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Neenah woman claims \$9.5M lottery ticket

Neenah News

A Neenah resident recently became a multimillionaire after claiming the \$9.5 million Megabucks jackpot from the Wisconsin Lottery's April 12 drawing.

Tonya Hedtke claimed the prize at the Wisconsin Lottery offices in Madison last week. An infrequent lottery player, Hedtke matched all six winning numbers: 7-10-13-19-34-35, securing the first Megabucks jackpot awarded in the state this year.

Hedtke purchased the lucky ticket at a Kwik Trip in Kaukauna. That store at 1101 Gertrude St. will also benefit from the win, receiving a retailer incentive equal to 2% of the prize, up to \$100,000, as part of the Wisconsin Lottery's Retailer Performance Program.

Megabucks is one of the state's longest-running lottery games, offering two plays for \$1. The odds of winning the jackpot are about one in seven million.

Hedtke's \$9.5 million win is the third largest Megabucks jackpot claimed in the state in the past six years.

City wheel tax proposal advanced

Vehicle registration fees would increase by \$30

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city is considering a wheel tax that would add \$30 to the vehicle registration fee for Neenah residents, replacing a transportation assessment that had funded road work projects since 2019.

An estimated 27,075 vehicles registered to properties within city limits would be

impacted by the wheel tax, with the typical single-family household with three vehicles expected to see a total tax of \$90 per year.

Forty-eight municipalities and 13 counties in the state have implemented a wheel tax, ranging from \$10 to \$40. Appleton has a \$30 wheel tax, while Oshkosh residents pay \$35 per registered vehicle.

The fee applies to automobiles, autocycles and trucks that are 8,000 pounds or less. That includes most special license plates, with a few specific exemptions such

as antique and collector plates.

The state Department of Transportation collects wheel tax fees, keeps an administrative fee of about 3 cents per vehicle and sends the rest to the municipality or county, which must use it for transportation-related purposes.

Neenah's move to a wheel tax comes after the city was threatened with legal action from Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, who notified the city that its

SEE **Wheel tax** ON PAGE 9



Photo by David Hall

A drone photo shows buildings under construction on Bridgewood Boulevard as part of the Bridgewood Luxury Apartments.

New Bridgewood housing takes shape

Apartment complex project finds its rhythm

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Construction of the Bridgewood Luxury Apartments is gaining momentum, with eight buildings expected to be completed by the end of this year.

The \$22 million development on the former nine-hole Bridgewood Golf Course spans 46 acres and features 26 townhouse style, eight-unit apartment buildings and a 60-unit apartment complex along Harrison Street.

Other development plans include an office building, additional parking and an outdoor swimming pool along the north property line with the Bridgewood Con-



Neenah News

After initially being delayed by a year, construction of the Bridgewood Luxury Apartments is now underway and scheduled for completion in 2028.

dominiums.

The city of Neenah has committed to a \$3.16 million incentive spread over 15 years to support the development, with the project projected to add about \$20 million to the city's tax base.

Two apartment buildings along Neenah

Creek parallel to Jewelers Park Drive are complete and fully occupied, and five additional buildings are under construction, with some in the early stages and others nearing completion.

An additional seven buildings are scheduled for completion in 2026, followed by another seven in 2027, and the full development expected to be finished by late 2028.

Developer Thomas Vandeyacht of Versatile Management, who purchased the site in 2022, said construction was initially expected to begin in 2023, but had been delayed a year due to a lengthy permitting process and challenging site conditions.

Once a golf course, the land was reshaped to form the desired greens, fair-

SEE **Housing project** ON PAGE 9



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Publisher
Karen Schneider, 920-858-6407
karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor
Dan Roherty, 920-508-0027
editor@oshkoshherald.com

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Astronomy Day features mobile planetarium

Neenah News

A National Astronomy Day celebration from noon to 9:30 p.m. Saturday at the Barlow Planetarium will feature free astronomy shows in a new portable planetarium, the largest of its kind in Wisconsin.

Organized by NEWSTAR astronomy society in partnership with the Barlow Planetarium, the event at 1478 Midway Road in Menasha marks the first public use of the inflatable planetarium, which projects the night sky, planets, galaxies and other cosmic features onto its dome.

Teri Gee, director of the Barlow Planetarium, explained the new portable version is to bring immersive astronomy experiences directly to schools.

“The main purpose is as something that is educational,” she said. “Informal astronomy education is something that most people can enjoy, and so if we can help them learn more about the world around them, while at the same time having them have fun doing it, that makes them more likely to actually stick with it and be more interested in science in general.”

Funded in large part by a \$70,000 grant, the portable Go-Dome planetarium features a seven-meter dome that can accommodate 40-45 people. At about 15 feet tall, the entire dome takes up about 25 feet of floor space. Using Digistar technology, the display differs from that of the main Barlow planetarium.

“The Barlow is a very old system,” Gee explained. “It will be much more colorful because we have full color stars, full color Milky Way, and all of that that we don’t have in the Barlow right now, but the resolution in the Barlow is much better.”

On Saturday, visitors will step into the dome and across the universe for the “A to Z Astronomy” show, a 25-minute presentation produced by the Daniel M. Soref Planetarium at the Milwaukee Public Museum. The show follows a group of kids on a roller coaster ride through space, where they learn about different space-related topics – one for each letter of the alphabet.

The portable planetarium presentations start at noon and are set for every 45 minutes, with the final show at 4:30 p.m.



Submitted photo

Free astronomy shows will take place in a new Go-Dome planetarium during National Astronomy Day Saturday at the Barlow Planetarium.

One free admission per person is offered with donations welcome and registration through the Barlow website in advance at uwosh.edu/barlow/special-events.

Between 1 and 7:30 p.m., children’s and feature astronomy star shows will be presented, including “Secret of the Cardboard Rocket” and “Cosmic Colors” inside the main planetarium. A “Taylor Swift” family laser show will be shown at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 per person.

NEWSTAR will also offer free presentations on “Buying Your First Telescope,” “A Virtual Tour of the Solar System,” and “Telescope Tune-up Clinic.” Guests are invited to walk through a scale model representing the solar system, stretching for 200 yards inside the UW Fox Cities campus.

Other Astronomy Day activities include telescope displays, and solar and lunar viewing. Food trucks are available during the afternoon and early evening.

The event represents an outreach effort for the Barlow, which faces an uncertain future as the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh announced classes are ending in June at the UW Fox Cities campus, where the planetarium is located, due to declining enrollment.

“We’re hoping to have a really big turnout, because this is kind of our last big

event before UWO pulls out in June,” Gee said.

The campus is jointly owned by Winnebago and Outagamie counties, who are nearing final approval on a proposal to transfer Outagamie’s share to Winnebago for a nominal fee of \$1 in exchange for Outagamie obtaining the Weis Earth Science Museum’s collection and donating it to Appleton’s History Museum at the Castle.

If the proposal is approved by the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors at its May 13 meeting, Winnebago County Supervisors would then vote on funding to continue campus operations, which in addition to the Barlow and Weis Museum include the Communication Arts Center and University Children’s Center.

The Barlow Planetarium will close for the month of June and Gee remains hopeful that it will reopen, though there is no definitive word yet.

Gee said astronomy is accessible to everyone – all you need to do is step outside and look up at the sky.

“But if this sparks an interest in people who come and see things in the portable planetarium in general, then they can go home and go outside at night and start looking up and doing astronomy themselves,” she said.

Neenah News names new editor

Neenah News

Chris Lusvardi has joined the Neenah News, Oshkosh Herald and Winneconne News as editor.

Lusvardi was most recently editor of Seed Today, an agricultural trade publication based in Decatur, Ill.

Before that, he spent 11 years as a reporter for the daily Herald & Review newspaper in Decatur.

Lusvardi has a master’s degree in public affairs reporting from the University of Illinois at Springfield and a bachelor’s degree from St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minn.

He has lived in Oshkosh since July 2022 with his wife Amber and daughter Chloe.

Lusvardi can be reached at editor@oshkoshherald.com.



Lusvardi



Photo by Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm

Children’s author visit

New York Times best-selling picture book author Pat Zietlow Miller was at the Neenah Public Library last week to read from some of her works to visitors. The author of 21 picture books, Miller has won the Golden Kite Award and an Ezra Jack Keats New Writer honor.

Larsen Road reconstruction begins next week

Neenah News

Drivers should expect detours starting next week and continuing through the summer as Larsen Road closes for reconstruction between the County CB and Oakridge Road roundabout and Clayton Avenue in the Town of Neenah.

Starting Monday, Larsen Road will close from Oakridge Road to Rocket Way, with access to Rocket Way from the west remaining open through June 6, when the road closure will extend to Clayton Avenue.

There will be no access to Rocket Way from Larsen Road throughout the summer months, with high school traffic using the entrance on County II from June 9 until Larsen Road is reopened.

Since Neenah High School opened in Fox Crossing in 2023, traffic on Larsen Road has increased and is expected to keep growing as development continues around the school. The road work is expected to improve pavement conditions and safety for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists, widening the shoulders, adding a trail along the south side of Larsen Road and creating new drainage swales on the north side.

Utility companies began relocating overhead lines and natural gas service in mid-March and were expected to wrap up this week. In a separate but simultaneous project, Fox Crossing will install a sanitary sewer for future use from Rocket Way to Clayton Avenue.

The Larsen Road work schedule is from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. The sequence along that stretch of roadway will include excavation, installation of storm sewer, placement of aggregate base



Neenah News

Larsen Road detours begin next week and extend through the summer. The road work will replace the street, widen the shoulders and add a trail.

course, installation of curb and gutter, placing lower and upper layers of hot mix asphalt pavement, installing traffic signs, driveway and trail installation, shouldering, restoration and pavement marking.

Town Chair Robert Schmeichel wrote in a letter to Larsen Road residents that there will be inconveniences such as noise, travel delays, dust and other issues associated with construction.

“Please be patient,” he wrote. “The Town of Neenah and the contractor are committed to working with the property owners to make this project run as smoothly as possible.”

The town has held several meetings for property owners within the construction zone to discuss access to properties, mail, trash and recycling. Weekly updates on the reconstruction project will be post-

ed online at townofneenah.com/larsen-road-project-2025.

Construction is estimated to cost between \$3 million and \$4 million, with about \$2.17 million funded by a Wisconsin Department of Transportation Local Roads Improvement Program grant.

The newly reconstructed road is expected to reopen in early September before the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

Employment fair offered at Sunnyview

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) will host its annual Oshkosh Area Employment Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at Sunnyview Expo Center.

Companies will be able to connect with job seekers and this year will include a partnership with the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce to connect with area high school students who will be seeking full-time permanent roles after graduation or youth apprenticeships.

More than 50 employers across industries including office, service, manufacturing, health care and other professional positions will have spaces at the fair. Job seekers can connect directly with hiring managers and learn about available posi-

tions and some companies will conduct on-site interviews.

Job seekers are encouraged to bring up-to-date resumes to share and to dress appropriately.

A complete list of employers registered is at foxvalleywork.org/jobfair.html. Individuals interested in resume assistance are urged to contact the Fox Cities Job Center at 920-997-3272.

Appointments can be made for in-person or virtual sessions.

Questions about the job fair should be directed to Bobbi Miller at bmiller@fvwdb.com or 920-470-0837. The fair’s primary sponsors are WOW Logistics, FVWDB and the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce.



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Tiny Doors project brings whimsical art downtown

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Students at Alliance Charter Elementary School have turned Neenah into a whimsical display of miniature art this month through the “Tiny Doors” project, which features 50 handcrafted ceramic doors placed throughout the downtown.

Alliance art teacher Tami Erickson guided her fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students through an artistic journey, creating special miniature fairy-sized doors that will be on display outside of larger public buildings through May. The doors are positioned at mouse level, reminiscent of the popular trend seen on social media platforms such as TikTok.

“They used their own creativity,” Erickson explained. “We have everything from an underwater door, to a pineapple door, to a castle door. They were able to come up with their own theme or idea and just go ahead with it.”

Erickson, who is also an art instructor for the Neenah-Menasha YMCA, a Neenah Common Council alderman and chairs the Neenah Arts Council, learned of a similar initiative in the Minneapolis area and tested it out with her YMCA students before engaging her Alliance students in crafting the ceramic doors.

The students’ creative process involved first sketching their door designs on paper, then creating prototypes using air-dry clay, before moving on to the final ceramic pieces. Students used clay rollers and textures to bring their designs to life, adding coils and stones to decorate their doors.



Above: Ceramic doors on display in downtown Neenah through May were created by elementary students who used clay rollers, textures, coils and stones to shape their ideas into art.

At right: Alliance Charter Elementary School students are shown creating tiny doors out of clay as part of a community art installation.

Each door underwent two firings – first to harden the clay, and then again after applying glaze to bring out vibrant, eye-catching colors.

“The majority of them are very bright and colorful and they turned out really nice,” Erickson said. “So I’m very pleased with the project and I think the community will be excited to see all the fun things that they came up with.”

Future Neenah partnered with Erickson for the community art display. A map of the 50 locations is available from the Future Neenah office or at neenah.org. “It’s all about creating community connections and bonding over a creative, new idea showcasing our youth art,” Future



Neenah assistant director Sara Hanneman said.

Erickson said the students who created the doors will participate in a class expedition to locate their artwork throughout downtown and visit the Neenah Joint School District art show at the Neenah Public Library, which runs through May 12.

At the project’s conclusion, each student will get to take home their ceramic door.

“It’s a good opportunity to have students be part of a community art event,” Erickson said. “They are very excited about participating with Future Neenah on this project.”

Retired county judge honored by State Bar

Neenah News

Retired Winnebago County Judge Barbara Key, a leader in judicial education that has shaped initiatives to enhance fairness and effectiveness in the justice system, has been honored with the State Bar of Wisconsin’s 2025 Lifetime Jurist Award.

Granted by the State Bar of Wisconsin’s Bench Bar Committee, the award honors judges who exemplify fairness, impartiality, high personal character and long-term dedication to the justice system.

Key served as chief judge of the 4th Judicial District from 2017 to 2022 and was instrumental in advancing judicial educa-


tion and professional development. She contributed to several Wisconsin Supreme Court committees, including those on judicial conduct, jury instructions, the bench book and language translation. She was an associate dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College and held several leadership roles.

“Judge Key spent a significant part of her judicial career enhancing the education and professionalism of her colleagues on the bench,” the committee wrote in its nomination.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin and elected to the bench in 1998, Key also dedicated time to organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Nova Counseling Services, Confront Addictions Now, Oshkosh Southwest Rotary Club and Regional Domestic Abuse Services.



Key



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New principal named at Tullar Elementary School

Ben Johnston has been named the new principal at Tullar Elementary School in the Neenah Joint School District pending approval by the Board of Education.

Johnston has been the principal at Elk Meadow Elementary School in Bend, Ore., for the past two years. He previously was dean of students at Obsidian Middle School in Redmond, Ore.

Before his move to the West coast, he served as the director of curriculum, assessment and technology for the Pequot Lakes School District in Minnesota for



Johnston

seven years. He has nine years of elementary classroom teaching experience in Iowa and Texas from grades kindergarten through sixth grade.

“Ben is passionate about kids and that was evident throughout his interviews and in conversations with those who have worked with him,” said Superintendent Steve Harrison. “He brings a calm demeanor and a track record of enhancing student success in the schools in which he has worked. We are looking forward to having him develop relationships with the Tullar students and families.”

Johnston is a Minnesota native where he attended Southwest State University. He and wife Angie have nine children, including three currently in school.

Liesch tabbed as activities director at Neenah

With 10 years of school administration experience, Shaun Liesch has been selected as the Neenah Joint School District activities director. The hire is pending approval by the Board of Education.

Liesch has served as the activities director and strength and conditioning coordinator for the Clintonville Public School District for the past seven years. He previously served as an associate athletics director at The Prairie School in Racine for three years.

Liesch will oversee the athletics, fine



Liesch

arts and student club programs at the high school and middle school. He replaces Mike Elkin, who is retiring after six years in the position and 30 total years in the school district as a teacher, coach and administrator.

Under Liesch’s leadership, Clintonville was recently honored with the WIAA Award of Excellence for the second time in four years. The award was presented to 27 schools statewide this year and recognizes schools’ efforts and achievements in the areas of sportsmanship, ethics, integrity, leadership, character and accomplishment.

A three-sport letterwinner in high school at Freedom, Liesch attended UW-Stevens Point and earned a degree in health promotions and health and fitness leadership.



Neenah News

Hats off to Lakeside

Lakeside Packaging Plus held its inaugural Hats Off to Moms event Sunday at the Gibson Social Club in Oshkosh to honor mothers and caregivers while raising funds for Lakeside’s day programs for adults with diverse abilities in the Oshkosh and Neenah area.

Brigade pontoon fundraiser set at restaurants

The Boys & Girls Brigade in Neenah is looking to replace its Blue Pontoon that has been used to transport more than 500,000 campers to Onaway Island in Waupaca County for more than 38 years.

A fundraiser starting today through Sunday at both McDonald’s locations in Neenah will support the effort with proceeds from all chicken products sold on the menu going to the Brigade. Other donations can be dropped off at 109 W. Columbian Ave.

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Thrive Music Therapy drums up unconventional care

From children to seniors, healing skills are gained

By Eric Endres
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The emotional and physical reactions people feel while listening to their favorite songs are no fluke. Music has unique healing powers, and one local business — Thrive Music Therapy LLC — taps into those powers to care for Fox Cities residents in need.

Music therapy uses musical principles to target and improve areas of an individual's or group's physical, cognitive or mental health, including mobility, communication and stress. Studies gathered by the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health's Clinical Digest have shown evidence of positive effects from musical interventions including pain relief, anxiety reduction and improvement in behavioral challenges.

Musician and Thrive Music Therapy founder Annie Meulemans became fascinated by music therapy after watching a therapist use wind chimes to better the motor skills of a girl with cerebral palsy. The idea of music as medicine immediately struck a chord.

"I can implement music and health care? Great," she says.

The musical elements make the core learning and therapy objectives more enjoyable, encouraging active engagement from patients.

"What is cool about music therapy is that we're using the music as a motivator and something that's really fun. And that's kind of inherent with music in general," Meulemans says.

Meulemans earned a bachelor's degree in music therapy, an uncommon but growing study, and later earned her national board certification in the field. She founded Thrive Music Therapy after hands-on experience in California and encouragement from her husband. She has since worked with children, teens and adults with varying needs and disabilities, as well as older adults residing in group homes and hospice care centers. Initially a one-woman operation, the company is now a team of three.

Thrive Music Therapy's treatments range from performing familiar songs for morale boosts in elder care facilities to individual lessons for children tailored to specific physical or behavioral needs. But that's far from an all-inclusive list of available services.

In one type of session, Meulemans or another therapist might meet with a child



Submitted photo

Musician Annie Meulemans founded Thrive Music Therapy as a service to people in need of physical, cognitive or mental health care.

who's on the autism spectrum or exhibits other diverse abilities. The therapist may use a piano to target fine motor skills, helping the child understand patterns on the keys. The therapist could also use the piano for digit isolation, having the child copy the therapist's hand motions on the keyboard or using hand-over-hand techniques.

Therapists conduct sessions on different instruments depending on the objectives. For example, the therapist and child may take turns playing a drum, with the intention of learning and understanding the action of taking turns. Every session is customized based on the child's verbalization and other abilities.

Getting a patient to play or listen to an instrument they like motivates them to participate and target their goals effectively, sometimes without even realizing they're learning.

"The music is the fun part, and then we're actually working on a goal, but you don't really notice because we're doing something fun with music," Meulemans explains.

Parents of neurodivergent children who've worked with Thrive Music Ther-

apy appreciate the results of this unconventional treatment. Steph, whose son has ADHD and is on the autism spectrum, credits music therapy sessions for improving her son's ability to stay on task, follow instructions and mitigate impending meltdowns.

"Annie was wonderful at helping him recognize when he was starting to feel agitated and taught him skills to help calm himself down to prevent it from turning into a complete meltdown," Steph recounts. "She also had songs and games to mimic conversation. These games helped teach him how to come up with questions to ask people and understand the flow of turn taking in a conversation."

Rebecca, another client, praises her son Sam's music therapy sessions for helping him control his physical strength and improve his conversation skills.

"The therapy that Annie provided was not only about music, but Sam as a whole person," Rebecca says. "She worked on his attention span, communication, movement/coordination and patience. Annie did all of this within his session, without him even being aware of it."

The Thrive Music Therapy team also

works with older adults in group settings, though the sessions take on different objectives.

In group homes, a musical therapist often focuses on socialization and orientation to the here and now using songs the seniors remember from their youth.

"With all clients that we have, we really try to use preferred music. That is what the research says is most effective for music therapy," Meulemans explains.

She has found that older adults tend to remember and identify with music they listened to when they were ages 18-25, so the team draws from those periods.

In hospice care, music therapy has similar goals while also helping with coping and providing comfort. Hospice patients are sometimes more agitated or receiving care from someone they don't recognize, and the music helps them stay calm during those tense moments.

Meulemans points out that music therapy in older adult communities differs from performances provided by a music volunteer. Music volunteers remain an important source of enrichment and joy for seniors, but music therapy takes a more layered approach with its goals underneath the music, using the tempo, volume, dynamics and timbre that are most appropriate in the moment, even adjusting the entire session on the fly.

A planned group activity by a musical therapist may include performing Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog" while residents clap their hands or stomp their feet. But if a patient is missing a limb or is otherwise uncomfortable with this, the therapist adapts the session and changes the activity to a twist motion or something else that ensures no one feels left out.

Inclusion and adaptation are vital components in musical therapy, and Meulemans praises the Fox Cities area for its overall support of those with special needs. Anyone in the Neenah, Menasha, Appleton and surrounding communities can contact her at annie@thrivemusictherapywi.com to discuss group sessions in senior homes and hospice care centers or individual weekly sessions for children.

Meulemans has a message for anyone who may be hesitant to call on musical therapy treatments because of a perceived lack of their own musical talent.

"There is no musical baseline or ability level required, none at all. You don't have to sing on tune, you don't have to know how to read music, you don't have to know anything," she explains. "If you like music, then I think music therapy has a good chance at being effective for your loved one."

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Local couple release separate books

Neenah News

Local authors Spencer and Katie Jones are teaming up for a dual book launch with releases different in style and audience but sharing a theme: personal growth, resilience and the power of perspective.

Spencer’s debut fiction novel, “The Best View in the World,” is a transformative story following Simon, a man haunted by a lifelong dream of reaching the summit of a breathtaking mountain. The book is described as a call to action for readers looking to step beyond fears and chase their dreams.

“The Day the Sun Forgot to Shine,” the latest picture book from “Good Night

Neenah” author Katie, is a tale of kindness and connection. When young Lila wakes up to find the world in a perpetual twilight, she sets out on a magical journey to bring back the light.

The couple will be hosting a book-signing event at Lyons Books in downtown Neenah from 4 to 6 p.m. May 15.

“We’re beyond excited to share these stories with the community,” said Katie, a former elementary school teacher. “This event is not just about books—it’s about the messages behind them: embracing courage, kindness and the power of personal transformation.”



Submitted photo

Spencer and Katie Jones show their new books being released with a signing event set for May 15.

Wildlife photographer featured at Hang Up

Neenah News

The Hang Up Gallery of Fine Art in Neenah is hosting a solo photography exhibit featuring the work of Tony Chapa from 5 to 7:30 p.m. May 16.

Chapa’s work captures images of owls, eagles and other wildlife photographed

across Wisconsin, Minnesota and beyond. A lifelong photographer, he has dedicated his retirement to patiently documenting wildlife in their natural environments.

Attendees at the free public event will have the opportunity to meet the artist.

Public library calendar

May 2 Fitness Friday: Boot Camp 9:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m. First Friday Concert: Christo Ruppenthal 2 p.m.	May 19 Wild Child Adventure Storytime (all ages) 10 a.m. Monday Morning Book Klatch 10am Memory Cafe 1:30 p.m. Mindful Living (five-week class) 6 p.m. Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club 6:30 p.m.
May 4 LEGOs in the Library 1 p.m.	May 20 Cookbook Book Club 6:30 p.m.
May 5 Stitching Group 1 p.m.	May 21 Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.
May 6 Powered by Yarn 6:30 p.m.	May 22 Open Chess 5:30 p.m. Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.
May 7 Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.	May 24-26 Library closed
May 8 Open Chess 5:30 p.m. Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.	May 27 Movie Talks: “Lone Star” 6:30 p.m.
May 10 Pint Sized Prom: Over the Rainbow (ages 0-5) 10:30 a.m.	May 28 Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.
May 12 Wild Child Adventure Storytime (all ages) 10 a.m. Monday Matinee: The Unbreakable Boy 1 p.m. Short Story Night at Lion’s Tail 7 p.m.	May 29 Open Chess 5:30 p.m. Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.
May 13 Legal Assistance Clinic 4:30 p.m.	
May 14 Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.	
May 15 Open Chess 5:30 p.m. Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.	
May 16 Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength 9:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.	
May 17 Summer Bucket List 10:30 a.m.	
May 18 LEGOs in the Library 1 p.m.	

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Photo by David Hall

Garden Party at shelter

The Neenah Animal Shelter's annual Garden Party is set from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 17 at its new facility at 2475 Progress Court. The plant and yard item sale also features a brat fry and bake sale with raffle baskets.

AirVenture temp job opportunities announced

Neenah News

The Experimental Aircraft Association is seeking additional help for EAA AirVenture Oshkosh with more than 750 temporary positions available across multiple areas for the July 21-27 event.

The opportunities for many people, including students or retirees, seeking a temporary position that do not require a full summer commitment. Positions include retail, security and event support, auto parking, camper registration and bartend-

ing. Retail and auto parking applicants must be at least 14 years old, security at least 16 years old, and 18 for all other positions.

Applying at EAA.org/Hiring provides applicants with the best chance at getting their preferred shift. Applications may be completed at the kiosk in the EAA Aviation Museum lobby.

If applicants are unable to attend any of the hiring event dates May 21, June 7 or June 21, email hr@eaa.org to schedule a separate interview.



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ALL ARE WELCOME

UW-Oshkosh names its next chancellor

Neenah News

Manohar Singh, interim president of Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, will be the next chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh after the UW Board of Regents recently approved the recommendation of a selection committee.

"I am moved by the passion of UW-Oshkosh students pursuing their dreams, the devotion of faculty mentoring them with compassion and rigor, and the dedication of staff ensuring student success every step of the way," said Singh, who will assume the leadership post July 1. "They are the reason I believe in the promise of this university – and the boundless potential of what we can achieve together."

Universities of Wisconsin president Jay Rothman and regents said Singh's background in finance and administration will



Singh

benefit the Oshkosh campus.

"Dr. Singh's ability to focus on student success while balancing the books will be critical at UW-Oshkosh," said regent president Amy B. Bogost. "His track record in Connecticut navigating enrollment and financial challenges is impressive."

Singh has led Western Connecticut State University since 2023 and before that was dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies at Southern Connecticut State University. He also held leadership posts at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., Penn State University Abington and Long Island University Post in Brookville, N.Y. He has also been a professor of finance at several universities.

He succeeds Andrew Leavitt, who plans to teach chemistry at UW-Oshkosh after a year away at another university.

Singh has bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from Punjab University-Chandigarh, India, and a master's in economics from University of Waterloo in Ontario. He has a doctorate in finance from Southern Illinois University.

4-H scholarship, award winners named

Winnebago County high school students recently received scholarships and awards from the county's 4-H program. They include:

Madison Oeftger, a Neenah High School senior, received the Ashton Simpson Memorial Scholarship. She has been a member of Ridgeway 4-H Club for eight years where she has been active in youth leadership holding various club officer positions, a 4-H camp counselor, a 4-H ambassador, and a youth board member. She plans to attend UW-Oshkosh majoring in elementary education.

Finn Lettau, a Neenah High School senior, received the Stevenson Memorial Scholarship and 4-H Key Award. He has been a member of Winchester 4-H Club for 13 years where he has been active in youth leadership holding various club officer positions, a member of the WI 4-H Leadership Council, a 4-H Ambassador and a 4-H Camp Counselor. He plans to attend Ripon College majoring in biology.

Hannah Dobish, a senior at Oshkosh West High School, earned a Winnebago County 4-H Leaders Association Scholarship. She has been a member of 4-H

Friends 4-H Club for 12 years where she has been an active 4-H youth leader in the dog project and as a club officer. She plans to attend UW-Oshkosh majoring in kinesiology.

Madelynn Poppy, an Omro High School senior, won the Judith Gruszynske Memorial Scholarship. She has been a member of Newcomers 4-H Club for 13 years where she has been active in the beef, swine, photography and foods & nutrition projects. She plans to attend UW Stevens Point majoring in family and consumer sciences.

Tanner Piper, a junior at Omro High School, was a 4-H Key Award winner. He has been a member of Newcomers 4-H Club for 12 years where he has been active in youth leadership holding a club officer position, project mentor and a 4-H summer camp counselor.

Emily Hunter, a Ripon High School junior, was a Key Award winner. He has been a member of Golden Oak 4-H Club for 10 years where she has been active as a youth leader holding various club officer positions and a 4-H summer camp counselor.

School district training grant funds available

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has announced a new round of grant funding available to Wisconsin school districts to help train students for the future and fill critical workforce needs. Up to \$1,021,363 million in grant funds is available through the Expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward program.

The funds support projects to train students to use advanced manufacturing tools and equipment. Award amounts will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and will be available for school districts to ready high

school students in technical fields to ensure Wisconsin has a skilled workforce for the future.

Technical Education Equipment Training grants reimburse school districts for the costs of buying and installing technical education equipment used for vocational training and technical education in advanced manufacturing and construction fields. Funds also cover the cost for equipment operation software and instructional materials. Applications must be emailed by 3 p.m. May 15.

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Neenah News

A vehicle navigates South Commercial Street amid ongoing roadwork. Neenah is considering a wheel tax to help fund future road work projects like this one.

Wheel tax

FROM PAGE 1

Transportation Assessment Replacement Fee (TARF) was invalidated by recent state Supreme Court rulings.

Under former Mayor Dean Kaufert, Neenah implemented a TARF in 2018, initially at \$23 annually and increased to \$40 in 2023. The fee was levied based on the size of the impervious area units (IAUs) of a property’s hard surfaces such as roof tops, driveways and parking lots. Single-family residences were charged one IAU while other properties were charged up to a maximum of 90 IAUs.

Before implementing the TARF, Neenah relied on special assessments, which could cost residents \$7,000 to \$10,000. The Common Council voted to suspend the TARF last year, instead using the debt levy to offset the lost revenue. According to a memo, continuing to use the debt levy as a replacement for the TARF would add \$81.20 to the tax bill for a homeowner with a home valued at \$280,000.

Mayor Jane Lang said the city has had multiple conversations with Kaufert, who is now a state representative, about changing legislation so the city can continue using a TARF, but it may take years and won’t happen before the next city budget.

City attorney David Rashid said that

if the city thought the TARF would pass muster under the state constitution, the city would pursue it.

“But it’s pretty clear that no matter what we call it – you know, a replacement fee – that under the current constitution of the courts, the Court of Appeals in the Wisconsin Supreme Court, they were going to say ... if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck and swims like a duck, then it’s probably a duck. They’re going to find that it’s a tax, and if it is, then we lose.”

This year city staff reviewed alternatives to generate revenue to cover road work: reinstating special assessments, continuing to rely on debt levy, or introducing a wheel tax, with director of finance Vicky Rasmussen saying that the fourth option is “we don’t fix our roads.”

According to city staff, none of the alternatives offer the equitable cost distribution that the TARF did, as a wheel tax excludes commercial and industrial properties with vehicles over 8,000 pounds, even though those vehicles cause the most damage to roads. Staff “reluctantly” recommended the adoption of a wheel tax to replace TARF revenue – about \$825,000 annually.

The city’s Finance and Personnel Committee voted unanimously this week to approve the wheel tax. The full council will vote on it at its meeting Wednesday night. If passed, the wheel tax will go into effect Jan. 1.

Calendar of events

Friday, May 2

First Friday Concert Series: Christo Ruppenthal, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Badger State Girl Choir, 5 and 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Church St.

Stuck on Blue, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive

Saturday, May 3

“School of Kindness” author Kristen Minster, 11 a.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Day at the Derby, 3:30 p.m., Beaming Ranch, 2692 County GG

Monday, May 5

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

Wednesday, May 7

Touch-A-Truck, 10 a.m., Memorial Park

Friday, May 9

The Point of Jazz, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive

Saturday, May 10

Junk in the Trunk rummage sale, 8 a.m., Neenah Pool

Treasure in the Trunk rummage sale,

8 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 S Park Ave.

Pint-sized Prom, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Wind Walk, 11 a.m., downtown Neenah locations

Monday, May 12

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

Short Story Night, 7 p.m., Lion’s Tail Brewing

Wednesday, May 14

Fox Valley Women’s Connection luncheon and program, noon, Bridgewood Hotel Resort

Thursday, May 15

Downtown Neenah Blood Drive, 8 a.m., DoubleTree Neenah Hotel

Spencer and Katie Jones book launches, 4 p.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Friday, May 16

Wildlife photographer Tony Chapa photo show, 5 p.m., The Hang Up Gallery of Fine Art

Campfire with a Cop, 5:30 p.m., Memorial Park

Christine Salerno Duo, 7 p.m., Xe 54, 1350 W. American Drive

Saturday, May 17

Neenah Animal Shelter Garden Party, 9 a.m., 2475 Progress Court

Neenah Street Party, 2 p.m., Church Street and Wisconsin Avenue

Sunday, May 18

Sunday Concert Series: The Driftless Plowboys, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Housing project

FROM PAGE 1

ways and waterways, and needed to be excavated down to firm ground. That included removing non-structural fill material that was previously buried in ponds.

“The economic road has been bumpy, but we seem to have developed some rhythm now,” he said.

Vandeyacht said the vision for the development is “condo style living without the responsibility of home ownership,” and the company hopes to “create neighborhoods as opposed to apartment complexes.”

Each building is on more than an acre of land with green space.

“The low-density, architectural roof lines, attached garage and private driveways create a very residential environment,” he said. “Most residents get to know their neighbors when they are out for walks on the quiet streets.”

The new Bridgewood Boulevard extends from Jewelers Park Drive, cross-

ing a bridge over Neenah Creek that was constructed by the city last year at a cost of \$600,000, extending into the development and connecting to Harrison Street.

The first buildings completed are on the dead-end Bridgewood Court. While Bridgewood Court does not connect to Cameron Way or the nearby Bridgewood Condominiums, the housing developments share a property line and are connected by the Jewelers Park Drive Trail – a paved bicycle and pedestrian path that runs along the west side of the site, parallel to Neenah Creek.

Most of the addresses are on Bridgewood Way, a new looped road running to the north through the heart of the property.

Future plans call for the city to construct a public trail that will bisect the development’s southern boundary, connecting the Jewelers Park Trail to the Harrison Street Trail and creating a figure-8 loop. The development will include connections between Bridgewood Boulevard and the future trail.

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Rockets manufacture win over Appleton North

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

It may not have looked like Neenah’s Kyliegh Mathe was hoping for but it certainly was a work of art in its own right.

Mathe’s bloop single to center field with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning drove in Olivia McNulty from third for what proved to be the game’s only run and lifted the Rockets to a 1-0 win over Appleton North on Tuesday afternoon.

“It wasn’t a line-drive shot, but it worked and we won the game,” said Mathe, who tallied Neenah’s only two hits in the game. “I was just thinking about getting the bat on the ball. Our confidence (at the plate) wasn’t up this game, we were all kind of in our heads. We just needed to find the ball with the bat and just hit it.”

First-year Rockets’ coach Adam Hablewitz was perfectly happy with the look of Mathe’s game-winning single.

“It wasn’t a pretty hit but it’s a line drive in the scorebook and that’s all that matters,” Hablewitz said. “(North pitcher) Cheyenne Radtke was doing a nice job. She had our hitters confused but at the end of the day we found a way to get a runner in scoring position and get her in.”

Neenah’s rally for the game-winning run started when McNulty was hit by a pitch to lead off the bottom of the sixth inning.

Kaylee Marhefke, the team’s No. 3 batter in the order, then executed a perfect sacrifice bunt to get McNulty to second, while an infield grounder by Natalie Cof-

fey advanced the runner to third with two outs.

Mathe’s single completed the Rockets’ process of manufacturing the run.

“That’s how you have to play the game, especially when you have a pitcher’s duel going on,” Hablewitz said. “You have to figure out how to get it done and the girls executed.”

Mathe then retired the Lightning in order in the top of the seventh, getting a nice running catch by center fielder Norah Paider for the second out before notching a strikeout to end the game.

“(Scoring a run in the sixth) was definitely a big adrenaline rush for the seventh,” Mathe said. “You can tell our team’s energy is just lifted because we have that one run (cushion).”

Mathe was dominant the entire night against the Lightning, finishing with 11 strikeouts without walking a batter. She scattered five hits over seven innings but stranded all five base runners.

“The curve-rise-change combo was pretty good. That was kind of my main combo,” Mathe said. “The change-up was working good. It was dropping in the zone and they were swinging at it.”

Neenah’s defense also had another strong outing behind Mathe, finishing the game with just one error.

That kind of effort can be a key to the Rockets’ success.

“When Kyleigh is out there in the circle and we can play good defense behind her, we can be tough to beat,” Hablewitz said. “Kyleigh’s got a ton of confidence in herself and she should. She’s got three pitches she can throw at any time and she can locate them where she wants to. The team rises to the occasion when she’s out there as well because they know what type of player she is.”



Mathe

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Prep sports roundup

TENNIS

Neenah collects key FVA win over Kimberly

Neenah got an early leg up in the race for the Fox Valley Association title with a 5-2 win over rival Kimberly on Tuesday night.

The Rockets jumbled up their lineup against the Papermakers to pull out the win, notching three singles victories and a pair of doubles wins for their total.

Hunter Brown earned a three-set win at the No. 2 singles flight, while Brady Lawatsch at No. 3 singles and Seth Vickman at the No. 4 flight earned straight-set wins. Lawatsch dropped only one game in winning his match.

The Rockets' top doubles tandem of Andrew Werner and Henry Farrell and the No. 3 pairing of Harrison Tanger and Josh Youngworth also earned victories for Neenah, which remained unbeaten in conference dual meets.

Over the weekend, the Rockets went 3-1 at a tournament in Milwaukee, posting wins over Arrowhead (6-1), Nicolet (4-3) and Marquette University (4-3), while falling to Brookfield East (4-3).

The No. 2 doubles team of Grassl and Farrell had a perfect 4-0 day for the Rockets, posting three of their four wins in three sets.

Carl Hein also went 4-0 on the day, winning three matches at No. 1 singles, while also picking up a victory in the No. 2 singles match against Marquette University.

Brown was 3-0 at No. 2 singles but fell in his lone match at the No. 1 singles flight, while Vickman added three wins in four matches at the No. 4 singles flight.

The Rockets also posted a 7-0 win over Oshkosh North last week with Neenah posting a pair of wins by a 6-0, 6-0 margin.

Vickman earned the perfect win at No. 4 singles and was joined by the No. 3 doubles pairing of Joe Schultz and Tim Zhao, who won 6-0, 6-0. Hein at No. 1 singles and the doubles teams of Werner and Lawatsch and Farrell and Grassl dropped only one game in earning their wins.

Brown and Tanger also won singles matches.

Auth, Groom lead Zephyrs at tournament

Wesley Auth at No. 1 singles and Gabe Groom at No. 4 singles each finished in first place at their respective flights to lead St. Mary Catholic at the Appleton West Invitational.

Nicolas Miller at No. 2 singles and Zach Beyer at No. 3 singles each placed second, along with the No. 3 doubles pairing of Dominic Todd and Dan Harness.

Taking third for the Zephyrs were the No. 1 doubles team of Harry Bergstrom and Aiden Tines and the No. 2 pairing of John Osland and Sean Osland.

On Tuesday, the Zephyrs breezed past Howards Grove, 7-0.

GOLF

Simonson earns medalist honors in victory

Cartyr Simonson and Mason Peitersen each shot under 40 to lead Neenah to a Fox Valley Association dual meet win over Oshkosh West last week.

Simonson earned medalist honors with a 37, while Peitersen added a 39 as the Rockets carded a team score of 159 to finish eight shots better than the Wildcats.

Zach Schneider added a 41 with Carson Seitz and Dominik Clark each carded 42s.



Photo by Jim Koeppnick

Andrew Werner reaches to hit a forehand volley during his No. 1 doubles match Tuesday night against Kimberly. Werner was teamed with Henry Farrell and the duo earned a straight set win in the Rockets' 5-2 victory over the Papermakers.

Neenah lost an FVA dual meet to Kimberly on a tiebreaker on Tuesday after both teams totaled 156 with their best four scores. The Papermakers had the lower fifth score for the win.

Seitz and Peitersen led the Rockets with a 37 and 38, respectively, while Simonson was right there, too, with a round of 39. Henry Gretebeck was the fourth golfer for the Rockets with a 42.

Neenah also came up short in a dual meet against Hortonville, 162-164, last week.

The Rockets finished ninth among 28 teams at the MACC Fund Invite at Club at Lac la Belle in Oconomowoc last Friday, shooting a 325 to finish two shots behind both Holmen and Lake Country Lutheran.

Peitersen led the Rockets with a round of 78, while Seitz and Simonson added rounds of 81 and Ryan Geary had an 85.

On Monday, the Rockets posted a score of 336 at Blackwolf Run to tie for third place at the Kohler Blue Bomber Invitational.

Neenah finished tied with Westosha Central, two shots behind Kettle Moraine. Cambridge won the team title with 323.

Peitersen led the Rockets with a round of 81 to tie for sixth place at the tournament, while Seitz tied for eighth with an 82. Simonson with an 84 and Gretebeck with an 89 rounded out the scoring golfers for the Rockets.

Zephyrs take close second at Fox Hills

St. Mary Catholic finished one shot behind Howards Grove to take second at a Big East North mini-meet at Fox Hills Resort.

The Zephyrs shot a 189 at the meet with Charlie Whaley and Alex Klinkhammer leading the way with rounds of 45. Brady Deleeuw was the next Zephyr finisher with a 47, while Finnley McClone added a 52.

The Zephyrs also finished 13th out of 15 schools at the Kohler Blue Bomber Invitational at Blackwolf Run on Monday.

Deleeuw led the Zephyrs with a 94, followed by Whaley with a 102, Wyatt Birling with a 106 and Mason Uhlenbrauck with a 110.

BASEBALL

Rockets lose heartbreaker to Ghosts

Neenah rallied from a 3-1 deficit to tie

the game in the top of the seventh but Kaukauna scored in the bottom of the inning to escape with a 4-3 win last Thursday.

Jack Weinholzer finished 2-for-3 in the game, while Mack Krause belted a solo home run in the contest. Gus Weinholzer and Henry St. Clair each drove in runs for the Rockets.

Zephyrs blanked by Mishicot

St. Mary Catholic suffered a 6-0 loss to Mishicot in a Big East Conference game Monday.

SOFTBALL

Late runs spark Rockets to win

Neenah scored four runs in the top of the sixth inning to break a 1-1 tie and then tacked on an insurance run in the seventh to earn a 6-1 victory over Appleton East on Monday.

Kaylee Marhefke and Carson Harwood each belted home runs, while Marhefke finished 3-for-4. Olivia McNulty and Natalie Coffey each chipped in a pair of hits in the game.

Kyleigh Mathe pitched three innings of relief without allowing a hit to earn the win for Neenah. Mathe struck out six and did not walk a batter. Tatum West allowed just three hits and fanned two in four innings to start the game.

On Saturday, Neenah played in a triangular event at Cedarburg High School, rolling past the host Bulldogs, 12-0, while falling to Middleton, 1-0.

Kayleigh Johnson finished with three hits and drove in a team-high three runs in the win. McNulty, Marhefke, Coffey and Harwood each finished with two hits.

The Rockets were held to just two hits in the loss to Middleton. McNulty had a single and Norah Paider had a triple.

Mathe, who earned the shutout win against Cedarburg, allowed just three hits and struck out eight in the loss to the Cardinals.

The Rockets also lost a close contest with Kaukauna last week despite getting a strong seven innings in the circle from Mathe, who scattered seven hits, struck out three and didn't allow a run after the

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 11

second inning. Mathe and Coffey accounted for the Rockets two hits in the game.

Zephyrs fall just short against Panthers

Reedsville rallied for three runs in the bottom of the sixth and held off St. Mary Catholic in the seventh inning to collect a 3-2 win in a Big East North game last week.

Emily Vogel had a double and scored a run for the Zephyrs, while Emmi Weiss picked up an RBI with a sacrifice fly. The Zephyrs finished with four hits in the game and scored both of their runs in the fourth inning.

Gabby Guerrero struck out three and allowed just five hits in the loss.

On Tuesday, St. Mary Catholic was held without a hit in a 15-0 loss to conference-leading Mishicot.

SOCCKER

Rockets collect shutout win over Spartans

Annabelle Perry scored a pair of goals and Neenah racked up a 4-0 win over Oshkosh North in a Fox Valley Association game on Tuesday.

Mia Wasco and Mea Jones also scored for the Rockets, who led 2-0 at halftime.

Wasco, Maddie Schoonover, Lilly Romjue and Rylie Acker posted assists in the win, while Rayleigh Pearson earned her first shutout of the year in goal.

Zephyrs blanked in Big East match

St. Mary Catholic fell to Ozaukee/Random Lake, 7-0, in a Big East Conference game Tuesday.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Neenah rattles off three straight wins

The Rockets improved to 5-2 on the season with three straight wins capped by Tuesday's 11-2 rout of Pulaski.

Savannah Blocksom led the Rockets with four goals, while Rae Schoultz added three goals. Ellie Hammerschmidt finished with two goals, while Mara Dorow and Josie Mroczkowski each had one.

Elliott Pershing finished with six saves in the win.

On Saturday, the Rockets picked up a 10-6 win over Hamilton with Ainsley LeClair leading the team with four goals. Schoultz picked up three goals and an assist, with Blocksom, Hammerschmidt and Ellery March each chipping in a goal.

Izzy Ricketts added a pair of assists and Pershing made 11 saves in goal.

Last week, the Rockets picked up a big 7-6 win over Waunakee, scoring two goals in the third quarter to rally from a halftime deficit.

Schoultz was the leading scorer for the Rockets with four goals and an assist in the win. Mroczkowski, LeClaire and Ella Olson also scored for the Rockets, while Marsh and LeClair also added assists.

Pershing totaled nine saves in goal for Neenah.

BOYS LACROSSE

Neenah offense erupts in three wins

The Rockets scored at least 19 goals in three straight wins, capped by a 26-1 victory over Pulaski on Tuesday.



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Neenah's Lizzie Lueneburg chases down the ball during Tuesday night's win over Oshkosh North.

Neenah also posted a 19-5 win over Arrowhead and a 20-4 victory over Marquette University on Saturday.

In the win over Arrowhead, Drew Green finished with six goals and an assist to lead Neenah, with Jackson Brown and Jack Klundt each scoring three times. Jensen Rodriguez, Brandon Price and Jackson Herres each added two goals and Hunter Weinke had one.

Brown led the team with four assists with Jude Marsh picking up two.

Isaac Scholl made five saves in the win.

Individual statistics for the wins over Pulaski and Marquette were not available.

TRACK AND FIELD

Relays help boost Rocket girls to invite win

The Neenah girls finished first in all four relay races and easily pulled away to win the team title at the Watertown Invitational last Friday.

The Rockets posted 12 wins overall in the girls events highlighted by the sweep of the relays.

Janae Rodriguez, Josie Kohlbeck, Avery Gentile and Kristin Manteufel teamed up to win the 400-meter relay with Brynn Fox, Kobi Meyer, Molly Snider and Celia Gentile combining to win the 800-meter relay.

In the 1,600-meter relay, Natalie Willes, Elsa Weiland, Payton Schaefer and Molly Snider took first with Willes and Weiland joining Anna Benthein and Elsa Gruber to win the 3,200-meter relay.

Mazie Olkowski won a pair of events for the Rockets, finishing first in the 800 meters and 1,600 meters, with Eme Olkowski making it a sweep of the distance races by winning the 3,200 meters.

Fox in the 100 meters, Schaefer in the 400 meters and Aubrey Strosahl in the

300-meter hurdles added wins on the track, with Emma Severson in the shot put and Celia Gentile in the triple jump earned field event wins. Severson also picked up a second place in the discus, while Strosahl added a third place in the 100-meter hurdles.

Rodriguez added a third place in the 200 meters and Callie McElroy was third in the 3,200 meters. Gabriella Motto was fourth in both the 400 meters and the long jump, while Bella Chandik was fourth in the 100-meter hurdles and Natalie Schultz added a fifth place in the 1,600 meters.

The Neenah boys finished third among the nine teams.

Nate Kramop was the lone individual winner for the Rockets, taking first in the shot put, while the foursome of Matt Machacek, Ben Donaldson, Jeremiah Kingsley and Rylan Mendoza teamed up to take first in the 1,600-meter relay.

Ayden Weisbrod and Kingsley were second and third in the 400 meters, respectively, while Mendoza took third in the 200 meters. Picking up fourth places were Finn Lettau in both the 1,600 and 3,200 meters, Nathan Johnson in the 800 meters and Ben Donaldson in the 300-meter hurdles, while Will Kirkman in the shot put and Luke Jung in the discus were each fifth.

Neenah sweeps titles at FVA triangular

Both the Rocket boys and girls finished first in an FVA triangular meet that included Hortonville and Oshkosh North this week.

Ben Donaldson notched a pair of wins for the boys, finishing first in the 110-meter and 300-meter hurdles. Oliver Steiner in the 800 meters, Aidan Apa in the 1,600 meters, Nolan Smith in the 3,200 meters, Nate Krampo in the shot put and Jonthan

Stolen in the pole vault also added wins. Ayden Weisbrod in the 400 meters, Luke Jung in the discus and Ashton Olson in the pole vault added second places.

Neenah also finished first in the 1,600-meter relay with a team of Jeremiah Kingsley, Weisbrod, Donaldson and Matthew Machacek as well as in the 3,200-meter relay with a foursome of Connor Schott, Owen Kieler, Braedy Klawikowski and Drew Sabatke. The Rockets took second in both the 400-meter and 800-meter relays.

The girls were paced by a trio of 1-2 finishes as Natalie Willes and Brooke Veith were the top two finishers in the 1,600 meters, Celia Gentile and Kristin Manteufel were first and second, respectively, in the long jump and Gabriella Motto took first and Janae Rodriguez was second in the triple jump.

Brynn Fox in the 100 meters, Courtney Cain in the 3,200 meters, Abigail Hirschi in the 300-meter hurdles and Lexi Davis in the shot put also added wins for Neenah, while Fox in the 200 meters, Elsa Weiland in the 400 meters, Elsa Gruber in the 800 meters, Madeline Delene in the discus, Avery Gentile in the high jump and Resa Goethel in the pole vault were each second.

Neenah also won three of the four relays with Ella Lorrige, Julia Rangel, Avery Gentile and Celia Gentile taking first in the 400-meter relay, while Rangel, Kate Lenninger, Rodriguez and Motto teamed up to win the 1,600-meter relay. In the 3,200-meter relay, Eme Olkowski, Natalie Schultz, Callie McElroy and Veith combined to take first.

Anderson, relays pace Zephyr girls at invite

Nolie Anderson posted wins in both throwing events and St. Mary Catholic finished first in a pair of relays in taking third place in the girls standings at the Rosholt Invitational last week.

Anderson finished first in the shot put with Marissa Hahn taking third, while the duo also finished first and fifth, respectively, in the discus.

Claire Higgins, Maria Marti, Lauren Ripley and Audrey Wanless teamed up to win both the 1,600-meter relay and the 3,200-meter relay for the Zephyrs. St. Mary Catholic also finished second in the 800-meter relay and third in the 400-meter relay.

Ripley added a second place in the 1,600 meters, while Ellie Davel took third in the 100-meter hurdles and Moorea Steckling was fourth in both the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles.

Isaiah Hennessy was the top individual finisher for the boys taking second in the shot put at the meet. Nathan Seiske was third in the 400 meters, Maddox Dwyer was fourth in the 100 meters and Gavin Post in the pole vault and Brandon Huelsbeck in the long jump each placed fifth.

The Zephyrs, who finished fifth in the boys standings, also took fourth in the 1,600-meter relay and fifth in the 400-meter relay.

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Rockets' Schoultz finds perfect fit on lacrosse field

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

When Rae Schoultz walked into the open gym session as a freshman, she knew nothing about lacrosse.

When she walks off the field for the final time as a senior attacker for Neenah, she will be setting a path for future Rockets to follow.

Schoultz has developed into one of the top attacking players in the area and will continue her career on scholarship at Austin Peay University next season. That's a long clearing throw from where she started from at that first open gym.

"My friend invited me to an open gym, so I was like OK, let's go," Schoultz said after a practice earlier this week. "I came into the gym not even knowing how to throw a ball. But I picked up on it real quick and then I just really got into it."

From that first session, Schoultz knew she had found a perfect fit.

"I played basketball my whole life but absolutely (lacrosse) felt natural. It felt like it came right to me in a way," Schoultz said. "Obviously, I had a lot of improvement to do, but it did feel natural right away."

Schoultz has anchored the offense for the Rockets the past two seasons.

She finished with a team-high 22 goals a year ago in earning honorable mention all-Bay Valley Conference honors. So far this season, Schoultz has already racked up a team-leading 21 goals – including six in a win over Kimberly – and her 25 points is more than 10 points ahead of the next highest scorer.

It's pretty impressive numbers for a player that spent her first season quite a distance from the attacking area.

"When I started playing, I was on defense. Defense is one of the hardest positions to play," said Schoultz who transitioned to offense while playing for a club team before her sophomore high school season. "Switching from defense to offense definitely opened up some new things. There are so many different mechanics you need to have on offense with shooting and everything."

Schoultz said that there is a lot that goes into being able to score a goal but that attacking players can find a groove or rhythm when trying to hit the back of the net.

"Usually the first couple of shots you take, you are trying to learn the goalie

Senior Standout



so the more minutes you are playing the more you can learn and be able to shoot better," Schoultz said. "Scoring goals feels pretty good. It builds the whole team's confidence."

Schoultz was part of the first WI-AA-sanctioned season for girls lacrosse last year and will be part of another milestone campaign when she joins the Governors' program next year.

Schoultz will be part of the inaugural women's lacrosse team at Austin Peay University and is looking forward to being a part of the historical campaign.

"I like the idea of being able to be a part of a brand new program," Schoultz said. "We're looking at bringing in a lot of freshmen and a few transfers from other schools and just building the program."

The lacrosse program was one of the draws to Austin Peay University, which is located in Clarksville, Tenn.

Schoultz said that she felt right away when she visited the school that it was the place for her.

"It felt like home, it really did. I loved everything about it," Schoultz said. "I looked at a lot of other places and Austin Peay was my last visit and I just knew."

Schoultz knows her game will have to evolve to find success at the next level.

"I think for me personally, it will be just getting my mindset to the pace of the college game," Schoultz said. "It's very different, even going from club lacrosse and playing against a lot of good girls to playing at the college level."

Lacrosse isn't the only sport that Schoultz played for Neenah High School as she was a four-year participant in the basketball program as well.

She spent the last two seasons on varsity, including averaging five points and a team-leading 4.3 rebounds while earning honorable mention all-Fox Valley Association honors this past season.

As a junior, Schoultz played a limited role on the Rockets' state-runner up team and values every moment spent with the program.

"I loved every moment of it. I loved every role I had. I loved being able to play



Senior Rae Schoultz is one of the leaders on the Neenah lacrosse team this season and will be a part of the first-ever lacrosse team at Austin Peay University next year.

more this year. It was such a great experience and I'm so glad I did it," Schoultz said. "I remember every minute of (playing at state). That was so cool. Definitely a lifetime experience."

"My coach (Andy Braunel) made me the player I am today. I don't think I

would have the leadership or the physicality to be able to be such a good player as I am today without him."


Schoultz said playing basketball has helped her on the lacrosse field in some

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 14

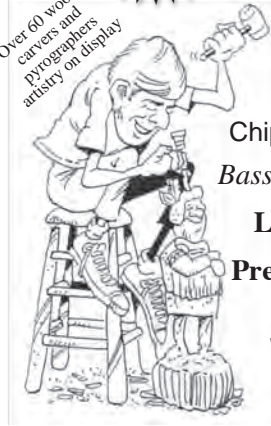
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Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 13

ways.
But, in other ways, not so much.
“They are a lot alike but not a lot alike at the same time,” said Schoultz, who also enjoys playing golf but didn’t play for the

Rockets last fall. “Basketball is more back and forth but the court-eye and field-eye are very similar. And overall basketball is a little more physical.”
Schoultz is hoping that the Rockets can have as much success on the lacrosse field as the basketball program has had.
The team finished 4-9 last season, but

is already off to a 5-2 start after Tuesday’s win over Pulaski and Schoultz believes there are good days ahead for the program.
“I think we have a real good shot this season,” Schoultz said. “We weren’t expected to be good but then this year we’re kicking it. We’re trying to get the recognition we need. I think we’ll get there.”

And Schoultz would like nothing more than to leave the Neenah girls lacrosse program in a successful place that can be carried forward.
“All of our seniors want to leave here having made an impact on the younger girls,” Schoultz said. “Hopefully, knowing how we played, they can become the best players they can be.”

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Nurse practitioner highlights importance of immunization

ThedaCare Communications

Misconceptions surrounding childhood vaccines persist, even as recent news about vaccine-preventable infections like measles and the flu have made headlines.

Inaccurate information such as how vaccines cause autism, contain harmful ingredients, and cause the disease they're meant to prevent, can lead to vaccine fear and hesitation among parents and guardians.

ThedaCare continues to work to dispel such misinformation and help educate people in northeast and central Wisconsin about the importance of childhood vaccinations.



Vanden Heuvel

Some people fear that children get too many vaccines, thus overloading their immune system. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said there is no cause for concern with so-called vaccine overload.

Brittany Vanden Heuvel, a nurse practitioner with ThedaCare Physicians Pediatrics-Oshkosh, encourages people to follow the CDC's child and adolescent immunization schedule.

"Vaccines undergo rigorous testing, both on their own and in combination with other vaccines they're given with," she said. "This means parents and guardians can trust the recommended schedule."

Vaccines contain small amounts of an inactive or weakened germ that causes a certain disease. They stimulate the body's immune system to react as if it were experiencing a real infection. The body fights the "infection" and remembers the germ so it can attack it if it enters the body later.

"If you have questions or doubts about vaccines, please have a conversation with your child's health care provider," Vanden Heuvel said. "They're your best source for information about your child's health and can answer any questions you have about vaccines."

Childhood vaccines can help prevent serious illness and death from a variety of diseases. Immunization also protects others including those who are too young or unable to get vaccinated, as well as people with weakened immune systems.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommends immunizations as the safest way to prevent disease,

disability, and death in children. Vaccines help prevent many once-common diseases such as measles, mumps, and polio.

When assessing infection risk, it's important to look beyond our own communities, Vanden Heuvel said. For example, polio is rare in the United States. In other parts of the world, it's not uncommon.

"These days, our ability to travel worldwide with such ease means diseases can spread more quickly and easily," Vanden Heuvel said. "An American child unvaccinated against polio could come into contact with the disease, contract it, and potentially spread it to others."

The CDC sets the immunization schedules based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommendations. The AAP, American Academy of Family Physicians, and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists also approve the schedule. The AAP recommends children receive combination vaccines whenever possible. Combination vaccines take two or more vaccines that could be given individually and put them together in one shot. Examples include DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis) and MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella).

Combination vaccines mean fewer shots, less pain and discomfort, and on-time protection for children, according to the CDC.

"Getting multiple vaccines at once is safe," Vanden Heuvel said. "Children's immune systems are exposed to countless germs every day. The number of antibody-producing elements in vaccines is tiny compared to everyday exposures."

In addition to routine vaccines, experts recommend the annual influenza shot and COVID-19 vaccines and boosters for children ages 6 months and older.

Studies show that vaccines are safe and effective. Reactions are possible, but rare. Vaccines typically cause mild side effects that resolve within a few days. Failing to follow the vaccine schedule may put children at increased risk of contracting preventable diseases. For example, they may be exposed to a disease such as the mumps before their body has built up a resistance, Vanden Heuvel said.

"It's vital to stick to the recommended vaccine schedule," she advised. "On-time vaccination protects children and helps them stay healthy as they get older. We're encouraging parents and guardians to do their part to help protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases."

Spring boaters urged to exercise caution

Neenah News

Area boaters and paddlers are being reminded that spring storms with high winds, fluctuating temperatures, cold water and potential flood conditions can make navigating lakes and rivers dangerous this time of the season.

"People are always in a rush for that first paddle or fishing excursion of the year," said Lt. Darren Kuhn, state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) boating law admin-

istrator. "While the air temperatures might be warm, the water is just above freezing, and accidental falls overboard could prove deadly quickly as hypothermia sets in. Cold water immersion can lead to hypothermia more quickly than during the traditional summer boating season."

Kuhn says the first item in the boat should be a life jacket for the operator and enough for each passenger, which are legally required.

Support group for loss of child sets meetings

Compassionate Friends, a national self-help support organization for families after a child dies from any cause and at any age, has a newly chartered chapter in the Fox Valley that began holding meetings this month.

Meetings will be on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at Father Carr's Place 2B, 1062 N. Koeller St. More information

on the organization is at compassionatefriends.org, or phone or text (Linda) at 920-267-3108 or email foxvalleytcf@gmail.com.

Offering friendship, understanding and hope to families grieving the death of a child, the group has no religious affiliation and no membership fees or dues. Founded in England in 1969, TCF was established in the United States in 1972.

Obituaries

George William Paul

George William Paul, 92, died April 10, 2025. George was born May 9, 1932 in



Neenah, Wis. to William J. and Josephine M.(née Van Elsacker) Paul.

He graduated from Neenah High School in 1950. He attended UW Stout and in 1951 he joined the US Navy. He served his country as an aviation machinist aboard the aircraft carriers the USS Bennington and the USS Bon Homme Richard during the Korean War. In 1954 George returned to civilian life and joined his father in business as co-owner of the Midway Tavern on Commercial Street in Neenah. At the same time, he worked for Nelson Vending/ARA Vending Services to support his growing family.

George married Anna Jeanne Beier on December 8,1956. His wife of 68 years survives him along with their children Vicki (Arthur) Saffran, Kathryn Paul (Clive Arden) and Douglas (Brenda Meden), seven grandchildren: Jessica, Tyler, Joseph, Benjamin, Reva, Shayni and

Calli and 11 great-grandchildren: Aariah, Addisyn, Anthony, Madeline, Annie, Graham, Jennifer, Rory, Jacob, Jade and Léa. Survivors also include his brother William (Christine), sisters Audrey Kimbrough and Judith (Thomas) Murphy and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sisters Gloria (1936) and Beverly (2024).

George was an accomplished carpenter and woodworker. After he retired from ARA, he roofed barns, renovated his home and church, built furniture and clocks and turned beautiful wooden bowls and urns. George was an avid reader. He loved to hunt with friends and family and lived to tell the tales. He had a wicked sense of humor.

Our thanks to the professionals at the Heritage Center, Skallen Retirement Services and Agrace Hospice Care for their compassionate care of George and his family at the end of his life. George was cremated. His ashes will be spread over Lake Winnebago this summer. Memorials in George's name may be sent to the Fremont American Legion Wolf River Post 391, Fremont, Wis.

Husband, father, brother, friend ... George, we will miss you.

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Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! Leaf Filter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE Leaf Filter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-920-3533

FRITZ BARN PAINTING rusty Roofs, Metal Buildings Free Est. 608-221-3510 or 414-369-7263

Purebred Beagle Born 2/7 Ready to go \$550 Call 715-680-0140 or 715-370-7285

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material -steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer -up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-877-845-6606

Garage/Estate Sales

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

Miscellaneous

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no

hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-748-6332

DIRECTV OVER INTERNET - Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-844-724-0738

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-877-831-0499

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-844-406-2647 today!

Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Eleanor Florence Belle Austin By (Petitioner) Eleanor Florence Belle Austin Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2025CV000288

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person

listed above: From: Eleanor Florence Belle Austin To: Kasimir Faville Byron Austin-Morey Birth Certificate: Eleanor Florence Belle Austin

IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Daniel J. Bissett Place: Winnebago County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Room 531, 415 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: May 21, 2025 Time: 11:00 AM

















f you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4912 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: March 26, 2025 /s/ Hon. Daniel J. Bissett Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch VI Runs: April 25, 2025, May 2, 2025 and May 9, 2025.

WNAXLP

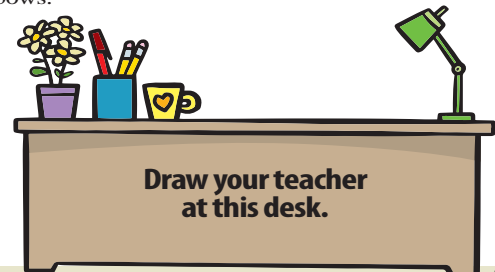
A cartoon illustration of a boy and a girl. The girl on the left has blonde hair and is wearing a blue jacket over a white shirt, waving with both hands. The boy on the right has dark hair and is wearing an orange and white striped shirt, pointing upwards with both index fingers. They are both smiling.

	= A		= L
	= B		= O
	= C		= R
	= E		= S
	= F		= T
	= G		= U
	= H		= W
	= I		= Y

Standards Link: Social Studies: Discover jobs and careers in our community.

Teachers work hard. They also make learning fun, listen when students are having problems and sometimes even take care of scraped knees and elbows.

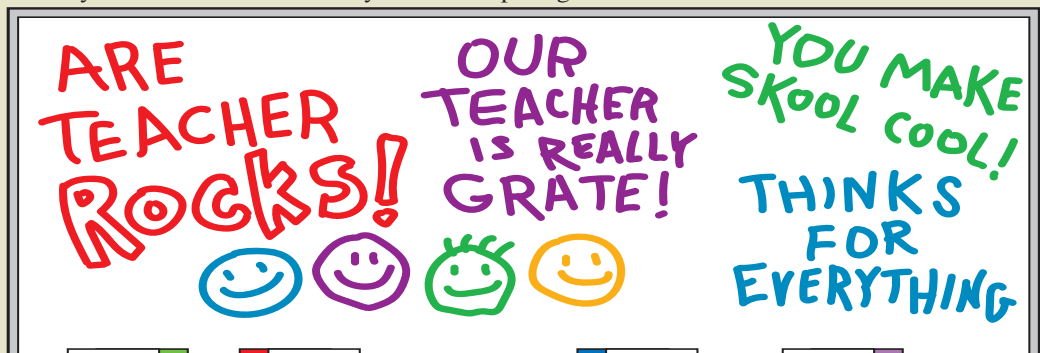
- ☐ Teach
- ☐ Listen
- ☐ Smile
- ☐ Dry tears
- ☐ Comfort
- ☐ Help Solve Problems
- ☐ Clean
- ☐ Make jokes
- ☐ Talks
- ☐ Friendship
- ☐ Hugs



Decorate this 'We Appreciate YOU!' award for your teacher!



Students decorated this white board for Teacher Appreciation Week, but they made a few mistakes. Can you fix their spelling errors?



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Cut out pictures and words from the newspaper to create an advertisement thanking your teacher for their good work. Paste them on another sheet of paper to make a collage.

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Can you find at least 10 differences between these twin teacher pictures?

Have a friend or family member try. Did they find any differences you missed?

Standards Link: Find similarities and differences in common objects.



AWARD
CARE
COMFORT
DESK
DRAW
FIX
FUN
HELP
LISTEN
PAPER
SMILE
TALKS
TEACHER
THEME
WORK

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

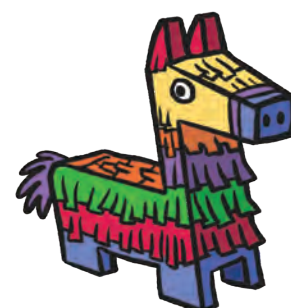
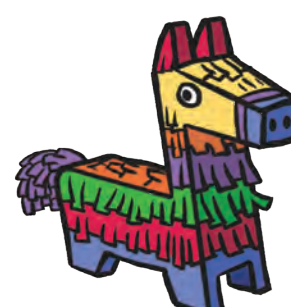
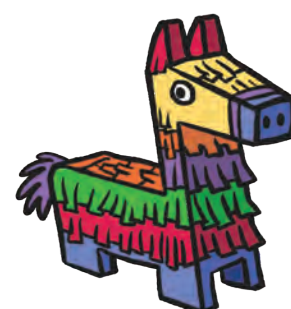
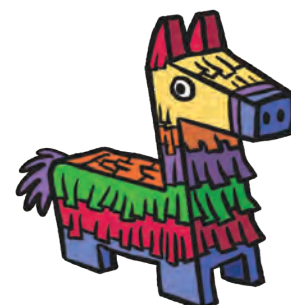
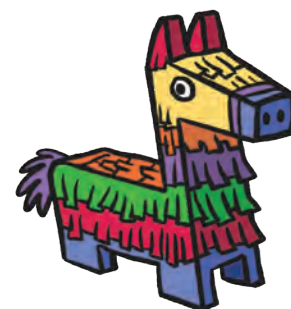
R	F	T	C	O	M	F	O	R	T
E	F	H	X	I	K	C	I	V	E
P	S	E	K	W	R	Q	S	E	A
A	J	M	V	W	O	R	K	L	C
P	W	E	C	L	X	D	L	I	H
S	U	A	Z	M	I	E	A	Y	E
T	R	J	R	P	F	S	T	C	R
E	W	T	L	D	L	K	T	H	F
L	F	E	X	S	M	I	L	E	U
V	H	O	Q	T	W	A	R	D	N

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

This year, Teacher Appreciation Week starts on another special day: **Cinco de Mayo!**

On Cinco de Mayo, it's fun to break open a piñata filled with treats.

Look closely to find the piñata below that is different than all the others.



I appreciate my teacher because . . .

Finish this sentence.
Add a few more sentences!

Neenah News Thank you for supporting local news!

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

Top 5 reasons to support YOUR local community newspaper:

- **Stay Connected to Local News and Events:** Local newspapers provide coverage of community-specific news, events, and issues that larger media outlets often overlook, keeping you informed about what's happening in your area.
- **Support Local Journalism:** By supporting Neenah News with a membership you help sustain independent journalism that holds local governments, businesses, and organizations accountable.
- **Promote Local Businesses:** Community newspapers often feature advertisements, profiles, and stories about local businesses, fostering a stronger local economy and encouraging residents to shop locally.
- **Preserve Local Culture and Voices:** Local newspapers highlight community stories, achievements, traditions, and unique perspectives that contribute to the area's identity and cultural heritage.
- **Build a Sense of Community:** Supporting your local newspaper strengthens community ties by providing a platform for discussion, celebrating shared successes, and addressing collective challenges.

Join online at www.neenahnewsnow.com/product/membership/, calling 920-486-1616 or stopping at or mailing a \$50 annual membership to Neenah News, 124 W. Wisconsin Ave. #090B, Neenah WI 54956