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Rising waters increase concerns in county

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County continues to deal with the aftermath of high-water levels after heavy rainfall earlier this month.

Last week, there was localized flooding in the northern parts of the county in Fox Crossing, Menasha and Neenah where heavy rains caused some creeks to overflow, and some storm sewers backed up.

As water levels increased in Lake Winnebago, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District ordered all the gates with

the lake's discharge to be open. That operation is in accordance with the Corps' water control manual.

Winnebago County provided some assistance in Omro where the Fox River flooded on to Wisconsin Highway 21.

Since late last week, the Town of Wolf River has at times put out calls for volunteers to help fill sandbags to put along the Wolf River in the town while the Village of Winneconne has been asking for help with sandbags throughout the week. The rising water levels led to questions about

whether low-lying areas, particularly in the Town of Wolf River, should be evacuated.

Winnebago County Emergency Management Director Eric Rasmussen said local leaders decide whether to evacuate any areas.

"Our role is to provide support, whether it is to help with sandbags or with communication," he said. "After the floodwaters recede, we can help with disaster reimbursement and we can help with cleanup

SEE **Flood concerns** ON PAGE 6

INSIDE



Diamond gem
Plutz grows into key player for Zephyrs
Page 8

Best buys
Irish Road Rummage Sale is tradition
Page 4



Photo by David Hall

Canopy project

Earth Day 2026 is marked by action as the community digs in to support the Carpenter Preserve. By planting native species, these volunteers are helping to combat soil erosion and enhance the natural carbon sink of the preserve, ensuring this green space remains vibrant and healthy.

Mobile dental clinic seeing students again in new bus

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Tri-County Dental's mobile clinic is back serving children in Winnebago, Outagamie and Calumet counties.

The mobile clinic was involved in an incident in November 2024 in Oshkosh that resulted in the 40-foot bus being totaled by the insurance company. While no one was hurt in the incident, the clinic lost its ability to easily travel to local schools and provide students with free dental care.

Earlier this month, Tri-County Dental's new mobile dental clinic rolled back into service. The bus includes three hygienist stations plus three portable x-ray machines. Students have basic exams, clean-

ings and restorative work completed on the mobile clinic.

"It's a full clinic on wheels," said CEO and Executive Director Sandy Drexler. "It's so important that children have healthy teeth. Poor oral health can lead to a decreased ability to learn and lower school performance, self-esteem issues and lifelong oral health challenges."

After the incident, Tri-County Dental's team sprang into action, coming up with alternative ways to serve students. The organization first borrowed portable equipment from the Oral Health Partnership in Green Bay until it received a grant

SEE **Mobile clinic** ON PAGE 7



Submitted photo

Tri-County Dental's mobile clinic is back serving children with a new bus after an incident in November 2024 that resulted in the prior bus being totaled.

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

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Neenah News is owned by Winnebago Media Group, Inc., 36 Broad St. Suite 300, Oshkosh, WI, 54901. 920-385-4512.

Club rebrands youth grief support group

Neenah News

For more than 20 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley's Center for Grieving Children (CGC) program has walked alongside youth and families in the Fox Valley, offering community, understanding and care as they navigate grief and loss.

Over that time, the CGC has grown in many ways - and with that growth, the organization realized it was time for a name and visual identity that better reflected this work while honoring where they've been.

The Center for Grieving Children is being renamed and branded as Connections Grief Center.

According to the organization, this name represents the heart of what hap-

pens through Connections Grief Center (CGC) every day — connection, healing and community. It reflects the many ways youth and families can come together to support one another, the importance of staying connected to themselves and others, and the ongoing bonds they hold with those they have lost. It reinforces what the organization said it believes deeply: no one should have to grieve alone.

The new tagline, "Where Hope & Healing Meet," highlights what has always been central to the program's mission of providing a safe, compassionate space where youth and families can rediscover hope and move forward in their healing together.

To learn more about Connections Grief Center, go to bgclubfoxvalley.org/connectionsriefcenter.

Anderson named Brigade executive director

Neenah News

Janie Anderson has been selected as Brigade's sixth executive director.

Anderson has officially accepted the full-time, permanent position and will step into the role following the completion of the current school year in June.



Anderson

Anderson brings a deep and personal connection to Brigade's purpose — creating space for youth to discover who they are, build confidence through new experiences and form lasting memories along the way.

As a former participant who completed the Brigade program as a child, she represents a full-circle moment for the organization.

Anderson has been interim executive director since February 2025.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Ice cream wagon

J.F. De Caro with his horse-drawn Quality Ice Cream delivery wagon. The undated photo is scanned from a glass plate negative.

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Calendar of events

Friday, April 24

Irish Road Rummage Sales, 8 a.m., Irish Road and Side Streets
NHS Spring Show - Clue: High School Edition, 7 p.m., NHS Black Box Theater

Saturday, April 25

Irish Road Rummage Sales, 8 a.m., Irish Road and Side Streets
Bioblitz, 9:30 a.m., WILD Center, 2285 W. Butte des Morts Beach Road
Spring Wine Walk, noon, Downtown Neenah
NHS Spring Show - Clue: High School Edition, 7 p.m., NHS Black Box Theater

Sunday, April 26

Irish Road Rummage Sales, 10 a.m., Irish Road and Side Streets
Lawrence University Student Jazz Quartet: Spring Sessions, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library
NHS Spring Show - Clue: High School Edition, 2 p.m., NHS Black Box Theater

Tuesday, April 28

High School Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m., NHS Performing Arts Center

Thursday, April 30

High School Band Concert, 7:30 p.m., NHS Performing Arts Center

Friday, May 1

First Friday Concert Series: Beginner Line Dancing, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Saturday, May 2

Harbor House Amazing Race Fundraiser, 8:30 a.m., Harbor House
Doty Island Cleanup Day, 9 a.m., Doty Island
Zephyrfest, 5:30 p.m., Fox Cities Exhibition Center

Sunday, May 3

Vintage Flowers and Market, 10 a.m., Red Door Mercantile
Lawrence University Student Jazz Quartet: Spring Sessions, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library
Raga Rock Rhythm Concert, 3:30 p.m., Neenah High School Black Box Theater

Wednesday, May 6

Touch A Truck, 10 a.m., Memorial Park
Living More Comfortably: Understanding Pain and Relief Options, 3:30 p.m., Valley VNA Senior Care, 1535 Lyon Drive

Thursday, May 7

Bake Sale, 7 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah

Saturday, May 9

Junk in the Trunk, 8 a.m., City Hall
Doty Island Shoreline Volunteer Planting, 9 a.m., Doty Park
Little Duckling Pint-Sized Prom, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library
Show Choir Finale, 7:30 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Tuesday, May 12

The Power of Self Talk: Transforming Your Inner Dialogue, 6 p.m., Village of Fox Crossing, 2064 Municipal Drive
High School Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m., NHS Performing Arts Center

Wednesday, May 13

Fox Talks: Leadership in the Fox Cities - Paths, People, and Possibilities, 8 a.m., Community First Credit Union

Organization offers new horse-riding programs

By Pamela Hart
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

As demand for services and programs increases in the community, BEAMING Equine Assisted Services is responding with new programs to meet unique needs.

Since 2004, the nonprofit organization has helped improve the quality of life for veterans, and children with physical, cognitive and behavioral disabilities.

Katie Samuelson, the center director since 2010, introduced the “Horses, Hearts & Heroes” veterans’ program and the “Saddle Up for Success” children’s program. In addition, the center offers the “Partners in Riding” program, which is a partnership with area school districts serving elementary and middle school special education students and LAUNCH, a hands-on mentoring program to help troubled teens manage conflict, utilize effective coping skills, develop positive social skills and learn to engage in healthy self-care.

Samuelson said the physical benefits of riding horses are undeniable for children with autism. Parents of autistic children are challenged to find activities for their children. BEAMING offers Autistic Camps every summer, which provide emotional and cognitive benefits, improving the overall well-being of hundreds of autistic children over the years.

In response to the rise in dementia diagnoses, Samuelson and BEAMING Board President Walt Zerrenner partnered with the Fox Valley Memory Project to offer Equine-Assisted Memory Cafes in 2019, a place for participants to enjoy the horses and other interactive activities such as educational presentations, arts and crafts



Submitted photos

Above: The community empowerment circle is a place for groups to gather at BEAMING Equine Assisted Services.

At right: BEAMING offers a variety of programs using horses to help improve the quality of life for veterans and children with physical, cognitive and behavioral disabilities.



projects and other outdoor activities.

“Riding in the Moment,” in conjunction with University of Wisconsin-Madison, is an evidence-based program offered to improve the quality of life for those living with dementia by giving the participants time to groom, walk, ride and feed the horses.

BEAMING invites the community to celebrations throughout the year, such as Red, White & Blue Day for local heroes,

BOOfest for Halloween and Santa at the Barn during the Christmas holiday. The organization has also been working on new housing for veterans to spend overnight enjoying quiet time with the horses, reading, sitting by the campfire, playing board games and participating in chores.

Samuelson is honored and grateful to have been recognized as part of the Re-

markable Women 2026. A meaningful experience with 125 women selected from over 12,000 women nationwide to connect, collaborate and learn alongside truly inspiring leaders from across the country.

“Being surrounded by such remarkable individuals has given me renewed inspiration, fresh ideas, and even greater energy to continue advancing BEAMING’s mission to serve individuals with diverse cognitive, neurological, and developmental needs through equine-assisted learning,” Samuelson said.

To continue advancing BEAMING’s mission, the programs would not be possible without fundraising efforts. This year, the team is introducing the Boots and Bags Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 16 at the barn, which is located at 2692 County Road GG in Neenah.

The event includes a parade of their horses, raffle items - many of which are unique purses - and tours of the facilities. Lance Fox, a mountain climber and motivational speaker as seen on The Discovery Channel Series “Everest: Beyond the Limit” will present “No Place but Up.” To find out more about Fox, visit lancefoxeveryest.com.

“This event is an opportunity to gather our community, share our work, and continue building awareness and support for our programs,” Samuelson said.

To purchase tickets and learn about all of the programs available at BEAMING, visit beaminginc.org.

Volunteers are needed year-round to assist with side walking, horse handling, prep lessons, groundskeeping and light maintenance. To sign up, email volunteer4beaming@gmail.com.

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Photo by David Hall

Rummage sales turn into neighborhood tradition

By Matthew Hoyman
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Irish Road Rummage Sales began in 1970 when four friendly neighbors started the event, which has expanded from there. The 55th annual rummage sales in the Fox Crossing neighborhood will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

LoriAnn Harmon, the Irish Road Rummage Sales coordinator since 2005, started by taking her children door to door throughout the neighborhood of around 600 houses, around a month prior to sales, to give them registration information.

Irish Road is located near the new Neenah High School, which has led to new homes and development expanding throughout the area.

“The neighborhood is growing, especially with the new high school less than a mile away,” Harmon said. “We have seen a decline in the number of sales registered, but I truly believe that’s because it’s just not feasible to go door to door anymore, dropping off flyers as we did 10 years ago.”

This has led to trying to create an online presence through websites and social media platforms like Facebook; however, the goal is to reach the youth.

“I’ve been looking for neighbors to help come up with ideas on how to best keep our neighbors informed of the sales, so that they can register,” Harmon said. “I am not an Instagram user, but the younger generations are, so it would be nice to have someone who can help to tackle the various social media avenues.”

The Irish Road sales usually have around 60-80 houses that register for sales; the largest was 106 participants in 2011.

The sales have expanded further than the Fox Valley, Harmon said.

“Advertising originally took place from Green Bay down to Fond du Lac and then westward to Waupaca, and we often

hear people who have been coming to the neighborhood sales for years,” Harmon said.

The event has also helped spotlight small, homegrown businesses within the neighborhood.

“For many years, our neighbor My Lee sold eggrolls both at farmers’ markets as well as our sales, and there would be LINES waiting for her eggrolls,” Harmon said. “Some patrons had told me that they came every year specifically for My Lee’s eggrolls, because they were so delicious! She opened (My Lee’s Egg Roll House) towards downtown Appleton years ago.”

Harmon works with the Fox Crossing Police and Street Departments to put up “No Parking” signs because of the narrow roads.

“They have begun giving us ‘shout outs’ on Facebook because I believe we are the first neighborhood sale in Fox Crossing,” Harmon said.

The rummage sales provide an outlet to help the community.

“I feel that rummage sales in general are an effective way to declutter homes, generate extra cash, and recycle goods to promote sustainability,” Harmon said. “When a rummage sale is coordinated into neighborhood rummage sales, then we have a chance to foster a community connection as well as attract more people to the neighborhood than an individual sale would do.”

This provides a learning experience for the next generation that helps their parents with sales or comes with their parents to buy products.

“As an educator, I also feel that it is a good way to teach children about entrepreneurship and money management,” Harmon said.

To learn more about the sales, go to irishroadrummagesale.square.site/about.

Sustainability efforts

Proper disposal of e-waste is a priority for a cleaner Fox Crossing. A community effort Saturday prevents heavy metals from entering the local ecosystem, proving that even small recycling habits can have a massive impact on the environment.

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Neenah News

Aldermen Scott Weber, Brian Defferding and Tami Erickson were sworn in Tuesday to begin a new term on the Neenah Common Council.

New mayor, council members sworn in

By Eric Endres
NEENAH NEWS

Newly elected mayor Brian Borchartd and aldermen Brian Defferding, Tami Erickson and Scott Weber were sworn in Tuesday during the City of Neenah Common Council meeting.

Erickson and Weber ran unopposed in the April 7 election, while Defferding defeated incumbent Cari Lendrum in the District 1 race.

Borchartd defeated Scott Becher in the race for mayor.

The swearing in of Borchartd was preceded by an invocation from Pastor Jeff Vanden Heuvel, a one-time Neenah resident and longtime friend of Borchartd.

After the formalities were completed, each alderman and Borchartd shared remarks as their upcoming terms of service to the community began. Borchartd spoke of his intent to lead through actions.

Erickson and Weber both indicated they were looking forward to their duties for the city, while Defferding noted how this role felt like putting on an old pair of shoes.

“This is where I belong,” Defferding said.

In his comments, Borchartd thanked many people, including the students and staff at Neenah High School. Borchartd has been a teacher within the Neenah Joint School District for 16 years and will now resign from his teaching duties to focus on his role as mayor full-time. He also thanked outgoing Mayor Jane Lang, who did not seek reelection.

Another role Borchartd had to vacate by way of his election as mayor: common council president. Alderman Dan Steiner was nominated and voted in as the new council president.

Borchartd had another year on his alderperson term and the council will now begin the process of appointing a new alderperson.

Borchartd made appointments to the standing committees and special council committees, for which all members will have a one-year term expiring in April 2027. All standing committees and special council committees were confirmed by the council.

Committees, boards and other council member responsibilities can be viewed on the city’s website.

County board passes virtual committee meeting attendance

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Emergencies come up and county board supervisors and citizen members serving on committees, task forces and commissions cannot always attend meetings in person. After a vote Tuesday by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, they now have a new option — remote attendance.

The county board approved a motion to approve a rule allowing commission and committee members to attend a meeting by remote videoconference with full rights to participate, vote and count toward quorum. The person attending the meeting remotely will need to keep the camera on for the entirety of their attendance. The committee chair must approve the remote attendance in advance.

Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke, who brought the motion to the floor from an ad hoc rules committee, said providing more options for people to attend and participate in the meetings was important. The rule would also avoid meetings being canceled at the last minute due to a lack of quorum.

“This isn’t for an everyday type of thing,” she said. “It’s for an emergency — like you’re sick — or the committee chair knows they may not have a quorum and they call the county board chair to sit in to get to that quorum.”

Supervisor Tim Macho said he had heart surgery and would have wanted to participate in committee meetings while he was recovering at home.

“My brain was working fine,” he said. “I could have easily sat in and voted from

home.”
The motion passed after supervisors defeated a rule that would have allowed virtual attendance at county board meetings. Hancock-Cooke said that rule would help reduce barriers to potential candidates who may be interested in running for county board but worried about being in person for all the meetings.

Several supervisors spoke about the importance of being able to gather face-to-face and build camaraderie.

“We owe it to our constituents, and we owe it to each other to be here,” said Supervisor George Bureau. “When the public comes to a meeting, they want to see their supervisors. Do we want to pay our supervisors to sit at home in their PJs?”

New board leadership: The new county board was sworn in on Tuesday. With the new board, supervisors voted for board leadership. Previous county board chair Thomas Egan opted not to run for the position again.

For chair, Frank Frassetto from District 32 was elected over Shiloh Ramos from District 5. Ramos previously served as board chair from 2018 to 2022.

“I promise I won’t get in the way of doing the good work of this board. I will make sure everyone will have a time to speak their piece,” said Frassetto, who is also the chair of the Town of Black Wolf. “It’s an honor and privilege to serve as the county board chair.”

Vice chair Chuck Farrey decided not to seek reelection to the board. Conley Hanson from District 26 was elected for the role of vice chair.



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- Friday, May 15 | 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, May 18 | 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 27 | 1:00 p.m.

NEENAH:

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Vendors needed for Junk in the Trunk event

Neenah News

Vendors are needed for the Neenah Parks and Recreation Department's Junk in the Trunk event.

Vendors must be at least 18 years old and must pre-register. All vendors should be in their designated spot for the 8 a.m. start of the event.

Shopping will be open to the public until 1 p.m. May 9 at the City Hall Red D

Parking Lot, 211 Walnut St.

The sale or distribution of any food or drink, including samples, is prohibited. There will be no access to electrical outlets for vendors. Any items not sold must be taken with the vendor.

To register as a vendor contact City of Neenah Parks and Recreation office. Call 920-886-6060. Inclement weather will cancel the event.

Flood concerns

FROM PAGE 1

and getting people back in their homes, like our health department can make sure someone's well water is safe to drink."

Winnebago County residents are encouraged to report property damage from the flooding and any unmet needs by calling 2-1-1. Rasmussen said calling that number allows the county to provide support and provides tracking information so the county knows where it should focus its recovery efforts.

"We are fortunate we have not seen the damage that they have along the northern parts of the Wolf River in Outagamie and Waupaca counties," Rasmussen said.

Sheriff John Matz urged boaters to be mindful of the highwater levels many of the area's waterways are experiencing as boating season began this week.

Due to water levels and flooding concerns, Matz enacted Slow No Wake provisions Wednesday on all navigable waterways within Winnebago County.

"I strongly encourage boaters to check the status of Slow No Wake areas frequently during the boating season as updates may change," Matz said.



Photo from Neenah High School Fishing Team
Members of the Neenah High School Fishing Team and their families spent Saturday morning bagging sand to assist with the flooding on the Wolf River.

Public library calendar

May 1

Fitness Friday: Boot Camp 9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.
First Friday Concert: Beginner Line Dancing with Cindy Paulson 2 p.m.

May 3

Lawrence University Student Jazz Quartet: Spring Sessions 2 p.m.

May 4

Stitching Group 1 p.m.
Women's Health Empowerment Series: Caring for Your Breasts 6:30 p.m.

May 5

Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-5) 9:15 a.m.
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months) 10 a.m.
Storytime for Everyone (all ages) at Valley VNA 10 a.m.
Powered by Yarn 6:30 p.m.

May 6

Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.
Musical Movers Storytime (ages 0-6) 10 a.m.
Field Trip Storytime: The Garden Ages 3 and older 1:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.

May 7

Wee Read Storytime *with ASL interpretation (ages 2 & up) 10 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

May 9

Little Duckling Pint-Sized Prom (ages 0-5) 10:30 a.m.

May 11

Monday Matinee: Rental Family 1 p.m.
Short Story Night, 7 p.m., Lion's Tail Brewing Co., 116 S. Commercial St.

May 12

Legal Assistance Clinic 4:30 p.m.

May 13

Field Trip Storytime City Garage: Ages 3 and older 1:30 p.m.

Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.
Adult DIY Design Workshop 6:30 p.m.

May 14

Wild Child Adventure Storytime (all ages) 10 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

May 15

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

May 16

K-Pop Dance Party (ages 9 to 14) 10:30 a.m.

May 18

Monday Morning Book Klatch 10 a.m.
Memory Cafe: STEAM Team 1:30 p.m.
Women's Health Empowerment Series: Healthy Aging Lifestyle 6:30 p.m.

May 19

Cookbook Book Club 6:30 p.m.

May 20

Library Board Meeting 4 p.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.

May 21

Wild Child Adventure Storytime (all ages) 10 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

May 23-25

Library Closed All Day

May 26

Movie Talks: The Martian 6:30 p.m.

May 27

Mah Jongg Meet Up 5:30 p.m.
Suburban Homesteading: All About Pollinators! 6:30 p.m.

May 28

Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

May 31

Sunday Concert Series: Walt Hamburger 2 p.m.

Library hosting dress-up dance event

Neenah News

Guests are invited to put on their fanciest attire and grab their dancing shoes for a Little Duckling Pint-sized Prom.

The event will be at 10:30 a.m. May 9 at the Neenah Public Library.

A craft area and photo booth will be available when guests need a break from

dancing. Adults and children are encouraged to dress up.

The program is a drop-in event, lasting approximately one hour and geared towards ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

A parent, caregiver or responsible older child must be within sight and sound of children under 9.

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Mobile clinic

FROM PAGE 1

from the J. J. Keller Foundation to purchase its own portable equipment. Bergstrom Automotive lent the clinic a transit van so the equipment could be hauled to different schools so check-ups and cleanings could continue. Local schools found space where the clinicians could set up the equipment and see students. Students who needed cavities filled were bused to the Tri-County Dental Clinic in Grand Chute so their needs could be taken care of.

To raise the funds to cover the difference between what Tri-County received from the insurance payout for the damaged clinic and the purchase of a new clinic, which cost \$900,000, a fundraising campaign was launched and led by John, Dr. Chris and Tim Bergstrom.

“Our family completely supports the Tri-County Dental Clinic and its mobile bus unit,” John Bergstrom said. “We’ve seen firsthand the positive difference the mobile clinic makes for school-age children that don’t have dental insurance. We want to help young people get a healthy start on their dental health.”

Receiving dental care

The Tri-County Dental Clinic sees students through its Robert Glass Focus on the Children Program. More than 70% of patients who receive care at the clinic are children with the mobile clinic visiting 39 schools, with its largest number of patients in the Oshkosh, Neenah and Appleton school districts.

“All our children receive care at no cost. After their visit, information goes home with them, so their parents know the results and what, if any, extra care is need-



Submitted photo

The mobile clinic includes three hygienist stations for basic exams, cleanings and restorative work.

ed,” Drexler said. “They also get bags with a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss.”

Children also learn how to care for their teeth.

To qualify for care, students must receive free or reduced-price school lunch at school or have Medicaid or who do not have dental insurance. Medicaid has a very low reimbursement rate when it comes to

dental care so many private dentists do not accept patients with that coverage.

The mobile clinic removes several barriers for children to get the dental care they need, Drexler said. Many parents may struggle to get their children to the clinic due to transportation needs or getting time off from work. By having the clinic directly go to the school, she said those

obstacles are eliminated.

Custom-built

Everything on Tri-County Dental’s mobile clinic was selected with a purpose in mind, Drexler said. The colorful mural featuring animals that the students face is similar to one in the regular clinic so if the students ever need to go there, the mural will serve as a connection point. The bright colors inside and outside of the bus are designed to put a smile on the faces of children — and adults.

“We want the children to associate going to the dentist with something that is a positive,” Drexler said. “We want the children to smile — to show off their healthy teeth — and to feel good about themselves.”

Drexler said the clinic is about more than cleaning teeth, applying sealants or repairing cavities. It’s about making the children feel better about themselves.

“There’s a mental health component to this. If you don’t smile because you want to hide your teeth or you feel bad about them, that can affect your self-esteem. Or if your mouth hurts, that affects your overall health,” she said.

During the summer when schools are not in session, the mobile clinic visits other places in the community to provide dental care to those who need it, including the Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCAs and the Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services.

While a dental fellow is employed to work with the children on the mobile clinic, many local dentists and dental hygienists volunteer their time to work at the Tri-County Dental Clinic where they see patients.

“We really depend on donations to help run our clinic and our mobile clinic,” Drexler said. “Dental care is a basic need that unfortunately not everyone has access to.”



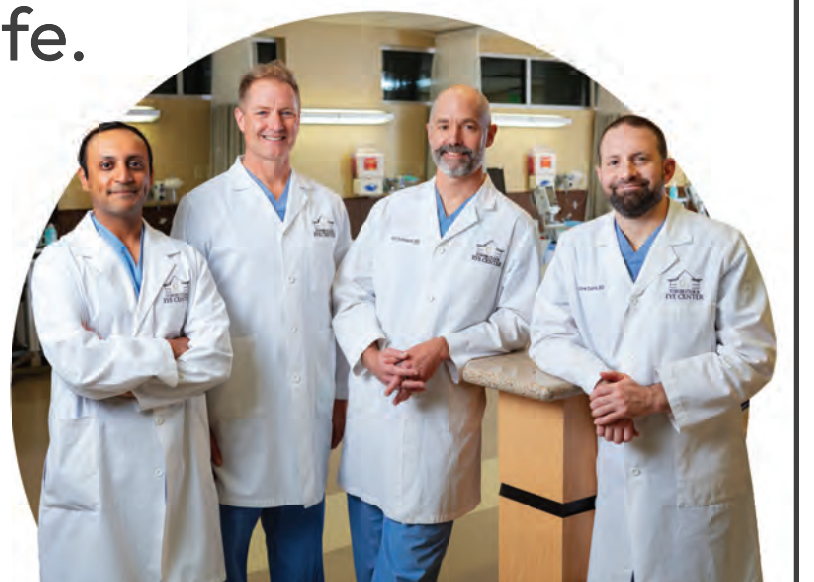
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Senior Spotlight is brought to you by: **Nicolet NATIONAL BANK**

Zephyrs' Plutz shines on diamond with eye on the future

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Ethan Plutz's first experience playing third base came in his first varsity game as a freshman at St. Mary Catholic.

And things, well, didn't get off to a great start.

"At first, I didn't really like it. I was scared a little bit," Plutz said before a practice earlier this week. "You would see some big kid coming up (to the plate) and you take a few steps back."

But now, the hot corner is one of his homes on a baseball diamond.

"I've definitely grown into it. I feel a lot better about it," Plutz said. "It's my favorite position (on the infield) now."

Feeling more comfortable at a tough position mirrors Plutz's overall development in a Zephyr uniform.

The senior has developed into one of the key members of St. Mary Catholic's pitching staff and a key cog in their offensive lineup. He's come a long way in his four years and appreciates the journey he's been on.

"My freshman and sophomore year I got DH'd for and just played the field and now my junior and senior year I've been able to hit so I think that's where I developed the most," Plutz said. "Just seeing the personal development has been great. Obviously, it's all about the team first, but it's nice to see the work you put in show on the field."

Hitting and playing on the infield are two ways that Plutz contributes to the Zephyrs but he truly makes his biggest impact on the mound.

So far this season, he leads the team with 23 innings pitched over four appearances – no other pitcher has gone more than six innings – and has allowed just 23 hits and 14 earned runs in that span.

He also leads the pitching staff with

Senior Standout



13 strikeouts but punching out opposing hitters isn't what he's about when on the mound.

"I love pitching. It's the thing I love most about baseball. To trust my team while I'm pitching, just trust them to make the plays. It's great," said Plutz, who against Little Chute earlier this season recorded 20 outs in the game on the mound without registering a strikeout. "Games like that (against Little Chute), you know if they hit ground balls or fly balls, they are going to be outs."

His best outing to date on the mound came last season in a WIAA regional semi-final when he came in relief and would face a bases-loaded, no-out situation in the bottom of the eighth inning.

After getting a strikeout, Plutz got the next batter to ground into a double play to end the threat and the Zephyrs would go to beat the Chiefs, 4-2, in 12 innings with Plutz tossing six scoreless innings.

Plutz hopes to continue pitching at the collegiate level but has not made a decision as to where he will try to play.

"I feel (playing baseball is) important but I don't want to go somewhere where they are not going to offer me something that is going to be good after graduation," Plutz said. "I want to play baseball but I want to do good things in life. I don't want to go to a school just to play."

Plutz even has his sights set on the game beyond his playing days.

He would like to be a coach on some level and is already working on his skills in



Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic's Ethan Plutz is a four-year varsity player who hopes to be a baseball coach in the future.

that regard.

Plutz said he works with his 11-year-old brother, Giovanni, on baseball and other sports and – as one of three seniors on the roster – tries to fill a leadership role with the Zephyrs.

"We have younger kids coming up in the infield positions and they will ask me questions. They trust me and I feel comfortable helping them," Plutz said. "I think we're a great team where everybody shares the leadership. It's not just one guy. It takes the pressure off us three (seniors) because I don't know if we could do it just three guys. We have juniors stepping up, sophomore stepping up. It's great."

Plutz said he is also taking note of what

works with head coach Jeff Hogenson's practices, especially with the way the Zephyrs' practices are short and with a lot of activity.

"I've never heard anybody say that it's boring, ever," Plutz said. "Nobody's standing around at practice. We don't have long lines, we are always just moving. You are getting reps every minute."

Just as important, he appreciates the way that Hogenson treats the players.

"I've learned that you have to be a good person to be a good baseball player," Plutz said. "(Coach Hogenson) cares about us being good people more than being good

SEE **Senior Standout** ON PAGE 12

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Prep sports roundup

TENNIS

Rockets open FVA play with sweep

Neenah cruised to a 7-0 win over Hortonville in its first conference match of the season last week. The Rockets won all seven matches in straight sets.

Hunter Brown highlighted the win with a 6-0, 6-0 win at the No. 1 singles. All four singles players for the Rockets had at least one 6-0 set victory in their matches, with Henry Farrell at No. 2 singles, Mercer Moss at No. 3 singles and Nicholas Zenick at No. 4 singles rounding out the lineup.

Neenah's No. 2 doubles team of Max Gerken and Tim Zhao dropped only two games in their match, with Brady Lawatsch and Luke Grassl at the No. 1 flight and Charlie Perry and Eric Hein at No. 3 doubles also collecting wins.

Neenah posts 3-2 mark at home invite

The Rockets had a strong showing in their first tournament of the season posting wins over Homestead (5-2), Eau Claire Memorial (6-1) and Oshkosh West (7-0) at the Neenah Invitational last weekend.

Neenah suffered losses to Brookfield East and Middleton. The Rockets nearly knocked off the Cardinals – the defending Division 1 state runner-ups – falling 4-3, with two of the losses coming in three sets.

Three flights finished with 4-1 records on the day for the Rockets. Neenah's top two singles players, Hunter Brown and Henry Farrell, each went 4-1 while the No.

1 doubles pairing of Brady Lawatsch and Luke Grassl also going 4-1, with their lone loss coming in three sets.

GOLF

Whaley leads Zephyrs at Big East meet

Charlie Whaley finished one shot out of sharing medalist honors at a Big East Conference Major Meet held at Riverdale Country Club on Tuesday.

Whaley fired a 38 to lead the Zephyrs, who carded a team score of 167 to finish second behind only Kohler. Oostburg was third with a 169.

Carter Pendergast tied for 10th overall with a 41 for the Zephyrs, while Mason Uhlenbrauck shot a 43 and Wyatt Birling added a 45.

St. Mary Catholic also placed 11th among 20 teams in a loaded field at a tournament held at High Cliff Golf Course on Monday.

The Zephyrs were led by Brady DeLeeuw, who finished tied for 11th with a score of 76.

Whaley was the next St. Mary Catholic finisher with an 83 followed by Pendergast with an 85 and Uhlenbrauck and Alex Klinkhammer with rounds of 90.

Neenah downs Appleton North in dual meet

Cartyr Simonson led the Rockets with a 36 to help Neenah top Appleton North, 155-164, in a Fox Valley Association dual meet on Tuesday at Reid Municipal Golf Course.

Carson Eitz and Mason Peitersen each added 39s for the Rockets, with Jacob Ma-

quire rounding out the scoring golfers for the Rockets with a 41.

The Rockets also finished 10th overall at a 20-team tournament held at High Cliff Golf Course on Monday.

Seitz led the Rockets with an 81, followed by Maguire with an 82 and Gavin Winecki with an 83. Mason Peitersen provided the fourth score for Neenah with an 84.

SOFTBALL

Early runs fuel Rockets win over Wildcats

Neenah scored three runs in the second inning and added two more in the third to erase an early 1-0 deficit in a 6-3 victory over Oshkosh West in a Fox Valley Association contest last week.

Livia Hechimovich and Libby Jahnke each finished with two hits in the game for the Rockets, while Taytum West drove in a pair of runs in the game.

West was also the winning pitcher allowing just three hits and one earned run, while striking out seven to earn the victo-

ry.

The Rockets also rolled to a 15-0 win over Appleton East on Tuesday with Kayleigh Johnson hurling the five-inning shutout. She allowed just three hits, while striking out four.

Norah Paider hit a pair of home runs in the game and finished with three RBIs, while Carli Baltus and West also blasted home runs. Johnson, Hechimovich and Natalie Coffey each added two hits in the game, while West, Coffey and Johnson also drove in three runs apiece.

Neenah belted six doubles and four home runs among their 16 hits.

Guerrero blanks Hilbert in Zephyrs' win

St. Mary Catholic pitcher Gabby Guerrero struck out eight and allowed just five hits to lead the Zephyrs to a 9-0 win over Hilbert on Tuesday.

St. Mary Catholic improved to 3-0 in the Big East North with the win.

Breanna Neubert finished 3-for-4 with

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 11



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Rockets ready to ride revamped lineup to more success

Neenah News

The bulk of last year's Neenah varsity tennis roster will return for another season, however, the Rockets will have to fill some holes in the top flights as they look to continue the strong tradition.

Neenah has won the Fox Valley Association boys tennis title every season since 2000 – the Rockets shared the crown twice in that span – and 39 of the last 40 titles and certainly have the potential to extend that streak.

Four players from last year's run to the state semifinals will be back, with all four also having advanced to the individual state tennis tournament.

Junior Hunter Brown played at No. 2 singles last year and won a match at the individual state tournament and is likely to take over the No. 1 singles flight.

Senior Brady Lawatsch was a part of the Rockets' No. 1 doubles team last year, while junior Henry Farrell and Luke Grassl formed the No. 2 pairing. At the invitational, last weekend, Lawatsch and Grassl had teamed up at the No. 1 doubles pairing while Farrell moved into the No. 2 singles slot behind Brown.

However the lineup plays out, the Rockets will have experience and talent in the upper flights which should help them contend again in the FVA and be a player when the postseason rolls around.

"As long as we meet the goal of getting a little better each day, our season and the results will take care of themselves," commented head coach Kyle Falk. "We are looking forward to a challenging and rewarding season. We know there will be ups and downs but every experience will make us more confident on the court."

Falk will have a number of newcomers vying for the rest of the spots in the lineup.

Senior Tim Zhao and junior Max Gerken formed the Rockets' No. 2 doubles pairing last weekend, while sophomores Eric Hein, Joe Buttron and freshmen Mercer Moss, Nick Zenzick and Ryan Stamm are also likely to be in the mix for varsity roles

"I'm very excited to be working with a great group of guys. Their energy and good nature is top-notch," commented Falk. "(The keys for us will be) having fun with teammates and purposeful practice and execution."

St. Mary Catholic

The Zephyrs finished a close second at their WIAA Division 2 sectional meet last year and will return some key components from that squad as they look forward to another successful run.

Seniors Nicholas Miller and Zach Beyer played at the No. 2 and No. 3 singles flights, respectively, last year and could be a factor at the top of the Zephyrs' single lineup this season.

Miller and Beyer both advanced to the sectional tournament a year ago, with each player finishing in third place at their respective flights.

The team also returns members from all three of its doubles pairings from a year ago in juniors Aiden Tines, Sean Osland and Dominic Todd. Both Tines, who played at the No. 1 flight and Osland, who played at No. 2 doubles, advanced to the individual state tournament a year ago.

First-year head coaches Terry Parker and Mark Blumreiter will look to round out the Zephyrs lineup this year with varsity newcomers in Jameson Tines, Colin Osland, Fritz Staner, Brandon DeBraal and David Foord.

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 9

two RBIs, while Emmi Weiss and Scarlett Reichenbacher each chipped in two hits. Weiss smacked a three-run double as part of a five-run sixth inning to break the game open

The Zephyrs did not commit any errors and turned two double plays in the win.

St. Mary Catholic opened up conference play last week by sweeping a doubleheader against Manitowoc Lutheran, winning the first game 8-7, before taking the second, 11-1.

The Zephyrs scored in every inning but the fifth in the opener and finished with 12 hits in the game. Sammi Weiss was 3-for-3 with three RBIs, while Illa Moder finished 3-for-4 and drove in a pair of runs.

Guerrero struck out eight to earn the win in the circle.

The Zephyrs used a pair of four-run innings to key the win in the nightcap and got a big game from Paxtyn Trinkner in the win. Trinkner went 3-for-3 with a double, home run and three RBIs, while also allowing just one run in six innings with two strikeouts to get the win.

Breanna Neubert added a pair of hits, while Reichenbacher drove in two runs in the game.

The Zephyrs did suffer a 14-8 nonconference loss to Appleton East on Monday. Neubert finished 3-for-3, while Sammi Weiss and Reichenbacher each had two hits in the game for the Zephyrs.

BASEBALL

Weinholzer hurls gem in win over Patriots

Gus Weinholzer tossed a three-hitter, allowing only an unearned run, to lead Neenah to a 6-1 win over Appleton East in a Fox Valley Association contest on Tues-

day.

Weinholzer struck out nine and walked only one in the 93-pitch complete game. The Patriots scored their run in the third inning.

Neenah took the lead with a pair of runs in the second inning and then tacked on two more runs in both the fifth and sixth frames for its total.

Henry St. Clair and John Weiland each had two hits in the game, while Weiland also drove in a pair of runs.

The Rockets were coming off a dramatic 6-5 win over Slinger on Saturday, scoring a run in the sixth and two in the seventh to complete the comeback.

Mack Krause finished 3-for-4 while Ethan Hellingreen added a pair of hits.

Connor Amsler got the win on the mound for the Rockets with three innings of hitless relief. He struck out four and did not walk a batter.

Neenah dropped a 10-8 decision to Oshkosh West on Monday as six Rocket errors led to six unearned runs in the loss.

Hellingreen and Owen Pire each had two hits in the game, while Weinholzer – who hit a home run in the game – finished with three RBIs. Juckem and Hellingreen chipped in two RBIs each.

Zephyrs can't hold off Wolves

Hilbert rallied for eight runs in the top of the seventh against three St. Mary Catholic pitchers to hand the Zephyrs a 9-8 loss in a Big East North game on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs led 7-1 after six innings but couldn't close out the win.

Caleb Vogel and Jacob Ernsting each finished with three hits in the game, while Tarver Trinkner finished with two hits. Ernsting also drove in two runs.

Ethan Plutz allowed three hits and struck out five in 6 1/3 innings but did not figure in the decision for the Zephyrs.

BOYS TRACK

Fox posts pair of wins for Neenah

Owen Fox won two events and placed second in another to highlight the Rockets' showing at a Fox Valley Association quadrangular in Hortonville on Monday.

Fox finished first in the 110-meter hurdles and in the long jump, while adding a second place in the 300-meter hurdles to pace the Rockets.

Neenah's other victory came in the pole vault where Ledger Lewis took first.

Arlo Ferguson in the 400 meters, Drew Sabatke in the 1,600 meters and Daemen Logterman in the triple jump picked up second places with Elijah Kaul in the 100 meters, Connor Schott in the 800 meters, Spencer Schiedermayer in the 300-meter hurdles, Dawson Oberer in the shot put and Oliver Peterka in the long jump were each third.

Neenah also placed second in three of the four relays at the meet.

GIRLS TRACK

Rockets shine as hosts of FVA quad

Neenah swept the top three places in the 200 meters and posted a pair of relay victories in a conference quad at home on Tuesday.

Celia Gentile, Kobi Meyer and Payton Schaefer gave the Rockets the top three finishers, respectively, in the 200 meters to highlight the meet for Neenah. Gentile also picked up a win as the anchor of the 800-yard relay, joining Molly Snider, Brynn Fox and Libby Wise in the four-some.

The Rockets also finished first in the 3,200-meter relay with a quartet of Elsa Gruber, Izzy Malloy, Natalie Schultz and Natalie Willes.

Emma Severson had another impressive performance in winning both the shot put and discus in dominant fashion. Severson bested the second-place finisher by 11 feet in the shot put and finished 43-feet ahead of the field in winning the discus.

Sam Zilm in the 1,600 meters and Aubrey Murwar in the high jump also picked up first places for the Rockets.

Adding second places for Neenah were Fox in the 100 meters, Schaefer in the 400 meters, Zilm in the 800 meters, Malloy in the 3,200 meters and Aubrey Strosahl in the 300-meter hurdles. The Rockets also took second in the 1,600-meter relay.

Snider in the 100 meters, Gruber in the 800 meters, Schultz in the 3,200 meters, Lexi Davis in the shot put and Mirella Taschner in the high jump were each third.

COED TRACK

Davel leads Zephyrs at Big East event

Ellie Davel won two individual events and helped lead a relay win as the St. Mary Catholic girls team finished first among six teams at a Big East Conference meet hosted by Howards Grove last week.

Davel won the 100 meters and 200 meters and joined Cora Epping, Mina Jackson and Moorea Steckling in winning the 400-meter relay.

Steckling also picked up a win in the 300-meter hurdles and took second in the 100-meter hurdles, while Lucy Norville picked up a win in the high jump and had a third-place finish in the 200 meters.

Adding second places for the Zephyrs were Claire Higgins in the 800 meters and Halle Janssen in the high jump. St. Mary Catholic also took second in the 800-meter relay.

The Zephyrs totaled 94 points to win the team title, topping Reedsville by 20 points.

The St. Mary Catholic boys also registered a win at the meet as Brenden Huelsbeck placed first in the 100 meters.

Ethan Auer added a second place in the 800 meters, while St. Mary Catholic took third in both the 400-meter and 800-meter relay.

The high jump was the only field event held at the meet due to wet conditions.

SOCCER

Rockets notch pair of shutout wins

Neenah scored before halftime to seize the momentum and went on to knock off Appleton West, 2-0, on Tuesday night.

Brooklyn Myers scored off an assist from Lawsyn Michalkiewicz in the 34th minute to get the Rockets on the board.

Lilly Romjue added an insurance goal for the Rockets with Mea Jones picking up an assist.

The night before, the Rockets posted a 5-0 win over Hortonville with Lizzy Luenburg leading the way with a pair of goals.

Annabelle Perry, Audrey Wilgreen and Myers also scored in the game for the Rockets.

Jones had a pair of assists in the win, while Maddy Lautenchlager, Perry and Michalkiewicz each finished with one.

Zephyrs drop conference match

Potent Cedar Grove-Belgium proved to have a little too much offense for St. Mary Catholic as the Rockets recorded a 7-0 win over the Zephyrs in a Big East Conference match on Tuesday.

St. Mary Catholic as limited to just one shot on goal in the game.

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Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 8

baseball players.”

With an experienced roster and an influx of a couple of talented young players, Plutz believes the Zephyrs could be on the

verge of a special season.

Two years ago, he was a member of the Zephyrs team that advanced to the Division 3 sectional final and hopes another extended postseason run is in the cards this season.

“I think it can definitely be a special year. The key will be not trying to do too much.

Make the simple plays and we’ll be fine,” Plutz said. “It’s one of the better teams I’ve been on closeness-wise. Even if we were at a bigger school, I think we would go out of our way to make sure to connect as a team.”

Making an extended playoff run would be a great way to cap his high school career, but no matter when it ends – even

at the state tournament – it’s going to be tough when this chapter closes.

“It will definitely be sad. I’ve thought about it a few times and I’m definitely going to cry. It’s going to happen,” Plutz said. “But also just thinking about the last four years building friends through baseball and school, and that it has been great.”




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Let's Go Bananas!

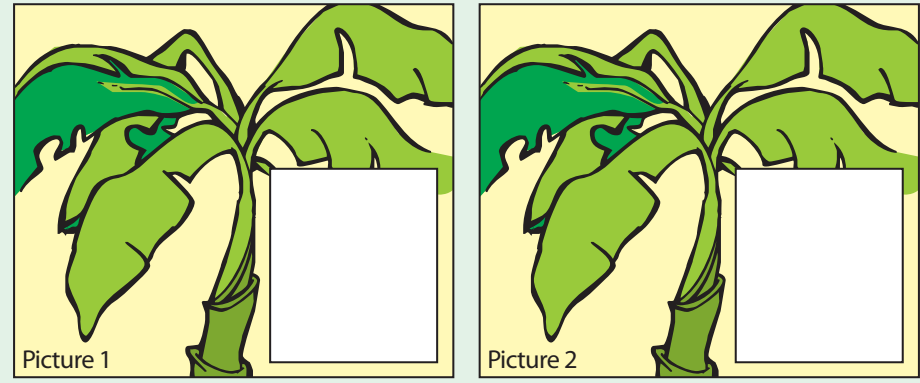


Nutritious and delicious, bananas are one of the best-loved foods on earth by people of all ages. Let's learn more about this tasty treat!

Bananas do not grow on trees!

There is no such thing as a banana tree. Banana plants are actually very tall herbs. There is no woody trunk. The stem is formed from tightly wrapped leaves. New leaves grow out of old leaves. Some banana plants grow amazingly fast. One plant spurts up 20.5 centimeters or about 8 inches every day. If you watch very carefully, you can see this plant grow!

Standards Link: Life Science: Plants have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction.



Which way will the bananas grow?

When a banana plant is ready to fruit, it shoots out a long stalk from which the fruit will grow. Which way do you think the bananas will grow? Draw what you think on Picture 1. Then use the code to find out how bananas grow. Draw this on Picture 2.

A B C E H I L N O P T U W

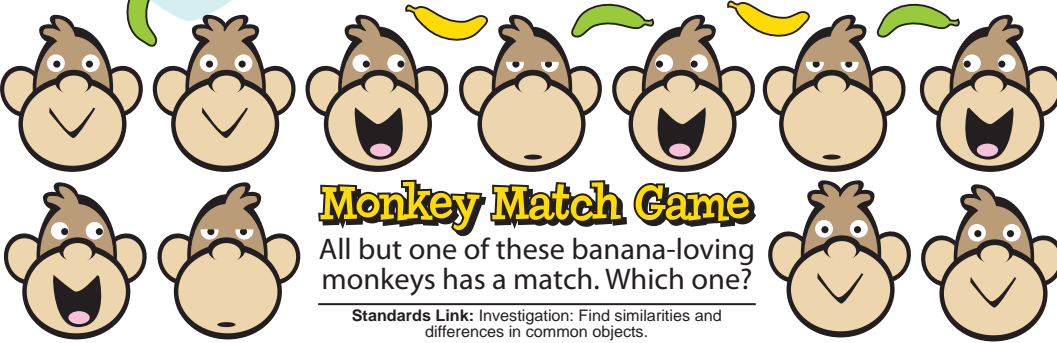
Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

You've Got to Hand It to Bananas

Bananas grow in clusters called hands. There can be 15-30 bananas on each hand. Each banana is called a finger. The word *banan* is Arabic for finger.

Did you know?

Bananas are one of the fruits that contain all the major vitamins: A, B1, B2, B6 and C.



Monkey Match Game

All but one of these banana-loving monkeys has a match. Which one?

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

A 38 - 17 + 6 =

B 156 + 27 + 144 =

C 18 + 18 + 14 =

D 75 + 42 + 33 =

Complete the math problems at left. Then match the answer with each of these banana facts.

It is said that Alexander the Great discovered bananas in his conquest of India in the year **B** B.C.

The average American eats about **A** pounds of bananas every year.

A banana plant produces from **C** to **D** bananas at a time.

How many bananas can you find on this page?

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Compute sums and differences.

Extra! Extra!

Banana Scavenger Hunt

Peel back the pages of this newspaper to find:

- 4 adjectives that describe a banana
- 5 verbs that tell what you can do with a banana
- a number with as many digits as there are letters in the word "banana"

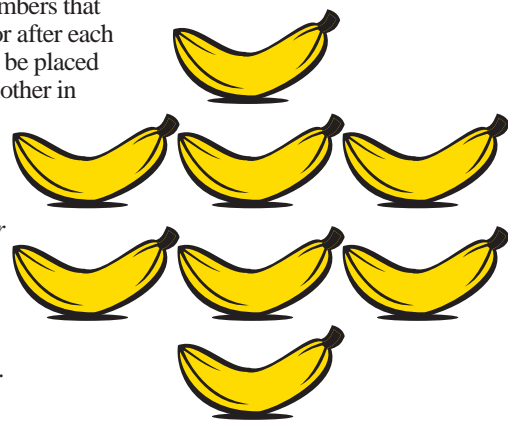
Standards Link: Grammar: Identify adjectives and verbs in writing; Math/Number Sense: identify numbers to 100,000.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Baffling Bananas

Number the bananas 1 to 8. But wait! Numbers that come before or after each other may not be placed next to one another in any direction.

Hint: Cut out eight slips of paper, number them 1 to 8, and try arranging the numbers different ways.



Standards Link: Math Reasoning: Solve problems using a variety of strategies.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

BANANAS
 CLUSTERS
 TREAT
 MONKEY
 WAIT
 HERB
 VITAMINS
 ALEXANDER
 TRUNK
 FINGER
 PEEL
 ARABIC
 HUNT
 FRUIT
 ROW

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

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Write On!



Favorite Way to Eat a Banana

Chocolate covered? Sliced on a peanut butter sandwich? Or, just plain? Describe with at least five details.