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Larsen Road reopens after reconstruction

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

After months of construction and delays, Larsen Road has officially reopened, restoring normal traffic flow near Neenah High School and marking the completion of a major infrastructure project for the Town of Neenah.

“Yes, the road is open to traffic as of Saturday, October 4,” Town Clerk Ellen Skerke said. “The signal lights were fully functional as of Tuesday, October 7 in the afternoon. Traffic flow has returned to normal.”

The Larsen Road reconstruction project spanned from the County CB and Oakridge Road roundabout to Clayton Avenue. It included widening shoulders, installing turn lanes and new signal lights, adding a multi-use trail on the south side of the road, and improving drainage on the north side.



Neenah News

Larsen Road recently reopened following a six-month reconstruction project.

“The project generally went very well, delivering significant safety improvements for our community,” Skerke said.

Roadwork began in April and was ini-

tially expected to be completed for the first day of school Aug. 28, but private util-

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Photo by David Hall

Building scarecrows

The Neenah Parks and Recreation Department hosted its “Build a Scarecrow” event Saturday at Riverside Park, where families came together to craft one-of-a-kind scarecrows using old clothes, props and plenty of imagination. The annual tradition has become a seasonal favorite, with laughter, straw and creativity filling the crisp autumn air.

Appleton Ice Center reopens, Tri-County Arena upgrades ahead

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Appleton Ice, the nonprofit that operates Appleton Family Ice Center and Tri-County Ice Arena in Fox Crossing, is celebrating the completion of a \$1.35 million reconstruction of its Appleton facility and is continuing fundraising for a major renovation project at Tri-County.

The Appleton Family Ice Center at 1717 E. Witzke Boulevard is reopening with a

“Drop the Puck 2” event from 5 to 9 p.m. today and 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday. The two-day celebration features youth hockey games with the Appleton Area Hockey Association and Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association and culminates with a Lawrence University men’s scrimmage Saturday night. There will also be food trucks, games, raffles and live music.

Appleton Ice board member Tommy Wroblewski said the Appleton and Fox

Crossing ice centers serve more than 2,000 children and adults annually from across the Fox Valley.

“It’s our mission to promote and provide ice sports opportunities for all members of our community, of all ages and abilities, including those with disabilities,” he said.

Tri-County Ice Arena opened in 1974, and Appleton Family Ice Center opened in 1999. Wroblewski said both ice centers

are aging, and their ice surfaces, sub-floor equipment and other infrastructure are reaching the end of their useful lives.

“We are undertaking a project to renovate the essential infrastructure at both facilities that will extend their operational lives for another several decades and offer the same growth and opportunities to future generations that many have ex-

SEE **Ice Arena** ON PAGE 7



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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.

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

Nagel receives top ACT score

Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic High School senior Olivia Nagel earned the highest possible composite score of 36 on the ACT test.

About one-quarter of 1% of students who take the ACT earn a top score. In the U.S. high school graduating class of 2024, only 3,041 out of 1.37 million students who took the ACT earned a top composite score of 36.

The ACT test consists of section tests in English, mathematics, reading and science, each scored on a scale of 1–36. A stu-

dent's composite score is the average of the four section test scores. The score for ACT's optional writing test is reported separately and is not included in the ACT composite score.

The ACT test is a curriculum-based achievement exam that measures what students should have had the opportunity to learn in school. Students who earn a top composite score have likely mastered all the skills and knowledge they will need to succeed in first-year college courses in the core subject areas.

County highlights lead-safe homes program

Neenah News

In recognition of Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, Winnebago County Public Health is hosting a free Community Partner Information Session to raise awareness about the dangers of lead exposure in children and highlighting its Lead-Safe Homes Program as a critical tool in keeping children safe and ready to learn.

Lead poisoning remains a serious environmental health threat to children, especially in homes built before 1978. Even low levels of lead in a child's blood can cause developmental delays, learning difficulties, hearing loss and behavioral problems. Young children are particularly at risk because their growing bodies absorb lead more easily, and their brains and nervous systems are more vulnerable to its damaging effects.

The Community Partner Information Session will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday

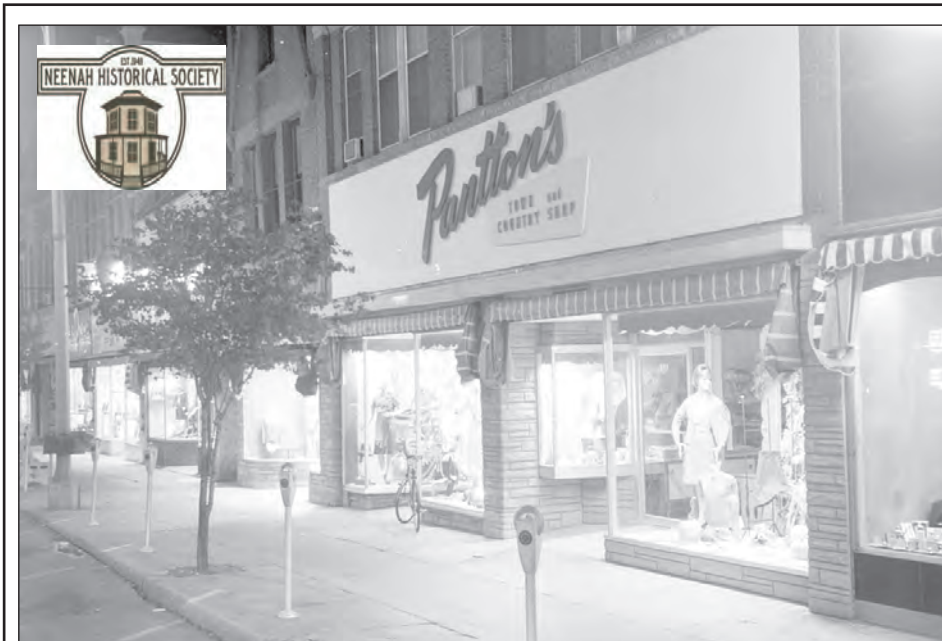
on the fourth floor of the David W. Albrecht Administration Building, 112 Otter Ave. in Oshkosh.

Residents will learn how the Lead-Safe Homes Program works, who qualifies, and how to apply for assistance with lead testing and home remediation.

Attendees will then have an opportunity to travel to a current lead abatement project to hear from the homeowner, contractor and program lead abatement program coordinator.

The Lead-Safe Homes Program provides funding and support to remove lead paint hazards from homes, specifically those with young children or pregnant women. The program is open to qualifying homeowners and rental property owners.

For more information about lead poisoning prevention or to learn more about the Lead-Safe Homes Program, visit wchd.pub/LeadSafe or call 920-232-3000.



Neenah Historical Society photo

Pantton's Town and Country Shop

An offer to work at Jandrey's Department Store brought Earl and Millie Pantton to Neenah in 1939. Just five years later they opened their own retail space right across the street. "Pantton's Town and Country Shop" was located at 131 W. Wisconsin Ave. and specialized in retail fashions. The Pantton's retired in 1978.



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Calendar of events

Saturday, Oct. 18

Meet and Greet Author Kimberly Warner of *Unfixed: A Memoir of Family, Mystery and the Currents That Carry You Home*, 10:30 a.m., Lyons Fine Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Boo Bash, 1 p.m., The Dome

Tuesday, Oct. 21

Trick or Treat Trail, 5 p.m., Fritsch Park

Wednesday, Oct. 22

Senior Dinner Theater, 5:30 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

Pints for Polio, 6 p.m., Greene's Pour House – Greene Room

Rocket Players presents *Mary Poppins*, 7 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

Thursday, Oct. 23

Authors Ginny Gillman and Emily Bennett Meet and Greet, 4 p.m., Lyons Fine Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Prohibition and The Temperance Movement in Neenah, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Rocket Players presents *Mary Poppins*, 7 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

Friday, Oct. 24

Rocket Players presents *Mary Poppins*, 7 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

Saturday, Oct. 25

Craft Fair, 9 a.m., St. Gabriel Parish, 900 Geiger St.

Craft Sale, 9 a.m., Congregational United Church of Christ, 1511 Nicolet Boulevard

Meet and Greet Author Jesica Schwarzbauer of *Bilancia Wellness*, 11 a.m., Lyons Fine Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Trunk or Treat, 2 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church of Neenah, 1228 S. Park Ave.

Rocket Players presents *Mary Poppins*, 7 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

Sunday, Oct. 26

Rocket Players presents *Mary Poppins*, 7 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

Thursday, Oct. 30

Meet and Greet Author Brent Marlo of *The Santa Alvera Murders*, 4 p.m., Lyons Fine Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Lori Jones Book Signing and Talk, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, Oct. 31

Trick or Treating hours, 4-7 p.m., Neenah and Fox Crossing

Saturday, Nov. 1

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

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Fox Crossing selects Callan as police chief

Neenah News

The Fox Crossing Police Department announced earlier this week that, after a thorough hiring process, the Village of Fox Crossing has selected Captain Tim Callan as the next police chief for the FCPD.



Callan

Callan began his career with Fox Crossing in 2001, served six years as an investigator with the LWAM Drug Unit, was promoted to lieutenant in 2017 and rose to the rank of captain in 2022.

Current Police Chief Scott Blashka will be retiring in January 2026. The village said Callan will spend the coming months in a transitional period before fully assuming his new role and title.

Blashka has spent more than three decades in law enforcement.

Blashka will retire alongside Patrol Lieutenants Gary Cutler and Rick Leneau, who are also set to step down in January.

The three officers have spent the last 23 years working together in Fox Crossing. Each will retire with nearly 31 years of law enforcement experience.

The Police and Fire Commission received 15 applications for the position after starting the search process in the spring.

The Fox Crossing Police Department includes 31 sworn officers, two part-time community service officers and four full-time civilian support staff.



Submitted photo

Bob Breaker and his wife Roxie received a plaque during a retirement picnic in honor of him and his family that also included a cake and a "last call" recognition over the radio from the dispatchers at Winnebago County's Communications Center.

Breaker honored for retirement

Neenah News

After 50 years of service, Clayton Fire Rescue honored the retirement of Bob Breaker — one of the department's longest-serving and most respected members.

A lifelong resident of the Town of Clayton, Breaker joined the Clayton-Winchester Fire Department in the early 1970s at the suggestion of a neighbor. What started as volunteer service became a lifetime of leadership. Over the years, Breaker served as firefighter, captain, assistant chief, safety officer, secretary, fire investigator and the Town of Clayton's emergency manager.

"Bob was the go-to driver for the department's 4,000-gallon Tender and helped bring in the department's first Jaws of Life," said Kaylin Rieckmann, Town of Clayton emergency manager. "He served on numerous truck committees and lent his mechanical skills to keep equipment running strong. He also helped lead community events like the department's street dances and Touch

a Truck and responded to countless emergencies with calm expertise."

Rieckmann said two stories show Breaker's spirit best: once, in a snowstorm, he cleared the road with his own tractor so engines could reach a fire. At another scene, he stood inside a collapsible water tank for the duration of the call to operate a pump no one else could reach.

Behind the scenes, Rieckmann said Breaker's wife Roxie has been a steadfast supporter — from helping run the calling tree in the days before pagers, to serving in the firefighter's auxiliary. Together, they've raised three children and now enjoy five grandchildren.

"His legacy — marked by loyalty, service and heart — will be felt in Clayton Fire Rescue for generations to come," Rieckmann said "Clayton Fire Rescue was proud to honor Bob at a recent retirement picnic, with attendees from multiple area departments. Thank you, Bob, for 50 incredible years."

Staff member recognized for saving student

Neenah News

Washington School of Early Learning administrative assistant Britney Stobbe was honored at the Oct. 7 Neenah Joint School District Board of Education meeting.



Stobbe

The Neenah Police Department and Neenah-Menasha Fire and Rescue recognized Stobbe for her life-saving efforts in assisting a student who recently suffered an allergic reaction from a bee sting.

Stobbe was presented a citation by officers and paramedics for her quick response in administering epinephrine and assisting the student before paramedics arrived.

"We are so fortunate to have administrative and health assistants such as Britney across our school district," the district said.



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Bergstrom Automotive earns national award

Neenah News

Automotive News has announced that Bergstrom Automotive has been named the top dealership group to work for in the United States.

General managers representing the winning Bergstrom Automotive dealerships, along with their spouses, joined Tim Bergstrom, Jake Bergstrom and John Bergstrom and other honorees Oct. 9 at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum for the formal recognition and ceremony.

In the 2025 "Top 150 Dealerships to Work For" list, Bergstrom led the nation with 39 dealerships earning the distinction — more than any other automotive group. Additionally, two Bergstrom dealerships were ranked among the top 10 dealerships in the country for minority leadership.

Automotive News selected the winners

from more than 18,000 dealerships nationwide, recognizing organizations that excel in workplace culture, employee satisfaction and leadership.

The Automotive News "Best Dealerships to Work For" list is compiled through an independent, two-part process managed by Workforce Research Group. The first part evaluates each dealership's workplace policies, practices and benefits, while the second part measures employee satisfaction through an anonymous survey of team members.

Combined results determine the top-ranking dealerships that demonstrate exceptional workplace culture, strong employee engagement and a commitment to supporting and valuing their people.

Bergstrom said this is one of the highest honors in the retail automotive industry.



Submitted photo

Martha's Market donuts will be making a comeback during a craft sale at Congregational United Church of Christ.

Martha's Market donuts featured at craft sale

Neenah News

Martha's Market donuts are coming back. On Oct. 25, the treats will be on sale during a Craft Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Congregational United Church of Christ, 1511 Nicolet Boulevard.

For many years, the church hosted Martha's Market, which featured a variety of sales and a cafe with homemade donuts. Although many things have changed, the donuts are still being made with the treasured recipe.

While many people involved in that effort years ago are no longer able to make the donuts, younger members of the church are receiving lessons. A multigenerational group will make the dough the day before. They will then fry the donuts early on Oct. 25. The donuts will be hot and waiting for Craft Sale customers.



Submitted photo

Young members of Congregational United Church of Christ are receiving lessons on how to make Martha's Market donuts.



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Hintz discusses proposals for next year's county budget

By Anya Kelley
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz said that county government tends to be elusive to the average person, so he is utilizing the importance of the budget to engage in public conversation when discussing proposals for the county budget for next year.

"I think county government does a lot of great things but also makes sure that what we're spending our money on, what we're investing in, aligns with what the public's priorities are," Hintz said. "Because how can we know if we're doing the right things if the public isn't following or is unable to follow what we're doing?"



Hintz

Winnebago County is one of 72 counties in the state and has a total budget of \$238 million. Of the total budget, \$74 million comes from property tax revenue, \$36 million of which is generated from villages and towns. Hintz said historically, Winnebago County has been frugal compared to other counties.

Hintz's presentation during a listening session Oct. 8 in Winneconne broke down the top 10 departments by expenses in the proposed budget with the number one being health and human services. Together, that area of the budget takes up about 40% of the county's total expenditure.

"When I think of county government, I've always felt like the biggest thing that I identify with is social services," Hintz

said. "That's really what the biggest bread and butter of what I think county services do."

Over the 2025 budgeting cycle, Winnebago County was able to reduce the structural deficit from \$8,587,512 to \$7,236,065. In addition to reducing the deficit, the County Veteran Service Office is on track to deliver \$67.4 million in compensation and pension to veterans in the county by the end of the year.

The presentation broke down the top 10 departments by expenses in the proposed budget with the number one department being health and human services. Together, that area of the budget takes up about 40% of the county's total expenditure.

Health and human services are a highly expansive area including everything from education to lead paint remediation to healthy aging.

A large portion of that funding comes from both state and federal grants, which may cause complications in the future with the passing of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and the loss of certain grant dollars.

"We're always going to have a challenge with more demand for services than there are resources," Hintz said.

Hintz said the upcoming budget has not been significantly impacted, but the 2027 budget likely will be. Some changes for this year include the loss of IT security funding and the loss of funding for a food wise educator position through the UW-Extension. Hintz said this year's budget includes a 3% increase for tariffs and increasing labor costs and inflation.

Other complications for the upcoming

budgeting cycle include the former UW-Oshkosh Fox Cities campus that the county took ownership of on July 1, the increasing demand for housing, a growing homeless population and the need for new county facilities.

Hintz said one of his biggest challenges is figuring out how to get the county to think collectively when each individual municipality is facing uniquely important issues.

In an effort to improve the budgeting process, including transparency and engagement, Hintz pushed the beginning of the process forward to allow the county board and committees more time to evaluate.

Budget workshops kicked off in mid-September rather than mid-October this year. A budget brief was also made available to the public for a simplified breakdown of where the money is going. Hintz said eight budget amendments have already been drafted.

The 2026 budget is focused on increasing fiscal responsibility, with a further emphasis on accuracy and efficiency. Af-

ter falling behind similar markets, Hintz said Winnebago County has worked to increase investment in the workforce and will continue to fill crucial positions in the coming year.

"We need to find a way to be competitive for recruitment and attainment purposes for long-term stability," Hintz said.

The county will see a net increase of 26.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions across different departments. Five positions will be used to move the Homelessness, Evictions, and Loss Prevention (HELP) program from project positions to a permanent fixture in the county. Five positions have been eliminated for a total saving of \$431,775.

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors meets at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month on the fourth floor of the Winnebago County Courthouse. Its next meeting is Oct. 21.

In addition, the board is set to consider the 2026 Executive Budget at 6 p.m. Oct. 27.

Meetings are available to stream online at winnebagocowi.portal.civicclerk.com.

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Larsen Road

FROM PAGE 1

ity work caused the project to be delayed. "Town officials and staff sincerely appreciate the patience and understanding shown by parents, students and staff during that time," Skerke said. "We understand the inconvenience was less than ideal. Now that the road is fully open, we trust the community will appreciate the final product, which includes wider shoulders, dedicated turn lanes, new signal lights, and a trail, making this a much safer road for everyone."

Town Chair Robert Schmeichel said he's glad the roadwork is finally finished and reminded drivers that the speed limit along Larsen Road is 35 miles per hour.

The \$3.2 million project was designed and managed by McMahan Associates, with MCC serving as the primary contractor. The Town of Neenah received about \$2.2 million in funding from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Local Roads Improvement Program to help cover project costs.

The Village of Fox Crossing and Neen-

ah Joint School District also contributed through cost-sharing for portions of the road and the installation of signal lights at Rocket Way.

Early signs show the improvements are already making an impact. Jennie Mayer, Safe Routes to School Coordinator with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, shared in an email to the town that she has seen the new trail being actively used.

"I just wanted to tell you both how wonderful it was to drive home on Larsen Road yesterday and see the trail being utilized by so many people," Mayer wrote. "I saw the cross-country team running along it, people were out biking, and people were out walking their dogs. I have also seen students using it the last two mornings to get to school. I can't wait to get out and use the trail myself."

Traffic on Larsen Road has increased since Neenah High School opened in Fox Crossing in 2023 and is expected to continue growing as development around the school progresses.

The reconstructed road is designed to improve safety for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists in the area.

One injured in Fox Crossing house fire

Neenah News

One resident was transported to a hospital for an injury following a house fire Oct. 8 in Fox Crossing.

Fox Crossing Fire Department Lt. Graham Stewart said the resident was treated and released later in the day.

Fox Crossing firefighters responded at 6:25 a.m. along with auto-aid units to the 200 block of North Green Bay Road for a report of a structure fire, Stewart said.

Upon arriving on the scene, firefighters found a single-family home that had fire coming out the front door and front windows of the porch along with smoke throughout the home. Both occupants were outside when firefighters arrived, Stewart said.

Fox Crossing firefighters stretched two pre-connected hose lines into the porch area and into the living space of the home to extinguish the fire, which had extended into the walls and the attic area. Stewart said an overhaul of the walls and ceiling was completed to ensure the fire was extinguished.

A search of the home was completed, with no one located inside. The fire was under control within 30 minutes. The residents were assisted by family.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation with no damage estimate immediately available. The Grand Chute and Town of Neenah fire departments along with Gold Cross Ambulance and Fox Crossing Police Department assisted at the scene.

Library holding pinhole camera presentation

Neenah News

Attendees can discover the art and science of lens-free photography in a pinhole camera presentation at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Neenah Public Library.

Local photographer Nick Dvoracek will show patrons how pinhole cameras (simple

devices that use a tiny hole instead of a lens) capture beautifully soft, dreamlike images using basic principles of light and shadow.

Dvoracek will guide them through the history, mechanics and creative potential of this unique photographic method. No reservation is necessary.



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Workers lay the foundation for a new ice rink floor at Appleton Family Ice Center. The facility reopens today with a fully upgraded rink.

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Ice Arena

FROM PAGE 1

perienced over the past several decades," he said.

Renovations at Appleton included replacing the ice rink and floor and installing a new dehumidification system, with the roof expected to be replaced next summer.

Appleton Ice is also moving forward with upgrades at Tri-County after the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved transferring ownership to the nonprofit four years early. Under a 2014 agreement, Appleton Ice leased Tri-County for \$1 per year and maintained the facility, with ownership originally set to transfer in 2029. The new agreement transferred ownership this year, requiring that Tri-County remain an ice facility for

at least 30 years.

Wroblewski said in June that Appleton Ice requested sole ownership from the county to reassure donors that Tri-County will stay under the nonprofit's control and to give lenders confidence the land can serve as collateral if fundraising falls short.

Renovations at Tri-County are planned to begin in June 2026 and include replacing the two ice surfaces, upgrading insulation and replacing the boiler system.

Proposed improvements at Tri-County are expected to cost roughly \$2.3 million, while Appleton's upgrades are estimated at \$1.6 million.

The improvements are part of Appleton Ice's Funding the Future capital campaign, which has raised more than \$1.6 million toward its \$4.1 million goal since late last year.



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Submitted photo

The Neenah High School girls tennis team captured the WIAA Division 1 Oshkosh North sectional title last week. The team consisted of: (front, from left) JB Kennedy, Rachel Thomas, Rebekah Thomas, Sydney Michalkiewicz, Lauren McDonald, Ava Motto, Mollie VanDyke; (back, from left) head coach Dan Grassl, Josie Kohlbeck, Evelyn Buss, Celia Alexander, Ella Motto, Celia Gentile, assistant coach Brian Hankel.



Submitted photo

The St. Mary Catholic girls tennis team captured the WIAA Division 2 Kohler sectional title last week. The team consisted of: (front, from left) Vivie Auth, Erin Blaney, Adel Schneider, Lorelai Miller; (back, from left) Elsa Rossmeisl, Kaylee Sommerfeld, Bree Pauly, coach Lizzy Bergstrom Auth, coach Emma Jares, Ella Chier, Nadia Alexander, Halle Janssen.

Rockets, Zephyrs claim sectional tennis crowns

Neenah News

Both the Neenah High School and St. Mary Catholic girls tennis teams claimed titles at their respective WIAA sectional tournaments last week and will be advancing to the team state tournament next weekend in Madison.

Neenah, which has advanced to the team state tournament 13 times in the last 14 years and won titles in 2015 and 2021, is the No. 2 seed in the Division 1 field and will face Verona in the quarterfinal round next Friday.

St. Mary Catholic, which is making just its third trip to the team state tournament with the last time coming in 2004, is the second-seeded team in the Division 2 bracket

and will face Altoona in a semifinal match on Saturday at the Nielsen Tennis Stadium.

The Rockets dominated the Oshkosh North sectional last Thursday, winning titles at six of the seven flights and finishing with 54 points. Sheboygan North was a distant second with 32 points.

All four singles players for Neenah captured sectional titles.

Celia Gentile dropped only two games in winning three matches to claim the title at No. 1 singles, beating Julia English of Sheboygan North in the title match, 6-2, 6-0. Gentile earned the 11th seed for the WIAA Division 1 individual state tournament being played this weekend in Madison.

Ella Motto is joining Gentile in the singles bracket at the Division 1 state tournament after winning the sectional title at the No. 2 flight. Ella Motto breezed to a win in the semifinal round before pulling out a 6-0, 7-6 win over Thea Bates of Sheboygan North to win the title.

The other singles titles for the Rockets went to Rachel Thomas at the No. 3 flight and Lauren McDonald at the No. 4 flight. Thomas lost only two games in her two matches at sectionals and posted a 6-0, 6-0 win in the final, while McDonald earned her title while losing just three games in her two matches.

The Rockets also qualified their top two doubles flights to the individual state tournament with the No. 1 pairing of Sydney Michalkiewicz and Rebekah Thomas taking second at sectionals, while Ava Motto and Cecelia Alexander won the No. 2 flight title.

Michalkiewicz and Rebekah Thomas won their first two matches in straight sets before falling to Manitowoc Lincoln's Taylor Peterson and Jordyn Popp in a hard-fought three-set match, 7-6, 3-6, 10-7. The Neenah duo is seeded fifth in the state tournament field.

Ava Motto and Alexander had convincing wins in both of their sectional matches, posting the victories by identical 6-0, 6-1 scores.

Josie Kohlbeck and Evelyn wrapped up the sectional champions for the Rockets winning at No. 3 doubles. The pairing dropped just two games in each of their sectional matches, beating Sheboygan North's Ava Brashaw and Elise Johnson, 6-0, 6-2 for the title.

St. Mary Catholic, which celebrated its title by jumping into Lake Michigan as a team,

edged Kohler by six points for the sectional crown.

The Zephyrs rode an impressive showing in the doubles flights to their title as all three St. Mary Catholic pairings won their flights in convincing fashion.

Defending Division 2 state champion Vivie Auth and Adel Schneider won their first two sectional matches by 6-0, 6-0 margins before topping Gwen Rau and Peyton Peterson of Sheboygan Falls, 6-1, 6-2 in the title match. Auth and Schneider improved to 24-0 on the year and were the top seed in the Division 2 doubles field at the individual state tournament this weekend.

Nadia Alexander and Lorelai Miller will join Auth and Schneider in the individual state doubles field after claiming the sectional title to improve to 21-2 on the season. The tandem dropped only two games in its first match at sectionals and then beat Fiona Bryant and Toni Beaumont 6-3, 6-1 in the finals.

Elsa Rossmeisl and Bree Pauly completed the sweep in doubles by winning at the No. 3 flight. Rossmeisl and Pauly beat a Sheboygan Falls pairing in straight sets in their first match and then topped Sadie Die-drich and Frida Besne of St. Mary's Springs, 6-4, 6-2 in the title match.

The Zephyrs' No. 1 singles player Erin Blaney also advanced to the state meet with a fourth-place finish at sectionals. Blaney downed Laiken Daub of Lake Country Lutheran, 6-3, 6-2 in her quarterfinal match to earn the state berth.

Halle Janssen at No. 3 singles and Kaylee Sommerfeld at No. 4 singles each finished second at their respective flights, while Ella Chier placed third at No. 2 singles.



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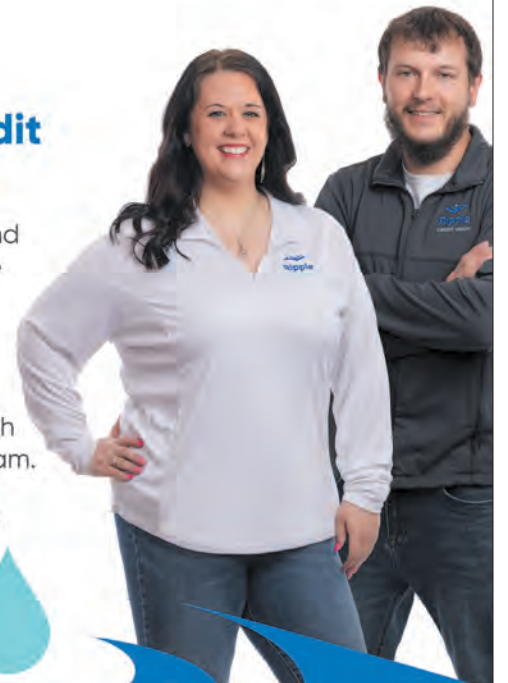
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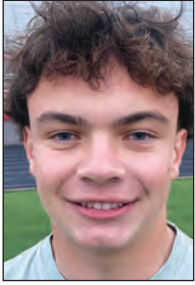


Neenah sets sights on outright FVA championship

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

It may not have been in the final minute, but when Neenah kicker Harry Gerdin delivered a 35-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter last Friday to push the Rockets back in front of Fond du Lac, it certainly came with a message.

“Knowing that Harry can go in and kick a field goal in a game that’s really tight and be calm and collected, that’s big,” Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. “That gives us confidence that if we can get the ball close, he can finish it.”



Gerdin

Gerdin, who is in his first season as a kicker after previously playing soccer, has been consistent for the Rockets. He’s 3-of-6 on the year on field goals and has hit all but one of the 22 extra points he’s attempted.

The junior said he was confident taking the field for his try in Friday night’s 31-29 win and was glad to see the end result.

“I don’t feel much pressure when it comes to things like that, I just know I have to put the ball through the uprights,” Gerdin said. “Ashton got the hold and I made contact, it felt really good. I looked up and saw it go through the uprights, I was pretty happy.”

After the two teams combined for 35 points in the third quarter, Jung figured Gerdin’s kick was more of the go-ahead variety – not necessarily the game-winning kind.

“We just felt like we had to take the points there. We have a good kicker and we are confident in him, let’s take the points and get the lead,” Jung said. “We really didn’t think that was going to be the last score of the game. We thought they would score again and we just wanted to get ahead of them.”

Fond du Lac wouldn’t score again, though, as the Rockets defense held them without a point over the final 12 minutes.

Neenah’s defense ended all three Cardinal drives in the final quarter with interceptions as Owen Fox finished with two and Connor Stuckel had one. Stuckel also finished with nine tackles in the games finishing behind only Joey Herrin, who had 11.

“We struggled in that game defensively, but we stopped every one of their drives

Week 9 games

Fox Valley Association

(records reflect FVA games)

- Neenah (6-0) at Hortonville (1-5)
- Kimberly (5-1) at Appleton North (4-2)
- Appleton East (2-4) at Kaukauna (3-3)
- Oshkosh West (1-5) at Fond du Lac (2-4)

in the fourth quarter with turnovers. That was big. We stepped up and made some plays,” Jung said. “It just shows how gritty and tough our guys are and the will to win is a habit.”

The win clinched at least a share of the Fox Valley Association title for the Rockets. Neenah finished in a three-way tie with Kaukauna and Kimberly last year and shared the title in 2022.

The Rockets can finish the conference season unbeaten and grab the title alone – its first outright title since 1987 – with a win on Friday on the road against Hortonville.

The Polar Bears are coming off their first win of the season and scored a season-high 33 points in the victory over Oshkosh West. Hortonville had not scored more than 16 points in any FVA game this season prior to the win.

“We’ve always known they have talented players and a young coaching staff and it looks like they are starting to figure things out. Kudos to them for having a game like that,” Jung said. “We’ve got to keep getting better. We don’t ever take any opponent lightly and we know we are in for a big game.”

Hortonville features one of the top receivers in the FVA in Isaac Behnke, who had seven catches for 105 yards and a pair of touchdowns in last week’s win. For the

season he has 41 catches and is averaging 14.8 yards a reception.

Quarterback AJ Pheifer has thrown for more than 1,300 yards this season and is completing nearly 56 percent of his passes.

“They like to zing the ball around,” Jung said. “We have to be solid defensively and move the ball offensively to keep them off the field.”

Neenah’s offense continues to run through junior quarterback Ashton VanBeek, who rushed for 162 yards and three touchdowns on 17 carries against Fond du Lac. He also completed 12-of-17 passes for

116 yards and a touchdown throw to Cooper Sieck.

For the season, VanBeek is up to 1,174 yards and 14 touchdowns on the ground, while throwing for 779 yards and nine scores.

Friday’s game will close out the regular season for the Rockets and will serve as the final tune-up for the postseason.

Playoff pairings will come out on Saturday and the Rockets will be eager to find out what their postseason path looks like.

“We have had our ups and downs this season,” Gerdin said. “But for the playoffs, I think we are really going to get things going.”

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Senior Standout is brought to you by: **Nicolet NATIONAL BANK**

Reichenbacher revels in Zephyrs' gridiron resurgence

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Elliot Reichenbacher took his first steps onto a football field as a freshman at St. Mary Catholic.

It was certainly an eye-opening experience.

"It was a little scary," Reichenbacher, now a senior with the Zephyrs, said after a practice earlier this week. "You come out and some of these kids are like 300 pounds and I'm a skinny little 120-pound freshman trying to learn what to do. Once you get over that fear, you realize it's fun to hit people and get hit. It's been a great time."

Reichenbacher is one of the leaders of the resurgent Zephyr program, which enters the final week of the regular season with a 4-4 record after posting just three wins in the previous two seasons combined.

The senior running back leads the team with nearly 600 yards rushing and nine touchdowns through eight games, while as a linebacker ranks second on the team in both tackles and tackles-for-loss.

Reichenbacher has also served as one of the leaders under first-year head coach Rob Detterman and helped guide this year's group past the struggles of the past two seasons.

"All of the seniors have done an incredible job and Elliot has been out front all of the time," Detterman said. "We've said several times this year that the seniors, with Elliot being a main one, that to come in and change things, we needed them to be willing to follow and then lead and the way they have done that is incredible."

Being a leader is important to Reichenbacher – just as much as gaining yards and making tackles.

"It's meant a lot to me to be a leader," Reichenbacher said. "To get better is really fun so it's great to push the younger guys to be the best they can be."



Neenah News

Elliot Reichenbacher has played a key role in the success of the St. Mary Catholic football team this season and is also looking forward to his senior campaign with the Fox Cities Stars hockey team.

Reichenbacher was a part of the final 8-player season at St. Mary Catholic when the Zephyrs did not lose a game but, along with his teammates, had to weather the struggles of the past two seasons. Last year, he got hurt in the second game

of the season and had to watch from the sidelines.

So entering his final season, Reichenbacher, and his fellow seniors, wanted to leave the program in a good place. He's proud that this year's squad has done that.

Senior Standout



"It's been a lot different this year and overall it's been my favorite year of football," Reichenbacher said. "It's been the toughest year I've had but you have to work your hardest if you want to see the results. A lot of the younger kids are going to come back next year and do the same thing we did this year and get even better, that's going to be exciting."

It's also been exciting for Reichenbacher because it's his first full season as a running back.

He was moved to the position as a junior but then was sidelined, so what he's been able to accomplish while still learning how to play the spot is pretty impressive.

"To put up the yards and the touchdowns I got it's been a really fun year and an exciting year," Reichenbacher said. "My favorite side of the ball is probably running back. Getting to run with the ball, getting those yards. It's just a blast. Even if you get tackled, you pop back up and coach says run the ball again. I'm like, I'm down with that."

Reichenbacher also acknowledges that playing both running back and linebacker is a benefit.

He said using his knowledge and experience as a linebacker helps him be a better running back and vice versa.

"They definitely correlate with each other," Reichenbacher said.

As much as Reichenbacher is enjoying this season, football will never be his favorite sport.

Reichenbacher has been playing hockey

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 12

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Prep roundup

CROSS COUNTRY

Landrath, Steiner lead Rocket runners

Olivia Landrath and Oliver Steiner led their respective squads for Neenah at the Port Washington Invitational last week.

Landrath finished 15th in the girls race as the Rockets took fourth among the 15 teams.

Lizzy LaPlant was the next Rocket to finish, placing 21st, followed by Elise Braaten in 24th, Eme Olkowski in 35th and Courtney Cain in 47th.

Steiner was the top finisher for Neenah in the boys race taking 25th overall. Sam Henning in 96th and Mason Schmidt in 103rd were the next two finishers with Brogan Hirschi in 107th and Spencer Schiedermayer in 110th rounding out the scoring runners for the Rockets.

Neenah finished 14th among the 16 boys teams.

Zephyrs compete at Brillion invite

Fritz Staner finished 17th overall to lead the St. Mary Catholic boys at the Brillion Invitational last Thursday. The Zephyrs finished ninth in the 13-team field.

Ethan Auer came in 43rd place for the Zephyrs with Brady DeLeeuw taking 56th. Leo Gruber in 72nd place and Brandon DeBaal in 83rd rounded out the scoring runners for the Zephyrs.

The Zephyr girls were 10th at the meet with Moorea Steckling placing 42nd to lead the team. Audra Post followed close behind in 46th place with Claire Higgins taking 49th, Audrey Weber placing 63rd and Claire Mislinski in 65th.

SWIMMING

Mulroy wins two events at invite

Anna Mulroy finished first in two events to help Neenah finish second at the Oshkosh West Invitational on Saturday.

Mulroy won the 25-yard freestyle and the 50-yard backstroke at the meet as the Rockets finished behind only powerhouse Appleton North in the final team standings of the 10-team event.

Sydney Hansman took second place in diving for the Rockets, while Breleigh Maurer added a pair of top-five individual finishes taking fourth in both the 50-yard butterfly and 50-yard backstroke.

Neenah also fared well in the relay events at the meet. Mulroy, Greta Meixl, Elisabeth Hang and Anna Benthein finished second in the 100-yard medley relay, while Bridgett Bloomhuff, Maurer, Sophie Wypiszynski and Mulroy took second in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Neenah was also fourth in the 200-yard medley relay and fifth in the 100-yard freestyle relay.

Obituaries

Angus Robert McIntyre

Angus Robert McIntyre (Mac) passed away October 10, 2025 in Neenah, Wisconsin at Theda Clark Hospital. He is survived by 3 children and 4 grandchildren. He was born Sept 27th 1935 in Niagara, Wisconsin the youngest of Angus C. McIntyre and Leone Versteegen McIntyre's six children. The family moved to Appleton when Angus Sr. became operations manager at



SOCCER

White's hat trick lifts Rockets to win

Trey White finished with a hat trick as Neenah posted a 4-1 win over Appleton North last week in the final Fox Valley Association game of the season.

Kolton Fleege also scored in the game for the Rockets, while Jordy Banda and Ben Mainville tallied assists in the win.

Fleege and Pierce Hanson split time in goal for the Rockets finishing with three saves and one save, respectively.

The Rockets also suffered a 4-1 loss to D.C. Everest at home on Saturday.

Zephyrs collect first win of the season

St. Mary Catholic notched its first win of the season on Tuesday night, collecting a 3-2 win over Menasha.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Rockets post one win at tournament

Neenah finished 1-3 at the Madison Memorial tournament on Saturday collecting its lone win in a 25-22, 25-15 decision over Madison East.

The Rockets lost to Hartford, Homestead and Appleton North.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Zephyrs knock off visiting Knights

Three players finished with at least eight kills as St. Mary Catholic rebounded from a first-set loss to knock off Lourdes Academy 15-25, 25-18, 26-24, 25-16 on Tuesday.

Autumn Crowe led the way with 10 kills, followed by Anna DeWitt with nine and Adele Brennan with eight. Sammi Weiss and Emmie Weiss finished with 20 and 11 assists, respectively, while Haley Kane led the team with six digs.

On Saturday, St. Mary Catholic went 1-2 at the Big East Tournament, scoring a win over Oostburg while falling to Howards Grove and Sheboygan Christian.

Crowe posted 30 kills and 40 digs in the three matches, while Luci Nackers added 22 kills 29 digs. Piper Neubauer finished with 21 digs and added five blocks against Sheboygan Christian and four in the win over Oostburg.

Sammi Weiss led the team with 38 assists, while Bitsy McCauley paced the Zephyrs with 44 digs.

Neenah ends regular season with loss

The Rockets were swept by Kimberly in their final regular season match last Thursday.

The Papermakers won the match by set scores of 25-16, 25-18, 25-22.

Kimberly Clark papermill. Mac graduated from Appleton West, served as a Marine in the Korean War and went to the University of Wisconsin on the GI Bill where he graduated with a law degree. He practiced as a defense attorney in Appleton for Bachman, Cummings and McIntyre. An avid sportsman, he participated in the Junior Olympics as a ski jumper, was a Wisconsin State Champion in racquetball and achieved 8 hole in ones after age 55. Cheering and following the Badgers and Packers football games were a passion. His love of history and sarcastic wit will be missed. The family is having a private service.

Zephyrs aiming to wrap up regular season with victory

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

If there has been a nick in the St. Mary Catholic football team's resurgent season, it's been the way the Zephyrs have come out of the gates for games.

St. Mary Catholic has trailed at half-time in five of its eight games this season and went into intermission tied at seven with Kohler/Lutheran/Christian before erupting for 34 points in the second half.

If the Zephyrs are going to snap the two-game losing skid they are on and pick up a win over Eastern Wisconsin Conference co-leader New Holstein on Friday, the first thing St. Mary Catholic needs to do is get off to a better start.

"It's kind of been our thing this year where we have been pretty slow to start," St. Mary Catholic head coach Rob Detterman said. "We want to get off to a better start than we have been. We definitely don't want to fall behind 18-0 or 14-0 like we have done because it's tough to scratch your way back."

St. Mary Catholic fell behind 18-0 at halftime in last Friday's 24-10 loss to Brillion – the Zephyrs only home loss this season – and didn't reach the end zone until the fourth quarter against the Lions.

Quarterback Tarver Trinkner ran for the lone touchdown in the game for the Zephyrs while Alexei Quinonez also boot-ed a 28-yard field goal.

Overall, St. Mary Catholic accumulated just 74 yards rushing against the Lions and finished with 212 yards of total offense in the loss. Detterman knows that will have to change this week.

"We want to continue to run the ball and we have to be good in the passing game. We feel like we maybe have a little advantage there," Detterman said. "We just have to play mistake free. We can't turn the ball over – which we have been doing better at in the second half of the season. Just not shooting ourselves in the foot will be the key on offense."

The Zephyrs will also have to tighten its belt on defense after allowing nearly 300 yards to the Lions last week.

New Holstein's offense is led by running back Conner Schaefer, who finished with

Week 9 games

Eastern Wisconsin Conference

(records reflect EWC games)

St. Mary Catholic (3-3) at New Holstein (5-1)

Valders (2-4) at Brillion (5-1)

Chilton (2-4) at Roncalli (5-1)

Kiel (2-4) at K/L/C (0-6)

224 yards on 23 carries – a whopping 9.7 yard per carry average – with two touchdowns in a 34-14 win over Kiel.

Schaefer moved past the 1,000-yard plateau in the game – he has 1,102 yards and nine touchdowns this season – and will likely get plenty of attention from the Zephyr defense.

"We need to stop No. 30- first and foremost. Get the run panned up and not allow any big plays," Detterman said of Schaefer. "If we can stop the big play on the ground and then continue to cover well, those are things we have to get done."

The Zephyrs will have to do that against the biggest offensive line the team has faced all season.

Detterman said the team has faced bigger individual linemen at times this season, but as a group the Huskies will bring the most bulk up front.

"Their entire line has pretty good size so that can wear on you," Detterman said. "They are big. We will have to use our depth on the defensive line a little bit more."

After a run of three straight wins, the back-to-back losses to the other two conference co-leaders have stemmed the Zephyrs roll a little bit.

But with a potential playoff appearance looming – the first for the program since 2002 – Detterman said it will be vital for St. Mary Catholic to find a way to notch a victory.

"The playoffs for us probably started a couple of weeks ago, but they definitely start on Friday," Detterman said. "We don't want a three-game skid. We want to go in with a win. The kids are ready to go out and compete and win. They want to extend the season."

The WIAA postseason field and pairings will be announced on Saturday.

Classifieds

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Real Estate/Rental

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Garage/Estate Sales

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Miscellaneous

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Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 10

since he was young and earned all-conference recognition last season as a goalkeeper for the Fox Cities Stars – a co-op program that draws from multiple high schools in the Fox Valley.

“I love football, but hockey was here first,” said Reichenbacher, who learned to skate when he was 3-years-old. “Hockey was imprinted on me. My dad grew up in Minnesota and he and his three brothers all played hockey and his dad and his three brothers all played hockey.”

With as physical as hockey can be, it’s

easy to imagine a running back/linebacker fitting in on the ice. But as a goalkeeper, Reichenbacher doesn’t get to enjoy slamming an opponent into the boards or ride another player off the puck.

“The face my dad made when I told him I wanted to play goalie was really funny,” Reichenbacher said, brandishing a big smile. “I started playing (goalkeeper) when I was 10 and it’s a lot of fun. I have no regrets.”

One of the differences between hockey and football for Reichenbacher is the unique atmosphere within a co-op program.

But he admits there are also positives playing for the Fox Cities Stars that he

wouldn’t experience playing for a St. Mary Catholic-based team.

“You do get to meet a lot of new people and build friendships with people from all over,” said Reichenbacher, one of two St. Mary Catholic students who play on the Stars. “It definitely is different. In football, I see these guys at school every day and then come out here to practice with them. For hockey, I’m with my friends all day and then I’m with an entirely different group of people after school.”

Before Reichenbacher takes the ice for his senior season, though, he first has some unfinished business to wrap up.

The success the Zephyrs have had on the gridiron this fall has put them on the

cusps of earning the program’s first playoff berth since 2002. And there’s nothing he would enjoy more than extending his final football season a few weeks.

“I don’t want my season to be over and I don’t think anyone on the team wants their season to be over,” Reichenbacher said. “Winning football games is a lot of fun – the locker room, the bus rides, all of that. I really like that it is not an individual sport. Everybody has to do their job and I really enjoy seeing all of that come together. If everybody does their job, you can stop any team out there. We may not be able to beat the Buffalo Bills, but any high school team in our division, I think if we all do our jobs, we can beat any of them.”

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DISCOVER YOUR HISTORY WITH A FAMILY TREE

GRUFFLE'S GREAT-GRANDPARENTS

A family tree is not a real tree. Think of it as a picture of a tree that shows the members of your family and how they're related to each other.

The people that came before you in your family are the branches of your tree.

Your mom and dad are your parents, of course.

THIS IS GRUFFLE

Your parents' parents are your **grandparents**.

Your grandparents' parents are your **great-grandparents**.

The people who came even before that are your **ancestors**.

Geneology is the study of family histories.

This Monster Family Tree helps Gruffle trace her family back to her great-grandparents.

Kid Scoop Together Family History

Interview a parent and other family members to answer the following questions.

What were your parents and grandparents like?

Did you have siblings? What were they like?

What are some funny or special family stories you've heard?

Were there any famous or infamous relatives in the family?

How did your family celebrate holidays or birthdays?

What family traditions have been passed down?

Did your family go on special vacations or trips?

Standards Link: Social Science: Understand the similarities and differences between generations.

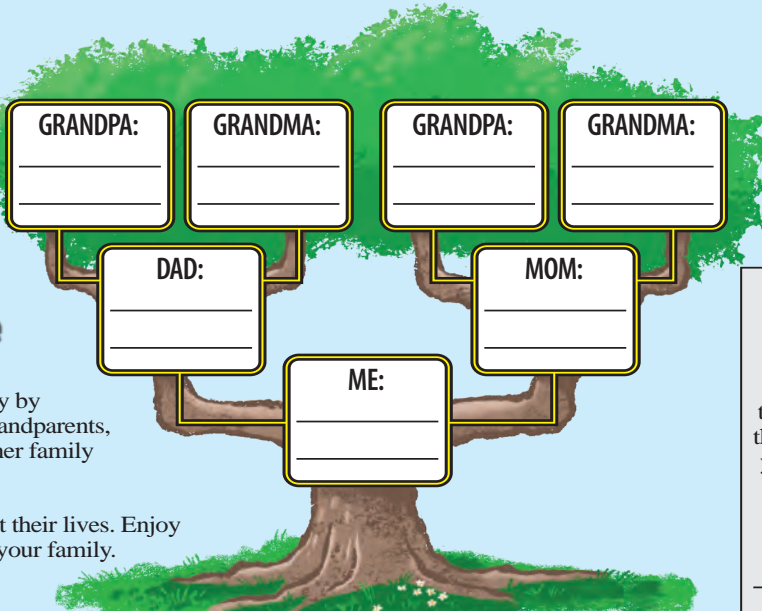
My Family Tree

Work with a family member to complete this family tree!

Learn more about your family by interviewing your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and other family members.

Most people like to talk about their lives. Enjoy learning about the history of your family. You might discover some surprising things!

Standards Link: Social Science: Interpret data using graphic elements.

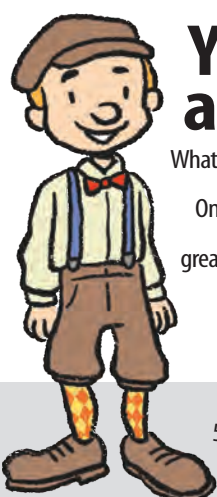


Extra! Extra! Family Fun

What do you and your family like to do together? Look through the newspaper for things you all enjoy. Ask your older family members how many of these things were around when they were kids.

Standards Link: Social Science: Understand the similarities and differences between generations.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



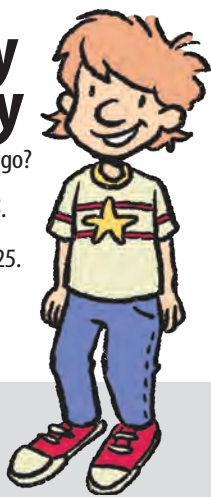
Yesterday and Today

What did kids wear 100 years ago?

On the right is Jason in 2025. On the left is Jason's great-grandfather Evan in 1925.

Can you find at least 5 differences between the two pictures?

Can you find at least 5 things that are similar?



Double Double Word Search

- AUNTS
- BRANCHES
- COUSINS
- DAD
- FAMILY
- GRANDMA
- GRANDPA
- LEARN
- LIVES
- MOM
- PARENTS
- TALK
- TRACE
- TREE
- YOU

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

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

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

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Write On!

My Family History

Talk to an elder in your family. Write a short description of something your family is proud of in your family's history.

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