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Vote delayed on data center moratorium

Zoning committee to look at ordinance change first

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County will hold a public hearing July 28 to change its zoning ordinance making it nearly impossible for data centers to be built in the four towns where the county controls zoning.

The decision came after Monday's Planning & Zoning Committee meeting,

which featured more than a dozen community members speaking out against data centers. No data center has expressed interest in locating in Winnebago County and the county only controls zoning in the towns of Algoma, Omro, Neenah and Nekimi. The county plans to work with other municipalities to get moratoriums in place if they are interested.

Originally, the committee was to consider a 12-month moratorium on data centers building in the county before chair Howard Miller suggested the panel

strengthen a current zoning ordinance to deter data centers.

"We have zoning codes in place with approved land uses and if there's something similar, you can build that," he said. "If you have a land use that can't be considered, then it can't be done. Data centers are not on the approved list, but there are some things that might be considered similar. We need to strengthen our current rules to make it clear that data centers are not

SEE **Data center** ON PAGE 11

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Price enjoys summer baseball opportunity
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Photo by David Hall

Filthy fun run

Participants of all ages came out on Saturday to run, climb, crawl, splash and get filthy while making memories along the way during the 12th annual Filthy Fun Run at O’Hauser Park. Volunteers helped to staff obstacles, keep participants safe and ensure everything ran smoothly from start to finish. The event was organized by the Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department and Neenah Parks and Recreation Department.

Neenah-Menasha Elks prepare for milestone celebration

By Matthew Hoyman
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Neenah-Menasha Elks Lodge 676 is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

The Elks Lodge is known for its scholarship programs, veteran services, drug awareness and helping scouts and youth.

There are three requirements to become a member: must be an American citizen, 21 years of age or older and believe in God. Members meet twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesdays, except for July and August.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks was founded in 1868 in New York City. Neenah-Menasha Elks Chairperson and 30-year member Pat Buck said the foundation had a different purpose then.

"When the Elks were initially formed in 1868, they were known as the Jolly Corks, and they served initially as a mutual aid society for their fellow actors," Buck said. "They started as actors and became members of the Elks."

The lodge was established in 1901 when

the charter was granted and met on the second floor of 198 Main Street, where it was known as the Menasha Lodge. In 1950, members voted to rename it the Neenah-Menasha Lodge, reflecting the fact that it had always served both communities. The lodge later moved to 2 Mill St. along the Fox River, where it remained until the building was sold in 2002, before finding a permanent residence at 328 Nicolet Boulevard in 2004.

In the early days of the lodge, it was popular for doctors, lawyers and paper mill executives in the valley to become members and then get their younger employees in the office to join. The foundation started with 30 members in 1901 and once had over 500 members but dropped down to around 100 due to parents' lack of free time.

Nationally, the Elks have had some famous members such as Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, John F. Kennedy, and even at the local level, plenty of Green Bay Packers stars like Vince Lombardi.

SEE **Elks Lodge** ON PAGE 9

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Neenah Rotary installs new leaders

Neenah News

A new year got underway for the Rotary Club of Neenah with a recent Changing of the Guard ceremony.

The event last week celebrated leadership, service and the people who make the Rotary Club of Neenah such a special organization.

The group thanked immediate past president Matt Brehmer for his leadership over the past year. Scott Springmier was welcomed as the new president and Aaron Sensenig as president-elect.

Two individuals were recognized for their dedication to service. Seth Merrill

was the recipient of the Jack R. Grist Club Service Award presented by Dave Bauman in recognition of his exceptional commitment to the club.

Bill McCurty was the recipient of the Jack W. Casper “Service Above Self” Community Service Award. Nominated by Rotarian Brian Frost, McCurty was honored for his extraordinary volunteer service throughout the community, including his work with Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA and many other organizations.

The club extends its appreciation to the Grist family for their gift to the Rotary Club of Neenah this year.

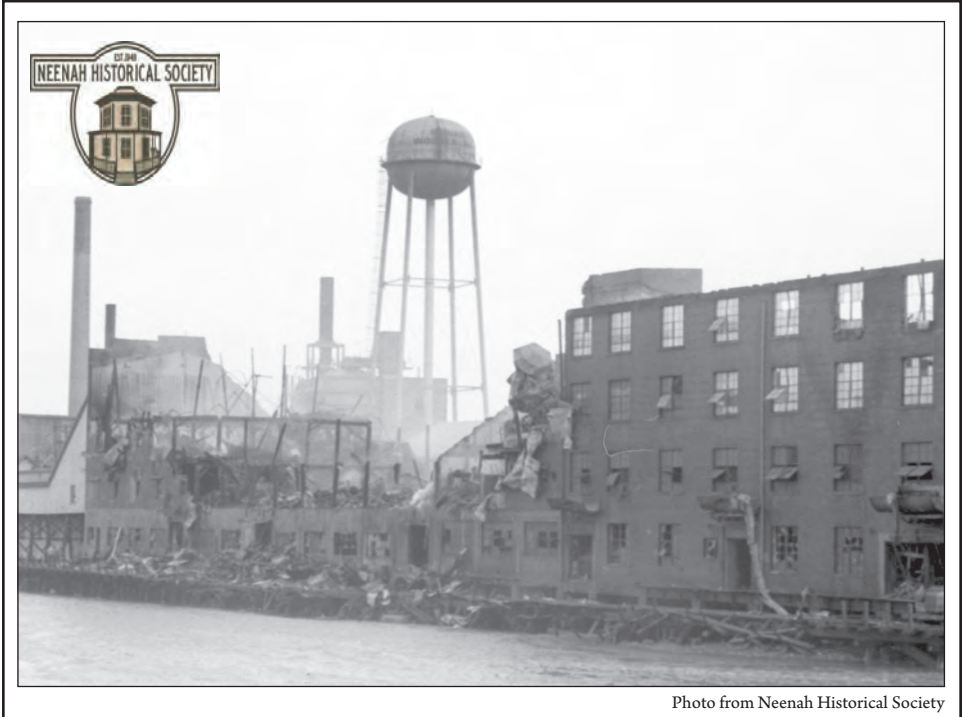


Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Menasha Corp. Fire

The Menasha Wooden Ware mill caught fire on July 17, 1964. The damage to the building was massive, but luckily, no one was injured.

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Calendar
of events

Saturday, July 18
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
Art Mercantile, 11 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee
Cardboard Boat Regatta, 2 p.m., Neenah Pool

Wednesday, July 22
Fox Crossing Family Showdown, 5:30 p.m., Fritsch Park
Future Neenah Evening Concert featuring The Souvenirs, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park

Thursday, July 23
Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents The SpongeBob Musical, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Friday, July 24
Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents The SpongeBob Musical, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Saturday, July 25
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents The SpongeBob Musical, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park
Nature at Night, 8:30 p.m., Harness Farm Preserve

Sunday, July 26
Neenah-Menasha Elks Lodge 676 125th Anniversary Celebration, 1 p.m., 328 Nicolet Boulevard
Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents The SpongeBob Musical, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Tuesday, July 28
1860’s Picture Frame Root & Runner Creative, 6 p.m., Doty Cabin Museum
Movie in the Park “Sketch,” 6:30 p.m., Memorial Park
Neenah Community Band Concert, 7 p.m., Riverside Park

Wednesday, July 29
Future Neenah Evening Concert featuring Road Trip, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park
Documentary: The Reunited States, 6 p.m., Neenah Public Library
Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents The SpongeBob Musical, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Thursday, July 30
Neenah Historical Society Cemetery Walk, 5:30 p.m., Oak Hill Cemetery Chapel
Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents The SpongeBob Musical, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

Friday, July 31
Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents The SpongeBob Musical, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Park

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Gunderson breaks ground on facility

Neenah News

Gunderson Uniform and Linen was scheduled to host a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday to celebrate the start of construction on its new linen and uniform processing facility in Neenah.

The company said the project represents a significant investment in its future and its continued commitment to serving health-care, hospitality, food service and industrial customers throughout Wisconsin. The new 65,000-square-foot facility at 1712 Dixie Road features a precast concrete and structural steel design and is being built to support Gunderson's continued growth and maximize both current and future laundering capacity.

Founded in 1952, Gunderson Uniform and Linen is a family-owned and operated company providing linen rental, uniform rental, healthcare linen services, facility services and commercial laundry solutions across the state.

The expanded facility will allow Gunderson to increase processing efficiency, enhance quality control, support future automation initiatives and create additional ca-

capacity to meet growing customer demand. The project is also designed to support the company's long-term sustainability goals and commitment to operational excellence.

The company received approval from the city last year for the nearly \$10 million facility on the east side of Dixie Road. The site sits south of County Highway G, adjacent to warehouse and distribution operations to the south, city-owned land with a radio tower to the east, and residential and agricultural land in the Town of Neenah to the north.

The project is part of a development agreement, with the city selling 14 acres to Gunderson for the new facility that will initially employ about 100 workers, with an additional 50 jobs expected within five years.

The city will provide up to \$1.7 million in Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) assistance to support the project, which is located in TIF District 13. The assistance will be paid annually over 13 years, based on new tax revenue generated by the development. Gunderson has committed to a guaranteed minimum property value of \$5.5 million.

Construction is estimated to take about two years to complete.

Students among winners of podcast contest

Neenah News

For the second straight year, Neenah High School had a winning entry in the annual New York Times Student Podcast contest. The submission by Emmaxia Rockwell and Jacob Perry was one of eight winners among over 1,400 entries.

Rockwell and Perry examined Zoochosis for humans. Zoochosis is a form of psychosis that develops in animals kept in zoos and they explored how modern lifestyles affect mental health, specifically the disconnect from nature due to the sterile

indoor environments where people spend nearly all of their time.

Neenah also had three of the 13 honorable mention submissions, coming from Hannah Corbin and Reagan Janichek, Taylor Otting, and Gretchen Strand. The Neenah winners were the only Wisconsin winners in the contest.

The podcasts needed to be less than five minutes and were done in the pre-AP English 2 class taught by Jennifer Cormier. Technology coach Amanda Devries assisted the students.



Photo from Neenah Public Library

Anywhere art

The creativity was flowing last week during the Anywhere Art program at the Neenah Public Library. According to the library, everyone approached the project differently, ending up with different results. The family program Splatter Lab that was scheduled for this week was replaced by an indoor movie and rescheduled for Aug. 18 due to the heat.

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**BERGSTROM**
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Local bowling alley owner receives national recognition

By Hope Hahn
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Erik Gialdella, owner of Revs Bowl Bar & Grill in Oshkosh, was recently honored as the Bowling Proprietor Association of Americas Bowling Proprietor of the Year.

Gialdella received the honor at the BPAA's 2026 Bowl Expo, which took place last month at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville.

He was honored during the June 30 Industry Awards Luncheon, which was sponsored by Storm Bowling Products. There were five other award recipients of different categories, and everyone had the opportunity to be individually recognized on stage to the post COVID record setting attendance of over 800 attendees.

Gialdella said being able to give an acceptance speech was the highlight of his experience. Being able to thank everyone, give a positive message about what bowling means to him, and what he feels it can do for others was an incredible honor for him. Some of his team members from the centers were there as well, and this award is as much for them as it is for him, so he was thrilled some of them could make the trip.

"I've been incredibly blessed with being able to meet and be surrounded by some amazing people in my life through bowling," Gialdella said. "I have been able to travel to all parts of the country for bowling tournaments and proprietor conventions. I am so thankful for the friendships that have formed over all the years and all the places I've been. I look forward to continuing to build upon those relationships in our industry and in our communities for years to come."

In order to receive the award, someone has to send in a nomination for the honoree to receive it. The nominations then get presented to the national awards committee for review and ultimately voting. This took place in January at the BPAA's Bowling Summit in San Antonio.

Before Gialdella took ownership of Revs Bowl Bar & Grill and Rolling Thunder Lanes in Neenah, the Mustain family, including Keith and his son Matt, was instrumental in the purchase of Revs (what was then Oshkosh Lanes) at the conclusion of 2014.

The Mustain's offered Gialdella an opportunity at ownership after several years of being the general manager of the Super Bowl Family Entertainment Center in Appleton. He is thankful to the Mustain family for taking a chance on him, and helping him get to the next stage of his career.

On May 1, 2024, Gialdella took ownership of the 300 Club of Green Lake through a friendship that developed during his time as the president of the Bowling Centers As-

sociation of Wisconsin. The center recently underwent major remodeling that won industry awards for best small center redesign in the country, and the owners primarily lived in Arizona.

They were looking to get out of the business as their primary focus was on their main business that operated in several different states and took a lot of their time up. Together, they worked out an agreement and Gialdella took ownership of that center two years ago.

"It is as much tied to all my wonderful team members, who have jumped on board with my beliefs, in what makes us successful and relevant in our communities, and truly shine as a reflection of those ideas to our guests and fellow team members," Gialdella said.

Gialdella took ownership of Rolling Thunder Lanes in November 2024. In 2022, what was then Classic Lanes Fox Valley was close to being sold for other purposes other than a bowling center. That's when it was purchased by Jack Zellmer, who changed the name to Rolling Thunder Lanes.

Zellmer was already in retirement and did not work in the bowling industry; however, he loves the game of bowling. The two began talking about the possibility of having Gialdella take over ownership, and in November 2024, Gialdella purchased Rolling Thunder Lanes from Zellmer.

Gialdella said his favorite part about being an owner of bowling centers is always going to be two fold.

"One, I love working with a team and bringing them together," Gialdella said. "Trying to align goals and strategies to produce positive outcomes and allow individual freedom and creativity in doing so is something I enjoy immensely.

"The second part is the ability to serve our communities," he continued. "I have a servant heart and want my team members to be a reflection of that to our guests and community. I get tremendous joy out of serving, especially through our offerings at the bowling center, as the bowling center was such an instrumental part of my life through some challenging middle and high school times."

As far as his approach to customer service, Gialdella said, "We never know the struggles our guests may be going through when they walk through our door: the hurt, the loneliness, health issues, loss, work issues and the list goes on. We get to form relationships with them and provide them with an experience of joy, fun, happiness, excitement, smiling faces, warm greetings and show compassion and care for them. Bowling can do that. We bring them into our family and make sure they feel like they belong; that the stresses of life can take a time out and that they came to the right place."



Erik Gialdella was recently honored as the Bowling Proprietor Association of Americas Bowling Proprietor of the Year at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville.

Artists invited to submit positive messages

Extension Winnebago County and the Breakwater Coalition invite community members to help spread kindness through You Matter Mail, a project that shares anonymous messages of encouragement across the county.

You Matter Mail is a message exchange that spreads kindness, hope and positivity across Winnebago County. As part of the part project, community members write encouraging notes that are shared with others.

Paired with postcard designs created by local artists, these notes are mailed throughout the community. According to project organizers, every postcard carries a simple but powerful message: "you matter."

Local artists of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to submit original artwork for postcard designs. Selected designs will be featured on postcards mailed to neighbors, helping brighten someone's day with a positive message.

Original artwork should reflect the theme "You Matter" and be appropriate for all audiences. Designs must fit in a 4" x 6" postcard format.

This is a community-based, volunteer opportunity. Artists retain ownership of their work. By entering this contest, artists grant Extension Winnebago County permission to print selected designs and use them for project-related promotional materials.

Winning artists will be recognized on Extension's social media platforms and will be credited on project materials.

Anyone who wants to participate can by submitting an anonymous, positive message.

The submission deadline is Aug. 31. Digital artwork can be emailed to Katie Jaegly at katie.jaegly@wisc.edu or physical artwork can be sent to Extension Winnebago County, 625 E. County Road Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

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DATES:

- Thursday, July 9 | 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 14 | 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 15 | 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 23 | 1:00 p.m.
- Monday, July 27 | 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 29 | 1:00 p.m.



Rendering of Evergreen Fox Crossing Lake Homes



Rule would require committee approval for data request

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County Board supervisors will need to take an extra step if they're seeking data or analysis from a county department beyond what is normally provided, according to a rule passed last week by the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee.

The rule needs approval from two-thirds of the County Board of Supervisors before going into effect. It could be voted on as soon as the next meeting on Tuesday.

Under the proposed new rule, supervisors seeking data and analysis beyond what is normally presented would need approval from the committee of jurisdiction prior to submitting their request. For example, a request for a certain set of data from the sheriff's department would need the approval of the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee.

Supervisor George Bureau said it would be more efficient if requests are brought

forward to the committee so more people could have input.

"I thought if one person has an idea for data that putting two, three or five heads together would be better and give us a better request," he said. "This will also increase transparency."

Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke disagreed with the rule.

"I'm worried about the delays it will cause if I have to wait for a committee to approve my request for information," she said. "Or what happens if the committee denies my request for information?"

Asking for information jointly as a committee is a sign of teamwork, Bureau said.

"I think we'll get more complete data this way," he said.

Hancock-Cooke asked if any departments reported being overwhelmed by individual supervisor requests. Committee Chair Conley Hanson said he anticipated that question when he saw the rule on the agenda, so he checked with a few department heads. He said a department

head commented that if a committee was behind a request for information, it might make getting that data together a bigger priority versus a request from a single supervisor.

Information and data already shared with committees would continue and not be affected by the rule.

SBA offers special loans for flood victims

Neenah News

The Small Business Administration is offering low-interest disaster loans to Winnebago County businesses, nonprofits and residents affected by the April floods.

SBA's physical damage loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans are both being offered in the county as part of the federal disaster declaration.

Businesses and nonprofits are eligible to apply for business physical disaster loans and may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets.

Homeowners and renters are eligible

to apply for home and personal property loans up to \$100,000 to replace or repair personal property, such as clothing, furniture, cars and appliances. Homeowners may apply for up to \$500,000 to replace or repair their primary residence.

Interest rates are as low as 4% for businesses and 2.875% for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years.

The filing deadline for physical property damage is Aug. 31. The deadline to return economic injury applications is March 30, 2027.

To apply, visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants can also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 if they have questions.

FEMA assistance available to property owners

Neenah News

Winnebago County renters and homeowners with uninsured damage to their primary home, personal property loss or disaster-related emergency needs due to the April flooding can now apply for FEMA assistance.

Before reaching out to FEMA, homeowners and renters need to file an insurance claim. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance. If a policy does not cover all disaster expenses, the policyholder may be eligible for federal assistance.

FEMA can help if those that need temporary housing, require basic home repairs, lost personal property or have other uninsured disaster-caused needs. Applications can be made online for FEMA assistance at DisasterAssistance.gov.

When applying for assistance, callers will need to provide their contact information, Social Security number, a general list of damage and losses, annual household income and banking information. Those that are insured will need the policy number or the agent and/or company name.

For more information, contact FEMA at 800-621-3362.

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Photo from Fox Crossing Police Department

Rising in the ranks

Chris Brandt (left) was sworn in during the village board meeting Monday as the Fox Crossing Police Department’s newest lieutenant. Brandt has served the police department since 2003. After taking the oath, his wife and children pinned on his bars and badge. Several colleagues were also in attendance to show their support.

Fox Crossing seeks input for zoning code update

Neenah News

The Village of Fox Crossing is inviting residents to help shape the future of the community as it begins a comprehensive update of its zoning ordinance.

The village has retained MSA Professional Services to assist with updating the zoning code to better reflect current community needs and long-term goals. The project will focus on creating a zoning ordinance that is easier to understand and use while supporting more housing types, diverse development opportunities, and implementation of the village’s Comprehensive Plan.

The village’s current zoning ordinance was originally created as a joint town-county document, so it was never fully designed around Fox Crossing’s own vision and goals. Over the years, the village made many small updates to keep up with changing development trends, new technology and evolving land uses.

While officials say these updates helped address immediate needs, they also made the or-

dinance more complicated, harder to understand and sometimes inconsistent with other sections or recent state statute requirements.

The update will also seek to preserve the character and quality of Fox Crossing’s existing neighborhoods.

“Zoning regulations influence everything from housing choices to business development and neighborhood character,” said George Dearborn, director of community development for the Village of Fox Crossing. “We want to hear directly from residents about what is working well today and what changes could help Fox Crossing continue to thrive in the future.”

Residents can participate online by visiting the project website at tinyurl.com/Fox-Crossing-Zoning-Update, which includes project information, updates, project schedule and an online survey.

Public input gathered throughout the process will help guide the development of a draft zoning ordinance before it is reviewed by the Planning Commission and Village Board.

Sheriff’s office adds Naloxone pickup site

Neenah News

Winnebago County Public Health and Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office have partnered to install a free Naloxone box at the Sheriff’s Office.

It is the health department’s first Naloxone pickup site in a county building. The Sheriff’s Office is located at 4311 Jackson St. in Oshkosh.

Providing more locations for Naloxone to be available was a recommendation

from the Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review team. The naloxone is grant-funded, and the boxes were donated by Voices of Recovery, helping to make these lifesaving tools more accessible to the community.

The county is expanding this effort and looking for additional organizations and locations interested in hosting a box. To reach the public health department, call 920-232-3000.



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9/17-19	The Actuary by Steven Peterson Presented by Oshkosh Community Players
9/25	Are You Ready for It? A Taylor Experience Starring Traci Marie as Taylor Swift Premier Sponsor: Blended Waxes
9/26	Make It Real- The Scorpions Tribute Presented by National Premier Talent

OCTOBER 2026	
10/2	The Crown Jewels- A Tribute to Queen Presented by National Premier Talent
10/3	The Lovin' Spoonful Part of the Alberta S. Kimball Foundation 5-Star Series
10/9	52 nd Street- Music of Billy Joel Presented by National Premier Talent
10/16	Kevin Farley- Growing Up Farley
10/24	Magic Rocks! Illusionist Leon Etienne
10/31	TEDxOshkosh Presented by TEDxOshkosh

NOVEMBER 2026	
11/7	Feels Like the First Time Presented by National Premier Talent
11/14	Metallica & Dokken Tribute Presented by National Premier Talent
11/27	Small Town- John Mellencamp Experience Presented by National Premier Talent

DECEMBER 2026	
12/5	A Very Cher-y Christmas Starring Lisa McClowry as CHER-BACK by Popular Demand!
12/10	Ball in the House Part of the Alberta S. Kimball Foundation 5-Star Series
12/11	For Kids from 1-92 Presented by ROCK 1 LLC
12/17-20	The Nutcracker Ballet Presented by Valley Academy for the Arts



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JANUARY 2027	
1/18-23	Missoula Children's Theatre: The Pied Piper
1/24	Guys On Ice
1/30	Suzy Bogguss Part of the Alberta S. Kimball Foundation 5-Star Series

FEBRUARY 2027	
2/13	Paula Poundstone
2/27	Americana Women

MARCH 2027	
3/3	Celtic Angels Ireland

APRIL 2027	
4/1-3	Picasso at the Lapin Agile by Steve Martin Presented by Oshkosh Community Players
4/16	An Evening with Judy Kuhn Part of the Alberta S. Kimball Foundation 5-Star Series

MAY 2027	
5/20-22	Night Must Fall by Emlyn Williams Presented by Oshkosh Community Players

JUNE 2027	
6/18	Alive Again: A Tribute to Chicago Part of the Alberta S. Kimball Foundation 5-Star Series



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Wig stand donations

The Northeastern Wisconsin Turners recently donated 43 wig stands to the ThedaCare Cancer Center. These stands are free to any cancer patient who could use a stand for their hair piece storage. Each stand was made by hand by the club members this past year. John Victor of the Turners group and Lisa Kellen Hauser of ThedaCare stand in back of the wig stand display table.

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Women’s chorus group changes name

Neenah News

The name of a local women’s chorus group has changed after its international organization made changes to its name.

The Fox Valley Chorus, which is a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, will now be known as Fox Valley Chorus of SingUnited International. The international organization, Sweet Adelines, officially changed its name to SingUnited International.

The organization started in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1945 as a small group of women who loved to sing. Since then, it has evolved into the largest international barbershop and a cappella organization for women of all ages, connecting thousands of singers from around the world.

The new name, SingUnited International, was chosen to signify both the global reach of the organization and the unity created when singers come together to express themselves through their vocal and artistic abilities. The International organization has 35 regions worldwide.

The Fox Valley Chorus is one of 13 choruses in their Northern Lights Region 6, which includes Minnesota, North Dakota,

Iowa and Wisconsin.

The choruses have the opportunity to compete annually at their regional conventions.

Along with the International organization, the Fox Valley Chorus will continue to value its core principles – musical excellence, education, performance and community. “SingUnited” conveys a new bolder image for the next generation of singers who will love this organization as much as those who’ve come before them.

The Fox Valley Chorus welcomes women to their Tuesday evening rehearsals in Neenah to experience first-hand the fun of creating four-part harmony. Prior musical experience or ability to read music is not necessary. Any woman, with or without vocal training, will find a part that fits her voice range.

Vocal training and music education are valuable components of members’ many benefits. Members share social activities, an enlarged circle of friends and performance opportunities.

For further information women singers are invited to visit foxvalleychorus.org or email foxvalleychorus@gmail.com.

Annual cemetery walk set for Oak Hill

Neenah News

The Neenah Historical Society will be celebrating 41 years of sharing stories of Neenah’s past in Oak Hill Cemetery and connecting it to America’s 250th anniversary.

The annual Cemetery Walk event July 30 invites attendees to explore the grounds of Oak Hill Cemetery after learning about some of the stories of Neenah’s early settlers, prominent citizens and notable figures. The event focuses on preserving memories through storytelling.

The presentations by costumed actors will start at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel, shedding light on the lives and legacies of those buried there. In partnership with the Daughters of the American Revolution, each person portrayed has a direct ancestor who fought in the American Revolutionary War.

John Pinkerton, a man who was dedicated to his work in the Twin Cities, loved music and worked closely with the Boys Brigade. His ancestor was Sergeant Asa Kellogg.

Letta French, a lifelong Neenah resident, dedicated her life to social causes, including the American Red Cross. She was one of the earliest members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Private John French was her ancestor in the American Revolution.

Frank Miller moved to Neenah as a child from the Stockbridge Munsee Reservation, living the rest of his life dedicated to the city, employed in many roles at the United States Post Office, after his WWII service in the U.S. Navy. Frank descends from numerous Indigenous Revolutionary warriors, his fourth great-grandfather, Captain Hendrick Aupaumut, serving in an Indian regiment of the Continental Army.

Mary Howden, a nurse for over 34 years, dedicated her life to caring for others. She was influential in the Daughters of the American Revolution and the other organizations she participated in. Her patriotic ancestor was Private John Stoud.

“In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Neenah Historical Society excitedly partnered with the Daughters of the American Revolution,” said Miranda Ridener, executive director of the Neenah Historical Society. “Together, we have found four individuals with local stories and heritage to the Revolutionary War.”

The cost is \$5 per person. No advance tickets are sold.

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Winnebago Audubon hosts special program

Neenah News

Winnebago Audubon is holding a special presentation about music inspired by bird songs.

The presentation will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the J.P. Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Road Y in Oshkosh.

Their guest will be Micky Torpedo, a multi-instrumentalist composer, producer, performer and music educator from Rockford, Illinois, who collaborated with Sinnissippi Audubon to produce three instrumental albums inspired by elements of specific bird calls of various species, including the American Bittern and Sandhill Crane.

Torpedo's songs combine a variety of genres, including ambient, classical and folk. The project aims to raise awareness and to educate the public about the birds featured and conservation of their beloved habitats.

Jennifer Kuroda, Board President of Sinnissippi Audubon, will join Torpedo to share about the mission and the meaning of the project. The event will round out with a live performance of a few select songs by Torpedo and a guest violinist.

Following the music, guests are invited to stay for an ice cream social and bird-friendly chocolate and coffee. The program is free and open to the public.

New equipment purchase program protects soil health

Neenah News

A new Soil Health Equipment Purchase Program will assist farmers across the Fox-Wolf Basin to invest in equipment that supports soil health and improved water quality.

The equipment needed to successfully implement and expand practices that protect water quality can represent a significant investment.

To help address that challenge, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance is offering incentives of up to \$30,000 for equipment that improves soil health and reduces sediment and nutrient runoff to support water quality. Eligible equipment may include anything from no-till drills and interseeders to drones used for cover crop seeding.

A total of \$250,000 is available for the 2026 season. Priority consideration will be given to applications received by Aug. 15. Applications submitted after that date will be considered as funding remains available.

By helping farmers invest in the right tools for the right job, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance is supporting voluntary, producer-led conservation efforts that support healthier soils and more resilient fields for farmers, leading to reduced nutrient and sediment runoff and improve water quality across the Basin.

For more information or to apply, visit Fox-Wolf.org/shepp.

Have a story idea?
Promotions or expansion at your business?
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Elks Lodge

FROM PAGE 1

The local lodge has played a significant role in the Wisconsin Elks organization. Two of its members, Ray Fink in 1951 and Jon Laflin in 1983, served as presidents of the Wisconsin Elks State Association. Overall, there are 29 lodges in Wisconsin and over 2,000 nationwide.

According to the Elks National Foundation website, more than \$500 million has been contributed toward Elks charitable projects nationwide and \$18.8 million to fund the Community Investments Program this year alone.

Buck also serves as the Wisconsin state chairman for the U.S. Constitution Scholarship Program, which is a key part of the Elks Lodge. The Elks as a national group gave away \$2.5 million in scholarship money to high school seniors this past year in the U.S.

"We give out scholarships every year to high school seniors in the state of Wisconsin only, after completing a 40-question multiple-choice test about the U.S. Constitution," Buck said. "Around \$30,000 a year in scholarships is given out in Wisconsin. Last year, I gave out \$9,000 in scholarships myself to three high school seniors here in the valley."

The Elks Hoop Shoot is a nationwide free-throw competition for boys and girls ages eight to 13. It starts at the local level, advancing all the way to the national level, with the winners earning recognition at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts.

"We've had some really good shooters," Buck said. "This year a girl from Eau Claire went on to the national competition. Her brother, I believe, also went on. I think out of the six age groups, we had three mem-

bers of three of those age groups. So Wisconsin is very proud of them."

The lodge contributes annually to the Bay-Lakes Council's Boy Scouts of America, King Veterans Homes and Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells, which provides respite care for children with physical and emotional disabilities.

"Those parents don't get a break all year long," Buck said. "What the respite camp provides is the opportunity to recharge, reconnect and, in many cases, get closer to their children that don't have the disabilities."

One heartwarming story Buck remembers happened in the '70s when the CP Telethon was on in Green Bay.

"One of the local fish bowls was held at our lodge on the river," Buck said. "Years later, I found out that a neighbor of ours, who suffers from cerebral palsy, was the local Post poster child, who was helped by the funds that we collected at the local fish bowl. The Elks ladies were tremendous supporters of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation."

Buck said the ENF is funded through members' annual dues of roughly \$132 a year.

"Those funds provide us with checks

every year to fund our charitable programs, which would be the scholarships, hoopshoot, scouting, drug awareness, and veterans," Buck said. "It comes back for every dollar that a member contributes to the ENF, we get back about three and a half dollars from the ENF. It's a fund that is now in the billions of dollars in principal. And so the interest comes back to the lodges every year."

The City of Neenah was expected to recognize the Elks' anniversary with a proclamation Wednesday at the common council meeting.

The 125th anniversary celebration is scheduled to take place from 1 to 5 p.m. July 26 at 328 Nicolet Boulevard. Admission is \$15 and includes food, with brats, burgers or hot dogs and corn on the cob available, along with live music.

"It will go into Elks programs, veterans programs, the Elks National Foundation," Buck said. "The 50-50 cash drawing, half will go to a person whose name is drawn, the other half will go to the charities."

Buck said this provides an opportunity for the community to honor and help the charitable work the Elks Lodge has provided Neenah-Menasha and learn more about its history.

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EAA AirVenture brings aircraft, entertainment to Oshkosh

Neenah News

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company will return next week to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh with its blimp, Wingfoot One, continuing a tradition of airship appearances over Oshkosh.

The annual Experimental Aircraft Association fly-in convention starts Monday at Wittman Regional Airport, with the blimp scheduled to arrive July 23.

Wingfoot One plans to fly at various times throughout the week of the 73rd edition of AirVenture, marking 55 years since the Goodyear Blimp America made its initial appearance at the EAA fly-in in 1971.

Since then, Goodyear has remained a regular participant at EAA events, with the latest appearance in 2025 when it brought two blimps to Oshkosh to celebrate 100 years of Goodyear's very first branded blimp, Pilgrim.

"AirVenture gives us an unmatched opportunity to engage with aviation enthusiasts on the world's stage," said Joe Burke, Vice President, Global Aviation, Goodyear. "Whether they are seeing the Goodyear Blimp overhead or engaging with our Aviation team on the ground, events like this allow us to bring our story to life, showcasing both the legacy of our iconic blimp and the innovative aviation solutions that support pilots and operators every day."

The blimp's appearance is one of the highlights scheduled throughout the week of the air show.

The Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, best known as the Red Arrows, will for the first time bring its world-renowned formation flying excellence to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. The Red Arrows will perform as part of the afternoon air shows on July 24-26. It is part of the team's extended U.S. tour in 2026 to honor America's 250th anniversary.

The future of aviation technology will be highlighted on July 21 as EAA AirVenture Oshkosh continues its annual tradition of featuring the latest innovations as part of displays on Boeing Plaza and demonstrations during the Tuesday air show.

"EAA AirVenture Oshkosh is the focal point of the calendar for the aviation community every year, making it the perfect opportunity for companies to showcase what is on the horizon," said Rick Larsen, EAA's vice president of communities and member programs, who coordinates AirVenture features and attractions. "The collection of innovations taking the stage on Tuesday represent just part of where aviation is heading."

The twice-daily Warbirds in Review series will take place July 20-24 on the Warbirds in Review aircraft ramp, located within the EAA Warbirds of America area on the AirVenture grounds. Open to all AirVenture attendees, these presentations offer a unique opportunity to experience aviation history firsthand through the stories of the people who flew, maintained, restored and preserved some of the world's most significant historic aircraft.

The Vintage in Review showcase is returning to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh in 2026, featuring unique and iconic aircraft that were built and flown during the first

half-century of aviation. The showcase will take place July 20-24 at the Interview Circle just east of the Vintage Red Barn.

This year's showcase features an incredible range of diverse aircraft that represent 20 years of American civil aviation design. Each day at 10:30 a.m., pilots of these magnificent aircraft will be interviewed alongside their rare and unique antique and classic airplanes.

They will be accompanied by the Ladies for Liberty, who will be performing World War II-era songs. There will also be an engine run of the 1915 Curtiss OX-5 immediately following the performances from the Ladies of Liberty.

Southwest Airlines announced it will participate in EAA AirVenture with its high-flying tribute to America's semiquincentennial celebration, Independence One. This newly launched, freedom-flying Boeing 737 MAX 8 will visit Oshkosh on July 22, showcasing Southwest's support of those who've given us the freedom to fly.

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

Two historic World War II-era aircraft from the National WASP WWII Museum in Sweetwater, Texas, will highlight the importance of women pilots during that period when the airplanes travel to Wittman Regional Airport.

Representing the museum at Oshkosh will be two historic training aircraft that played a critical role in the wartime training pipeline at Avenger Field. The museum's 1943 Vultee BT-13 Valiant and North American AT-6 Texan serve as flying reminders of the progression from basic flight instruction to advanced military aviation training completed by the WASP during World War II.

Together these aircraft tell the story of how women pilots were trained to support one of the largest military aviation operations in history.

The Boeing B-29 Superfortress Doc will be back in Oshkosh, supporting the America 250 theme and more than a century of American aviation innovation.

As currently scheduled, Doc will take centerstage for display on Boeing Plaza on July 24-26. When not on display at Boeing Plaza, flight experiences on Doc will be available July 20-23, based at Appleton International Airport, approximately 20 miles north.

In terms of entertainment during the week, country music star Tyler Hubbard will be part of the U.S. Air Force's salute to America's 250th birthday, as he performs July 20, during a program presented by the Air Force.

This opening night USAF program and concert will kick off the world's largest fly-in, which in 2025 attracted a total attendance of over 700,000, with more than 10,000 aircraft arriving to the region for the event.

Runners and walkers alike can get a taste of the EAA AirVenture grounds July 25, as the annual Runway 5k takes athletes on a journey through the grounds. The race begins at 6:30 a.m. near the South Knapp Admissions gate, just south of the ultralight runway, and is open to everyone, including walkers, first-time runners and seasoned athletes.

Proceeds from this year's run benefit the Oshkosh Firefighters Charitable Trust.



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County files PFAS civil lawsuit against 19 companies

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County has filed a civil lawsuit against 19 companies, including 3M and Tyco, for the companies’ use of PFAS, specifically in firefighting products used at Wittman Regional Airport.

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution in January authorizing Texas law firm Baron & Budd to handle the litigation. The product liability lawsuit, which was filed in Winnebago County, alleges 19 companies and one John Doe defendant knew the products were linked to PFAS and pose risks to the environment and people using the products.

The resolution states, “Subject companies knowingly placed Fluorosurfactant Products like AFFF (Aqueous Film-Foaming Foam) into the United States stream of commerce for decades, while concealing their knowledge of the toxic nature and harmful effects associated with these products.”

According to the resolution, these companies, “manufactured, formulated, marketed, promoted, distributed Fluorosurfactant Products.”

The county used these fluorosurfactant products at the airport and in doing so allowed PFAS compounds to migrate into

the environment, contaminating soil, groundwater and surface water.

AFFF is a water-based compound that was first developed in the 1960s to extinguish flammable liquid fuel fires at airports. AFFF contains forever chemicals known as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).

Companies like 3M, Dupont, BASF and Tyco Fire have used AFFF in their products since the 1960s. All three of these companies are named as defendants in the case along with Buckeye Fire Equipment Company, DuPont and The Chemours Company.

The lawsuit alleges the defendants knew about the PFAS hazards linked to using AFFF.

The county is not part of the large class action lawsuit filed against 3M, Tyco, DuPont and BASF for PFAS in the public drinking water system.

The county is not requesting a specific dollar amount in the filing. The lawsuit states, “Plaintiff seeks punitive damages due to the wanton and willful acts/or omissions of defendants as set forth and alleged throughout this complaint.”

The county is seeking compensatory damages related to past, present and future investigation including sampling and testing to identify the extent of the PFAS contamination and costs related to

treatment and remediation of PFAS contamination.

The lawsuit also requests compensatory damages for diminished property value, consequential damages and “any other and further relief as the Court deems just, proper, and equitable.

Online court records show the case has been assigned to Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 6 Judge Daniel Bissett.

The 39-page summons and complaint in the case which was filed on June 19 alleges these companies knew AFFF was dangerous.

The lawsuit alleges in 1980 3M published data in a peer reviewed article showing PFOA, a synthetic fluorosurfactant belonging to the PFAS group of chemicals, stay in the human body for years – possibly 18 months to clear half the PFOA in their body.

In 1981, DuPont allegedly tested for PFOA in female plant workers in Parkensburg, West Virginia. The company “observed and documented pregnancy outcomes in exposed workers” and found that two of seven children born to female plant workers between 1979 and 1981 had birth defects.

A 1983 internal memo from a 3M medical officer warned of a trend where 3M workers had increasing levels of PFOA in their bodies. “[W]e must view this present trend with serious concern. It is certainly possible that [...] exposure opportunities are providing a potential uptake of fluorochemicals that exceeds excretion capabilities of the body.”

When the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) started

pressuring these companies to phase out PFOA. 3M phased out the U.S. production of PFOA-based AFFF production in 2002.

In 2005, the EPA “uncovered evidence that DuPont concealed the environmental and health effects of PFOA and the EPA announced the ‘Largest Environmental Administrative Penalty in Agency History.’”

The EPA fined DuPont \$16.5 million for violating the Toxic Substances Control Act.

The resolution passed by the county states that Baron & Budd will receive a contingency fee of 25% of any money won in the lawsuit after costs and expenses are calculated.

This leaves the remaining 75% of potential funding for the county to address the PFAS.

The lawsuit was filed on June 19 and the defendants have 45 days, which will be around the end of July, to respond to the lawsuit. There are no scheduled hearings in the case.

Data center

FROM PAGE 1

allowed in the county.”

The proposed ordinance changes will be read in at the County Board of Supervisors meeting next Tuesday as part of the notification process for the public meeting.

While other committee members expressed support for the ordinance changes, they also were in favor of a moratorium against data centers.

“Without a moratorium, the data centers and their lawyers who are crafty will try to find a way to get it approved,” said Supervisor Dean Spoehr. “We’ll be playing defense instead of offense.”

Supervisor Maribeth Gabert also agreed voting on the moratorium after changing the current zoning ordinance was a good idea.

“We need to protect the people in Winnebago County,” she said.

Supervisor Matthew Woods agreed it was important to have a moratorium in place — “a 12-month or 18-month. It’s necessary.”

The public hearing at 6:30 p.m. July 28 at the David W. Albrecht Administration Building, 112 Otter Ave. in Oshkosh will go over the ordinance wording change, providing community members with the opportunity to discuss the changes. No vote will be taken.

The Planning & Zoning Committee will vote on the moratorium on Aug. 6. If the committee approves it, the moratorium

will come before the county board for final approval on Aug. 18.

Community speaks out

Prior to the committee discussing changes to the current zoning codes, Winnebago County residents spoke in opposition to any data center coming to the county.

Cameron Chapin of Oshkosh said data centers caused many problems from water scarcity and noise pollution to neighbors reporting having trouble sleeping.

“There’s reports that bee populations have been decimated near data centers and farmers say no new calves are being born,” he said. “This is serious stuff.”

Supervisor Rachel Dowling, who represents Menasha, said a small data center opened in nearby Harrison in Calumet County on the same utility grid as Menasha has caused utility prices to increase 50%.

“I also read about a data center going into an empty Walmart in Milwaukee,” Dowling said. “We have a Shopko sitting empty in Menasha and I worry that maybe a data center will want to go in there.”

Benjamin Black of Oshkosh was blunt in his opinion of data centers.

“These are weapons,” he said. “The data they are farming is being used against us.”

Another resident, Dana Merrimam, expressed concern data centers will ruin “everything that’s beautiful about Winnebago County. These centers will pollute our air, cause noise pollution, light pollution and use our water.”



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NEENAH, WISCONSIN

Local delegates attend statewide high school program



Submitted photo
Neenah High School delegate Madeline Lee was elected by her peers and installed to the high office of Secretary of State of the 51st State of Badger.

Neenah News

Delegates from the Neenah area attended the American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girl State program last month at the UW-Oshkosh campus.

“It is a pleasure to report it was a very successful year with seven delegates sent to ALABGS week,” said Char Kiesling, the American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girl State Unit 33 advisor, and past American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin president.

The program, which was in its 84th year, was held June 21-26.

The 2026 ALABGS delegates from Neenah High School were Olivia Bushman, Alexandra Guden and Madeline Lee and from St. Mary Catholic High Nadia Alexander, Nina Jackson and Mariana Lopez. Because of a late cancellation, the delegation was able to send an alternate Zhenya Mattes from Clintonville High School.

Kiesling said that Lee was elected by her peers and installed to the high office of Secretary of State of the 51st State of Badger. She received her award and certificate from Wisconsin Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski.

Governor Tony Evers was present at the inauguration to address the 2026 delegation.

“Unit 33 is truly proud of all their 2026 delegates and thankful to the school counselors, Drew Kopitzke of SMC and Kristin Mahoney of NHS for their efforts that help to make it possible,” Kiesling said.

Kiesling said the delegation had three new contributors: Joyce Damico, a unit member; Dr. Bryan Mick, DDS Doty Island Dental and Aura Salon of Neenah.. Further contributors were Whirlwind Hole Drilling & Fencing LLC, Bergstrom Auto, Larsen-Winchester Lions Club and Unit 33. Each scholarship is \$500.

UWO hosts immersive government experience for high schoolers

UW-Oshkosh Today

A civic leadership experience focused on government, elections, public service, debate and leadership development played out last month at the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh for hundreds of high school seniors from across Wisconsin.

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State has a long history at UWO, and Executive Director Joanie Dickerson, who has volunteered 31 years, says her expectation from the week is always that the girls take what they learn and experience and apply it to their lives as involved citizens of their community, state and country.

“To build a strong America, we need people to be leaders in our country,” Dickerson said.

The delegates are chosen by their schools and sponsored to attend—there is no cost to the student—and they are assigned to the “Nationalist” or “Federalist” political party in a week-long mock government activity. They are assigned to one of 10 cities, including such names as Balsam, Hemlock, Hickory and Pine, as part of the mythical state of Badger.

Organizers say the girls were dropped off the night of June 21 and often wonder what they are getting involved with and if it’s right for them. They end the week af-



Photo from UW-Oshkosh
Badger Girls State delegates running for office were seeking nomination signatures.

ter cultivating leadership skills, many new friendships and tears flowing when they head separate ways back home.

On Monday morning, students took group photos before kicking off campaigns for various offices and holding caucus debates on platform issues. State nomination papers with the required signatures needed to be turned in by the 10:15 p.m. Monday deadline.

There are Primary and General elections for Federalist and Nationalist offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Supreme Court Justice.

The week included political party conventions, Senate and Assembly Bill writing sessions, lobbying opportunities, an evening flag ceremony, hearings on bills and visits from Wisconsin’s elected officials.

Debate on platform issues the afternoon of June 22 included topics such as housing, green house gas emissions, property and income taxes.

A fun “State Fair” lunch event June 25 included lots of traditional Fair foods and a State Fair talent show showcased delegate abilities on Friday.

There was a three-hour future college/career day on Thursday afternoon and a highlight of the week took place Thursday night, when Senate, Assembly, State Officers and special guests were part of the highly-anticipated Inaugural Dinner at Blackhawk Commons. The week wrapped up June 26.

This year marks the 81st session of the American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State.

“I think it’s (Badger Girls State) as important as it ever was, in the world,” Dickerson said, adding that she hopes delegates will take what they learn and experience at ALA Badger Girls State and apply it to their lives as involved citizens.

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Local college graduates

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh's 152nd spring commencement celebrated the achievements of 1,100 students in two ceremonies May 16 inside Kolf Sports Center. The following graduates are from Neenah.

Brady S. Blocksom, Bachelor of Science

Jacob Lemieux Blouin, Master of Science

Matthew E. Breen, Bachelor of Arts

Samuel B. Cocherl, Bachelor of Business Administration

Madelin Corrao, Doctor of Nursing Practice

Kira M. Fritsch, Bachelor of Business Administration

Courtney R. Gross, Master of Science in Education

Rosalba Hamilton, Master of Science in Nursing

Morgan J. Helms, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Edward Higgins, Master of Science

Kevin Hoglund, Bachelor of Science

Cheyenne D. Icenhower, Bachelor of Arts

Isaac A. James, Bachelor of Science

Abby L. Jennerman, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Jordyn A. Knuijt, Bachelor of Arts

Jordyn A. Knuijt, Bachelor of Science in Education

Anna C. Koerner, Master of Science in Education

Joy Kolbe-Taylor, Master of Science in Education

Megan L. Koshollek, Bachelor of Business Administration

Brooke M. Kroll, Master of Science in Education

Tallow Lefeber, Bachelor of Science

Samantha A. Lightner, Bachelor of Social Work

Jacob A. Martin, Bachelor of Science

Asher Summerfield Mazur, Bachelor of Science

Claudia R. Miller, Bachelor of Arts

Zachariah Monasmith, Bachelor of Applied Studies

Taylor Rae Nicholson, Master of Science in Nursing

Amanda Pierron, Bachelor of Science

Amanda Pierron, Bachelor of Science in Education

Lydia Rindt, Bachelor of Science in Education

Kaden S. Ryberg-Fanelli, Associate of Arts and Science

McKenna J. Schabo, Bachelor of Fine Arts

Alexa R. Schlafman, Bachelor of Science

Trace J. Schroepfer, Bachelor of Business Administration

Annika Schumacher, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Paige E. Sokel, Bachelor of Science

Pierce Steffen, Bachelor of Business Administration

Trevor Stichman, Associate of Arts and Science

Thomas J. Swanson, Bachelor of Science

Isaac T. Te Stroete, Bachelor of Science

Carter W. Thomas, Bachelor of Business Administration

Jessica L. Thompson, Master of Science in Education

Alexis D. Vanlerberghe, Bachelor of Science

Christopher J. Westphal, Bachelor of Science

Caura Winters, Master of Science in Education

Lauren Woller, Bachelor of Science

The following students from Neenah graduated May 16 from University of Wisconsin-Stout Polytechnic in Menomonie.

Roxanne Bannister, MS training and talent development

Gabe Cihlar, BS plastics engineering

Leon Eide, BS biology

Cierra Johnson, EDS school psychology

Taylor Roal, MFA design

The following students from Neenah graduated in May from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Michelle Kelly Henne, early childhood education - BSE

Ryan Janssen, finance – BBA, magna cum laude

Grants support workforce advancement training

Neenah News

Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) is the recipient of five Workforce Advancement Training (WAT) grants from the Wisconsin Technical College System. These grants, totaling nearly \$981,000, will support customized training programs designed to upskill employees and enhance business performance across Northeast Wisconsin.

The WAT grants will fund training in several key areas such as leadership and quality excellence, transportation technologies, healthcare, manufacturing and industrial maintenance. Each training program will have an emphasis on both technical skills and career pathways.

“These grant funds help us provide targeted training solutions that address the evolving needs of employers across our region,” said Kari Meixl, director of Business and Industry Services at FVTC. “By reducing financial barriers to workforce development, the grants make it easier for organizations to invest in their employees, strengthen skills and remain competitive in a rapidly changing economy.”

For more information, visit fvtc.edu/bis, call (920) 735-2525 or email bi.services@fvtc.edu.



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Price prepares for next step on baseball journey

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Former Neenah High School baseball standout AJ Price spent part of his summer suiting up for the Bucks.

Not the summer league team for the state's NBA franchise, but rather as a pitcher on the Waterloo Bucks of the Northwoods League. The lefthander appeared in seven games, including six starts, for the squad and struck out 34 batters in 28 1/3 innings in the talent-laded wood-bat summer league.

"It was the best experience I have ever had," Price said in a recent phone interview. "It was so much fun just playing baseball every day. It was just awesome."

Price, who is back in Neenah and expects to be at home the rest of the summer, compiled a 2-1 record in his time with Waterloo and finished with a 6.04 earned run average.

The pinnacle of his stint in the prestigious league came in his final start with

the Bucks when he carried a perfect game through the first three innings.

"The highlight for me was just getting better every week," Price said. "I feel like I improved so much over the summer."



Price

The experience also provided an important lesson he believes he can take moving forward.

"The most important thing I learned was how important the mental side is, especially when you are playing every day," Price said. "You

have to have a strong mental game otherwise it's just going to wear down on you and it's not going to be fun to show up every day and that's what I am going to take into college ball."

Price had originally planned to play for the Bismarck Larks in the Northwoods League but when that opportunity didn't

materialize, the door to Waterloo opened.

He said that a connection between the Waterloo coach and his coach at St. Cloud State helped facilitate the chance to play.

"It just kind of fell into my lap," said Price, who made one appearance with the Green Bay Rockers in 2005. "I was supposed to go to Bismark to play for the Larks and that kind of fell through and I was lucky enough to land in Waterloo."

Price was coming off a solid sophomore season on the mound for the Huskies but following the campaign entered the transfer portal and has signed with Wayne State University in Detroit.

He is looking forward to joining the Division II program in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference this fall and continue his collegiate career.

"I'm very excited about it," said Price, who will study civil engineering. "I just really liked that Wayne State had a winning culture and they are a bigger school. Their head coach, Coach (Ryan) Kelley, is

an amazing coach and they have had some MLB talent go through there. It all kind of led to me choosing that."

Price, a left-handed hurler who throws in the low 90s, said he plans to add a new pitch to his arsenal when he joins the Warriors in the fall.

With a fastball, slider, curve ball and change-up already in his repertoire he said he will be learning to throw a cutter.

"It's going to be learning that new pitch and going out and competing with it in the fall," Price said. "I want to show them how I can compete and help them win games."

Price received all-Fox Valley Association recognition as an outfielder his senior season with the Rockets – he admitted that he does miss getting to bat at the collegiate level – and credits his time in the Neenah program for setting a strong foundation for him.

"Just the hard-working aspect of being

SEE **Price pitching** ON PAGE 15

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Rec tennis

The Neenah Park and Rec Tennis staff has been holding summer tournaments in July.

Here are the results of the tournaments held so far.

Girls 14U Singles

Championship: Catherine Champa def. Lane O'Brien, 6-2, 6-1. **Third place:** Haddie Hankel def. Eleanor Huss, 8-1. **Semifinals:** Champa def. Hankel, 6-4; O'Brien def. Huss, 6-0. **Round 1:** Champa def. Ellie Fluette, 4-0; Hankel def. Lily Walsh, 4-0; Huss def. Margaret Champa, 4-0; O'Brien def. Siri Johnson, 4-0. **Prelims:** Hankel def. Mila Walsh, 4-0.

Girls 14U Doubles

Championship: Eleanor Huss and Page Vickman def. Lily and Mila Walsh, 6-5, 6-2. **Third place:** Lizzie Scott and Ellie Fluette def. Clare Teeling and Grace Osland, 8-2. **Semifinals:** Walsh/Walsh def. Teeling/Osland, 8-1; Huss/Vickman def. Scott/Fluette, 8-3.

Girls 16U Singles

Championship: Catherine Champa def. Sloane Desai, 6-2, 6-2. **Third place:** Eleanor Huss def. Lily Walsh, 6-3. **Semifinals:** Champa def. Walsh, 6-0; Desai def. Huss, 6-0. **Quarterfinals:** Champa def. Hannah Schalk, 3-0; Walsh def. Lidia Klarner, 3-2; Desai def. Mila Walsh, 3-0; Huss def. Margaret Champa, 3-1.

Girls 16U Doubles

Championship: Catherine Champa and Sloane Desai def. Margaret Champa and Eleanor Huss, 6-0, 6-2. **Third place:** Lily Walsh and Ellie Fluette def. Lizzie Scott and Mila Walh, 6-1. **Semifinals:** C. Champa/Desai def. Scott/M. Walsh, 6-0; M. Champa/Huss def. l. Walsh/Fluette, 6-5.

Boys 14U Singles

Championship: William Lepp def. Ben Nimtz, 6-3, 2-6, 10-7. **Third place:** Simon Lepp def. Wyatt Motto, no score listed. **Semifinals:** W. Lepp def. Motto, 6-5; Nimtz def. S. Lepp, 6-5. **Round of 8:** W. Lepp def. Davis Eichman, 5-0; Motto def. Aemin Hartzheim, 5-4; S. Lepp def. Caleb Thomas, 5-1; Nimtz def. Tony Gutschow, 5-0. **Round of 16:** W. Lepp def. Oliver Ludka, 4-0; Eichman def. Charlie Nimtz, 4-0; Motto def. Jaden Dharmarante, 4-2; Hartzheim def. Will Hendries, 4-0; S. Lepp def. Aaron Dharmarante, 4-1; Thomas def. Max Motto, 4-2; Gutschow def. Conor Teeling, 4-0; Nimtz def. Jackson Glass, 4-0. **Prelims:** W. Motto def. Elliott Curtis, 4-0; A. Dharmarante def. Emmett Hartzheim, 4-1; M. Motto def. Ben Huss, 4-1.

Boys 14U Doubles

Championship: Danny Cowie and Sam Kubicki def. Ben and Charlie Nimtz, 6-0, 6-5, 7-4. **Third place:** Tony Gutschow and Davis Eichman def. Jadon and Aaron Dharmarante, score not available. **Semifinals:** Nimtz/Nimtz def. Dharmarante/Dharmarante, 6-2; Cowie/Kubicki def. Gutschow/Eichman, 6-0. **Quarterfinals:** Nimtz/Nimtz def. Evan Scott and Jackson Glass, 4-0; Dharmarante/Dharmarante def. Caleb Thomas and Elliott Curtis, 4-0; Gutschow/Eichman def. Nolan Curtis and Simon Lepp, 4-1; Cowie/Kubicki def. Conor Champa and Oliver Ludka, 4-0. **Prelims:** Thomas/Curtis def. Cal and Fritz Weber, 4-1.

Boys 16U Singles

Championship: William Lepp def. Simon Lepp, 6-2, 6-3. **Third place:** Aemin Hartzheim def. Charlie Nimtz, 6-3.

Semifinals: W. Lepp def. Nimtz, 6-1; S. Lepp def. Hartzheim, 6-1. **Quarterfinals:** Hartzheim def. Ben Huss, 5-2; S. Lepp def. Conor Champa, 5-1; Nolan Pletcher def. Nimtz, 5-1; W. Lepp def. Caleb Thomas, 5-0. **Round of 16:** Huss def. Elliot Klarner, 4-2; S. Lepp def. Evan Scott, 4-0; Champa def. Tony Gutschow, 4-3; Nimtz def. Lucas Kane, 4-1; Pletcher def. Jackson Glass, 4-0; Thomas def. Conor Teeling, 4-1.

Boys 16U Doubles

Championship: Ben and Charlie Nimtz def. Simon Lepp and Hudson Hendries, 6-4, 6-3. **Third place:** William Lepp and Nolan Curtis def. Elliott Curtis and Caleb Thomas, 6-2. **Semifinals:** Nimtz/Nimtz def. E. Curtis/Thomas, 6-0; S. Lepp/Hendries def. W. Lepp/Curtis, 6-2. **Quarterfinals:** Nimtz/Nimtz def. Conor

Champa and George McMillan, 3-0; E. Curtis/Thomas def. Elliot Klarner and Conor Champa, 3-1; S. Lepp/Hendries def. Cal Weber and Crew Shalow, 3-0; N. Curtis/W. Lepp def. Aemin and Emmett Hartzheim, no score available. **Round of 16:** Hartzheim/Hartzheim def. Bryce Kennedy and Ian Scholk, 3-0.

Men's singles

Championship: Jay Woldt def. Bruce Ruedenger, 6-2. **Semifinals:** Ruedenger def. Judd Stevenson, 6-0, 6-1; Woldt def. Renis Johnson, 6-0, 6-0.

Men's doubles

Championship: Judd Stevenson and Mike Roth def. Jay Woldt and Bill VanNuland, 6-1, 6-1. **Other matches:** Woldt/VanNuland def. Alex Calder and Jeff Wiesner, 6-0, 6-0; Stevenson/Roth def. Calder/Wiesner, 6-1, 6-0.

Price pitching

FROM PAGE 14

a Neenah Rocket,” Price said. “We always did the field work at our fields through high school. As silly as it sounds, just doing that instilled a hard-working, selfless aspect into me that I have carried to college and it’s helped me a ton in the long

run.”

Price said he plans to take it easy the rest of the summer after playing baseball for nearly six straight months.

“I have been playing baseball since February, so I have to recover the arm a little bit,” Price said. “Going to hit the weight room, eat a lot of food and try to be the best version of myself going into the fall.”

Obituaries

James N. Larsen

James N. (Jim) Larsen, age 90, passed away peacefully on June 4, 2026, at St.



Elizabeth Hospital, surrounded by family. Jim was born on November 10, 1935, in Neenah, Wisconsin, the oldest child of Oscar and Minerva (Lambie) Larsen. Other than a three-year period in the late

1960s, he lived his entire life in the Neenah area.

Jim was a 1954 Neenah graduated and on May 10, 1958, Jim married Gloria Desens in Clintonville, Wisconsin.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years,

Gloria; his children, Susan (Joel) Taggart and their son Ethan (Kelly) Taggart; Kathy (Larry) Funk; Doug Larsen; and Dave Larsen (Maria Jacques) and his children, Alex (Ashleigh) Larsen and Anna (Christian) Price, and a great-grandchild expected in November 2026. He is further survived by many siblings, in-laws, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Jim’s Life will be held on August 15, 2026, at 11:30 am at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1140 Tullar Road, Neenah. A visitation will be held from 9:30 am until the time of service.

The complete obituary can be found on www.westgorfuneralhomes.com.

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IN THE MATTER OF: CHRISTOPHER LEE GERRITS LIVING TRUST DATED JANUARY 15, 2020 NOTICE TO CREDITORS LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS (Trust Administration)

The administration of the trust has commenced for the decedent-grantor, CHRISTOPHER LEE GERRITS, whose date of birth was October 24, 1953, and date of death was June 7, 2026. The decedent died with a residence in Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin, with a post office address of 1636 Oak Hollow Lane, Neenah, Wisconsin 54956.

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes

701.0508, creditors' claims must be filed with Patrick J. Hietpas and Cheryl A. Hietpas, co-trustees of the Christopher Lee Gerrits Living Trust dated January 15, 2020, with the power and authority to pay the debts of the decedent, at the address provided below, on or before November 3, 2026.

Address to file claims: Patrick J. Hietpas and Cheryl A. Hietpas c/o Lin Law LLC 1928 Riverside Drive Green Bay, WI 54301

Dated this 26th day of June, 2026 /s/ PATRICK J. HIETPAS, Trustee Dated this 26th day of June, 2026 /s/ CHERYLA HIETPAS, Trustee

Runs: July 3, 2026, July 10, 2026 and July 17, 2026

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Can YOU Set a Record?

Some world records are about being the fastest or the strongest. But a lot of world records are pretty weird! Try these activities with your friends to see who can set the record!

Longest Domino Trail

Work with a friend to make a long, twisty trail of dominoes. Then, tip the first one and watch them fall. Who can make the longest trail without accidentally knocking them down? (Want to beat the world record for the longest line of dominoes? You'll need more than 15,524!)

At the end of each row, draw the domino that will continue the pattern.

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Book Balancing

This is a fun challenge to try with friends! Who can walk the longest distance while balancing two books on their head?

LOOK CAREFULLY: Can you find the two identical book covers?

Treasure Island

Treasure Island

Treasure Island

Treasure Island

Treasure Island

Treasure Island

Treasure Island

Tallest Tower of Stacked Coins

How many coins can you stack into a single tall tower in 60 seconds? The world record is 91 coins.



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



Extra! Extra!

The Silliest Holiday

Look through the newspaper ads. Imagine a silly holiday about something being advertised. How would people celebrate this silly holiday? Draw a poster for this holiday.

Happy Onion Soup Day

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level words correctly.

“Aaaaaahhh...”

Get a stopwatch. Which family member can say “ahhhhhhh” the longest without taking a breath?



Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

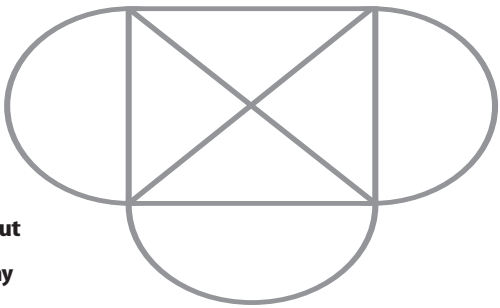
Best Memory

Have friends look at this grid for 30 seconds. Cover it. Have them name all the items they can remember. Who can remember the most items?

Longest Chalk Line Without Stopping

How long can you make a single chalk line? To break the record (1.528 miles), you can use more than one piece of chalk, but the line must not have any gaps.

Trace this path without lifting your pencil or drawing back over any of your lines.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.



Funniest Story

Ask a friend or family member to give you each type of missing word to fill in the blanks. Read the silly story together!

My uncle set the world record for building the tallest _____ NOUN.

He won an _____ ADJECTIVE _____ NOUN, and his story was published in our local newspaper.

The reporter asked him, “How many _____ PLURAL NOUN did you use? Did anyone help when you decided to _____ VERB into your workshop?”

My uncle explained that he stacked _____ PLURAL NOUN on top of _____ PLURAL NOUN. Carefully, he added a _____ ADJECTIVE _____ NOUN.

The tower was higher than a _____ NOUN, and a few _____ PLURAL NOUN fell out of it. But he continued to _____ VERB until it was finished.

Right after the photo was taken, everyone cheered, causing it to _____ VERB into a million pieces!

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Write On!



Outdoor Fun

Share with other kids the games you like to play outdoors during the summer.

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



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