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AUGUST 8, 2025 | NEENAHNEWS.COM

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 26

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Saturday, August 9th





Sheriff's Office shares county's ICE stats

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

Recent data from the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office shows the department is working with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency following an agreement between the departments.

The agreement between the county and ICE primarily allows the sheriff's office to detain individuals for up to 48 hours as they wait for ICE to pick them up. The 287(g) agreement was signed in March by Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz

and former acting director of ICE Caleb Vitello.

This year, between Jan. 1 and July 18, the sheriff's office reported 2,105 total bookings into the Winnebago County Jail, 126 of them were born outside of the United States. ICE was notified about 88 individuals. A detainer was placed on eight individuals, six of whom were turned over to ICE, and the other two were transferred to another agency.

Matz addressed during a Judiciary and Public Safety committee meeting Monday when and why the county notifies ICE.

The person has to have committed a jailable offense, he said. This does not include something like a broken taillight during a traffic stop, but it would include crimes like battery or a second drunk driving offense.

When the person is being booked into Winnebago County Jail, Matz said jail staff will notify ICE about the person under two circumstances. The first is if the individual cannot be matched to a person in the system and the other is if the person is

SEE ICE numbers ON PAGE 5

INSIDE



New playground
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Milestone made
Winnebago County Solid Waste hits mark
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Photo by David Hall

Zumba in the park

Participants brought the energy to Shattuck Park during a lively outdoor Zumba session, dancing their way through a sunny summer evening in downtown Neenah. Similar sessions have been held at 6:15 p.m. Mondays throughout the summer.

Local Peace Fellow seeks to make global impact

By Eric Endres
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Throughout much of her life, Nicole McNevin knew the importance of using one's position to benefit others.

Now, after earning a master's degree and accepting a job in Japan, McNevin — the first Peace Fellow sponsored by the Rota-

ry Club of Neenah — is embarking on a journey to make an impact of her own.

"It's going to be very important to me and for me to use the position that I have in the future to work towards a more peaceful world," McNevin said. "And I feel like this fellowship has equipped me with both the confidence and the tools in order

to actually be able to do that."

McNevin is referring to the Rotary International Peace Fellowship program, which grants as many as 150 fully funded fellowships each year to individuals across the globe who've shown leadership and a dedication to peace and development. It's a highly competitive program, and up to

50 master's degree fellowships and 80 certificate studies fellowships are awarded by the Rotary Foundation every year.

The program is meant for those who've already gained professional experience in peace and development and aspire to

SEE Peace Fellow ON PAGE 10

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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

Published weekly and mailed free of charge Thursdays for Friday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 21,000 homes and businesses in the Neenah and Fox Crossing areas. An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.neenahnews.com.

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

Barlow Planetarium reopens for shows

Neenah News

The Barlow Planetarium at the former UW-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus reopened to the public last weekend for the first time since Winnebago County took ownership of the facility.

The county began operating the campus July 1 after UW Fox Cities closed. The planetarium had been closed in June and July in preparation for the transition in ownership.

Activities over the reopening weekend included a Family Astronomy Night on Saturday where visitors could view the sun and moon through telescopes despite hazy conditions. A Family Astronomy Night is held each month, with the next one scheduled Sept. 27.

"We're so happy to be open again," planetarium director Teri Gee said. "Being

able to open the Barlow's doors again after nearly two months being closed was wonderful, and we're looking forward to greeting people this week."

Gee said a preview of the new portable planetarium was set up at the Winnebago County Fair.

The regular schedule for shows is now set through August and September. Current shows include Lifestyles of the Stars, Laser Spirit, Space Aliens and various musical laser shows.

Reservations for field trips and private events are also being accepted. For more information, visit barlow.winnebago-countywi.gov. Tickets are currently cash only, but updates about when credit cards will be accepted again will be posted on the planetarium's social media.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Summer camp

Onaway Island in Waupaca's Chain O' Lakes has been home to the Brigade summer camp for over 115 years.



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Calendar of events

Saturday, Aug. 9

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

Brennand Airport Fly-In, 9 a.m., 3282 Breezewood Lane

GLASS Arts Festival, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Gord's Pub Annual Street Party, 5 p.m., 210 Main St.

Sunday, Aug. 10

Huntington's Disease Society of America Fox Valley Team Hope Walk, 9 a.m., Memorial Park

Tuesday, Aug. 12

Neenah Community Band presents Happy Wanderers, 7 p.m., Riverside Park

Wednesday, Aug. 13

Future Neenah Summer Concert Series featuring Murphy's Law, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

Thursday, Aug. 14

Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale, 10 a.m.

Out to Lunch Concert featuring Jim 'n' Nancy, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

Roller Skating and Backyard Games, 4 p.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Friday, Aug. 15

Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Aug. 16

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

Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale, 10:30 a.m.

Fox Valley Fish Fair, 11 a.m., Double-Tree Hotel

St. Margaret Mary Parish Festival featuring Murphy's Law, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 17

St. Margaret Mary Parish Festival featuring Mary Rose McCurdy, 10:30 a.m.

Brigade Family Picnic, 11 a.m., Memorial Park

Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale, noon

Monday, Aug. 18

Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale, 9 a.m.

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Neenah News

The playground equipment at O'Hauser Park in Fox Crossing will be replaced later in the fall. Work scheduled to remove the equipment is slated to start by mid-August.

Playground equipment to be replaced at O'Hauser Park

Neenah News

The oldest playground in the Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation system is scheduled to be replaced this fall.

Director Amanda Geiser is excited for the work that is going to be done at O'Hauser Park.

"There are a lot of new features, but the zip line is definitely the most exciting,"

Geiser said. "There is equipment for all ages, which will give everyone a chance to play. Users can stay down low and explore or go way up high to the top of the slides."

She said an open house was held at the end of January during which community members shared their thoughts on nine different playground proposals. From that

feedback, the Park Commission and subsequently the Village Board approved the design.

Work to remove the existing playground will begin mid-August, Geiser said.

"It's our hope to have everything completed later this fall," she said. "We think everyone is going to have a ton of fun once it's complete."

Event to raise funds for historic school preservation

Neenah News

The Winchester Area Historical Society is holding the Winchester Elementary School Reunion and Open House from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 16 at 5270 Ann Street in Larsen.

The event will feature a cornhole tournament, raffle baskets, food and other activities.

At 12:30 p.m., the School Cornerstone will be opened to reveal what's been inside since 1957. Organizers are inviting the community to join the fun and be a part of the area's history.

Local college graduates

Rachel Tease of Neenah graduated with a MS, training and HR development in May from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Tease was among 1,174 students who graduated May 10, including 952 undergraduates this spring.

Natalie Bloomhuff of Neenah was among nearly 4,800 students from Miami University who received degrees during the spring commencement held on May 17. Bloomhuff graduated with a bachelor of arts degree, majoring in public health, Spanish.

Li Xiao of Neenah has earned a master of science in analytics from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Xiao was among 6,660 undergraduate and graduate students to be presented Georgia Tech degrees during the institute's 268th commencement exercises May 1-3.

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Photo from Fox Crossing Police Department

ThedaCare acquires urology practice

Neenah News

ThedaCare has reached an agreement to acquire the Wisconsin Institute of Urology (WIU), the largest independent urology practice in Wisconsin. As part of this agreement, ThedaCare will also become the majority member of the Wisconsin Institute of Surgical Excellence (WISE), an ambulatory surgery center.

“The vision of our enhanced urology care team is to ensure access to services for people in northeast and central Wisconsin by sharing best practices and creating stronger, more integrated care journeys for our patients,” said Dale Gisi, Senior Vice President of the ThedaCare North Region. “Our goal, as we welcome these specialized physicians and caregivers to our growing team, is to ensure patients continue to receive integrated, high-quality urology care.”

In Wisconsin, Gisi said people over 65 are projected to nearly double between 2010 and 2040, with nearly 50% of people expecting to be diagnosed with a urology condition in their lifetime.

Gisi also noted that the aging population is impacting providers. Nationwide, the retiring urologist workforce will likely outpace new urologists entering the field.

Over the last several months, urology care teams at ThedaCare, WIU and WISE have been working together to create a seamless transition of care for patients. All urology care locations will be in ThedaCare facilities, including Oshkosh, Neenah, New London, Shawano and Waupaca.

The agreement between the organizations was finalized and became effective on Aug. 1.

Community building

The Fox Crossing Police Department held a family-friendly community event for National Night Out Tuesday at Palisades Park. The event is part of an effort to promote partnerships between police and the community. Activities included story time, food trucks, inflatables, TV and movie cars, games, Star Wars and Disney princess characters, therapy dogs, exotic animals, balloon artists, face painting and more.

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Photo from Neenah Police Department

McGruff makes a visit

The Neenah Police Department organized a National Night Out event Tuesday at Memorial Park, drawing hundreds of people for a chance to interact with police officers and participate in a variety of activities. The police department showed off their vehicles and gear along with McGruff the Crime Dog visiting with some of the participants. Assistant Chief Jeff Bernice put together an obstacle course that was ran through 614 times, with some kids running it multiple times. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes partnerships between police and the community.

ICE numbers

FROM PAGE 1

in the country illegally.

Matz said this includes individuals under removal proceedings or someone who has been previously removed from the country with no legal re-entry.

He said these numbers show that ICE is not in Winnebago County rounding up individuals at restaurants or manufacturing facilities as is being reported in larger cities across the nation since the Trump Administration took efforts to increase immigration enforcement.

“We turned people over to ICE in the past and never gave it a thought until January when all this, y’know ... hoopla started. And everybody is all upset about what is happening,” Matz said. “It’s been happening for a long time.”

Matz started working with the department in the county jail in 1999 and stated the department has been transferring individuals to ICE for at least 26 years.

ICE data going back six years shows that between 2019 and 2024, the department made 102 notifications to ICE. Matz explained to the Judiciary and Public Safety committee that the records for transferring individuals to ICE records were never maintained.

Matz called it as common as when individuals are transferred to Brown County or Milwaukee County departments.

He compared working with ICE to working with any other federal agency the sheriff’s office collaborates with including the FBI to track terrorists and the FBI internet crimes against children task force.

“We have worked with (the FBI) with people who maybe wanted to harm our country or the people within our country. That happens,” Matz said. “You don’t want

me to stop doing that. This is no different.”

ACLU Wisconsin published a report in July titled “The Jail-to-Deportation Pipeline in Wisconsin” that addresses the 287(g) agreements that 13 law enforcement agencies have signed with ICE.

The report states there are around 162,000 immigrants living in the state who are not yet U.S. citizens. This year as of June 10, over 1,000 people have been detained under the 287(g) agreements across Wisconsin.

“Being booked into a county jail in Wisconsin very often starts a process that can end in deportation, even for minor violations, and even before conviction of a crime,” the report states.

Winnebago County Supervisor James Ponzer sits on the Judiciary and Public Safety committee and asked Matz why these people were detained. Matz responded that they were jailable offenses.

Matz admitted he doesn’t know the criteria ICE uses for who is taken into ICE custody after being notified by the sheriff’s office. He stated that he believes the people of the county elected him to do this job.

“We’re working with a federal law enforcement agency,” he said. “There have been no reports of going into restaurants, going into public places, going into businesses (to arrest people), that’s not happened here.”

Matz added these checks on individuals to see if ICE needs to be notified is only happening in the jail. Deputies are not conducting street checks on people and notifying ICE of any individuals who have not committed an offense that would land them in county jail.

“They have to have committed a jailable offense,” Matz said.

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Submitted photo

Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz speaks to the Solid Waste Management Board last month during the 50th Anniversary celebration of the board.

Winnebago County Solid Waste hits milestone

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

By the time the summer of 1975 started Saigon had already fallen under the Gerald Ford administration, Jaws premiered in movie theaters across the nation, the Superdome opened in New Orleans and Bruce Springsteen released Born to Run.

Also, during that summer, the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors created the Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB) on July 15, 1975. The board has spent the last five decades as leaders in sustainable waste management, environmental stewardship and regional collaboration.

Solid Waste director Kathy Hutter said that the industry is completely different today than when the SWMB started.

“Fifty years ago, the common practice was dumping garbage, industrial waste and construction (materials) into a pit in the ground with little to no regulation,” Hutter said. “Now we not only have laws that govern what can and cannot go into a landfill but also specific engineered design, groundwater monitoring, filling plans, methane gas collection systems, regular inspections, annual reporting and long-term care planning for end of life.”

Over the last 50 years the SWMB led the planning and oversight of multiple major facilities and initiatives including:

- Snell Road Landfill (1976-1990)
- Sunnyview Co-Disposal Landfill (1989-2013)
- Sunnyview Sludge Landfill (1989-2016)
- Winnebago County’s Material Recovery Facility (1993-2002)
- Landfill Gas to Energy Program (1995–present)
- Transfer station and residential drop-off area (2002–present)
- Ken Robl Conservation Park (opened in 2018)

The Winnebago County Solid Waste department was created to oversee the operation of the county’s solid waste management systems.

The SWMB also has regional partnerships as a part of the Tri-County BOW (Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago) with key agreements within the area including:

- BOW Intergovernmental Recycling Agreement (2001)
- BOW Intergovernmental Solid Waste Disposal Agreement (2003; amended in 2020)
- County/Municipal Recycling Agreement (1993)

- Winnebago County Local Government Support Agreement (2003)

These partnerships have allowed the region to consolidate landfill airspace through 2042, unify recycling infrastructure through 2039, and provide municipal support for SWMB programs through 2027. Collectively, the Tri-County Partnership has generated an estimated \$48 million in cost savings for residents and businesses from its inception through 2020.

Hutter added sharing the infrastructure with other counties has been a big money-saver for Winnebago County.

“This reduced the cost of financing multi-million-dollar infrastructure needed to provide adequate landfill airspace and effective recycling for our residents and local businesses alike. Winnebago County would have shouldered those expenses completely on our own and passed them onto our customers through higher waste and recycling tipping fees,” Hutter said.

Looking ahead, the SWMB is committed to advancing waste diversion efforts, supporting the long-term care of closed landfills, and planning for resilient, sustainable facilities that serve future generations.

“When this department was founded, the world looked very different,” said Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz. “Waste management is not just about disposal — it’s about stewardship of our environment, protection of public health, and ensuring a livable future for generations to come.”

More information about the Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board can be found at winnebagocounty-solidwaste.com.



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Chamber to present lifetime achievement awards

Neenah News

Nominations are open through Sept. 18 for the Fox Cities Chamber Lifetime Achievement Awards.

The awards recognize individual professional excellence in the region, which includes Outagamie County, Calumet County and the northern portion of Winnebago County.

The eligibility requirements for each

are:

- The ATHENA Leadership Award, sponsored by Bergstrom Automotive, recognizes a woman who has achieved the highest level of professional excellence.
- The Fox Cities Business Leader Hall of Fame recognizes an individual who has demonstrated personal and business success and is a role model for future generations.

• The Gus A. Zuehlke Distinguished Service Award is designed to honor an individual who has made outstanding contributions through leadership in the business community and service during their years as a Chamber member.

• The Joyce Bytof Exceptional Mentor Award is given to an individual who is proactive in the advancement of others by sharing time, talent and business experi-

ence for the purpose of promoting growth and opportunity in the community.

Award recipients will be announced to the public this fall, and recipients honored on stage at the Chamber's Celebrate event scheduled for Jan. 20 at Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel in Neenah.

To submit a nomination, visit form.jotform.com/251383664542157.

Business news roundup

Wilmar Chocolates, which sells handmade chocolates created with time-honored recipes, using fresh, wholesome ingredients, has opened a store at 220 W. Wisconsin Ave. The store features drinking chocolate and 16 flavors of ice cream. The company also has a store in Appleton, where it started in 1956.

Violet Mae's Floral has opened at 200 W. Wisconsin Ave. The store offers fresh local flowers and gifts for various occasions. Classes and events will be scheduled to allow attendees to experience the art of plant care and potting, the craft of floral arranging and the art of floral design.

Town Council Kitchen & Bar, 133 W. Wisconsin Ave., has a new owner. Alex Fehrenbach, a longtime employee at the restaurant, is the new owner with Marcos Ramirez continuing to head up the kitchen. Previous owner Jonathan Horan started the business in 2016.

Jewelers Mutual Group announced the promotion of Mike Alexander to become the company's president. In his new role, Alexander will focus on operationalizing and driving strategy for continued growth and expansion of all commercial and personal business units, driving tighter alignment, communication and coordination across teams. Alexander, who lives in Neenah, joined Jewelers Mutual in 2015.

McMahon announced the hiring of Collin Arnt as water and



Photo from Wilmar Chocolates

Wilmar Chocolates has opened a new store on West Wisconsin Avenue to expand their business into Neenah.

wastewater engineer, Larry Roy as a water/wastewater specialist and project manager and John Zarate as a public safety specialist.

Business conference to be held in September

Neenah News

An upcoming business conference will provide a current view of industries seen as having a crucial role in the regional and national economies.

Green Bay Innovation Group and its partners will hold the Discover the Future For Your Business meeting focusing on specialty paper, printing, converting, coating and packaging.

The meeting is set to take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. followed by a First Business Bank and Miron Construction sponsored networking event from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 16 at Miron Construction in Neenah.

Speakers and panelists include those from Miron Construction, Amcor, Impermea Materials, UW-Stevens Point, Sun Chemical, Hoffmaster Group, Ahlstrom, BPM, BiOrgan and Midland Paper.

Check-in will be between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$100 per person. More information is available at [greenbayinnovationgroup.com - events](http://greenbayinnovationgroup.com-events) or by calling Marty Ochs at 608-698-3333.



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- Thursday, August 14
- Wednesday, August 20
- Thursday, August 28

2 p.m. afternoon sessions:

- Tuesday, August 12
- Monday, August 18
- Wednesday, August 27

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Program recognizes masters in recycling education

Neenah News

Pat and Kay Marsicek of Fox Crossing brought humor and creativity to a new recycling education program.

The couple turned their garage into an interactive learning hub during a neighborhood event, featuring a hands-on game called Filthy Phil Nose How to Recycle. Participants reached into Phil's oversized "nose" to pull out items and determine whether they belonged in the trash, curbside recycling, compost or drop-off recycling bins.

"We created Filthy Phil's Nose as a fun and silly way to help kids learn what belongs in the recycling bin," the Marsiceks said.

The Marsiceks were among the graduates as the Tri-County Recycling Partnership celebrated the graduation of the first cohort of its Recycle Right Master Class program. A special recognition event took place on July 29 at the Best Western Bridgewood Resort Hotel in Neenah.

"After graduating and working with the awesome Tri-County Recycling team, we wanted to share what we learned in a way families would remember — and laugh

about too," the Marsiceks said. "It's been an incredibly valuable experience working with the dedicated staff. Their passion and commitment have inspired us to help create a cleaner, more sustainable future."

The program honored six community members from Winnebago, Brown and Outagamie counties who completed the multi-session educational series designed to build knowledgeable recycling advocates. Each graduate also fulfilled 10 hours of volunteer service focused on improving recycling awareness and practices in their communities.

Other honorees include Helen Kurka, Terri Dahlke, Connie Meyer and Theresa Slavek.

Kelly Reyer, who helped organize and lead the Master Class sessions as part of the Tri-County Recycling Partnership, expressed pride in the graduates' accomplishments.

"These six individuals truly inspire me," said Reyer, an education and outreach specialist with Winnebago County Solid Waste. "Their energy, creativity and willingness to share their knowledge in ways that



Submitted photos

Pat and Kay Marsicek (left) created the Filthy Phil Nose How to Recycle as part of an effort to put creative education into action. Helen Kurka was one of the participants in the Tri-County Recycling Partnership's first graduating cohort of its Recycle Right Master Class Program.

engage their neighbors and communities is exactly what we hoped for when launching this program. They are proof that everyday people can become powerful environmental leaders, and I can't wait to see how their efforts continue to grow."

Kurka, who is from Neenah, is a founding member of the Green Team at the First United Methodist Church of Neenah-Menasha. The group is committed to implementing sustainable practices within the church and the broader community.

The Green Team has already taken meaningful steps: replacing disposable Styrofoam cups with reusable mugs, collecting white Styrofoam for recycling at Outagamie County's Foam Dome, and donating egg cartons to a local food pantry for reuse. They also purchased a TerraCycle box to re-

cycle used gift cards.

More recently, the Green Team launched a lithium-ion battery collection initiative in partnership with Redwood Materials to prevent dangerous fires in the waste stream. The group has hosted booths at the Neenah Farmers Market and collected over 50 pounds of batteries from community members so far.

"I found the three recycling classes were a good use of my time," Kurka said. "Lots of useful information was presented, and I have recommended the classes to numerous people."

The evening celebration included remarks from program organizers, formal recognition of each graduate's achievements, and a showcase of the creative advocacy projects developed throughout the course.

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District shares School Perceptions Survey results

This past May, hundreds of families across the Neenah Joint School District took time from their busy lives to complete the School Perceptions Survey.

On behalf of our Board of Education, leadership team and staff, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you who participated. Your voices have been heard, and your feedback is invaluable in shaping the future of our schools.

The results of the survey were both affirming and insightful. First and foremost, we were encouraged by the overwhelming appreciation expressed for our dedicated and caring staff. Time and again, you described our teachers, support staff and administrators as passionate, supportive and deeply committed to your children's success. We are grateful for the trust you place in us and remain dedicated to investing in the professional growth, well-being and recognition of our team.

Another strong theme in your responses was the sense of community and positive culture that defines Neenah. "Neenah Pride" is more than a slogan - it's a shared belief in the power of connection, collaboration and belonging. Many of you highlighted the welcoming and inclusive environment within our schools, and we are proud to see that spirit reflected in your feedback.

You also celebrated the wide range of academic, extracurricular, athletic and artistic opportunities available to stu-



dents. Your recognition of the quality and variety of our programming underscores its positive impact on student engagement and growth. Feedback regarding technology integration and facility improvements, including the new high school, affirmed that our investments in modern, safe and well-equipped learning environments are making a difference.

We were especially encouraged by comments acknowledging improvements in district leadership and communication. I want to personally thank those of you who have supported our efforts to foster more meaningful engagement with families and staff. Your partnership is essential, and I remain committed to transparency, active listening, and ongoing improvement.

At the same time, the survey highlighted areas where we must do better, and we are listening. Communication emerged as a significant area for growth. Whether related to student progress, behavior expectations, transportation or district-level decisions, you asked for more timely, clear and consistent information.

We are actively working to strengthen our communication systems and practices to better meet your expectations.

Concerns about student behavior and discipline were also a recurring theme, with specific mentions of bullying, vaping and inconsistent consequences. In response, this fall we are launching a districtwide approach to social and emotional learning, alongside a continuous improvement plan with clear action steps to create greater consistency in expectations, behavioral responses and overall school climate.

You also called for increased academic rigor, more support for struggling learners, and consistency across classrooms and buildings. This feedback reinforces the direction we are taking as we launch a multi-year professional development plan focused

on High-Impact Instructional Practices. This work will guide our districtwide efforts to ensure every student is challenged, supported and equipped for success.

Finally, we received thoughtful suggestions related to school safety, extracurricular offerings, lunch programs and the use of technology. We appreciate your honest feedback and will continue to review and address these areas as part of our ongoing improvement efforts.

This survey represents an important milestone in our shared journey of listening, learning and leading together. Thank you again for your feedback, your partnership and your belief in Neenah. Your input is helping guide our path forward, and we are committed to turning your insights into action.

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Peace Fellow

FROM PAGE 1

more. Minimal association with Rotary is necessary, and active Rotary members themselves are not eligible. The Rotary Club of Neenah, also known as Neenah Rotary, served as a sponsor for McNevin's efforts.

McNevin received information about the Peace Fellowship from her Rotarian neighbor Betsy Rozelle after she graduated college having studied anthropology and education.

"I encouraged her twice to apply for the prestigious Peace Fellowship program; it took some convincing to help her realize she was an exceptional candidate," Rozelle said. "She finally agreed to apply a couple years ago and made it through the arduous and competitive selection process. Our club members are so proud of her and of the Rotary International Peace Fellowship program."

McNevin said, "It requires three years of peace-building experience as a professional in order to apply for that, so as a (new) university grad, that didn't really apply to me."

But after a few more years, McNevin's work as an English teacher within the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) program in rural Japan earned her the needed experience. With the criteria met and an open schedule, McNevin applied for the Peace Fellowship and was accepted.

Getting the fellowship, which provides the funding for tuition and living, was step one. Applicants must also get into a university that's partnered with Rotary International.

McNevin was accepted into the Peace Studies master's degree program at International Christian University (ICU), a Tokyo liberal arts college founded on Christian principles in 1949 and later authorized by the Japanese Ministry of Education as an incorporated educational institution.

"The degree at International Christian University focuses a lot on conflict and how to alleviate conflict, as well as international relations — it's very heavy on that — and, in general, peace building and whatever goes into those efforts," McNevin



Submitted photo

Speaking to business and community leaders in a non-native language can be daunting, yet Nicole McNevin has learned how to accept the challenge and sharpen her public speaking skills while in Japan. She has been able to make connections at Rotary meetings there and keep the connections with students she had taught in rural Japan.

in said.

While she's had experience in different capacities as an educator and with a different culture throughout her work in Japan, McNevin entered the Peace Studies program at ICU with no knowledge of the content discussed in classes, which then helped her gain a deeper understanding.

"It really helped me gain more of a global perspective and definitely techniques and knowledge about how to create better relations across cultures, between people — even within the same culture," she said.

McNevin's research focused on students in rural Japan and how their development of international skills and global consciousness might be improved upon through the education system.

"I was learning a lot from so many different spheres of knowledge, 'cause I'm studying peace and conflict in one sphere, education in another sphere and developing student capacities in another sphere," McNevin said.

Although there were challenges, such as juggling the different subjects and considering how she wanted to apply her studies once she graduated, McNevin highlighted two particularly rewarding aspects of her Peace Fellowship journey: The customizability of the program and the relationships she made throughout the process.

In her cohort were students from Tanzania, Poland, Nigeria, Italy and numerous other countries, creating a dynamic and enriching living and learning experience full of different perspectives. Local Rotary clubs actively supported the Peace Fellows throughout their stay.

McNevin even was able to reconnect with former students of hers and interview them about their experiences with global education.

"It was really fantastic hearing about how they'd grown since I'd last seen them and what their future trajectories were," she said.

It's been an impactful journey for McNevin, who will now work in Tokyo for a tire manufacturer in their global management consulting area. She sees this as an opportunity to consider what she can do to make positive changes from within her position, especially understanding the concerns regarding producing rubber for tires while knowing how much society needs them.

"How do we create a more sustainable future while also keeping in mind that humanity's pretty dependent on these kinds of products," McNevin pointed out. "I think that having this Peace Studies degree will allow me to kind of live in that contradiction and kind of push it towards ... we need these sustainable solutions for

the future."

When asked if she had words of encouragement for anyone who may be nervous about taking the next step in education, McNevin pointed to the value of all higher learning, including within the humanities, and that it isn't just about earning money.

"There's this idea that, if it's not going to make you money, then what's the point of getting that degree or what's the point of graduating from that institution," she said. "And I think that that line of thinking is, frankly, mistaken."

She continued, "If you have the resources and the desire to make something and provide value ... not just for yourself but for other people, for your community, I think that that's a very worthwhile pursuit."

McNevin let the financial line of thinking hold her back initially but had a change of heart, believing such an education could help focus on benefiting future generations.

"There are some risks to consider, but I encourage more people to take the leap," she said.

McNevin also stated the importance of mutual support between educations in humanities and the trades.

"We need a balance in society, and I think it's awesome whatever path somebody pursues," she said.

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Gentile highlights Neenah's all-state track and field honorees

Neenah News

Neenah's Celia Gentile racked up some more honors for her performance at the WIAA State Track and Field Meet in June as the Wisconsin Track and Field Coaches Association released their all-state honorees recently.

The association awards the top eight performances at the state meet across all three divisions with all-state recognition.

Gentile was the top performer in both the long jump and triple jump at the state meet, winning Division 1 titles in both events. Her leap of 19-feet, 6.5-inches was the best long jump effort of the state meet, while she had the top triple jump of the state meet with a distance of 40-feet, 2.5-inches – the only jumper to top the 40-foot mark.

Gentile also earned all-state honors as a member of Neenah's 400-meter relay team that finished fourth in Division 1 and ranked fourth among all divisions. Gentile was joined by Brynn Fox, Kobi Meyer and Julia Rangel on the state final squad, while Janae Rodriguez and Kristin Manteufel

were alternates.

Gentile, who earned all-state honors in the long jump as a freshman, was one of five athletes nominated for the girls track and field athlete of the year along with Elletta Uddin of Osceola, Thea Kral of Ashwaubenon, Charlize-Trinity Mckenzi of Cedarburg and Nicole Repka of Verona.

Two other Rockets also earned spots on the all-state list.

Freshman Emma Severson ranked fourth in the girls discus after recording a throw of 135-feet, 9-inches at the state meet to take fourth in Division 1. She was the only freshman girl to earn all-state honors in either of the throwing events and missed out on making it on the shot put list by only eight inches.

Senior Mazie Olkowski wrapped up her stellar prep career by earning all-state honors in the 3,200 meters. Olkowski finished third in Division 1 with a time of 10:45.68, which ranked her seventh among all divisions. She was about two seconds shy of making the all-state list in the 1,600 meters.

Rec tennis tournament winners crowned

Neenah News

The City of Neenah Parks and Rec Tournament capped its summer tournament season with a trio of events.

In the Girls 12U singles event, Catherine Champa defeated Eleanor Huss, 8-3, to win the title. Sloane Desai earned third place with a win over Ellie Fluette, while the tournament also included Clara Farrell, Lizzie Scott and Margaret Champa.

In the Boys 12U doubles tournament, the championship went to Jade Dharmarante and Nolan Curtis, who edged William Lepp and Aemin Hartzheim, 6-2, 2-6, 10-7 in the title match.

Wyatt and Max Motto placed third by beating Ben Huss and Simon Lepp in the third-place match, while Conor Champa and Bo Swanson, Ansel Valentine and Emmett Hartzheim, Aaron Dharmarante and Caleb Thomas and Isaac Farrell and Lucas Kane also won matches in the tournament.

Also participating were the pairings of Owen Sabatke and Will Hendries, Cal Weber and Crew Schalow, Charlie Nimtz and Landon Balensiefen, Oliver Ludka and Liam Scott, and Elliott Curtis and Caleb Thomas.

In the 18U Mixed Doubles bracket, the winners were William Lepp and Lane O'Brien, who topped Catherine Champa and Jaden Dharmarante, 6-2, for the title. Simon Lepp and Haddie Hankel topped Sloane Desai and Nolan Curtis to take third.

Also winning matches in the tournament were Victor Kittleson and Megan Slabbert and Emmett Hartzheim and Eleanor Huss, while the field also included the teams of Lydia Klarner and Elliot Klarner. Conor Champa and Ellie Grace Zickler, Lizzy Scott and Liam Scott, Aaron Dharmarante and Margaret Champa, Owen Sabatke and Margaret Champa and Ben Huss and Eleanor Huss.



Photo by Patti Lee

Hazy lake

The haze continued to settle in Saturday morning over Little Lake Butte des Morts as a lone angler fished on the water. Smoky conditions from wildfires in Canada persisted most of the week, causing the haze and air quality condition alerts.

Classifieds

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Vessels. Most are: Cracked pots. Faking it. Believing they are making it. Some are: Broken... Dropped. Spilling out self-worth and value. Others are: Shattered... Thrown in violence. Crushed under heel. Ground. Ground into powder. Swept up. Thrown to the wind. Never to be made whole again. By: Shirley Ries

Legal Notice

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The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims Court: Outagamie County Courthouse 320 S. Walnut St., Appleton, WI 54911 (Phone 920-832-5093) and VIA Telephone: Telephone No. 312-626-6799; Meeting ID: 341 055 7261 on the following date and time 9/8/2025 at 8:30 a.m.

If you do not attend this hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to the address as stated in the caption above. 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 may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to Plaintiff named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

Amy M. Bentley, Bentley Tuffnell Law, SC 933 N. Mayfair Rd., Suite 325B, Milwaukee, WI 53226 Phone 262-353-9556. State Bar No. 1025449. Date: 7/22/2025

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THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE STEMDINI THE SCIENCE OF MAGIC

THE MAGIC RAIN TRICK

Prepare your props
 Place the glass upside down on the plastic lid. Trace around the glass to make a circle, drawing a little tab as shown. Cut just outside the circle to make it a little bit larger than the mouth of the glass. Be sure to cut out the tab.

1. Perform the trick
 Place your pitcher and glass on a table. Hide the plastic circle in the hand you won't use to pour.

2. Pour water from the pitcher into the glass, until it begins to overflow. Say "I can tip this glass of water over my head and keep it from pouring out."

3. Put down the pitcher and cover the mouth of the glass with the hand hiding the plastic circle. Secretly place the circle over the mouth of the glass, covering the entire top.

4. Pick up the glass with your other hand and turn it over quickly, but gently. Slowly remove the hand holding the top of the glass. If done right, the circle will stick to the glass and the water won't spill out.

5. Lift the glass over your head and say "Magic tricks are hot work. I think I'll cool off." Then gently push on the tab. The plastic circle will come off and the water will fall on you!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step directions with accuracy.

The Science Behind the Trick:

Air pressure is all around us. The plastic lid sticks to the surface of the water and is pressed by air pressure. Even when the glass is turned over, air pressure will hold the plastic lid in place.

Float an Egg

Question: How can you make an egg float in a bowl of water?
 Hypothesis*: _____
 *Note: a hypothesis means a thoughtful guess.

GET: • a large bowl
 • warm water
 • an egg
 • salt
 • spoon

DO:
 1. Fill your bowl with warm water.
 2. Gently place the egg in the water. What happens?

1. Remove the egg and stir at least one cup of salt into the water. Stir until you can't see any grains of salt.
 2. The water will look cloudy. Place the egg in the salty water. What happens?

An Egg-splanation

Did the egg float? Adding salt to water makes it heavier. In salty water the amount of water the egg displaces weighs more than the egg and the egg floats.

Standards Link: Science/Investigation: Conduct simple experiments.

Extra! Extra! Water Planet

North Pole Expedition
 You have \$1,000 to spend on things for a trip to the North Pole. Look through today's newspaper and "buy" what you'll need. Can you spend exactly \$1,000 without going over?

Standards Link: Mathematics: Number Sense: Students estimate and solve problems using money amounts.

97% of the world's water is in oceans. The remaining 3% is fresh water. That 3% of fresh water divides into 77% contained in icecaps and glaciers, 22% in groundwater aquifers (drinking water) and 1% in lakes and streams.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Quick! Before it melts! Solve the puzzle frozen in my ice cubes and you will have good luck!

Fill in the blank squares with numbers to make the sum of each side and each diagonal add up to 15.

Standards Link: Mathematics: Number Sense: Adding sums to 15.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

QUESTION
 PRESSURE
 PRACTICE
 SCIENCE
 SURFACE
 MAGIC
 FLOAT
 WATER
 TRICK
 TRACE
 SALT
 BOWL
 HIDE
 HEAD
 EGG

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

Salty Science

Most of the ocean doesn't freeze. Why? Salt water freezes at a lower temperature than fresh water.

GET: • ice cubes
 • thread
 • salt

DO:
 1. Soak your thread in some water then lay it on top of an ice cube.

2. Sprinkle a tiny bit of salt along the thread and wait about 30 seconds.

3. Lift the thread. Does the ice cube cling to the thread and get lifted as well?

Explanation: The salt melts the surface of the ice. The coldness of the ice then refreezes this water, trapping the thread and freezing it to the ice.

Standards Link: Science/Investigation: Conduct simple experiments.

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Write On!

Chill! Cool Poems

Write a cool poem to chill out on a hot day.

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