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Stricter fireworks enforcement desired

Couple says fireworks caused dog's death

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

A Neenah couple is urging the city to crack down on prohibited fireworks, saying their dog died of a heart attack during last year's Fourth of July celebrations.

Wendy and William Szczepanski, who live on Oak Street, have been speaking out at city meetings for years, calling for the city to adopt and enforce stricter fireworks regulations.

"We shouldn't have to drug our pets because they're terrified," Wendy told the Common Council at a meeting in 2023. "But not to mention, along with that, because it's so many days in advance, nobody knows when somebody is going to shoot one off."

She returned to a council meeting earlier this month and a committee meeting Tuesday holding an enlarged photo of their dog, Luke.

"Last year on July 4, at about 12:30 in the afternoon, an M80 went off in our neighborhood and my dog Luke had a massive heart attack," she said. "I had to

take him to the emergency vet, where he died."

Wendy said that after returning from the vet, she sat outside and video recorded her neighbors shooting off illegal fireworks, which she reported to police.

"Well, I don't think they got anything but a warning, and it'll happen again this year because people know it's a joke," she said. "I know the officers don't want to wreck anyone's fun, but there are other things that people can be doing besides illegal things in the city of Neenah."

SEE **Fireworks** ON PAGE 2

INSIDE



New business
Evermore & Co. joins downtown scene
Page 9

County to open most highways to ATVs, UTVs

Ordinance expands off-road vehicle routes

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and utility-terrain vehicles (UTVs) will soon be allowed on most county highways in Winnebago County, following the County Board's June 17 vote to amend its ordinance.

The county first passed an ATV/UTV ordinance in 2019, allowing limited use on select roads with low traffic volumes and accident histories, and only during daylight hours. The updated ordinance now expands access to most county highways and permits ATV and UTV operation at any time unless otherwise posted.

Under state law, local governments determine where these vehicles can operate. Some municipalities within the county have also designated local roads as approved routes.

SEE **New ordinance** ON PAGE 10



John and Liam Israel visited Carpenter Preserve with grandparents Jeff and Kathleen Wollersheim recently to see the flock of sheep and goats grazing on invasive plants.

Carpenter Preserve vision taking shape

Trails, accessibility among improvements by city

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is starting the first phase of a long-term plan to improve Carpenter Preserve with new trails, parking areas and a unique method to control invasive plants: grazing sheep and goats.

The project follows an updated master plan that builds on years of planning at the 101-acre natural area on Neenah's southwest edge.

Carpenter Preserve, established in 1996, is a largely undeveloped mix of woods, wetlands and open space. The city originally purchased 30 acres, then added 71 more in 1999, with half the cost covered by a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources stewardship grant.

The city completed its initial master plan for the preserve in 2002 and updated it in 2023 to reflect revised goals and community feedback. A wetland delineation report conducted in 2024 provided additional data on the site's natural features.

This year, Parks Director Michael Kading said staff finalized a revised master

plan and detailed implementation map to guide restoration and development efforts. The plan outlines four phases over at least 10 years, with an estimated cost of more than \$3 million, which may be higher as the plan is two years old.

Kading said the city will make incremental improvements with an annual investment of about \$100,000. Funding will come from the city budget, donations through Fox Cities Greenways, a city-established trust fund and possible future grants.

SEE **Carpenter Preserve** ON PAGE 7



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CommunityFest features Parade of Lights, fireworks

Neenah News

A Fourth of July community tradition is coming up with two days of CommunityFest.

The event July 3 and 4 features the Parade of Lights along with fireworks over the water, music, fun and community spirit.

The Parade of Lights begins at 9 p.m. July 3 and travels through downtown Neenah. According to event organizers, the parade will start at a new spot this year. It will leave from west of downtown Neen-

ah, proceed east on Wisconsin Avenue, turn north on Commercial Street, cross into Menasha where the parade will turn east on Main Street and end on Milwaukee Avenue at 1st Street.

Spectators are encouraged to bring a chair, grab a spot and enjoy the glow as decorated vehicles and bikes light up the night.

On July 4, Riverside and Jefferson Parks will be full of live music, food trucks, kids' activities, water ski and stock car demos, a Venetian boat parade and more. Events for

the day wrap up with fireworks over Lake Winnebago at 9:45 p.m.

Tarps for fireworks seating in Neenah can go down starting at 5 p.m. July 3, CommunityFest organizers said. Free shuttles will run between activities in Neenah and Menasha.

Organizers said to expect street closures near the parks and encourage visitors to check the map and plan ahead for parking. A full schedule, maps and details can be found at nmcommunityfest.org/festival-events.

Fireworks

FROM PAGE 1

William also spoke at the June 4 council meeting and committee meeting Tuesday, stating the couple feels targeted by the group they reported to police last year for setting off fireworks.

"I've been driving around the last three years trying to get addresses of the people doing it and it's always the same houses and obviously if the police were fining them, they wouldn't continue lighting them off," he said.

He also expressed frustration with the city, saying it seems to prioritize enforcing certain ordinances while overlooking others.

"It boggles my mind on why you're hassling homeowners on stuff like that, but then do nothing about the illegal fireworks, which is a state law that they aren't supposed to be lighting that stuff off ...," he said.

The couple urged the city to adopt a fireworks ordinance similar to Oshkosh's, with fines for juveniles set at \$100 for a first offense, \$150 for a second, and \$500 for a third within 36 months. For adults, the fines are \$125, \$225 and \$1,000, respectively, with additional court costs that increase with each offense.

Neenah does not have a separate fireworks ordinance or penalty structure, instead adopting state law, which prohibits fireworks that explode or leave the ground. Fireworks displays require a permit from Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue, while vendors selling fireworks must obtain a city license.

Neenah Assistant Police Chief Jeff Bernice said allowable fireworks include sparklers, poppers, streamers, snaps, cap gun caps, fountains which are designed to sit on the ground and emit sparks or smoke, smoke bombs without external flames and toy snakes.

"Basically, if it leaves the ground on its own power or explodes, it's illegal, unless you have a permit from the city," he said.

Police enforcement typically starts with a written warning before citations are issued, Bernice said.

"The goal is through education; but when people are unsafe, reckless, and continue after being warned, citations will be issued," he said.

In the past two years, there have only been two fireworks citations issued in the city for continuous usage after warnings.



Photo from City of Neenah

Wendy Szczepanski holds a photo of her dog, Luke, while speaking June 4 at a Neenah Common Council meeting about how fireworks set off in her neighborhood last Fourth of July caused him to suffer a fatal heart attack.

"Sometimes enforcement is extremely difficult when it pertains to fireworks," Bernice said. "A call comes in and officers respond to find a group of people congregated in an area where fireworks have been ignited – if no one takes responsibility and the officer did not see who is lighting off the fireworks, who gets cited?"

Violating fireworks regulations can result in fines of up to \$1,000, and anyone who causes property damage or injury by setting off fireworks may be held liable for all resulting damages.

Last year, Neenah police received 71 fireworks complaints, though the actual number of calls may be higher due to multiple calls coming from the same address in a night. The 71 reports were specific to illegal fireworks use and did not include general noise complaints.

The week of the Fourth of July is one of the busiest of the year for Neenah police. Over the past four years, the busiest times have typically been Saturdays and Sundays between 8 and 10 p.m., and Fridays from 10 p.m. to midnight, according to Bernice.

Police Chief Aaron Olson spoke at the Public Services and Safety Committee meeting this week on the topic, stating the department has adopted an "education over citations" approach since 2009, citing limited officer resources during peak call times.

Olson said enforcing fireworks violations is a time-consuming and complex process for police, requiring officers to directly witness the act, collect physical evidence – sometimes with the help of the bomb squad – and complete extensive paperwork. Identifying the individual who set off the fireworks can be difficult, and

Fireworks safety tips

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit – hot enough to melt some metals.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move quickly away from the fireworks device.
- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Move to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never point or throw fireworks (including sparklers) at anyone.
- After fireworks complete their burning, to prevent a trash fire, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding the device.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area and only purchase and set off fireworks that are labeled for consumer (not professional) use.
- Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

responding to such calls can pull officers from higher-priority incidents.

Even with dozens of complaints, Olson said only a small fraction may result in citations.

"To write a citation, we have to be able to see it, or a citizen has to write a sworn statement and be willing to go to court and testify," he said.

He also noted that a 2018 community survey reflected divided public opinion, with roughly half the respondents supporting fireworks use, 25% indifferent and 25% wanting police to enforce regulations to the best of their ability.

Olson said he spoke with Oshkosh's police chief and they aren't actually changing their enforcement protocol significantly.

"If they can write a citation, they will, just like we would," he said.

Committee discussion this week included establishing clear time parameters for fireworks use, implementing escalating fines for repeat offenders and creating a more specific city ordinance.

Olson said he plans to collaborate with other local police departments to develop a more effective approach.

Residents can report fireworks concerns by calling the department's administrative line at 920-886-6000 before 4 p.m. to speak with staff. After 4 p.m., calls to the same number will be routed to the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Communication Center. For emergencies involving fires, injuries, medical issues or reckless use of fireworks that put people or property at risk, call 911.

4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Please be advised the Neenah News will have **early deadlines** for the July 4th issue:

Space and copy deadline: Friday, June 27, 2025 NOON
Materials complete deadline: Monday, June 30, 2025 3PM

This is for classified and display advertising.
OBITS deadline is Monday, June 30 at 3PM



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County Board approves funding for Fox Cities campus

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors recently approved nearly \$1 million in funding and authorized the county executive to sign lease agreements without additional board approval to sustain operations at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus in Menasha.

The county board's actions at a June 17 meeting follow Outagamie County's vote last month to transfer its ownership stake in the campus to Winnebago County for \$1.

Winnebago supervisors voted 30-1 to appropriate \$870,000 from the county's general fund balance to support campus operations through the end of the year. The county's expected cost to operate the campus for an entire year is about \$1.65 million.

The board also authorized County Executive Gordon Hintz to negotiate and sign leases related to the campus without additional board approval through Dec. 31. Any leases may not exceed two years.

Supervisors said the move is intended to provide flexibility for quick action as community groups express interest in using the space. Allowing the county executive to finalize short-term agreements without multiple committee approvals is expected to speed up the process, with a goal of getting tenants into the building as soon as possible.

Classes at the UW Fox Cities campus ended last month following a decision by UW-Oshkosh to shut down the two-year university due to declining enrollment. The campus itself is not shutting down entirely, however, as Winnebago County will assume ownership July 1 and is working to maintain and repurpose the facilities for community use.

The 43-acre campus includes the Barlow Planetarium, Weis Earth Science Museum, Communication Arts Center, University Children's Center and outdoor community gardens. As part of the transfer agreement with Outagamie County, the contents of the Weis Museum will be relocated to Appleton's History Museum at the Castle.

Among the most immediate concerns is child care. Twenty-five families who rely on the University Children's Center were told services were to end June 20. The Menasha Joint School District (MJSD) plans to take over the center on July 1 to ensure continuity of care and will hire the existing university child care staff as district employees.

Under the lease agreement with the county, MJSD will not pay rent during the first year but will cover all utilities. Rent



File photo

The University Children's Center at UW-Oshkosh Fox Cities in Menasha was set to close June 20, but the Menasha Joint School District plans to take over beginning July 1 to ensure continued care for enrolled families.

will begin in the second year at an amount to be determined by the county.

"Our partnership ensures that the center will continue to operate in its current location, providing uninterrupted service for families who rely on its high-quality care," MJSD Superintendent Matt Zimmerman told the board. "Families can expect the same five-star, top tier program to continue, a testament to your commitment to expanding access to high quality early childhood education."

The ongoing operation of the Barlow Planetarium was among the discussion topics at the meeting, with Director Teri Gee stating that the planetarium needs a \$2.1 million projection system upgrade to remain operational.

Gee said that there have been efforts to start a capital campaign for more than a decade, but the requests were always denied, adding that she is preparing to kick off a capital campaign.

"If the board will approve the resolution to support the planetarium, this will give us time," she said. "We are ready to get going; we just need the opportunity."

The approved budget amendment includes \$183,697 to fund the Barlow Planetarium through the end of the year, covering labor, fringe benefits, services and supplies.

An additional \$45,000 was approved to cover half the cost of a new portable planetarium. It was noted at the meeting that the portable planetarium was purchased with a federal grant that requires a matching contribution, or the county would have to return it. Supervisor Walt Ulbricht said the \$45,000 was put in the budget amendment as a contingency, with little likelihood that it will be needed.

The Barlow Planetarium, which has

been closed since June 1, posted on social media after the county board's vote that it plans to reopen soon.

The Communication Arts Center was another focal point of discussion. County officials have not yet announced a management plan for the facility.

According to UW Fox Cities theater director Susan Rabideau, the \$14 million facility includes a 360-seat theater, a multi-use black box performance space and a visual art gallery. Rabideau said most of the equipment needed to operate the center remains in place due to an agreement with UW-Oshkosh.

"It's an amazing space, and all of those users rent the space, so it has this huge potential to generate revenue," she said.

Melody Buchinger, president of Attic Theater, said the group is seeking "a long-

term contract with the county to use the theater," and has historically paid between \$8,000 and \$12,000 per production to use the space.

Some supervisors questioned the amount of the budget amendment to fund campus operations.

Supervisor Tim Patterson told the board he is "a little concerned" that the budget adjustment for the campus already reflects a 50% increase over the original \$600,000 estimate.

"The growth of the numbers - I find very concerning," he said.

It was noted at the meeting that the increase is largely due to additional expenses tied to the Barlow Planetarium, which in the future is intended to be self-sustaining.

Paul Kaiser, the county's finance director, said the amount of the budget amendment is an estimate and the authorization doesn't require the county to spend the full amount.

"If we don't have a need to spend it, it doesn't get spent," he said.

Supervisor Lucas Reinke said the county does not view the campus as a permanent responsibility, noting the goal is to "offload it in about two years."

Jim Perry, UW Fox Cities campus executive officer and dean emeritus, said during public comment that he represents a community group of about 1,500 residents advocating to preserve campus assets for future community use.

"It's up to all of us, the board, Winnebago County in general, the citizens of Menasha and the citizens of the Fox Cities, to make sure that that continues on," he said. "These assets have been incredibly important to the quality of life that the Fox Cities and Winnebago County is known for."



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Art After Dark event postponed to September

Neenah News

The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass postponed its Art After Dark: Renaissance Faire to Sept. 18.

The event had been scheduled for Thursday, but museum officials decided earlier in the week to postpone it due to

ground conditions and the likelihood of potentially dangerous storms.

“We apologize for any inconvenience and look forward to seeing everyone on the new date in September,” the museum said.

Visit bmmglass.com for more information and updates.

Business news roundup

ThedaCare South Region has named Kellie Diedrick as the senior vice president. In this role, Diedrick will lead the region, which includes the system’s legacy hospital, ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah, and new health campuses in Fond du Lac and Oshkosh.

Cameron Green has joined **Fox Communities Credit Union** as their new assistant vice president of facilities. This newly

created position will provide leadership for the facilities team. In this role, Green is responsible for any construction, renovation or maintenance of Fox’s physical environment and branch locations. He will also ensure compliance with workplace health and safety standards, and will be involved in space management, emergency preparedness, request-for-proposals for facilities projects, contract management and budget management for the team.



Photo from Neenah Police Department

Neenah Assistant Police Chief Jeff Bernice and community policing coordinator Joe Benoit were in full character last Friday dressed as old-school “merry marauders” as part of a crime prevention effort.

Police dress up in crime prevention effort

Neenah News

Neenah police officers dressed up as old-school “merry marauders” last Friday to draw attention to crime prevention efforts.

Dressed in full character, Neenah Assistant Police Chief Jeff Bernice and community policing coordinator Joe Benoit held signs in an attempt to educate the public about remembering to regularly lock their car doors overnight.

Along with their #9PMRoutine social media posts, this is part of a public awareness effort by the police department to combat a recent increase in thefts from vehicles. Since Memorial Day weekend,

Benoit said Neenah has seen a noticeable rise in thefts from unlocked cars, particularly overnight and in residential neighborhoods.

“Many of these crimes are preventable, and the department is focusing on a simple but effective message: eliminate the opportunity — lock your vehicle,” Benoit said. “The department is taking a proactive — and creative — approach to remind the public that a locked door is often all it takes to deter a crime.”

He added this initiative aims to raise awareness while reducing crimes of opportunity, which often require nothing more than an unlocked car door to succeed.

NEENAH COMMUNITY BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR CAMPAIGN 2025

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Calendar of events

Friday, June 27

Governor James Doty's Friends and Family Days, noon, Doty Cabin, 701 Lincoln St.

Saturday, June 28

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Repair Café, 11 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Governor James Doty's Friends and Family Days, noon, Doty Cabin, 701 Lincoln St.

Sunday, June 29

Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

Tuesday, July 1

Future Neenah concert featuring Avenue 55, 6-8 p.m., Shattuck Park

Thursday, July 3

CommunityFest Parade of Lights, 9

p.m., downtown Neenah

Friday, July 4

CommunityFest, 11:30 a.m., Riverside Park

Fireworks, 9:45 p.m., Riverside Park

Saturday, July 5

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Wednesday, July 9

Future Neenah Summer Concert Series featuring Star Six Nine, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

Thursday, July 10

Out to Lunch Concert featuring Mr. Billy & Friends, 11:30 a.m., The Plaza in Gateway Park

Saturday, July 12

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park

Filthy Kids Fun Run, 8:30 a.m., O'Hauser Park

Sunday, July 13

Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

Cereal drive aims to feed local kids

Neenah News

A Toppling Hunger Cereal Drive is underway through Monday in an effort to support children and families facing food insecurity across Northeast Wisconsin.

All 22 Fox Communities Credit Union locations are serving as drop-off sites for donations of unexpired, healthy cereal. Low sugar, whole grain items are preferred.

Organizers said the collection will benefit 15 local food pantry partners affiliated

with Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, which ensures that donations stay local and support those who need it most.

To celebrate the community's generosity, organizers said the drive will conclude by lining up all donated cereal boxes like dominoes and toppling them in a chain reaction. The visual display will take place shortly after the collection ends and before the cereal is distributed to pantry partners.

Kids' Day coming to Future Neenah Farmers Market

Neenah News

The Future Neenah Farmers Market will feature a special Kids' Day at the Market on Saturday.

Activities include face painting, a bounce house, crafts, games and more. A

free kids yoga class from Bilancia Wellness will take place on the second floor of the Shattuck Park pavilion. Yoga participants are asked to bring a mat.

The Farmers Market runs from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Local college graduates

The following students from Neenah graduated this spring from Marquette University in Milwaukee. There were 2,845 students who graduated from Marquette in May. The university celebrated its 144th Commencement with a series of events, including Graduate Recognition Ceremonies at Fiserv Forum and a Baccalaureate Mass on campus.

Ellie Balensiefen, bachelor of science, chemistry

Elise Braunel, juris doctor, law

Karissa Doyle, bachelor of science, marketing

Gabe Gonzalez, bachelor of science, real estate

Cody Lichtfuss, juris doctor, law

Mya McClone, master's, business administration

Gabrielle Piechocki, master of science, speech language pathology

Jaden Hackbarth of Neenah graduated Summa Cum Laude in May from Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa with a bachelor of business administration degree.

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*Marty Makary, MD, Blind Spots: When Medicine Gets It Wrong and What It Means for Our Health, 2023



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Pair of statues approved to be added to local parks

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah is set to install two new bronze statues in its park system this year, adding to the city's collection of public art.

The city's Plan Commission approved during a meeting June 10 a new public statue in Doty Park and another in Riverside Park.

The Doty Park statue, called "Knowledge is Power," will be placed in the nook to the south of Doty Cabin. It depicts a young girl with pigtails seated atop a globe while reading a book. Bronzeman, the company that made the statue, describes it as "a powerful image of intellectual exploration and the boundless opportunities that come from reading."

Doty Island Community Partners (DICP) initiated the statue placement to honor the legacy of Roosevelt School and the earlier school at the same site. Roosevelt School permanently closed in 2023 as part of the Neenah Joint School District's restructuring plan with the completion of a new high school in Fox Crossing.

Local businessman and philanthropist John Bergstrom and other community members purchased the Roosevelt School parcel and donated it to the adjacent ThedaCare Regional Medical Center. The site was razed and cleared last year and is now vacant green space.

Alderman Flo Bruno, who is president of DICP, said the original plan was to place the statue at the former school site at 215 E. Forest Ave. However, after contacting ThedaCare, uncertainty surrounding the site's future use made



Left: A life-size bronze bust of Davy Crockett anonymously donated to the city will be placed in Riverside Park later this year.



Submitted photos

Right: Doty Island Community Partners plans to place this "Knowledge is Power" bronze statue in Doty Park to honor the former Roosevelt Elementary School that closed in 2023.

Doty Park a more viable option.

"Unfortunately the hospital didn't want that because they don't really know what they want to do with the land so they didn't want to have something in the middle that we would need to move at one point," Bruno said. "So our second choice was, why not Doty Park? And it's even better because I think it will have more visibility there."

A plaque will accompany the statue to

share the history of Roosevelt School, which opened in 1923 and operated for 100 years. Before that, the 3rd Ward School occupied the site from 1888 to 1923.

"For over a century thousands of students read, learned, laughed and played at the corner of 1st street and E. Forest Ave.," a proposed plaque will read in part. "Dedicated teachers and staff provided island students with an education for their journey in life."

Parks Director Michael Kading confirmed that the Parks and Recreation Commission has already reviewed and accepted the statue's placement in Doty Park. The second statue that will be installed in Riverside Park was on the commission agenda Thursday for ap-

proval.

The statue will be placed at the northwest corner of North Park Avenue and East Wisconsin Avenue. It depicts Davy Crockett carrying a long rifle over his shoulder and a powder horn at his waist, with one hand outstretched.

Kading said the statue and related work is being donated anonymously. The life-size statue is similar in scale and style to other bronze figures throughout the Fox Valley donated by Bergstrom, chief executive of Bergstrom Automotive, including statues in Neenah bearing the likeness of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Benjamin Franklin.

Brannon Gries, principal architect with Gries Architectural Group representing the project, said it is nearly identical in size to the Ronald Reagan statue standing on the corner of East Wisconsin Avenue and South Commercial Street.

Deputy Director of Community Development Brad Schmidt said that the area in the park where the statue will be placed currently features a sidewalk and bench. An additional park bench and plaque are proposed adjacent to the statue, though no information was provided on the plaque's inscription. Due to visibility concerns at the intersection, the statue will be set back farther than the city code requires to ensure adequate sightlines for traffic.

Crockett was a frontiersman, Tennessee legislator and U.S. congressman, according to the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture. While he had no connection to Wisconsin, Mayor Jane Lang said she researched his life and learned that he opposed the Indian Removal Act. She said at last week's meeting that she found that meaningful given the statue's location near the site on Lakeshore Avenue where an archaeological investigation uncovered the remains of a Native American village.

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FVTC approves new transfer agreements with two colleges

Neenah News

Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) has partnered with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) for University Transfer Degree (UTD) agreements with both universities.

These partnerships create opportunities for students to complete their first

two years of general education classes at FVTC, earn an associate of arts or an associate of science degree and transfer credits to UWM or UWSP to pursue a bachelor's degree with junior standing. Additionally, UWM's transfer agreement includes the acceptance of at least 60 credits from graduates of FVTC's Associate of Applied Science degree programs.

"Since we launched the University

Transfer Degree in 2023, the program has seen impressive growth in enrollment," said Dr. Chris Matheny, president of FVTC. "As we get ready for the fall semester, we have 414 students enrolled in these programs; 198 in the Associate of Arts and 216 in the Associate of Science. There is clearly an interest in these educational pathways."

At UW-Milwaukee, all FVTC associate

degree holders from any graduation year will be guaranteed admission and transfer of at least 60 credits. This means they could start at UWM already halfway toward many bachelor's degrees.

At UW-Stevens Point, these transfer guide agreements serve FVTC graduates choosing to enroll in any of more than 70 different baccalaureate programs within four academic colleges.

Carpenter Preserve

FROM PAGE 1

Work planned for 2025 includes installing an overlook platform at the end of the Dike Trail and building two bridges at the preserve's south end. In 2026, the city plans to build a 10-foot-wide gravel trail, an ADA-accessible loop near the play area, a new bridge connection and widen mulch trails east of the creek. By 2027, a new parking lot west of the town hall, a 10-foot-wide main trail connecting Breezewood Lane to Paintbrush Road and another bridge north of Paintbrush are expected.

"The great vision is to ultimately connect Highway G all the way up to JJ, and then over to the CB trail," Kading said. "The goal is to create a greenways corridor that complements existing parks."

A major focus of the plan is removing invasive species, particularly buckthorn, a dense shrub that threatens native plants. In May, the city brought in a flock of sheep and goats to graze on about six acres of buckthorn. The animals have drawn public interest, with residents stopping by to watch. If successful, the city plans to use sheep annually and possibly expand the program to other parks.

"We're not just doing this for one year; it's got to be multiple years," Kading said. "There's a seven-year seed bank, and it gets spread everywhere."

The plan also calls for removing dead ash trees killed by the invasive emerald ash borer. The city is working with volunteers to replant native trees, with 40 people planting 1,000 trees during a recent three-hour volunteer event.

Another key project involves restoring the creek that runs through the preserve. The creek was straightened in the 1930s to create farmland, disrupting natural water flow. The city plans to reroute the creek closer to its original path to slow water movement and reduce erosion. The redesign will help retain and filter stormwater on site before it flows into Neenah Creek and eventually Little Lake Butte des Morts.

Carpenter Preserve could eventually



Neenah News

Above: The sun sets over Carpenter Preserve on Neenah's southwest edge. Below, left: Sheep and goats munch on invasive buckthorn at Carpenter Preserve in Neenah, helping control the overgrowth as part of the city's restoration efforts.

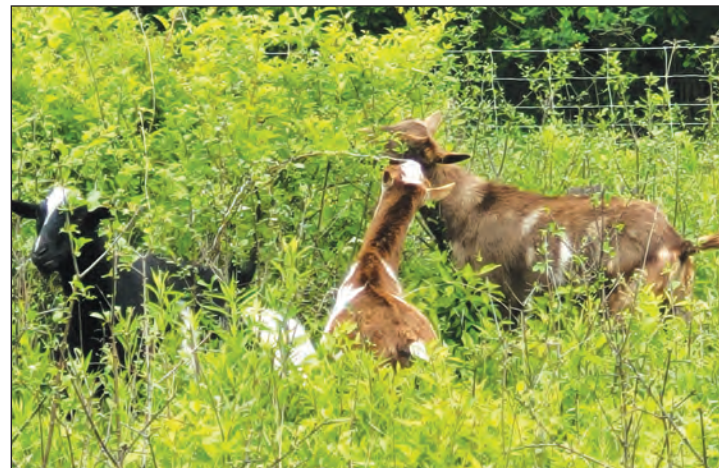


Photo from Neenah Parks

A group of volunteers is shown in Carpenter Preserve last year planting 550 seedlings.

offer a similar experience to Menasha's Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, with trails and boardwalks allowing visitors to explore natural areas. Unlike Heckrodt, however, Neenah does not plan to build a

nature center with staff, focusing instead on preserving the site's natural features.

Kading said the city plans to improve the preserve while being fiscally responsible.

"Let's do what we can do without having to spend tons of money, and let's build a base and a foundation of people who love this place and want to be part of it," he said.

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Photo from Miron Construction

Caden Sarauer of Neenah High School is among the apprentices continuing the second year of their youth apprenticeship at Miron Construction.

Construction apprenticeships cited by Miron

Neenah News

Miron Construction celebrated 24 young adults taking the next step in their construction careers during a career signing day event last week.

Five of the new registered apprentices signed with the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters and one signed with International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139.

Career Signing Day, which took place June 18, is when high school and college graduates officially begin employment with a construction contractor who will sponsor them throughout their appren-

ticeship and provide on-the-job training. They also will receive classroom instruction from their designated union training center as part of their apprenticeship.

The celebration highlighted several stages at the start of a construction career, including youth apprentices advancing to registered union apprenticeships, apprentices transitioning into full-time roles, those beginning their second year of training, and new apprentices starting their programs.

In the past two years, Miron's youth apprenticeship program has grown by more than 89% and now includes several satellite offices.

County Board OKs early transfer of Tri-County Arena

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors has approved transferring ownership of Tri-County Ice Arena in Fox Crossing to the nonprofit organization that operates it, four years ahead of schedule.

The board voted in favor of the early transfer to Appleton Ice at a meeting June 17 following a recommendation from the Facilities & Property Management Committee, which supported the move contingent on Appleton Ice raising the funds needed to renovate the facility.



Wroblewski

The contingency was changed in the resolution approved by the County Board to state that Appleton Ice agrees to restrict use of the property to an ice arena for 30 years after the transfer of ownership.

Appleton Ice board member Tommy Wroblewski said the 30-year operating agreement was added to reassure the community that Appleton Ice has no plans to sell, flip or repurpose the property.

"Without question, it's our long-term vision – based on what we're trying to do and what the founders did with the building in its first instance – that it will be an ice arena for as long as we operate it," he said. "The intention is one hundred percent to continue having it be that way in perpetuity."

Appleton Ice, which operates both Tri-County Arena and the Appleton Family Ice Center in Memorial Park, is about six months into a \$4.1 million capital campaign and has already raised about \$1.3 million.

Wroblewski said that Appleton Ice taking over sole ownership of Tri-County Arena not only reassures donors that Tri-County will remain under Appleton Ice's control long-term, but also gives

lenders confidence that the land can be used as collateral if fundraising falls short.

"It's also a nice sign of confidence from the county that our organization has been good stewards of that building and they envision us as the kind of group that will continue the legacy that's been there," he said.

Built in 1974 at 700 Shady Lane, Tri-County Arena was originally intended to be owned by Winnebago, Outagamie, and Calumet counties. However, Calumet backed out of the project and Outagamie later sold its share to Winnebago County for \$1 in 2012.

Under a 2014 agreement, Appleton Ice has leased the facility from the county for \$1 per year and agreed to maintain it at its own expense. The original deal called for the county to transfer ownership in 2029 if Appleton Ice continued to operate the building as an ice arena.

Proposed renovations at Tri-County include replacing the ice surfaces, improving insulation and energy efficiency, and upgrading the boiler system, at a cost of roughly \$2.25 million.

The Appleton facility will receive a new roof and floor, with estimated costs of just under \$2 million.

Renovations at the Appleton Ice Center are already underway and were initially expected to be wrapped up in October but may be completed ahead of schedule. Work at Tri-County in Fox Crossing is expected to begin next summer, though could begin sooner if fundraising goals are met.

Wroblewski said the improvements are to ensure Appleton Ice can continue operating the two ice centers for years to come.

"We're making significant investments into the building for hockey only," he said. "We're committing to putting ice sports in a position to thrive here for decades."

To support the Appleton Ice fundraising campaign, visit appletonice.org/fundingthefuture or follow Appleton Ice, Inc. on Facebook.

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Evermore & Co. opens on Church Street

By Jennifer Parmley
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A longtime Neenah business owner recently opened Evermore & Co., a new storefront at 107 Church St. billed as a “collective of makers, creators, bakers, vintage and whimsical charm.”

Tina Palmer, who owns Red Door Mercantile, and Vintique before that, said her new shop has a different focus compared to her other businesses. The 1,300 sq. ft. space is roughly divided in two areas. One side features gift items, pop-up cottage baked goods and other products from local makers and businesses set against a floral and feminine backdrop that features heavily on teacups and vintage China, and other similarly-themed products.

“These pieces have been a passion of mine for a long time, and I had really stored a lot of it, not really knowing what I’d be doing with it,” Palmer said. “My thought with it is I want to really normalize the use of these beautiful pieces because there are so many of them, and they’re just really pretty.”

Teacups and saucers are offered for sale, as well as single teacups so buyers can mix and match and not have to commit to a whole set.

“When you have your tea, it’s just a very special, elevated experience,” Palmer said. “It evokes relaxation, an appreciation for beauty and the simple things in the life. And a teacup is just fun to use for jewelry or a trinket dish for paper clips, really anything. Again, it just elevates whatever you’re using it for because they’re just really pretty, and they were made really well, too.”

The other side of the space features a variety of vintage clothing items and jewelry sourced by Palmer’s daughter, Analyse, who goes by Fashion Curator on Instagram.

“She has a great eye,” Palmer said. “She sources her pieces from Italy, France, England and she’s procured pieces from private estates and antique markets. It’s very unusual to see a large collection of those eras in one place.”

Palmer said the clothing is of high quality and still wearable today.

“It’s fun to be able to mix these pieces into a typical wardrobe,” she said. “People really enjoy being able to have a unique piece that nobody else has.”

The clothing items will rotate out seasonally and be replenished regularly to keep inventory fresh, she said.

Evermore & Co. also hosts workshops, tea experiences and other special events that can be booked online at its website, evermoreandco.com.

Its upcoming Vintage in the Vineyard is set for noon to 3 p.m. Sunday at Whistler’s Knoll Vineyard, W9595 County Road JJ, Hortonville. The vintage fashion show features finds from Fashion Curator. Tickets are \$35 each and include afternoon bites, a glass of wine and an Evermore & Co. gift bag.



Submitted photo

Tina Palmer is working with her daughter, Analyse, in the newly-opened Evermore & Co. store in downtown Neenah.

Palmer is an enthusiastic advocate for thriving downtowns and is excited about the growth the city of Neenah has had and continues to exhibit.

“It’s small, very walkable and it feels very quaint with a lot of specialty shops and restaurants,” she said. “Our downtown is our home, and it’s important to support

and be a part of it. Where do you go if you have friends come to town, or you want to meet a friend or just find a gift last minute or a gift you can’t find anywhere? It’s so important to shop, buy and support our downtowns.”

Evermore & Co. is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

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New ordinance

FROM PAGE 1

The decision to open county highways to recreational vehicles comes after months of coordination with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, Highway Committee and ATV/UTV Alliance.

Supporters of the change say it provides safer, legal routes for ATV and UTV riders while promoting recreational tourism and local businesses, connecting existing trails and improving countywide connectivity.

David Schmidt of Oshkosh, chairman of Winnebago County ATV/UTV Alliance and president of Fox River Wheelers, told the board that there are more than 512,000 registered recreational vehicles in Wisconsin.

"Winnebago County ranks fourteenth in registered machines and the way the routes are currently open, it's kind of limiting for what we're able to do," he said. "So we urge a vote to go ahead and approve this and move it along so we can get everybody out on the road riding safely and enjoying their rides."

Sheriff John Matz, who in 2019 spoke out against the initial ordinance opening county roadways to ATVs and UTVs, said he is now in support of expanding it to allow highway usage because the surrounding counties have changed their ordinances, leaving Winnebago County ATV and UTV users "on an island."

"Also, we have not seen any type of uptick in crashes related to ATV/UTV use



Photo from Wisconsin DNR

All-terrain and utility-terrain vehicles, which previously were only permitted on county roads, will now be able to operate on most county highways after the county board recently approved ordinance amendments.

following the current ordinance that we have," he said.

To drive on county roads, ATV and UTV riders must be 16 years old, have a valid license and insurance. The vehicles are not required to have turn signals, but must have head, tail and brake lights, and operators are legally required to use hand signals.

Both the city and town of Neenah ex-

pressed opposition to the ordinance, according to statements made by supervisors at the meeting. City and town roads fall under their own ordinances for whether they allow ATVs and UTVs to operate on roadways.

Several supervisors who opposed the amendments raised concerns about safety, including the potential for crashes or fatalities.

"If somebody got killed, I wouldn't want that on my conscience," Supervisor Don Nussbaum said during public comment via Zoom. He was absent from the meeting and did not vote, but said he would have voted against the amendments.

Some questioned how riders would know which county roads are off-limits, since the list of prohibited highways is not formally adopted into the ordinance.

"My concern is, it's not clear to me how the jurisdiction is determined, which roads have the traffic to warrant limitation, which roads don't, it just doesn't feel clear to me, and with that I'll be vot-

ing no on this amendment because it's just not clear," Supervisor Stefanie Holt said.

Lt. Darin Rice said the Sheriff's Office worked with the ATV/UTV Alliance to identify county highways that would be closed to ATV and UTV traffic. The list still needs to be discussed at an upcoming Highway Committee meeting. Roads expected to be off-limits include County Highways BB, CB, P, AP, JJ, O, II east of State 76, M between State 116 and Lasley Point Road, and most of Highway A, except the section between Highway G and Indian Point Road.

The ATV/UTV Alliance will be working with the Highway Department to post signage throughout the county that will indicate which highways are not open to ATV/UTV traffic.

The County Board approved the ordinance amendments by a 26-5 vote. However, the current rules remain in place until the updated ordinance is officially published and new signage is installed.

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Neenah Legion falls to Oshkosh

Neenah News

The Neenah Legion baseball team fell behind early and couldn't recover in a 12-2, six-inning loss to Oshkosh last week.

Neenah fell behind 9-0 after three innings before scoring single runs in the fourth and fifth innings. Oshkosh scored at least one run in every inning.

Neenah tallied six hits in the game

with Owen Pire, Zachary Waite, Brayden Schwerin, Hunter Hilgers, Brett Walther and Aiden Stark each collecting one. Pire and Hilgers scored the runs in the game for Neenah.

Walther took the loss on the mound for Neenah.

The Legion also lost to the Appleton Doubledays, 5-1, last week.

Jung to participate in WFCVA all-star game

Neenah News

Former Neenah High School standout Luke Jung will be participating in the Wisconsin Football Coaches All-Star game to be played at Titan Stadium in Oshkosh on July 19.

Jung, a three-sport standout for the Rockets who will be continuing his football career at Minnesota-Duluth next fall, will be a member of the Large School North roster for the annual event. The Large School game is slated to kickoff at 4 p.m.

Jung was tabbed for the game as an outside linebacker after earning second-team all-Fox Valley Association as an inside

linebacker last fall. Jung led the Rockets in total tackles with 115, including 55 solo stops, while also finishing with two sacks, one forced fumble and one interception this season.

Jung will be one of seven players from the Fox Valley Association playing on the North squad.

Neenah head coach Steve Jung will serve as one of the assistants for the North team.

The WFCVA 8-player all-star game will be played at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 18, while the Small School all-star game is scheduled for noon on Saturday.

Former Neenah diving coach honored

Former Neenah High School diving coach Tim Foulks has been named a recipient of the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association (NISCA) Outstanding Service Award. The award is presented to five individuals nationally on an annual basis and is one of the highest awards bestowed by the organization.



Foulks

Foulks coached for 41 years at five different high schools, including 26 years at Neenah from 1996-2021, as well as Lawrence University. Foulks was the Wisconsin state diving Coach of the Year 15 times while at Neenah (six

for girls, nine for boys) and coached 10 individual state champions and 19 NISCA All-Americans. Foulks received the Wisconsin Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association Outstanding Service Award in 2011 and 2019.

Foulks is the 12th Wisconsin coach to receive the award since it began in 1971. Former Neenah swimming coach Mike Schuelke also received the honor in 2010. Foulks also received the David H. Robertson Award from the NISCA in 2016 for coaching at least five individual diving state champions.

In order to receive the Outstanding Service award, individuals must coach for at least 15 years with above average success and shown leadership at the local or national level in interscholastic aquatics.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Pet and Hobby Show

Winners of the 1952 Pet and Hobby Show, which was sponsored annually by the Parks and Rec Department. The show took place at Riverside Park and was usually part of the Fourth of July activities.

Classifieds

Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday. \$15 for first 20 words

Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad

For Sale

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

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Mini Goldendoodle pups!! 1st shot's Dewormed Vet checked Ready To Go! \$600 call 715-229-2251

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Garage/Estate Sales

Westfield Estates Yard Sales: Saturday, June 28 8:00-4:00 pm. Westfield Lane, Windmar Drive, Westwood Drive, Fieldstone Court & Jacobsen Road.

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

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Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF Petitioner Richard Ambrose McCarthy and Respondent Rosemary Anne Marie McCarthy

Publication Summons Divorce - 40101 Case No. 2025FA000218

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO THE PERSON NAMED AS RESPONDENT:

You are notified that the petitioner named above has filed a Petition for divorce or legal separation against you.

You must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Petition within 40 days from the day after the first date of publication.

The demand must be sent or delivered to the court at: Clerk of Court, Winnebago County Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, P.O. Box 2808, Oshkosh WI 54903-2808 and to Petitioner Name/Attorney Name: Attorney Nicholas J.B. Pasquale Stillings, Pasquale & Swarzenski, LLC 251 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah WI 54956

It is recommended, but not required, that you have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the Petition within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Petition, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Petition.

A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You are further notified that if the parties to this action have minor children, violation of §948.31, Wis. Stats., (interference with custody by parent or others) is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment:

If you and the petitioner have minor children, documents

setting forth the percentage standard for child support established by the department under §49.22(9), Wis. Stats., and the factors that a court may consider for modification of that standard under §767.511 (1m), Wis. Stats., are available upon your request from the Clerk of Court.

You are notified of the availability of information from the Circuit Court Commissioner as set forth in §767.105, Wis. Stats.

§767.105 Information from Circuit Court Commissioner.

(2) Upon the request of a party to an action affecting the family, including a revision of judgment or order under sec. 767.59 or 767.451:

(a) The Circuit Court Commissioner shall, with or without charge, provide the party with written information on the following, as appropriate to the action commenced:

1. The procedure for obtaining a judgment or order in the action.
2. The major issues usually addressed in such an action.
3. Community resources and family court counseling services available to assist the parties.
4. The procedure for setting, modifying, and enforcing child support awards, or modifying and enforcing legal custody or physical placement judgments or orders.

(b) The Circuit Court Commissioner shall provide a party, for inspection or purchase, with a copy of the statutory provisions in this chapter generally pertinent to the action.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4848 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

/s/ Electronically signed by Nicholas J.B. Pasquale Attorney Nicholas J.B. Pasquale 251 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956 Nicholas@spslawyers.net (920) 727-9432 Dated: 06/10/2025 State Bar No.: 1066266

Runs: June 20, 2025, June 27, 2025 and July 4, 2025.

WNAXLP

Everyone deserves to have their story told.

Sharing someone's life story in a newspaper obituary is one of the most important ways we find meaning in their passing.

Publish your loved one's obituary in our community newspapers and it will be included in the online obituary network, www.Legacy.com, at no charge for you to share with loved ones near and far.

To place an obituary submit through Your Funeral Director Or obits@oshkoshherald.com, obits@neenahnews.com or customerservice@winneconnenews.com or call 920-385-4512



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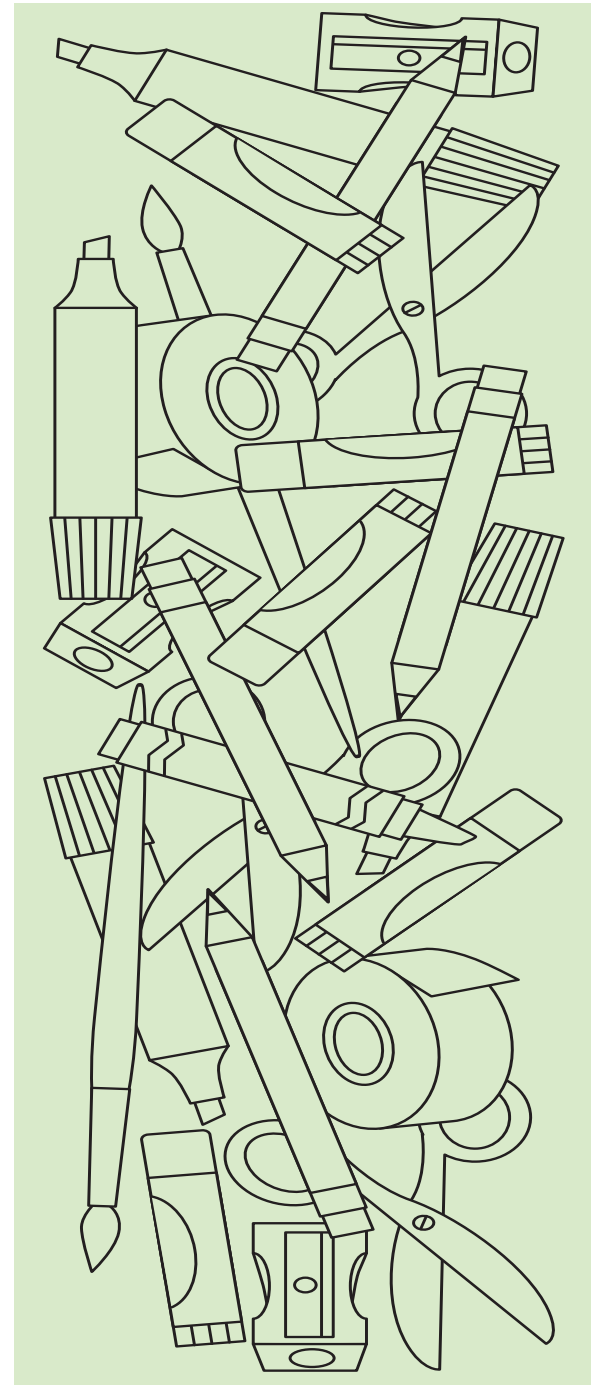
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Kid Scoop Together

Art Supply Search

Can you find all of these?

- 3 pairs of scissors
- 5 glue sticks
- 2 paintbrushes
- 4 markers
- 4 pencils
- 1 crayon
- 2 rolls of tape
- 3 sharpeners



MAKE A COLLAGE!

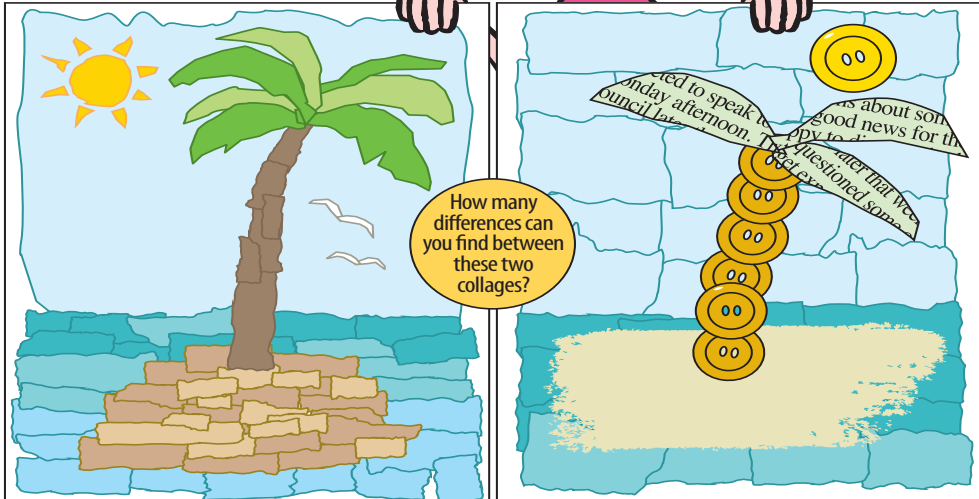
RIP IT! TEAR IT! CUT IT!

What Is a Collage?

A collage is art that's made by pasting different things together to create a picture. Artists use paper, fabric, buttons, photos or even leaves. They paste these things onto a piece of paper or cardboard. No two collages are ever the same!



Collages are a fun way to be creative. The best part is, there's no wrong way to do it—just grab your glue and get started!



How many differences can you find between these two collages?

Paper Collage

A paper collage is made with torn or cut pieces of colorful paper, newspapers, or magazines. Some paper collages look like a real scene, such as a beach or a tree. Other collages are just interesting shapes, patterns and colors all mixed up. (That's called abstract art.)

Mixed-Media Collage

This kind of collage uses all sorts of materials. Paper, fabric, string, paint, and buttons are just some of the countless things you can use! You might glue on sand to make a beach or use cotton balls to make big, fluffy clouds. Mixed-media collages are all about using your imagination and trying new textures.

Photo Collage

A photo collage is made using pictures, often from newspapers or old photo albums, or printed from a computer. People use photo collages to tell a story or remember fun times. It's also fun to create funny, new characters by mixing up faces and bodies. It's like making a puzzle from real-life pictures!



Extra! Extra!

News Message

Look through the newspaper and cut out words and letters. Paste them on a piece of paper to create a new message to give to a friend.

Let's play baseball SATURDAY

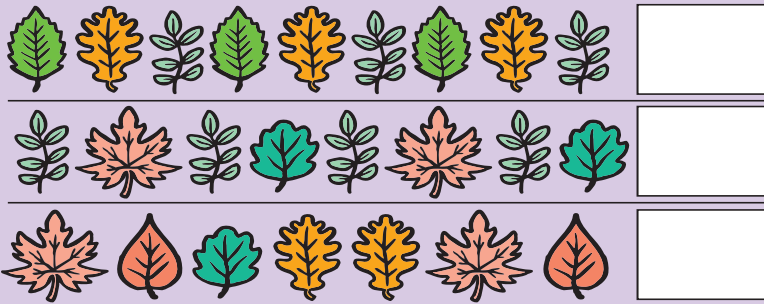
Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple, written directions.

Nature Collage

A nature collage is made from things you find outside, like leaves, flowers, small twigs or seeds.

You can use things found on a hike to make a picture of a tree, an animal or just a pretty pattern. Just make sure to only take things that have already fallen on the ground!

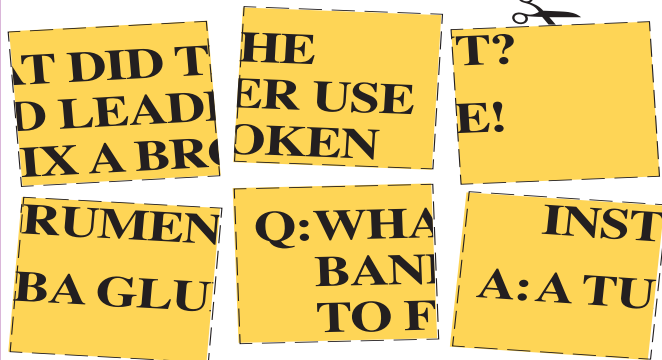
Draw the leaf that should come next in each row to complete the pattern.



Standards Link: Math: Identify patterns using symbols.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

PIECE BY PIECE: Carefully cut out these pieces and paste them together on a sheet of paper to reveal a funny joke.

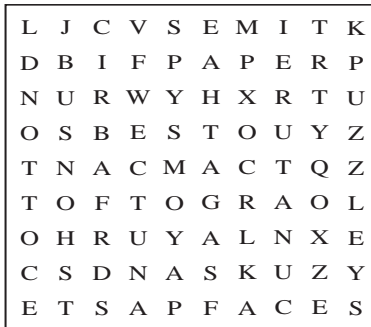


Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- ART
- BEST
- COTTON
- CUT
- FABRIC
- FACES
- GLUE
- NATURE
- PAPER
- PASTE
- PHOTO
- PUZZLE
- SAND
- TIMES
- TORN

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



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

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Write On!

My Favorite Artist Is...

Write three to five sentences about your favorite artist.

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

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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