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Officials coordinating tornado recovery

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

More than two weeks after a tornado struck northern Winnebago County, cleanup continues as homeowners, city crews and contractors clear away brush and construction debris.

In Neenah, the city estimates it has hauled away 1.5 Olympic-sized swimming pools full of debris daily.

Neenah Mayor Brian Borchardt said the situation has challenged the community in ways it never could have imagined.

“Our thoughts remain with every individual family whose home, property or business or sense of security was affected,” Borchardt said. “While the extent of the damage differs from neighborhood to neighborhood, the different communities, every loss is personal. We recognize that

many people are still facing difficult days and long roads toward recovery.”

The City of Neenah hired Looks Great Services of Columbia, Mississippi, to coordinate its disaster relief. Interim public works director Mark Rohloff said Looks Great Services was chosen since it has frequently worked with the Federal Emer-

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Kid Kind

Neenah youth aids children affected by storm
Page 9

Crossing guards
Neenah police looks to trim positions
Page 5



Photo by Michael Cooney

Recovery help

A Samaritan's Purse team helped homeowners Tuesday to continue cleaning up hard hit areas of Doty Island. Since beginning work in the area July 29, the group has received 576 requests for assistance and have completed 207 of those requests. More than 900 volunteers have joined the organization in serving the community over the past two weeks.

Construction company chosen to restore lighthouse

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council has selected Miron Construction to serve as the general contractor to complete the restoration of the 81-year-old Kimberly Point Lighthouse.

The lighthouse remains a beacon keeper for the community. When inspecting damage after the tornado, Neenah Parks and Recreation Director Michael Kading said he was relieved to find the lighthouse intact despite heavy tree damage around it.

“To see the lighthouse still standing, it was a cool moment,” Kading said during the Aug. 5 common council meeting.

Despite recent focus on cleaning up from the July 27 tornado, Kading said officials are moving forward with other projects that have been in the works.

“We’ve still got business to do in the city,” Kading said. “This is one of those projects that show we’re still doing business.”

Built in 1945, the lighthouse needs structural improvements intended to protect its integrity and extend its useful life. The project calls for masonry and other external repairs and restoration of historically significant architectural features.

The project will repair and restore the lighthouse’s interior, including improvements to its restroom and making the lighthouse ADA accessible.

The 2026 Capital Improvement Plan set aside \$575,000 for the project, with \$300,000 of that amount coming from fundraising.

The estimated total from Miron is \$398,138.75, which includes a base bid

of \$328,945 with the alternate #1 package that includes burnished block (\$53,545), brick tuckpointing (\$12,572.50) and brick repair (\$3,076.25).

Additional expected expenses for the project include construction administration, WE Energies electrical installation and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee archeological review and on-site monitoring.

Since the lighthouse is listed on both the Wisconsin and National registers of historic places, restoration must preserve the building’s historically important elements.

Kading expects the restoration project to get started Sept. 1 with the work completed by around Thanksgiving. A ribbon



File photo

The Kimberly Point Lighthouse is set to undergo a restoration project that is expected to start Sept. 1.

SEE **Lighthouse project** ON PAGE 4



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Rotary helps students start the school year strong

Neenah News

For many families, back-to-school means buying backpacks, notebooks and new shoes.

For others, the bigger concern is making sure their child has enough to eat.

As the community continues to recover from the recent tornado, many families are still rebuilding and stretching every dollar. For some students, that means returning to school with one more challenge than they should have to face.

At Neenah Middle School, more than one in three students qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Some students miss breakfast because of bus schedules. Others need food to take medication. For many, a healthy snack is the difference between worrying about hunger and focusing on learning.

To help, the Rotary Club of Neenah created Feeding Minds & Bodies, providing healthy snacks to local students throughout the school year. Individuals, families,

local businesses, churches, schools or community organizations can make a difference.

Healthy snack items can be donated or monetary donations can be made at neenahrotary.org/.../feeding-minds-bodies-donations.

Calendar of events

- Friday, Aug. 14**
Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
Neenah Middle School Summer Band, 11:15 a.m., Pickard Auditorium
- Saturday, Aug. 15**
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
Town of Clayton Fire Rescue Touch-A-Truck, 10 a.m., Trailhead Park, Larsen
Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale (books by the bagful for \$7), 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Sunday, Aug. 16**
Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale Free Day, noon to 4 p.m., Neenah Public Library

- Monday, Aug. 17**
Friends of the Neenah Public Library Book Sale Free Day, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Thursday, Aug. 20**
Future Neenah Out to Lunch Concert featuring Elvis John, 11:30 a.m., Shattuck Park

- Friday, Aug. 21**
Neenah Middle School Summer Strings, 11:15 a.m., Pickard Auditorium
Future Neenah Concert Series featuring Road Trip, 6 p.m., Shattuck Park
- Saturday, Aug. 22**
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Shattuck Park
EAA Chapter 41 Fox Valley Flight Fest, 8 a.m., Appleton Flight Center, N259 Ares Drive, Appleton
Back to School Craft and Grow Family Event, 1 p.m., Memorial Park
25th Anniversary 9/11 Day of Remembrance, 4 p.m., Beaming Ranch
Summer Festival, 5 p.m., St. Margaret Mary Parish

- Wednesday, Aug. 26**
Future Neenah Boogie Back to School Concert featuring Boogie and the Yo-Yoz, 6 p.m., Downtown Neenah



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

High school marching bands

With home high school football games coming up, that means fans will be able to enjoy local marching bands performing to help add to the excitement. Here is the Neenah High School Marching Band performing on the football field at Shattuck High School.

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School district updates plan for at-risk students

By Eric Endres
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Joint School District Board of Education last week approved an updated plan that aims to help students at risk of not graduating from high school.

The plan, developed by assistant district administrator Jackie Muñoz-Ellmann and director of pupil services & special education Valerie Moore, shifted this year to a whole-child approach focused on social-emotional growth, strong relationships and early support, according to a memo dated Aug. 4 linked in the meeting agenda.

“By combining multi-tiered interventions with flexible options like alternative programming and credit recovery, we aim to provide targeted support, increase graduation rates, and better prepare students for life after high school,” the administrators said in the memo.

The at-risk plan is updated every year to comply with Wisconsin law. The plan explains that Wisconsin defines at-risk students as pupils in grades 5 to 12 at risk of not graduating from high school because they are dropouts, or are two or more of the following: behind their age group in the number of high school credits attained; two or more years behind their age group in basic skill levels; habitual truants; parents or pregnant; adjudicated delinquents; or eighth grade pupils whose scores under a specific examination were below basic grade level, eighth grade pupils who failed the examination and eighth

grade pupils who failed to be promoted to ninth grade.

The district monitors criteria that include chronic or severe behavior problems, external factors such as death of family members or close friends, free or reduced lunch and mental health.

Within the plan is an equitable multi-tiered system of support that focuses on early identification and intervention.

Tier 1 focuses on universal support elements for all students, with areas of intervention that include summer school and bullying prevention. Tier 2 features more targeted interventions for some students, which include reading intervention and school psychological services. Tier 3, which features intensive support, includes interventions such as special education and Learning Support Team (LST) referral.

Additional support may be offered to Neenah Middle School students upon further considerations noted in the plan, including whether there’ve been interventions in the classroom.

The recommendation for exiting at-risk programming will be made by the LST.

The memo from the administrators notes that at-risk programming, intervention resources and specialized staffing are allocated through planned district operational budgets and supported by applicable state aid.

Muñoz-Ellmann, Moore and district administrator Steve Harrison were present at the meeting to answer questions. After questions were answered and discussions took place, the board approved the plan.

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Leaders praise community’s response during crisis

Neenah News

The mayors of Neenah and Menasha are thanking community members and organizations for stepping up to help during the recent tornado recovery efforts.

“Neenah has shown that we are a community that responds with compassion, works together and steps forward when our neighbors need us,” Neenah Mayor Brian

Borchardt said Aug. 5 during the Neenah Common Council meeting, just over a week after a tornado struck parts of the area. “To everyone who has helped, and to everyone who continues to help, thank you.”

Menasha Mayor Austin Hammond attended the meeting to express his gratitude to Neenah, Appleton, Fox Crossing, Town of Neenah and others in the sur-

rounding communities for their support during the crisis.

“This last week was one of its darkest moments in its history,” Hammond said. “I just want you to know how incredibly grateful I am for the partnership and the connectiveness we have with you.”

Hammond said the City of Neenah opened up its water supply to provide safe drinking water to Menasha residents, and the combined effort of the joint fire department allowed first responders to check on impacted residents as quickly as possible.

During the first few days following the tornado, Borchardt said it was difficult not being around to personally help the community. Borchardt and Hammond thanked Neenah Council President Dan Steiner for filling in as acting mayor during the initial disaster response.

“While I was returning home from an overseas trip, Dan stepped in in order to provide steady leadership on behalf of the city,” Borchardt said. “He worked closely with staff, represented Neenah publicly and helped to ensure the decisions and communications continued without interruption.”

Borchardt asked for community members to show each other grace when they start to be critical of the response to the situation, saying he knows people are hurting. Many of those trying to help were also personally impacted by the situation, and he said nobody knows what others might be going through.

“We are going to get through this,”

Borchardt said. “I know the community is helping one another. It’s going to be for years to come.”

The response is moving from the immediate emergency toward recovery, Borchardt said. He added officials plan to review what worked, where gaps existed and how they can strengthen emergency planning and regional coordination before the next crisis occurs. Borchardt said considerable work remains ahead to be done in the communities.

Borchardt further expressed his gratitude to those who stepped forward to help, including city staff and Winnebago County staff, in the immediate aftermath of the situation. Helpers have been working throughout the affected areas of the community, he said.

“City staff responded with professionalism, compassion and extraordinary commitment to serving others,” Borchardt said. “Many worked long hours under difficult conditions.”

Borchardt said city staff have cleared streets, secured damaged areas, checked on residents, collected debris, restored services, coordinated donations, communicated challenging information and helped neighboring communities that were facing even greater challenges.

Hammond thanked those who have helped for their efforts, noting that the need for assistance is going to continue.

“There is a long, long road to recovery ahead of all of us,” Hammond said. “We can do it together. Even in dark moments, we can do it together.”



Plans are moving forward to restore the Kimberly Point Lighthouse even as clean up from the July 27 tornado continues.

Lighthouse project

FROM PAGE 1

cutting could be held in the spring, he said.

In a related project, the Parks & Recreation Committee is looking at restoring the shoreline at Kimberly Point Park.

At a July 30 meeting, two representatives from Edgewater Resources outlined initial ideas to repair the fishing prome-

nade, the shoreline immediately adjacent to the promenade and the areas further south and west. The plans will renovate or replace existing shoreline treatments to withstand future impacts of fluctuating water levels and the freezing and unfreezing of Lake Winnebago.

“We want to accomplish all of this while maintaining safe and accessible public use,” said Suzie Fromson, project manager and landscape architect with Edgewater Resources.

Cranky Pat’s to add parking lot after agreement with city

Neenah News

An agreement has been reached to allow plans for a local business to install a new parking lot as part of the City of Neenah’s South Commercial Street Corridor redevelopment plan.

The common council approved an agreement Aug. 5 that will enable the owner of Cranky Pat’s Pizza to install additional parking on a neighboring property. City officials have been working for the past five years to reach the agreement.

“It’s something we’ve been working on for a long time,” said Kelly Nieforth, director of Community Development and Assessment. “It’s been an issue that has dragged out. This is going to be a win-win situation for the community.”

Nieforth said the issue has taken so long to resolve while litigation has been ongoing with the Wisconsin Department of Justice and discussions have been held with DNR representatives about how to move the project forward.

A stumbling block included the need to commission environmental consultants to ensure parking lot construction is completed in proper fashion and that all necessary paperwork is filed correctly with the

DNR. The city had no funding to cover the consulting costs.

The parking lot could be installed at 110 W. Cecil St., formerly the Donaldson’s property, which is heavily contaminated. The property’s former use was as a dry cleaner. The building that had been on the site was demolished.

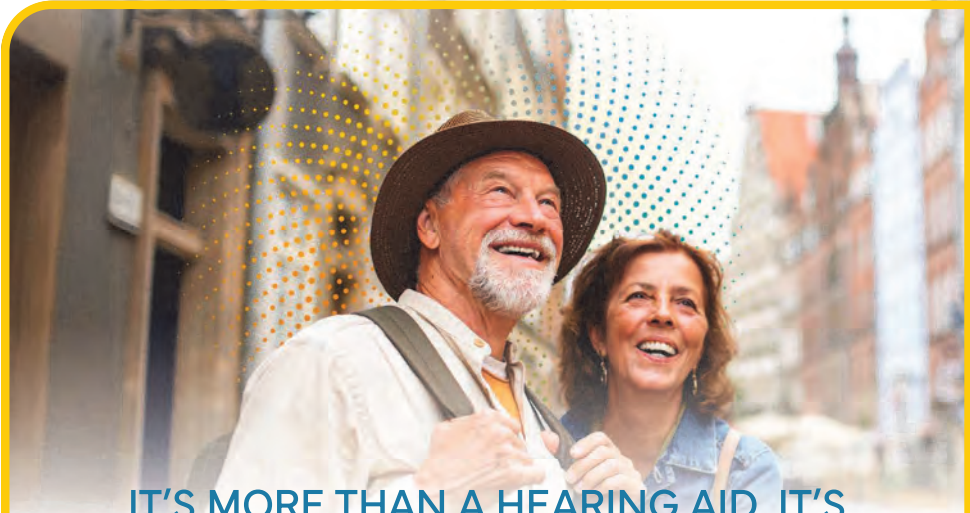
As part of the plan that the council approved, Community Development Authority (CDA) is acquiring the property, which it plans to lease to Cranky Pat’s, which is to the east of the site.

Nieforth said city officials have talked with Cranky Pat’s about ways to improve the aesthetics and safety concerns along South Commercial Street and planters could be installed along Cecil Street in addition to landscaping along Commercial Street as part of the agreement. The city wanted to make the land acquisition as a way to stabilize the property and cap the site.

Cranky Pat’s has committed to investing no more than \$10,000 to cap the site, repave the parking lots and follow DNR requirements in order for them to utilize the parcel for parking. One of the requirements is to repair the existing monitoring wells on the site.

The lease rate is \$1 per year with an initial lease term for 10 years, which can be extended on a rolling year-to-year basis. Cranky Pat’s will have the right of first refusal to purchase the property and an option to terminate the lease.

The redevelopment plan for the South Commercial Street Corridor was first approved in 2021. The intent of the redevelopment area and plan is to facilitate redevelopment along the busy corridor and provide guidance on the types of uses that would be desirable as part of the redevelopment.



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Police department seeks to trim crossing guard positions

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Police Department is seeking feedback as it looks at its crossing guard program.

Police Chief Aaron Olson said the department identified five locations where crossing guards would no longer be needed due to low student numbers, alternative crossings are available and existing or planned safety enhancements are in place. He said during a presentation Tuesday at the Neenah Public Services and Safety Committee meeting this was only the opening of a discussion on the topic.

“I know this has been brought up before. It’s about more than saving \$20,000. It’s about being efficient,” Olson said, adding that Safe Routes to School, an organization focused on making it safer for kids to walk or bike to school, agreed with the department’s removal of crossing guards at the following intersections:

Allcott Drive and Commercial Street: The intersection includes audible pedestrian signals improving safety for all users. Approximately five students cross here per shift.

Cecil Street and Green Bay Road: Approximately four students cross here per

Sheriff’s office provides fraud prevention information

The Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office will host a meeting with information about fraud prevention.

The new and updated Fraud School will be an opportunity for community members to learn about what types of fraud and scams are currently being used. Information will be provided about how to

shift. Additional signage improvements are planned to enhance visibility and safety. School zone signage is already in place.

Tullar Road and Apple Blossom Drive: Students can walk one block north and



Olson

cross at Byrd Avenue and Tullar Road, a safer and more centralized crossing point. The consolidated crossing point reduces staffing strain while maintaining safe routes.

Tullar Road and Gay Drive: Students can walk one block south and cross at Byrd Avenue and Tullar Road or walk one block north and cross at Cecil and Tullar. This change creates a single, well-supported crossing location instead of two lightly used locations.

Cecil Street and Commercial Street: Approximately three students cross at this intersection per shift. Similar to Allcott and Commercial, this location now has audible pedestrian signals, reducing the need for a staffed crossing.

No crossing guards would lose their jobs due to the changes, Olson said. The reductions would occur through attri-

proactively be protected from these scams and what someone needs to do if they fall victim to a scam.

The meeting will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 25 at 4311 Jackson St. in Oshkosh.

Time will be available to ask questions. The event is free. No registration is required.

tion.

Olson said hiring for crossing guard positions is difficult. Last year, the department hired two new guards and lost seven. The position’s hours — 30 to 45 minutes in the morning and 30 to 45 minutes again in the afternoon — are not appealing to most people. When the department runs short on guards, either school administration leaders, school board members or police officers need to fill in.

“Our number one goal is keeping kids safe,” Olson said. “At some point, we need to look at the facts and listen to the experts. Do we really need 20 crossing locations? Cities larger than us don’t have that many.”

Olson said crossing guards have a pedestrian counter that they use to count their students each day. They then record that number in a book. Safe Routes to School also sends out individuals to count students on occasion as well.

As to why crossing guards leave their positions, the most common reasons cited were a change in health or that they take another job with more hours.

Event features up-close look at vehicles

Neenah News

Town of Clayton Fire Rescue will be hosting its annual Touch-a-Truck event with a variety of activities planned.

The event with free admission will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Trailhead Park in Larsen.

A number of trucks will be lined up, including fire trucks, race cars, an ambulance, tractors, construction equipment and more.

Attendees will be able to climb in the

Alderman William Pollnow, Jr., asked if volunteers could be used in these roles. Olson said they could be, but he was not sure how effective it would be since people are not willing to do the job for pay.

“I still think you should go to the school board and talk to them about this,” Pollnow said. “Just to see if they have any ideas.”

“This isn’t really about saving \$20,000,” Olson said. “The only reason that it’s part of the budget discussion is because it’s a budget decrease. We can’t find enough people to staff 20 locations. This is just an initial discussion to let you know what we’re thinking.”

Olson said he would share information from Safe Routes to School and their thoughts on the five crossings selected at a future meeting.

If the department goes ahead and eliminates the five crossing guard locations, Olson said children using the new locations would be provided with education about how to use their new locations or how to safety cross the streets using the new technology.

vehicles and see inside the compartments and ask the operator questions.

The fire department will be selling lunch and basket raffle tickets. Proceeds will help the department update its technical rescue equipment.

Hands-on activities will include spraying water with a fire hose, operating the Jaws of Life and lifting a teddy bear using the same rope rescue equipment the department plans to use proceeds from the event to update.



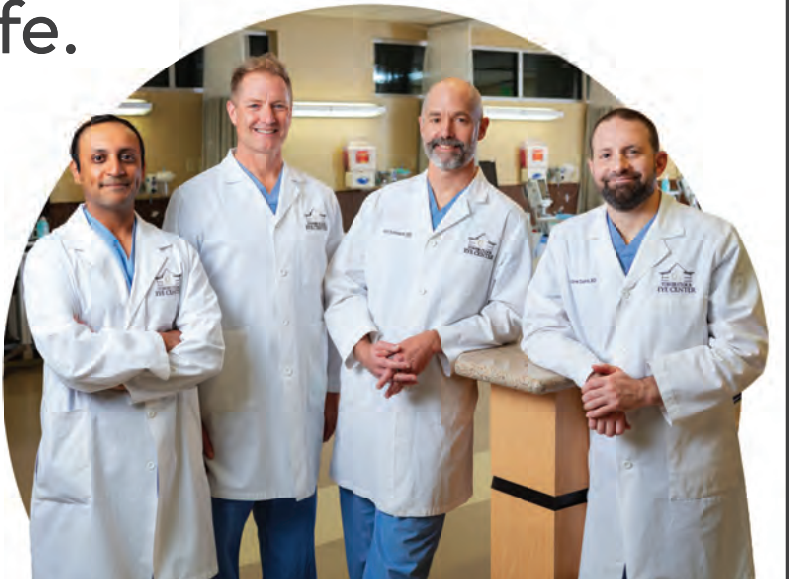
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Tornado recovery

FROM PAGE 1

gency Management Agency (FEMA) and understands how to put together reports the way the agency is used to.

Earlier this week, Gov. Tony Evers directed Wisconsin Emergency Management to submit a request for FEMA to assist the state in conducting a formal federal preliminary damage assessment of damage caused by the EF-3 tornado that hit northern Winnebago and southern Outagamie counties.

The formal federal preliminary damage assessment is the next step in the process after an initial local and state damage assessment is conducted. FEMA officials have been onsite in Neenah this week looking at some of the damage.

Winnebago County Emergency Management director Eric Rasmussen said the county is in the process of gathering data from the storm and analyzing it to send it to the state to be included in the information sent to FEMA. When the April floods hit Winnebago County, he said it took three months before FEMA declared the area a disaster and funds were released to help county residents.

At the city's Public Services and Safety Committee on Tuesday, Borchardt said the Neenah Common Council will consider allocating and approving the estimated first costs for the storm cleanup at its next meeting Aug. 19.

The storm cleanup costs will not only include the money paid to Looks Great Services, but the overtime paid to city employees and other storm-related costs, he said.

"With FEMA, we're at the mercy of the federal government for receiving any funds," Borchardt said. "We're making

sure we do our best to check all the boxes. All of our workers are taking photos and following the FEMA playbook."

The state may also reimburse the city for its storm-related costs, Borchardt said.

Debris cleanup

Looks Great Services subcontracted with DTAK of New London to do the work of going street by street in the more heavily damaged areas to pick up the large amounts of debris, both construction debris and brush.

To make the process go quickly, it is important residents place the brush and debris in separate piles, said Kathy Hutter, director of solid waste for Winnebago County.

Construction debris is being handled by the Outagamie County landfill while the brush is sent to the local municipalities.

Residents are asked to keep vehicles off the closed roads so crews have enough room to operate. The closed streets are announced the day before.

"Cleaning the streets is the first order of business," Rohloff said. "We're going to see a lot of big trucks in affected neighborhoods for the next few weeks."

Debris still hanging in trees need to be addressed as it poses a safety risk, Rohloff said.

"We're going to methodically go through those areas to look for that," Rohloff said. "It's a public safety issue we can't take for granted."

City of Neenah residents may place brush on their terrace for pickup or they can take it to the drop-off site at 1495 Tullar Road. Extended hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday with additional hours likely to be announced.

When dropping off brush, residents should bring their punch cards if they have

one. If dropping off only brush, they will not be "charged" a punch, but showing the card helps the city quickly establish residency. If someone does not have a punch card, they should bring a driver's license that shows a City of Neenah address.

The tornado destroyed many garages, and a large need exists for people to properly dispose of any hazardous materials they may have, including oil-based paints, stains, pesticides, automotive fluids and cleaners, Hutter said.

Winnebago County is communicating with municipalities to organize a special collection for those materials with more information to come. Until those events are scheduled, residents are asked to leave the materials in their original containers, place them in a tote or a leak-proof box lined with a plastic bag and store it on their property.

If the materials can be transported to Oshkosh, an appointment can be made for a drop-off at the county's hazardous waste facility. Appointments can be made at winnebagocountywi.gov/465/Hazardous-Materials.

Municipal and contracted crews continue to remove debris in Fox Crossing, Menasha, Neenah and the Town of Neenah.

"That remains the No. 1 priority," Rasmussen said.

Rasmussen said residents with questions should contact United Way's 211 information line to find the information they are looking for.

If any resident has lost their garbage or recycling bin, they can contact Neenah's Department of Solid Waste at 920-886-6260 to receive a new bin or be reunited with their lost one.

Communication key

Since the tornado struck, communicating with residents about what's going on has been a priority for Neenah, said Andy Radig, the city's communications and engagement specialist.

Neenah has posted on social media about what streets are being closed for cleanup, where people could find supplies like water, garbage bags, cleaning supplies and food and other important information.

In the days right after the tornado, Radig said the city printed off flyers and took them out to the harder hit parts of Neenah to share information since residents in those areas did not have access to electricity or the internet.

"You need to meet people where they

are, and in that case, it meant paper hand-outs," he said.

Social media and the city's website also have information for residents about available resources and services available to residents affected by the storm.

One of those resources is the Multi-Agency Resource Center, which brings together representatives from a variety of nonprofits. The center is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Winnebago County Fox Cities Campus-Engineering Building, 1655 University Drive, Menasha.

Nonprofit organizations with information about housing, finances, mental health, food and essential needs are available to meet with victims and have their questions answered about their different needs.

During its first four days, 214 households used the Multi-Agency Resource Center.

Volunteer response

More than 6,000 people volunteered to help through Volunteer Fox Cities' Volunteer Reception Center at the Winnebago Fox campus during the week following the tornado.

As needs change with the recovery, Volunteer Fox Cities is no longer organizing large groups of the public to go out and help. Emergency management, municipalities and community partners are currently coordinating responses, said Carolyn Desrosiers, CEO of Volunteer Fox Cities.

Nonprofits will identify and share tornado-related volunteer needs through the Get Connected link at myconnectionnew.org.

Economic disruption

Evers also declared a period of abnormal economic disruption in Winnebago County, along with Outagamie, Forest and Vilas counties, due to the tornado.

As communities continue to rebuild and recover, Evers is directing the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to enforce prohibitions against price gouging on everyday essentials and lodging.

"For the communities that are struggling, this declaration ensures that our state agencies can use whatever tools at their disposal, including cracking down on price gouging on everyday necessities, to help folks get back on their feet," Evers said in a statement.

We stand with our neighbors



Photo: David Hall

All WMG offices are collecting donations of needed supplies for those impacted by the tornado to support the ongoing relief efforts.

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Photo from Future Neenah

Helping hands

Since the tornado hit July 27, Future Neenah has been working with local businesses to help feed City of Neenah Public Works and Neenah Parks and Recreation crews as they clean up storm debris. The group wants to recognize the hardworking crews along with the generosity businesses have shown to support the community.

Plexus commits support to local tornado relief efforts

Neenah News

Plexus Corp. on Tuesday announced a \$1 million commitment dedicated to supporting tornado relief and recovery efforts across the Fox Cities. Administered through the Plexus Community Foundation, the multi-year pledge will be distributed across calendar years 2026 and 2027 to support both immediate aid and sustained long-term recovery for affected local families and infrastructure. The announcement reflects the company’s ongoing commitment to care for its people, neighbors and local businesses

during critical times of need.

“The Fox Cities isn’t just where Plexus was founded — it’s our home and the community that supported our growth into a global company,” said Todd Kelsey, president and CEO of Plexus Corp. “Living our vision of building a better world starts right here in our own backyard. As our team members and neighbors face the difficult path of rebuilding after this devastating tornado, Plexus is committed to stand alongside our community as we recover together.”

Funds will be disbursed to non-profit

partners supporting essential basic needs, such as food, shelter and mental health wellbeing. To ensure every dollar creates maximum long-term impact, Plexus will continuously assess the areas with the greatest ongoing need as recovery efforts evolve.

In addition to community funding, Plexus is providing resources and support to team members directly impacted by the storm. To complement these financial contributions, Plexus team members have also been actively participating in volunteer efforts on the ground.

Businesses, workers supported during recovery efforts

Neenah News

Local recovery efforts from the July 27 tornado are shifting from emergency cleanup to taking care of the people and local businesses impacted by the storm. To support those impacted by the storm, the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) has opened a community support form on the Oshkosh Job Center website at oshkoshjobcenter.com. The online form allows local workers and business owners to share how they have been affected, whether through sudden layoffs or temporary or permanent workplace closures.

Anyone who submits the form will be connected with a local workforce professional. These specialists are ready to offer hands-on guidance for essential recovery services, including unemployment claims, WARN notices, free career training and job seeker services.

Community members are encouraged to fill out the form so local teams can start coordinating personal support immediately and to determine if additional resources are needed to serve dislocated workers and employers in the region. For immediate assistance, reach out to these contacts:

For businesses and employers: Bobbi Miller, FVWDB business solutions manager, at 920-470-0837 or via email at bmillier@fvwdb.com. For employees and workers: Forward Service Corporation (FSC) at 920-278-9264 or via email at foxvalleywioa@fsc-corp.org.

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Photo from Calvary Bible Church

Supply assistance

Calvary Bible Church, with the help of Jones Logistics and FV Recycling, has served over 7,200 meals from the church parking lot while trying to support the community’s disaster relief efforts. Close to 1,000 families have received supplies and assistance from the church, which has been collecting and distributing donated items to community members impacted by the recent storm.

Police Department on the lookout for storm scams

Neenah News

After initially responding to assist residents with welfare checks following the July 27 tornado, Neenah police said a focus for officers shifted.

“Our No. 1 priority is scams that target the elderly in our community,” assistant police chief Jeff Bernice said Aug. 5 during the Neenah Common Council meeting.

Bernice said police have been on the lookout for storm chasers, who are opportunistic fraudsters or shady contractors who travel to areas hit by natural disasters. They often show up at somebody’s door, promise quick repairs or cleanup services and ask for money upfront.

Some disappear with cash. Others do the work — but it’s rushed, substandard or even damaging.

Neenah police provided warning signs of a storm chaser scam.

Demands for full payment upfront. If a contractor insists on full payment — or a large deposit — before lifting a finger, that’s a major red flag. Reputable companies typically offer payment plans or accept partial payments after work begins.

Pressure to act immediately. High-pressure tactics like “I can only do

this today” or “You’ll miss your window if you wait” are classic scammer strategies. Don’t let urgency override caution.

“Let me handle your insurance.” Only a resident or their insurance provider should determine coverage. Never trust a contractor to explain a policy. Always call the insurer directly.

No license? No deal. Always verify that a contractor is licensed, insured and has positive reviews on trusted sites like the Better Business Bureau. Fly-by-night contractors may vanish once paid.

They came to you. While not all unsolicited contractors are scammers, it’s smart to be skeptical of anyone who shows up uninvited, especially after a major storm. If somebody is unsure — don’t engage.

Police advise smart Ways to Stay Protected.

- Contact the insurance company directly before hiring anyone.
- Ask for references — and call them.
- Search their name + “scam” or “complaint” online.
- Get everything in writing, including estimates and timelines.
- Never pay in full upfront. A small deposit is standard; more than 50% is a red flag.

Displaced families offered temporary housing

Neenah News

World Relief and Airbnb.org are partnering to support families impacted by the tornado that ripped through the Fox Valley area last month.

Thanks to Airbnb.org’s free emergency housing support, refugee and immigrant families who already had to flee their homes prior to being resettled in Wisconsin have a home to stay in while many are facing significant repairs on their own homes.

In addition to supporting families as they begin to rebuild their homes, World Relief Wisconsin is working alongside other local immigrant-serving NGOs to ensure families have access to food and hygiene supplies, as well as tailoring re-

sources to reflect the necessary languages and cultural sensibilities of the impacted communities.

Repairing after a crisis like last week’s tornado is a slow process, and World Relief Wisconsin is working to ensure that families, especially those recently resettled, have the resources that they need to continue to support themselves, in a time when other avenues such as SNAP and Medicaid have or will expire for refugees.

To learn more about World Relief’s work in Wisconsin or find out how you can help support recovery efforts, visit shorturl.at/BMX4Z. Gifts made this month will help World Relief provide support to families impacted by the recent tornadoes.

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Local girl launches project helping displaced children

Neenah News

Nine-year-old Katelyn Much, who recently moved to Neenah, is turning compassion into action.

Through her community initiative, Katelyn’s Kindness, Katelyn is organizing a project to bring comfort, smiles and a sense of normalcy to children impacted by the recent tornado.

The project is providing “Kid Kind” bags to children throughout the Fox Valley area. Each bag contains a variety of child-friendly commodities including shelf-stable treats, beverages, toys, games and other uplifting surprises, geared to help brighten difficult days.

As they delivered the bags to families last weekend in one of the hardest hit areas of Menasha, Katelyn’s mom, Jennifer, described the experience.

“Getting there was really difficult, but what was even harder was seeing the sheer devastation; all the debris, trees, metal and piles of belongings on the curbs,” Jennifer said. “It was a humbling reminder to celebrate gratitude, empathy and kindness.”

The effort continues Katelyn’s long-standing commitment to serving others through Katelyn’s Kindness. Katelyn is a fourth grader at Xavier Elementary in Appleton.

Since launching her charitable projects when she was five years old, Katelyn has continued the tradition and completed community service initiatives throughout the area, including collecting supplies for animal shelters, donating stuffed animals to hospitalized children, creating birthday celebration kits for families facing financial hardship, organizing book drives, supporting veterans over the holidays, and assembling care packages for individuals undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

In 2025, Katelyn was honored as the youngest recipient of the Do Good Wisconsin Youth Impact Service Award in the organization’s history and received commendable recognition from Gov. Tony Evers for her unwavering commitment to her community.

“Katelyn has a heart of gold and immediately began thinking of others following the storm,” Jennifer said. “She wants to help in every way she can, including making sure kids in her community are safe and cared for.”

The Kid Kind bags were assembled with



Katelyn Much started delivering Kid Kind bags throughout the community last weekend to help others impacted by the tornado.

the support of donors and are being distributed to affected children and families in the Fox Valley. Those interested in supporting this project or requesting a bag can visit KatelynsKindness.com.

“I want people and animals to have enough because I have almost everything I need,” Katelyn said. “If we work together and be kind to each other, we could change the world.”

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Katelyn Much delivered a children’s toy and snack box to a large family in one of the worst hit areas of Menasha.

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Basketball teams partner to bring essentials to community



The Milwaukee Bucks and Wisconsin Herd, including its mascot Pointer, donated essentials to the Menasha community following the July 27 tornado. It was a joint effort with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management Department.

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

The Milwaukee Bucks and Wisconsin Herd teamed up Tuesday to help out the Fox Cities community.

The organizations sent a truck with essential supplies to help those affected by the recent tornado.

"We're the Milwaukee Bucks, but our fans are all over the state," said Josh Glessing, who recently was named the Bucks' president. "Our job is to show up and support the community."

Glessing said he had never seen this type of damage before.

"It's something to see where the damage happened, what was hit by the tornado and what wasn't," Glessing said. "You get off the highway and immediately see (Menasha) High School and the bleachers pulled back on the stadium. It's very emotional, and I was not expecting that."

When the box truck arrived at the Jefferson Early Learning Center in Menasha, volunteers jumped into action to empty the truck of essentials that were donated by the Herd and the Bucks.

Menasha Mayor Austin Hammond, Menasha Police Chief Matthew Albrecht, Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz and state Senator Kristin Dassler-Alfheim were among those who helped unload the

truck along with Glessing and Herd president Steve Brandes.

The truck brought essential items to the community. Glessing said it was anything that could help bring some normalcy back into people's lives such as toilet paper, paper towels, batteries, non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies and first aid kits.

Also helping unload the items were the teams' mascots – Bango from the Bucks, Pointer from the Herd and the Menasha Blue Jay.

As the truck was being unloaded, workers were repairing the roof of the Jefferson Early Learning Center.

Winnebago County Emergency Management deputy director Amy Houle and emergency management specialist Karoline Hopfensperger were at the Jefferson Early Learning Center. The department has been helping coordinate efforts across the area that was hit by the tornado.

"This effort to clean up is going to take some time," Houle said. "We'll be here to help."

Hopfensperger said, "No one is going to get left behind. ... It's been amazing how much support has come in."

The Jefferson Early Learning Center dropoff site, 105 Ice St., is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

State's pro sports teams offering relief

By Matthew Hoyman
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Wisconsin's professional sports teams are doing their part to provide relief to Fox Valley communities impacted by the July 27 tornado.

The Green Bay Packers began training camp around the same time as the tornado hit. Packers General Manager Brian Gutekunst opened a press availability following the tornado by bringing awareness to the natural disaster.

"Thoughts and prayers going out to everybody in the Fox Cities with that tornado going through there," Gutekunst said. "We obviously have a lot of friends in the area; our kids go to school down there, so I know they're going through a lot."

Packers head coach Matt LaFleur saw the tragedy as more personal than others because of its location.

"It's terrible; I certainly never want to see it wherever it's at, but it hits a little bit different when it's closer to home," LaFleur said. "It's sad to see; I'm certain we will do something as an organization."

Packers quarterback Jordan Love said it was crazy to see the video coming out of the destruction done to people's homes and businesses.

"It's very sad to see, especially with it being right here in Appleton, just down the street from us," Love said. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to everybody affected. When you lose your house, you lose everything you have in it; it's a really tough situation."

Soon after, the Packers released a statement on July 30, sending their thoughts to everyone impacted by the storm, thanking the countless people who have helped with cleanup and announcing they will be part of the solution.

"As the community begins to rebuild, the Packers are working with Menasha community leaders to find ways we can best support the relief efforts, and we look forward to working together to finalize those plans," the team's statement said.

The Packers aren't the only team helping with tornado relief. The Milwaukee Brewers Community Foundation on Aug. 4 announced that it is making a \$10,000

contribution to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. The hope is to establish food distribution sites in affected neighborhoods, while teams of staff try to reach as many families as possible to provide essential resources for people who need it.

"We are proud to partner with and support Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin in their amazing efforts to help families in Menasha and surrounding communities," Brewers Community Foundation executive director Cecelia Gore said in a statement. "When our neighbors are facing hardship, especially in the wake of a natural disaster like this, it's important for us to step up and help however we can."

Cameron Wengrzyn, the director of communications and marketing for Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, said the BCF donation of \$10,000 is impactful.

"A gift of this size gives Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin the resources and flexibility to respond quickly as needs continue to emerge, while also helping sustain food access as the community moves from immediate emergency response into longer-term recovery," Wengrzyn said. "This includes helping provide shelf-stable food, fresh produce, and other essential supplies, as well as the transportation and logistics required to get those resources to our partners."

Wengrzyn said this is different from other events because it requires the group to move more quickly to get to those affected rather than having them reach out.

"Our teams have been out in the community, walking neighborhoods, connecting with residents door-to-door, setting up in parks and using our mobile units to bring food and supplies directly to neighbors," Wengrzyn said. "The goal is to remove as many barriers as possible for families who are already dealing with the enormous disruption caused by the storm."

The Wisconsin Timber Rattlers announced it will be donating all proceeds from each game's 50/50 raffle to help with tornado relief.

The Green Bay Blizzard launched a ticket promotion tied to its Eastern Conference Championship game, raising more than \$15,000 for Menasha High School after seeing the damage done to Nathan Calder Stadium.

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Healthcare leaders gather to discuss state’s workforce

UW-Oshkosh Today

Healthcare leaders, educators, policy-makers, workforce experts and students gathered Aug. 5 at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh for the Healthcare Forward Symposium, a regional forum focused on strengthening Wisconsin’s healthcare workforce and improving access to care.

Hosted by the NEW Healthcare Alliance in partnership with UWO, the symposium explored rural healthcare, workforce shortages, emerging talent needs, digital transformation and opportunities for stronger collaboration across sectors.

For UW-Oshkosh, the conversation connects directly to the University’s role in preparing nurses and healthcare professionals who serve communities throughout Wisconsin.

UW-Oshkosh Chancellor Manohar Singh said universities can play an important role in bringing education, healthcare, government and community partners together around shared workforce needs.

“Wisconsin’s healthcare workforce challenges require sustained collaboration,” Singh said. “Universities can connect education, research and talent development with the needs of healthcare providers, policymakers and communities. This symposium brings those voices together to better understand the challenges, identify shared priorities and move from dialogue to action.”

Through its nursing and health professions programs, UWO helps prepare professionals who serve healthcare systems and communities throughout Wisconsin.

“There is real urgency in addressing Wisconsin’s healthcare workforce challenges,” said Seon Yoon Chung, dean of the Mary Novak-Jandrey College of Nursing, Health Professions and STEM and a member of the NEW Healthcare Alliance steering committee.

“We can meet these challenges through collaborative, regional solutions that feature cross-sector partnerships,” Chung said. “It is critical to open talent pathways that support recruitment, retention, upskilling and career advancement across healthcare occupations.”

Dr. Ashok Rai, president and CEO of Prevea Health and a member of the Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents, emphasized the importance of expanding the overall healthcare talent pool rather than simply competing for existing workers.

“I recognize that healthcare organizations compete for patients, for contracts

and—most relevant to the symposium—for the same people,” Rai said. “The distinction I’d offer is that, while we compete over the talent pool, we do not compete over the size of it. Recruiting from each other is zero-sum; growing the pipeline is not zero-sum.”

Rai also highlighted upskilling and reskilling existing employees as an important opportunity to strengthen the workforce in communities where people already live and work.

State Sen. Kristin Dassler-Alfheim joined healthcare and regional leaders for discussions about workforce needs and access to care.

Dassler-Alfheim noted that communities face different healthcare challenges and emphasized the value of bringing partners from across sectors together to develop sustained approaches that respond to those varying needs.

Patti Habeck, president and CEO of New North Inc., also participated in the discussion, bringing a regional economic-development perspective to conversations about talent development, employer needs and long-term collaboration.

Matt Kures, community economic development specialist and researcher with the UW–Madison Division of Extension, delivered the keynote address, Healthcare in the Digital Age, examining how changing technology is influencing healthcare delivery and workforce needs.

Healthcare students also shared their perspectives, while strategic sessions on Designing the Healthcare Workforce of the Future and Breaking System Bottlenecks examined recruitment, retention, education and career pathways.

The afternoon program focused on rural healthcare through a panel moderated by Marie Barry of the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative. Panelists included Kristie McCoic of Froedtert ThedaCare Health, Dr. Ashwani Bhatia of BayCare Clinic and Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Amy Pechacek.

Rebecca Deschane, vice president of talent development for New North Inc. and overseer of the NEW Healthcare Alliance, said collaboration among employers, educators, workforce organizations and policymakers is central to the effort.

“Bringing together healthcare leaders, educators, workforce experts and policymakers to engage in strategic discussions and identify collaborative solutions is the goal of the forum,” Deschane said.



Photo from Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department

The show goes on

The Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department organized an Elvis John performance on Aug. 6 at Fritsch Park. John Hardginski is an Elvis Tribute Artist who performs across Northeast Wisconsin.

EAA flight fest moves to new location

Neenah News

An event that invites guests to discover the world of recreational aviation is switching locations this year.

EAA Chapter 41 is planning to host the Fox Valley Flight Fest from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 22 at the Appleton International Airport.

“In previous years we have held this event at the Brennand Airport in Neenah,” said Greg Burneske, EAA Chapter 41 president. “It became necessary to move the event to a larger space at the Appleton Airport.”

The event will be held at the Appleton Flight Center, N259 Ares Drive, Apple-

ton. Guests can enter the Appleton Airport from Prospect Avenue 2.5 miles west of Interstate 41 on Breezewood Lane.

Among the attractions at this event are unique aircraft static displays, morning pancake breakfast, afternoon grilled food, Flight For Life helicopter and airplane rides (weather permitting).

Other attractions include kids can fly drones in a drone net, Valley Aero Modelers RC aircraft display, cars on display from Fox Valley Sports Car Club, a cash raffle, Stone Arch Brew Pub and live DJ music.

For more information, go to eaa41.org or the event page on Facebook [facebook.com/event/1466356961620452](https://www.facebook.com/event/1466356961620452).

Community event provides 9/11 day of remembrance

Neenah News

BEAMING Ranch is inviting community members to a 9/11 Day of Remembrance.

The event will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Aug. 22 at BEAMING Ranch, 2692 County Road GG.

The evening is dedicated to honoring the lives lost, recognizing the service and sacrifice of veterans, first responders and their families, and creating space for connection, reflection and healing within the

community.

Guests can expect an opening remembrance and tribute ceremony; guest speakers honoring service and resilience; a community BBQ and shared meal; live music, horse experiences and family-friendly activities; opportunities to engage with horses through guided equine-assisted experiences and resource sharing and connection with local businesses and organizations.

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County judge faces new set of misconduct allegations

Neenah News

The Wisconsin Judicial Commission has filed a complaint alleging a Winnebago County judge engaged in judicial misconduct.

A three-judge panel, led by Wisconsin Court of Appeals Judge Jennifer E. Nashold, will decide if Judge Scott C. Woldt will be punished for allegations outlined in the complaint filed earlier this month.

Wisconsin Judicial Commission executive director Jeremiah Van Hecke filed the complaint on Aug. 3 outlining mul-

tiple allegations about Woldt engaging in judicial misconduct.

The complaint outlines an incident during an interview on LifeTV in Oshkosh when Woldt said, "I deal with society's garbage." Woldt went on to agree with the interviewer that his job was that of a sanitation engineer.

The interview was broadcast before the 2023 election. Woldt was running for reelection against attorney Lakiesha Haase. Another allegation revolves around Woldt confronting area attorneys

about their support of Haase during the campaign.

On April 25, 2023, Woldt attended a "happy hour" at an Oshkosh bar and restaurant. Woldt allegedly told one attorney they were not to talk to him after supporting Haase.

Woldt allegedly told another attorney, "This election personally cost me \$28,000; write out a check and we are all good."

Woldt told a third attorney, after he won reelection that he was disappointed they didn't support his reelection.

The complaint continues in a June 2023 incident Woldt asked an expert witness, a Filipino psychiatrist, if they could understand English and if they had any hearing issues.

The witness said no and Woldt allegedly responded, "From now on, when you come into a court of law and the bailiff says all rise, you better get off your butt. Do you understand me?"

Van Hecke concluded that Woldt violated a number of Supreme Court rules. These rules include 60.03(1), which requires judges to act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of a judge.

Another rule allegedly violated by Woldt was 60.04(1)(d), which requires judges to treat people they deal with in an official capacity with patience, dignity and courtesy.



Woldt

The final rule Woldt allegedly violated is 60.05(1), which requires judges to conduct all extra-judicial activities so that they do not cast reasonable doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially as a judge or demean the judicial office.

The Supreme Court sanctioned Woldt in 2021 for crude, sarcastic and undignified comments, intemperate remarks and twice displaying a handgun in his courtroom as a "prop."

Woldt received a seven-day unpaid suspension linked to incidents of misconduct between 2009 and 2016.

The incidents included Woldt calling a 13-year-old sexual assault survivor a "so-called victim," while referring to her assailant as a "very smart man" with a low probability of re-offending and also chastising a domestic violence victim for requesting that her assailant be issued a fine and telling her not to contact police.

Woldt held up a handgun as a prop during a 2015 sentencing hearing for a developmentally disabled man. He also displayed his handgun when a group of high school students visited the courthouse.

The Supreme Court wrote in 2021 that a number of recent incidents showed an "aggravating pattern of misconduct" requiring an unpaid suspension "to impress upon Judge Woldt the seriousness of his misconduct and the need for him to change how he treats the jurors, lawyers, litigants, witnesses, victims and staff with whom he interacts."

Parks Commission approves naming rights rule

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County is one step closer to allowing individuals, organizations and businesses to purchase advertising or sponsorship recognition spaces at Winnebago County Community Park and the Sunnyview Expo Center.

The Winnebago County Parks Commission approved an amendment to a county ordinance at its Aug. 4 meeting allowing the change. The Facilities and Properties Management Committee and the County Board of Supervisors also need to approve the change prior to it becoming official.

Adam Breest, director of parks and expo, said the rule change would allow naming rights for the projects at the soccer, rugby and pickleball complexes taking place at Community Park. The local soccer clubs have brought in a potential large donor for the soccer complex, but there were no rules on how to handle it so new ones needed to be created.

In addition to the naming rights sponsorship, the parks department is looking to create a program for smaller annual sponsorships for banners and signs at Sunnyview Expo Center.

For the projects at Community Park,

the county is paying for a portion of the costs while the clubs also pay for a part. For the soccer project, the plans call for the fields to be tilled, graded and crowned, more topsoil will be added, and irrigation will be adjusted. An additional soccer field will be added west to the quad. Phase 1 will address the east side of the complex and Phase 2 will address the complex's west side.

For phase 1 of the project, the county will pay \$672,294 from the Spirit Fund and the local soccer clubs will pay \$168,074. For phase 2, the Spirit Fund will pay \$372,212 and the soccer clubs will pay \$140,234.

Poygan Boat Ramp replacement: Radtke Construction has been hired to replace the concrete ramp at the Poygan Boat Ramp located off County Highway B. Depending on scheduling, the project will take place in either September or October.

In addition, the Parks Department is working with the Highway Department to replace the asphalt road that stretches north from County B to the launch. That will be completed in either October or next spring depending on the completion of the boat launch.

Supervisor District 33 applicants sought

Neenah News

Winnebago County Board Chairman Frank Frassetto is accepting applications for Supervisor District 33.

Supervisor Tom Egan of Omro, who previously held that position, died July 31 at age 71. Egan had been county board chairman from 2022 until after this year's election in April. He served as vice chair from 2018 to 2022.



Egan

To be eligible for the supervisor position, applicants must be a qualified elector and reside in District 33, which includes all of the towns of Nepeuskun, Poygan and Rushford and Wards 1 of the Town of Omro and the Town of Utica. For a map of the district, contact the Winnebago County Clerk's Office at 920-232-3430 or CountyClerk@winnebagocountywi.gov.

Eligible applicants interested in applying can submit their resume by Aug. 19 to Chairman Frank Frassetto, Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, 112 Otter Avenue, PO Box 2806, Oshkosh, WI 54903-2806.

Applicants will be interviewed by a group led by Frassetto and Vice Chair Conley Hanson before their selection is voted on by the full board.

Egan was first elected to the county board in 2008. He also served on the Omro Board of Education, was a supervisor and board chairman for the Town of Rushford and served as Winnebago County Fair Board president.

"Tom was the definition of a dedicated public servant, someone who poured his heart into our community for decades," said state Rep. Nate Gustafson. "It was a true honor to serve alongside Tom Egan on the County Board and I am deeply saddened by his passing. I am beyond grateful for his mentorship, leadership and friendship."

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Photo from Neenah High School Fishing Team
The Neenah High School Fishing Team hosted members of Camp T from the Neenah-Menasha YMCA Summer Day Camp for a week of fishing earlier this month.

High school team hosts fishing camp

Neenah News

The Neenah High School Fishing Team earlier this month hosted members of Camp T from the Neenah-Menasha YMCA Summer Day Camp, ages 7 to 12, for a week of fishing.

With the recent storms changing water conditions, the young anglers were unable to fish some of the spots that have been used in previous years. Instead, the group spent Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday fishing at the Neenah Dam,

where the campers spent time learning and catching fish.

The event had one of its highest attendance numbers yet with more than 50 campers joining the activities each day. Each camper was able to catch a fish during the week.

The coaches and high school anglers helped teach the kids how to bait hooks, different ways to catch fish at the dam, safely remove fish from the hook, properly hold their catch, and take a picture to remember it.

Data center moratorium goes to county board

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

A 12-month moratorium on the approval of any data center zoning applications in the four townships where Winnebago County controls zoning is headed to the County Board of Supervisors.

At its Aug. 6 meeting, the Winnebago Planning & Zoning Committee approved an ordinance to enact the 12-month moratorium in the towns of Algoma, Omro, Neenah and Nekimi. During the moratorium, the county will not receive, process or approve any zoning applications for new data centers. The ordinance also established a definition of a data center.

The county board will vote on the ordinance at its Aug. 18 meeting.

During the 12 months of the moratorium, county staff will evaluate the potential impacts of a data center on utility infrastruc-

ture, transportation systems, emergency services, land use patterns, agricultural resources, environmental resources and neighboring property owners.

They will also work on developing recommendations for definitions, zoning classifications, siting criteria, performance standards, buffering requirements, infrastructure requirements, environmental protections and operational standards applicable to future data center development.

A report and recommended ordinance amendments for the Planning and Zoning Committee and County Board will also be prepared.

While the moratorium does not cover the entire county, county leaders have said it will help other municipalities develop their own moratoriums against data centers in their communities.



Photo from ThedaCare

Hands-on experience

ThedaCare's largest Nurse Extern group to date, with 68 nursing students participating, attended Nurse Extern Education Day at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah.

Local college graduates

The following students from Neenah graduated from Milwaukee School of Engineering in the spring.

Hayden Hesse, Bachelor of Science, civil engineering, high honors

Carter Ulmer, Bachelor of Science, electrical engineering, high honors

Jaeden Carstens, Bachelor of Science, architectural engineering, honors

Travis Jankowski, Bachelor of Science, computer science, honors

Andre De Wet-Daniels, Bachelor of Science, mechanical engineering

Porter Hasz, Bachelor of Science, electrical engineering



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State’s primary winners move onto general election

Neenah News

The state’s primary results are in, and the ballot is set for November.

In this week’s partisan primary election, the race to be the Democratic party’s candidate for governor was almost as close in Winnebago County as it was across the state. Francesca Hong had 717 more votes in the county than David Crowley, according to the unofficial county results released early Wednesday morning.

However, Crowley won the state by roughly 3,200 votes and will advance to face Republican Tom Tiffany on Nov. 3. Tiffany received President Donald Trump’s endorsement in January and easily won Winnebago County and the statewide race.

Hong and Crowley campaigned in Winnebago County in the days leading up to the election, with Gov. Tony Evers joining Crowley in Oshkosh on Monday.

All results released Tuesday night and Wednesday morning are unofficial results

and need to be certified at the county level during this week’s election canvass.



Crowley

Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz released a statement on election night stating the county was experiencing a server issue that affected how results were reported online. This led to a delay in the results being uploaded online. Each of the 21 municipalities had to physically bring the ballots to the County Clerk’s office.

“There are no issues at polling locations or with the counting of ballots,” Hintz said. “Voting and ballot counting are proceeded normally. We appreciate your patience as staff work to post results as quickly and accurately as possible.”

The unofficial results were posted at 12:10 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

In the race for Lieutenant Governor, Da-

vid Varnum defeated Will Martin across that state on the Republican side. For the Democrats, Sarah Godlewski ran unopposed.

Glenn Grothman ran unopposed on the Republican ticket as he hopes to keep his seat in Congress serving the 6th District. On the Democratic side, Amanda Bell had 445 more votes than Brad Smith in Winnebago County. However, Smith was the winner of the Democratic nomination for the district.

The races for Secretary of State and Attorney General were also on the ballot and now the primary winners will head into November election.

For Attorney General, it will be a rematch of the 2022 race with incumbent Democrat Josh Kaul being challenged by Republican Fond du Lac County District Attorney Eric Toney. Neither had a primary opponent.

In the Secretary of State race, Jay Schroeder received the most votes in Winnebago County and the state, so he will be the Republican nominee in November. On

the Democratic side, JoCasta Zamarripa ran unopposed.

The final statewide race on Tuesday’s ballot was for state treasurer. Republican incumbent John Leiber ran unopposed in the primary and will be taking on Democratic candidate Yee Leng Xiong in November. Xiong had 2,885 more votes than Dylan Helmenstine in Winnebago County.

Two county races on the primary ballot were uncontested. There will be three candidates on the November ballot for Winnebago County Sheriff, Jason Rippl for the Democrats, Darin Rice for the Republicans and Danielle Falesnik is running as an independent. The other race is the Clerk of Courts, and incumbent Democrat Desiree Bongers is running unopposed.

The election saw a total of 24,021 ballots cast across Winnebago County. There were 14,018 Democratic ballots cast, 9,935 Republican ballots cast and 68 ballots total cast for the Constitution, Libertarian and Wisconsin Green parties.

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Experienced Neenah golfers eye another strong FVA finish

Neenah News

An experienced Neenah High School girls golf team is ready to hit the course for the 2026 season.

The Rockets return four of its five players from last year's team that advanced to the sectional tournament, including a pair of players who earned all-Fox Valley Association recognition, as they take aim on another strong season.

"The fact that we have a majority of players playing in their second and third WIAA tournament series (this season) should serve us well," commented Neenah head coach Adam Hendrickson. "I think our players have learned to play within their own games and take the steps to avoid the big number, which should serve them well. The experience will be extremely valuable, especially given how many teams graduated a lot of their varsity squads from last season."

Seniors Lilly Quella and Adrienne Oitzinger are both returning all-conference honorees having earned spots on the honorable mention list last season. Quella tied

Girls Golf

for the most conference points among the 10 honorable mention honorees last year, narrowly missing a spot on the second team by a half-point.

Quella led the Rockets at the WIAA regional meet last year, while Oitzinger paced Neenah at sectionals.

Rounding out Neenah's varsity returners are fellow seniors Alex Guden and Paige Keck, while seniors Ella Buchta and Leah Milske will be among the Rocket golfers vying to round out the varsity lineup.

Hendrickson believes that perennial powers Hortonville and Kaukauna will be the favorites once again in the FVA but the Rockets could be right in the mix at the top of the league.

With half of last year's first and second teamers on the all-FVA list having graduated, it could open the door at the top of the conference standings.

"Based on what I have seen from the summer junior circuit, we again should be firmly placed in the top half of the con-

ference," commented Hendrickson. "Our experience should hopefully create some consistency and provide a great environment for our younger players, of which we have many this season."

St. Mary Catholic

Entering its second season as a varsity program, the Zephyrs will return nearly its entire varsity lineup from last season and have plenty of golfers competing to join that group.

Seniors Ainslie Liddy, Isabelle Callan, Kieran Bergstrom and junior Scarlett Reichenberger are all returning from last year's team that finished seventh at the WIAA regional. St. Mary Catholic did graduate its top golfer from last year in Oliva Nagel but head coach Jack Steinhoff hopes the team will benefit from being out on the varsity courses last year and be able to fill that void.

"The returning players are bringing that

experience from last year. They now know what it takes to compete at the varsity level and the dedication it takes to compete," commented Steinhoff. They were able to see the work that was put in from our lone senior last season (Nagel) and I have seen them carry that legacy and bring that dedication to show our JV and underclassmen what it takes."

Seniors Molly Murphy and Amelia Virlee along with junior Brecken Britzke and sophomore Drew Cogswell will be among the golfers also competing for varsity spots this season for the Zephyrs.

"(The players we have) has the team excited for what is to come this season," Steinhoff commented, whose team will be in competition with Winneconne, Fox Valley Lutheran, Xavier and New London in the Bay South Conference. "Our girls put in a lot of time on the course this spring and summer setting us up for this season."

Obituaries

Shirley M. Lemieux

Shirley M. Lemieux, age 91, was welcomed into eternal life on August 8, 2026.

She was born July 2, 1935 in Oshkosh, the daughter of the late Arthur and Verna Strutz. She graduated from Omro High School in 1953 and married Chuck, her high school sweetheart, June 19 of that summer. Together they had three sons: Mark Lemieux, Las Vegas, NV, Gary (Debi) Lemieux, Neenah, WI, and Craig (Karen) Lemieux, Fremont, WI.

Shirley had a long career at Workforce Communications where she began as a secretary and retired as a vice president and co-owner. She was active in water aerobics, her church spirituality group and as a Packers fan. Shirley will be re-

membered as a great hostess, a faithful friend and a dedicated mother & grandma. Her six grandchildren are: Andrea (Andrew) Williams, Erin (Matt) Lemieux-Dombroski, Shauna Lemieux, Jessica Lemieux, Mitchell Lemieux and Calvin (Lydia Parker) Lemieux. She also leaves five great-grandsons and many other relatives and friends.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Thursday, August 20, at 11:00 A.M. at St. Raphael's Catholic Church, Oshkosh followed by interment at Omro Cemetery. Family and friends may call at the church on Thursday morning from 9:30 A.M. until the hour of the service.

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Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims)

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, DANE COUNTY Case No. 2026SC004457

Plaintiff(s): Dollar Loan Center 8860 W Sunset Rd Las Vegas NV 89148 VS. Defendant(s): Justin Charles Baker 8443 Marlo Ave Unit 6 Neenah WI 54956

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):

You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above.

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You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

Electronically Signed by Teresa Sanchez-Arriaga Date: 08/06/2026 8860 W Sunset Rd Las Vegas NV 89148 855-367-2500

Runs: August 14, 2026

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Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing

“ We’ve been advertising with the Oshkosh Herald and Neenah News for the past 9 months. In combination with a well-designed ad and clear call to action, advertising consistently in the paper has helped increase our visibility in the community.

Each week we hear from interested, qualified consumers who have seen our ads and call to learn more, with many continuing on the buying journey.

The reach and affordability of these papers is significantly better than other advertising outlets we’ve used as part of our integrated marketing plan.

In addition to the campaign’s success, the team is professional and always responsive, it’s been very easy to work with them to meet our goals.



Evergreen
Possibilities await.

Theresa Brockman,
Vice President Marketing &
Business Development

WMG
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The Power of Local

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Grow your business.

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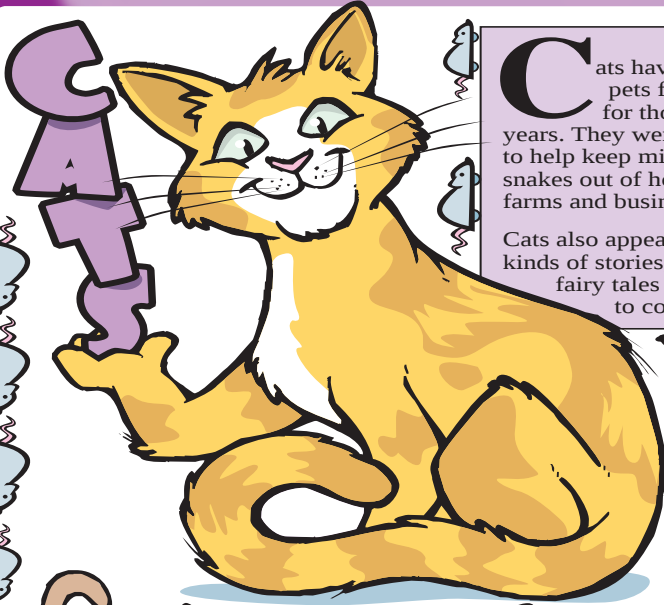


Kid Scoop®

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com

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Cats have been pets for people for thousands of years. They were taken in to help keep mice and snakes out of homes, farms and businesses.

Cats also appear in all kinds of stories, from fairy tales to legends to comic strips.

Ancient Egyptians
Egyptians considered cats to be sacred, which is why they mummified and buried them in tombs. They would honor a god by portraying it with a cat's head.

The Egyptian goddess **Bast** was shown with the head of a cat. Bast is the Egyptian goddess of sunrise and the protector of cats, women and children.

Connect the dots in alphabetical order to draw Bast.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Find the two identical cats.

Cat Prints
Just like fingerprints, this part of a cat's body has a pattern of ridges that is unique to that cat.

SENO
Unscramble the word to find the answer.

Extra! Extra!
Animals in the News
Look through the newspaper to find articles about animals. How many different kinds of animals are in the news? Make a graph to show your results.

Standards Link: Data Analysis: Organize and display data in simple bar graphs, pie charts and line graphs.

Cat Numbers
Use the code to discover some fun facts about cats.

0 =  4 =  7 = 
2 =  5 =  8 = 
3 =  6 =  9 = 

The number of years ago that we believe cats were first domesticated.

The approximate number of dollars spent each year in the U.S. for kitty litter. *As of 2024

The number of muscles in each ear of a cat.

The approximate number of kittens born in the U.S. each day.

How many toy mice can you find on this page?

Standards Link: Estimation: Students estimate quantities in real-world situations.



Kid Scoop Together:

Take the Cat Quiz

How much do you know about cats? Try this True-or-False quiz to find out.

1. A falling cat will always land on its feet.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE
2. Cats need regular baths.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE
3. A stray or abandoned cat lives only a week or two.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE
4. A cat's whiskers help it to "see" in the dark.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE
5. A ball of yarn makes a good toy for a cat.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

1. FALSE. Cats can sometimes twist around in midair. But they are often hurt or even killed in falls.
2. FALSE. Cats can usually keep themselves clean by licking their fur.
3. TRUE. Homeless cats live in danger. Most are killed by cars, dogs, poison, thirst or starvation.
4. TRUE. A cat's whiskers are very sensitive and act as "feelers" to let a cat know it is close to something.
5. FALSE. Kittens like to play with yarn, but they can get tangled and strangled to death. If a kitten swallows some yarn, it can get very sick.

Standards Link: Life Science: Students understand the diversity of life and behavior of species.

What a Character!™

Patience is ...



... playing with your pet, even when you are tired of the game.

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kidscoop.com/activity-pages/





Write On!



Dream Interview

If you could interview anyone in the world, who would it be? What would you ask?



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