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City shares tree replanting plan after storm

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

The City of Neenah is rolling out its plan to replace the 400-plus public trees damaged or removed from parks, street terraces and other public spaces following the July 27 tornado.

The replanting project began last month and will continue in stages through the fall of 2028 with priority given to the neigh-

borhoods and public corridors most affected by the storm, said Michael Kading, director of Neenah Parks & Recreation.

“Trees are an important part of Neenah’s identity, environmental health and quality of life,” he said. “This plan will help us thoughtfully restore the public tree canopy while accounting for the needs of residents still repairing their homes and properties.”

Last month, about 35 trees were planted in Riverside Park. Next spring, the city will plant another 70 trees in the park.

In the summer and fall of 2027, the city will plant about 80 trees in Doty, Kimberly Point and Fresh Aire Parks. Neenah plans to plant about 160 trees on the city’s terraces in the fall of 2028.

Kading said street tree replacement

SEE **Tree replanting** ON PAGE 8

INSIDE



Senior Standout
Experienced Romjue
helps fuel Rockets
Page 16



Photo from Neenah Police Department

Homecoming parade

Various community and school groups, including the girls tennis team, participated Oct. 9 in the Neenah High School Homecoming Parade. The parade route started at the corner of High and North Commercial Street and turned onto West Wisconsin Street to Main Street.

Neenah High School football team assists with tornado relief

By Evan Olson
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Nearly three months after a July 27 tornado caused widespread damage across the Fox Cities, cleanup continues, and members of the Neenah High School football team have been among those helping with the recovery.

Players have cleared fallen trees and brush from homes on Doty Island, Limekiln Drive and Hunters Point Road and assisted with cleanup at Jefferson Park. The team’s first stop was the home of teammate Jonah Rivet, a junior linebacker whose family was dealing with tornado damage of their own.

“Seeing my teammates show up at my house was honestly pretty crazy,” Rivet said. “I knew they were coming to help, but seeing everyone actually pull up and

start working was something I’ll remember.”

Rivet’s home on Doty Island suffered significant damage to its trees during the tornado, which moved through the Fox Valley before crossing into Menasha and continuing across the eastern portion of Doty Island. The National Weather Service documented widespread EF-3 damage in Menasha and on the island.

For Rivet, seeing his teammates show up off the field to help his family reinforced the bonds they had built through football.

The cleanup at Rivet’s home became the beginning of a broader effort. Players went on to help other residents throughout the area. Fellow junior linebacker

SEE **Tornado relief** ON PAGE 13



Submitted photo

From left to right, Coach Steve Jung, Jonah Rivet, Owen St. Clair, Sawyer Willes, Henry St. Clair, Reece Sarauer and Coach Payton Blake helped by assisting area residents with cleanup up from the July 27 tornado.

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About the newspaper
A 501c3 newspaper published weekly and mailed free of charge Thursdays for Friday delivery (may vary based on U.S. Postal Service and holidays) to more than 22,000 homes and businesses in the Neenah and Fox Crossing areas. An E-edition of the newspaper can be accessed at www.neenahnews.com.

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

Neenah News named city’s official newspaper of record

Neenah News

The Neenah News was named the official newspaper for the City of Neenah at the Oct. 7 Neenah Common Council meeting.

As the city’s official newspaper, the Neenah News will publish council proceedings and legal notices. The Post-Crescent in Appleton served as the city’s official newspaper for the past 25 years.

The Neenah News met the statutory qualifications to be the city’s official newspaper earlier this year. Those qualifications allow for publication of legal notices in a free distribution newspaper if there is

no paid newspaper published in the municipality and the newspaper is published weekly with a minimum of 50 weeks per year and the newspaper annually contains a minimum of 25% news content. The newspaper qualifies because it is located in Neenah and Winnebago County.

Neenah News Publisher Karen Schneider said the newspaper is delivered to every residence in Neenah so more people will see the legal notices.

“We’re helping to build better well-informed residents,” she said. “This is good for the city and residents.”

The Neenah News has been publishing since 2022.

Electric customers to receive bill credits

We Energies electric customers will receive more than \$32 million in automatic bill credits this fall, thanks to lower-than-expected fuel costs.

A typical residential customer will receive a credit of about \$13 to \$14, depending on electricity use.

Credits will be based on electricity used in October and will appear automatically on customers’ October or November bills, based on their billing cycle.

Electric rates include an estimate of the fuel costs needed to generate electricity. When actual fuel costs are lower than the amount approved by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, customers

receive the difference as a bill credit. Fuel costs in 2025 were lower than projected, resulting in this credit.

Residential customers will receive a credit of about 2 cents per kilowatt-hour for electricity used in October. For example, a residential customer who uses 660 kilowatt-hours during the month will receive a credit of approximately \$13.60.

For Budget Billing customers, the credit will be included in the next account review comparing actual cost to estimated cost.

Energy for Tomorrow customers will receive the credit to the portion of their electricity bill that is not supplied by the Energy for Tomorrow program.

High school violinist featured during concerts

Neenah News

Neenah High School student Malina Zhang will be featured as a soloist in performances with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

Zhang is a violin player who will be performing during the orchestra’s Wicked Good Music concerts.

Performances started Thursday and will

continue at 10:15 a.m. and noon Oct. 20 and Oct. 27 in the Bradley Symphony Center.

The concerts feature classical to pop music including composers Berlioz and John Williams and others in between crossing centuries and styles.

More information is available at shorturl.at/ZWPDH.

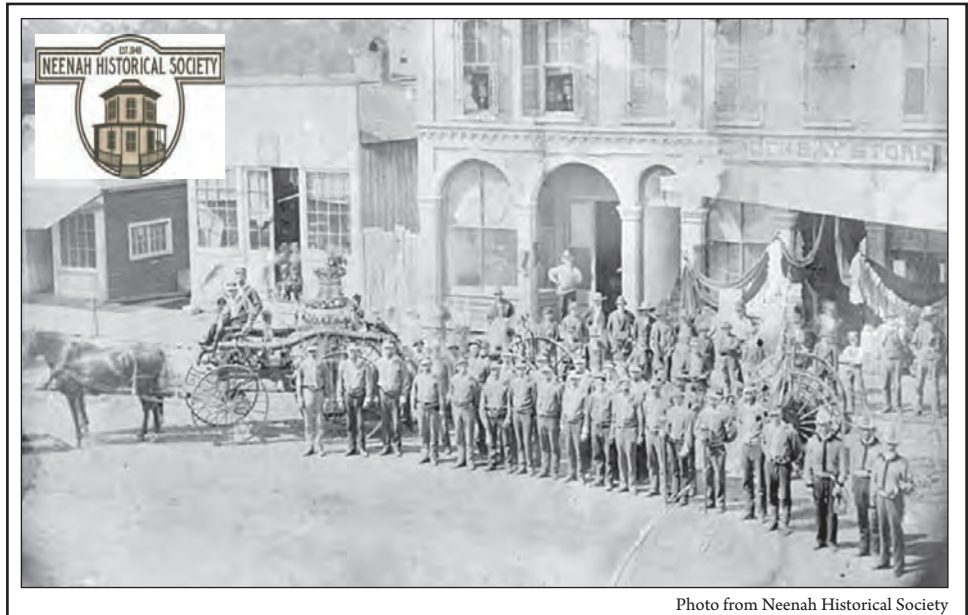


Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Neenah Fire Department

Neenah firemen on September 23, 1869 stand in front of Moss Despin Dry Goods & Notions and John Stilp Boots & Shoes on Commercial Street.

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The Power of Local

Calendar of events

- Saturday, Oct. 17**
Scifest: Science Extravaganza, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library
Harvest Festival Family Event, 1 p.m., Memorial Park
- Sunday, Oct. 18**
Furry Flurry Pet Walk Make Up Event, 1 p.m., Neenah Animal Shelter, 2475 Progress Court
- Tuesday, Oct. 20**
Fox Crossing Trick or Treat Trail, 5 p.m., Fritsch Park
- Wednesday, Oct. 21**
Brian Lindow presents “How Groundbreaking Science Meets the Magic of Filmmaking,” 3:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
Senior Citizen Dinner Theater, 5:30 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center
Fall Musical “Little Shop of Horrors,” 7 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center
- Thursday, Oct. 22**
Smart Telescopes, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
Fall Musical “Little Shop of Horrors,” 7 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center
- Friday, Oct. 23**
Splash Break Indoor Open Swim, 1 p.m., Neenah Middle School Pool
Fall Musical “Little Shop of Horrors,” 7 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center
St. Mary Catholic Middle School Musical: The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition, 6 p.m., Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center
- Saturday, Oct. 24**
Electronics Recycling Event, 8 a.m., 1475 Tullar Road
Pumpkin Fest, 10 a.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee
Monster Mash All Ages Dance Party, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library
St. Mary Catholic Middle School Musical: The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition, 6 p.m., Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center
Fall Musical “Little Shop of Horrors,” 7 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center
- Sunday, Oct. 25**
Fall Musical “Little Shop of Horrors,” 2 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center
St. Mary Catholic Middle School Musical: The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition, 2 p.m., Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center
- Tuesday, Oct. 27**
An Evening with Author David McGlynn, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library
- Friday, Oct. 30**
Halloween Dance Party featuring The Doo Wop Jukebox, 5 p.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort and Hotel
- Saturday, Oct. 31**
Trick-or-Treat, 4-7 p.m., City of Neenah
- Sunday, Nov. 1**
Fox Crossing Fire Association Chicken Booyah Fundraiser, 10 a.m., Station 40, 1326 Cold Spring Road
Fox Valley Drum Show, 11 a.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center



Photo from Neenah Parks and Recreation

Building scarecrows

The Neenah Parks and Recreation Department hosted an event Saturday for participants of all ages to build scarecrows at Riverside Park. The creations came to life with enthusiastic stuffing to final fashion-forward touches.

Animal shelter reschedules pet walk event

Neenah News

The Neenah Animal Shelter has scheduled a make up event for the rained out Furry Flurry Pet Walk.

The rescheduled event will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Oct. 18 at the shelter, 2475 Progress

Court.

The event will include raffle baskets, apparel, crafts, light refreshments and mingling with fellow animal lovers. It had originally been scheduled for Sept. 16.

Visitors can also see the shelter's cats.

Xchange housing project remains on schedule

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Eminent Development Corporation continues to move forward with plans to redevelop the former Harn's Furniture site on South Commercial Street.

Called The Xchange, the \$15 million mixed-use project will break ground next spring. It includes a 50-unit mixed use development featuring affordable one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. The development also includes a 3,000-square-foot commercial space, a fitness center and onsite property management.

Neenah's Community Development Authority owns the property and selected Madison-based Eminent Development to redevelop the site. The city will turn the property over to the developer when construction begins.

Community Development and Assessment Director Kelly Nieforth said The Xchange will add between \$8 and \$10 million to the city's tax base. She said

Neenah is helping Eminent Development with looking at different resources to support the project, including the county's new housing revolving loan fund which is still being developed.

Eminent Development is submitting a \$250,000 Community Development Investment grant application to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

The WEDC requires a resolution of support if a private developer submits a grant application. The Neenah Public Services and Safety Committee recommended Tuesday that the Common Council approve a resolution to support Eminent Development's application for the \$250,000 Community Development Investment grant application.

Earlier this year, Eminent Development received tax credits from WHEDA for the project.

The project is expected to be completed in 2028.

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Community or school program to highlight?

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Woldt requests more information regarding accusation

Neenah News

Winnebago County Judge Scott Woldt is facing allegations of serious misconduct filed by the state judicial commission. Woldt is demanding more information regarding the allegations, specifically who is making them.

The Wisconsin Judicial Commission filed a complaint in August with alleged judicial misconduct going back to 2023.

Woldt was suspended seven days without pay in 2021 for making, “crude, sarcastic, and undignified comments in five hearings.” He also used a firearm as a prop twice in his courtroom.

In a Sept. 21 filing Woldt’s attorney argues there is not enough information in

the complaint for Woldt to respond to the allegations.

“Judge Woldt must be able to determine what specific conduct is alleged to constitute each alleged violation so that he may accurately admit, deny or otherwise respond,” Woldt’s attorney Terry E. Johnson said. “However, the complaint does not provide the necessary clarity and specificity for Judge Woldt to do that.”

Johnson writes that central participants in the complaint are only identified by



Woldt

their initials. The defense also cited a legal standard in Wisconsin Statute 802.06(5) that addresses when a complaint is too vague the defense cannot be required to respond.

“The Commission has commended a disciplinary proceeding seeking findings that Judge Woldt willfully violating multiple provisions of the Wisconsin Code of Judicial Conduct,” Johnson said. “Judge Woldt is entitled to know with reasonable certainty who is involved, what conduct is alleged to constitute misconduct, and which specific conduct forms the basis for each charged violation before he is required to frame a responsive pleading.”

The Wisconsin Judicial Commission complaint was filed on Aug. 3. It 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?”

Wisconsin Judicial Commission executive director Jeremiah Van Hecke filed the complaint on Aug. 3 outlining multiple allegations about Woldt engaging in judicial misconduct.

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.

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.

Cat rescued from Fox Crossing fire

The Fox Crossing Fire Department along with Auto-Aid units were dispatched at 10:39 a.m. Oct. 7 to the 900 block of Tayco St. for the report of a structure fire.

According to Lt. Graham Stewart, Fox Crossing CAR 40 (assistant chief) arrived on scene and found a single-story duplex that had fire showing from the roof and smoke coming out of the eaves. Occupants were alerted to the fire from a working smoke detector and both units were evacuated; there was a cat still in the basement of the home.

Stewart said firefighters from the first arriving engine pulled a pre-connected hose line and made entry into the home. With the use of a thermal imaging camera, they were able to locate a fire above the ceiling in the bathroom.

They pulled ceiling and wall coverings to expose the area and extinguish the fire,

Stewart said. Other crews used another hose-line to put out hot spots at the rear of the building, and another crew used ground ladders to access the roof. The fire was brought under control within 20 minutes.

Overhaul of the walls, ceiling and attic were completed to ensure the fire was extinguished.

A cat was found safe in the basement and reunited with its owner. No injuries to any firefighters or residents were reported on scene.

The fire is under investigation and there is no damage estimate available.

Grand Chute Fire Department, Town of Neenah Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance, WE Energies, Menasha Utilities and Fox Crossing Police Department assisted at the scene.

Neenah man charged in drug overdose death

Neenah News

A Neenah man was charged Oct. 6 with first degree reckless homicide and delivery of cocaine for a drug overdose death in Waupaca County in July.

Winnebago County officials arrested Richard A. Kramer, 53, for the death of a woman in Caledonia, who was discovered on July 29. He is being held on a \$100,000 bond.

The cause of death was determined to be an overdose from the usage of an illicit substance.

City offers electronic recycling event on Oct. 24

Neenah News

The City of Neenah Public Works Department is hosting an electronic recycling event with RecycleThatStuff.com.

The event will be from 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 24 at 1495 Tullar Road.

A wide range of devices will be accepted during the community recycling event. All batteries and bulbs should be removed from devices before drop off. A list of ac-

During the investigation, officers determined Kramer was the source of the drugs. Investigators executed a search warrant for his residence. During the execution of the search warrant, investigators located cocaine, numerous prescription medications and firearms.

The Waupaca County Sheriff’s Office was assisted by Fremont-Wolf River Ambulance, Dale First Responders, Waupaca County Medical Examiner’s Office and the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group.

Kramer is due back in court on Nov. 3.

accepted items can be found at the City of Neenah – Electronics & Appliances Recycling Event Facebook page.

A lithium battery collection with the Green Team from First United Methodist Church will take place at the same time. Fees may apply for other battery types dropped off at Recycle That Stuff’s facility.

Call Recycle That Stuff at 920-955-3760 with questions.

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Friends support book sale year-round at Neenah library

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

The annual Neenah Library Book Sale gathers a lot of attention each August as thousands of books, puzzles, DVDs and other media fill the library’s first-floor program rooms.

But the work for the sale goes on throughout the year as Friends of the Neenah Public Library volunteers collect and sort items and operate a pop-up sale throughout the year.

And the work pays off. This year’s book sale raised more than \$10,000 — making it the most successful sale ever while the pop-up sales raised more than \$6,000 throughout the year for the Friends group. The Friends, in turn, donate funds to the library for a variety of needs from supporting an American Sign Language interpreter for story time to providing funding for Kanopy, an online streaming service to watch critically acclaimed movies, inspiring documentaries and award-winning films.

“We provide a cushion to the library to help them with different supports and projects and we’re happy to do that,” said Doug Jorgensen, the Friends’ book sale coordinator.

Jorgensen said volunteers worked a total of 124 hours during the four-day book sale this past August. The sale’s 106 volunteers ranged in age from 14 to 92.

“Some people work on the sale year-round, but come August, it’s all hands-on deck,” he said. “It’s a lot of work but as a famous quote says, ‘Once you find something you like, you’ll never work again.’ You work with these people, and you really bond.”

Library Director Nicole Hardina-Wil-

helm praised the dedicated volunteers. She said they do a great job of organizing the books, not only by topics, but also by alphabetizing by author all the fiction books making it easy for readers to find their favorites, she said.

“We try to make it a premiere sale and to have everything organized so well. It takes a lot of time, and we couldn’t do it without the volunteers,” Hardina-Wilhelm said.

All those volunteers are needed since the sale is immensely popular. On the first day of the sale, the line of people waiting to get in stretched around the building, Hardina-Wilhelm said.

Pop-up sales

From September through July, two volunteers Dan Kelpinski and Sharon Kuffner sort materials for the August sale and lead the selection of books, puzzles and other media to be included in the library’s pop-up sales. The sale is on book carts to the left of the front desk when walking into the library.

“Dan and Sharon do a great job. As donations come in, they see items that catch their eyes and decide to place them out in the sale,” Jorgensen said. “It’s always being updated so it’s something good to check on.”

With Halloween coming up, expect to find spooky books and puzzles for sale as the sorters try to put out timely items for the sale.

Hardina-Wilhelm said the pop-up sale began during the Covid pandemic when the library could not hold its annual book sale. “We couldn’t have a big event like that, so we started putting out carts with books for sale and it was such a success that we kept doing it,” she said.



Photo by David Hall

The Friends of the Neenah Public Library organized a book sale in August that raised money to support activities and programs at the library.

Year-round planning

Putting together a sale with an estimated 20,000 items is a year-round process, Jorgensen said. Donations for the sale come from the library and the public.

The library donations come from several sources, Hardina-Wilhelm said. For example, when James Patterson writes a new novel, the library may order 10 copies. After about six months, the library may only need five copies in circulation so the other five are donated to the sale.

The community donates more than half of the books, media, puzzles and other items for the sale. Donations are accepted at the front desk from September through July.

“We have people who buy books at the sale, read them and then bring them back to donate them again,” Jorgensen said. “Or people buy puzzles, put them together once and then donate them to the sale.”

The 2027 Neenah Library Book Sale will be held Aug. 11-16.



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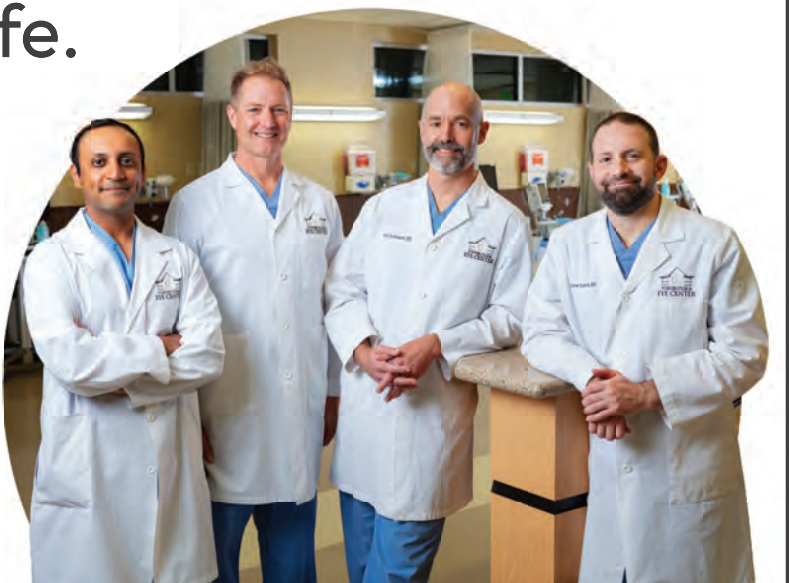
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Five candidates seeking Congressional District 6 seat

Neenah News

In the Congressional District 6 race, there are five candidates that will be on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Incumbent Glenn Grothman, R-Greenbush, is facing Democrat Brad Smith, Green Party candidate Matthew Arndt and independent candidates Elizabeth Fitzgibbon and Mike Thurow.

The Neenah News sent the same questions to each of the candidates that will be on the ballot in topics spanning national legislation to local input.

The candidates' responses have been printed in alphabetical order. Some responses have been edited for clarity and space.

Matthew Arndt

Age: 54
Relevant experience: I am not a career politician
Highest level of education: BS



Arndt

Why are you running for office?

I chose the Green Party because the two major parties no longer represent ordinary Americans.

They serve billionaires, corporate donors, Wall Street and a permanent political

class that profits from our country's decline. They perform for cameras, but when defense contractors, big insurance, Israel and Wall Street demand something, both parties fall in line.

No one can serve two masters. You cannot serve billionaires and working people at the same time. Americans are told we have only two choices. We don't. That lie protects the people already in power. Change will come when ordinary Americans decide they've had enough.

How will you represent the people of District 6 in Congress and not just your party or your supporters?

The people of District 6 will own my vote. Not Washington. Not lobbyists. Not billionaires. Not corporate America. I don't care whether you're Republican, Democrat, Green, independent, or disgusted with politics altogether.

If you work for a living, raise a family, run a farm or small business, or depend on Social Security after a lifetime of work, I work for you. I will never ask how something helps my political career. I'll ask how it helps the people I represent.

I'm not running for Congress to join Washington's club. I'm running to make that club answer to you.

Elizabeth Fitzgibbon

Age: 39
Relevant experience: I am a mother, advocate and working Wisconsinite. My



Fitzgibbon

experience navigating the legal system, including pursuing my own case to the U.S. Supreme Court, gave me a firsthand view of what happens when institutions stop listening to the people they are supposed to

serve. That experience shaped my focus on government accountability, transparency, constitutional rights, and ensuring ordinary citizens have a voice when dealing with powerful institutions.

Highest level of education: Bachelor of Business Administration, Major in Business Administration with an Emphasis in Marketing

Why are you running for office?

I'm running because too many Wisconsin families are working harder and getting less in return. Everyday costs keep rising while Washington spends more, grows more powerful, and remains trapped in partisan fighting.

I'm running as an Independent because I believe Congress should answer to the people, not party leadership. My priorities are lowering costs, demanding accountability for how government spends and exercises power, protecting individual rights, and bringing transparency to a system that too often protects institutions and insiders instead of the people it is supposed to serve.

How will you represent the people of District 6 in Congress and not just your party or your supporters?

That is one reason I chose to run as an Independent. I won't arrive in Washington owing my vote to Republican or Democratic leadership.

I will evaluate legislation based on what it actually does, whether it respects individual rights, and whether it benefits the people of Wisconsin's 6th District. I will work with members of either party when they have good ideas and oppose either party when they do not.

Representation should not depend on whether someone voted for me. If elected, every resident of this district will be my constituent.

Glenn Grothman

Age: 71
Relevant Experience: Lawyer for 10 years dealing with taxes, real estate,

and probate; Wisconsin State Assembly (1993–1998); Wisconsin State Senate (1998–2015); U.S. House of Representatives (2015–present)



Grothman

Highest level of education:

Law degree

Why are you running for office?

Our welfare system (low-income housing, SNAP, Earned Income Tax Credit, Pell Grants, etc.) discourages work and, worse, penalizes people who

get married.

We all know people of all backgrounds who are fantastic parents, but a single parent who marries someone with an income can easily lose \$25,000 in government benefits. We must stop discouraging fathers in the home.

I am the leading advocate for the 14(c) programs which provide below-minimum-wage jobs for people with disabilities. Remarkable Inc. is an example of these programs.

I pride myself on being one of the more frugal members of Congress. We need more people who can say no.

I take on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs which try to divide America by race and were designed to destroy America.

How will you represent the people of District 6 in Congress and not just your party or your supporters?

You can tell that some congressmen's view of the world becomes limited by spending too much time with lobbyists and campaign contributors.

I constantly attend church festivals, car shows, farmers markets, and Lions Club events, as well as ring doorbells. I go to Hmong festivals, Legion events, and tour factories, educational institutions, and prisons.

No one in Congress has a more diverse calendar.

I wish they were more conservative, but more government regulation won't solve that.

Brad Smith

Age: 44
Relevant experience: As a business leader, I've built and helped operate businesses, managed people and payroll, and led through times of ambiguity and a changing economy.

As a Wisconsin Army National Guard veteran, I learned to lead and work alongside people from all walks of life, make decisions under pressure, and accomplish a mission as part of a team. Those

experiences taught me to listen first, rely on facts, solve complex problems, and bring people together to deliver workable solutions.

My military leadership, business experience, and community service have prepared me to hit the ground running and deliver results for Wisconsin's 6th District.

Highest level of education: Master's degree (MBA, UW-System)

Why are you running for office?

I'm running because Wisconsin families deserve affordable healthcare, strong education and training, good-paying jobs, and an economy that works for everyone.

Way too many working families in our 6th District are struggling, while our current representative has shown greater loyalty to the president and special interests than to his constituents. As a lifelong Wisconsinite, veteran, business leader, and community advocate, I understand the challenges facing our communities.

I'm eager to bring my experience and service-first mindset to Washington and fight for the people and communities I call home.

How will you represent the people of District 6 in Congress and not just your party or your supporters?

I will represent the entire 6th District by listening to everyone, regardless of party affiliation or whether they supported my campaign.

My military service taught me to work alongside people from different backgrounds, listen with patience and curiosity, and find common ground. I will hold regular town halls, meet with farmers, small business owners, educators, and working families, and work with anyone to deliver results for our District. I won't put party loyalty or special interests ahead of my constituents.

My commitment is to the people of the 6th District. I am running for people, not politics.

Mike Thurow

Age: 39
Relevant experience: Thirteen years in the fire service, now a captain and a HAZMAT technician.

I have worked chemical spills, industrial accidents, and the Milwaukee anthrax response, work that earned FBI

SEE **District 6** ON PAGE 7

“In elections, emotions often dominate the conversation. However, when selecting the next Winnebago County Sheriff, the candidates' own records provide a clearer, more objective picture. Darin Rice has held leadership roles across corrections, detective, and patrol divisions. Jason Rippl has never served in a leadership role within the agency and has no comparable leadership experience. About four and a half years ago, Rippl and I discussed his potential run for sheriff and the prospect of running against me. I told him I would emphasize my leadership experience and note his lack of it. I advised him to test for, and seek, first-line leadership positions to strengthen his qualifications and understanding of a leadership role. Despite my suggestions, he did not do so. Accepting a leadership role in a 24-hour operation requires sacrifice, commitment, and a willingness to be responsible for others. Darin Rice has exemplified these attributes his entire career.

If this were an interview for a police chief position, Jason Rippl would not meet the minimum requirements to apply. Rice would be a sought-after candidate.

Do not experiment with your family's public safety. In a role where experience matters, Darin Rice is the only candidate qualified to lead the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

-Winnebago County Sheriff, John Matz

Vote Darin Rice for Winnebago County Sheriff

25 years of service

An Experienced, Proven Leader Dedicated to Community Safety, Integrity, Service, and Accountability.

Register to vote!



Election Day is November 3!

Paid for by the Winnebago County Republican Party

Common Council approves new Alta parking agreement

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

The Neenah Common Council approved a new parking lease agreement with Alta Resources, lowering the rates it pays to allow its employees to park in the Church Street Ramp.

Under the previous agreement, Alta paid \$30 per stall for the 531 permits it uses each month. Alta has leased space in the ramp since the ramp was built in 2005 when the company built its office building at 120 N. Commercial St.

Plexus Corp., which uses 300-plus permits each month, paid \$15 per stall.

Community Development and Assessment Director Kelly Nieforth said Alta requested a lease rate adjustment for their long-term parking ramp agreement, so their rates matched other major leaseholders.

According to the new agreement ap-

proved on Oct. 7, Alta will pay \$15 per stall each month from now until June 30, 2027. From July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028, the fee will be \$20 per stall, per month; the fee will increase to \$25 per stall per month from July 1, 2028, to June 30, 2029; and from July 1, 2029, to June 30, 2030, the fee would be \$30 per stall per month.

City staff reported parking availability for employees is critical for businesses located downtown as the region is an auto-dependent area and employees have a positive ripple effect by visiting other downtown businesses.

Alderman William Pollnow, Jr. expressed opposition to the change.

"I think we're leaving a lot of money on the table especially since we have (parking ramp) repairs on the horizon," he said. "I think the market rate value should have been researched."

Some of the parking ramp repairs Pollnow alluded to include repairing vectors — connectors that attach independent sections of concrete. On Oct. 7, the council also approved spending up to \$50,000

to repair the vectors.

Restoration Systems Inc. will work on the project, which is concentrated on Levels 7 and 8. The work is expected to take four to five weeks to complete.

High school hosts volunteer opportunity

Neenah News

The Neenah High School Land Restoration project will host its second volunteer day.

All volunteers will meet at the outdoor classroom on the Neenah High School property at 9 a.m. Oct. 24. The event will go until noon.

The group will continue to work on buckthorn removal, creating a trail through the woods and possibly collect-

ing seed from native plants. Volunteers will be trimming branches and hauling brush.

Volunteers are asked to bring some loppers, gloves and dress accordingly. Volunteers under 18 will need a waiver signed by their guardian.

Anyone interested can email Ryan Walter at rwalter@neenah.k12.wi.us or Nathaniel Blood at nathaniel.blood@neenah.k12.wi.us.

Early in-person voting to get underway

Neenah News

Early in-person voting for the upcoming election is about to get underway.

In-person absentee voting, commonly referred to as early voting, is the same process as voting on Election Day but allows voters to do it before Election Day if they cannot make it to the polls on Nov. 3.

On the ballot will be races for federal seats in Congress, state offices in the Senate and Assembly, along with the race for Winnebago County Sheriff.

Early in-person voting for the City of Neenah will be held at City Hall, 211 Walnut St. starting Oct. 20.

Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 20 to Oct. 22, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 23, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 26 to Oct. 29 and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 30. Voters are asked to remember to bring their photo ID.

For more information regarding voter registration, where to vote and what's on the ballot, visit myvote.wi.gov.

District 6

FROM PAGE 6

and Secret Service commendations. Before the fire service, I spent nearly a decade at Healthcare for the Homeless. I am a proud union member, IAFF Local 215, and a father of four.

My whole career has been solving real problems for real people under pressure, working with whoever is on scene. That is the experience Washington is short on.

Highest level of education: High school diploma, followed by years of professional certification in the fire and emergency services

Why are you running for office?

I am a union fire captain. For 13 years my job has been to show up when things go wrong and get people out.

Neither party is doing that for working



Thurrow

people anymore. They fight on TV, cash the same corporate checks, and the bills at your kitchen table keep climbing. I am running as an independent because I do not owe either party anything.

No party, no corporate PAC money, no bosses telling me how to vote. Just someone who answers to the people of the Sixth. When there is a fire, you do not ask who somebody voted for. You show up.

How will you represent the people of District 6 in Congress and not just your party or your supporters?

I answer to you, not to a party. That is the whole point of running as an independent.

I take no corporate PAC money and no party money, so there is no leadership and no donor deciding my vote for me. As a fire captain, I never asked a person's politics before I helped them, and I will not start in Congress. I will hold town halls in every county and keep showing up in the towns nobody campaigns in.

You do not have to agree with me on everything to know I will show up for you.

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Saturday, November 7



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Art Activity Day projects: \$20



To register, please scan QR code, visit bmmglass.com, or call 920-751-4658.



Submitted photo

Flag retirement

The Hawley-Dieckhoff American Legion Sons on the Legion started their day Oct. 3 in a solemn U.S. flag retirement ceremony. They were joined by Legion, Auxiliary, VFW and family members who each got an opportunity to place a flag in the fire and pay respects to all who gave in so many ways to protect freedom. Flags that need to be disposed can be brought to the Legion Post at 451 S. Green Bay Road in Neenah and placed in the box on the left front of the building.

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Tree replanting

FROM PAGE 1

is planned for 2028 to provide residential property owners time to repair their homes, garages and yards without the added concern of protecting newly planted trees or accommodating planting contractors.

The city will select tree species based on climate resilience, disease resistance, species diversity and long-term canopy value. More than half of the city's current public trees are maple trees and urban forestry best practices recommend that no single tree species make up more than 10% of a healthy tree population.

The Parks & Recreation's tree assessment work will continue for another six to 12 months.

Crews will identify trees that require safety pruning or removal, including trees that may appear sound now but could show storm-related failure as they leaf out next spring.

Residents can support the recovery by contributing to public tree replacement, participating in future volunteer planting days and attending community forestry events.

The recommended donation for a public tree is \$500, which is approximately the cost to purchase, plant and provide first-year care for a public tree. Donations may be made online at neenahwi.seamlessdocs.com/ng/fa/treedonation or in person at the Parks & Recreation Office, 211 Walnut St.

To focus staff capacity and funding on storm recovery, Neenah is suspending its Trees for the Living and Private Street Tree programs for at least two years, effective immediately.

FEMA, SBA funds available for county residents

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County residents, non-profits and small businesses affected by the July 27 tornado can now apply for federal disaster assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

A federal disaster declaration for the area was declared last week, opening the door for residents to apply for FEMA individual assistance and government entities to apply for FEMA public assistance to help support the community's continued recovery.

FEMA will award \$17.9 million in disaster relief to Wisconsin residents affected by the July 27 storms. An EF-3 tornado that day caused significant damage in Menasha, Neenah and Fox Crossing. Homes, businesses and public infrastructure sustained damage, displacing residents and prompting an extensive emergency response and ongoing recovery efforts.

FEMA assistance may include grants for temporary housing and home repairs; low-interest disaster loans to cover uninsured property losses; and other programs to help individuals and families recover from disaster-related losses.

Residents are encouraged to apply for FEMA assistance as soon as possible by visiting DisasterAssistance.gov or calling 800-621-3362.

Before calling FEMA or applying online, residents should have their Social Security number, insurance information, damage details, financial information such as the household's total annual income before taxes and contact information. Before filing a claim with FEMA, residents should file claims with their insurance providers.

Residents who previously received assistance through local recovery organizations, such as Leaven, People of Progression or the Red Cross, or participated in earlier disaster recovery efforts are encouraged to apply to FEMA. The eligibility for FEMA assistance is determined through the federal application process.

FEMA also approved Winnebago County's request for public assistance, which provides federal funding on a cost-sharing basis to eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations. The funding can support qualifying emergency response expenses and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged public facilities. The county and municipalities, for example, could be reimbursed for the funds it spent on overtime or clean-up costs.

SBA help available: The SBA announced the ability of low interest disaster loans for businesses, private nonprofit organizations and residents affected by the tornado. Winnebago County residents, businesses and nonprofits are eligible to apply for physical damage loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

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

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

Applicants may also be eligible for a loan increase of up to 20% of their physical dam-

age, as verified by SBA, for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements include strengthening structures to protect against high wind damage, upgrading to wind rated garage doors and installing a storm shelter to help protect property and occupants from future damage.

The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and private nonprofits — including faith-based organizations — impacted by financial losses directly related to the tornado.

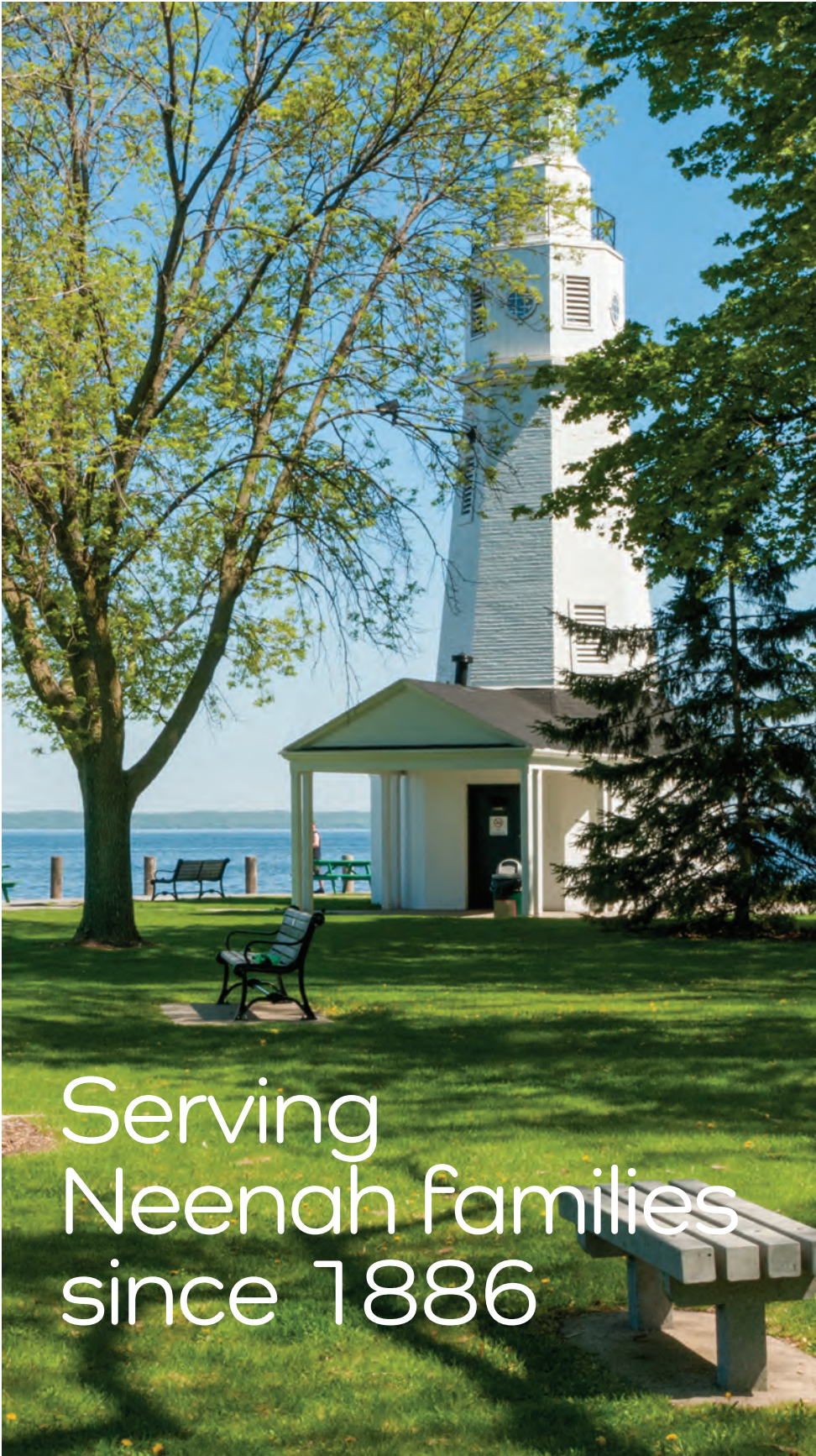
The Economic Injury Disaster Loans are for working capital needs caused by the tornado and are available even if the business or private nonprofit did not suffer any physical damage. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payrolls, accounts

payable and other bills, which could not be paid due to the tornado.

The SBA interest rates are as low as 4% for businesses, 3.625% for private nonprofits and 2.875% for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not begin to accrue, and payments are not due until 12 months from the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA determines eligibility and sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

To apply online, visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants can also call the SBA at 866-SBA-HELP.

The filing deadline for turning in physical property damage applications is Dec. 7 while the deadline for economic injury applications is July 7, 2027.



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Newly constructed home helps patients’ families

ThedaCare

When a traumatic health incident results in hospitalization far from home, family members may find themselves faced with the unexpected challenge of securing nearby lodging to remain close to their loved one. ThedaCare hopes to help ease that challenge by offering some families of trauma patients respite in a newly constructed guest home.

ThedaCare Home Away From Home is intended to help reduce concerns over hotels and Airbnb properties and keep the focus on supporting a family member undergoing trauma care in the hospital. The single-family, Nantucket-style home, located near ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah at 525 Lincoln St., was made possible with support from the ThedaCare Foundation-Neenah and Bergstrom Automotive.

Construction of the secure, private, healthcare hospitality guest home is indicative of ThedaCare’s commitment to providing patient-centered care, said Barbara Beuscher, chief philanthropy officer, ThedaCare Family of Foundations.

“Supporting patients and families extends beyond the care provided within our hospitals. Thanks to the generosity of Bergstrom Automotive, more families will have access to a welcoming place to stay close to their loved ones during treatment and recovery,” Beuscher said. “This partnership reflects what is possible when community members invest in helping others and in strengthening access to care close to home.”

ThedaCare Home Away From Home features a garage, full-service kitchen, laundry room, bedroom and living space.



Submitted photo

ThedaCare’s Home Away From Home at 525 Lincoln St. is intended to help families of patients at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah by providing a place to stay.

It provides temporary lodging for families needing to remain close as their loved ones heal from a trauma care experience.

It is the fourth healthcare hospitality guest home ThedaCare offers to patient families. Two similar ThedaCare homes are also in Neenah. Another one is in Appleton. There is no charge for stays at any of the homes.

Accommodations at the new home are available to all patient families but trauma patient families are prioritized.

John Bergstrom, executive chairman

of Bergstrom Automotive and Foundation-Neenah board member, said his organization is proud to support the home.

“At Bergstrom Automotive, we believe in investing in the communities we serve and supporting families during life’s most challenging moments,” he said. “We are proud to partner with ThedaCare on the Home Away From Home project, which will provide comfort, convenience and peace of mind for families who need to remain close to a loved one receiving care. We hope this home will make a meaning-

ful difference for many families for years to come.”

Offering the home to families of trauma patients is another way ThedaCare actively supports patient healing, Beuscher said.

“Together, we are easing burdens, providing comfort and support and making a meaningful difference for families when they need it most,” she said. “By helping families remain close during difficult times, we can ensure that each guest can focus on what matters most – healing, hope and living their unique best life.”

Council approves ThedaCare housing project

Neenah News

The Neenah Common Council approved ThedaCare’s plan to build two 16-unit townhouse buildings as part of its Roosevelt Commons development across from the ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah at its Oct. 7 meeting.

The housing is intended for ThedaCare’s physician residency program and will be similar to the two buildings on the west side of the property at 215 E. Forest Ave., which opened earlier this year.

The proposed townhouses are oriented

on the north side of the site along E. Forest Avenue and the south side of the site along E. North Water Street. Each townhouse building includes seven units on two floors. The townhouses have building access along the front with one-car garages in the rear.

Roosevelt Elementary School originally sat on the site. After the Neenah Joint School District closed and demolished the school, ThedaCare and ThedaCare Foundations purchased the site to use as housing for residents in its Graduate Medical Education program.



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The Power of Local



Solid Waste includes transfer station in 2027 budget

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

Winnebago County seeks to finish design plans, secure permits and begin construction on a new Solid Waste transfer station and resource recovery site in 2027.

The Solid Waste Department is asking for \$14.8 million in its 2027 budget for the project. The county board will vote on the budget during the last week in October.

Solid Waste Director Kathy Hutter said the approximate 25,000-square-foot facility will reduce congestion and improve traffic flow.

“The current facility was built in 1992 as a recycling facility, which we no longer needed, and it was transformed into a transfer center. It wasn’t built as one. Its ceilings are short — 26 feet tall when the industry standard is 30 feet — and the doors are not wide enough,” she said. “The building has several pinch points.”

One of those pinch points is traffic. Hutter said the facility is often congest-

ed, which receives waste and recycling materials from 15 surrounding counties and serves more than 250 customers daily during peak months. Winnebago County has waste and recycling agreements with 16 municipalities.

The new building will be about 25,000 square feet and have 32 feet tall ceilings and wider doors. The design will have a clear span ceiling without any beams for trucks for people to back into, Hutter said.

The facility will have a faster weight compactor, which will increase throughput in the building. There will also be a breakroom and observation room, which Hutter said will allow the department to offer tours.

The new building has its roots in a 2023 facilities study, which looked at all the county’s buildings. The transfer station was one of the building’s highlighted in the study that had critical needs that needed to be addressed. Hutter said the

Solid Waste Department created a master plan in 2024 that highlighted replacing the transfer station.

The Solid Waste transfer station and re-

covery center will be finished and open in 2028. Once the new building opens, Hutter said the department will begin to look at alternative uses for the current facility.

Registration open for hazardous materials disposal

Neenah News

Winnebago County Solid Waste is asking residents with hazardous materials at home or on the farm not to toss them.

In an effort to dispose of them, Winnebago County is organizing an Agriculture and Household Hazardous Material Clean Sweep event.

The event will be from 8 to 11 a.m. Nov. 7 for the City of Neenah. Residents are

asked to bring items like pesticides, solvents, gasoline, oil-based paints and stains and more.

There’s no cost to Winnebago County residents or farmers to participate, but appointments are required. Registration closes 3 p.m. Nov. 2.

The website to register is docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLScCcE4Y9v.../view-form... A drop-off can also be scheduled by calling 920-232-1800.



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Photo from Neenah Joint School District

Induction ceremony

The Neenah Joint School District last weekend celebrated its 11th annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The induction banquet was held Saturday at the Bridgewood Best Western Conference Center where the six new inductees were honored. They are Lisa Drew (Class of 1957), Lori Shepard (Class of 1980), George Christoph (Class of 1920), Edward Krause (Class of 1935), Frank Eparvier (Class of 1982) and Kevin Wasco (Class of 1986). Christoph’s granddaughter, Cathy Stachowiak, accepted the award on his behalf.



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Community Park improvements top Parks’ plans for 2027

By MaryBeth Matzek
NEENAH NEWS

The Winnebago County Parks Department plans to make continued improvements at Community Park in 2027 as part of its budget plan for next year.

Relocating and building a new Shelter 3 is on top of the list. The new shelter will be similar to the shelter near the soccer fields. It will have restrooms, a concession stand and be available for rent.

The department plans to break ground on the Spirit-funded projects at the park

for soccer, rugby and pickleball. Earlier this year, the county board approved allocating \$1,959,476 in Spirit Funds for improvements to the current soccer and rugby fields and build new pickleball courts in the park.

The board also approved a rule allowing naming-rights sponsorships at Community Park and Sunnyview Exposition Center.

Adam Breest, director of Parks and Expo, said department staff and local soccer clubs have been having conversa-

tions with a local business about the possibility of a large donation for the soccer complex.

A draft contract with the first potential sponsor has been completed and is being reviewed, he reported to the Parks Commission at its Oct. 5 meeting.

The 2027 budget includes \$50,000 to hire a consultant to conduct a rate fee study for the Sunnyview Expo grounds. The study will look at the types of events Sunnyview currently attracts and what other types of events it could attract, the fees it charges and what type of sponsorships the site could attract for buildings or other opportunities.

Other Parks Department projects slated for 2027 include:

- Finishing the Butte des Morts Boat Landing Project
- Improve the Lasley Point parking/entrance and install trail wayfinding signs
- Install a sign network for the trail system at Waukau Creek Nature Preserve
- Replace the pumphouse building at

Black Wolf Boat Landing

For 2026, the department projected 356 event days at Sunnyview for a total rental revenue of \$315,000. At Community Park, there were an estimated 251 shelter rentals and 122,880 cars entering from the southern entrance and 71,498 cars entering from the north entrance.

The Parks Department also has counters on some trails and boat launches to record how many people are using them. Here are the projections for 2026:

- WIOUWASH Trail (Westwind Trailhead): 78,060
- WIOUWASH Trail (Allenville Trailhead): 22,038
- WIOUWASH Trail (Medina Junction): 31,529
- Mascoutin Trail (Vines and Rushes): 458
- Black Wolf Boat Launch: 34,979
- Grundman: 77,313

The Butte des Morts Boat Landing counter was turned off since it closed in early July for repairs.

Tornado relief

FROM PAGE 1

Reece Sarauer said that the stark contrast between affected areas stood out to him, noting how one area could suffer significant damage while another just down the road appeared largely untouched.

Sarauer brought his chainsaw to the cleanup efforts, while head coach Steve Jung brought his own. As the two cut fallen trees and brush into manageable pieces, other players carried the debris away.

Jung, who has taught science and coached at Neenah for 14 years, said the tornado struck during an off-week for the football team. When the team returned to practice, he shortened the session so players could spend time helping with the relief effort.

After working at Jefferson Park and seeing damaged homes and public spaces weeks after the tornado, Jung said he realized the community still needed assistance. He also heard stories of families dealing with water damage in addition to the destruction caused directly by the storm.

The team’s ability to mobilize quickly allowed players to contribute while contractors and other recovery efforts were still being organized. Jung and the other coaches joined players in the cleanup, demonstrating the community involvement they encourage within the football program.

“The sense of being on a team is important. That sense of community; we preach that a lot as coaches,” Jung said.

The players also saw how residents throughout the affected areas came together to help one another. Sarauer said people frequently showed their appreciation by providing food and drinks to the volunteers. One woman near Lake Winnebago even made cookies for the players.

“A theme I saw repeatedly was how nice the people around the community were; everyone kind of came together to help everyone else, and I thought that was cool,” Sarauer said.

For Rivet, that sense of community was especially meaningful. He said he was grateful that so many of his teammates chose to give their time to help his family, emphasizing how much it meant that they showed up without any obligation to do so.

“You spend so much time together playing football that you become close, but having them show up for something personal like this showed me that our team is more than just football,” Rivet said.

Jung said supporting the community is part of the responsibility that comes with being a member of the team. The program relies on the support of fans and residents, and he believes players should be willing to return that support when the community needs it.

“If we want fans to show up and support us, then we need to get out and support the community,” Jung said. “It’s not just about football and sports; it’s about growing up in a great community.”

The team’s efforts have extended beyond its volunteer cleanup work as 10% of concession stand proceeds from high school and middle school football games will be donated to the Tornado Community Response Fund through the Community Foundation of the Fox Cities for the duration of the season.

For both Rivet and Sarauer, the cleanup efforts reinforced the importance of working together, both as teammates and as members of the community.

“When you see firsthand how much a group of people can accomplish by simply showing up and helping, it makes you want to do the same for someone else,” Rivet said.

For the Neenah football team, the cleanup effort has been an opportunity to put the values of teamwork and community into practice away from the field. The players are accustomed to working together toward a common goal during football season, but their work in the tornado’s aftermath demonstrated how those same bonds can make a difference when their neighbors need help.

Library invites community to Science Extravaganza

Neenah News

The Neenah Public Library will turn into a sci-brary for an upcoming hands-on science event.

The Science Extravaganza from 10:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 17 will feature activities presented by local scientists and sci-thus-asts.

Topics include shining a light on the human body with Neenah Public Library, exploring nature with Apple Creek YMCA, seeing inside a sturgeon with Wisconsin Sea Grant and discovering how chemistry builds the world with American Chemical

Society’s Chemistry Under Construction.

Participants are invited to get creative with a community art and science project. They can add a piece alongside contributions from children, families and adults in communities across the region.

Sponsored by Wisconsin Science Festival and Wisconsin Sea Grant, the project will come together as one shared artwork — and Neenah participants will take home a piece of the experience.

All ages are welcome. Activities are geared for ages 5–13. No registration is required.



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Neenah looks to extend win streak against rival Kimberly

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Four weeks into this season, the Neenah High School football team was in the unfamiliar position of sitting at 1-3.

The Rockets had played a grueling schedule to start the year – the losses came against teams who are currently a combined 22-2 – but still facing a losing record wasn’t something this program was accustomed to.

Without its starting quarterback, the Rockets went out in Week 5 and hung a 39-0 win over Oshkosh West and Neenah has been on a roll ever since.

“The (Oshkosh West) game, we started to pick up the pace and we just got better every week after that,” said junior Sawyer Willes. “I think we always thought we still had a shot (at a Fox Valley Association title). We just put the work in at practice, every single practice.”

The Rockets’ hard work has been rewarded.

Coming off last Friday’s 34-6 Homecoming victory over Hortonville, the Rockets can clinch at least a share of the conference title on Friday night when it hosts rival Kimberly.

Neenah enters the game with a 5-1 record in conference play and is tied with Kaukauna for the top spot in the league. Kaukauna plays at Appleton East on Friday. The Patriots are winless in the FVA this season.

“We started the season at 1-3 so we

feel pretty blessed to be in this position,” Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. “I didn’t know if the season would turn out this way, but we are excited for the opportunity to play for (a conference title).”

Kimberly enters the game with a 4-4 record, but has won its last two games and four of its last five to put itself in the hunt for a postseason berth.

Yet, Jung isn’t affected by where Kimberly lands in the season standings. He knows the Papermakers have a lot of talent still on the roster and he expects them

to come out looking to knock off the Rockets.

“It doesn’t matter what they are. The rivalry is our big rivalry,” Jung said. “Our kids know Kimberly is coming in and we are going to practice as hard as we can to give us the best ability to beat

them and that is our mindset.”

The Papermakers are led by a stingy defense which has not allowed more than 21 points in a conference game all season.

Kimberly held Kaukauna to just 14 points in a game earlier this season, while the last two weeks they have allowed just 15 points.

Neenah’s offense, which welcomed back starting quarterback Ashton Van Beek from injury last week, is averaging nearly 30 points per game in conference play this season and rolled up 34 points and nearly 400 yards of offense against the Polar Bears.

“We just have to keep doing our jobs on offense,” Van Beek said. “Keep pounding

Week 9 games

Fox Valley Association

(records reflect FVA games)

Kimberly (4-2) at Neenah (5-1)

Kaukauna (5-1) at Appleton East (0-5)

Oshkosh West (2-4) at Appleton North (4-2)

Hortonville (2-4) at Fond du Lac (2-4)

the rock like we do every week and then have some explosive plays.”

Van Beek, who had missed the three previous games, was just happy to be back out on the field last week.

“I was super excited. The nerves stuck around a little bit longer this game because it had been so long, but it felt amazing,” said Van Beek, who ran for 70 yards and two touchdowns, while also throwing for 182 yards and a score last week. “Getting back last week definitely got me ready for the next game.”

Neenah’s defense hasn’t been as stifling as their Kimberly counterparts, however, the Rockets have been effective when needed.

Neenah got interceptions from Logan Price and Oliver Bentz on the first two series last week and forced three turnovers in the game – something the Rockets’ coaching staff preaches.

“The coaches talk about it every single

day,” Willes said. “(Turnovers) help us a lot because the energy in the stadium is all on our side and the other team’s morale can get low.”

Willes was the team’s leading tackler last week marking the third straight week the Rockets have had a different leader on defense.

Jung believes that’s the way the Neenah defense is supposed to function – getting contributions from everyone on the field.

“We talk about everybody has the ability to make plays and that’s what we need,” Jung said. “Every week we are looking for who is going to step up next. That’s been a big deal.”

A win would not only give the Rockets a share of the FVA title, but it would keep Neenah’s momentum rolling into the postseason and give the team a better seed when the pairings are announced this weekend.

Entering the playoffs on a five-game winning streak would definitely kill the sour taste of the Rockets rough start to the season.

“There is definitely a momentum thing entering the playoffs,” Jung said. “Last year, we were kind of trending downward (and lost in the first round) and this year we are trending upward. Getting the win and getting healthy at the same time is a good thing entering the playoffs.”

Zephyrs look to make most of chance to share EWC title

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

This is what the St. Mary Catholic football team was hoping for entering the 2026 season.

The Zephyrs wanted to win the Eastern Wisconsin Conference title and Friday night on their homefield, they will have a chance to do just that.

“This is really exciting,” said senior lineman Brady Detterman. “We haven’t had an opportunity like this in any of the years we’ve played so we’re just excited to get out there and compete for a conference championship.”

St. Mary Catholic will welcome conference unbeaten Brillion to Zephyr Stadium on Friday night in a matchup of the top two teams in the league. The Zephyrs come in with one loss but with a victory over the Lions can earn a share of the title.

According to head coach Rob Detterman, it would be the first conference title in 11-player football in 58 years for the program, which did win back-to-back conference titles during its stint playing 8-player football.

“We know it’s a big deal. It’s been goal No. 1 for us all season,” Rob Detterman said. “We don’t want to get too hyped for it but rather stay within ourselves and continue to play our game. We know what our identity is and we want to stay true to it. We hope it’s a smash-mouth football game. It’s what we like to do. It’s what they like to do. Let’s go figure it out.”

“It’s a big game for us so having the home crowd behind us is going to be

Week 9 games

Eastern Wisconsin Conference

(records reflect EWC games)

Brillion (6-0) at St. Mary Catholic (5-1)

New Holstein (3-3) at Valders (4-2)

Kiel (3-3) at Two Rivers (0-6)

Roncalli (1-5) at Chilton (2-4)

big. It brings energy to our kids. It’s high school football. This is the stuff that makes it great. Let’s just embrace the moment and enjoy it.”

The Zephyrs should certainly be riding some momentum after knocking off Kiel last Friday, 24-0. It was the Zephyrs first shutout of the season.

The defense held the potent Kiel offense to less than 200 yards of total offense in the game and forced a pair of fumbles – something the Raiders had not done much this year. Dominic Osgood had both fumble recoveries in the game.

“We have been focused on punching the ball out with the second guy in the last few weeks,” said Rob Detterman. “We were able to see that come to fruition against Kiel.”

Brillion sports a trio of running backs who have gained more than 300 yards already this season.

Weston Schmidt leads the group with 617 yards and 13 touchdowns, while Jaxson Kleist has rushed for 569 yards and is averaging a whopping 13.9 yards per carry. Jaxson Lisowe has gained 314 yards and has eight touchdowns on the season.

Offensively, the Zephyrs leaned on its offensive line to control the line of scrimmage and racked up 253 yards on the ground.

Dominic Todd continues to shine at running back, totaling 121 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries, while quarterback Tarver Trinkner added 67 yards on 14 carries.

SEE **Zephyr football** ON PAGE 18



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Prep roundup

TENNIS

Neenah rolls at sectional, returns to team state

The Rockets won sectional titles at six of the seven flights and rolled to a WIAA Division 1 sectional title last week.

Neenah will have its top two singles players and top two doubles competing at the WIAA Division 1 individual state tournament. That tournament began Thursday and will conclude on Saturday.

The Rockets also qualified for the Division 1 team state tournament, which will be held next weekend in Madison. It is the fourth straight trip to the team state tournament and the program’s 23rd appearance at the tournament – the second-highest total in the state behind only Eau Claire Memorial.

Senior Celia Gentile and sophomore Rachel Thomas will be the Rockets’ singles players at the individual state meet after both claimed sectional titles.

Gentile posted three straight-set wins at No. 1 singles, topping Manitowoc Lincoln’s Ava Wetenkamp 7-6, 6-4 in the title match. Thomas dominated the No. 2 flight, never dropping more than two games in any set at sectionals and beat Sheboygan North’s Thea Bates 6-1, 6-1 for the crown.

The Rockets also got a singles title from sophomore Paige Vickman at the No. 4 flight. Vickman won her first match in straight sets and then overcame a first-set loss in the title match to rally back and beat Sheboygan North’s Sophie Alfonsi 6-7, 6-3, 10-5.

All three of Neenah’s doubles pairings won sectional titles and combined to win all seven matches on the day in straight sets.

Junior Sydney Michalkiewicz and senior Rebekah Thomas dropped only five games in three matches on the day at the No. 1 flight, rolling to a 6-3, 6-0 win over Cedarburg’s Mia Marks and Molly Curran in the finals.

Seniors Ella Motto and Evelyn Buss earned the No. 2 flight title, toppling Hartford’s Maddy Regan and Maddie Schlitt in the title match 6-2, 6-1 after a straight-set win in their opening match.

At No. 3 doubles, senior JB Kennedy and junior Molly Van Dyke dropped only two games in their two matches and posted a 6-0, 6-0 win over Cedarburg’s Ellie Napiwocki and Amelia Netz in the sectional final.

Ellie Grace Zickler added a third-place finish at No. 3 singles for the Rockets, downing Lily Wagner of Hartford, 6-3, 6-1 in the third-place match.

Zephyrs returning to team state tournament

St. Mary Catholic advanced three flights to the individual state tournament and claimed the team title at the WIAA Division 2 Kohler sectional last week to earn a second straight trip to the team state tournament.

The Zephyrs finished nine points ahead of Xavier in the final team standings earning just the fourth trip to team state in program history and will compete next Friday in Madison.

St. Mary Catholic had four flights win sectional titles at last week’s tournament, highlighted by a dominant performance at No. 1 singles by junior Vivie Auth. Auth, who won state doubles titles the past two seasons but made the switch to singles this year, won her three matches in straight sets capped by a 6-4, 6-3 win over Lourdes Academy’s Sasha Quandt, who was the

state runner-up in Division 2 last season.

Auth was joined at the individual state meet by the Zephyrs’ top two doubles teams, including the No. 2 pairing of sophomore Scarlett Bergstrom and senior Kieran Bergstrom who claimed the sectional title. The Zephyr pair won its first match in straight sets and then fought off Xavier’s Holly Justinger and Vrisha Choksi, 7-5, 6-3 to win the sectional title.

At No. 1 doubles, senior Halle Janssen and junior Ella Chier won their first-round match at sectionals but lost in the semifinals to a Sheboygan Falls pairing that won the sectional title. The St. Mary Catholic duo bounced back from the loss to take third beating Fiona Bryant and Tori Beaumont of Sheboygan Falls, 6-4, 6-4.

Freshman Norah Wroblewski and the No. 3 doubles team of sophomores Faith Bergstrom and Laney Schmidt also won sectional titles for the Zephyrs. Wroblewski edged Mollie Schlieve of Sheboygan Falls 6-4, 6-4 in her sectional final, while Faith Bergstrom and Schmidt also had a tight match in their final but came away with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Xavier’s Caroline Garcia and Luci Bowe.

Nadia Alexander also scored points on the day for the Zephyrs by taking second place at No. 2 singles. Alexander lost her first match to the eventual sectional champion and then won by medical default in the third-place match.

SOCCKER

Baetke, Medina fuel Rockets win over Pulaski

Ian Baetke and Awki Medina each scored a pair of goals as Neenah jumped to a four-goal lead at halftime and cruised to a 6-3 win over Pulaski in a nonconference contest on Tuesday night.

Cooper Christie opened the scoring for the Rockets about eight minutes into the match before Tyler Geschrei gave Neenah a 2-0 lead in the 19th minute.

Pulaski quickly pulled back within a goal but Baetke answered with two goals in a six-minute span to extend the Rockets’ lead and Medina added another goal just before halftime to put Neenah ahead 5-1.

Medina tallied the only goal in the second half for the Rockets.

Baetke, Geschrei, Klayton Fleege and Hunter Brown each had assists in the game for Neenah.

Ollie Peterka made two saves in goal for the Rockets.

Neenah was coming off an 8-0 win over Appleton West last week, with Baetke notching a hat trick in the win.

Geschrei, Christie, Juan Alvarado, Evan Glennon and Jordy Banda also scored in the match for the Rockets.

Kolton Fleege finished with two assists, while Geschrei, Medina and Klayton Fleege each had one.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Zephyrs cruise to nonconference victory

St. Mary Catholic breezed to wins in the first two sets and then finished off Lourdes Academy in the third for a 25-14, 25-14, 26-24 win in a nonconference match on Tuesday.

Autumn Crowe led St. Mary Catholic with 10 kills.

Emily Weiss finished with 16 assists and seven digs, while Adele Brennan had 13 assists to go along with six digs.

Bitsy McCauley led the team with 11 digs.

Rockets fall short against Kimberly

Elaina Kramer finished with a season-high 19 kills but Neenah couldn’t upend Fox Valley Association leading Kimberly last week, falling 25-20, 25-19, 24-26, 25-23.

Lilly Ronjue added 13 kills and Brielle Brown finished with eight for the Rockets.

Neenah had a big night at the net with its blocking as Cara Bosovic led the team with seven blocks, while Paige Hoelzel and Romjue each had five. Hoelzel also led the team with three aces.

Aubrey Lindgren led the team with 28 digs, while Finley Kelley had 29 assists and Sena Messner finished with 14.

SWIMMING

Rockets rack up wins at dual meet

Neenah posted first-place finishes in every event but one and collected a 117-69 win over Appleton West/Kimberly in a Fox Valley Association dual meet on Tuesday.

Three Rockets earned four top finishes at the meet and accounted for six wins in individual events.

Breleigh Maurer finished first in the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard freestyle, Elisabeth Hang was first in the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle and Kirsten Brygger grabbed wins in the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard breaststroke.

The trio then joined Bridget Bloomhuff in winning the 200-yard medley relay,

while Hang, Maurer, Bloomhuff and Ellen Farrell took first in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Brygger also was on the winning 200-yard freestyle relay team along with Emma Doiron, Aubrey Murwar and Anna Benthein.

Bloomhuff in the 50-yard freestyle and Sydney Hansman in diving also won individual events for the Rockets.

Divers, relay lead Rockets at invite

Neenah had three divers finish in the top four and also picked up a relay win to take second at the Natalie Bolin Invitational hosted by Oshkosh West on Saturday.

Sydney Hansman won the diving competition with Sophia Diaz taking third and Meredith Buttron finishing fourth for Neenah, while the Rockets collected a win in the 200-yard freestyle relay with a team of Bridget Bloomhuff, Elisabeth Hang, Ellen Farrell and Kirsten Brygger.

Anna Benthein and Breleigh Maurer tied for second place in the 25-yard freestyle, while Bloomhuff and Hang finished second and third, respectively, in the 100-yard freestyle for the Rockets.

Other top finishers for Neenah were: Brygger, third in the 100-yard individual medley and 50-yard breaststroke; Bloomhuff, third in the 50-yard freestyle; Maurer, fourth in the 50-yard butterfly; and Hang, fourth in the 50-yard backstroke.

Neenah also took third in the 100-yard medley relay and fourth in the 200-yard medley relay.

SEE **Prep roundup** ON PAGE 19



The Power of Local

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Senior Standout is brought to you by: 

Romjue serves as driving force behind Rockets’ success

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

While many of her counterparts on the Fox Valley Association volleyball courts were getting started in the early age groups of club volleyball, Neenah’s Lilly Romjue was gaining experience watching the sport.

The Rocket standout didn’t start playing competitively until seventh grade when she joined the middle school program in the Neenah Joint School District.

“I thought I would try it out for fun and just see where it takes me,” Romjue said near the end of a practice earlier this week. “I had been around volleyball my whole life. My aunt had played Division

Senior Standout



I volleyball and my grandma and I would watch Nebraska volleyball all of the time. I think I picked up some of the tendencies from watching games.”

Whatever it was, something certainly carried over.

Two years after taking up the sport, Romjue was playing at the varsity level for Neenah and has been a stalwart for the Rockets the past four seasons. She was a first-team all-Fox Valley Association as a junior last season and currently leads the Rockets in kills, while ranking second in digs and third in aces.

“I was very surprised (to play varsity as a freshman). It was unexpected completely,” Romjue said. “At first, it was stressful. I was playing a lot of Division I players and I really had just started playing.”

Romjue said she relied on her teammates quite a bit her freshman year and credits former standout libero Ella Lindgren for being a big role model for her.

“She always had my back and would lift me up to my fullest potential,” Romjue said. “It took me a few games to get comfortable, especially with the student sections – that really got to me at first. But just having my teammates there to talk me up, it really helped me transition to the varsity level.”

Romjue also had to make an adjustment with her game making the jump to the FVA.

Playing at the club level for FC Elite on a regional squad as an eighth-grader, Romjue didn’t see the level of competition she would on the court in the FVA and on Neenah’s nonconference schedule.

“It really opened up my tool box for shots that I could hit and learning the game with a different perspective,” said Romjue, who started playing as a setter in seventh grade before landing at the outside hitter spot. “I loved it right away. I love the high energy and competitiveness volleyball brings.”

Romjue, who has 266 kills this season and recently surpassed the 750-kill milestone in her career, still gets a thrill when she can put away a huge spike.

“It feels amazing to get a big kill,” Romjue said. “You hear the student section go crazy. When you come down and land, your teammates are already pushing you



Neenah High School senior Lilly Romjue is a four-year varsity performer for the Rockets and was a first-team all-Fox Valley Association selection last season.

around and chest bumping you and going crazy. It’s an unreal feeling.”

For Romjue, though, there is actually at least one better feeling on the court than connecting on a perfect spike – and that is making a perfect pass.

As an outside hitter, Romjue plays a big role in the Rockets’ serve receive and also plays all around Neenah’s rotation, landing her in the back row at times.

“Getting a perfect pass honestly feels better than getting a perfect kill,” Romjue said. “It means a lot to me to play (around the rotation) and be able to help the team in different ways.”

Volleyball isn’t the only sport Romjue plays for Neenah. She is also an accomplished soccer player having earned honorable mention all-FVA honors as a midfielder last spring.

Although the two sports don’t have much carry over in skills or techniques, there is at least one aspect of playing soccer that does help Romjue out on the volleyball court.

“The endurance,” Romjue said. “Volleyball is taken as a sport where you don’t need a lot of endurance but some of these rallies go on and you don’t much get time to breathe. The endurance you have in playing soccer definitely helps in volleyball.”

There is also at least one other connection between the sports for Romjue, but it may be unique to only her.

She has a certain way of getting ready to play where the right sock goes on first followed by the left sock and then right and left knee pad followed by right and left shoe. Then she does the same thing for tying them.

And if she accidentally puts the left something on before the right one?

“I take it off and then I have to restart,” Romjue said. “I’ve been doing it since I can remember.”

In the volleyball season, she also has a specific hype song to listen in the car ride to the school before the match – “Whatchu Kno About Me” by GloRilla – while also making sure to eat pasta with red sauce and drink either red or blue Powerade.

Although it isn’t a superstition, Romjue can also often be seen with her bedazzled lip gloss.

Bedazzling things is a hobby she picked up and she is definitely hooked on jazzing up her possessions.

“In my free time I love bedazzling,” Romjue said, who also enjoys boating, hiking and swimming in the summer. “One of my friends starting doing it and she got it for me for my birthday and now half the things I own are bedazzled.”

Romjue will be able to continue bedazzling items after high school, however, playing sports is something she plans to step away from when she gets to college.

Romjue has yet to decide on a college

but wants to pursue a degree in elementary education and plans on no longer playing competitively.

“Hopefully I’m going to play intramurals or recreation or something,” Romjue said. “But I don’t think it will ever be the same.”

That’s why Romjue is making sure she enjoys what’s left of her final volleyball season.

“I will miss it for sure. That’s why I’m cherishing every moment I can,” Romjue said. “I just keep thinking about all of the good times I’ve had and try not to think about it coming to an end.”

Romjue is hoping that her days playing volleyball will be extended with a long run in the WIAA Tournament.

Despite a tough last week when the Rockets suffered hard-fought losses to Fond du Lac and state-ranked Kimberly, she believes this team has what it takes to add a few matches to the schedule and hopes it takes her and her teammates all the way to the Resch Center.

“All great teams fall to other teams at some point so we are all still going in with a lot of confidence knowing we are still a really good team with the potential to go far. We’re keeping the same mindset,” Romjue said. “I do see us going far. I think it’s going to be point by point games. I’m excited to see how far we can go and see what kind of competition we can play.”

Rockets rally for historic win over Papermakers

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

Alex Locke figured it was just another kill.

It was a run-of-the-mill spike around a Kimberly block that glanced off a dig attempt for a point for the Neenah Rockets. Just another point.

“Honestly, I thought we were going to 25 in that last set, so I was just trying to slam like I would every time,” Locke said. “Once we got that next point, then I realized we had won.”

A historic win, too.

The Rockets came storming back from an 0-2 deficit and registered the program’s first ever win over Kimberly in a 18-25, 23-25, 25-21, 25-21, 15-13 victory on Senior Night inside the Neenah High School gym.

“This is massive,” Neenah head coach Jake Coenen said. “This is huge for us and proves that we can compete at a high level with those teams that have the really good traditions.”

The win kept the Rockets undefeated in the Fox Valley Association and set up a showdown with Appleton North for the conference title on Thursday. The results of that match were not available by deadline.

Neenah would be able to take a boost from the win over the Papermakers into that match.

“It does give us a lot of confidence as a team,” Locke said. “It is our biggest win of the season.”

Locke’s kill late in the fifth set capped off a nip-and-tuck battle in which neither team led by more than three points.

A Kimberly hitting error gave the Rockets a 5-2 lead with two kills from Trevor Ricketts offsetting points for the Paper-

makers to keep the three-point lead intact.

Kimberly rallied to tie the score at 7 but back-to-back kills from Ricketts and Cam Diekfuss allowed Neenah to surge back into the lead. The score would be tied three more times before the Papermakers took their first lead of the set at 12-11.

Neenah answered back to tie the score at 13, which is when Locke came through with the most important of his nine kills in the match.

Sam Keepers then stuffed a Kimberly spike attempt for the final point and Neenah had its victory.

“I saw him turn his hand a little bit and as soon as I saw him turn his hand and arm, I knew it was going down. That was incredible,” Diekfuss said of Keepers’ match-winning block. “(This win) is amazing, especially knowing that we had to work for it - we fought back for it.”

Neenah played right with Kimberly in the first two sets but it was the Papermakers squeaking out the key points to pull ahead 2-0.

The deficit, though, didn’t dissuade the Rockets from believing that a win was still in their reach.

“We just had the mentality that it was a new game and it was 0-0,” Locke said. “I think that got us the win.”

A kill from Dylan McNamara and a tip from Locke helped the Rockets take an early 5-3 lead in the third set but it was a couple of four-point runs along the way that lifted Neenah.

The first came after Kimberly had forged

a 13-12 lead and started when Diekfuss – who was more aggressive at the net in the final three sets – put down a spike to tie the game.

“We always tell Cam to be aggressive when he’s in the front row. Be aggressive and make them be on their toes because that will help our hitters get one-on-ones

and take advantage of those,” Coenen said. “Just let Cam be who he is and be a great player and go get it.”

Diekfuss, who finished with 12 kills in the match, said he fed off of his teammates in stepping up his attacks at the net.

“My teammates encouraged me to keep swinging too so I used that as if they believe in me, I’m going to do it,” Diekfuss said. “I was doing everything in my power to win. It doesn’t mean I don’t trust my teammates – I certainly do – I just wanted to get the job done,”

Colton Kreger followed with an ace before blocks from Ricketts and Keepers gave the Rockets a 16-13 advantage – a lead it would never surrender.

Kimberly remained within striking distance and had pulled to within one before Vinny Daun served up four straight points, including an ace to take a 24-19 lead. The Papermakers got back to within two points but then missed a serve for the final point of the set.

“I’m really glad of how we stuck together,” Coenen said. “Being down 0-2, we really stuck together and just kept rattling (points) off, one point at a time, one set at a time.”

Neenah led much of the fourth set until Kimberly rattled off a run of five straight points to take an 18-17 lead but a kill from Locke and a Papermaker hitting error boosted the Rockets back into a one-point lead.

Ricketts and Diekfuss then notched back-to-back kills for a 21-19 lead and the Rockets stayed in front the rest of the way. Logan McNamara served out the final three points of the set that brought Neenah back to even and set up the winner-take-all fifth set.

“Our big thing was just take one point at a time and trust our game,” Coenen said. “We were the more aggressive ones in sets three and four to get back into it. Just know the gameplan and continue to be aggressive.”

Keepers finished with 16 kills to lead the Neenah hitters, which saw six different players finish with at least four kills in the game.

That kind of balance has been key for the Rockets all season.

“We have a lot of variety and guys so anyone can play anywhere,” Locke said. “If someone is having a bad night, we can throw someone else in there and it doesn’t affect our game.”

Keepers and Ricketts led the way with three blocks apiece, while Levi Steckling totaled 26 digs in the win – no one else for the Rockets had more than eight.

Diekfuss finished with 26 assists in the match.

“We came in feeling confident but once we were on the court, I think there were some nerves. Once we overcame that, that was when it switched,” Diekfuss said. “I’m really proud of my team. I’m happy for all of us.”



Diekfuss



Locke

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Zephyr football

FROM PAGE 14

Having that strong running game has also opened up the Zephyrs' passing game as Trinkner finished 10-of-16 for 153 yards against the Raiders, throwing touchdowns to Luke Fairweather and Max Vosters.

"(Dominic) has been doing really good and he's improved a lot with it being his first year playing (the position)," Trinkner said. "The last couple of weeks he's been really hitting the holes and reading it and that opens up so much with the bootlegs and play actions. It's so much more open because everybody is crashing in on the run."

Yet, as has been the case all season, everything with the Zephyrs' offense starts with their veteran offensive line and that unit will need to play big against the Lions.

"Brillion is a good team. They have a good o-line and d-line but I think we're bigger and we can be better so we just really have to focus," Brady Detterman said. "We have to focus on this game just like

any other game. Go in prepared and do what we do."

Rob Detterman said controlling the line of scrimmage is just one of the keys for the Zephyrs on Friday night, which will help slow down the Lions' high-powered running game.

He also believes that turnovers could play a key role as will special teams.

"In our two losses this year, we have turned the ball over and had special teams breakdowns," Rob Detterman said. "We have to play a clean game and then hopefully force some turnovers. And then we not only have to not make mistakes on special teams, we want to make a play or two on special teams."

The Zephyrs know they have to execute in all three phases on Friday night in order to walk off the field with a share of the conference title.

But, they are playing for a conference title just two years removed from a one-win season.

"For me, it became real after we beat Kiel (on Friday)," Trinkner said. "Now it's

time. Now, it's in front of us. Before it was all of the next game mentality, but after we won on Friday it's like it was real right now."

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Prep roundup

FROM PAGE 15

CROSS COUNTRY

Green leads Rocket runners at invite

Ramsey Green finished in the top 15 to help the Rockets place third in the girls

Obituaries

Dave Allen Soerens

Dave Allen Soerens died on October 7, 2026, surrounded by family who loved him dearly. Dave was born on August 26, 1952, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin to Glenn and Laverne (VanderWee) Soerens. He grew up in Oostburg, Wisconsin, alongside three brothers and

two sisters. He met Jane Shaver at Oostburg High School, where he was a star running back on the football team and she was a cheerleader. They married on August 19, 1972.

Dave earned his bachelor’s degree from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and then a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He began his career at 3M in Minnesota, then worked for more than three decades for Kimberly-Clark Corporation in Neenah, Wisconsin. Over the course of his career as a research chemist, Dave earned more than 90 patents, making him one of the most prolific inventors of the company.

Faith was central to Dave’s life and identity. He loved, trusted in and sought to faithfully follow Jesus. He spent most mornings in the Bible throughout his adult life, and he served as an elder for many years at Calvary Bible Church in Neenah. He lived with a confident hope of salvation, redemption and resurrection through Christ.

Dave was a loving, kind and Dave Allen Soerens died on October 7, 2026, surrounded by family who loved him dearly. Dave was born on August 26, 1952, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin to Glenn and Laverne (VanderWee) Soerens. He grew up in Oostburg, Wisconsin, alongside three brothers and two sisters. He met Jane Shaver at Oostburg High School, where he was a star running back on the football team and she was a cheerleader. They married on August 19, 1972.

Dave earned his bachelor’s degree from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and then a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He began his career at 3M in Minnesota, then worked

Theodore H. Bauer

Theodore H. “Ted” Bauer, age 93, passed away on Saturday, October 10, 2026. He was born on January 25, 1933, in Villisca, Iowa, the son of Edward and Hulda Mae (Himiller) Bauer.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 pm on Friday, October 23, 2026, at the

team standings at the Papermaker Invitational last week.

Green finished 14th overall among the 133 runners to lead the way for Neenah. The next four scoring runners all finished within 11 seconds of each other with Amlia Corrigan taking 30th place, followed by CeCe Preman in 31st, Brin Miller in 32nd and Corah Holzheu in 36th.

The Neenah boys, who placed sixth among the 10 teams, were led by Elliott

for more than three decades for Kimberly-Clark Corporation in Neenah, Wisconsin. Over the course of his career as a research chemist, Dave earned more than 90 patents, dedicated father to four children, Julie (Joe), Tim (Maria Jose), Matthew (Diana) and Andrew (Anne). Dave and Jane took joy in watching their children grow and become parents themselves to their seventeen grandchildren: Maria, Simon, John Paul, Lukas, Anna, Zipporah, Thomas, Zephaniah, Elizabeth, Joaquin, Zoe, Isaac, Charlie, Zacchaeus, Benjamin, Peter and Dominic.

Dave was soft-spoken and gentle, except when watching his beloved Green Bay Packers or navigating Chicago traffic. He loved to laugh – sometimes to the point of wheezing. He was proudly, sometimes comically, frugal. At various points of his life, he enjoyed golf, sailing, travel, playing the drums, biking, managing investments and brewing his own beer.

Dave lived for the last decade of his life with Alzheimer’s Disease, which slowly took his memories and abilities to reason and communicate. He was cared for faithfully by Jane, his beloved wife of 54 years, with vital support from the staff at Valley VNA in Neenah and from Moments Hospice in his final months.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Beth. He is survived by his three brothers – Thomas (Cheryl), Mike (Sandy) and Jim (Jessica) – and his sister, Bonnie (Dennis), as well as his children and grandchildren, who are happy for him to be in the presence of Jesus but will miss him profoundly.

A memorial service will be held at 4:00 P.M. on Friday, October 16, 2026 at Calvary Bible Church, 1450 Oakridge Rd., Neenah. A visitation will be held at church from 2:30 P.M. until the hour of service. Dave will be laid to rest at Oak Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution at give.gofundme.com/InMemoryofDave to Village of Hope, a ministry in Zambia that Dave visited in 2011 and which was close to his heart.

WESTGOR FUNERAL HOMES

First Presbyterian Church, 200 Church St., Neenah.

Visitation from Noon until the service time. The full obituary can be viewed at westgorfuneralhomes.com

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Drake and Isaac Rangel who finished back-to-back in 17th and 18th place, respectively. Dylan Olson added a 30th place with Wyatt Gearhart taking 45th and Carson Finch in 51st.

Staner paces Zephyrs at Brillion Invite

Fritz Staner finished in 19th place to lead the St. Mary Catholic boys team at the Brillion Invitational last week.

The Zephyrs placed ninth among the 15 teams at the meet.

Brady DeLeeuw added a 26th place for the Zephyrs followed by Brandon DeBaal in 73rd, Leo Gruber in 82nd and Anderson Homburg in 92nd place.

The St. Mary Catholic girls were led by Myla DeLeeuw, who placed 38th, followed by Natalie Lee in 43rd. Rounding out the

scoring runners for the Zephyrs were Claire Higgins in 64th place, Claire Misinski in 67th place and Claire Lundgren in 71st place.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Rockets post three wins at tournament

Neenah finished 3-2 at the Madison Memorial tournament on Saturday, posting wins over Waterford, Homestead and Fond du Lac, while falling to Waukesha West and Franklin.

Cam Diekfuss turned in an all-around performance on the day finishing with 83 assists, 21 kills and 10 aces to lead the Rockets.

Sam Keepers led the team with 41 kills, with Colton Kreger totaling 24 digs.

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Legal Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: Mckenzie AnnMarie Sykes By (Petitioner) Mckenzie AnnMarie Sykes Notice of Name Change Hearing Case No. 2026CV000846

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: First – McKenzie Middle – AnnMarie

Last – Sykes To: First – McKenzie Middle – Marie Last – Meacham Birth Certificate: First – McKenzie Middle – AnnMarie Last – Sykes

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin: Judge’s Name: Hon. John A. Jorgensen Place: 415 Jackson Street, Room 320, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Date: October 5, 2026 Time: 9:30 a.m.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4866 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

NOTICE TO NEWSPAPER AND PETITIONER:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the following newspaper Neenah News.

BY THE COURT: DATE SIGNED: August 31, 2026 Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 5 Runs: October 2, 2026, October 9, 2026 and October 16, 2026.

Public Notice

TYPE A NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION November 3, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the several towns, villages, cities, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, Winnebago County, on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, the following questions will be submitted to a vote of the people pursuant to law:

QUESTION 1: “Partial veto. Shall section 10 (1) (c) of

article V of the constitution be amended to prohibit the governor, in exercising his or her partial veto authority, from creating or increasing or authorizing the creation or increase of any tax or fee?”

QUESTION 2: “Freedom to gather in places of worship during an emergency. Shall section 18 of article I of the constitution, which deals with religious liberty, be amended to prohibit the state or a political subdivision of the state from ordering the closure of, or forbidding gatherings in, places of worship in response to a state of emergency, including a public health emergency?”

QUESTION 3: “Governmental entity discrimination prohibited. Shall section 27 of article I of the constitution be created to 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?”

This referendum ballot is a result of 2025 Senate Joint Resolution 116, 2025 Assembly Joint Resolution 10, and 2025 Assembly Joint Resolution 102. The text of the joint resolutions can be found at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/reg/asm/joint_resolution and https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/reg/sen/joint_resolution.

A copy also can be obtained from the office of the county clerk, or the Legislative Documents Room at 1 East Main Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

DONE in the County of Winnebago, this 6th day of October 2026 /s/ Julie A. Barthels Julie A. Barthels, Winnebago County Clerk

Runs: October 16, 2026. WNAXLP



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How to Wipe Out a Deadly Disease

Can you number the parts of this story in the correct order?

The situation was even sadder because a vaccine that could prevent people from getting polio had been invented.

It was so successful that Rotary International made it a goal to wipe polio off the face of the earth. For more than 30 years, more than 2.5 billion children have been given the life-saving polio vaccine. Today, wild polio remains active in only two countries.

Dr. Santos asked members of Rotary clubs throughout the Philippines to vaccinate the children in their communities. More than 6 million children were immunized against polio. It was a huge success.

Dr. Benny Santos belonged to an international club called Rotary. He wrote a letter to the international president of Rotary asking if all of the Rotarians in the Philippines could volunteer to immunize the country's children. The President of Rotary and his committee approved the idea.

More than 30 years ago, a doctor in the Philippines named Dr. Benny Santos was very upset about the number of people in his country who had a disease called **polio**.

Polio caused people to become physically disabled. Some had problems breathing. Many died.

What is polio?

A Worldwide Hero

In the 1950s, an amazing doctor worked tirelessly in his lab to invent a vaccine that could stop polio. Instead of keeping the secret to make himself rich, he gave it away for free so that every child in the world could get it.

Because of his kindness and hard work, he helped defeat polio and became a real-life superhero!

Circle every other letter to discover his name.

D A R B J K O L N V A T
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DR. _____

Thanks to the polio vaccine, most kids in North America don't know what polio is. There has been only one confirmed case of polio here in the last 30 years. Polio is an illness that can lead to paralysis of your spine and/or limbs and can sometimes cause death.

Healthcare workers travel from village to village to make sure they reach all children with the polio vaccine.



India was officially declared polio-free in 2014. There have been no new cases there since 2011.

What is **Rotary**? It's a global network of volunteers. Find out if you have a Rotary Club in your community that might have a member who can speak to your class about the efforts to end polio.



Rotary

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Rotarians have a short test with only four questions. Use the code to discover the four questions Rotarians ask themselves about everything they say or do.

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If everyone asked themselves these four questions before they said or did something, how would it make the world a better place?

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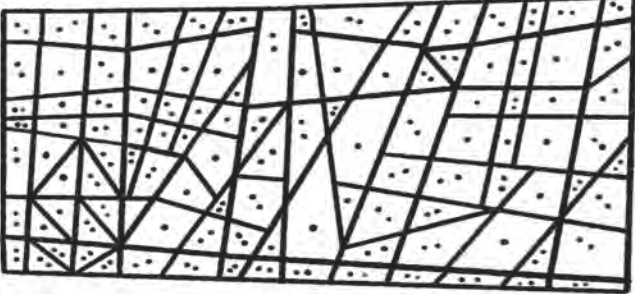
People Care

Look through the newspaper for examples of three people helping others. Cut out their pictures and/or names and glue them to a piece of paper. Write one to three sentences about how these people are helping others.

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

In 1988, when the Global Polio Eradication effort began, there were 350,000 cases of wild polio each year—about 1,000 cases a day. Fill in the squares with two dots **YELLOW**. Fill in the spaces with one dot **BLUE**. This will reveal the year that the last case of wild polio happened in the United States.



Double Double Word Search

CASES
CLASS
DISEASE
GOAL
IDEA
INDIA
KIDS
LIFE
POLIO
PROBLEMS
ROTARY
SPINE
UPSET
VILLAGE
VACCINATE

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

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

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



Kid Scoop Together:

Twin Emblems

You may have seen the Rotary International emblem in your town. Nearly every community has a Rotary Club with members that are dedicated to serving the community. Look carefully at the emblems below. The two that are exactly alike are Rotary's official emblem.

A



B



C



D



E



ANSWER: A & D.



Write On!



I'm a Helper

Write about ways you help at home, school, or in your community.



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