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City gets $1.9M to replace lead service lines

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

The City of Neenah is preliminarily approved to receive $1.9 million through Wisconsin's Lead Service Line Replacement Program. The funds will support the replacement of approximately 249 private lead service lines in the city's qualifying low-income census tracts.

The funds are part of a $102 million funding award to support lead service line replacement projects across Wisconsin announced last week by Gov. Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Under the preliminary funding award, Neenah would receive $1,451,363 in principal forgiveness, which does not need to be repaid, and $483,788 available in low-interest loans.

"This preliminary funding represents an important opportunity to continue protecting public health and investing in Neenah's water infrastructure," said Neenah Mayor Brian Borchardt. "Safe, reliable drinking water is essential for every resident, and this support could help us make meaningful progress for families in our community."

The Lead Service Line Replacement Program is administered through the DNR's Safe Drinking Water Loan Program and is supported by federal funding made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

City staff will review the program requirements, funding conditions, project eligibility criteria and implementation timeline before finalizing next steps. Additional information for affected property owners and residents — including project areas, eligibility, anticipated schedules and participation requirements — will be shared as more details become available.



Photo from Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department

Collecting candy

Kids dressed in costume took a walk through the trails of Fritsch Park to collect candy from stations Oct. 20 during the Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department's Trick-or-Treat Trail event. After collecting candy, they could stop back in the pavilion for a cup of hot chocolate and photo station.

Council to learn more about city administrator positions

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

The Neenah Common Council voted to hear a presentation from a University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh official about the role a city manager or city administrator could play in the community.

The move came forward due to a council directive put forth by Alderman Tami Erickson. She said there have been discussions in the past about adding a city administrator or city manager and this would be a good opportunity to learn more about the positions and if it is something Neenah may want to pursue.

"We can learn about why an administrator works well for some cities, but not for others. I think it's good to explore these opportunities as they come about," Erickson said about having Michael Ford, the director of the Whitburn Center at UW-Oshkosh, speak to the council. "An administrator wouldn't necessarily mean we wouldn't still have a mayor. De Pere has both."

Alderman William Pollnow, Jr., was unsure about looking at the possibility of adding a city administrator or city manager at a time when Neenah is dealing with the challenge of keeping staff salaries competitive with the market.

"Do we have the funds to have to hire another administrator position?" Pollow asked.

There will never be an ideal time to have the discussion about adding a city administrator, replied Alderman Mark Ellis.

"This is more of a 'what if?' discussion. If we don't take a first step, we are doing our taxpayers a disservice," he said. "By the way, this isn't about our current mayor or our past mayors. This is just a discovery process."

While hiring a city administrator would add to the city's budget, it may also have some built-in savings, Erickson said.

Alderman Flo Bruno said she believed the city's current administrative setup works well.

"I think our mayor does a good job of managing our city staff," she said. "We don't need another person to help manage it. I also disagree with hiring an ad-

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Corrections
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Toys for Tots kicks off seasonal collection efforts

Neenah News

The Winnegamie Home Builders Association (WHBA) is continuing its partnership with the Toys for Tots Program, working alongside the United States Marine Corps, the Oshkosh Salvation Army and Oshkosh Corp. to help make the holiday season brighter for children in the community.

Toys for Tots' mission is simple yet powerful: collect new, unwrapped toys and distribute them as gifts to less fortunate children. By coming together, community members can share joy, hope and the magic of the holidays with those who need it most.

"As we celebrate with family and friends, it's important to remember that many families are facing challenges this holiday season," said Jodi Vandermolen, Winnebago County Toys for Tots coordinator. "Through Toys for Tots, we have the opportunity to ensure that a child feels the joy of the holidays."

Collection dates will continue through Dec. 11. Donations can be made by bringing new, unwrapped toys to one of the designated drop-off locations across Winnebago County. Businesses, organizations and community groups are encouraged to become official drop-off locations.

The Neenah News office at 1220 S. Commercial St. is one of the dropoff sites.

To sign up, contact Jodi Vandermolen at 920-235-2962, email jodi@whba.net or contact the Oshkosh Salvation Army at 920-232-7660.

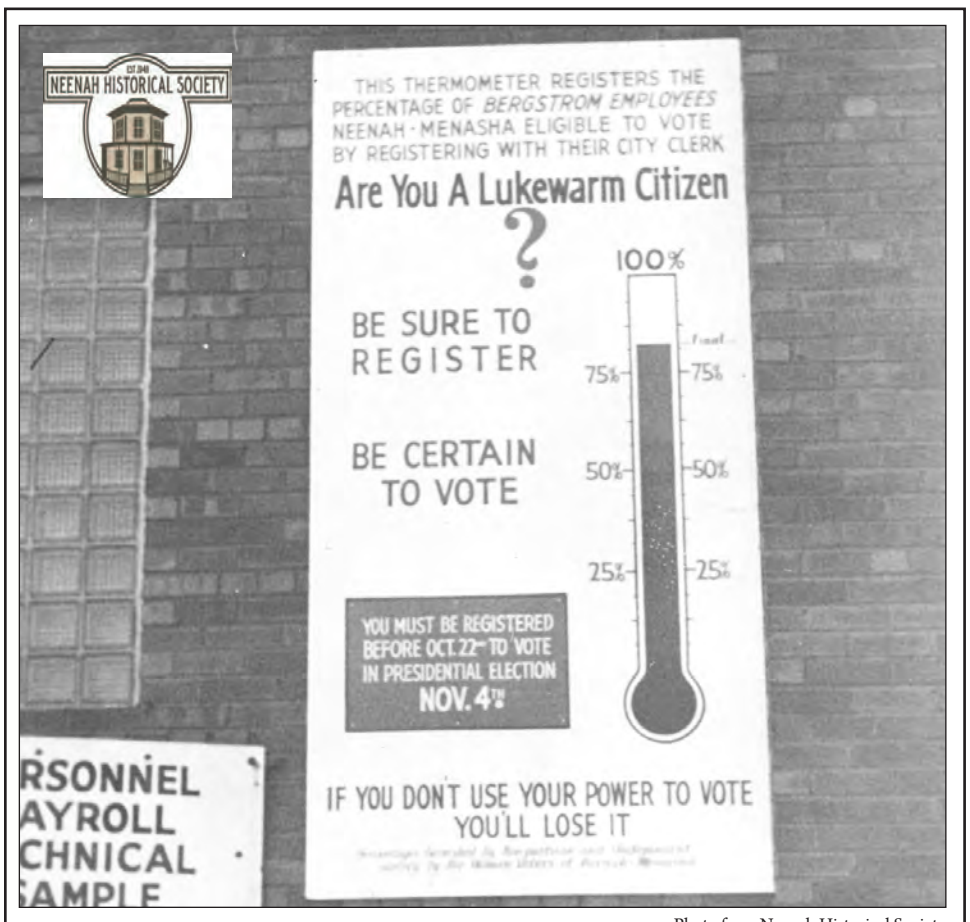


Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Elections

From the Bergstrom Paper Company photograph file, an employee sign encouraging voter registration in 1953. A great reminder to go out and vote this Nov. 3.

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Calendar of events

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 and Town of Neenah and Village of Fox Crossing

10-31 Party, 6 p.m., Mill City Church, 120 N. Lake St.

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

Sunday Concert Series: The Del Ray's, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Election Day Chili Supper, 4 p.m., Our Savior's Lutheran Church

High School Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

Thursday, Nov. 5

High School Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

Friday, Nov. 6

First Friday Concert featuring Christopher Gold, 2 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Fox Crossing Ladies and Lil Gents Dance, 6 p.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort and Hotel

Saturday, Nov. 7

Helping Hands Art and Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Neenah Middle School

Amanda Lauer Book Signing "My First Saint Nicholas Book," 10 a.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Fox Crossing Princess Tea Party, 10 a.m. and noon, Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort and Hotel

November Art Activity – Glass Gobbler, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Spirit of the Season: Snowman Decoration, 10:30 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Thursday, Nov. 12

Preholiday Shop and Stroll, 3 p.m., Downtown Neenah

St. Mary Catholic High School Fall Musical: Working the Musical, 7 p.m., Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center

Group provides support for inmates after prison

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

When inmates leave prison, they often have few supports to rely on.

Some who stayed in touch with their families during their incarceration may be able to count on their support, but many start from scratch.

That's where Circles of Support come in. Led by volunteers, former inmates meet weekly for a support group where they can share their challenges, learn about community resources, focus on their future and celebrate success.

"It's a safe place where everyone can share. We start the meetings with a check-in and then discuss what's going on," said Sandy Sweeney, who joined Circles of Support in Neenah more than 20 years ago after retiring from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. "I wanted to keep helping people as they came out prison. It's a challenge to get people back into the community and be productive citizens."

Circles of Support, which operates under the umbrella of ESTHER, has support groups from Oshkosh to Green Bay. Neenah and Oshkosh each host one group a week while Appleton has two groups plus an all-women's group. The Neenah group meets at First United Methodist Church.

Lou Blasczyk, who has volunteered with Circles of Support for 15 years, said the participants uplift each other and share helpful information.

"They gain a lot of support from each other," he said.

Sweeney said volunteers share information about available resources and try to answer any questions they may have. She said volunteers also celebrate the former inmates' success, whether it's finding a job or a place to live.

"Our group members are either working or looking for work. They work hard and make good employees," she said. "Finding housing is hard since it's so expensive — well, finding housing for anyone is hard. We have found some good landlords to work with."

Volunteers sometimes meet individually with group members to provide extra support or drive them to appointments, if necessary, Blasczyk said.

Sweeney said some support group members come for multiple years while others may attend once and never return.

"We're non-judgmental. The volunteers don't tell people what to do," she said. "Everyone who comes to the support groups, even the ones who are just out of prison, has a story and something to share."

Recently released inmates in the Fox Cities may hear about Circles of Support from their probation agents, see a brochure or hear about the group from other former inmates.

As for attracting new volunteers, Sweeney said people find out about it through word-of-mouth, see one of the group's brochures or hear one of their presentations. She said volunteers come from all walks of life and often hear about the organization from current volunteers and become interested.

Volunteers bring food to the meetings, such as donuts, ham and cheese or popcorn.

"I think it's always good when you feed people at activities like this," Sweeney said. "The people who come are willing to talk and want to transition successfully back into the community."

If anyone is interested in learning more about volunteering with Circles of Support or attending a support group, they can call 920-840-2918 and leave a message or send an email to circlescanhelp@gmail.com.

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Photo by Pamela Hart

Seasonal decorating

Families were invited Saturday to participate in seasonal activities during Pumpkin Fest at The Plaza. Activities included fall treats, face painting, pumpkin decorating and a contest with prizes.

City's plan for downtown development nets honor

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

The City of Neenah continues to move forward on its master plan for the downtown, building on its unique character, vibrant businesses and strong sense of place.

The plan — Neenah Next: Downtown Reimagined — recently received the 2026 Economic Development Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association. The plan is a culmination of work pulled together by the city and its planning consultant, RDG Planning & Design, from feedback and information from 1,300 community members, downtown business and property owners, Future Neenah and the Neenah Central City Business Improvement District.

"We've been very happy with the plan and how it's been working so far. It's great to have it recognized," said Brad Schmidt, deputy director of the Community Development Department. "A lot of people worked together on the plan to make it possible."

The planning process began in 2022. Schmidt said the city wanted to create a downtown plan that fit within its wider goals. Neenah Next has four areas of focus:

• Connectivity options for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians. Ensuring people can safely travel to and through the downtown makes it more convenient for everyone.

• Development. Looking at both public and private opportunities, having plans in place is helpful when working with developers to give them different options. Mixed-use projects will bring more people downtown.

• Public access to the waterfront. The downtown plan was created before the city worked on its master plan for Arrowhead Park, which created public access to Little Lake Butte des Morts.

• Neighborhoods. An urban lifestyle is being created in downtown Neenah, but the neighborhoods surrounding the city's center, such as Sherrytown, are equally important. How can those homes be improved?

The plan has already led to several changes, Schmidt said. For example, a crosswalk was installed by the Neenah Public Library to make it easier for people who park across the street from the library to get to the library. Another crosswalk was added at Wisconsin and Church Street.

"We have met with many developers and used our development tool to show them some of the different opportunities we have available in the area," Schmidt said.

Neenah's Houses in Homes grant program was created to improve older homes on Doty Island and homes adjacent to downtown, Schmidt said. A city-funded housing initiative, the program helps property owners repair, renovate and maintain older homes through grants and loans with no interest. Applicants must meet certain eligibility requirements.

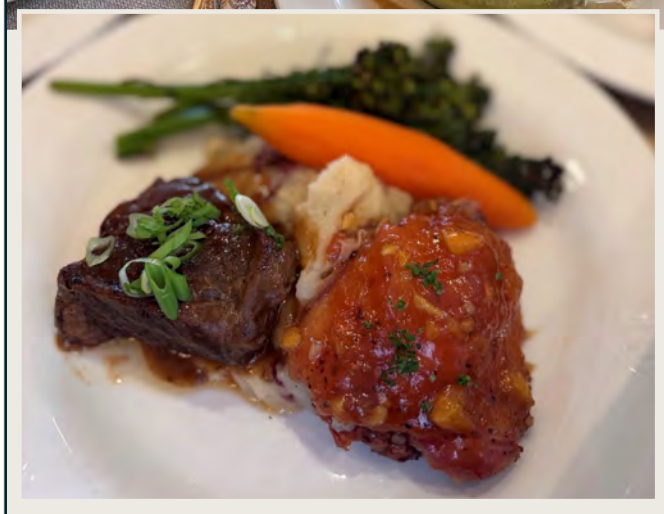
"Downtown Neenah is a hidden gem, and we would like to have more people discover it," Schmidt said.

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County board approves $253M budget for 2027

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors approved the 2027 county budget that increases spending but lowers the average property tax rate.

The spending for the year is an estimated $253 million while the average property tax rate fell to $3.24 per $1,000 of equalized value. The total of the 2026 adopted budget was $238.9 million.

The county board spent nearly 11 hours between Monday and Tuesday going through the budget, its amendments and capital improvement plan. County Executive Gordon Hintz said the budget prioritized the county's core services, employee retention and attraction and facility upgrades.

"Putting together the budget is a long process," he said. "We started in April. It's not a perfect budget, but we were able to move the needle in several areas and accomplish some things."

Employee retention was an important goal for the county so employees will receive a 3.4% cost-of-living adjustment increase and an achievable 2% merit pay increase.

The budget adds 11 full-time and two part-time positions, including four new employees for the sheriff's department who will work in the jail. Additional jail personnel are needed now that all the jail pods are open due to an increase in inmates.


Hintz

The county is also adding a public information officer, who will work out of the county executive's office and lead communications for the county. Several supervisors noted the importance of having a position like that in place, pointing out how important communications were during the spring floods and the July tornado.

"I think we really saw this past year how essential communications are and reaching people where they are, which for a lot of people is on social media," said Supervisor Casen Frassetto. "When I was canvassing at UW-Oshkosh to get signatures to run, so many people didn't know what the county board did. I see this person also helping with sharing the story about what we do as a county."

While Supervisor Conley Hanson thought a public information officer was a good idea, he did not like the timing.

"My constituents are really having a tough time and are tightening their belts, and they see us loosening our belts in the county and spending more," he said. "I can see supporting this when interest rates and diesel and food prices come down."

Supervisor Bob Poeschl said the public information officer would help communicate with residents about different county services and the role it plays in their lives.

"We can make connections within the community," he said. "This will also improve communications within the county."

Supervisor George Bureau said he was against the county creating any new jobs because it was not sustainable.

"We add these positions now and it just adds to the overhead while we are not adding revenue," he said. "I worry about affordability and want to be able to explain to my constituents who are struggling because their taxes and everything else is going up why we are adding these positions."

The budget includes multiple capital improvement purchases and projects with the two largest being the expansion of the county highway building so it can better handle larger vehicles and the construction of a new Solid Waste transfer station and resource recovery site. Since both projects will not begin until the latter half of the year, Hintz opted not to borrow funds until they are needed. He said the move saves Winnebago County since it will not need to pay interest on money it is not using.

Construction on the transfer station and county highway building will continue into 2027.

In the area of core services, the county board remained committed to supporting helping to end homelessness in the county by voting down a budget amendment that would have removed $125,000 from the Health & Human Services Department's Emergency Rent Assistance Program. During the discussion, it emerged that only $30,000 of the funding came from the levy with the remainder coming from grants.

"Removing $125,000 from rental assistance is sending the wrong message to the unhoused in our community," Poeschl said. "For us to pull the money and hope our partners can fill the gap is just wrong."

Hanson, who authored the amendment, said the county could work more with Leaven and churches to provide rent support to those in need rather than paying for it out of tax dollars.

Supervisor Kate Powers said other funding sources were struggling and removing the county's funding was the wrong move.

"It's time for us to stand up and take care of our citizens," she said.

The county board also voted to create two new $2,100 scholarships for Winnebago County high school students for a budget addition of $4,200.

Chamber hosting disaster recovery info session

Neenah News

The Fox Cities Chamber will host a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Recovery Informational Session.

The meeting will be from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday to help businesses and homeowners learn about disaster loan programs available to assist with recovery following the July 27 tornado. The session will take place at the Fox Cities Chamber, 125 N. Superior St. in Appleton.

Janell Dixon, SBA public affairs specialist, will provide information about available disaster assistance programs, including Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) and physical damage loans. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn about eligibility and available resources and ask questions about the disaster loan process.

The session is free for both Chamber members and non-members. To register, go to members.foxcc.net/chamber-events/Details/sba-disaster-recovery-informational-session-1973385?sourceTypeId=Website.





Photo from Town of Neenah Fire Department

Ride to school

Students from Clayton Elementary School greeted two of their classmates who received a ride to school from the Town of Neenah Fire Department. The fire department has been providing rides to school to students who were picked for the experience as part of October's Fire Prevention Month.

Fox Valley Chorus schedules performance

Neenah News

The Fox Valley Chorus' performance of The Great Director Heist will offer an evening of harmony, comedy and high-stakes fun.

The show will feature the Fox Valley Chorus, along with Fox Sounds, It's About Time Quartet and Sweet Addiction Quartet.

The performance will be at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 in the theater of the Winnebago County Fox Cities Campus, the former Communication Arts Center of the UW Fox Campus, 1478 Midway Road in Menasha. Tickets are $18 in advance or $20 at door and $8 for 12 years old and younger. Call or text 920-851-6364 or email jpowers8@new.rr.com.

The Fox Valley Chorus is a chapter of SingUnited International, formerly Sweet Adelines International. The new name, SingUnited International, was recently chosen to signify both the global reach of the organization and the unity created when singers come together to express themselves through their vocal and artistic abilities.

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Annual gala highlights youth mentorship program

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin (BBBS) hosted its annual Dream Big Gala on Oct. 8, bringing together over 260 supporters, volunteers and donors to celebrate outstanding mentors and community partners.

The evening recognized the organization's 2026 award recipients.

"Every young person deserves the opportunity to dream big and believe in what is possible for their future," said BBBS CEO Jaime Kriewaldt. "Through the power of mentorship, our volunteer mentors help youth discover their strengths, build confidence and see possibilities they may not have imagined. When a caring adult believes in a young person, it can inspire them to dream bigger, reach higher and realize their full potential."

The Bigs of the Year awards recognize individuals who embody the spirit of mentorship and go above and beyond in their commitment to their Littles. These mentors demonstrate the life-changing impact a caring, consistent relationship can have on a young person.

Tim Mullaney, who had been matched with his Little for more than nine years, was named Big Brother of the Year. Jenna Klinedinst, who has been matched with her Little for four years, was named Big Sister of the Year.

Edgar Solis and Alexis Esposito were named High School Bigs of the Year. Each received a $1,000 scholarship from BBBS to further their education.

The Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual or community partner whose dedication and service have made a lasting impact on others.

Lori Altraide received the Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her 36 years of service to BBBS. Throughout her career, Altraide helped shape programs, build partnerships and create opportunities that have positively impacted countless young people.

Her commitment to mentorship, innovation and community service helped develop and expand initiatives that continue to support local youth and families. The award recognizes her decades of dedication and lasting contributions to the organization, the community and local youth.

The Dream Big Gala, presented by Miron Construction, is BBBS's largest annual fundraiser and is held every October. This year's event raised more than $160,000, with the opportunity to unlock up to an additional $15,000 through a matching grant from the J. J. Keller Foundation.

Library starting Spirit of the Season craft series

Neenah News

Participants of all ages will have the opportunity to create their own snowman using clay as the Spirit of the Season craft series starts at the Neenah Public Library.

Participants can add their own personality with fun details and creative touches; a variety of materials will be provided.

The program will run from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 7. While activities are ideal for ages 5 and up, all ages are welcome. A parent, caregiver or responsible older child must be within sight and sound of children under 9. Individuals, families and friends are all welcome.

The Spirit of the Season runs at 10:30 a.m. each Saturday in November, including Nov. 14 Wreath Ornaments, Nov. 21 Gnome Craft and Nov. 28 Cards, Tags and Bags.

No registration is necessary.

Helping Hands art, craft fair to benefit students

Neenah News

The Helping Hands Art and Craft Fair will raise funds for families in the Neenah Joint School District.

The event will feature over 125 vendors of hand-crafted items. The event will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 7 at Neenah Middle School.

Funds from the event benefit families who find themselves in urgent need situation through the year.

Food will be available for purchase from GAIN (Girls Athletics In Neenah) and music will be provided by Touch of Class.

Strollers are allowed and encouraged. Admission is $2. Children 10 and under are free.

Sale to benefit needy animals in the community

Neenah News

The nonprofit pet pantry, Helping Paws Pet Pantry, is having a "Rummage to Rescue" sale.

The sale is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day Nov. 6 through Nov. 8. It will be at 1329 Baytree Lane in Neenah.

The sale is "all things pet," including pet apparel, collars, halters, harnesses, bowls and other pet-related items. All items are $3, with all proceeds to be used to purchase pet food for needy animals in the community.

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Wednesday, October 21 | 1 p.m.
Wednesday, October 28 | 1 p.m.
Evergreen Worship & Performing Arts Center
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NEENAH
Monday, October 5
10 a.m. OR 2 p.m.
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Unemployment assistance for residents impacted by tornado

Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available for eligible workers in Winnebago County impacted by the July 27 tornado.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) said the formal disaster declaration issued by President Trump on Oct. 7 provides Wisconsin with federal recovery resources such as the DUA program.

Gov. Tony Evers declared a state of emergency in Wisconsin on July 28 and requested a formal federal disaster declaration for the affected counties on Aug. 26.

The program provides temporary income support to workers unemployed as a direct result of the major disaster and who do not quality for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. The DUA period begins Aug. 2. Applications for the DUA program must be filed by Dec. 7.

All DUA applicants must first apply for regular UI benefits before being considered for DUA benefits. Individuals will not receive DUA benefits if they are eligible for regular UI benefits during this disaster. Monetary loss due to property damage or crop damage does not automatically entitle an individual to DUA benefits.

DUA benefits are based on earnings for the most recent tax year. As a result, applicants may be asked to provide their earnings from their most recent federal tax returns when filing a DUA claim. Applicants will also need to provide their Social Security number (SSN). The first potential week payable for DUA benefits is the week ending Aug. 8.

In addition to Winnebago County, assistance is available for workers in Forest, Outagamie and Vilas counties.

File as soon as possible by applying online at my.unemployment.wisconsin.gov. Applicants who need help using online services or are unable to go online should call the DUA Hotline at 608-318-7100 during business hours.

Area unemployment rate drops in September

The Oshkosh-Neenah metropolitan area (MSA) and Winnebago County saw their unemployment rate drop to 2.7% in September from 3.3% in August but up from 2.6% a year ago, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Workforce Development.

Preliminary September 2026 unemployment rates decreased in all 13 metropolitan areas over the month. Rates increased in all 13 metropolitan areas over the year.

Preliminary September 2026 unemployment rates decreased in all 35 of Wisconsin's largest cities over the month. Unemployment rates decreased in one city over the year: Sheboygan. Rates increased in 29 cities over the year and stayed the same in the remaining five cities.

Preliminary September 2026 unemployment rates decreased in all 72 counties over the month. Unemployment rates decreased in four counties over the year. Rates increased in 61 counties over the year and stayed the same in the remaining seven counties.

Estimates of unemployment and employment statistics are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Photo by Sally Bolen

Sign of hope

A rainbow appeared Oct. 16 in an area of Doty Island where tree damage is still visible from the tornado that impacted parts of the county this summer.



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Project proposed for highway improvements

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Northeast Region is providing details of proposed improvements along a stretch of highway in northern Winnebago County.

The improvements would take place along U.S. Highway 10 and Wisconsin Highway 441 from Cold Spring Road in the Village of Fox Crossing to South Telulah Avenue in the City of Appleton in Winnebago and Calumet counties.

A new website, designed to serve as a central hub for project information, is now available to the public at projects.hub.wisconsindot.gov/pages/15007800. It provides details on the proposed work, potential community impacts, schedule, traffic impacts and opportunities for comment.

This is a maintenance-level project. Proposed improvements include:

- Concrete pavement repair along US 10/Wis. 441 mainline and interchange ramps
- Replacement and/or adjustment of some deteriorated beam guard
- Replacements and/or cleanout of some deteriorated culverts
- Replacement of approach slab at US 10 eastbound over Little Lake Butte des Morts bridge
- Secondary structure improvements
- Upgrading of curb ramps to current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards
- Signal/electrical upgrades and pavement marking

Construction is currently scheduled in 2032 but could be advanced to 2031. Traffic impacts include:

- Both directions of US 10/WIS 441 will have single lane and multi-lane closures for a significant portion of the project. Two lanes of traffic in each direction will be maintained during peak hours.
- The I-41 northbound to US 10 eastbound ramp and the I-41 southbound to US 10 eastbound ramp will be closed for roughly 3 months.
- The US 10 eastbound on ramp from County AP/Midway Road will be closed for up to 2 weeks.
- Other interchange ramps along the corridor will have short-term closures (up to one week). These short-term ramp closures will be staged to minimize impacts, and ramps at adjacent interchanges won't be closed concurrently.

WisDOT asks the public to review the proposed improvement project's scope, schedule, and traffic impacts and provide comments by Dec. 1 on the proposed design. A comment form is on the website with a prepaid mailer to reply to the project team. Community members can also email the project team or call them directly with comments.

Neenah Council

from Page 1

ministrator because it's not an elected position. People elect the mayor."

The council voted 8-1 to have Ford make a presentation within the next three months to educate members about a city administrator position. From there, the council can decide if it wants to take any additional steps.

Voucher amount on tax bills: The council sent a directive to Director of Finance Vicky Rasmussen at its last meeting to check what it would take to add a line to the Neenah tax bills listing how much of the Neenah Area School District tax levy goes to private schools via vouchers.

Earlier this year, the school district asked the five municipalities where it draws students from to post that information on its tax bills to create more transparency. So far, none have taken steps to move forward on the request.

Rasmussen said space on the tax bills was tight. She was unsure if the extra line would fit or if it would require a special insert, which would increase costs, including extra postage.

Pollnow voiced opposition to adding the information to the tax bills, saying it could open a Pandora's box.

"If we add this, who knows what else we'll be asked to add to the tax bill next? I also worry about the extra cost with a possible insert and extra postage," he said.

The council voted against adding the voucher information to the Neenah property tax bills.

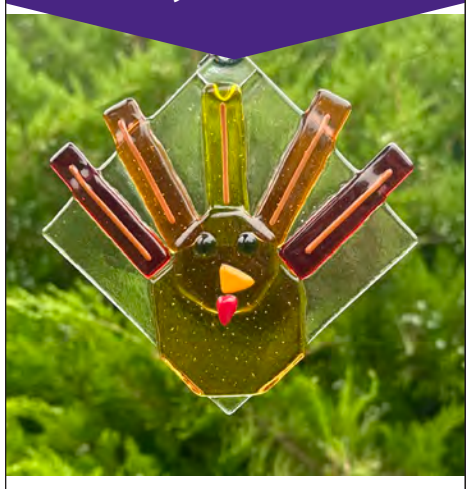
Public Works director hired: The Common Council approved the hiring of Christina Schroeder as the city's new Director of Public Works, replacing Gerry Kaiser, who retired earlier this year.

Mark Rohloff had been serving as interim director since Kaiser's retirement.

Schroeder comes to Neenah from the City of Fort Collins, Colorado. There, she worked for eight years including nearly four years as director of water reclamation and biosolids and prior to that, she worked as special projects manager in wastewater treatment.

Schroeder said her husband and his family are from Neenah.

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Touch of Class
Touch of Fox Valley's Premier String Ensemble will perform. Raffle and food provided by G.A.I.N.

Library calendar

Nov. 1
Sunday Concert: The Del Ray's 2 p.m.

Nov. 2
Stitching Group 1 p.m.
Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreation Areas - A Ranger's Guide 2 p.m.

Nov. 3
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.
Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.
Tween Create Lab (ages 9-14): Wall Art 3:45 p.m.
Powered by Yarn 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 4
Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.
Musical Movers Storytime (ages 2-6) 10 a.m.
Field Trip Storytime: American Animal Hospital 1:30 p.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up - Instruction and Open Play 5:30 p.m.

Nov. 5
Wee Read Storytime (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.
Parenting Workshop: Safe Internet Use 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 6
Fitness Friday: Full Body Strength 9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.
First Friday Concert: Christopher Gold 2 p.m.

Nov. 7
Spirit of the Season: Snowman Decoration 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 9
Stitching Group 1 p.m.
Monday Matinee: The Devil Wears Prada 2 1 p.m.

Nov. 10
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.
Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.
Tech Talk Tuesday: A Guide to Digital Security 1:30 p.m.
Legal Assistance Clinic 4:30 p.m.

Nov. 11
Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.
Musical Movers Storytime (ages 2-6) 10 a.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up -Instruction and Open Play 5:30 p.m.

Nov. 12
Wee Read Storytime (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.
Family Activity Night: Dinovember 6 p.m.
Creative Studio for Adults: Funky, Freely-Shaped Watercolor Mushrooms 6 p.m.

Nov. 14
Spirit of the Season: Wreath Ornaments 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 16
Stitching Group 1 p.m.
Memory Cafe: Life on the International Space Station 1:30 p.m.
Open Art Studio for Adults 3 p.m.
Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club 6:30 p.m.
Women's Health Empowerment Series: Pelvic and Bone Density Health 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 17
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.
Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.
Tween Create Lab (ages 9-14): Light-Up Diorama 3:45 p.m.
Cookbook Book Club: Thankful Foods! 6:30 p.m.
Movie Talks: Up 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 18
Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.
Musical Movers Storytime (ages 2-6) 10 a.m.
Library Board Meeting 4 p.m.
Mah Jongg Meet Up - Open Play Only 5:30 p.m.
Adult DIY Design Workshop 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 19
Wee Read Storytime (ages 2 and up) 10 a.m.
Open Chess 5:30 p.m.
Ukulele Open Jam 6 p.m.
History Program: Neenah Neighborhoods: The Talk of the Town 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 20
Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength 9:15 a.m.
Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 21
Volunteens (ages 12-18) Meeting 10:30 a.m.
Spirit of the Season: Gnomes 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 23
Monday Morning Book Klatch 10 a.m.
Stitching Group 1 p.m.
Suburban Homesteading: Build Your Own Terrarium! 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 24
Toddle Time Storytime (ages 12-24 months) 9:15 a.m.
Storytime for Everyone (all ages) 10 a.m.

Nov. 25
Baby Time Storytime (birth to 12 months) 9:15 a.m.
Musical Movers Storytime (ages 2-6) 10 a.m.

Nov. 26
Thanksgiving, Library Closed All Day

Nov. 28
Spirit of the Season: Cards, Tags and Bags 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 30
Stitching Group 1 p.m.

Program details state recreation resources

Neenah News

An Adult Afternoon Program at the Neenah Public Library will focus on Wisconsin state parks, forests and recreation areas.

The program about "Wisconsin State Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas – A Ranger's Guide" presented by James Buchholz, a retired Wisconsin Park Ranger and Supervisor, will be at 2 p.m. Monday.

Buchholz is a freelance author with a passion for the great outdoors. His new book "Wisconsin State Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas – A Ranger's Guide" is the culmination of his onsite exploration and photography of all 80 of Wisconsin's state parks, forests and recreation areas.

This guidebook describes the recreational opportunities found at each property including hiking, biking and nature trails, picnic areas, swimming beaches, campgrounds, interpretive sites, scenic overlooks, fishing and boating opportunities, and much more. Buchholz will provide a PowerPoint presentation that explores the content of this book.

This program will last approximately one hour and will take place in the Shattuck Community Room.

Libraries launch food drive combating hunger

Neenah News

The Neenah Public Library is seeking help in the fight to combat hunger by asking community members to bring food donations during the annual Libraries Against Hunger Fall Food Drive.

Food items can be dropped off at the library between Nov. 7 and Nov. 15 during regular library hours. The food collected will be given to local food pantries that provide support to area residents.

Items requested by the food pantries include boxed cereal, oatmeal and pasta; canned fruit, vegetables, soup, meat and tuna; peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce and other non-perishable foods.

Partnering with the Menasha Public Library, the Libraries Against Hunger Fall Food Drive has been filling the shelves of area food pantries for more than 25 years. Last year, the community helped the Neenah Public Library fill 17 boxes with non-perishable food items.

First Friday Concert features local musician

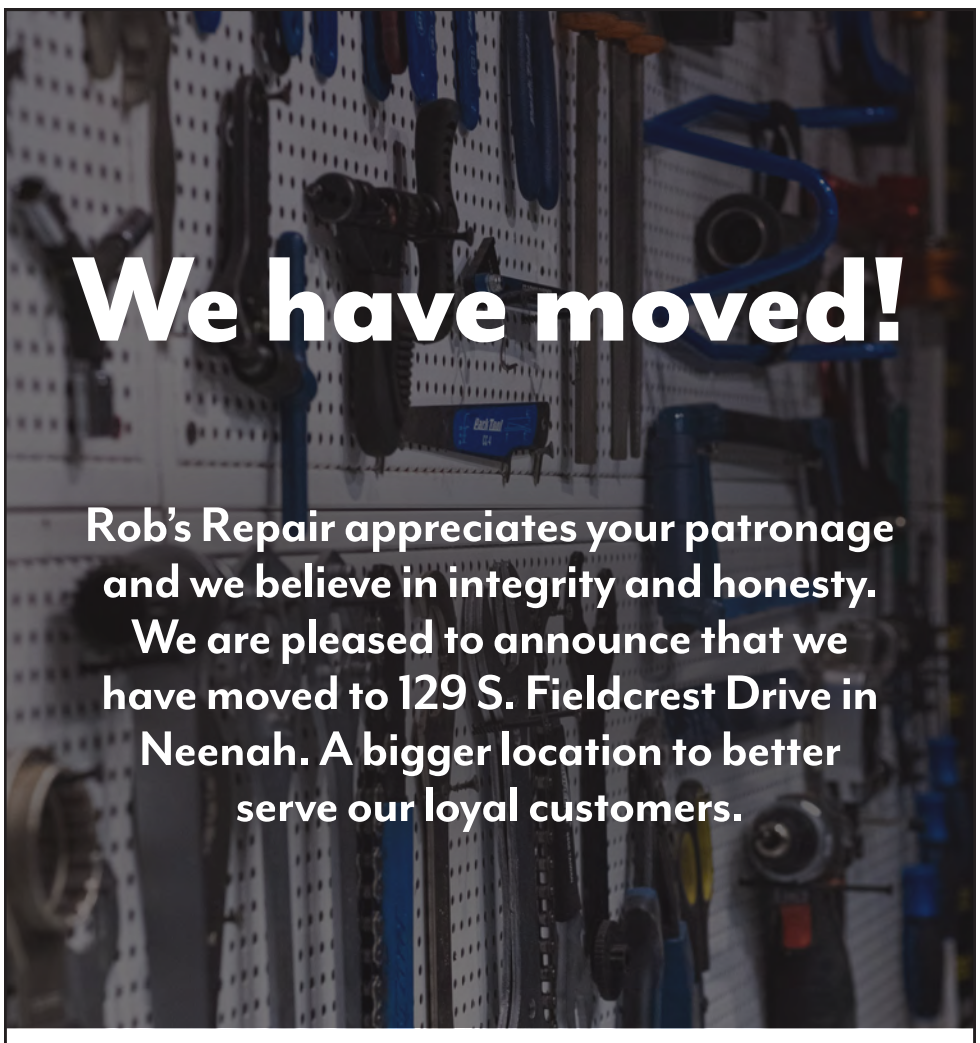
Neenah News

Local artist Christopher Gold is bringing his heartfelt songs and charming stage presence to the Neenah Public Library.

Gold will perform at 2 p.m. Nov. 6 as part of the First Friday Concert Series. This will be an intimate, hour-long concert experience perfect for fans of storytelling through song.

Gold is a Kentucky-born, Wisconsin-based songwriter whose performances fuse folk, country and rock and roll with storytelling and wit.

He's been praised for writing prolifically and for his warm, engaging solo shows that carry on the folk tradition of blending songcraft and humor.





Senior Standout is brought to you by: Nicolet National Bank

Maurer carries on lifelong love of water with Rockets

By Steve Clark
Neenah News

Breleigh Maurer grew up being in and around the water.

Spending time at her family's house by the lake led to her splashing around and getting comfortable off of dry land.

It kind of made sense that she ended up a swimmer.

Maurer has competed at the last two WIAA state meets and is looking to make it to a third in a couple weeks as one of the leaders on the Neenah High School squad this season.

"I've been around water my whole life so it all just kind of came together," Maurer said before a practice earlier this week. "The championship part of the season is always fun. I'm excited and I think the team is excited, too."

As a sophomore, Maurer swam on the Rockets' 200-yard medley and 200-yard freestyle relays that qualified for the state meet, while she led off Neenah's 400-yard freestyle relay that made it to Waukesha South last season.

This year, she not only hopes to make it three trips in a row but is hoping to add the feather of making it in an individual event to her cap.

"I think it would be a really cool way to end up my senior season, doing an individual event at state," Maurer said. "Also, I really hope we make it in a relay and I really think we can based on the hard work we've put in and the times we have been putting up during our meets."

Maurer is focused on the 100-yard butterfly has her individual event to move on to state as that has become her top event. She is planning to swim the 100-yard backstroke at the Fox Valley Association meet this weekend, but isn't sure which event she will swim at sectionals along with the butterfly.

Over the course of the season Maurer has swam just about every event there is in a meet – just don't ask her to try diving – and she likes the opportunity to try different races throughout the year to find what fits the best.

"I like it. It gives me a variety," Maurer said. "I like mixing it up with longer distances and shorter distances and seeing maybe where I can improve and what events might be fast."

That's one of the ways she ended up starting to specialize in the butterfly.

"During practices, I try to focus on all the strokes but the more you swim, the more you realize that this stroke, I'm doing really good at or maybe this stroke not so much," Maurer said. "You start to gravitate the one's you perform better at."



Neenah News

Neenah senior Breleigh Maurer has competed in the past two WIAA state meets and is hoping to make a third trip in a couple of weeks.

Maurer started swimming competitively at the age of 10 with the Fox Cities YMCA Swim Team and has since advanced to join the Fox Valley Wave club team, where she has earned trips to the national meet.

As much as he enjoys competing with her club teammates, donning the Neenah swim cap is something special and being part of the long tradition is something she values.

"It's truly an honor to be a part of it. It's crazy to look up and see the names on the leaderboard and all of our conference championships," Maurer said. "I just think of the people that came before me and really appreciate all they have done for our sport. And it's my duty as a senior to carry it forward to the freshman and sophomores and juniors now."

Being a leader for the Rockets is just as important as turning in fast times for Maurer, who serves as one of the team's captains.

She said the influence of the senior class – highlighted by Emma Bottensek and Naomi Cortina – showed her the importance of leadership and she has tried to make sure she carries that forward.

"Walking in as a freshman, it is scary with all of these upperclassmen but they were very welcoming and showed me the Neenah Rocket tradition and the Neenah way," Maurer said. "They taught me that if we want to make it to state and reach all of our goals, we have to work hard. So we work hard, but we also have great team bonding."

Maurer isn't decided on a future of competitive swimming. She said that she is thinking about attending St. Norbert College to continue in the sport, but also has the option of attending a larger school and hanging up her swimsuit and swim cap.

Either way, and whenever her competitive career ends, that doesn't mean she is simply going to walk away from swimming.

"It's been just a habit and it's going to be a habit that's hard to break. I can't just give it all away," Maurer said. "My life has so revolved around swimming, I don't think I can just go from like 100 to zero."

One of the avenues Maurer is interested in is coaching the sport and hopes to one day share her knowledge with young swimmers.

"The coaches that have impacted me, I

See **Senior Standout** on Page 12

Senior Standout
Nicolet National Bank





Rockets can't find rhythm in sectional loss to Terrors

By Steve Clark
Neenah News

The Neenah boys volleyball team couldn't close out a scrappy Appleton West squad in the fourth set and then never got rolling in the fifth as the Rockets bowed out of the WIAA Tournament in a 19-25, 25-18, 19-25, 25-23, 15-11 loss in a sectional semifinal on Tuesday night.

"We just never came out with the urgency we needed. I think we walked in and thought we were just going to step on the court and win and that's not the mentality that we've had," Neenah head coach Jake Coenen said. "Credit to West. They were amazing tonight and were ready to play."

The Rockets never led in the decisive set, with the last tie coming at 6-6 when Sam Keepers put away a left-handed tip at the net. The Terrors than rattled off seven of the next eight points to take control of the match.

Another Keepers kill stemmed the tide and brought the Rockets to within four points before Neenah answered a Terrors' side out with three straight points. Trevor Ricketts' kill started the run which was capped by a Levi Steckling ace that cut Appleton West's lead to 13-11.

The Terrors then sided out to get to match point before a Neenah error sealed the win for Appleton West.

"We just made too many mistakes," Coenen said. "They are scrappy and we knew they were going to be at every ball."

Neenah closed out the first set with a 7-1 run that broke an 18-18 tie to take the lead. Colton Kreger had a pair of aces in that stretch and Logan McNamara served an ace for the final point.

Ricketts, who was a force in the middle the entire match for the Rockets, also picked up a pair of kills to help Neenah take the lead in the match.

"Trevor was tremendous," Coenen said. "He kept us alive with some blocks, touches and big-time kills when we needed them. I'm super proud of him. When it mattered most, he played his best."

It was the Terrors who finished strong in the second set, taking advantage of a handful of Neenah hitting errors to score seven of the final nine points to even the match but Neenah bounced right back in the third set to pull back in front.

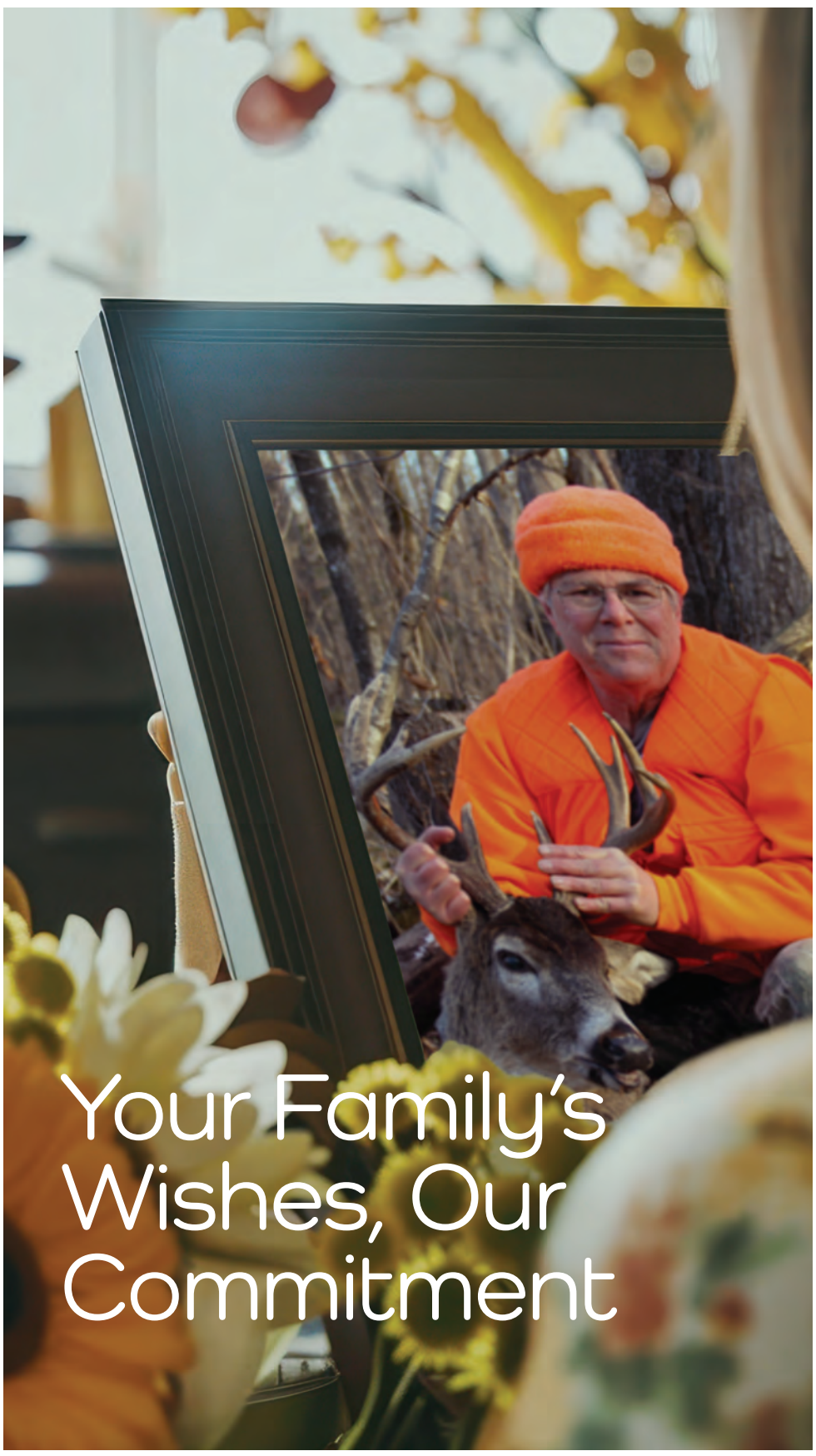
Kreger again got hot at the service line as Neenah put together a run of seven straight points to break a 17-17 tie. Cam Diekfuss had two blocks and two kills during that stretch, while – after the Terrors scored two points to extend the set – Keepers finished things off with a kill.

The Rockets then had a chance to end the match in the fourth set, rallying from a 23-19 deficit to get within a point twice in the closing stages, but the Terrors were able to hold on for the win to force the fifth set.

Neenah was attempting to reach the WIAA State Tournament for the first time since 2001 and for just the third time in program history.

The Rockets, which beat Appleton West in three sets early in the season, did claim the school's first Fox Valley Association title and had one of the most successful seasons in program history.

"This season is one for the record books," Coenen said. "This senior group led the way all year. They knew it was their time and they wanted to go out and shine. It was tremendous. This might be the best team ever at Neenah."



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Neenah girls take aim at third straight state title

By Steve Clark
Neenah News

In 1983, the Neenah girls cross country team was wrapping up its third straight WIAA Class A state title, holding off Stevens Point for the third straight year.

This Saturday, history could repeat itself.



Zilm



Malloy

The two-time Division 1 defending state champion Rockets will be looking to make it three in a row – becoming the first Wisconsin program to have two separate three-peats – when they take to the course at The Rodges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids for the WIAA State Track and Field championships.

"Definitely there is some nervousness, some anxiety, but it's the state meet so that always happens," said junior Izzy Malloy. "I'm confident our team will do well. We have performed under pressure in the past and I just think our team is a bunch of great kids on it who care not just for the win, but getting the win for the team."

Malloy will be one of four runners who competed on the state team last year along with Sam Zilm, Elsa Weiland and Maddie Schoonover. Schoonover and Malloy were also on the 2024 state championship team.



Submitted photo

The Neenah High School girls cross country team claimed the title at the Manitowoc Lincoln sectional meet on Saturday and will run for the program's third straight Division 1 state title on Saturday in Wisconsin Rapids. The sectional championship squad consisted of: (from left) Elsa Weiland, Lizzy LaPlant, Maddie Schoonover, Izzy Malloy, Olivia Landrath, Sam Zilm and Elise Braaten.

Zilm is the top returning finisher from last year's squad. Having placed fourth as a freshman last year.

"I definitely feel more comfortable. A lot of the races we have done are the same so going into races and know the routine and everything," said Zilm, the back-to-back individual Fox Valley Association champion. "Both last year and this I felt I was prepared going (into the state meet). I'm excited to see what I can do this year."

The top four teams from last year will also be in this year's field chasing the Rockets, while last year's Division 2 champion Mount Horeb also joins the Division 1 field.

Yet, Neenah head coach Mike Heidke is less concerned about the makeup of the state field as he is about just making sure his squad runs to their capabilities on Saturday.

"We might talk about what other teams could do, but the main focus is on what we need to do and run our race," Heidke said. "Whatever happens, happens. You can only control yourself but I think they are excited to get to this point of the season."

One of the areas where Neenah's experience may play a key role will come at the start of the race.

The Rockets once again drew the far inside starting box for the race which means they will have to get out fast to avoid being boxed in when the field makes a hard-right-hand turn shortly after the start.

"We've been there the last three years so that makes us have a certain strategy so they are experienced with that," Heidke said. "I think it will play a big part in the race just knowing what to expect at the start on Saturday."

Neither Zilm or Malloy were too concerned about the starting box, but both know they have to be aware of what's around them during the start of the race.

"I don't think it will impact our overall races too much, but it will impact the start," Zilm said. "We will have to make sure we don't get closed in and don't have that space for the corner."

In addition to having more than half of the team with state-meet experience, the Rockets' schedule also has helped prepare them for Saturday.

Neenah won large-scale meets with top competition at Wheaton (Ill.) and Janesville already this season and bring that experience with them to Wisconsin Rapids as well.

"Running against good competition definitely gets you ready whereas if you run in smaller meets all year, it is harder to adjust," Malloy said. "At the state meet, it gets out super-fast every year and running in those big meets gets you ready for that."

Neenah qualified for the state meet by winning the Manitowoc Lincoln sectional last Saturday, totaling just 48 points in the meet to finish comfortably ahead of both Slinger and Kimberly.

Zilm and Malloy led the way by finishing in second and fourth place, respectively. Weiland was just outside of the top 10 in 11th place.

The next three Rocket runners – Lizzy LaPlant, Schoonover and Olivia Landrath – finished within three seconds of each other in 16th, 17th and 18th place, respectively, while Elise Braaten rounded out the state-qualifying team in 24th place.

The Rockets are hoping they have another strong run in them.

"There's definitely a bit of pressure based on the past two years for performance but I feel like our training from Coach Heidke and the other coaches have really made us feel prepared for this year in again," Zilm said. "We talk a lot about making sure we're locked in every practice knowing that this isn't a given thing and we have to work for it."

Added Malloy: "We just need to keep our heads in it and not let the pressure get to us. There are some good teams there, there is no doubt about it. But I think racing the best we can and getting every spot that we can is going to do it."

The girls squad won't be the only runners representing Neenah at the state meet.

Sophomore Elliott Drake qualified as an individual for the boys race and will be making his second appearance at the state meet.

Drake was a member of the Neenah boys team that qualified last year and finished 10th overall. As a freshman, Drake finished 88th at the state meet last year.

Drake earned his spot in the state field by placing fifth at the sectional meet in Manitowoc last weekend. He finished in a bit of a logjam behind the top two runners and was less than four seconds out of taking third place.

Neenah finished fifth overall in the team standings, ending a run of five straight trips to the state meet.

Behind Drake, Connor Schott finished 25th, Drew Sabatke was 29th, Isaac Rangel finished 35th and Dylan Olson was 43rd. Sabatke was the only senior in the lineup on Saturday for the Rockets.

St. Mary Catholic will send duo to state meet

The Zephyrs will be represented in both the Division 3 girls and boys races at the state meet on Saturday, marking the program's return to Wisconsin Rapids.

St. Mary Catholic had been represented at the state meet every year from 2015-24,

See **Cross country** on Page 14

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Senior Standout

from Page 10

want to give back to the younger generations," Maurer said. "I could see that in the future."

Maurer would have plenty of fond memories to look back on if she does delve into the coaching side of things and she also values the lessons that being a part of the Neenah program has taught her.

"It definitely taught me hard work and determination. If I want to reach my goals and get somewhere, I have to put the work in," Maurer said. "As soon as I got in the water, I knew this is where I wanted to be. I met a lot of good friends and met a lot of good people and made connections with coaches. It will definitely be tough when I finally have to leave (the Neenah program)."

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Rockets grab second straight runner-up finish at team state

Neenah News

The Neenah High School girls tennis team brought home the silver trophy for the second straight season after taking second at the WIAA Division 1 Team State Tournament in Madison last weekend.

After easily winning its first two matches over Elkhorn and Middleton, the Rockets fell 6-1 to defending state champion Brookfield East.

It was the third time in the last six seasons that Neenah has advanced to the final at the team state tournament. The Rockets, who have made 23 trips to the state meet, won the title in 2021 before finishing second the last two years. Neenah has won at least one match at the state meet in 16 of its 23 state trips.

The Rockets also won the state title in 2015.

Neenah's No. 1 doubles team of Rebekah Thomas and Sydney Michalkiewicz capped off a 3-0 weekend by posting the Rockets' lone win against Brookfield East. The duo beat the pairing of Zoja Selak and Sienna Bonfilio, 6-0, 6-0.

Thomas and Michalkiewicz also tallied the lone win against Brookfield East in last year's state title match.

Neenah advanced to the title match with a 5-2 win over Middleton in the semifinals, a victory keyed by a sweep of the three doubles matches.

Rebekah Thomas and Michalkiewicz dropped only one game in earning their win at No. 1 singles, while Ella Motto and Evelyn Buss posted a 6-3, 6-1 win at the No. 2 flight. At No. 3 doubles, JB Kennedy and Mollie Van Dyke overcame a first-set loss to earn a 3-6, 7-5, 11-9 win.

Celia Gentile at No. 1 singles and Rachel Thomas at No. 2 singles also earned wins for the Rockets, with Gentile earning a 6-0, 6-0 win in her match.

Neenah also swept the doubles matches in the win over Elkhorn, posting 6-0, 6-0 wins at both the No. 1 and No. 2 flights. Kennedy and Van Dyke added a 6-1, 6-3 at No. 3 doubles.

Gentile rallied from being down a set to win at No. 1 singles, 2-6, 6-4, 10-3, while Page Vickman collected a straight-set win at the No. 4 flight.

The Rockets end the season 31-2 in dual meets with both losses coming to Brookfield East.

Division 2

The short-handed St. Mary Catholic squad couldn't get past Edgewood, suffering a 5-2 loss in a WIAA Division 2 state semifinal last Saturday.

The Zephyrs were playing without No. 1 singles player Vivie Auth, who missed the last two weeks because of injury.

Instead of defaulting at the No. 1 singles match, the Zephyrs moved their regular singles players up a flight and inserted Molly Nagel into the varsity lineup at the No. 4 singles flight. Nagel lost in a close three-set match.

Norah Wroblewski, playing at No. 3 singles, earned the Zephyrs' lone singles win on the day, collecting a 6-4, 6-4 win over Ashley Davie.

St. Mary Catholic's other victory came at No. 2 doubles from the pairing of Kieran Bergstrom and Scarlett Bergstrom, who beat Clara Herlitzk and Elin Kelly 6-2, 7-5.

Both the No. 1 doubles team of Elle Chier and Halle Janssen and the No. 3 duo of Faith Bergstrom and Laney Schmidt lost in three sets during the match.

This was the second straight trip to the team state tournament for the Zephyrs, who will lose only three seniors from its lineup.

Cross country

from Page 12

but fell short of sending anyone last season. Freshman Myla DeLeeuw qualified for the girls and sophomore Fritz Staner advanced for the boys from last weekend's sectional meet at Pardeeville.

"It's exciting to be back at the state meet," commented head coach Chad McCartney. "Having Myla and Fritz return next year with state meet experience gives them a great opportunity to be the leaders who help get the entire team to state in the future."

DeLeeuw has overcome an injury that sidelined her for much of the season and earned her trip with an 11th place finish at the sectional meet.

He grabbed the final individual qualifying spot for the state meet with her finish, while teammates Claire Huggins (20th place) and Natalie Lee (24th place) weren't far off her pace.

McCartney said he was confident that one of those three were going to advance to the state meet heading into sectionals, it just came down to which one had the best day.

"We weren't surprised we had a girl qualify for state. Going into sectionals, we weren't sure which girl it would be," McCartney commented about the trio, who all led the team in difference races this season. "They were a great trio to push each other at practice. Myla ran a smart and aggressive race and earned her spot."

Claire Mislinski in 66th place and Mary Auer in 87th place rounded out the scoring runners for the Zephyrs, who finished seventh among the 13 compete teams in the field.

Staner earned his state trip with a sixth-place finish in the boys race and will cap his season with his first trip to Wisconsin Rapids.

Staner has been the Zephyrs No. 1 runner all season and that consistency over the course of the season put him in the position to make it to state.

"Consistent is a great way to describe Fritz. He is consistent in practice and it shows up in meets," commented McCartney. "As a sophomore, Fritz still has room to improve and get stronger, so it will be exciting to see where he can get to by his senior year."

McCartney added that running against Brady DeLeeuw in practice helped push Staner into the position to earn a state trip. Brady DeLeeuw was the Zephyrs second finisher at sectionals, placing 15th overall as St. Mary Catholic finished 13th in the team standings.

Rounding out the scoring runners for the Zephyrs were Brandon DeBraal in 77th place, Leo Gruber in 95th place and Anderson Homburg in 118th place.

Neenah relishes underdog role in showdown with Bay Port

By Steve Clark
Neenah News

There would not be a first-round upset this season.

After falling to De Pere in a Level 1 playoff game at home last season, Neenah took care of business last Friday night in a rematch with Redbirds, posting a 36-21 win at Rocket Stadium.


Fox

"It felt very good, especially with it being a revenge game," said junior Owen Fox, who had an interception in game for the Rockets. "We all saw that when the playoff (brackets) were released and this was the game we wanted. We had a bad taste in our mouth from last year and we wanted to fix that."

The Rockets will now play at top-seeded Bay Port in a Level 2 playoff game on Friday night. The Pirates advanced out of Level 1 with a 32-7 win over Wausau West last week.

Neenah will be playing in the second round of the playoffs for the 10th time in the last 11 seasons – not including the COVID-affected season in 2022 – and advanced with a convincing win over the Redbirds.

Ashton Van Beek ran for 213 yards and four touchdowns against the Redbirds, while also throwing a 26-yard touchdown pass to Elliot Devlin.

Neenah racked up nearly 400 yards of total offense in the win with Cooper Sieck - who missed the regular-season finale because of injury – adding 54 yards on the ground.

Logan Price led the Neenah tacklers with six, while holding De Pere to less than 300 yards of total offense.

The showdown with Bay Port is also a bit of a rematch for the Rockets.

The two teams met in a preseason scrimmage in Neenah and so the Rockets will have a good idea of what's awaiting them on Friday night.

"We know they are a very good team and they took it to us on our own field during our scrimmage. Now we get to go to their field," Fox said. "We know their physicality level and we know that we have to at least match it and outdo it. We have to outwork them."


Mueller

The Pirates have been a dominant team all season, compiling a 9-1 record with their only loss coming in a 33-27 defeat to undefeated West De Pere. All nine of their wins have been by double figures and have allowed more than seven points just once – to the Phantoms – in their last eight games.

The Pirates have four players with at least 300 yards rushing on the season – led by Jackson Smith's 766 yards and 11 touchdowns – while also featuring two quarterbacks who have combined for more than 2,400 yards and 27 touchdowns.

It's an explosive offense that is capable of cranking out points quickly, which is something the Rockets will be wary of.

"We can't let them jump out on us," Neenah head coach Steve Jung said. "We've got to execute and we have to control the ball."

An offense like the Pirates will tax any defense and the Rockets have allowed points to some very good offenses this season.

"We just have to match their physicality. We see it all of the time when we go up against our offense," Fox said. "We have a great gameplan and we all trust it. We know that if we all stick to it, we will come out with a victory."

One way the Rockets can slow down the Pirates is to keep the potent offense on the sideline.

Controlling the ball with the running game will likely be the focal point of the Rockets' game plan. With Van Beek shouldering the load behind a strong offensive line, Neenah will look to put together some long drives to shorten the game.

"We definitely need to run it down their throat and be very physical up front every single play. Just win play by play and get it done," said junior offensive lineman Max Mueller. "They are very physical up front. They run twists, stunts, everything and we will have to be ready for it."

The Rockets may have one intangible on its side entering the game in the fact that they have played in a number of four-quarter games this season while the Pirates have mostly been in lopsided wins.

Neenah needed late scoring drives to beat Fond du Lac and Kimberly late in the year and went to overtime against Green Bay Notre Dame in the season opener.

"That experience helps us a lot," Jung said. "We tell our kids at practice to come ready to work. They know we expect four quarters out of them and they believe in what we are doing so they finish well."

The winner of Friday's game advances to the state quarterfinals and will face either Waunakee or Appleton North in the state quarterfinals and by record and by the postseason bracket, Bay Port is the team expected to be moving on after Friday.

But that's not something that bothers the Rockets.

"I love going on the road and being the underdog," Mueller said. "Their student section is going to be loud and we know that. It's going to be an amazing atmosphere."

WIAA Playoffs

Division 1

Level 2 games

Neenah (7-3) at Bay Port (9-1)
Appleton North (6-4) at Waunakee (9-1)
Marquette (7-3) at Hamilton (10-0)
Oconomowoc (7-3) at Arrowhed (9-1)
Mil. Reagan (7-3) at West De Pere (10-0)
Hudson (9-1) at Verona (9-1)
Franklin (6-4) at Muskego (9-1)
Indian Trail (8-2) at Racine Case (9-1)

Fall Creek knocks off St. Mary Catholic

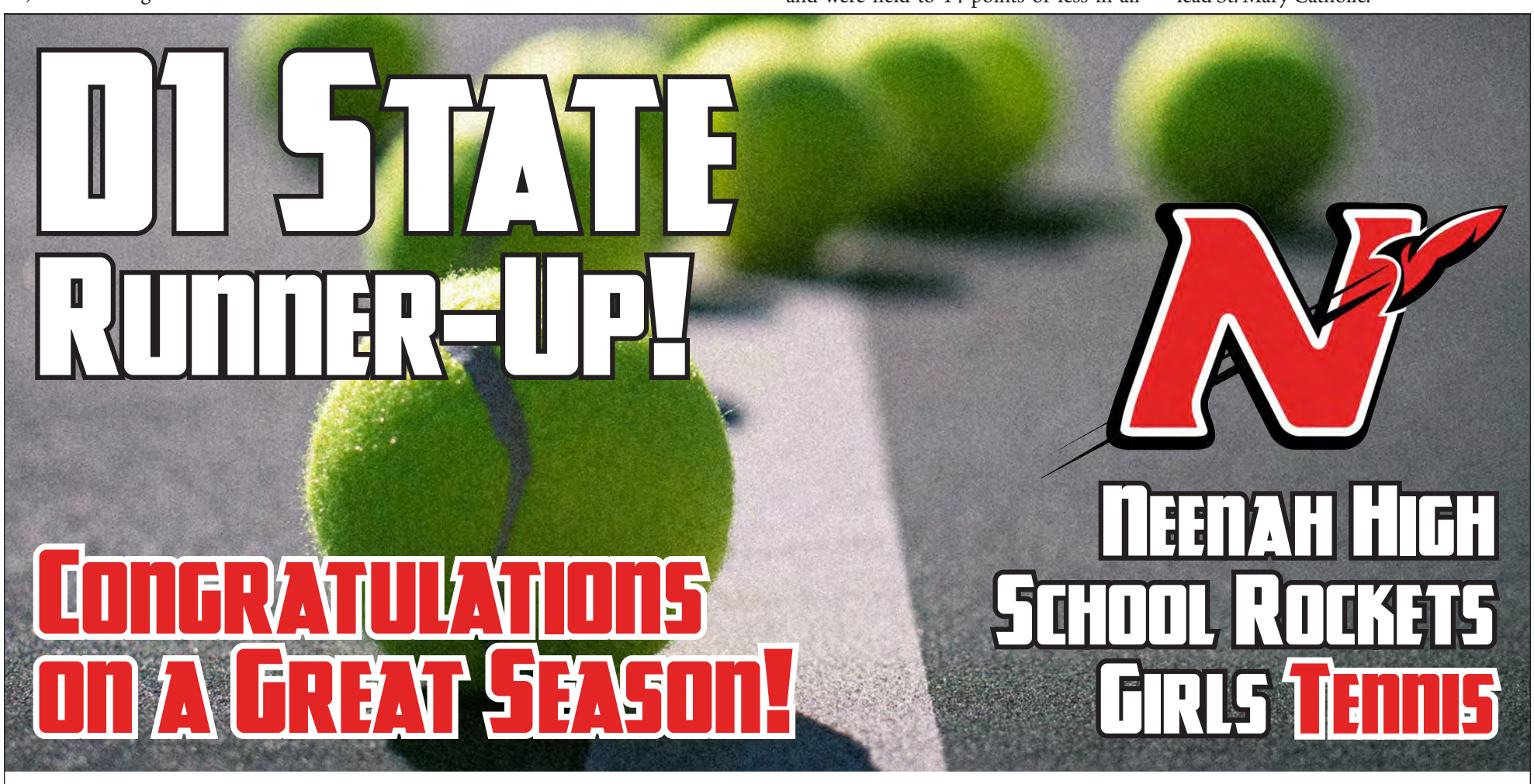
Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic was held to just 126 yards of total offense and limited to just seven points in a 34-7 loss to Fall Creek in a WIAA Division 6 Level 1 playoff game last Friday.

The Zephyrs finished 7-3 on the season and were held to 14 points or less in all three losses.

Tarver Trinkner rushed for 87 yards on 12 carries and also threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Luke Fairweather for the Zephyrs' only points.

Alex Klinkhammer, Dominic Osgood and Max Voters each had eight tackles to lead St. Mary Catholic.



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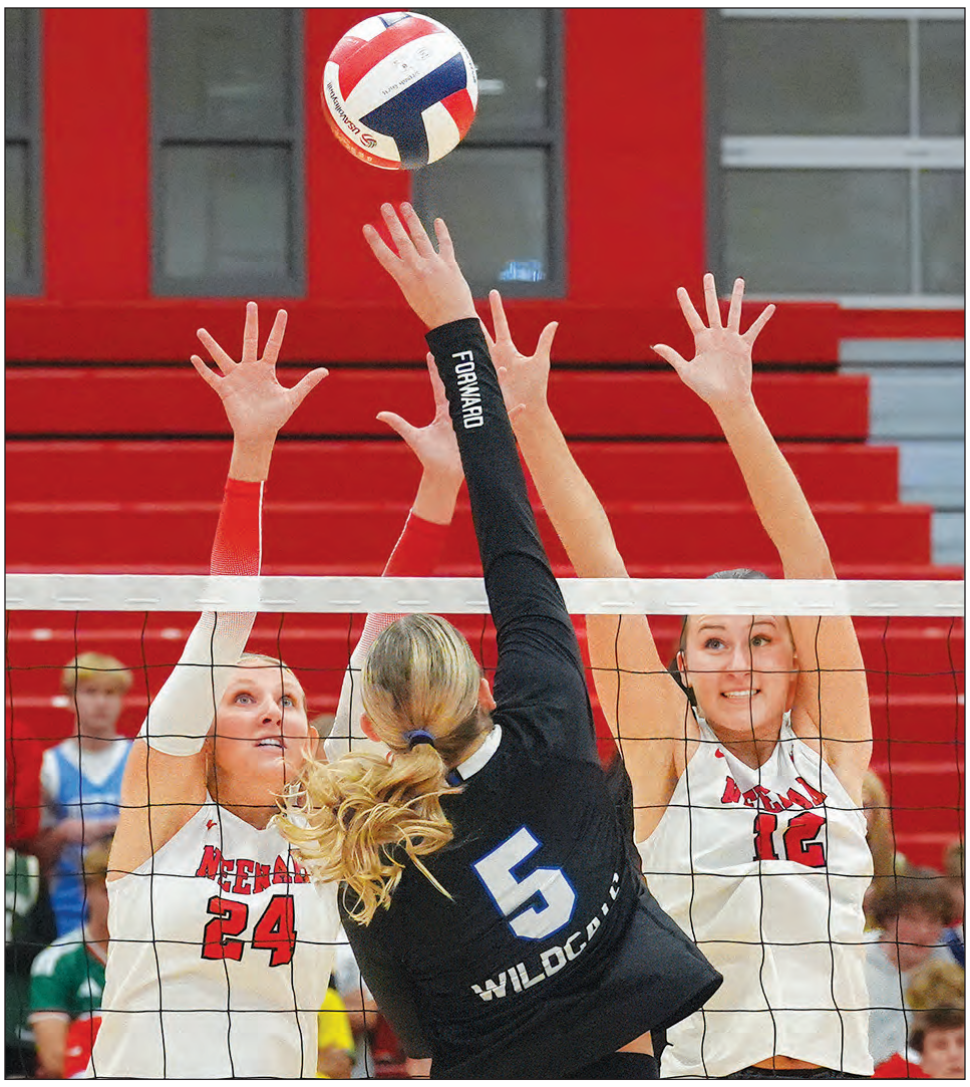


Photo by Jim Koepnick

Neenah's Elaina Kramer (24) and Paige Hoelzel (12) go up for a block against Oshkosh West in last Saturday's WIAA Division 1 regional final.

Rockets tame Wildcats in regional final

By Steve Clark
Neenah News

The Neenah girls volleyball team celebrated like it had just won a WIAA Division 1 regional title.

Two points later, the Rockets got to celebrate again.

After officials ruled Neenah got a touch on an Oshkosh West spike that sailed out of bounds that evened the third set score at 25, the Rockets rebounded to score the next two points to complete a 25-22, 25-12, 27-25 sweep of the Wildcats last Saturday afternoon.

"It was great to see them not lose their composure and trusted each other and they got it done," Neenah head coach Nate Leitermann said. "The girls centered right back in and got after it. They were determined to finish it in three."

With the win, the Rockets advanced to a sectional semifinal against Appleton East, which knocked off No. 2 seed Fond du Lac on Saturday. The match was slated to be played Thursday night and results were not available by deadline.

The winner of the sectional final match advanced to Saturday's sectional final with the site, time and opponent to be determined.

Neenah had also swept the regular-season match against the Wildcats and didn't want to give West any momentum by extending the match to a fourth set. The Rockets trailed almost the entire third set until taking a 24-23 lead on a kill from Leah Oldenburg and then went up 25-24 on a spike from Cara Bosovic.

After West tied the score at 25, the Wildcats had a hitting error to get Neenah to match point and Paige Hoelzel secured the win with a smothering block at the net.

"That felt really good. I was wanting one the whole game and I finally got it," Hoelzel said. "(Winning in three sets) was really important because if we did lose that, it would have given them the momentum and brought us down. But we were able to finish it out."

The Wildcats led by as many as five points in the third set after erasing the Rockets 4-2 lead early in the set. A kill from Bosovic and another from Oldenburg started a five-point run for Neenah that tied the match at 17.

Oldenburg finished with six kills and Bosovic added five as the duo were part of a balanced Neenah attack that had six players with at least five kills.

"Those two were huge and it's fun to see kids not shy away from the moment," Leitermann said. "We have preached all year that we are a versatile team and anyone at any moment can step in and get a big kill or a big dig."

Lilly Romjue spearheaded the Rocket offense with 17 kills with Elaina Kramer adding eight. Brielle Brown and Hoelzel chipped in six and five kills respectively.

The Rockets also finished with a .314 hitting percentage and had just 15 hitting errors in the match as their balanced attack proved to be too much for the Wildcats.

"I love setting all of my hitters. They do a great job and I know they are going to put the ball away," said Finley Kelley, who led the team with 23 assists, while Sena Messner had 20. "Our team is so deep and we have so many good players in every spot so I know we're going to get a kill."

Romjue registered seven of her kills in the first set, including notching the final point with a spike to give Neenah a 1-0 set lead and Neenah rolled that momentum into the second set flying out to a 13-5 lead.

The Wildcats narrowed the gap to four points before an Oldenburg kill halted the West run and the Rockets would finish off the set with six straight points on Hoelzel's serve.

That put Neenah in position to win its first regional title in a non-COVID affected tournament since 2018 – even with the false ending.

"It was challenging, but we know how to push through. It was just motivation for us," Kelley said. "We all push through (adversity) and we all play together. We like to finish strong and we did it in that match."

Hoelzel and Kelley each had two aces in the match to lead the team, while Bosovic paced the team with three total blocks.

Aubrey Lindgren had 17 digs and Romjue had eight digs.

Zephyrs claim regional title with five-set victory

Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic knocked off top-seeded Brillion on its home court, 25-27, 25-21, 25-20, 21-25, 15-10, to claim a WIAA Division 3 regional title on Saturday afternoon.

The fourth-seeded Zephyrs advanced to play third-seeded Wrightstown in a sectional semifinal on Thursday in Wrightstown. Results of the match were not available by our deadline.

Autumn Crowe led St. Mary Catholic with 15 kills and added 11 digs, while Adele Brennan added 10 kills and 14 assists in the match.

Rayna Brelage and Piper Neubauer each chipped in five kills. Brelage also led the way with nine total blocks in the win.

Bitsy McCauley totaled 16 digs to lead the Zephyrs, with Emily Weiss finished with a team-high 20 assists and 10 digs.

Crowe led the team with four aces in the match.

St. Mary Catholic advanced to the regional final with another five-set victory, rallying from a 2-0 deficit to edge visiting Sturgeon Bay 22-25, 24-26, 25-21, 25-23, 15-12.

Brennan and Weiss finished with 23 and 19 assists, respectively, while Crowe totaled 10 kills and Luci Nackers and Brelage each finished with nine. Ellie Davel chipped in six kills in the win.

Crowe also added 12 digs in the win, while McCauley finished with 10.

Brelage led the team with three blocks. while Nackers and McCauley each finished with two aces.

Obituaries

Terry L. Krejcarek

Terry L. Krejcarek, died on October 25th, 2026, six days short of his 74th birthday.



Terry was born on October 31st, 1952, into a big family in Marinette County, Wisconsin and spent most of his childhood years in Milwaukee. He enlisted in the Army at seventeen and served in Vietnam, a fact that he didn't speak much about until later in life. Once he was comfortable speaking about it though, his service was best expressed through his extensive Veterans hat collection. After his service, he worked for the phone company for twenty years, and then started Live Wire Communications, his company that successfully put two daughters through college and even bought a boat, truck & tractor in retirement.

Terry was a jokester, a storyteller, a prankster, and the life of the party. He loved telling a story, the funnier the better. He'd get a twinkle in his eye, especially if he felt like he was getting away with something outrageous. He wasn't good at understanding his own emotions, but he had an innate understanding of people, best evidenced by his ability to rib the hell out of anyone. He was quick-witted and quick to laugh- no one loved fun as much as Terry.

He was a woodworker, a hunter, and an amateur plumber, electrician, and handyman. He would always had to tell you three times that it couldn't be done before he would miraculously figure it out; there wasn't any project he couldn't do with the aid of YouTube and his own natural talents.

Terry loved his Wisconsin sports and maybe more surprisingly, babies. He was never happier than when feeding kids ice cream behind their mother's back. In fact, Terry never met a rule he didn't want to break. He was a terrible boat driver and a good friend. He was generous to a fault, to the point things he would often give away things others were still using or didn't belong to him. He made 256 cheeseboards that can be found all across the Fox Valley and even further afield.

Dad made a really, really good life for himself, and felt his life's biggest accomplishment was his two daughters. He was always so proud of us, even if he did occasionally pit us against one another. He is survived by his wife, Debbie, his daughters, Nicky (Ryan Taycher) and Jesse, and his siblings Wayne (Trudy) Krejcarek, Linda (Don) Schrader, Ricky Krejcarek, Scott (Jean) Krejcarek, Brian (Kim) Krejcarek, Lori King, LuAnn (Sam) Dornacker and an innumerable amount of in-laws, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Although by the end he couldn't say it, we all know that he felt he had to depart before the Brewers had a chance to break his heart again like in 1982, but he'll be watching the rest of the Series from the best seats in the house- next to Uecker.

A Celebration of Life was held yesterday. Memorial donations my be made to Missions of Honor at missionsofhonor.org. Condolences: westgorfuneralhomes.com.

Westgor Funeral Homes

Thomas A. Bilstad Sr.

July 31, 1944 - October 1, 2026



Tom passed away unexpectedly at his home in Neenah WI on October 1, 2026.

A full obituary can be found at the Nitardy Funeral home link here: https://www.altogetherfuneral.com/obituaries/nitardy-funeral-homes/cambridge-wisconsin/thomas-bilstad-sr/october-2026

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Obituaries

Stephanie Donhauser

January 8, 1962 - October 16, 2026



When Stephanie L. Donhauser died on October 16, 2026, we lost a beloved sister, wife, cousin, friend, and neighbor. Stephanie had recently found a loving retirement community at The Sonnet in Madison after bravely completing six weeks of rehab. She had significant medical challenges, so it is a relief she is no longer suffering.

We miss her terribly and our hearts are aching, but know that her fun-loving, generous, and caring spirit will live on in those of us who knew her.

Born in Madison, WI on January 8, 1962, to Paul and Lois (Killips) Donhauser, Stephanie grew up in Oshkosh, WI and graduated from Neenah High School in 1979.

A bright kid, Steph learned to read at an extremely young age and in fact skipped third grade. Always having a love for words, she was a voracious reader and loved any word game or puzzle.

With backstroke as her strongest event, she excelled on the swim team in high school and went on to earn a scholarship to UW Stevens Point and UW Madison.

Stephanie fell in love with the free spirit and liberal community in Madison and never left the town. She loved her first job at Wisconsin Action Coalition and met many lifelong friends there. She was a fierce advocate for human rights and canvassed door to door for causes she believed in. But knowing that she needed more income with benefits, she applied for and was hired by the Madison Fire Dept in 1991 as a firefighter. She later competed for and was accepted to the next paramedic class. She was known as one of the best cooks in the fire department and her coworkers clamored for her recipes. At her retirement party she actually gave out a bound recipe book, which of course, now is a collector's item. Stephanie excelled at being a paramedic, and forged lifelong relationships with partners she worked with on the ambulance over the years.

Are you noticing a trend here? Stephanie simply collected lifelong friends.

After retiring in 2015, Steph enjoyed the lack of a schedule, which is when she was the happiest. She loved gardening, kayaking, birding, camping, talking smart at the local tavern, the Green Bay Packers, and dancing to disco music. She loved her cats, other people's dogs, and once saved a baby possum that had fallen off its mother's back crossing her yard. No creature was too small for her love.

All who met Stephanie quickly learned she was not someone who suffered fools gladly. She was also never one to turn her back on someone who needed a hand, shoulder to cry on, or an ear to bend. She was a fierce and loyal friend. She spent many good years with her wife, Laura Clees.

Stephanie is survived by her wife Laura Clees, sister Jennifer (Eric) Anderson, numerous cousins, and her cat Stella. And of course, all of those lifelong friends.

A sincere debt of gratitude goes to Megan Williamson and Marge Anderson, who as devoted friends helped Stephanie navigate her health and life challenges the last few years. They were invaluable. And Stephanie really bonded with and enjoyed special caregivers Brandy and Veronica.

A celebration of life will be on Sunday, Nov. 15th from 3:30-6:30pm at Garver Feed Mill in the Canvas Gallery, 3241 Garver Green, Madison, WI 53704.

In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to the Dane County Humane Society in Stephanie's memory. She would like that.

Please share your memories at www.cressfuneralservice.com Cress Funeral & Cremation Service 3325 E. Washington Ave. Madison, WI 53704 (608) 249-6666.

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Public Notice

Notice of General Election and Sample Ballot
November 3, 2026

To the voters of the City of Neenah:

Notice is hereby given of a general election to be held in the City of Neenah on November 3, 2026, at which the nominees for the offices named below shall be chosen. The names of the candidates for each office, whose nominations have been certified to or filed in this office, are given under the title of the office under the appropriate party, each in its proper column, together with the questions submitted to a vote, if any, in the sample ballot below.

Information to voters

Upon entering the polling place and before being permitted to vote, a voter shall:

- State their name and address
- Show an acceptable form of photo identification*
- Sign the poll book**

*If a voter does not have acceptable photo identification, the voter may obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

**If the voter is unable to sign the poll book due to disability, a poll worker may write the word “exempt.”

If a voter is not registered to vote, they may register to vote at the polling place serving their residence if the voter provides acceptable proof of residence.

Where ballots are distributed to voters, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot.
Upon being permitted to vote, the voter shall enter a voting booth or go to a machine and cast their ballot. The vote should not be cast in any manner other than specified here. Sample ballots or other materials to assist the voter in marking their ballot may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

A voter who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the voter’s minor child or minor ward.
An election official may inform the voter of the proper manner for casting a vote but the official may not advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

Assistance for Voting

A voter may select an individual to assist in casting their vote if the voter declares to the presiding official that they are unable to read, have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English, or that due to disability are unable to cast their ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the voter’s employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the voter. If a voter is unable to state their name and address, an assistant may also do so for the voter.

Where Optical Scan Voting is used

The voter shall fill in the oval next to the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall write in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote and fill in the oval next to the write-in line. On referendum questions, the voter shall fill in the oval next to “yes” if in favor of the question, or the voter shall fill in the oval next to “no” if opposed to the question.

When using an electronic ballot marking device (“ImageCast Evolution-ICE”) to mark an optical scan ballot, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which they intend to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall touch the screen next to “write-in” and type in the name of the person of their choice. On referendum questions, the voter shall touch the screen at “yes” if in favor of the question, or the voter shall touch the screen at “no” if opposed to the question.

Spoiled Ballots

If a voter spoils an optical scan ballot, they shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one voter. If the ballot has not been initialed by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the voter shall return it to the election official, who shall issue a proper ballot in its place.

After Voting the Ballot

After an official optical scan ballot is marked, it may be inserted in the security sleeve, so the marks do not show. The voter shall then insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. The voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

General Election

Statewide

Governor/Lieutenant Governor
(Vote for 1)
Tom Tiffany/David Varnam (Republican)
David Crowley/Sarah Godlewski (Democratic)

Attorney General
(Vote for 1)
Eric Toney (Republican)
Josh Kaul (Democratic)

Secretary of State
(Vote for 1)
Jay Schroeder (Republican)
JoCasta Zamarripa (Democratic)
Pete Karas (Wisconsin Green)

State Treasurer
(Vote for 1)
John S. Leiber (Republican)
Yee Leng Xiong (Democratic)

Congressional

Representative in Congress
District 6
(Vote for 1)
Glen Grothman (Republican)
Brad Smith (Democratic)
Matthew Arndt (Wisconsin Green)
Elizabeth Anne Fitzgibbon (Independent)
Mike Thurow (Independent)

Legislative

Representative to the Assembly
District 53
(Vote for 1)
David Daniels (Republican)
Becky Nichols (Democratic)
Rachael Dowling (Independent)

County

Sheriff
(Vote for 1)
Darin M. Rice (Republican)
Jason W. Rippl (Democratic)
Danielle Falesnik (Strong. Fair. Ready to Lead)

Clerk of Circuit Court
(Vote for 1)
Desiree Bongers (Democratic)

State Referendum

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?"
- Yes
- No

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?"
- Yes
- No

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?"
- Yes
- No

VOTE HERE

POLLING PLACES AND HOURS – NOVEMBER 3, 2026
ALL POLLING PLACES WILL OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.
ALL POLLING PLACES ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS.

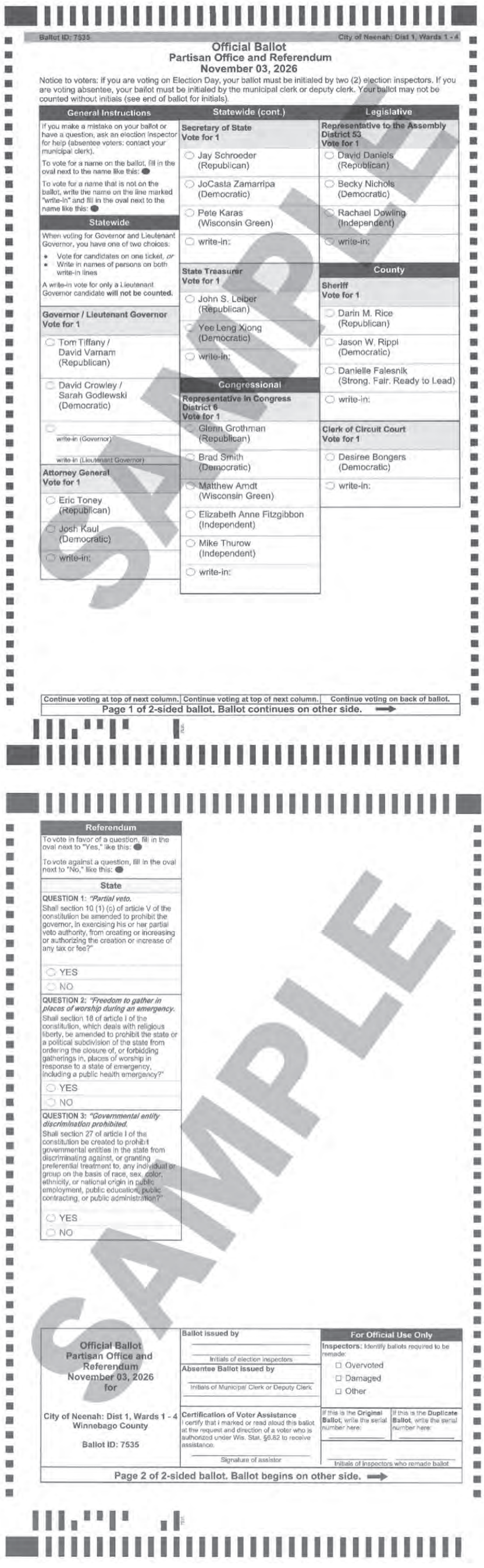
Visit myvote.wi.gov to locate your polling location

CITY OF NEENAH	
Dist. 1, Wards 1 - 4	First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 200 South Church Street
Dist. 1, Wards 5 - 8	Washington Park Pavilion, 631 West Winneconne Avenue
Dist. 2, Wards 9 - 12 & 27	Peace Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall, 1228 South Park Avenue
Dist. 2, Wards 13 - 15, 22 & 26	Neenah Police Station, 2111 Marathon Avenue
Dist. 2, Wards 16	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1140 Tullar Road
Dist. 3, Wards 17-19 & 24	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1140 Tullar Road
Dist. 3, Wards 20, 21, 23, 25 & 28	Neenah City Services Building, 1495 Tullar Road

Given under my hand this 30th day of October 2026:
Charlotte Nagel, Clerk, City of Neenah

At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wisconsin Sate Statue 19.84, the Election Inspectors at each polling place will convene as a Local Canvassing Board for the purpose of conducting the local canvass pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 7.51. This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.81-89.

The following is a sample of the official ballot:



Publish: October 30th, 2026
WNAXLP

Public Notice

CITY OF NEENAH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held by the City of Neenah to consider a Special Use Permit request by Fox Valley Community Learning Center, Inc. (property owner) on behalf of Lake Edge Learning Center (applicant), to establish a day care use within the east wing of the building located at 600 Elm Street, Neenah, Wisconsin.

The property for which the Special Use Permit is requested is legally described as follows:

Lot 1 of Certified Survey Map 8270, located in part of the Northeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 27, Township 20 North and Range 17 East in the City of Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin.

Plan Commission Informal Hearing
Hauser Room – 211 Walnut Street
Tuesday, November 10, 2026
4:00 P.M.

Council Formal Hearing
Council Chambers – 211 Walnut Street
Tuesday, November 17, 2026
6:00 P.M.

Brad Schmidt
Deputy Director of Community Development
Neenah, Wisconsin

Charlotte Nagel
City Clerk
Neenah, Wisconsin

Publish: October 30th and November 6th, 2026
WNAXLP

Public Notice

CITY OF NEENAH
NOTICE OF 2027 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
City Administration Building, 211 Walnut Street

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes that a Public Hearing is scheduled for **November 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM** on the **CITY OF NEENAH PROPOSED 2027 OPERATING BUDGET AND 2027 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM BUDGET.**
Neenah citizens or taxpayers shall have the opportunity to be heard on the proposed budgets.

2027 OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

REVENUES	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET	2026 ESTIMATED	2027 PROPOSED	% CHANGE
Other Taxes	$1,024,614	$1,017,440	$1,017,530	$1,028,770	1.11%
Intergovernment Revenues	6,653,841	6,977,660	6,976,860	7,143,800	2.38%
Licenses & Permits	452,023	391,270	408,430	400,810	2.44%
Public Service Charges	1,017,865	1,245,490	1,093,380	1,185,430	-4.82%
Investment Income	1,705,305	1,142,470	1,215,670	1,200,320	5.06%
Fines, Forfeitures & Penalties	72,079	88,000	84,500	86,500	-1.70%
Other Revenue	920,767	922,430	1,053,840	935,330	1.40%
Park & Recreation Revenue	709,386	782,510	704,720	752,520	-3.83%
Fund Transfers	3,276,837	3,602,790	3,583,930	3,561,000	-1.16%
Applied Fund Balances	0	319,000	0	200,000	-37.30%
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	**$15,832,717**	**$16,489,060**	**$16,138,860**	**$16,494,480**	0.03%
APPROPRIATIONS					
General Government	$3,058,820	$3,698,910	$3,557,230	$3,665,900	-0.89%
Public Safety	14,576,703	15,203,840	15,030,970	15,553,280	2.30%
Public Works	4,785,900	4,934,920	4,925,680	5,013,530	1.59%
Comm. Dev. & Human Services	1,999,047	2,034,800	1,949,080	1,973,810	-3.00%
Culture & Recreation	5,402,014	5,574,490	5,626,450	5,664,460	1.61%
Miscellaneous	376,833	324,970	326,660	269,730	-17.00%
TOTAL OPERATING GENERAL FUND	**$30,199,317**	**$31,771,930**	**$31,416,070**	**$32,140,710**	1.16%
Expenditures		$31,771,930		$32,140,710	
Revenues		16,489,060		16,494,480	
Operating Levy		15,282,870		15,646,230	
Debt Service Levy		5,500,000		7,250,000	
City Share Tax Increment District Levy		2,079,400		2,336,000	
TOTAL LEVY		**$22,862,270**		**$25,232,230**	

2027 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION	2026 PROGRAM	2027 PROGRAM
Streets	$4,586,500	$3,175,500
Pedestrian Routes, Signals, Lighting	324,000	234,000
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION	**$4,910,500**	**$3,409,500**
US HWY 41 INDUSTRIAL		
(Tax Incremental District #9)	**$0**	**$50,000**
NEAR DOWNTOWN DISTRICT		
(Tax Incremental District #10)	**$2,300,000**	**$0**
INDUSTRIAL PARK EXPANSION AREA		
(Tax Incremental District #13)	**$0**	**$50,000**
REDEVELOPMENT		
Redevelopment (Non-TIF) Projects	**$0**	**$50,000**
FACILITIES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS		
Administration Building	$145,000	$10,000
Police	600,000	255,000
Fire	3,660,000	135,000
Public Works	462,000	680,000
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum	35,000	35,000
Library	25,000	55,000
Parks & Recreation	1,395,500	1,980,000
TOTAL FACILITIES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS	**$6,322,500**	**$3,150,000**
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT		
Clerk	51,770	0
Information Systems	1,430,000	1,228,000
Police	357,770	282,330
Fire	1,166,275	1,465,430
Public Works/Recycling	1,115,500	1,230,000
Community Development	0	35,000
Parks & Recreation	150,000	125,000
Cemetery	25,000	25,000
TOTAL CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	**$4,296,315**	**$4,390,760**
TOTAL CAPITAL FUND IMPROVEMENTS	**$17,829,315**	**$11,100,260**
UTILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	**$7,370,500**	**$6,172,500**
TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM	**$25,199,815**	**$17,272,760**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED FUNDING SOURCES FOR 2027 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Grants/Donations/ARPA	$325,615	$381,050
Reserves	$180,000	$0
Water Utility Revenues	$3,238,000	$2,600,000
Capital Borrowing Proceeds	21,456,200	14,291,710
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	**$25,199,815**	**$17,272,760**

Publish: October 30, 2026
WNAXLP

To advertise in the Neenah News, call 920-385-4512

Obituaries

Kenneth A. Kiesau

February 22, 1944 – October 22, 2026

Kenneth A. "Ken" Kiesau, 82, of Neenah, passed away peacefully on Thursday, surrounded by family, after several months of being profoundly annoyed by cancer.



Ken was born on February 22, 1944, in Waukon, Iowa, to Roland and Esther (Flage) Kiesau. He graduated from Waukon High School in 1962.

On February 27, 1966, Ken married the love of his life, Susan "Sue" Steensen. Together they raised three children, and this year they celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Ken spent most of his career at Kimberly-Clark and Menasha Corporation. He retired early to do what he really loved: being a "pretend farmer."

Ken's greatest joy was his grandchildren. He followed their lives closely, stayed actively involved, and made it to as many of their events as he could. He also loved to drive, and he was rarely happier than on the road between Neenah and his family farm in northeast Iowa.

His legacy is his example of positivity, humor, and belief in the power of good. He also passed down important lessons: "it's all relative," "be kind," "help if you can," and, most recently, another reminder that "life isn't fair."

Ken is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sue; his children, Kathie (Jim) Natzke of Fitchburg, Shawn (Jill) Kiesau of Verona, and Tom Kiesau of Glenview, Illinois; his grandchildren, Page, Grace, Hans, Sam, Trent, Xander, and Logan; his sister, Mary Kiesau (Tom Carmody); and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roland and Esther Kiesau; his sister, Jody Ingwersen; and his grandson, Paul Natzke.

Visitation will be held on Friday, October 30, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Westgor Funeral Home in Neenah.

A funeral will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 31, at First Presbyterian Church in Neenah, with visitation from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Paul's Party (paulsparty.org/donate), a charity that honors the memory of Ken's grandson.

Online condolences may be shared at Westgorfuneralhomes.com

WESTGOR FUNERAL HOMES

Classifieds

Call 920.486.1616 to place your ad

Private party ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday. $15 for first 20 words

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Legal Notice

CITY OF NEENAH
Advertisement for Bids
Contract 7-26

Notice is hereby given by the City of Neenah by the undersigned Board of Public Works for this project bids will ONLY be received and accepted via the online electronic bid service through QuestCDN.com until 1:00 PM, local time, on the 13th day of November 2026.

Tree Planting
S. Commercial Street (Tyler Street to Aloctt Street)
Furnish & Install 1.25" to 1.75" Bare Root Trees (Various Species) 48 Each
Furnish & Install 1.50" to 2.00" Ball and Burlap Trees (Various Species) 52 Each
Execute Care Cycles Monthly -June, July, August, September 12 Each

The above public work will be let to the lowest responsible bidder and shall be performed in accordance with the plans, specifications, and contract now on file in the office of the Director of Public Works.

No bid shall be received or considered unless accompanied by a certified check equal to five (5) percent of the bid or bid bond in equal amount payable to the City as a guarantee that, if the bid is accepted, the bidder shall execute and file the proper contract and bond within ten days from the date the lowest responsible bid is accepted. In case the bidder fails to file such contract and bond within the time set by the City, the check or bid bond shall be forfeited to the City as liquidated damages.

Complete digital project documents are available at QuestCDN.com. A contractor may view the contract documents at no cost prior to becoming a Planholder. Input the QuestCDN project number 10422356 on the website's project page to download the digital documents for $32.00. Project bid documents must be downloaded from QuestCDN which will add your company to the Planholder list and allow access to VBid online bidding for submittal of your bid (which is required for this project). Bidders will be charged a fee of $52.00 to submit a bid electronically. Documents may be examined in the office of the Director of Public Works.

The minimum wage scale to be paid on said project by the Contractor is either included in the specifications or on file in the office of the City Clerk in accordance with Section 66.0903, Wisconsin Statutes.

Dated at Neenah, Wisconsin this 30th day of October.
Board of Public Works
City of Neenah
by Mark Rohloff, Interim Director of Public Works

Advertise: October 30th & November 6th, 2026

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
BROWN COUNTY

Case No. 26SC3137
Amended
Summons and Complaint
(Small Claims)

Claim for money ($10,000 or less) 31001
Return of property (replevin) 31003
Arbitration award 31006

Plaintiff:
Glenn Gustave Larson
2290 Allouez Ave., Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311
-vs-
To: **Defendant(s):**
Isaiah Matthew Witzak
15 Center, St. Apt #1, Menasha WI 54952, Winnebago County (previous address)

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call (920) 448-4513 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

SUMMONS
To the Defendant(s):
You are being sued as described on the attached complaint. If you wish to dispute this matter you must appear at the time and place stated.

When to Appear/File an Answer
Date: 11/6/2026
Time: 1:15 pm

Place to Appear/File an Answer
Brown County Courthouse
100 South Jefferson Street
Courtroom B, 1st Floor
Green Bay, WI 54301
Clerk/Attorney Signature
/s/ John A. Venderleest
Date Summons Issued: 10/26/2026
Filed Oct. 26, 2026, Clerk of Courts, Brown County, WI

Published: October 30, 2026

WNAXLP

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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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

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What scares you?

Halloween Phobias

A phobia (pronounced *FO*-bee-uh) **is an extreme fear of something.** Are these things you should *really* fear, or are they things that just need a little more understanding?

A fear of **pumpkins** is called ***cucurbitophobia!***

A fear of **ghosts** is called ***spectrophobia!***

Follow the maze. The letters along the *correct* path spell the word for the fear of bats!

GO

Write the letters in these circles.

END

Z C _ _ _ _ _ T _ _ _ _ B A

Is the number 13 bad luck?

A = K =
B = O =
D = P =
E = R =
H = S =
I = T =

Some people consider the number 13 to be bad luck. They worry whenever the 13th of the month falls on a Friday. Floor buttons in some elevators skip the number 13, going right from 12 to 14. Use the code at left to discover the name for this phobia.

T _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Web Walkers

They're creepy and crawly. And every one of the 40,000 types of spiders (arachnids) in the world have fangs and venom. But most spider venom won't really harm people. The fear of spiders is called **arachnophobia**.

If you just can't stand spiders, there's really only one continent on Earth that is spider-free. (You'd better bring a heavy coat, though). Circle every third letter to find out the name of this continent.

J S A B G N V W T N P
A C X R V S C K L T
B R I G M C R D A

A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Unscramble the letters!

Vampires have a lot of phobias! *Alliumphobia* is the fear of:

I R A G L C

How many bats are on this page?

Clowning Around

Clowns are all about silliness and fun, right? ***Right?*** Well, if clowns freak you out, your fear is known as **coulrophobia**. Set your fears aside and see if you can find the two identical clowns!

Cut out the four puzzle pieces below. Put them together to discover another phobia.

Extra! Extra!

Spooky Search

Look through the newspaper to find:

- the scariest item you see
- a pumpkin
- a black cat
- a spider
- a word that rhymes with ghost
- a word containing the letters B-O-O

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Catoptrophobia is a fear of mirrors. How many differences can you find between this creature and its reflection?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

PUMPKINS
HALLOWEEN
CLOWNS
VAMPIRES
CREEPY
GHOSTS
LUCK
BATS
VENOM
CAT
COAT
WEB
FEAR
WORRY
LOT

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

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

Kid Scoop Together:

Great Big Words

Work with a parent to fill in the missing letters on each line. The circled letters spell the gigantic word that means the fear of gigantic words!

1. ● _ _ _ Y
2. T _ ● _ K
3. ● _ _ S _ _ C
4. ● _ A _
5. Y _ _ _ ● _
6. ● I _ _ O
7. L ● _ _
8. _ O _ _ ● O
9. F _ ● _ _
10. ● O _ _ Y
11. _ _ L _ ● W _ _
12. ● _ _ E
13. _ I _ ● _
14. G _ A _ ●
15. _ A ●
16. _ _ _ _ ● _
17. _ _ ● T
18. ● _ _ _ H _ _ _
19. _ L _ ● _
20. ● _ _ _ _
21. ● M _ _ _ _ _ A
22. _ _ N _ ● _
23. _ ●
24. M _ N S T ● _ S
25. ● _ _ _ _
26. _ L _ _ _ ●
27. ● _ U _ H
28. W ● _ _
29. _ C _ ● P _ _
30. ● _ _ _ E
31. _ _ G ●
32. _ ● _ _ I N
33. ● _ _ _
34. W ● _
35. ● N _ W _ _

CLUES

1. Opposite of SAD
2. What your brain does
3. Credit cards are made of this
4. Opposite of WORK
5. The color of lemons
6. A heavy musical instrument
7. Opposite of SHORT
8. Main ketchup ingredient
9. You sweep it with a broom
10. Another word for MOTHER
11. Opposite of LEADER
12. Opposite of SOME
13. The sound a snake makes
14. Lives above the beanstalk
15. Short name for automobile
16. You sleep on this
17. Actors in a show
18. Large mammal with a trunk
19. Fragile drinkware
20. Female royalty
21. Use this when it rains
22. You write or draw with this
23. Opposite of DOWN
24. Werewolves, vampires, etc.
25. Moving to the music
26. Largest U.S. state
27. Caused by something funny
28. A lot of this during storms
29. Eight-armed sea animal
30. Short name for telephone
31. Opposite of LOW
32. Where Dracula sleeps
33. Short name for a bicycle
34. Opposite of LOSE
35. Response to a question

ANSWER: Hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia

Write On!

What a Treat!

Describe your favorite sweet treat. What do you like best about it?

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