Neenah News
Serving Neenah & Fox Crossing
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City proposes balanced budget for 2027

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

Neenah Mayor Brian Borchardt introduced a balanced operating and capital improvements budget for 2027.

The 2027 general fund expenditure limit is $33,169,895.

The proposed 2027 city tax rate will increase from $7.2773 to $7.8822 per $1,000 of assessed value — an 8.31% increase. For a home assessed at $275,000, this represents approximately $166 more annually in city property taxes, before credits.

The Neenah Common Council will hold a public hearing and adopt the budget at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Neenah City Hall.

In the budget letter to the council and the community, Borchardt said the initial department budget requests resulted in a projected deficit of approximately $1.1 million. To balance the budget, the mayor made recommended expenditure reductions of $541,540, developed an additional $363,360 increase in operating levy support and used $200,000 in General Fund reserves

The proposed property tax rate is driven by operating and debt service needs. Neenah's net new construction is only 1.864%, which limits the amount the city can increase its operating levy under the state's levy limit law. Borchardt proposed to increase the operating levy by the maximum allowable amount of $363,360.

The proposed budget also includes a $5 annual increase in stormwater fee and a 20% increase in sanitary sewer rates, which the city said is equivalent to approximately $85 annually for a typical family of four.

The budget includes an increase to the city's payroll with employees receiving salary adjustments of 1.5% in January and an additional 1% in July.

Some of the areas where Borchardt made cuts to department budgets to help balance the budget include:

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Photo by Pamela Hart

Honoring veterans

The Neenah Menasha Honor Guard participated as the City of Neenah held its annual Veterans Day ceremony Wednesday in Shattuck Park. The event was intended to honor all those who have served the country. Their service is recognized for providing the liberties and freedom that are enjoyed today.

Neenah News needs your support

By Grace Lim
News Contributor

Winnebago Media Group, the nonprofit publisher of Neenah News, Oshkosh Herald and Winneconne News, is asking readers to help secure the future of local journalism. The goal: 5,000 people giving $50 a year to support the newspapers.

I'm Grace Lim, founder of Humans of Oshkosh, and for more than a decade I've been telling stories about the people who make our communities what they are. This fall, I partnered with the Winnebago Media Group on a storytelling campaign to introduce readers to the people behind their local news and the people who believe it's worth supporting.

Every week, Neenah News shows up in your mailbox whether you paid for it or not, and now we're bringing the Founding 5000 campaign to Neenah.

And I'm going to start by asking you for $50. Hear me out.

Every week, reporters go to meetings, photographers cover games and community events, and stories are written and edited. The paper is printed and mailed to your home. You pay nothing for it, but somebody does.

For years, when advertising and other revenue haven't been enough to cover the cost of producing Neenah News and its sister newspapers, founder Karen Schneider and her family have personally covered the gap.

So, the $50. Fifty dollars is $4.17 a month, less than $1 a week. Less than a dollar a week. Let that sink in. For that $50, you're helping make sure someone is still showing up at city council and school board meetings, covering your kids' teams, reporting on your schools and telling you what's happening in the community where you live.

The paper is free. The journalism isn't.

And here's something you should know: Neenah News is delivered to approximately 22,400 homes every week. But as of today, just 316 people are paying $50 a year to support it through memberships.

That's roughly one membership for every 71 households receiving the paper.

We need a lot more.

In April, Neenah News, Oshkosh Her-

See **Local journalism** on Page 10



Neenah News

Neenah News founder and publisher Karen Schneider, left, and Humans of Oshkosh founder Grace Lim launch Winnebago Media Group's Founding 5,000 campaign. The campaign is seeking 5,000 people to contribute $50 a year to help sustain nonprofit local journalism.

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Advertising deadline is noon Friday for the following Friday. The classified line ads deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday for Friday.

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Corrections
It is the policy of Neenah News to correct all errors of fact. For correction information call 920-385-4512.

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

St. Mary Catholic High School will present localized musical

Neenah News

St. Mary Catholic High School is presenting its production of "Working: A Musical" this weekend.

Performances started Thursday and will continue running through Saturday at the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center on the campus of St. Mary Catholic High School.

Based on Studs Terkel's book, this musical celebrates the unsung heroes of everyday lives: the teachers, the manufacturers, the cleaners, the healthcare workers and the truck drivers who keep the world spinning. With a score by Stephen Schwartz (Wicked), Lin-Manuel Miranda (Hamilton), James Taylor and others, assistant director Holly Rutchik-Baribeau said it is a funny, heartbreaking and deeply moving look at what we do all day and how we feel about it.

The Zephyrs Players' production is unique in its process of localizing the show. Alongside the classic Broadway numbers, their script weaves in real stories from members of their own community. It asks and answers "what does it mean to do a hard day's work right here in Neenah?"

"A highlight of this experience has been being able to adapt the show to be even more meaningful and engaging for our students and our audiences by bringing in the perspectives of our friends, neighbors and family members," Rutchik-Baribeau said.

Performances of "Working: A Musical - Localized Version" will be at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for students/seniors. The cost is an additional $2 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at our.show/zephyrsworking or at the door prior to each show.

Church slated to host annual fall craft fair

Neenah News

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is holding its Fall Craft Fair.

The event will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the church, 1140 Tullar Road. Admission is free.

Attendees can shop for various hand-crafted items from vendors. The event also includes lunch and a bake sale along with basket and quilt raffles.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Hunting Season

Fall is hunting season in Wisconsin, as it traditionally has been in years past. Some successful hunters returned to their camp along the banks of Lake Winnebago south of Neenah in the early 1900's.

Calendar of events

Friday, Nov. 13

One Act Play Community Performance, 7 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

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

Saturday, Nov. 14

Fall Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1140 Tullar Road

Neenah-Menasha Model Railroad Club Open House, 9 a.m., Milwaukee & Northern Depot, 323 W. Forest Ave.

William Manson Paperweight Demonstrations, 10:30 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

St. Mary Catholic High School Fall Musical: Working the Musical, 2 p.m., Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center

Future Neenah Fundraiser: The 920 Social Club, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 15

Neenah-Menasha Model Railroad Club Open House, 10 a.m., Milwaukee & Northern Depot, 323 W. Forest Ave.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Vinnie's Pantry Open House, 5 p.m., 1425 S. Commercial St.

Thursday, Nov. 19

Neenah Neighborhoods: Talk of the Town, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Friday, Nov. 20

Ice Skating Season Begins, 4 p.m., The Plaza and Globe Coffee

Puzzle Pursuit, 6:30 p.m., Whiting Boathouse

Saturday, Nov. 21

Neenah Animal Shelter Pop-Up Shop, 10 a.m., The Marketplace

Tuesday, Nov. 24

Smart Telescopes, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Vintage, Act II, Jazz and Touch of Class Opener Concert, 7:30 p.m., Pickard Auditorium

Friday, Nov. 27

Finish the Lyrics Trivia Live Holiday Edition, 2 and 7 p.m., Greene's Pour House



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Please be advised the Neenah News will have early deadlines for the November 27th issue:

Space and copy deadline:	Fri. 11/20 Noon
Classified deadline:	Mon. 11/23 Noon
Obituary deadline:	Tues. 11/24 Noon

The Neenah News office will be closed on Nov. 27th

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Presentation to focus on city's neighborhood history

By Pamela Hart
News Contributor



Submitted photo

A presentation Thursday at the Neenah Public Library will explore some of Neenah's landmarks, the stories behind them, and the moments that may have caused a stir around town.

Neenah's history is rich with stories of several recognizable landmarks.

The Neenah Historical Society's mission is to collect, preserve and share those stories with the community. Miranda Ridener, the Executive Director, coordinates volunteers interested in local history who use primary sources from their collection.

"Digging through archival materials to find information for a presentation is like a treasure hunt," said Ridener. "You might not find exactly what you hope to locate, but there are always stories waiting to be uncovered."

Sara Laabs, a local Realtor and history enthusiast, will explore Neenah's neighborhood gossip at the "Neenah Neighborhoods: Talk of the Town" presented at the Neenah Public Library.

The public is invited to hear more about the "talk of the town" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the library. Admission is free and all ages are welcome.

"If you've watched Bridgerton, you're probably familiar with the idea of the 'talk of the town,'" Laabs said. "The show takes place in Regency-era London, where social gatherings, reputations, relationships and the latest gossip were practically a form of entertainment. Everyone wanted to know what was happening, who was making headlines and what everyone else was saying about it."

Every community has its version of the "talk of the town," including Neenah. As landmarks were established and recognized by the community, people had opinions. Celebrating some things, questioning others and occasionally they had quite a bit to say about what was happening.

Laabs' research is rooted in primary sources, which consist of firsthand documentation from the time period being discussed. She has spent hours digging through the Neenah Historical Society archives, reviewing old newspaper articles, photographs and other historical records.

"Newspaper articles are particularly interesting because they give us a glimpse into how people actually experienced these places," Laabs said. "We can learn what was being celebrated, what was being criticized, what sparked conversation and sometimes what caused a little controversy."

Laabs said the term "neighborhood gossip" captures the human element of history in a fun way to get people curious, but the stories are grounded in historical research and documented sources. As a real estate agent, Laabs believes understanding a place is more about the people, stories and experiences that shaped it.

A proud local history enthusiast and board member of the Neenah Historical Society, she enjoys digging through old photographs, newspapers and historical records to uncover pieces of the community's past that most people might not otherwise encounter.

The Neenah Neighborhoods program at the library explores several recognizable Neenah landmarks, including the Whiting Boathouse and the Neenah Theater. Both are interesting examples of how a building's significance extends beyond its physical structure, Laabs said.

"We'll look at the circumstances surrounding these places, the people connected to them, and the ways they became part of Neenah's social and cultural landscape," said Laabs. "I don't want to give away any of the good stories before the presentation, but I will say that there's more to some of these familiar places than meets the eye.

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Council declines to pay for mayor's coaching sessions

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

The Neenah Common Council declined to pay for Mayor Brian Borchardt's executive coaching sessions.

After his April election, Borchardt hired Dean Stewart of Ascent Leadership Group of De Pere to be his executive coach. The coaching sessions cost $4,500. Borchardt originally mentioned to Alderman Mark Ellis he would pay for the coaching on his own.

The mayor said he then noticed the Finance Department had funds available — $2,900 in a training account and $1,600 in a wages account — that could be used to pay for the coaching. He transferred the money without the approval of the Finance & Personnel Committee and the Common Council. Borchardt said the mayor's budget had only $500 set aside for training.

Alderman Tami Erickson, who serves as chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee, said she discovered the transfer and immediately saw it was out of place.

"I saw it did not follow proper procedure, and the mayor should have known what the procedure was," she said.

Borchardt introduced a resolution to the Finance & Personnel Committee to ratify the budget transfer. The vote then came before the Common Council on Nov. 4. The council voted 5-4 to approve the resolution, but it failed since it needed to pass by a two-thirds majority.

Erickson was joined in voting no against the budget transfer by Ellis, Brian Defferding and Mark Neuman.

Ellis said the mayor "did not make a mistake, he made a decision. This is not personal, but the mayor should have known the rules. He was an alderman, he served as council president. He knows how things get approved."

The expense occurred June 4, but Erickson said nothing was said about it.

"This was not in the budget," she said.

Alderman Dan Steiner said he thought the situation had become overblown and the mayor made an honest mistake.

Alderman William Pollnow, Jr. agreed, saying, "the mayor has been apologetic about this situation."

Defferding said he opposed the motion because it was not in the budget.

"It's important for us to stick with the budget," he said.

Borchardt said the coaching is beneficial in how he interacts with city staff and that he didn't realize he did something wrong.

"The buck stops with me on this. This will not be a precedent," he said.

It's unclear how the coaching will be paid for.

In the 2027 proposed budget, the mayor included $4,500 for another year of coaching, subject to council approval.

Committee created to help tornado victims

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News



MaryBeth Matzek
Reporter

A new tri-county organization has been created to coordinate long-term recovery efforts following natural and man-made disasters across Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago counties.

Called the Calumet-Outagamie-Winnebago Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC), the organization brings together faith-based organizations, nonprofits, government agencies, businesses and other volunteer organizations to establish and maintain a coordinated network of resources and support for communities affected by disasters.

Right now, the focus is on victims of the July 27 tornado.

The committee will coordinate donations, financial resources, volunteers and disaster case management to support individuals, families and communities through the recovery process, said Christina Muller, director of the LTRC Committee.

"Recovery doesn't end when the immediate emergency is over," she said. "By bringing together organizations and resources across our three counties, we can better coordinate assistance, identify unmet needs and help our neighbors move forward. No single organization can do this work alone."

The LTRC will carry out its work through different subcommittees. For example, the Unmet Needs subcommittee will review the needs submitted by households and work to match them with available resources from partner organizations while the Finance subcommittee will help with raising and dispensing funds to support the recovery efforts.

The LTRC created an Unmet Needs Form for people to fill out if they need help with something right now, including housing, food, transportation and other basic needs. Once filled out, the local disaster recovery team will connect them with the correct resource. Submitting the form does not promise financial help or other services.

The Unmet Needs Form can be filled out online at form.jotform.com/Subcommittee/unmet-needs-form.



Photo by Pamela Hart

Helping Hands

The 18th annual Helping Hands Art and Craft Fair was held Saturday at the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse at Neenah Middle School. The event featured over 125 vendors of handmade items as well as food and a raffle. Music was provided by the high school Touch of Class orchestra and concessions were available. All funds go directly to Neenah Joint School District families in need as well as a yearly scholarship.

County collects funding from parking fees

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

Winnebago County collected a little more than $30,000 during the first year of implementing a $5 parking fee at soccer and rugby tournaments at Community Park.

The money collected is intended to be used on field maintenance at the park. Most of the funds — a little more than $27,000 — was collected during the On the Water soccer tournament.

The county board approved the $5 special parking fee for the park during sporting tournaments earlier this year.

The parking fee is only charged in the area near the fields so people using other parts of the park during the sporting events do not need to pay. Also, visitors attending the sporting events who do not want to pay the $5 parking fee can park elsewhere in the park and walk over to the fields.

The Parks Committee approved a motion to spend $7,819 from the parking fees collected on grass seed and fertilizer, which will be used on soccer and rugby fields later this month. The county board will need to approve the motion before work can begin.

As part of the 2026 budget, an amendment was successfully made allowing funds collected from parking fees to be used for maintenance at the soccer and rugby complex.





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STAR program inmates have lower rate of recidivism

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

The longer Winnebago County Jail inmates stay in the STAR program, the lower chance they have of reoffending, according to data collected by the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Captain of Corrections Amber Rozek shared the results of a report looking at data from the past four years of the Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) program, a substance abuse treatment and recovery program offered to jail inmates, with the Judicial and Public Safety Committee earlier this month.

"People in the STAR program for 90 days have an 8% reoffender rate while people in the regular population have 20% reoffender rate within one year," Rozek said. "The conclusion is that we're building a bridge to lasting recovery. STAR bridges the gap between incarceration and community integration."

The STAR program is a partnership involving the sheriff's department, Solutions Recovery and Winnebago County Human Services and Public Health. Its goal is to help people in jail overcome alcohol and drug addiction and reduce the likelihood of reoffending after their release.

At the jail, there are separate pods for inmates in the STAR program although any inmate can seek help with their addictions from the program, Rozek said. Inmates in the STAR pods participate in daily recovery groups focused on building skills, setting goals and preparing for life after release. Groups are also offered for inmates in the general population seeking recovery.

From 2022 to 2026, 1,443 unique individuals were served. Of the inmates involved, 75% were men and 25% were women. Alcohol is the No. 1 substance inmates are seeking help with, followed by meth.

Rozek said two facets of STAR that drive it forward successfully include using trained recovery coaches with lived experiences and addressing substance abuse as a chronic condition.

Recovery coaches help participants transition into treatment programs, sober living arrangements and other community services after leaving jail.

"One key part of STAR is the continuation of support after release," Rozek said. "The peer response team made 8,000 follow-up contacts to provide support once someone has been released from jail."

She added program participants who received at least one post-release peer follow-up were more than four times likely to be sober.

The majority of the STAR program is funded through grants, opioid settlement funds and private donations.

Chamber launches economic data dashboard

The Fox Cities Chamber has launched an updated Economic Data Dashboard, offering a robust, interactive, free resource to explore key economic trends shaping the region.

The dashboard brings together data across several key areas, including:

Population and Demographics: Explore population trends, growth projections, age distribution and demographic characteristics of the region.

Education: Gain insights into educational attainment and the region's talent pipeline.

Industry and Occupations: Explore the industries driving the economy, occupational trends and workforce opportunities.

Employment: Access labor force statistics, employment trends, job growth and projections.

AI Demand: Examine emerging workforce demand for artificial intelligence skills and how AI is influencing the regional job market.

Whether somebody works for a business considering expansion, is an employer evaluating workforce needs or a community leader planning for the future, the dashboard offers information to support data-driven decisions.

Sponsored by Miron, the resource reflects the Chamber's ongoing commitment to providing accessible, relevant data that supports informed decision-making and regional economic development.

Explore the Economic Data Dashboard at fox-cities-chamber.eimpactv3.com/dashboards/87/fox-cities-chamber/overview.

Firefighter dies while off duty

Neenah News

The Fox Crossing Fire Department said last week that one of its firefighters, Nathaniel Cisneros, 20, died unexpectedly while off duty Oct. 28.

The fire department said it was with heavy hearts that it shared the information about Cisneros, who worked at Station 41.

"Nathaniel was a valued member of our fire department family, and we honor his service to our community," the department said. "Our hearts are with his family, friends and all who knew and served alongside him. Please keep Nathaniel's loved ones and our department in your thoughts as we grieve and remember him."


Cisneros

Friends and family described him as a compassionate, creative and deeply caring person who wanted to contribute something good to the world.

A funeral was held for Cisneros on Nov. 4 in Illinois.

Fox Crossing puts out three-car garage fire

Neenah News

Fox Crossing firefighters stopped a fire in a three-car detached garage from spreading to a residence in the 1200 block of Glenview Drive on Monday morning.

Crews arriving on the scene noticed smoke and flames visible from an overhead door and the roof line. The home's residents evacuated.

The first firefighters arriving in an engine pulled a pre-connected hose line and attacked the garage. When other fire companies arrived, they pulled another attack line and were able to cool the home with a water stream and assist with the fire attack. A third company entered the home to check for an extension of the fire, but none was found.

Using thermal imaging cameras, crews located hidden fires in the garage debris and used saws to cut through the walls. The fire was brought under control within 20 minutes.

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

No injuries to firefighters or residents were reported. The homeowners were able to stay in the home and were not displaced.

The Grand Chute Fire Department, the Town of Neenah Fire Department, Clayton Fire Rescue, Gold Cross Ambulance and the Fox Crossing Police Department assisted at the scene.











Submitted photo

Tree installation

Workers from Miron Construction in the early morning hours of Nov. 3 placed the downtown Neenah Christmas tree in its stand at Gateway Park. The Miron crew helped to cut down and transport the tree. A team from Faith Technologies will help to decorate it. The annual lighting ceremony will take place Dec. 4 during A Very Neenah Christmas.

City to mail out yard punch cards

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

City of Neenah residents will once again receive their yard waste drop-off punch cards in the mail.

The 2027 cards will go out in February, according to a memo shared with the members of the Public Services and Safety Committee at its Tuesday meeting.



Borchardt

Mayor Brian Borchardt and the Department of Public Works staff decided to make the change for next year after running into several challenges in 2026 when residents could pick up their card in person at the Public Works Department or request a card online through the city's website.

"We're going to have conversations about it during 2027. Right now, we want to simplify it by going back to mailing out the cards," Borchardt said. "With the storm this year, there was a lot going on. We want to look at it and analyze the process."

For 2027, eligible residents will receive cards with three punches in the mail. Residents may purchase one additional card instead of two with the cost of the extra card increasing from $30 to $50.

Single-use cards, which are available to landlords, renters and homeowners, will also see changes. The city has seen misuse with single-use cards with some residents using them to dispose of more material than the standard three-punch allowance allows, the memo said. To discourage misuse, the city is increasing the cost of the single-use card from $10 to $25.

Alderman William Pollnow, Jr. said he felt decisions were being made about the yard waste drop-off site without getting input from the Public Services and Safety Committee. In the past, he said a proposal would have been brought before the panel and a vote would be taken.

"Now, we just have this memo telling us what's happening. Usually, it comes here, and we vote on the change," Pollnow said.

Neenah finance director stepping down

Neenah News

Vicky Rasmussen is leaving her role as the City of Neenah's director of finance on Jan. 4.

She did not indicate her next career move or the reason for her decision.

A certified public accountant, Rasmussen joined the city in February 2023. Prior to that, she served as city administrator for the City of Omro and as Winnebago County's finance director.

In an email to colleagues announcing her decision, she wrote, "It has truly been a pleasure working with you. I have appreciated the relationships we have built, your collaboration and the support you have provided along the way. Working with such great people has been one of the rewarding parts of my time here."

The finance department directs and controls Neenah's fiscal programs, including performing statutory controller and treasury functions such as putting together the city's budget.



Neenah music students perform statewide

Neenah News

Neenah middle and high school musicians have recently been performing on various stages across the state.

A group of students represented the Neenah Joint School District at the 2026 Wisconsin State Music Association (WSMA) Honors Festivals. Earning a spot in these selective ensembles requires immense dedication, discipline and artistic skill.

Out of nearly 1,200 auditionees statewide, four Neenah students earned spots in the Middle Level Honors Orchestra and performed with the 300 selected musicians in Verona last month. The students are Carlos Adams-Gonzalez, Aria Lishner, Ethan Huo and Lucy Heywood.

At the high school level, over 1,300 students auditioned for 430 positions across five statewide ensembles who performed Oct. 29 and 30 in Madison.

Seniors Emily Zak and David Linstedt earned the opportunity to perform with the WSMA State Honors Concert Band and Jazz Band. And seven NHS musicians earned spots in the State Honors Orchestra: Malina Zhang, Ava Wasmer, Rachel Thomas, Rebekah Thomas, Constance Phelan, Jenny Wang and Joseph Nieto.

Zhang and Wang earned first and second chair honors.

Students in the Neenah High School band program spent part of last weekend playing music and learning across northeastern Wisconsin.

Six NHS ninth grade students were nominated for the St. Norbert College Honor Band and all were selected to participate, joining other student-musicians from across northern Wisconsin for an annual collaborative showcase.

At Lawrence University, the NHS jazz band and combo took part in the Fred Strum Jazz Celebration Weekend. Participating alongside middle and high school bands from across the state, NHS students performed, attended masterclass clinics with professional jazz musicians and immersed themselves in a full day of live music.



Photo from Neenah Joint School District

The Neenah jazz band and combo was among the groups from across the state participating last weekend in the Fred Strum Jazz Celebration at Lawrence University.





Photo from St. Mary Catholic Schools

Celebrating grandparents

St. Gabriel Elementary School held a Grandparents Day celebration Nov. 6. Grandparents and special friends were invited to join students for a Mass, donuts and coffee, and tours of classrooms.

OARS online auction begins Sunday

Neenah News

Orphan Animal Rescue and Sanctuary (OARS), a volunteer-run cat rescue at 810 S. Commercial St., is hosting an online auction starting Sunday to raise funds to support its mission of providing compassion, love and the highest quality of care to homeless cats until they find their forever home.

The auction ends Nov. 21.

Visit facebook.com/orphananimalrescue to participate in the auction.

The online auction is OARS' largest fundraiser of the year. The organization does not receive any funding and runs completely on donations.

Founded in September 2008, OARS hosts kittens and cats from other local rescue groups and humane organizations when they are at over capacity. OARS does not accept surrendered cats from the public.

The cats at the adoption center live in a cage-free environment. To learn more about OARS, visit orphananimalrescue.org.

City budget

FROM PAGE 1

Police Department: Not adding the investigator and traffic safety officer positions into the budget to save $305,840. As part of the most recent union contract, these positions were not funded to help offset the wage increases to be provided to the remaining union employees.

Library: Reducing the library's electronic materials budget by $30,000 and using the Library Trust Fund to cover the balance.

Joint Fire/Rescue: The mayors of Neenah and Menasha both decided on a total of $215,390 reduction, with Neenah's share coming to $130,700.

The police department's budget includes a $20,000 decrease in spending for crossing guards. In August, Police Chief Aaron Olson identified five locations where crossing guards would no longer be needed due to low student numbers, alternative crossings are available and existing or planned safety enhancements are in place. He also said it was difficult to fill those positions. No one will lose their jobs; open jobs would just go unfilled.

Parking revenue from permit fees paid by businesses, employees, and tenants for use of city parking lots and the downtown parking ramp will decline by $63,570 in 2027, according to the proposed budget. For 2026, the city budgeted receiving $190,000 from Alta Resources for parking. In September, Neenah finalized a new agreement with Alta with a tiered payment structure, bringing the budgeted 2027 revenue from Alta being $78,490 lower than the amount budgeted for 2026.

In 2027, Neenah anticipates increasing its parking fine revenue by $9,000 by discontinuing warnings for first-time Class C parking violations and issuing citations for those violations instead.

Borchardt included $4,500 in his mayor office's budget for training, which would be used to pay for a second year of executive coaching.





Photo from Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department

Princess Party

Princesses enjoyed a magical time as they came together Saturday for the Fox Crossing Parks and Recreation Department's Princess Tea Party. The event included treats along with story time, songs and crafts.

Retired Educators to host Community Clothes Closet

The Winnebago County Retired Educators' Association invites all retired school employees who live in and/or worked in Winnebago County to their next meeting.

Registration for the meeting starts at 11 a.m. Nov. 19 at Pizza Ranch in Oshkosh. Pizza Ranch is located at 1051 S. Washburn St.

Following a business meeting at 11:30 a.m., members can eat the buffet lunch.

Meagan LaGrone, operations director at the Community Clothes Closet, will speak about the charity. A list of donations can be found at communityclothescloset.org.

The group will also have its annual holiday monetary donation for Park View Health Center.

In addition, this will be the final collection of school supplies for the Teachers' Closet.

Potential new members or visitors are always welcome. Anyone interested can email Lisa at rolson3430@aol.com no later than Monday for more information.

Community invited to pantry open house

Neenah News

Community members are invited to celebrate three years of growth and expansion at Vinnie's Pantry, 1421 S. Commercial St.

The event from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday is an opportunity to open the doors and celebrate the volunteers, donors, supporters, partner agencies and friends who make it possible for Vinnie's Pantry to serve its neighbors. Visitors can see what happens behind the scenes and learn more about the impact that is made in the community.

The open house includes guided tours of Vinnie's Pantry, appetizers and refreshments, coffee and dessert bar, live music by Untapped Potential, fun station games and opportunities to connect with the team, volunteers, donors and community partners.

Candlelight yoga provides relaxation during holidays

Neenah News

The Neenah Parks and Recreation Department is offering a Candlelight Yoga class during the holiday season.

The class is intended to help participants relax, recharge and find balance during a busy time of the year. The class is open to participants of all skill levels and offers a calming escape to ease stress and restore holiday spirit.

Classes will be from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 19, Dec. 3, 10 and 17. The fee is $60 per session. All classes are held at the George Scherck Shelter at Memorial Park.





Local journalism

from Page 1

ald and Winneconne News officially became part of the nonprofit Winnebago Media Group. The change was designed to keep the newspapers locally owned and create a way for them to survive long after Karen is no longer the person keeping them going.

"We essentially gave everything we built to the community," Karen told me. "I no longer am the owner of these newspapers. The community is the owner of these newspapers."

Now the community has a decision to make. Winnebago Media Group is looking for what we're calling the Founding 5,000: 5,000 community members whose annual $50 contributions, combined with advertising revenue, can create a sustainable foundation for nonprofit local journalism.

It's one campaign supporting all three newspapers, and Karen hopes Neenah-area readers will account for 40 to 45 percent of those memberships. That's 2,000 to 2,250 members from Neenah.

If you're already a member, you're already one of the Founding 5,000. If you're not, I'm going to spend the next several weeks trying to convince you to join us.

But before I ask for your $50 again, I think you should know what you're helping preserve.

Neenah News began with a question. For several years, Karen had been hearing from Neenah residents wondering when the Oshkosh Herald would expand into their community. Her answer was always no.

Then, after the Herald finally finished a quarter slightly in the black, she received an email from a Neenah resident asking a simple question: "Why not Neenah?"

The resident pointed out that surrounding communities had their own newspapers. Why shouldn't Neenah?

Karen thought about it. The Herald was already covering Winnebago County news. Perhaps that reporting could serve both communities, with an additional reporter dedicated to Neenah.

"So I thought, why not?" Karen recalled.

She believed Neenah would welcome its own newspaper as Oshkosh had welcomed the Herald.

On Feb. 18, 2022, the first Neenah News rolled off the presses. It was 20 pages, with more than 50 advertisers from Oshkosh and Neenah, including a special page from Ripon.

The lead story covered Mayor Dean Kaufert's final months in office after his decision not to seek reelection. There were also honor rolls from Neenah and St. Mary Catholic high schools.

The first issue went to 10,000 homes, roughly half the households in the 54956 ZIP code. The second issue went to the other half, giving the community a chance to see what its new newspaper had to offer.

After those introductory mailings, Neenah News returned to subscription-only distribution, growing to approximately 1,600 subscribers.

But advertisers wanted the newspaper to reach the entire community, just as the Oshkosh Herald did. They encouraged Karen to adopt the same free-distribution model and pledged their support.

In August 2023, Neenah News began arriving in mailboxes throughout the 54956 ZIP code every week. Today, the newspaper averages 12 to 16 pages and is mailed to approximately 22,400 homes, plus subscribers.

It has also recently been named the City of Neenah's official newspaper of record, giving residents a local place to find public notices about city government. But reaching more households also means higher costs.

Karen says the cost of newsprint, postage and staffing has increased substantially since the newspaper began free distribution three years ago. Advertising revenue remains essential, but she doesn't believe local businesses should have to absorb all those increases.

"We simply can not pass on the entire increase to our local community businesses that support the News, and they do so to have an informed community," she explained.

That's where the Founding 5,000 comes in. Karen sees the $50 annual membership as a way for readers who can afford to contribute to help keep the newspaper accessible to everyone, including neighbors who may not be able to pay.

And $50 is less than the annual subscription price Neenah News charged when it first launched.

Over the next several weeks, I'll introduce you to some of the people behind Neenah News and the people who choose to support it even though they can receive the paper for free.

I want them to tell you why. I also want to show you what "free" actually costs and what this community stands to lose if local journalism isn't sustainable.

Four years ago, a Neenah resident asked Karen Schneider a simple question: "Why not Neenah?"

Karen answered by starting a newspaper. Now we're asking Neenah to help keep it going.

Are you in?

Visit winnebagomediagroup.com/the-5000 or scan to join.

Grace Lim is a journalist, educator, founder of Humans of Oshkosh and owner of Grace Lim Creative. She believes local journalism and community storytelling help people feel seen, informed and connected.

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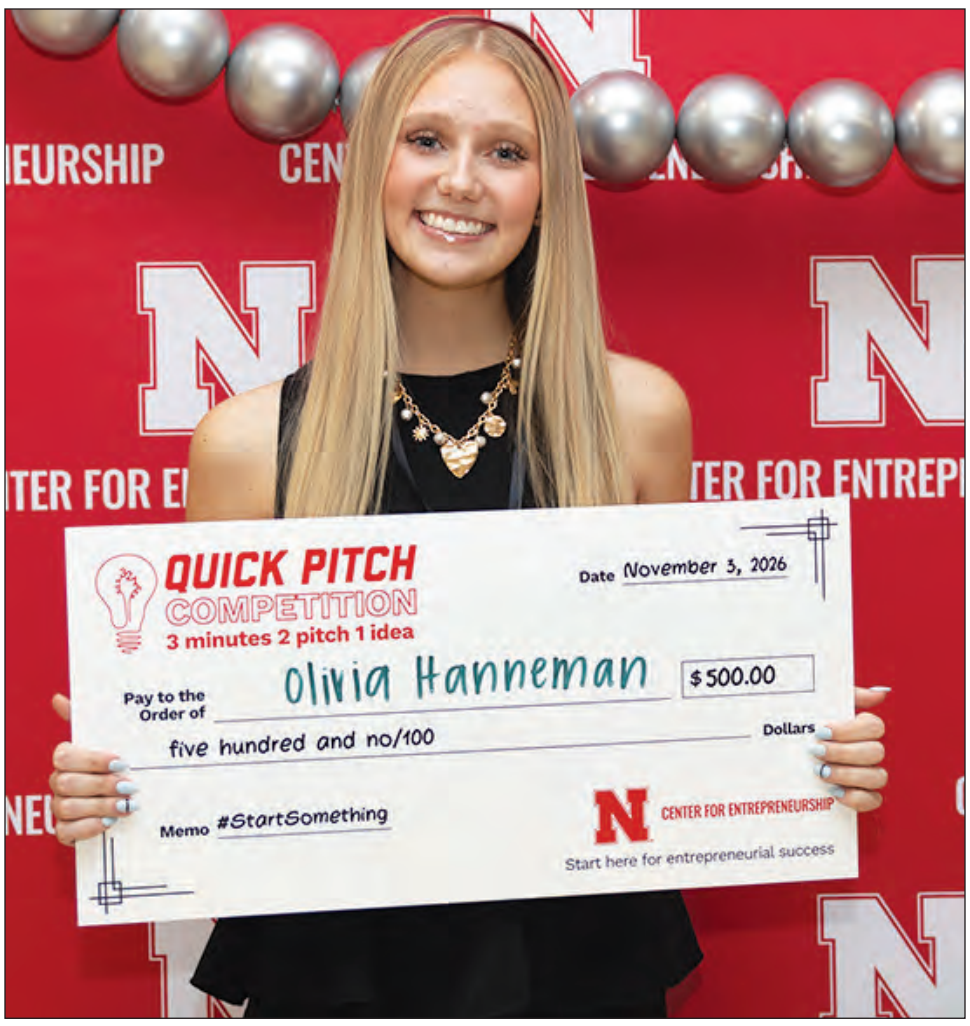
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Submitted photo

A record 195 Husker students, including Olivia Hanneman of Neenah, registered for the 18th annual 3-2-1 Quick Pitch competition, hosted by the Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship. Representing 40 majors and eight colleges, students competed for $18,000 in donor-funded cash prizes while gaining feedback from entrepreneurs and business leaders.

Neenah alum takes home prize in business competition at Nebraska

Neenah News

Olivia Hanneman of Neenah, a freshman majoring in business administration and mathematics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earned $500 as a winner of the 18th annual 3-2-1 Quick Pitch competition hosted by the Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship on Nov. 3.

A record 195 students, representing 40 majors across eight colleges at the university, registered for the competition. Competitors had three minutes to present their business ideas and answer questions from judges. Two winners were selected from each of 18 competition groups, with $18,000 in donor-funded prizes awarded overall.

"Putting yourself out there in this type of environment, throwing an idea out there, being vulnerable and letting people give feedback is such an incredible opportunity," said Sam Nelson, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, Bauermeister Family Presidential Chair in Entrepreneurship and associate professor of practice in management.

The competition connected students with 48 judges representing more than 40 organizations, nearly half of whom were CEOs or founders. Their experience provided students with valuable feedback on developing business ideas and opportunities to build professional connections.

Nearly 40% of registrants came from outside the College of Business, reflecting the center's commitment to making entrepreneurship accessible to students across the university.

New date set for smart telescopes program

Neenah News

A program at the Neenah Public Library that was postponed last month has been rescheduled to Nov. 24.

The "smart telescopes" program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Participants can discover how a new generation of compact, computerized "smart telescopes" is making astronomy and astrophotography more accessible than ever. These instruments can automatically locate, track and photograph galaxies, nebulae, star clusters and other celestial objects, even from light-polluted locations.

Rick Beal, a member of the Northeast Wisconsin Stargazers (NEWSTAR), will explain how smart telescopes work, demonstrate the kinds of images they can produce, and discuss their advantages and limitations. The presentation is intended for anyone interested in astronomy, from curious beginners to experienced amateur astronomers.

Participants are advised to bring warm clothes as the group will be heading outside to use the library's new "smart telescope" at the end of the program.

Chamber releases economic development report for Q3

The Fox Cities Chamber continues to drive economic growth and advance regional prosperity, according to its recently released Q3 2026 Economic Development Report.

During the quarter, the Chamber surpassed 2,100 members, expanded its business retention and expansion efforts, supported business attraction projects, and played a role in helping the region recover from July's devastating tornado.

"From supporting individual businesses to advancing initiatives that strengthen our entire region, the Chamber remains focused on creating an environment where employers, employees, and communities can thrive," said Becky Bartoszek, president and CEO of the Fox Cities Chamber. "Our third-quarter results reflect both the strength of our business community and the importance of collaboration in moving the Fox Cities forward."

Key highlights from the third quarter include:

Business Growth and Engagement: The Chamber welcomed 66 new Connect Free members, bringing total participation in the free small business membership program to 1,244. Overall Chamber membership now exceeds 2,100 businesses and organizations.

Economic Development: Chamber staff conducted 43 business retention and expansion visits, supported site selection and business attraction projects, completed customized wage analyses, and fulfilled several economic data requests.

Business Recovery: Following the July 27 tornado, the Chamber mobilized within 24 hours to launch a centralized business recovery resource hub, coordinate assistance, provide temporary workspace, and advocate for additional disaster relief. Long-term recovery efforts continue in partnership with local municipalities and regional stakeholders.

Talent and Leadership Development: Leadership Fox Cities welcomed its 2026–27 class, while 10 participants began the Chamber's Leader Lab program. The Chamber also concluded its Summer Intern Series, helping emerging professionals develop skills and build connections in the region.

Young Professional Engagement: The Fox Cities Chamber Young Professionals Network grew to 904 active members, continuing to provide professional development, networking, and community engagement opportunities.

Business Connections and Community Impact: The Chamber hosted three Business After Hours events, celebrated numerous business milestones through ribbon cuttings, and brought together 75 women for its inaugural Women's Golf Outing.

The quarter also included License to Cruise and Octoberfest, a community festival that attracted more than 300,000 attendees for the weekend.

The complete Q3 2026 Economic Development Report is available online at shorturl.at/0eP6x.

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Rockets' Hansman, relay gear up for trip to state meet

By Steve Clark
Neenah News



Neenah News

Making the trip to Saturday's WIAA Division 1 State Swimming and Diving Championships in Waukesha for Neenah are: (front) Sydney Hansman; (back, from left) Anna Benthein, Breleigh Maurer, Bridget Bloomhuff, Elisabeth Hang, Kirsten Brygger, Ellen Farrell.

It's a Neenah High School girls swim team tradition to have a team meal at someone's house following the sectional meet to await official word on the state meet fortunes for the squad.

Last Saturday's night get-together was held at the house of junior Bridget Bloomhuff and at some point during the evening those in the vicinity – and maybe around all of Neenah – could have heard the collective screams of joy when the Rockets' 200-yard medley relay team learned it was headed to state.

"We were all sitting around the table anxiously waiting and refreshing the (web) page like 5,000 times," senior Breleigh Maurer said. "When we got in, I think we were all really excited."

How excited?

"There was jumping and screaming," Bloomhuff, a junior, said. "The moments leading up to it were just very stressful."

Maurer and Bloomhuff will be joined by sophomore Elisabeth Hang and freshman Kirsten Brygger on the state-qualifying relay after the foursome punched their ticket by swimming a time of 1-minute, 52.18 seconds at the sectional meet last Saturday in Neenah.

The quartet will be joined by senior diver Sydney Hansman, who qualified for state for the third time in her career and had already punched her ticket to the Waukesha South High School podium by winning the sectional title.

"It is really good to know I'm going," Hansman said. "Sectionals gets very stressful and now that I know I am going to state – it still is a bit stressful – but it's a relief to know I'm not working to get to state anymore."

Hansman won the sectional title with a total of 472.65 points on Saturday – nearly 30 points ahead of the second-place finisher – which was an increase of about 80 points off of last year's sectional total when she took second.

Hansman finished 12th at last year's state meet but is hoping for a much higher finish in her final high school meet. She had the third-highest total at sectionals among the 24 competitors who made the state meet and her score last Saturday would have placed her a close third at last year's state meet.

"My goal is to make the top eight at the state meet," Hansman said. "It's really just about hitting as many dives as perfect as I can and doing my best."

Hansman is trying to become the first Neenah diver since Abbigale Priestly to finish in the top eight at state. Priestly took fourth in 2021.

One of the things that Hansman can rely on heading to state is the experience she has gained in her last two trips. She admits to being very nervous when she first made it as a sophomore – she finished 18th overall but did not make the final round – but had a few less butterflies when she made the trip last year.

"I know what to expect so it's a lot more calming going into the state meet," Hansman said. "My junior year I was calmed down a bit so I think the experience helps a lot."

The Rockets' relay team also has state meet experience among its ranks as Maurer, Bloomhuff and Hang all swam on Neenah's 400-yard freestyle relay team that made it to Waukesha. Maurer also competed on two relays as a sophomore.

The relay – which also includes senior Anna Benthein and junior Ellen Farrell as alternates – made it to state by shaving more than four seconds off of its seed time at sectionals and will be seeded 22nd among the 24 teams at the state meet.

See **State meet** on Page 15

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Fall sports all-conference awards

FOOTBALL

Charles, Stuckel lead Rocket all-FVA selections

Seniors Matthias Charles and Connor Stuckel each garnered special recognition to lead the Neenah selections to the all-Fox Valley Association football teams.

Charles was a unanimous first-team selection and named the Receiver of the Year in the conference. He led the conference in receptions (54) and receiving yards (659) and ranked second in receiving touchdowns (5) this season.

Charles was an honorable mention honoree in the conference last season.

Stuckel was named the Linebacker of the Year in the Conference after leading the Rockets with 81 total tackles, including 45 solo stops. He also tallied five tackles-for-loss, three forced fumbles and one fumble recovery in leading the Neenah defense.

Stuckel was a first-team all-FVA selection last season as well.

Charles and Stuckel were among the six first-team selections for the Rockets.

Junior defensive back Owen Fox earned first-team honors for the second straight season, after finishing third on the team in tackles (65), while leading the team in passes defensed. He also had an interception on the season.

Junior defensive lineman Cooper Landrath also earned first-team honors along with junior offensive linemen Karsen Briones and Max Mueller. Rounding out the first-team selections was freshman tight end Chase Kramer, who had four touchdown receptions among his 13 catches this season.

Since 2003, there has not been a freshman to earn first-team all-FVA honors until Kramer's recognition. The last Neenah freshman to earn any level of all-conference honors in football was in 2019 when Neenah's Blake Dietzen was named to the honorable mention team as a defensive lineman in the VFA North.

Earning second-team honors on offense for Neenah were senior wide receiver Dylan Foat and senior running back Cooper Sieck, while junior linebackers Oliver Bentz and Logan Price earned spots on the second-team defense.

Neenah also had junior defensive lineman Mason Burgess, junior tight end Elliot Devlin and junior defensive lineman Tyler Resch earn honorable mention honors. Landrath was also named to the honorable mention list as an offensive lineman.

In addition to the players honored, Steve Jung was named the co-Head Coach of the Year in the conference and Justin Budiac was named the Assistant Coach of the Year in the league.

Dupont headlines Zephyr honorees

Junior defensive end Brennan Dupont was named the Defensive Player of the Year in the Eastern Wisconsin Conference to lead a large St. Mary Catholic contingent to receive all-league honors.

Dupont, one of two unanimous selections on the first-team defense finished the season with 60 tackles, including a whopping 25-tackles for loss. He led the Zephyrs with five sacks on the season and also recovered a fumble.

The other unanimous first-team selection on defense was also from St. Mary Catholic in senior defensive back Dominic Osgood. Osgood had a pair of interceptions on the season – one of which he returned for a touchdown – and recovered three fumbles while also finishing with 41 tackles.

The other first-team selections on defense were senior linebacker Alex Klinkhammer, junior linebacker George Voss and senior defensive lineman Max Vosters.

Klinkhammer led the Zephyr defense in his first full season at linebacker with 80 tackles, including 12 tackles-for-loss, while Voss ranked second on the team in tackles with 66, while also tallying two forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and one interception. Vosters totaled 39 tackles, 11 tackles-for-loss and a fumble recovery to earn his recognition.

Senior offensive lineman Brady Detterman was a unanimous selection to the first team. Detterman overcame a knee injury early in the season to help pave the way for the Zephyrs potent offense.

Senior quarterback Tarver Trinkner threw for 1,021 yards and 12 touchdowns, while also rushing for 655 yards – at nearly seven yards per carry – and six touchdowns to earn first-team honors. Tarver's top target senior Luke Fairweather also was a first-team selection after finishing the season with 30 receptions for 417 yards and six touchdowns.

Rounding out the first-team selections for the Zephyrs was sophomore kicker Carter Pendergast, who was 25-of-27 on PATs and 7-of-9 on field goals this season.

Dupont was also a second-team selection on the offensive line, while Detterman was named to the second team as a defensive lineman.

Earning honorable mention honors for St. Mary Catholic were Vosters at tight end and punter, senior Gibson Rause and Klinkhammer at offensive line and senior outside linebacker Briley Guta.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Hoelzel, Romjue repeat as all-FVA first-teamers

Neenah seniors Paige Hoelzel and Lilly Romjue each earned first-team all-Fox Valley Association honors for the second straight season.

Hoelzel led the Rockets in blocks with 79, while also totaling 144 kills and 32 aces from her middle blocker position. Romjue paced Neenah in kills with 343, while also finishing second on the team with 249 digs and fourth on the team with 42 aces.

The Rockets also had three second-team honorees from the team that reached the Division 1 sectional final. Senior Elaina Kramer and sophomore Brielle Brown were chosen as hitters, while junior libero Aubrey Lindgren was tabbed for the list.

Junior setter Finley Kelley was the lone Neenah selection on the honorable mention list.

Fond du Lac's Ellie Shultis was named Player of the year in the conference.

Zephyrs' Crowe collects first-team honor

Senior outside hitter Autumn Crowe led a handful of St. Mary Catholic players to receiving all-conference recognition in

See **All conference** on Page 14



All-conference

from Page 13

the Big East North.

Crowe led the Zephyrs with 238 kills, while ranking second on the team with 295 digs. She also finished the season with 35 aces in helping St. Mary Catholic advance to the Division 3 sectional final.

The Zephyrs had a trio of players earn second-team recognition in the league in senior hitter Luci Nackers, senior libero Bitsy McCauley and junior hitter/setter Adele Brennan.

Senior hitter Piper Neubauer earned a spot on the honorable mention list.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Diekfuss named top player in FVA

Neenah senior Cam Diekfuss was named the Player of the Year in the Fox Valley Association after leading the Rockets to the program's first conference title.

Diekfuss, the first Rocket to earn Player of the Year honors since Miles Weaver in 2024, played a key role in the team's success this season. The senior led the team in assists (622), total blocks (58) and aces (63), while ranking second on the team in digs with 127 and kills with 124.

Note: All-conference teams for cross country and swimming will appear in the Nov. 20 edition.

Diekfuss was joined on the first team by teammate senior Sam Keepers. Keepers was the Rockets' top attacker with 250 kills on the season, while also finishing with 99 digs, 37 aces and 15 blocks.

Earning second-team honors for the Rockets was senior hitter Trevor Ricketts, while seniors Alexander Locke and Dylan McNamara were named on the honorable mention list.

SOCCER

Neenah's Baetke earns top honors in FVA

Rockets junior Ian Baetke was named Player of the Year in the Fox Valley Association to lead the Neenah players honored on the all-conference lists.

Baetke, who earned first-team honors last season as well, was one of two unanimous selections on the first team and one of just two juniors named to the 13-member first team.

The forward finished with 24 goals and nine assists for 57 points in leading a high-scoring offense for the Rockets.

Senior midfielder Kolton Fleege, who added 11 goals and eight assists, was also named to the first team along with senior defender Owen Pire. Pire picked up a goal and an assist this season while also leading the Rockets' back line.

The Rockets had just one second-team selection in senior defender Daniel Priest

Neenah did not have any players earn honorable mention honors.

Two players earn honors for Zephyrs

St. Mary Catholic had a pair of players honored on the all-Big East/EWC soccer teams.

Junior midfielder Rhett Probst was named to the second team, while junior goalkeeper Aaron Ruppert was named on the honorable mention list.

TENNIS

Rockets dominate all-FVA first team

Neenah extended its string of Fox Valley Association championships and WIAA Team State Tournament appearances this season and were rewarded with filling up nearly the entire all-conference first team.

All three doubles teams and the top three singles players earned first team honors, meaning the Rockets had the top players in six of the seven flights.

Senior Celia Gentile at No. 1 singles, sophomore Rachel Thomas at No. 2 singles and senior Ellie Grace Zickler at No. 3 singles all earned spots on the first team. Sophomore Page Vickman was honorable mention at No. 4 singles.

The doubles pairings to earn first-team honors for the Rockets were senior Rebekah Thomas and junior Sydney Mi-

See **All conference** on Page 15

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All-conference

from Page 13

chalkiewicz at the No. 1 flight, seniors Evelyn Buss and Gabriella Motto at the No. 2 flight and senior JB Kennedy and junior Mollie Van Dyke at No. 3 doubles.

Four Zephyrs take home top honors

St. Mary Catholic landed two singles players and its No. 1 doubles team on the all-Eastern Wisconsin Conference teams.

The conference champion Zephyrs, who also advanced to the WIAA Team State Tournament for the second straight year, had junior Vivie Auth and senior Nadia Alexander chosen as singles players on the first.

The Zephyrs' No. 1 doubles pairing of senior Halle Janssen and junior Ella Chier were also named to the first team.

Earning second-team honors was the state-qualifying No. 2 doubles team of senior Kieran Bergstrom and sophomore Scarlett Bergstrom.

Freshman singles player Norah Wroblewski and the No. 3 doubles pairing of sophomores Faith Bergstrom and Laney Schmidt were named on the honorable mention list.

GOLF

Trio of Neenah seniors garner honors

Three Rockets earned spots on the all-FVA lists for this season.

Seniors Adrianne Oitzinger and Lilly Quella landed on the five-player second team for the Rockets.

Earning honorable mention honors for the Rockets was senior Alex Guden.

Reichenberger earns first-team spot

St. Mary Catholic junior Scarlett Reichenberger earned first-team honors in the Bay Conference following a breakthrough season.

Reichenbacher, who finished ninth at the Bay Conference meet, was one of two players honored for the Zephyrs.

Senior Ainslie Liddy earned a spot on the honorable mention list.

State meet

from Page 12

"Everyone had good splits (at sectionals) at least for what our goals were," Maurer said. "I know I dropped from what I wanted to go and I think others did too."

The plan now is to try to drop even more time at the state meet and see where it lands them.

"That's the goal," Hang said.

Neenah is less than two seconds off the time of the 15th seed and only a little more than three seconds off of being in the top 10 of seed times.

Although the team tapered their practice swims to be primed for last Saturday's sectional meet, they all believe they can go faster than last week.

"We were tapering for (sectionals) so for state, it's definitely going to be the fine-tuning and in the details to drop time," Brygger said.

Added Maurer: "Having the good turns, the good relay exchanges is really important. I think we can drop some more time and place us higher."

Neenah will swim in the first heat of the event at the state meet and will mark the end of Maurer's prep career.

Yet, being able to finish her career at the state meet is the best way to go out.

"We worked really hard to get there," Maurer said. "And ending my senior year at state feels really good."

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION
NEENAH JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
April 6, 2027

Election Details
An election is to be held in the school district of the Neenah Joint School District on Tuesday, April 6, 2027. The following offices are to be filled by election to succeed the present incumbents listed.

Alex Corrigan
Brian Epley
Susan Garcia Franz

Office Terms
The term of office for each school board member is three years beginning on Monday, April 26, 2027, and expiring on April 23, 2030. A description of the school district boundaries may be accessed on the district's website at: neenah.k12.wi.us

For Candidates
A Campaign Registration Statement and a Declaration of Candidacy must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2027, in the office of the school district clerk. The office is located at 410 S. Commercial Street, Neenah, Wisconsin. The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2026.

Candidacy papers are available at the NJSD Administrative Building during regular office hours – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except when the office is closed due to the holiday season.

Primary Election
If a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2027.

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID, you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

/s/ Alex Corrigan
Neenah Joint School District
Board of Education Clerk
November 13, 2026

Published: November 13, 2026
WNAXLP

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 A to Z Auto Sales, LLC to establish a truck/trailer rental business located at 902 Main Street, Neenah, Wisconsin.

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

Geigers Original Plat, Lots 15-17 of Block 3, located in the Southwest ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 21, 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 24, 2026
4:00 P.M.

Council Formal Hearing
Council Chambers – 211 Walnut Street
Wednesday, December 2, 2026
6:00 P.M.

Brad Schmidt
Deputy Director of Community Development
Neenah, Wisconsin

Charlotte Nagel
City Clerk
Neenah, Wisconsin

Publish: November 13th and November 20th, 2026
WNAXLP

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 rezoning land south of W. Winneconne Avenue and west of Henry Street from R-2, Two-Family Residence District to the C-1, General Commercial District.
The property for which the rezoning is being requested is legally described as follows:
The North 120 feet of Lot 1, All of Lot 3, All of Lot 2, All of Lot 4, All of Lot 5, and the west one-third of Lot 6, All located in Block 3, Sherry's 2nd Addition to Sherrytown, located in the Southeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼, Section 28, Town 20 North, Range 17 East, City of Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin.
Parcel ID: 80200210000

The hearing will be held at the City Administration Building, 211 Walnut Street, Neenah, Wisconsin.

Plan Commission Informal Hearing
4:00 P.M. Hauser Room
Tuesday, November 24, 2026

Council Formal Hearing
6:00 P.M. Council Chambers
Wednesday, December 2, 2026

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applicant and interested persons may appear at said hearings and be heard for or against the proposed rezoning.

Charlotte Nagel
City Clerk
Neenah, Wisconsin

Publish: November 13th and November 20th, 2026
WNAXLP

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Legal Notices

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Charissa Anne Huffman

Notice of Name Change Hearing
Case No. 26CV1087

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From:
First – Charissa
Middle – Anne
Last – Huffman
To:
First – Charissa
Middle – Anne
Last – Kerber
Birth Certificate:
First – Charissa
Middle – Anne
Last – Huffman

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Michael S. Gibbs
Place: 415 Jackson Street, Room 211, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Date: 12/09/2026
Time: 8:30 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4868 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

NOTICE TO NEWSPAPER AND PETITIONER:

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

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: November 3, 2026.
Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 4
Runs: November 13, 2026, November 20, 2026 and November 27, 2026.

WNAXLP

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT
WINNEBAGO COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Gouri Kalyani Bollepalli

Notice of Name Change Hearing
Case No. 2026CV001066

NOTICE IS GIVEN:
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From:
First – Gouri
Middle – Kalyani
Last – Bollepalli
To:
First – Gouri
Middle –
Last – Kalyani
Birth Certificate:
First – Gouri
Middle – Kalyani
Last – Bollepalli

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, State of Wisconsin:
Judge's Name: Michael S. Gibbs
Place: 415 Jackson Street, Room 211, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Date: 12-9-26
Time: 11:15 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 920-236-4868 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

NOTICE TO NEWSPAPER AND PETITIONER:

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

BY THE COURT:
DATE SIGNED: October 26, 2026.
Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 4

Runs: November 6, 2026, November 13, 2026 and November 20, 2026.

WNAXLP

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Gift of Gratitude

Taking a Moment to Say "Thank You!"



When was the last time someone said "Thank you!" to you? How did it make you feel?

Being thankful often takes time to slow down and think about the things and people that are most important to us.

Thinking about what we are grateful for brings happiness. It can help us feel better during hard times. Thanking people often makes them feel happy, relaxed and warm inside. And it often brings a smile to their face.

Thank You Notes Give Lasting Joy

Taking time to tell someone what you **appreciate** about them can take some time. And the message lasts an even longer time. A written note of gratitude is often displayed where it will be seen for days or even weeks. Sometimes a written thank you note is so special that people save them for the rest of their lives.



Write a Thank You Note

Who do you want to thank?

_____

What do you want to thank this person for?

_____

_____

Describe why you are thankful for this.

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How did this gift make you feel?

_____

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Gratitude Bingo

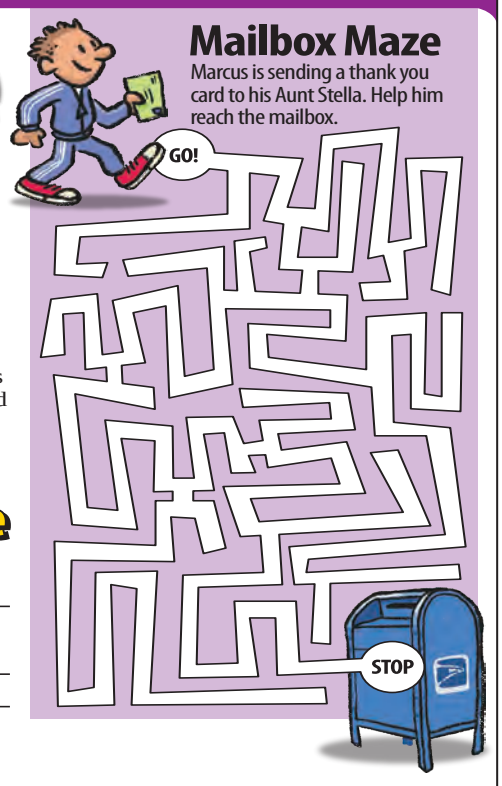
1. Cut out this Gratitude Bingo card.
2. Each time you do one of the activities, cross out the square.
3. Can you do all nine activities?

Say "Thank you!" to someone.	Write someone a thank you note.	Draw a picture of a person you're grateful for.
Write down three of your favorite healthy foods.	Sing or listen to one of your favorite songs.	Say "Thank you!" to someone.
Say "Thank you!" to someone.	Make a list of your favorite things.	Write a thank you note to your teacher.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

Mailbox Maze

Marcus is sending a thank you card to his Aunt Stella. Help him reach the mailbox.



Extra! Extra! Gratitude Poem

Look through the newspaper for a word that starts with each letter in the word **gratitude**. Use these words to write a poem about gratitude.

G _____
R _____
A _____
T _____
I _____
T _____
U _____
D _____
E _____

Standards Link: Language Arts: Spell grade-level words correctly.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Aww, man! My puppy tore up the thank you note I wrote to my grandpa. Can you number the parts in order?



(1) Dear Grandpa,
( ) time! I added them to my
( ) been wanting for a long
(2) Thank you for the pack of
(8) Love, Devon
( ) Pokemon cards. The pack
( ) Pokemon card binder.
( ) came with two cards I've

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.

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BETTER
BRINGS
DAYS
FEEL
GIFT
HAPPY
NOTE
SAVE
SLOW
SMILE
TELL
THANK
WARM
WRITER
YOU

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

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

Kid Scoop Together

Just Because

Sometimes it's nice to surprise someone with a little thank you note to brighten their day. Color these cheerful notes and give them to people today!

THANK YOU FOR BEING AWESOME!

THANK YOU FOR BEING FRIENDLY!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME SMILE!

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

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Write On!

Thank You!

Write a thank you note to someone you know, or someone you'd like to know.

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

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