Record for the largest French horn ensemble to play "Amazing Saving Grace" and "Silverado."

If successful, it would mark the second and third Guinness World Record



Submitted photo

Alexandra Reuning, who is in the Wisconsin National Guard Band, is the featured guest musician at this year's concert.

that Horns A Plenty has achieved, following a 2007 record for the largest French horn ensemble, which featured 85 horns playing at City Center Plaza in Appleton.

## Calendar of events

### Friday, Dec. 13

Live Nativity, 5 p.m., Congregational United Church of Christ, 1511 Nicolet Blvd.  
Peanuts Christmas, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 West American Drive, Fox Crossing

### Sunday, Dec. 15

Blue Christmas Service, 3 p.m., Congregational United Church of Christ, 1511 Nicolet Blvd.

### Monday, Dec. 16

Big Band Reunion, 7:30 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

### Thursday, Dec. 19

Author meet-and-greet: Spencer Jones, 4 p.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Art After Dark, 5:30 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

### Friday, Dec. 20

Sleigh Rides on the Farm & S'Mores with Santa, 5 p.m., 3910 Fairview Road  
Peter Mayer Christmas Concert, 7 p.m., Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 809 S. Commercial St.  
Erin Boehme & Mike Kubicki, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive, Fox Crossing

### Sunday, Dec. 22

Sleigh Rides on the Farm & S'Mores with Santa, noon, 3910 Fairview Road

### Monday, Dec. 23

Mark Joseph, 9 p.m., Cranky Pat's, 905 S. Commercial St.

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 Sunday School: Sundays Sept.- May @ 10:30am  
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Photo by David Hall

## Holiday performers

The Neenah Community Band presented a "A Season of Joy" winter concert Sunday at Neenah High School featuring music for the season and a sing-along with the audience.

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# Annual service connects families experiencing infant loss

ThedaCare Communications

For families who have experienced an infant loss through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or neonatal death, the holidays can often be an especially difficult time, making the loss feel even greater.

A special ThedaCare service aims to help parents through this time by offering a chance to honor their child and to build connections with other parents who are experiencing a similar grief.

The Resolve Through Sharing Candlelight Memorial service, planned for Wednesday, recognizes the memories of babies who have died through neonatal complications, stillbirth, ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage. The event will be held at the Best Western Bridgewood Resort and Conference Center with doors opening at 6:15 p.m. and the service starting at 7 p.m.

The event is meant to help families memorialize their child and to know that there are many others who understand their grief, said Ashley Ebert, Family Birth Care Charge registered nurse and bereavement coordinator for ThedaCare.

“Our hope is that we’re bringing these families together to allow them to memorialize a part of their life that might not always be recognized or truly understood by

others,” Ebert said. “We want to provide a day for these families to take time, and recognize what they have experienced. It’s also a time to support other parents who maybe haven’t had as much time to process or heal from their loss.”

Particularly with the loss of a pregnancy, it’s often difficult to find a special day to honor the child.

“Many times, this kind of loss is often silent or unspoken,” Ebert said. “For example, there are a lot of families who go through an early miscarriage when others never knew they were pregnant. It can be a complicated type of grief.”

The event helps families see how others have managed to adapt to the loss of a pregnancy or an infant, and move forward, even while still carrying the grief and honoring the loss.

“Each year we invite a reflection speaker who is someone who shares their experience of loss,” Ebert said. “They share their story of pregnancy, loss and where they are now in their life, allowing others to share in their experience.”

After that portion of the service, each family will be invited to the front of the ballroom where they can light a candle for their child and place it on a special candleabra display at the front of the room.

“The display is absolutely beautiful, and is a special way for families to remember their children and understand how many people share a similar kind of grief,” Ebert said.

Families will be gifted a rose and an angel ornament.

“Many families who attend annually look forward to adding an angel ornament to their Christmas tree each year,” Ebert said.

Parents who attend are also invited to bring an unwrapped toy in memory of their baby. Toys will be donated to the Salvation Army of the Fox Valley to be distributed to needy families. The program also has an Amazon Wish List here that helps support the program and provide memorial items to families who are experiencing a loss.

A ThedaCare chaplain, as well as bereavement coordinators, will be available to talk to families. ThedaCare also will have a variety of support handouts available to grieving families. Ebert noted there are options of assistance for anyone who is struggling.

Families who are unable to attend the event can send their mailing address to [RTS@thedacare.org](mailto:RTS@thedacare.org) and an angel ornament will be sent to them.



Submitted photo

ThedaCare is holding a service at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Best Western Bridgewood to recognize the memories of babies who have died.



Photo by Melissa Jagodinsky

## Community Foundation scholarship funds available

Neenah News

The 2025 scholarship season kicked off this month for the Community Foundation of the Fox Cities Region with more than \$2 million available for students to help them on their educational journeys.

Last spring, 526 scholarships totaling \$1.75 million were awarded from 238 scholarship funds. The foundation partners

with more than 60 schools from its service.

Students can apply through a portal that includes a frequently asked questions section along with accessibility tools for non-English speaking applicants and people with visual challenges. Most scholarship deadlines are in the spring. More information is at [cfoxvalley.org/scholarships](http://cfoxvalley.org/scholarships) or by calling 920-830-1290.

## Volunteer options

Visitors to last week’s Volunteer Fest at Jewelers Mutual Group in Neenah were able to meet with nonprofit and other organizations to talk about volunteer opportunities in the region. Volunteer Fox Cities holds the in-person event each fall in the Neenah area and in the spring in Appleton with about 40 participating organizations and co-hosted by Jewelers Mutual, Miron Construction, Modern Woodmen, 4imprint, ThedaCare and Thrivent.

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## ERA support

FROM PAGE 1

ERA met the three-fourths state ratification requirement in 2020 but has not been published by national archivist Colleen Shogan.

Last month, 46 senators wrote a letter to President Biden, urging him to direct the national archivist to certify and publish the ERA in the Federal Register.

"In summation, the ERA is the most powerful tool available to put an end to the rollback of women's rights, as well as civil rights more broadly," the senators wrote. "It would serve as our best chance to guarantee equality for all, free from the whims of anti-equality judges and politi-

cians; guarantee equal pay and opportunities; restore reproductive rights; protect women from domestic violence and sexual harassment; put an end to gender and pregnancy discrimination; and more."

With Biden being succeeded by Donald Trump in January, Appleton Area NOW president Irene Strohsbeen said organizations across the country are advocating for the ERA to be published.

"We know fundamentally that this needs to happen before Inauguration Day, because the administrative change is going to change everything, right? But in addition to that, there's a lot of fear of what the next administration will bring, which will include overturning laws," she said.

Neenah resident Lisa Gehrke is chair of Appleton Area NOW's ERA committee.

She said that after the election, 250 feminists showed up at the Appleton NOW meeting.

"There was so much energy in that room, so much excitement, hope. I think people want to do something; you want to not feel hopeless," she said.

Urging Biden to publish the ERA is one way local advocates are taking action.

"The ERA would protect all of us and say, 'Well, we're going to treat them equally and really live up to equal protection under the law,'" Strohsbeen added.

Gehrke compared the United States to oppressive Third World countries.

"The countries that don't have equal rights for women in their constitution, we're in the company of countries like Yemen and Sudan, North Korea, you know?

In the United States, we are second-class citizens here," she said.

Appleton area NOW held a second march in downtown Neenah this past Tuesday, commemorating 101 years since the ERA was first introduced. Participants handed out fliers with the ERA Coalition.org website along with instructions on how to call, text and send postcards to the White House and request the ERA be published.

"It is so important for women, girls, LGBTQ+, trans people, everyone, men and women, to be equal, and it's so important for the future," Gehrke said. "I have daughters and granddaughters, and I can't imagine that they're going to face growing up in a country where they are second-class citizens."

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# Health care groups unite on needs assessment

Neenah News

For the first time, the four not-for-profit hospitals in the area – ThedaCare, Advocate Aurora Health, Ascension Health and Children’s Wisconsin – are joining with public health departments and nonprofit groups to conduct the entire Community Health Needs Assessment in the tri-county area, including the well-being survey.

The three-year assessments enable local health care systems and public health departments to learn more about the needs residents are facing and provide a roadmap for health organizations to focus their resources on the greatest needs.

The survey, available in English, Hmong and Spanish, takes about 10 minutes to complete. Anyone 18 or older living in Winnebago, Calumet, Green Lake, Marquette, Menominee, Shawano, Outagamie, Waupaca or Waushara counties is asked to take the survey between now and Jan. 17 at [surveymonkey.com/r/RZDZKSB](https://surveymonkey.com/r/RZDZKSB).

“Well-being is a person’s perception of to what extent they are living their best possible life,” said Paula Morgen, ThedaCare director of community health im-

provement. “Are they able to do the things they want to do? Do they feel safe in their community? Do they have the social supports needed for both physical and mental well-being?”

In past surveys mental health, substance abuse, early childhood needs and social needs, such as food insecurity and transportation, came to the forefront.

“In the past, each of these entities conducted their own surveys and created independent plans. Bringing all the hospitals and agencies in the greater Fox Valley area together to conduct this assessment, evaluate the results and create joint plans is a monumental positive shift for all our communities,” Morgen said. “We will be able to do so much more when we are all focused on the same priorities together.”

The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, United Way Fox Cities and the U.S. Venture Foundation provided funds to facilitate the first phase of bringing the organizations together. The assessment process is funded by the health systems and public health departments.

## Solar project

FROM PAGE 1

a cost that’s competitive under wholesale generation,” he said.

The facility in Vinland will tie into the existing distribution system and serve local customers of We Energies, producing 12,000,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year; enough to power 1,400 households annually.

At an October Plan Commission meeting, resident Jerry Kleinschmit raised concerns that runoff from the solar panels would drain onto his field and damage crops.

Additional concerns from neighbors were the visual appeal of the solar panels, with a resident recommending a tree line be added around the site to cover the “eyesore” for neighbors.

Among the conditions that the Plan Commission added to OneEnergy’s application were that the company work with neighboring landowners to complete a water runoff plan and plant a row of trees around the property.

The site will combine solar electric generation with a vegetation maintenance plan, with OneEnergy planning to plant the parcel with a pasture or pollinator mix. At the Dec. 2 meeting, Udelhofen noted that the plantings will reduce 49% of water runoff.

OneEnergy agreed to install a water basin in the southwest side of the parcel to slow down water drainage and hold 74,000 gallons of water that won’t drain onto Kleinschmit’s field.

Kleinschmit continued arguing against the project at the meeting, stating he wants

a berm rather than a basin and he has concerns of how rainfall will run off the panels.

Commissioner Corey Maertz noted that the existing area has water drainage issues already so the solar project is not the problem as it was existent prior. Separately, the commission voted to have an independent study done to investigate the current drainage issue in the westerly property.

OneEnergy also updated the site plan to add 8- to 10-foot-tall shrubs that will be planted around the site. Shrubs were chosen rather than trees because as trees grow they begin to shade the solar panels. The solar field will also have an 8-foot-tall deer fence around it.

At Monday’s town board meeting, Kleinschmit was not in attendance.

Town Chairman Don O’Connell noted the solar field will generate additional tax revenue because it will be taxed at a higher rate due to the parcel’s change of use from agriculture to commercial.

Work on the solar field is expected to begin by June and take four to six months.



Photo from FVTC

Ashley Turner from Neenah High School competes in the burger preparation competition held at FVTC last Friday, where she took first place.

## Students test culinary skills at FVTC

Neenah News

Fox Valley Technical College’s annual High School Burger and Cake Throw-down on Friday drew 15 students representing eight area high schools where their culinary skills were observed and FVTC scholarships offered.

Neenah High School was represented in the hamburger competition at FVTC’s Appleton campus by Ashley Turner, who won first place and a scholarship to attend

the college’s culinary program. The top three winners in each category earned scholarships toward the program.

Students worked under a deadline to prepare food in the FVTC’s new culinary kitchen labs.

Burgers were made from scratch and the cake competition focused on decorating techniques. Knife skills, cooking techniques, presentation and flavor were put to the test.

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# Second period outburst carries Rockets to easy win

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Ty Laabs can't explain it. He just knows it has been happening.

Laabs, a senior forward for the Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha co-op hockey team, knows his team has come out and played well in the first period of games this season but not truly up to their explosive self.

That comes later.

"We have scored two goals in the first period of (almost) every game but then coming off that, we've put a lot of pucks in the second period," Laabs said following a 12-0 thumping of Oshkosh on Tuesday night at the Oshkosh YMCA. "I don't know why (it happens). The momentum just builds and just keep it going."

The Rockets scored 13 seconds into the second period on Tuesday night to ignite a seven-goal eruption that swayed things

the Rockets' way in the Badgerland Conference matchup.

The 12 goals was a season-high for Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha but hardly an aberration for the Rockets' offense which has tallied 40 goals in five games so far this season.

"We're able to throw a lot of lines at people. We started out with just getting the first line scoring and now our second and third lines are joining in and it's good to see," head coach Jeff Lindemann said. "But it's still early in the season and we do have things we need to work on."

Having that offensive depth is something the Rockets can certainly use to their advantage.



Laabs



Zinda

"We have a lot of guys who can put the puck in the net and we can count on anyone to put the puck in the net," senior defenseman Calvin Zinda said. "We have a special team here and we can put something together."

Five different players found the net in the seven-goal outburst, which started with a Jack Weinholzer goal off an assist from Gus Weinholzer. Keegan Krueger capped the burst with less than two minutes to play in the period, while in between the Rockets' top line of Laabs, Mark Sutton and Cartyr Simonsen took control.

The trio combined for the next five goals, with Laabs getting two, Sutton adding two and Simonsen getting one.

"As soon as we start clicking and get the first one in, the floodgates are open," Laabs said. "Our hard work in practice helps. We show up and we put the work in and that helps us get better every day."

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha dominated the game from the opening faceoff racking up 19 shots on goal in the first period.

However, it took the Rockets more than 11 minutes to get the first goal with the tally coming from Zinda, who stole the puck from an Oshkosh player at the blue line and came in 1-on-1 on the goalkeeper and found the net.

Simonsen then scored his first of his three goals on the night less than a minute later to stake the Rockets to a 2-0 lead and set the stage for the big second period.

"It's so much fun. It's a special team,"

SEE **Neenah hockey** ON PAGE 15

# Zephyrs can't keep pace with Howards Grove in Big East loss

By Joe Matzek  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

When two of the top returning boys' basketball teams in the Big East North Conference took the floor Tuesday night, one showed promise in a new season while the other showed the growing pains of a team looking to find its stride.

Howards Grove never trailed and had four players score in double figures in a 75-45 win over St. Mary Catholic at McClone Gymnasium.

Both teams entered the conference-opening game with 1-2 records. The Zephyrs started the season with a win over Wautoma, followed by losses to Bondel and Wittenberg-Birnamwood.

Zephyrs coach Paul Bradshaw said his

team has a lot to work on.

"We're not playing with the effort we need to play with, we're not rebounding the way we need to rebound, we're not moving the ball, we're not taking care of the ball, and we're sure as heck not scoring," Bradshaw said. "We're missing shots we should make. We'll figure it out."

The Tigers' quickness was evident throughout the game, attacking the basket on offense and forcing 21 turnovers on defense.

"The zone had a softness in the middle. We tried to take advantage of that and tried to get some kick-outs or something on the baseline. But we turned the ball over," said Bradshaw, who attributed some of the offensive struggles to players filling new roles this year. "You can't turn the ball over that

many times to be in the ballgame."

Cruz showed his strength inside the lane early in the game, helping Howards Grove take a 21-4 lead.

St. Mary tried to attack Howards Grove's zone defense from long range, but the Zephyrs missed their first several three-point attempts before Mason Uhlenbrauck hit three shots from beyond the arc to cut the deficit to 23-13.

The Zephyrs drew to 29-24 before Grunewald took over, scoring the last nine points of the half for a 38-24 Howards Grove lead at the break, and the Tigers ran away with the game in the second half.

"They're a good team but they're in the same boat we are," Bradshaw said. "They lost guys last year. They're young. They

have two really good players (Grunewald and Cruz) who are seniors, but the rest of the guys - we should be able to play with them. I expected this to be a tight game, and unfortunately, we didn't defend our home court like we need to."

Uhlenbrauck's nine points led St. Mary, while Luke Fairweather scored eight and Preston Fields had seven. The Zephyrs shot 18-of-48 from the floor and made only 3-of-9 free throws, drawing only seven fouls by the Tigers.

The Tigers were 29-of-64 from the field and committed only seven turnovers.

The Zephyrs play six of their first seven games at home this season, with the lone road game in that stretch coming Friday night at Mishicot.

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Senior Standout is brought to you by: 

# Neenah's Herm sets sights on repeating state title run

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Despite all of his success on the wrestling mat, Jacob Herm still knows and follows the proper chain of command of the practice room.

Herm will, at times, wrestle with Rockets' head coach Kyle Kleuskens during practice and when he was asked who gets the better of the action in those moments, the Neenah High School senior declined to answer.

"I will let him answer that," Herm said with a laugh.

Kleuskens happily fielded the question.

"He definitely does. He passed me up early last year maybe," Kleuskens said. "I'm glad. You want to have kids that can do that. He's a special wrestler. Now, (for me) it's trying to figure out some different things to use against a guy who can wrestle at that level. It's a lot of fun."

Herm is certainly no stranger to having the upper hand on a wrestling mat, no matter who is standing across from him.

Entering his senior season, Herm has lost a total of 10 matches in his high school career and two of them came in state title matches when he took second place as a freshman and a sophomore.

Last year, he posted a perfect 49-0 record in claiming the 144-pound state title. Herm began his junior year focused on standing atop the state podium – the undefeated record was somewhat of an afterthought.

"I wrote it down as a goal at the beginning of the year but then I kind of re-evaluated it as to whether it was realistic or not," said Herm, who had a career record of 134-10 entering the year. "I really didn't think about it until the state tournament and I realized I was undefeated. So, I was like, yeah, let's do this thing."

Herm had little trouble in what were supposed to be his toughest matches of last season, breezing to the four wins at the Kohl Center. Three of his matches never made it out of the second period, while the one that did was an 11-2 major decision win. He pinned Stoughton's Cole Sarbacker in the title match.

His aim this year is to do it again. "One-hundred percent that's the goal," Herm said. "I have some tough competition coming up but I believe in my training, I believe in my coaches and training partners and I believe I can win any



Neenah News

Neenah High School Jacob Herm went undefeated last season en route to winning a state wrestling title and is aiming to repeat the performance as a senior.

match I wrestle."

Herm's mindset was forged at a young age, having started wrestling at about the age of three.

He said as a youngster, he used to get up at 5 a.m. with his father to do push-ups and sit-ups in his basement as a sign of his dedication.

"I tried a lot of different sports (when I was young) and then I just fell in love with wrestling. I kind of gave up on every other sport and just started wrestling," Herm said. "My dad would do that little stuff to push me and then he stopped in sixth grade and I kind of had to lead my own path. Now I'm here today."

The dedication to the sport is one of the things that has contributed to Herm's success on the mat, both as a Neenah High School wrestler and on the national

level.

"I think what it takes to be successful is to be determined and consistent and Jacob has been doing that in his wrestling career since I met him in the third grade," Kleuskens said. "He's been very coachable and always seemed to learn from his setbacks and it's exciting to see him take his wrestling to another level. It's a testament to a decade's worth of incredibly hard work. The ability to work on your craft over a long period of time is what's gotten him here."

For Herm, being dedicated to the sport is something that comes pretty easy.

"I get to come in (the wrestling room) every day and work with people who are basically my family," Herm said. "A good mindset makes a good wrestler. I just go out to have fun and remember it's a sport

## Senior Standout



and you do it for the love of it."

Being the elite-level wrestler that he is comes with certain expectations.

Staying focused on what lies immediately ahead can be difficult when the deciding factor on his season will come a couple of months down the road.

"Sometimes it is tough. I have buddies who are wrestling in college and getting upsets and I'm training for a Tuesday night dual against a school down the street" Herm said. "But it's about living in the moment, having fun. I have one more year and I'm trying to make the most of it."

The early-season dual-meet schedule does offer Herm opportunities to showcase his non-wrestling skills – most importantly, being a leader.

He is certainly looking to deliver on what the team needs him to do on the mat but he is also focused on making sure his teammates are also ready to go when called upon.

"One of my big focuses is that if I know I have an easier match I try to help my teammates out," Herm said. "One of the guys, he's a freshman, was real nervous before a match and I was just talking him through stuff. I don't have to put all of my focus into my match and can help my team. That comes with being a team captain."

Although Herm is focused on making his senior season memorable, he also has one eye on the future and recently committed to attend South Dakota State University to continue his wrestling career.

He knows it will be a jump in competition but is looking forward to competing at the collegiate level.

"I'll redshirt my first year and my big focus is strength. I need to get gain a little more weight," Herm said. "To wrestle at that next level is tough as it is. It's physically and mentally demanding."

Herm chose South Dakota State over some of the top big-name wrestling programs in the country – including the likes of Wisconsin, Indiana, Purdue, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State – but said the fit

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

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# Prep sports roundup

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Rockets fall in rematch with Warhawks

Neenah came up short against Arrowhead in a rematch of last year's WIAA Division 1 state championship game Tuesday night.

The Rockets allowed a season-high 88 points to the potent Warhawks and dropped an 88-76 decision in the non-conference tilt.

Neenah had four players finish in double figures in the game, led by 26 from Rowan Klesmit. The junior has scored at least 19 points in every game this season.

Alissa Ebel and Ellie Buss each scored 15 points in the game for Neenah, with Celia Gentile chipping in 14 points.

Last Friday, the Rockets suffered their first Fox Valley Association loss of the season in a 74-49 defeat to Kimberly.

Klesmit scored 19 points and Buss added 13 for the Rockets, who shot just 25 percent from the field in the game. Izzy Malloy chipped in eight points.

### Zephyrs bounce back from first loss

St. Mary Catholic outscored Howards Grove by 17 points in the second half to pull away for a 48-29 victory Monday night.

Emily Vogel finished with 21 points to lead the Zephyrs, while Nolie Anderson also reached double figures with 14 points. Both Vogel and Anderson finished with seven rebounds to lead the Zephyrs.

St. Mary Catholic held a slim 18-16 lead at halftime.

The win follows the Zephyrs first loss of the season as St. Mary Catholic dropped a Big East North contest to Manitowoc Lutheran 76-72 last Thursday.

Vogel and Anderson finished with 23 and 20 points, respectively, while Vogel led the team with 11 rebounds. Autumn Crowe added 10 points and five assists for the Zephyrs, while Lauren Ripley chipped in eight points.

The Zephyrs finished just 10-of-23 from the free-throw line in the loss.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Big first half sparks Rockets to win

Neenah jumped out to a 32-17 halftime lead and rolled to a 72-58 win over Kimberly in its Fox Valley Association opener last Friday.

Mason Flees scored 15 points to lead three players in double figures for the Rockets., Nick Schultz added 14 points and Cal Juckem finished with 12.

Luke Jung led the team with nine rebounds.

### Zephyrs' rally falls short against Chargers

St. Mary Catholic rallied from a 10-point halftime deficit but were unable to finish off the win, suffering a 62-59 loss to Wittenberg-Birnamwood last Friday.

Myles Norville led St. Mary Catholic with 15 points, with Luke Fairweather and Mason Uhlenbrauck each scoring 10 points. Preston Fields finished with nine.

The Zephyrs outscored the Chargers 34-27 in the second half.

## SWIMMING

### Neenah finishes second at Wildcat invitational

Drew Gaerthofner won two individual events and anchored a winning relay team to help Neenah finish second at the Wildcat Invite hosted by Oshkosh West on Saturday.

Gaerthofner set a meet record in winning the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 47.38 seconds and then led a strong Rocket contingent in the 100-yard breaststroke by claiming the win with Tanner Trustem taking third and Wendell Burke finish fifth.

Gaerthofner then joined Julian Kuehn, Joshua Youngwerth and Wendell in winning the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Trustem added a second place in the

50-yard freestyle, while Kuehn was third in the 100-yard butterfly and fourth in the 200-yard freestyle. Other top finishers for the Rockets were: Ryker Zarda, fourth in the 100-yard backstroke; Gideon Benner, sixth in the 200-yard freestyle; and Burke, seventh in the 200-yard individual medley.

Neenah also placed second in the 200-yard medley relay and third in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

On Tuesday night, the Rockets dominated Appleton North/East in a Fox Valley Association dual meet, claiming a 120-56 win.

The Rockets won every swimming event and had their best finish in the 100-yard freestyle as Burke won the event with Youngwerth taking second and Austin Pierstorff finishing third.

Neenah claimed the top two places in multiple individual events as well. Benner and Youngwerth in the 200-yard freestyle, Kuehn and Rylan Mendoza in the 50-yard freestyle, Gaerthofner and Ryker Zarda in the 100-yard backstroke and Trustem and Burke in the 100-yard breaststroke were all 1-2 finishers for the Rockets.

Trustem in the 200-yard individual medley and Gaerthofner in the 100-yard butterfly also added wins for the Neenah. The Rockets also won all three relays.

## GIRLS WRESTLING

### Neenah posts pair of wins at triangular

The Rockets rolled past Bay Port (48-24) and Shawano (36-15) at a home triangular meet last Thursday.

Against Bay Port, Neenah trailed 18-6 after the first four matches but came storming back to earn the win.

Back-to-back forfeit wins by Maya Ives and Joelle Reay evened the score before Bay Port surged back ahead 24-18. Neenah then closed the match with five straight wins as Kylee Kurszewski (126), Amari Richard (132), Julia Rangel (138) and

Janet Sorto (152) all won by pin and Ava Armatti (145) earned a forfeit win.

Neenah's first win of the match came from a pin by Emma Verbrick (235).

Posting pins in the win over Shawano for the Rockets were Ashlynn Scheidermayer (120), Kurszewski (126), Richard (132), Armatti (145) and Verbrick (235). Reay (114) and Rangel (138) also posted victories for the Rockets.

On Saturday, the Rockets finished third at the Papermaker Invitational with 294.5 points to finish behind only Menasha (321) and Shawano (315).

Armatti captured the lone title for the Rockets, pinning all four of her opponents to claim the 138-pound title.

Reay at 114 pounds and Kurszewski at 126 pounds were each second, with Richard taking third at 132 pounds and Ives (107), Scheidermayer (120) and Sorto (145) each placing fourth.

## BOYS WRESTLING

### Rockets finish fourth at Gunslinger Invitational

Declan Koch and Jacob Herm each secured titles at their respective weight classes to lead Neenah to a close fourth-place finish at the 16-team Gunslinger Invitational hosted by Slinger.

Kewaskum won the team title with 305.5 points, edging host-Slinger by a half-point for the title. Brillion was third with 292 points followed by the Rockets with 287 points.

Koch won the 157-pound title by notching two pins and two technical falls before beating Cole Dummer of Union Grove, 3-2, in the title.

Herm registered four first-period pins en route to making the 165-pound final, where he stopped Evan Petrick of Union Grove in 2:18.

Kaden Roth added a second place at 190 pounds, with Marcus Peterson (113), Jaxson Ennis (126) and Landen Sheppard (150) each taking fourth while Ian Thomas (215) placed fifth.

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# Neenah hockey

FROM PAGE 12

Zinda said. "We just flipped the switch (going into the second period). The guys in the locker room were feeling it."

Simonsen, who finished with six points in the game, got his third goal of the night to open the third period before Zach Freund and Miles Burger rounded out the goal scorers for Neenah/Menasha/Hortonville.

Lindemann said he was happy with the way his team played in the third period, even with the big lead.

"I wanted the guys to be positive on the bench and support one another and we had that," Lindemann said. "We wanted to continue to play our game. Some of these games where we have (big leads), we have to do the right things on the ice. We can't

get into bad habits."

Along with the variety of goal scorers in the game for Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha, the Rockets had 13 different players record at least one assist. Simonsen and Clay Laabs led the team with three assists apiece, while Drew Drach finished with two.

Matthew Nelson stopped the only four shots he faced in goal to earn the shutout as Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha had a 49-4 advantage in shots on goal in the game.

The Rockets will play a pair of games in Eau Claire this weekend before returning home on Tuesday to host Fond du Lac in another Badgerland Conference game as they look to keep the momentum rolling and add to their strong start.

"We knew since we came in this season we have a good chance to go far," Laabs said. "We are looking forward to what's ahead."

# Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

was perfect.

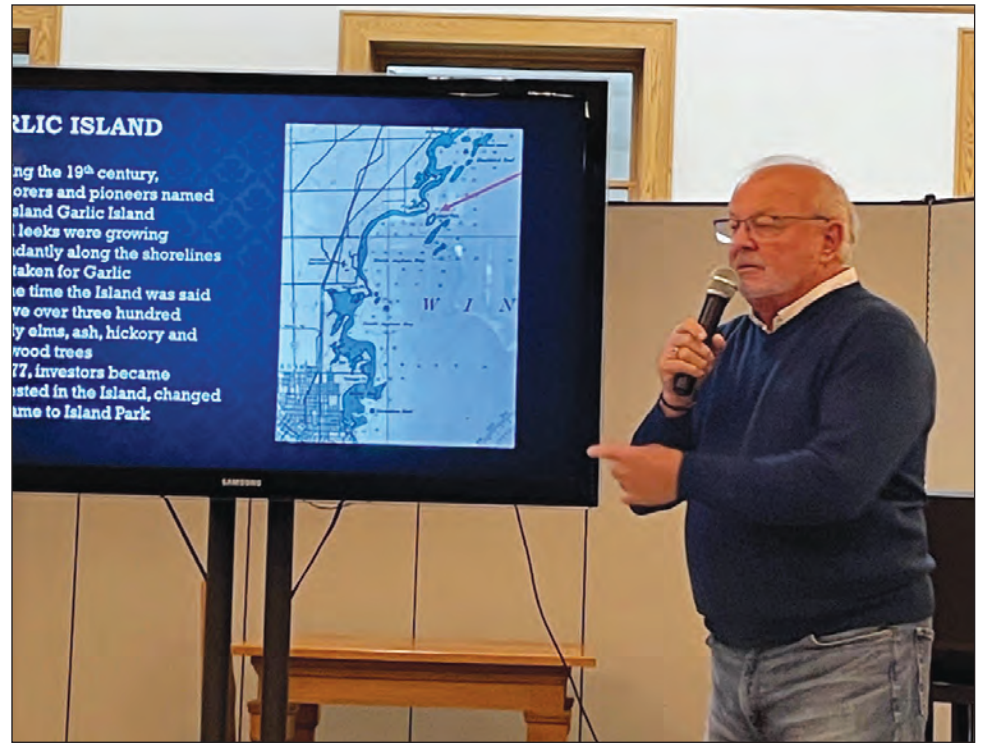
"It felt like home. It's a really good program and they are on a really good path. I like how they develop their wrestlers," Herm said. "At the end of the day, you have to narrow it down and find something for you. It's the program that speaks out to you."

There is an added plus about going to school in South Dakota as well.

Herm is an avid duck hunter and is looking forward to the chance to experience some of the wetlands that South Dakota has to offer.

"South Dakota is known for duck hunting out there and that's one of my get-aways from wrestling. I duck hunt almost

every weekend when I get the chance," Herm said. "Usually just me (and teammates) Declan (Koch) and Landen (Sheppard). It's fun even if you don't shoot ducks. You get away from wrestling and don't have to think about much."



Oshkosh Herald

# Island legacy

Local author and historian Randy Domer gives a presentation on the history of Garlic Island last week at the Oshkosh Public Library. Situated a few miles north of Oshkosh on Lake Winnebago, Garlic Island was once the home of local Native American tribes and even a resort and summer retreat for Oshkosh and Neenah's rich and famous.

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**WOW!!! ZURKOS MASSIVE HOLIDAY GIFT & CRAFT SHOW.** Sat Dec. 21 at the **Fabulous Appleton Expo** (Downtown Appleton 150+ Holiday Vendors. Info. [www.zurkopromotions.com](http://www.zurkopromotions.com) or 715-302-0932 (12/2)

### Garage/Estate Sales

Rummage and Collectables Sale: Every Saturday 10am-6pm, Every Sunday 11am - 6pm. 1930 West College Avenue, Appleton.

### Miscellaneous

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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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

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## Gifts from the Heart (NOT THE WALLET!)

The spirit of the holidays is about giving, not spending money. Although at times, this becomes hard to remember.

Kid Scoop News Librarian Jim Silverman has a cool way to give gifts that warm the heart and don't cost a cent!

"Select some books from the library!" says Jim. "Wrap them up and tuck them under the tree."

Of course, you have to return them after a couple of weeks. But by then, the books are read.

A wrapped library book provides the joy of the gift, costs no money and afterwards, you don't have to wonder where to store it.

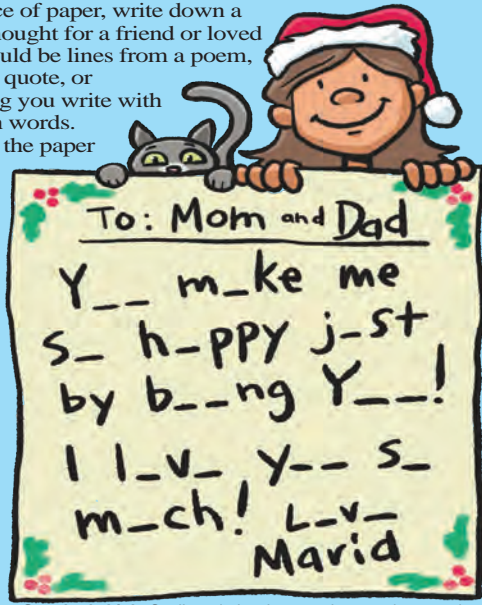
## It's the Thought That Counts

It truly is the loving thought behind a gift that makes it special. And, thoughts are free!

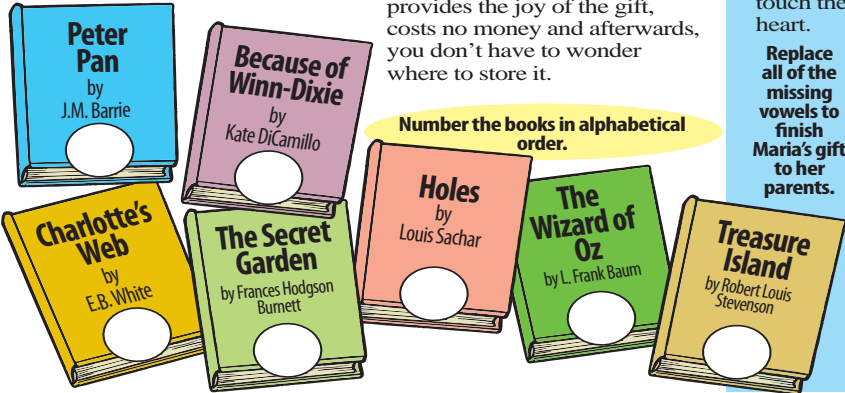
On a piece of paper, write down a special thought for a friend or loved one. It could be lines from a poem, a famous quote, or something you write with your own words.

Decorate the paper to offer a gift that will touch the heart.

Replace all of the missing vowels to finish Maria's gift to her parents.



Standards Link: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.



Number the books in alphabetical order.

## The Gift of Time

Create a coupon book of chores and actions you can take to be helpful. Could you take out the trash? Wash the dishes? Sweep the floor? Make a list of helpful things you could do for someone in your family.



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



## Give a Pet ... Rock!

Find a sweet, rounded rock outside. Clean it off. Paint it and give it as a gift. Write a little story about the rock. Maybe give it a name. Make a list of instructions on how to care for it.

Find the two identical rocks.



## Give the Gift of Helping Out

Step up and offer to help someone. Can you help someone carrying a lot of stuff? Can you help pick up after a game? Can you pick up some trash on the playground? Can you help an older neighbor with yard work or running an errand for them?

These little actions can make a big difference in someone's day!

## What is fairness?

Look through the newspaper for words and images that describe someone in your family. Cut out the words and images. Make a collage to give them as a gift.

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Use a variety of media to create artwork.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

### Give the Gift of a Smile!

Is there someone at school who is looking sad. Give them a smile and a hello! Draw the face that continues the pattern in each row.

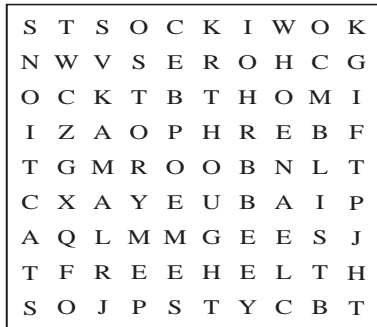


Standards Link: Recognize patterns.

## Double Double Word Search

- ACTIONS
- BOOK
- CARE
- CHORES
- CLEAN
- COSTS
- FREE
- GAME
- GIFT
- HELP
- LIST
- POEM
- ROCK
- STORY
- THOUGHT

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.



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

## Kid Scoop Together The Gift of Time

Want a gift that keeps on giving the whole year? Write lots and lots of reasons you love someone then pop the reasons into a jar so your loved one can pull out a new one each and every day.

I love you because you drive me to school each day!

I love you because you cheer me up when I'm sad.

I love you because you help me with my homework.

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**Write On!**

## Money-Free Gifts

What can you give without spending any money?



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