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## Brigade celebrates 125 years of impact

### Youth organization relies on steady local support

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Since 1900 the Boys & Girls Brigade has been a pillar of the local community and earlier this month held a 125th anniversary gala with proceeds from the event going to modernize its aging building and continue serving local youth and families.

“We got great support from the community and a lot of our Brigade volunteers and donors came back for the gala,” executive director John Benberg said. “We were really pleased at how it turned out.”

The gala held at the Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center in Neenah was attended by international guests, including Brigade members visiting from Perth, Australia.

“We have a long-standing international program where groups of Brigade youth

and chaperones from here go to other countries, typically on a biennial schedule, and then occasionally groups from Brigades elsewhere come here,” Benberg said.

The event included live music from the Brigade Advanced Ensemble, anecdotes from representatives of the broader Brigade community and memories shared by local leaders and alums.

The gala kicked off the Brigade’s year-

SEE **Brigade** ON PAGE 8

## INSIDE



**Douglas project**  
Southside city park  
undergoing updates  
Page 5

**Early planning**  
Start College Now  
program engages teens  
Page 5



Photo by David Hall

## Music makers

The Neenah Public Library’s ukelele jams welcome young and old every Thursday evening to either bring music they are working on, play a solo or a duet for the group, or just play along with fellow “ukers.” All skill levels are welcome to the Storytime room and sessions last up to 90 minutes. No registration is necessary. Contact [hess@neenahlibrary.org](mailto:hess@neenahlibrary.org) for more information.

## Police recruiting evolves amid changing environment

### City department faces ongoing challenges

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

When Police Chief Aaron Olson was a child, he and his twin brother were riding their bicycles on a country road near Richland Center when a van pulled up and its occupants tried to kidnap them.

The brothers jumped off their bikes, ran down into the ditch, crossed a fence and sprinted up a hill to get home, where their mother called police.

The responding officer was a figure of safety and Olson says the experience left an indelible mark on his life.

“I just remember looking at that police

officer in his uniform and I remember at that time, I knew that’s what I wanted to do, and I never changed through the course of my teenage years and young adult life,” he said.

Olson started his policing career in 1998 and worked for various departments, including in Tomah and Fort Myers, Fla., before joining the Neenah Police Department in 2015.

Olson was hired during a contentious time for Neenah police after an incident that year at Eagle Nation Cycles, where police fatally shot a hostage during a standoff. The police shooting made national news, spawning several lawsuits and a petition demanding police accountability.

SEE **Police recruiting** ON PAGE 7



Neenah News

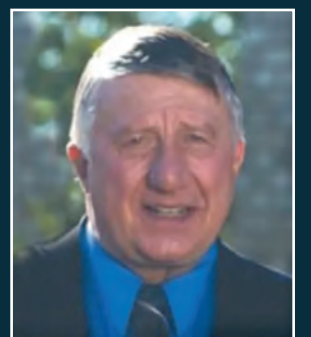
Police Chief Aaron Olson stands inside the firing range at the new Neenah Police Training Center that was completed last year.

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# New airboats on Winnebago County waters

Neenah News

A federal grant to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department has brought in three new airboats to serve county waterways that are being shared with Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue and Oshkosh Fire Department teams.

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue officials said they recently took delivery of one of the new boats, have been training on it and ready to respond to calls. Municipal departments partner with the Sheriff's Department on water and ice rescue operations with the boat stationed at one of its fire stations and staffed by the city departments.

Neenah-Menasha also teams up with Oshkosh Fire Department on water-related incidents in all jurisdictions. Other area



Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue photo

One of the new airboats acquired by the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department is shown on duty with a team from Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue.

fire departments assist at landings to help with launches and provide support.

The Sheriff's Department credited U.S.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin's office for assisting with securing the congressionally directed spending funds.

# Old Glory Honor Flights scheduled for this year

Neenah News

Old Glory Honor Flight and Appleton International Airport are announcing flights this year for veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit war memorials erected in their honor.

Since its inception, the organization has hosted more than 6,400 veterans and the Appleton airport has been hosting the flights since 2009.

Mission 73 takes off April 16, Mission 74 is set for May 27, Mission 76 is Sept. 2 and Mission 77 is Oct. 28. The Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight that takes off from the EAA grounds during AirVenture each year is set for July 25 for Vietnam War veterans.

The event travels with trained volunteers who plan the daylong trip to give veterans a red-carpet treatment. The organization provides escorts, a medical team,

professional photographers and plans the itinerary in Washington. Family members and the community participate in a welcome-home celebration at the airport.

"We could not celebrate these heroes without the commitment of our sponsors and partners and the overwhelming support of the community," said Diane MacDonald, executive director of Old Glory Honor Flight.

Veterans on active duty in any branch

of the service between Dec. 7, 1941, and May 7, 1975, qualify for the flights. Registration is open at oldgloryhonorflight.org. Currently, Old Glory Honor Flight has a waitlist of about 12 months for senior veterans.

"Our staff is dedicated to honoring our veterans and looks forward to each of these events as a way to celebrate the veterans and their families," said airport director Abe Weber.

# Public input sought for district's strategic plan

Neenah News

Neenah Joint School District Superintendent Steve Harrison will host three community sessions for input regarding the district's strategic plan.

The meetings will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Neenah Middle School Armstrong Library, 9 a.m. Feb. 10 in the Neenah Public Library's Shattuck Room and 6 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Neenah High

School Library, and will last about an hour.

The Board of Education and administration developed a strategic plan in 2023 with priority areas in collaboration, engagement, responsibility and well-being, with a focus on student growth. The meetings seek the community's help to refine those priorities and establish measurable goals.

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Neenah Historical Society photo

## Winter journey

A horse-drawn wagon heads south on Pine Street in front of the Stevens mansion and barn. This undated winter photo features wooden sidewalks and a glimpse of a wooded Riverside Park.

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# No charges yet in connection with November homicide

Neenah News

It's been more than two months since the partially unclothed and blood-covered body of a local homeless man was found outside a residence on East Doty Avenue, but prosecutors have yet to charge anyone with his murder.

The man, identified as 73-year-old Keith Rieskamp, was discovered on the morning of Nov. 24 by a passer-by, who called emergency services and reported that outside in the 200 block of East Doty Avenue was a person who "was hit."

Neenah police found Rieskamp outside with "massive trauma" to his face and was transported to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

Documents say police found blood on the handle of a nearby shed, on the back of a garage, on clothing found near Rieskamp, on the end of an aluminum post and on a brick. The apartment near where he was found had an open and ajar door to go to the shared basement area, and there was blood on the sidewalk from the scene toward the basement door.

Witnesses told police Rieskamp was friends with the occupant of one of the apartments, Rodney Franklin, 52. Franklin answered the door when police knocked and denied hearing anything the night before and said he didn't know Rieskamp.

Documents say Rieskamp had been living in area parks and recently began staying in the basement of Franklin's apartment building and then started staying in a shed behind the building.

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

Franklin is the only person who has been charged in connection with Rieskamp's death. He's currently 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.

Police said they are continuing to investigate the homicide and there is no threat to the public at this time. No details have been released about Rieskamp's cause of death or autopsy results.

Assistant District Attorney Tracy Paidler is prosecuting the case. District Attorney Eric Sparr said the investigation is ongoing and prosecutors are waiting on DNA testing results from the State Crime Laboratory.

Sparr acknowledged it is rare for months to pass after a homicide in the county without charges.

"We are really fortunate in that respect," he said. "When I hear the homicide clearance rates from some (usually large) jurisdictions, it can be hard to fathom."

Anyone with information may contact Winnebago County Crime Stoppers at 920-231-8477 or visit winnebagocrimestoppers.org to submit a text tip.



Neenah News

## Club coming together

The new Boys & Girls Club being constructed on Marathon Avenue across from the Neenah Police Department is quickly coming together after a groundbreaking in September on the \$15 million facility for area youth expected to be completed in July. The facility will include a Life & Workforce Readiness Center, dance studio, sensory room, trio of learning centers, family conference room, dining area, playground, gymnasium, teen lounge and makers lab.

## League sets online town hall for legislators

Neenah News

State legislators representing the Fox Valley area have been invited to participate in a virtual Legislative Town Hall meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday hosted by League of Women Voters chapters of Appleton-Fox Cities and Winnebago County.

Legislators invited to participate include state senators Rachael Cabral-Guevara, Kristin Dassler-Alfheim, Andre Jacque and Eric Wimberger, and Assembly representatives Joy Goeben, Nate Gustafson, Dean Kaufert, David Murphy, Lori Palmeri, Lee Snodgrass, Shae Sortwell and Ron Tusler. They will be given an opportunity to outline their priorities for the current legislative session and answer questions both prepared in advance and from the audience.

Online registration is required at [lwvappletonfoxcities.org](http://lwvappletonfoxcities.org) by clicking on the Legislative Town Hall listing under Upcoming Events. The town hall is intended to be a two-way conversation among legislators and the audience.

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## Three-year term ordered for drug trafficking

Neenah News

A former Fox Crossing man will spend three years in prison and five years on extended supervision after being convicted of trafficking fentanyl out of the parking lot of an apartment complex in Fox Crossing.

Melvin Clark Jr., 27, whose address is now listed in South Holland, Ill., was convicted earlier this month of three counts of manufacturing or delivering fentanyl. Three other felony drug charges were dismissed but read into the record.

The charges stemmed from an undercover investigation conducted by the Lake Winnebago Area MEG Drug Unit that used a confidential informant to conduct a series of controlled drug buys involving fentanyl last February. The synthetic opioid is linked to an increasing number of fatal overdoses locally and nationally and law enforcement agencies have intensified efforts to inter-

cept the drug's illicit sale and use.

According to the criminal complaint, the informant purchased drugs from Clark four times in the parking lot of an apartment complex in Fox Crossing for a total of 500 fentanyl pills.

Clark was arrested after a traffic stop on Reddin Avenue in Neenah last March. During the arrest, officers found 17 grams of suspected fentanyl, seven grams of suspected cocaine and a small amount of marijuana in his clothing and backpack.

Clark missed a court hearing Jan. 10. A bench warrant was filed, his \$3,000 bond was forfeited and he was taken into custody. At a plea and sentencing hearing Jan. 14, Judge Michael Rust sentenced Clark to three years in prison and five years extended supervision on each of the three charges to be served concurrently, meaning he will serve the sentences at the same time.

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# Child pornography case brings 15-year sentence

By Jonathan Richie  
NEENAH NEWS

The owner of a Menasha dog grooming business has been sentenced to 15 years in state prison and 15 years on extended supervision in connection with a child pornography ring involving a Racine sheriff's deputy and Neenah's former city attorney.

Assistant District Attorney Amanda Nash said when Jacob Boudreau was arrested last March he was in possession of extremely disturbing child pornography material. She added in her opening remarks for sentencing that Boudreau committed bold criminal acts as part of a child pornography ring operating in the community.

Boudreau, who owned a grooming salon, was the dog groomer of former Neenah city attorney Adam Westbrook, who was the human resources director for Outagamie County when he was arrested in early 2024. Westbrook plead guilty in federal court in September to one count of distribution of child pornography.

Westbrook's case was connected with former Racine County Sheriff's deputy Preston Kite, who was arrested last February for exposing himself in a public restroom while on duty and in uniform. Kite was recently convicted of nine counts of possession of child pornography, 10 counts of child sexual exploitation, exposing genitals and bestiality.

Boudreau's former roommate, Noah Thiel, was also charged in connection to the case and recently pleaded guilty to two counts of bestiality/sell/publish obscene material. Boudreau is the first of the four men to be sentenced.

The state and the defense both prepared

presentence investigations leading up to the sentencing last week. The state's investigation recommended eight to 10 years in prison followed by up to six years of extended supervision.

Boudreau's attorney, John Carroll, asked for the minimum sentence of three years in prison and three years of extended supervision and noted Boudreau doesn't have a criminal record and was taken advantage of by others.

Winnebago County Circuit Branch 1 Judge Michael Rust disagreed with the defense attorney's recommendation and called it "laughable," noting that Boudreau seems to have taken no responsibility for his actions.

In character letters received by the court, Boudreau was noted as taking part in the STAR program at the Winnebago County Jail, which is a recovery pod for people handling substance abuse. He also took part in group sessions, was an active participant with one person writing Boudreau goes "above and beyond the minimum requirements" during sessions.

Nash said Boudreau's actions in the case show "the defendant's willingness to act on his sexual deviance, which places him at a higher level of dangerousness than someone just downloading child pornography alone."

The plea deal between the state and defense was that Boudreau would plead no contest to two counts of child pornography and the remaining 10 counts of possession of child pornography would be dismissed but read into the record.

Before sentencing, Boudreau said he was part of the cycle of abuse.

"Likely more than anyone else in this

room, I am aware of the impacts of child sex abuse and child porn, as I was victimized by these very crimes," he said. "The embarrassment and shame and self-blame still continue to this day. Turning to drugs and alcohol has long been my solution."

Rust said the gravity of the crime, Boudreau's character and the need to protect

the public all made the sentence in this case more important than a minimum sentence.

He sentenced Boudreau to double what prosecutors recommended. Boudreau, who is 30, will be 45 when he's released from prison and 60 when he's released from extended supervision.

## New area claims agency empowers military veterans

Neenah News

Military veterans who face significant challenges when seeking Veterans Administration (VA) benefits have a new regional organization that can help simplify the process with representation and support to maximize benefits for veterans and dependents.

Freedom Claims Agency was founded by U.S. Air Force veteran Greg Brittnacher and licensed psychologist Leah Brittnacher to provide expert guidance and representation in navigating VA disability compensation claims. The agency is currently accepting new clients and can be contacted at [gregb@freedomclaimsagency.com](mailto:gregb@freedomclaimsagency.com) or online at <https://freedomclaimsagency.com>.



Brittnacher

A recent report from the VA Office of Inspector General revealed issues in how claims are processed for veterans rated as 100% disabled, with mistakes by VA employees resulting in an estimated \$9.8 million in overpayments and \$84.7 million in underpayments. The report found that 74% of claims granted and 76% denied for this rating contained at least one processing error.

"Many veterans may unknowingly be

underrated for their conditions due to processing errors, underscoring the importance of expert advocacy," Greg Brittnacher said in a press release announcing the new agency.

Greg Brittnacher's career in veteran advocacy began as a veterans benefits specialist for Winnebago County, where he earned accreditations from the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the VFW, American Legion and Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. He later was director of veterans services for Calumet County before becoming an accredited claims agent.

His military background is as a Security Forces member at Minot Air Force Base, Royal Air Force Alconbury and Camp Anaconda/Balad Air Base in Iraq. He pursued higher education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and University of Nebraska Medical Center and is a first-year law student at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul.

He said Freedom Claims Agency's mission was also shaped by participation in the E-seed express for veterans' program through the Venture Center at Fox Valley Technical College.

Leah Brittnacher brings expertise in mental health and will assist with claims and appeals involving mental health conditions, ensuring veterans obtain fair evaluations.

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# Students get head start on careers through state program

## Neenah High takes part in Start College Now

By MaryBeth Matzek  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A program at Neenah High School helps students get a jump start on their college education.

Neenah is one of several area high schools who partner with Fox Valley Technical College and its Start College Now program. Through Start College Now, students attend college-level classes earning credits at both the high school and college levels. In addition, as part of the program, the Neenah School District will pay for up to 18 college credits taken at FVTC.

Neenah senior Jacob Reckner is one of many students who have seen the program's benefits.

"The opportunity I was given by Neenah High School and Fox Valley Tech al-

lowed me to explore my interest in law enforcement and solidify my calling to public service," he said.

Wisconsin high school juniors and seniors interested in Start College Now apply to their high school counselor by March 1 for the fall semester and Oct. 1 for the spring semester. Once the counselor receives the application, it needs to be approved by the district school board. It then goes on to FVTC or other state technical colleges for final approval. At that point, students can enroll in their approved courses.

"If a student is looking to take a course that we do not offer, NJSD works with FVTC to provide an opportunity to that student," said Neenah guidance counselor Tim Wypiszynski. "Most courses that students take are somewhat specialized and therefore we do not offer them at NHS. Some recent examples are students interested in aviation and law enforcement."

Students either take the classes in per-

son at FVTC or online, depending on the course. The grades earned in the classes go on the students' high school and college transcripts.

"Students are mainly interested in (Start College Now) to take courses that they would not otherwise be able to take," Wypiszynski said. "These courses can help students explore a career path or get a head start on their college journey."

Brooke Friedrichs, Start College Now specialist, said students work with their high school counselor to research classes and figure out which ones are the best fit for them. The student must meet the class requirements, and the class cannot be offered at their school through another program, such as dual credit courses.

"Students sometimes register in an entry class in one of our programs, such as aviation, as a way to learn more about a potential career," Friedrichs said. "Students can sign up for a class that's not of-

fered at their school, such as something in IT or engineering."

Start College Now participants are in a win-win situation, Friedrichs said, since they are not only earning college and high school credits, but their college tuition and books are also covered by their school district.

"It can make college more accessible and affordable for students," she said.

FVTC has partnerships with other colleges and universities, so credits earned by the Neenah students can be transferred elsewhere, said Jennifer Van Thiel, manager of K-12 partnerships.

"Interest is growing in Start College Now and similar programs where students can begin earning college credits while in high school because it helps lower their overall costs," she said.

Students can learn more about Start College Now and other ways they can earn college credits in high school at FVTC by visiting [fvtc.edu/k-12-partnerships](http://fvtc.edu/k-12-partnerships).

# Douglas Park undergoing design changes around stormwater pond

Neenah News

About a year after the Neenah Common Council approved the addition of a stormwater pond to Douglas Park, ongoing construction has significantly changed the landscape.

The normally quiet Douglas Street has seen its share of dump trucks, skid steers and other equipment used for excavating both the pond and surrounding land that will see the addition of a looping stone trail around the pond, replacement of a swing set, installation of a park sign and other maintenance.

The park has a picnic shelter, restrooms,

picnic tables and playground equipment. Though it may look like an empty dirt field right now, the city plans to add landscaping that will include tall prairie and aquatic plants along the safety shelf and all around the pond that will help prevent people from getting near it.

The stormwater pond in Douglas Park is expected to mitigate street flooding on South Commercial Street and improve water quality in the drainage basin encompassing the Commercial Street corridor between Cecil and Orange Street and extending easterly to Higgins Avenue.

Douglas Park is situated on four acres abutting Galloway Co., a dairy products

producer. The company recently completed a \$70 million expansion in close proximity to the pond. Galloway makes up approximately 10% of the pond's entire drainage zone.

The company collaborated with the city to help fund design and construction of the pond, and will use it to meet its stormwater needs, with the company first discharging into the Douglas Pond and then cycling through to the Harrison Street Pond.

The 1.5-acre stormwater pond and supporting infrastructure is estimated to cost about \$400,000, with Galloway providing about \$200,000.



Neenah News

Though it may look like an empty dirt-covered field, work is underway to add a stormwater pond and other landscaping to Douglas Park.



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## Public library calendar

- Feb. 1**  
Boosting Your Parenting Toolbox: Conscious Discipline Workshop 2.0, 10 a.m.  
Leap into Writing, 3 p.m.
- Feb. 2**  
LEGOs in the Library, 1 p.m.
- Feb. 3**  
Stitching Group, 1 p.m.  
Adult Afternoon Program: Wisconsin for Kennedy, 2 p.m.
- Feb. 4**  
Adaptive Storytime (all ages), 9:15 a.m.  
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months), 10 a.m.  
Storytime for Everyone (all ages), 10 a.m.  
Maple Syrup, 6:30 p.m.  
Powered by Yarn, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 5**  
Baby Time Storytime, 9:15 a.m.  
Musical Movers Storytime (all ages), 10 a.m.  
Mah Jongg Meet-up, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 6**  
Fox Tales Storytime (all ages), 9:15 a.m.  
Wee Read Storytime, 10 a.m.  
Open Chess, 5:30 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 7**  
Fitness Friday: Boot Camp, 9:15 a.m.  
Chair Yoga, 10:30 a.m.  
First Friday Concert Series: Matthew DeChant, 2 p.m.  
Special Event: After-hours Campout, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 8**  
Chinese New Year Celebration, 11 a.m.
- Feb. 10**  
Monday Matinee: "Trap." 1 p.m.  
Short Story Night, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 11**  
Adaptive Storytime (all ages), 9:15 a.m.  
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months), 10 a.m.  
Storytime for Everyone (all ages), 10 a.m.  
Tech Talk Tuesday: Tablet Talk, A Guide to Your Device, 1:30 p.m.  
Legal Assistance Clinic, 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 12**  
Baby Time Storytime, 9:15 a.m.  
Musical Movers Storytime (all ages), 10 a.m.  
Mah Jongg Meet-up, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13**  
Fox Tales Storytime (all ages), 9:15 a.m.

- Wee Read Storytime, 10 a.m.  
Open Chess, 5:30 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 14**  
Footloose Friday, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 15**  
DIY Bad Art (ages 10 to adult), 10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 16**  
LEGOs in the Library, 1 p.m.  
Sunday Concert Series: The Crystal River Trio, 2 p.m.
- Feb. 17**  
Memory Cafe, 1:30 p.m.  
Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 18**  
Adaptive Storytime (all ages), 9:15 a.m.  
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months), 10 a.m.  
Storytime for Everyone (all ages), 10 a.m.  
Cookbook Book Club, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 19**  
Baby Time Storytime, 9:15 a.m.  
Musical Movers Storytime (all ages), 10 a.m.  
Mah Jongg Meet-up, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 20**  
Fox Tales Storytime (all ages), 9:15 a.m.  
Wee Read Storytime, 10 a.m.  
Open Chess, 5:30 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam, 6 p.m.  
History Program-Faces Behind the Names, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 21**  
Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength, 9:15 a.m.  
Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.  
Bad Art Show – Tween/Teen Program, Ages 10 to adult, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 24**  
MMBK: "Firekeeper's Daughter" by Angeline Boulley, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 25**  
Movie Talks: "Do the Right Thing," 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 26**  
Mah Jongg Meet-up, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 27**  
Open Chess, 5:30 p.m.  
Ukulele Open Jam, 6 p.m.



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# Police recruiting

FROM PAGE 1

ity.

Olson was promoted to chief in 2018 after the retirement of former chief Kevin Wilkinson. About two years later, George Floyd, a Black man, was killed in Minneapolis by police officer Derek Chauvin, who knelt on his neck for about nine minutes and asphyxiated him while he pleaded for his life and repeated, "I can't breathe."

Floyd's death has had a lasting impact on the public's perception of police officers. It sparked Black Lives Matter protests across the country, with activists calling for police reform and defunding police departments.

The protests and scrutiny has reshaped recruitment and retention within law enforcement. Olson, like many police chiefs nationwide, now faces a challenge unheard of when he began his career: a shortage of officers and declining number of applicants for open positions, even as the demand for law enforcement services has grown exponentially.

## Staffing shortages

Police departments across the country are facing difficulty in hiring officers to replace those who are retiring or resigning.

In Neenah, Olson said one of the challenges is the department is going through a "five-year cycle" where they had a "massive amount of retirements in the last five years."

After this month, Olson expects the department will only have one or two people retire per year going forward.

"We lose one officer – that's significant for us," he said. "When we're down three, four or five, it's a really significant hardship on our staff to cover those shifts."

According to Olson, the department was authorized for 44 sworn officers in 2024 and ended the year with 41 officers and three open positions. The number of officers in Neenah remains largely unchanged since 1982, when the department had 43 officers.

Meanwhile, Neenah's population increased by about 5,200 residents over the past 30 years and the number of police calls have more than tripled, from around 8,000 per year in 1982, to more than 25,000 last year.

Police call volume includes all responses to incidents. Reports are completed for more serious incidents that require investigation or legal documentation. Data provided by Neenah Police indicates the number of police reports generated by officers over the past three decades has also tripled.

The decline in officers follows a statewide trend, with 1,005 fewer law enforcement officers in Wisconsin in 2024 than in 2008, which is the first year the state Department of Justice began collecting that data.

The 13,354 officers statewide last year included law enforcement working in jails and secure juvenile detention facilities. Though last year the state saw a slight increase of 215 officers from 2023, which had the lowest number of officers on record, 2024 marks the second lowest number of law enforcement in the state in the past 16 years.

## Recruitment hurdles

Following state and national trends, Neenah has also faced a significant drop in the number of applicants for open positions, going from 500 to 800 applicants per position five to 10 years ago, to just 23 applicants in a recent hiring round.

"Obviously, the national narrative over the last several years hasn't helped us any," Olson said. "Law enforcement in general,

most parents do not want their kids, after what we've been through in the last few years, to be police officers."

To meet state and national averages for police officers per capita, Olson said Neenah would need more than 50. The gap in the number of officers needed and number authorized makes it challenging to serve the community effectively.

"We're wearing out our officers who are having to work more and more," he said. "When you have officers working 12-hour shifts, and then they have to stay for two to four hours, or come in two to four hours early, or come in on their day off, it's tiring and taxing."

He added that officers often respond to tragic incidents such as infant deaths and fatal crashes, which are highly emotional.

"When you don't have the time to go home and rest and recuperate, it kind of has a toll," he said. "So that's more of my worry, that I don't want to work our officers so much in overtime that then they're burnt out and don't want to be police officers anymore."

## Evolving responsibilities

Police officers today have significantly more duties than those employed 30 years ago. The emergence of the internet has led to advancements in technology and changes in policing, and also in the types of crimes committed.

"When you add things like the internet and credit card fraud and all the things they didn't have back then, there was no internet, there was no social media, all those things," Olson said.

Body cameras have also added tasks for officers, with Olson noting that the volume of camera footage, along with the requirement to download and label it daily, is one of the new responsibilities officers did not have in the past.

"Every profession adapts over time," he said. "Ours is just changing quicker than most, I think, because of the culture of our world right now."

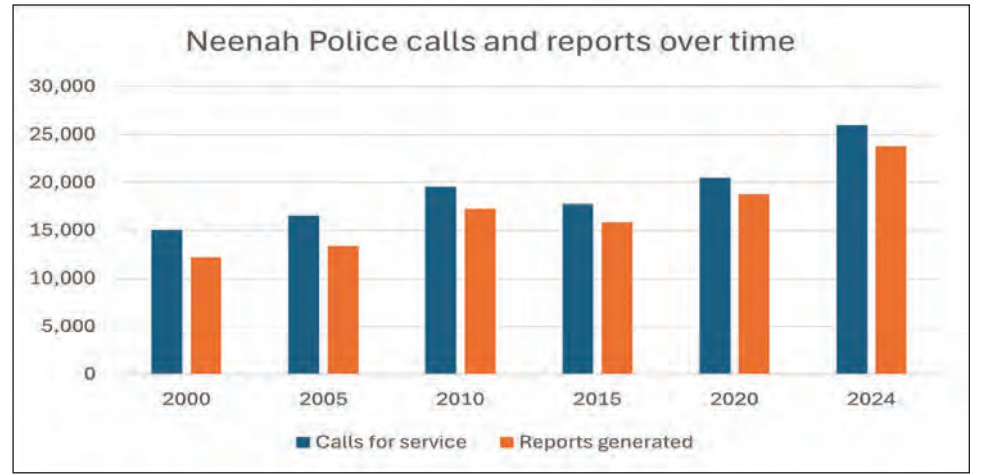
With laws changing and evolving, written police reports have also become much more extensive. Olson said that in the past a domestic dispute report would be just a single paragraph, but now those same reports are 12 to 15 pages long.

"So when you go from 43 sworn officers in 1982 to 44 in 2025, and measure everything in between that we have to do, it's almost immeasurable," he said.

## Enhanced hiring efforts

After budget requests to hire additional officers were denied by the city, Neenah police implemented several strategies to mitigate staffing challenges.

The department pays the salaries of new officers while they attend Fox Valley Technical College's law enforcement



academy. The classes themselves are paid for through the state, contingent on the officer passing. After graduation, officers return to the police station to go through a four-month field training master program.

Community service aides (CSAs), who take minor calls such as barking dogs, locked vehicles, traffic control and parking complaints, are also frequently promoted to officer positions.

"It's a living, breathing job interview every day for two to four years while they're in college," he said.

In the past, the department had a larger pool of general patrol officers. Over time, patrol officers have been taken off the street and assigned to specialized roles such as mental health officer and CSA supervisor, the latter being a new position created this year after police reduced front desk hours, eliminated two administrative positions and redefined another to come up with funds.

The Neenah Police Training Center, a \$5.8 million addition at 2111 Marathon Ave. that opened last year and features a firing range, armory, defense and arrest tactics room, gym and virtual 3-D training room, is a major selling point for new recruits, he added.

But the biggest incentive to attract new employees is the department's culture, with Olson noting that he prioritizes hiring those who he considers "good people."

"In our line of work, when we have the ability to take somebody's rights up to their life, which obviously we don't want to do, you don't want to have somebody out there that is of poor character, because we don't know that they would do the right thing," he said. "So we want to hire somebody of character, and then we'll train them how to be a police officer."

## Restoring trust

With police continuing to navigate staffing challenges, Olson said restoring the community's trust in law enforcement and changing the narrative surrounding the field are crucial.

"I think, honestly, it's just that we as a police culture always need to improve and

do better and not be in a national spotlight for any bad thing, because there's about 800,000 police officers in America, and if one does one bad thing, that makes all 800,000 of us look bad," he said.

He added that in 2024, Neenah police received a few minor complaints about officers that were unfounded, but police didn't conduct any internal investigations where an officer was suspended and sent home, which is "very unusual."

"I think it's because of how great our culture is," he said. "They don't want to let down their co-workers by doing something bad."

Olson believes the negative narrative surrounding policing is starting to turn, as public support for law enforcement begins to rebound.

"Those big cities that were defunding the police are now funding the police again and needing more police," he said.

As Olson reflected on his career, shaped by an officer who once helped him, he hopes to guide the next generation of law enforcement professionals.

"The city of Neenah is a really great place to live and work," he said. "Our culture is, in my opinion, one of the best cultures you can have in law enforcement."

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## Ice fishing report

By Jim Nobbe  
PAYNE'S POINT HOOK & SPEAR FISHING CLUB

As of Sunday we were finding 15 to 18 inches of ice in the areas around Payne's Point on Lake Winnebago. Our tree line is out 5 miles and points toward Faro Springs Road on the east shore.

We have one main north-south crack that basically runs along the west shore down the lake. We have two truck bridges and one ATV bridge on this crack that are marked with Christmas trees drilled into the ice by them. We also have an east-west crack that runs from Wheeler Point (fresh air camp) in an arc around the top part of the lake and hits the east shore just north of Faro Springs Road. There are a couple of



open holes along this crack. The biggest is roughly 50 feet in diameter. Use extreme caution around these holes. I found 15 inches of ice next to them.

Saturday morning there was a major expansion of the ice due to the sun and drastic temperature increase. A lot of clubs around the lake had to move or reposition their bridges after this happened. There were many reports of houses shaking from the ice moving.

Until we get some snow, we will most likely have more of these expansion and contraction events of the ice; the snow insulates the ice so it's not affected as much by the temperature changes. Seat belts off, windows down and doors unlocked while driving on the ice and one at a time on the truck bridges. Don't forget to support your local fishing club and remember the ice is never 100% safe.

## Amcor announces technical school scholarship

Global packaging specialist Amcor has established an Amcor Technical School Scholarship Program for high school seniors or graduates seeking full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two-year college or vocational technical school.

Interested students can apply for a scholarship at [learnmore.scholarsapply.org/amcortech](http://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/amcortech).

Twenty \$2,500 grants will be given each academic year.

Applicants must be a high school senior

or graduate, reside in Wisconsin or one of 14 other states where Amcor has operations, plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two-year college or vocational technical school for an academic year, be pursuing a certificate or associate degree in an industrial-skilled trade, and have a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

Applications can be made through March 6 and email [amcor@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:amcor@scholarshipamerica.org) for more information.

## Brigade

FROM PAGE 1

long 125th anniversary celebration, which is expected to include a variety of events and gatherings.

"Program plans are still being finalized, but we do expect to bring a number of groups together during the course of this year to celebrate our 125th anniversary and to recommit ourselves to a prosperous future for the Brigade going forward," he said.

The local Boys Brigade was formed Jan. 22, 1900, with 30 young men enrolled. The Girls Brigade was formed in 1979 with 51 young women. In 1993, the organization unified to become the Boys and Girls Brigade of Neenah-Menasha.

The Brigade serves children in grades 5-12 and is believed to be the oldest such organization in the United States and among the largest in the world. It provides opportunities for youth to participate in physical activities, workshops, hobby clubs, music and art programs, guest speakers and group discussions.

"Brigade has been and continues to be that unique third space where young people can come when they aren't in school and aren't at home, but need opportunities to experiment with different experiences," Benberg said.

One of the Brigade's popular annual events is the Christmas Giving program, where staff and volunteers provide clothing, gift certificates, toiletries and gifts to financially disadvantaged local families.

Beginning in 1908, the Brigade started hosting an annual summer camp for youth in Waupaca on a six-acre island located on the Chain O'Lakes. Originally called Juniper Island, S.F. Shattuck purchased the site in 1911 and renamed it "Onaway," a Native American word for "awake."

S.F. Shattuck, the son of Kimberly-Clark founder Frank C. Shattuck, was a businessman and philanthropist who took on a leadership role with the Boys Brigade in 1901 and continued supporting the organization throughout his life.

The newly formed Onaway Camping Association became the stockholder of the island in 1914 and the following year the first permanent structures were built. Thousands of youth have attended Onaway in the years since.

The multistory downtown Brigade building at 109 W. Columbian Ave. includes amenities for indoor rock climbing, archery, karate, rifle shooting, art spaces, a kitchen and woodshop. The organization also offers hunter, boater, snowmobile and ATV safety courses.

The building is situated at what was

previously the Danke Creamery property. The Brigade purchased it in 1928 along with two 60-by-120-foot lots fronting on South Commercial Street and Columbian Avenue.

By the mid-1950s, the Brigade needed more space and a new building was constructed at that L-shaped property. The former creamery building was retained but underwent a facelift to make room for the enlarged quarters. The 1956 addition was designed to accommodate a third floor constructed in 1960. A new 32,000-square-foot addition was completed in 1970.

With the original structure more than 75 years old, it is in need of improvements. The Brigade recently finished phase one of the building refresh, which included the first- and second-floor lobbies, recreation room and main gymnasium, which have all been upgraded over the past several months.

"We have an aging downtown facility, and with that comes some known and occasionally unexpected challenges, but we need dollars to take on the projects that we are aware of," Benberg said. "We want to refresh program spaces so the user experience for our members and our volunteers is better, for example. We need to do some things around technology to make our operating environment a little more efficient and modern."

Rather than launching a traditional capital campaign, the Brigade is taking a more flexible, donor-driven approach. Individuals and companies with a particular interest in certain program areas will be invited to make targeted investments in those spaces.

"We just got a significant investment from a new partner in Festival Foods to significantly upgrade one of our kitchens," he said. "We're super excited about that, and that's a space that gets an awful lot of usership."

The Brigade, which receives about 5% of its funding from United Way, is primarily supported by self-generated sources such as community donations and fundraising events like the holiday wreath sale started in 1956 that still takes place each year.

As Benberg reflected on the Brigade's history and future, he encouraged locals to take a tour of the facility to better understand the impact the organization has on young lives.

"The combination of kids being able to come have fun with their friends, do cool things and have caring, adult mentors with them consistently; it's just a great, proven combination," he said. "It's what we do and it works for changing the lives of kids that we serve, and, by extension, providing value to their families."

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# Prep sports roundup

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Klesmit reaches scoring milestone for Rockets

Rowan Klesmit scored 16 points and moved past the 1,000-career point milestone as Neenah fell to top-ranked Kimberly, 75-48, last Friday.

Klesmit, who is averaging nearly 15 points per game, entered the season with 862 points and reached the benchmark with a free throw against the Papermakers. She finished the game with 1,009 career points. She is the fourth player in school history to reach the milestone.

Celia Gentile and Ellie Buss each chipped in six points.

On Tuesday night, Buss knocked down seven 3-pointers and finished with a career-high 30 points to lead the Rockets to a 74-57 win over Fond du Lac.

Buss was 7-of-10 from 3-point range in the game and knocked down all three of her free throw attempts. She also picked up five rebounds in the win.

Klesmit added 17 points and Jillian Matheny finished with six points.

Neenah jumped to a 44-31 lead at half-time and then cruised in the second half.

### Zephyrs continue winning ways

St. Mary Catholic built a 47-14 halftime lead and then held Mishicot to just six points after halftime in rolling to a 65-20 win in a Big East North game last Friday.

Autumn Crowe led the way for St. Mary Catholic with 17 points, while Emily Vogel and Lauren Ripley each finished with 15 points. Nolie Anderson had nine points and a team-high eight rebounds in

the win.

The Zephyrs followed up that win with an 88-64 thumping of Kohler on Tuesday behind 28 points and eight rebounds from Vogel.

Crowe added 17 points, while Ripley and Lucy Norville each added 10 for the Zephyrs, who notched their season-high point total in the win.

## BOYS HOCKEY

### Laabs registers hat trick in win over Appleton

Ty Laabs tallied a hat trick and finished with five points overall as the Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha hockey team collected a 10-1 win over Appleton United last Thursday.

Mark Sutton and Keegan Krueger each added a pair of goals in the win, while Cartyr Simonson, Calvin Zinda and Cole Rothermel each picked up a goal as well.

Calvin Zinda led the team with five assists, while Macsen Selch had three assists and Preston Liedke and Cooper Zinda each had two.

Owen Debbert stopped 11 of the 12 shots he faced to earn the win in goal for the Rockets, who built a 4-0 lead after the first period and led 6-1 heading into the third period.

On Tuesday, the Rockets dropped a heartbreaking 5-4 overtime decision to top-ranked Stevens Point.

Goals by Sutton and Laabs staked Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha to a 2-0 lead after the first period, while a Calvin Zinda goal nearly 12 minutes into the third period tied the game at 3.

After Stevens Point surged back ahead, Cooper Zinda scored a power play goal in

the final minute of regulation to even the game at 4 and send the contest into overtime.

The Panthers scored 45 seconds into the extra session to claim the win.

Sutton, Labs, Calvin Zinda and Simonson all picked up assists in the game for the Rockets, while Debbert registered 27 saves.

## SWIMMING

### Rockets swim past Appleton West-Kimberly

Drew Gaerthofner and Burke Wendell each won two individual events and the Rockets knocked off Appleton West-Kimberly, 100-76, in a Fox Valley Association dual meet last week.

Gaerthofner finished first in the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard breaststroke, while Wendell tied for first in the 50-yard freestyle and then won the 500-yard freestyle with teammate Ryker Zarda taking second.

Tanner Trustem added a victory in the 100-yard freestyle, while also taking sec-

ond in the 100-yard backstroke. Julian Kuehn picked up second places in the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard butterfly.

Neenah also took first in the 200-yard medley relay with a team of Gaerthofner, Trustem, Kuehn and Wendell, while the foursome of Kuehn, Joshua Youngwerth, Zarda and Gaerthofner finished first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

The Rockets also dominated Oshkosh North/Lourdes in a dual meet Tuesday, winning 129-51.

Neenah swept the top three places in three different events in the win. In the 50-yard freestyle, Gaerthofner, Benner and Crawford Pfeifle were the Rocket finishes, while Youngwerth, Austin Pierstorff and Seth Johnson grabbed the top three spots in the 100-yard freestyle.

In the 100-yard backstroke, Kuehn, Wendell and Pierstorff finished first, second and third, respectively.

Kuehn and Trustem added a 1-2 finish in the 200-yard freestyle, while Wendell and Youngwerth in the 200-yard individ-

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 11



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# Kuehn uses size to his advantage in swimming pool

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah High School senior Julian Kuehn hopes to reach some pretty lofty goals at the end of this swimming season.

He certainly has the wingspan to help him get there.

The 6-foot, 4-inch Kuehn uses his size to his advantage in flying up and down the length of the pool, specializing in the sprint freestyle events for the powerhouse Rocket squad.

"I've always been tall," Kuehn said before a practice earlier this week. "Because I'm so tall, I have a lot longer reach and can pull more water. It also means I'm taking less strokes."

## Senior Standout



Kuehn said he usually needs roughly 10 strokes to finish a length of the pool in the freestyle, while shorter swimmers may need as many as 18.

His frame and reach also helps closing out races as his length makes it easier to reach for the wall to finish a race.

"I can usually get my hand in there first," Kuehn said. "How well you can sneak your hand to the wall before the other person makes a difference."

Kuehn's height may be an asset, but he has certainly worked on his craft in the pool since his freshman season with the Rockets.

One of the steps he has taken this year to swim faster has to do with his breathing, especially in the 50-yard races.

"Whenever you take a breath, it slows down your stroke so I just started do-



Neenah News

Julian Kuehn has swam on Neenah relays in the past two state swim meets but hopes to advance as an individual for this year's event.

ing my 50-yard freestyle with no breath," Kuehn said. "That's something new for me this year and it's been really successful, and I have been going a lot faster."

Kuehn has been turning out times in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle races – the events that he considers to be his best – that he's focused on swimming as an individual at the state meet later this winter in Waukesha.

Kuehn narrowly missed qualifying in the 100-yard freestyle last season but wants to be sure he is swimming as an individual at the state meet in his senior season.

"It just means a lot more to me," Kuehn said about making it to state in an individual event. "I've already got the times that made it to state last year so I am really hoping to get down there and prove

myself."

Kuehn does have experience swimming at state meets, but only as a part of Rocket relay teams.

As a sophomore, Kuehn was a member of Neenah's state-qualifying 200-yard freestyle relay team, while last year he was a part of all three relays that competed at

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 11

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# Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 9

ual medley and Gaerthfioner and Trustem in the 500-yard freestyle also finished first and second, respectively.

Zarda added a win in the 100-yard butterfly and a second place in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Neenah also swept the top two places in all three relays to collect the win.

## BOYS WRESTLING

### Koch, Herm claim titles at Highlander invite

Declan Koch and Jacob Herm each went 5-0 and captured individual titles at the Highlander Invitational last Friday.

Koch registered two pins on the way to winning the 157-pound title. He topped Union Grove's Cole Dummer, 7-1, in the title match.

Herm racked up four first-period pins and posted a 19-4 technical fall in the first period for his five wins to take the 165-pound title. He beat previously unbeaten Jacob Kidder of Hartford in the finals, pinning him in 1:43.

Landen Sheppard (150) went 3-1 with two pins to finish third, while Kaden Roth (190) finished seventh and Khalid Williams (215) placed ninth.

## GIRLS WRESTLING

### Rockets collect wins over Wildcats, Papermakers

Neenah won a pair of dual meets at a triangular meet in Kimberly on Tuesday.

The Rockets took down the host Paper-

makers 42-24 and then blanked Oshkosh West, 60-0, winning all five contested matches.

Kyle Kurszewski (120), Amari Richard (126) and Lluvia Carrillo (185) each notched pins against the Wildcats, while Maya Ives (107) and Julia Rangel (132) also posted victories.

In the victory over Kimberly, Neenah got pins from Jenson Kurszewski (138) and Mackenzie Kujawa (165).

## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Rockets roll in first half to beat Kimberly

Neenah jumped out to a 23-point half-time lead and had four players finish in double figures in taking down Kimberly 67-48 on the road last Friday.

The Rockets held the Papermakers to just 12 points in the first half in building the halftime advantage.

Nick Schultz led the Rockets with 17 points and seven assists, while Luke Jung added 16 points. Mason Fleese and Roan Koeper each had 10 points, while Koeper led the team with eight rebounds.

Neenah had its four-game winning streak halted on Tuesday night in a 57-48 loss at home to Fond du Lac.

The 48 points was the lowest scoring output in an FVA game this season and second-lowest point total overall.

Jung led the Rockets with 25 points, while Koeper also reached double figures with 10 points.

### Big first half carries Zephyrs to triumph

St. Mary Catholic erupted for 55 first-half points and rolled to an 85-41 win over

Instead, he has found a different sport to fill the void.

Kuehn plans to attend the University of Wisconsin where he will compete with the Badgers' highly touted rowing team. It's a sport that he may not have much experience in but is looking forward to the challenges it brings.

"I did the rowing in the weight room for workouts but that was about all I knew about it," Kuehn said. "They recruit a lot of swimmers - tall people, good endurance, guys who like to work really hard. I went down there and stayed with them for a few days in the summer to train with them and they said they wanted me on the team."

The summer experience with the Badger rowers convinced Kuehn to go away from the collegiate swimming options he had and he's looking forward to the opportunity to learn and develop with the team.

"The team looks super fun, similar to what we have here," Kuehn said. "It's a great group of guys who like to work hard and have fun."

Not that Kuehn is going to turn his back on swimming.

He plans to continue to get work in in the pool after his high school career ends in order to keep up his endurance.

"I have plans to compete in triathlons and I would really like to do an Ironman - that has been a lifelong goal of mine," Kuehn said. "There are also some open water races that I think would be really fun."

Kuehn certainly has his mind set on future goals and making those type of plans is something he attributes to being involved in high school athletics.

"Sports has taught me to be constantly setting goals and working toward them," Kuehn said. "My dad would always say to never being satisfied and trust the process. When you reach a goal, then set a new one."

Mishicot last Thursday in Big East north action.

Mason Wagner scored 19 points to lead four players in double figures for the Zephyrs.

Tarver Trinkner added 16 points with Luke Fairweather and Preston Fields each finishing with 11 points. Fields also chipped in eight assists and four steals.

The Zephyrs hit 11 3-pointers in the win and finished 8-of-9 from the free-

throw line.

St. Mary Catholic couldn't keep the momentum going from the win, though, as it fell 79-66 to Kohler on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs outscored the Blue Bombers 44-39 in the second half but couldn't overcome an 18-point halftime deficit.

Mason Uhlenbrauck poured in 21 points for St. Mary Catholic, while Fields finished with 16 points and Trinkner added 13.

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## Legal Notices

### NOTICE OF CLAIMS DEADLINE

IN THE MATTER OF THE

ANNA C. KLIMES REVOCABLE TRUST AGREEMENT DATED JULY 1, 2011

Anna C. Klimes, whose date of birth was August 20, 1927, died on December 22, 2024. Pursuant to §701.0508 of the Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing claims for payment of the debts of Anna C. Klimes with the Trustee of the above trust is on or before May 31, 2025. The name and address of the Trustee is:

Janice Michel

W6366 Moon Shadow Drive, #6 Greenville, WI 54942 Dated this 22nd day of January, 2025. Janice Michel, Trustee Runs: Jan. 31, 2025, Feb. 7, 2025 and Feb. 14, 2025

WNAXLP

### STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Antonio Esteban Boils

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV000083

### NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From: Antonio Esteban Boils To: Tyler Anthony St. James Birth Certificate: Antonio Esteban Boils

### 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: 415 Jackson St. Room 211, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: March 3, 2025 Time: 10:00 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4868 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: January 24, 2025 /s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch IV Runs: January 31, 2025, February 7, 2025 and February 14, 2025

WNAXLP

### STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

Amended Summons and Complaint (Small Claims) Case No. 25SC0001

FIVE POINT DEFENSIVE ARTS LLC 1924B CALUMET DRIVE SHEBOYGAN WI 53081 Plaintiff,

v.

STEVEN W. MIER 375 S. GREEN BAY RD, ROOM# 25 NEENAH WI 54956 Defendant.

Amended Publication Summons and Complaint

### To the Defendant(s):

You are being sued as described on the attached complaint. If you wish to dispute this matter:

You must file a written answer and provide a copy to the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney on or before the date and time stated.

When to Appear/File an Answer: February 25, 2025 at 8:30 am.

Place to Appear/File an Answer: CLERK OF COURTS, 615 N 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Sheboygan WI 53081.

If you do not appear or answer, the plaintiff may win this case and a judgment entered for what the plaintiff is asking.

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.

Dated this 23rd day of January, 2025.

By: /s/ Steven De Spain Steven De Spain 1435 Georgia Avenue Sheboygan, WI 53081 (920) 395-2992

Runs January 31, 2025, February 7, 2025 and February 14, 2025

WNAXLP

### STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF:

Miles Eddison Gahl By (Petitioner): Miles Eddison Gahl

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV000012

### NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From: Miles Eddison Gahl To: Beasleub Iris Gahl Birth Certificate: Miles Eddison Gahl

### IT IS ORDERED:

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

Judge's Name: Hon. Michael D. Rust Place: 415 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54901, Room 410 Date: February 14, 2025 Time: 10:30 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4811 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: January 6, 2025 /s/ Hon. Michael D. Rust Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch I

Runs: January 31, 2025, February 7, 2025 and February 14, 2025

WNAXLP

# Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 10

the state meet.

Kuehn swam the freestyle leg of the 200-yard medley relay team last year that finished eighth at state and set a school record late in the season. This year that group - which includes Drew Gaerthofner, Tanner Trustem and Burke Wendell and has Kuehn swimming the butterfly leg - has been going even faster and should be in contention for a podium finish.

"It's fun building really fast relays and we have some really good guys," Kuehn said. "It's not really different (swimming the butterfly). Being super tall, I can just sort of muscle through it. I don't really have the best form, but I can reach super far and pull a lot of water."

Swimming isn't the only sport Kuehn has excelled in at Neenah.

Kuehn was a three-year varsity performer for the Rockets' boys volleyball team and earned first-team all-Fox Valley Association honors as an outside hitter last fall.

Just as in swimming, Kuehn's size was definitely an asset as he pounded spikes down on opponents in what was one of the most successful seasons for Neenah.

"It's so fun (hitting a big spike). Everyone gets super excited when you put one away," said Kuehn, who finished with 222 kills this season. "The four years I've been in high school, it's really been about making a name for ourselves as a program and I think this year was our breakthrough year. The team is full of people committed to the sport now and it was great being a part of being successful as a team."

Although Kuehn has enjoyed success at the high school level in two different sports, he doesn't plan to continue either competitively in college.

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## The Cold Facts

An overnight snowstorm is big news in Deersprings Valley. Scarlett Squirrel and her team of reporters at *The Treetop Tribune* have to separate **FACT** from **OPINION** to tell the story. And they need some help from **YOU** to do so!

A **FACT** is something that can be proven true. An **OPINION** is how someone feels about something.

### Reporter's Notes

Roscoe Rabbit is a new reporter at the Treetop Tribune. He made a list of facts about the big storm in his reporter's notebook, but is he correct? Circle the **FACTS** in green crayon. Underline the **OPINIONS** in red crayon.

- 1 The heavy snowfall caused several tree branches to break.
- 2 The sound of the howling wind was scary.
- 3 Chuck Chipmunk's family had to seek shelter in a different tree when their nook started filling with ice.
- 4 The storm brought four feet of snow and temperatures fell to 4 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 5 The deep snow looked beautiful in the morning.
- 6 There will never be another storm like this in the Valley.
- 7 Parts of Critter Creek were frozen solid by 3:30 a.m.

The Treetop Tribune

## OVERNIGHT STORM LEAVES VALLEY COVERED IN SNOW

By Roscoe Rabbit, Staff Reporter

DEERSPRINGS VALLEY – An overnight winter storm brought frigid temperatures to the valley last night. A low temperature of 4 degrees Fahrenheit was recorded by Oswald Owl at 3:35 a.m.

The storm blew in from central Canada and knocked out power in the town of Riversburg for several hours. But by 10:00 a.m., winds had stopped and sunshine was slowly returning to the valley.

Icicles in the entry way of the Chipmunk family caused them to seek shelter in a neighboring tree.

Once the storm ended, a team of woodpeckers began to chip away at the icicles covering the Chipmunk family's doorway, and the family was able to move back home in their tree before nightfall.

"It was the scariest storm ever," said Chuck Chipmunk. "The winds sounded like an angry, howling wolf!"

### Just the Facts

Scarlett knows how important it is to include as many facts as possible in a news story. These facts give readers more understanding of what happened and why.

Look at this article about the storm. Does it tell **WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE** and **WHY**?

**WHO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHERE:** \_\_\_\_\_

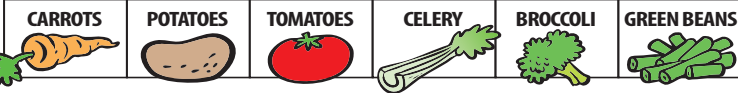
**WHEN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHY:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Take a Survey

A **survey** is a way to gather opinions about something.

Ask your friends and family members which of these veggies they like best. Complete the graph by coloring in a square each time someone selects that vegetable. Share your findings with everyone who took the survey.

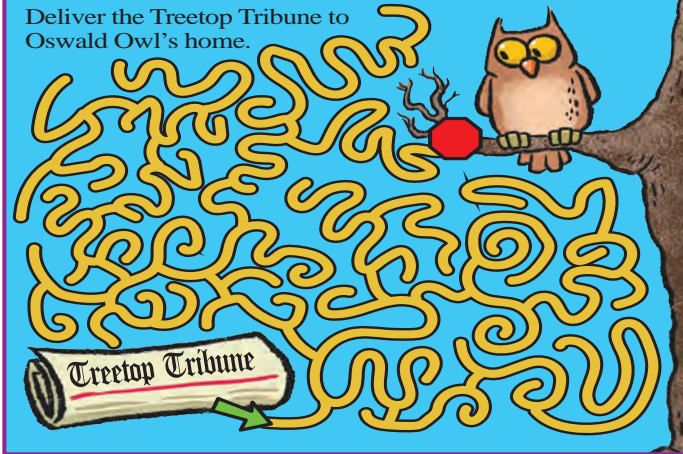
### Extra! Extra! Fact Finder

Find three facts and three opinions in the newspaper. Have three friends take turns deciding which statements are facts and which are opinions. Each correct answer earns 1 point.

**Standards Link:** Students correctly identify the differences between fact and opinion.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Deliver the Treetop Tribune to Oswald Owl's home.



### Double Double Word Search

- BLEW
- BREAK
- FACTS
- FRIGID
- ICE
- LOW
- OPINION
- SEEK
- SNOW
- STORM
- TREE
- VALLEY
- WIND
- WINTER
- WOLF

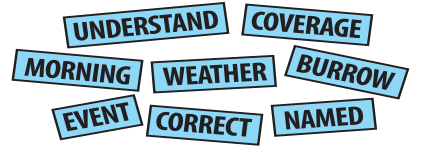
Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

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

### Kid Scoop Together Missing Words

Replace the missing words to complete the article below.



Early in the \_\_\_\_\_ every February 2, attention turns to Gobbler's Knob, Pennsylvania, and a groundhog \_\_\_\_\_ Punxsutawney Phil.

Legend states that if Phil sees his shadow when coming out of his \_\_\_\_\_, it means he predicts six more weeks of wintery \_\_\_\_\_. But if he doesn't see his shadow, it means Phil predicts an early spring, according to the legend.

It's a big \_\_\_\_\_ that began in the late 1800s and gets lots of \_\_\_\_\_ in the news. Phil's predictions are not always \_\_\_\_\_. But that's okay, because it's all in the spirit of fun.

A group of people called the "Inner Circle" dress up in long black coats and top hats for the big Groundhog Day announcement of Phil's prediction. The president of the Inner Circle is said to speak *groundhogese* and is the only one who can \_\_\_\_\_ what Phil says.

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# 2025 Wedding & Event Guide

- A January 29, 2025 advertising supplement of Oshkosh Herald LLC - Oshkosh Herald - Winneconne News - Neenah News -



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# Tradition mixed with innovation fuel wedding trends

Weddings in 2025 have embraced both tradition and innovation, with couples incorporating fresh trends and personalized elements into their ceremonies. Here are a few new features:

## 1. Eco-Friendly and Sustainable Elements

**Sustainable Decor:** Using biodegradable, upcycled, or rented decor. Living walls, potted plants, and reusable floral arrangements are popular.

**Eco-conscious Attire:** Dresses and suits made from sustainable materials or rented instead of purchased.

**Digital Invitations:** Couples are opting for e-invites and wed-

ding websites to reduce paper waste.

## 2. Interactive Guest Experiences

**Live-Streaming the Ceremony:** Incorporating high-quality live streams for guests who can't attend in person.

**Personalized Guest Gifts:** QR codes at each table leading to custom thank-you videos or shared memories.

**On-Site Activities:** Options like live painting, DIY cocktail stations, or even augmented reality photo booths.

## 3. Cultural and Personal Blending

**Fusion Ceremonies:** Blend-

ing traditions and rituals from multiple cultures or faiths.

**Custom Vows with AI Assistance:** Couples are using AI tools to help craft meaningful and unique vows.

**4. Technology Integration Drones for Photography and Videography:** Capturing aerial shots and dynamic videos.

**AR Invitations:** Invitations with augmented reality features that come to life when scanned.

**Smart Wedding Rings:** Rings embedded with chips that can store special messages or connect to apps.

## 5. Food and Beverage Innovations

**Grazing Tables with a Twist:** Incorporating interactive elements like fondue or build-your-own dessert stations.

**Customized Menus:** AI-assisted menu planning for dietary preferences and sustainability.

**Cocktail Robots:** Bartending robots mixing drinks on demand.

## 6. Personalized Timelines

**Non-Traditional Formats:** Hosting brunch weddings, weekday ceremonies, or evening-only celebrations.

**Extended Celebrations:** Multi-day weddings with themed events spanning a weekend.

# Wedding invitation protocol continues to evolve

Over the past two decades, wedding invitation protocol has undergone significant changes, reflecting evolving social norms, technology, and environmental awareness. In the 2000s, formal, printed invitations were the gold standard. Couples meticulously selected premium cardstock, el-

egant calligraphy, and traditional designs, often accompanied by RSVP cards and multiple inserts. The process was as much about tradition as it was about setting the tone for the event.

Fast forward to today, and the approach to wedding invitations has diversified. While traditional

printed invitations remain popular, digital invitations and hybrid approaches have gained significant traction. Platforms like Paperless Post and Evite allow couples to send beautifully designed digital invitations, often complete with RSVP tracking and event updates. These op-

tions are not only cost-effective but also eco-friendly, aligning with growing concerns about sustainability.

Social media and wedding websites have also transformed how information is shared. Couples now create personalized

SEE **Invitations** ON PAGE 4



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# Exploring Wedding Venues: Options for Every Budget

Planning a wedding is one of life's most exciting adventures, but it can also be challenging to find the perfect venue that fits your style and budget. Fortunately, our area offers a diverse range of wedding venues, from intimate town halls to luxurious ballrooms and even a unique riverboat experience. Here's a closer look at four standout options in the area that cater to different budget ranges.

## Town Halls: Charming and Affordable

For couples seeking an affordable yet charming venue, town halls in Oshkosh provide an excellent option. These spaces offer a simple setting, perfect for intimate ceremonies or receptions with close family and friends. Notable benefits include affordable rental fees and the ability to customize the space to reflect your personality. Many town halls also come equipped with basic amenities, such as tables, chairs, and kitchen facilities, which can help reduce overall costs.

## Gibson Social Hall and Venue 404 in Oshkosh: Historic and Timeless

For those who appreciate history and timeless elegance, Gibson Social Hall or Venue 404 are exceptional choices. These historic venues, with beautifully restored architecture and vintage charm, provide a unique backdrop for weddings. The hall's spacious interior can accommodate both large and small gatherings, and its rich history adds an element of storytelling to your special day. The central location in downtown Oshkosh of these venues make either a convenient option for out-of-town guests.

## City Park Facilities in Winnebago County: Scenic and Versatile

For an outdoor wedding with a natural backdrop, renting city park facilities in Winnebago County can be an excellent choice. Parks in the area offer scenic settings with lush greenery, picturesque views, and open spaces perfect for both

ceremonies and receptions. Many park facilities provide pavilions, picnic tables, and even indoor spaces for backup in case of inclement weather. These venues are often budget-friendly, allowing couples to allocate more of their budget toward decorations, catering, or entertainment. Popular parks in the county include spaces along the Fox River and Lake Winnebago, offering a serene and memorable setting for your special day.

## Winkler's Westward Ho in Oshkosh, WI: Cozy and Budget-Friendly

For couples searching for a budget-friendly yet cozy venue, Winkler's Westward Ho in Oshkosh offers a fantastic option. This local restaurant and bar features banquet facilities that are perfect for hosting weddings on a smaller scale. Known for its warm and welcoming atmosphere, Winkler's provides excellent food and drink options at reasonable prices. The staff is experienced in hosting events and works closely with couples to ensure a seamless

experience. This venue is ideal for those who want a relaxed and intimate celebration without stretching their budget.

## The Ballroom at Premier Best Western in Neenah: Elegant and Sophisticated

If you're dreaming of a more formal and sophisticated wedding, the ballroom at the Premier Best Western in Neenah is an excellent choice. This venue boasts a luxurious ambiance with its modern decor, sparkling chandeliers, and spacious layout. The ballroom can accommodate larger guest lists, making it ideal for couples who want to celebrate with all their loved ones. The Premier Best Western also offers comprehensive wedding packages, which may include catering, audiovisual equipment, and event planning assistance. While this venue may come with a higher price tag, the quality of service and attention to detail make it a worthwhile investment for your special day.

SEE **Venues** ON PAGE 4



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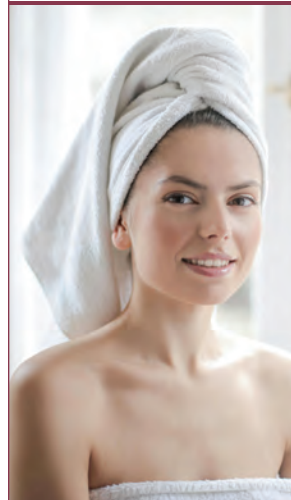




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## Venues

FROM PAGE 3

### Fin 'n Feather Showboat in Winneconne: Unique and Memorable

For couples looking for a one-of-a-kind experience, the Fin 'n Feather Showboat in Winneconne offers a venue like no other. This riverboat provides a scenic and intimate setting as it cruises along the Wolf River. The picturesque views and tranquil atmosphere create a romantic backdrop. The Fin 'n Feather can accommodate smaller gatherings, making it perfect for those who want a unique and personal celebration. Catering options are often available, featuring delicious local cuisine, and the boat's staff ensures a smooth and enjoyable experience. Pric-

ing varies depending on the duration and services chosen, but this venue is surprisingly affordable for the unique experience it provides.

### Finding the Right Fit

Choosing the perfect wedding venue involves balancing your budget, guest list, and personal style. Whether you're drawn to the affordability and charm of Oshkosh's town halls, the historic elegance of Gibson Social Hall, the sophistication of the Premier Best Western's ballroom in Neenah, or the unique allure of the Fin 'n Feather Showboat in Winneconne, Winnebago County has something for everyone. By exploring the variety of options and planning ahead, you can create a memorable wedding day that fits your vision and budget.

## Invitations

FROM PAGE 2

wedding sites to provide details about the venue, dress code, and accommodations, reducing the need for printed inserts. QR codes are often included on invitations, linking directly to these

websites.

Moreover, personalization has taken center stage. Couples frequently incorporate unique elements, such as custom illustrations, non-traditional wording, and playful designs, to reflect their personalities and love stories.

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# Choosing the Right Refreshments is Key

Planning the perfect wedding involves countless decisions, and choosing the right refreshments for your guests is no exception. The options range from open bars to non-alcoholic alternatives, and the choice you make can greatly influence your celebration's atmosphere. Here's a guide to help you decide what's best for your big day.

## Open Bar

An open bar is a crowd-pleaser, offering unlimited drink options to guests at no cost to them. This choice is ideal for couples who want a festive atmosphere and are prepared for the associated costs. To manage your budget, consider limiting the bar to beer, wine, and a few signature cocktails instead of offering a full range of premium liquors.

## Non-Alcoholic Options

Non-alcoholic weddings are gaining popularity, especially among couples looking to prioritize inclusivity or reflect personal values. Providing creative mocktails, specialty sodas, and artisan coffee or

tea bars can elevate the experience for all guests. This option is also family-friendly and pairs well with morning or afternoon receptions.

## Cash Bar with Free Beer, Wine

A cash bar offers a more budget-conscious approach by asking guests to pay for their own cocktails while you cover the cost of beer and wine. This strikes a balance between generosity and financial prudence, allowing guests to enjoy complimentary beverages while giving them the option to purchase additional drinks. To ensure this approach is well-received, clearly communicate the arrangement in advance.

## Factors to Consider

When choosing your refreshment style, think about your guest list, budget, and venue rules. An older crowd might appreciate a more subdued offering, while a younger group may expect a lively bar. Also, consider cultural or religious norms, as these may influence drink choices.



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# Tasty dessert options to cap off wedding dinner

The landscape of wedding and wedding dessert trends have evolved significantly. While the classic tiered cake remains a staple for many weddings, some couples are opting for more personalized or unconventional dessert options.

Here are some trends that complement or replace the traditional wedding cake:

## Mini Cakes & Cupcakes

- Individually portioned desserts

like cupcakes or mini cakes allow guests to enjoy a variety of flavors.

- They can be arranged in a tiered display, giving the visual impact of a traditional cake.

## Dessert Tables

- Couples often opt for a dessert table featuring an array of sweet treats like macarons, donuts, cookies, cake pops, and pastries.

- This option accommodates various tastes and dietary preferences.

## Non-Cake Options

- Unique substitutes like donut walls, pie stations, cheesecake towers, or even croquebouches are becoming increasingly popular.

- These alternatives provide a modern twist and cater to couples who prefer something other than cake.

## Sustainable & Smaller Cakes

- As sustainability becomes more important, smaller cakes

that minimize waste or incorporate eco-friendly ingredients are trending.

- Some couples have a small display cake for photos and serve sheet cake slices to guests.

## Interactive Options

- DIY dessert bars, such as ice cream sundae stations or build-your-own s'mores bars, add an interactive and fun element to receptions.

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