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## Council delays vote on e-bike ordinance

By MaryBeth Matzek  
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council delayed a decision on an ordinance governing the use of electric bikes and scooters at its May 20 meeting.

The ordinance would prohibit electric bikes and scooters on any public sidewalks in any city-owned parking ramp or any roadway, trail, path or property where a sign is erected indicating that bikes, electric bikes or electric scooters are prohibited or otherwise restricted. Electric bikes

and scooters would also not be allowed on Main Street and West Wisconsin Avenue between West Doty Avenue and Commercial Street. There, they need to be walked.

The fine violation would be \$50 for first offense and \$100 for second offense.

After hearing from several devoted e-bike users, City Attorney David Rashid said he would review the ordinance's language and the council voted unanimously to postpone a decision on the ordinance to its next meeting, which is June 3.

E-bike owners like Sarah Moss said the

city should be targeting e-motor cycles, which can be purchased online and look like bikes but run like a motorcycle and get up to speeds above 30 miles per hour.

"I understand the goal of addressing bad behavior, but this ordinance is going after the wrong people," Moss said.

She said the ordinance's prohibition of pulling a trailer, whether it's carrying a child, pet or groceries, was not well thought-out.

SEE **E-bike ordinance** ON PAGE 4

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**Set for business**  
Theisen's ready to fully open doors  
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Photo from Neenah Bands

### Memorial Day ceremonies

The Neenah High School Marching Band performed for the community Monday in the annual Neenah-Menasha Memorial Day procession followed by ceremonies in Oak Hill Cemetery. The event started with a waterfront tribute on Mill Street in Menasha. The ceremony in Oak Hill Cemetery included speakers and music along with rifle salute and taps.

## Neenah sues DNR over Arrowhead Park upgrades

By MaryBeth Matzek  
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah is suing the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources after the regulatory agency rejected several parts of the city's plan for Arrowhead Park.

The DNR denied the city's plans to install utilities, such as electric, gas, water, sewer and stormwater, on the site, which is a capped landfill that contains PCBs. The DNR is responsible for approving any excavation or construction at the landfill.

The DNR provided conditional approval to the construction of five open air shelters, sidewalks, pathways, parking lots and limited electric utilities that the city is planning for the 30-acre park.

"The City of Neenah filed this lawsuit to protect the city's rights to install public improvements to Arrowhead Park, consistent with the 2024 master plan that received enthusiastic public support," the city said in a statement. "The city believes the DNR's approval decision was inconsistent with past practice and state law because it approved improvements in some areas of the park while not approving the same and similar improvements in other locations."

By not allowing utilities on the site, the city said it could not move forward with a welcome center, which could include a restaurant, a museum, concessions and bathrooms; a community building; a prairie workshop; an amphitheater; a colon-

nade; a pedestrian overpass to downtown; and sculptures with fountains.

Neenah pointed out the DNR is allowing some electric utilities on the site, which it found "arbitrary or capricious," the lawsuit said, adding the utilities that were not approved have the same design components of the ones that were approved.

Neenah said the utilities were designed to keep any soil disturbance well above the paper sludge containing the PCBs in the landfill.

"The DNR failed to specify any reasonable basis how the unapproved facilities would interfere with the closed landfill in a manner that causes a significant threat to public health, safety or welfare," the law-

suit said.

The lawsuit was filed May 13 in Winnebago County and seeks a judicial review to modify or reverse the DNR's decision. The DNR has 45 days to respond to the lawsuit.

The city is also seeking a declaratory judgment on whether the park is subject to the public trust doctrine, which requires that navigable waters be held in trust by the state for the public's benefit.

Since the land was deeded to the city in 1951 from the state, Neenah said the public trust doctrine should not apply and the DNR is exceeding its authority by linking the doctrine to the park's development.

The DNR said it could not comment on pending litigation.



**Christine A. Rondeau, CFP®**  
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### Corrections

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

### About the newspaper

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



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

## Garden Archway 1943

Minnie Schuelke and Tillie Gilbertson stand in a garden archway in 1943. From the Aaron Dix family photograph collection.

## EARLY JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Please be advised the Neenah News will have **early deadlines** for the **June 19th issue**:

Space and copy deadline: **Friday, June 12, 2026 NOON**  
 Materials complete deadline: **Monday, June 15, 2026 3PM**  
 This is for classified and display advertising.  
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**AUGUST 20**



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# History event features family activities

Neenah News

The Neenah Historical Society will host an afternoon of free family activities at the Octagon House.

Activities will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at the Octagon House, 343 Smith St. The open house style event will allow visitors to explore the grounds, exhibit and collection at their leisure.

In addition to the "Growing Up Neenah: An All-American Childhood" exhibit, there will be opportunities for hands on exploration of historic objects and games.

The Octagon House is located within walking distance from Downtown Neenah, Arrowhead Park, Loop the Lake Trail and The Plaza.

# Calendar of events

## Saturday, May 30

Art Mercantile, 11 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

## Sunday, May 31

Family Day, 11 a.m., Octagon House  
 Sunday Concert: Walt Hamburger, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library  
 Neenah Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

## Tuesday, June 2

Neenah Community Band Concert: Neenah Ambassadors Big Band, 7 p.m., Riverside Park

## Wednesday, June 3

Lunchtime Organ Recital Series featuring Rowen Erickson, 12:15 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 200 N. Commercial St.

## Friday, June 5

Listen to the Loop Music Festival, 4:30 p.m., Arrowhead Park  
 Listen to the Loop Music Festival, 5:30 p.m., Fritse Park

## Saturday, June 6

Book Launch for Jill D. Swenson, Author of "The Land of Everlasting Sky: A Memoir of Loss and Legacy on Lake of the Woods," 2 p.m., Lyons Books, 127 Wisconsin Ave.  
 Remarkable Style, 4 p.m., Miron Construction, 1471 McMahon Drive

## Tuesday, June 9

Nutman Sale, 10 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah  
 Neenah Community Band Concert, 7 p.m., Riverside Park

## Wednesday, June 10

Nutman Sale, 9:30 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah  
 Summer Kickoff Concert featuring The Glam Band, 6 p.m., Downtown Neenah

## Saturday, June 13

Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park  
 Doty Island Rummage Sales, 8 a.m., Doty Island  
 Learn to Sail, 10 a.m., Riverside Park  
 Fox Cities Repair Cafe, 11:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

## Sunday, June 14

Neenah Summer Fun Run, 6 p.m., Memorial Park

# Theisen's ready to fully open its doors to Neenah

By MaryBeth Matzek  
NEENAH NEWS

Excitement has been building for the opening of Theisen's at 999 Winneconne Ave.

Since the garden center opened earlier this month and work has increased inside and outside the store, manager Sam Frosch said people regularly come to the front doors to ask when the store will open.

"People are really looking forward to it," he said of the store's opening, which is expected to take place today.

Family-owned and based out of Dubuque, Iowa, Theisen's has 25 other stores, including one in Ripon, which opened last year. The chain was founded in 1927 as a tire store and expanded into other departments and added locations under second generation owner Jim Theisen. Tony Theisen, who represents the third generation of the family, currently serves as president and CEO.

At 40,000 square feet, Theisen's is in the same building as Krueger's True Value, which closed last year after 159 years in business. The store will continue Krueger's tradition of giving out free popcorn to its customers.

Theisen's carries a variety of products, including its focus on home, farm and auto along with hardware, pets, apparel, shoes, sporting goods, camping, hunting and fishing.

"We carry a lot of products with brand

names people will recognize and for pets, we carry a lot of specialty brands," said Frosch, adding that pets are welcome in the store.

Steve Jensen, the chain's chief merchandising and marketing officer, said the store will be open to feedback about certain products to carry if shoppers express a demand for something.

The new store has 50 employees. "Theisen's is big on customer service. We hired a lot of employees so there's a real focus on hometown customer service," Frosch said. "The person who helped you last week in pet supplies, you'll see again this week when you come in."

On the Saturday before Mother's Day, Theisen's held a potting event for children where they received a pot with two flowers. Frosch said 234 children attended.

"For us, with just our garden center open, that was an amazing turnout," he said.

Location played a prime role for Theisen's when it selected Neenah for its next store, Jensen said.

"It's an easy store to get to and there's nothing like it in the community," he said. "We carry a lot of different products that are priced-right and that people are looking for."

Jensen said Theisen's is looking forward to getting to know the community and giving back.

"That's something we do wherever we have a store," he said.

Regular store hours will be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.



Theisen



Submitted photo

Theisen's will be opening a store today in the same building at 999 Winneconne Ave. that previously was Krueger's True Value.

Neenah News | WMG Winnebago Media Group

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# Council considering two petitions on subdivision's poor roads

By MaryBeth Matzek  
NEENAH NEWS

Unpaved roads in the Freedom Meadows and Freedom Acres subdivisions continue to vex the Neenah Common Council.

The council held a special Committee of the Whole meeting on May 20 to address two petitions brought by homeowners related to the poor conditions of their roads but pushed a decision to the June 3 council meeting.

The new subdivision near Woodenshoe Road and County G has been plagued by dusty and muddy roads. Residents have regularly appeared at council meetings for months to discuss their poor road conditions and asked the city to remedy the situation. The subdivision has 248 lots.

One petition asks the city to put in a temporary road improvement of a two-

inch asphalt mat no later than spring 2027 while the second petition asks the city to revise its road plan for 2028 to include putting in the subdivision's final roads.

The developer, Van Sistine Homes, is supposed to handle road upkeep until the city installs the final roads, but residents said not enough was being done. Neenah Public Works Director Gerry Kaiser said the city has taken over monitoring the road conditions and is taking steps to make them better.

"We've made repairs to the reclaimed asphalt and potholes and placed do not dump dirt signs on the road to discourage landscapers from doing that and we've put down a special spray to help with dust control," he said. "We're taking care of the road maintenance."

Andrew Leonard, who filed one of the petitions, said he has noticed some improvements.

"We're grateful for that," he said, adding he hopes a permanent solution is decided soon.

The petition seeking the temporary road asks the city to assume 50% of the cost associated with its installation and eventual removal as a demonstration of "good faith." Homeowners would be assessed to pay the other 50%. For the petition asking for complete roads in 2028, that project would be paid by homeowners through special assessment.

Kaiser said the city is also looking for reclaimed asphalt to put down until the two-inch mat or final roads are installed. Subdivision resident Lynsey Gonzales asked that if reclaimed asphalt is used that it be rolled every six months to keep it in good condition.

"It would really help us deal with the roads we've been dealt," she said. Kaiser said rolling the reclaimed asphalt every six months would not be a problem.

Alderman William Pollnow expressed concern that if the city adds the subdivi-

sion's final road project to its 2028 project list, it will lead to delaying other projects waiting to be completed.

"Putting down a two-inch mat gives you time to figure out when to fit in these final roads in the schedule," he said.

Kaiser pointed out the five-year road construction plan is always in flux and "projects are going to be moved whenever we do the final streets."

Alderman Brian Defferding said people "might be spiteful if they found out their roads are delayed because these roads are being fixed. We think it's a solution, but it creates another problem."

Alderman Mark Ellis said making an exemption to the city's guidelines regarding road projects in new subdivisions "will put us in the place where we no longer have an ordinance but a guideline. The political answer to this is not necessarily the right answer."

City Attorney David Rashid said the council did not have on its agenda that it was going to make a decision at the meeting so a vote could not be taken, pushing the item to the June 3 meeting.

## Credit union receives recognition from Chamber

Neenah News

Covantage Credit Union has been named a Pulse Champion of Young Professionals (YPs) by the Fox Cities Chamber. The Champion of Young Professionals designation recognizes employers who pledge to provide support and a positive work environment for YPs within their company.

With over 450 employees with local locations in Appleton, Menasha and Neenah, CoVantage offers a full range of consumer and business financial services while remaining committed to its "people-not-profit" philosophy.

Through programs like Pulse, area YPs can network and make lifelong connections that will benefit them throughout their careers. Any Fox Cities company can apply to be classified as a Pulse Champion

of Young Professionals and pledge to provide support and a positive work environment for YPs within their company.

"Without our area young professionals and those that support them, the ability for the Fox Cities to grow and thrive would be limited," said Michaela Michalski, Fox Cities Chamber Member Relations Manager. "Pulse and the Fox Cities Chamber are excited to shine a light on area businesses that generate a supportive and positive work environment for our YPs. CoVantage Credit Union is a company that leads by example and invests in their YPs to grow not only their teammates, but their business."

To learn more about Pulse Young Professionals and the Champion of Young Professionals Program, visit foxcitieschamber.com/pulse-young-professional-network.

## E-bike ordinance

FROM PAGE 1

"What about parents who want to take their child on a bike ride?" Moss said. "I like to take my dog for a ride and use my e-bike to get groceries. Why would you take away another form of transportation for families, especially now when gas prices are so high?"

Fox Cities Greenways President Dennis Kittel expressed disappointment that his organization, which helps develop trails in the Fox Cities, was not involved in the discussion as the ordinance was put together since it possibly involves the usage of e-bikes on trails. He suggested the ordinance be revised to focus more on e-motor cycles.

"The e-motor cycles are the ones causing the problem, but the e-bikes are the ones being punished," Kittel said.

E-motor cycles are considered motor vehicles and are covered by those rules.

Alderman Mark Ellis said the city began discussing an ordinance about e-bikes and

scooters to improve residents' safety.

"We need to come up with something," he said. "I'm sure it will not appease everyone, but it can be tweaked."

Alderman Brian Defferding, who sits on the Public Services and Safety Committee, said he voted no on the ordinance when it first came to the committee since he felt it did not get enough input from the people affected by it.

"We need to have a further discussion about this," he said.

Police Chief Aaron Olson said the ordinance was written thoughtfully and done with Menasha and Fox Crossing, so all three communities have the same rules.

"We're only going to stop people who are egregiously breaking the rules," he said. "We wrote this ordinance to the best of our ability. Let's accept this and then make tweaks or changes."

Rashid said the City of Menasha did not act on their similar ordinance and is planning to make several changes. He plans to speak again with Menasha officials to see if they can align the new ordinances.



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- \$12 Fish Fry
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# GOEDC to manage housing loan fund

By MaryBeth Matzek  
NEENAH NEWS

The Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation (GOEDC) will develop and implement Winnebago County's Housing Revolving Loan Fund.

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved GOEDC's selection at its May 19 meeting. A small county-led committee selected GOEDC over Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development in the competitive proposal process. County Executive Gordon Hintz did not participate in the selection process since he sits on GOEDC's board of directors.



Schellenger

In December, the board approved the creation of the revolving loan fund to accelerate housing development throughout the county using low-interest gap financing and public-private partnerships. The \$4.5 million fund combines \$3.5 million from the Spirit Fund and \$1 million from the Industrial Development Board.

Koby Schellenger, assistant to the county executive, said GOEDC's expe-

rience with the county's nonprofits, municipalities and businesses was a plus for them in the selection process. GOEDC's proposal has lower overall administrative costs and significantly lower fees charged to developers, which means those lower costs will be passed on to the homeowners or renters.

Supervisor George Bureau questioned if GOEDC will be too focused on projects in Oshkosh.

"It's got Greater Oshkosh in its name — how are we going to explain that to constituents?" he said.

GOEDC has relationships with municipalities throughout the counties and attends local meetings at least once per year to provide an update on what the organization is working on, Schellenger said.

Once GOEDC finds a project that would be a good fit for a loan, an advisory board will make the final decision.

The next step in the process is for GOEDC and the county to work on a contract. Once the contract is in place, the organization can set up the fund's rules and begin looking for projects to invest in.

The county board will receive an annual review and evaluation of the fund's efforts.



Photo from Neenah Joint School District

## Young roadrunners

Spring Road Elementary School students lived up to their "Roadrunners" nickname last week with their annual Fun Run as students circled the school playground and the surrounding neighborhood. Many of the students and family members are part of the school's running club that has annually won the medium school division for participation in the Fox Cities Marathon weekend events in September.

## Students receive scholarships from county

Neenah News

Two Neenah High School students were selected as recipients of Winnebago County scholarships.

Brenna Pickett and Olivia Hanneman were among nine area high school students recognized May 19 during board of supervisors meeting.

All the recipients will receive a Certificate of Scholarship and a check for \$1,050.

They will receive a second check for \$1,050 after receipt of their transcript from the first semester of continuing education showing grade point average of 2.5 or higher, for a total of \$2,100.

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- Friday, June 12 | 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, June 17 | 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 22 | 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, June 25 | 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 30 | 1:00 p.m.

#### NEENAH:

DoubleTree by Hilton Neenah  
123 E. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, WI

- Thursday, June 18 | 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, June 18 | 2:00 p.m.



Rendering of Evergreen Fox Crossing front entrance



Scan the code to learn more and RSVP for an upcoming information session. You may also visit [EvergreenFoxCrossing.com](http://EvergreenFoxCrossing.com) or call 920-450-2524.





Photo from St. Mary Catholic Schools

## Graduation tradition

St. Mary Catholic High School seniors last week continued the annual tradition of visiting their educational origins in the St. Mary Catholic Schools System. Seniors loaded a bus early and visited St. Mary Elementary, St. Margaret Mary Elementary, St. Gabriel Elementary and the SMCS Middle School. The younger Zephyrs lined up at each stop to congratulate this year's graduating class of 2026.

## New season of summer fun runs about to start

Neenah News

The first run of the 31st annual Neenah Summer Fun Run series will start Sunday with additional runs on June 14, June 28 and July 12.

Organizer Lee Hillstrom said runs will continue to have registration starting at 6

p.m., although families can register online at [neenahfunrun.com](http://neenahfunrun.com). The first of six runs will start at 7 p.m., Hillstrom said.

Runs are for girls and boys of age groups 6 and under, 6 to 9 and 10 to 14. All runners 6 and under receive a blue ribbon with all other age groups receiving place

ribbons.

If runners do two fun runs, Hillstrom said they receive a fun run T-shirt and for doing all four they receive a custom medal.

Runners are also rewarded with a slice of pizza, a Great Harvest Bread Co. cookie and a Dairy Queen treat.

"Last year we averaged over 640 runners for the events and had a record number running all of them," Hillstrom said. "These are non-competitive events with room for all skill levels. Parents are encouraged to run with the younger children."

Hillstrom said all of this is provided with no registration fee thanks to the many sponsors and over 25 volunteers showing up each Sunday evening to make things run smoothly.

Runs take place on the Tom Jensen Field at Neenah's Memorial Park. Enter off of Apple Blossom Drive.



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## Neenah set to enjoy America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Neenah News

The Neenah Parks and Recreation Department is encouraging community members to get involved in activities to celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The "We the People" community decorating initiative is part of a collaboration between the Parks and Rec Department and Future Neenah. Neenah residents are invited to decorate their homes with a "We the People" theme from June 27 to July 12.

A "People's Vote" will be held June 27-28 during which time community members will have the opportunity to vote for homes they believe best exemplify three categories: the Community Spirit Award, the We the People Award, and the Neighbors' Choice Award.

Voting will be accessible through a link on the Neenah-Menasha CommunityFest Facebook page.

Future Neenah will be encouraging downtown businesses to join the celebration with patriotic displays from June 26 to July 12, adding red, white and blue decorations to the area.

The pedestrian alley next to the Future Neenah office on 135 W. Wisconsin Ave. will feature hand-crafted patriotic decorations created by students from the Neenah Joint School District. These decorations will include items like bomb pops, stars and firecrackers.

The fun continues with the "All American Fireworks N Scavenger Hunt," running from June 26 to July 12. Participants will search for 10 fireworks-themed N symbols throughout the downtown district.

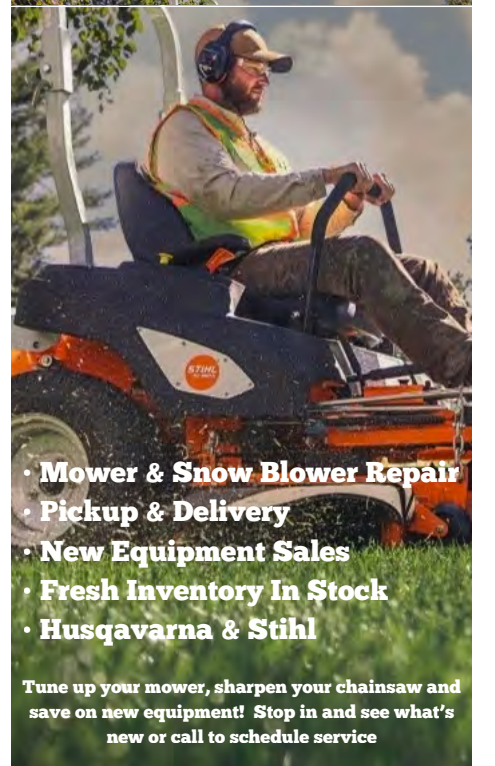
Those who find them all will have a chance to win prizes such as Brewers tickets or cookie six-packs from Great Harvest. Scavenger hunt forms and clues can be printed from [neenah.org](http://neenah.org) or picked up at the Future Neenah office, with completed forms due by 9 a.m. on July 13.

In addition to the home decorations, limited-edition CommunityFest apparel is available for pre-order until June 12. Only T-shirts will be available for purchase during the event, so pre-orders are highly recommended.

For a list of all other activities and entertainment, visit [nmcommunityfest.org](http://nmcommunityfest.org).

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# Public library calendar

**June 1**  
 Leap into Writing 9 a.m.  
 Stitching Group 1 p.m.  
 Mah Jongg for Experienced Players 5:30 p.m.

**June 2**  
 Powered by Yarn 6:30 p.m.

**June 4**  
 Open Chess 5:30 p.m.  
 Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

**June 8**  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.  
 Mah Jongg Meet-up (new players welcome) 5:30 p.m.  
 Short Story Night at Lion's Tale 7 p.m.

**June 9**  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.  
 Legal Assistance Clinic 4:30 p.m.

**June 10**  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.

**June 11**  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.  
 Open Chess 5:30 p.m.  
 Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

**June 12**  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.

**June 13**  
 Repair Cafe Fox Valley 11:30 a.m.

**June 15**  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.  
 Memory Cafe: Fishing 1:30 p.m.  
 Mah Jongg Meet-up (new players welcome) 5:30 p.m.  
 Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club 6:30 p.m.

**June 16**  
 Toddler Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.  
 Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-5) 10 a.m.  
 Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.  
 Family Program: Summer Library Program Kick-Off 1:30 p.m.  
 Family Program: Summer Library Program Kick-Off 6 p.m.  
 Cookbook Book Club 6:30 p.m.

**June 17**  
 Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.  
 Musical Movers Storytime (ages 2-6) 10 a.m.  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.

**June 18**  
 Wee Read Storytime w/ ASL Interpretation (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.  
 Open Chess 5:30 p.m.  
 Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

**June 19**  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.

**June 22**  
 Monday Morning Book Klatch 10 a.m.  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.  
 Mah Jongg Meet-up 5:30 p.m.

**June 23**  
 Toddler Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.  
 Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-5) 10 a.m.  
 Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.  
 Family Program: Monochrome Tie Dye 1:30 p.m.

**June 24**  
 Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.  
 Musical Movers Storytime (ages 2-6) 10 a.m.  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.

**June 25**  
 Wee Read Storytime with ASL Interpretation (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.  
 Tween Create Lab: Pom-pom Pals (ages 9 plus) 1:30 p.m.  
 Open Chess 5:30 p.m.  
 Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.

**June 26**  
 Sunrise Yoga with Sarah Broda 6:30 a.m.  
 Free Summer Lunches (1-18 years old) 11:30 a.m.

**June 30**  
 Toddler Time Storytime (ages 12-24

months) 9:15 a.m.  
 Adaptive Storytime (ages 0-5) 10 a.m.  
 Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.

Family Program: Taking Flight with EAA 1:30 p.m.  
 Movie Talks: Defending Your Life 6:30 p.m.

## Local musician featured at library concert

Neenah News

Local guitarist and singer-songwriter Walt Hamburger will bring an afternoon of original music to the library stage.

An accomplished performer, Hamburger delivers songs that range from heartfelt ballads to driving rock 'n' roll, all marked by the wit and high-energy presence he honed in the punk rock scene.

A longtime staple of the local music community, Hamburger first gained international recognition after signing

with One Week Records and Barely Standing Records in 2014. His second full album, *...And Louie*, released on June 20, 2025.

With engaging storytelling, dynamic musicianship and a powerful stage presence, Hamburger creates a live show that keeps audiences connected from the first chord to the last.

The hour-long concert will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Shattuck Community Room at the Neenah Public Library.



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# New entertainment event links three communities

Neenah News

A new live music event June 5 will feature concerts in three area communities along the Loop the Lake Trail on the same evening.

Listen to the Loop is a partnership between Neenah Parks and Recreation, Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation and Menasha Parks and Recreation.

Along with entertainment, each location will feature cold beverages and food.

Strategic will play from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Arrowhead Park in Neenah with craft soda by Stone Arch Brewpub and food by American Pie Pizza and Shave Ice along with Neenah Lions and Rotary

Club of Neenah. Arrowhead Park will feature non-alcoholic drinks only.

Levi Ballenger will perform from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Fritse Park in Fox Crossing with craft beer by Stone Arch Brewpub and food by Grazing A Go Go and Caribbean Taste.

Bearded Brothers will be on stage from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Shepard Park in Menasha with craft beer by Emprize Brew Mill and food by Big Axe Chops.

With music kickoff at staggered times, attendees are encouraged to stroll, explore and enjoy a full evening of entertainment by experiencing all three locations.

## Community band concerts start next week

Neenah News

The Neenah Community Band Summer Concert Series starts next week with a performance in Riverside Park.

The Neenah Ambassadors Big Band concert will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Neenah Community Band concerts will follow at 7 p.m. June 9 and June 23. The Community Band will perform at 7:45 p.m. July 4 during CommunityFest.

The band will then have performances at 7 p.m. July 14, July 28 and Aug. 4. The season will start to wrap up with the Happy Wanderers German Band at 7 p.m. Aug. 11 and Neenah Ambassadors Big Band at 7 p.m. Aug. 18.

The band provides an opportunity for adult volunteer musicians to contribute their musical talents by performing a variety of music.

## Concert series features pipe organ music

Neenah News

The Lunchtime Organ Recital Series will feature concerts across the Fox Valley, including in Neenah, as part of its 29<sup>th</sup> season.

The free concerts are sponsored by the Northeastern Wisconsin Chapter of the

American Guild of Organists.

Rowen Erickson will perform at 12:15 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 200 N. Commercial St.

The concerts are intended to share the sights and sounds of the pipe organ in Northeastern Wisconsin. For more information, visit [newago.org](http://newago.org).



Photo from Neenah Joint School District

## Thoughtful delivery

A group of Neenah High School students created cancer patient port pillows that were recently delivered to the staff at the ThedaCare Regional Cancer Center. For patients undergoing chemotherapy, a medical port is often implanted near the collarbone. Standard car seatbelts can rub against these ports, causing significant discomfort during travel. These small, padded pillows wrap around the seatbelt, acting as a soft barrier that relieves pressure on the treatment site. By the end of the school year, the students' work helped to fill two full boxes with handmade pillows.

## Chamber launches summer intern series

Neenah News

This summer, the Fox Cities Chamber is launching a new program designed to help businesses get more value from their internship programs.

Launch: Summer Intern Series is an eight-week program designed to introduce interns to both workplace culture and the Fox Cities community. Through sessions and networking opportunities, participants will gain insight into professional life while building connections that help them feel at home in the region.

Throughout the program, interns will build practical skills that support both their careers and everyday life. Sessions focus on topics like making the most of an internship experience, understanding workplace expectations, strengthening communication and other professional skills, managing personal finances, and preparing for future job opportunities

through networking and interview practice.

By enrolling interns in the series, employers can enhance the internship experience with structured learning opportunities that build workplace readiness, professional confidence and community connections.

The program complements the hands-on work interns gain at their companies while helping them develop the soft skills, networking abilities and real-world knowledge that set them up for long-term success.

Sessions will be held from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays June 10 through July 29 at various locations.

The cost for the series is \$250 for members/\$350 for non-members. To learn more about the series, or register, visit [members.foxcc.net/chamber-events/Details/2026-launch-summer-intern-series-1528676?sourceTypeId=Website](http://members.foxcc.net/chamber-events/Details/2026-launch-summer-intern-series-1528676?sourceTypeId=Website).

## Construction skills program provides youth training

Neenah News

WRTP | BIG STEP is now recruiting for its Youth Entry Level Construction Skills (YELCS) program for youth ages 16-24 interested in careers in the skilled trades and construction industry.

Training runs June 8 to July 30, from 7:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday at the IUPAT DC7 Local Union Hall, 1985 American Drive in Neenah.

Participants receive hands-on training,

industry exposure, certifications, supportive services and opportunities to connect directly with employers and apprenticeship programs.

Eligible participants can earn up to \$800 in stipends and incentives throughout the program. All participants must attend an orientation.

For questions or the registration link, contact Amy Arndt at [aarndt@wrtp.org](mailto:aarndt@wrtp.org) or 920-961-2232.



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# Neenah man found guilty of homicide, theft from corpse

Neenah News

A Neenah man could spend the rest of his life in state prison after being found guilty of killing Keith Rieskamp in November 2024.

Rodney D. Franklin, 54, was found guilty of first degree homicide and theft from a corpse by a jury last week at the Winnebago County Courthouse.

The trial was set to be five days, but testimony concluded after just three days.

Online court records show the jury needed just 90 minutes to deliberate and determine Franklin's guilt in the case. The verdict was read and Franklin was taken back to the Winnebago County Jail to



Franklin

await his sentence.

Rieskamp, 73, was living in area parks in Neenah when he was found dead Nov. 24, 2024, outside Franklin's apartment building on East Doty Avenue. Assistant district attorney Tracy Paider said the victim was beaten so badly that his face was not recognizable.

At the time, Franklin denied knowing Rieskamp. But when a search warrant was executed at Franklin's apartment, Rieskamp's blood-covered watch and bracelet, and his wallet and identification documents, were found in a kitchen drawer.

Franklin was initially charged with theft from a corpse. That case was dismissed the same day, May 22, 2025, Franklin was charged with homicide.

Franklin will be back in court for a sentencing hearing on July 15.

# Driver arrested for fourth OWI offense

Neenah News

A Neenah man is accused of driving under the influence for a fourth time.

According to the Wisconsin State Patrol, Ezekiel Maurice Williams, 37, was arrested early Monday morning for operating a motor vehicle under the influence, fourth offense, which would be a felony charge.

A news release from the State Patrol said a state trooper was driving through the City of Appleton at approximately 12:04 a.m. Monday and observed a vehicle traveling with several equipment and registration violations near the intersection of

Wisconsin Avenue and Linwood Avenue.

A traffic stop was conducted and when contact was made with the driver, the trooper allegedly observed signs of impairment, as well as open intoxicants inside of the vehicle. Upon further investigation, the driver was placed under arrest for Operating While Impaired (OWI).

An evidentiary blood draw was conducted, and the State Patrol said those results are still pending.

Williams is being held at the Outagamie County Jail pending charges from the Outagamie County District Attorney's Office.

# St. Mary Catholic graduate receives research award

Neenah News

Catherine Genke, a 2023 St. Mary Catholic High School graduate, was awarded the St. Norbert College 2026 Mark Stinski Research Award.

The summer grant allows her to continue her research initiative, "Exploring Interspecies Stem Cell Transplantation in Planarians."

The Mark Stinski Summer Research Award is an endowed fellowship created by virologist Dr. Mark Stinski to fund rising seniors pursuing intensive undergraduate research in the biological and chemi-

cal sciences during the summer.

Stinski, who is a Menasha native, has had several transformational discoveries that led to valuable patents and blockbuster drugs such as Humira, Enbrel and Adalimumab, as well as creating monoclonal antibodies to attack cancers and infectious pathogens.

Genke recently completed her junior year at St. Norbert College. She has a triple major: biology with biomedical concentration, chemistry with biochemical concentration and math. After she graduates St. Norbert College, she plans to attend medical school.



Photo from Fox Crossing Fire Department

# Missing man tribute

Members of the Fox Crossing Fire Department walked in the Neenah-Menasha Memorial Day procession Monday. As part of the ceremonies, a table was set for the Missing Man at Fire Station 40 with the department's Honor Guard.

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# Neenah-Menasha firefighter determined to improve health

ThedaCare

Jason Calkins is a 27-year veteran of Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue. For nearly three decades, he's been part of first responder teams rushing to help others during emergencies.

So, when his routine medical appointment uncovered serious health issues, Calkins realized it was time to treat his own body like an urgent call.

"I have a genuine love of caring for other people and being there in their time of

need," he said. "Then I found myself needing to address my own urgent needs."

It started in August 2025 when Calkins visited Gina Rekers of ThedaCare. She serves the City of Neenah in her role as a nurse practitioner with ThedaCare At Work, a customized workplace health program.

Calkins, 47, had been experiencing ear pain and went to see Rekers. When she took his vitals, a problem quickly emerged.

"We discovered he had dangerously elevated blood pressure, with a systolic

number over 200," she said. "That needed attention."

Calkins, a captain and mechanic with the fire department, said he regularly witnesses the fallout of poorly controlled health conditions in his work. Even so, he said he was initially in denial about his own health. He declined to seek emergency care for his high blood pressure that day but agreed to return for a full physical the following week. That's when he and Rekers uncovered more of his health issues.

## More than high blood pressure

At Calkins' physical, he learned he also had uncontrolled type 2 diabetes. At the same time, his weight had crept up to 460 pounds. Though that weight was spread across a 6-foot-6-inch frame, Calkins still had a body mass index of 52, which put him in the severely obese range. Then and there, he decided to make changes.

"What motivated me to commit to them was seeing the outcomes of patients that we helped through my work and knowing how serious these issues could be," he said. "I knew I had to take better care of myself."

Rekers prescribed medication for Calkins' diabetes. He also wanted to understand and address the root causes of his health problems. He first set his sights on overhauling his diet.

"I always tell everyone: I was good at gaining weight and losing weight. I was never good at maintaining weight," he said. Calkins needed an eating plan he could stick to for the long term.

"I wanted to come up with something that didn't feel like a diet. It felt like a lifestyle change was best," he said. "For me, an ultra-low-carb, non-processed diet seemed like something I could stick to. Now, after doing it for a couple of months, it's probably the best decision I've ever made. It's something I plan to stick to for the rest of my life."

Similar to his eating habits, Calkins said his commitment to exercise had fluctuated over the years. When he searched for what might work for him, it didn't take long to find an answer. It has four legs, an irresistible face, a friendly disposition and an insatiable appetite for walks. His name is Hoss, and he's a Burmese Mountain Dog who helps motivate Calkins.

"One of the biggest changes I decided to make was instead of spending an hour on my phone or watching a TV show, I decided just to walk my dog," Calkins said. "He's the best workout companion you can ask for. He never complains. He's always eager to go. We walk for one TV show an hour a day."

Calkins often enhances his daily walks by wearing a 50-pound rucksack. He's also incorporated weightlifting into his fitness routine.

## Partner in health

As Calkins has made positive changes for his health, he's stayed in close consultation with Rekers, who's only a call or MyThedaCare patient portal message away. She serves as medical expert, sounding board and cheerleader.

"I think Jason's attitude was really ... 'It was my choices that got me into this situation. It's going to be my choices that that get me out of it,'" Rekers said. "He took the initiative and made those lifestyle changes. I was just there for support."

ThedaCare At Work offers a variety of workplace health solutions for employers. The program is designed to make it easier and less expensive for employees to access health care.

"I think having access to convenient



Submitted photo

Jason Calkins changed his diet, incorporated physical fitness into his daily routine and welcomed support from ThedaCare At Work to help him get his health back on track. He also has a special partner in his quest to maintain a healthier lifestyle and improved physical activity – his dog.

care that's really at no direct cost to the patient is why a lot of patients like Jason seek any health care at all," Rekers said. "My patients can come see me in the middle of their workday. They don't have to use their vacation or their PTO to see their health care provider."

For Calkins, it's a formula that works. "Knowing that you have a somebody who is devoted to your care and cares about you as a person helps a lot," he said. "Obviously, you want to do good for yourself and your family and friends, but Gina is a component of that, too."

Calkins turned his health around in less than eight months. He lost about 145 pounds, is no longer taking medications for diabetes and cholesterol and has his blood sugar levels at normal range.

## Tremendous transformation

The results have impressed Rekers. "The change is eye-opening," she said. "He really did it all himself. You can't help but to just be happy and impressed about everything he's done."

Calkins continues to make positive changes for himself and is even influencing his colleagues. He's helped bring healthy cooking, eating and activity habits into his firehouse.

"The hardest part about any change – especially weight loss or health – is just to get started," he said. "Just start today and if tomorrow is not perfect, we'll do it again the day after. That's the biggest part I'd like to really spread the word on."

Calkins will become a grandfather in June. He's awaiting that experience healthy and happy.

His daughter, Claire, is a labor and delivery nurse at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah and a soon-to-be first-time mom. His son, Cole, is following in his dad's footsteps and becoming a firefighter. His wife, Lori, and his kids are still top priorities and now Calkins has learned to add himself to that list of priorities.

"Deciding to prioritize yourself at least a couple hours a day has been probably one of the biggest changes for me," he said. "Usually, it's giving to other people or giving to your kids or your family. And now for an hour or two a day, it's, 'give back to yourself.'"



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# Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight to recognize veterans

## Event to be part of EAA AirVenture Oshkosh

One of the most emotional and poignant moments each year at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh returns in 2026 as 100 Vietnam War vets take a Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., on July 24 as part of AirVenture's annual salute to veterans.

The 73rd annual Experimental Aircraft Association fly-in convention is July 20-26 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh.

Veterans from the Vietnam War will be honored as they travel to the nation's capital to tour war memorials at no cost to them. The veterans will return to Oshkosh at the conclusion of the Friday afternoon air show and thousands of people will welcome them back home and give them recognition.

"The Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight is one of the most memorable events of AirVenture week and our Salute to Veterans activities each year," said Rick Larsen, EAA's vice president of communities and member programming. "This event that honors what Vietnam veterans did for this country and provides them an experience of a lifetime, while giving AirVenture attendees an opportunity to say, 'Thanks and welcome home.'"

This is the 12th year that the Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight has originated at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh under the auspices of Missions of Honor (formerly Old Glory Honor Flight) of Appleton. That non-profit organization has organized dozens of Honor Flights since 2009 with a dedicated group of volunteers. Those flights have included special flights to Pearl Harbor and to Vietnam.

## Appleton airport expands daily flight options

Neenah News

Appleton International Airport (ATW) last week announced expanded service and service from larger planes catering specifically to business travelers.

Airport officials said nonstop flights to Denver, Dallas, Chicago, and Orange County, Calif. will increase the number of routes and offer more seating capacity.

An Allegiant flight from ATW to John Wayne Airport in Orange County marks the 23rd nonstop route featured out of ATW. Allegiant will serve this route with an Airbus A320 plane with 180 seats, providing more access to the west coast. The Los Angeles region is served by six airports; John Wayne airport provides access to the Newport Beach region, golf courses, state and national parks, spas, resorts, Disney, Hollywood and more.

"We like to say you can get anywhere in the world from Appleton and it's due to the significant investment Allegiant has made here," Airport Director Abe Weber said. "Consumer demand for Allegiant's nonstop flights continues to be strong, and the addition of starting nonstop service to Orange County creates a new gateway to the west coast for travelers across Wisconsin."

Additional service changes are: United Airlines will service a year-round, nonstop flight to Denver featuring a larger 126 seat plane configured with more Economy Plus seating. The previous flight featured only 70 seats. This flight will also feature cargo service on the same plane.

Allegiant restarted a seasonal flight to Denver in summer that began May 22.

American Airlines will increase the

"Each Honor Flight mission is a special occasion, but the ability to be a part of EAA AirVenture always creates unforgettable moments," said Diane MacDonald, Missions of Honor executive director. "Honoring our local Vietnam veterans out of EAA AirVenture is such a highlight; being witness to the enthusiasm, respect, and appreciation from the world's aviation enthusiasts when the flight returns to Oshkosh is such an incredible sight to see and it means the world to the men and women who get to experience it."

American Airlines is again supplying an aircraft for the flight, which is flown by an all-volunteer crew of American Airlines pilots and cabin attendants.

Missions of Honor is inviting area veterans who are currently on their waitlist. In addition, other Vietnam veterans who are already attending AirVenture 2026 are invited to apply prior to June 6 for a drawing for one of approximately 15 seats available on the flight.

## Independence One tribute

Southwest Airlines announced it will participate in EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2026 with its high-flying tribute to America's semiquincentennial celebration, Independence One.

This newly launched, freedom-flying Boeing 737 MAX 8 will visit the World's Greatest Aviation Celebration on July 22, showcasing Southwest's support of those who've given us the freedom to fly.

The thousands of aviation enthusiasts who annually visit EAA AirVenture will get to see Independence One up close and personal as it carries Southwest Airlines Employees who have served in the military and those with loved ones who have served, culminating in a total of over 1,300

years of military service onboard.

aviation. Emily Estapa, Managing Director of Network Operations Control ATC Training and Standards at Southwest Airlines and a U.S. Air Force veteran, will be speaking at the WomenVenture forum on July 22.

"When women come together, we're able to support one another and share our journeys," Estapa said. "That collective sense of belonging and visibility doesn't just advance individual careers — it elevates the entire aviation industry."

Southwest is returning as a sponsor of WomenVenture, a conference aimed at inspiring and empowering women in

nonstop Dallas route to two times daily, also catering to business travelers.

ATW now offers 10 daily nonstop flights to Chicago O'Hare, including three daily flights on American Airlines and seven daily flights on United Airlines.

Delta Airlines currently offers three daily nonstop flight(s) to Detroit (DTW), this will increase to 4 daily nonstop flights by June 2026.

Delta Air Lines will increase seat capacity on its nonstop service from Appleton by an average of 20%, including a 10% increase on flights to Atlanta (ATL) and a 30% increase on flights to Detroit (DTW).

Allegiant Airlines offers two weekly nonstop flight(s) to New York/Newark (EWR).

"Larger metro airports are seeing some decreases in air travel due to rising fuel costs, but those trends have not hit Appleton," Weber said. "The increases in service announced are based on long-term customer demand and continued investment in ATW from our airline partners."



EAA photo/Dick Knapinski

Vietnam veterans move down the air ramp on July 25, 2025, after arriving at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh at the conclusion of the annual Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight held during EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. The air ramp was loaned for the event by Appleton International Airport.

years of military service onboard.

"Independence One is a stunning, colorful tribute to our freedom as we celebrate America's 250th anniversary in 2026," Larsen said. "It will undoubtedly be a big attraction and photo op during AirVenture, as EAA again brings together airplanes and people in a single location that is unmatched anywhere else in the world."

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# West's steady play helps drive Rockets to success

By Steve Clark  
NEENAH NEWS

Even the best softball players experience failure on the diamond.

Batters strike out and ground out to the shortstop at a key time. Pitchers give up home runs and will occasionally issue a walk. Fielders are going to be charged with an error or simply not make a play they normally would.

It happens. But what tends to elevate the best players is how they deal with that failure.

That wasn't always a strength for Neenah standout Taytum West.

"I used to be so mad if I walked somebody or be in tears if I struck out. When I was growing up, I was so hard on myself and so negative," West said after a practice earlier this week. "But with pitching and hitting, you fail all of the time and learning that has helped me grow."

That nugget of knowledge is something West has not only taken to heart to when she steps on the diamond now, but it also carries over when the game is over and the non-softball life hits.

"That's definitely translated into my everyday life," West said. "So, like in the classroom, if I get a bad grade, it's like, OK, how can I adapt with that now and get things going my way. Let's not freak out. Let's not break down. Let's not say mean things to yourself. Let's just figure out a solution."

One thing West has been figuring out



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## Senior Standout



over the course of her three varsity seasons for the Rockets is how to make things difficult on her opponents.

West was a first-time all-conference selection in the talent-rich Fox Valley Association last year as a junior and has followed it up with a stellar senior season that is likely to land her even more accolades.

"It was honestly an honor," West said of earning first-team honors. "The teams in this conference are very, very good so there was no other conference I would rather be named first-team in. It felt like all of my hard work had paid off."

Earning that type of honor could cause some players to feel pressure to repeat the performance the following season and try to do too much. Attempting to outplay the limits of a player's skills usually leads to struggles and disappointment.

Although West admitted there was some feeling of pressure to perform this season, earning the first-team nod as a junior also took some of the pressure off.

"I felt more loose this season because I just trusted myself," West said. "If (others) saw what I could do and my leadership and hard work, then honestly I felt no pressure. I just had to go and do my thing and keep rolling with that."

West's senior season hasn't unfolded quite like she expected.

While she figured to see some innings in the pitching circle for the Rockets, she's had to log more than she expected. And it started three games into the season when Neenah faced Hortonville in the conference opener in early April.

"It would have been nice if I would have (been an easier team) first, but when you get Hortonville right away, you realize it's just go-time. There are no easy hitters in the lineup," West said. "You have like a



Neenah News

Neenah senior Taytum West was a first-team all-Fox Valley Association performer as a junior and one of the leaders of this year's squad both at the plate and in the pitching circle.

batter or two to find that rhythm. I went in there and was just going to trust what I got but it definitely took me a little bit to find my change-up location and some of those things."

West did not allow an earned run in that season debut – although the Rockets lost, 2-0 – and has turned in a stellar season in the circle.

"You do what you have to do to help the team," West said. "At first, I was a little like this is not my thing but honestly being there I felt like I was so much in control of the emotions on the field. I was able to settle people down in rough situations and make sure we don't lose our focus. Then I started having a little more success, so I was like OK, I got this."

West, who plays second base for the Rockets, is certainly more used to being at the plate where she again was one of the top hitters in the Rockets' lineup.

But unlike last year when she batted in the lead-off spot much of the season, she was shifted to the No. 4 spot in the lineup. It's a move that West has felt comfortable with from the get-go and it hasn't changed her approach at the plate even if batting clean-up tends to have a different role.

"I would still consider myself a con-

tact hitter. I don't have huge power," said West, who still hits lead-off during the summer for her club team. "In the conference, you kind of know each other so honestly the pitches I get in the lead-off versus the four-hole don't really change because they already know me as a player."

Even though West doesn't proclaim to have a lot of power, she did smash her second home run of the season in the regular-season finale against Fond du Lac last week.

"As soon as I hit it, I was like this is gone," West said with a big smile. "It felt great and it was even more special on Senior Night."

As much as West thrives at the plate now for the Rockets, that hasn't always been the case.

She admits that her formative years in the sport, she had a bit of a different attitude toward hitting.

"I go and watch some of the younger kids now and when I was in 10U, I was out of the batter's box. I did not want to be there," West said. "I pitched all the time then but hitting I was absolutely terrified."

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# Prep sports roundup

## TENNIS

### Rockets roll through sub-sectional meet

Neenah advanced six of the seven flights on to sectionals as they rolled through the competition at the WIAA Division 1 sub-sectional meet at the Fox Cities Racquet Club on Tuesday.

The Rockets lost a total of three games in winning seven singles matches on the day, with each of the four flights posting at least one 6-0, 6-0 win.

Henry Farrell at No. 2 singles won both of his matches without dropping a game, while No. 1 singles player Hunter Brown won his only match of the day by a 6-0, 6-0 margin.

Mercer Moss at No. 3 singles and Nicholas Zenzick at No. 4 singles also advanced with a pair of straight-set wins. Both players won their first-round match by 6-0, 6-0 scores.

In doubles, the No. 1 pairing of Brady Lawatsch and Luke Grassl advanced to sectionals without winning a point, earning a bye in the first round to move on.

The duo will be joined at sectionals by the No. 3 pairing of Charlie Perry and Eric Hein, who earned a first-round bye and then beat Appleton East's Corbin Schwartz and Noah Kauth, 6-4, 6-0 to move on.

At No. 2 doubles, the Rockets' pairing of Max Gerken and Tim Zhao won its first match by a 6-0, 6-0 score but lost in the next round to second-seeded Isaiah Wilson and Jacob Lemke of Oshkosh West in a close 6-4, 6-4 match.

Neenah finished with 20 points in the sub-sectional round to lead Sheboygan North by two points and Oshkosh West by six.

The sectional tournament was slated to be held on Thursday but results of that meet were after the deadline for this edition.

Zach Beyer's lengthy three-set win at No. 2 singles highlighted a solid day for St. Mary Catholic, which qualified two singles flights and two doubles pairings to the WIAA Division 2 sectional meet.

The sectional tournament was slated for Thursday at SportsCore in Kohler.

Zach Beyer highlighted the group of qualifiers by earning a spot at sectionals with a 6-7, 6-2, 12-10 win over second-seeded Gavin Smith of Xavier. Beyer won his first match of the tournament by a 6-1, 6-0 margin over Nikolaos Bofiles of University Lake School.

Jameson Tines also advanced in singles in the No. 3 flight. After earning a first-round bye, Tines topped Sam Vilski of Valley Christian/Lourdes Academy, 7-6, 6-4.

Dominic Todd won his first-round match at No. 4 singles without dropping a game, but lost in the second round to top-seeded Graham Wall of Xavier, 6-3, 6-4.

St. Mary Catholic's No. 1 doubles pair-

ing of Sean Osland and Aiden Tines was the top seed in their flight and earned a bye in the first round to advance and will be joined by the No. 2 doubles team of Colin Osland and Frederic Staner, who had a first-round bye before beating a Valley Christian duo, 6-4, 6-4.

The Zephyrs No. 3 pairing of JP Foord and David Foord won its first-round match and then nearly upset the top-seeded tandem of Gavin Geurts and Ethan Baumler of Xavier. Foord and Foord took the first set 6-2, but Geurts and Baumler came back to take the next two sets 6-3, 10-3 to move on.

## TRACK AND FIELD

### Rockets sweep team titles as regional hosts

Both the Neenah girls and boys squads collected some hardware on Tuesday night, earning WIAA Division 1 regional team titles at Rocket Stadium.

The girls dominated their meet winning by more than 35 points over Oshkosh West and more than 100 points over third-place Fond du Lac. The boys totaled 128 points to finish ahead of Fond du Lac by 6.5 points and Oshkosh West by seven points.

The top four finishers in each event advance to Friday's sectional meet at Beaver Dam.

The Neenah girls won all four relays to key their victory and placed first in four of the six field events.

Brynn Fox, Molly Snider, Kobi Meyer and Celia Gentile teamed up to win both the 400-meter and 800-meter relays, while Snider, Elsa Gruber, Anna Benthein and Payton Schaefer won the 1,600-meter relay for the Rockets. The winning 3,200-meter relay team for Neenah consisted of Izzy Malloy, Gruber, Sam Zilm and Benthein.

Emma Severson and Gentile led the way in the field events for the Rockets.

Severson threw 49-feet, 5-inches to win the shot put title by 11-feet, while she won the discus by more than 33 feet with a throw of 151-feet, 10 inches. Gentile picked up a win in the long jump and finished second in the triple jump for the Rockets.

Mirella Taschner added a first place in the high jump, while other top-four finishers in the field events for Neenah were: Lexi Davis, second in the shot put; Brooklyn Kohlbeck, third in the discus; Aubrey Murwar, third in the high jump; and Resa Goethel, third in the pole vault.

Mallot in the 800 meters and Zilm in the 3,200 meters each collected individual titles, while also advancing to sectionals are: Lizzy LaPlant, second in the 1,600 meters; Payton Schaefer, third in the 400 meters; Olivia Landrath, third in the 800 meters; Natalie Schultz, third in the 3,200 meters; and Aubrey Strosahl, third in the 300-meter hurdles.

Owen Fox had a big day to lead the Neenah boys squad. The sophomore won

the long jump while placing a close second in both the 110-meter and 300-meter hurdles.

Nate Kramp picked up an individual win in the shot put, while the Rocket foursome of Evan McKenna, Gideon Benner, Isaac Rangel and Drew Sabatke took first in the 3,200-meter relay.

Dawson Oberer earned a second place in the discus and took third in the shot to advance in both throwing events for Neenah. Also advancing were: Oliver Steiner, third in the 800 meters; Liam Neubauer, third in the discus; Nyok Ryak, third in the high jump; Arlo Ferguson, fourth in the 400 meters; Ledger Lewis, fourth in the pole vault; and Oliver Peterka, fourth in the long jump.

### Zephyrs earn four first places at regional

St. Mary Catholic's girls team won a pair of relays and two individual events to take second overall at the WIAA Division 3 regional meet hosted by Cedar Grove-Belgium on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs edged Valley Christian by 1.5 points to earn the runner-up spot. Kohler won the sectional title.

Sophomore Ellie Davel was a part of three of the four Zephyr wins on the day. She finished first in the 100-meter hurdles and then ran legs on the St. Mary Catholic's winning 400-meter and 800-meter relay squads.

Autumn Crowe and Luci Nackers also ran on both winning relay teams, with Cora Epping rounding out the 400-meter relay team and Claire Higgins joining the winning 800-meter relay team.

Lucy Norville also added a first place by

winning the high jump.

Marissa Hahn advanced in both throwing events, placing third in the discus and fourth in the shot put, while Higgins also moved on to sectionals by placing fourth in the 400 meters.

The St. Mary Catholic boys, who placed 10<sup>th</sup> among the 13 teams at the regional, had a trio of sectional qualifiers.

Isaiah Hennessy finished second in the shot put, Sean Brennan took third in the discus and Jacob Hall placed fourth in the long jump for the Zephyrs.

The sectional meet will be held Friday in Hilbert.

## GOLF

### Zephyrs collect Division 3 regional title

St. Mary Catholic edged host Marion by one stroke to capture the WIAA Division 3 regional crown at J&B Clover Greens Golf Course on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs won the team title with a score of 330, followed by Marion and Coleman, which finished with a score of 338.

Charlie Whaley led St. Mary Catholic with a score of 79, placing him fifth overall among the individuals.

Brady Deleeuw and Carter Pendergast each carded rounds of 82, while Alex Klinkhammer added a round of 87 to complete the scoring golfers for the Zephyrs.

St. Mary Catholic will head to Bass Lake in Crandon for the sectional meet on Tuesday.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 15

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# Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 12

That changed with one big swing of the bat.

"In 12U I hit my first home run and then I was like, OK, I'm actually kind of good at this," West said.

In addition to pitching, West played the different infield positions so when she joined the varsity team as a sophomore, she landed at first base.

Her spot was more to fill a need in the lineup than accentuate her skills as a

player, however, she handled the position and was able to fit right in with the team.

"When I was younger, and just being a shy, little underclassman the seniors took me right in. It was awesome. It was nerve-racking (to be playing varsity) but I felt like they viewed me as a member of the team," West said. "I want all of the underclassmen now to feel what I got to feel and be a part of something so amazing. I feel like an older sister to all of these girls."

West plans to continue her playing career at Ripon College next fall and she is certainly excited to be a part of the Red

Hawks program.

Yet, it will be different wearing a uniform that doesn't represent Neenah and knows it's going to be tough when she takes that Rocket jersey off for the final time.

## Rocket's Malloy named to WIAA leadership team

Neenah News

Neenah High School sophomore Izzy Malloy has been selected to serve on the WIAA Student-Athlete Leadership Team for two years beginning in the 2026-27 school year.



Malloy

Malloy is a three-sport athlete in cross country, basketball and track and field at Neenah. She has been a key member on the Rockets back-to-back WIAA Division 1 State Cross Country championship teams the past two years and also ran on the Rockets' state-qualifying 3,200-meter relay team as a freshman.

"I was looking at all of my old jerseys and I have had Neenah ones since I was like seven," West said. "I was holding up my jersey and realizing that I will never get another one of these. This is it. I will treasure wearing it as long as I can."

In basketball, she is a two-time letter winner for the Rockets.

Malloy was one of 14 new appointments to the leadership team, which will expand to 30 members for the 2026-27 school year. She was one of 177 applicants statewide for the position.

The Student-Athlete Leadership Team provides a student-athlete voice for the WIAA and helps instill leadership skills by gathering diverse ideas and perspectives from different areas of the state. Their involvement will assist in supporting, educating and advancing the purpose of interscholastic athletics.

The WIAA Student Athlete Leadership Team was approved by the WIAA Board of Control in January of 2024 and began operating with the 2024-25 school year.

## Former Zephyr golfer earns honor at UW-Eau Claire

Neenah News

Former St. Mary Catholic standout Spencer Lynch was named to the NCAA Division III PING All-Region team for Region 6 it was announced recently.

Lynch is a junior at UW-Eau Claire.

Lynch posted a tournament win at the St. John's Spring Invitational in April and had six other top-20 finishes this season,

including a 16<sup>th</sup> place at the WIAC Championships last month.

Lynch finished the season as the 16<sup>th</sup>-ranked golfer in Region 6 and was one of 105 golfers nationally to earn all-region honors across seven Division III regions.

Lynch was a two-time state qualifier for the Zephyrs, earning state medals in both trips. He tied for fifth as a junior and was the Division 3 state runner-up as a senior.

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# Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 13

## Rockets take second at regional meet

Neenah won a three-way battle to take second place at a WIAA Division 1 regional meet at Winagamie Golf Course on Tuesday.

The Rockets finished with a team score of 314, which was two shots better than both Appleton West and Hortonville. Kimberly won the team title with a score of 299.

Cartyr Simonson and Mason Peitersen each finished in the top 10 to lead Neenah. Simonson finished in a tie for fourth place with a 74, while Peitersen tied for sixth place with a 75.

Vinny Scholl was the next lowest Neenah golfer with an 82, while Carson Seitz added an 83.

The Rockets will compete in the sectional meet at Butte des Morts Country Club on Monday.

Last week, Neenah finished fourth at the Fox Valley Association Championships held at Chaska Golf Course.

The Rockets finished with a team score of 317, one shot behind Kaukauna and two ahead of Appleton East,

Seitz led the Rockets with a round of 75, tying for seventh place among the individuals.

Zach Schneider and Peitersen each had rounds of 78, while Simonson finished with an 86 for the Rockets.

### SOFTBALL

## Zephyrs can't overcome early deficit in loss

St. Mary's Springs scored in each of the

first four innings to take a 6-0 lead and held on to beat St. Mary Catholic, 7-1, in a WIAA Division 4 regional semifinal on Tuesday.

The Zephyrs were a third-seed in the regional and had reached the semifinal after earning a bye in the first round. The Ledgers were the sixth seed.

St. Mary Catholic scored its lone run in the bottom of the fourth inning when Breanna Neubert reached second on a Ledger error and then scored on an Ainslie Liddy single.

Liddy finished 2-for-3 for the Zephyrs, who finished with seven hits in the game.

## Rockets rout Cardinals to cap regular season

Kyleigh Mathe allowed just two hits in five innings and Neenah scored seven runs in the third inning to bolster an 11-0 win over Fond du Lac last week in the final game of the regular season.

Neenah, which earned a third seed in the sectional, were slated to face Kaukauna in a WIAA Division 1 regional final on Thursday. Results of the game were not available for this edition.

Mathe struck out only one against the Cardinals, but did not walk a batter and surrendered only two singles in the outing.

Taytum West hit a solo home run and was one of six players to finish with two hits in the game for Neenah.

Libby Jahnke, Natalie Coffey, Mathe, Kayleigh Johnson and Cori Baltus also had two hits apiece for the Rockets, while Coffey finished with a team-high three RBIs.

### BASEBALL

## Rockets fall to FVA-leading Kimberly

Gus Weinholzer had a strong outing on the mound but Kimberly built an early lead and kept Neenah at bay the entire

game in a 5-2 win on Tuesday night.

The Papermakers have clinched their seventh straight Fox Valley Association title and 10<sup>th</sup> title in the past 11 years.

Weinholzer struck out six and allowed just two earned runs – three overall – in five innings but was saddled with the loss as Kimberly scored two runs in the third inning and one in the fifth to take the lead.

The Papermakers led 5-0 after six innings before Ethan Hellingreen belted a two-run home run for the final margin. Hellingreen finished 2-for-3 and had two of the Rockets' four hits in the game.

It was the second straight loss for Neenah, which dropped a 7-0 contest to Fond du Lac last week as three Rocket errors led to five runs for the Cardinals.

Cal Juckem struck out eight in five innings, allowing five runs – only one of which was earned – to take the loss.

Landen Sheppard, Henry St. Clair and Owen Pire had the only hits in the game for the Rockets.

Neenah will open WIAA Division 1 tournament play on Tuesday at home against Appleton East.

## Zephyrs clinch Big East North title with win

Jacob Ernsting allowed just four hits over six innings and Ben Kuffel pitched a perfect seventh frame as St. Mary Catholic shut out Manitowoc Lutheran, 5-0, in a Big East North game last week.

The win earned the Zephyrs the title in the Big East North as St. Mary Catholic finished one game ahead of both Manitowoc Lutheran and Reedsville in the final league standings.

The Zephyrs led 1-0 after four innings and then plated four runs in the fifth to seize control of the contest.

Ernsting, Luke Fairweather and Caleb

Vogel each finished with two hits in the game, while Ernsting added a pair of RBIs.

The Zephyrs, who finished the regular season 14-7, were slated to host Shiocton in a WIAA Division 3 regional game on Thursday with the winner advancing to play Marathon on Tuesday.

### SOCCER

## Zephyrs notch win over Lancers

Brecken Britzke scored a pair of goals as St. Mary Catholic scored a 2-0 win at Manitowoc Lutheran last week.

Bethany Ruppert made three saves in net to earn the shutout.

## Rockets edged by Kimberly

Neenah came up short in its regular-season finale, dropping a 2-1 decision to eighth-ranked Kimberly last week.

The Rockets will travel to face Hamilton in the first round of the WIAA Division 1 soccer tournament on Tuesday.

### BOYS LACROSSE

## Neenah collects win over Appleton

Jude Marsh scored four goals and Lenny Coulman finished with three as Neenah knocked off Appleton 11-3 to close out the regular season.

Brayden Willes added two goals, while Drew Green and Vincent Thiel each had one.

Marsh, Jack Werner, Reshawn Vaughn and Hunter Weinke had assists for the Rockets.

Isaac Scholl made three saves in net for the Rockets.

Neenah will open WIAA Tournament play on Friday at home against De Pere/West De Pere.

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### Miscellaneous

**Flea Markets:** Antigo (FRI - Downtown) May 22; Shawano, May 23 & 24; Merrill (SAT) June 6; Union Grove (SAT) June 27; Shawano Summer Market, SUNDAYS. NO RESERVATIONS

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### Legal Notice

**STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF:** Phoenix Dimerra Coudeyras By (Petitioner) Phoenix Dimerra Coudeyras

**Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 2026CV000503**

**NOTICE IS GIVEN:** A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From:  
First – Phoenix  
Middle – Dimerra  
Last – Coudeyras  
To:  
First – Lucy  
Middle –  
Last – Morningstar  
Birth Certificate:  
First – Phoenix  
Middle – Dimerra  
Last – Coudeyras

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:-  
Judge's Name: Michael S. Gibbs  
Place: Winnebago Courthouse, Rm 211  
415 Jackson St. Oshkosh, WI 54901  
Date: July 6, 2026  
Time: 8:30 a.m.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4846 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

**NOTICE TO NEWSPAPER AND PETITIONER:** Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the following newspaper Neenah News.  
**BY THE COURT:** DATE SIGNED: May 18, 2026 Winnebago County Circuit Branch 4

**Runs: May 22, 2026, May 29, 2026 and June 5, 2026.**

# Kid Scoop

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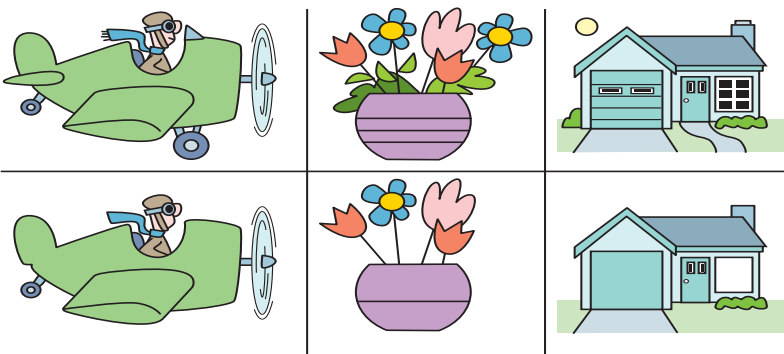
Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

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## MEMORY GAMES

Are you good at remembering things? Try the games on this page to test and help improve your memory and concentration skills!

**WHAT'S MISSING:** Look closely at each top picture. Cover it. Then try to draw what's missing on the one below it.



**DRAW A WORD:** One player uses their finger to 'write' a word on the back of the second player. The second player tries to identify the word. Players switch positions and take turns being the 'writer' and guesser.



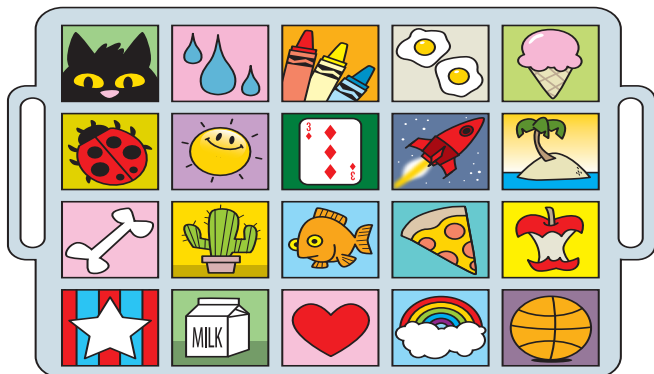
## MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is a day to remember the people who have lost their lives to keep our country safe while serving in the military. Many businesses close on this holiday so that people can spend time remembering those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Do you have a family member who was a veteran you like to remember?

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
 was my \_\_\_\_\_. I like to remember him/her because \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 I remember the time we \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of the person you like to think about and remember here.



### Tray Memory Game

Look at the objects on the tray. Then cover the tray with a piece of paper and draw the objects you can remember on the tray on the right.

**Variation: Play at Home With Real Objects**

- Place several small items on a tray at home and have a friend or family member say the name of each object out loud to remember it.
- Cover the tray and ask the person to try to name all the objects on the tray.
- Start with just a few objects. Then if the person remembers them all, keep adding more and playing again.

**Extra! Extra!**

### Newspaper Memory Game

Select a photograph in the newspaper. Study it for one minute. After one minute, cover the photo and write down as many details about the picture that you can remember. Repeat with other photographs and challenge yourself to remember one more detail each time.

**Standards Link:** Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### Memory Builder

Read the word list a few times aloud. Then cover the list and see how many of the words you can write down in column 1. Look at the words again, cover them, and see how many you can write in column 2. Can you remember them all by column 3?

WORD LIST	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
BANANA	_____	_____	_____
PENCIL	_____	_____	_____
ONION	_____	_____	_____
SNEAKERS	_____	_____	_____
DINOSAUR	_____	_____	_____
RAISIN	_____	_____	_____
FRANCE	_____	_____	_____
BIRTHDAY	_____	_____	_____
HAMMER	_____	_____	_____
CAMPING	_____	_____	_____

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step written directions.

### Double Double Word Search

- MEMORIAL
- REMEMBER
- OBJECTS
- IMPROVE
- WINNER
- CARDS
- MATCH
- GAMES
- COVER
- PLACE
- PLAY
- FACE
- TRAY
- FLAT
- LOUD

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

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

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

### Kid Scoop Together

## Memory Concentration

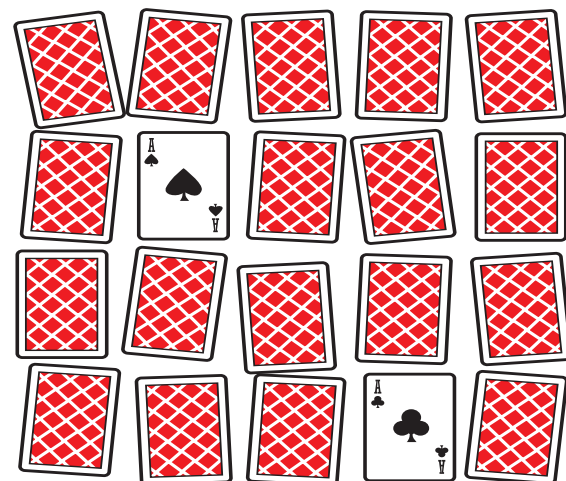
Play with a deck of 52 playing cards.

Shuffle and spread all of the cards out on a flat surface, face down.

Players take turns choosing any two cards. (A match is two cards with the same number or face card. For example, a two of hearts and a two of clubs is a match. Two Jacks are a match.)

If the cards match, then the player keeps the cards and goes again. If the cards don't match, turn the cards back over and leave them in the same place.

Play until all the cards have been picked up. The winner is the person with the most pairs.



### Classic "I Went to the Store..." Game

Long car rides are a great time to play memory games. A classic memory game is "I Went to the Store..."

Each person in the car takes turns adding grocery items in alphabetical order.

The first player says, "I went to the store and I bought APPLES."

The next player says, "I went to the store and I bought apples and BANANAS."

Each player must repeat every item on the list before adding an item starting with the next letter of the alphabet. It's gets tricky!

"I went to the store and bought apples, bananas, carrots, dog food, eggs, fish..."

Can your family make it all the way to the letter Z?

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step written directions.

### Write On!

## Remembering the School Year

Write a paragraph about what you will remember most about this school year.

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