

# Neenah News

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Winnebago County

## County conservation efforts stymied

### DNR delays are impacting improvements and costs

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

County supervisors and department heads are voicing frustration over delays when working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on conservation projects.

At a county board meeting last week, Chad Casper, director of the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department, said some conservation projects are being held up for months or years

due to delays in the DNR permitting process and inconsistent decision-making.

One project involved the construction of a breakwall in the Winnebago County waterway system. Casper said Land and Water has completed 27 similar projects, encompassing almost seven miles on the Winnebago system.

The county secured nearly \$1 million in funding for the breakwall and received support from various DNR divisions, but the permit approval process dragged on for 18 months. By the time the permit was finally issued late last month, it was too late in the season to complete the work, jeopardizing the entire project.

Supervisor Chuck Farrey noted that if the breakwall project had been completed this year, it would have cost about \$900,000, but delaying it until next year could increase the cost to between \$2 million and \$3 million or make it infeasible to complete.

“So this is the quandary that the DNR has put us into,” he said. “It not only delays the project, it could, in essence, eliminate the project; or if we were to proceed using another process, it would triple the cost.”

Casper said the DNR’s enforcement-focused approach has created unnecessary obstacles.

SEE **County projects** ON PAGE 11

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Inside



Neenah News

Community Development Director Chris Haese, who officially retired Tuesday, is shown in his office at City Hall.

## Haese leaves behind legacy of progress

### Longtime director reflects on city’s transformation

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Community Development Director Chris Haese, who for more than three decades has overseen the city’s significant growth and transformation, has retired.

After a stretch of time that included construction of the three office towers downtown, closure of the Glatfelter Paper Mill and redevelopment of Arrowhead Park, Haese’s departure marks the end of

an era for the city and neighborhoods he helped transform.

The 60-year-old from Mishicot was employed as Sheboygan County’s assistant planning director when he was hired by Neenah as principal planner in 1991. He and wife Becky moved to Neenah where they raised their son, Collin, 25, who is a student at the University of Texas pursuing a doctorate in mechanical engineering.

“When I was hired, I just felt it was important that if I was going to be a planner for this city, that I live in this city,” he said.

Haese served as principal planner until 2009 when he was hired to take over as di-

rector of Community Development. In his 34-year tenure he has seen many changes, the most prominent being the east end of downtown.

“The first step to the more recent transformation of our downtown started with One, Two and Three Neenah Center,” he said.

The seven-story office towers were built in the 1990s by a group of investors led by philanthropist and businessman John Bergstrom of Bergstrom Automotive. Haese said the towers sparked a revitalization of the downtown.

SEE **City director** ON PAGE 10

## S. Commercial reconstruction begins Monday

Neenah News

The long-awaited reconstruction of South Commercial Street is set to begin Monday, impacting a 1.5-mile stretch between Stanley and Tyler streets for about seven months.

The project aims to replace the aging street, sidewalks and terraces and enhance the South Commercial corridor that runs from downtown Neenah to Oshkosh. The \$10.1 million cost is partially funded by a grant that will cover \$7.5 million, with the city covering the remainder.

SEE **Commercial St.** ON PAGE 11



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### Corrections

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### About the newspaper

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## Retirement community buys former K-C site

Neenah News

Oshkosh-based Evergreen Retirement Community has acquired a 43-acre space in Fox Crossing that formerly served as corporate headquarters for Kimberly-Clark Corp.

Preliminary plans for the existing 178,000-square-foot office building include independent-living apartments and assisted-living accommodations with the addition of more housing, a fitness and aquatic center, and a worship and performance space.

"Evergreen has been exploring opportunities to expand into the Fox Valley for quite some time," said Ken Arneson, Evergreen president and CEO. "With the support of the Evergreen board of directors, this acquisition is our opportunity to grow and serve a new community."

The 401 N. Lake St. location on Little Lake Butte de Morts is close to area parks and amenities. It was the home base for K-C Corp between 1956 and 1985 before it closed in 2020 and the property was listed for sale for just under \$10 million.

Evergreen is gathering public feedback and will be planning in collaboration with Fox Crossing, AG Architecture from Wauwatosa, and Varsity, a senior living marketing and sales consulting agency.

"We know there is considerable demand as the 55-plus demographic continues to grow and we're looking forward to breathing life back into such a beautiful campus and building," said Theresa Brockman, Evergreen vice president of marketing and business development.

A senior living provider for residents 55 and older, Evergreen offers different levels of independent living along with assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing services at its Oshkosh area locations. Its most recent housing projects have included the Courtyard Apartments in Appleton in 2018 and the Oshkosh pocket neighborhood of Linden Oaks that opened in 2022.

## County conservation poster contest winners named

Neenah News

The Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department recently announced student winners of its annual conservation poster contest with top awards moving on to state competition this week.

The first- and second-place winners in the 10th-12th grade division are both Neenah students at St. Mary Catholic High School.

With this year's theme "Home is Where the Habitat is," the hand-created posters compete at the county and regional level with the opportunity to advance to state and NACD national contests. Sixteen posters from students in five age categories representing seven schools were entered and judged by five natural resource and conservation departments at the James P Coughlin Center in Oshkosh.

Top awards:

### 10th to 12th grade

1st place: Ava Hoger, grade 11, St. Mary Catholic High School

2nd place: Norah Boehm, grade 11, St. Mary Catholic High School

3rd place: Aoife Mains, grade 11, Lourdes Academy

### Seventh to ninth grade

1st place: Maeli Habersetzer, grade 9, Winneconne High School

2nd place: Avianna Wihlm, grade 8, Lourdes Academy

3rd place: Jeordie Warwick, grade 9, Lourdes Academy

### Fourth to sixth grade

1st place: Ella Stewart, grade 6, Winneconne Middle School

2nd place: Celia Vang, grade 6, Vel Phillips Middle School

3rd place: Annabelle Maier, grade 4, Oshkosh E-Academy

### Second and third grade

1st place: Will Stewart, grade 2, Winneconne Elementary School

2nd place: Laura Rehberg, grade 3, Winneconne Elementary School

### K5 and first grade

1st place: Clara Rehberg, grade 1, Winneconne Elementary School

Contest information and photos of winning posters can also be found at [www.co.winnebago.wi.us/lwcd](http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/lwcd).



Photo from Jody Bezio

St. Mary Catholic High School junior Ava Hoger shows her winning conservation poster.

## Oshkosh-to-FDL roadwork to resume on I41

Neenah News

A 14-mile construction project on Interstate 41 between Oshkosh and Fond du Lac resumes Monday and will impact traffic at different times of day and during different phases of the work that is expected to finish in October.

The state Department of Transportation's Northeast Region said the work from County D (Military Road) in Fond du Lac County to State 26 in Winnebago County includes asphalt milling and paving, structure maintenance on 10 bridges, culvert work, guard replacement and related work.

The highway will remain open to traffic with lane and shoulder closures mostly at night or during off-peak hours.

A detailed listing of project scope, schedule and traffic impacts with maps, exhibits and displays is available on the DOT's project 511 construction website. The \$25.9 million project's prime contractor is Northeast Asphalt of Greenville.



Neenah Historical Society photo

## Early post office

What we now refer to as the Old Post Office was under construction in 1917. This government-certified photograph of the construction site gives a view of Commercial Street looking north.

## Calendar of events

### Friday, March 7

First Friday Concert Series: Steven Paul Spears and Linda Sparks, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Books Are Fun sale, 9 a.m., The-daCare Regional Medical Center

### Monday, March 10

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

### Monday, March 17

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

### Tuesday, March 18

Kathryn Wedge pop-up art show, 6 p.m., Ballroom at The Reserve, 116 S. Commercial St.

### Wednesday, March 19

Kathryn Wedge pop-up art show, 6 p.m., Ballroom at The Reserve, 116 S. Commercial St.

### Thursday, March 20

Spring Shop & Stroll, 3 p.m., downtown Neenah

Art After Dark, 5:30 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

"Growing up Neenah: Stories from the History Harvest, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

### Sunday, March 23

Neenah Community Band Spring Concert, 3 p.m., Neenah High School PAC



# Apartment stabbing brings 4-year prison term

Neenah News

A Neenah man was sentenced to four years in prison and nine years of extended supervision last week for stabbing his brother 18 times in an apartment on Marathon Avenue.

Darnell McCauley, 27, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of aggravated battery and second-degree recklessly endangering safety after initially facing a charge of attempted first-degree intentional homicide for the Dec. 18, 2023 attack.

The criminal proceedings were delayed last March after McCauley was ruled incompetent to stand trial and committed for inpatient psychiatric treatment. After treatment, a judge ruled in June that he was competent to stand trial and proceedings resumed.

According to the criminal complaint, McCauley was consuming alcohol with his brother and a female at an apartment across from the Neenah Police Department that evening when the two men got into an argument.



McCauley

McCauley was accused of making comments about killing his brother and at some point hit the female in the face. A short time later, McCauley and his brother began fighting again and documents say he stabbed his brother in the head, neck, face, arms, shoulders and lung.

Officers were dispatched to the apartment at around 11 p.m. and found blood on the carpet, wall, couch and some clothes. McCauley's brother was transported by ambulance to the hospital and survived.

Police used a taser on McCauley and took him into custody. He told paramedics that he has ADHD, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, and was not taking any medications for those conditions. When questioned by police, he said he stabbed his brother in self-defense.

The criminal complaint referenced a separate incident from the previous month when McCauley walked into the lobby of the police department and asked to be arrested, stating he was going to kill his brother. The report noted that due to homicidal and suicidal comments, crisis was contacted.

## Winnebago ice report

By Jim Nobble

PAYNE'S POINT HOOK & SPEAR FISHING CLUB

As of Tuesday, we are seeing 12 to 17 inches of ice in most areas around Payne's Point. Our tree line is still out 5 miles for the late-season fisherman. We removed our truck and ATV bridges as they are no longer needed due to the cracks being froze up.

There is no snow on the lake obviously due to the recent warmup we have had. The lake will tighten up this weekend with temps in the teens, but after that the ice is going to deteriorate quickly if the extended forecast is correct.

I do not recommend truck traffic at this time. I would stay away from reefs, points and other shallow areas with vehicles, including ATVs and UTVs due to the sun penetrating through the ice and melting it faster than other areas.

Both of our landings are open still; the north one is in better shape due to the sun not affecting it as much.

Remember to support your local fishing club and remember the ice is never 100 percent safe.



## Veterans Prohibition Ball features jazz, dancing

The Fox Valley Veterans Council is hosting its annual Veterans Prohibition Ball today (Friday) at Venue 404 in Oshkosh with a Roaring Twenties theme of live jazz, dancing and an atmosphere reminiscent of a swanky speakeasy.

The event from 6 to 11 p.m. is a major fundraiser to support the Veterans Council's mission to assist, connect and honor veterans through emergency funding for

basic needs. In the last two years, the organization has provided more than \$400,000 of assistance to help local veteran families.

Kate Voss and the Water City Jazz Orchestra will be performing amid casino games and other activities with hors d'oeuvres and an open bar.

For more information and to purchase tickets or sponsorships, visit [foxvalleyveterans.org/ball](http://foxvalleyveterans.org/ball).

## County responsibilities are topic of LWV lunch

Neenah News

The League of Women Voters of Winnebago County's monthly lunch topic March 12 will be about the basic responsibilities of a Wisconsin county.

Winnebago County Supervisor Koby Schellenger, who serves on six county committees, will offer an overview of

many county functions.

The luncheon event begins at 11:30 a.m. in the Oshkosh Co-op Community Room, 155 Jackson St., Oshkosh. RSVP by emailing [wclwvinfo@gmail.com](mailto:wclwvinfo@gmail.com) by Saturday.

Reserve a lunch for \$11 or shop the co-op.

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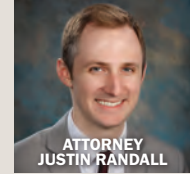
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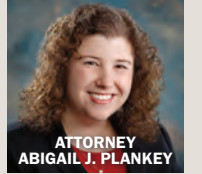
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- Want to learn how current laws affect your estate plan.
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- Wish to learn more about Probate and how to avoid it.
- Have a Will that is more than 3 years old or it was created in another state.

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- ▶ New retirement account law changes that affect every estate plan.
- ▶ Proposed changes to the Federal Estate and Capital Gains Tax laws.
- ▶ How to provide for your own care and well-being, and that of your loved ones even if you become incapacitated.
- ▶ Why you shouldn't add a child to your bank account and how beneficiary designations might ruin your will.
- ▶ How you can protect your children's inheritances from predators, greedy non-family members, and bad marriages.
- ▶ How veterans or their spouses can receive money to help pay for medical expenses.
- ▶ Why signing your home over to your kids might be a huge mistake.
- ▶ How planning in advance can help you and your spouse afford quality care.

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# Family law center offers clearer path through court system

By Jennifer Parmley  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

As someone who has spent a good portion of her career working in the Winnebago County family court system, Lisa Krueger has seen how the process can sometimes overwhelm the people it is intended to serve.

The attorney mediator recently opened Krueger Mediation & Family Law Center in Neenah to make the process easier for clients.

With offices at 48 Jewelers Park Drive, Suite 110, the center helps litigants work through and understand the family law system with services including mediation, arbitration, parenting coordination, pro se divorce assistance, supervised visitation, process service and form completion. The services can be performed in any Wisconsin county, but mostly serving Winnebago, Outagamie, Fond du Lac, Brown and Waupaca counties.

Krueger said the journey to open the center has been a couple of years in the making. As a former Winnebago County court commissioner, "I could see that people who didn't have an attorney needed help," she said.

Those pro se clients – those who represent themselves – were spending more time and money in the system and getting frustrated by the process.

"I really wanted to figure out a way to help people without attorneys that would make sense for them and not cost them as much as an attorney," she said.

She also noticed a need for more area mediators – neutral parties that direct discussions on issues such as physical placement and custody of minor children.

"There are many benefits to mediation,"



Former county court commissioner Lisa Krueger recently opened Krueger Mediation & Family Law Center in Neenah.

Krueger said. "People don't like the unknown, and there is never a guarantee in litigation. Coming to mediation allows them the opportunity to control their destiny."

She said mediation can save clients time, money and energy.

"We can be pretty creative (in mediation). The judges and court commissioners can only do so much as they are bound by the law," Krueger explained. "Here, as long as we're meeting the statutory re-

quirements, we can do a little more than a judge or court commissioner can do."

Krueger said she has always had a passion for family law. After graduating from Marquette University Law School, she began her career at Van Lieshout Law Office in Little Chute, specializing in family law and estate planning. She had been Winnebago County Family Court commissioner since being appointed in 2012.

Attorney Teresa Basiliere, a former Winnebago County Circuit Court judge,

said the center provides a needed element to the family court system.

"For many years, the courts in family cases struggled with the proper action to take in cases where supervision of placement was necessary and there was no involvement by the Department of Health and Human Services," Basiliere said. "The center will offer alternatives for pro se litigants to get assistance in processing their cases while being educated on the system and procedures. The mediation provided will assist couples with contested issues and give the opportunity to resolve their disputes outside of a court trial.

"The center finally provides the resource this community has needed and certainly gives the alternatives in a time where there is uncertainty in the court and addresses rising costs of litigation."

Krueger acknowledges the challenges of the judicial system.

"The court system is busy and is limited in how much time they can give to a case," she said. "It's a court of law, not a court of emotion. People have to take time off of work, they're stressed, it impacts their health and it impacts their relationships with their kids. We try to reduce all of that and put them in an environment where they can control their destiny."

In addition to running the center, Krueger recently accepted an offer to be a family court commissioner for Calumet County one day per week.

"I'm really honored to be chosen as Calumet County's Family Court commissioner," she said. "I truly believe I have the best of both worlds right now being able to serve family law litigants both through the center and as FCC."

*Please Vote*  
**Frank Cuthbert** ✓  
Neenah Alderman District 3

- Dedicated to the City of Neenah: Works at the library and volunteers for community events like the Neenah Pow Wow Canoe Ride, Winterfest, and Carpenter Preserve. Led a task force to standardize QR codes for Oak Hill Cemetery's military memorials.
- Background: U.S. Navy Veteran with a B.S. from Southern Illinois University and 40 years in the aviation industry as an Operations Manager and Completions Executive.
- Paid for by Frank Cuthbert

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NJSD photo

## DECA competitors

Five Neenah High School students placed in the top 10 of their categories at the recent Wisconsin DECA State Career Development Conference in Lake Geneva to qualify for the International Conference in Orlando in April. Blake Bornemann and Coleton Van Thull had Neenah's highest finish with a sixth place in the Hospitality Services category. The team of Joey Buchta and Andrew Carlson were finalists in the Entrepreneurship category and Druis Kaye-O'Brien was a finalist in the Integrated Marketing Campaign-Service category. Other Neenah students that competed among the more than 1,600 state participants were Keane Sullivan, Andrew Werner and Henry Coulman.

## Credit union scholarships being offered

The Greater Fox Cities Chapter of Credit Unions will be awarding \$1,000 scholarships to three graduating high school seniors who are active members of participating credit unions.

Applicants must be attending a two- or four-year accredited educational institution in the fall and an active member of one of

these credit unions: Badger Globe, Capital, Community First, CoVantage, Evergreen, Fox Communities, Oshkosh Communities, PCM, Prospera, Ripple, Simplicity, Unison, Verve and Winnebago Community.

Applications, which must be received by March 31, and other details can be found at [www.facebook.com/greaterchaptercu](http://www.facebook.com/greaterchaptercu).

# Lakeside Packaging presents brunch, boutiques and bingo

Neenah News

Lakeside Packaging Plus is presenting its inaugural Hats Off to Moms event from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 27 at the Gibson Social Club in Oshkosh to honor mothers and caregivers while raising funds to support Lakeside's day programs for adults with diverse abilities.

Hats Off to Moms will feature a Bingo Bonanza with prizes, brunch, three fashion shows showcasing associates from Lakeside with their moms or caregivers modeling the latest styles from Brinke's Boutique, Elements Unleashed, Perrywinkly Poppy, Revival and Sugar Rushlow, a Doll Your Best Hat competition and Mother's Day card-making kits to create

personalized greetings.

Live music will be provided by Franki Moscato.

Lakeside Packaging Plus, with locations in Neenah and Oshkosh, is a nonprofit that elevates the lives of people with diverse abilities.

"We are incredibly excited to launch Hats Off to Moms," said Jennifer Ven Rooy, Lakeside's chief operating officer. "This event is a wonderful way to celebrate mothers and caregivers while supporting the vital programs that empower the individuals we serve. It's sure to be a fun-filled afternoon for the entire community."

Tickets can be purchased at [lakeside-packagingplus.com](http://lakeside-packagingplus.com).

## Partnership seeks grant award submissions

Neenah News

The Basic Needs Giving Partnership serving northeast Wisconsin communities has opened its 2025 grant cycle with a focus on early care and education, housing access, mental health and substance use.

This cycle will invest \$3 million in flexible multiyear funding for current and emerging efforts that are collaborating to change policies, practices and systems that hold poverty in place.

Award amounts are up to \$300,000 for three-year grants for eligible organizations who are asked to submit an Intent to Apply form by April 11.

Details for single-year grant opportunities will be announced later this spring that will invest about \$1.5 million in

grants to organizations providing critical direct services or leading systems change efforts.

Through the grantmaking, the partnership funds organizations across a 10-county footprint in ways that meet current needs in communities and actively work to disrupt the policies, practices and systems that hold poverty in place. The partnership also co-creates networks that can collectively problem solve, take action and share ideas.

The Basic Needs Giving Partnership's grantmaking is made possible by the contributions through the U.S. Venture Open.

For more information, visit [bngpwi.org](http://bngpwi.org) or contact [stephanie@bngpwi.org](mailto:stephanie@bngpwi.org) with questions.

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ART AFTER DARK  
*The Event of the Season*  
THURSDAY,  
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5:30-8:30PM

Dearest gentle reader,  
It is with the utmost excitement that this author announces *The Event of the Season* at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass. Festivities will include announcing the Diamond (and Dandy) of the Season, musical entertainment by the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra String Quartet, sweetmeats, beverages, creating your one-of-a-kind fan, and more!

Yours Truly,  
Lady Evangeline


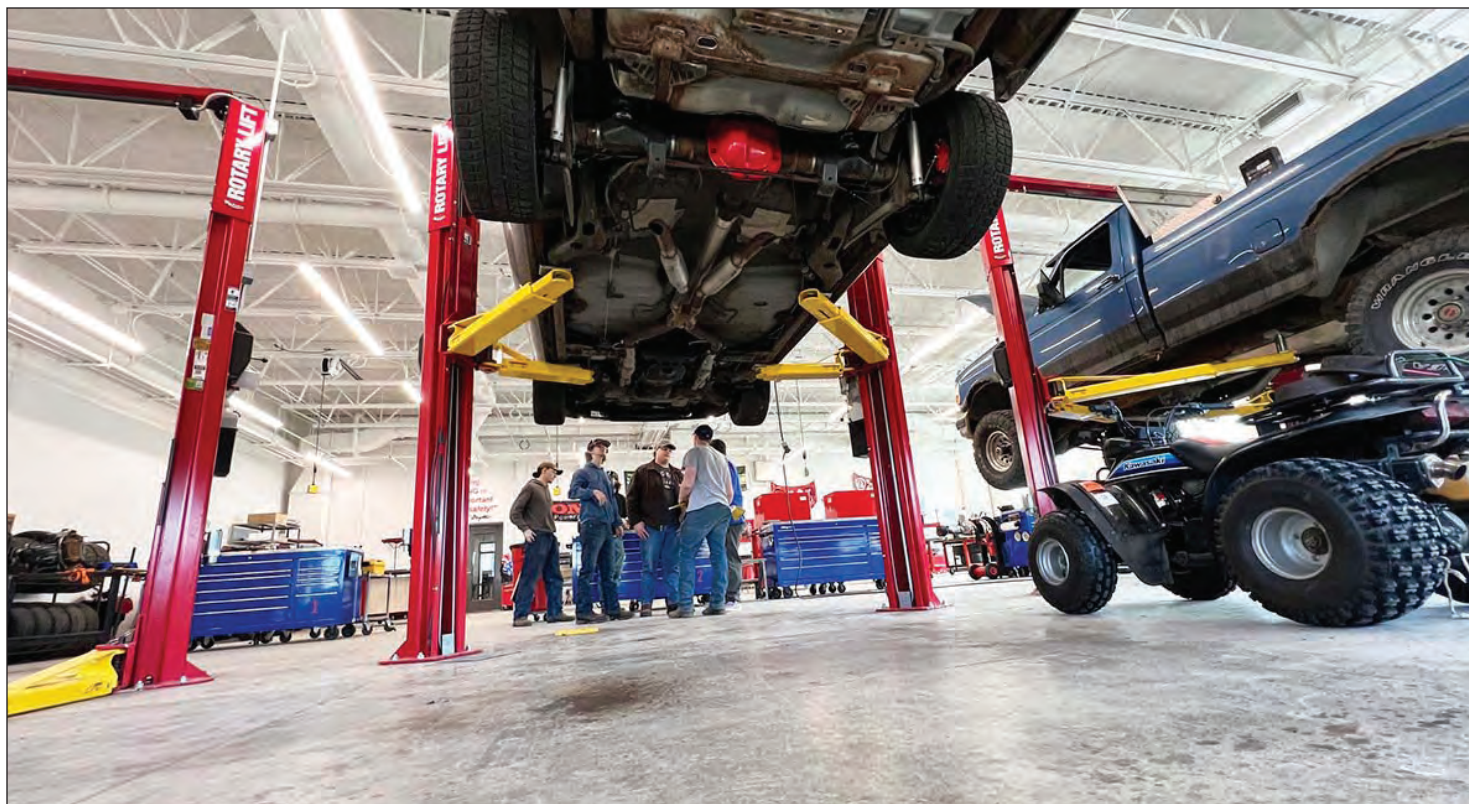



Photo from Bergstrom Automotive

## Auto classroom

Bergstrom Automotive Learning Center at Neenah High School replicates the company's repair shops with a hands-on classroom that give students shown here a real-life experience. Some of the students are expected to enter Bergstrom's program at Fox Valley Technical College with mentorship toward a career.

## Kitchen Tour showcases area homes and barns

The 16th annual Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society Kitchen Tour is set from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 1.

This year's tour, sponsored by Nicolet National Bank, features three special homes and two picturesque barns in south Neenah.

Attendees will see a range of demonstrations from local businesses, including vintage place settings, 3D-printed creations and pottery throwing. The event also includes tastings, sips and raffles.

"We are truly grateful to the homeowners for welcoming us into their beautiful

spaces and making this year's Kitchen Tour possible," said Leslie Mayer, co-chair of the event. "This year's Kitchen Tour fundraiser is more crucial than ever as emergency requests from our community have significantly increased over the past year.

"The funds raised not only help families facing unexpected crises but also support vital programs like our Kids' Back-to-School Fair, ensuring that local children have the supplies and confidence they need to start the school year strong."

Tickets and other information are avail-

able at nmesociety.org and tickets will be sold at local businesses throughout April.

The Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society, an all-volunteer-run nonprofit founded in 1906, also hosts one of the area's largest back-to-school fairs every August, providing supplies and essentials to children in need.

## Business news roundup

A Fox Cities Fish Fry Trail has been launched by the Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau with more than 60 area businesses participating through April 20. The mobile passport allows people to check in at participating local establishments for entries into a drawing for prizes and gift cards. Go to foxcities.org/fox-cities-fish-fry-trail.

Forbes recently released its national best employers list, which includes large and midsize businesses in northeastern Wisconsin. Bergstrom Automotive Group based in Neenah was ranked No. 397 on the midsize list. Forbes interviews workers across the country to see which companies are the best to their employees.

Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Specialists (OSMS) has implemented a new online pre-check-in system and introduced a self-check-in process to their clinic locations. Patients can complete this process via their smartphone, an in-office iPad, or a self-check-in kiosk in the reception areas at OSMS Green Bay, Marinette, Neenah and Oshkosh.

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## Caregivers support workshop series offered

A Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop will be held Thursdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. for six weeks beginning April 3 at the Neenah Public Library to help caregivers meet their own needs while caring for a loved one.

The evidence-based workshop can help caregivers reduce stress, improve self-con-

fidence, set goals and problem solve, make tough decisions, and communicate effectively with family, doctors, and paid caregivers.

For registration and more information, contact Alisa Richetti at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Winnebago County at 920-236-1227 or arichetti@winnebagocountywi.gov.

## Watershed cleanup effort registration begins

Neenah News

Registration is open for northeast Wisconsin's largest annual volunteer cleanup effort led by the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance.

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Cleanup set for May 3 recruits more than 1,600 vol-

unteers of all skill levels tackling trash and debris. Supplies will be provided, including gloves, trash bags and safety gear.

After the cleanup effort at multiple locations there will be a family-friendly picnic. Register at fox-wolf.org/cleanup.



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# Miracle League baseball season lining up

Neenah News

Registration is open for the Miracle League of the Fox Valley, a program of Goodwill North Central Wisconsin that offers individuals ages 4 to 19 with disabilities the opportunity to play baseball in an organized, noncompetitive league on an accessible baseball field.

John Wollner Fox Cities Miracle Field in Appleton was newly renovated last

year and is set for the 15th season of the Miracle League that runs for eight weeks beginning in June. Players are paired with community volunteers who assist and encourage them during the games. Volunteer pitchers, umpires, announcers, coaches and team helpers also are needed.

Registration ends March 31. Learn more about the fundraiser, the upcoming season and register at [goodwillncw.org/mlfv](http://goodwillncw.org/mlfv).

## Volunteer needs

**Valley VNA Senior Care** is looking for volunteers with special talents or interests to share with residents, as well as someone who enjoys organizing to create order in its small library between 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact Kristi at [kristia@valleyvna.org](mailto:kristia@valleyvna.org) or 920-422-8874 Ext. 2240.

**St. Vincent de Paul Neenah** seeks volunteers to assist with distributing food and helping individuals sign up for the pantry. Shifts are Saturday mornings (3-4 hours), with training provided. Contact Ana at [volunteercoordinator@svdpneenah.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator@svdpneenah.com) or 920-727-1766 Ext. 3 to learn more.

**Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)** is seeking advocates who can build a relationship with a child, identify their needs and give them a voice in a process that can otherwise feel lonely – all it takes is one hour to learn more. Learn more at [casafc.org](http://casafc.org).

**J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue** is seeking a volunteer group to assist with some big projects, such as moving a counter, organizing the back storage room, and moving a shelving unit. This is a flexible opportunity. To learn more, contact John at [adoptions@jraar.org](mailto:adoptions@jraar.org).

**SOAR Fox Cities Inc.** is seeking 3-4 volunteers to help with newsletter mailings on the second Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. (finished by 11-11:30 a.m.) on an ongoing basis. Join a fun group, enjoy snacks, and lend a hand. Contact Brenda at [brenda@soarfoxcities.com](mailto:brenda@soarfoxcities.com) to learn more.

**Children's Wisconsin** is seeking volunteers to provide donation support in assigned areas. Duties include organization,

inventory, and item acceptance. Shifts are available between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday-Thursday. Minimum age is 18. To learn more, contact Lisa at [lnitecki@childrenswi.org](mailto:lnitecki@childrenswi.org) or 920-967-9129.

**TheDaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah** is looking for volunteers to assemble lab kits one day a week for 1-2 hours. Also needed are gift gallery volunteers to assist patients, staff and visitors. Volunteer twice a month with a partner, with shifts from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or 1-4:30 p.m. Contact Sara at 920-454-5571 or [sara.reybrock@thedacare.org](mailto:sara.reybrock@thedacare.org).

**Beaming Inc.** is looking for horse handlers and side walker volunteers. Volunteers must be 14 years old; no experience necessary, as all training will be provided. Contact Denise at [volunteer4beaming@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer4beaming@gmail.com).

**Make the Ride Happen** is looking for volunteers to drive seniors ages 60 and older to shop, medical appointments, beauty shop or visit with friends in Oshkosh and the Fox Cities. This personal service is provided by a volunteer using their own car and gas. Scheduling is flexible. Volunteers may sign up for a half day a month or on call as needed. Learn more at [maketheridehappen.org](http://maketheridehappen.org).

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

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# Wisconsin's top 10 consumer complaints last year detailed

From Wisconsin DATCP

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) responded to 11,374 written consumer complaints in 2024. The resulting mediations, enforcement actions and settlements returned more than \$23 million to consumers through refunds and restitutions directly returned, and civil forfeitures deposited into the state's common school fund for the benefit of public education.

"I am proud of the team's hard work and dedication in serving Wisconsin consumers," said DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski, "and encourage anyone facing consumer issues in Wisconsin to access DATCP's free online resources or contact our Consumer Protection Hotline.

The top 10 complaint categories of 2024:

## 1. Landlord-tenant issues

With 2,525 complaints filed, landlord-tenant issues remained DATCP's No. 1 complaint category. The most common disputes include failure to maintain the premises, security deposit returns, unauthorized entry, mold and infestation, inadequate disclosures, and unsatisfactory service. DATCP received other housing-related complaints, including 45 about manufactured housing and manufactured housing community concerns.

## 2. Telemarketing

Telemarketing issues drew 1,513 complaints, including phishing and spoofing, imposter scams, robocalls, harassment and Do Not Call Registry violations. While complaints in this category have generally decreased over the last few

years, consumers are using tools like the Do Not Call Registry and anti-spam technologies built into the latest cellphones to reduce those calls.

## 3. Home improvement

There were 664 consumer complaints filed with top concerns including quality of work, delays in performance, failure to provide services and materials, failure to honor warranties, deceptive and misleading representations, and failure to disclose lien rights.

## 4. Identity theft

DATCP received 618 complaints of identity theft, an increase over the previous year. The top issue remains online account takeovers, with many of the complaints involving compromised Facebook accounts. Other major issues include fraud, data breaches and compromised identification documents.

## 5. Telecommunications

DATCP received 527 complaints from consumers on billing disputes, customer dissatisfaction, agreed-upon terms not being followed, deceptive and misleading representations, refund and adjustment policies, and denial of cancellation requests.

## 6. Medical services

Consumers filed 439 complaints with the top issue being medical billing disputes. Other topics include unsatisfactory service and misleading representations.

## 7. Motor Vehicle Repair

There were 341 complaints with consumers reported issues such as unsatisfactory quality of work, damage and loss of property, failure to honor agreements

or perform work, performance delays, and charges for work not permitted by the vehicle owner.

## 8. Motor vehicle sales

DATCP received 297 complaints, the most common issues cited being inadequate disclosures, prize notice mailers and untrue, deceptive and misleading representations. DATCP works closely with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on motor vehicle complaints.

## 9. Travel

DATCP received 244 complaints in areas such as airlines, hotels and lodging, auto rentals, and travel service bundles, with common complaints including billing disputes, refund and adjustment policies, failure to provide services, failure to return deposits, and unsatisfactory service.

## 10. Motor vehicle accessories

There were 141 complaints received regarding refunds, failure to deliver products, and deceptive and misleading representations.

## More issues, resources

The agency also highlighted complaints in the categories of entertainment and recreation, warranties and extended warranties, major appliances, timeshares and timeshare resellers, furniture and home furnishings, and medical devices. Following some of these complaints, DATCP's mediation resulted in consumers receiving thousands of dollars in refunds on products and services like timeshare memberships, malfunctioning refrigerators, and concert tickets.

For more information or to file a complaint, visit [ConsumerProtection.wi.gov](http://ConsumerProtection.wi.gov). DATCP's Consumer Protection Hotline is 800-422-7128 or [DATCPHotline@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPHotline@wisconsin.gov).

## DMV warns consumers of vehicle sale fraud

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has noted a trend in the number of scams by vehicle sellers posing as car dealers online. DMV's Dealer and Agent Section tracks this activity, investigates consumer complaints and offers tips to customers.

"The fraud scheme starts online as a fake storefront," DMV Dealer and Agent Section Chief Maura Schifalacqua explained. "An individual creates a website or a social media profile claiming to be a Wisconsin dealership. Stock images or photos of real vehicles and real Wisconsin dealerships are included to make the

website seem legitimate. However, there is nothing legitimate about it. The advertised vehicles may be listed at below market value causing interested consumers to take the bait."

There are similarities with each case known as dealer cloning: fake websites or social media pages, cars priced below market value, and no in-person contact with the seller. Wisconsin DMV is aware of multiple cases that follow this pattern, with fraudulently created websites or Facebook profiles alleging to be legitimate Wisconsin dealerships.

For further information, visit [wisconsin.dmv.gov](http://wisconsin.dmv.gov).

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# Some tips for weathering a bout with norovirus

ThedaCare Communications

The average year brings about 2,500 reported norovirus outbreaks across the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Outbreaks occur throughout the year but are most common from November to April.

Dr. Maria Rossi, a family medicine physician with ThedaCare, offers tips for weathering gastroenteritis.

“No one wants to endure a bout of gastroenteritis,” she said. “With rest and self-care measures, most people recover within a few days. If symptoms worsen and become severe, we’re advising people to seek medical attention from their health care provider.”

Norovirus is commonly referred to as the stomach flu. It is a group of viruses that causes gastroenteritis, an inflammation of the stomach and intestines.

“This highly contagious gastrointestinal bug causes sudden bouts of diarrhea and vomiting,” Rossi said. “And although it’s often called the stomach flu, it isn’t related to seasonal influenza, which causes respiratory illness.”

The disease causes an estimated 109,000 hospitalizations, 21 million illnesses, and 900 deaths annually, according to the

CDC.

The virus spreads quickly. People who have the virus can shed billions of microscopic particles, and it only takes a few particles to make others sick, according to the CDC.

Norovirus spreads in several ways, including direct contact with someone with norovirus, eating food or drinking liquids that are contaminated with norovirus, or touching surfaces or objects contaminated with norovirus and then putting unwashed fingers in one’s mouth.

“The virus spreads easily in confined places like day care centers, schools, nursing homes, and cruise ships,” Rossi said. “Foodborne norovirus outbreaks happen occasionally in restaurants. The foods in question typically include fresh fruits, leafy greens and shellfish.”

The most common symptoms of the gastrointestinal infection are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach pain. People also may experience headache, fever and chills.

For most people, the illness will run its course within one to three days, Rossi said. She offered the following home care measures to help people recover from the illness:

- Get plenty of rest

- Isolate from others until symptoms resolve

- Rehydrate with ice chips and small sips of water; babies and younger kids can have an oral rehydration solution such as Pedialyte

- Reintroduce food slowly starting with bland, easily digestible options

- Wash hands frequently and disinfect surfaces when caring for someone who is sick

In some instances, gastroenteritis can lead to dehydration.

“This is particularly worrisome for young children, pregnant people, older adults, and immunocompromised individuals,” Rossi said. “That’s because they are at increased risk for complications.”

Watch for signs of dehydration, Ros-

si said. In adults, that includes decreased urine output, dark-colored urine, dry skin, thirst and dizziness. Signs of dehydration in children include dry diapers (from a lack of urination), lack of tears, dry mouth, drowsiness and sunken fontanel.

To help halt the spread of the virus, people are advised to wash hands well and often using soap and water, wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly, and regularly clean and sanitize kitchen utensils, counters and surfaces.

“Even with the most stringent steps in place, it’s possible to come down with gastroenteritis,” Rossi said. “If you become ill, take steps to recover at home. Seek care if you think you or a loved one is experiencing dehydration or if symptoms don’t resolve within three days.”



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## City director

FROM PAGE 1

"You don't notice it day to day, but over time, you're often stunned by how much growth there has been," he said.

Next came construction of the Alta Resources building and the city's simultaneous construction of a 948-stall parking ramp on Church Street completed in 2005.

Then the Glatfelter Paper Mill closed in 2006, presenting a special development opportunity in the heart of downtown. The city acquired the parcel, demolished the mill, cleared the site and prepared it for redevelopment.

Bergstrom again led a group of investors in redeveloping the former mill site, which now holds the four-story Gateway office building occupied by the Plexus design center and The Plaza at Gateway Park.

Haese said he believes that if the city hadn't acquired the former Glatfelter Mill site and cleared it, the area would look very different.

"I believe it would have started to detract from the balance of the downtown, and we have either forward momentum or we don't, and then I think we would have been going in the wrong direction," he said.

The city supported construction of One, Two and Three Neenah Center and the Gateway building using tax incremental financing, a tool that helps communities support development by using the extra tax money generated from new or improved properties to pay for improvements made in that area.

Haese said one of Neenah's most significant ongoing projects is the redevelopment of Arrowhead Park due to the com-

plexity of the site.

"It is very unique to have development of what we are proposing on a landfill that was a former lakebed, so it carries a fair amount of regulatory hurdles that we need to clear in order for things to move forward," he said.

Beyond the Arrowhead project, Haese's tenure has been marked by other significant developments, including revitalization of the Westowne area and ongoing efforts to deal with the city's affordable housing needs.

"Affordability is a challenge not only for Neenah but every community in the state and probably the country," he said. "A lot of that has to do simply with the cost of construction, the cost of materials, the cost of labor – has just made that very difficult. I think communities are all trying to find creative solutions to help address that."

Some housing projects have been met with opposition, particularly from residents who don't want developments in their neighborhood. Haese said striking the right balance between the city's development goals and concerns of its residents is a challenge.

"We're only trying to make the community better, right? And that is our goal here. So we take everything very seriously here and try to put projects forward that will be deemed an asset to this community," he said.

Haese was quick to point out that every project in the city perceived as coming from Community Development has a huge team behind it.

"The talent certainly goes beyond this office," he said. "There is a lot of talent, a lot of knowledge, a lot of dedication and a lot of collaboration."

Businesses share credit for the city's



Neenah News

Community Development Director Chris Haese stands inside City Hall downtown.

growth. Seven out of the eight top employers in the Fox Cities by number of employees are based in Neenah, according to Fox Cities Economic Development's 2024-25 magazine.

"They played a crucial and decisive role in the city's growth and development," Haese said. "Without the support of our business community, our community organizations and the residents of this community, our city would have a very different complexion."

Though Haese officially retired this past Tuesday, he will continue assisting the city in a limited part-time capacity through the summer, providing consulting and services related to the redevelopment of Arrowhead, the Town of Clayton boundary agreement and downtown parking.

"I think that's a challenge in my career, is that there's never a time where everything is done and nothing has started," he said.

With his extra free time, Haese plans to spend more of it with his family, travel domestically and internationally, and pursue his hobbies – hunting, fishing, backpacking and camping.

For his successor, who has not yet been announced by the city, Haese shared a quote by architect Daniel Burnham: "Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will not themselves be realized. Make big plans and aim high."

"I would add that this community needs to continue to move forward and you – that individual – cannot let a little resistance and small thinking stand in the way," he said.

Mayor Jane Lang said Haese has been involved in nearly every major project the city has undertaken since 1991.

"What has truly set Director Haese apart is his forward-looking vision for Neenah, his unwavering advocacy for the community, and his sincere dedication to our great city," she said. "His passion for the city of Neenah is so clear, and his positive

impact will be felt for years to come. His commitment to never settle for adequate, and always strive to get to exceptional, has been an example to all of us who have had the privilege of working with him."

Jennifer Sunstrom, director of public relations and government affairs for the Realtors Association of Northeast Wisconsin, has been with the organization for 21 years and witnessed Haese's leadership through a significant portion of his career.

"Chris was just a straight-shooter. He didn't abuse the power of his position. He helped educate those around him – from newly elected officials to colleagues and citizens – and he treated people the way he wanted to be treated. That is why he is one of the most trusted and respected individuals in his field," she said.

Sunstrom said the service Haese provided is evident in the staff he guided.

"Part of Chris' legacy is not just all that he helped spearhead and bring about for Neenah, but the mentorship that he provided and leaving the city in good hands with the staff that were under him," she said.

Among the staff he guided is Brad Schmidt, deputy director of Community Development, who said Haese's leadership has been instrumental in his career.

"Chris has never backed down to a challenge and there have been many challenging projects that would not have come to fruition without Chris' leadership," he said. "Chris helped shape downtown Neenah, increased industrial opportunities in the city and protected the city's growth corridor. Chris will certainly be missed by those who've worked with him, but we are happy for his retirement as it's well deserved."

For Haese, he said he's never really thought of anything he has done as a legacy.

"In some small way, I hope I have helped Neenah ingrain its legacy as a great community to live, work and visit," he said.

## Join an award-winning weekly newspaper family in the middle of Wisconsin's dynamic Fox Valley

Oshkosh Herald LLC, a family-owned business anchored by the 7-year-old Oshkosh Herald, 3-year-old Neenah News and recently acquired 154-year-old Winneconne News, is seeking an editor to lead those publications. These three advertising-supported weekly newspapers serving their communities reach more than 54,000 mailboxes weekly in Winnebago County.

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Neenah News

South Commercial Street is shown near Peckham Street in advance of a seven-month-long road construction project beginning Monday.

## Commercial St.

FROM PAGE 1

At a meeting in February, Cole Gille with Vinton Construction provided an overview of the construction schedule and potential traffic impacts.

The project will be completed in two phases, with the southbound lanes being reconstructed first. Crews will start by removing pavement Monday, followed by storm sewer work on the north end near Tyler Street, expected to take 4-5 weeks to complete.

Once the sewer work is done in early to mid-April, the focus will shift to grading the southbound lanes, which is expected to take about three weeks. Mainline paving, driveway work and bike lane installation will start in early May, taking roughly a month to finish. Sidewalk removal and replacement will follow, wrapping up by the Fourth of July holiday.

The second phase of the project will tackle the northbound lanes and follow the same schedule of a month of sewer work, three weeks of grading, a month of concrete work and a month of sidewalk installation, with the entire project completed by Oct. 17.

Throughout construction, a single lane of northbound traffic will be open on Commercial Street, with Gille noting side streets will be open as much as possible. A detour route will direct traffic to Bell Street, Harrison Street and Winneconne Avenue.



Neenah News

Residents look at project plans for South Commercial Street at a meeting in late February.



Neenah News

Sidewalks on South Commercial Street will be replaced during a reconstruction project expected to wrap up in October.

Gille said businesses and residents can expect some disruptions, particularly during concrete work.

“The thing I say to every meeting like this is, you will get through to your house, you’ll be able to get to your business,” he said. “This is an inconvenience, there’s no denying that, but at the end of the project it will be a brand-new street.”

The new street will include the same layout but slightly narrowed by about 3 feet, with two bike lanes, two drive lanes and a two-way, left-turn lane. A parking lane on the east side of Commercial between Tyler and Division streets and on the west side of Commercial between Division and King streets will be removed.

Residential terraces will be slightly widened by about 4 or 5 feet and businesses terraces will be paved with colored concrete and tree boxes will be added. The city is budgeting to plant trees in the boxes next year.

The project will impact four or five days of garbage collection that the city has planned for, with Public Works Director Gerry Kaiser noting residents should put their containers out like normal.

Kaiser told Neenah News in January that the condition of South Commercial has been high on the complaint list from residents. He encouraged residents and business owners to visit the city website under the Resident Project page to stay informed on the construction progress.

## UW Oshkosh graduates

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh 60th midyear commencement Dec. 14 at Kolf Sports Center recognized students from its campuses in Oshkosh and Fox Cities. About 700 students earned associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.

Students from Neenah included:

Ethan Anderson, associate of arts and science

Letzy Chavez Vazquez, associate of arts and science

Andrew Copeland, bachelor of science

Tina Dahn, bachelor of science

Melanie Dorow, bachelor of science

Natalie Flom, bachelor of business administration

Holly Hang, bachelor of science

Molly Hill, bachelor of business administration

Jordan Holland, bachelor of professional studies

Madison Howie, bachelor of science

Maggie Hynek, bachelor of arts

Phillip Jankowski, master of business administration

Andrew Kaminski, bachelor of science

Zachary La Vake, bachelor of science

Brittany Lessmiller, bachelor of business administration

Molly Lessner, master of science

Julian Mahoney, bachelor of fine arts

Michelle Miller, bachelor of arts

Monica Miller, bachelor of arts

Rhieley Mulder, bachelor of science

Nataly Neitzel, bachelor of science

Shelby Ortyrn, bachelor of science

Giavanna Pape, bachelor of science

Sarah Piepenbrink, bachelor of science

John Price, master of business administration

Amanda Puhl, master of business administration

Zach Reagan, bachelor of business administration

Madison Relien, bachelor of science

Esther Sandoval, bachelor of science

Paris Schafer, bachelor of science

Adam Schulz, associate of arts and science

April Travis, bachelor of fine arts

Allison Waldhart, bachelor of science

Megan Waldhart, bachelor of science

Melonie Wiesner, master of business administration

Adam Wilhelm, bachelor of science

Samantha Winters, bachelor of science

Addison Witthun, bachelor of science

Isaac Xiong, associate of arts and science

Teng Yang, associate of arts and science

## County projects

FROM PAGE 1

“That’s just one example, but I can tell you, one after the other, as far as like, ag projects, where we have work land, we’re trying to restore wetlands and do work and they’re making us jump through a lot of hoops, doing expensive delineations on land that is what they call indicator soils – it could be a wetland,” he said.

Supervisor Steve Binder said other projects impacted by DNR permitting delays included the county’s construction of a new morgue and evidence storage garage adjacent to the jail in Oshkosh, and the Waukau Dam renovation and improvement project.

“And anytime there’s a delay, it usually costs more money, and things don’t go down, they just go up, you know. And they make you jump through a bunch of hoops, and eventually they approve your project, but nothing changes,” he said.

The problem isn’t limited to Winnebago County, with Casper noting the issue began statewide about two years ago and is amplified regionally and locally.

“There’s issues across the entire state with other land conservation departments, other nonprofit organizations,

and even internally within DNR, where they’re having issues, as well, with the water regs in issuing permits for conservation work,” he said.

Supervisor Doug Nelson said one of the issues is that the DNR was without a secretary for nearly a year. Karen Hyun was appointed to the position and assumed the office Jan. 27.

“It’s been 50 years since they went without a secretary for a year,” he said. “So there was nobody on top even handling serious, serious flaws.”

The county board voted at the meeting to pass a resolution urging the state Legislature to reform land and water conservation permitting within the DNR for county-sponsored projects.

An item report submitted with the resolution states that because counties are authorized to implement, administer and enforce state laws on behalf of the state, “it makes sense to allow counties to permit our own projects.”

“So what we’re hoping is to reform this and streamline the work that’s being done for getting conservation on the land, to get it moving again,” Casper said. “There should be exemptions for a land to be able to do conservation work and just better ways to do it that are more efficient and more consistent.”

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# Herm captures second straight state title

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

When the final seconds ticked off in the WIAA Division 1, 165-pound state title wrestling match, Neenah's Jacob Herm got to one knee, stretched out his arms and just took in the atmosphere inside the sold-out Kohl Center.

There's no better way to end a high school career than winning a state title and that's exactly what Herm had just done.

Herm became the first two-time state champion in the history of the Neenah wrestling program when he took control early and cruised to a 14-0 major decision win over Sullivan Ramos of Kenosha Indian Trail in his title match.

"I'm just so glad I can take it out on top. It's been a ride with Coach K and the coaching staff the last four years," Herm said in the moments after collecting his state title medal Saturday night. "It hasn't hit me yet but I'm sure it will sink in tonight. Right now, I'm just excited to share in the moment with my coach and my family."

The win capped a dominant display over the three days at the Kohl Center and punctuated a tremendous two-year run.

Herm posted a record of 100-1 the past two years – his lone loss coming to a wrestler from Minnesota – and was 8-0 in his last two state tournaments, collecting six pins and two major decisions. Overall in his four trips to Madison, Herm is 14-2 with two state titles and two second-place finishes, including a loss in the sudden victory period as a freshman. He won nine of those matches by pin.

Even Neenah head coach Kyle Kleuskens was struggling to make sense of Herm's accomplishments in the moment.

"It's hard to put in perspective right now in the moment, but I'm just so unbelievably proud of him and the way he represents Neenah wrestling and himself," Kleuskens said. "It's been great to be a part of his journey and no better way to cap it off with a state title. It's not easy to win a state title. There's pressure there. He handled it the right way and was able to get it done at the end of the night."

Herm made quick work of his first two opponents at the state meet, pinning Henrik Kellogg of Brookfield Central in 1:14 in the opening round, before pinning familiar foe Kolin DeGroot of Kaukauna in 1:51.

In the semifinals, Herm was taken down by Burlington's Kade Boyd 10 seconds into the match but recovered to escape and land a takedown of his own for a 4-3 lead. Boyd regained the lead with two near-fall points from the top position ear-



Photos by Doug Sasse

Above: Jacob Herm reacts after winning his second straight WIAA state title at the Kohl Center in Madison on Saturday night. Herm won his title at 165 pounds.

At right: Herm works over Sullivan Ramos of Kenosha Indian Trails in the Division 1 165-pound championship match last Saturday. Herm won by a 14-0 major decision.

ly in the second period but Herm countered with a reversal and pinned Boyd 38 seconds into the period.

Herm, who injured both of his ankles in the semifinal match, learned from that experience and jumped out to a 6-0 lead with a takedown and three near-fall points against Ramos.

"In my semifinal match, I maybe came out a little too excited and gotten taken down," Herm said. "I took it slower and it worked out for me. I was able to see more things, see more openings and get that takedown right to his back and it's 6-0. It just takes off from there."

Neither wrestler scored in the second period before Herm chose the bottom position in the third, scored a quick escape and then got a takedown and four near-fall points for the final margin.

"I'm not the kind of guy who hangs back with a lead," Herm said. "I could have stalled and won the match 6-0 but I was looking for points. I think that's one of my greatest attributes. You don't go out there to just lope around or dance around, you go out there to score points and win."

Herm was one of two finalists for the Neenah boys as junior Declan Koch rolled into the 157-pound finals.

Koch pinned Craig Robertson of Milwaukee Lutheran in 2:49 in the first



round and then stuck Mason Tyler of Pulaski in 1:30 in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, Koch was tied with Sam Zanton of Middleton early in the third period, but scored a takedown and four near-fall points to finish off an 8-1 win.

But in the title match, Pewaukee's Caleb Cady – who like Koch was undefeated entering the match – was able to score an early takedown and led the entire match in collecting a 5-3 win.

"I thought he wrestled tough and I thought his opponent did a great job of blocking," Kleuskens said. "The third period, the kid was doing a good job of blocking and there wasn't many opportunities for us to create some offense."

With Koch and Herm wrestling back-to-back Saturday night, Kleuskens experienced both the highs and lows of the state tournament.

"Two kids that we love out there and two different results," Kleuskens said. "Your heart hurts for one and you are ex-

cited for the other."

Rounding out the boys state qualifiers was sophomore Landen Sheppard, who went 3-2 in his first appearance at the state meet and came away with a sixth-place medal.

"Getting here first was my main goal but then going on to win a couple matches down here and achieve my goals with my two best buddies is pretty frickin awesome," Sheppard said. "I didn't finish maybe where I wanted to but that's why I'll get back to the room and work on what I need to get better."

Sheppard earned his spot in the medal match with a 4-2 win over Vinny Costabilo of River Falls in the consolation semifinals, scoring a first-period takedown and a third-period escape to account for his points in the win.

In the fifth-place match, he fell to Waukesha North's Ben Lauer, 9-5, build-

SEE **State wrestling** ON PAGE 15



Photos by Doug Sasse

Left: Declan Koch works for a takedown against Pewaukee's Caleb Cady in the Division 1 157-pound final Saturday at the Kohl Center in Madison. Middle: Kyle Kurszewski closes in on a pin against Julianna Johnson of St. Croix Falls in a first-round match in the 114-pound bracket. Right: Amari Richard tries to turn Allie Baker of Wauwatosa West/East on to her back during a first-round match at 126 pounds.



# Rockets' tournament run halted in sectional final

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Clayton Laabs gave the Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha hockey team the boost it needed to start the third period.

The Rockets just weren't able to turn that boost into a victory.

Green Bay Notre Dame scored a power play goal with less than three minutes left to break a 2-2 tie and went on to hand the Rockets a heartbreaking 4-2 loss in a WIAA Division sectional final last Friday night at the First Community Champion Center.

"They played their tails off the entire season and we just came up a little bit short," Rockets' head coach Jeff Lindemann said. "We had our opportunities. We could have buried some things and got some things done, but we just didn't get it done tonight."

The Tritons, who are two-time defending state champions, led 2-1 after two periods but Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha evened things up just 16 seconds into the third period to seize the momentum.

Clayton Laabs was skating through the slot and redirected a shot from the point by Ty Laabs for the game-tying goal. It was only the third goal of the season for Clayton.

"I just tipped the puck and it went in the net. I'm just tipping it, trying to get the goalie off balance and so he doesn't know where it's going and it ended up in the back of the net," Clayton Laabs said. "We just really went to work and it gave us a little fire."

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha continued to pound away at the Tritons, outshooting Green Bay Notre Dame 15-8 in

the third period, including one golden scoring chance.

Carty Simonson was dragged down from behind while breaking in on the Triton goalkeeper and the play resulted in a penalty shot. Simonson, however, was thwarted on a back-hand attempt at the net to keep the game tied.

"There's a little more pressure there with the penalty shot," Lindemann said. "They took a gamble and pulled down Carty on a breakaway. He had the goalie beat and that would have been a goal for sure."

With a little less than three minutes to go, it was the Rockets who were whistled for a penalty and the Tritons converted about a minute later to take the lead.

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha pulled goalkeeper Owen Debbert for an extra skater with about two minutes to go but couldn't notch the tying goal. The Tritons then added an empty net goal with 53 seconds left to seal the win.

"Just unfortunately, not a lot of penalties were called in this game but they got one at the end there and got a power play goal on us," Lindemann said. "From that point on, we had to scramble."

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha was also scrambling at the start but a huge performance from Debbert helped the Rockets stay in the game.

Debbert made four tough saves in the first 30 seconds of the game to keep things scoreless and notched 11 of his 30 saves in the opening stanza.



C. Laabs



Debbert

"If Owen doesn't stand on his head in the first period, this thing is over. He said he liked the way he felt going in and he showed it. He left everything on the ice out there," said Lindemann, whose team didn't tally its first shot on goal until there was 8:42 left in the opening period. "A lot of nerves at the start. (Notre Dame) has a lot of guys who have played in state championships and we haven't. We had to work through some of those nerves and once we did, we were all right."

Notre Dame finally found a way to get a puck past Debbert less than three minutes into the second period but Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha quickly responded.

The Rockets – who were playing without leading goal scorer Mark Sutton be-

cause of injury – got a power play goal from Calvin Zinda at the 5:35 mark of the second period to even the score. Cooper Zinda and Ty Laabs assisted on the tally.

Notre Dame regained the lead midway through the second period and carried the advantage into the third period when Clayton Laabs struck.

Lindemann said he felt the boost after Clayton Laabs' goal.

"The bench erupted, the energy was there and momentum jumped on our side," Lindemann said. "It was just as we talked about in between the periods and it played out."

Neenah, which beat a shorthanded Notre Dame squad during the season, finished the season 21-5-1 on the season and were both the regular-season and tournament champs in the Badgerland Conference.

"We did what we could tonight," Lindemann said. "I'm proud of everyone in that locker room."

## Neenah alums honored by WIAC

Neenah News

A pair of former Neenah High School standouts were named to the all-WIAC men's basketball team, it was announced this week.

Junior JJ Paider of UW-La Crosse was named to the 10-member first team, while junior Carter Thomas of UW-Oshkosh was one of 11 players to make the honorable mention list.

Paider earned first-team all-league honors for the second straight season after averaging 12.7 points, 7.6 rebounds and 2.7 assists while starting all 27 games for the Eagles. He ranked fourth in the league in rebounding and fifth in field-goal percentage, while finishing sixth in the WIAC in assists.

Paider scored in double figures in 18 games this season and had seven double-doubles on the season.

Paider was one of three first-team selec-

tions for UW-La Crosse.

Thomas finished ninth in the conference in scoring at 13.4 points per game while starting all 26 games for the Titans. He was seventh in the league in 3-pointers with 42.

Thomas was also one of the top free-throw shooters in the conference at 81 percent from the foul line, while finishing as one of five players in the league with at least 100 made free throws.

Paider and Thomas were two of five former Fox Valley Association players to garner all-WIAC honors.

Kimberly alum Logan Pearson joined Paider on the first team, Joey LaChapelle formerly of Appleton East and Karter Thomas, who played at Oshkosh West, were on the honorable mention list. Pearson plays at UW-Platteville, Thomas plays at UW-La Crosse and LaChapelle is a member of the UW-Oshkosh program.

## Neenah bowlers set for state tournament

Neenah News

Neenah High School will be well represented at the state high school bowling championships that were set to begin Friday at Rolling Thunder in Neenah and Revs Bowl in Oshkosh.

Three individuals and the Neenah girls team will be participating in the event, which runs through Sunday.

Braden Wendt will be in the individual boys competition, while Braelyn Boss and Miley Young will take the lanes for the Rocket girls. Boys qualifying takes place at Rolling Thunder while the girls individual qualifying will be at Revs Bowl.

Each individual will bowl three games with the top 25 percent of both boys and

girls advancing to the semifinals Saturday night. The bowlers will then bowl another three games with the top five boys and top five girls each moving on to Sunday's step-ladder finals at Rolling Thunder.

Boss and Young will also compete with the entire Neenah girls team, which finished in second place with a 12-2 mark in District 8A.

The team qualifying will take place Saturday with each team bowling 15 Baker-style games with the top five in each division advancing to the semifinals later that day. The teams will also compete via a step-ladder finals with the top two remaining teams for both the boys and the girls moving to the championship match Sunday.

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# Prep sports roundup

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Neenah captures fourth straight regional title

The Rockets pulled away in the second half to collect a 61-53 win on the road against Hudson to claim a WIAA Division 1 regional title Saturday night.

It was the fourth straight regional title for the Rockets, who were slated to play top-seeded Eau Claire Memorial on Thursday night in a sectional semifinal.

Neenah's defense forced 27 turnovers in the game and stifled a Hudson offense that had been averaging more than 81 points over its last three games.

Celia Gentile led the Rockets on the offensive end with a season-high 17 points and seven steals, while Alissa Ebel added 15 in the win. Rowan Klesmit hit four 3-pointers and finished with 14 points.

Rae Schoultz led Neenah with seven rebounds.

Neenah led by just two points at half-time.

The Rockets advanced to the regional final with a 75-62 win over Appleton North in a regional final Saturday.

The Rockets led just 32-28 at intermission but poured in 43 points in the second half to secure the win.

Klesmit paced Neenah with 21 points, including a 13-of-14 performance at the free-throw line. She also led the team with seven rebounds.

Ellie Buss drained five 3-pointers in the game and finished with 17 points, while Schoultz chipped in 12 points and Gentile added nine. Gentile also led the team with six steals.

Both teams finished with 20 field goals and six 3-pointers, but Neenah won with an advantage at the free-throw line. The Rockets finished 29-of-37 from the foul line, while the Lightning were 15-of-18.

### Vogel paces Zephyrs in regional final

Emily Vogel posted a double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds as St.



Photo by Jodi Baltus

The Neenah High School girls basketball team claimed a WIAA Division 1 regional title by knocking off Hudson on the road last Saturday. Both Neenah and St. Mary Catholic were slated to play in sectional semifinals on Thursday.

Mary Catholic breezed to a 66-48 win over Crandon in a WIAA Division 4 regional final Saturday.

The top-seeded Zephyrs were slated to face second-seeded Bonduel in a sectional semifinal Thursday.

St. Mary Catholic held the Cardinals to just 12 points in the first half in building a 23-point lead at intermission.

Autumn Crowe added 15 points and Lauren Ripley finished with 14 points and six steals in the game, while also connecting on four of the team's eight 3-pointers. Nolie Anderson chipped in eight points and eight rebounds in the win.

The Zephyrs dispatched Manawa 60-26 in the regional semifinal Friday night behind 17 points and eight rebounds from Ripley.

Vogel also reached double figures with 13 points as nine different players scored in the game for St. Mary Catholic.

The Zephyrs bolted to a 41-16 halftime

lead en route to the win.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Zephyrs' offense erupts in tourney win

Mason Uhlenbrauck knocked down eight 3-pointers and finished with 26 points to lead six players in double figures as St. Mary Catholic topped the century mark in a 102-64 win over Crivitz in a WIAA Division 4 regional tournament game Tuesday night.

The Zephyrs hit 16 3-pointers in the game.

Tarver Trinkner hit four 3-pointers and finished with 16 points, while Preston Fields added 13 points and Mason Wagner had 12. Myles Norville and Luke Fairweather each chipped in 10 points as 10 different players scored in the game for St. Mary Catholic.

The Zephyrs led 44-28 at halftime be-

fore putting up 58 points in the second half.

St. Mary Catholic, which is the 10<sup>th</sup> seed in the regional, will play at second-seeded Southern Door in a regional semifinal Friday night.

### Rockets fall to Lightning to end regular season

Neenah had its four-game win streak snapped and was held to its second-lowest point total of the season in a 56-44 loss to Appleton North in its regular-season finale last Thursday.

Xavier Bezares and Drew Dunning each scored nine points to lead Neenah, while Benjy Bell finished with eight points.

The Rockets will open WIAA tournament play with a Division 1 regional semifinal game at Hortonville on Friday night. The winner of that game will travel to face top-seeded Kaukauna on Saturday night.

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# State wrestling

FROM PAGE 12

ing a 4-2 lead after the second period before succumbing to Lauer in the third.

Earlier in the tournament, Sheppard won a 15-8 decision over Deakin Trotzer of D.C. Everest – the opponent he lost to at sectionals – and picked up a 6-5 win over Samuel Gehring of Slinger. His quarterfinal loss came to Tristian North of West Allis Hale, who ended up taking third.

“I think he saved his best performance for last in terms of this tournament,” Kleuskens said. “I felt like he wrestled a little tight in that stretch of conference, regionals and sectionals but got down here and did a great job. He’s such a competitor and the Kohl Center brought out the best in him. He’s a guy with a trajectory to be wrestling on Saturday night eventually.”

The Neenah girls program also registered its first-ever state finalist as junior Kylee Kurszewski finished second in the 114-pound weight class.

Kurszewski, a three-time state qualifier, lost to undefeated Taylor Whiting of Lena in the finals. Whiting claimed her third state title with the win.

“Obviously second wasn’t the goal but I can’t dwell on it too much. I tried my best and that’s all that matters,” Kurszewski said. “It means a lot to be the first finalist for Neenah. I’m just trying to pave the way for these younger girls. I know that they are up in the stands looking up to me and it means a lot that I have their support and the support of the whole Neenah crowd.”

Kurszewski, who finished sixth as a freshman, pinned Julianna Johnson of



Photo by Doug Sasse

Ashlynn Schiedermayer closes in on a pin against Katy Simpson of Hudson in the first round of the state tournament last week in Madison.

St. Croix Falls in her opening match and then earned an 11-2 major decision win over Elliott Mulloy of Waukesha West.

Kurszewski then earned her spot in the finals with a 16-9 win over Cadott’s Izzy Sonnentag.

“(Going into the final) I had nothing to lose so I just tried to let it fly,” Kurszewski said. “I knew she was tough, but I also believed in myself and know that I am also tough and have the skill set to be there, too.”

“Obviously last year, the result wasn’t what I wanted either but I took that and I learned from it and it got me to the state finals this year. I’m going to take this event, respond to it and good things will happen.”

Neenah girls coach Madison Ruckdashel said that they knew Whiting

would be a tough opponent but that they hit the mat for the final with the goal of winning a state title.

“We told her anything can happen,” Ruckdashel said. “We saw some girls in the semifinals take some big losses. We told her anything is possible down here and if you see an opening, take it.”

Kurszewski was one of four Neenah girls to make the trip to Madison and although she was the only one to medal,

all four wrestlers won at least one match to get their hands raised inside the Kohl Center.

“I think it’s just giving them the experience down here and knowing that they belong down here,” Ruckdashel said. “We wrestle a tough schedule so some of the girls come down here with some losses but they realize they can wrestle with some of the best girls in the state.”

Amari Richard joined Kurszewski at state last year and finished 2-2 on her trip this season, falling one win short of earning a medal at 126 pounds.

Richard won her first match with a 43-second pin of Allie Baker of Wauwatosa West/East but lost in the semifinals. She then beat Hamilton’s Kaitlin Hackbarth 10-3 in a consolation match but dropped a 1-0 heartbreaker in the consolation semifinals.

Ashlyn Schiedermayer pinned Katy Simpson of Hudson in her first match at 107 pounds but lost the next two bouts and was eliminated.

Ava Armatti bounced back from a first-round loss to pin Tiani LeMieux in 29 seconds at 145 pounds but suffered her second loss in the next round.

“It was great (having four wrestlers at state) and it made the experience so much better,” Kurszewski said. “Next year, we’re going to bring a whole crowd down here and hopefully go for that team title.”

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### STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Craig Gil Arellano Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV000186

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Craig Gil Arellano To: Carmen Aleah Arellano Birth Certificate: Craig Gil Arellano

IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge’s Name: Michael S. Gibbs Place: Winnebago County Courthouse 415 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54901, Room 211 Date: April 4, 2025 Time: 11:00 AM

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4858 (press 0) 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: February 17, 2025 /s/ Hon. Michael S. Gibbs Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch IV Runs: February 21, 2025, February 28, 2025 and March 7, 2025

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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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

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## Kid Scoop Together What Do You Know?

Do you know the answers to these questions? If not, find them on today's Kid Scoop page!

1. Where did Jane dream of going when she was a child?

---

---

---

2. What is the name of Jane's favorite toy?

---

---

---

3. What did Jane see chimpanzees use?

---

---

---

4. What did chimpanzees use rocks for?

---

---

---

5. Name one of the books Jane love to read as a child.

---

---

---

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Recall answers in text.

## THE WORLD-FAMOUS JANE GOODALL

Dr. Jane Goodall was the first person to study chimpanzees in the wild! She learned many new things about chimpanzees.

"When I was 10 years old and I said ...

I want to go to Africa and write books about animals!



HA! HA!

... everybody laughed at me. Girls couldn't dream of doing that."

Jane kept dreaming. And then worked hard to make her dream come true.

### It All Started with Reading

Jane loved to read. Two books Jane read as a child led her to dream of going to Africa. What are the names of these books? Circle every other letter.

D Q R W D L O N O P  
L S I V T Y T N L M E

D R

T B A K R L Z  
J A W N C

T

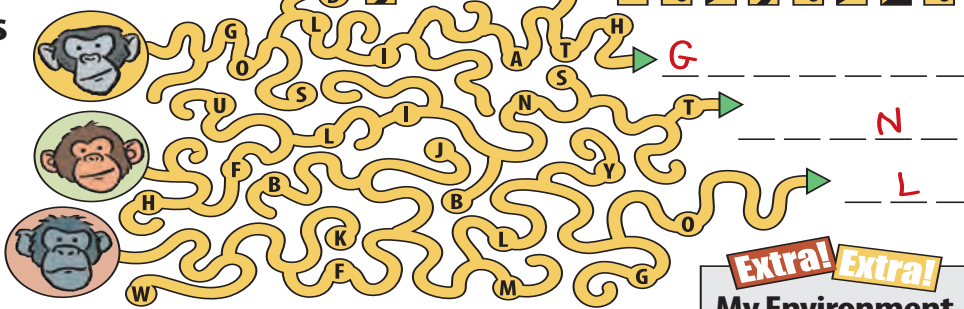
Look for these books in your local library and discover what young Jane found so interesting about them.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

### Naming the Animals

Before Jane, chimps were each given a number. Jane was different. She gave the chimps names based on their appearance or personalities. For example, she named the chimpanzee that first approached her David Greybeard because he had a gray chin.

Use the letters found on each correct path to discover the name Jane gave each chimpanzee.



### Jane's Discovery

Replace the missing words.

REMOVE  
BLADE  
HOLE  
TOOLS  
SAW

Jane was the first scientist to see chimpanzees make and use \_\_\_\_\_ of grass as a tool. Jane observed a chimp using a \_\_\_\_\_ of grass as a tool. The chimp put the grass into a termite \_\_\_\_\_ to catch termites to eat.

She also saw chimps \_\_\_\_\_ leaves from twigs to make a tool. And she \_\_\_\_\_ chimpanzees use rocks to crack open nuts.



Standards Link: Language Arts: Read a variety of genres (biography).

### Arriving in Africa

In July 1960, at the age of 26, Jane was finally able to travel to Africa. She got a job studying chimpanzees in the country highlighted on the map.

Use the code to discover the country's name.



Legend:  
 ◻ = A  
 ◻ = I  
 ◻ = E  
 ◻ = N  
 ◻ = T  
 ◻ = Z

### Extra! Extra! My Environment Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find a picture or word:

- Of a tree or plant found in your community
- That describes the weather today
- Of a place where you can find nature in your community
- Of an animal you can find in your community

Standards Link: Science: There are different things living in different areas; identify weather.

### Follow Dr. Jane Goodall



Dr. Jane Goodall has spent much of her later years protecting chimpanzees and preserving the habitats of animals throughout the world.

She believes that everybody has the power to build a better world. The Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots program helps young people care for others and the planet. With a parent, visit [rootsandshoots.org](http://rootsandshoots.org).

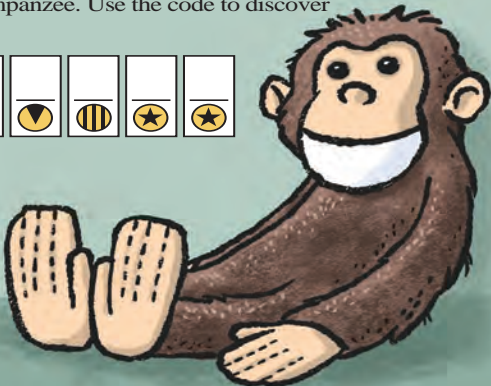
Standards Link: Science: Understand different life forms thrive in different habitats.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

When Jane was young, she had a favorite toy. It was a stuffed chimpanzee. Use the code to discover this toy's name.



● = B  
 ★ = E  
 ▼ = I  
 ● = J  
 ▨ = L  
 ● = U



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Double Double Word Search

- CHILD
- CHIMPS
- DREAM
- EAT
- FIRST
- GREY
- NEW
- NUMBER
- ROCKS
- SEE
- TOOL
- TRAVEL
- TREE
- TRUE
- WILD

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

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

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

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### Write On!



## A Woman I Admire

Who is a woman you admire? Explain what you admire about her.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.

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# ATLAS

March 2025

Your Local Guide to Arts, Dining & Entertainment



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Fashion Revival in Neenah - 6  
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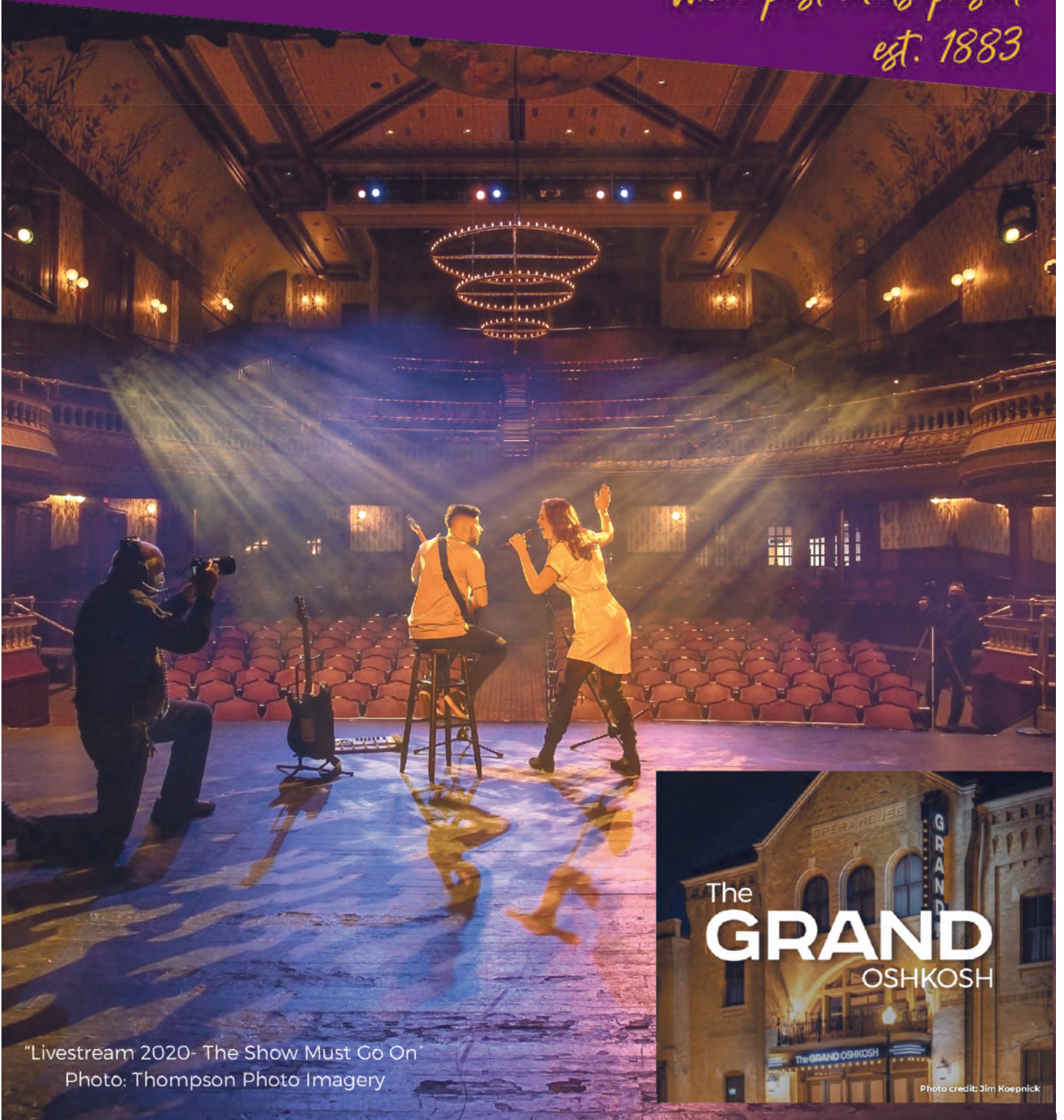
  
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# Have a grand time at the Grand Opera House

By Cassidy Johnson

The oldest opera house in the state, The Grand Oshkosh is an esteemed and historic downtown theater that has been dedicated to the Fox Valley for almost 150 years.

The Grand serves the community by fostering an appreciation for the arts through creative and artistic expression. This is achieved through performing arts initiatives, including public and educational performances, youth events, free events and community theater. Continuing on that promise, The Grand has a variety of events and entertainment planned for spring.

The Rhythm of the Dance, which has been rated one of the most popular Irish dance productions in the world, is celebrating its 26th anniversary of worldwide touring with a two-hour celebration of Irish culture that takes the stage at 7 p.m. March 7.

Next up, The Grand will host Ladies of Country, a high-profile tribute to country music queens Dolly Parton, Shania Twain, Reba McEntire and Martina McBride. The show opens at 7:30 p.m. March 21.

Parton is played by Karen Hester, 2021 winner of Jimmy Fallon’s TV Show “Clash of the Cover Bands” and Reba by Corrie Sachs, five-time winner of the Las Vegas Singer of the Year award. Starring on ABC’s “The Next Best Thing,” Stacey Whittion Summers will be performing as both Twain and McBride.

If you’re having a ruff day, sometimes all you need is some animal therapy. However, “Mutts Gone Nuts! Unleashed” does things a little differently. Instead of cuddles, these pups perform stunts as impressive as they are hilarious.

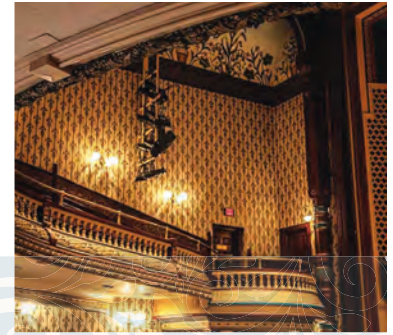
Regarded as a must-see by the Washington Post, the two April 5 shows are at 2 and 7 p.m.

Early in the summer, The Grand will host a theater production of “Alice in Wonderland” presented by Lexington Children’s Theatre. Bring friends, family or just come yourself to support these young children in this enchanting production May 6 with one showing at 9:30 a.m. and the other at 12:30 p.m.

Last but not least, Midwest Dueling Pianos, considered one of the nation’s top dueling piano production companies in America, comes to The Grand for a 7 p.m. May 10 performance. The interactive musical production will go through the musical ages via piano playing, singing, dancing, comedy and audience participation to create an unforgettable experience for any age.

The AfterGlow party following the performance will feature area singer and musician Franki Moscato, who was part of the 2019 season of “American Idol” and has sang the national anthem for Packers and Bucks games, NASCAR races and even for the president of the United States.

Tickets for all Grand events can be purchased at [thegrandoshkosh.org](http://thegrandoshkosh.org) or at its downtown box office.



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## ATLAS

Your Local Guide to Arts, Dining & Entertainment

ATLAS is a quarterly advertising supplement of Oshkosh Herald LLC, 36 Broad St, Suite 300, Oshkosh WI 54901

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*Club owner fashions special creations downtown*

# Flights Wine & Cocktail Club goes for fun experiences

By Cassidy Johnson

Some of the best creations are made when somebody sees something missing in their world and, instead of complaining about it, decides to create it themselves.

Andrea Reichenberger, owner of Flights Wine & Cocktail Bar, created a special club that revolves around the recent trend of beverage flights, one of the first of its kind in Winnebago County.

Located at 607 S. Main St. in downtown Oshkosh where The Brooklyn Grill used to reside, this fun and unique wine and cocktail bar was designed to be the perfect place to hang out with friends, try out new wines and “unWINEd” after a long day.

“I just wanted (a place for) the businesswoman to have a space to talk and hang out with friends over a good glass of wine,” Reichenberger said. “That’s really how it all started.”

She loves a dive bar as much as the next, but wanted to create a place that put conversation on the forefront instead of the back burner.

“They (dive bars) can just be so loud, it’s hard to have conversations,” she said. “I think in the world we’re in today with all the technology and people very isolated on their phones, bringing back the art of having conversation is important.”

Reichenberger’s vision only grew from there. Something else that was missing from her life was a place to try really good wine.

“I’m always looking to try something new, and that’s kind of where the concept of flights started,” she said. “We wanted to be able to provide an opportunity to try different things and develop people’s palates.”

While this idea was born from Reichenberger’s passion for wine, she has expanded the concept of drink flights to beers and cocktails, including their popular old fashioned flight that features orange, cherry, peach and plum drinks based on the traditional Wisconsin cocktail.

Reichenberger offers preset drink flights perfect for those who don’t know where to start, as well as a build-your-own option perfect for those looking to experiment.

Her goal was to provide customers with the opportunity to try new drinks and wines without all the pressure of sometimes snobbish wine connoisseurs, the commitment to a whole bottle and the often steep pricetag attached.

Beyond beverage flights, the spot also offers other specialty cocktails such as Espresso Martinis and Lemon Drops, along with some twists on the classics such as the Oshkosh Manhattan and the Bloody Gin-a.

Flights also has a revolving door of specialty cocktails for each season. For winter, they’re offering a tangy Key Lime Pie Whiskey Martini, a sprinkle-rimmed Sugar Cookie Cocktail and a Lovely Ol’ Fashioned.

Made with cranberry and orange bitters, and burnt sugar whiskey, the Lovely has become a favorite among staff and guests alike, and was soon to be renamed Flight’s Ol’ Fashioned and moved to the main menu.

For the summer, they’re looking to add sipping rums and a Kentucky Derby-inspired Moonshine flight.

There’s also a variety of non-alcoholic options, including wines and beers, and cocktails such as an NA Mai Tai, Margarita and Limoncello.

If you get hungry, build your own charcuterie board in a way that makes ordering feel like a fun game. Instead of a traditional



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menu, patrons are handed a sheet with 30 locally sourced options to choose from.

All charcuterie boards come with bread from Thunderbird Bakery and olive oil and balsamic vinegar from Olive Cellar, but you can also choose a variety of Renard's cheeses from Sturgeon Bay, candied nuts from Sweet P's Pantry in Oconomowoc and Oak's Candy chocolate meltaways from here in Oshkosh.



Besides special food and drink options, Flights works to maintain a fun, chic and intimate environment with rustic-chic decor and an outdoor patio complete with string lights, a fire pit and curtains to bring a sense of intimacy outside.

This atmosphere is also maintained by the variety of events offered – trivia nights, live music almost every month and pop-up shops featuring local businesses such as Periwinkle Poppy Boutique and Uptown Links, a permanent jewelry bar.

Flights will host its third Uptown Links pop-up May 15, an event Reichenberger says is "always a big hit."

Sooner than that, they will be hosting a Sex in the City Trivia night on Thursday, April 17, and a live performance two days later by Safe Sax, performed by Green Bay saxophonist and vocalist Michael Prusinski – A Sax in the City weekend, if you will.

They will be continuing with trivia nights in May with a "Friends" theme May 20 and a "Bridgerton" theme May 22.

All the events mentioned are free and open to the public, but Reichenberger also offers some more exclusive parties.

One she is particularly excited about is a Kentucky Derby theme night and watch party in which people can come dressed for the derby, "bet" on their favorite horses and win prizes.

Reichenberger is working on more events and collaborations for the upcoming year, including something she calls "Boujee Bingo" in which players pay for a card for the chance to win a luxury prize such as a facial or nice piece of jewelry.



No matter your level of wine expertise, price point, gender or goal for the night, this joint is the perfect spot for a night out with the guys or galpals, a date night, birthdays, book clubs, post-dinner drinks and all of life's moments in-between.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEKDAYS		SATURDAYS
 <p>THURSDAYS   5-9PM Cribbage &amp; Catan Club + Lobby Bar Open</p>	<p><b>1</b> MAR</p> <p><b>15</b> MAR</p> <p><b>22</b> MAR</p> <p><b>29</b> MAR</p>	<p>BAGS TOURNAMENT 1 PM</p> <p>MUSICAL SING-A-LONG &amp; DANCE PARTY 6 PM</p> <p>THE OFFICE TRIVIA 7 PM</p> <p>HARRY POTTER TRIVIA 7 PM</p>
 <p>FRIDAYS   5-9PM Lobby Bar Open</p>	<p><b>12</b> APR</p> <p><b>26</b> APR</p>	<p>OSHKOSH ART COLLECTIVE ART SHOW 7 PM</p> <p>STAR WARS TRIVIA 7 PM</p>

TO RSVP, VIEW EVENT CALENDAR, OR FOR MORE INFO, VISIT [GIBSONSOCIALCLUB.COM](http://GIBSONSOCIALCLUB.COM)



# The Revival revives area fashion options

By Cassidy Johnson

With at least 30 and counting, Winnebago County is home to many boutiques. With so much competition, it can be hard for these smaller shops to set themselves apart.

The Revival is a boutique on this exact mission.

Owned and founded by Brooke Bebout, The Revival has two locations. The first opened in 2012 at 111 W Fulton St. Waupaca and its second location opened in 2018 at 123 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah.

The Revival fulfills its motto of "chic, unique, and affordable" through its clothes, community events and personable customer service.

"We're just really on this mission to set ourselves apart," Bebout said. "There's so many boutiques out there, and I want us to have stuff that no one else has. I want things to be unique to us."



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One of the major ways Bebout sets herself apart is through her clothes and accessories for most ages, including jewelry, sunglasses, handbags and hair accessories.

As for clothes, they have elevated basics such as the Cosmic Cardigan, the Tweed Season Blazer and the Braid Cropped Cardigan, as well as statement pieces such as the Paisley Cowl Tank, Satin Bomber Vest and Luminous Maxi Dress.

Part of what Bebout is calling her "send-it season," The Revival released a new collection Feb 13 as a collaboration among Bebout, her right-hand-girl Emily Simon and Mike Kosakowski, owner of the "Wait, what?" print shop in Oshkosh.

The collection combines Simon's photography with Kosakowski's "incredibly unique printing process" to create pieces as special and as individualistic as the people wearing them.

Besides having a unique design, every shirt is as one-of-a-kind as its owner because of Kosakowski's specialized printing process – a sentiment you can't find at a department store.

A fashionista herself, Bebout views fashion as a form of art. Although the collaboration is unnamed, Bebout said the inspiration was the idea of having "wearable art."

Another way The Revival sets itself apart is through personable customer service. Although the boutique doesn't have the same number of customers as someplace like Zara or H&M, they have a loyal customer base.

"When I first opened over in Waupaca, there were girls that were in high school shopping there," Bebout said.

"Then, they'd come back on their college break, come back a couple years later because they're getting married, and then they'd come a couple of years later bringing a baby in with them." Bebout said this was something she never expected from owning a boutique.

"To watch women go through life since I opened has been really cool," she said. "That's just like this priceless, priceless moment to watch."

Another way Bebout offers outstanding service is through thoughtful gestures.

Reminiscing on how department stores used to wrap gifts for customers around Christmastime when she was a kid, Bebout said she had a desire to bring back some of that old charm by wrapping and donning each gift with a bow.

"That's why we wrap gifts here," Bebout said. "I just feel like it's a nice touch and it's not something that a lot of places offer anymore."

While her clothing, accessories and customer service make the boutique successful, it's what Bebout calls her "recklessness" and "impulsivity" that allowed her to quit her job and start this business in the first place.

"That's the thing about jumping in with both feet, you either do it or you don't," she said. "If you don't dip in far enough that you have to fight to survive, then how much effort are you really going to put into it? Just jump in and figure it out."





A recovering alcoholic and smoker, Bebout said that she's always been a little impulsive. After getting sober, she decided to use this to her advantage and finally start her own shop.

"It's like a double-edged sword; the thing that tried to kill me is also the thing that made me who I am today," she said. "It's like my superpower now."

Bebout had been working at a finance company for six years but said she has wanted to do what she is now doing since she was a kid.

"Before I even went to kindergarten, I had this little shop that I set up in the breezeway of our old house and I was trying to sell, just like random things," she said. "(I remember saying) like, come buy my broken crayons and pictures that I colored!"




The next shop she had was a few decades later and a

little more space, although not by much. Only 400 square feet, she had room for a small inventory of clothes and jewelry. Within two days, she had sold out everything.

"The Revival has spiritual significance for me. I was spiritually transformed when I got sober, and I believe the way we view fashion needed a transformation too," Bebout said.


"Fashion is art and we are the canvas. It should be a form of expression, not an act of conformity."

It's this sentiment that Bebout hopes to convey through her clothes and collections to come.



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# CALENDAR *of* EVENTS



## UNIQUE EVENTS

Now through April 6

**New Art on the Block:**  
**Selections from the Permanent Collection Exhibit**  
 Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass  
 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

Now through April 18

**Teen Voices in Glass:**  
**2025 Area High School Glass Exhibition**  
 Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass  
 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

Now through June 7

**The Beauty of Marquetry and Parquetry**  
**Collection of highlights in the Sawyer Parlor**  
 Oshkosh Public Museum, 1331 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh

Now through July 27

**Primer by Leo Tecosky Exhibit**  
 Blue Gallery, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass  
 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

Now through October 26

**Victorian Art Glass Baskets Exhibit**  
 Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass  
 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

Now through January 18, 2026

**Nature as Muse**  
 Tiffany treasures from Richard H. Driehaus Collection  
 Oshkosh Public Museum, 1331 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh

## MARCH

- March 5 **Lent Fish Features**  
Batley's Grill & Bar  
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- March 5 **Fox Cities Roller Derby • 5pm**  
Oshkosh Arena  
1212 S Main St, Oshkosh
- March 6-May 6 **Cribbage And Catan**  
Thursdays 5pm-9pm  
The Gibson Social Club  
537 N Main St, Oshkosh
- March 6 **Jazzmeia Horn • 6pm**  
The Howard  
405 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

March 7-April 25 **Cocktail's at The Lobby Bar**

Fridays beginning at 5pm  
 The Gibson Social Club  
 537 N Main St, Oshkosh

March 7 **Rhythm of the Dance • 7pm**

The Grand Opera House  
 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

March 11-16 **Some Like It Hot**

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center  
 400 W College Ave, Appleton

March 8 **International Women's Day Celebration Luncheon**

11am  
 Fin 'n Feather, 22 W Main St, Winneconne

March 8 **Roadtrip • 8pm**

Woodeye's Bar & Grill  
 700 W Main St, Winneconne

March 15-17 **O'Batley St. Paddy's Day Party**

Batley's Grill & Bar  
 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

March 15 **Musical Night at The Gibson Social Hall • 6pm**

The Gibson Social Hall  
 537 N Main St, Oshkosh

March 15 **St. Patrick's Tent Party**

Dublin's Irish Pub  
 2070 W 9th Ave, Oshkosh

March 15 **Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra: Lavendar Chai • 7pm**

UWO Music Hall  
 1001 Elmwood Ave, Oshkosh

March 15-June 29 **Weaving a Legacy: Ho-Chunk Black Ash Basketry**

The Paine  
 1410 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh

March 16 **Shamrock Lunch & Luck of the Irish Bingo • 11am**

LaSure's Banquet Hall  
 3125 S Washburn St, Oshkosh

March 20 **Art After Dark- The Event of the Season • 5:30-8:30pm**

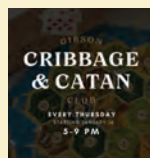
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass  
 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

March 21 **Menasha Comedy Night • 7:30pm**

226 Main St, Menasha  
 Bare Bones Brewery, Menasha



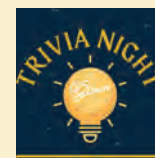
## UPCOMING EVENTS



THURSDAYS | 5-9PM  
 Cribbage & Catan Club  
 + Lobby Bar Open



FRIDAYS | 5-9PM  
 Lobby Bar Open



SATURDAYS | 7PM  
 Trivia Night: 3/22, 3/29, 4/26  
 (Doors open at 6pm)

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- March 22 **The Office themed Trivia Night** • Doors open at 6pm  
The Gibson Social Hall  
537 N Main St, Oshkosh
- March 22 **Oshkosh Area Community Band Spring Concert** • 7pm  
Alberta Kimball Auditorium  
375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh
- March 23 **Neenah Community Band Spring Concert** • 3pm  
Neenah High School PAC  
500 Rocket Way, Neenah
- March 28 **Spring Break Camp** • 12:30-4:30pm  
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass  
165 N Park Ave, Neenah
- March 29 **Harry Potter themed Trivia Night** • Doors open at 6pm  
The Gibson Social Club  
537 N Main St, Oshkosh

## APRIL

- April 3–13 **Oshkosh Craft Beer Week**  
Various citywide locations
- April 12 **Oshkosh Fine Arts Association WRAP Show** • 9am-12:30pm  
The Waters  
1393 Washington Ave, Oshkosh
- April 19 **Easter Market & Spring Bazaar** • 9am  
Oshkosh Convention Center  
1 N Main St, Oshkosh
- April 20 **Easter Sunday Brunch Buffet**  
Bridgewood Resort Hotel  
1000 Cameron Way, Neenah
- April 24–26 **2025 NFL Draft**  
Lambeau Field  
1265 Lombardi Ave, Green Bay
- April 24 **Star Wars themed Trivia Night** • Doors open at 6pm  
The Gibson Social Hall  
537 N Main St, Oshkosh
- April 24 **NFL Draft Watch Party**  
Batley's Grill & Bar  
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- April 25–Oct 5 **Through a Window Darkly by Jen Blazina Exhibit**  
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass  
165 N Park Ave, Neenah

## MAY

- May 2 **2025 OASD Education Foundation Gala** • 6pm  
The Waters, 1393 Washington Ave, Oshkosh
- May 3 **NAMI Oshkosh 5K for Mental Health & Suicide Awareness**  
9am  
Oshkosh North High School  
1100 W Smith Ave, Oshkosh
- May 5 **Cinco de Mayo Event**  
Batley's Grill & Bar  
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- May 10 **Midwest Dueling Pianos** • 7pm  
The Grand Opera House  
100 High Ave, Oshkosh

- May 11 **Mother's Day Specials**  
Batley's Grill & Bar  
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- May 11 **Mother's Day – Free Admission**  
The Paine  
1410 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh
- May 17 **Festival of Spring Plant Sale, Arts & Crafts Sale** • 8am  
The Paine  
1410 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh
- May 21 **Glenn Miller Orchestra** • 7pm  
The Grand Opera House  
100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- May 23 **Green Bay Charity Softball Game**  
Neuroscience Group Field at Fox Cities Stadium  
2400 N Casaloma Dr, Oshkosh
- May 24 **Oshkosh Comic & Toy Show** • 10am–5pm  
Oshkosh Arena  
1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

# DAILY SPECIALS



### MONDAY

Kids Eats Free

### TUESDAY

\$9 Batley Butter Burgers

### WEDNESDAY

\$2 off Flatbread Pizzas

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+ Reubens



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# The Gibson Social Club

By Cassidy Johnson

Located in the heart of downtown Oshkosh, the Gibson Social Club is located inside a historic building that has been renovated with a modern and rustic design to make it the perfect event venue.

While the Gibson is mostly an event venue, it is also committed to serving the community by hosting free public events this spring.

First up, the Gibson will be hosting a Musical Night from 6 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15. Packed with music, fun and drinks, visitors can dance and sing along to popular Broadway hits including songs from "Wicked," "Rent," "Annie" and more at this age 21-plus event.

Whether or not you'd like to hit the dance floor with friends, use this as an opportunity to meet other musical nerds or get the chance to belt out a "Defying Gravity" solo at the top of your lungs. The night will have something for every type of musical fan.

Next up, the Gibson will be hosting trivia nights throughout March and April, starting with "The Office" Trivia Night on Saturday, March 22.

Allowing time for patrons to get a seat, a drink and socialize, doors for all trivia nights will open at 6 p.m. before trivia goes from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Reminisce on your favorite Jim Halpert pranks and Michael Scott fails, and prove your knowledge of the infamous Dunder Mifflin crew at this fun event.

Calling all muggles! The following Saturday, the Gibson will host a Harry Potter Trivia night, perfect for testing your knowledge on this iconic book series and for meeting fellow Gryffindors, Hufflepuffs, Ravenclaws and Slytherins.

Coming to a galaxy not so far away, the Gibson is hosting a Star Wars Trivia night Saturday, April 26. Travel through the galaxy of intense battles and iconic plot twists, and show off knowledge of this beloved franchise.

The Gibson is also hosting its fourth annual Oshkosh Art Collective show Saturday, April 12, from 6 to 10 p.m. Presenting more than 35 local artists, the show provides artists an opportunity to sell and show their art, and provide live art demonstrations.

Moreover, it allows people the opportunity to support local artists while getting handmade and unique pieces.

There are new vendors each year, but years past have had photography, painting, jewelry, pottery, coin purses, pot holders and clothing.

Whether looking for a night of singing and dancing, a night of victory or a way to support local artists and get unique pieces, the Gibson has an event for every possible mood.



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**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
**HAPPY HOUR 8-10PM**

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*Bridging past and present with indigenous cultural heritage*

# Oshkosh Public Museum

By Cassidy Johnson

Home to 11 federally recognized tribes, Wisconsin has been enriched by indigenous culture and people for eons.

In an effort to keep this rich culture alive, the Oshkosh Public Museum will host a series of workshops, book clubs and other events to celebrate and showcase indigenous traditions this spring.

First up, the museum will be hosting a book club on "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants," led by Sandra Toland, community engagement librarian for the Oshkosh Public Library.

This book club will have two sets of sessions. The first is at 6:15 p.m. March 19 and April 16 at the library, and the second at 2 p.m. April 2 and 17 at the Oshkosh Seniors Center.

The library has physical and electronic copies of the book available if needed.

Next up, the museum will present an Indian Story Stick workshop with Debra Morningstar, a storyteller, educator and member of the Oneida Nation. The workshop will be about the storyteller, the story stick being a traditional tool used in many indigenous cultures to aid in the storytelling process.

It will also allow participants to create their own story stick and help carry on the age-old tradition.

This event will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. April 2 at the Lakeshore Park Four Seasons Building and will cost \$20 per person to cover the cost of materials.


Next in the series will be "Tightrope: Cultural Appropriation versus Appreciation" with Karen Ann Hoffman, a raised beadwork artist, native arts advocate and member of the Oneida Nation. The free discussion and educational opportunity will take place at 7 p.m. April 10 at The Lakeshore Park Four Seasons Building.

The museum will host a Hand Building Pottery workshop with Jennifer Ann Stevens, an Oneida/Lakota native citizen and creator of Haudensaunee-style pottery, set for April 19 at a location and time to be determined.

Another craft workshop with Morningstar from 1 to 3:30 p.m. April 24 at the Oshkosh Seniors Center will show participants how to create a pendant or pin with long-leaf pine needles, a prominent symbol in indigenous cultures. The workshop costs \$25 per person.

A Porcupine Quill and Glass Bead Earring Workshop with Melanie Tallmadge Sainz is set for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 26 at the Oshkosh Seniors Center. For \$25/person, participants will learn the indigenous history behind these crafts before making them.

More information can be found at [oshkoshmuseum.org](http://oshkoshmuseum.org).



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# Marcus brings The Met to Wisconsin

By Cassidy Johnson

Starting March 15, Marcus Theatres across Wisconsin will be bringing The Metropolitan Opera live from New York City to Oshkosh in high definition for a fraction of the cost of a live ticket.

Hosted by specialty cinema distributor Fathom Entertainment, the series is called "The Met: Live in HD" and will include noon showings of "Fidelio," "Le Nozze Di Figaro," "Salome" and "Il Barbiere Di Siviglia" across all Wisconsin locations.

As part of its Fathom features, each show will include interviews with the designated cast and crew and go behind the scenes with Met stars.

You can get all of this for a little more than a typical movie ticket, and more than 90% off a normal Metropolitan Opera ticket. And don't worry, you don't have to learn Italian or German beforehand: English subtitles are included.

Kicking off the series will be "Fidelio," a drama to the tune of Beethoven with showings March 15 and 19.

This is a story starring soprano Lise Davidsen, a devoted wife who risks her life to rescue her husband, played by tenor David Butt Philip, from political imprisonment.

Composed and written by Mozart, the comedy "Le Nozze Di Figaro" will be featured next in the series on April 26 and 30.



Conductor Joana Mallwitz makes her Met debut alongside bass-baritone Michael Sumuel as servant Figaro and soprano Olga Kulchynska as his fiancée, Susanna.

The "Marriage of Figaro" follows the couple in a series of equally hilarious and dramatic events as they attempt to get married despite his master's efforts to seduce his wife-to-be.

Next in the series is the one-act drama "Salome," based on the biblical story of the daughter of King Herod II who falls in love with one of her father's captives Jochanaan, also known as John the Baptist in the Bible.

Composed by Strauss, this is an intense German opera with Soprano Elza van den Heever as the anti-hero Salome, and baritone Peter Mattei plays Jochanaan in this dramatic retelling of the familiar Bible story that will be shown May 17 and 21.

Lastly, Marcus and Fathom will be presenting "Il Barbiere di Siviglia," an esteemed comic opera written by Rossini and based on the 1816 play "Le Barbier de Seville" by Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais.

With showings May 31 and June 4, the story revolves around a barber named Figaro as he tries to help young nobleman Count Almaviva win the love of Rosina, a beautiful and wealthy girl captured by an evil Dr. Bartolo in an attempt to marry her for her inheritance.



Visiting The Met is a bucket list item for many, but few can afford the \$800 ticket and plane ride to New York.

For a little more than a normal movie ticket, you can cross this off that bucket list and immerse into this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

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# Woodeye's Bar & Grill: Much More than a Diner

By Cassidy Johnson

Woodeye's Bar and Grill on 700 W. Main St. has been serving the Winneconne community and surrounding area as a family-owned restaurant for more than a decade.

Serving classic American cuisine such as burgers, sandwiches and pizza, some of its specialties include the Bomber, a juicy tenderloin sandwich topped with sauteed mushrooms and onions, the Beep Beep Peterman, a bacon cheeseburger topped with peanut butter, and the Wacky Mac burger.

"The Wacky Mac is probably my favorite," said customer Jacob Kremer. "I'm pleasantly surprised by how the mac and cheese complemented the burger."

The S.O.B. burger is another classic, topped with pepper jack cheese, bacon and jalapenos. "I like how many jalapenos they add, and how fresh the buns taste," said another customer, Dylan Ruebl.

They also have daily food and beverage specials every day except Saturday. Check their website to learn more.

But Woodeye's is more than a restaurant. Patrons come for the food but stay for the vibes, events and activities.

Woodeye's will be hosting live music March 8 starting at 8 p.m. with cover band Roadtrip. Featuring award-winning vocalist Amy Jo Doty and co-singer Shawn Connelly, the band covers classic rock, country and pop songs from throughout the music millennia, including selections from KISS, Keith Urban and Maroon 5.

Woodeye's will host its annual Woodeye's Walleye Tournament on Sunday, May 11. Rules can be found at [woodeyesbarandgrill.com](http://woodeyesbarandgrill.com).

The bar's annual Serves for Suicide fundraiser is dedicated to raising money for veterans struggling with suicide. All proceeds go to the HOOAH (Helping Out Our American Heroes) of Wisconsin.

Woodeye's also has indoor & outdoor activities to help pass the time.

Home to the largest 3-D archery range in the state, this indoor space is more than 17,000 square feet and 30 yards, along with an outdoor range that's more than 40 yards. Woodeye's encourages all to try it out and consider joining the league, regardless of age or skill level.

Also part of the outdoor amenities are sand volleyball, horseshoe pits, bags and a food plot where patrons can see deer and other wildlife.

There are leagues for all of the above sports: horseshoes on Mondays, volleyball - Tuesdays, and bags & horseshoes - Wednesdays.



Critter's Wolf River Sports is the pro shop that is part of the Woodeye's complex offering fishing and hunting gear.

If you're looking to do something a little more relaxing, you can also hang out on their outdoor patio.

Whether looking for a fish hook, archery range, some live music, a night out with friends or family, or just looking for a quick bite to eat, Woodeye's has all of that covered.



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# Sweet Jules Bakes has sweets for all

By Cassidy Johnson

Baking is a labor of love, and Jules Kupsky is a baker who knows and embodies this sentiment well in her goods and in the bakery itself.

Two years ago on March 2, Kupsky opened the first Sweet Jules Bakes at 9 Church Ave. in Oshkosh, serving baked goods for those with and without allergies.

This is one of the first bakeries in Winnebago County where absolutely everything is gluten-free-friendly and where anyone with one of the "Big 9" food allergies can have something to enjoy. "I would like everyone to be able to enjoy fresh, delicious baked goods no matter their allergies," Kupsky said.

Sweet Jules also does custom orders in which they try to cater to customers' allergens as much as possible, as well as offering goods for those without any allergies or dietary restrictions.

"The girls who work at the shop say their favorite thing is when celiac customers' eyes light up when they find out they can have anything in the store," Kupsky said.

She originally started baking gluten-free goods for her sister, and that's where she got the inspiration for an allergen-dedicated bakery. "I use the same recipes, just a different flour. Same with our vegan and other allergen sensitive items — same recipes just with substitutes. And no one could tell the difference."

Sweet Jules sells everything from cheesecake flights to cookie sandwiches to chocolate chia brownies, and she's constantly changing and adding to the menu. She also sells bakery classics like custom cakes and cupcakes, adding a twist on some with flavors like chai, black velvet and lavender lemon with raspberry.

The bakery also has a variety of savory treats such as soups, savory scones, hot duck egg breakfast sandwiches and soon, waffles.

A true labor of love, everything she bakes is her own recipe and made from scratch down to the caramel and toffee she uses on her signature Chocolate Decadence cake.

As Kupsky puts it, "There is not one box mix or bucket of frosting in the building."

On top of that, almost every ingredient is locally sourced, including the eggs, butter and fresh whipped cream. Even the carrots for the carrot cake are fresh from Olden Organics in Ripon, and the cranberry orange scones have "fresh, hand-squeezed orange juice" in them.

Another way Kupsky sets herself apart is by baking her goods in small batches, "a dozen scones at a time," as she says.

"The amount of time, love, and attention to detail we put into everything... I don't think can be matched," Kupsky said. "We truly love what we do and I think you can taste the difference."

Kupsky also adds her personal touch throughout her store. As she puts it, "The entire bakery was a do-it-yourself."

"From the flooring to the paint, I did it all," she said. "My sister, Audifax, is an artist and helped me with overall vision, color choices, and even the wall stencil I used."



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**AmazSpring Shopping & Craft Show**  
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Welcome spring and come stroll and shop along 70 vendors featuring handmade crafts, metal and wood works, unique gifts, home goods, services and one-of-a-kind items from talented local crafters and small business owners. The kitchen will also be open with tasty food so feel free to come hungry.





Some of her favorite DIYs are the hand-painted blue and gold walls, the tables made out of cutting boards and the shelves made out of old door jams from her garage.

Perhaps the most meaningful, however, is a framed newspaper clipping depicting Kupsky's mother holding her as a 3-year-old next to a counter full of her mother's fresh baked bread.

The clipping was recovered and retouched by her sister from her parent's house fire and now sits in the center of the shop, exactly where her sister promised it would go before concepts of the bakery even existed.

With the amount of passion she has for baking and her bakery, some would guess this has been a lifelong dream for her. That wasn't exactly the case for Kupsky.

Kupsky has always loved baking but hasn't always been a baker. She started as a cook, graduating from culinary school and trying almost every position in the culinary industry.

She eventually got burnt out and tried her hand at a different job, but that got derailed by a foot fracture. During recovery, she started baking to pass the time and rediscovered her love for it.

"When I went back to my day job, (I realized) it wasn't everything. I was reborn," she said. "I went back to work but kept baking."

With her new passion alight, Kupsky would work her day job and then cook all night at a shared kitchen in Appleton, the first location of Sweet Jules.

"(I would) literally just have enough time to change my shirt between and give myself a "you can do this" in the mirror sometimes," she said.

Eventually, it got to the point where she didn't even have time to sleep amid her schedule. It was then that she made the jump and chose the thing that she loved.

"I don't think there is any risk in following your dreams," Kupsky said. "I have never heard of anyone being on their deathbed saying, 'Man, I am so glad I did not follow my passion. I am so glad I did not try something I loved.'"

Kupsky's passion and hard work continues to shine through her bakery and decadent baked goods.




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# Choose Main Street

Not Wall Street



YOU MAKE A **DEPOSIT**  
AND EARN REWARDS

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INTO LOCAL BUSINESSES

BUSINESSES **GROW**  
& EMPLOY OTHERS

COMMUNITIES  
**THRIVE** TOGETHER

## Your Local Main Street Bank, **PLUS...**

- +Rewards** Choose Your Preferred Reward
- +Confidence** 1:1 Banker that Genuinely Cares
- +Community** Local Economic Stability & Growth
- +Freedom** No Minimum Monthly Balance
- +Growth** Optional Round-Up to Savings
- +Cash** ATM refunds up to \$10 per month\*.



**5% Cash Back\***  
on your purchases

or



**4.28% APY\***  
on your balance

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\*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. \$50 minimum deposit to open. Monthly Qualifications: 18 debit card purchases / Direct deposit or Auto ACH payment / Enrollment in eStatements. Choose between earning interest or 5.00% cash back on up to \$200 in debit card purchases if qualifications are met. If qualifications are met; the interest rate is 4.20% with a 4.28% APY on balances up to \$15,000; balances \$15,000.01 and over will earn an interest rate of .15% with an APY range of 1.39% - 4.28% APY depending on the account balance, and ATM refunds up to \$10.00 per qualification cycle. Limit one Checking+ account per primary Tax Identification Number (TIN). Rates may change after opening. Rates effective as of 2/3/2025. **Member FDIC.**