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Common council ends Flock contract

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

The City of Neenah has officially ended its relationship with Flock Safety.

The Common Council voted unanimously to cancel its contract with the automated license plate reader (ALPR) company at its Sept. 16 meeting. The contract was scheduled to end in November 2028.

Neenah had 12 Flock cameras in the city. Police Chief Aaron Olson said they were taken offline prior to the Public Ser-

vices and Safety Committee on Sept. 8.

The police department bagged all the cameras after the council's vote and sent a letter to the company asking them to remove them within 30 days. Olson said if Flock does not remove the cameras after 30 days that the city can take them down.

Since late spring, Flock cameras were discussed on and off at both the Public Services and Safety Committee and the Common Council with dozens of community members speaking against the license plate reading cameras during public

comment sessions.

Olson announced at an August Public Services and Safety Committee meeting that he was recommending the city end its contract with Flock after learning the company was trying to sell the Sheboygan Police Department five years of traffic data, which was a violation of its master services agreement.

"I have spoken to people who were in support of Flock but felt intimidated to come here and speak about it," said Al-

SEE **Flock cameras** ON PAGE 5



Photo from Neenah Public Library

Bird watching

The Neenah Public Library hosted a birding program Sept. 15 presented in partnership with the Winnebago Audubon Society. The group spotted pelicans and a peregrine falcon perching on top of the nearby ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah.

Fox Crossing using own funds for tornado recovery

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Fox Crossing will draw from its stabilization fund, equipment replacement fund and insurance to pay for the \$3.3 million in response and recovery costs the village incurred following the July 27 tornado.

Village Manager Jeff Sturgell said Fox Crossing is fortunate it does not need to borrow funds to pay for the storm cleanup and the fire trucks damaged when Fire Station 41 on Valley Road was destroyed.

Last week, the Village Board approved several budget amendments to cover the \$3.3 million:

- \$2.74 million will be used from the vil-

lage's stabilization fund, which was established for emergencies, including natural disasters. The fund has \$3.1 million in it.

- \$319,500 from insurance proceeds to repair Fire Engine 41, which was one of three fire trucks damaged in the storm. Sturgell said it will take more than a year for the truck to be repaired.

- \$305,000 will be drawn from the village's equipment replacement fund to purchase a used fire truck from Butler in Waukesha County, which Fox Crossing can use while Fire Engine 41 is repaired.

"We're hoping to get most of what we're taking from the stabilization fund and equipment replacement fund back

from either FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) or the Wisconsin Disaster Fund," Sturgell said. "We want to be able to refill these funds and build them up again."

When looking at the expenses from the tornado, Sturgell said Fox Crossing spent:

- \$1.8 million for contracted debris cleanup, grinding and hauling for the Streets Department. Sturgell said the village partnered with five different companies to help clean up debris, plus had help from the cities of Green Bay and Fond du Lac.

- \$319,500 to repair Fire Engine 41
- \$305,000 to purchase a used fire en-

gine

- \$200,000 for stump grinding and removal at Palisades Park
- \$148,000 for overtime and bonus pay for employees
- \$135,000 for cleanup and security at Palisades Park
- \$134,000 for landfill fees
- \$65,000 to raze the Community Center

Rebuilding fire station, Community Center

The tornado destroyed Fire Station

SEE **Tornado recovery** ON PAGE 7

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Meet Michelle Calder

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Neenah
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Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Shattuck Park

Before the construction of Shattuck Park, Clara Shattuck bought this land, a former
dumping ground, for it to be developed in 1912 into the park. The original pavilion was
completed in 1915 and then was formally donated to the City of Neenah.

Fundraiser benefits equine-assisted services

Neenah News

Beaming Inc. will host The Harvest for
the Herd fundraiser to bring together com-
munity members, supporters, businesses
and families to celebrate the life-changing
impact of equine-assisted services while
raising critical funds to support the orga-
nization’s horses and programs.

The event will be held Oct. 10 at Lucky
Dog’z, 157 S. Green Road in Neenah. The
bar opens at 5 p.m. with dinner beginning
at 5:30 p.m. Live music starts at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets are \$50 per person.

For more than 21 years, CEO Katie
Samuelson said Beaming has partnered
with horses to help individuals build con-
fidence, resilience, communication skills,
emotional regulation, leadership abilities
and meaningful connections. As a PATH
Intl. Accredited Center, Beaming serves
children, veterans, teens, families, seniors
and individuals with diverse cognitive,
neurological, physical, emotional and de-
velopmental needs throughout Northeast
Wisconsin.

The need for these services continues
to grow, Samuelson said. Each year, she
said Beaming provides more than 4,000
participant experiences and contributes
over \$170,000 in free and reduced-cost
services to ensure individuals and families
can access programs regardless of financial
circumstances.

At the same time, Samuelson said the
cost of providing services has increased

dramatically. In 2026 alone, expenses re-
lated to hay, grain, bedding, veterinary
care, farrier services, insurance and oth-
er essential horse care supplies have in-
creased by approximately 35%. These ris-
ing costs create significant challenges for
nonprofit organizations that rely on com-
munity support to maintain high-quality
services, she said.

“Every day we see the incredible differ-
ence horses make in people’s lives,” Sam-
uelson said. “A child gains confidence. A
veteran finds peace and connection. A
teen discovers leadership and purpose. A
senior experiencing memory loss recon-
nects with cherished memories. These
moments happen because of our horses,
dedicated volunteers, and generous sup-
porters. With costs increasing by more
than 35 percent this year alone, com-
munity support is more important than
ever.”

Samuelson said Harvest for the Herd
will provide an evening filled with inspira-
tion, entertainment and opportunities to
make a meaningful difference. The event
features dinner catered by The Roxy, live
music by Minus One, raffles, door prizes,
stories of transformation and opportuni-
ties to support Beaming’s mission.

More information is available at
beaminginc.org.

First Friday Concert
will feature Cat Plan

Neenah News

Cat Plan, a Green Bay-based gypsy jazz
collective, will bring their lively, wood-
wind-infused swing to the Neenah Public
Library.

The First Friday Concert Series perfor-
mance will be at 2 p.m. Oct. 2.

Featuring a mix of classic and contem-
porary jazz tunes, the group’s blend of gui-
tars, mandolin, saxophone, flute and clari-
net delivers an energetic and spontaneous
performance style. Their music is said to
capture the spirit of vintage jazz with a
fresh twist.

Calendar
of events

- Friday, Sept. 25**
Team One Mile Community Event,
4:30 p.m., Shattuck Park
The Hallows, 6:30 p.m., Memorial
Park
- Saturday, Sept. 26**
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8
a.m., Shattuck Park
Neenah Historical Society presents
Havilah Babcock House Tours, 1 p.m.,
537 E. Wisconsin Ave.
The Hallows, 6:30 p.m., Memorial
Park
- Sunday, Sept. 27**
Gold Star Family Luminary Event, 6
p.m., Shattuck Park
- Thursday, Oct. 1**
Fall Music on the Patio, 5 p.m., The
Plaza and Globe Coffee
- Friday, Oct. 2**
First Friday Concert: Cat Plan, 2 p.m.,
Neenah Public Library
The Hallows, 6:30 p.m., Memorial
Park
- Saturday, Oct. 3**
Future Neenah Farmers Market, 8
a.m., Shattuck Park
Neenah Parks and Recreation Howl-
O-Ween, 9 a.m., Neenah Dog Park,
2122 Brooks Ave.
October Art Activity Day, 10 a.m.,
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
Fox Valley Fish Fair, 11 a.m., Lucky
Dog’z, 157 S. Green Bay Road
Future Neenah Old Fashioned Satur-
day, noon, Downtown Neenah
Rally for the Valley, 2 p.m., Down-
town Menasha
The Hallows, 6:30 p.m., Memorial
Park
- Sunday, Oct. 4**
Fox Cities Zine and Books Arts Festi-
val, 12:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Tuesday, Oct. 6**
Paranormal Series - Alien Wisconsin:
Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Contact,
6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Wednesday, Oct. 7**
Paranormal Series – Hauntings on the
Fox River, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Li-
brary
- Thursday, Oct. 8**
Fox Crossing Howl-O-Ween Trail, 5
p.m., Fritsch Park
Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Cen-
tral Wisconsin Dream Big Gala, 5:30
p.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood
Resort and Hotel
Paranormal Series – A Bump in the
Night, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Friday, Oct. 9**
The Hallows, 6:30 p.m., Memorial
Park

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Rally for the Valley event to benefit tornado victims

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Neenah native and filmmaker Phil Johnston knew he wanted to help after hearing about the July 27 tornado that severely damaged parts of Menasha, Neenah, Fox Crossing and Appleton.

The result is the Downtown Menasha Rally for the Valley, a one-day event on Oct. 3 that brings together free music, comedy, storytelling and giving to support the communities affected by the tornado.

The event will run from 2 to 10 p.m. in downtown Menasha and feature live performances, artists and makers, nonprofit organizations and food and beverages for sale. Attendees will also be able to donate to three nonprofits working with families and individuals recovering from the tornado: Greater Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity, Leaven and Pillars.

Johnston said the impulse to help was personal even though he hasn't lived in Neenah for 30 years.

"It's still the place I think of as home," he said. "I was talking to my mom on the day of the tornado, and she mentioned someone was on the roof. She went outside and

it was the guy who previously had come over to take care of some trees in their yard. He knew they had a tree on the roof, so he came over at 9 p.m. without being called to take care of it. I thought, 'that's a good neighbor.'"

He then called a neighbor of his in California, Butch Vig, and asked if he wanted to do a benefit concert with him and Charlie Berens at Cranky Pat's.

"We wanted to be good neighbors, too," Johnston said.

Their idea of a concert at a pizza joint with a few hundred people quickly grew into a much larger event. Other people became involved, including Adrienne Palm, who had event planning in her background, including a Bazaar After Dark, which was held in downtown Menasha.

"We got the ball rolling and then Adrienne picked up the ball and ran with it," Johnston said.

Berens is hosting the event. Performers



Johnston

include Vig, Soul Asylum, Fountains of Wayne, Max Collins of Eve 6, Cory Chisel, Freedy Johnston, Lolo, Kami, Hang Ten and Rucksack Revolution.

The nonprofits selected to benefit from the event were chosen because of the work they are doing in the community to help those facing housing challenges, Johnston said.

"There are still people who don't have a place to stay," Johnston said. "While we're holding it in Menasha, it's a Valley event. It's for everyone affected by the storm in Menasha, Neenah, Fox Crossing and Appleton. All the funds raised are going back into the community. I didn't think it would really grow like this."

Palm said people are excited about the event and having a chance to come together to support each other.

"It's inspiring to see how people want to help. We're listening to what people want," she said.

For example, there was a concern that although the rally is a free event some people may not be able to afford to buy food from the vendors. Palm said a plan for handing out free food vouchers for \$10

per person to those affected by the storm or who otherwise can't pay was created. People can visit the volunteer tent and ask for them. A donor was then found to pay for them.

Organizers are unsure of how many people to expect at the event and are asking people to RSVP by visiting the event's website at rallyforthevalleywi.com. Having that information will help them better prepare and know how many trash receptacles and portable restrooms to have on site.

"We're planning for a larger crowd," Johnston said. "We don't want to have too few porta-potties so we really encourage people to RSVP."

People affected by the tornado are encouraged to share their stories and experiences through interviews, photographs, video, oral histories and other forms of documentation that may become part of event storytelling or historical preservation.

Volunteer sign-ups, vendor applications, story submissions and more information are available at rallyforthevalleywi.com.

Tornado relief helps 500 Fox Valley families, more help needed

Neenah News

Representatives of the Community Response Fund said that all \$5 million donated by the community for tornado relief has now been awarded to local nonprofits helping affected families and neighborhoods.

Fund leaders last week approved an additional \$1.3 million for direct financial assistance, bringing the total dedicated to household assistance to \$4.1 million.

Since Sept. 1, Leaven and People of Progression have helped more than 500 tornado-affected families, and assistance continues to go out. At the same time, more than

600 additional requests for assistance and scheduled appointments remain.

Based on the number of people seeking help and what nonprofits now know about their needs, the Community Response Fund is seeking another \$4 million so assistance can continue reaching tornado-affected families.

Families who have already requested assistance should know that Leaven and People of Progression continue to review requests and provide help. While all money donated to the Community Response Fund to date has been awarded to local nonprofits, not all of that money has yet

been distributed to families.

The fund is comprised of donations given by more than 5,300 individuals, businesses and organizations. The Community Response Fund is managed by the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, and the tornado relief and recovery is in collaboration with United Way Fox Cities and the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.

In addition to home damage, families are facing lost income, damaged furniture and belongings, home and vehicle insurance deductibles, and more.

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Three referendum questions will appear on November ballots

Ballot measures set along party lines

By Jonathan Richie
NEENAH NEWS

The candidates that will be on the November ballots have been decided by the primary election, so the general election races are set.

There will also be three referendum questions on the ballots that will accompany the federal, state and county races.

The proposals, if approved by the state's voters, would limit the governor's veto power, allow religious gatherings during health emergencies and ban DEI programs in the government.

The referendums would amend the state constitution. These three questions are the newest of a total of 12 referendums proposed by Republican lawmakers during Gov. Tony Evers' nearly eight years as governor.

Both candidates for governor have weighed in on the referendums, and they are following their party lines. Democratic gubernatorial nominee David Crowley does not support any of the ballot measures.

The Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Tiffany has stated he plans to support the three ballot measures.

The first ballot measure was introduced by Delafield Republican state Senator Chris Kapenga that would limit the governor's veto power. The Republicans believe Evers put a 400-year property tax hike into the 2023-25 budget as part of his veto powers.

However, that's not what the budget states. Instead, it states that school reve-

nue limits will increase by \$325 per student every year until 2425. Evers raised annual revenue fundraising limits, but it does not guarantee property taxes each year.

"They want to eliminate the power of the governor, and so what they're trying to do is just rig the system," Crowley told reporters in August. "This is not about rigging the system. This is about listening directly to constituents and figuring out how we can deliver on their behalf."

Tiffany said that "No governor, Republican or Democrat, should have unchecked power to raise taxes or fees with the stroke of a pen, especially for the next 400 years."

While Republicans support the measure, the state's largest teachers union, the Wisconsin Association Council and the League of Women Voters have opposed the measure.

The second referendum question revolves around moves the Evers administration made during the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic and houses of worship. The "Safer at Home" order limited businesses and activities were allowed to remain open as the virus spread across the state.

"I also support constitutional protections for places of worship," Tiffany said. "Our constitutional rights should never be conditional, and our government should never be allowed to discriminate."

Critics of the governor's order have pointed out that houses of worship were being closed but liquor stores were categorized as essential.

The order was struck down by the Wisconsin Supreme Court two months after Evers signed it.

Pro-Life Wisconsin and Wisconsin Family Action support the ballot measure, while the League of Women Voters oppose the measure.

"Closing places of worship does not prevent any person from worshipping God, as such worship can and is practiced on an individual basis in one's own home during an emergency," the League of Women Voters wrote.

The final ballot measure would prohibit diversity, equity and inclusion in government. The text on the ballot states the constitution amendment will "prohibit governmental entities in the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, public contracting, or public administration."

The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) supports this measure. The firm won a state Supreme Court case that found an undergraduate financial aid program for minority students was unconstitutional.

WILL Managing Vice President and Deputy Counsel Dan Lennington said the referendum will "end discriminatory DEI programs throughout Wisconsin and ensure our government serves all citizens equally."

The League of Women Voters and the ACLU of Wisconsin oppose the amendment claiming it would limit opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

The League said the amendment intends "to weaken the individual rights and liberties of Americans who have been guaranteed protection by the Civil Rights laws of our country."

What's on the ballot?

Voters in Winnebago County will be asked to select a member of Congress, state senators, state Assembly representatives and a new sheriff. The Neenah News will be printing candidate questionnaires as part of its election coverage over the next few weeks leading up to the election

Meeting to provide information about subdivisions

Neenah News

Residents are invited to an informational meeting to discuss the status of the Freedom Acres and Homes at Freedom Meadows subdivisions.

City of Neenah staff will answer residents' questions and concerns and listen for ideas on future plans.

The meeting will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Shattuck Room at the Neenah Public Library.

on Nov. 3.

Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz is stepping down from the position he has held since 2010. Matz announced his intention to not run earlier this year and two members of the Sheriff's office are running to take Matz's place.

Democrat Jason Rippl and Republican Darin Rice, both currently work for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, will be joined on the ballot by Independent candidate Dani Falsenik. Falsenik dropped out of the race earlier this month but will still appear on the November ballot.

The state Senate race for District 19, which serves Winneconne and Fox Crossing, is contested with incumbent Rachael Cabral-Guevara, R-Fox Crossing, being challenged by Democrat Emily Tseffos.

The state Assembly race for District 55, which covers Winneconne and Fox Crossing, is contested with incumbent Nate Gustafson, R-Fox Crossing, taking on Democrat Alex Corrigan.

In District 53, there will be a new representative for the Neenah/Menasha district. The three-person race includes Republican David Daniels, Democrat Becky Nichols and county board supervisor Rachael Dowling, who is running as an Independent. State Rep. Dean Kauffert is not seeking reelection.

Winnebago County voters will also see the Clerk of Courts race on the ballot. Incumbent Desiree Bongers is running unopposed for the seat.

The lone federal race on the ballot is for the U.S. Congressional Sixth District. Incumbent Glenn Grothman, R-Greenbush, is facing four challengers for the seat. Democrat Brad Smith is joined by Green Party candidate Matthew Arndt and independent candidates Elizabeth Fitzgibbon and Mike Thurow.

For more information on the November election, including registration information, where to vote and what's on the ballot, go to myvote.wi.gov.

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County executive introduces \$253 million budget

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz proposed a nearly \$253 million budget during a 2027 budget workshop Sept. 17 at Sunnyview Expo Center.

“This budget prioritizes supports and services in the county and employee retention in a competitive market,” he said.

The proposed 2027 budget is \$13,984,608 higher than the 2026 adopted budget. The proposed property tax levy for 2027 is \$76,121,476, which is 2.55% more than the 2026 property tax levy of \$74,228,116.

The budget’s largest two expenditures are operating expenditures and labor. Human Services makes up the largest portion

of the budget — 24.21% — followed by the Sheriff’s Office at 13.10%.

The meeting provided county board supervisors with their initial look at the proposed budget. They will now delve deeper into it at their committee and board meetings where they can draft amendments to the budget. Those changes will come up later before the county board when it votes on the full budget at the end of October.

County department heads were also in attendance to answer questions.

“Bringing everyone together makes the budget process more efficient and productive,” Hintz said.

Hintz said the budget is not full of “bells and whistles.” Instead, he said it prioritizes managing the county’s core services. As

for employees, Hintz said it is essential the county keeps the trained, talented employees it has. For that reason, the county is offering a 3.4% cost of living raise and up to 2% merit raises.

The budget adds 12 full-time equivalent employees, with 1.5 positions funded by grants and program revenue.

The capital improvement plan for 2027 is \$52,581,072 with a focus on maintaining and strengthening the county’s infrastructure, facilities and public services. Work on the Solid Waste Transfer Station and Resource Recovery Site and Highway Shop expansion will begin in 2027 and both are included in the budget.

Hintz pointed out that many of the county’s buildings are aging and require a lot of maintenance, creating a greater need for strategic investment in county facilities and infrastructure.

Public safety remains a top budget priority, Hintz said. The Sheriff’s Office will continue the Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) Recovery Program with Solutions Recovery and Human Services, complete Special Weapons & Tactics (SWAT) /dive vehicle purchases, finish the multiyear jail camera-system upgrade and enhance 911 and audio-recording system reliability. The Sheriff’s Office

is also adding four positions to help staff the jail.

The budget also places a focus on public health, environmental protection and regulatory readiness. Public Health will implement the Tri-County Community Health Improvement Plan, enroll 40 homes in lead-abatement programs, test lead in water at 10 daycare facilities, develop regional tuberculosis-response and vaccine-storage backup plans and create rapid-deployment outbreak communication webpages. Solid Waste will continue its PFAs and landfill environmental work, Snell Road remediation activities and a Household Battery Recycling Pilot Program in response to a future state regulation.

Town hall meetings planned

Town halls meetings will be held throughout the county for community members to learn more about the budget. The meetings will run from 6 to 8 p.m.

Oct. 6: Black Wolf Town Hall, 380 E. Black Wolf Ave., Oshkosh

Oct. 7: 525 W. 20th Ave., Oshkosh (Wittman Regional Airport Conference Room)

Oct. 8: Neenah Police Department, 1275 Tullar Road, Neenah

Oct. 22: Vinland Town Hall, 6085 County T, Oshkosh

Flock cameras

FROM PAGE 1

derman Mark Ellis. “I plan to vote in favor of canceling the contract, but we need to keep in mind that Flock helped our police solve crimes.”

Neenah Mayor Brian Borchardt thanked the community members who attended meetings and shared their opinions on Flock cameras.

“I appreciate you taking the time to come in and speaking on the topic,” he said.

Unlike those initial meetings, there were only three members of the public who spoke about ALPRs when council members voted to remove the cameras.

Tanner Mann, who grew up in Neenah but now lives in Appleton, spoke at nearly every meeting when Flock was on the agenda.

“It was degrading to have Flock representatives come into these council chambers and lie to us, the community, the council and the police,” he said. “Flock now has pattern-of-life data on Neenah residents that it can use however it wants. Please cancel this contract.”

Nathaniel Miller of Neenah, who also spoke at previous meetings, said those opposed to Flock cameras were originally “treated as if we held a niche position. But through the months, you’ve heard from a variety of people from different backgrounds, who didn’t want Flock in our community.”

Miller said signing the initial contract with Flock was a mistake, but that “you can correct that tonight by canceling his contract.”

Neenah joined a growing list of nearby communities who have canceled their contracts with Flock in recent months, including Menasha, Appleton, Oshkosh, Kaukauna, Grand Chute and Winnebago County.

Event honors those who sacrificed for country

Neenah News

An evening event is being organized to honor and remember those who died serving the country.

The Gold Star Family Luminary event will be at 6 p.m. Sunday at the Shattuck Park Pavilion.

The event will include the Neenah Me-

nasha Honor Guard, speakers, lighting of luminaries, Honor Guard rifle salute, reading names of the fallen and refreshments.

The event is hosted by Blue Star Mothers Chapter 1 Wisconsin and Hawley-Dieckhoff American Legion Family Post 33 Neenah.

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Brigade building community leadership for generations

Neenah News

For more than 125 years, the Boys & Girls Brigade has been part of growing up in Neenah.

Generations of young people have walked through its doors, traveled to Camp Onaway, built friendships, tried new things and learned what it means to be part of something bigger than themselves.

Today, some of those same young people are leading the community they grew up in.

For the first time in the organization's history, the Boys & Girls Brigade is led by an executive director who was once a Brigadier herself. Janie Anderson grew up participating in Brigade, later watched her own children go through the program and now leads the organization that helped shape her as a young person.

Anderson isn't the only example of that generational connection.

Neenah School Board President Brian Epley participated in Brigade as a child and later watched his own children go through the program. Neenah Mayor Brian Borchardt has served as a Brigade volunteer, and his children have also participated.

"The Boys & Girls Brigade has been part of my life for more than 30 years," Borchardt said. "It taught me that service isn't something you do for recognition. It's about showing up, helping others, and leaving your community a little better than you found it. That belief in service above self has become a foundation of my life, from being a teacher and volunteer to now having the privilege of serving as mayor of Neenah."

They are part of a much larger story.

Throughout Neenah and beyond, former Brigaders have grown into educators, business leaders, public servants, nonprofit leaders, volunteers, coaches, mentors and community advocates. Some hold highly visible leadership positions. Others lead every day without a title.

What connects them is an experience that begins when young people are given a place to belong.

Leadership starts small

At Brigade, leadership isn't something reserved for high school students or taught during a single lesson. It develops over time.

A fifth grader might first come to Brigade because it looks fun, because friends are there or because they want to try something new. Along the way, that child learns how to meet new people, work as part of a group, handle challenges, communicate with adults and peers, and take responsibility.

As Brigaders grow older, expectations grow with them. They are given opportunities to make decisions, serve others, recognize their own strengths and weaknesses, and eventually help lead younger Brigaders.

By their junior and senior years, they have the opportunity to move from being participants to being leaders themselves.

The goal isn't necessarily to create mayors, school board presidents or executive directors.

The goal is to help create young people who are prepared to lead wherever life takes them.

That might eventually mean leading a company, classroom or nonprofit organization. It could mean serving in lo-



Submitted photo

Brian Borchardt, Janie Anderson and Brian Epley have experienced Boys & Girls Brigade programs in ways that helped as they have become community leaders in Neenah.

cal government, coaching a youth team, volunteering, raising a family, helping a neighbor or simply being the person willing to step forward when something needs to be done.

Cycle spans generations

The stories of Anderson, Epley and Borchardt illustrate another important part of Brigade's impact: the connection often doesn't end when a young person's years in the program are over.

Former participants become parents who send their own children to Brigade. They become volunteers who give their time to Camp Onaway and downtown programs. They become donors and supporters. Some return to serve in leadership roles.

The young people who were once surrounded by adults investing in them eventually become the adults investing in another generation.

For Anderson, becoming executive director brings that cycle full circle.

"One of the most powerful things about Brigade is that you don't always realize you are learning to lead while it's happening," Anderson said. "You're making friends, going to camp, trying something new, working through challenges and being given opportunities to take responsibility. Years later, you realize how much those experiences helped shape who you became."

That experience is now particularly meaningful as she watches another generation of Brigaders develop.

"I went through this program. My children went through this program. And now I have the privilege of helping make sure it is here and strong for the kids coming behind us," Anderson said. "That's pretty special."

More than a program

Brigade's mission is to provide youth the opportunity and space to learn, grow, play, explore and create lifelong memories while developing the skills necessary to overcome challenges.

Its core values — Fun, Connection, Leadership and Grace — reflect the idea that developing strong young people requires more than structured activities.

It requires relationships.

For generations, Brigade has provided young people with another important place in their lives outside of home and school — a place where they can connect with peers and caring adults, try something they may not be good at yet, make mistakes, develop confidence and discover what they can contribute.

Those experiences can have an impact long after a young person's final night at Brigade or final summer at Camp Onaway.

The evidence is visible throughout the community.

It can be seen in people like Epley, who went from being a young Brigadier to serving in a leadership position supporting the education of Neenah's children.

"Walking into Brigade as a 12-year-old was intimidating, but little did I know that I would meet my best friends and mentors, who would stick with me through my whole life," Epley said. "The Brigade program built us to be leaders of every variety, and service to our community became second nature. It's hard to say if I would be who I am without the Brigade because those lessons are intrinsic to my being. The four-fold philosophy continues to guide my physical, mental, social and religious development to this day."

It can be seen in Borchardt, whose family has been involved with Brigade and who has given his own time as a volunteer while serving the broader Neenah community.

And it can be seen in Anderson, who has gone from Brigadier to Brigade parent to the first alum to serve as the organization's executive director.

They are just three examples among generations of people whose paths have crossed with Brigade.

Building the next generation

As the Boys & Girls Brigade begins its next chapter, its purpose remains remarkably similar to what it has been for generations: give young people a place to belong, surround them with caring people, challenge them to grow, and give them opportunities to lead.

Then watch where they go.

More than a century after the first young people entered Brigade, evidence of its impact can be found throughout Neenah — and far beyond it.

The children participating today may be the community leaders of tomorrow.

And if Brigade's history is any indication, some of them will eventually come back and help develop the generation that follows them.

That may be one of Brigade's greatest legacies: it doesn't simply build programs. It builds people who help build communities.

Fall Brigade evening programs begin next week, and enrollment is open for students in grades 5-12. Each age group meets one night a week, Monday through Thursday, at the Boys & Girls Brigade in Neenah.

Evenings can include skill workshops, guest speakers, small group conversations, games and physical activities. More information is available at bgbrigade.com.

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Neenah News

Steven's program "Alien Wisconsin: Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Contact" will touch on real-life stories from Wisconsin residents who have experienced the Phenomena and how their lives changed after contact. Steven will also touch on the White House's release of UFO files and the possibility of the United States gov-

Members of the W.P.R.S. (Wausau Paranormal Research Society) will discuss their investigations from areas of Wisconsin as well as equipment they use in the field. Participants will be able to view some of their paranormal photos they have captured and listen to audio (EVP's) captured at haunted locations. Time will be given during the presentation to ask questions and share personal experiences.



Photo from Neenah Public Library

FROM PAGE 1

“Our indoor park and rec programs are

“The police station is something we have been talking about before the tornado and if we build it, it might provide us with an opportunity to have that indoor facility space on the west side of the village,” he said. “We have a lot of things we’ll be looking at in the next few months.”

The Neenah Public Library organized a Wild Child Adventure Storytime on Tuesday with an outing to Riverside Park. For more unique storytime experiences, Field Trip Storytimes begin in mid-October. The first outing will be Field Trip Storytime: Thiesen's at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 14.

Guests are invited to bring their creativity and enjoy an afternoon of crafting their own scarecrow. The frame, hay and twine will be provided, while participants are

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A NEW LAKEFRONT LIFESTYLE IS TAKING SHAPE

Two candidates vying for Winnebago County sheriff job

Neenah News

Voters will be headed to the polls in November to vote for federal, state and county races, including the Winnebago County sheriff's race.

Darin Rice and Jason Rippl are both current Winnebago County Sheriff's Office employees and are seeking voters' support in the Nov. 3 election for sheriff.

Winnebago Media Group sent the same questions to each candidate and are printed here as part of the preview coverage leading up to the election.

Some responses have been edited for style and clarity.

For more information on voter registration, what will be on the ballot and where to vote, go to myvote.wi.gov.

Darin Rice

Age: 47

Occupation: Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Captain of Field Services and Undersheriff



Rice

Highest level of education: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from UW-Oshkosh

Relevant experience: 25 years of law enforcement experience that includes supervision, management, training, professional standards, policy development and budget management.

Why are you running for this office?

I am running for sheriff because I want to lead an agency dedicated to serving the residents of Winnebago County and being a leader in the law enforcement commu-

nity.

Over the last 25 years, I have worked in every major division of the Sheriff's Office. I have accepted increasing responsibility through promotion, served on and led special teams, and obtained advanced training and education specific to my chosen career.

These experiences have provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the Sheriff's Office and the responsibilities associated with leading the agency. I believe that my experience, training and commitment to public service have prepared me to serve as the next sheriff of Winnebago County.

What is the biggest issue facing the sheriff's office and how will you address the issue?

The Sheriff's Office will have an entirely new command staff in 2027. The top six positions, representing a combined 190 years of experience, will have retired within a 12-month period. While anticipated, this transition will result in a significant loss of institutional knowledge.

Addressing this challenge has already started. New division commanders have been selected and are learning from those who will soon retire, while bringing valuable experience from previous leadership roles.

Moving forward, I will strengthen leadership development, mentoring and knowledge sharing throughout the organization. This transition creates opportunities for younger officers to take on greater responsibility, develop leadership skills and prepare for future roles.

New leaders should be encouraged to evaluate existing practices, propose new ideas and identify opportunities for im-

provement. We can build on the experience of those who came before us while developing the next generation of leaders and strengthening the Sheriff's Office for the future.

How will you handle recruitment and retention in the department?

Recruitment and retention are among the most significant challenges facing law enforcement today. My focus will be on attracting quality candidates, investing in our employees, and building a culture that encourages people to make the Sheriff's Office their career.

We must be proactive in recruitment by connecting with candidates through schools, career fairs, community partnerships, and professional networks. Once hired, employees deserve exceptional training, strong mentorship and meaningful opportunities for career growth.

Retention is equally important. We need a culture where employees feel valued, respected, supported and recognized for their contributions. That means maintaining open communication, recognizing quality performance and addressing the issues that contribute to turnover.

Investing in our people and creating a positive, professional workplace will help us attract and retain the dedicated employees necessary to provide the highest quality service to the residents of Winnebago County.

The Sheriff's department budget totals \$32 million. What is your relevant experience managing and balancing annual budgets of that size/scope?

Throughout my career, I have been responsible for preparing and managing portions of the Sheriff's Office budget. As a special teams leader, I developed budgets for equipment and training needs. As the Training and Special Operations Lieutenant, I oversaw budgets for Reserve Deputies, agency-wide training and all special teams.

In 2023, I assumed responsibility for Patrol Unit operations and managed the patrol portion of the Field Services budget including, but not limited to, projected revenue, capital expenditures and vendor contracts.

During the 2026 budget preparation I performed a larger role. I worked with command staff to ensure we met the County Executive's target, prioritized operational needs and ensured responsible use of taxpayer funds. I participated in all budget hearings and County Board presentations.

I have been involved in all aspects of the 2027 budget preparation. My experience has prepared me to assume responsibility for the entire Sheriff's Office budget.

Jason Rippl

Age: 48

Occupation: Deputy Sheriff

Education: Police Science Degree from Fox Valley Technical College



Rippl

Why are you running for this office?

I am seeking the office of sheriff of Winnebago County to continue my commitment to serve the people who live and work here, through accountable leadership, strong community, partnerships and a sheriff's office that operates with professionalism and integrity.

I hope to lead the next generation of deputies and inspire them to have that same standard of service. I do not seek this position as a stepping stone to high-

er political office. I have one humble goal: to leave Winnebago County better than I found it.

What is the biggest issue facing the sheriff's office and how will you address the issue?

The biggest issue facing the Sheriff's Office internally is retention of employees.

For several years now, the Sheriff's Office has seen high turnover rates, and those high turnover rates result in high cost to the taxpayers for continued hiring and training of new staff. I would address this with a change in leadership philosophy. I believe in leadership from the ground up not the top down. Leaders need to work directly with the people actually doing the work so that they can understand issues their people are dealing with. This will help employees feel valued by the administration. Employees that feel valued and understood and involved in the decisions being made about the jobs they are doing will have improved morale, increased retention and be able to provide a better service to the community.

How will you handle recruitment and retention in the department?

Externally, one of the biggest issues facing the Sheriff's Office is the use of technology in the community.

Law enforcement is standing on the precipice of a significant change in technology. From ALPR cameras and facial recognition body cameras to AI assisted dispatch and drone technology.

We saw the community concerns and outrage around the Flock company. Hopefully we can learn from the mistakes made with that and involve the community in helping the Sheriff's Office implement new technology that can benefit not only the Sheriff's Office but the community we serve.

One way I hope to do this is through regular attendance at town board meetings to inform the community about potential new technology. Another way I hope to involve the community is through citizen advisory panels to help guide and educate the Sheriff's Office on potential issues with new technology before tax dollars are spent.

The Sheriff's department budget totals \$32 million. What is your relevant experience managing and balancing annual budgets of that size/scope?

\$32 million of the county budget is something worth talking about.

While I have not been involved in the budget process at the Sheriff's Office, I think that any discussion involving transparency should also involve regular community discussions about what tax dollars are being spent on. 32 million tax dollars and no listening sessions or town hall updates about the Sheriff's Office to the community is unacceptable.

I would work directly with the County Executive's office to make sure that the Sheriff's Office priority-based budget aligned with the County Executive's strategic plan for the county.

The Sheriff's Office cannot exist in a silo. It needs to work directly with the other county departments to make sure that the best possible service is being delivered to the citizens of Winnebago County. Experience in the way, the Sheriff's Office delivered the budget in the past is only part of the solution to the way the Sheriff's Office needs to deliver the budget in the future.

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Governor requests disaster declaration to help businesses

Gov. Tony Evers sent a letter last week to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to request a Rapid Disaster Declaration in response to severe storms and flooding that occurred on July 27.

The severe storms resulted in at least one confirmed EF-3 tornado in northeastern Wisconsin, along with high winds, hail, power outages and disruptions to public water systems, causing widespread and significant damage in Winnebago, Forest, Outagamie and Vilas Counties.

Based on joint damage assessments conducted by the SBA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), state, county and local staff, Evers has requested that Winnebago County receive federal disaster loans from the SBA. If approved, these federal loans would be available for Wisconsin homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofits impacted in Winnebago County.

“The folks in Winnebago County have shown up for one another and persevered in the months since the July storms, but we know that goodwill, volunteers and hard work alone won’t fix the destruction caused. Now, we need our federal partners to step up,” Evers said. “As a state, we are doing everything we can to ensure our families, neighbors, and communities can recover, and I am urging the Trump Administration to do the right thing and provide this needed relief to support Wisconsin’s businesses, families and communities.”

Last month, Evers announced he had formally requested a disaster declaration from President Trump in response to the severe storms, although the president has yet to respond to the governor’s request. Evers previously requested FEMA assistance to conduct joint preliminary damage assessments.

If the SBA Rapid Declaration request is granted, homeowners may be eligible for up to \$500,000 in property loans to replace or repair their primary residence for losses not fully covered by insurance or other sources. Renters or homeowners may borrow up to \$100,000 to replace or repair personal property, such as clothing, furniture, cars and appliances damaged or destroyed by the disaster.

Up to \$2 million would be available for qualified business owners or most nonprofit organizations to cover disaster losses for real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment. More information on the SBA Disaster Loans can be found at sba.gov/disaster.

Public health officials ready if measles arrive in Winnebago County

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

With the number of measles cases growing in southwest Wisconsin, the Winnebago County Health Department is prepared in case the disease arrives locally.

As of Sept. 18, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services has confirmed 167 measles cases this year in the southwest counties of Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Vernon. Another case was also confirmed in Marathon County, which was related to out-of-state travel. One new case was confirmed Tuesday in the state.

Health Officer Doug Gieryn said Winnebago County “is always on the watch” for measles cases.

“We have done what we can to prepare,” he said.

Measles is a highly contagious, serious disease that can lead to serious health complications, including pneumonia, brain damage and deafness. Children are usually first vaccinated against the measles when they are 15 months old and receive a second dose between the ages of 4 and 6.

Vaccination against the measles is 97% effective for people receive both dosages. Jaci Grignon, the county’s public health communicable disease supervisor, said the county is encouraging people to get vaccinated to keep them healthy and prevent the disease from spreading.

The county is working with schools, including the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, to encourage students and their families to check on their vaccination status, Grignon said. People can go to Wisconsin Immunization Registry at dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization to look up their immunization history if they are unsure.

“If you haven’t received the vaccine, you can still get one now. The vaccine is the primary tool we have against fighting the disease,” Grignon said.

Gieryn said the county has plans in place if someone in the county is diagnosed with the measles. The county has checked in with local hospitals to make sure they can get immunoglobulin that could be given to patients with measles to help them fight the disease. Immunization clinics would be held, and the health department also has a lot of information to share with the community about the disease.

“Within 72 hours of exposure, you can still be vaccinated, which could make the disease less severe,” Grignon said.

The symptoms of measles include a high fever; a cough, runny nose or red watery eyes; flat red rash that begins at the hairline and move down the person’s body; and tiny white spots that develop inside the mouth and cheeks.

“Not everyone has all the symptoms, but there’s always a high fever and the person just looks sick with a cough, runny nose or runny eyes,” Grignon said. “They just look and feel miserable.”

If physicians suspect a measles case, they immediately must contact the public health department, Gieryn said.

“If someone suspects they have the measles, contact your doctor’s office before you visit to let them know. They will have alternative plans for how you’ll enter the clinic to keep you away from other patients,” he said.

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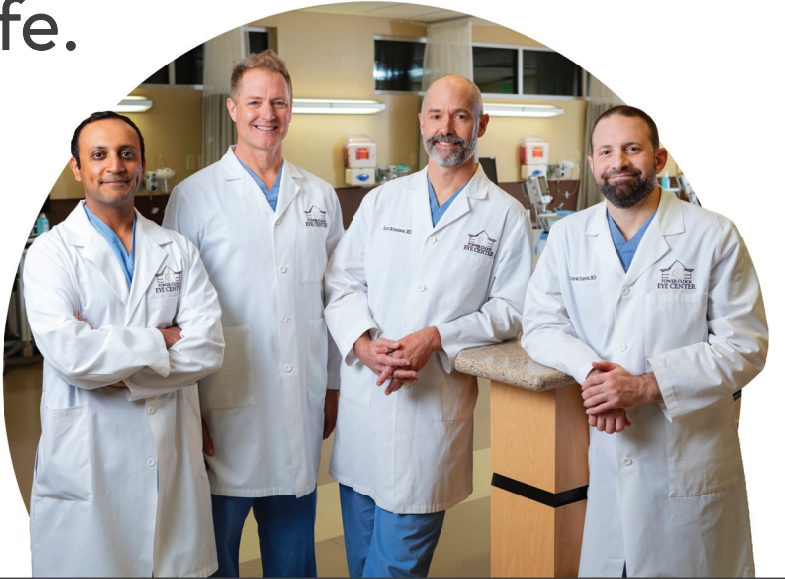
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Area competitors grab top spots in Fox Cities Marathon

Neenah News

The Community First Fox Cities Marathon held various races last weekend, including activities at Riverside Park in Neenah.

More than 1,600 participants at Riverside Park took part Saturday in the Ascension 5K run/walk and Fleet Feet 10K run/walk.

The top local finishers included John Hollister of Neenah taking first place in the men's 10K with a time of 33:53. Steven Pirelli of Neenah finished the 5K in second place with a time of 18:09.

More than 2,000 athletes participated in the marathon, half marathon, half marathon competitive walk and relay marathon Sunday with the finishing line at Riverside Park.

Jeffrey Dobrunz of Neenah finished in third place in the competitive walk race

with a time of 2:35:34.

Proceeds and words of encouragement for tornado victims were among the activities during the event. A portion of the marathon's course looked different following the tornado that hit the area in July.

"This community has been here supporting our race for 35 years, and now when our community needs support, we're going to be here for them," race director Julie Johnson said. "Our Sunday courses run down Valley Road in Menasha, our Saturday and Sunday events both use Riverside Park in Neenah — both have visible damage from the storm."

Johnson said signs along Valley Road offered words of encouragement for the community. Proceeds from T-shirt sales are going to Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity to help families rebuild their homes.



Photo from Neenah Joint School District

Packers home game catches benefit charity

Neenah News

Tork, an Essity brand, and the Green Bay Packers are launching the sixth annual Tackle Hygiene with Every Catch campaign for the 2026 season.

Starting with the Packers' first home game, which was on Thursday, through their fifth home game on Nov. 15, Tork will donate \$250 in sustainable hygiene products for every Packers catch made at Lambeau Field to Ronald McDonald

House Charities of Eastern Wisconsin.

Donations from this year's campaign will help deliver up to \$30,000 in sustainable hygiene products such as Tork facial tissue, toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes.

The Tackle Hygiene with Every Catch campaign with the Green Bay Packers has donated \$136,750 in Tork sustainable hygiene products to local charities, underscoring the commitment of these organizations.

Running club

Over 40 Spring Road Elementary students participated in the school's annual running club. Runners practiced over the first three weeks of school, did a community practice 5K and then ended with their cumulative event at the Fox Cities Marathon 5K. Many family members also ran along for both events. Teachers Lauren Lange and Lindsey Kraft organized the group.



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Rockets overcome struggles to take down Tritons

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Levi Steckling stepped to the service line with the score tied at 23 in the fourth set against Green Bay Notre Dame on Tuesday night.

After dominating the first set, Neenah needed just two points to close out the pesky Tritons, but were also staring at the potential of a winner-take-all fifth set in the Fox Valley Association matchup.

Steckling, though, wasn't about to let that happen.

"I wanted to get home and felt like I had to get things over with," the Rockets' senior libero said. "I felt like my team is not on its 'A' game tonight and if someone has to take over, I will."

Notre Dame was unable to handle Steckling's next two serves with the two aces pushing Neenah to the 25-12, 25-21, 23-25, 25-23 win.

"It's a good learning experience for us there," Neenah head coach Jake Coenen said. "(Notre Dame) keeping it close put some pressure on us which helped us. It was the good learning experience of now we have been there and now we know what to expect."

The Rockets improved to 4-0 in the FVA and remained tied for the top spot in the conference but had to navigate some unique circumstances to get the victory.

Neenah breezed to the win in the first set but went with a different lineup to start the second set. Notre Dame took advantage and led much of the set, before the Rockets' starters returned and rallied for the win to take a 2-0 lead.

In the third set, Neenah again went with mostly non-starters, who played the entire set. So when the Tritons pulled out the third-set win to extend the match, Coenen returned his top line-up to the court – even though some of them had been on the bench the entire third set.

"That's one of the things we brought up right away is will they come out flat just from sitting, but I had trust in them," Coenen said. "I had the confidence in them even though it was a long time sitting for them to have to jump right back. I'm glad how they stuck together and pulled it out in the end."

The Tritons didn't make things easy for the Rockets, though.

Notre Dame grabbed the early lead in the fourth set and stayed in front until the Rockets finally tied the score at 14 on a kill by Alex Locke. Trevor Ricketts followed

by slamming a ball through a Triton block for Neenah's first lead of the set.

The lead seesawed between the two teams the rest of the set, which included eight more ties, with the final tie coming at 23-23 when Sam Keepers blasted a back-row spike to even the score.

"It felt great. I was frustrated with myself and the way I played before that, so just getting a good kill, getting my confidence back, that really felt good," Keepers said. "We talk about (hitting from the back row) before but you just have to be ready for it. In a game, anything can happen, so I will call for it and if he sets it, I just have to be ready for it."

Keepers' spike earned the Rockets a sideout and that's when Steckling served up the final two points to close out the win.

"It was pretty important," Keepers said about avoiding a fifth set. "As a team we have way higher goals and not getting in that situation (of playing a fifth set) proves that we are a higher level."

Keepers finished with nine kills in the match to share the team lead in the match with Ricketts, while Dylan McNamara added eight and Colin Martin chipped in seven.

Steckling led the team with 21 digs, while Cam Dieckfuss paced the team with 32 assists.

Neenah dominated the opening set, building a 10-4 lead on a run of six serves from Steckling, while taking a double-dig- it lead at 16-6 on ace from Colton Kreger.

Logan McNamara then rattled off five straight serves for a 21-7 lead – highlighted by four kills by Keepers – with a spike from Martin providing the final point.

As dominant as the win was, it could have been even more lopsided. The Rockets missed five serves in the first set accounting for nearly half of the Tritons' points.

For the match, the Rockets finished with 14 service errors – compared to nine aces – but Coenen likes the way his team served aggressively and knows, at times, those errors are going to happen.

"I'm OK with some of the missed serves because we do want to serve aggressively and get teams out of system right away," Coenen said. "I like that we are aggressive and when we are on and stay aggressive in serve it really helps us."

Notre Dame took command of the second set early on and led by as many six



Keepers



Steckling



Neenah's Trevor Ricketts (14) goes up for a spike over a pair of Green Bay Notre Dame blockers during the first set of Tuesday's win for the Rockets.

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After rain-soaked win, Rockets ready for another tough test

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Playing in a steady, driving rain last Friday night, the Neenah football team had the fun of rolling to a 39-0 win on the turf surface at Oshkosh West High School.

But the victory over the Wildcats could have been more enjoyable.

“I wish we could have gotten all muddy. We never get that,” senior Cooper Sieck said. “That would have been fun.”

Sieck ran for three touchdowns in the win and Owen St. Clair racked up 103 yards and a touchdown on the ground in his first varsity quarterback start in the win as the Rockets improved to 2-1 in the Fox Valley Association.

That win set the stage for this week’s matchup against conference-leading Appleton North, which brings a 3-0 league mark into the contest at Rocket Stadium after beating Kaukauna, 14-0, last week.

“We’ve played some amazing games with them the last 10 years,” Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. “The games are always close. They play great defense and it’s always a one score game. We have to pre-

Week 6 games

Fox Valley Association

(records reflect FVA games)

- Appleton North (3-0) at Neenah (2-1)
- Fond du Lac (2-1) at Kaukauna (2-1)
- Oshkosh West (0-3) at Kimberly (2-1)
- Hortonville (1-2) at Appleton East (0-3)

pare for a super physical game because I thought they took it to Kaukauna.”

Neenah has won the last four meetings between the two teams, including a 29-27 nail-biter in last year’s matchup.

The Rockets expect another close one this time around, but that’s the type of game this team prefers as opposed to a lop-sided blowout.

“I always like the games that are closer, especially being the underdogs. It’s fun to prove people wrong and just get after it,” said senior Matthias Charles. “We just have to play the whole game. At halftime, we have to stay locked in and stay on the guys and keep hyping them up.”

Playing a full 48 minutes is something



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Neenah’s Owen St. Clair breaks a tackle to gain extra yardage in the win over Oshkosh West.

that hampered Neenah at times earlier this season in losses to Arrowhead and Kaukauna.

But now facing another ranked team, Jung believes the team has corrected that

issue.

“I thought against Oshkosh West we played a full 48 minutes. It took a little

SEE **Rocket football** ON PAGE 15

Zephyrs look to rebound from loss against Huskies

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

The St. Mary Catholic football team was looking to extend its winning streak to four games last Friday night on a road trip to Valders.

Those plans were washed away in the pouring rain against the Vikings as the Zephyrs were dealt their first Eastern Wisconsin Conference loss in a 20-7 decision.

“You do have to put things behind you but you can’t forget about them. Those are your lessons,” St. Mary Catholic head

coach Rob Detterman said. “We have to keep moving forward. When things go wrong, you have to put one foot in front of the other and keep moving forward.”

That path will lead the Zephyrs into a showdown with New Holstein on Friday at the St. Mary Catholic football field.

The Huskies are 4-1 overall this season and are 2-1 in the EWC, tied for second place along with St. Mary Catholic and Kiel. New Holstein is coming off a 26-6 win over Kiel and feature an offense that has racked up 154 points in the first three weeks.

New Holstein has two running backs – Conner Schaefer and James Conrad – who have combined for nearly 1,000 yards already this season and are averaging about 10 yards per carry.

And they run behind a very good offensive line that will test the Zephyrs’ defense.

“There are some really good football players on that team,” Detterman said. “We have to be aware of everything they bring to the table and we have to play our best at every position to make this week work for us.”

The Zephyrs have some pretty good football players, too, and St. Mary Catholic will be looking to play to its strength against the Huskies.

Senior lineman Brady Detterman returned from injury against Valders last week and helped the offensive line put on

Week 6 games

Eastern Wisconsin Conference

(records reflect EWC games)

- New Holstein (2-1) at St. Mary Catholic (2-1)
- Two Rivers (0-3) at Brillion (3-0)
- Valders (1-2) at Chilton (1-2)\
- Roncalli (1-2) at Kiel (2-1)

a strong performance against the Vikings.

That unit will again be key against a stout Huskies’ defense but the group is ready to take on the challenge.

“We say it’s on us (as an offensive line),” said senior Max Vosters. “If we do well and run the ball good, it’s good for the whole team.”

Vosters said that despite the loss, the Zephyrs are still a confident bunch and will try to take the lessons learned last week to help the squad over the final four weeks of the regular season.

“(Our confidence) is still pretty high. We still feel like we can win conference and are the best team in the conference. We still feel like we’re pretty good even with the loss,” Vosters said. “We can learn things from last week. We weren’t hustling to the ball and weren’t playing as a team that well and had some little mistakes that really cost us.”

Including Friday’s matchup with New Holstein, the Zephyrs will have to run the gauntlet of the EWC over the final four weeks.

St. Mary Catholic also has a trip to Roncalli coming up before closing out the regular season at Kiel and at home against conference-leading Brillion.

“Our goals are still in front of us,” Rob Detterman said. “We only have one (conference) loss and the leaders are still in front of us so if we win out, we will be conference champions – it may be shared or may not be, but we would definitely be a part of it.”

“I don’t know if the loss is motivation, but how it narrowed our margin for error is motivation. I don’t know that the confidence is down with the team. You definitely take a hit to your morale when you lose a game, especially if you feel it was a game you shouldn’t have lost.”



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Hansman keeping Neenah’s long diving tradition alive

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

With roughly eight years of experience in gymnastics, making the jump to diving was a pretty seamless transition for Neenah’s Sydney Hansman.

There is just one glaring difference. “The only thing that’s really different between gymnastics and diving,” the two-time state qualifying diver said before a practice last week. “In diving, you are diving to land your head and in gymnastics you want to land on your feet – you don’t want to land on your head in gymnastics.”

Hansman is the latest entry in Neenah’s long tradition of standout divers and is hoping to cap her high school career with a flourish.

She finished 12th at the WIAA Division 1 state meet last season and would like to make the top eight finishers at Waukesha South later this fall.

“That’s definitely very important to me. It’s my top goal,” Hansman said. “I definitely have to improve on all of my dives, improve my form and everything and also getting a higher degree of difficulty so I am working on some new dives.”

With the season well underway, Hansman is hard at work doing just that and looking forward to her final year of competing at Neenah.

“It’s really exciting, especially to be a senior. It’s my last year on the team so I’m just trying to enjoy the moment and get through all my dives and reach all of my goals and just help all of my teammates work together,” Hansman said. “It does feel different. There is a little more pressure as a senior, but it’s a lot more fun and, I guess, sentimental because it’s my last year and it’s ending really soon.”

Some athletes are in their chosen sport from a young age, but Hansman didn’t start diving until her freshman year at Neenah. But even though she was new to the sport, she definitely had at least a little of the sport coursing through her veins.

Hansman’s father, Chris, was a diver at Neenah in his high school days and went on to become a six-time all-American in college at UW-Oshkosh. He currently serves as the diving coach for the Rockets.

Hansman wasn’t pressured to follow in her father’s footsteps but it was through him she was introduced to the sport.

“He just asked me if I wanted to try diving,” Hansman said. “I had the gymnastics background which helps with flipping and twisting and air awareness and I wanted to try something new. So, I started my freshman year and I love it.”

Her passion for the sport continues to grow, even if she sometimes has to explain what it is she is doing.

“When I’m telling people I do diving, they think SCUBA diving or something

Senior Standout

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like that,” Hansman said. “Most people don’t really know what the sport is and it is a lot more technical than most people realize.”

Hansman credits her gymnastics background for making it a pretty easy undertaking learning the new sport.

It only took her a couple of months to get comfortable on the board and with the basic dives and her career blossomed from there.

“It’s not super easy but physically for me it wasn’t too bad,” Hansman said. “It’s just trying to get over those mental blocks and push through the new dives.”

That’s not to say there weren’t a few painful moments as she learned her dives. But any discomfort she felt was really just more motivation.

“Sometimes it does (hurt), especially if you have a belly flop or a back flop,” Hansman said. “It does hurt a little bit but truthfully the pain doesn’t last very long and it’s worth it if you are trying to learn your dives.”

Hansman finished fourth at sectionals in her freshman year, falling roughly 60 points short of qualifying for the state meet. She would finish one place lower at sectionals as a sophomore, however, her point total of 428.25 points earned her a spot in the state field.

Making it to state in just her second year diving was something she was proud to accomplish, but wasn’t necessarily a given entering the season.

“I wasn’t totally expecting to go to state sophomore year but I enjoyed it so much,” Hansman said. “It was a little overwhelming, but it was super exciting and definitely a goal of mine.”

Hansman didn’t make the final round at the state meet as a sophomore, but the experience was something that was an asset last season when she finished 12th overall, less than 15 points out of a top-10 finish.

“It definitely helped,” said Hansman, who totes a stuffed duck with her to the big meets for luck. “Sophomore year I was scared to go to state. I was so nervous the whole time, but junior year I was super relaxed because I knew what to expect and it made it a lot more easier.”

Hansman is focused on returning to the state meet this year but there is more diving ahead for her.

She has already committed to continue her career at the University of South



Neenah senior Sydney Hansman is a two-time state qualifier in diving who is aiming for a third trip to the state meet and her first state podium finish this season.

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Prep roundup

TENNIS

Zephyrs stay unbeaten in conference play

Faith Bergstrom and Laney Schmidt highlighted a sweep of the doubles matches by winning 6-0, 6-0 at the No. 3 flight as the Zephyrs topped Sheboygan Falls, 6-1, to improve 5-0 in Eastern Wisconsin Conference play.

Halle Janssen and Ella Chier bounced back from a second-set loss at No. 1 doubles to claim a 6-1, 5-7, 10-8 win, while Kieran Bergstrom and Scarlett Bergstrom won a hard-fought 6-4, 6-4 decision at No. 2 doubles.

St. Mary Catholic also got straight-set singles wins from Vivie Auth, Nadia Alexander and Norah Wroblewski.

The Zephyrs also picked up a 5-2 win over Kohler last Thursday with Wroblewski at No. 4 singles and Schmidt and Faith Bergstrom at No. 3 doubles dropping just one game in their wins.

Kieran Bergstrom and Scarlett Berg-

strom lost only two games at No. 2 doubles, with Auth at No. 1 singles and Elsa Rossmessl at No. 3 singles also added straight-set wins.

Neenah continues perfect run in FVA

The Rockets notched another 7-0 win on Tuesday, winning the match at each flight in straight sets against Kimberly.

Ellie Grace Zickler at No. 3 singles and the No. 2 doubles pairing of Ella Motto and Evelyn Buss each dropped only one game in their matches, while the No. 1 doubles team of Sydney Michalkiewicz and Rebekah Thomas and the No. 3 doubles team of JB Kennedy and Mollie Van Dyke each dropped only two games in their matches.

Completing the sweep with singles wins for Neenah were Celia Gentile, Rachel Thomas and Paige Vickman.

The Rockets also picked up a 7-0 win over Fond du Lac last week with the three doubles teams dropping just one game combined in the three matches.

Rebekah Thomas and Michalkiewicz at No. 1 doubles and Kennedy and Van Dyke at No. 3 doubles both won 6-0, 6-0 margins. Motto and Buss won 6-1, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles.

Gentile led the sweep of the singles match with a 6-0, 6-0 win at the No. flight, while Rachel Thomas, Vickman and Zickler also added singles wins.

SOCCER

Rockets rack up another FVA victory

Neenah overcame the loss of starting goalkeeper Ollie Peterka after a collision to collect a 3-1 win over Appleton East on Tuesday night.

Peterka had made two saves in the game before departing, while Brode LaBarge finished off the win and also had two saves in goal.

Ian Baetke finished with a goal and an assist to lead the offense, with Baetke scoring off an assist from Owen Van Zeeland in the 11th minute to stake the Rockets to

the lead. Jordy Banda and Kolton Fleege also scored in the game for Neenah.

The Rockets also picked up a 2-0 win over Kaukauna last week, with Baetke notching a goal and an assist in the victory. Hunter Brown also scored for Neenah, while Peterka earned the shutout in goal with three saves.

Brown and Van Zeeland scored for Neenah in a 2-1 win over Wisconsin Rapids as the Rockets overcame a 1-0 halftime deficit to secure the nonconference victory. Baetke picked up an assist in the win.

Zephyrs rack up shutout victory

Rhett Probst registered a hat trick and St. Mary Catholic cruised to a 7-0 win over Green Bay NEW Lutheran on Tuesday night.

Bryce Heimann added a pair of goals, while Dylan Brenn and Nathan Jensen each had one in the win for the Zephyrs.

Jameson Tines finished with four assists

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 15

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 14

for St. Mary Catholic.

SWIMMING

Brygger, divers lead Rockets in dual meet

Kirsten Brygger won two events and Neenah’s three divers all scored but the Rockets fell short against power Appleton North, 104-78, in a dual meet on Tuesday. Brygger earned her wins in the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard breaststroke to lead the Rockets.

Neenah also grabbed the top three places in diving with Sydney Hansman, Sophia Diaz and Meredith Buttron earning the spots, respectively.

The Rockets only other win at the meet came from Elisabeth Hang, who took first in the 500-yard freestyle while also picking up a second place in the 200-yard freestyle.

Other second-place finishers for the Rockets were Bridget Bloomhuff in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle and Ellen Farrell in the 100-yard backstroke. Neenah was also second in both the 200-yard medley and 200-yard freestyle relays.

Rocket football

FROM PAGE 12

bit to get going, but once we got going I thought we played really well considering the conditions,” Jung said. “Our kids can do it and I think they felt good how that game turned out. I think that enthusiasm and excitement and playing whistle to whistle, we are bringing that forward.”

And it’s not just avoiding a letdown for a half or quarter or series either.

It comes down to the Rockets’ playing at a peak level every time the ball is snapped.

“With how close of a game it’s probably going to be, we have to play to the whistle every play,” Sieck said. “I think we just have to run our stuff. Everything we have been doing we just have to run it as hard as we can every play.”

One boost the Rockets are expected to get is with the returning of senior quarterback Ashton Van Beek. The reigning Offensive Player of the Year in the FVA did not play against the Wildcats.

Neenah wins

FROM PAGE 11

points at five different times during the set. The Tritons later took a 20-16 lead but Neenah answered by scoring nine of the final 10 points to steal the set.

Dieckfuss kill tied the game at 21 and Keepers served out the set, notching an ace while Ricketts added a pair of kills. Dieckfuss blocked a Triton spike attempt for the final point.

Neenah had a chance to complete the sweep in the third set taking leads of 16-12 and 20-18. The Rockets held their last lead at 22-21 but the Tritons rallied by scoring four of the final five points to force

CROSS COUNTRY

Higgins, Staner led Zephyr runners

Claire Higgins and Fritz Staner led their respective St. Mary Catholic teams at the Bulldog Invitational held in New London on Saturday.

Higgins finished 13th overall in the girls race as the Zephyrs finished eighth in the team standings.

Natalie Lee placed 25th followed by Chloe Beckett in 60th, Moira Lewis in 67th and Claire Nelson in 74th.

Staner was 13th in the boys race, followed closely by teammate Brady DeLeeuw who took 17th. Brandon DeBaal in 81st place and Anderson Homburg was 83rd to round out the Zephyr runners.

St. Mary Catholic did not field enough runners to compete as a team.

GOLF

Zephyrs finish seventh at Bay Conference meet

St. Mary Catholic edged out Sturgeon Bay by one stroke and Oconto by three strokes to take seventh at the Bay Conference Championships held Tuesday at Wander Springs Golf Course.

The Zephyrs finished with a score of

Having the dual-threat quarterback back under center will be important against a stout defense like the Lightning, but Jung was also pleased with the play of St. Clair last Friday and is confident the team is in good hands if he needs to be on the field.

“(Ashton) will be ready on Friday and having him makes us better,” Jung said. “I thought (St. Clair) managed the offense really well. He made a lot of nice third-down runs. He played like he had been there before. He’s a mentally tough kid and he did a good job for us.”

The contest against Appleton North marks the first of three home games in the final four weeks of the regular season for the Rockets as they look to get in a roll heading toward the postseason.

A win on Friday night would certainly give Neenah a boost heading into the final three weeks of the season as well as put them back in the mix in the race for the FVA crown.

“If we can get North,” Charles said, “we are still in the running to be one of the top teams in the conference.”

the fourth set.

“The lineup changes and being next to someone new kind of got to us,” Steckling said. “Usually, it’s something we can handle.”

The Rockets are one of three teams that entered the week undefeated in the FVA along with Appleton North and Fond du Lac. Neenah faces the Cardinals on Oct. 6 in Fond du Lac and will travel to Appleton North in the final match of the conference season on Oct. 15.

“Just building these wins to get a win streak going will be helpful because our competition level kicks up a little higher,” Keepers said. “Getting these wins now, getting confidence and getting everything figured out is going to go a long way.”

443, four shots behind Shawano. Seymour won the team title with a 350, 61 shots ahead of Xavier.

Scarlett Reichenbacher led St. Mary Catholic with a round of 101, placing ninth overall among the individuals.

Ainslie Liddy added a 113, followed by Brecken Britzke with a 114 and Amelia Virlee with a 115.

Quella leads Rocket golfers in FVA dual

Lilly Quella tied for medalist honors with a 43 at Ridgeway Country Club, but the Rockets came up short against Appleton North, 195-201, in a Fox Valley Association dual meet on Tuesday.

Adrianne Oitzinger added a 46 for the Rockets, with Alex Guden and Leah Milske each carding a 56 on the round.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Rockets finish 4-1 at Dave Hash Tournament

Neenah had a strong day at the Dave Hash Memorial Tournament held at Kaukauna High School on Saturday.

The Rockets posted wins over Pewaukee, Wilmot, Sun Prairie United and Fond du Lac, while falling to Franklin in three close sets.

Cam Diekfuss had a strong all-around tournament for the Rockets, leading the team with 89 assists and 17 aces, while also picking up 17 kills.

Sam Keepers paced the team with 37 kills, while also finishing with 19 digs, while Logan McNamara added 22 kills on the day.

Levi Steckling led the team with 48 digs with Colton Kreger adding 16.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Zephyrs take title at Trucker Invitational

St. Mary Catholic picked up another tournament title by going 5-0 at the Trucker Invitational at Clintonville on Saturday.

The Zephyrs did not drop a set in pool play, beating Valders, Shawano and Southern Door in straight sets. St. Mary Catholic then topped Clinton, 25-14, 25-16

in the semifinals before rolling past Laona-Wabeno, 25-14, 25-12 in the title match.

Ellie Davel posted 27 kills to lead all Zephyr hitters at the tournament, with Autumn Crowe adding 24 kills, Rayna Brelage finishing with 20 and Luci Nackers adding 15.

Bitsy McCauley led the team with 54 digs, while Crowe added 24 and Emily Weisse had 63 assists.

Adele Brennan had a strong all-around tournament totaling 45 assists, 22 digs and 14 kills.

St. Mary Catholic also picked up a 25-11, 25-19, 25-16 win over Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah last week led by eight kills apiece from Crowe and Brown, while Weiss added 23 assists and Brennan finished with eight assists and seven kills.

Rockets roll at Sting Center tourney

Neenah posted a 5-1 record, winning all five matches in straight sets, at a tournament hosted by the Milwaukee Sting on Saturday.

The Rockets posted wins over Slinger, Pewaukee, Waunakee, Hamilton and Mukwonago in the two-day event. The team’s lone loss came in the final match of the tournament to Oconomowoc.

Lilly Romjue led the Neenah hitters with 42 kills, followed by Brielle Brown with 35 and Elaina Kramer with 26. Paige Hoelzel led the squad with 14 aces at the tournament.

Aubrey Lindberg paced the team with 61 digs, while Romjue finished with 35 and Sena Messner and Finley Kelley totaled 69 and 68 assists, respectively.

The Rockets also picked up a win over Oshkosh West in a Fox Valley Association meet last week.

Romjue finished with nine kills, while Brown and Kramer each added seven.

Romjue and Messner led the squad with three aces each, while Kelley and Messner finished with 19 and 11 assists, respectively.

Lindgren racked up 21 digs to lead the Rocket defense, while Hoelzel finished with six total blocks in the match.

Senior Standout

FROM PAGE 13

Dakota – where her father once served as the head diving coach – and is looking to expand her diving repertoire and get the chance to tackle the 3-meter board.

“It’s super exciting, but it is really nerve-wracking, too,” Hansman said.

Before she joins the Coyotes, Hansman will finish her senior season as a Rocket and hopes to add another chapter to the Neenah diving lore.

She believes its special looking at the

awards of some of the divers who have come before her – even searching out her dad’s plaques – and will take the lessons she’s learned in high school with her when it is time to go.

“The Neenah tradition is awesome. I love it. Sometimes I will look around and I will see my dad’s awards and it’s super fun to be a part of it and experience it,” Hansman said. “The sport has definitely taught me to always keep going, especially when things get difficult. If you’re struggling in practice or working to learn a new dive, you have to always keep going and push through when things get hard.”

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Hi! My name is Addy Line! Join me for . . .

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PENCIL

My morning began with a bumpy backpack ride to school! *Oooof!*

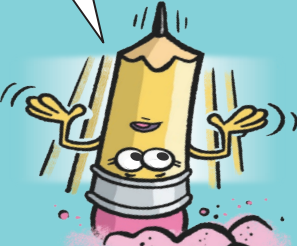


The teacher gave us a math puzzle. Can you help me finish it?

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \star + \star & = & 8 \\ \star - \diamond & = & 3 \\ \star + \diamond + \diamond & = & \end{array}$$

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences to 20.

Next, there was a spelling quiz! I guess I went a little too fast. I made three spelling mistakes. But that's what **erasers** are for!



Circle Addy Line's three mistakes. Then, rewrite the words correctly.

1. newspaper	6. editor
2. reporter	7. delivury
3. story	8. press
4. question	9. photo
5. factz	10. deadline

Can you draw the shape that comes next in each row to continue the pattern?

♥ ♥ ♦ ♥ ♥ ♦
♦ ☺ ☆ ♦ ☺ ☆
✎ ♥ ☆ ✎ ♥ ☆
☺ ✎ ♥ ☺ ✎ ♥ ☺
♦ ☺ ☺ ☆ ♦ ☺
♥ ♦ ☺ ☆ ♥ ♦
☺ ☆ ☺ ✎ ☺ ☆ ☺

After lunch, our teacher explained how two smaller words can be combined to make a new word. That's called a **compound word**.

FOOT + BALL = FOOTBALL
CUP + CAKE = CUPCAKE

Draw lines to connect two words that create a compound word.

RAIN	GLASSES
KEY	COAT
SUN	BOARD
DOOR	CORN
POP	BELL

Oops! I hate when this happens! Can you take me to the sharpener?

SNAP!

START



FINISH

Extra! Extra! Look Sharp

Look through the newspaper to find five prices or other money amounts. Write these in order from lowest to highest. Then have a friend or family member check your work.

Standards Link: Math: List money amounts in ascending order.

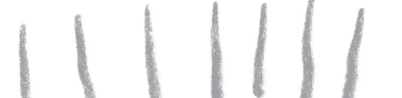


Kid Scoop Together

Art Starts

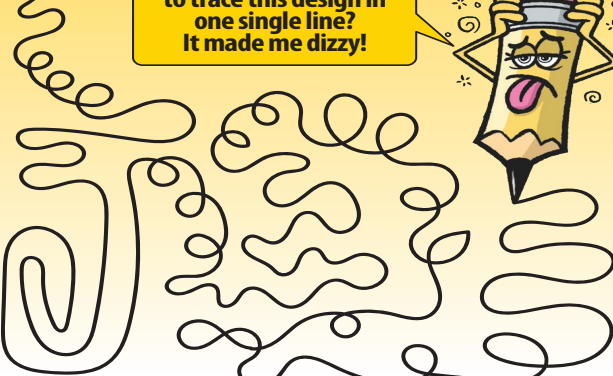
Wooohoo! My very favorite part of the school day is when we get to create **ART!**

With a family member, use your imagination to draw pictures starting with these lines and squiggles Addy drew.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you use your pencil to trace this design in one single line? It made me dizzy!



Double Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally. Then look for them in this week's *Kid Scoop* stories and activities.

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

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

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Write On!



How Does Lead Get in a Pencil?

Describe how you think this happens.

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



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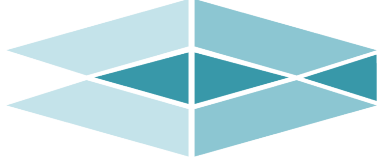
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