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WINNEBAGO COUNTY TREASURER

Battery collection exceeds expectations

By Chris Lusvardi
NEENAH NEWS

Organizers of a lithium battery collection effort at the Future Neenah Farmers Market have been pleased with the response so far this year.

"We have held five collection events at the Neenah Farmers Market so far this year and have sent 111 pounds of lithium batteries and/or devices containing lithium batteries to Redwood Materials so far," said organizer Jerry Tribbey with First United Methodist Church Neenah-Menasha. "That does not include what was collected at the last two events. We're really looking to the next dates since people have prior notice and there seems to be a real interest in the community to be a part of it."

The collection will be available at the next two Farmers Markets Saturday and Oct. 11.

Rechargeable devices that can be recycled include laptops, smartphones, tablets, electric toothbrushes, power tool batteries,

SEE **Battery collection** ON PAGE 7



Submitted photo

Volunteers have participated in collecting lithium-ion batteries during the Future Neenah Farmers Market as part of a cooperative effort between First United Methodist Church of Neenah-Menasha and Redwood Materials.

INSIDE



Senior Standout
Lindgren is stalwart in Neenah's back row
Page 14

Neenah resident grateful for 101st birthday wishes

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Arline Dabill, the "Queen of Doty Island," marked her 101st birthday Sept. 18 with an outpouring of love from her Neenah neighbors.

Dabill, whose maiden name is Schroeder, has lived in her green, wood-frame home on East Forest Avenue across from the former Roosevelt Elementary School for 65 years and received a flood of visitors and birthday cards last month, including many from students at Alliance Charter School.

Dabill's life on Doty Island has been marked by devotion to family, community and the children who lived and attended school near her home. She was married to her husband, David, for 67 years, and together they raised five children. He passed away at age 89 in 2017.

Dabill often cared for neighborhood kids while their parents worked and she continued to serve as a playground attendant at Roosevelt Elementary into her 70s. While

SEE **Dabill birthday** ON PAGE 10



Neenah News

A Gold Star family member lights a candle during an event honoring fallen service members Sunday at Shattuck Park.

Families honored at Legion event

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Gold Star families and community members gathered Sunday for a luminary ceremony honoring the sacrifices of military service members and their loved ones.

The event at Shattuck Park was organized by Hawley-Dieckhoff Post-Unit 33 American Legion and Auxiliary, and Wisconsin Blue Star Mothers of America Chapter 1.

Blue Star families are those with a relative currently serving in the U.S. military, while Gold Star families are those who have lost a family member in military service.

"On Gold Star Family Day, we come together to honor those families who bear the ultimate burden of the loss of a loved one while serving in the United States Armed Forces, lighting a luminary the last Sunday in September, letting the Gold Star

families know that they don't stand alone and that their loved one is remembered," said Unit 33 Commander Chase Freemark.

Gold Star Mothers Day was designated by a joint Congress national resolution in 1936 and later expanded to Gold Star Mothers and Family's Day. The Gold Star Family event was held for the first time in Neenah, and leaders say it will become an

SEE **Families honored** ON PAGE 10

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Michelle is a Menasha native who has been working for Westgor Funeral Home since September 2009. She is currently the President of the Fox River Valley Funeral Director Association and was a charter member of the Rotaract Club of Neenah/Menasha as well as a member of the Neenah Kiwanis Club.

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

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Corrections

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

About the newspaper

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



Neenah Historical Society photo

Hardwood Products

The Hardwood Products factory at 164 N. Lake St. opened in 1911. It specialized in manufacturing high quality hardwood veneered doors. It is now operated by VT Industries which purchased the business in 2018 where it continues to manufacture doors. While faded, the Hardwood Products signage can still be seen on the building today.

Neenah Rocket Players presents Mary Poppins

Neenah News

Neenah High School will host its annual Senior Dinner Theater at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 22. The event features a dinner in the school atrium with music by the Touch of Class orchestra followed by the opening night of the fall musical, Mary Poppins, at 7 p.m. in the high school Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are \$10 and include dinner and the show. Tickets may be purchased by cash or check at the main entrance of the

high school during the school day.

The dinner menu includes Burt's favorite Sheperd's Pie with maple glazed carrots, side salad and assorted rolls along with a spoonful of sugar ice cream sandwich, coffee, milk and water.

General public ticket sales for all five shows of Mary Poppins will begin on Monday.

The shows will be Oct. 22-26.

For more information, call 920-751-6900.



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Calendar of events

Friday, Oct. 3

School For Seniors, 8:45 a.m., St. Mark's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 140 S. Green Bay Road

The Hallows: A Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

Saturday, Oct. 4

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

Howl-O-Ween, 9 a.m., Neenah Dog Park

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

Future Neenah Old Fashioned Saturday, noon, Downtown Neenah

The Hallows: A Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

Thursday, Oct. 9

Howl-O-Week Treat Trail, 5 p.m., Fritsch Park

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin Dream Big Gala 2025, 5:30 p.m., Bridgewood Resort and Conference Center

Friday, Oct. 10

The Hallows: A Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

Six: Teen Edition, 7 p.m., Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center

Saturday, Oct. 11

Fox Crossing Electronics Recycling, 8 a.m., Municipal Complex, 2000 Municipal Drive

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

Build A Scarecrow, 10:30 a.m., Riverside Park Pavilion

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

Clayton Fire Rescue Open House, 11 a.m., Station 43, 8348 Hickory Ave., Larsen

Six: Teen Edition, 2 and 7 p.m., Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center

The Hallows: A Haunted Trail Walk, 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park

Sunday, Oct. 12

Six: Teen Edition, 2 p.m., Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Emily Bennett Pop-Up Art Show, 6 p.m., The Ballroom at The Reserve

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Emily Bennett Pop-Up Art Show, 6 p.m., The Ballroom at The Reserve

Saturday, Oct. 18

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

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

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

Thursday, Oct. 23

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

Future Neenah pop up art show features local artist

Neenah News

Future Neenah is hosting a special two-night Art Show Pop-Up featuring the work of local artist Emily Bennett, taking place from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 14 and 15 at The Ballroom at The Reserve.

Organizers said this inspiring showcase will highlight Bennett's distinctive artistic style —intricate realism paired with joyful, vivid color palettes that capture the beauty of the natural world. Guests will experience a variety of works across mediums, from watercolor (her specialty) to colored pencil, acrylic and digital art.

"I'm thrilled to partner with Future Neenah for this show," Bennett said. "Art has been part of my life for 15 years, but only in the last three years have I really focused on developing it as a business."

Her creative venture, Detailed by Emily, has quickly become known for its vibrancy, detail and emotional resonance.

While Bennett pours her passion into art, she balances it with a career teaching

science at Neenah High School.

"People are often surprised when they find out I don't teach art," she said with a laugh. "But my science background really helps me as an artist. I use it to study my subjects more closely, to understand light, color, and texture on a deeper level."

Her artistic voice is also shaped by her role as a house manager at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, where the creativity of the stage fuels her imagination. Over the years, Bennett has illustrated five children's books, participated in regional fine art fairs and built a steady following for her commissioned works — particularly her beloved pet portraits.

The Art Show Pop-Up promises a welcoming atmosphere for both long-time fans and new admirers of Bennett's work. Attendees will have the chance to meet the artist, explore her diverse portfolio and take home original pieces.

For information, visit futureneenah.org or contact Future Neenah at 920-722-1920.



Images by Emily Bennett

Local artist Emily Bennett said one of the types of art she most enjoys creating is pet portraits. Bennett's work will be on display during an Art Show Pop-Up Oct. 14 and 15 at The Ballroom at The Reserve.

Fox Crossing police chief to step down from post in January

Neenah News

Fox Crossing Police Chief Scott Blashka will retire on Jan. 6, 2026, after more than three decades in law enforcement, village officials confirmed.

The Police and Fire Commission began its search for a new chief in May, receiving 15 applications for the position. Finalists Tim Callan, Matthew Laha and Shawn Engleman remain in the running, with background checks underway as of early this week.

Commission members plan to extend a conditional offer later this month, with

the new chief expected to begin work in December.

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

During Blashka's tenure, the department launched several new initiatives, including the School Resource



Blashka

Officer program at the new Neenah High School in Fox Crossing, the Community Service Officer program and the creation of the Sergeant position to expand supervisory coverage.

Blashka also negotiated a new four-year contract with the police union, expanded the detective division and oversaw the transition of highway jurisdiction from the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office to the village.

Blashka will retire alongside Patrol Lieutenants Gary Cutler and Rick Leneau, who are also set to step down Jan. 6.

He said the three men were once college roommates pursuing criminal justice careers and went on to serve together in Fox Crossing for the last 23 years.

Each will retire from the department with nearly 31 years of law enforcement experience.

Blashka said he has thoroughly enjoyed serving the community in which he has raised his family and "looks forward to many years of feeling safe in retirement knowing there are a lot of great officers in the Fox Valley continuing to serve."

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Submitted photo

The Tailored Hide Custom Leather and The Gift Gallery on South Commercial Street announced plans to close after nearly 40 years in business.

Downtown gift shop plans to close

Neenah News

The Tailored Hide Custom Leather and The Gift Gallery, a downtown Neenah custom leather, repair and gift shop announced this week the store will be closing.

A store closing sale is scheduled to start Oct. 14, owner Leeann Wasinger said.

The Tailored Hide Custom Leather and Repair and The Gift Gallery at 447 S. Commercial St. is known for its selection of retail leather apparel and accessories, motorcycle riding gear, custom leather goods, repairs/alterations and a unique gift collection including jewelry, handbags, belts and wallets, glass art, sculpture, home décor, garden art and more.

The store plans to continue taking repair and custom orders for a limited time, with a final date to be determined. Follow the store's

Facebook page for updated information.

After nearly four decades serving the Fox Valley and beyond, it will be the store's last Christmas in Neenah.

"Our final goodbyes should take place in early January 2026," Wasinger said. "It's been an honor to serve the Fox Valley, many of the states throughout the United States and internationally for 39 plus years. We have met incredible customers, employees and new friends along the way, while creating new custom works, restoring and adapting sentimental pieces, and kept well-loved items in use through our repair and alteration services.

"The support and trust we have received throughout the past years has been truly mind-boggling, humbling, and we are so very grateful to all of you."

Area jobless rate slightly decreases

Neenah News

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area (MSA) and Winnebago County saw their unemployment rate decrease slightly to 3.0% in August from 3.1% in July, while increasing from 2.7% in August 2024, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

The preliminary August unemployment rate decreased in one other metropolitan area over the month: Fond du Lac. Unemployment rates increased in two metropolitan areas over the month and stayed the same in the nine remaining metropolitan areas. Jobless rates decreased in one met-

ropolitan area over the year and increased in the other 12 metropolitan areas.

Jobless rates decreased in seven of Wisconsin's 35 largest cities over the month, increased in 15 cities and stayed the same in the remaining 13 cities. Rates decreased in one city over the year, while increasing in 32 cities and staying the same in the remaining two cities.

Preliminary August 2025 jobless rates decreased in 26 counties over the month, stayed the same in 22 counties and increased in 24 counties. Unemployment rates decreased in four counties over the year, increased in 63 counties and stayed the same in the remaining five counties.

Larsen-Winchester Lions plan pancake breakfast

Neenah News

The Larsen-Winchester Lions Pancake Breakfast will be from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday at Winchester Elementary School, 5270 Ann St.

Prices are \$8 for adults, \$6 for children ages 4 to 12 and free for children under age 4. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from any member of the Larsen-Winchester Lions.

Advance ticket sales are eligible for cash prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25.

All proceeds from the event go to charity and local people.

The Larsen-Winchester Lions build handicap ramps and provide free rentals for medical equipment. The group does Adopt-A-Highway cleanup on County Highway II in Winchester.

Another of the group's projects includes building a basketball court and pickleball court at Trailhead Park near the Lions warehouse. The group donates biannually to local charities and provides scholarships to students at Winneconne and Neenah high schools.

Clayton Fire Rescue slated to hold open house

Neenah News

Clayton Fire Rescue is hosting an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 11 at Station 43, 8348 Hickory Ave. in Larsen.

The fire department will have its trucks out to explore, hands-on kids' activities, bake sale, basket raffle and lunch for sale cooked by its crew. Food will include pasture-raised burgers donated by Borchert

Family Farms and brats.

Since its Touch-a-Truck event was rained out in August, the fire department is inviting community members to the special open house instead.

Proceeds raised will go toward equipment to help keep the communities safe and the department ready to respond to emergencies.

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Winnebago County Executive proposes \$227M budget

Neenah News

Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz recently released a proposed budget for 2026, with a focus on infrastructure upgrades, housing initiatives and expanded social services while reducing the county's structural deficit.



Hintz

The proposed budget projects \$226.8 million in revenues against \$236.9 million in expenditures, leaving a \$10.2 million deficit to be covered through a combination of general fund balance use, turnover savings and departmental reserves. The county's structural deficit has been reduced from \$8.6 million to \$7.2 million, according to budget documents.

"This budget reflects a commitment to building a transparent, accountable bud-

get that delivers high-quality services to its residents while being fiscally responsible and forward-looking," Hintz wrote in the budget brief. "This budget prioritizes investments in housing, infrastructure needs, efficient government, and fulfilling our mandates in social services to the federal and state government as well as the expectations of our communities."

Property tax revenue is projected at \$74.1 million, including roughly \$884,000 in additional revenue from new construction throughout the county, which has increased the taxable property base by about 1.43%.

Human Services remains the largest department by spending at \$59.2 million, or nearly 25% of the budget, followed by the Sheriff's Office at \$32 million and the Highway Department at \$21.9 million.

Top funded programs include roadway maintenance and repairs at \$13.5 million, inmate housing at \$9.4 million, and youth justice services at \$6.5 million.

The plan invests \$19.2 million in capital improvements, paired with \$9.6 million from other sources. The \$28.8 million total represents a 57% increase over 2025.

Hintz said the county faces \$67 million in deferred maintenance, security noncompliance at the courthouse, and inadequate facilities for highway operations and county staff. He cautioned that federal cuts to Medicaid and uncertainty around grants could require the county to maintain services through property taxes or cutting programs.

Employee wages include a 3% market adjustment, and a 2% merit pay increase. The county will add a net 26.2 full-time equivalent positions, including new deputies at the jail, maintenance staff, pub-

lic health strategists and permanent staff for the Homeless, Evictions and Loss Prevention (HELP) program. The five HELP project positions are being converted to permanent roles with "a negligible impact on the budget year-to-year." Five county staff positions will also be eliminated, saving about \$432,000.

Hintz has been holding listening sessions about the proposed 2026 county budget. The next sessions include meetings at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Omro Area Community Center; Wednesday at the Winneconne Municipal Center and Thursday at the Neenah Police Department community room, 2111 Marathon Ave.

The final 2026 budget is expected to be adopted in late October.

Larsen Road, Highway 76 intersection reopens

Neenah News

Wisconsin Highway 76 reopened to traffic last week at the Larsen Road intersection after being closed for nearly three months.

A single lane roundabout was installed at the intersection. Construction included new pavement structure, new pavement markings and signing, culvert and storm sewer installation, and intersection lighting.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the purpose of the project was to improve safety at the intersection while providing acceptable traffic operations. WisDOT said the goal

for the improvements was to reduce the number and severity of crashes at the intersection, particularly right-angle type crashes.

The intersection had 16 crashes from 2016 to 2020, resulting in one fatal crash and nine injury type crashes. Of the sixteen crashes, 12 were right angle crashes.

In addition, the new Neenah High School located approximately one-mile east of the intersection is expected to increase traffic at the intersection. Larsen Road remains closed closer to the high school as a Town of Neenah project is finished.



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Contact Us 920-727-5555 ValleyVNA.org
Valley VNA Senior Care 1535 Lyon Dr. Neenah





Photo from Neenah Joint School District



Photo by David Hall

Neenah Homecoming

Top photo: Neenah High School held its annual homecoming assembly Sept. 25 in advance of weekend activities. The student-led event featured competitions between classes and staff members. Weekend activities included a parade, football game and dance.

Bottom photo: Students and community members marched through downtown Neenah on Friday afternoon during the annual Neenah High School Homecoming Parade. Groups participating in the parade included members of the Neenah Middle School football team handing out candy to onlookers.

Exam provides insight into student performance

Each year, the Wisconsin Forward Exam provides valuable insight into how our students are performing compared to their peers across the state.

While no single test defines a student, these results give us an important snapshot of progress, strengths and areas for growth. I am proud to share that the 2025 results show Neenah students continue to excel, consistently outperforming state averages at multiple grade levels and across subject areas.

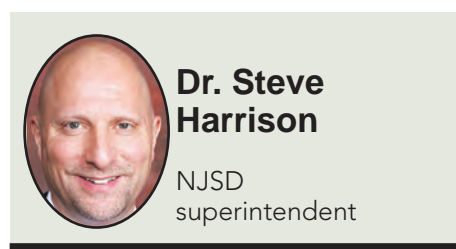
At the elementary level, our third graders achieved impressive gains in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. In ELA, 62.3% of Neenah third graders scored at the proficient or advanced level, compared to 52.3% statewide. That 10-point advantage reflects the strong foundation our teachers build in reading, writing, and critical thinking during the early years.

In math, 66.1% of Neenah third graders reached proficiency, outpacing the state by nearly eleven points. At the eighth-grade level 60% of Neenah eighth graders reached proficiency in ELA, and 57.9% in math, both ahead of state averages.

While these results are encouraging, we are not content with simply being above the state average. Our mission is to ensure every student reaches their full potential, and that requires us to continually reflect and improve.

This year, we are continuing the comprehensive evaluation of our K-6 English Language Arts program. That process includes examining our instructional practices, reviewing curriculum materials and providing professional development that equips our teachers with the very best tools and strategies to help students succeed.

Importantly, our actions are not waiting until the evaluation is complete and are already underway. Across our elementary schools, we have launched a districtwide focus on establishing essential ELA standards. By working together



Dr. Steve Harrison

NJSD superintendent

to clearly define the core skills every child must master at each grade level, we are building a stronger foundation for literacy that will serve students well in middle school, high school, and beyond.

Even with positive results, the data also reminds us of areas where growth is needed. We continue to see achievement gaps between students from economically disadvantaged households and their peers, as well as between students with disabilities and those without.

These disparities are not unique to Neenah, but they remain deeply important for us to address. Our work around essential standards, targeted support and instructional improvement is designed to ensure that success is not limited to some students but shared by all.

It is also important to recognize the tremendous progress our students have made since the disruptions of the pandemic. Just a few years ago, many of our youngest learners were still finding their footing after a difficult period.

Today, we are seeing a renewed strength in literacy, with more students reading and writing with confidence and skill. The steady growth we've experienced reflects the resilience of our students, the dedication and expertise of our staff, and the unwavering support of a community that believes deeply in the power of education.

The 2025 Forward Exam results affirm that Neenah is a district where students thrive. But we are not settling. We are celebrating progress while doing the hard work to ensure that every Rocket has the skills, confidence, and opportunities to soar even higher.

Library offers introductory Bridge workshop

Neenah News

Wayne Peters will lead a six-week workshop tailored for beginners eager to learn Bridge, particularly aimed at those who already have experience with card games.

Participants are asked to commit to all six sessions. Registration is limited to 12

participants.

The class will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 27, Nov. 3, Nov. 10, Nov. 24, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8. To register, visit neenahlibrary.org/calendar#/events.

For more information, contact Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm at director@neenahlibrary.org or by phone at 920-886-6300.



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Clothing sale serves to benefit hungry animals

Neenah News

Helping Paws Pet Pantry will be holding a pet apparel sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and Saturday.

The sale at 1329 Baytree Lane includes

pet shirts, rompers, dresses, jackets, sweaters, booties, Halloween costumes and more. Everything is \$5.

All proceeds from the sale will be used to feed hungry animals in the community.

Battery collection

FROM PAGE 1

rechargeable vacuum batteries, wireless headphones and any other lithium-ion battery powered devices. Lithium-ion batteries will be taken separately or as part of the device they are in. If a whole device is brought to be recycled, Redwood said it will remove the batteries and the rest of the device will go to secondary recyclers.

Alkaline, Nicad, lead acid and damaged or defective batteries should not be brought to the event.

The idea for the collection started last winter when Tribbey's church started a Green Team and quickly began thinking about project ideas. They were offered a booth at a Farmers Market in June, an event which Tribbey said went better than expected and they were able to return again in July and September.

The group has worked with Tri County Recycling Center, Sustainable Neenah and Winnebago County Solid Waste to share booth space and offer the service.

"It's been nice to be able to provide future collection dates as we have quite a few people stop and ask when we'll be back if they weren't aware prior," Tribbey said.

Redwood Materials, which has facilities in Nevada and South Carolina, has been very easy to work with, Tribbey said. They provide collection boxes and return shipping labels at their expense. They also provided some money to cover promotional

materials.

"Lithium powered devices are increasingly becoming integral parts of our lives," Tribbey said. "We want to do our part to get as many of these back into the supply chain. We've had some success in Neenah. It's exciting to think of what the possibilities are if all communities made similar efforts."

The group is looking at ways to continue collecting batteries once the Farmers Market wraps up for the year, said Megan Karth, a member of the Green Team.

"We are trying to raise awareness of environmental issues ("creation care") and encourage our members, without judgement, to look for things they can do to be more earth friendly," Karth said.

The upcoming collections come as the National Fire Protection Association said the theme for Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 5 to Oct. 11 is Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.

"Lithium-ion batteries are powerful, convenient, and they're just about everywhere," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "Making sure the public knows how to use them safely is critical to minimizing the potential risks they pose."

According to NFPA, devices powered by lithium-ion batteries are largely used without incident. However, reports of fires and explosions involving lithium-ion batteries have been on the rise in recent years, reinforcing the importance of better educating the public about how to use, handle and recycle them safely.



Photos from St. Mary Catholic Schools

St. Mary Catholic Homecoming

St. Mary Catholic High School on Sept. 25 held its Homecoming Pep Rally. The annual tradition included a competitive volleyball game, musical chairs and competitive eating challenge, along with the much anticipated "air band" competition. The school's homecoming parade and football game were held Friday.



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Photo by David Hall

Ghosts, ghouls and goblins greeted visitors last weekend during the Haunted Walk at Neenah's Memorial Park, where families braved the eerie trail filled with Halloween fun and frightful surprises.

Memorial Park hosts haunted trail walk

Neenah News

The Hallows is a haunted trail walk through the woods of Memorial Park in Neenah.

With the light of a single lantern, it will be participants' challenge to survive what waits for them in The Hallows and find

Library presents Romantic Gardens of France travelogue

Neenah News

The Neenah Public Library is starting an Adult Afternoon Program series. The kickoff event is at 2 p.m. Monday in the Shattuck Community Room.

Outagamie Master Gardener Tom Wentzel will be presenting Visit the Romantic Gardens of France.

Wentzel will share a tour of a few of the

their way out. The event will be from 6:30 to 10 p.m. today, Saturday, Oct. 10 and Oct. 11.

Tickets are \$10 each to be purchased at the event only or \$5 with a valid student ID. The recommended age is for tweens and older as organizers said this is a scary event.

gardens of France. The areas attendees will see are in the Provence region, including the Cote d'Azur and Nice, as well as Monet's Garden and Paris.

The hour-long program will take place on the first floor Shattuck Community Room at the Neenah Public Library. All interested individuals are welcome to attend this free event.

Neenah Library set to hold paranormal events this month

Neenah News

The Neenah Public Library is celebrating paranormal activities with events this month starting at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Author, lecturer and researcher Chad Lewis will give a presentation on the wildly supernatural phenomenon of Lake Superior. His book, Supernatural Lake Superior, was released in July.

The hosts of the Wisconsin podcast Badger Bizarre will return for a program on Haunted Fox Valley. It will take place at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 22. Scott Wittman and Mickey Sanders will be visiting this year to talk about haunted locations throughout the Fox Valley.

Guests are invited to come and hear actual captured evidence from past residents of the Fox Valley who have seemingly never left.

Experts to share information during Menopause Party

Neenah News

Guests are invited to explore perimenopause and menopause with experts from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Neenah Public Library. Attendees can celebrate World Menopause Day and Menopause Awareness Month by learning more about menopause, including ways to ease symptoms.

World Menopause Awareness Month occurs every October and aims to promote open dialogue about menopause and break down stigmas while providing information on resources and support available to women experiencing perimenopause and menopause.

The Neenah Public Library hopes to

An after-hours event will be at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 25 exploring the paranormal at the NPL.

Guests are invited to join Barnaby Jones, owner and founder of Wisconsin CAPS (Cryptids, Anomalies, and Paranormal Society) for a presentation on the paranormal. More information is available at wisconsincaps.com.

Barnaby will also talk about the special equipment used in paranormal investigations. After the presentation, attendees can walk around the library in the dark and test to see if the library is haunted. They are asked to arrive on time. A staff member will allow the public into the library for the presentation.

Doors will be locked by 6:45 p.m., and there will be no guarantee of entrance after the program has started.

support these goals by providing a safe space for women to explore with resources in the area and connect with other women experiencing this life stage, while also enjoying cake and crafts.

Experts on topics such as hormonal treatments, non-hormonal treatments, core strength and joint care, breast care and more will be present to answer questions and help learn more about a woman's options.

The library's partners include specialists from ThedaCare and the Neenah-Menasha YMCA.

Contact Mehta Hess with questions at hess@neenahlibrary.org or 920-886-6315.

Repair Cafe to be held at Neenah Public Library

Neenah News

Area residents are encouraged to bring their broken items to Neenah Public Library to be fixed.

A Repair Cafe will be held from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 11 during which fixers will do their best to repair items for free.



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Items that can be brought in include computers, phones, small appliances, electronics, sewing and mending, jewelry, watches and more.

The event is a partnership with Repair Cafe Fox Cities. A guardian is required to be with those who are under 18. No firearms or weapons.

This program was made possible by the Friends of the Neenah Library and the Neenah Public Library Trust Fund. Donations to the Friends and the Trust Fund are accepted.

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SATURDAY
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SUNDAY
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Public library calendar

Oct. 3
 Fitness Friday: Boot Camp 9:15 a.m.
 Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.
 First Friday Concert: Christopher Gold 2 p.m.

Oct. 4
 Paranormal October Series: Supernatural Lake Superior 1 p.m.

Oct. 5
 Sunday Concert Series: Christo's Novelty Combo 2 p.m.

Oct. 6
 Wild Child Adventure Storytime (all ages) 10 a.m.
 Stitching Group 1 p.m.
 Adult Afternoon Program: Visit the Romantic Gardens of France 2 p.m.
 Menopause Party 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 7
 Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-6) 9:15 a.m.
 Toddle Time Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 12-24 months) 10 a.m.
 Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA(all ages) 10 a.m.
 Tween Create Lab: Spooky Terrariums 3:30 p.m.
 Powered by Yarn 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 8
 Baby Time Storytime 9:15 a.m.
 Musical Movers 10 a.m.
 Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.
 Adult DIY Design Workshop 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 9
 Wee Read Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
 Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
 Family Activity Night: Get to Know Bats of Wisconsin 6 p.m.
 Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

Oct. 11
 Repair Cafe Fox Valley 11 a.m.

Oct. 13
 Wild Child Adventure Storytime (all ages) 10 a.m.
 Monday Matinee: Superman 1 p.m.
 Short Story Night at Lion's Tale 7 p.m.

Oct. 14
 Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-6) 9:15 a.m.
 Toddle Time Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 12-24 months) 10 a.m.
 Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA(all ages) 10 a.m.
 Tech Talk Tuesday: An Introduction to Cloud Storage 1:30 p.m.
 Legal Assistance Clinic 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 15
 Baby Time Storytime 9:15 a.m.
 Musical Movers 10 a.m.
 Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 16
 Wee Read Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
 Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
 Family Activity Night: LEGO Challenge -Build A Game 6 p.m.
 Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

Oct. 17
 Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength 9:15 a.m.
 Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.

Oct. 18
 Wisconsin SciFest: Rock'n Science Showcase 10:30 a.m.
 Come Learn about our Volunteers! -Ages 11-19 10:30 a.m.
 Wisconsin SciFest: The Guitar Maker's Process with Madsen Guitars 1 p.m.

Oct. 20
 Memory Cafe 1:30 p.m.
 Pinhole Camera Presentation 6:30 p.m.
 Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 21
 Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-6) 9:15 a.m.
 Toddle Time Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 12-24 months) 10 a.m.
 Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA(all ages) 10 a.m.
 Tween Create Lab: Rope-a-Ghost 3:30 p.m.
 Cookbook Book Club 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 22
 Baby Time Storytime 9:15 a.m.
 Musical Movers 10 a.m.

Field Trip Storytime: Lucky Stables 1:30 p.m.
 Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.
 Paranormal October Series: Haunted Fox Valley 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 23
 Wee Read Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
 Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
 Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.
 History Program: Neenah Neighborhoods: East Wisconsin Avenue 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 25
 Monster Mash Dance Party- All ages 10:30 a.m.
 Paranormal October Series: Exploring the Paranormal (AFTER-HOURS EVENT) 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 27
 Monday Morning Book Klatch 10 a.m.

Oct. 28
 Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-6) 9:15 a.m.
 Toddle Time Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 12-24 months) 10 a.m.
 Storytime for Everyone at Valley VNA(all ages) 10 a.m.
 Movie Talks: The Shining 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 29
 Baby Time Storytime 9:15 a.m.
 Musical Movers 10 a.m.
 Field Trip Storytime: Neenah Animal Shelter 1:30 p.m.

Oct. 30
 Wee Read Storytime *with ASL interpretation* (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
 Meet the Author - Lori Jones 6:30 p.m.



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Neenah News

Attendees point to the names of Wisconsin service members lost in action from 2003 to 2011 listed on the back of The Fallen Angel Tribute Truck of Wisconsin.

Families honored

FROM PAGE 1

annual tradition.

"I think it was important for our community to see that we're being involved in remembering our fallen veterans and not just once a year on Veterans Day," Freimark said. "It means a lot to them that their child, service member or family is never forgotten, that they're always being thought about."

Unit 33 Legion Auxiliary President Jill Fritsch said there are many ways to honor service members, and the Gold Star event was a new way for the community to do so.

"There are a lot of service members that need to be remembered and honored," she said. "There are the ones who are fighting, there are the ones that fought and came home, there are the ones that died in action or in combat, and then there are the ones that die after a while after they're home."

Sue Otto is an Army mother and president of Blue Star Mothers Chapter 1. The organization supports military mothers, active duty military and their families, meeting from 1 to 4 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month at Veteran's Village in Appleton.

Otto said the organization has been

reaching out to communities to hold Gold Star events and this year chose Neenah.

"It warms their heart that their child is remembered," she said. "Their brother, sister, family members and themselves are remembered on this day."

The Fallen Angel Tribute Truck of Wisconsin was also present in the park. The memorial carries the names of Wisconsin soldiers killed in action from 2003 to 2011.

Truck owner Andy Damveld said in the two years he's owned the traveling memorial, it's the first time it has made an appearance in Neenah.

Damveld and his wife own a trucking company. He said he's a supporter of veterans and purchased the truck as a way to honor them.

"Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Fourth of July, there's like four times a year when we think about veterans," he said. "But when we drive through town and you see this, you're thinking about them all the time. You can never forget when you see this truck rolling through town."

The event featured the singing of the national anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, prayers, poetry and the reading of names of Wisconsin service members killed in action. Attendees lit luminary candles in memory of the fallen. It concluded with a rifle salute and a solo trumpeter playing Taps.

Dabill birthday

FROM PAGE 1

the closure of the school in 2023 was difficult for Dabill, her connection with children persisted. Last year on her 100th birthday, four busloads of students from Alliance Charter School sang to her at her home, a gesture that brought her to tears.

This year, Dabill received more than 170 birthday cards, many from Alliance Charter School children, who she said she misses greatly. Visitors came to celebrate with her on her porch including local philanthropist and businessman John Bergstrom. Some guests she's known for 90 or more years, while others were strangers who stopped after seeing the birthday yard signs.

Dabill was so overwhelmed by the outpouring of support that she wanted to send a thank-you message.

"To each of you who took your time to wish me a Happy Birthday or send me a card, I want to say how thankful I am to



Submitted photo

Doty Island resident Arline Dabill prepares to blow out the candles on her cake during a recent celebration of her 101st birthday.

each and every one of you, you make me feel on top of the world! Lots of love and hugs," she said.

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Ranked teams collide when Rockets face Papermakers

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Every game counts the same in the standings and every Fox Valley Association team that Neenah plays deserves the Rockets' full attention.

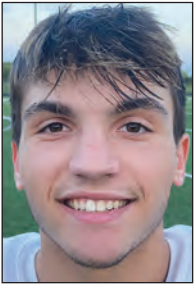
But there is one week during the regular season when things can get amped up a little bit more than usual and that's when Kimberly lands on the schedule.

"I would say there is definitely a different feel this week," senior defensive lineman Brayden Milbrodt said.

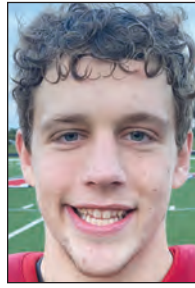
"We know we are preparing for a great opponent."

The Rockets will renew their rivalry with Kimberly on Friday night when the two teams collide at Papermaker Stadium.

Both teams enter the game undefeated in the FVA and 5-1 overall and both



Hoehne



Milbrodt

teams are ranked in the top 10 in Division 1 – Kimberly was slated seventh this week while Neenah was at No. 9.

The two teams know each other very well having played twice a year – once in the regular season and once in the WIAA playoffs – for the past three years. The Papermakers had dominated the matchup between the two teams in the recent history of the matchup but Neenah won both times the teams played last season.

The Rockets edged the Papermakers 29-28 on a last-second field goal in the regular season before collecting a resounding 34-14 win in the playoffs.

"Knowing we beat them does give us a lot more (confidence)," senior running back Brock Hoehne said. "But we know they are going to come after us and we have to really be ready."

Week 7 games

Fox Valley Association

(records reflect FVA games)

Neenah (4-0) at Kimberly (4-0)

Kaukauna (3-1) at Appleton North (3-1)

Appleton East (1-3) at Oshkosh West (0-4)

Hortonville (0-4) at Fond du Lac (1-3)

Neenah enters the game off of a hard-fought 29-27 win in which the Rockets fell behind 20-7 at the end of the first quarter and had to fight back from a fourth-quarter deficit to earn the win.

It was the second straight week Neenah rallied in the fourth quarter to collect a win and although head coach Steve Jung likes the resiliency his team has shown, he knows that may not work against Kimberly.

"There is no doubt we are building resiliency but I don't know if I like building it that way. We are seeing our kids really play hard when their backs are against the wall," Jung said. "Going into Kimberly, we can't start that way. We've got to come into the game disciplined, being super physical and the objective is to out-execute them."

In both wins last season, Neenah was ahead at halftime and being able to avoid playing from behind – especially in the second half – will be a key.

"We have to come out tough and be physical. Play fast and pursue to the ball (on defense) and not make stupid mistakes," Milbrodt said. "The confidence was always there against them but now it's at a higher degree since we beat them. We proved we could beat and they will definitely come out strong. I think with that confidence, we can come out stronger."

Kimberly, whose only loss was to Hamilton in Week 1, has topped the 40-point mark in each of their FVA games this season and have outscored its four conference opponents 180-28.

The offense is led by running backs Maddux Hermus and Kegan Pleau, who have combined for nearly 800 yards and 11 touchdowns, while quarterback Cam Wong has thrown for 643 yards and 10 touchdowns, while being picked off just twice.

Kimberly is averaging about seven yards per offensive play so far this season.

"They are primarily a run team so the defensive line has to (plug the line) and keep our backers clean," said Milbrodt, who has two sacks and six tackles-for-loss this season. "Hopefully make some plays in the backfield to stall out their drives."

Offensively, the Rockets have been led by quarterback Ashton VanBeek, who has rushed for 846 yards and 10 touchdowns this season, while also throwing for nearly 600 yards and eighth scores.

VanBeek ran for 184 yards and three touchdowns against Appleton North.

Yet, with Kimberly's defense likely focused in on containing the junior quarterback, it means that other players may have to step up and help carry the offensive load for Neenah.

"There are some guys on our offense who can step up, me included. We just have to stay disciplined, read our keys and know our plays on offense. Run fast and physical the entire game," said Hoehne, who is second on the team with 253 yards on the ground. "If we just go at them like we have been doing this whole year I think we can have success."

Zephyrs aiming to extend win streak against Roncalli

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

This winning thing is getting pretty fun for the St. Mary Catholic football team.

After going through its first two seasons following the return to 11-player football with just three wins, the Zephyrs notched their third straight victory last Friday night in a 41-7 thumping of Kohler/Sheboygan Lutheran at Sheboygan Christian on Homecoming.

St. Mary Catholic has also won four of its last five games – surpassing the win total of the previous two years combined – and are on the verge of becoming WIAA playoff eligible for the first time since 2006.

"It's pretty cool," senior Max Osgood said. "This hasn't been done in like 20 years so it's pretty awesome to be part of this history."

The Zephyrs used a big second half to secure the win over the Blue Bombers last Friday night. The game was tied at 7 at halftime before St. Mary Catholic erupted for 34 unanswered points.

Head coach Rob Detterman attributed some of the rough start to the distractions of Homecoming week but was pleased with the way the team responded.

"At halftime, we got them charged up and they played much better. We got a lead less than a minute into the second half and took it from there," Detterman said. "We want to get it going a little early and control the clock and play from the front if we can."

A fast start this Friday when the Zephyrs travel to Manitowoc to face off against Roncalli will be a key as both teams are in a logjam near the top of the Eastern Wisconsin Conference. Both teams bring 3-1 league records into the game and join New Holstein in a tie for second place in the conference behind Brillion.

The Zephyrs know that a repeat of last week could be tough to overcome against a quality team like the Jets.

"The big thing for us is that we can't



Klinkhammer



Osgood

Week 7 games

Eastern Wisconsin Conference

(records reflect EWC games)

St. Mary Catholic (3-1) at Roncalli (3-1)

New Holstein (3-1) at Brillion (4-0)

Chilton (1-3) at Kiel (1-3)

Valders (1-3) at K/L/C (0-4)

come out slow," junior offensive lineman Alex Klinkhammer said. "If we can come out hot and get a couple of (touchdowns) early, it will be all good."

Roncalli suffered its first conference loss of the season last Friday, losing to Brillion, 22-14, but had topped the 32-point mark in each of its previous four games, tallying a season-high 42 points against Kiel in Week 3.

The Jets are led by senior running back Sawyer VanDrisse, who has rushed for 776 yards this season and 13 touchdowns, while averaging nearly six yards per carry. Detterman said that VanDrisse is a talented back but he also benefits from a strong group in front of him paving the way.

"They have a very good line and have moved guys in and out so they have lots of depth there. They run the ball well," Detterman said. "We have to do a better job of tackling than we have been doing. We have been rallying to the ball really well, but we have to get (VanDrisse) to the ground."

Stopping the Jets' offense – which also includes quarterback Dominic Thiele, who has thrown for 820 yards – will come down to execution for the Zephyrs.

Not only being able to finish off tackles but also St. Mary Catholic has to be in the right places to stop the Jets.

"We have to play aggressive and defensively we have to meet them at the line of scrimmage," Osgood said. "We have to play with the confidence that we belong here. It's just about confidence and knowing where you are supposed to be. The coaches have been nailing that into us every single day."

Offensively, the Zephyrs have been on a roll the last three weeks, averaging a little more than 36 points per game during their winning streak. St. Mary Catholic scored a total of 36 points in the first three games of the year.

SEE Zephyr football ON PAGE 15

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Rockets rally to collect five-set victory over Patriots

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah boys volleyball coach Jake Coenen turned the calendar for his team a day early.

After slogging through a rough month of September, Coenen convinced his squad that the first day of October came earlier than expected and the team should look at Tuesday night's Fox Valley Association match against Appleton East as being the Rockets first match of the new month.

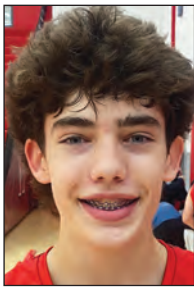
"We told them that we are basically starting October, so let's turn a new chapter for our season," Coenen said. "Let's put our foot down on the accelerator and just run."

By that logic, the Rockets are 1-0 in October.

Neenah rallied from the brink of defeat in the fourth set to extend the match and answered the call again after being down late in the fifth set as the Rockets pulled out a 25-14, 21-25, 21-25, 26-24, 15-12 win over the Patriots.

"A win's a win and we will take it right now," Coenen said. "We needed a win and whether it was in three (sets) or five it still goes in that left hand column and that's big for us."

After dropping back-to-back sets to fall behind 2-1, Neenah led only once early in the fourth set taking an 8-7 advantage on a kill by Sam Printz. The Patriots answered



Diekfuss

with two straight points to regain the lead and slowly began to pull away from the Rockets.

East led by as many as five points as the set wore on and built a 21-16 lead to appear on the verge of taking the match.

But Trevor Ricketts' tip through an East kill followed by a block from Mikey Chapin gave the Rockets a spark and back-to-back kills from Ricketts and Sam Keepers left Neenah trailing 22-20.

East earned a point on a kill but the Rockets followed with three straight points – including a spike from Alex Locke – to tie the score at 23. The Patriots stopped the Rockets run to get to match point, but Neenah countered with a kill from Keepers, a huge block from Printz on East standout Tyler Bell and then got a Patriot error to win the set and tie the match.

Neenah's Cam Diekfuss opened up the fifth set by serving five straight points, the final two coming on tandem blocks from Ricketts and Locke to seize the momentum.

"Blocks are the best points to get. You get to shut down an opponent and also getting a point for yourself," Diekfuss said. "The first points (of a set) are always the most important. It really starts the momentum and gets the other team down a bit and our guys up. That's what it's all about – momentum."

Ricketts finished with a team-high seven blocks in the match, while Locke added four as the duo served as a wall for the Rockets late in the match.

"That brings momentum to us and it just

SEE **Rockets win** ON PAGE 15

Zephyrs return to action with resounding win over Indians

By Joe Matzek
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

After taking a week off from competition, St. Mary Catholic picked up where it left off before the break.

The Zephyrs won for the 12th time in their last 13 matches by sweeping Mishicot 25-8, 25-20, 25-12 Tuesday night.

Following a tournament win in Clintonville on Sept. 20, St. Mary Catholic had a light week of practice and no games.

"It was Homecoming week, so we didn't get a lot done," Zephyrs coach Mike Mauritz said. "We did enough and nobody got hurt playing powder puff (football), so it was a good week. And I think they're ready now for the push down the stretch."

The Zephyrs (15-3 overall, 4-0 Big East

Conference) won the first six points of the opening set and closed the set with an eight-point run.

"I think we started off really strong," junior outside hitter Autumn Crowe said. "We came out hot, which is something that we've been trying to get better at. Today it was really fun that we came out with a big win to start the game."

Although the Indians (7-17, 1-4) tested the Zephyrs in the second set and the start of the third set, the home team kept its composure and finished both sets in command.

Mishicot took its first lead of the night at 10-9 in the second set. The teams were tied 16-16 before the Zephyrs scored the next five points, including kills from Luci Nackers and Bethany Ruppert to start the

run. Crowe finished off the set with a kill off Mishicot's block.

The Indians started the final set with a 7-5 lead before the Zephyrs took the next five points. St. Mary Catholic ended the match with a 15-4 run and showed it doesn't rely on one player for its offense, as Nackers, Anna DeWitt and Crowe recorded kills late in the set before DeWitt finished the match with a crosscourt kill.

"There's a lot of leadership out there with the hitters and they know what to do and they get the ball down pretty well," setter Sammi Weiss said.

Crowe had 10 kills and seven digs, Nackers had eight kills and 11 digs and Adele Brennan had six kills for St. Mary Catholic. Sammi and Emily Weiss paced the Zeph-

ys with 15 and 11 assists, respectively.

"For us, it still comes down to passing the ball in serve receive and serving aggressively," Mauritz said. "We're not the biggest team. It's about ball control and we'll continue to work on that as we do every week, every practice."

Nackers said the team can be successful by staying positive and encouraging each other when it faces adversity.

"Honestly, I think it's just about staying really energetic and being loud, because if we all get quiet and down on ourselves and get in our heads, then it just goes downhill from there," Nackers said. "Working as a team and hyping each other up and encouraging each other is really how we get back from being down."

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Prep roundup

CROSS COUNTRY

Neenah girls win prestigious invite

The defending Division 1 state champions showed Saturday they aren't about to take a backseat to anyone.

The Neenah girls cross country team dominated the 46-team field at the Midwest Invitational in Janesville, capturing the team title by more than 50 points. The Rockets totaled 80 points at the meet, while second-place Hinsdale Central (Ill.) was second with 135. Slinger, the No. 1 ranked team in Wisconsin, was third with 143 points.

Although Slinger had three runners in the top 12 at the meet, Neenah's overall depth proved to be the difference in taking home the title.

The Rockets needed just 35 places to accommodate their five scoring runners, while Neenah had six runners finish before Slinger's No. 4 runner crossed the line.

Sam Zilm continued her breakout freshman season leading the Rockets with a third-place finish in a field of more than 300 runners. The next three Neenah runners finished within five seconds of each other as Izzy Malloy placed 13th, Elsa Gruber was 16th and Natalie Schultz took 19th.

Maddie Schoonover completed the scoring group for the Rockets with a 35th-place finish, with Natalie Willes coming in close behind in 39th place.

The Neenah boys finished 23rd overall and were led by Zach Verhagen, who placed 21st in the field of 354 runners.

Elliott Drake was the next Rocket to cross the finish line, placing 102nd, followed by Oliver Steiner (108th), Gideon Benner (118th) and Jackson Holzheu (167th).

Zephyrs compete at Lourdes Invitational

Audra Post was the top girls finisher for the Zephyrs placing 105th overall at the Lourdes Invitational last Saturday.

Audrey Weber was the next St. Mary Catholic finisher in 136th place, while Claire Mislinski was 148th, Chloe Beckett was 163rd and Mary Auer was 195th.

The Zephyrs placed 19th in the talent-rich field.

Fritz Staner led the St. Mary Catholic boys, placing 37th, with Ethan Auer and Leo Gruber placing 125th and 132nd, respectively. Brandon DeBral in 190th place and Anderson Homburg in 229th place rounded out the scoring runners for St. Mary Catholic.

The St. Mary Catholic boys placed 18th out of the 19 teams.

GOLF

Quella leads Rockets at FVA meet

Lily Quella shot a 92 to turn in the low score for Neenah at the Fox Valley Association golf tournament held last week at Chaska Golf Course.

Quella tied for ninth overall with Hortonville's Tinamarie Diamond. She also tied for the second lowest score on the front nine after posting a 41.

Adrienne Oitzinger was close behind Quella with a 94, followed by Jordyn Brockman with a 103 and Paige Keck with a 107.

The Rockets finished with a team score of 396 to place fourth overall. Hortonville won the team title with a score of 349.



Submitted photo

The Neenah girls cross country team, consisting of (from left) Natalie Willes, Maddie Schoonover, Sam Zilm, Elsa Gruber, Natalie Schultz and Izzy Malloy, took first place in the prestigious 46-team Midwest Invitational in Janesville last Saturday.

SWIMMING

Mulroy wins two events at Neenah invite

Anna Mulroy won two individual events and was also part of a relay win as Neenah finished second at its own invitational last Saturday.

Mulroy dominated the field in winning the 100-yard backstroke, finishing more than five seconds ahead of the second-place finisher. She also finished first in the 100-yard butterfly.

Mulroy also swam the first leg of the Rockets' winning 200-yard medley relay team and was joined by Breleigh Maurer, Elisabeth Hang and Bridget Bloomhuff.

Maurer added a third place in the 100-yard breaststroke, while Bloomhuff picked up a fourth place in the 500-yard freestyle. Hang finished fourth in the 100-yard backstroke and was fifth in the 200-yard individual medley at the meet.

Neenah also posted a top-five finish in the 200-yard freestyle relay as the team of Ellen Farrell, Ava Armatti, Greta Meixl and Anna Benthein finished fifth.

Appleton West/Kimberly won the team title with 286 points with the Rockets totaling 245 points. Green Bay United was a distant third with 164 points.

Neenah also picked up a dual-meet win on Tuesday, beating Oshkosh North/Lourdes Academy, 117-65.

The Rockets swept the top three places in two different events to key the win.

Sydney Hansman finished first in the diving competition with Meredith Buttrick taking second and Sophie Diaz placing third. In the 100-yard freestyle, Maurer, Farrell and Aubrey Murwar grabbed the top three places, respectively.

Maurer also added a win in the 200-yard freestyle, while Mulroy also posted a pair of wins, taking first in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke.

Bloomhuff collected a win in the 100-yard butterfly and took second in the 100-yard breaststroke, while Hang finished first in the 500-yard freestyle and was second in the 50-yard freestyle. Murwar was also second in the 100-yard breaststroke.

The Rockets also finished first in all three relays. Mulroy, Maurer, Hang and Sophie Wypiszynski won the 200-yard medley relay, while Bloomhuff, Farrell, Benthein and Mulroy took first in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Maurer, Hang, Wypiszynski and Bloomhuff combined to take first in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

SOCCER

Rockets stay unbeaten in FVA contests

Neenah posted a pair of Fox Valley Association wins to improve to 6-0-2 in the conference and 11-0-2 overall this season.

Pierce Hanson stopped all four shots he faced as Neenah put up its fourth shutout in a row with a 2-0 victory over Kimberly on Tuesday.

The Rockets put 15 shots on Kimberly's goal in the match, with Ian Baetke getting the first Neenah goal in the third minute. The Rockets wouldn't score again until

midway through the second half when Kolton Fleege scored off an assist from Miles Hessenthaler.

"We put together possibly our best game of the year as a team," commented head coach Kevin Baetke. "It is exciting to see this team grow as we approach the end of the season and I can't wait to see what we can accomplish."

The Rockets were coming off a 3-0 win over Fond du Lac last week with Trey White and Ian Baetke scoring for the Rockets. The Cardinals added an own-goal to aid Neenah's efforts.

Fleege picked up an assist in the win and Hanson finished with three saves for the Rockets.

TENNIS

Rockets roll to another FVA sweep

Neenah continued its dominance in the Fox Valley Association as the Rockets produced another 7-0 win where all the matches were won in straight sets.

The No. 1 doubles team of Rebekah Thomas and Sydney Michalkiewicz along with the No. 3 pairing of Evelyn Buss and Josie Kohlbeck each dropped only one game in posting their wins, while Celia Gentile also posted a 6-0, 6-1 win at No. 1 singles for the Rockets.

Rachel Thomas at No. 2 singles and the No. 2 doubles pairing of Ava Motto and Cecelia Alexander lost only two games in their wins, while Ella Motto at No. 2 singles and Lauren McDonald at No. 4 singles each won by identical 6-2, 6-1 margins.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 15

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Lindgren stands tall in leadership role for Rockets

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Athletes often talk about finding that zone when they are competing and most times, it's referring to a good thing.

A shooter in basketball can't miss from the outside. A golfer keeps rolling in putt after putt, no matter what the distance. A hitter in baseball or softball just keeps crushing every pitch he or she sees.

Neenah's senior libero Ella Lindgren recognizes being in the zone on a volleyball court as well, but she cautions that it isn't always a good thing.

"The zone can go two ways," Lindgren said. "It could be you are having the worst day and you can't pass the ball for anything or you're digging every single ball and passing dimes."

Good thing for the Rockets that with Lindgren, her zones are almost always the latter.

Lindgren is a two-time all-Fox Valley Association selection who has anchored the back row for the Rockets the past three seasons. She was an honorable mention all-conference selection following her sophomore year and a second-team honoree last season.

So far this season, Lindgren is once again leading the team in digs with 324 through Tuesday's action – 222 more than any teammate. She also ranks second on the team in aces and leads the squad in serve receive opportunities.

In addition, as one of just three seniors on the Rockets young roster she is counted on for leadership.

"Ella is a leader through and through. She is an emotional leader, a physical leader. She makes everything easier for everybody on the court," Neenah head coach Nate Leiternann said. "She's a special player. I always tell the kids that if they can match Ella's emotion, we aren't going to lose to anybody."

Lindgren knew she was destined to fill

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the libero/defensive specialist role when she started playing volleyball at nine years old because she wasn't reaching any top shelves around the house.

Yet, being a libero isn't a role she simply feels relegated to play. She takes a lot of pride in performing and knows she directly contributes to the Rockets' success.

"I think the most important part – selfishly – comes from the first pass," Lindgren said. "If you pass and you shank everything, you can't run an offense. But if you have a good first pass almost every time, you're basically unstoppable."

"The hardest part about being a libero is that you never get the points. It's like a role that goes unnoticed. You can make a great pass, the setter can set it and the hitter can get a big hit and everyone is like great hit. But you wouldn't have that hit if there wasn't a good pass."

Playing solely in the back row means that Lindgren is routinely staring down opposing hitters and awaiting the rocket of a spike that could come her way.

Some might shy away from that task – especially in the FVA where the hitting talent is unmatched. Lindgren relishes those opportunities.

"Honestly, that's the most fun thing in volleyball to do. I love those moments," Lindgren said. "It's really exciting to dig (a big spike). It's even more exciting when you get that good of a dig and the setter gets an amazing set and then we get the kill. That's what makes the whole thing fun."

With Lindgren roaming Neenah's back

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15



Ella Lindgren anchors Neenah's back row as the team's libero, earning all-Fox Valley Association recognition the past two seasons.

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Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

line, the Rockets get to have a lot of fun. “When she’s in the zone, nobody is stopping her and I have the confidence that she is going to get a touch on every single ball,” Leitermann said. “As a coach, I can’t express how much I love that.”

In fact, Lindgren would seem to prefer hitters ripping spikes in her direction rather than softly tapping them over the blockers.

“Tipping is the hardest thing because there are so many people that can go for the same ball. If someone is hitting it, it either comes to you or it doesn’t,” Lindgren said. “One thing I pride myself on is my ability to read the other players so I definitely feel like I pick up my fair share of balls. But as a libero, that’s my job.”

With Lindgren anchoring the Rockets’ defensive efforts, Neenah could be a factor when the postseason rolls around.

Lindgren believes Neenah is capable of making a run in the WIAA Tournament and she would love to cap her high school career knowing she helped the Rockets make the state tournament for the first time since winning the Division 1 title in 2016.

“I have faith we can make it pretty darn far and as a senior, I would love that because we haven’t made it too far in the

past,” Lindgren said. “I definitely trust this team and especially since we are a young team, I think having that trust in them is important and them having that trust in me is important.”

One of the young members of the Rocket squad Lindgren may be especially close to is her younger sister Aubrey, a sophomore.

The elder Lindgren said it’s a unique opportunity to get to play with her sister and believes she was the one that led Aubrey to the court.

“I think she grew up in the gym watching me play so that could be where her love for volleyball started. So, I will take credit for that,” Lindgren said with an older sister grin. “It comes with challenges because we’re together all of the time but in the end I’m grateful for the opportunity.”

Lindgren plans to continue her volleyball career next year when she attends Minnesota State University Mankato.

She said it was a comfortable fit when she visited the school and is looking forward to the chance to keep playing volleyball.

“I’m a smaller town girl and I think that area of Mankato is gorgeous and the team is doing really well,” Lindgren said. “I’m excited to have a new role and start fresh and play with some great people. I have been there a couple of times and all of the coaches and players seem amazing.”

Rockets win

FROM PAGE 12

fires everybody up out there when those guys get (a block) and it goes straight down,” Coenen said. “When those two are connected on the outside, it’s hard to get a ball through. They can lead us a long way.”

The strong start allowed Neenah to lead nearly the entire fifth set but East was able to scratch its way back and the Patriots eventually took a 12-11 lead.

A Patriot hitting error tied the score at 12 and Diekfuss followed with an ace to put the Rockets back in front. After a kill from Locke pushed the Rockets to match point, Diekfuss notched his sixth ace of the match for the final point.

“He’s one of the best servers in our conference and he could be up there in the state,” Coenen said of Diekfuss. “We know when he’s back there, a run is coming for us. We had a ton of confidence in him to take us to the finish line which he did.”

Diekfuss also started the match off serving strong, staking the Rockets to a 4-0 lead as Neenah never trailed in the opening set. Back-to-back kills from Keepers and a tip off a block from Printz gave Neenah a 13-4 lead as the Rockets rolled the rest of the way, getting four serves from Malachi Yang to finish things off.

East, however, would win the next two sets despite struggling from the service line.

The Patriots missed 16 serves combined

in the second and third sets – they finished with 26 missed serves in the match – which seemed to derail Neenah’s rhythm a bit.

“(East missing serves) did affect us. Especially with serve receive because it gets to the point where we haven’t seen one in a while,” said Coenen, whose team’s first six points of the second set came on missed serves. “It can get in your head about whether they are going to hit it in or hit out so it messes with you. I like the way our guys stuck with it and kept us in system most of the day.”

Keepers paced a balanced offensive attack for the Rockets with 12 kills, while Locke had 11 and Ricketts finished with nine. Printz also chipped in seven kills.

Levi Steckling – who had to be bandaged up in the fifth set due to bleeding but remained on the floor for the Rockets – led the team with 16 digs, while Keepers and Colton Krueger added nine and eight, respectively.

In addition to leading the team in aces, Diekfuss registered a team-high 36 assists, while also collecting 13 digs in the victory – a result he believes will help the team moving forward.

“At the start of the game, I think we were thinking more as individuals, but by the end we were thinking more as a team,” Diekfuss said. “Throughout the season, we’ve had trouble coming back from being down like we did today. Now that we have shown that we can, hopefully we can continue that.”

Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 13

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Rockets fall in four sets to Cardinals

Neenah was able to force a fourth set after dropping the first two, but ended up falling to Fond du Lac 25-20, 25-20, 24-26, 25-14 on Tuesday.

Lily Romjue led the Rockets with 12 kills, while Paige Hoelzel added eight. Finley Kelly and Maddy Lautenschlager

finished with 16 and 13 assists, respectively.

Ella Lindgren posted a team-best 29 digs in the match, while Leah Oldenburg and Kelly each had 10. Oldenburg also had a team-high four aces.

Neenah was coming off a convincing win over Appleton East last week, earning the sweep with set scores of 25-20, 25-15, 25-10.

Romjue again led the way for the Neenah hitters with 13 kills, followed by Ella Nigl with nine and Hoelzel with six.

Kelly paced the team with 20 assists and six aces, while Lindgren posted 15 digs and Oldenburg had 13 for Neenah.

Zephyr football

FROM PAGE 11

The offense eruption wasn’t a result of any big changes in the Zephyrs’ approach with the ball or anything physical the team is doing but rather it has improved because of the team’s mentality.

“I think we knew we always had it in us and we just had to unlock it,” Klinkhammer said. “After that Kiel game, everything

just kind of clicked.” After the struggles the program had the past two years, team confidence was something that Determan knew had to improve for the Zephyrs to find success this season. He’s pleased to see that it has.

“Probably the biggest challenge we had was getting them to believe they could win. Win consistently and against good teams,” Determan said. “Coming back against Kiel was a big deal and now every time we can check off (a win), the confidence gets a little better.”

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

Garage/Estate Sales

RUMMAGE AND COLLECTIBLES
SALE: EVERY SATURDAY, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M., EVERY SUNDAY, 11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. 2654 W. LAWRENCE ST., APPLETON (Behind Burger King)

Miscellaneous

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-748-6332

For Sale

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! Leaf Filter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE Leaf Filter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-920-3533

FRITZ BARN PAINTING rusty Roofs, Metal Buildings Free Est. 608-221-3510 or 414-369-7263

HME Two Pride Scooters \$3220 Brand new. His and hers four-wheel scooters 14 hr range, never used. 920-428-9007

Magazine Collection Best Offer. 12 year plus collection, Hemmings, Good Guys, Street Scene, Auto Buy plus bonus of ongoing subscriptions. 920-428-9007

Antique Candy Machines \$125 each or \$210 for both. Call 920-428-9007

Pure Bred Golden Retriever Pups! Shots Vet Checked! \$350 cash only! No Sunday Calls. Greenwood. 715-267-6306

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material -steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer -up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-877-845-6606

Legal Notice

SUMMONS
Case No. 2025-CV-653
Case Code: 30301
Money Judgement

STATE OF WISCONSIN - CIRCUIT COURT - WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Beacon Building Products Plaintiff,
-vs-
Gailan Group, LLC and Mohammed Gailan Defendant.

The State of Wisconsin, To each person named above as a Defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The complaint, which is also served on you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 days after September 19th, 2025, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the require-

ments of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is: 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901 and to Rinehart, Scaffidi & Rinehart LLC, plaintiff’s attorneys, whose address is: 1001 West Glen Oaks Ln. Suite 111, Mequon, WI 53092. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 days, the Court may grant judgement against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgement may be enforced as provided by law. A judgement awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 16th day of September, 2025.

RINEHART, SCAFFIDI & RINEHART, LLC
Electronically Signed By: William A. Rinehart II
State Bar No. 1055477
1001 West Glen Oaks Lane Suite 111
Mequon, WI 53092
Phone: (262) 302-4060

Runs: September 19, 2025, September 26, 2025 and October 3, 2025

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Looking for ways to support the work we do?
It’s easy!
Take a look around and support the local businesses that support local journalism! Let them know you saw their ad in the Neenah News.



Neenah News
Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

Kid Scoop

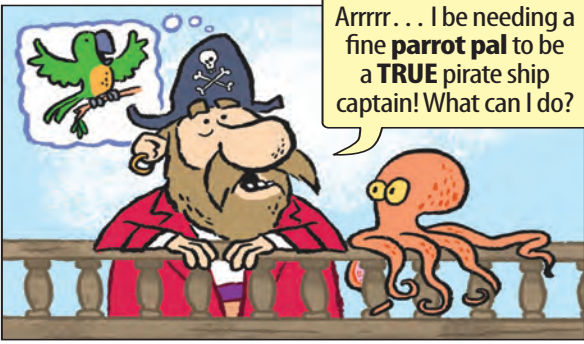
THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com

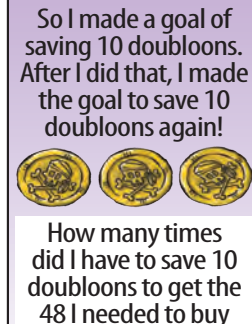
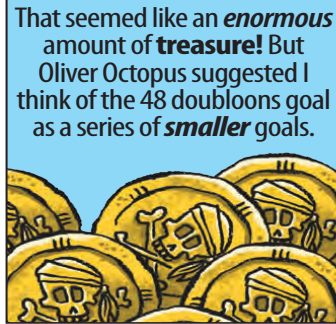
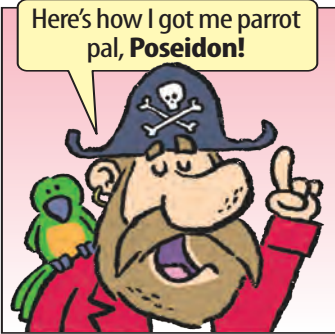
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Pirate Goals

Long ago, pirate treasure included **gold doubloons**. Doubloons were a type of coin that was used a long time ago, especially in places like Spain and its colonies. It was a valuable coin, like a twenty dollar bill today!



How Captain Crabcakes Got His Parrot



Angelina's Reading Goal

Angelina had the goal of reading 20 hours in one month. At first that sounded like a lot of reading. By breaking the goal into smaller daily and weekly goals, she did it!

Angelina made her goal by making the smaller goal of reading 4 hours a week. If she did the same amount of reading time every day, that came to about 35 minutes a day.

Captain Crabcakes worked hard for his 10 doubloons. Put a check mark next to each job he did. If you checked the right boxes, they will add up to **exactly** 10 doubloons.

- Swab the ship's deck 3 doubloons
- Roll up the mooring lines ... 1 doubloon
- Wash porthole windows 2 doubloons
- Cook the crew's dinner 1 doubloon
- Scrub the apple barrels 1 doubloon
- Sweep the crew's nest 3 doubloons



You Can Do It!

What's a big goal you would like to achieve? Is it saving money, improving in a sport, or hitting an awesome reading goal?

MY GOAL: _____

Break your goal into smaller goals:

First: _____

Second: _____

Third: _____

GOAL!

Extra! Extra!

Treasure or Trash?

There's an old saying: *One person's trash could be another person's treasure.* Look through the newspaper for ads where people are selling things they don't want anymore. Can you think of how those unwanted items might be a treasure for someone else?

Write a story about a person finding something special that was no longer wanted by another person.

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Double Doubloons

Time yourself as you match each pair of gold doubloons.

Now have a friend try. Who was faster?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

BREAK COIN DAILY DOUBLOONS FIRST GOAL JOB MONEY NEED PARROT PLAY READING SAVING SPORT THINK

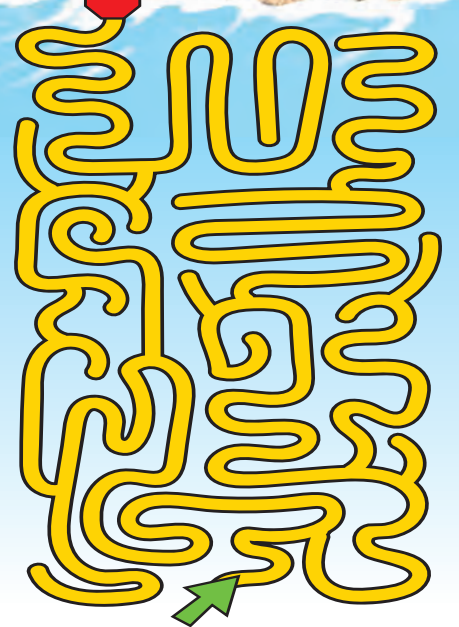
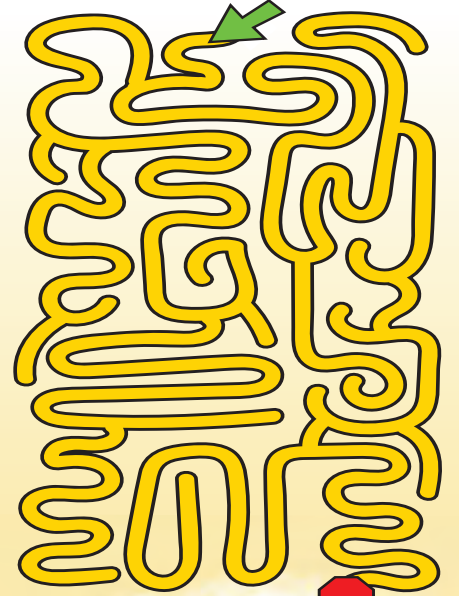
Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

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

Kid Scoop Together Treasure Hunt

Race a friend or family member to see who reaches the treasure first! Ready? Set. GO!



Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

FREE DOWNLOAD: Kid Scoop Teacher Activity Pack!

With hundreds of topics, every Kid Scoop® printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at: kidscoop.com/activity-pages/

Write On!

Goal!

What is a goal you have for this school year? What will you do to achieve it?

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

ARE YOU READING THIS?

So Are 24,609 of your neighbors in 54956 22,785 have purchased products or services from advertising in Neenah News.*

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www.neenahnews.com

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