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Residents call for lower speed on Clayton Ave.

Petition cites pedestrian and traffic safety concerns

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Residents on Clayton Avenue are urging municipalities to lower the road's

speed limit from 45 to 35 miles per hour, citing increased traffic and safety concerns for pedestrians and drivers.

At town of Neenah and Clayton board meetings last month, residents submitted a petition signed by about 33 neighbors asking the towns to reduce the speed limit on the one-mile stretch between Larsen

Road and County Highway II.

Residents say the road has become dangerous for pedestrians and drivers as traffic has increased, especially since the relocation of Neenah High School to its new campus near Clayton Avenue.

SEE **Clayton Avenue** ON PAGE 8

INSIDE



ATLAS

Your local guide to arts, dining, entertainment
Inside

Loan program

County revises proposed housing funds

Page 7



Photo from Neenah Police Department

Snowy arrival

Santa and his reindeer arrived in downtown Neenah on a snowy evening Nov. 29 for the Neenah-Menasha Firefighters Charitable Foundation's Rudolph Run. Despite the weather, the event went on, featuring festive Christmas music, treats and hot chocolate to warm up. Proceeds from the event benefit local athletic teams.

Inventory of Doty Cabin historic collection underway

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The city of Neenah is conducting its first comprehensive inventory of artifacts at the historic Doty Cabin in over a decade, a process that has already identified more than 2,000 cataloged items.

Some of the artifacts rediscovered during the process include an 1861 Great Flower American Flag, two Bachelder stoneware crocks made in Menasha in the 1800s, a painting of an Oneida chief that requires authentication, and several historic military uniforms.

Parks and Recreation Director Michael Kading said this was the first full inventory undertaken during his tenure, prompted by the availability of volunteers who were

eager to take on the project.

"It was time, and we had two very interested individuals driving the inventory process," Kading said.

The inventory is led by Doty Cabin Docent Jacy Park and Doty Cabin friend Becky Heidke Kwiatkowski, with assistance from Kading, Parks and Recreation Specialist Maggie Rasmussen and Administrative Assistant Elise Collar. It covers an estimated 3,000 items and is expected to take a year to complete.

Doty Cabin is a historic replica of the home of James Duane Doty, Wisconsin's second territorial governor. It is located in Doty Park at 701 Lincoln St. and open to



Photo from City of Neenah

An 1861 Great Flower American Flag was rediscovered during the Doty Cabin inventory process.

SEE **Doty Cabin** ON PAGE 10

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Fox Valley Chorus plans to hold holiday celebration

Neenah News

The Fox Valley Chorus of Sweet Adelines will present its festive Harmony Lane Christmas Market and Show.

The doors open at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 13 for the show from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Church St. (Fellowship Hall entrance is on Doty Avenue). If needed, the car port office entrance is wheelchair accessible.

The Fox Valley Chorus, along with its

guest performers, will celebrate the magic of the season. Before the show attendees are invited to browse a Christmas Market, featuring handmade gifts, crafts and homemade goodies.

The chorus welcomes families and friends to this joyful celebration of music, community and Christmas cheer. Every ticket helps support the performers and future community events.

Call 920-851-6364 for tickets: \$15 for adults, \$10 for age 12 and under.

DNR reports decrease in number of deer hunters

Neenah News

The number of deer hunters in Wisconsin slightly was reported to have decreased this year compared to 2024.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said that preliminary figures as of 11:59 p.m. Nov. 30 showed sales for deer hunting privileges reached 790,044, down 0.12% from the same time last year. That figure includes gun, archery, crossbow, conservation patron and sports licenses.

Of those, the DNR said 550,611 were for gun privileges only, which includes gun, conservation patron and sports licenses.

Deer hunting license and harvest authorization sales will continue throughout the remaining deer hunting seasons. Final license sales figures will be available in January, when DNR staff will perform a thorough analysis and interpretation.

The nine-day gun deer hunt kicked off

the holiday season in Wisconsin from Nov. 22 through Nov. 30 with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, harvest food for the table and create memories with family and friends.

Preliminary figures show hunters registered 182,084 deer during the 2025 gun deer season, including 86,068 antlered and 96,016 antlerless deer. Compared to 2024, the gun season harvest total is down 0.8% statewide, with the antlered harvest down 2.6% and the antlerless harvest up 0.9%.

Since the opening of the bow and crossbow seasons, Wisconsin hunters have registered 294,757 deer. This harvest is 1.1% ahead of the same time last year.

The regular gun deer season is followed by the statewide muzzleloader season from Dec. 1 to Dec. 10, the statewide antlerless-only four-day hunt Dec. 11 to Dec. 14 and the antlerless-only holiday hunt in select farmland zone counties Dec. 24 to Jan. 1.



Neenah Historical Society photo

The Santa Float Origin Story

Legend has it that in 1950, Fire Chief John Zick came up with the original idea for the Santa Float as we know it. Mrs. Zick made Santa's first suit and Chief Zick convinced Fred Kampo, owner of Kampo Transit Company, to donate the use of a flatbed trailer as well as a driver named Jumbo Raehl. Here you can see the float being towed by the Kampo Transit truck. Santa is in a white sleigh with real trees decorated with tinsel.

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Calendar of events

Friday, Dec. 5

St. Nick Sale, 9 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah Gift Gallery

First Friday Concert: Mike Malone Trio Plays Vince Guaraldi, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Neenah's Very Merry Christmas, 5 p.m., Downtown Neenah

Christmas at the Octagon House, 5 p.m., Neenah Historical Society, 343 Smith St.

Sleigh Rides on the Farm and Cider with Santa, 5 p.m., Cavanaugh Carriages, 3910 Fairview Road

Saturday, Dec. 6

Timeless Treasures Christmas Bazaar, 8 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 South Park Ave.

The Grinch Family Christmas, 9 a.m., Washington Park

Santa at the Ranch, 9 a.m., Beaming Inc., 2692 County Road GG

Breakfast With Santa, 9:30 a.m., Fox Crossing Community Center, 1000 Valley Road

A Very Neenah Christmas Market, 10 a.m., Downtown Neenah

Holiday Open House and Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Author Katie Jones of "Alligator in the Attic" Book Signing, 10 a.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

St. Nick Sale, 10 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah Gift Gallery

Christmas at the Octagon House, noon, Neenah Historical Society, 343 Smith St.

Madrigal Dinner, 1 and 6:30 p.m., Neenah High School Atrium

Sunday, Dec. 7

A Very Neenah Christmas Market, 10 a.m., Downtown Neenah

Sleigh Rides on the Farm and Cider with Santa, noon, Cavanaugh Carriages, 3910 Fairview Road

YMCA of the Fox Cities Winter Music Recital, 1 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 200 N. Commercial St.

Neenah Community Band Winter Concert, 3 p.m., Neenah High School PAC

Monday, Dec. 8

Short Story Night, 7 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewing Co., 116 S. Commercial St.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

"A New Santa Claus in Town" Christmas Theater Show presented by the Fox Valleyaires Men's Barbershop Chorus, 7 p.m., Neenah High School Auditorium

Wednesday, Dec. 10

ThedaCare's Resolve Through Sharing Candlelight Memorial Service, 7 p.m., Best Western Bridgewood Resort and Conference Center

Correction

Nov. 14, Page 3: In the "Community invited to lake association meeting" article, The Aquatic Plant Management Plan was led by the City of Neenah and conducted by GEI consultants with assistance from Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance. The Wisconsin DNR funded 50% of the study, with the balance coming from the cities of Neenah and Menasha, Village of Fox Crossing and grants from The Fund for Lake Michigan and Future Neenah.

Secura Insurance donates \$39,000 to nonprofits

Neenah News

Neenah-based Secura Insurance is donating \$39,000 to 13 nonprofits through its annual Secura Gives Back contest.

This year, more than 480 agents participated by nominating the nonprofit of their choice to win a \$3,000 donation.

Since 2017, a total of \$288,500 has been donated to nonprofits through the Secura Gives Back campaign.

This year, each winning nonprofit will receive a \$3,000 donation to help support their mission.

Local union will collect food, toys

Neenah News

The Fox Valley Area Labor Council is holding its annual Food and Toy Drive today and Saturday.

The 37th annual collection will take place from noon to 5 p.m. today and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Neenah Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road.

The collection is a community project designed for union members and their employers to work together with local food banks and provide toys for children who may not otherwise receive any this Christmas.

Donations from the community are welcome.

Fox Cities PAC gets matching donation

The Lee and Rougeux families of Neenah and Combined Locks have pledged \$10,000 to match year-end gifts supporting the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center - effectively doubling the potential impact of every dollar received.

The decision to provide a \$10,000 gift match was made as a family, said Sherry Rougeux, who has worked at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center since January 2002.

Inspired by their shared experience seeing a show together, Madeline Lee - Sherry's niece - and her family pledged their support as well.

The Year-End Giving campaign at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center extends through Dec. 31.

To learn more about the matching donation or to make a year-end gift, visit foxcitiespac.com/discover.



Photo from Neenah Joint School District

Stuff the turkey

For the 18th consecutive year, Lakeview Elementary fourth grade students collected donations and distributed them to families throughout the Neenah Joint School District in its "Stuff the Turkey" event. This year, the classes collected 8,605 items that were delivered to families at Taft, Horace Mann, Spring Road, Washington and Lakeview schools. Additional food was made into snack packs for classrooms and donated to St. Joseph's Food Pantry. The classes also collected 50 cases of Gatorade and water that were donated to the Neenah police and fire departments.

Church hosts Stars and Promises Christmas Show

Neenah News

Guitarist, vocalist and songwriter Peter Mayer's Stars and Promises Christmas Show will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 21 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 809 S. Commercial St.

Mayer is a frequent traveler in the mu-

sical world, sharing the stage with James Taylor, Paul McCartney, Don Henley, Paul Simon, Dave Matthews and many others, and best known for his 35 years as Jimmy Buffett's lead guitarist. Peter Mayer Group has released more than 20 albums, among

them, four Christmas albums.

Last year Mayer's Stars and Promises Christmas tour celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Tickets for the Neenah show can be found at petermayer.com.



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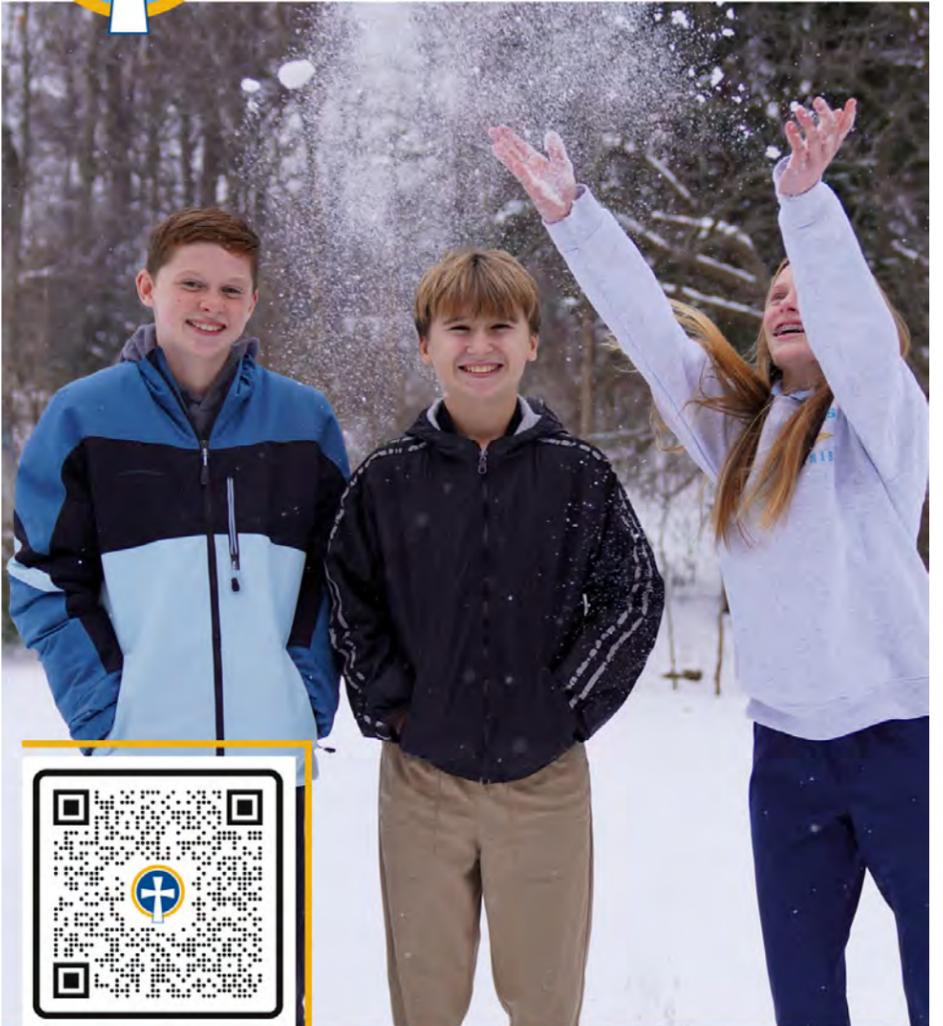


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Photo by David Hall

First large snowfall

A Thanksgiving weekend snowstorm helped to turn area hills into sledding hotspots. Children and families raced down Memorial Park Hill in Neenah on sleds Sunday afternoon as the season's first snowfall blanketed the area, marking the unofficial start of winter fun as the snow appears to be around to stay for a while.

Planning underway for Schildt Park project

Neenah News

The village of Fox Crossing is planning a series of improvements at Schildt Park designed to enhance its recreational offerings and accessibility.

Funding for the project was included in the recently approved village budget.

In conjunction with this project, the village's Public Works Department will be constructing a stormwater pond within the park area. Village officials said this infrastructure improvement will allow the Village to meet DNR requirements, help manage water runoff more effectively and support local drainage needs.

As part of the project, a new neighborhood access point into the park will be created for both vehicles and pedestrians via the cul-de-sac of Benjamin Court.

The village said while it does not have a project timeline established, work is expected to begin next spring and take much of the year to complete. To ensure the project moves as quickly as possible, the majority of Schildt Park will be unavailable for use in 2026.

An open house will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Fox Crossing Assembly Room, 2000 Municipal Drive in Neenah. Residents will be able to learn more about the project, ask questions, view the conceptual design and share their opinion on three different playground designs.

For questions about the project, contact the Parks and Recreation Office by calling 920-720-7108 or emailing parkrec@foxcrossingwi.gov.

Candidates begin taking out papers for spring election

Neenah News

Candidates seeking local office in the spring election began circulating nomination papers Monday.

A range of local offices will be on the ballot this year, including common council, town board, village trustees, school board seats and other municipal roles.

In the city of Neenah, voters will elect a mayor to a four-year term, with incumbent Mayor Jane Lang's current term expiring in April 2026. Lang announced late Wednesday she is not planning to seek reelection.

Voters will also select alderpersons for Districts 1, 2, and 3, currently held by Cari Lendrum, Tami Erickson and Scott Weber. Neenah alders serve a three-year term.

In the town of Clayton, voters will elect two town board supervisors to two-year terms. Seat 3, currently held by Patti Christianson, and Seat 4 held by Scott Reif, are both up for election this spring.

In the village of Fox Crossing, residents will vote for three village trustees, each serving a two-year term. Seats 1, 3 and 5, currently held by Michael Van Dyke, Tim Raddatz and Deborah Swiertz, are up for election.

The Neenah-Menasha Municipal Judge seat that is currently held by James B. Gunz is also on the ballot for a four-year term.

Voters will elect three members to the Neenah Board of Education, each serving a three-year term. The seats currently held by Lindsay Clark, Michelle Swardenski and Deborah Watry will be on the ballot.

In the Town of Neenah, all town offices carry a two-year term. Voters will elect two town board supervisors, with the seats currently held by David Bluma and James Weiss up for election in April.

Winnebago County supervisors are elected to two-year terms. All 36 seats on the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors are up for election this spring.

Those running for office or seeking re-election must file nomination papers by Jan. 6. A primary election is set for Feb. 17 if needed. The spring election will be held April 7.

County adds holiday string light recycling sites

Neenah News

Holiday string lights can be recycled at locations throughout Winnebago County until Jan. 31.

The City of Neenah, Town of Neenah and Village of Fox Crossing are among the organizations participating in the program.

The City of Neenah set the mark last season with 837 pounds of holiday string lights collected.

The Town of Neenah said its drop-bin in the Town Hall lobby can be used to recycle holiday string lights, extension cords and power strips. Garland and loose bulbs are not accepted.

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Photo from St. Mary Catholic Schools

Heart-warming performance

Students from St. Gabriel Elementary School performed Tuesday evening at the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center. Some of the songs they performed included Hip Hop Reindeer and Rock 'N' Roll Snowman.

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Local recycling programs receive statewide recognition

Neenah News

Two organizations from Winnebago County were among the winners of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Recycling Excellence Awards.

The First United Methodist Church and Tri-County Recycling received the recognition from the DNR each in the Projects and Initiatives category.

Green Team

Formed in January 2025 by a group of members from the First United Methodist Church of Neenah-Menasha, the Green Team has established itself as an "inspiring force" for environmental stewardship within the congregation and beyond.

Guided by their mission to "learn, educate and act to establish sustainable practices that help restore and protect God's creation," the team meets monthly and has implemented numerous impactful waste reduction and recycling initiatives.

Their efforts include eliminating Styrofoam and disposable cups during fellowship time and large events (replaced with reusable or compostable cups); holding a lithium battery collection in partnership with Redwood Materials and a shoe collection drive with Fusion Footwear; organizing gift card recycling with TerraCycle; hosting a Styrofoam recycling drive; and running donation drives for egg cartons, clothing and more.

Education and outreach are also at the heart of this group's work, including establishing monthly "Green Tips" section in the church newsletter, a dedicated bulletin board of eco-friendly ideas, and interactive Earth Day displays that help make environmental responsibility an accessible and engaging part of everyday life for



Photo from Wisconsin DNR

Members of the First United Methodist Church of Neenah-Menasha received the Recycling Excellence Award from the Wisconsin DNR.

the congregation.

Going forward, the Green Team is pursuing an energy audit of the church building and is looking to partner with local organizations such as the Rotary Club and Winchester Lions Club on future recycling and sustainability initiatives.

Recycling master class

Tri-County Recycling (consisting of Winnebago, Brown and Outagamie counties) recently began offering a "Recycle Right Master Class" program.

The program launched in late 2023 to address growing public skepticism around recycling and strengthen community knowledge of proper recycling practices. This interactive initiative combines in-depth education, facility access and hands-on volunteer service to reduce con-

tamination and increase community participation in recycling.

The program consists of three core classes, each designed to build on one another. The courses include: 101 Curbside Recycling, 201 Beyond the Bin and 301 Recycling in Context.

To graduate, participants must also complete 10 hours of volunteer service within six months, applying what they've learned to support local recycling outreach efforts. Volunteer opportunities include assisting at community events, giving short presentations and helping neighbors recycle right.

By transforming residents into "Master Recyclers," the program builds long-term champions for waste reduction and demonstrates leadership in advancing Wisconsin's recycling goals through education,

outreach and measurable behavior change. Graduates are emerging as trusted local advocates, helping to reduce contamination and build public confidence in recycling.

This program demonstrates how a proven education model can be adapted to meet today's recycling challenges and provides a framework that could be replicated in other communities statewide.

Statewide recycling

Wisconsin's recycling law bans certain materials from the trash and establishes a statewide recycling program.

For the last 13 years, the DNR has celebrated outstanding recycling and waste minimization efforts through its annual awards recognizing high-performers and highlighting proven ideas and strategies that other organizations may use to improve their recycling efforts.

For 2025, the DNR is recognizing 22 organizations for going beyond what is required by law.

"This year marks a new record high number of Recycling Excellence Award winners," said Jennifer Semrau, DNR waste reduction and diversion coordinator. "The number of nominations we received exemplified an outstanding commitment to recycling, upcycling and food waste reduction."

In addition to landfill-banned items, which include curbside recyclables and electronics, the winners diverted many tons of food waste, roof shingles, plastic bags and film, propane cylinders, bicycles and other common materials for reuse or recycling.

Awards are given in one of four categories: Projects and Initiatives, Overall Program, Special Events and Innovation.



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Federal judge to review images in Westbrook case

Neenah News

A federal judge has indicated he intends to review the images at the center of former Neenah city attorney Adam Westbrook's child pornography case as he considers whether Westbrook should be allowed to withdraw his guilty plea.

Westbrook, 36, pleaded guilty in September 2024 to distributing child pornography and was initially set to be sentenced this month under a plea agreement calling for 8 to 12 years in prison. He later moved to withdraw the plea, arguing the images do not meet the legal definition of child pornography and that he received ineffective assistance of counsel.

Prosecutors have urged the judge to reject Westbrook's request, arguing he knowingly admitted to the charge and is now contradicting his own sworn state-



Westbrook

ments. According to a filing last Friday, Judge James Peterson indicated he intends to review the images as part of his consideration.

Prosecutors argue that if the court reviews the images to evaluate Westbrook's claim of innocence, it would be stepping into the role of a jury by making its own determination about whether the images are lascivious. They contend that if the court views the images, it must also consider the broader evidence the government says it would present at trial to establish criminal intent.

"The government believes that it is the combination of all this evidence which proves lasciviousness and viewing the charged images alone cannot be the determining factor on the defendant's intent, his 'innocence,' and therefore, whether he should be entitled to withdraw his plea," prosecutors wrote.

According to prosecutors, other evidence includes messages between Westbrook and the recipient of the images discussing their sexual interest in minors and

the exchange of child sexual abuse material. Court filings also cite a statement Westbrook allegedly made to his mother indicating he sent the images knowing the recipient was sexually aroused by them.

Prosecutors also allege Westbrook was connected to a Telegram group where users traded child sexual abuse material. Documents say a user believed to be Westbrook shared explicit material, used a profile image taken inside his home, and accidentally posted a screenshot that included his name and address.

Westbrook resigned as Neenah city attorney in 2022 and was serving as Outagamie County's human resources director at the time of his February 2024 arrest. Prosecutors allege he shared illegal images with now-former Racine County sheriff's deputy Preston Kite, who was later convicted and sentenced to 67 years in prison in a related case. Two other Fox Valley men were also sentenced earlier this year in connection with the same investigation.

Westbrook was initially charged by the state with possession of child pornography and child sexual exploitation, but federal prosecutors later took over the case and charged him with distributing child pornography.

Prosecutors asked the court last week to deny Westbrook's request without holding an evidentiary hearing. Peterson ruled Monday that he would review the images and the evidence provided by the government before ruling on Westbrook's motion to withdraw his guilty plea.

Westbrook's defense has objected to the government's plan to submit additional evidence in his motion to withdraw his guilty plea, arguing it amounts to an ex parte evidentiary review that would prevent the defense from participating. His attorney requested that no evidence be reviewed until an evidentiary hearing is held, allowing both sides to present and challenge evidence. As of Wednesday, Peterson had not yet ruled on that motion.

OWI charges escalate for local man after back-to-back arrests in April

Neenah News

A Fox Valley man who was arrested twice in the same morning on suspicion of operating while intoxicated earlier this year has now been sentenced in both cases stemming from those arrests.

Court records show 29-year-old Tevin Rogge, whose recent addresses are listed in Neenah, Appleton and Menasha, was sentenced in Winnebago County Circuit Court on Sept. 24 and Nov. 24 for OWI convictions related to two separate arrests on April 12.

Rogge was sentenced Sept. 24 for the OWI arrest by the Fox Crossing Police Department. That case resulted in a sentence of five days in jail, a 12-month revocation of his driving privileges, a 12-month ignition interlock device requirement, and \$2,168 in fines and court costs.

He was sentenced again Nov. 24 for a separate OWI arrest by the Menasha Police Department that occurred earlier the same morning. In that case, Rogge was ordered to serve 48 days in jail, received a 28-month license revocation, a 28-month ignition interlock requirement, and was assessed \$3,900 in fines and costs.

According to the Fox Crossing Police Department, an officer located a vehicle at around 2:47 a.m. April 12 on County Road CB north of U.S. Highway 10 in the right lane with its hazard lights on after it had run out of gas.

The driver was identified as Rogge.

The officer noted a light odor of alcoholic beverage on Rogge's breath and watery, bloodshot eyes, according to the criminal complaint.

Rogge had been arrested by Menasha police just two hours earlier on suspicion of OWI and had been released. During the Fox Crossing OWI investigation, Rogge allegedly admitted he was driving and said he was traveling from the police station to a gas station when he ran out of fuel.

The officer administered standardized field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test, which returned a reading of .108, above the legal limit. Rogge was arrested again for OWI and cited for operating while revoked and failure to install an ignition interlock device. He was taken to the hospital for a blood draw and later released to a relative.

Court records show Rogge has five OWI arrests in 2025 and was first arrested for OWI by the Appleton Police Department on Feb. 26, then by the Fox Crossing Police Department on March 6, and again by Appleton police on March 16. He was convicted of his first OWI in the Fox Crossing case on April 10, two days before the April 12 arrests. That conviction required him to have an ignition interlock device installed on any vehicle he operated.

In Wisconsin, a first OWI is a non-criminal traffic violation, second and third offenses are misdemeanors, and fourth and subsequent OWI offenses are felonies.

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Photo from City of Neenah

Members of the Neenah Police Department participated in the "Stuff the Squad" event Tuesday at the Neenah Walmart. The event was intended to collect items to be donated to help residents in need.

Police provide items to help needy

Neenah News

The Neenah Police Department is starting the holiday season with events to collect and distribute items to help area residents in need.

The department invited community members to join the "Stuff the Squad" event Tuesday at the Neenah Walmart. Simplicity Credit Union employees and Walmart employees assisted the officers in the Walmart grocery vestibule for the event.

Officer Joe Benoit said the goal was to fill several squad cars and the police trailer with donations. Non-perishable food and hygiene items were collected to help the Neenah St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry fill its shelves.

Officers greeted shoppers, collected items and celebrated the generous spirit of the community, Benoit said.

For anyone who was unable to attend "Stuff the Squad" in person, Benoit said they can drop off donations at the Neenah Police Department lobby, 2111 Marathon Ave., until today. Donations can also be made at Simplicity Credit Union, 219 W. Cecil St.

"Stuff the Squad" leads up to the Neenah Police Department's "Shop with a Cop," which will be on Dec. 12. Selected families that were chosen with help from local schools and school resource officers will have the opportunity to shop for Christmas presents for their loved ones alongside Neenah Police employees.

County revises proposed housing loan program

Loan fund still needs County Board approval

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County commissioners voted Tuesday to revise a proposed revolving loan fund for affordable housing, incorporating feedback from supervisors after the County Board last month sent the plan back to committee.

The decision comes after months of discussion about how to allocate \$3.5 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars for local housing needs.

The proposed revolving loan fund would use a pool of county dollars to support housing development, including affordable housing projects for working families. The fund would issue loans to qualifying projects, with repayment returning the money to the fund for future use.



Scheer

County Executive Gordon Hintz previously said the structure allows the money to be reinvested in multiple housing initiatives over time, helping spur development in areas where the private market has struggled to meet community needs.

The loan fund is expected to play a role in spurring new housing construction in Winnebago County, with Housing Grants Specialist Lu Scheer stating that the county needs an estimated 10,000 new housing units in the next decade.

The Winnebago County Industrial Development Board committed \$1 million to the program in June, and the county planned to contribute the remaining \$3.5 million.

That plan was paused last month after some county supervisors questioned whether interest from the Spirit Fund, which is the county's name for its ARPA dollars, could be used for that purpose.

Under the initially proposed plan, the revolving loan fund would be overseen by a nonprofit organization. District 26 Supervisor Conley Hansen argued at a board meeting last month that because the Spirit Fund interest was placed in the county government projects category, the proposed revolving housing loan program does not qualify, since it would be run in partnership with a nonprofit and the

broader community.

At a meeting Tuesday, the ARPA Strategies and Outcome Commission voted to revise the language of the proposal to include that an advisory board for the program will be made up of an equal number of members from the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission, the Industrial Development Board, the Personnel and Finance Committee, and county staff. Appointments to the advisory board will be made by the county board chair and county executive.

Though the previous plan was to take \$3.5 million in interest earnings from the Spirit Fund to start the program, Hintz said Tuesday that treating interest separately complicated planning and caused confusion.

For this and future projects, the county plans to count all Spirit Fund money, including interest earnings, in a single "pot" for allocation.

As of late August, about \$11.7 million of the \$33.3 million Winnebago County was allocated in ARPA dollars remained in the Spirit Fund, including about \$3.5 million in interest.

The commission also adopted an amendment Tuesday stating that the new revolving loan fund "shall be applied to affordable housing only," while leaving the definition of affordable housing broad to account for future economic changes.

Commissioners agreed to remove language that would have prohibited using the fund for projects in tax increment districts (TIDs), where property tax revenue is used to finance local development, noting that state policymakers may soon change laws to promote more affordable housing in TIDs.

The proposal to create the housing loan fund still needs to be approved by the County Board at a future meeting.

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Clayton Avenue

FROM PAGE 1

"I myself am a walker, and it's like I'm taking my life in my own hands," said Pat Kufel Ebben, who lives on Clayton Avenue. "There are very narrow shoulders, deep ditches. People are flying by."

Kufel Ebben said she received messages of support from neighbors who say the road is turning into a cut-through route, stating that "with the added volume due to the new high school, many of the drivers proceed as if there is no speed limit on the road and it is increasingly hazardous."

She also referenced a fatal crash on Clayton Avenue about five years ago, noting that many residents believe excessive speed was a contributing factor. In October 2024, a motorcyclist was killed after colliding with an SUV at the intersection of Clayton Avenue and County II.

"Forty-five (mph) is far too fast on this stretch of road," Kufel Ebben said. "Construction vehicles were flying by, school buses even were flying by. So it's just not safe."

In a letter, Neenah High School Principal Brian Wunderlich urged the Town of Neenah to consider lowering the Clayton Avenue speed limit even further to 30 mph.

Wunderlich wrote that traffic volume on the road has "significantly increased – particularly during school arrival and dismissal times," and that many of the drivers are teen motorists still developing judgment and experience.

Lowering the speed limit to 30 mph, he wrote, would improve reaction time and stopping distance, offer greater safety for inexperienced drivers, create a safer environment for pedestrians and bikers, and reinforce "a stronger sense of community responsibility" when driving in school zones.

Jo Glass, who organized the petition, said the one-mile section of Clayton Avenue does not capture the full extent of the problem.

"In my opinion, the issue actually runs from Larsen (Road) all the way to just north of Highway 10," Glass said, noting that the group only gathered signatures from neighbors they could speak to directly. Going farther north would involve residents of Fox Crossing and introduce a third municipality into an already complex process, she said.

Glass said the narrow roadway, steep ditches, increased vehicle volume, and higher numbers of walkers and cyclists create dangerous conditions in an area with very little margin for error. She noted that Clayton Avenue intersects with or sits between five trails within a span of less than 2.5 miles, leading runners and bikers to use Clayton Avenue as a connection point.

"What I do know is that walking or running, or even getting out of our driveway can be difficult, frustrating, and at times downright dangerous," Glass said.

She added that the 30 minutes before school starts at 7:50 a.m. is especially hazardous.

"Please be aware of your surroundings and ready to jump down into the ditch for your safety," she said.



Geise



Schmeichel



Neenah News

A vehicle drives along Clayton Avenue near the 45 mph speed limit sign.

Residents say inconsistent law-enforcement presence contributes to the problem.

"My perception is nobody wants to patrol that section of road," Kufel Ebben said. "I've called the Winnebago County Sheriff, I've called Fox Crossing. When they do come, there's really no traffic."

Changing the speed limit is complicated by overlapping jurisdiction along Clayton Avenue. About 75% of the one-mile stretch between Larsen Road and County II is in the Town of Clayton, with the remainder in the Town of Neenah. Although many of the residents who live on that stretch are on the Town of Neenah side, the primary responsibility for maintaining it belongs to Clayton. North of County II, the Village of Fox Crossing enters the picture as well.

Because authority over the road is split, changes to the speed limit or other safety measures require coordinated action between multiple local governments, in addition to meeting state transportation standards.

Kufel Ebben said that when she spoke about the issue at a recent Clayton board meeting, officials told her a flashing speed sign would be installed on Clayton Avenue. The sign has since been put in place, but she believes more needs to be done.

"I find both towns have been very responsive," she said. "It's just that it's complicated because there's two or three different townships."

Neenah Town Board Chair Bob Schmeichel said that progress has been slow, but the town is committed to working with Clayton.

"Although Town of Neenah and Town of Clayton are committed to considering

the speed limit on Clayton Avenue, the true responsibility lies with the drivers," he said.

Schmeichel said the petition is "a good first step." Any formal speed-limit change would likely require a memorandum of understanding between the towns of Neenah and Clayton.

While residents have petitioned for a lower speed limit, Clayton Town Chair Russ Geise said only five of the signatures were from residents in Clayton. He said Clayton is currently in an evaluation phase, collecting traffic data before considering any changes to the speed limit.

"We're tracking speeds daily and reviewing the numbers from our public safety director," he said, adding that early readings indicate that most drivers are already traveling below the 45 mph limit, with an average speed of 40 mph.

Geise said enforcement is challenging because Clayton does not have its own police force, and county officers have limited opportunities to monitor traffic along the one-mile stretch.

"It's not a walking trail; it's a road," he said. "You take a little bit of your life in your own hands when you're walking on a road."

He noted that Clayton will continue reviewing the data and working with neighboring communities before determining next steps.

Despite the complexities, Glass said residents remain hopeful.

"Our neighborhood is hoping to work with the Town of Clayton and the Town of Neenah to rectify this situation and build a safer environment for both our neighbors and our local drivers," she said.



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Referrals to county prosecutor's office decline

Felony cases trending upward

By Bethanie Gengler
NEENAH NEWS

The number of cases referred to the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office have dropped steadily over the past decade, even as felony referrals have risen and misdemeanor cases have fallen sharply, according to data covering 2015 through 2025.

District Attorney Eric Sparr presented data on law enforcement referrals over the past decade at a Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting Monday. A law enforcement referral is when police finish investigating a case and forward it to the district attorney's office, asking prosecutors to consider filing criminal charges.

Overall referrals fell from roughly 5,154 in 2015 to 4,176 in 2025, continuing a gradual downward trend. The office reported its highest recent total in 2017, with 5,936 referrals, before beginning a multiyear decline.

"What we see there is a spike there in 2017, we didn't really look back to try to figure out why that happened, but that does look like a bit of an aberration," Sparr said.

Sparr said there are periodic spikes and declines, including a downturn in some categories around the onset of COVID-19, but the overall volume of cases referred to county prosecutors has been "relatively steady, maybe a slight downward trend."

Criminal referrals for misdemeanor charges have decreased significantly since 2015, from 2,273 to 1,680 in 2025. At the same time, felony referrals increased from 1,241 in 2015 to 1,419 this year.

Most categories of drug-related referrals declined, with a substantial decrease in misdemeanor drug charges, from 1,072 in 2015 to 523 in 2025. Sparr attributed the decline in part to a policy shift away from criminal handling of possession of marijuana cases.

Felony drug possession charges increased from 199 in 2015 to 313 this year. Sparr said the rise is largely driven by an uptick in cases involving methamphetamine and fentanyl.

Criminal traffic cases saw a slight decline during the same period, from 981 in 2015 to 918 in 2025.

"I think criminal traffic is a big one where the resources and priorities of law enforcement can have a significant impact on the data that we see, where I think

that's less true for certain types of cases," Sparr said.

Juvenile cases saw about a 76% decrease, from 659 cases in 2015, to 159 cases in 2025.

"With the process going through intake, there have been some additional efforts that are made there to have less cases going through, less cases being sent to court, and that's probably the most drastic decrease from a percentage basis of all the categories we're looking at," Sparr said.

Violent felony referrals showed mixed outcomes. Battery, sexual assault cases involving adult victims, attempted homicides and intentional homicides climbed gradually. At the same time, referrals for robberies declined, which Sparr said is partially attributed to security upgrades.

"The increase in the percentage of businesses that have cameras probably had some impact on that," he said. "But not every robbery is a business."

Sparr said the data presented at the meeting focused on charges requested by law enforcement. The District Attorney's office is working with Loyola University on a public dashboard that will show the number of cases prosecutors have formally charged.

Galloway announces cream liqueur breakthrough

Insight on Business Magazine

Neenah-based Galloway Company has developed a groundbreaking acidified cream liqueur base, the first of its kind able to withstand tart, acidic flavors without curdling.

This innovation redefines what's possible in the cream liqueur and ready-to-drink markets, opening the door to an entirely new range of fruit-forward dairy-based alcoholic beverages.

"Consumers are seeking out brighter, bolder, and more authentic flavors," said Luke Gambaro, director of beverage sales at Galloway Company. "Traditional cream liqueurs struggled to support those bold profiles because of pH limitations. Our new Acidified Cream Liqueur base changes that, allowing manufacturers to create stable and innovative products without sacrificing flavor or relying on additives."

Historically, alcohol and acid have been the enemies of dairy, resulting in curdling or instability. Galloway's Acidified Cream Liqueur base overcomes this barrier using a proprietary protein stabilization process that doesn't rely on chemical stabilizers or added ingredients.

The result is a smooth, stable cream liqueur that maintains the natural brightness of fruit and citrus while preserving a clean dairy flavor profile.

With Galloway's Acidified Cream Liqueur base, manufacturers can now introduce dairy-based products featuring authentic fruit-forward flavors from citrus and berry to tropical blends, without sac-

rificing stability or mouthfeel.

"This is more than just a technical advancement," said Diego Benitez, Senior Director of R&D at Galloway Company, "It's a key to unlocking the future of cream liqueurs and dairy-based RTDs, bridging the gap between what consumers crave and what the category could previously deliver."

This innovation has been selected as a finalist in the Distilled Spirits Council (DISCUS) Innovation Showcase which highlights pioneers developing innovations across the entire spirits industry. Galloway's concept was judged by a panel of industry experts as well as the public. Learn more at distilledspirits.org/innovation-showcase/.

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Snow falls around Doty Cabin, which is decorated for the holidays. The cabin is home to an estimated 3,000 historic artifacts.

Neenah News

Doty Cabin

FROM PAGE 1

visitors noon to 4 p.m. from June through Labor Day.

According to meeting minutes, 2,040 items had been located during the inventory process as of October, while 146 had been marked as “lost.” Kading said that those items are not confirmed missing and the team is still cross-checking older records, matching objects to documentation and reviewing newly returned paperwork.

“An inventory binder was returned to the cabin, and we are working our way through it,” he said.

Designating an item as lost means that it has not been matched up with paperwork or documentation, he said, or the number is not legible on the item.

“At this time, we do not have enough information and are still working through the process,” he said when asked whether items may have been misplaced, loaned out or stolen. The cabin and its contents are insured, he said.

The city is also implementing a revised collection policy, which Kading said brings the cabin’s practices into “the 21st century” by adopting modern museum

standards.

“We are now logging all items electronically,” he said.

A 1995 Conservation Assessment offered numerous recommendations for improving care of the collection. Kading said the city is revisiting those recommendations and has begun assessing the cabin structure to set priorities and build budgets. The city has allocated \$25,000 in its 2026 Capital Improvements Plan toward that work.

Items from the collection will play a prominent role in the city’s planned 2026 “We the People” exhibit at Doty Cabin, which will feature artifacts that have not been displayed publicly in many years and highlight the families who donated them. The exhibit aligns with the nationwide 250th anniversary celebrations of the United States.

Kading said he hopes the project will help residents better understand the importance of preserving local history.

“It is important to connect with our past by learning about the people who built our community and then protecting and stewarding our future,” he said. “The renewed enthusiasm for the Doty Cabin is encouraging. I’m looking forward to a great 2026 season.”

Docents recognized for service to Doty Cabin

Neenah News

The Neenah Parks & Recreation Commission recognized three longtime Doty Cabin docents.

The recognition was made during the commission’s November meeting, honoring Sandy Joch along with Jann and Bill McBride.

Joch has been a docent for 27 years and Jann for 23 years. Both have welcomed and engaged visitors through storytelling and tending to the cabin.

Bill served the cabin for 23 years through ongoing maintenance and upkeep and acting as an honorary docent by welcoming visitors.

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State legislators want to tighten Wisconsin's margarine laws

By Annie Pulley
THE BADGER PROJECT

The butter versus margarine debate is back on the menu in the dairy state.

A bipartisan bill introduced in the state Senate earlier this month would tighten some of the state's enduring restrictions on margarine, the origins of which trace back to the 1800s.

Wisconsin law currently prohibits serving margarine as a substitute for table butter to students, patients or inmates of any state institution. Public eating places are also barred from selling colored margarine as a substitute for table butter unless patrons specifically request it.

Violating these laws is a criminal offense and could lead to a fine between \$100 and \$500, imprisonment up to three months or both.

The new bill would broaden the substitution ban to apply to *butter* rather than just *table butter*. The proposed legislation would also bar public, private and tribal schools from serving the substitute or including it in meals served to the same students. Exceptions apply for individual students with specified needs.

Two Democrats and 14 Republicans – several of whom operate farms, grew up on a farm or have received awards from the Dairy Business Association – are pushing the proposal forward. The bill went to a committee, where it must pass before moving to the whole legislature for a vote, the same day it was introduced.

Bill authors state Sen. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and state Rep. Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville) were both raised on farms and have each received thousands of dollars in contributions from dairy interests throughout the years, according to profiles from the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

"I grew up milking cows," Novak told The Badger Project. "This is kind of the type of bill I love doing because it's constituent-oriented."

Novak said his district is one of the most "ag-dependent" in the state. The bill was a response to calls from family farmers who voiced strong opposition to margarine in schools at a September meeting of the Iowa County Farm Bureau that Novak and Marklein attended.

Novak said he didn't anticipate a lot of opposition to the bill. While one school district recently switched from butter to margarine, Novak said roughly 99% of the other school districts in his political district serve butter.

Democratic state Reps. Vincent Miresse of Stevens Point and Russell Goodwin of Milwaukee joined Republicans to support the bill.

Marklein told The Badger Project that a family at the farm bureau meeting even brought margarine packets their son took home from school.

"They're dairy farmers, and it really irritated them," Marklein said. "This is America's Dairyland, and so I don't think it's

unreasonable to expect that our schools will serve something that comes from our dairy cows."

The regulation of margarine has a long history in the U.S. and especially in Wisconsin, where butter factors into the state's massive dairy industry. The state's more than 5,000 dairy farms contribute nearly \$53 billion every year to Wisconsin's economy, according to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

History of margarine

Margarine was invented by a French chemist in 1869 and soon made it across the Atlantic as a cheaper butter alternative, according to a resource from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Margarine, which contains mostly unsaturated fats, is commonly made from vegetable oils, whereas butter, mostly saturated fat, is derived from animal products. Butter's saturated fats are worse for heart health, but margarine's trans fats can increase the risk of heart disease, according to an article from Mayo Clinic. Margarine sold in the U.S. can't have added trans fats, however. Generally, the more solid the margarine, the more saturated fat it contains.

When margarine arrived in the U.S., the national dairy industry saw the spreadable substitute as a threat and successfully lobbied against it. Congress passed the Oleomargarine Act in 1886, which taxed margarine and required its manufacturers and

distributors to get licenses, the national conference wrote. Dozens of states regulated margarine as well. The crackdown fostered a black market, and a few fraudsters even landed in prison.

To make it appear like butter, margarine, naturally white, was often tinted yellow. Wisconsin joined 31 other states to ban the manufacture and sale of yellow-tinted margarine, according to a U.S. National Archives blog. New Hampshire went so far as to mandate that margarine be tinted pink, but the United States Supreme Court overturned that law in 1898.

But butter was scarce during the Great Depression and World War II, and the public more regularly consumed margarine, according to a 1965 report from the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. By the 1950s, there was a growing distaste for regulating margarine. The federal government soon repealed its margarine tax, and many states reined in their own regulations. Wisconsin was the last state to reverse its ban on selling yellow margarine in 1967. State law still dedicates about 500 words to the substance.



Photo from Winnebago County Sheriff's Office

Lighting up the season

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Fox Crossing Police Department and Neenah Police Department are among the law enforcement agencies participating in the Police Lights of Christmas program to support those in need this winter throughout Wisconsin. The sheriff's office said over \$300,000 in donations was raised this year to cover gift cards, which are placed in squad cars for officers in 115 police departments to use to help low income, hurting or homeless community members.

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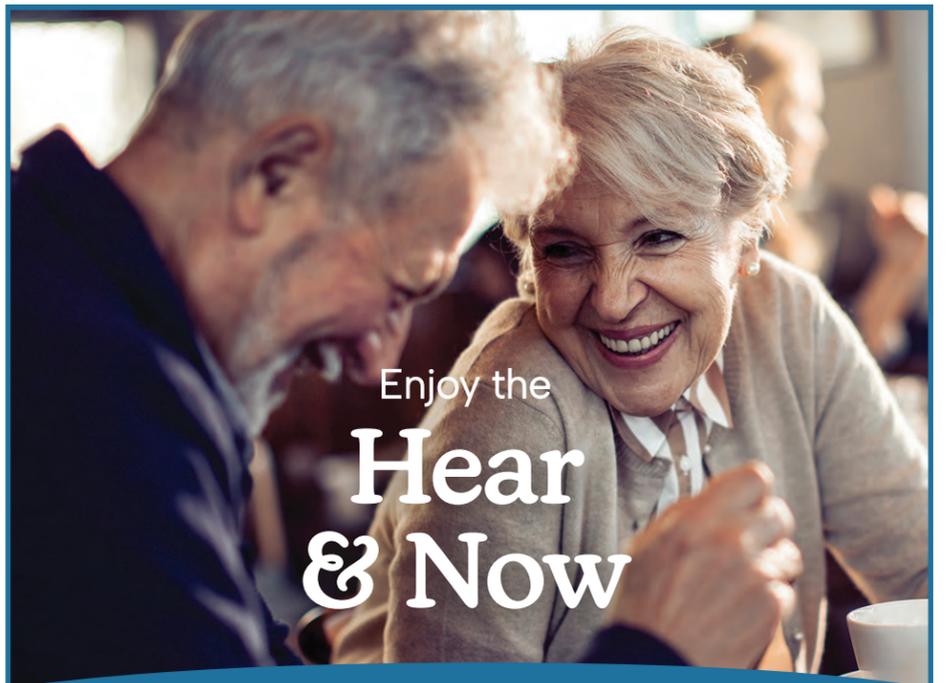
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Area woman shares story of hope, recovery after accident

Nurse survives serious car crash as teen

ThedaCare

Tansy Lederhaus is a registered nurse beloved for her empathy as much as for her medical expertise. That empathy is rooted in her past experience as a trauma patient at ThedaCare.

Her road from patient to medical caregiver began on June 12, 2002. Lederhaus and her best friend, Sarah, finished a six-hour shift at the local A&W Restaurant and were thrilled to be heading down the highway to Green Bay. That's where they planned to pick up Lederhaus's new car.

Things quickly took a tragic turn. "We were on our way," Lederhaus said. "I believe we made it about six minutes out of town on the state highway when we got into a car crash."

The duo crashed into the back of a semi. Sarah didn't survive. Lederhaus, 17 at the time, clung to life. Her injuries required her to be taken by ThedaStar to ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah.

Once she arrived at the hospital, Lederhaus was quickly evaluated. Imaging revealed she suffered two fractured femurs (thigh bones), a ruptured spleen and a grade five liver laceration (a severe, life-threatening injury involving extensive damage to the liver). Her liver bled profusely, posing a serious challenge for doctors.

"It required repeat treatments to try to get it to stop bleeding," Lederhaus said. "I required more than 100 units of blood products in order to survive."

Challenging situation

Things looked grim.

"My trauma surgeons initially gave me less than a 1% chance of surviving," Lederhaus said. "That's based on all the bleeding. It didn't look good at first."

She would remain in the hospital for 43 days, including nine days in an induced coma.

Lederhaus doesn't recall details about the crash. Thankfully, her father kept a journal and took photos documenting the experience. That, coupled with subsequent conversations with her medical team and the EMT and paramedic crews that aided her, helped Lederhaus paint a mental portrait of the tragic event.

Thanks to those conversations, Lederhaus now knows that medical experts like Dr. Raymond Georgen and Dr. Kevin Wasco, worked diligently to save her life. Georgen is the ThedaCare System Trauma Medical Director. He and Wasco, a general surgeon, were part of the surgical team that worked to save Lederhaus.

Stabilizing Lederhaus eventually included dialysis treatments, renal replacement therapy and managing her unstable blood pressure levels.

"Eventually, I started rallying and improving," she said. "Things just got better, kind of miraculously."

Blood donations were vital

Lederhaus's blood loss posed a serious hurdle for the medical team, Wasco said.

"We tried several techniques to get the bleeding to stop," he said. "We even packed her abdomen with old fashioned gauze to stem the bleeding. At one point, we thought, 'there's no way we were going to get through this if we can't stop the bleeding.' Sure enough, almost magically, the bleeding stopped. That's when we thought she could do it, she had a chance. We thought, 'we're going to win this. We're going to win this with her.'"

Donated blood supplies were a crucial part of Lederhaus's survival, Georgen said.

"Tansy lost a tremendous amount of blood," he explained. "If we did not have the Community Blood Center and their donated blood supplies, she wouldn't be here today. By the grace of God, she stopped bleeding. She still had a number of other injuries which we had to take care of over a very long period of time but the worst was over."

The experience of treating Lederhaus



Photo from ThedaCare

Tansy Lederhaus survived a 2002 car crash that claimed the life of her best friend. She has since gone from a trauma patient at ThedaCare to a registered nurse caring for others. The mother of three offers patients the empathy she received during her 43-day stay at ThedaCare.

left an impression on Wasco that has lasted two decades.

"It was white knuckle with her for a while," he said. "In terms of how badly she was hurt, how much bleeding she had, how much she had to go through, she's definitely one of the top five trauma cases that we've had."

Processing the aftermath

Lederhaus would eventually wake from her coma.

"I remember waking up and I remember seeing my dad," she said. "He was the first person I saw when I woke up, or at least the first I remember seeing."

She couldn't speak because she was on a ventilator. She communicated with her parents by writing on a whiteboard.

"I think it was like two or three solid days of being awake before I finally asked what had happened," Lederhaus said. "I don't know why I wouldn't have thought sooner to ask what had happened but I know I was heavily medicated and everything."

Lederhaus was able to start healing from physical, emotional and mental trauma with help from family and friends, Georgen observed.

"One of the big things I remember about Tansy was the family support she had," he said. "Her mom and dad were ever present. Her mom was a nurse. Her dad recorded pretty much everything that

happened so he could kind of reflect on things and share with others. She had tremendous support from her family and we really felt like it was a team, working with her mom and dad, through those hard times."

Reflecting years later

Two decades after the crash, Lederhaus is married, has three children and is a registered nurse.

"Life is great. I went on and I got a nursing degree. I decided to pursue a career in nursing after my experience. I've worked as a nurse now for the better part of 16 years," she said. "I married my high school sweetheart who was there with me throughout the car crash experience. I didn't know if I'd be able to have kids based on all the injuries and all the unknowns but I was able to and I've got three kids."

Lederhaus has set a personal blood donation goal, a reminder of the support she received from the Community Blood Center.

"I host blood drives at my work through either the Red Cross or the Community Blood Center," she said. "I plan them, recruit for them and then help with them. My goal is to donate 100 units to give back what I received."

She's also authored a book about her car crash experience. It's called 43 Days. She's planning to have it published by the end of 2025.

"I did it to honor Sarah, who died in the crash and I did it to honor the people who saved my life," Lederhaus said. "I also did it to help advocate for blood donation."

While she has made much of her second lease on life, she never will forget that it almost wasn't to be.

"The crash and losing Sarah still impacts me," she said. "The physical scars are reminders but so are the emotional ones. It's part of who I am. It deepened my empathy and gave me a sense of responsibility to use my survival story for something bigger than myself."

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Prep sports roundup

HOCKEY

Rockets open season with four straight wins

The Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha squad has opened the season with four straight wins capped by a 6-0 triumph over Fond du Lac on Tuesday night in a Badgerland Conference contest.

Matthew Nelson earned the shutout in goal against the Cardinals, stopping all 15 shots he faced in the contest.

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha was held scoreless in the first period before pulling away to the win. The Rockets scored three short-handed goals in the game with Cartyr Simonson, Zach Verhagen and Mark Sutton all tallying the goals while a man down.

Sutton finished with two goals in the game, while Vinny Scholl finished with a goal and two assists. Drew Drach also scored a goal, while Simonson picked up a pair of assists.

The team opened the season with a 14-1 win over Oshkosh as 10 different players scored in the game. Clay Laabs, Cooper Zinda, Cole Rothermel and Sutton each finished with two goals in the win, while Simonson, Scholl, Mason King, Liam Kelley, Gus Weinholzer and Keegan Krueger each had one goal.

Zinda and Scholl each finished with three assists for the Rockets, who tallied a whopping 62 shots in the game.

The Rockets also scored a 7-0 win over New Richmond with Sutton and Krueger each scoring twice, with Simonson, Rothermel and Weinholzer each adding a goal. Nelson stopped 21 shots to earn the shutout.

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha then knocked off Chippewa Falls with Zinda leading the way with two goals in the game. Scholl, Drach, Verhagen, Sutton and Krueger also scored for the Rockets, while Simonson collected three assists.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Rockets edge Lightning in FVA tussle

Sydney Michalkiewicz hit a 3-pointer with 17 seconds left as Neenah pulled out a 55-54 win on the road against Appleton North on Tuesday.

Michalkiewicz finished with a career-high 15 points.

The Rockets played the game without leading scorer Rowan Klesmit because of an illness.

Celia Gentile added 11 points and Ellie Buss chipped in nine points in the win.

Before Thanksgiving, Neenah rolled past Marshfield, 78-37.

Klesmit led the team with 24 points and was one of three players in double figures in the win.

Alissa Ebel added 13 points and Buss finished with 11 points and six assists. Farrah Danforth led the team with nine rebounds.

Zephyrs take down Living Word Lutheran

St. Mary Catholic improved to 3-0 on the season following its 59-46 win over Living Word Lutheran on Tuesday night.

Autumn Crowe finished with 21 points and 11 rebounds to key the victory for St. Mary Catholic.

Gabby Guerrero and Luci Nackers chipped in 11 and 10 points, respectively.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Zephyrs dealt loss by state-ranked Bonduel

St. Mary Catholic suffered its first loss of the season, 79-56, on the road against Bonduel on Tuesday night.

Dylan Brenn led the way for the Zephyrs with 15 points but was the lone player in double figures for St. Mary Catholic.

The Bears bolted to a 44-22 halftime lead.

Mason Wagner and Mason Uhlenbrauck each scored eight points for the Zephyrs, who made just 6-of-13 from the free-throw line.

St. Mary Catholic opened the season with an 88-56 win over Wautoma.

Uhlenbrauck led the way for the Zephyrs with 21 points to lead four players in double figures.

Max Fosters finished with 18 points and nine rebounds, while Luke Fairweather with 14 points and eight assists and Wagner finished with 11 points.

Big second half carries Rockets to win

Neenah outscored Green Bay Notre Dame by 18 points in the second half to pull away for an 84-59 win on Tuesday night.

Kolton Fleege finished with 20 points and four assists to lead the way for the Rockets, who led 43-36 at halftime. Nick Schultz added 18 points in the win, while Xavier Bezares knocked down three 3-pointers and finished with 11 points.

The Rockets finished 10-of-11 at the free-throw line in the game.

Neenah lost its season-opener, 70-46, to Brookfield East.

Roan Koeper led the Rockets with 11 points, while Chase Nitz finished with eight.

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Veteran Rocket squad eyes another successful season

Neenah News

The Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha co-op hockey team came within one win of making it to the state tournament a year ago and with a wealth of players coming back from that group are hoping to earn a trip to Madison this season.

“We are very deep this year with heavy senior and junior classes. It could be one of the deepest teams we have ever had,” head coach Jeff Lindeman commented. “We are poised to have a successful year with the depth we have but like anything it needs to come together both on and off the ice so we will see what this group can do together.”

Two members of the Rockets’ top offensive line from last year will return to lead the squad.

Senior Mark Sutton and junior Cartyr Simonson will give the Rockets an experienced 1-2 punch on offense after combining for 80 points last season. Sutton was the team’s top goal scorer with 34 tallies last year, while Simonson added 12 goals and 24 assists.

Senior Cooper Zinda and junior Pres-



Sutton



Krueger

Boys Hockey PREVIEW

ton Liedtke also return after scoring double-digit goals a year ago.

Other forwards returning with experience from last year will be Keegan Krueger – who will serve as a team captain along with Sutton – Zach Verhagen, Liam Kelley, Gus Weinholzer and Cole Rothermel.

Zinda will lead an experienced group of defensemen and will be joined at the blue line by senior Macsen Selch and junior Clay Laabs. Zinda led the trio with 17 assists last season, while Selch and Laabs combined for three goals and 22 assists.

Drew Drach is also a returning defenseman who played regularly last season.

The Rockets will have to replace starting goaltender Owen Debbert but do bring back senior Matthew Nelson to fill the void.

Nelson, who has notched two shutouts in the first four games of the season, saw limited varsity action last season, posting a 3-1 record overall in net.

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha dropped only five games last season – two of the defeats were by one goal and the other three were two-goal losses – and rolled to the Badgerland Conference title. The Rockets should be one of the favorites to claim the conference title again this season and have gotten off to a 2-0 start in league play.

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Neenah's Koch hopes to strike state gold in final season

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Declan Koch has done about as much on a high school wrestling mat as a person can in his first three years at Neenah High School.

But one accomplishment has eluded him. He wants to change that this year.

After finishing runner-up at the WIAA state wrestling tournament in each of the past two seasons and taking third as a freshman, Koch is focused on finishing this year on the top step of the Kohl Center awards podium in February.

Senior Standout



"My original goal was to be a four-timer, but now I'm looking for one," Koch said before a recent practice. "I've been really close to it three different times. This year, I'm definitely extra motivated to get that hand raised on Saturday night."

"We are all excited to get the season going but me especially. I'm excited to get going on my senior year and make one final run."

Koch will have to wait for his chance to accomplish that goal and waiting can be difficult for a wrestler of his caliber. A dual meet result in December doesn't necessarily directly affect his ability to win a state title so bringing his top focus to the mat for those matches isn't easy.

For Koch, though, that isn't an issue. "The way I look at it is everything I'm doing now is getting myself ready for (February)," Koch said. "(Wrestling for a state title) is definitely there in my mind but every match right now is getting me more prepared, every practice is getting me more prepared for that tournament. I



Neenah News

Neenah High School senior Declan Koch is a three-time state placewinner who hopes to cap his prep career by reaching the top step of the awards podium at the Kohl Center in February. Koch has committed to continue his career at the University of Northern Iowa next fall.

just try to improve each match, score a lot of points and get a lot of takedowns."

Koch landed in the Neenah wrestling room with an extensive national-level resume, but there was another Fox Valley Association program expecting to land his talents.

Koch, who lives between Hortonville and Neenah, had attended Hortonville schools growing up but open-enrolled at Neenah before his freshman season.

"It was certainly a difficult decision. I know I got a lot of backlash for doing it,"

Koch said. "It was nothing negative toward the Hortonville wrestling program, it was more just the positives for the Neenah program."

It's a rivalry that hasn't wavered when the two traditional strong programs collide on the mats.

"There is certainly a little bit of animosity," Koch said. "They felt I disrespected them and I felt disrespected by it so it's not a great relationship. I am more motivated to try to kick their butts."

Koch acknowledges a strong relation-

ship with head coach Kyle Klueskens as one of the reasons he opted to make the move, while his bond with former Neenah standout wrestler Jacob Herm also played a role.

Koch and Herm, who was a two-time state champion at Neenah and is now wrestling at South Dakota State University, started wrestling together when Koch was in second grade after meeting at a practice.

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 15

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Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 14

The two struck up a strong friendship that took them around the country and the world wrestling and played a big role in Koch coming to Neenah.

“My best friend went there and I knew I wanted someone like that who was high achieving to be around,” Koch said. “Our dads became friends and we got on board with each other and practiced with each other and started hanging out. We have a lot of good memories of being on planes and road trips.”

Not only do the two share a passion for wrestling, the two are also both avid outdoorsmen and would often go hunting together.

“He was kind of my guy for everything,” Koch said. “If I wanted to wrestle, he was the first one I’d call. If I wanted to go hunting, he’d be the first one who would want to go hunting with me, so it’s been a little bit different this year.”

Koch’s enjoyment of hunting – he has taken a week-long hunting trip to South Dakota prior to the start of the high school season the past few years – is something that has been around as long as his passion for wrestling.

He likes having an outlet away from the sport that he can participate in and get away from the wrestling room.

“It’s been nice to have a hobby where I can get outside, first of all, but then also get away from wrestling,” said Koch, who

has a 10-point buck to his credit while he also enjoys hunting waterfowl. “I do still talk about wrestling and think about it, but it’s nice to get away from the mat.”

Koch considered joining his hunting mate at South Dakota State University next year but instead committed to wrestle at the University of Northern Iowa, signing his National Letter of Intent to attend the school recently.

After garnering plenty of interest from an array of NCAA Division I programs, Koch chose the school located in Cedar Falls, Iowa, over North Dakota State University and the University of Wyoming.

“Once I visited Northern Iowa, I knew that’s where I wanted to be,” Koch said. “The coaching staff, especially head coach Doug Schwab was great. The culture and the team really reminded me of Neenah. Everyone was very welcoming and super happy to be there when I went to the practices.”

Before he officially becomes a Panther, though, Koch has the goals of his senior season to accomplish.

And that means wrestling one more time in the Kohl Center and this time, hopefully getting the championship medal he’s missed out on.

“I’ve wrestled in a lot of huge venues and huge tournaments, but for me, there is nothing like the Kohl Center,” Koch said. “Walking in there, there is something about that place. I just get goosebumps thinking about it. It’s a special place. It gets packed full of fans in February and it’s just really fun to wrestle in.”



Submitted photos

Volleyball signings

A pair of Neenah High School volleyball players recently signed their National Letters of Intent to play at the collegiate level next season. Top photo, Ella Nigl committed to attend Bradley University next fall. Nigl was a second-team all-Fox Valley Association performer this season as a right-side hitter. Bottom photo, Ella Lindgren (second from left) committed to Minnesota State University. Lindgren was a first-team all-FVA selection at libero this season and earned all-FVA recognition each of the last three seasons.

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Kid Scoop Together

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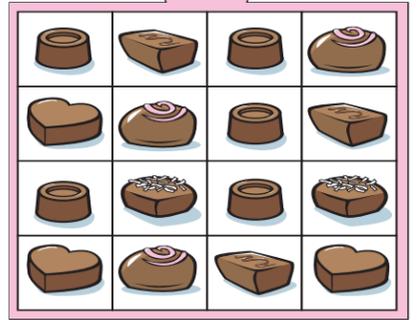
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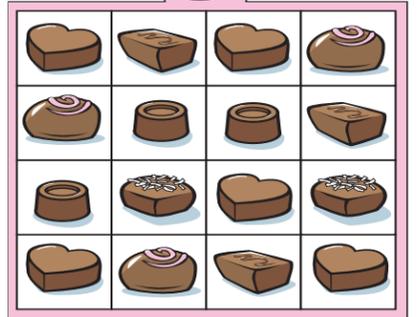
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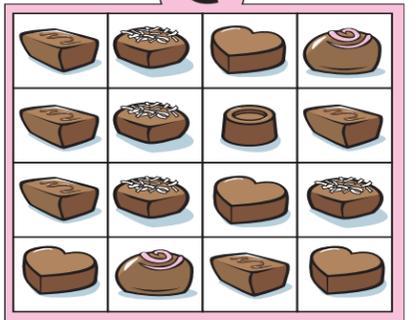
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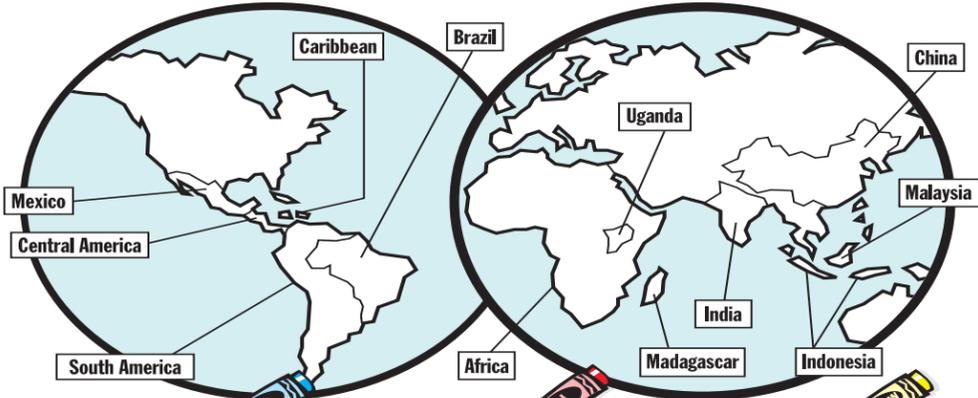
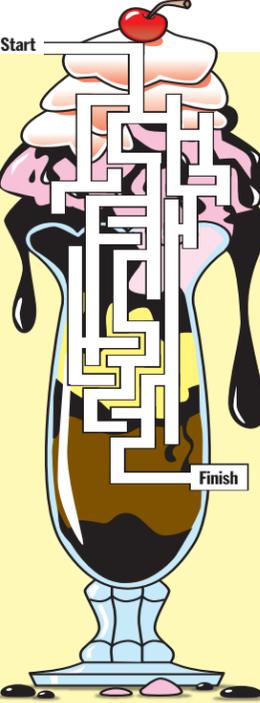
THE WORLD IN A CHOCOLATE BAR

Chocolate bars could be called the "World Friendship" candy.

Why? The ingredients in a chocolate bar come from all around the world. Chocolate makers know the importance of how to speak other languages and respect people from different countries.

Read about chocolate's three ingredients. Then, color each country on the map to show where each ingredient grows.

Find your way to the bottom of this gooey, hot fudge sundae!



1. Chocolate

A chocolate bar starts with cacao (ka KOW) beans, which are the seeds of the cacao tree. Leading producers of cacao include Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Africa. On the map, color these areas **BLUE**.

Cacao seeds grow in large, football-shaped pods about 10 inches long and 3 to 4 inches around. Each pod contains 20 to 40 seeds.

2. Vanilla

Strange as it may seem, vanilla is used in the making of chocolate bars and other chocolate products.

The flavor of vanilla comes from the seed pods of the vanilla orchid, a vine that grows in Uganda, Madagascar, Malaysia, Indonesia and Mexico. Color these countries **RED**.

Look! **PURPLE** now shows countries that grow both vanilla and cacao!

3. Sugar

Cacao beans are cured, roasted and ground, and formed into solid chocolate. Pure chocolate is bitter. Lots of sugar must be added to make it the sweet treat that people around the world love.

India leads the world in sugar production, followed by Brazil and China. Color these places **YELLOW**.

Look! **GREEN** now shows countries that grow both sugar and cacao!

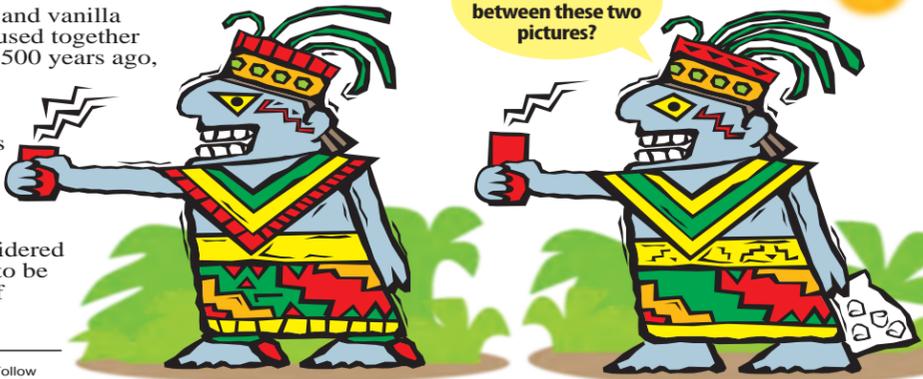
Standards Link: Eye-hand coordination.

Standards Link: Social Sciences: Students understand the role of consumers and producers of goods; how cultures depend on each other in a global economy. Follow simple instructions.

The First Chocolate Drink

Chocolate and vanilla were first used together more than 500 years ago, in drinks prepared by the Indigenous people of Mexico.

They considered this drink to be the food of the gods.



Can you find at least 10 differences between these two pictures?

Extra! Extra!

Sweet Search

Quick! Dash through the newspaper to find:

- Something sweet
- A sweet expression
- 3 words that rhyme with sweet
- Something that is opposite of sweet

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

To find the answers to the two questions, fold the chocolate bars so that arrows meet and the answer will appear!

About how much chocolate does an average American eat each year?
a. 9.5 pounds b. 5 pounds c. 50 pounds



About how much chocolate do people in Switzerland eat each year?
a. 11 pounds b. 6 pounds c. 19 pounds

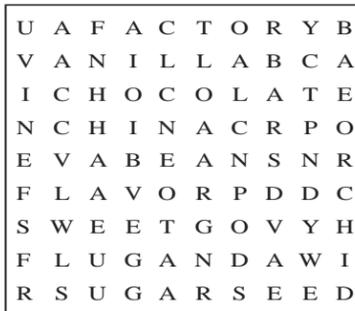


Standards Link: Social Science: Students compare everyday customs in different cultures. Follow simple directions.

Double Double Word Search

CHOCOLATE
CANDY
BARS
CACAO
BEANS
VANILLA
ORCHID
FLAVOR
PODS
SUGAR
VINE
SWEET
UGANDA
CHINA
FACTORY
SEED

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



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

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December 2025

Your Local Guide to Arts, Dining & Entertainment



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FUTURE NEENAH



Brings lights, laughter and local charm
‘A Very Neenah Christmas Market’ brings European-inspired holiday magic to downtown

Downtown Neenah will shine with extra holiday cheer this month as it transforms into a festive winter wonderland for the inaugural A Very Neenah Christmas Market. The new three-day event is set to bring lights, laughter and local charm to the heart of downtown —just in time to kick off the holiday season.

At the center of the celebration is the Galloway Christmas Village in Gateway Park, where visitors can explore 15 charming, illuminated market huts filled with handmade gifts, artisan goods and seasonal treats. Shoppers can enjoy a cup of Galloway’s famous eggnog or sip European-style Glühwein (mulled wine) while browsing unique finds from local makers— the perfect way to cross items off that holiday shopping list.

Adding to the festive fun is a classic holiday carousel, ready to delight children and adults alike. A heated tent filled with food, music and merriment will provide a cozy retreat where guests can relax, warm up and soak in the joyful spirit of the season. Beyond the Market, Downtown Neenah’s shops and restaurants will be decked out for the holidays, offering special menus, promotions and warm welcomes for visitors throughout the weekend.



The market will debut during the A Very Neenah Christmas event from 5 to 8 p.m. Fri. Dec 5 and continue from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sat. 6th and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sun. 7th.

Visitors can look forward to:

- Holiday shopping in festive, European-style market huts
- Seasonal food and drinks, including eggnog and mulled wine
- A heated tent with food, music and holiday cheer
- Live entertainment and photo opps
- Visits with Santa and family activities
- A classic carousel ride
- Sparkling décor and twinkling lights throughout downtown

“This market brings together the best of our community — local creativity, family fun and small-town holiday magic,” said Michelle Dunning, Future Neenah outreach and development coordinator. “We’re thrilled to share this new experience with residents and visitors alike.”



Live mannequin displays in windows of downtown Neenah businesses and are a holiday favorite at the Friday A Very Neenah Christmas . - Photographs from Future Neenah

The event is made possible through the support of local sponsors and community partners. Galloway Company serves as the presenting sponsor, bringing the Galloway Christmas Village to life. Additional support comes from the Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau (Hut Support), Neenah Rotary (Volunteer Support) and partners including the Neenah Joint School District and Neenah-Menasha Firefighters Charitable Foundation.



Holiday Hut Sponsors include *Simplicity Credit Union, Romportl's Contracting, Floors By Angie, DiRenzo & Bomier and Kimberly-Clark. Festive Fun Sponsors are Evergreen Retirement Community, Brehmer Law, ABT, and VanSistine Homes/Urban Market Neenah, with Stocking Stuffer Sponsors Kerber Rose, Central Temperature, Vizance, and Wendy Tuchscherer.*

Holiday Events
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<p>AN ELSEWHERE CHRISTMAS Elsewhere Market is staying open late every Friday & Saturday thru Christmas! Enjoy a festive shopping experience with exclusive holiday discounts, hot drinks & wine, and our new holiday photo backdrop—perfect for family holiday photos. Sip, shop, and make merry all season long!</p>	<p>HOLIDAY WREATH CLASS Join us at the Gibson Social Club for a custom holiday wreath workshop, led by the talented Melanie at North Road Flower Farm. Learn, design & take home your own beautifully crafted wreath.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>DEC 09</p> <p>6:00 PM</p> </div>
<p>12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SALE Come on in to Elsewhere Market and celebrate our annual 12 Days of Christmas Sale! Enjoy 25% off Market items from Tuesday, Dec 2nd through Sunday, Dec 14th. 'Tis the season to shop + save!</p>	<p>BIER HALL HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG It's our favorite night of the season! Join us at The Gibson Social Club's Bier Hall for a special Christmas carol sing-a-long hosted by the Jerabek Family Band.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>DEC 18</p> <p>Starting at 7:00 PM</p> </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>DEC 02</p> <p>Thru Dec 14</p> </div>	<p>ELSEWHERE MARKET & COFFEE HOUSE 531 N MAIN ST. OSHKOSH WI</p>	<p>THE GIBSON SOCIAL CLUB 537 N MAIN ST. OSHKOSH WI</p>



'Vote' for your favorite cup of cocoa and keep the mug!

Winneconne Cocoa Walk highlights village's holiday celebrations

By Cassidy Johnson

Santa's version of a bar crawl is coming to town with the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce's second annual Cocoa Walk.

Typically, when Wisconsinites go from place to place drinking, it results in more of a buzz than a sugar rush, but the Winneconne Cocoa Walk allows for both.

The event from 3 to 7 p.m. Dec. 12 allows participants to walk through town and explore different local businesses while sampling various complimentary cocoa from each.

Several businesses are participating in the Cocoa Walk, including *The Cottage Collective, Winneconne Crafts, Off the Wolf Supper Club, Anchor Nutrition, Compass Boutique, Premier Community Bank, Fin 'n' Feather, Tiny's Sports Bar and more.*

Each business has its own version of hot cocoa — some adding a "twist" like peppermint, with others offering a boozy version with Baileys or Peppermint Schnapps.

The walk starts at the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce on 140 W. Main St. in Winneconne, where participants will be given a free, collectible mug as well



*Last year's participants thoroughly enjoyed the event!
- Submitted Photographs*

as a map and a voting sheet for the "Best Cocoa" competition later that evening.

Participants are encouraged to rate each cocoa on the walk as they go, and then drop the ballot off at the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce before the "Best Cocoa" judging and prize drawing at 7 p.m.

This gives both participants and participating businesses the chance to win a prize, with the "Best Cocoa" competition for participating businesses and the drawing for participants who turn in their ballot.

The judging will "wrap up" the event, though festivities will continue the next day with the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce's fifth annual Celebration of Lights Parade at 4:30 p.m. on Main Street. This year's theme for the Dec. 13 parade is "Christmas in Whoville," featuring a giant Grinch float.

"Sips and Treats with Santa" will take place from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in front of the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce office, where the Winneconne Area Community Foundation will be serving hot cocoa and cookies.

After the parade, the chamber office will be transformed into Santa's Workshop for pictures with Santa from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. "I think [the Cocoa Walk] is a really cool community event," said Cindy Herbert, executive director for the Winneconne Area Chamber of Commerce. "I love watching all the groups of families have fun and dress up; it's just adorable."

Those interested in the Cocoa Walk can buy tickets online for **\$12 at [eventbrite.com/e/winneconne-cocoa-walk-2025-tickets-1625257261219](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winneconne-cocoa-walk-2025-tickets-1625257261219)**. The registration deadline is dependent on how many tickets are sold, so anyone interested is encouraged to get them before they run out.



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ATLAS

Your Local Guide to Arts, Dining & Entertainment

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Over 80 different vendors!

Winter Farmer's Market provides holiday fun from Thanksgiving to Easter

By Cassidy Johnson

The outdoor Oshkosh Farmers Market is over, but the fun doesn't have to be.

This winter, the Oshkosh Farmers Market will be having its 13th annual winter farmers market from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on **select Saturdays until April 18** rotating between the Oshkosh Arena and Oshkosh Convention Center. The indoor farmers market season started Nov. 15.

Participants can choose from over 80 different vendors supplying a variety of artisan goods from mandala art, rings made out of silverware, soap making and much more, with OFM's Market Manager Michelle Schmid-Schultz saying she's "pretty excited" for all the new vendors coming in.

Produce will also be sold, such as sweet potatoes, mushrooms, apples, carrots, squash and more.

Similar to recent years, the winter farmers market will have both a Kid's Day Feb. 7 and Christmas Bazaar days Dec. 13 and Dec. 20, including free visits and photos with Santa on Dec. 20.



Views of the Oshkosh Convention Center and vendors during a market day. - Submitted Photographs

During the Kid's Day, children will have the opportunity to make and sell their own items as a part of their Young Entrepreneur Program.

The Rotary Club of Oshkosh covers booth fees, and kids pay \$5 "so they understand it costs money to make money," Schmid-Schultz said.

The Wave Robotics team of Oshkosh will also be making an appearance for Kid's Days.

"The last time we had them at the arena, they had robots playing basketball," Schmid-Schultz said. "That was pretty fun."

According to Schmid-Schultz, they also allow kids to make their own paper rockets, which can be launched slingshot-style into the bleachers.

There will also be an after-Christmas sale Jan. 3, with holiday items and other merchandise being sold at a discount.

An Easter Market & Spring Bazaar will be held April 4, featuring more spring-like items and a free selfie booth with the Easter bunny.

Keeping with the artisan theme, they are also welcoming back the Oshkosh Fine Arts Association on April 18 for their WRAP art competition and show after a year hiatus.

"We usually have 30 to 50 artists come and display their artwork," Schmid-Schultz said. "It's an art competition that functions statewide; it's really cool."

Whether you're looking for Christmas gifts, holiday decorations or unique artisanal pieces, the winter farmers market has tons of holiday fun for both friends and family.



Seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables are available. - Submitted Photographs

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time to make a list!

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Enjoy these holiday highlights, and more!

- Celebration of Lights** EAA Grounds
Now-Dec. 31, 5:30-9pm | Over 1M
twinkling lights, Santa visits (through
Dec. 23), horse-drawn rides & more!
- Nutcracker in the Castle** Paine Art
Center | Now-Jan. 5 | Tour 20 themed
rooms & 70 trees inside the stunning
Paine mansion.
- Downtown Holiday Parade** | Dec. 4, 6:15pm
Tree lighting + parade with the theme "*Stories
That Spark the Season!*"
- EAA Christmas in the Air** | Dec. 6, 10am-3pm
Free family fun at the EAA Aviation Museum!
- Holly Jolly Holiday Pass** | Shop local, earn prizes:
bit.ly/hollyjollyholidaypass
- Holiday Market at The Howard** | Dec. 6,
10am-4pm | Shop artisan vendors, meet Santa
& enjoy festive bites.
- Reindeer on the Square** | Dec. 13, 1-4pm
Live reindeer, kids' music, cocoa & cookies in
Opera House Square!
- Oshkosh Farmers Markets** | 9am-12:30pm
Dec. 13: Holiday Market | Dec. 20: Santa visits!
- The Grand Oshkosh** | All December | Enjoy holiday
musicals, live shows & *Nutcracker The Ballet*.
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A Rare Delicacy in a Small Town

The Truffle Pig

By Cassidy Johnson

Opening earlier this year, the Truffle Pig is an authentic Italian fine-dining restaurant in Oshkosh designed to transport guests to feel like they're in Italy.

A truffle pig is a domesticated pig trained to find and unearth truffles, a type of mushroom considered a delicacy due to its rich flavor and rarity. This rare delicacy can be found across Europe, but the best black truffles are said to be found in a small town in Italy called Alba in the Piemonte region.

Much like their namesake, the new "Truffle Pig" authentic Italian restaurant located in a portion of the former Oshkosh Northwestern building is a rare delicacy found in a small town.

The once-newsroom is now donned with Italian-inspired architecture and décor down to the columns, vaults and mural of the Rialto Bridge in Venice in the main dining hall.

The scene is also filled with authentic Italian cuisine and servers providing an upscale dining experience to guests.

Chef Cristiano Bassani and General Manager Riccardo Lupi each bring authentic Italian dining knowledge and nearly 80 years of experience to the table at the Truffle Pig.

Bassani was born and raised in Bergamo, Italy, where he was influenced by his mother and grandmother to start culinary school at 14 years old.

Bassani has worked in restaurants around the world for almost 40 years, including Italy, New York, the Virgin Islands, Chicago and California – experiences that he has carried with him while developing his craft.

Bassani said that he prioritizes seasonality, simplicity and sourcing the best, freshest ingredients, down to having a different menu for each season.

"Everything in my kitchen is fresh," Bassani said. "I don't buy anything frozen, other than ice cream."

Bassani has curated the menu with traditional Italian dishes, from bolognese to carbonara to Bassani's "forte," risotto. He has also included a taste of his childhood in Italy with some recipes from his mother and grandmother such as the Polpetta Cristiano, which is Italian meatballs with fresh tomato sauce and Parmigiano.

Bassani has also added more adventurous dishes, such as "La Dolce Vita" (or "The Sweet Life"), a flatbread topped with



Bar Area - Ameena Ryan Hainey Photography



A bonus room off the main dining room is available for intimate gatherings, specialty parties, etc.

- Ameena Ryan Hainey

burrata, mozzarella, pears, truffle honey and toasted walnuts.

There's also a dish where Bassani comes to the table and finishes it off in a Parmesan cheese wheel, which patron Maria Juarez said was her favorite part of the meal.

"My favorite dishes were the Margherita Pizza and the Spaghettoni Cacio e Pepe," Juarez said. "The cherry on top was the head chef coming out and finishing the pasta in a Parmesan cheese wheel, which was delicious."

The restaurant's desserts are also made fresh in-house, with Bassani saying that their flourless chocolate cake is the best-seller.

Lupi was also born and raised in Italy in a city called Genoa, where working for his family's restaurant inspired him to go to hospitality school, also at age 14.

"I grew up in the environment," Lupi said. "I really fell in love with the beauty, the flavors and the delicious Italian food."

He has also worked around the world for 40 years in hospitality, travelling to California, Miami, Portofino and Washington D.C.

Lupi injects knowledge from all of these experiences, particularly from Italy.

"When people come to my house, I don't want to send them out; I want to enjoy the company and treat them. That's Italy, it's like that," Lupi said. "We want to bring that same mindset in an upscale environment."

Lupi said that the service at the Truffle Pig is the "polished" and "elevated" fine-dining experience combined with the warmth and friendliness of the Midwest.

"We're in Wisconsin, we want to embrace the mentality, the mindset of the people here," Lupi said. "We don't want to be too snobby."

Juarez said she enjoyed both the friendliness and the efficiency of the service.

"The service was great," Juarez said. "Food came out at the perfect times. Right when we'd finish a course of our meal, the next one would be on the way soon after."



Fittingly, the Truffle Pig also provides Tartufo, which is either summer or winter black or white alba truffles shaved fresh at the diners' tables.

Lupi also has an extensive knowledge of wines, and Truffle Pig has over 250 wines, 200 of which are imported from Italy.

The restaurant also serves classic Italian coffee drinks, such as macchiatos, cappuccinos, Americanos and correttos. They also have specialty coffee drinks, such as espresso martinis and their "signature caffè," the Brasiliano.

Or diners can do what Lupi says the Italians do and have some espresso after their meal.

The pair was brought together for this restaurant after a mutual friend, Carmello Imbrogno, told them about these jobs his cousin, Franco Bessia, was consulting for.

Bessia was consulting for T.J. Rogers, who is an Oshkosh native, billionaire and president of SNW Team that bought the building in 2021 from ProVisions, who had taken over the building after Oshkosh Northwestern's lease was up.

There are different plans for the other section of the former Oshkosh Northwestern building.

According to Bassani, Rogers has started construction on a new 32-room hotel next door, complete with a "big, beautiful bar," in the lobby.

The project doesn't stop there, however, as the hotel will also include six different shops; "a tailor shop, a flower shop, a jewelry



View of the elegant main dining room.

*Italian-born Executive Chef Cristiano Bassani and General Manager Riccardo Lupi in the wine cellar.
- Ameena Ryan Hainey Photography*

store, a cheese and wine store, a candy store and a grab-and-go deli," with the project set to be open at the end of 2026, according to Bassani.

In the meantime, diners can enjoy an elevated dining experience at this hidden delicacy, which Juarez calls "The perfect date night spot."

The Truffle Pig is open 4 to 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday and 4 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 224 State St. Reservations for dining and private events can be made on their website trufflepigwi.com, although walk-ins are also welcome.

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CRAZY TRAIN: AMERICA'S OZZY TRIBUTE
Ozzy Osbourne Tribute Band
7-9 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)
Ozzy's Birthday Bash! Celebrate with us!



DEC 4

LONESTAR-COLLIN RAYE CHRISTMAS & HITS
Country Christmas with Lonestar and Raye
8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.)
A night of holiday cheer & country music



DEC 20

OSHKOSH FARMERS MARKETS
Holiday Market & Bazaar
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Santa will be at the market with 60+ vendors!



DEC 20

MURDER UNDER THE MISTLETOE
Murder-Mystery Dinner Theatre
7-9 p.m.
Laughable Productions presents, includes chef-attended dinner buffet in ticket pricing



DEC 28/29

UW-OSHKOSH'S BSN WINTER CLASSIC
2-Day Basketball Tournament
All day both days; check website for game times
UWO's men's & women's teams will compete



DEC 31

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS
Harlem Globetrotters 100 Year Tour
2 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.)
New Year's Eve basketball fun for all!



JAN 31

OSHKOSH LOVE YOUR PET EXPO
A Day of Fun & Learning for Pet Lovers
19 a.m.-4 p.m.
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FEB 13-15

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FEB 27-28

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Returns for its 19th season!

Nutcracker in the Castle brings the classic story to life

By Jonathan Richie

The Nutcracker in the Castle returns for the 19th season at the Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh. Visitors can experience the wonders of the classic story with tours, candlelight walks and treats.

The exhibition spans 20 lavishly decorated settings along with 70 Christmas trees throughout the historic Paine mansion.

Over 20,000 visitors visit the Paine for this exhibit every year.

The story of the Nutcracker dates back to the 1800s. The classical ballet written by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky set on Christmas Eve comes to life inside the Paine. The exhibition gives people the chance to wander the halls of the Paine Mansion.

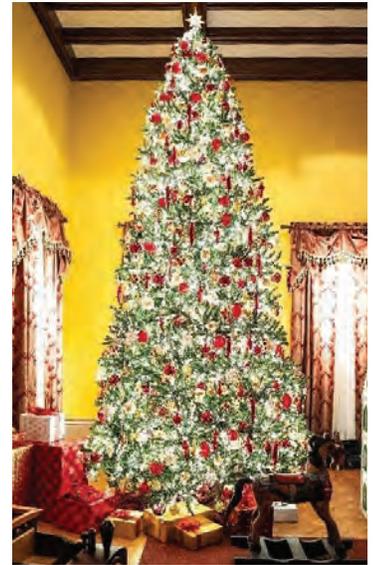
"I'm not aware of any museum or historic house that does anything like the Paine's Nutcracker in the Castle. Our historic house becomes the setting of a fairytale, and guests get to enter into the story," said Paine Center Executive Director Aaron Sherer. "It's a magical experience you can only find here."

The sweetest aspect of Nutcracker in the Castle is the Sugar Plum Fairy's Cupcake Cafe, which is located in the Conservatory on the Paine property. The cafe can be visited before or after a tour of Nutcracker in the Castle. There will be cupcakes, hot cocoa, milk and coffee available for purchase and possibly a visit from a fairy from the Land of the Sugar Plums. For those who can't make it to the Paine, no need to worry there is a virtual tour available on the Paine website that goes through the 20 rooms with great detail to immerse guests in the space.

Self-guided tours of the exhibits run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Jan. 5. The Paine is closed on Christmas Day but will be open on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Guided tours are also available for those who wish to see the Paine with live musical, acting and dance performances. These tours take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Jan. 4. On Fridays and Saturdays tours run from 5 to 8 p.m. and from noon to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Reservations for the self-guided, guided and candlelight tours can be made on the Paine Arts Center website. For more information go to thepaine.org/event/nutcracker-in-the-castle.



Holiday tree in all its glory for Nutcracker in the Castle - Photograph by Jim Koepnick



Ballerinas capture the fairytale. - Photograph by Jim Koepnick

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

ONGOING THROUGH . . .

Sun Dec 14 Elsewhere Market & Coffee House: 12 Days of Christmas Sale! *25% off all Market products
531 N Main St • Oshkosh

Wed Dec 31 Oshkosh Celebration of Lights
1858 Neunteufel Ave • Oshkosh

Batley's Grill & Bar Buy 3 Gift Cards, Get 1 Free
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

Bridgewood Resort Buy \$100 Gift Certificate
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Mon Jan 5 Nutcracker in the Castle • The Paine Art Center and Gardens • 1410 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

DECEMBER

Wed Dec 3 Crazy Train: America's Ozzy Tribute
with opener Johnny Wad • 7pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Thu Dec 4 Live Music and Tree Lighting Ceremony • 5pm
Opera House Square, Oshkosh

Downtown Oshkosh BID Holiday Parade • 6:15pm

Bier Hall after Oshkosh Parade with a special Madrigal Performance • Gibson Social Club, 537 N Main St

Lonestar Christmas and Hits Tour • 8pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Fri Dec 5 First Friday Concert: Mike Malone Trio Plays
Vince Guaraldi • 2pm
Neenah Public Library • 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

A Very Neenah Christmas • 5pm • Downtown Neenah

Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa • Noon
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

Christmas at the Octagon House • 5pm
The Octagon House • 343 Smith St, Neenah

Encore Handbell Ensemble presents Christmas
Classic • 6pm • St Paul's United Church of Christ
1250 Leonard Point Road, Oshkosh

Morgan House Tour • 6pm • 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh

Fri Dec 5 Oshkosh Youth Choir Candlelight Concert • 6:30pm
Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave • Oshkosh

A Very Peanuts Christmas with The Mike Malone Trio
8pm • Becket's • 2 Jackson St, Oshkosh

Sat Dec 6 Timeless Treasures Christmas Bazaar • 8am
Peace Lutheran Church • 1228 S Park Ave, Neenah

The Grinch Family Christmas • 9am
Washington Park • 631 Winneconne Ave, Neenah

A Very Neenah Christmas Market • 10am
Downtown Neenah

Holiday Open House • 10 am
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass • 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

Jingle Bark Bash • 10am
Winneconne High School • 100 Wolf Run, Winneconne

Sat Dec 6 EAA Christmas in the Air • 10am
EAA Aviation Museum • 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Lunch with the Grinch, Buddy the Elf & Santa! • 11am
Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

Oshkosh Youth Choir: Carols and Sing-Along • 2pm
Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Sat Dec 6 Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra presents **Togetherness**
3 and 7pm • 1010 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

Race for the Light 5K Run/Walk presented by
Oshkosh Area United Way • 4:30pm
EAA Education Center • 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Gallery Walk • 6pm • Downtown Oshkosh

A Very Divas Christmas presented by The Grand Oshkosh
7pm • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Die Hard • 7pm
Time Community Theater • 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

Sun Dec 7 A Very Neenah Christmas Market • 10am
Downtown Neenah

Countdown to Christmas Craft & Vendor Fair • 10am
Oshkosh Convention Center • 2 N Main St, Oshkosh



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Sun Dec 7 **Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon**
Cavanaugh Carriages · 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - 12pm
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

YMCA of the Fox Cities Winter Music Recital - 1pm
St. Paul Lutheran Church · 200 N Commercial St, Neenah

Neenah Community Band Winter Concert - 3pm
Neenah High School Performing Arts Center
500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

UW-Oshkosh Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band - 7pm
Theatre Arts Center · 1010 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

Mon Dec 8 **Christmas with Lorie Line - 7pm**
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Short Story Night - 7pm
Lion's Tail Brewing Co · 116 S Commercial St, Neenah

Tue Dec 9 **Finish the Lyrics Live: Holiday Edition - 6pm**
Venue 404 · 404 N Main St, Oshkosh

Holiday Wreath Class with North Road Flower Farm - 6pm
Gibson Social Club · 537 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Oshkosh Area Music Teachers Association
Winter Recital: Winter Wonderland - 6:30pm**
Oshkosh Public Library · 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

"A New Santa Claus in Town" Christmas Theater Show
presented by the **Fox Valleyaires Men's Barbershop Chorus**
7pm · Neenah HS Auditorium · 500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

Wed Dec 10 **Christmas with John Berry -
The 29th Annual Tour - 7:30pm**
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Thu Dec 11 **Future Neenah Cookie Crawl & Luminary Night
4:30pm** · 135 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Sgraffito for Beginners - 5:30pm
Bergstrom Mahler Museum of Glass · 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

**Rock Infused Orchestra Christmas in the Vault 2025
7pm** · Venue 404 · 404 N Main St, Oshkosh

From Kids 1 to 92 - 7:30pm
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Fri Dec 12 **Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo - 1pm**
EAA Grounds · 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Cocoa Walk - 3pm · Downtown Winneconne

Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

Wright Brothers Banquet - 5pm
EAA Aviation Museum · 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon
Cavanaugh Carriages · 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

Santa Claus (1959) at Friday Fright Night - 7pm
Time Community Theater · 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

Fox Valley Concert Band Wisconsin - 7:30pm
Neenah High School · 500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

From Kids 1 to 92 - 7:30pm
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Sat Dec 13 **Crazy Craftsmas - 9am**
Sunnyview Expo Center · 500 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am
Oshkosh Convention Center · 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo - 9am
EAA Grounds · 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Family Discovery Days - 11am
Oshkosh Public Museum · 1331 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs. Grand Rapids Gold - Noon
Oshkosh Arena · 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Reindeer on the Square - 1pm · Opera House Square, Oshkosh

Harmony Lane Christmas Market - 2:30pm
Fellowship Hall · First Presbyterian Church
200 S Church St, Neenah

Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

Celebration of Lights - Parade 4:30pm · Winneconne

Celebrate with Santa Parade - 5pm
Town of Winchester Fire Dept · 8522 Park Way, Larsen

Band-O-Rama Concert - 6pm · Frank Schade Fieldhouse
Oshkosh North High School · 1100 W Smith Ave, Oshkosh

Celebrate with Santa Meet and Greet - 6:30 pm
Winchester Town Hall · 8522 Park Way, Larsen

The Muppets Christmas Carol - 7pm
Time Community Theater · 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

Brady Lee: Home for the Holidays - 7pm
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Sun Dec 14 **Crafts and Cookies on the Art Bus - 8am**
The Plaza and Globe Coffee · 229 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo - 9am

Wisconsin Herd vs. Iowa Wolves - Noon
Oshkosh Arena · 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon
Cavanaugh Carriages · 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - 12pm
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

Movies with Friends: The Santa Clause - 1pm
Oshkosh Public Library · 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Community Band Carol Sing-Along - 7pm
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Mon Dec 15 **Lions Club of Butte des Morts Annual Holiday Party
Holiday Hayride and Visit from Santa - 5pm**
5068 Washington St, Butte des Morts

Tue Dec 16 **Wisconsin Herd vs. Iowa Wolves - 6pm**
Oshkosh Arena · 1212 S Main St., Oshkosh

A Swingin' Christmas with Erin Krebs & Friends - 7pm
The Waters · 1393 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Wed Dec 17 **Holiday Harmony - 6pm**
Morgan House · 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh

Thu Dec 18 **Santa Hat Run - 6pm**
Lion's Tail Brewing Co · 116 S Commercial St, Neenah

Thu Dec 18 Winter Arrangement - 6pm
The Cottage Collective • 118 E Main St, Winneconne

Bier Hall Holiday Sing-Along with the Jerabek Family Band
7pm • Gibson Social Club, 537 N Main St, Oshkosh

Fri Dec 19 Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - 5pm
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

Cookies with Santa - 6pm • Fox Crossing Community Ctr
1000 Valley Road, Fox Crossing

Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 7pm • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

A Christmas Carol - 6pm
The Attic Theatre • 1478 Midway Rd, Menasha

Sat Dec 20 Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Lunch with the Grinch, Buddy the Elf & Santa! - 11am
Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Horns a Plenty Christmas Concert - 2pm
Church of the Incarnation • 900 N Mason St, Appleton

Oshkosh Chamber Singers presents A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - 2 and 5pm • Trinity Episcopal Church
Algoma Boulevard at Division Street, Oshkosh

A Christmas Carol - 7pm
The Attic Theatre • 1478 Midway Rd, Menasha

Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - 3:30pm
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

Sun Dec 21 Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

A Christmas Carol - 4pm
The Attic Theatre • 1478 Midway Rd, Menasha

Peter Mayer Stars & Promises Christmas Tour - 7pm
Our Savior's Lutheran Church • 809 S Commercial St, Neenah

Mon Dec 22 Water City Jazz Orchestra: Big Band Christmas - 8pm
Fletcher's Local Tap House • 566 N Main St, Oshkosh

Sat Dec 27 Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Sun Dec 28 Bow Hunt Holiday Drop In - Noon
Woodey's Bar and Grill • 700 W Main St, Winneconne

GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - Noon
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

UW-Oshkosh BSN Winter Classic - 1pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Sun Dec 28 Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Mon Dec 29 Live Animal Presentation with J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue - 10am Oshkosh Public Lib • 106 Washington Ave

UW-Oshkosh BSN Winter Classic - 1pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 7pm • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Wed Dec 31 Noon Year's Eve - 11am
Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Harlem Globetrotters - 2pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

New Year's Eve Party featuring Fork in the Road
Winkler's Westward Ho • 4905 County Rd S, Oshkosh

JANUARY

Fri Jan 2 Morgan House Tour - 6pm • 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh

Sat Jan 3 Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am
Oshkosh Convention Center • 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Gallery Walk - 6pm • Downtown Oshkosh

Sun Jan 4 GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - Noon
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

Mon Jan 5 Wisconsin Herd vs College Park Skyhawks - 6pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh



Full Coffee Bar | Breakfast & Lunch Served Daily
Gifts & Jewelry | Home Decor & Furniture | Curated Wine Selection



Downtown Oshkosh | 531 N Main St | Open Tuesday - Sunday 7am - 3pm

Thu Jan 8 **Weekend Comedy by Jeanne Bobrick & Sam Bobrick** presented by **Oshkosh Community Players - 7pm**
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Fri Jan 9 **Weekend Comedy by Jeanne Bobrick & Sam Bobrick** presented by **Oshkosh Community Players - 7pm**
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Sat Jan 10 **Winnegamie Dog Club Show - 7am**
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

Washington Park Winter Festival - 11am
Washington Park - 631 Winneconne Ave, Neenah

Weekend Comedy by Jeanne Bobrick & Sam Bobrick presented by **Oshkosh Community Players - 2 & 7pm**
The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave., Oshkosh

Sun Jan 11 **Winnegamie Dog Club Show - 7am**
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Youth Doubles Bowling Tournament - 10am
Revs - 275 N Washburn St, Oshkosh

Movies With Friends: The Sandlot - 1pm
Oshkosh Public Library - 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Mon Jan 12 **Sew A Winter Woodland Quilt - 5pm**
It's Sew Rite - 1821 Harrison St, Oshkosh

Wed Jan 14 **Wisconsin Herd vs Maine Celtics - 6pm**
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Thu Jan 15 **Oshkosh Chamber Annual Meeting - 5pm**
Oshkosh Convention Center - 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

Fri Jan 16 **Friendly Puzzle Competition - 6pm**
Fox Crossing Community Center - 1000 Valley Road

Wisconsin Herd vs Maine Celtics - 7pm
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Fri Jan 16 **Girls Night: The Musical - 8pm**
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Sat Jan 17 **Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am**
Oshkosh Convention Center - 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs Westchester Knicks - 7pm
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Jim Witter's Piano Men 2 - The Sequel - 7pm
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

NHS Jazz Stompin' at the Savoy - 7pm · Neenah HS
Performing Arts Center - 500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

Mon Jan 19 **Wisconsin Herd vs Westchester Knicks - 6pm**
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Thu Jan 22 **Wisconsin Herd vs Noblesville Boom - 11:30am**
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Oklahoma presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Fri Jan 23 **Oklahoma** presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Sat Jan 24 **Cinderella** presented by the **Missoula Children's Theatre 3 and 7pm** · The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Oklahoma presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs Noblesville Boom - 7pm
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Sun Jan 25 **WI Herd Card Show** presented by **Cardboard Legacy 10am** · Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Oklahoma presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Thu Jan 29 Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 7pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

Fri Jan 30 Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation's **Daddy Daughter Winter Formal - 5:30pm**
Bridgewood Resort - 1000 Cameron Way, Neenah

Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 7pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

Love Your Pet Expo - 9am
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Stuffed Animal Clinic - 10:30am
Neenah Public Library - 240 E Wisconsin St, Neenah

Sat Jan 31 **Party on Poygan** · Woodey's Bar and Grill
700 W Main St, Winneconne

Empty Bowls - Oshkosh Soup Dinner - 4pm
The Howard - 405 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 7pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

Steely Dane: The Ultimate Steely Dan Tribute 7:30pm · The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

FEBRUARY

Sun Feb 1 Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 2pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

Mon Feb 2 **Beginning Quilting by Machine Class - 1:30 or 5pm**
It's Sew Rite, 1821 Harrison St., Oshkosh
(6 consecutive Mondays through March 9)

Fri Feb 6 **Fox Cities Golf Expo - 1pm**
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

First Friday Concert: Cat Plan - 2pm
Neenah Public Library - 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Sat Feb 7 **Morgan House Tour - 6pm** · 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh

Winter Flight Fest - 8am
EAA Aviation Museum - 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Fox Cities Golf Expo - 10am
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

Read to a Dog - 10pm · Oshkosh Public Lib - 106 Washington Ave

Oshkosh Gallery Walk - 6pm · Downtown Oshkosh

Sun Feb 8 **Fox Cities Golf Expo - 10am**
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

Mon Feb 9 **Wisconsin Herd vs Birmingham Squadron - 6:30 pm**
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Tue Feb 10 **Oshkosh Chamber Economic Outlook Breakfast - 7am**
Oshkosh Convention Center - 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs Birmingham Squadron - 6pm
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Thu Feb 12 **Hadestown: Teen Edition** Osh North HS • 7pm
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

FROZEN The Broadway Musical presented by
Winneconne High School • 7pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

Fri Feb 13 **The Powerplay Trio** • 5pm • Paynes Point Hook &
Spear Fishing Club • 1934 S Commercial St, Neenah

A Beary Special Night • 6pm • Fox Crossing Community Ctr
1000 Valley Road, Fox Crossing

"An Affair of the Heart" Dance & Raffle Benefit
(Fox Valley Spina Bifida) • 7pm • Bridgewood Resort, Neenah

Hadestown: Teen Edition presented by Osh North HS • 7pm
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

FROZEN The Broadway Musical presented by
Winneconne High School • 7pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

Sat Feb 14 **Family Discovery Days** • 11am
Oshkosh Public Museum • 1331 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

JED • 1pm and **Star Six Nine** • 5pm
Paynes Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club
1934 S Commercial St, Neenah

Hadestown: Teen Edition presented by Osh North HS • 7pm
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

FROZEN The Broadway Musical presented by
Winneconne High School • 7pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

Sun Feb 15 **Movies with Friends: Disney's Princess and the Frog**
1pm • Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Hadestown: Teen Edition presented by Osh North HS • 2pm
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

FROZEN The Broadway Musical presented by
Winneconne High School • 2pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

Fri Feb 20 **Battle on the Bago** • ALL DAY
Miller's Bay in Menominee Park • Oshkosh

Fri Feb 20 **Hypnotized: Fleetwood Mac Tribute & Eagles Tribute**
7pm • The Grand Oshkosh • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs Greensboro Swarm • 7pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Jolly Jester Theater for Children presents **Newsies Jr.**
7pm • Oshkosh West High School
Alberta Kimball Auditorium • 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Sat Feb 21 **Battle on the Bago** • ALL DAY
Miller's Bay in Menominee Park • Oshkosh

Oshkosh Farmers Market • 9am
Oshkosh Convention Center • 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

Read to a Dog • 10pm • Oshkosh Public Lib • 106 Washington Ave

Jolly Jester Theater for Children presents **Newsies Jr.**
2 and 7pm • Oshkosh West High School
Alberta Kimball Auditorium • 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Sat Feb 21 **Wisconsin Herd vs Greensboro Swarm** • 7pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Sun Feb 22 **Jolly Jester Theater for Children** presents **Newsies Jr.**
2pm • Oshkosh West High School
Alberta Kimball Auditorium • 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Mon Feb 23 **Read to a Dog** • 4pm • Oshkosh Public Lib • 106 Washington Ave

Thu Feb 26 **Wisconsin WWII POW Camps** presentation by the
Neenah Historical Society • 6:30pm
Neenah Public Library • 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Fri Feb 27 **Special Family After Hours Event: Campout** • 6:30pm
Neenah Public Library • 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Battle for the Lake Rodeo presented by
Wildhorse Productions and Sandburr Rodeo Productions
7:30pm • Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Sat Feb 28 **Battle for the Lake Rodeo** presented by
Wildhorse Productions and Sandburr Rodeo Productions
7:30pm • Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh



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Sign Up for Classes & Start a New Tradition! Make lasting memories & get creative with friends & family.

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Come to the 'Ugly' Ornament Party on Friday, December 19th for Nostalgic Holiday Fun!

Visit our website to learn more about
& register for classes!

1131 S. Commercial St. Neenah
rrcreativespace@gmail.com
rootandrunnercreative.com



Winnebago County offers festive, frugal ways to give with heart

A Very Thrift Christmas!

By Becky LaDue

Thrifting for Christmas gifts is more than just a trend—it's a joyful, budget-friendly way to spread holiday cheer while embracing creativity and sustainability. Across social media and Main Street alike, more shoppers are turning to thrift and resale stores to find unique treasures with stories to tell.

From that cozy vintage sweater, nostalgic ornament, or a quirky piece that perfectly fits a loved one's personality, each item carries the fun of the hunt and the warmth of thoughtful giving. And for those looking to shop with heart, Winnebago County offers plenty of local options where every purchase supports a good cause.

St. Vincent de Paul – Neenah & Oshkosh

1425 S Commercial St, Neenah & 551 Jackson St, Oshkosh

A treasure trove of holiday finds is on display at these massive stores located on the south side of Neenah and the north side of Oshkosh.

Inside the Neenah store you'll find six full holiday aisles offering everything from Christmas glassware, ornaments, village pieces, wreaths and trees to linens and wrapping paper in a clean and friendly atmosphere.

The Oshkosh location boasts a special area for Christmas finds and weekly tag sales for even deeper savings.

During the holiday season, St. Vincent De Paul also distributes winter coats to those in need; vouchers for Christmas trees and decorations; and toys for children (items within store) with the only qualification being that you live in the county and need help.

Proceeds benefit those in need in Winnebago County, offering food, housing, and medical assistance.

Stores are open Monday through Saturday, each with varying hours.



Aisles of finds await at Goodwill in Oshkosh and Neenah!
- Photograph by Becky LaDue



Holiday treasures can be found at St. Vincent De Paul in Neenah.

- Photograph by Becky LaDue

Goodwill Thrift Stores – Neenah & Oshkosh

907 S Green Bay Rd, Neenah & 1600 W 20th Ave, Oshkosh

Whether you're shopping to score that one-of-a-kind treasure, to support a great cause or to help keep items out of landfills, Goodwill is a great option for your holiday treasure hunt. While aiding in its mission to provide pathways for people who are underserved, underrepresented and/or disadvantaged to find sustained employment and improved financial stability, approximately 90 cents of every dollar from your holiday shopping sales is reinvested back into its mission.

Each store offers holiday aisles year-round for thrifty fun, and this time of year you'll find TREES, TREES, TREES and many brand-new holiday items at a deep savings.



Store hours for each location are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays offering many opportunities to shop.

Winneconne Thrift & Gift – Winneconne

911 E Main Street, Winneconne

Step inside this beloved community gem and you'll find what regulars affectionately call "Christmas on steroids" during the months of November and December. Each year, volunteers transform the shop into a dazzling Christmas boutique filled with ornaments, trees, linens, and themed dinnerware—beautifully curated and displayed.

All proceeds go back into the community, with donations growing from \$2,000 in 2008 to over \$100,000 in 2024, supporting more than 75 charities.



Store hours: Tuesday 9–2,
Wednesday/Friday 10–3,
Thursday 10–6, Saturday 10–2.

This holiday season, skip the chaos of big-box shopping and enjoy the charm of a local treasure hunt. You'll save money, find one-of-a-kind gifts, and support causes that make Winnebago County shine a little brighter.

Second Chance Thrift Store – Oshkosh

753 N Main St, Oshkosh

This unique and strategically located thrift store is a worthy stop in your holiday thrifting journey.





An eclectic mix of holiday decor line the shelves at Winneconne Thrift & Gift.
- Photograph by Becky LaDue



Festive finds at every turn to greet shoppers!
- Photograph by Becky LaDue

Once home to Sterling Gardens floral shop, this tidy little store offers big charm. Holiday décor mingles with vintage clothing, from graphic tees to retro jackets and even classic snow-mobile suits.



Proceeds support the Lutheran Food Pantry and local families in need. Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

offers exclusive discounts and birthday perks once signed up.



Hours for AbleLight:
Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Closed on Sunday

AbleLight Thrift Shop – Neenah

846 Fox Point Plaza, Neenah

The AbleLight organization's mission—serving for over 120 years—is to support and advocate for people with developmental disabilities to ensure they have security, dignity, and hope. Through dollars raised at their seven thrift stores they serve 750+ individuals offering 3.8 million hours of support in 2024.

Shoppers can browse a tidy and well-stocked store filled with traditional and unexpected holiday items. Wednesdays bring 25% off for seniors and military members, and a new rewards program



AbleLight Thrift Store, Neenah
- Photograph by Becky LaDue

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EXTRAORDINARY!**



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**MUSEUM
OF GLASS**



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Museum of Glass
in your year-end
giving plans.

Visit bmmglass.com/donate, call 920.751.4658,
or scan the QR code.

THE CRYSTAL BALL

Saturday, February 28, 2026, 7–10pm

A Gala & FUN-raiser for
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

The Ballroom at The Reserve
116 South Commercial Street, Neenah

Please join us for an unforgettable evening of
music by critically acclaimed *Kate Voss & The Hot
Sauce*. Dancing, live and silent auctions, artful
cocktail attire, and amusements await!

Visit bmmglass.com/the-crystal-ball/, call
920.751.4658, or scan the QR code.



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Making sure fans have fun! EAA Winter Flight Fest takes flight

By Cassidy Johnson



Skiplane taking off. - Photograph by Connor Madison



Building a glider at the Family Flight Fest - Photograph by Connor Madison

Holiday fun will take flight at The Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) 5th annual Winter Flight Fest from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb 7.

This family-friendly event has a variety of interactive activities and experiences at the museum all day, including the skiplane fly-in.

"You can spend the whole day here, for sure," said Drew Stephani, EAA's Communication Specialist. "[We] have all sorts of little activities and hands-on stuff."

The all-day museum event include interactive activities such as the Rotorcrafting activity, the Paper Airplane Launcher and the Pararescue Challenge.

The Rotorcrafting activity allows participants to build their own helicopter from recycled household materials, complete with a working motor.

The Paper Airplane Launcher activity gives participants the chance to make and launch their own paper airplane through a powered launcher, and the Pararescue Challenge gives participants the opportunity to build a parachute and put it to the test in EAA's wind tunnel.

Constructing paper airplanes and designing a parachute at the Family Flight Fest - Photographs by Connor Madison



Winter Flight Fest also has a variety of interactive activities, such as the Wright Flight Simulator, the Indoor Model Airplane Flying activity and Aviator BINGO.

For the opportunity to experience what the Wright Brothers would have experienced over 120 years ago on the first-ever powered flight, you can check out the Wright Flyer Simulator. Afterward, head on over to Aviator BINGO for some aviation-themed fun.

Visitors can also check out the Indoor Model Airplane Flying activity to see radio-controlled model drivers build and fly RC model airplanes, what Stephani calls "the really fancy RC stuff."

"My favorite parts [of WFF] are the RC model demonstrations," Stephani said. "The people that do it are very impressive. Some of them are even powered by rubber bands, which is pretty interesting."

The skiplane fly-ins are also set to take place at the festival all day alongside the complimentary chili lunch, depending on the weather.

According to Stephani, organizers need "the perfect amount of snow" for the skiplane fly-in to take place.

Those who wish to participate only in the skiplane show do not require museum admission, and are welcome to enjoy the chili lunch free of charge.

All events inside are free with admission. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 62 and up, \$12 for youth ages 6-18 and free for children 5 and under and EAA Members. For more information, go to www.eaa.org.



Visitors view the skiplane at the Fly-in - Photograph by Connor Madison



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Returning for its 24th year

Celebration of Lights celebrates lights, legacy

By Cassidy Johnson

Nothing quite says Christmastime like Christmas lights. Luckily, Friends of the Oshkosh Parks has a longstanding event and community tradition with 2.4 miles worth of them.

Returning for its 24th year, Oshkosh's Celebration of Lights is back to turn the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) grounds into a Christmas wonderland through Dec. 31. The light display started on Nov. 28.

Suzu Dawood, an Oshkosh resident for 20 years, expressed her excitement. "I've gone to the celebration of lights every year since I can remember," Dawood said. "I look forward to it every time."

Dawood's favorite CoL nights are the Free Community Nights, which have been amped up a bit this year. Thanks to sponsors, there will be five community nights. Each now includes free admission to the EAA Aviation Museum.

The first Free Community Night took place Nov. 30, with the next four taking place every Sunday in December, which includes Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28.

As CoL does every year, there's a variety of other special "nights" celebrating different types of lights and people, including visits with Santa and wagon rides.

Santa will be at the end of the lights in Santa's Lodge from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. through Dec. 23 for children to hand-deliver their letters and see if they made the Nice List.

For the chance to ride through the sea of lights on a horse-drawn wagon, wagon rides will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis every Monday and Wednesday in December until Dec. 17.

Reservations can be made now by contacting CoL coordinator and Discover Oshkosh Sales & Services Manager Jodi Jensema at jodi@discoveroshkosh.com or (920) 303.9200.

Gear up for the 23rd Annual Race for the Light 5K Fun Run/Walk for Oshkosh Area United Way for the opportunity to run through the light show and experience it in a whole new "light" for \$35 starting at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 6. Participants who haven't previously picked up their race packet can do so starting at



3:30 p.m. The race kicks off at the EAA Youth Education Center located at the EAA Aviation Museum

There will be a Veterans Night on Dec. 9 to honor service members, featuring a patriotic display and free admission for all veterans in their vehicles. The next day, there will be the first installment of Senior Night, with the second installment on Dec. 18. Seniors receive a discounted entrance rate of \$10 per vehicle, with busloads only \$2 per person; the bus driver is free.

Another donation night will be Dec. 12, this time for the Oshkosh Area Humane Society Night. Members will be on-site to collect donations, and participants that make a donation can get a \$5 discount on their carload.

Celebration of Lights will be "wrapped" up with "Night of the Torches," now "Nights of Torches," Dec. 27-31 in which solar-powered torches will dot the scene of Christmas lights.

Throughout the month, a special area will be set up on the grounds in memoriam to the late Leon Thompson, who passed away this summer, "because of all that he did and added to Celebration of Lights to make it what it is," Jensema said.

Thompson served as both President of FoOP (Friends of Oshkosh Parks) and as Santa Claus for Celebration of Lights for decades. He was also a teacher for 32 years at Oshkosh West High School.

Thompson had served as Santa for CoL for over 20 years since the event's beginning in 2001, with his wife, Wendy Thompson, serving alongside him as Mrs. Claus.

"Celebration of Lights couldn't have had a more amazing Santa role," said founding CoL member Craig Burnett. "Many very lucky children were graced by his presence."

Thompson later took over organizing CoL in 2011 while he was teaching and coaching baseball and softball at Oshkosh West, after Tom Stephany, the Oshkosh Parks director at the time, passed away.

Thompson served as Santa until 2022, as president of CoL until 2021, and as its vice president until his passing this summer.

"[His passing] was very rough, but he really had an amazing career, an amazing life; he just wanted to spread cheer everywhere," Jensema said. "The legacy's going to keep on, and we're gonna continue making him proud and adding to this event because that was what his wish was."

Another way Thompson is being honored is with the Leon Thompson Youth Leadership scholarship through the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce.

The scholarship "provides financial support to high school student(s) in our community to attend leadership development programs," according to the Chamber's website.

Those who knew him say Thompson will be greatly missed, but his contributions will continue to shine at Christmastime in Oshkosh and bring joy to the community.

"I love Celebration of Lights," said Dawood. "I think it's such a cute way to bring the community together and allow for some holiday spirit and fun for our city."

Regular admission is **\$20 per carload, with up to \$5 off with a donation of either a sealed hygiene item or a non-perishable, in-date food item.**



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Give a gift to the local economy by shopping local this season!

Locally-owned businesses provide options for holiday shopping

By Anya Kelley

As shoppers look for places to shop during the holiday season, they often see it as a time to shop locally. By supporting small businesses, shoppers reduce their carbon footprint by keeping transportation emissions low, bolstering the local economy and finding unique gifts for their loved ones. It's seen as a win for everyone.

Options for shopping at locally-owned businesses are available throughout Winnebago County.

Lily and Sparrow

119 W. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah

Lily and Sparrow offer a wide variety of handmade and curated home goods and clothing. The highlight of their selection is the wood framed artwork that they make in their warehouse located in Winneconne. They have a fun selection of holiday themed goods, and the décor rotates often. Best sellers from Lily and Sparrow include flameless glass candles, cotton crocheted potholders and coasters, stone dishware and wood framed signs.



Lily and Sparrow is located at the heart of historic downtown Neenah. The windows are filled with holiday decorations and a full-sized Christmas tree.

– Photograph by Anya Kelley

Sante Wine Bar and Bistro

108 W. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah

Sante Wine Bar and Bistro is a chic establishment located in downtown Neenah serving a curated selection of over 300 bottles of wine, specialty cocktails and small bites. Bottles are available for purchase, and the food is as locally sourced as possible. Sante also has an exclusive wine club offering a tiered membership scale for affordability. Members get their own happy hour from 4 to 7 p.m. every Monday through Thursday and a monthly pick up of two bottles of wine. Sante is “anti-snobbery” and prides itself on a community built around a love for wine.



Storefronts decked out for the holidays downtown Oshkosh.

– Photograph by Anya Kelley

Everweld Jewelry Co

124 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 220, Neenah

Permanent jewelry is all the rage right now, and Everweld offers 300 different chains and a selection of fun charms to choose from. The chains can be welded to fit a wrist, neck or finger and a variety of metals including sterling silver and gold fill are available. Fresh for the holiday season, Everweld has started offering permanent bangles as well. Gift cards for sessions are offered with no minimum amount required and appointments are available by walk in or can be scheduled online.



Elements Unleashed

224 W. Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

There is nowhere better than Elements Unleashed to find stellar pieces for your fashion forward friend. The boutique is filled to the brim with curated items made from high quality fabrics like genuine leather with new arrivals coming often. They specialize in high quality pre-owned fur pieces and offer professional cleaning and care services including repairs. All the fur products are second-hand making each purchase environmentally friendly.





In downtown Neenah, anyone looking for a break can take a moment to sit with a president of the past. Main Street features bronze statues of Abe Lincoln, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, though Franklin isn't a president, lounging on benches. During the winter, the statues wear scarves. - Photograph by Anya Kelley

Yeti Yums

110 Algoma Boulevard, Suite B, Oshkosh

Yeti Yums is a candy store with a twist. They offer a huge selection of freeze-dried candy including skittles, laughy taffy and jolly ranchers. There is also a selection of freeze-dried ice cream and cheesecake. If nothing in their brick-and-mortar store strikes a shopper's fancy, Yeti Yums accepts requests and has an online storefront as well.



Elsewhere Market and Coffee House

531 N. Main St., Oshkosh

Elsewhere is a two-part coffee shop and marketplace offering sustainable home goods, hand crafted jewelry, décor and more. The vibe is very summer in Italy chic, and the beauty and home products are non-toxic and made from clean ingredients, making their selection perfect for the hippy, health-conscious friend. For a new or expectant mom, they also offer a selection of vintage children's clothes and toys located in the back of the market.



Gardina's Kitchen and Bar

448 N. Main St., Oshkosh

Gardina's has a marketplace of wine and spirits featuring highly sought-after craft beers, whiskey and wine. They have a selection of budget-friendly options and offer gift cards for both the market and the restaurant.



Adventure Games and Hobby

408 N. Main St., Oshkosh

Adventure Games and Hobby carry a huge selection of table-top board games, card games, customizable figures for Magic:



Red's Boutique and Market is located on an iconic corner of Main Street in Winneconne across from the Fin 'n' Feather. - Photograph by Anya Kelley

The Gathering and Dungeons and Dragons, Lego sets and more. They also have a selection of hundreds of rare cards from a variety of games worth up to thousands of dollars.

Red's Boutique and Market

100 W. Main St., Winneconne

Red's is a one stop shop for everything from artisanal snacks and sauces, wool socks, kitchen accessories and bath and body products. The brands carried include stonewall kitchen, Carmie's kitchen soup mix, Tillen Farms, INIS, California Mango and many more.



Chez's Crafts n Crap

113 Grant St., Winneconne

Chez's offers a variety just as fun as their name. They offer a selection of locally made goods like Twin Lane candles and wax melts, Wolf River Maple's maple syrup and handcrafted jewelry. They offer a leather koozie that can be customized with images and text making for a sweet, personalized gift and birch bark roses that are each made to order making each one unique.



Winneconne Thrift and Gift

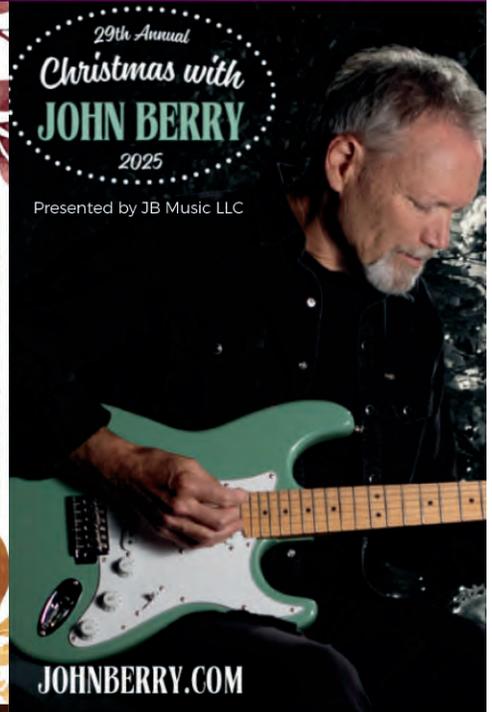
911 E. Main St., Winneconne

Thrift and Gift has a selection of home goods, clothes, décor, jewelry and more for super low prices. From minx jackets to linens to antique China, Winneconne's premier thrift store makes holiday shopping easy, sustainable and affordable. They also donate large sums of their revenue back into the community making the shopping experience a gift in itself.



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