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Candidates line up for spring election

Voters on April 1 will pick state and local officials

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

With the upcoming April 1 spring election, a slate of key local and state races will be on the ballot, with candidates' campaigns now in full swing.

Locally, seats on the Neenah Common

Council, school board, town of Neenah and village of Fox Crossing are on the ballot. At the county level, voters will decide the next Winnebago County executive, with one incumbent and two challengers sparking a Feb. 18 primary to narrow the field to two. In-person absentee voting for the primary begins Feb. 4.

At the state level, the Wisconsin Supreme Court race is expected to be the most high-profile contest of the election

season. With the 10-year term of liberal Justice Ann Walsh Bradley expiring on July 31 and Bradley retiring after nearly 30 years on the court, her successor will either change the balance of power on the court by shifting the current 4-3 liberal majority, or will maintain the existing narrow margin.

Here are the key races to watch for:

SEE **Candidates** ON PAGE 8

INSIDE



Smith legacy
Local energy behind
Menasha library update
Page 5

Storefront update
Sew Biz moving,
new retailer coming
Page 3



Photo by David Hall

Frozen fishing

Ice anglers tried their luck on the ice in parts of Little Lake Butte des Morts last Saturday. Jim Nobbe from Paynes Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club last weekend reported smooth ice between 8 and 9 inches thick across Lake Winnebago going out four miles with a few spots of only 6 inches.

South Commercial Street revitalization work underway

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Preliminary work has begun on South Commercial Street in advance of road work set to start in March aimed at improving traffic flow and revitalizing the city's south-central corridor that runs from downtown to Oshkosh.

Orange construction cones and barrels seen this month along sections of South Commercial between Stanley and Tyler streets were placed by utility contractors relocating buried infrastructure.

The project will overhaul a 1.5-mile stretch of South Commercial Street and the surrounding intersections and focus on several improvements:

- Slightly narrowing the road and removing a parking lane on the east side of South Commercial between Tyler and

Division streets and on the west side of South Commercial between Division and King streets.

- Upgrading sidewalks and installing handicapped sidewalk ramps or curb ramps.
- Expanding residential properties' terraces between the sidewalk and curb by about four or five feet and planting grass and trees.
- Paving businesses' terraces with colored concrete and adding trees in boxes or planters.
- Adding a right turn lane to the South Commercial at Winneconne Avenue intersection.

The reconstructed street will still include two bike lanes, two drive lanes and a

SEE **Commercial St.** ON PAGE 8



Neenah News

We Energies contractors were relocating and replacing a gas main along South Commercial Street Monday in advance of road construction set to begin in March.



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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

Published weekly and mailed free of charge Thursdays for Friday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 21,000 homes and businesses in the Neenah and Fox Crossing areas. An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.neenahnewsnow.com.

Neenah News is owned by Oshkosh Herald LLC, 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh, WI, 54901. 920-385-4512.

Free community newspapers offer real value

Neenah News

Have you ever paused to think about the “free” newspaper that lands in your mailbox each week?

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Community newspapers like ours tell the stories that larger outlets overlook.

We highlight the achievements of local students, profile small businesses, share upcoming events and shine a light on the issues that matter most to local residents. These stories are what strengthen our sense of belonging and make us proud to call this place home.

But while the newspaper is free to read, it’s not free to produce. Behind every edition is a team of dedicated journalists, editors, designers and mail carriers. There are printing costs, mailing fees and countless hours spent gathering and

crafting the stories you care about. Every dollar we invest in the Neenah News is an investment in the well-being of our community.

To keep the Neenah News thriving, we need your support. Becoming a member or advertising in the newspaper helps us cover the costs of production and ensures we can continue bringing you quality reporting week after week. Your membership shows that you value accurate local news, and your advertisements help local businesses grow while supporting a shared resource for all.

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Call 920-385-4512 to become a member or learn more about advertising or visit www.oshkoshherald.com.

Winter warm-up locations offered around county

Neenah News

Winnebago County Public Health notes there are county locations available for those who need a place to warm up or find refuge from extreme weather. Call 911 for those experiencing signs of hypothermia or frostbite.

There are heated locations that welcome residents who need a place to warm up or find safe refuge during established business hours. If possible, call before going to confirm they are open. Other sites may become available on an as-needed basis.

Neenah Public Library, 240 E. Wisconsin Ave. (920-886-6315)

Oshkosh Public Library, 106 Washington Ave. (920-236-5203)

State Street Center, 206 State St., Oshkosh (920-232-3320)

Winneconne Public Library, 31 South 2nd St. (920-582-7091)

Omro Public Library, 405 E. Huron St. (920-685-7016)

For more information on warming locations, hot meals, winter clothes or other community resources, dial 2-1-1 or TTY 7-1-1 (available 24/7) or text ZIP code to 898211 (M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.), or visit 211wisconsin.org.

Calendar of events

Saturday, Jan. 11

Washington Park Winter Festival, 11 a.m., 631 W. Winneconne Ave.

Savoy Ballroom dance, 6:30 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

Monday, Jan. 13

Monday Matinee: “It Ends With Us,” 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

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

Thursday, Jan. 16

Neenah’s Neighborhoods, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library



Neenah Historical Society photo

Down the block

The 300 block of Congress Street is pictured in the 1930s. Join the Neenah Historical Society at the Neenah Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Thursday for a presentation featuring three of Neenah’s neighborhoods. Presenter Sara Laabs will guide attendees through the history and evolution of Congress Place and Stevens Street, Bohnenville, and the Airport Heights subdivision.

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Downtown storefront to change owners with Sew Biz move

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A downtown building with two storefronts on West Wisconsin Avenue across from The Plaza has recently been sold and a new business will be moving in.

Lori Burr, who owns Sew Biz, a custom drapery and blinds business, confirmed she is in the process of selling the building, which encompasses 220 and 224 W. Wisconsin Ave., with the sale closing later this month. She had listed it for sale with a commercial real estate agency in late November for \$695,000.

Sew Biz will continue operating in the location through the end of May before transitioning operations remotely while Lori searches for a smaller space without storefront hours.

Next door at 224 W. Wisconsin, the clothing store Elements Unleashed, which recently signed a five-year lease, will continue business as usual.

So what business is expected to move in at the Sew Biz location? Neenah News confirmed the owner of an area retail shop is in the process of purchasing it, with more details on the new business expected in the coming month once the sale is finalized.

Burr, who has operated Sew Biz for 39 years, is selling the downtown Neenah building because her sister Lisa Prellwitz, who works alongside her doing upholstery, is moving to a new home near Antigo.

The sisters assured both existing and new customers that all of the current services will continue and Sew Biz will have the same phone number, website and Facebook page.

Burr had leased the 2,100-square-foot



Neenah News

Fabric samples line the walls surrounding a work desk at Sew Biz on West Wisconsin Avenue in Neenah, which is in the process of selling the building and relocating in late May.

location for years before purchasing it about three years ago from the owner of the Subway location that operated in the 4,200-square-foot space next door. Subway shut down during the pandemic and never reopened.

She got her start doing custom drapery and blinds on the side while working at a hospital as a diet technician. When her hospital job was eliminated, she made

her side job her full time job, starting the business out of her home and moving to a storefront in downtown Neenah in 2003.

"I do love this," the 64-year-old said, adding that she has no intention of retiring.

"We do pretty much anything for your home," Prellwitz added. "You come in here, we help customers make their house into a home. That's our little catch phrase."

The sisters' services are performed primarily in house. They offer midprice-range fabrics; with blinds, shades and shutters that are ordered in.

"We have fabrics available, we are still up and running, we are not shutting down, we are not going out of business," Prellwitz emphasized. "We are the last work room in the area that does full service. By area, I mean upper Michigan to Milwaukee. We've done everything from one pillow to entire hotels, and Lori and I do it all."

With many repeat local customers, Sew Biz also services those outside of the area and even the state, either offering shipping or traveling to offer services and noted vacation properties are their specialty.

"We will make window treatments and ship them to them, and we will help them find an installer in their area," Prellwitz said.

Burr said reupholstering furniture is a big part of the business.

"Those older wooden frames for chairs and sofas are just not available, so we do get a lot of older pieces," typically anything made before the early 2000s, she said.

Most of the furniture that customers bring to Sew Biz can be reupholstered, but Prellwitz said some of it is just not possible, calling it "the fast fashion of furniture."

Though the business is relocating from the downtown and the sisters will no longer be in the same location, they'll still be working together and encouraged the community to continue supporting Sew Biz.

"That's what makes a house a home is fabric on your walls, on your windows, custom pillows to match, upholstering a piece of furniture to blend in," Prellwitz said.

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Holiday string light drive underway

Neenah News

Public drop-off locations are available to properly dispose of holiday string lights away from other recycled items.

String lights need to be kept out of recycling carts, as they tangle in the high-speed sorting equipment used to process boxes, bottles and cans and cause unnecessary downtime, increase program costs,

injure workers and damage equipment.

String lights, extension cords and power strips will be accepted for free at these drop-off locations in Winnebago County through Jan. 31:

Village of Fox Crossing Municipal Building, 2000 Municipal Drive

Neenah's City Hall first floor, 211 Walnut St.

Town of Neenah, 1600 Breezewood Lane, Neenah

Town of Vinland, 6085 County T
Winnebago County Solid Waste, 100 W. County Y

Town of Algoma, 15 N. Oakwood Road
Town of Black Wolf, 380 E. Black Wolf Ave.

City of Oshkosh Field Operations, 639 Witzel Ave, Oshkosh

Oshkosh City Hall, 215 Church Ave.

Have a story idea?

Promotions or expansion at your business?

Community or school program to highlight?



Neenah News
Local news for you

Email submit@neenahnewsnow.com to connect with our editorial team



Photo from ThedaCare

New year's baby

Teddy Scott Tiedt was the first baby born at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah in 2025. The son of Patrick and Carly Tiedt came into the world at 1:35 a.m. Jan. 1.

Snowmobile safety emphasized ahead of season

Neenah News

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages snowmobilers who are ready to take advantage of winter snow to keep safety at the forefront of their preparations. This includes staying alert to the rapidly changing ice conditions commonly found in the early and later parts of winter.

"The biggest thing we want folks to remember is that no ice is completely safe," said Lt. Jacob Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle administrator. "On a sunny day, ice that may have been thick enough to drive on in the morning may be unsafe by the afternoon, especially during the early part of the season."

This rule also applies to ATVs and UTVs.

Last season, several ATVs and UTVs went through the ice, with two resulting in fatalities. Local fishing clubs, outfitters and bait shops are the best sources for current ice conditions.

The DNR also encourages snowmobilers to take a safety education class. According to Wisconsin law, anybody at least 12 years of age and born after Jan. 1, 1985, must have a valid safety education certificate to operate a snowmobile.

Visit the DNR's Ice Safety webpage for more information on staying safe on the ice.

The Winnebago County Snowmobile Alliance is looking for help with trail maintenance and can be reached at wincitysa.org for more information and how to join the club.



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Menasha's renovated library draws community support

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The newly renovated Elisha D. Smith public library in Menasha includes a special touch from local philanthropist John Bergstrom: a statue bearing the likeness of the library's namesake.

A full-length bronze statue of Smith, founder of what is now Menasha Corp., is prominently featured in front of the library's bay windows overlooking the city. The statue is a nod to Smith's involvement in opening Menasha's first library in 1898 with a \$25,000 gift he provided.

Similar bronze statues donated by Bergstrom over the years are visible throughout downtown Neenah, including those bearing the likeness of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Benjamin Franklin.

Bergstrom, chief executive of Bergstrom Automotive, was a member of the library's renewal committee and assisted in fundraising for the \$9 million renovation project. Menasha Corp., based in Neenah, was among those who supported the library by providing a \$3 million donation in honor of the company's 175th anniversary last year.

Donors and supporters were treated to an exclusive sneak peek of the newly renovated library Monday, providing a chance to explore the upgraded facility

ahead of its reopening to the public next month.

The renovations, which began last May, have transformed the library into a modern, accessible space. It now features 11 meeting rooms available to reserve for free, a newly expanded makerspace on the main floor, reimagined teen space and Fireside Room for programs, quiet reading or other activities.

The library, which was closed for construction, is located at 440 1st St. next to the police department and fire station. With the Appleton Public Library also currently closed for construction, the Neenah Public Library reported it has been seeing a surge in visitors.

Bergstrom said at Monday's event that there are more than 100,000 books in the Elisha D. Smith library.

"It's a gathering place for children, indoors and outdoors," he said. "It's for people to learn how to do things if they don't have people at home to teach them."

He thanked local philanthropists, business leaders, city staff and community members who supported the project.

"I just wanted to be in a situation where a bunch of young people, especially kids, can have the chances that we had," he said. "If we can do that, we've been successful."



Neenah News

A life-size statue of Elisha D. Smith graces the newly renovated Menasha library named for Smith, one of the community's early founders.

Business news roundup

Valley Pyramid Foods is under new ownership with William and Linda Glass acquiring the distribution business at 1060 Breezewood Lane in Neenah from former owners Todd and Laura Brigman. Valley Pyramid supplies and delivers food to bars and restaurants and is also open to the public on a few days a week. "We look at this small business as a way to help other small businesses in the food and beverage industry," William said, adding they are hoping to expand food items and the hours that the business will be open to the public.

The **Government Finance Officers Association** of the United States and Canada has awarded the Certificate of

Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the **city of Neenah** for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended Dec. 31, 2023. The report is judged by an impartial pan-

el to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user

groups to read the report. The Certificate of Achievement, which the city has previously earned, is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Urban forestry management plan gains funding

Neenah News

Gov. Tony Evers and the state Department of Natural Resources recently announced Urban Forestry Grant Program recipients for the 2025 grant year, including \$25,000 to the city of Menasha and \$5,000 to the Town of Neenah for a continuing parks project.

The grants fund projects for increasing the urban forest canopy, reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and improving the quality of life and public health of communities. The forestry grants must be matched dollar for dollar.

Nearly \$630,000, which includes \$70,000 in federal funding, were awarded to 43 applicants ranging from \$1,824 to \$25,000 to support new, innovative projects to develop sustainable urban and community forestry programs. Urban forests on public and private property contribute to the economy and provide heat mitigation, removal of pollutants from the air, water and soil.

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District celebrates milestones, momentum

By Dr. Steve Harrison
NJSD SUPERINTENDENT

As we embark on the second half of the school year, it's the perfect moment to celebrate the remarkable achievements within the Neenah Joint School District. The collective efforts of our students, staff and community have made the first half truly extraordinary, exemplifying excellence, innovation and a steadfast commitment to cultivating a vibrant learning environment.

Our students continue to excel across the areas of academics, arts and athletics. As reported earlier this fall, the Neenah Joint School District continues to be a high-performing school district as evident by the district's rating of Exceeding Expectations on the most recent state report card.

Our student athletes have also achieved at high levels as demonstrated by the girls' cross country team, which captured its first state championship since 1983. Additionally, our robotics teams dominated their home tournament, securing seven major awards. These milestones are a testament to the dedication and talent that define our school community.

At the high school level, creativity and excellence were on full display in the first

semester. The Rocket Players earned the prestigious Critic's Choice Award at the Wisconsin Interscholastic Dramatic Arts State Theatre Festival. Beyond the stage, students demonstrated leadership and



Harrison

compassion through impactful community initiatives. These included fundraising for the Neenah Animal Shelter and organizing meals for local families in need. Further underscoring our district's values, Neenah High School and Neenah Middle School were honored as Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools, reflecting our unwavering commitment in school district to inclusion and respect. Both schools were the only two schools in the state of Wisconsin to receive this recognition, which is truly a testament to the inclusive culture that continues to thrive in our district.

As we look ahead, I encourage everyone to stay engaged and connected. From attending upcoming concerts and athletic events to sharing feedback on key initiatives, your involvement is essential.

In February, our community will have the opportunity to play a pivotal role in shaping the district's strategic plan. Through previous efforts, we identified four priority areas: engagement, collaboration, well-being and responsibility. Now, we seek your input to refine these priorities and establish clear, measurable goals that reflect our shared vision. I invite you to join me at one of the following sessions:

- Thursday, Feb. 6, 6-7 p.m. – Neenah Middle School (room location TBD)
- Monday, Feb. 10, 9-10 a.m. – Neenah Public Library's Shattuck Community Room
- Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6-7 p.m. – Neenah High School (room location TBD)

Watch for future communications through our district website and Facebook page with further details regarding these sessions. Reflecting on this first semester, I am deeply grateful for the partnerships we have in the Neenah community where every student can thrive. Together, we have laid a strong foundation, and I am confident that with your continued support, we will make the second half of the year even more successful. Here's to continued growth, achievement and unity within the Neenah Joint School District.

Jobless rate holds at 2.3% for county

Neenah News

The unemployment rate for the Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area and Winnebago County remained at 2.3% between October and November, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Last November, the jobless rate in Oshkosh-Neenah and Winnebago County was at 2.4%.

The non-seasonally adjusted data shows jobless rates in Metropolitan Statistical Areas increased by 0.1% in seven of Wisconsin's 12 metro areas over the month and decreased in 16 of Wisconsin's 35 largest cities over the month.

Unemployment rates stayed the same in 12 counties over the month and increased elsewhere; rates decreased or stayed the same in 63 counties.

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

Valentines for veterans encouraged statewide

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) is asking residents to show veterans how much they are appreciated for their service by sending Valentine's Day cards to those living in WDVA facilities in King, Chippewa Falls and Union Grove.

WDVA received 24,000 valentines in its first year and last year that grew to 28,000, and will be able to share valentines with more veterans in Veterans Housing and Recovery Program locations in Chippewa Falls, Green Bay and Union Grove.

The cards are hand delivered by staff to the veterans, loved ones and Gold Star families residing in the facilities.

Mail the cards by Jan. 31 – do not include candy, food or snacks – to Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Veteran Valentines, PO Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843.

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<p style="text-align: center;">St. Paul Lutheran Church [ELCA]</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">200 North Commercial Street, Neenah 920-725-3961 www.stpaulneenah.org Worship with us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Our Savior's Lutheran Church</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Worship Times: Saturday 5PM, Sunday 9AM 809 S Commercial St, Neenah 920-725-3956 www.our-saviors.org Come worship with us. All are welcome here! We have Sunday school, confirmation, youth groups, and mission trips.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">APPLE VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">1750 Olde Buggy Drive, Neenah, WI www.applevalleypres.org <i>A confessionally Reformed church where the Bible is sincerely believed and faithfully preached.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Worship Times: Saturday 6PM, Sunday 9am & Monday 6pm 407 Oak St., Neenah www.trinityneenah.net • facebook.com/TLCNeenah</p>
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Ascension system alerts patients to May data breach

Wisconsin Public Radio

The cyberattack that debilitated one of Wisconsin's largest hospital systems last spring has now been determined to have affected millions of patients' personal information.

St. Louis-based Ascension began alerting affected people in late December.

On May 8, the health care system detected the data breach. At the time, it was unclear whether hackers gained access to sensitive patient information.

"Our investigation has determined that some of these files contain an individual's name and information in one or more of the following categories: medical information, payment information (such as credit card information or bank account number), insurance information, government identification (such as social security

number, driver's license number or passport number)," according to a letter sent to patients Dec. 19.

Ascension is offering patients who have been affected a new credit monitoring package for two years.

The health care system operates 24 hospital campuses and more than 100 health care facilities in the state. Nationwide, the data breach has affected an estimated 5.6 million patients, including those served by Ascension Medical Group patients in Neenah, according to the health care publication the HIPPA Journal.

That makes it the third largest health care data breach of the year, behind the Change Healthcare ransomware attack, affecting 100 million records, and the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan tracking technology data breach with 13.4 million records.

Last year, a cyberattack caused a system-wide outage for Hospital Sisters Health System and Prevea.

In early 2024, Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin, a nonprofit managed health care organization, also suffered a cyberattack that resulted in patients' personal information being released.

Data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights shows there are currently 11 security breaches under investigations at

health care organizations in Wisconsin.

According to the New York Times, hospital systems have increasingly been targets for hackers in recent years. The Times reports that health care is one of the economic sectors most susceptible to cyber attacks because medical records can be sold for a lot of money.

Last year, there were a record 725 data breaches of 500 or more records, up from 720 such breaches the previous year, according to the HIPAA Journal.

Radon awareness emphasized this month

Neenah News

Radon Action Month is underway as a time to encourage action to protect families from the colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is naturally present in soil and rocks and common in Winnebago County.

Winnebago County Public Health and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) are encouraging home and building owners to understand their risk and test their buildings for radon.

"Indoor radon levels tend to increase during the colder months, so now is the perfect time to test your home or building for radon if you haven't before," said DHS health officer Paula Tran, who noted there are 17 Radon Information Centers around the state where experts can answer questions and offer low-cost test kits.

Wisconsin continues to take steps to improve testing in spaces where children spend significant amounts of time as they are generally more sensitive compared with adults due to their smaller lung sizes and faster breathing rates. In March 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families enacted rule changes that re-

quire licensed child care providers to test for radon and install a mitigation system if radon levels exceed the EPA action level.

The DHS recommends all schools test for radon at least once every five years or upon completion of any major renovations.

"Since the DCF rule went into effect, 41 child care centers across Wisconsin have mitigated high radon, protecting over 820 children enrolled in care from exposure to high radon levels," Tran said.

Seeping into homes and buildings through cracks and openings, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. The only way to know the level of radon in a home or business is to conduct a test.

Test kits can be purchased at Winnebago County Public Health offices in Neenah and Oshkosh, city or town clerk offices, and at home improvement stores. Testing is recommended in winter in the lowest living space away from doors, windows and vents.

Test kits are \$5 when purchased at the public health offices in January.



Photo by David Hall

Creative collaborations

Young and old participate in last Saturday's Art Activity Day glass project at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass in Neenah. The museum's glass studio fires the completed project in a kiln and are ready for pickup two weeks later.

POST-HOLIDAY THOUGHT:

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Multiple gun, drug charges heard in court

Neenah News

A Neenah man accused of pointing a gun at a person parked outside a business was in court Monday on charges of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, felon in possession of a firearm, bail jumping, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting or obstructing an officer, all as a repeater.

The defendant, 43-year-old Lee B. Chang, was arrested in August after a 20-year-old man came into the Neenah Police Department and reported that an unidentified suspect drove up to his vehicle in the parking lot in the 600 block of South Green Bay Road near McDonald's and pointed a gun at him.

The incident occurred around 7:30 p.m. with the victim reporting that he feared for his life and immediately drove away. His dash cam captured part of the encounter and police were able to see the license plate of the vehicle, which is used by Chang.

An officer reported he recently had a similar call with Chang, who was driving the same vehicle when it was reported that

he displayed a knife to some young people in the area.

The officer was unable to prove the case and no arrests were made.

Officers went to Chang's home after the incident involving the gun and found him sitting in the same vehicle. Officers suspected he was under the influence and he was taken into custody.

Found in the vehicle were drug paraphernalia, a bag of suspected methamphetamine and a loaded revolver that matched the description of the gun pointed at the victim.

Chang has an open felony drug case in Winnebago County and a prior felony conviction for fleeing and eluding, and it is not legal for him to possess a gun. He's due back in court Feb. 10 for a plea and sentencing hearing.

Vehicle strikes tree in city, killing occupant

Neenah News

A 22-year-old Neenah man was killed Saturday night when his vehicle struck a tree and started on fire in the 800 block of South Park Avenue.

Police were called to the scene at 10:29 p.m. after several people reported an occupied vehicle on fire with the engine compartment and dashboard on fire and the driver's door slightly ajar. An unconscious man later identified as Justin Hartjes was removed from the vehicle with traumatic injuries and taken to ThedaCare Medical Center-Neenah where he was later pronounced dead.

During the initial investigation it was believed Hartjes' 1-year-old child was inside the vehicle but it was later determined the child was at the victim's apartment. Officers forced entry into the Cecil Street residence, where they found the baby alone in a smoke-filled apartment due to food burning in the oven.

The baby did not require medical attention and was released to a family member.

Commercial St.

FROM PAGE 1

two-way left-turn lane. Storm sewer work will be completed this year as part of the contract, with the bulk of the sanitary sewer and water main replacements started in 2013 and completed in 2023.

Though typically the city would use a tax assessment to fund the road repairs, the city is not assessing property owners for the estimated \$9.3 million cost. It is funded through a state Department of Transportation Surface Transportation Program-Urban contribution of \$7.5 million, with the city budgeting \$2.4 million to cover remaining construction costs and project management.

The St. Vincent de Paul thrift store located in a strip mall on South Commercial is among businesses that may be impacted by reduced traffic due to the road work. Director Jeremy Pingel said he has concerns the construction may limit customers patronizing the store.

"We're anxious about the Commercial Street construction coming up," he said. "We'll be open through that. Please help us get through that."

Public Works director Gerry Kaiser said the city is working to minimize disruptions to businesses and advised residents and commuters there will be a detour route that includes Bell Street, Harrison Street and Winneconne Avenue.

He added the street will be reconstruct-

Candidates

FROM PAGE 1

Common Council

Council seats held by District 1 Alderman Kathie Boyette, District 2 Alderman Dan Steiner and District 3 Alderman Lee Hillstrom are up for election. Boyette, who has been on the council for nine years, and Hillstrom, who has been on the council for 18 years, have both filed notifications of noncandidacy. Steiner is running unchallenged.

Flo Bruno is running unchallenged for Boyette's seat, while Jeffrey Linski and Frank Cuthbert will vie for Hillstrom's seat. It will be Linski's second attempt at a council seat after his loss in last year's election to Bill Pollnow Jr.

School board

Three Neenah Joint School District Board of Education seats with three-year terms will be contested. Vice President Sarah Moore-Nokes has filed noncandidacy paperwork, while treasurer Tara Brzezinski and member-at-large Lauri Asbury will be seeking re-election. Challengers include Eric Fredrickson, Tom Hanby and Kenneth McNeil.

Town of Neenah

Positions in the town up for election include chairman, two town supervisors and Town of Neenah Sanitary District No. 2 commissioner.

Incumbent Robert Schmeichel is running for the chairman position and incumbents Brooke Cardoza and Tom Wilde are running for the open town supervisor po-

Career Excelerate graduates its latest group

Neenah News

The latest cohort of Career Excelerate Wisconsin students earned educational certificates last month in the program operated in partnership with Goodwill North Central Wisconsin (NCW), Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) and Rawhide Youth Services.

Students completed certificates in nurs-

sitions, all unchallenged. Sanitary District 2 commissioner incumbent Steve Coburn is not seeking re-election, with Edmund King and Matt Schmeichel vying for the position.

Village of Fox Crossing

Three village trustee positions, village president and municipal judge will be on the ballot. All of the incumbents are running unchallenged, including president Dale Youngquist, Judge Timothy Hogan, Trustee 2 Kris Koeppel, Trustee 4 Kate McQuillan and Trustee 6 Barbara Hanson.

Winnebago County

Three people will be seeking the county executive position this spring, with former state Assembly member Gordon Hintz and Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz joining the race with incumbent Jon Doemel.

State positions

Incumbent Jill Underly, education consultant Brittany Kinser and Sauk Prairie superintendent Jeff Wright are running for Wisconsin superintendent of Public Instruction, which acts as the executive head of the Department of Public Instruction.

Supreme Court candidates include Susan Crawford, a Dane County Circuit Court judge since 2018, and Brad Schimel, a Waukesha County Circuit Court judge since 2019 and former Republican Wisconsin attorney general.

A six-year term for Wisconsin Court of Appeals District II, which is based in Waukesha and covers 12 counties including Winnebago, is on the ballot, with incumbent Mark Gundrum running for the position unchallenged.

ing assistant, early childhood teacher aide, professional truck driving, welding fundamentals, woodworking technician and diesel technician, plumbing fundamentals and manufacturing technician.

Those interested in earning a certificate can apply at CareerEXCElerateWI.org. Local employers can partner with Career Excelerate to recruit qualified candidates.

free up some space there and to the maximum extent possible minimize the impact on the business," he said.

Kaiser said the condition of South Commercial has been high on the complaint list from residents. Planning, design work and the real estate acquisitions needed for an overhaul of the street has taken about three years.

There are 170 parcels along that stretch of South Commercial and the city has obtained temporary limited easements for 133 parcels; and fee acquisitions – or legal possession – for small portions of 21 properties.

The city has also acquired and demolished several blighted buildings within the corridor, most recently purchasing property at 1345 S. Commercial and razing three buildings at the location last year.

The roadwork is expected to wrap up by late October. Beginning in September, parking will be prohibited at all times on the east side of South Commercial between Tyler and Division streets and on the west side of South Commercial between Division and King streets due to the street layout changes.

Kaiser said that once complete, the reconstructed South Commercial Street will enhance the entire corridor.

"It will really just spruce up that area and hopefully encourage some folks that have been on the fence about improving their properties into doing it, or maybe attract the eye of some others that are interested in getting into the area," he said.

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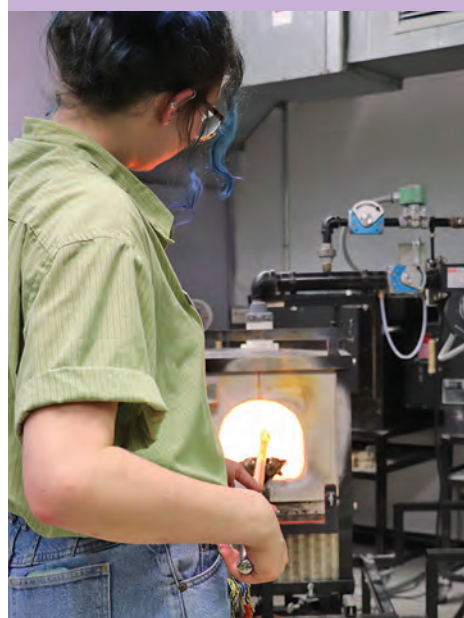
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Goal-oriented Laabs helps set tone for Neenah

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

As the temperatures take a nosedive and the majority of Wisconsinites start to add layers to their wardrobe, Ty Laabs feels the most comfortable.

The senior winger on the Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha hockey team and avid snowboarder, proudly admits that he likes the cold weather and that bone-chilling temperatures don't bother him in the least.

So what's his secret in dealing with the frigid weather?

"Just hang out in a hockey rink in spring, summer and fall," Laabs said. "No. I don't really ever get cold."

Spending so much of his time in an ice rink may have led to Laabs being accustomed to the cold but it has also turned him into a pretty good hockey player.

Laabs is currently the team's second-leading goal scorer with 11 goals this season and ranks third on the team in points – the combination of goals and assists – with 27. Last season, when he was a second-team all-Badgerland Conference selection he tied for second on the team in points with 12 goals and 17 assists.

"(Scoring goals) never gets old," Laabs said. "It's an awesome feeling. It only comes two or three times a game."

Laabs has manned a winger position on Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha's top line for the last two seasons and believes that the chemistry within that trio has been a key to his success.

Senior Mark Sutton has centered the top line the past two seasons along with Laabs, while the duo picked up sophomore Cartyr Simonson this season to round things out.

"Me and Mark already had good chemistry but the three of us are really good friends off the ice so we already understood each other pretty well," Laabs said. "All of us talk really well so that helps. Usually, we just know where each other are but if someone switches to a different spot, they let you know."

Being a winger, Laabs often plays near the blue line when the team is on defense, which allows for a quick exit when Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha has the puck and turn its attention to offense.

"There are a lot more breakaway chances and stuff. That's definitely a benefit to playing wing," Laabs said. "A good winger is someone that works hard. You are up in the play most of the time, so you have to forecheck and then you have to make sure in the shot lanes and block some shots on defense."

Led by Laabs and the top line, Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha has gotten off to a 13-1-1 start this season and are sitting atop the Badgerland Conference.

The team has already knocked off the two teams that faced off for the WIAA Division 2 state title last season – St. Mary's Springs and New Richmond – and have a showdown looming with the defending Division 1 state champion Notre Dame on Tuesday.

The fact that the team has gotten off to such a successful start isn't a surprise to Laabs.

"Pretty much all of us have played together since bantams and we were pretty good. We kind of knew we could be pretty good this year," Laabs said. "We just have to keep the momentum on our side. Don't get too up or too down, just ride that



wave."

Laabs hopes that he and his teammates can ride the momentum all the way to the WIAA State Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison. Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha has only qualified for state once in program history, finishing second in 2019.

"Everyone kind of thinks about (about going to state). It's definitely on our minds. When your team is playing really good it's hard to stay focused on the next game and not think about (the postseason)," Laabs said. "Ever since I was a peewee and squirt, I have been watching NHM so to play on it and have a successful season is pretty cool."

Laabs actually arrived at the sport a little later than many, as he learned to skate and then played on his first hockey team at 8-years old.

"Right away it was a little difficult so that was kind of frustrating but once you get the hang of it, it's pretty fun," Laabs said. "My third year was the first time I made the top team, so that's when I realized I could be good."

Laabs credits the support of his parents in helping him get started in hockey and supporting him throughout his career.

Even though he admits that he has added a little bit of stress to his mother's life.

"She always tells me she's nervous (about the physical play) up in the stands. When the games are tight, too, she says she nervous," Laabs said with a little laugh. "But when I wanted to start playing, my parents were all for it."

Laabs isn't sure what his hockey future is going to be.

He has applied and been accepted at UW-La Crosse for next fall but didn't seem ready to close the door on possibly playing at the junior level either. He has played in the North American Prospect Hockey League for the Odessa Jackalopes, which played games on weekends in Blaine, Minn., this past fall.

"Hockey has taught me a lot about how to make new friends," Laabs said. "Playing on teams (in the NAHPL) where you don't know anyone, you learn how to talk to them."



Neenah News

Ty Laabs ranks second on the Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha hockey team with 11 goals this season and has tallied 32 goals in his three seasons on the varsity team.

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Rockets see winning streak halted by Polar Bears

By Joe Matzek
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Not only did the Neenah boys' basketball team see its five-game winning streak end against Hortonville Tuesday night, but the Rockets also lost one of their starters.

Cal Juckem, a 6-foot-2 junior forward, suffered a serious knee injury just four minutes into the game and had to be carried off the court as Neenah fell 61-49 in a Fox Valley Association game.

Without Juckem, the Rockets struggled to handle the Polar Bears' relentless full-court pressure defense and half-court trap. Neenah fell behind at the start of the second half when it turned the ball over on each of its first six possessions.

"It's stuff that we work on in practice all the time," Neenah coach Lee Rabas said.

"Part of it was when (Juckem) got hurt. He's an integral part of what we do. There was a mental part of it after that happened that it took us a while to recover from it."

Juckem was averaging 6 points and 3.9 rebounds and entered the game with 23 assists to only eight turnovers.

Hortonville's offense revolved around its two leading scorers, Ethan Joling and Riley Mueller, who combined for 41 points. Their slashes to the basket were difficult to stop, especially by Joling, a 6-7 junior guard and returning first-team all-FVA player who scored a game-high 24.

Neenah (6-3 overall, 4-2 FVA) jumped out to a 13-4 lead with a patient and relatively error-free offense, and its defense contested shots at the rim to keep Hortonville at bay.

But soon after Juckem's injury, the Polar Bears scored layups on two consecutive steals and Neenah hung on for a 27-24 halftime lead.

The decisive run came early in the second half.

Hortonville's Aiden Sweeney tied the game with a three-pointer and Mueller made a layup and a three of his own to push the Polar Bears ahead to stay, 32-27.

Neenah kept the deficit to single digits and cut the gap to 46-43 after a Joey Daun three-pointer and Nick Schultz's steal and layup, but Hortonville (7-2, 4-2) scored seven straight points to take a commanding 53-43 lead with two minutes left.

Daun kept the game close for Neenah by making four three-pointers and scoring 16 points. Sophomore Xavier Bezares

came off the bench to hit three treys and finished with 11.

While the Rockets shot the ball relatively well, making 19-of-41 attempts for 46 percent, they had 19 turnovers to Hortonville's five. Some of the miscues came when they tried to break the press, while others happened in the half-court when the Polar Bears deflected a pass or tied up a dribbler.

"We had way too many turnovers, not meeting passes, not doing a lot of the stuff that we talked about," Rabas said. "We were just a little bit dysfunctional on offense. Part of that is a credit to them and the pressure they applied. We didn't take advantage when they had two (defenders) on the ball. We couldn't take advantage and get layups."

Prep sports roundup

SWIMMING

Rockets dominate dual meet against Wildcats

Neenah won every swimming event and swept the top three places in four individual events as the Rockets cruised to a 129-46 win over Oshkosh West on Tuesday.

The four events in which Neenah earned the top three places were each won by a different swimmer.

Joshua Youngwerth finished first in the 200-yard individual medley, followed by Gideon Benner and Crawford Pfeifle, while it was Benner who won the 500-yard freestyle followed by Gage Jensen and Aaron Pierstorff.

In the 100-yard butterfly, Tanner Trustem took first with Burke Wendell in second and Pfeifle in third, while Drew Gaerthofner, Rylan Mendoza and Jacob Reckner went 1-2-3, respectively in the 100-yard freestyle.

Gaerthofner in the 200-yard freestyle, Trustem in the 100-yard breaststroke, Julian Kuehn in the 50-yard freestyle and Ryker Zarda in the 100-yard backstroke

also earned wins on the day for Neenah, with Youngwerth in the 100-yard backstroke and Kuehn in the 100-yard breaststroke were each second.

The Rockets also won all three relays and finished first and second in both the 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard freestyle relay.

Last Saturday, the Rockets finished ninth in the 28-team Marquette Invitational, registering a handful of top-five finishes.

Gaerthofner led the way for Neenah by being a part of four top-five swims. He took fourth in both the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke, while swimming on the 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard freestyle relay teams that each took fifth. Trustem, Kuehn and Wendell rounded out the medley relay team, while Kuehn, Trustem and Youngwerth were on the 400-yard freestyle relay quartet.

Kuehn added a fifth place in the 100-yard freestyle, while also picking up a ninth place in the 200-yard freestyle, while Trustem grabbed a sixth place in the 100-yard breaststroke.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Zephyrs collect close win over Brillion

Emily Vogel posted a double-double and St. Mary Catholic was able to withstand a strong push by Brillion to claim a 63-57 nonconference win last Friday night.

Vogel finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds before fouling out late in the contest. Autumn Crowe added 16 points and Nolie Anderson finished with nine points and 11 rebounds for the Zephyrs.

Anderson also fouled out as Brillion was able to finish with an advantage at the free-throw line going 21-of-29, while Zephyrs finished just 13-of-20.

Rockets fall to state-ranked Hortonville

Neenah took an early 5-1 lead at the Polar Bears on Tuesday night but sixth-ranked Hortonville proved to be too much, handing the Rockets a 76-35 loss in a Fox Valley Association game.

Rowan Klesmit and Rae Schoultz each scored 10 points to lead Neenah, while Celia Gentile finished with eight.

Last Friday, the Rockets claimed an 87-53 win on the road at Oshkosh North as Klesmit posted a career-high 37 points to lead the win.

The junior guard knocked down 5-of-8 3-pointers in the game and went a perfect 4-of-4 from the free-throw line. It was her second 30-point game of the season.

Ellie Buss added 11 points and a team-high seven rebounds, while Alissa Ebel finished with nine points.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Balanced effort leads Rockets past Spartans

Neenah had three players finish in double figures as the Rockets were able to fend off visiting Oshkosh North, 51-44, last Friday night.

Nick Schultz led the way with 15 points, while Mason Flees and Joey Daun each scored 10 points in the win.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 11

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Former Zephyr earns chance to take court with Marquette

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Braeden Brenn hasn't scored a point or grabbed a rebound for the seventh-ranked Marquette men's basketball team this season. He hasn't even played a minute.

Yet, that doesn't mean the St. Mary Catholic alum isn't helping the Golden Eagles register victories.

Brenn has been a practice player with the team since arriving on campus in September and he hopes that his work will earn him a walk-on role with the team next season.

"It's an honor. I love it," Brenn said before taking part in a practice at St. Mary Catholic over the holiday break. "I love the work of it all. It's a blessing to get to train with these guys and work with these guys and hopefully make them a little better in the process. I love every minute of it."

Brenn, who now stands 6-foot-9, was a unanimous first-team all-Big East North Division selection after the 2023-24 season after averaging 20.1 points and 10.2 rebounds for the Zephyrs.

However, in the final regular season game of that season, Brenn sustained a broken foot – the second time in the past year he had suffered the injury. That erased his opportunity to play in the summer as he looked to play at the collegiate level.

Instead, he focused on attending school at Marquette, where he majors in accounting, and Zephyrs' head coach Paul Bradshaw reached out to the Golden Eagles staff about



Brenn

Brenn potentially joining the program.

"He said we have this player who loves the game, he works hard and we would love for him to have an opportunity," Brenn said. "I had a good amount of options and offers that had come my way, but I wanted to go somewhere where I felt set academically – and Marquette is an amazing school – to fall back on in case my foot gave out again."

Brenn first visited the university last May when he met with the assistant coach Nevada Smith to discuss joining the program and then returned in June when he decided he would join the team when classes began.

Since arriving at Marquette, he has been the team's lone "practice player," taking part in all of the team's workouts – both on and off the court. He also sits on the bench for home games and could travel with the team later this season.

"I do everything with the team," said Brenn, who is not using a year of eligibility being a practice player. "I'm using this year and they are using this year as a testing year for me to possibly move into a walk-on spot next year."

It's also allowed him to work with the team's strength and conditioning coach which has not only allowed him to put on the weight and muscle to compete at the collegiate level, but has also helped to prevent any further injuries with his foot.

"He has gotten me feeling stronger and my foot feels great, better than ever, and

that was the main concern," Brenn said. "After I broke my foot (last year), I was scared. It was hard to think about playing again."

Brenn said getting the chance to work with a Division I program has definitely improved his game and he hopes that earns him a chance to be an official member of the program next year.

"The final decision is not up to me but I'm going to put in the work every single day and hope it works out for me. If not, it was an honor to even be in this position," Brenn said. "I feel like years down the road I will be a totally different person mentally wise, physically and how I approach things in life."

If Brenn does secure a walk-on position with Marquette, he won't be the first former Zephyr to be in that position.

Former St. Mary Catholic three-sport standout Robert Frozena was a four-year letterwinner as a walk-on with the Marquette program from 2007-2011. He played 40 games over his four years and scored a total of 21 points while becoming a fan-favorite on some talented Marquette teams.

Brenn is aware of the connection with Frozena but hadn't reached out to him yet.

"Our high school years were very similar and then both going to Marquette is pretty awesome," Brenn said. "I hope I have as good of a career, as long of a career, as Robert did. It's pretty awesome to be almost in his shoes."

Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 10

The Rockets held the Spartans to a season-low point total and more than 20 points below their scoring average in the win.

Zephyrs top Wolves to extend win streak

Five players finished in double figures as St. Mary Catholic notched its third straight win in an 80-68 victory over Winneconne on Tuesday night.

Mason Uhlenbrauck led the way with 24 points for the Zephyrs, who led 37-31 at halftime before pulling away for the win.

Preston Fields added 17 points, Mason Wagner had 14 points and Tarver Trinkner and Luke Fairweather chipped in 11 and 10 points, respectively.

The Zephyrs were coming off an 80-67 win on the road at Sturgeon Bay last Thursday, with Uhlenbrauck again leading the way with 24 points.

Trinkner with 15 points and Fairweather with 10 also reached double figures in the win.

HOCKEY

Sutton's hat trick fuels Rockets' victory

Mark Sutton recorded a hat trick and Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha rebounded after giving up the first goal to skate past Waupun, 6-1, in a Badgerland Conference game Tuesday night.

Cartyr Simonson, Cole Rothermel and Keegan Krueger also scored for the Rock-

ets, who used a three-goal second period to take a 5-1 lead.

Cooper Zinda and Ty Laabs each tallied two assists in the game, while Matthew Nelson stopped 13 of the 14 shots he faced in goal.

On Saturday, the Rockets downed De Pere with the top line of Sutton, Laabs and Simonson accounting for all four goals and combining for nine points.

Sutton finished with two goals, while Simonson and Laabs each had one goal and finished with three and two assists, respectively.

Owen Debbert made 17 saves in goal for the win.

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha also topped West Bend, 7-3, last Thursday after falling behind 2-0.

Sutton and Simonson each had two goals in the game, while Calvin Zinda added a goal and two assists, and Cooper Zinda and Zach Verhagen also scored in the game. Debbert got the win in net with 26 saves.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Verbrick, Rangel lead Neenah at Mauston

Emma Verbrick finished in third place and Julia Rangel took fourth to lead Neenah at the Mauston Golden Eagles Invitational last week.

Verbrick finished 2-2 with two pins in the 235-pound division to earn her place, while Rangel also went 2-2 with a pair of technical fall wins to take fourth at 126 pounds.

Rayleigh Pearson (126) and Jenson Kurszewski (138) also finished the tournament with two wins for the Rockets.

Classifieds

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

Miscellaneous

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Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF:

Jasmine Renee Davies Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2024CV001172

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Jasmine Renee Davies To: Miles Ryden Davies Birth Certificate: Jasmine Renee Davies

IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:

Judge's Name: Hon. Michael S. Gibbs Place: Winnebago County Courthouse 415 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54902 Date: January 23, 2025 Time: 1:30 pm

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 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 a newspaper published in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin.

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: December 19, 2024 /s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch IV Runs: January 3, 2025, January 10, 2025 and January 17, 2025

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Kid Scoop

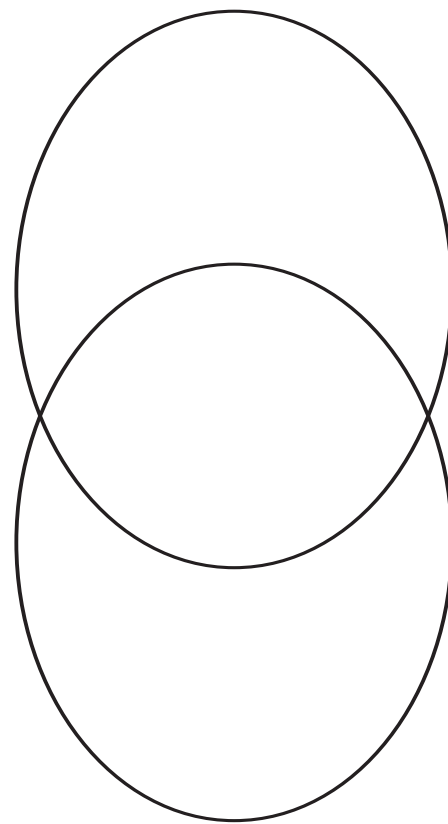
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Kid Scoop Together Diagram Fun!

Work with a partner at home to complete the following diagram.

1. Look at the list of traits. In the upper part of the top oval, write all of your traits.
2. Write your partner's traits on the lower part of the bottom oval.
3. In the area where the two ovals connect, write the traits you BOTH have.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| DIMPLES | DARK HAIR |
| NO DIMPLES | LIGHT HAIR |
| CAN ROLL TONGUE | CURLY HAIR |
| CAN'T ROLL TONGUE | STRAIGHT HAIR |
| RIGHT HANDED | FRECKLES |
| LEFT HANDED | NO FRECKLES |



A2 The Spottville Bugle

Fortune Shines on Freckled Faces

SPOTTVILLE, USA – The Spottville school board passed a new rule last night giving Spottville children with freckles more privileges than children without freckles.



Student Myron Fleming feels the new rule is "long overdue."

Freckled children will always sit at the front of the classroom and be first in line. They will get to use new pencils and the finest white paper. Children without freckles will have to sit at the back of the room or on the floor. Grocery bags will be used as paper for their assignments.

Many non-freckled children find the Freckle Rule unfair. "This rule stinks!" cried Alison Smythe, age 11. "I can't help it that I don't have freckles. Why can't I eat in the same cafeteria as my friends with freckles?"

Many children with freckles also disagree with the new Freckle Rule. "I plan to fight against this dumb idea," said Dottie Darling, a student at Spottville Elementary School. "Dr. Martin Luther King's message is that discrimination is always wrong, and this new rule is discrimination."

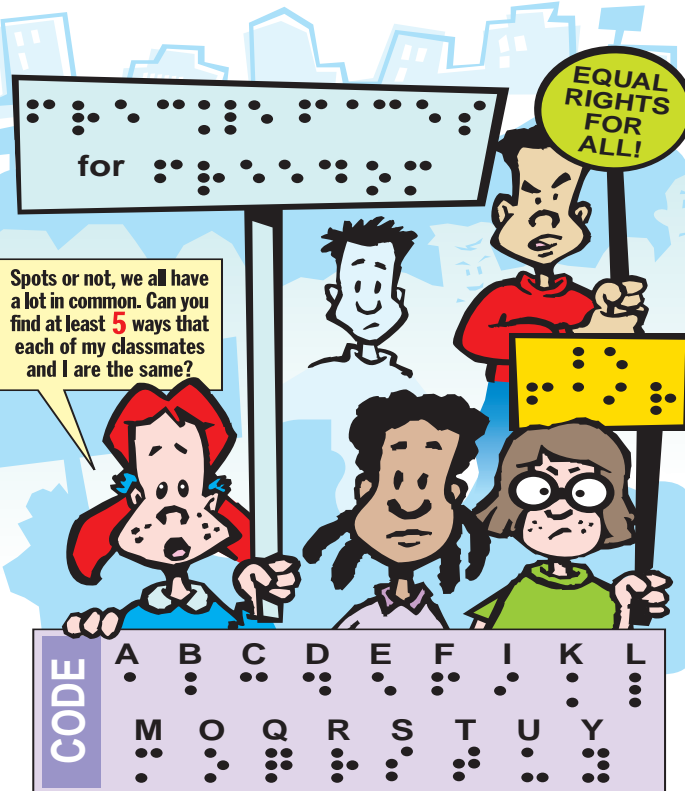
"Disgruntled nonsense," said school board president Spotz McDotter. "The rule is fair to the people that really matter most – people with freckles."

Could this be true?

What if this news story were true? Are the schools in Spottville treating all children equally?

Dottie Darling Disagrees

Dottie and lots of kids from her school are speaking out against the Freckle Rule. Use the code to see what their signs say.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

This story may seem a bit silly. Sadly, there is some truth to it. For many years, groups of people in the United States were treated differently just because of the way they looked.

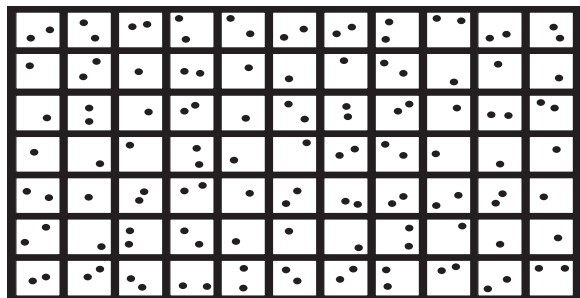
Dr. King's Dream of Equality

Dr. Martin Luther King knew what it was like to be discriminated against. He had been called names and told he could not do all of the things other people could do. It wasn't because of freckles that Dr. King had these problems. It was because his skin was black.

In the 1950s and 60s, many Americans, Black and white, spoke out and even fought against unfair laws that discriminated against Black people. Dr. King was one of the leaders of this struggle called the Civil Rights Movement.

Standards Link: History: Students understand the importance of individual action and character.

Did Dottie and her friends get rid of the Freckle Rule? To find out, color the spaces with two dots RED and the squares with one dot BLUE.



Standards Link: Follow simple directions.

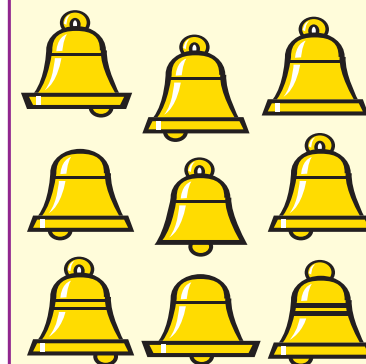
Extra! Extra!

Spirit of Freedom

Look through the newspaper for pictures and stories that show the freedoms Americans enjoy. Cut these out and make a poster called: "The Spirit of Freedom—The Spirit of America!"

Standards Link: History: Students understand the rights of citizenship.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Let Freedom Ring

After years of struggle, the Civil Rights Act made discrimination against the law. However, Dr. King knew it would take more than a law to change people's hearts and minds. He continued to teach people that discrimination was unfair.

Each year on his birthday, Americans remember this man who believed the dream of equality and freedom should ring true for all.

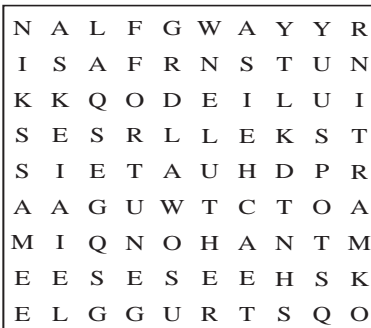
Find the two bells that are exactly the same.

Standards Link: Visual discrimination: Follow written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- EQUALITY
- FORTUNE
- SIGNS
- FREEDOM
- MARTIN
- LUTHER
- KING
- DREAM
- TEACH
- STRUGGLE
- SPOTS
- SKIN
- RULE
- SAME
- LAW

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.

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