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## Board considers housing loan program

### ARPA funds could support new home construction

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County commissioners are moving forward with allocating \$3.5 million from the county's Spirit Fund to a revolving loan program aimed at boosting local housing development.

Two ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Strategy and Outcomes Commission meetings last month included discussion about the best use of the Spirit Fund and the county's role in dealing with a growing housing shortage.

At an Aug. 22 meeting, Housing Grants Specialist Lu Scheer wrote in a committee item report that there is a severe shortage



Merkes

of housing, with Wisconsin needing nearly 227,000 new units and the U.S. facing a shortfall of more than 12.5 million homes.

In Winnebago County, "we will need to create around 10,000 new housing units in the next decade," Scheer wrote.

Tricia Rathemel, president and chief executive at Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation, told the com-

mission that the county's housing supply isn't meeting the needs of the workforce.

"We are recruiting people to our area that cannot find housing here, and either they're working here and living other places, or they're just simply leaving our communities because they can't find affordable housing," she said.

Other counties have committed significant ARPA dollars to housing. Milwaukee County dedicated \$15 million in ARPA funds to affordable housing, including gap financing for tax credit projects, rehabilitating tax-foreclosed homes and emergency energy assistance. Outagamie County

SEE **Housing program** ON PAGE 4

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### Latin steps

Shattuck space comes alive with dance school

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## Taking pride in top notch tap lists

### Proper rosters vital to local bars, breweries

By David Hall  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

On a fine summer afternoon or cold winter evening, when a customer walks into their favorite bar or brewery, they have to decide what brew quenches their thirst. More importantly they ask what taps are even available.

According to the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP), there are 34 recognized beer style categories with many sub-categories. In the bustling beer landscape of Wisconsin, the choices made by local bars and breweries about what to serve is far from arbitrary. It can be a matter of financial life or death.

There is a complex dance between consumer desires, market trends and the very identity of the bar or brewery itself.

At the heart of the strategy of what to offer is a keen awareness of what excites the modern beer drinker, combined with a commitment to quality and innovation.

No establishment exists in a vacuum. Any successful operation keeps a close ear to the ground for what patrons are craving.

For The Dome Sports Bar & Grill on Commercial Street, many times what they serve is what the customer expects or demands like Spotted Cow or Erdinger Hefeweisse. Indeed, The Dome is the only establishment to offer the true German import on tap in Northeast Wisconsin, patron Don Krause said.

Krause described to The Dome's owner, Dean Kaufert, about his experience with German beer in Bavaria. Back in 2005, Krause and his family traveled to Bavaria. Coming upon an atmospheric bar in a small town, they told the waitress they



Photo by David Hall

Bars and breweries such as Lion's Tail Brewing Co. try to select beers to serve that customers enjoy drinking by having a wide selection of choices available.

were thirsty from traveling. Several glasses of beer later, Krause came to the conclusion, saying "We have to figure out a way to get this to Wisconsin."

Through the years, Krause has encouraged local establishments like The Dome to carry German beers and was happy when Kaufert agreed to add Erdinger

Hefeweisse.

For local brewery Lion's Tail Brewing Co. in downtown Neenah, they have a method to selecting beers that get released each week.

"We make an outline of the styles of

SEE **Tap lists** ON PAGE 9

## Doty Park shoreline project starts

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

Construction began early last week on the first phase of shoreline improvements at Doty Park, which includes replacing and stabilizing the failing seawall.

The city of Neenah awarded a \$1.3 million contract to Vinton Construction for Phase 1 of the project, which will deal with safety concerns along the internal channel and the shoreline facing the Fox River.

Parks Director Michael Kading said the entire project was estimated at \$4 to \$5 million, so the city broke it into two phases. The city budgeted \$3.1 million for the first phase, though bids came back substantially less than anticipated. A \$1 million grant from the state Department of Natural Resources Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program will help fund the project.

SEE **Doty Park** ON PAGE 10

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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

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](http://www.neenahnews.com).

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

## Neenah artist showcases works with themes of climate change

### Paintings inspired by nature, social turmoil

By Eric Endres  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

"I want my work to resonate with a viewer as something that is evocative, serving as a call to action and a catalyst for change."

So says the 2025 artist statement from Jan Smith, whose pastel and watercolor pieces comprising her new "Storming Series" and "What a Wonderful World Series" will be on display from Sept. 20 through Oct. 20 at The Hang Up Gallery of Fine Art in downtown Neenah.

The exhibition begins with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Sept. 20 at the gallery, with snacks and refreshments provided and a 10% discount available on purchases made during the reception. Admission to the reception and to view the exhibit during the gallery's business hours is free. About 20 pieces of Smith's artwork will be shown on the main floor.

Smith's pieces in this series deal with extreme atmospherics and the impacts on the planet's landscapes from climate change. Taking inspiration from her own photos of nature and the tumultuous year that was 2020, which saw the rise of a global pandemic, social turmoil and California wildfires, Smith found additional meaning in the events and her photos.

"I could not help but realize how some of the dramatic skies served as a message about social unrest, political strife and climate disasters," Smith said. "Climate change was a world issue that could resonate with the landscapes in a very real way, while leaving the other tensions open to the imagination."

Nature has always been an inspiration for Smith — who's considered herself an artist since she could first hold a crayon and grew that passion into a career that included serving as curator in the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, from which she's since retired, as well as her own business consulting museums on audiences and strategies.

As someone who loves spending time outdoors and observing the spectacle of the weather, Smith takes photos to keep the memento of the moment for use as starting points for her paintings.

Smith will even take photos from the window of an airplane, capturing aerial shots that provide unique vantage points for dynamic works of art.

"Those start forming ideas for me about the changes that are going on atmospherically," she said. "Can I use some of these images to talk about drought? Can I use it from a standpoint of talking about water quality?"

Zoey Paris, gallery manager at The Hang Up Gallery of Fine Art, found Smith's paintings in these series to be powerful.



Image by Jan Smith

Artist Jan Smith created *The Forest for the Trees*, a painting that will be on display as part of her *What a Wonderful World Series* at The Hang Up Gallery of Fine Art in downtown Neenah.

"It's really interesting to see how she's able to convey those emotions in that dramatic landscape," Paris said. "I think it's really incredible the way she portrays those."

Paris is also impressed by the literal size of some of Smith's paintings, some of which are "quite large."

"As an artist myself, I know that pieces of that size are not easy," Paris said.

Smith has known the owner of The Hang Up Gallery of Fine Art for many years, and when she visited the gallery to deliver posters for a previous show last spring, Paris liked what she saw and asked if Smith would be willing to display her work there.

Beyond enjoying the exhibit, Paris would like visitors to see the changes the gallery has in store and a promising future that sees additional shows featuring local artists for continued community engagement.

While Smith's works in these series offer eye-catching visuals of sometimes severe occurrences, it isn't all about doom and gloom for the planet; there are peaceful works offering another glimpse, too.

Smith reflected on a serene moment standing out in her yard watching the pollinators that are now more frequent visitors after some changes in the landscaping, allowing her to consider the vast potential that breathes throughout the environment.

"There's the drama of the smoke and the fires and the dramatic landscapes that are part of my work, and then there's the beauty and the appreciation of what things can be," Smith said.

Smith hopes viewers of her showcase will take away a message of empowerment and a feeling that one person can make a difference.

"I want to inspire change so that my work not only delivers a message about the destruction we face and our role in its cause but also instill some actions for new behaviors that can help solve the crisis," she said.

## Calendar of events

### Friday, Sept. 12

Riverside Players Theater presents Chicago, 7 p.m., Riverside Park

### Saturday, Sept. 13

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

Future Neenah Ultimate Ladies Day, 9 a.m., DoubleTree Hotel

Fox Crossing Fire Department Open House, 10 a.m., Fire Station 40, 1326 Cold Spring Road

Fox Valley Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention, 10 a.m., Memorial Park

Antiques Appraisal with Mark Moran, 11 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Author Christine Calhoun Meet and Greet, noon, Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Riverside Players Theater presents Chicago, 1 p.m. Riverside Park

Neenah-Menasha Intertribal Powwow, 2 p.m., Shattuck Park

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

### Tuesday, Sept. 16

Nutman Sale, 10 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah

### Wednesday, Sept. 17

Nutman Sale, 9:30 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah

### Thursday, Sept. 18

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

Neenah Neighborhoods: East Wisconsin Avenue, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

### Saturday, Sept. 20

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

Ascension 5K Run/Walk, 9 a.m., Riverside Park

Furry Flurry, 10 a.m., Neenah Animal Shelter, 1010 Cameron Way

Author Brittany Ferial Meet and Greet, 11 a.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Artist Jan Smith Opening Exhibition Opening Reception, 5 p.m., The Hang Up Art Gallery

PowerPlay Trio, 7 p.m., Mikee's Paynes Point, 1557 Paynes Point Road

### Sunday, Sept. 21

Fox Cities Marathon Finish Line, 7 a.m., Riverside Park

### Saturday, Sept. 27

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

Junk in the Trunk, 8 a.m., City Hall Parking Lot, 211 Walnut St.

Neenah Joint School District Hall of Fame Induction, 9:30 a.m., Bridgewood Conference Center

Author Deb Biechler Meet and Greet, 11 a.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Dragon Boat and Mooncake Festival, 1 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Freestyle Fest FMX Show, 5 p.m., Cavanaugh Carriages, 3910 Fairview Road

### Sunday, Sept. 28

American Legion Family Post-Unit 33 Gold Star Luminary event, 3 p.m., Shattuck Park Pavilion

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# Latin dance school finds its rhythm in Shattuck space

By Bethanie Gengler  
NEENAH NEWS

A new dance school has opened its doors in the former Shattuck Middle School, aiming to make Latin dance accessible to all ages and backgrounds.

DanzArte, founded by Allison Lauber de Garza, offers a welcoming space for participants ages six through adult to learn a variety of Latin dances without the barriers often found in traditional dance settings. The business offers drop-in classes in a non-competitive and inclusive environment.



Lauber de Garza

Lauber de Garza came up with the name DanzArte by using the Spanish words for dance and art put together.

"I'm very passionate about trying to connect people through different cultures and through dance because it really should be kind of an intercultural celebration of music and movement that invites everybody to it," she said.

Lauber de Garza joined forces with several instructors to form DanzArte in the former school.

"I was really looking for a place where we could kind of work together," she said. "I felt like there wasn't a communal space where we could go and invite people from the Fox Valley community in a way that wouldn't be cost prohibitive, and in a place that would also be welcoming to kids."

Classes are held in the school's cafeteria, which features movable partitions to accommodate different group sizes and activities. Monday evening sessions are geared toward youth ages 6 to 18, and Thursday evenings are open to everyone.

DanzArte's curriculum includes salsa, bachata, cumbia, merengue and cha-cha classes.

"The way that we have it set up right now, it's actually kind of a smorgasbord ... it's a little bit of everything, but it changes each week," Lauber de Garza said.

The school also hosts a monthly social dance, providing a relaxed environment for the community to practice and enjoy music

together.

Lauber de Garza, a Spanish teacher with the Appleton Area School District, taught dance for over 20 years in the Milwaukee area before moving to the Fox Valley.

"Having seen their companies grow up and build the community to what it is for the dance community, I wanted to be able to start something so people here can know how great it is and how much fun it is," she said.

Lauber de Garza said she hopes to foster a sense of inclusion and joy through dance.

"I feel like it's one of the few opportunities that people of all ages can really learn these types of dances in a setting that's very welcoming, non-judgmental. You don't need any experience. There's really no competition, per se," she said.

The historic Shattuck Middle School building, which closed in 2023 following district restructuring and was sold to a local developer, has sat vacant for most of the past two years, other than the Neenah Joint School District's Health and Wellness Center, which continued operating out of the building.

In late August, New Springs Christian Academy began classes out of the former school, offering three-year-old kindergarten through eighth grade in the same wing as the Health and Wellness Center.

A third business, Spiketown USA, has also been operating out of the building since July, according to a calendar on the company's website. Spiketown runs volleyball leagues, lessons and tournaments in the central part of the building.

Outside the building, the courtside fields are being turned into a residential housing development that will include 31 single-family lots along Elm and Reed streets. An outlot south of Laudan Boulevard will be transferred to the city for the construction of a regional stormwater pond with a paved walking trail around it.

With the addition of DanzArte, the former Shattuck Middle School is taking on new life as a community hub.

Lauber de Garza said she hopes DanzArte will become a welcoming space where people of all ages can enjoy Latin dance, learn new skills and connect with the community through music and movement.



Submitted photo

Dancers take part in a class in the former Shattuck Middle School cafeteria, now home to the dance school DanzArte.

## Neenah Library provides staff training

Neenah News

The Neenah Public Library will be closed today for its annual all-staff in-service training.

This year's training will include staff team building and information about AI. During the afternoon session, staff will receive CPR training from the Neenah-Me-

nasha Fire Department.

The library resumes regular hours at 10 a.m. Saturday. Library materials can be returned in the outside book drop at any time.

Contact the library with questions at 920-886-6315 or by email at library@neenahlibrary.org.

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# Meeting set for flying start program

Neenah News

Anyone who is interested in learning to fly can find out more during an upcoming meeting.

EAA Chapter 41 is planning to host a "Flying Start" informational program on learning to fly at Brennand Airport in Neenah. The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Sept. 27 at the airport, 3282 Breezewood Lane.

Members of the chapter are dedicated to growing participation in aviation by sharing the ways people can get started

in this fun and fulfilling recreation. EAA's Flying Start program introduces interested individuals to the endless opportunities and fun that result in earning a pilot's certificate.

The event will cover the steps and requirements in learning to fly, provide tips on how to make it economical and will culminate in a free introductory flight.

For more information about this Flying Start session, contact Greg Burneske at 920-415-1584.

# Historian to present on prohibition, temperance movement

Neenah News

The Neenah Historical Society will present information about Prohibition and the Temperance Movement in Neenah.

Local historian Kara Rothkegel will discuss what Neenah was like during the temperance movement and prohibition

era. In a time when alcohol was outlawed, Rothkegel will address how the city responded.

The presentation will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Neenah Public Library. The event is free and open to the public.

# Housing program

FROM PAGE 1

invested \$3.5 million in ARPA funds for affordable housing through a grant program, creating 98 new housing units for low- to moderate-income households

Under the proposed revolving loan program, Winnebago County will offer low-interest loans to developers and communities for housing projects, covering costs like property acquisition and pre-development expenses. Loans will be repaid and recycled into future projects, creating a revolving fund, with interest supporting administration and potential community grants or reinvestment into the fund.

The program comes with a requirement that municipalities contribute to early-stage costs, such as engineering or environmental studies. Priority will go to projects that provide true affordability rather than just developer profit, according to Scheer. An advisory board will oversee applications, evaluate risk, and report regularly to ensure transparency and alignment with county priorities.

The Spirit Fund is a special account created under former County Executive Jon Doemel to hold federal ARPA pandemic relief dollars. The county reclassified the ARPA money as "lost revenue" from the pandemic and moved it into the Spirit Fund to be spent on local projects that reflect the original intent of ARPA.

The county was awarded \$33.3 million in ARPA funds, split between payments in 2021 and 2022.

As of Aug. 22, about \$11.7 million remained, including about \$3.5 million in accrued interest. The funds are held in a money market account earning 4.1% interest monthly.

County Executive Gordon Hintz told commissioners last month that the county has been working to develop the revolving loan program for a year. In June, the Industrial Development Board (IDB) committed \$1 million to the proposed program.

Hintz said the \$3.5 million the county would commit comes from the interest earned on the ARPA dollars.

"The amount that we're earmarking for this new revolving loan initiative is interest that was accrued on the dollars, and allows us to experiment with a program where the risk is lower because the money comes back, is leveraged with IDB mon-

ey and helps us accomplish new housing needs, net new construction, and meet some of the economic goals of the county," he said.

Hintz said there was indication from the County Board that the remaining Spirit Fund money would be used for county projects and not for municipal or non-profit projects based on the previous allocation of the ARPA funds.

"I would suggest that a county initiative, especially one that replenishes the funding, and that it doesn't go away, is something that supports the mission of the county and goals that we're trying to accomplish," he told commissioners.

Among the discussion was whether the Spirit Fund should be used for housing or reserved for deferred maintenance and capital projects. The county faces \$67 million in deferred maintenance and \$350 million in Master Plan proposals.

Hintz said allocating a portion of available funds to immediate needs would reduce project costs, but very minimally, and the county needs to act proactively on new construction and housing, or risk falling behind neighboring counties.

Commissioner Don Merkes, who is the former mayor of Menasha, told commissioners to look at the big picture, stating that the only way to fix and balance the county budget is to grow the county.

"So we should really be looking for things that help grow that value of our county, and help our cities and other municipalities grow the value of their communities, which in fact increases the value of the county," he said at the meeting.

Merkes made a motion to amend the revolving loan program resolution to specify that in awarding funds, additional consideration should be given to projects that promote the building of homeowner equity, incorporate mixed-income housing and provide workforce housing opportunities for households earning up to 140% of the county median income. His amendment also noted that the \$3.5 million allocation comes from the Spirit Fund's accrued interest. Both the amendment and resolution were approved by the commission.

The County Board is expected to consider the resolution authorizing the revolving loan program at its Oct. 21 meeting.

Once the program is approved, the county plans to hire a nonprofit to manage the new housing loan fund.



Neenah Historical Society photo

# Milk delivery

Marten's Dairy operated out of 2821 Breezewood Drive from 1931-1968. Founded by Charles Marten, the dairy was taken over by his sons-in-law John Schaefer and Tom Hendry. Deliveries to Neenah and Menasha customers were made daily by milkmen.



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# County provides information about vaccinations

By Anya Kelley  
NEENAH NEWS

The Center for Disease Control has confirmed 1,431 cases of measles in the U.S., the largest outbreak since it was declared eliminated in 2000.

Wisconsin has 24 confirmed cases as of last week. All the current cases are in Oconto County and have been confirmed to be unvaccinated people. Two cases have resulted in hospitalization, but no deaths have been reported yet.

As childhood vaccination rates continue to decline across the country, Wisconsin ranks as the state with the third lowest vaccine uptake rate leading public health offices to gear up for a potential public health crisis.

Jaci Grignon, the communicable disease supervisor for Winnebago County Public Health, said the number one goal for the county is to not see vaccine rates decrease.

“It’s different for each disease when we’re looking to get herd immunity,” Grignon said. “Mainly our main goal is just,

at this point, not to have rates decrease. At least to not have a decrease.”

Winnebago County Public Health offers two federally funded programs to assist low-income people and families access vaccinations, the Vaccines for Children (VFC) and the Vaccines for Adults (VFA) programs. Vaccines can be administered onsite for no cost and appointments can be made by calling the office.

Last year, Winnebago County Public Health used the Routine Immunizations Through Community Engagement (RICE) grant to help increase vaccine accessibility by partnering with clinics around the county. Those clinics allowed people who didn’t have access to their provider or had multiple children to get appointments that worked around the work and school day. Grignon said the highest risk population is always lower income groups.

“Sometimes, low income doesn’t just mean you don’t have insurance,” Grignon said. “The low income might mean that you’re in a position where you can’t take

off work.”

At the state level, Wisconsin offers a few helpful tools to survey the public health landscape. By going to [dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/child-adolescent-vaccine-data.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/child-adolescent-vaccine-data.htm), anyone can see the percentage of vaccine uptake split up by each county and specific vaccine. Currently, 83.4% of 24-month-olds in Winnebago County have received one or more doses of the MMR vaccine.

The Wisconsin Immunization Registry allows each person to enter their name and social security number to access their history of vaccinations negating the need for vaccination cards in the state of Wisconsin. The registry also allows records to be printed at home to eliminate needing to wait for a doctor to provide them.

“Not every state has that,” Grignon said. Grignon emphasized vaccines’ safety and efficacy, and their ability to prevent more than just disease. Antibiotic overuse is a major issue in the US, and vaccinations can help reduce their need.

“You don’t always think about the influenza and all the things that come in pneumonia and all that,” Grignon said. “The ear infections that come with [out] the HIB vaccine ... you don’t realize all the strep throats and the ear infections that come from that and all the antibiotics you’re taking over the years from all of this.”

Grignon said vaccines keep people out of the emergency room and away from taking unnecessary doses of antibiotics that can be hard on the kidneys.

“Vaccines have to be even safer than say, a cancer medication or a medication for someone who’s got pneumonia and is very sick, who’s got renal disease and such because they’re giving [them] to someone who’s healthy,” Grignon said.

To learn more about Winnebago County Health’s immunization initiatives or to schedule an appointment, call 920-232-3000. Anyone who suspects they may have been exposed to measles or have symptoms should stay home and call their doctor immediately.

## Business news roundup

Liz Larner has joined **The Boldt Group** as chief legal officer. Larner will succeed Randy Haak upon his retirement later this year. Haak will continue to serve on the Boldt Board of Directors. As an advisor to the CEO, board of directors and executive team, Larner will provide strategic guidance to support business growth and protect legal interests for The Boldt Group and its entities including The Boldt Company, Boldt Holdings, Bildt and Calnin & Goss. In her role, Larner will develop and lead legal strategies, manage intellectual

property, manage ownership succession including the Employee Stock Ownership Plan and oversee legal aspects of investments, mergers and acquisitions.

Rustin Schwandt joins **The Boldt Company** as project architect. Schwandt brings a background in small and large-scale commercial remodels, multi million-dollar clinics, schools and other project types to Boldt’s design team. Additionally, he has experience working with project stakeholders, construction management,

and architecture and design teams to ensure project completion.

Cyrene Wilke has been appointed as chief operations officer for **Verve, a Credit Union**. Wilke joins Verve from Horicon Bank, where she served as chief operations and information officer. In her new role as COO, Wilke will provide strategic leadership and oversee Verve’s operational infrastructure. She will ensure that processes, systems, and service delivery align with organizational goals,

compliance expectations, and member experience standards.

Brittany Gudex has been hired as the air service and business development manager for **Appleton International Airport**. In this role, she will be responsible for expanding the airport’s revenue sources and outreach in the community. Items under her direction include growing new destinations from ATW and steering economic development at the airport’s properties.



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# Celebrate excellence as next Hall of Fame inductees sought

In Neenah, we take pride in our schools, our traditions and the people who make them extraordinary.

Each fall since 2015, the Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) Hall of Fame Celebration shines a spotlight on individuals whose contributions have left a lasting mark on our schools and our community. This year's celebration will take place on Sept. 27 at the Best Western Premier Bridgewood Conference Center. While we look forward to honoring this year's inductees, we are also looking ahead.

The NJSD Hall of Fame isn't just about high-profile accomplishments. It's also about recognizing the quiet, steady con-



**Dr. Steve Harrison**

NJSD superintendent

tributions that change lives. The coach who mentored students long after the season ended. The teacher who inspired generations but never sought the spotlight. The alum who, through service and kindness, made a difference in ways that don't always make headlines. These are the people whose stories deserve to be

told, and too often, they are the ones who go unrecognized.

Since its creation in spring of 2014, the Hall of Fame has welcomed honorees whose achievements span careers, service, arts, athletics, leadership, and community impact. Some have gained national recognition; others have quietly shaped the character and success of our schools in ways that can't be measured on a scoreboard or in a news article. Both are equally worthy of our celebration.

That's why we need your help. Nominations are officially open for the 2026 Hall of Fame class, and we are especially encouraging nominations for those who might otherwise be overlooked - the humble difference-makers whose work has touched countless lives without ever seeking credit.

Nominees can be:

- Alumni who graduated at least 20 years ago and have demonstrated exceptional achievement in their field, community, or through personal character.
- Former NJSD staff members whose dedication and mentorship left a lasting imprint on students and colleagues.
- Friends of the district whose behind-the-scenes service has made a meaningful impact on our schools.

The nomination process is simple. Forms are available at [www.neenah.k12.wi.us/alumni/hall-of-fame](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us/alumni/hall-of-fame) and can be completed online or downloaded and mailed to the District Office. Nominations can be made at any time, but the deadline for 2026 nominations is Nov.

30, 2025. If you've ever thought, "Someone should really recognize them," now is your chance to be that someone.

While you're thinking about who to nominate, mark your calendar for the 2025 Hall of Fame Celebration Brunch on Sept. 27 at the Best Western Premier Bridgewood Conference Center. This uplifting morning will remind us that greatness comes in many forms — and often from the most unexpected places. Tickets can be purchased at the NJSD Administrative Building or through the <https://gofan.co/> and will be available through Sept. 19. Table sponsorship opportunities are now available and can be purchased on Go Fan for any individuals or businesses wishing to support this tradition, gain community visibility, and help us recognize the leaders who inspire future generations.

Throughout the long and storied history of the NJSD, a "Passion for Excellence" has been the inspiration for many achievements. It has also been the motivation behind important careers of service to the NJSD as teacher, coach, administrator, parent, booster and volunteer. It has been the cornerstone to the remarkable lives of countless Neenah alumni.

The NJSD Hall of Fame is about more than honoring achievements - it's about preserving the legacies of those whose character, service, and dedication inspire future generations. Let's make sure the quiet heroes among us are remembered and celebrated alongside the well-known names.

## School district names employees of the year

Neenah News

Eight individuals and one team of staff members have been recognized as the Neenah Joint School District's Employees of the Year for the 2024-25 school year.

The group represents one individual from each of the district's employment categories. They were selected from the nearly 800 total employees of the Neenah Joint School District and were nominated by colleagues, parents and students.

Four teachers were selected, including Amy Auxier from the elementary level, Laura Schlaak from the middle school level, Diane Underhill from the high school level and Chad Oeftger from the special services area.

Washington educational assistant Stacy Hughes was selected as the Educational Assistant of the Year and Horace Mann administrative assistant Miranda Plath was chosen as the administrative assistant of the year. Middle school custodian John

Knaus was selected as the Operations/Maintenance Employee of the Year and middle school associate principal Dave Sonnabend won the Administrator of the Year award.

The Team of the Year honor was awarded to the literacy coaches across the elementary level.

The literacy coaches navigated the implementation of Wisconsin's new Act 20 law that requires science-aligned reading instruction and mandatory screening and assessments for students in grades 4K-3. The group also has been involved in the district's evaluation of its English language arts curriculum.

Members of the team are Bethany Niefert, Liz Merrill, Stephanie Kerrigan, Amy Keesler, Dianne Zimmer, Stefanie Monroe, Cheryl Gianopoulos, Amanda Linzmeier, Erin Baus, Mary Thompson, Patty Weisensel, Bridget Perry and Kayla Marshall.

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Photo from Sleep in Heavenly Peace - WI, Oshkosh

## Helping hands

Volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Neenah and other churches helped with a project last weekend for Sleep in Heavenly Peace - WI, Oshkosh. The work included making and constructing beds for people in need. Volunteers worked with SHP team members to build bunks in an assembly line setup, with stations for sawing, sanding, drilling, assembling, staining and branding the wood.

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# Fox Valley Technical College receives workforce training grants

Neenah News

Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) is the recipient of multiple Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) grants from the Wisconsin Technical College System.

These grants, totaling nearly \$950,000, are part of the state's \$5 million annual investment in workforce development and will support customized training programs designed to upskill employees and enhance business performance across Northeast Wisconsin.

The WAT grants will fund training in high-demand areas such as manufacturing, leadership development, health care, transportation, maintenance and quality

operations. Programs will focus on technical skills, safety, automation, data analytics and strategic planning—tailored to meet the evolving needs of local industries.

“These grants allow us to deliver high-impact, industry-specific training that directly supports the needs of our regional employers,” said Kari Meixl, director of business and industry services at FVTC. “They also greatly help employers offset the cost of high-quality training, making it more accessible to invest in their workforce and stay competitive in today's fast-changing environment.”

Global technology company Valmet is one of more than 100 local employers

who have already benefited from training facilitated by FVTC's Business & Industry Services.

“The knowledge and skills which our employees have gained at FVTC to teach classes (Train-the-Trainer Course) have met and exceeded our expectations,” said Marc Grassel, Valmet training manager.

“In addition, the cost is considerably less than other options, making FVTC a great value.”

For more information about training opportunities through FVTC's Business & Industry Services, visit [fvtc.edu/bis](http://fvtc.edu/bis), call 920-735-2525 or email [bi.services@fvtc.edu](mailto:bi.services@fvtc.edu).

## Students offered chance to ride in a fire truck

Neenah News

The Town of Neenah Fire Department is offering kids fourth grade and below from the Neenah area a chance to ride to school in a fire truck in October for Fire Prevention Month.

Winners will be selected at random and contacted before October to make arrangements. To submit a child's name, visit [forms.gle/45ih1UtYF1yYGY4p9](https://forms.gle/45ih1UtYF1yYGY4p9) before Sept. 27. Submissions can also be made by

calling 920-725-0916, emailing [eskerke@tn.neenah.wi.gov](mailto:eskerke@tn.neenah.wi.gov) or going to the town office, 1600 Breezewood Lane. A box will be placed in the main vestibule with paper forms.

The program is part of the fire department's commitment to fire safety education and community engagement as it aims to provide an experience children will not forget. Questions can be directed to [FireChief@tn.neenah.wi.gov](mailto:FireChief@tn.neenah.wi.gov).

## UWO reports growing enrollment estimates

Neenah News

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh this week reported preliminary fall 2025 enrollment estimates showing growth across several student populations.

The university said it is welcoming nearly 12,500 students on campus, throughout Wisconsin and beyond. The UWO data, captured as the Universities of Wisconsin prepares to report estimates for the upcoming official fall student census, shows year-over-year increases in several categories.

Honors College enrollment is up 2% after a record year of growth in 2024-25, transfer student enrollment is up 4%, new graduate student enrollment is up 17%, first-year student retention is up 4% and the first-year class on the Oshkosh campus is up 2%.

“These categories highlight UWO's ability to attract and support students seeking strong academic communities, pathways

to advanced degrees and accessible transfer opportunities,” UWO Chancellor Manohar Singh said. “They are proof that students continue to see UW-Oshkosh as a place where they can launch, continue or elevate their higher education journeys.”

Universities of Wisconsin estimates for UWO's new freshman class released this week project an overall first-year student decline from fall 2024 to fall 2025 due to the discontinuation of teaching and learning at UWO Fox Cities in June. New first-year student estimates specifically for the Oshkosh-campus, year-over-year, indicate a 2.2% increase.

The deeper dive into UWO enrollment reveals resilience and encouraging momentum in student populations that align with institutional strengths and growth strategies, Singh said.

UWO will provide final enrollment reports to the Universities of Wisconsin later this fall.

## Fire department to host open house on Saturday

Neenah News

The Fox Crossing Fire Department will host its annual open house Saturday at Station 40, 1326 Cold Spring Road.

Activities for kids during the event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. will include an obstacle

course, Marshall the Fire Pup and face painting. Other activities include adult education, emergency response vehicle viewing and free lunch while supplies last.

A grease fire demo and side-by-side burn trailer will be among the demonstrations.

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# Fire truck manufacturers face antitrust class action lawsuit

Neenah News

A Wisconsin city is suing a number of fire truck manufacturers alleging the companies have created a noncompetitive market by sharing information not available to the public amongst the companies.

Oshkosh Corp., Pierce Manufacturing Inc., REV Group Inc., Rosenbauer America LLC and Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA) are named as defendants in the case brought to the United States District Court by plaintiff the City of La Crosse.

The lawsuit, which was filed last month in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin in Green Bay, contains numerous allegations including that

these companies have cooperated to raise the price of fire trucks while increasing wait times and increasing profits.

Oshkosh Corp. owns Pierce Manufacturing Inc. and the suit states Oshkosh Corp. REV and Rosenbauer control 70% to 80% of the fire truck market in the United States.

The suit alleges the manufacturers worked with FAMA to create a database of sensitive economic data from all fire truck manufacturers. This information would not normally be shared between competitors.

The suit calls the conduct of the manufacturers with FAMA a conspiracy and that it violates federal and Wisconsin an-

titrust laws.

"Manufacturer defendants have been able to increase their margins by several percentage points and boost total profits, all without concern that their competitors will try to steal market share," the suit alleges. "Defendants have also sought to cooperate rather than compete, with one another."

The only people with access to the FAMA data are fire truck manufacturers. It is not available to fire departments or municipalities that could be interested in data about fire truck pricing.

According to the lawsuit, a fire truck that previously cost \$500,000 in the mid-2010s now costs \$1 million and a more specialized truck has risen from \$900,000 to more than \$2 million. Based on inflation alone, the lawsuit claims a fire truck should cost approximately \$680,000 and a specialized truck would cost around \$1.2 million.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are one of the main drivers that led to the increase in the demand for fire trucks. Municipalities across the nation received federal funds and many used those to purchase new equipment for fire departments.

The suit states that the market for trucks dropped off after the 2008 financial reces-

sion and in 2011 market trends showed about 3,000 fire trucks were sold a year. By 2022 that number had grown to 6,500.

Despite this rise in demand, the lawsuit alleges the manufacturers have made no effort to increase supply.

Hagens Berman, the law firm representing the city of La Crosse, alleges in the suit that Oshkosh Corp.'s backlog of fire truck orders quadrupled between 2019 and 2023 and that approximately \$4 billion worth of orders have not been filled.

The firm is asking other municipalities to join the suit as a class action lawsuit.

"Did your fire department or municipality order a new firetruck in the last 10 years? You may have paid artificially inflated prices and experienced manufacturing delays due to an alleged conspiracy between firetruck manufacturers," Hagens Berman states on a webpage asking other municipalities to join the lawsuit.

The city of La Crosse is seeking damages of over \$5 million. The lawsuit is demanding a jury trial take place to settle the issue.

A statement from Oshkosh Corp. stated, "The allegations in this lawsuit are without merit, and Oshkosh remains committed to delivering safe, high-quality fire trucks while continuing to reinvest in our U.S. operations to meet record demand."

## Neenah man sentenced in 2024 Bell Street shooting

Neenah News

An 18-year-old Neenah man has been sentenced to prison for a 2024 shooting that seriously injured his 11-year-old brother and another man, as well as for maintaining a drug trafficking place.



Hendricks

Anthony Hendricks was sentenced Monday to 20 months in prison, followed by five years of extended supervision for a second-degree reckless injury charge. The court withheld a three-year probation sentence on a drug trafficking charge and ordered him to pay \$7,829 in restitution. Four other felony charges were dismissed as part of a plea deal but read in, meaning they could be considered at sentencing.

Police were called to an apartment complex on Bell Street on Nov. 29 after Hendricks shot an adult male and accidentally shot his younger brother. The adult male was shot above the groin and three times in the thigh, while the 11-year-old boy was shot in the lower back. Both survived.

During a search of the apartment, police found more than 1,000 grams of marijuana and THC products.

Hendricks' mother, Elizabeth Johnson, 40, who also lived at the apartment, was convicted in February of maintaining a drug trafficking place as a party to the crime and was sentenced to three years of probation.

Another man in the apartment, Lamell Matthews, 18, was sentenced to two years of probation for harboring or aiding a felon.

Both were charged in connection with the Bell Street shooting and drug trafficking case involving Hendricks.



Neenah News

Rodney Franklin, who is accused of killing 73-year-old Keith Rieskamp, is shown leaving the courtroom following a hearing in March.

## Jury trial is set in suspicious death case

Neenah News

A Neenah man charged in the suspicious death of a homeless man pleaded not guilty last week and a five-day jury trial is scheduled to begin May 18.

Rodney Franklin, 53, is accused of killing 73-year-old Keith Rieskamp, who had been living in area parks and was found unconscious in November 2024 outside an apartment building on East Doty Avenue.

Rieskamp was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The medical examiner's office determined Rieskamp's cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries and hypothermia.

Franklin lived in the apartment building where Rieskamp was found. Police searching Franklin's unit discovered Rieskamp's blood-covered watch and bracelet in a

dresser drawer, and his wallet and identification in another part of the apartment.

Franklin was initially arrested on charges of theft from a corpse and second-offense possession of THC and has remained in custody since. Those charges were dismissed in May and Franklin was charged with first degree intentional homicide and theft from a corpse.

A May 20 report from the crime lab showed DNA from a blood-covered brick found at the scene contained both Franklin's and Rieskamp's DNA. A reddish-brown stain on a shoe found in Franklin's apartment was also tested and revealed a four-person mixture of DNA that included both men.

If convicted of the first-degree intentional homicide charge, Franklin faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

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# Brewing company partners with marathon to celebrate runners

Neenah News

The Community First Fox Cities Marathon Presented by Miron Construction is teaming up with Lion's Tail Brewing Co. in Neenah for a second year of an exclusive partnership.

This year's brew is called "Pace Yourself Mile 2" and celebrates the spirit of runners and walkers while providing a taste of the local community. With a 4.2% alcohol by volume (ABV), this light lager offers a subtle maltiness and a smooth, refreshing finish, event organizers say is perfect for toasting to the achievements of race participants and supporters alike.

"Pace Yourself Mile 2" launched at an exclusive Runner's Release party Thursday at Lion's Tail Brewing Co., 116 S. Commercial St.

"Celebrating a tough run is necessary," race director Julie Johnson said. "What better way than with a refreshing local brew? We're thrilled to partner with Lion's Tail Brewing Co. for the second year in a

row to give our participants and supporters a true taste of Wisconsin spirit. Located less than a mile from Riverside Park, where all participants cross our finish line, Lion's Tail is the perfect place to celebrate throughout the Fox Cities Marathon weekend of events."

Pace Yourself Mile 2 will be available to all participants starting at 10 a.m. Sept. 21 during the Fox Cities Marathon After Party at Lion's Tail Brewing Co., following the Community First Fox Cities Marathon and ThedaCare Half Marathon Run/Walk and Competitive Walk.

"After the first version of the 'Pace Yourself' beer sold out last year, we're thrilled to collaborate with the Fox Cities Marathon again," said Liz Welch, marketing and business operations manager at Lion's Tail Brewing Co. "With people traveling from all over the country and even internationally, we're excited to share a piece of our community with the Fox Cities Marathon and the talented athletes throughout the

weekend attractions."

The 'Pace Yourself Mile 2' can label was designed by a local graphic artist with Lion's Tail. It features the Fox River and the tagline, "Run local, drink local." Available as a can pour or in four-packs of 16-oz. cans to go, 'Pace Yourself Mile

2' can be purchased at Lion's Tail Brewing Co.

For more information on the Community First Fox Cities Marathon Presented by Miron Construction, including how to register for any of the race weekend events, visit foxcitiesmarathon.org.



Photo by David Hall

Patrons enjoy drinks from a selection of products at Lion's Tail Brewing Co., which selects beers to serve that get released each week.

## Big Brother Big Sisters holding Dudes N Brews events

Neenah News

Every September, Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin recognizes the impact of its programming, mentorship and matches during Big Brothers Big Sisters Month.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin (BBBSECW) will kick-off its commemoration during Big Brothers Big Sisters Month, celebrating matches at every stage. With 20 million BBBS alumni worldwide, their stories make up the foundation of Big Brothers Big Sisters' impact and longevity.

This September, BBBSECW is shifting perceptions of mentorship and redefining the little everyday moments that can make a big impact on the lives of young people — time already spent going to a movie, sharing a slice of pizza and getting coffee.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Cen-

tral Wisconsin is hosting two "Dudes N Brews" events to support its mission to recruit more male mentors for BBBSECW's waiting Little Brothers.

One will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 24 at Tanners Grill and Bar West, 110 S. Nicolet Road, Appleton. The second event will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 30 at The Bar - Oshkosh, 825 N. Washburn St., Oshkosh.

Current BBBSECW Mentors and Community members alike are encouraged to bring a male they think would make a great mentor. Stop in, have a drink, spin Jill's raffle wheel of prizes, and learn more about how it truly takes little to be big.

To learn more about becoming a mentor and bridging the gap between people and possibility by visiting [bbbsecw.org/become-a-big](http://bbbsecw.org/become-a-big) or contact Jill Grambow at 920-383-4904 or [jgrambow@bbbsecw.org](mailto:jgrambow@bbbsecw.org).

## Registration open for Leadership Breakfast

Neenah News

The Fox Cities Chamber is hosting its annual Women in Leadership Breakfast on from 8 to 10 a.m. Oct. 1 at the Double-Tree by Hilton, Neenah.

Participants will see four local women take the stage to talk about their experiences, challenges, rewards and surprises they've encountered as women in leadership positions.

Men and women alike are invited to join and learn from each other. This event is organized by the Chamber's Pulse Young Professionals Network.

The panel includes Chakla Davis, senior executive HR leader, Plexus Corporation; Polly Olsen Appleton Police Department chief; Lisa Piikkila, owner and creative director, Coalesce Marketing and Design and Heather Wessley, vice president of community impact, Fox Communities Credit Union.

The cost for the event is \$35 for Fox Cities Chamber and Pulse members; \$50 for non-members. To register, visit [members.foxcc.net/chamber-events/Details/2025-women-in-leadership-breakfast-1446928?sourceTypeId=Website](http://members.foxcc.net/chamber-events/Details/2025-women-in-leadership-breakfast-1446928?sourceTypeId=Website).

## Tap lists

FROM PAGE 1

beer that we need for the weeks we're looking to plan on the production schedule, and from there we start listing off the specific concept for the corresponding style. Once everyone's ideas are written on the board, we simply vote on them. The winners make it onto the production schedule, and the rest get added back into the bullpen for another time," said Liz Welch, operations manager.

Founded by passionate homebrewer Alex Wenzel and his wife Kristin, Lion's Tail has built a reputation for crafting "interesting, well-balanced beer with big flavor while using only real ingredients." This philosophy underpins every decision, from their popular flagships to their more adventurous, seasonal and limited-release offerings. This means they have a dynamic

tap list that often feature Hazy IPAs, traditional German lagers, sours and experimental brews.

Unlike bars that can quickly shift their offerings if a particular beer fails to be popular, there are practical considerations that govern a brewery like cost and infrastructure. The cost, availability and quality of hops, malts, and yeast are paramount.

Lion's Tail's commitment to "real ingredients" means careful sourcing, which can influence what they can brew at any given time. A brewery's infrastructure, equipment and tank space, dictate how much beer can be produced and how quickly. Lagers and bourbon barrel aged beer, for instance, require longer lagering and aging times, which can tie up valuable tank space.

In short, the brewers say the tap list isn't just a random assortment of beers; it's a curated experience designed to entice and satisfy.

## Junk in the Trunk coming to City Hall

Neenah News

Neenah Parks & Rec is organizing a Junk in the Trunk event to be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 27 in the City Hall parking lot, 211 Walnut St.

The free community rummage sale is open to the public.

Vendors must pre-register. The cost for vendors is \$25. Register with Parks & Rec. For more information, call 920-886-6060.

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This raffle is in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin's Annual Dream Big Gala, which will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at Bridgewood in Neenah, WI. Winner will be drawn at the Gala on 10/9/25. Winner does not need to be present to win. Prize fair market value: \$11,499. Tickets will be sold at \$100 each; only 200 tickets will be available for purchase. Please contact Olivia Corrigan ([ocorrigan@bbbsecw.org](mailto:ocorrigan@bbbsecw.org) | 920-383-4902) with questions. More details can be found via link above.



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A Vinton Construction crew works in Doty Park as part of Phase 1 of a shoreline improvement project.

## Doty Park

FROM PAGE 1

C.B. Clark donated the nine acres for Doty Park to the city in 1922, and the park was officially dedicated in 1928. The current wood shore wall in the park, installed 38 years ago, has failed, causing sinkholes and erosion in the Fox River channel.

“The wall is broken and erosion has gotten in behind the wall and is taking all the material out,” Kading said. “There’s just many locations where it’s just not safe for guests in the park any longer.”

The project will install concrete block walls in the internal channel, naturalize the shoreline, and create specific access points for fishing and viewing. Key improvements include prairie matting, seeding and planting along 750 feet of shoreline, creating three viewing outcroppings along the Fox River and installing 1,362 feet of concrete blocks along the inner channel.

“What we’re going to be accomplishing this year is very much shoreline versus in the years to come, when we get closer to the Whiting Boathouse, it’s going to be shore wall, and dealing with the boat launch and mixing and melding it in there,” he said.

The project is expected to reduce erosion and run-off, improve water quality

and enhance the habitat for wildlife.

Vinton Construction broke ground last week and is working on a compressed schedule, with substantial completion expected by late fall or early winter.

Kading said public access to areas of the park will be impacted by construction.

“People will not have access to the two bridges nor the island during construction, and there’s about a 25 foot buffer zone between the internal channel and where the construction fencing has been put up,” he said. “You can walk the path, and we’ve got some signs up to tell you about the project, but you’re not going to be able to get onto the island.”

Phase 2 will focus on aesthetics, stabilization and access along the shoreline east and west of the channel. The work will be completed pending the completion of the Kimberly Point Park shoreline improvements.

The planned work at Kimberly Point Park includes conducting soil borings sometime this month, followed by engineering, design, and permitting throughout 2026. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2027 and continue into spring 2028.

The Kimberly Point project will reinforce the shoreline near the lighthouse to protect against wind, wave and ice damage, while adding native landscaping to control erosion and support wildlife habitat. The work is estimated to cost about \$2.3 million.

Separately, the Kimberly Point Lighthouse will also be renovated next year. The city is seeking public donations to raise half of the estimated \$565,000 needed to renovate the lighthouse.

As work continues in Doty Park, Kading asked the public to stay clear of the crews.

“Be cautious when the guys and gals are there doing the work and give us the time, the space, and look forward to a beautiful project,” he said. “Next spring, we’ll be able to get you back on the island and looking at everything and enjoying it.”

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## Appleton author publishes first book

Neenah News

Appleton author Christine Calhoun will be holding a meet and greet from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday at Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave. after publishing her first book.

Calhoun said Goodbye, My Love is self-published. The book is about how Calhoun noticed in April 2018 that her husband Paul’s memory had become bad, leading her to ask family members for their opinions. They told her they had noticed changes for a while.

“This helped confirm my worries, so I prodded him to see his primary doctor,” Calhoun said. “Although he was reluctant to go to the doctor, he finally acquiesced. The diagnosis was mild cognitive impairment.”

Calhoun explained her husband’s physician referred him to an advanced practice nurse practitioner at a neurology practice. She gave him a battery of cognitive tests — draw a clock, count backward from 100 by three, name as many words that begin with “f” as possible, remember five words and repeat them when asked — all of which she said he had difficulty, especially remembering the words.

In August 2020, Calhoun said they returned to see the nurse practitioner.

“The tests were repeated,” Calhoun said. “I heard him struggle to answer the questions. His executive functioning was severely diminished from two years ago. At that time, he was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Disease mixed with vascular dementia. The nurse practitioner asked me to tell him of the diagnosis. She felt he had a right to know.”

She also said it would be prudent if he stopped driving because of liability issues and scheduled a driving evaluation in October, Calhoun said.

“Thank goodness, he voluntarily gave up driving,” Calhoun said. “The driving evaluation was in October which he failed, and his driver’s license was revoked by the DMV.”

Calhoun said they were sitting outside the family cottage on a beautiful evening when she told Paul the devastating news.

“I tried not to cry,” Calhoun said. “He showed little emotion. His mother had died of Alzheimer’s, so I thought he would understand the import of the diagnosis. However, I was unsure if he understood the gravity of the situation. I never again told him he had Alzheimer’s.”

In November 2020, Calhoun started to journal her observations and thoughts of their journey. On Dec. 19, 2023, Paul passed away.

“My book is dedicated to our journey,” she said.

## Local college graduates

Tyler Beauchamp of Neenah received a bachelor of science in biomedical engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering this spring.

Elisabeth Bradshaw of Neenah graduated this summer from Iowa State University with a bachelor of science degree in marketing.



# Zephyrs bounce back to serve up win over Ledgers

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Luci Nackers took a deep breath and did what she knows how to do.

St. Mary's Springs was unable to do anything with Nackers' tough serve on match point as St. Mary Catholic capped a tight win in the final set in a come-from-behind 16-25, 25-11, 25-23, 25-23 nonconference win inside the McClone Gymnasium on Tuesday night.

"I was nervous, but I believed I could do it," Nackers said of her final serve. "I just took a second to collect myself and then did what I know I can do."

It was an intense final stretch of points to seal the win and keep the Ledgers from extending the match to a fifth set.

Adele Brennan's spike off a Ledger dig attempt lifted the Zephyrs into a tie at 20 before three straight points on Sammi Weiss' serve – including an ace – gave St. Mary Catholic a lead in the see-saw fourth set.

The Ledgers, however, answered with three straight points to force the 11<sup>th</sup> tie score of the set but Springs wasn't able to regain the lead. Nackers notched her final kill of the night to get the Zephyrs to the match point before finishing things off at the service line.

"Just working together as a team was a big part of (finishing it off)," Nackers said. "That's a great mindset for us to have and it's going to help us in the long run."

St. Mary Catholic head coach Mike Mauritz liked the way his team was able to win the last two close sets to collect the victory.

"We're relatively young so that is a really good growth opportunity for us, to see

us respond like that," Mauritz said. "Not just play hard, but get that success and ultimately win the match. It's a stepping stone."

After trailing almost the entire first set as Springs grabbed the early lead in the match, the Zephyrs swayed the momentum to their side early in the second set.

Piper Neubauer put together a string of eight straight serves to turn a two-point advantage into a 15-4 lead as St. Mary Catholic seized control. Nackers posted three kills and Neubauer had two aces during the run, while Brennan and Emily Weiss each added kills as well.

"We feel that momentum a lot," Nackers said. "Point after point, it just got us really hyped. Having a lot of voices out there and being loud and energetic, that plays a big part in it."

The Zephyrs maintained control of the set to even the match and then grabbed the early lead in the third set getting two kills from Autumn Crowe and another from Bethany Ruppert to build a 6-4 lead.

Springs answered with four straight points to take a two-point lead before the Zephyrs scored four points of their own – two on aces by Crowe – to bounce back in front.

St. Mary Catholic took the lead for good on a Springs' hitting error and a kill from Brennan, eventually pulling ahead 21-17, while a spike off a Ledgers' block by Nackers moved the Zephyrs to set point at 24-21.

Springs scored the next two points to narrow the margin but had an errant serve for the Zephyrs' final point of the set.

"Springs played really well that first set

See **Zephyrs win** ON PAGE 15



St. Mary Catholic libero Bitsy McCauley bumps a pass forward as Autumn Crowe (7) looks on on Tuesday. Neenah News

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December 6	10 a.m. – 4 p.m. / 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.



# Rockets hoping to flip script against talented Ghosts

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

The last two seasons, the Kaukauna defense has done a number on Neenah's normally potent running game.

A year ago, the Rockets were held to just 83 yards and a mere 3.8 yards per carry in a 17-6 loss to the Ghosts, after notching 123 yards in a 16-9 defeat in 2023.



Van Beek

When the two Fox Valley Association powerhouses collide on Friday night at Rocket Stadium, Neenah coach Steve Jung knows it will be key for his team to crank its ground game up.

"Their run fits have been really good and we have had a hard time moving the ball against them. They play us really physical," Jung said earlier this week. "We've got to win that physical battle and we have to be able to establish the run game to beat them. This is a big week for us."

Neenah will enter the game off its best rushing performance so far this season after posting 315 yards on the ground in a 51-21 thumping of Appleton East last week.

Junior quarterback Ashton Van Beek paced the attack with 128 yards and two touchdowns on just 12 carries, while senior Brock Hoehne added 75 yards and a score. Junior Cooper Sieck also rushed

## Week 4 games

### Fox Valley Association

(records reflect FVA games)

- Kaukauna (1-0) at Neenah (1-0)
- Fond du Lac (0-1) at Kimberly (1-0)
- Oshkosh West (0-1) at Appleton North (1-0)
- Appleton East (0-1) at Hortonville (0-1)

for a touchdown as the Rockets averaged 6.6 yards per carry in the game.

Jung said the Rockets won't make any sweeping changes to the rushing attack heading into the showdown against Kaukauna. He believes success will be a result of how their gameplan translates on to the field.

"Clearly we have to be more physical, but really it comes down to execution," Jung said. "We know what fronts they are going to run. We have to get after those fronts and be more efficient in our run game."

Van Beek is averaging more than 100 yards rushing per game in his return to the starting quarterback position. He filled the role during his freshman season for an injured Evan Vanevenhoven before starting at wide receiver last season when Vanevenhoven was healthy.

With Van Beek leading the way, the Rockets' new backfield – which includes Hoehne and Sieck most of the time – now has three games working together and the unit is starting to find some good chemistry.

"We've worked at (our chemistry)

a lot. At practices we are bonding the whole time. We're starting to find it," said Van Beek, who also threw two touchdowns in the win over Appleton East. "We have to be sound on offense (Friday night). No dumb penalties and just hard running."

Defensively, the Rockets have been solid through the first three games and will need to have their best effort against a Kaukauna team that put up 37 points a week ago in a win over Hortonville.

Yet, there is another area that Jung will be watching closely on Friday night, trying to find an advantage over the Ghosts.

"I thought we played well offensively and defensively (against Appleton East) but we have to tidy some things up on our special teams," Jung said. "In close games, we have to be great in all three phases and those things can be a big factor."

The Rockets are no stranger to close

games this season after their first two games were each decided by three points or less. Neenah beat Muskego, 14-13, in the opener before falling to Arrowhead 16-13 in week 2.

Jung said playing those caliber of teams in the nonconference slate should help the Rockets on Friday.

"That helps us a lot. Playing Muskego and Arrowhead, gave us some confidence," Jung said. "We didn't know what to expect coming into the season because we had lost a lot from last year but the guys have played much better than we thought they would this season. I think we are a little ahead of where we were last year."

And the Rockets will certainly be ready to tussle with the Ghosts.

"We're definitely focused," Van Beek said. "We're going to bring it to them. We're going to be ready."

## Defense anchors Zephyrs' efforts as team looks for first EWC win

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Stopping opponents hasn't been a problem the last two weeks for the St. Mary Catholic football team.

After posting a shutout win over Manawa in Week 2, the Zephyrs held Valders to 155 yards in total offense while keeping the Vikings out of the end zone in an 8-2 loss in their Eastern Wisconsin Conference opener. The Vikings' lone touchdown came on a defensive score.

St. Mary Catholic will look to have another strong defensive effort while also fine-tuning its offense when it hosts Chilton on Friday night.



Detterman

"We're definitely getting there. Last game, we saw what we can do defensively, now just offensively we have to clean it up and execute better," said senior quarterback Maddox Dwyer. "But it's all starting to come together and we are excited to where it's bringing us."



Dwyer

In their second year in the Eastern Wisconsin Conference, the Zephyrs are still in search of their first win in the league after finishing 0-7 in conference play in 2024.

That's certainly motivation for the team heading into the matchup against the Tigers, but first-year coach Rob Detterman said there is another aspect he's preaching to his team.

"Now, it's getting a conference win but the other thing is to protect the home field. We are trying to make that a point of emphasis. That's a big deal," Rob Detterman said. "We want to get a conference win and protect our homefield."

Chilton also enters the game 1-2 overall on the year and were shutout last week in a 23-0 loss to Brillion. The Tigers scored just six points in the week before in a win over Oconto.

Senior running back Caleb Weigert is the top offensive threat for Chilton having rushed for a team-high 127 yards, while quarterback Lucas Groeschl has thrown for 261 yards in three games, while adding 71 yards on the ground.

The Zephyrs, who lost to the Tigers,

34-10 last season, will look to keep the Tigers' offense quiet again this week.

"We need to be physical. I don't know if last week we were as physical as we could be," said junior lineman Brady Detterman. "The team is going upward but we have a lot to improve on. Talent is not an issue. We just have to get everyone focused on one goal."

Offensively, the Zephyrs have been moving the ball the last two weeks but will need to have its best effort of the season in order to beat the Tigers.

St. Mary Catholic put up more than 260 yards of offense against Valders, but committed four turnovers, including an interception that led to the Vikings' score.

"We know what we have to do on the offensive side of the ball and most of the time it just comes down to execution," Dwyer said. "(Against Valders), if we would have executed, we would have won the game."

Cutting down on turnovers will be one key, but the Zephyrs will also have to find a way to take advantage of the opportunities they get to put points on the board.

"The big thing is we have to finish drives. We have to put points on the board and then continue to play good defense," Rob Detterman said. "We have been able to move the ball, it's just finishing drives and hopefully we will get there this week."

If the Zephyrs can sure up those two areas and continue to lean on its defense, the team could certainly be in the hunt for its first EWC victory.

It's something that could give the program a big boost for the rest of the season.

"It will feel really good when we get (the EWC win). All of the teams we are playing are bigger than us so it's a compliment just beating one of them," Dwyer said. "The way last year went and not winning one, it will feel amazing to get that first one and we're looking to do it this Friday."

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# Prep roundup

## CROSS COUNTRY

### Neenah girls dominate home invitational

The Neenah girls weren't about to let another team steal its thunder last Friday afternoon.

Running on its home course, the defending Division 1 state champions placed six runners in the top 11 and filled eight places among the top 18 runners as the Rockets easily claimed the team title.

Neenah finished with 36 points, with runner-up Appleton North scoring 73 points and third-place Stevens Point finishing with 78.

Freshman Sam Zilm led the Neenah runners by taking second place overall, while the next five Rockets all finished in a group. Natalie Schultz led the pack in seventh place, followed by Elsa Gruber in eighth, Izzy Malloy in ninth, Maddie Schoonover in 10<sup>th</sup> and Elsa Weiland in 11<sup>th</sup>.

Natalie Willes came in 15<sup>th</sup> and Eme Olkowski was 18<sup>th</sup> as the top eight finishers for Neenah crossed the line before any other team was able to have more than three runners finish.

The Neenah boys finished in third place, coming in behind state powerhouse Stevens Point and Marquette University.

Zach Verhagen led the Rockets in sixth place, followed by Oliver Steiner in 14<sup>th</sup>. Elliott Drake and Gideon Benner were the next two Neenah runners to finish in 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> place, while Brayden Willis and Jackson Holzheu placed 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

## TENNIS

### Zephyrs sweep past La Crosse Central

The No. 1 doubles team of Vivie Auth and Adel Schneider led the way to a 7-0 sweep of La Crosse Central at the Kimberly Tournament over the weekend by posting a 6-0, 6-0 win in their match.

Ella Chier also earned a 6-0, 6-0 win in her No. 2 singles match, while Kaylee Sommerfeld dropped only one game in getting a victory at No. 4 singles.

The Zephyrs won all seven matches in straight sets with Erin Blaney and Halle Janssen also adding singles wins with the pairings of Nadia Alexander and Lorelai Miller and Bree Pauly and Elsa Rossmessl earning doubles wins.

The Zephyrs also fell to Green Bay Notre Dame, 5-2, at the tournament with Auth and Schneider at No. 1 doubles and Janssen at No. 3 singles earning the wins for St. Mary Catholic.

### Rockets net three FVA victories

Neenah went 3-0 in conference matches over the past week and did not drop a set in any of the dual meets, beating Oshkosh West, Oshkosh North and Hortonville each by 7-0 margins.

Against the Wildcats on Tuesday, all four singles players for the Rockets - Celia Gentile, Ella Motto, Rachel Thomas and Lauren McDonald - won by 6-0, 6-0 margins while the No. 2 doubles pairing of Ava Motto and Cecelia Alexander also earned a victory without dropping a game.

Sydney Michalkiewicz and Rebekah

Thomas at No. 1 doubles and the No. 3 pairing of Josie Kohlbeck and Evelyn Buss completed the sweep.

The Rockets dropped a total of just four games in the seven matches against Oshkosh North, with JB Kennedy picking up a win at No. 4 singles.

Neenah's doubles teams each won 6-0, 6-0 matches against Hortonville with Michalkiewicz and Rebekah Thomas playing the No. 1 flight, Alexander and Ava Motto filling the No. 2 slot and Kohlbeck and Buss earning the win at No. 3 doubles.

## SOCCER

### Early goals key Rockets' win over Spartans

Neenah scored twice in the first seven minutes and held off Oshkosh North, 3-1, on Tuesday night.

Trey White scored off a Ben Mainville assist in the second minute, while White assisted on a Kolton Fleege goal about five minutes later to key the victory.

The Spartans would score their goal in the first half before Miles Heesenthaler sealed the win in the 61<sup>st</sup> minute, scoring off an assist from Braulio Alvarado.

Pierce Hanson made four saves in the game.

Last week, the Rockets rallied from a 1-0 deficit to top Appleton West, 3-1.

White evened the score at 1 in the 29<sup>th</sup>

minute on a penalty kick, while Mason Peitersen's free kick goal in the 51<sup>st</sup> put the Rockets ahead. White added a goal with about three minutes left for the final margin.

### Zephyrs collect tie, loss in pair of matches

St. Mary Catholic played to a scoreless tie with Roncalli on Tuesday night at home.

The Zephyrs also fell to Cedar Grove-Belgium, 4-0, last week.

## GOLF

### Oitzinger leads Rockets to win over Terrors

Adrienne Oitzinger blistered the course at Winagamie on Tuesday night to earn medalist honors and lift Neenah to a 185-193 win over Appleton West.

Oitzinger finished with a round of 37, which was eight shots better than any other player in the field.

Lilly Quella and Ale Guden each shot 49 for the Rockets and Jordyn Brockman chipped in a 50.

On Monday, the Rockets finished fifth at the Sheboygan North Invitational with a team score of 402. Kaukauna won the

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 15

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# Rockets' Kramp relishes playing in FVA trenches

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Slamming into opponents a couple inches taller and maybe 50 or 60 pounds heavier play after play over a two-hour span on a Friday night doesn't sound like a lot of fun.

Don't try telling Neenah's Nate Kramp that, though.

"I love it," Kramp said with a big smile.

At about 215 pounds, Kramp is on the small side when it comes to Fox Valley Association defensive linemen but that hasn't deterred the Neenah senior from standing out on the field.

## Senior Standout



Kramp was a first-team all-FVA defensive lineman as a junior last season – one of only two juniors on the first-team defense – and a key piece in the Rockets' rebuilt unit this season. And what Kramp lacks in overall size, he makes up for in other ways as he torments opposing offenses with his play.

"I have a motor, so I just run through them," Kramp said after a practice earlier this week. "Our d-line's not that big so we have to beat them with speed."

It's something Kramp, now in his third year playing at the varsity level for Neenah, has excelled at with the Rockets.

"There's no questions his first step is something else. He stands out on film for it," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "Not only has he gotten really good at his technique, but he's relentless. He will chase a player 20 yards downfield and he's got the speed to do it."

But over the course of a game – maybe 50 or 60 snaps – being pounded on by a



Neenah News

Senior Nate Kramp is a returning all-Fox Valley Association defensive lineman who uses speed to combat size of opposing offensive linemen.

larger human being would seem to be tough to deal with.

For Kramp, that's what he enjoys the most.

"It can be difficult because we have some big guys in the FVA, big offensive linemen," said Kramp, who leads the team in tackles through the first three games. "I love the physicality and the contact. I tried other sports but I just couldn't do it. I love

the physicality."

Kramp was actually a bit of a late arrival to football as he did not start playing competitively until the sixth grade.

It was certainly a catch-up process he had to deal with. But when he got into high school, he simply watched what the others around him were doing and picked things up that way.

"I didn't start out being very athletic. I

really had to work at it to get where I am right now," Kramp said. "Going into high school, I started learning from the older guys and that helped a lot."

Now, he tries to pass on the knowledge he's accumulated to the younger Rockets, although he's still adjusting to his role as a leader.

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

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# Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 13

meet with a team total of 383.

Quella led the Rockets with a 94, followed by Oitzinger with a 98 and Brockman with a 102. Paige Keck rounded out the scoring golfers with a 108.

## Zephyrs take fourth at Lake Breeze

Olivia Nagel tied for second place as St. Mary Catholic finished fourth at the Bay Conference South Division meet on Tuesday at Lake Breeze Golf Course.

Nagel finished with a 47, one shot out of medalist honors.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

## Rockets breeze past Appleton West

Lily Romjue finished with 14 kills as Neenah cruised to a Fox Valley Association win over Appleton West on Monday. The Rockets won by scores of 25-8, 25-21, 25-22.

Ella Nigl added eight kills and Elaina

Kramer finished with six in the win with Finley Kelley and Sena Messner totaling 14 and 10 assists, respectively.

Ella Lindgren posted a team-high 18 digs in the match.

The Rockets were coming off a tough five-set loss to Hortonville in conference play.

Three Neenah players finished with double-digit kills. Romjue led the way with 17, followed by Nigl with 13 and Leah Oldenburg with 10.

Lindgren had four aces and 21 digs to lead the team, while Paige Hoelzel racked up six blocks in the match.

Kelley and Messner led the team in assists with 28 and 17, respectively.

## Zephyrs breeze to win over Hilbert

Autumn Crowe paced a balanced attack with 10 kills as St. Mary Catholic collected a 25-13, 25-15, 25-15 win over Hilbert in a Big East match last week.

Adele Brennan added six kills for the Zephyrs, while Luci Nackers finished with five.

Emily Weiss led the team with five aces and 13 assists.

“We did spread it round pretty well,” Mauritz said of the offense. “Our middles had a couple of really nice plays and we got some out of our right sides and obviously our pins are our strongest two hitters and they delivered once we got started.”

Sammi Weiss finished with 20 assists and five aces to lead the Zephyrs in both categories, while Emily Weiss chipped in 19 assists and 11 digs. Bitzy McCauley led the Zephyrs with 20 digs.

Crowe also had four aces for the Zephyrs, who finished with 17 aces as a team and served at 90 percent despite some hiccups from the service line in the middle two sets.

“Some of our missed serves was nerves and some was trying to be a little too aggressive,” Mauritz said. “Sometimes we would get a couple of points and get a little amped up and then we would drive the next one long. A little too much adrenaline.”

# Zephyrs win

FROM PAGE 11

and played with a high level of energy that we couldn't match. It looked like it was going to be a long night,” Mauritz said. “We matched them better in the second set and then the last two sets it was whoever got that last break was going to be in a good position.”

The Zephyrs had three players finish with double-digit kills on the night, led by Crowe who finished with 12. Nackers and Brennan each added 11 as St. Mary Catholic had nine players finish with at least one kill in the win.

Mauritz said the team will rely on its pin hitters – Crowe and Nackers – for the bulk of the offense, however, he was very pleased to see the balance the Zephyrs had at the net, that included Neubauer chipping in five kills and Ruppert adding four.

### BOYS VOLLEYBALL

## Rockets post one win at Brookfield East tourney

Neenah ran into some strong competition at the Brookfield East tournament last Saturday, finishing with a 1-3 mark on the day.

The Rockets win came over Brookfield Central with Eli Yoder posting six kills in

the match, while Sam Printz and Trevor Ricketts each had five.

Cam Diekfuss led the team with 20 assists in the match, while Levi Steckling posted a team-high 10 digs.

The Rockets were swept by Middleton and Franklin at the tournament, while falling to Pewaukee in three sets.

Neenah dropped a Fox Valley Association match to Kimberly on Tuesday, 25-19, 25-10, 25-23.

# Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

“It’s a big jump from last year because I wasn’t really in much of a leadership role last year with all of the seniors we had on our defense. It’s a big jump for me to take and I think we’re doing a good job,” Kramp said. “(Being a leader) to me means getting our guys involved in practice and keeping everybody motivated.”

Kramp exudes leadership even if he doesn’t realize it at times.

Jung said that the way he plays certainly rubs off on his teammates and shows the next crop of defensive linemen what they need to do to succeed.

“Our upcoming d-lineman can say, if I work my strength, I work my speed, I work my technique and be relentless, I can play like a Nate Kramp,” Jung said. “We don’t have a lot of those 6-3, 6-4 defensive lineman so that is super important.”

Another thing that may help Kramp succeed is that he can play with a bit of a chip on his shoulder – even if it’s there because of a teammate and friend.

After wearing No. 97 as a junior, Kramp switched to the less-typical defensive line number of No. 13 this season with a plan hatched between he and Henry St.

Clair.

St. Clair, who is currently out with an injury, wore No. 12 last season and the two defensive leaders thought it would be neat to have consecutive numbered players wreaking havoc on opposing defenses.

“We were going to be Nos. 12 and 13 off the edge and meet at the quarterback. That was going to be our thing,” Kramp said. “Then he switched to No. 2 before the season and kind of screwed me over there.”

Kramp said there wasn’t even any pizza purchased as compensation either.

“I should tell him he has to do that,” Kramp said with a laugh.

A pizza or two might help Kramp add a little weight to better compete against the hulking offensive linemen he faces, but he seems to be doing just fine.

With Kramp as one of the team’s leaders, Neenah’s defense is once again stifling opponents and will play a big role in the team’s success this season.

“I think a lot of people thought we weren’t going to be great this year because we lost a lot of good players and I think we’ve beat the expectations so far,” Kramp said. “It’s a big thing being a part of Neenah’s tradition. I love being at Neenah. We have a really good program and I’m glad I’m here.”

# Classifieds

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

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A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability has a legal duty to report the child to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child’s parent that the referral will be made. The referral must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. Others who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability may also refer the child to the school district in which the child resides.

A referral of a child residing in the Neenah Joint School District may be sent to Valerie Hurm at the school district address above. WNAJLP

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## CELEBRATE BE AN ENCOURAGER DAY

**Encouragement is free!** It never costs us anything to say a few encouraging words to a friend, a classmate, a family member or even a pet!

Encouragement lifts someone's spirits when they are feeling down. It can also help someone reach a goal. Can you think of a time when someone encouraged **you**? Can you think of a time when **you** encouraged someone?



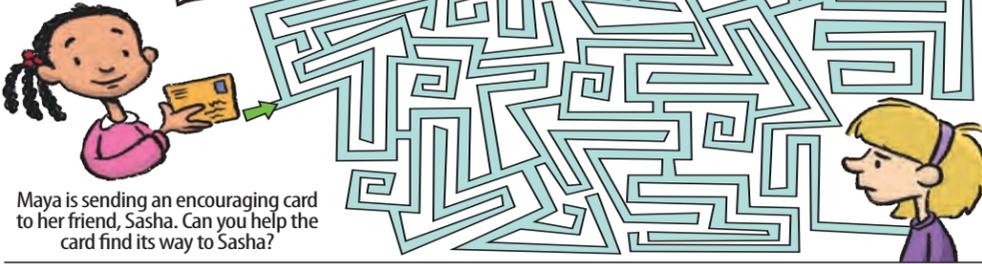
Jeff tried really hard to win the race but came in third place. What would you say to encourage Jeff?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Amy has been working hard in math. When she didn't get an A on her test, she was disappointed. What would you say to encourage her?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Maya is sending an encouraging card to her friend, Sasha. Can you help the card find its way to Sasha?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

## How to Be an Encourager



Do you know someone who is feeling a little discouraged?

Make a list of five positive things about this person. Send it to them or read it to them!

Include things that you appreciate about them and things they are good at. Here are some ideas:

- Believe in yourself!
- You're such a great friend!
- You're super kind and helpful!
- You are worth it!
- You can do it!
- You are important!
- You're unique and special!
- You're very smart!



You'll see a really BIG difference once you've helped them feel encouraged!

### Extra! Extra! Encouraging Words

Look through the newspaper for words that make up one or more encouraging sentences. Cut these out and glue them onto note paper.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

## Kid Scoop Together Make an Encouragement Jar

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:



Pen or pencil



20 or more small slips of paper or sticky notes



Empty jar or other container

DIRECTIONS:

1. Write an encouraging phrase on each of the slips of paper.
2. Decorate your jar or container.
3. Fold up the slips of paper and put them in the jar.
4. Each day, take one out and read it!
5. Smile! Remember, smile, and others will smile with you!

IDEAS FOR NOTES:

I am confident.	I am brave.
I am kind.	I can make a difference.
I am creative.	I can be a good friend.
I'm a problem solver.	I'm a good sport.
I cheer for my friends to succeed.	I'm nice to people at school.
I'm a problem solver.	I learn new things every day.
I help friends feel happy.	I learn from my mistakes.

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### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Use the code to reveal some words of encouragement to use with friends and family.

SECRET CODE	
26=A	13=N
25=B	12=O
24=C	11=P
23=D	10=Q
22=E	9=R
21=F	8=S
20=G	7=T
19=H	6=U
18=I	5=V
17=J	4=W
16=K	3=X
15=L	2=Y
14=M	1=Z

B	L	A	
25	9	18	15
15	18	26	13
7			
C			
22	3	24	22
15	15	22	13
7			
S			
21	26	13	7
26	8	7	18
24			
W			
26	4	22	8
12	14	22	
E			
A			
14	26	9	5
22	15	12	6
8			
U			
8	6	11	22
9			

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

### Double Double Word Search

- FEELING
- FRIEND
- GOAL
- GOOD
- GREAT
- IDEAS
- KIND
- NICE
- PET
- POSITIVE
- TEST
- THINK
- TRIED
- WORDS
- WORTH

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

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

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

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