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INSIDE



Kid's Scoop

Fun activities, information
in this week's edition

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Wanky water

Tests determine beach
closings in county

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Photo from Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation

Messy fest

Participants were invited to make a mess July 17 during the Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department's Messy Fest. During the event at the Fox Crossing Municipal Complex, kids could enjoy activities such as splatter painting, shaving cream madness and ice cream sliding.

City honors public works director

Kaiser retires after 35 years of service

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah's Public Works Director Gerry Kaiser is retiring after 35 years of service with the city, but his name will still be around: Mayor Brian Borchardt and Neenah's Common Council are renaming the Main Street Overpass Bridge the Gerry Kaiser Bridge.

At the Common Council meeting on July 15, Borchardt read a proclamation honoring Kaiser, singling out the many capital improvement projects he took a lead on, including the Main Street Overpass. Other noteworthy projects included roundabouts at Winneconne Avenue and Green Bay Road, which spurred development in that area, trail development along Bayview Road and Lakeshore Road and the paving of South Commercial Street.

"Gerry has skillfully managed critical city infrastructure and led the department through challenging times, including storm responses, emergency repairs, winter storm operations and subdivision development, with calm reassurance and unwavering resolve," Borchardt said.

Kaiser first joined the city as a traffic engineer and then served as a deputy director of public works before being named public works director in 2013.

SEE **Kaiser retiring** ON PAGE 3

Fox Menagerie brings together local musical talent

By George Halas
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Fox Menagerie highlights and celebrates music and musicians of the Fox Cities.

In its fourth year, the on-going project produces two new music videos per week for viewing on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok and on the foxmenagerie.com website.

The project is co-produced by Joe Slyzeli, aka Joe Sly, and Dave Jerabek. WAMI Award winner Joe Sly is one of the Fox Cities' most recognizable and highly regarded musicians.

He has led Sly Joe and The Smooth Operators for 20 years, releasing five albums of original material along the way. A singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, he also regularly plays piano at Cannova's

in Neenah, will be appearing Aug. 6 at Batley's Grill & Bar in Neenah and plays keyboards in the band Yacht Sea.

He has also put together groups of local musicians to play the entire "Abbey Road" album by The Beatles live at Becket's in Oshkosh and other venues.

Primarily wielding a bass guitar, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Jerabek is one of the Smooth Operators and plays in the band Copper Box with Dan and Michelle Jerabek. Formerly the band director at Winneconne High School for 16 years, he has served as the school's Director of Education Technology for the last five years.

Fox Menagerie was inspired by the

SEE **Fox Menagerie** ON PAGE 11



Submitted photo

Fox Menagerie produces two new music videos each week, usually recorded in Winneconne for viewing on various internet platforms.



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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
A 501c3 newspaper published weekly and mailed free of charge Thursdays for Friday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 21,000 homes and businesses in the Neenah and Fox Crossing areas. An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.neenahnews.com.

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

Bicentennial Quilt 1976

1976 was the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and like in 2026, people celebrated in different ways. The Immanuel Church of Christ in Neenah displayed a quilt commemorating the bicentennial.

DMV offers information on obtaining an ID for voting

Ahead of Wisconsin’s Primary Election on Aug. 11, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reminds citizens how to obtain identification, free of charge, that is valid for voting.

Valid identification for voting purposes includes a driver license, identification card, military or student ID card, etc. There is no separate “voter ID.” A federally compliant REAL ID card is not required for voting purposes. Anyone unsure if their identification meets the requirements should visit the Wisconsin Elections Commission website at elections.wi.gov/voters/photo-id/photo-id-bring-it-ballot to check.

Begin online to see a list of the required documents that are needed to present at

a DMV Customer Service Center in order to obtain identification to show at the polls: wisconsinidmv.gov/idcards. A process is available to U.S. citizens, free of charge, to obtain a receipt valid to take to the polls for voting if the ID card is not available in time.

Anyone with questions related to obtaining an ID that can be used to vote should call DMV’s toll-free hotline at 844-588-1069. Questions regarding voter eligibility, poll locations, voter registration information or other election information can be directed to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at elections.wi.gov.

Start the application now at wisconsinidmv.gov or at a local DMV Customer Service Center. To find a DMV, check hours, services and wait times, visit wisconsinidmv.gov/centers.



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Calendar of events

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

Meet and Greet Local Author Laura Sprtel of “Fridays are for Fish Frys,” 10:30 a.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

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

Saturday, Aug. 1

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

Kid’s Triathlon, 8 a.m., Neenah Pool

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

Tuesday, Aug. 4

Neenah’s Night Out, 5 p.m., Memorial Park

Fox Crossing National Night Out, 5 p.m., O’Hauser Park

Neenah Community Band Concert, 7 p.m., Riverside Park

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Photo from Neenah-Nodaway Yacht Club

Hazy viewing

Despite smoky conditions last weekend caused by Canadian wildfires, sailboats taking part in the Neenah Clinigatta could be seen on the water. The event featured Flying Scots that could be seen on the race course from Riverside Park near the Kimberly Point Lighthouse. Coaches and racers from Neenah, along with clubs in Madison, Door County, North Carolina, Tennessee and Ohio, were in attendance.

Kaiser retiring

FROM PAGE 1

“I appreciate the honor of having the overpass named for me,” Kaiser said. “I also want to thank my wife for listening to me vent. I want to thank all the mayors and councils who’ve worked with me on the different projects through the years. I thank the staff I’ve worked with who supported me and taught me.

“I’ve been blessed to work here,” he continued. “I couldn’t have hoped for anything more when I stepped through the door here on Nov. 26, 1990.”

Kaiser’s last day with the city is Aug. 3.

Rohloff steps in

A familiar name in Winnebago County, Mark Rohloff, will serve as interim public

works director until Kaiser’s successor is hired.

The council voted to hire Rohloff, who served as Oshkosh’s city manager from



Rohloff

2008 to 2024, on a part-time basis to run the department. He currently works as the division manager of public safety and municipal management at McMahon Associates and is hired by different municipalities to fill different roles.

Under the contract approved by the council, Rohloff will be paid \$185 per hour for no more than 20 hours per week, not to exceed \$19,500. The funds are coming from the Public Works’ operating budget.

Water tests determine beach closings in county

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

It’s summer, it’s hot and with Winnebago County’s miles of shoreline, people often wonder, “is the water safe to swim in?”

It’s a popular question the Winnebago County Department of Public Health gets this time of year. The county tests the water quality of the swimming beaches at Winneconne Park, Menominee Park in Oshkosh and Fresh Air Park in Neenah to check on E. coli levels twice a week. Depending on the results, a beach may be closed.

Water is also tested at several boat launches in Lake Winnebago, Lake Poygan and Lake Butte des Morts.

“People call and want to know if a beach is closed and if it was closed, they want to know when it might reopen,” said Holly Glassford, an environmental health specialist with Winnebago County’s Public Health Department.

The county partners with the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Environment and Research Center on the water testing. They collect water in a simple bottle and then examine it for any signs of the E. coli bacteria.

If the tests come back with more than 1,000 E. coli in 100 mL of water, a beach is closed. A sign is put up at the beach and the information is shared on social media and on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ website. The water is automatically tested the next day.

If the sample shows an E. coli count between 235 and 999 in 100 mL of water, an

advisory is posted and if E. coli is listed below 235, the beach is open.

E. coli exposure can cause stomach upset, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

When there is a beach advisory, Glassford said it is not recommended that small children, people with compromised immune systems and the elderly swim in the water. Other people are advised to wash their hands with soap and water after swimming and avoid swallowing any of the lake water.

So far this summer, there have been fewer beach closures, especially in Winneconne, Glassford said.

“Last year, there was a huge goose population near the beach and that led to a lot of closings,” she said. “This year, the geese are not around so there’s less of a problem with E. coli levels.”

Glassford said the department sometimes gets calls from people on their boats wondering about water quality. The standing advice is that if there’s been heavy rains, that may have pushed more contaminants from the shore into the water so be cautious.

“We advise people to shower off after swimming and to wash or sanitize their hands before eating,” she said.

The health department also takes calls about algae blooms with people wondering if they are toxic or not.

“There are no specific tests we can do on the algae blooms,” Glassford said. “But we tell people to scan the water and if they see algae that looks like speckled paint or pea soup to stay out.”



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Registration open for Huntington’s Disease walk

Neenah News

The Wisconsin Chapter of the Huntington’s Disease Society of America will host the 2026 HDSA Fox Valley Team Hope Walk at Memorial Park.

Registration for the Aug. 9 event starts at 9 a.m. and the event starts at 10 a.m. All proceeds support HDSA’s mission to improve the lives of people affected by Huntington’s disease (HD) and their families.

Team Hope is HDSA’s largest national grassroots fundraising event, which takes place in over 100 cities across the U.S. and has raised more than \$28 million for HD since its inception in 2007.

Thousands of families, friends, co-workers, neighbors and communities walk together each year to support HDSA’s mission to improve the lives of people affected by HD and their families.

Online registration and donation information can be found at give.hdsa.org/event/2026-team-hope-walk-and-5k-fox-valley-wi/e723897.

Outdoor warning siren will not be tested this week

The Winnebago County “Outdoor Warning Siren Testing” will not take place as usual at noon Saturday during EAA Air-Venture week.

However, Winnebago County Emergency Management official said the sirens will sound if a tornado warning is issued for the county.



Photo from Neenah Police Department

Outdoor music

After weather conditions so far this summer have either canceled or moved Future Neenah Wednesday Night concerts indoors, The Britins performed July 15 outside for a crowd at Shattuck Park. The show went on despite heat and smoky conditions. The Wednesday night concert series continues through Aug. 12.

Volunteers needed to assist with annual Fox Cities Marathon

Neenah News

Registration is open for the Kwik Trip Volunteer Squad at the 35th annual Community First Fox Cities Marathon presented by Miron Construction.

Volunteers can sign up for a chance to cheer on local athletes and neighbors while making unforgettable memories during race weekend, Sept. 18-20.

More than 1,600 roles are needed to keep every part of the event running smoothly. Those interested in being a part of the celebration of local pride, competi-

itive running and shared connection are encouraged to visit foxcitiesmarathon.org/volunteer for more information and to secure their spot.

“Our volunteers are the heartbeat of race weekend,” race director Julie Johnson said. “From the starting line to the finish, they welcome participants, cheer on families and bring our community together in a way nobody else can. We simply cannot do this without them.”

Volunteers support thousands of runners and walkers from across the country. Positions vary in activity levels and in-

clude both indoor and outdoor tasks and no experience is necessary. Volunteers can sign up individually for a single day or across multiple days of the race weekend.

Adults and teens are encouraged to participate, and volunteer hours can count toward community service hour requirements.

The event’s net proceeds support community service projects and local nonprofits in the Fox Cities.

All volunteers will receive a free T-shirt and a chance to win a prize during the Kwik Trip Virtual Volunteer Party.

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Entertainment lineups set for county fair next week

Neenah News

The countdown to the Winnebago County Fair is almost over with entertainment options starting next week. The fair is scheduled to take place from Wednesday to Aug. 2 at the Sunnyview Expo Center. The fair closes at 4 p.m. Aug. 2. Barns

Community event focuses on fall prevention

Neenah News

Winnebago Public Health is organizing a free fall prevention community event. The event will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon Aug. 18 at the Bridgewood Conference Center, 1000 Cameron Way in Neenah. Organizers encourage participants to discover how to move with confidence and maintain their independence by con-

Free outdoor movie to be shown in park

Neenah News

The Neenah Parks and Recreation Department will host a free movie night in the park. The movie “Sketch” will be played Tuesday evening at Memorial Park.

are open each day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and the expo building from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Visitors will be able to explore six barns of animals, then head over to the Expo Building with youth exhibits, vendors and the 4-H Basket Raffle. Family fun includes pig, duck and goat necting with community resources, participating in interactive health screenings and expert led sessions. The sessions include information about strength and bone health, nutrition for aging and medication management. Participants can bring unused or expired medicines to drop in a drug take back box. Information and registration details can be found at FindingBalanceTogether.org.

Guests are invited to bring their friends and family for an evening under the stars. The movie is slated to start at 6:30 p.m. but guests are invited to come early to craft with the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass.

races, balloon twisting, face painting, Nick’s Kids Show, Hillbilly Bob and Johnny the Tractor, Lynn the Mime, chainsaw woodcarving, Barlow Planetarium shows, trout pond fishing, and the brand new circus: Rock-N-Circus. Entertainment acts do multiple shows throughout the day, typically between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The entertainers can be found in and around the Exposition building. The fair will feature over 20 food booths and the Carnival-Air Maxx and Carousel. Carnival start times vary. Grandstand events include a rodeo, tractor pull and the demolition derby, along with live local bands. The grandstand lineup includes RO-DEO CC Bucking Bulls of Wisconsin starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, the County Farm Tractor Pull at 7 p.m. Thursday, Badger State Truck & Tractor Pull at 6:30 p.m.

July 31 and Demo Derby by Hollywood Motorsports at 6 p.m. Aug. 1. The music lineup is Grand Union at 8 p.m. July 29, That 90’s Band at 8 p.m. July 30, 2/5s Party Band at noon, Avenue 55 at 4 p.m., That’s What She Said (in Oasis Beer Tent) at 8 p.m. and Spicy Tie Band at 8 p.m. July 31, Milly & The Mayhem at 4 p.m. and Ask Your Mother at 8 p.m. Aug. 1. All family entertainment is included with a daily admission ticket. The cost is \$15 at the gate. Seniors Day on July 31 gives attendees 55 and older \$5 admission in addition to free admission for any military members or veterans. A complete schedule of events, entertainment and ticket information is available on the Winnebago County Fair website winnebagofairshkosh.com.

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Photos from Neenah Public Library

Tween creations

Participants turned T-shirts into tote bags last week during the Tween Create Lab at the Neenah Public Library. The bags then could be loaded up with library materials. The Tween Create Lab Thursday was scheduled to be cosmic creations. The next Tween Create Lab is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Aug. 6 with the theme Build-a-Board Tic Tac Toe Edition.



Deadline for Neenah Parks and Recreation Department survey extended to Sunday

Neenah News

The Neenah Parks and Recreation Department has extended the deadline to complete an online survey. Responses are due at 11:59 p.m. Sun-

day. The department is beginning the process of updating its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), which helps guide future improvements to parks, trails, facilities, programs and

recreation opportunities throughout the community. The plan helps the city to determine how to spend state funding for parks, trails, nature restoration and sports facilities. Residents are asked to take the survey to share what they think about the parks and recreation amenities in Neenah and what they would like to see in the future. The survey can be found at [graef-usa.com/mysocialpinpoint.com/neenah-corp](https://www.graef-usa.com/mysocialpinpoint.com/neenah-corp).



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Supervisors can continue to ask for data directly

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County supervisors can continue to ask county departments for data and information after a rule requiring committee approval for such requests was voted down Tuesday at the County Board meeting.

The vote, which needed two-thirds majority to pass, failed 9-22.

Supervisor George Bureau introduced the rule, which would have required a supervisor seeking data and information from a county department to gain approval from the supervising committee. For example, if a supervisor wanted a set of data from the sheriff's department, the Judicial & Public Safety Committee would need to approve the request. The thinking is that other supervisors could add or refine the request.

"This doesn't affect the standard data we already receive. It helps make sure our departments don't get bogged down with requests," Bureau said. "My thought is more heads is better than one to create a request that is more efficient and effective. It's more transparent."

The proposed rule impacts a supervisor's authority, said Supervisor Rachael Dowling.

"Why should an elected supervisor need approval by other supervisors to ask questions?" Dowling said.



Hancock-Cooke

Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke, who voted against the measure when it came before the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee, said she asked Bureau for examples of departments that were overwhelmed with requests for information, and a single department was not mentioned.

"As it's written, this rule would allow one person — the chair — to decide not to hear your request or three people — other supervisors — could vote no on allowing your request to move forward," she said.

One of the county board's jobs is to provide oversight to county departments and the proposed rule would add an extra step and slow down the process, said Supervisor Bob Poeschl.

"Right now, it's supervisor directly to a department if we are seeking information, but with this rule, it would be supervisor to committee and then committee to department," he said. "That adds a delay."

Supervisor Tim Paterson said the rule change is needed.

"Our task and purpose is to set policy and set the budget," he said. "Our job is not to get involved in the day-to-day work of the departments."

Bureau said the current process is not transparent since supervisors can ask a department for information and data without other supervisors knowing about it.

"Requesting data and not telling others is not good teamwork," he said. "I also think departments will take our requests more seriously if they come from a committee instead of an individual."



Submitted photo

Trail cleanup

Kiwanis Club of Fox Crossing members on Monday cleaned up the walking trail along County Highway CB from Shady Lane to County Highway BB. The club has committed to doing four trail cleanups each year as part of adopting the stretch of road.

Local author to be appear at bookstore

Neenah News

Local children's book author Laura Sprtel will hold an upcoming meet and greet.

Sprtel is debuting her children's book "Fridays are for Fish Frys" from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

The author-illustrated picture book published by Orange Hat was released Tuesday. The story is about Jack, who joins

his uncle on his fishing boat early Friday morning. But when their catch comes in a little small, Jack starts to worry. Will there be enough food for everyone coming to their Friday night fish fry?

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Photo from Neenah Police Department

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The Neenah Police Department hosted the Neenah Menasha YMCA Camp Crossing on July 15. The group of 50 campers learned about community helpers, what police officers do and toured Neenah PD.

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Franklin sentenced to life in prison for 2024 homicide

Neenah News

Rodney Franklin will spend the rest of his life in state prison for killing a man in November 2024.

Franklin, 54, was found guilty of first-degree homicide and theft from a corpse at a jury trial in May. It took the jury 90 minutes to deliberate and determine Franklin's guilt.

Keith Rieskamp, 73, was living in Neenah when he was found dead Nov. 24, 2024, outside of Franklin's apartment building on East Doty Avenue.

Winnebago County Circuit Court Branch 2 Judge Scott Woldt last week sentenced Franklin to a life sentence without the possibility of parole for the homicide charge. Franklin was also sentenced to five years in prison for the theft from a corpse charge.

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

Assistant district attorney Tracy Paider said the victim was beaten so badly that his face was not recognizable.

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



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 - 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



Neenah man appeals drunk driving homicide conviction

Neenah News

A case involving a Neenah man killing four siblings is back in the spotlight as the driver that caused the crash believes evidence should be thrown out because a judge did not sign a warrant.

Scott Farmer was found guilty of four counts of homicide by intoxicated use of vehicle and an operating while intoxicated – fifth offense, charge after pleading no contest to each count. He is now asking to withdraw those pleas because a judge seemingly didn't sign the warrant for a blood draw.



Farmer

Farmer, 50, is currently serving a 37-year sentence at Dodge Correctional Institution in Waupun. Waupaca County Circuit Court Branch 3 Judge Raymond Huber handed Farmer the sentence in November 2024.

Earlier this month, Farmer appealed the decision in the Waupaca Circuit Court. He is being represented by the state public defender's office attorneys Nicholas Smith and Devon Lee. Online records show both attorneys joined the case a year after the sentencing hearing.

Smith and Lee argue that the judge did not sign the warrant for a blood draw and instead the judge directed a sheriff's deputy to sign the judge's name on the warrant.

Farmer's attorneys cite Wisconsin law that states a search warrant needs to be signed by a judge and requires the judge to "immediately sign the original warrant and enter on the face of the original warrant the exact time when the warrant was ordered to be issued."

They argue this never happened and therefore the blood draw was warrantless. The Wisconsin State Crime Lab reported that Farmer's blood-alcohol content from the blood draw was 0.346, which is four times the legal limit.

The case received attention from all over the state as it resulted in the death of four people. On Dec. 16, 2023, Farmer turned his vehicle into oncoming traffic on U.S. Highway 10 just south of Weyauwega and crashed into an SUV, killing Daniel Gonzalez, 25, his brother Fabian Gonzalez, 23, and their sisters, Lilian Gonzalez, 14, and Daniela Gonzalez, 9.

There were two GoFundMe pages set up to help the family hold funeral services, raising over \$100,000 for the family.

Court records state Farmer was heavily intoxicated and had an open bottle of vodka in his vehicle.

Farmer was transported to ThedaCare Medical Center in Waupaca. There, deputy Justin Malueg wanted a warrant for a blood draw. At 10:55 p.m. on the night of the crash, Judge Troy Nielson placed the

deputy under oath and took his sworn testimony during a phone call.

Nielson found probable cause and authorized Malueg to sign the judge's name. The appeal alleges Malueg wrote "Judge Troy Nielsen" on the judicial signature line and annotated "signed by [J.M]."

Smith and Lee believe no warrant was ever issued in the case and that is why the blood draw should be suppressed.

The case now is back in Branch 3 of the Waupaca County Circuit Courts. But there have been some changes in that courtroom.

Huber died in December 2025 and in

February 2026 Gov. Tony Evers appointed former Waupaca Corporation Counsel Diane Meulemans to serve the remainder of Huber's term, which ends on July 31, 2027.

Meulemans will be asked to review the appeal documents. In those documents, Smith and Lee are requesting an evidentiary hearing to vacate the judgment in the case, withdraw Farmer's pleas, throw out the blood draw evidence, "and granting such further relief as is just."

Farmer could be out of prison in 35 years but will spend the next 20 years on extended supervision. His earliest release from extended supervision is 2081.



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Fox Menagerie

FROM PAGE 1

work of Scary Pockets, whose similar efforts highlight the music scene in the Los Angeles area by combining different combinations of singers and “supertalented” musicians performing cover versions of famous songs.

“We really enjoyed Scary Pockets when they played at the Oshkosh Jazz Festival,” Slyzelia said. “We realized that we could

do something to highlight the Fox Valley music scene. We have the same caliber and quality as any music scene anywhere and the well (of talent) is deep.”

“It’s an idea that we were kickin’ around for about three years before we started,” Jerabek said. “There are so many amazing musicians in the area and we try to record as many different styles of music as possible.”

One major difference of Fox Menagerie is original music.

“Joe is such a good songwriter,” Jerabek said. “I said to him that ‘we should do

some of your songs.”

Slyzelia, who spent three years in Nashville as a songwriter, said, “I have a deep catalog of original songs and it’s great that they are seeing the light of day.”

Each recording session, filmed by Winneconne School District Librarian Dana Jerabek in the Winneconne High School library, is “split right down the middle,” Slyzelia said. “We always record two songs, one original and one cover. We try to reimagine the covers in fresh and surprising ways.”

The process begins with the singer.

“I think about the singer and I put together a playlist of 10-20 originals that I think they might have a connection to and they help with the selection,” Slyzelia said. “I have no way to predict what songs they’ll select and every time, I’m surprised. It’s a pleasant surprise. While I always like my songs, I wonder if they have value and are going to connect with anyone else.”

If a particular singer is also a songwriter or aspires to be one, Slyzelia will often collaborate to write new songs.

“I keep my songwriting muscles in shape

by collaborating with the singers,” he added. “For the covers, I usually ask the singers what was on their playlist in high school.”

Once the songs have been selected, Jerabek and Slyzelia reach out to musicians they know, have heard about, have seen perform and/or have reached out to them interested in playing. One rule: no bands.

“We try to bring people together who haven’t played together before,” Slyzelia said. “It not just highlights and celebrates the amazing quality of the musicians in the Fox Valley, the collaboration strengthens the performances.”

“We’ve been doing this for four years and it’s been a blast,” Jerabek said. “I get to play with great musicians and make music that I’m proud of. If nothing else, it will be a time capsule and a legacy.”

Fox Menagerie will play live from noon to 3 p.m. Oct. 3 at Winneconne Fall Fest. Sly Joe and The Smooth Operators will play from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 22 at the Oshkosh Farmers Market. Joe Sly will host “Songs and Stories” with Portland’s Karyn Ann, Carey Ott of Milwaukee and Green Bay’s Charlie Urick at 8 p.m. Sept. 11 at Becket’s in Oshkosh.

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Photo by David Hall

Clearing the skies

Early arriving aviation enthusiasts watched incoming aircraft last weekend along the flight line at Wittman Regional Airport. Hazy conditions persisted with smoke from Canadian wildfires impacting air traffic and air quality leading up to EAA AirVenture. The weeklong aviation convention and air show started Monday and concludes Sunday.

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EAA set to expand youth engagement area next year

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

For almost 75 years, aviation leaders have been coming to Oshkosh for EAA AirVenture.

The event, which is often regarded as the biggest air show in the world, is evolving how kids interact with the event.

On Monday, the opening day of EAA AirVenture 2026, EAA officials unveiled a new location for its youth engagement area called KidVenture. EAA CEO and chairman Jack Pelton explained that KidVenture started in 1999 to inspire children in all aspects of aviation.

Pelton said that during the week of AirVenture around 20,000 children visit KidVenture. With the help of 450 volunteers, they get to learn more about aviation.

This is compared to the approximately 8,000 children that visit the EAA Aviation Museum every other week of the year.

“The events at Discovery Park will be what we’re doing at the museum year-round,” Pelton said. “So, if you can’t get to AirVenture, come to the museum anytime during the year.”

KidVenture includes hands-on activities

such as learning how to fly radio-control and control line airplanes. There are also opportunities to experience flight simulators as well as learning about aviation and space history.

Margaret Brill, vice president of the EAA Aviation Foundation, said the foundation has already raised \$2.2 million toward the total \$6 million needed to complete the project.

She said these donations show an “early confidence” in Discovery Park.

The park will be a permanent building about 300 yards north of the FAA Control Tower with air conditioning.

Monday’s announcement was made in an open field with small aircraft parked nearby. In 2027, KidVenture will move to Discovery Park located between the EAA Aviation Gateway Park and the EAA Blue Barn chapter building on Knapp Street.

KidVenture, which is still just north of the EAA Aviation Museum this year, is open 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.

Buses run throughout the day between the Bus Park and KidVenture and the museum.

Zephyrs’ Klinkhammer honored by GCAW

Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic junior Alex Klinkhammer has been recognized as a 2026 Academic All-State honoree by the Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin.

Klinkhammer was among the 498 golfers from around the state to earn a spot on the list.

Klinkhammer was a member of the Zephyrs’ squad that captured a WIAA Division 3 regional title before finishing fifth at the sectional meet.

To be a member of the Academic All-State list, the golfers must have a cumulative grade point average above 3.25, participate in at least 75 percent of the program’s varsity competitions during the season and be in good standing regarding athletic and school codes. The individual Academic All-State honor is available for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

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Wait! Wait! Wait!

We spend a lot of time waiting to do things. We wait in lines, we wait for vacations, we wait for phone calls and we wait our turn playing games. The good news? Some imagination can make all that waiting time feel much shorter and, maybe, even a little bit fun!

Try doing these things while waiting!

THE KID SCOOP GREAT WAIT CHECKLIST

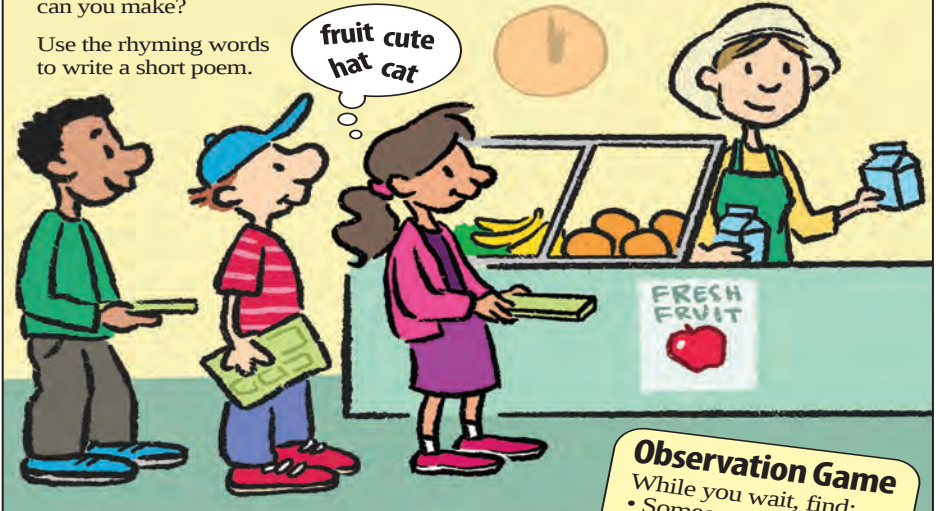
- ☐ Count backwards from 100 by fives.
- ☐ Find something from every letter of the alphabet.
- ☐ Think of five animals that start with "B."
- ☐ Imagine your dream treehouse.
- ☐ Draw your shoe.
- ☐ Stand like a statue for as long as you can.
- ☐ Sing your favorite song silently in your mind.
- ☐ Find 10 red things around you.

Rhyme Line

Waiting takes patience. While she waits for lunch, Gabriella is thinking of words that rhyme with things she sees in the cafeteria. Look at this picture. How many rhymes can you make?

Use the rhyming words to write a short poem.

fruit cute
hat cat



Observation Game

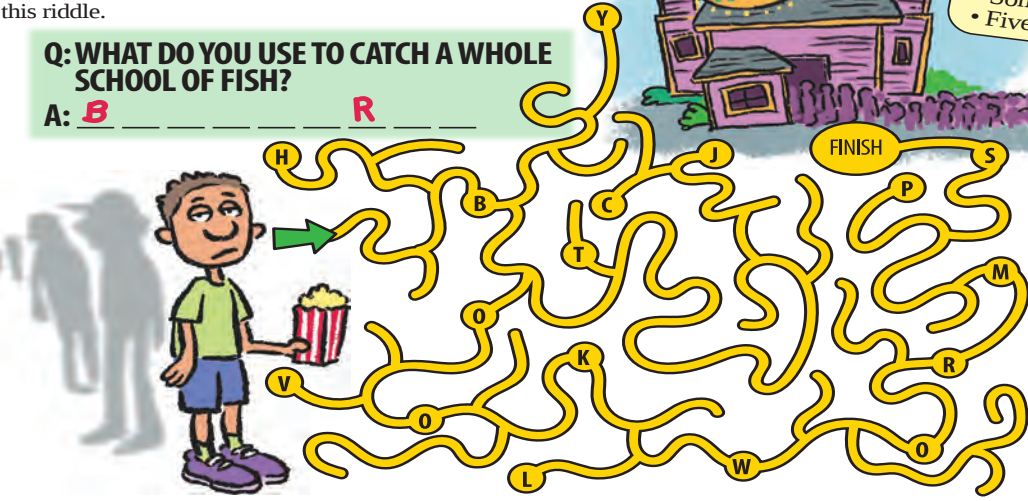
While you wait, find:

- Someone wearing red
- A clock
- Something that rolls
- Someone yawning
- A pair of glasses
- Someone reading
- Five circles

Fun House Find

It's a long wait for the Fun House at the fair. Use the letters you find on the correct path to discover the punch line to this riddle.

Q: WHAT DO YOU USE TO CATCH A WHOLE SCHOOL OF FISH?
A: **B** _ _ _ _ **R** _ _ _ _



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

What Are You Waiting For?

Look through the newspaper for things that you have to wait for, like upcoming movies, holidays, a big game or dinner to be ready. Make a list of the games on this page that would be good to play while waiting for each of these things.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Use the code to discover an important message about waiting.

20	12	12	23
7	19	18	13
26	9	22	
4	12	9	7
4	26	18	7
21	12	9	

SECRET CODE

26 = A	13 = N
25 = B	12 = O
24 = C	11 = P
23 = D	10 = Q
22 = E	9 = R
21 = F	8 = S
20 = G	7 = T
19 = H	6 = U
18 = I	5 = V
17 = J	4 = W
16 = K	3 = X
15 = L	2 = Y
14 = M	1 = Z

TRY IT! Send a message to a friend using this code!

Double Double Word Search

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

BOREDOM	CLOCK	DREAM	FUN	GAME	LUNCH	NEWS	PATIENCE	PLAY	RED	ROLLS	SHOE	START	TURN	WAIT	WORDS
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T	M	O	D	E	R	O	B	Q	J
S	L	L	O	R	G	A	M	E	Y
D	B	N	J	W	E	O	H	S	T
K	E	M	E	T	Y	A	C	P	U
S	D	R	O	W	C	T	M	L	R
T	P	V	C	A	S	L	F	U	N
A	W	L	J	I	F	Z	O	N	T
R	X	P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E
T	U	I	L	Y	F	W	Q	H	K

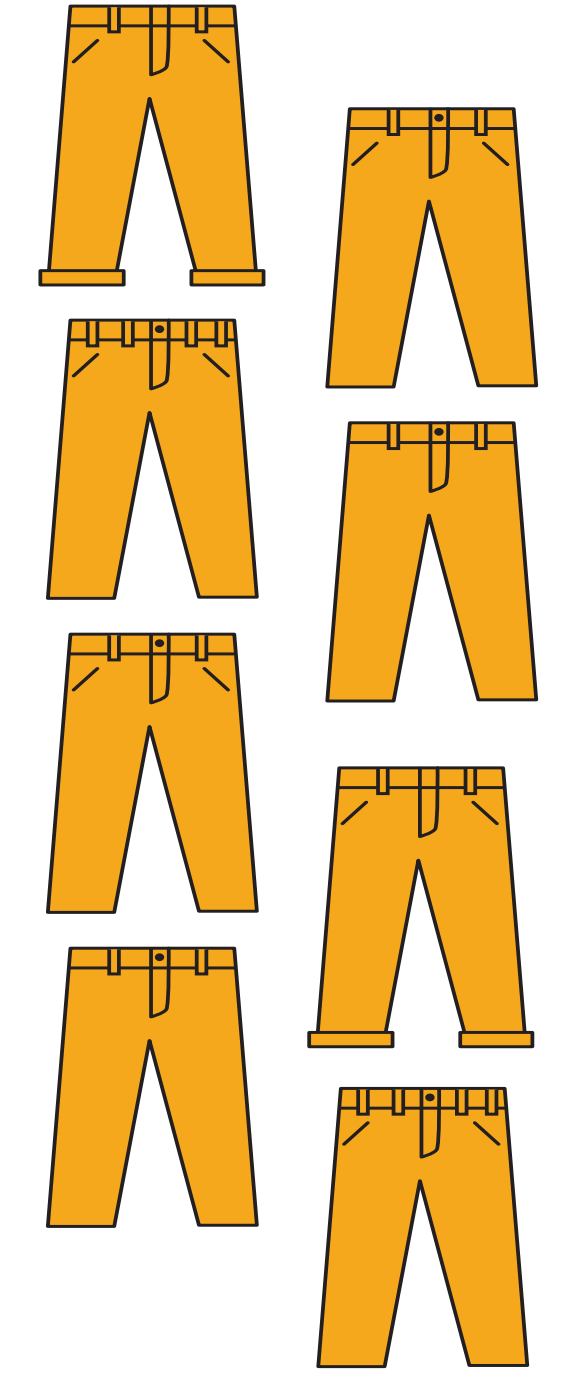
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together Patience Pants

"We're going to have to wait awhile. So, put on your patience pants."

Has anyone ever said that funny saying to you?

Find the exact match for each pair of pants below.



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Write On! Star Poem

Write a poem all about the stars.

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

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