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## Medicaid reductions threaten services

### Proposed cuts could affect disabled workers

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A local nonprofit that supports individuals with disabilities, along with parents of a man who receives services there, are warning that proposed federal Medicaid cuts could severely limit community services and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.



Servais

disruptions if proposed congressional

Lakeside Packaging Plus is a 63-year-old organization with locations in Neenah and Oshkosh that supports associates with disabilities by providing employment, day services and supervised activities.

Chief executive Rob Servais said Lakeside could see significant

Medicaid reductions are implemented. "Why would they mess with something that's so needed?" he said. "Why would you try to impact so many people's lives that are really in need of these services?"

The U.S. House of Representatives voted 215-214 last month to narrowly pass what some have referred to as the "one big beautiful bill." In its current form, the bill would reduce federal funding for Medicaid by approximately \$723 billion over

SEE **Medicaid cuts** ON PAGE 7

## INSIDE



### Right on track

Rockets, Zephyrs qualify for state meet

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## ATLAS

Find your arts, dining and entertainment guide inside



Photo by David Hall

## Hands-on history

Children explore artifacts from days gone by during Family Day Sunday at the Neenah Historical Society. The interactive event gave young visitors a chance to see, touch and learn about the past through hands-on exhibits and demonstrations.

## Weis Earth Science Museum closes doors for final time



Neenah News

Donald Mikulic, curator of the Weis Museum, watches over the space his late wife helped design and direct, as the museum prepared last week to close its doors for the final time.

### Curator clings to hope for museum's future

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

The Weis Earth Science Museum at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus in Menasha closed its doors for the final time on May 31.

Families and children filled the museum during its final days, wandering past ancient fossils, mineral displays and exhibits that have introduced thousands of visitors to the Earth's history.

Amid the chaos of last-minute visitors and gift shop sales, Donald Mikulic, curator of the Weis Museum, moved through the space like a nervous parent on graduation day – anxious, protective and visibly emotional as the museum prepared to go dark.

"Well, we've got to take it all down in the next few days," he said, gesturing to the exhibits lining the walls.

Mikulic's connection to the museum runs deep. His wife of 50 years, Joanne Kluessendorf, was a prominent Wisconsin geologist and educator, and the museum's founding director.

Kluessendorf worked to develop, design and secure funding for the museum, which opened to the public in 2002. She died in 2018. Now, seven years later, the museum she designed is shuttering.

It is part of the overall end of UW Fox Cities after UW-Oshkosh announced the campus is closing due to declining enrollment.

The 43-acre campus was jointly owned by both Outagamie and Winnebago counties. Outagamie, however, agreed in May to relinquish ownership to Winnebago in exchange for the contents of the Weis Mu-

seum, which will be donated to Appleton's History Museum at the Castle.

Dustin Mack, executive director of the History Museum, wrote in a press release last month that the collection will be integrated into the museum with a plan to open the retrofitted Weis exhibits to the public later this summer.

"We are incredibly proud to be able to keep the Weis (collection) here in the Fox Valley where it belongs," Mack said. "Museumgoers, school groups and tourists will have enhanced visitor experiences seeing multifaceted exhibitions on local history and natural history at one location."

Mikulic said the Weis Museum's collection is valued at approximately \$5 million and includes specimens from across Wisconsin and internationally.

"There's no public support for moving

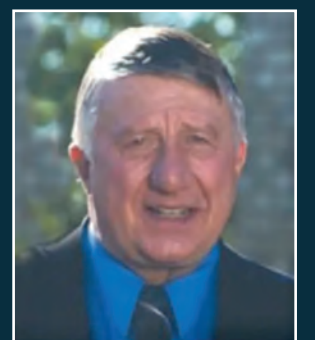
SEE **Weis Museum** ON PAGE 6

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Advertising deadline is noon Friday for the following Friday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday for Friday.

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### Corrections

It is the policy of Neenah News to correct all errors of fact. For correction information call 920-385-4512.

### About the newspaper

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

# Valley Transit to use new fare payment system

## WisGo to be available for riders this fall

Neenah News

Valley Transit, which provides public transportation service in the Fox Cities, is transitioning to a new payment system in the fall.

WisGo, powered by UMO, allows riders to pay their fares using either a mobile app or a reloadable card.

According to Valley Transit, the installation of validators for the WisGo system has started and will continue through the spring. Valley Transit's team will then spend the summer helping riders prepare for the system's launch, including learning how to download the app, obtaining a WisGo card and transferring current fares.

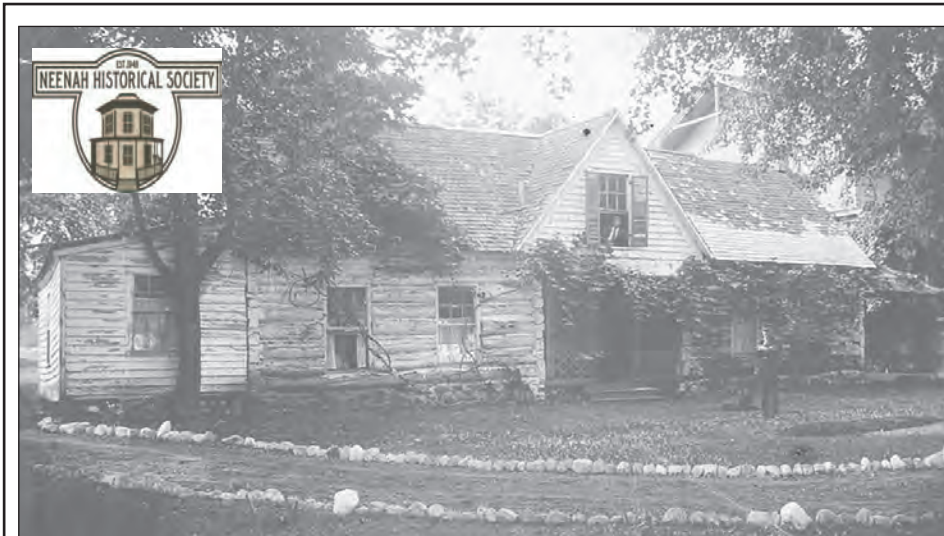
Once launched, riders can scan their mobile app or tap their WisGo card when boarding, avoiding the need to pay with cash or exact change. However, Valley

Transit said riders will still be able to pay with cash if desired.

Valley Transit serves several Fox Cities communities, including Neenah, Fox Crossing, Appleton, Buchanan, Grand Chute, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute and the city of Menasha.

"We're very optimistic about WisGo," said Ron McDonald, general manager of Valley Transit. "The new payment system will make for a more streamlined fare process, making it faster and easier for riders to board. We're committed to ensuring a smooth transition by providing resources and support, so our community can fully benefit from the implementation of WisGo."

Valley Transit said its social media and website will be updated regularly with information about the implementation of WisGo. For more information, go to [myvalleytransit.com/wisgo](http://myvalleytransit.com/wisgo).



Neenah Historical Society photo

## Doty Cabin

*Doty Cabin is pictured here in 1903. Built by James Duane Doty in the mid 1840's as a retirement home on the island that would bear his name, it ended up serving as more of a summer home for the Doty family. After Doty's passing, the "Grand Loggery" was eventually sold to John Roberts. In 1877, Roberts opened his William Waters designed "Roberts Resort" and used the first floor of the cabin as a billiard room. John Strange owned the cabin next and eventually gifted it to the city of Neenah and it was moved to its present site at Doty Park. In 1948 the cabin was deconstructed and a replica rebuilt. Visitors can tour the cabin every summer and learn about the Doty family and local history.*



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# Calendar of events

### Saturday, June 7

Learn to Sail, 10 a.m., Riverside Park  
Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass  
Author Meet and Greet, Michael Hopkins, 11 a.m., Lyons Books, 127 Wisconsin Ave.

### Tuesday, June 10

Nutman Sale, 10 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah  
Summer Library Program Kick-Off, 1:30 and 6 p.m., Neenah Public Library  
Children's Entertainer Randy Peterson, 6 p.m., Schildt Park  
Neenah Community Band Concert, 7 p.m., Riverside Park

### Wednesday, June 11

Nutman Sale and Adirondack Set Raffle, 9 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah  
Summer Kickoff Concert featuring The Glam Band, 6 p.m., Downtown Neenah

### Thursday, June 12

Out to Lunch concert featuring Isiah, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park  
Fox Tales Storytime (ages 0-6), 9:15 a.m., 200 Municipal Drive, Fox Crossing Municipal Building

### Saturday, June 14

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m. Shattuck Park  
Doty Island Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.

### Sunday, June 15

Father's Day Cannonball Contest, 3 p.m., Neenah Pool  
Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

### Tuesday, June 17

Family Program: Blast Off into Fun with EAA, 1:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

### Wednesday, June 18

Future Neenah Summer Concert Series featuring A-Town Unplugged, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

### Thursday, June 19

Out to Lunch Concert featuring Barefoot Americans, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

### Saturday, June 21

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park  
Art Mercantile, 9 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

# Neenah's Westphal receives statewide teaching award

Neenah News

Neenah Joint School District teacher Will Westphal has been selected as the 2025 Wisconsin Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Wisconsin Health and Physical Education Association.

The award is presented annually to one elementary physical education teacher across the state who conducts a quality physical education program based on Wisconsin or SHAPE America physical education standards. This individual demonstrates the use of multiple teaching methodologies, serves as a positive role model, participates in professional development and demonstrates professional leadership.

Westphal is in his third year of teaching in the district and currently serves as the physical education teacher at Alliance Charter Elementary and Taft Elementary.

"Mr. Westphal isn't just a physical education teacher; he's a true leader and innovator within our school community and the field of physical education," said Alliance Principal Garrett Zimmermann. "His unwavering commitment to fostering a dynamic and supportive learning environment for every student, from kindergarten through sixth grade, is truly remarkable. He empowers our students to explore their physical potential, instilling confidence and resilience that extends far beyond the gym."

"He actively involves students in setting their own fitness goals, which cultivates a profound sense of ownership and accountability for their learning journey," Zimmermann added. "His dedication to helping students track their own progress is a testament to his commitment to their holistic development."

The award will be presented on Oct. 30 at the Wisconsin Health and Physical Education Association state convention in Wisconsin Dells.

## Workshop set for visiting people with dementia

Neenah News

Valley VNA Senior Care is offering a workshop called "Successful Tips for Visiting a Person with Dementia."

The workshop is scheduled for 5 p.m. June 25 at Valley VNA Senior Care, 1535 Lyon Drive, Neenah.

The cost to attend is free.

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Photo from the Neenah Police Department

## Having fun running

The Neenah Summer Fun Run celebrated its 30th year Sunday with the first summer run at Memorial Park. Additional Fun Runs are scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. June 15, June 29 and July 13. Neenah Police Department Color Guard opened the festivities with Presentation of the Colors. Sgt. Erik Douglas sang the national anthem. The kids earned pizza, a cookie and Dilly Bar after crossing the finish line.

### EARLY JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Please be advised the Neenah News will have **early deadlines** for the **June 20th issue:**

Space and copy deadline: **Friday, June 13, 2025 NOON**  
Materials complete deadline: **Monday, June 16, 2025 3PM**  
This is for classified and display advertising.  
OBITS deadline is **Monday, June 16 at 3PM**



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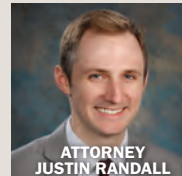
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- ▶ How you can protect your children's inheritances from predators, greedy non-family members, and bad marriages.
- ▶ How veterans or their spouses can receive money to help pay for medical expenses.
- ▶ Why signing your home over to your kids might be a huge mistake.
- ▶ How planning in advance can help you and your spouse afford quality care.



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# ThedaCare earns recognition for organ and tissue donation



Photo from ThedaCare

Team members from ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah were honored for organ and tissue donation efforts at a ceremony hosted by UW Organ and Tissue Donation. Those pictured include Michael Anderson, executive director, UW Organ and Tissue Donation; from ThedaCare Zach Zehner, ICU, RN; Jessica Mader, ICU, educator; Sue Broeren, ICU, RN and hospital liaison for the Organ/Tissue/Eye Donation program; Heather Scheelk, ICU, RN; and Nikole Neidlinger, MD, associate medical director and transplant surgeon with UW and UW Organ and Tissue Donation.

## Neenah News

ThedaCare hospitals in Neenah and Appleton were recently recognized by UW Organ and Tissue Donation (UW OTD) for an ongoing commitment to saving and improving lives through organ and tissue donation.

ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah earned the Silver Award of Hope, while ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Appleton earned the Bronze Award of Hope.

The UW Organ and Tissue Donation Award of Hope recognizes the comprehensive work of hospitals that achieve or exceed goals that maximize organ donation.

The award is based on three measurements. One is the true conversion rate, which calculates the percentage of med-

ically eligible donors who become actual donors. Another measurement is organs transplanted per donor, which evaluates the average number of organs recovered from each donor or an observed/expected organs transplanted outcome.

The final measurement is referral rate, which calculates the percentage of patients that met a threshold to be referred to UW Organ and Tissue Donation for evaluation. Hospitals can earn a gold, silver or bronze Award of Hope for meeting all three, two or one of these metrics, respectively.

UW OTD is a federally designated organ procurement organization serving more than 100 hospitals in Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois. The 2024 winners were honored during a ceremony on May 14 in Wisconsin Dells.

## Local college graduates

The following individuals from Neenah were among the 2,919 prospective candidates for degree attending University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee commencement exercises May 18 in Milwaukee:

Alec Bartz, bachelor of architecture, School of Architecture and Urban Planning

Jacob Dietz, bachelor of business administration, Sheldon B. Lubar College of Business

Megan Gartland, bachelor of science, School of Biomedical Sciences and Health Care Administration

Jacob Johnson, bachelor of business administration, Sheldon B. Lubar College of Business

Mitchell Liebhauser, bachelor of fine arts, Peck School of the Arts

Carson Lisowe, bachelor of science, College of Engineering and Applied Science

Justin Ramcheck, bachelor of science, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare

Tyler Schraven, bachelor of business administration, Sheldon B. Lubar College of Business

Kaitlin Schultz, bachelor of science, School of Rehabilitation Sciences and Technology

Austin Schumacher, bachelor of business administration, Sheldon B. Lubar College of Business

Hannah Sorensen, master of public health, Public Health

Max Stern, bachelor of arts, College of Letters and Science

Meghan Stielow, bachelor of business administration, Sheldon B. Lubar College of Business

Taylor Udelhofen, bachelor of science, School of Education

Lilith Weber, bachelor of science, School of Biomedical Sciences and Health Care Administration

Tae Wierzba, bachelor of science, College of Letters and Science

Hunter Borski of Neenah completed requirements for a degree from Trine University in Angola, Ind. at the end of the spring 2025 term. Borski earned a degree in design engineering technology.

## Business news roundup

Neenah-based **Badger-Globe Credit Union** is expanding its field of membership to include seven Wisconsin counties: Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago. Membership is open to individuals who live, work or attend post-secondary school in these counties.

**Plexus Corp.** released its fiscal 2024 Sustainability Report. The company said the report showcases its continuous efforts and achievements in growing its people, strengthening its partnerships and reducing its environmental impact. More information is available at [plexus.com/en-us/corporate-social-responsibility](https://plexus.com/en-us/corporate-social-responsibility).



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# Man in prison for killing grandparents seeks new trial

Neenah News

A 23-year-old Neenah man serving two life sentences for fatally shooting his grandparents is asking for a new trial.

According to a motion filed May 22, Alex Kraus argues his trial attorney was ineffective for failing to properly cross-examine a law enforcement officer about the impracticality of concealing a shotgun with a bayonet taped to it inside a rolled-up poster board. Kraus claims that omission prejudiced his case, as the state relied heavily on disputing the unlikelihood of his plan. He also argues a new trial is warranted in the interest of justice.

Kraus was 17 when he shot and killed his grandparents, Dennis Kraus, 74, and Letha Kraus, 73, in 2019, allegedly as part of a plan to obtain their guns and carry out

a school shooting at Neenah High School, where he was a student. Prosecutors said Kraus planned to hide the modified weapon inside a poster board to sneak it into the school.

On April 14, 2019, Kraus called 911 and confessed to the killings, telling police he had a change of heart after the act.

Police found several firearms and large amounts of ammunition inside the home, along with the modified shotgun and a backpack containing Kraus's typed plans.

A jury found him guilty of two counts of first-degree intentional homicide. He was sentenced to two consecutive life terms and is currently incarcerated at Waupun Correctional Institution. He will be eligible to petition for supervised release after 40 years.

# Neenah Foundry tower damaged in fire

Neenah News

A sand tower at the Neenah Foundry was damaged in a fire May 29 during which no injuries were reported.

According to assistant chief Jerry Mavroff, the Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue responded at approximately 8:23 p.m. without incident to the 2000 block of Aylward Avenue for a structure fire at Neenah Foundry Plant 2.

The first arriving units found heavy smoke and flames coming from the top of a sand tower located on the property, Mavroff said.

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue, with assistance from neighboring fire departments, was able to control, contain and

extinguish the fire within two hours of arriving on the scene, he said. Engine companies remained on scene for an additional hour to observe for any possible rekindles and to clean up equipment.

Mavroff said the cause of the fire remains under investigation. No damage estimate is available, he said.

The Winnebago County Communication Center, Neenah Police Department, Neenah Foundry Plant personnel, Appleton Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance Service, Neenah Water Department, Town of Neenah Fire Department, Town of Oshkosh Fire Department, Fox Crossing Fire Department and Harrison Fire Department assisted with the incident.



Neenah News

Families and school groups filled the Weis Museum last week during its final days open to the public.

## Weis Museum

FROM PAGE 1

(the collection)," he said, adding that he has a petition with more than 1,000 signatures to keep the museum where it is. "We talked to the people proposing it, and they say they have support, but it's just community leaders and people who want to invest in College Avenue; in the Appleton tourist industry."

At recent Winnebago County board meetings, public comment was largely against closing the museum and moving its collection. However, at an Outagamie County board meeting last month, there were some who came out to support moving the collection, including Stephen Weis, son of museum founders Leonard and Donna Weis, and Bruce Danz, whose fossil collection is among the museum's contents.

Mikulic criticized the transparency of the counties' process for closing the Weis and donating the collection.

"Even yesterday, people coming in here, most of them knew what's going on, but some people didn't know this was going to happen, because it's all been done in private – no public discussion," he said.

The plan was developed by former Winnebago County Executive Jon Doemel and Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson. Winnebago supervisors met in closed session in January and twice in March to discuss the campus before voting on the plan April 15, the first day in office for newly elected Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz.

On Weis Museum social media posts

about the closure, community members shared support and memories such as trick-or-treating there for rocks, attending field trips and public events where rocks and minerals were identified.

In addition to the Weis Museum, the UW Fox Cities campus includes the Barlow Planetarium, Communication Arts Center, University Children's Center and Community Gardens. The urgency behind the counties' transfer of the campus is due to the impact on child care services, as 25 families had been notified that care will end by June 20. Transferring full control to Winnebago County is expected to simplify future planning and speed up approval of funding for ongoing operations.

A plan for the Menasha Joint School District to take over the campus under similar terms as Winnebago County's plan previously fell through. However, at a Menasha School Board meeting last week, it was noted that the district is in negotiations with Winnebago County on a plan to lease the Children's Center and retain the employees as school district employees. The plan is in the early stages and would require a vote by both the school board and the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors.

The university has begun removing its property from the campus, a process expected to continue through June. While Hintz has expressed support for reopening key assets such as the Barlow Planetarium once Winnebago County becomes the sole owner of the campus next month, no formal plans have been announced.

Barlow Planetarium director Teri Gee said she hopes to reopen the planetarium in July. The Weis Museum, however, is not expected to return.



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Neenah News

Lakeside Packaging Plus associates gather for a music activity, one of several enrichment programs offered through its day services for individuals with disabilities.

## Medicaid cuts

FROM PAGE 1

the next decade, according to a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) preliminary estimate.

Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that provides health coverage to low-income individuals and families, including children, people with disabilities and seniors. States administer the program, which is funded by both the federal and state governments. According to the CBO, the federal reduction is projected to result in about 10.3 million fewer people enrolled in Medicaid by 2034.

The bill is now under consideration in the Senate and Majority Leader John Thune has indicated he hopes to have it passed by July 4. If the Senate approves the bill without changes, it will go to President Trump for final approval.

Currently, 65% of Lakeside's \$5 million annual budget comes from Medicaid funding channeled through managed care organizations. The proposed cuts would potentially reduce funding for day services, community employment programs and transportation assistance for individuals with disabilities.

Lakeside supports approximately 250 disabled associates, providing day services and helping them find employment internally or within the community. Current job placements include positions at restaurants and other local businesses.

"We try to find out what their interests are and how we can find them a job to fulfill those interests," Servais said. "We want people to have the best life that you and I have."

Servais said potential cuts could force significant reductions in services. Some associates might see their weekly programming reduced from five days to two or three days, creating challenges for both the employees and their families.

"What is life really going to be like for them during those days they used to come here?" Servais questioned.

Servais said Lakeside is preparing for potential reductions while remaining hopeful that advocacy efforts might mitigate the most severe cuts.

"Our number one thing is that people understand what we do matters, and we need funding to do what we do," he said.

Jim Schierl, a 34-year-old with disabilities, relies on Medicaid-funded services at Lakeside, where he spends 35 hours a week participating in day programs and volunteering. Since 2012, he has visited daycares and assisted living facilities to perform one-handed piano renditions by ear. His sing-alongs have become local favorites – one preschool even celebrates his visits with special "Mr. Jim Days."

His parents, Katie and Dan Schierl of Clayton, said Jim has been on Medicaid



Submitted photo

Jim Schierl is shown with a dog during an animal encounter, part of the day programming at Lakeside Packaging Plus. Animals often visit participants at Lakeside, where Medicaid funding supports Schierl's day services and volunteer opportunities.

since birth and the proposed cuts could eliminate his job coaching, day services and volunteering.

"I think he's going to get very bored if he gets stuck at home, alone all the time," Dan Schierl said. "It just wouldn't be good for him. It wouldn't be good for the community."

The Schierls said they're concerned not only for their son, but also for others who are low income, elderly or disabled.

"It can affect people mentally, as well," Katie Schierl said. "You know, you take away things that enrich their life and shutter them away like the old days when you didn't see people with disabilities."

Sen. Ron Johnson has been a key target for Wisconsin residents concerned about

potential Medicaid cuts. Johnson has publicly criticized the "one big beautiful bill," arguing the legislation does little to address what he calls out-of-control federal spending. He has also signified support for Medicaid cuts, stating on The Dan O'Donnell Show last week that states use Medicaid to game the system.

The Schierls were among those protesting the proposed Medicaid cuts last week outside Johnson's office in Oshkosh.

"It's just so important – for Jim, for others like him and for the elderly," Dan Schierl said. "They're not going to have a very full life if they don't have some of these services. And everyone – and I mean everyone – should have health care, no matter what."

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# Rockets pull out dramatic win in sectional semifinal

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah softball coach Adam Hablewitz had a short message before Jillian Matheny came to the plate in the eighth inning of a tie game with two outs and a runner at second base.

"I told her, 'You're a senior, go make a memory,'" Hablewitz said. "And she delivered for us."

Matheny drilled a line-shot single to center field that scored courtesy-runner Madison Kerker with the winning run as the Rockets downed Fox Valley Association rival Fond du Lac, 5-4, in a WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal on Tuesday afternoon.

The win vaulted the Rockets into a sectional final on Thursday against either Watertown or Beaver Dam, with the winner advancing to the state tournament. Neenah was looking for its first state tournament appearance since winning the title in 1995.

Matheny got the opportunity in the eighth due in part to some aggressive base running in the seventh frame that allowed the Rockets to tie the score.

Olivia McNulty ripped a one-out double and advanced to third on Kaylee Marhefke's infield groundout. With Natalie Coffey at the plate, Cardinal pitcher Susan Vokes uncorked a wild pitch on ball four and McNulty dashed home to even things at 4.

Neenah starter Kyleigh Mathe retired Fond du Lac in order in the top of the eighth and it was Carson Harwood that got the Rockets going in the bottom of the inning with a one-out double off the center-field fence.

"I was really stressed because I hadn't done well the rest of the game," Harwood said. "I was just going up there thinking I needed to make contact and I did. It felt great. I knew I had it in me."



Matheny

With Kerker replacing Harwood at second base to run, the Cardinals got the second out of the inning to bring Matheny to the plate. After getting a one-strike count, Matheny delivered the game-winning hit to second base as Kerker was able to score ahead of an off-line throw from the outfield.

"I walked up to the plate trusting in myself, trusting in my training and trusting in our coaches. This is the moment we have worked for all year so I was just thinking we got this, we can do this," Matheny said. "I was just trying to get the ball in play. I just kind of ran (after I hit it). Then I saw Madison and the throw and she was safe. It was amazing."

Harwood and Matheny were a combined 0-for-6 in the game prior to the eighth inning, but Hablewitz had confi-

dence that each was due to come through.

"The first time we faced Fond du Lac this year, Carson was 3-for-3 with a home run (off of Vokes) so I didn't want anybody else up at the plate in that situation and she hits the double to get us going," Hablewitz said. "Jillian has been up and down all year but when she hits the ball she hits it hard."

Mathe pitched all eight innings for the Rockets and allowed just five hits, although three of the Cardinals hits were solo home runs. Vokes hit a solo home run in the first inning while Tristyn Ernst knocked one over the center-field fence in the fourth as Fond du Lac took a 2-0 lead.

In the fifth, Mathe issued a walk - her only live-ball walk of the game as she issued an intentional walk later in the game - and the Cardinals were able to push that run across as a result of errors to make it a 3-0 game.

Despite the deficit, the Rockets never felt like they were out of the game.

"We were always up," Matheny said. "We knew it was going to be a fight because we split with them this year so we just kept going."

Hablewitz said a key to that attitude was the energy provided by the players in the dugout.

"We have been on our dugout to create that energy and be constantly positive - just be there for their teammates. They did that today," Hablewitz said. "We got down early but we never let up from an energy

perspective. Once we started to come back and tied the game up, the energy went to another level.

"We didn't lead until the last swing of the game and our dugout didn't let up the entire way."

Neenah came storming back in the fifth inning, scoring three runs despite getting just one hit - an RBI-single from Marhefke, who finished 2-for-4 in the game. The Rockets were able to take advantage of two walks and a pair of Fond du Lac errors in the inning with Coffey scoring the tying run.

Fond du Lac regained the lead in the top of the fifth on a solo home run by Lillian Birschbach and the Cardinals stayed in the lead until Neenah rallied in the bottom of the seventh.

Despite allowing the three home runs, Mathe finished with a whopping 14 strikeouts and was able to keep the Cardinals' offense - which had scored at least nine runs in four of their last six games - in check.

"Kyleigh is a true competitor. She stayed mentally strong today and she had to because it's a win or go home game," Hablewitz said. "The team had her back today. When we came into the dugout, everyone was right there telling her that we got this."

That support has been a key to the Rockets' success all season and will likely play a role if Neenah is able to make it to the state tournament.

It certainly proved to be important against the Cardinals.

"It was all about trusting each other today," Harwood said. "We were able to trust in each other and that's all we needed."



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# Neenah girls capture sectional title, set sights on state

Neenah News

Maybe it was a bit of home track advantage or maybe it is just the Neenah girls track and field team is just that good.

The Rockets dominated the WIAA Division 1 sectional in Neenah last Friday night, claiming the team title by more than 40 points over runner-up Homestead. Neenah's winning total of 127.5 points was the third-highest among the eight sectional champions last Friday and their margin over the second-place team was second only to Arrowhead's 49-point margin at the Sun Prairie East sectional.

Neenah will have 11 events competing at the WIAA state track and field meet in La Crosse. The meet starts Friday at Memorial Stadium and will conclude on Saturday.

The Rockets were led by sophomore Celia Gentile, who won three individual events at the sectional meet and anchored Neenah's 400-meter relay which took second place to advance to state.

Gentile edged West Bend West's Rylee Faehling by .11 seconds to win the 100 meters, while also claiming victories in both the long jump and triple jump. In the long jump – an event where she finished second at state as a freshman – Gentile finished more than a foot ahead of the rest of the field, while she was the only competitor to top 39-feet in winning the triple jump.

Gentile entered the state meet seeded sixth in the 100 meters and second in both jumping events.

The Rockets' 400-meter relay team of Brynn Fox, Kobi Meyer, Julia Rangel and Gentile finished second by four-tenths of a second. The foursome was seeded ninth



Neenah News

Sophomore Celia Gentile (second from left) sprints down the track en route to winning the 100-meter dash at the WIAA Division 1 sectional meet last Friday night in Neenah.

among the 24 teams that qualified for the state meet.

Neenah's 3,200-meter relay team of Izzy Malloy, Natalie Willes, Anna Benthein and Elsa Gruber took third at sectionals to advance to the state meet, while the 800-meter relay team of Janae Rodriguez, Molly Snider, Meyer and Rangel finished fourth at the sectional meet but qualified for the state meet based on their time.

Freshman Emma Severson had an im-

pressive showing in her first sectional competition and advanced to state in both throwing events.

Severson won the shot put competition by more than five feet and took a close second in the discus. Severson was seeded second in the shot put and third in the discus heading into the state meet and is one of just three freshmen to qualify in either of the throwing events and the only freshman in both.

Senior Mazie Olkowski will be returning to state in a pair of distance events af-

ter earning top three finishes at sectional. Olkowski was second in the 1,600 meters and third in the 3,200 meters to earn her fourth trip to state.

Olkowski took fifth in the 3,200 meters last year and was seventh in the 1,600 meters.

The remaining individual qualifier for the Rockets is junior Payton Schaefer, who finished third in the 400 meters.

The Rockets nearly added to their con-

SEE **Prep track** ON PAGE 11



Neenah News

Senior Mazie Olkowski leads a group of runners heading into the final lap of the 1,600 meters at the WIAA Division 1 sectional meet last Friday. Olkowski finished second in the race to advance to the state track meet.

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# Prep sports roundup

## TENNIS

### Rockets rack up another sectional title

Neenah captured sectional crowns at five of the seven flights and rolled to another WIAA Division 1 team title at the Oshkosh North sectional held last week.

The Rockets finished with a whopping 52 points to easily outdistance runner-up Cedarburg with 34 points.

The team title means Neenah will advance to the team state tennis tournament starting on June 13 in Madison. The Rockets, who will be making their fifth straight appearance at team state and 10<sup>th</sup> trip in the last 11 years, are the No. 4 seed in this year's field and will face Marquette in the first round.

All three doubles teams for the Rockets won sectional titles, with the top pairing of Andrew Werner and Brady Lawatsch finishing 3-0 on the day. The pair breezed to a 6-0, 6-1 win in the first round and then outlasted Sheboygan North's Sawyer Brault and Alex DiStefano 7-6, 2-6, 10-6 in the semifinals. Werner and Lawatsch then knocked off Oshkosh West's Yoseff Edsell and Kole Stauffacher in another three-set match, 6-1, 6-7, 10-7 to claim the title.

Luke Grassl and Henry Farrell had little trouble winning at the No. 2 flight, dropping just one game in its first match before

topping Reid Potter and Gavin Steiner of Oshkosh West, 6-3, 6-2 for the title.

Both teams automatically qualified for the state individual tournament, which began on Thursday, by winning the sectional titles.

Joe Schulz and Harrison Tanger completed the sweep of doubles titles for the Rockets, winning the No. 3 flight title. The tandem won both their matches in straight sets, including a 6-2, 7-5 win over Charlie Fairchild and Cameron Laird of Cedarburg in the finals.

The Rockets will also have its top two singles players competing at the state meet after each won sectional crowns.

Carl Hein went 3-0 at No. 1 singles and did not drop a set along the way in earning his third straight trip to individual state. Hein topped Ethan Hoffmann of Hartford 6-1, 6-4 in the title match.

Hunter Brown claimed the No. 2 singles title, beating Eli Netz of Cedarburg, 6-4, 6-2, in the championship match. Brown also won in straight sets in his first match.

The Rockets' Joshua Youngwerth at No. 3 singles and Seth Vickman at No. 4 singles each finished second at their respective flights, finishing 1-1 on the day.

### Zephyrs' Auth, doubles teams head to state

Senior Wesley Auth and St. Mary Catho-

lic's top two doubles teams each advanced to the WIAA Division 2 individual state meet after last week's sectional tournament.

Auth, who will be making his fourth trip to state and third as a singles player, won all three of his sectional matches at No. 1 singles in straight sets. He dropped only three games in his first two matches combined and then topped Maddison Badfield of Madison Country Day, 7-5, 6-1 in the title match.

The Zephyrs' No. 2 doubles team of John Osland and Sean Osland also advanced to state by winning a sectional title. The duo beat Monroe's Travis Saunders and Caleb Figi, 7-6, 6-2 in the semifinals and then earned a 6-3, 7-6 win over Hayden Meier and Jake Stacey of Edgewood in the finals.

The Oslands were joined in the Division 2 doubles bracket by the No. 1 pairing of Harry Bergstrom and Aiden Tines. Bergstrom and Tines were an at-large qualifier after falling in three close sets in the first round at sectionals. Bergstrom and Tines lost 5-7, 7-6, 10-3 to Monroe's Carsen Barthof and Hamilton Stites, who went on to finish second in the sectional.

Gabe Groom was the only other St. Mary Catholic player to win a flight at sectionals, beating Alex Cataldo of Edgewood 6-4, 4-6, 11-9 to claim the No. 4 singles crown. Groom won his first match in straight sets.

Dan Harness and Dominic Todd added a second place at No. 3 doubles for the Zephyrs, while Nicholas Miller at No. 2 singles and Zach Beyer at No. 3 singles were each third.

The Zephyrs finished second in the final sectional team standings with 42 points. Edgewood claimed the title with 49 points.

## GOLF

### Zephyrs finish seventh in Division 3 sectional

St. Mary Catholic finished with a 367 to

take seventh at the WIAA Division 3 sectional meet held at Golden Sands in Cecil on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs finished one shot behind Marion in the tournament, which was won by Bonduel with a 353.

Brady DeLeeuw and Mason Uhlenbrauck each shot rounds of 90 to lead the Zephyrs, while Charlie Whaley posted a 91 on the day. Alexander Klinkhammer rounded out the scoring golfers for the Zephyrs with a 96.

## SOFTBALL

### Mathe hurls no-hitter in tournament win

Kyleigh Mathe tossed a no-hitter as Neenah topped Menasha, 2-0, in a WIAA Division 1 regional final last week.

Mathe struck out nine and did not walk a batter with Menasha's only baserunner reaching on a Rocket error.

Natalie Coffey finished with two hits and scored both runs for the Rockets, while Kayleigh Johnson also picked up a pair of hits. Johnson and Carson Harwood finished with RBIs for Neenah, which totaled five hits in the game.

## BASEBALL

### Zephyrs pull out tournament victory

St. Mary Catholic scored two runs in the 12<sup>th</sup> inning and held off Shiocton in the bottom of the frame to collect a 4-2 win in a WIAA regional game last week.

The Zephyrs were scheduled to face Wittenberg-Birnamwood in a regional semifinal on Wednesday, but results of the game were not available by deadline.

Justin Ernsting finished with two hits and two RBIs, while Ethan Plutz added a pair of hits in the game. Joe Pirillo also blasted a solo home run for St. Mary Catholic.

SEE Prep roundup ON PAGE 11

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# Prep track

FROM PAGE 9

tingent heading to state but came up one place short in three different events.

Fox took fourth in the 100 meters, nine-hundredths of a second out of earning a return trip to state, while Aubrey Murwar finished fourth in the high jump. The Rockets' 1,600-meter relay team of Rangel, Elsa Weiland, Snider and Schaefer also finished fourth to narrowly miss a trip to La Crosse.

Other sectional qualifiers for Neenah, which won the regional title earlier in the week, were: Gruber, fifth in the 800 meters; Nadia Marchionda, fifth in the long jump; Malloy, sixth in the 800 meters; Natalie Schultz, sixth in the 1,600 meters; Kate Lenninger, tied for sixth in the high jump; Gabriella Motto, seventh in the 400 meters; Madeline Delene, seventh in the discus; Lexi Davis, seventh in the shot put; and Lani Storm, eighth in the pole vault.

The Neenah boys finished eighth out of 16 teams at the sectional meet and fell

short of advancing any competitors to the state meet.

The Rockets were led by Ben Donaldson in the 300-meter hurdles, Will Kirkman in the shot put and Luke Jung in the discus, who each finished fourth in their events. Donaldson finished about four-tenths of a second out of third, while Jung missed qualifying in the discus by just five inches.

Other sectional qualifiers for Neenah were: Aidan Apa, fifth in the 1,600 meters; Finn Lettau, sixth in the 3,200 meters; Nate Kramp, sixth in the shot put; Nathan Johnson, seventh in the 800 meters; Elijah Kaul, eighth in the 100 meters; and Jameson Oldenburg, eighth in the discus.

Neenah also participated in a pair of relays at the sectional meet, taking fourth in the 800-meter relay with a team of Kaul, Jung, Matthew Machacek and Rylan Mendoza, while the 32,00-meter relay team finished fifth with a foursome of Apa, Drew Sabatke, Jace Ostermeier and Johnson.

## Anderson leads Zephyr state qualifiers

Senior Nolie Anderson will have a

chance to throw for another state medal after earning a trip to La Crosse in both the shot put and discus at the WIAA Division 3 sectional meet hosted by Marathon last Friday.



Anderson

Anderson, who finished third in the discus last year after winning the state title as a sophomore, won the sectional title in the discus last Friday with a throw of 140-feet,

5-inches and will be seeded second heading into the state meet. She also finished second in the shot put at the sectional meet and will be seeded ninth in the event at state. Anderson placed 10<sup>th</sup> at state in the shot put last year.

Anderson will have some company in La Crosse this weekend as St. Mary Catholic advanced in three other events.

Senior Lauren Ripley will return to state and compete in the 800 meters after placing fourth at sectionals. Ripley was a top-10 finisher in the 1,600 meters last season.

Freshman Ellie Davel will be making her first trip to state after finishing fourth in the 100-meter hurdles at sectionals.

Davel also finished sixth in the 300-meter hurdles.

Rounding out the state qualifiers for the Zephyrs will be the 3,200 meter relay team of Ripley, Audrey Wanless, Claire Higgins and Maria Marti. The foursome finished second at sectionals and are seeded third heading into the state meet.

Other sectional finishers for the Zephyrs were: Moorea Steckling, fifth in the 100-meter hurdles and ninth in the 300-meter hurdles; Kate Nackers, ninth in the 200 meters; Madeline Weninger, 12<sup>th</sup> in the pole vault; Daphne Dwyer, 12<sup>th</sup> in the 400 meters; Marissa Hahn, 14<sup>th</sup> in the discus; and Halle Janssen, 15<sup>th</sup> in the triple jump.

The Zephyrs, 1,600-meter relay team of Higgins, Marti, Ripley and Wanless added a seventh place, while the 400-meter relay team of Mina Jackson, Kate Nackers, Lucy Norville and Adel Schneider finished 11<sup>th</sup>.

The St. Mary Catholic boys got an eighth place from Isaiah Hennessy in the shot put, while Nathan Seiske and Ethan Auer were 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, respectively in the 800 meters. The Zephyrs' 400-meter relay team of Maddox Dwyer, Jacob Hall, Brenden Huelsbeck and Carlos Verhoff also finished 11<sup>th</sup>.

# Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 10

Ernsting and Plutz also combined to pitch the Zephyrs to the win. Ernsting allowed two runs – one earned – in the first inning but tossed five scoreless frames after that, while Plutz pitched the final six innings and did not allow a run to earn the win.

## Rockets drop pair to cap regular season

Neenah was held to one hit in losing to Bay Port, 11-0, last Friday in the Rockets' regular season finale.

Henry St. Clair had the only hit for Neenah, which trailed only 2-0 after three innings before the Pirates erupted for nine runs in the fourth.

Neenah was coming off a 9-3 loss to Fond du Lac the day before. Gus Weinholzer, Mack Krause and Tyler Fitzgerald each finished with two hits and drove in a run in the game.

Neenah scored a run in the fifth inning and two in the seventh for its total after Fond du Lac built an 8-0 lead.

The Rockets were scheduled to play Watertown in a WIAA Division regional game on Wednesday but results were not available by deadline.

## SOCCER

### Zephyrs end regular season with win

St. Mary Catholic knocked off Providence Academy/Green Bay NEW Lutheran, 2-1, in the regular-season finale last week.

The two teams were set to meet in a Division 4 regional contest on Thursday.

## BOYS LACROSSE

### Rockets roll in to sectional semifinal

Neenah knocked off a pair of opponents to earn its second straight WIAA regional title.

The Rockets topped visiting Janesville, 14-1, in its first WIAA Tournament game and then toppled Verona 11-4 on Tuesday to earn the title.

Neenah was scheduled to face Waunakee on Thursday with the winner advancing to Saturday's sectional final.

## GIRLS LACROSSE

### Neenah bounced from tourney by Bay Port

The Rockets had their season come to a close in a 7-4 loss to Bay Port in a WIAA regional match last week.

# 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

Pick-up for sale 2020 Nissan Frontier SV, V6 18000 miles. Bed mat/cover, tow package, WeatherTech floor mats like new, \$2700 920-915-5032.

## 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 fa-

vorite 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!

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Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-294-2679 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move

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

## Neenah News

### Subscribers & Members

**Grab your pair of VIP tickets to an upcoming Waterfest concert today**  
As our thank you for your support of your community newspaper.

Visit us at 124 W. Wisconsin Ave. Suite 090B  
Mon.-Fri. 10am-2pm or call 920-486-1616  
to reserve your tickets. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

Reserved tickets will be held up to 1 week prior to concert date before being released to wait list. Must be a current subscriber or member on June 4, 2025.

Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

# 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.

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Publish your loved one's obituary in our community newspapers and it will be included in the online obituary network, [www.Legacy.com](http://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](mailto:obits@oshkoshherald.com), [obits@neenahnews.com](mailto:obits@neenahnews.com) or [customerservice@winneconnenews.com](mailto:customerservice@winneconnenews.com) or call 920-385-4512

[Legacy.com](http://Legacy.com)

# Kid Scoop

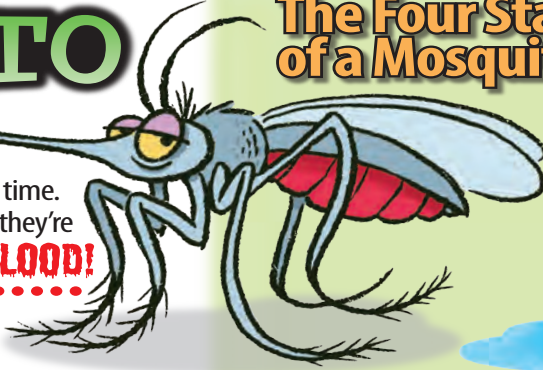
THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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

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## MOSQUITO ALERT!

Watch out! Summertime is also mosquito time. Millions of mosquitoes are out there. And they're looking for their favorite food: **YOUR BLOOD!**



### The Four Stages of a Mosquito's Life Cycle

#### STAGE 1: EGG

Female mosquitoes lay about 200 eggs on the surface of water. The eggs stick together and make a tiny raft.



#### STAGE 2: LARVAE

After just one warm day, larvae hatch from each egg. They look like tiny, wiggling worms. Some people call them wigglers!



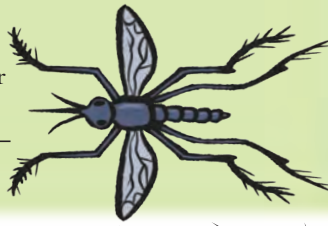
#### STAGE 3: PUPA

After a larva is grown, it changes shape and becomes a pupa. The pupa breathes air through a tube that it holds above the water's surface while tumbling around in the water.



#### STAGE 4: ADULT

It takes as little as one and a half warm days for a pupa to become an adult, flying mosquito.



**Standards Link:** Life Science: The sequential stages of life cycles change for different animals.

### Is there a way to stop mosquitoes?

Mosquitoes can spread dangerous diseases to animals and humans. The Mosquito Abatement Team works to kill mosquitoes before they become a problem.

Do they send out mosquito swatter teams? Do they spray poisons all over? None of the above. They take a much more scientific and safe approach.

**BUGSTER'S DICTIONARY**  
**abatement** (ə-'bāt-mənt) n: to put an end to or suppress.  
**abbey** ('ab-ē) n: a monaster

Mosquito abatement specialists study the life cycle of a mosquito and then try to kill them before they become flying adults.

Leave your spider friends in peace. We like to eat mosquitoes before they eat you!



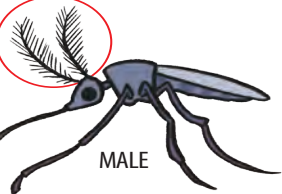
#### Stage 2 Strategy

The best time to battle the bug is at the larva stage. Mosquito abatement teams often put mosquito-larvae-eating fish in the ponds and puddles where female mosquitoes have laid eggs.

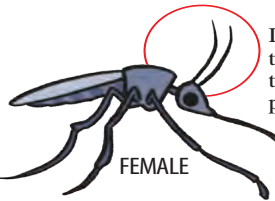
#### Vive la difference!

Which mosquitoes are males and which are females? It is important to know because only one sex drinks blood.

Look closely at the head. Between the eyes are the antennae. They can sense sounds and odors. Male antennae are feathery. The female mosquito has long thread-like antennae.



MALE



FEMALE

Do you see a tiny, straw-like tube sticking out between the antennae? That is the proboscis, or mouth. The female uses this to drink blood. Male mosquitoes feed on plant juices and flower nectar.

How many mosquitoes can you find on this page?

Hold this page up to a mirror to discover a surprising mosquito fact!

otniupzom əlsmət A  
 E ot qu əmuzkɔs ɾɔs  
 ni tɾɪpɪw zɪ zəmit  
 s ɾnɪub boold  
 !lɛəm əlɾnɪz

### Extra! Extra! Mosquito Math

Pretend each letter of the alphabet has points. For example, A=1, B=2, C=3, and so on. How many points would the word "mosquito" be worth? Look through the newspaper for five words worth more than "mosquito" and five words worth fewer points.

**Standards Link:** Math: Find the sum of numbers up to 200.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

USE THE SECRET CODE!

A C D E H I K L N R S T V

#### Why do mosquito bites itch?

Mosquito \_\_\_\_\_ produces an allergic reaction on the \_\_\_\_\_. After a mosquito bites you, a small, itchy, \_\_\_\_\_ bump may appear on your \_\_\_\_\_. Scratching the itch spreads the \_\_\_\_\_ and so the itch spreads, too.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Animals have structures that serve different functions in survival.

### Double Double Word Search

- ADULT
- AIR
- BLOOD
- EGG
- EYE
- FISH
- HUMANS
- LARVAE
- LIFE
- PLANT
- PROBLEM
- PUPA
- SAFE
- SOUNDS
- TINY

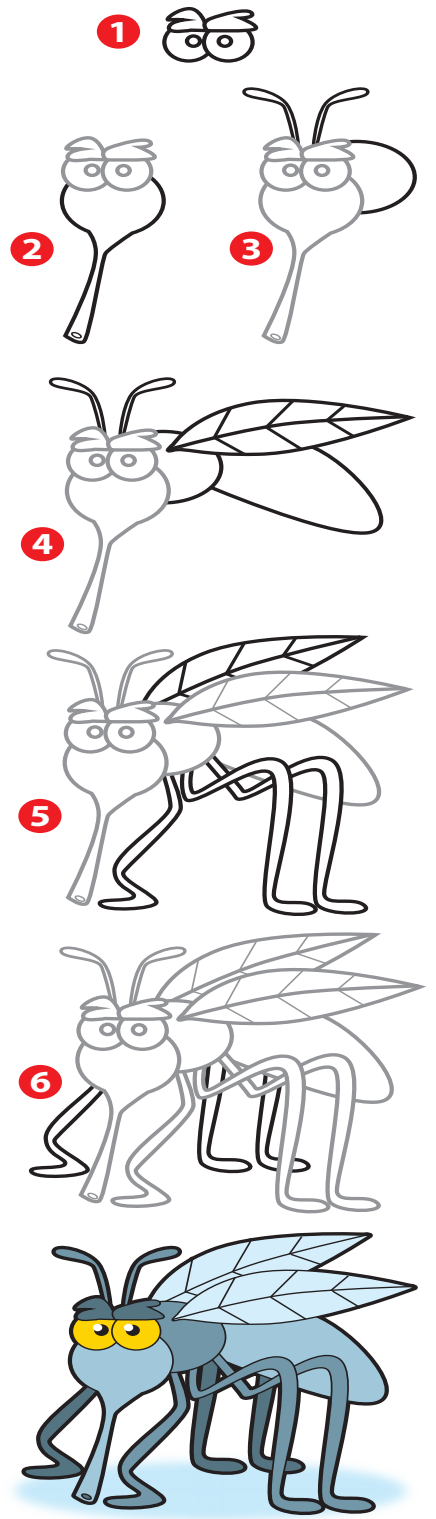
Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

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

### Let's Draw

Follow these steps to draw a cartoon mosquito.



### FREE DOWNLOAD: Kid Scoop Teacher Activity Pack!

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[kidscoop.com/activity-pages/](http://kidscoop.com/activity-pages/)

### Write On!

## Mosquito Buzz

Why do mosquitoes buzz in people's ears? Explain. Get creative!

# 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/](http://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