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City plans tornado-response survey, meeting

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

The City of Neenah will survey residents and host a town hall meeting about the city's response to the July 27 tornado and its recovery efforts to gather feedback and help the city better prepare for future emergency events.

The Emergency Government Committee met Nov. 12 to go over the survey questions and begin planning for a public meeting in January where city officials would share survey findings and answer questions from the public.

Mayor Brian Borchardt and Fire Chief Travis Teesch worked together on the survey which asks how people were notified of the storm, how the storm affected them — whether it was property damage, loss of utilities, loss of work, etc. — what kind of assistance they sought, where they looked for information about available resources, what kind of support they received, the city's recovery process and more.

Residents will be provided with a QR link to the survey in the December issue

See **Recovery survey** on Page 10

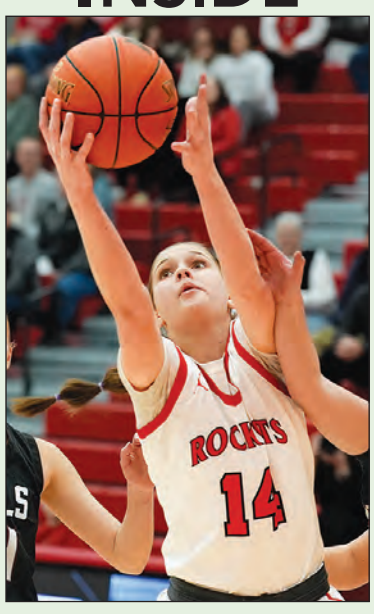


Photo from Neenah Joint School District

Nonstop smiles

The stands were packed and the energy was electric at the 13th annual Phase 1 basketball game last week. The Unified Basketball team, made up of students of all abilities, took the court alongside and against Neenah High School staff for an evening of teamwork, big shots and nonstop smiles. The Rockets came out victorious in a 52-51 win over the staff team.

Inside



Girls hoops
Rockets, Zephyrs gear up for new season
Page 11

The man who helped build two community newspapers

By Grace Lim
News Contributor

When Karen Schneider told Dan Roherty she wanted to start a newspaper in Neenah, he had a pretty good idea what he was getting into.

After all, he'd helped her launch the Oshkosh Herald in 2018. He knew what it took to put together a weekly newspaper with a small staff, limited resources and a seemingly endless list of things that needed to get done.

Dan admits there was some initial panic about adding to the weekly workload. But this time, they weren't starting from scratch.

"We had a blueprint with the Herald on how to generate content and build connections with organizations and local officials," he said.

And Neenah wasn't unfamiliar territory. In fact, Dan knew the community's recent history better than he'd known Oshkosh when he helped launch the Herald.

For more than 35 years, Dan had worked in newspapers, most of that time at The Post-Crescent in Appleton.

He'd been the copy desk chief for the daily publication that covered communities throughout the Fox Cities region, including Neenah.

He remembered a time when The Post-Crescent had a large newsroom and produced the Twin Cities News-Record, a weekly newspaper devoted to Neenah and Menasha. That newspaper was long gone.

So when Karen proposed starting Neenah News, Dan understood what the community had lost. He also knew what a newspaper dedicated to local coverage could give back. But first, they had to produce one.

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

See **Local journalism** on Page 10



Photo by Grace Lim

Former Neenah News editor Dan Roherty, left, and current editor Chris Lusvardi hold a special edition of the Neenah News featuring the QR code for Winnebago Media Group's Founding 5,000 campaign. The campaign is seeking 5,000 people willing to contribute $50 a year to help sustain nonprofit local journalism.

Happy Thanksgiving

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

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

Menasha High School wins grand prize to rebuild football stadium

Neenah News

Menasha High School is the grand prize winner of a contest sponsored by T-Mobile.

The high school will use the $1 million it receives from the Friday Night 5G Lights promotion for rebuilding its home football facility. Menasha won the contest with over 390,000 community votes.

Nathan Calder Stadium was damaged in the July 27 tornado that impacted parts of northern Winnebago County. With the stadium not able to be repaired in time, the Bluejays played their home games at Lawrence University's Banta Bowl in Appleton.

Menasha is planning a reveal of the renovated stadium in 2027 to celebrate the victory with the community. By winning the prize, the football team will be able to return to its home field.

More than 2,500 schools applied for the prize money.

High school musicians to present opening performance

Neenah News

Neenah High School musicians will present their opening performance for several of their fine arts ensembles.

The public is invited to the opener at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. The concert will feature performances by the Intermediate and Advanced Jazz Ensembles, Touch of Class, Act II and Vintage.

Admission is free with general seating at Neenah's Pickard Auditorium at the middle school.

Before the concert, Vintage will hold its annual Pasta Dinner in the NMS cafeteria.

Church invites community to Thanksgiving Day meal

Neenah News

Community members are invited to a free Thanksgiving Day meal at Peace Lutheran Church.

The meal will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at the church, 1228 S. Park Ave. in Neenah.

No reservations are needed.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society

Thanksgiving time

Thanksgiving dinner was served in the Theda Clark Hospital cafeteria in 1966. Workers and families enjoyed a Thanksgiving Dinner while at the hospital.

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Please be advised the Neenah News will have early deadlines for the November 27th issue:
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Classified deadline: Mon. 11/23 Noon
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The Neenah News office will be closed on Nov. 27th
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Calendar of events

Friday, Nov. 20

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

Thursday, Nov. 26

Thanksgiving Day Meal, 11 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 S. Park Ave. 12

Friday, Nov. 27

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

Saturday, Nov. 28

Small Business Saturday, all day

Amanda Lauer, Author of "My First Saint Nicholas Book: Celebrating St. Nick's Feast Day and Christmas Story," Book Signing and Presentation, 10:15 a.m., Neenah Public Library

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Fox Crossing Gingerbread Night, 5 p.m., Fox Crossing Municipal Complex, 2000 Municipal Drive

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Fox Valleyaires Barbershop Bistro, 5:30 p.m., DoubleTree by Hilton Neenah

What Was The Star of Bethlehem?, 6:30 p.m., Neenah Public Library

Thursday, Dec. 3

Bake Sale, 7 a.m., ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah

Friday, Dec. 4

A Very Neenah Christmas, 5 p.m., Downtown Neenah

Saturday, Dec. 5

Timeless Treasures Christmas Bazaar, 8 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 South Park Ave.

The Grinch Family Breakfast, 9 a.m., Washington Park Shelter

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

A Very Neenah Christmas Market, 10 a.m., Downtown Neenah

Author Chris Baker Book Signing of "Christmas With You," 10 a.m., Lyons Books, 127 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Madrigal Dinner, 1 and 6:30 p.m., Neenah High School Atrium

Sunday, Dec. 6

A Very Neenah Christmas Market, 10 a.m., Downtown Neenah

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

Neenah Community Band Winter Concert, 3 p.m., Neenah High School Performing Arts Center

Tuesday, Dec. 8

Fox Valleyaires Christmas Theater Show, 7 p.m., Neenah High School

Wednesday, Dec. 9

ThedaCare Candlelight Memorial Show, 7 p.m., Best Western Bridgewood Resort and Conference Center

Common council passes budget, tax rate increases



MaryBeth Matzek
Reporter

City of Neenah property owners will see their 2027 assessed tax rates rise 9.57%, an increase of $0.6961 per $1,000 of assessed value.

The Neenah Common Council passed a general fund budget of $32,036,930 at its meeting Tuesday. The new city portion of the property tax rate is $7.9734 per $1,000 of assessed value.

Including the new 20% sanitary sewer increase (for a typical family of four) of $85, a $5 stormwater increase and the 9.57% property tax increase, the overall tax increase on a $275,000 home is $281.43.

The budget passed 6-3, with aldermen Flo Bruno, Brian Defferding and William Pollnow, Jr. voting against.

The council considered nine amendments to the budget originally proposed last month by Mayor Brian Borchardt. One of the amendments, which passed, increases employee pay in 2027 by an average of 6%, an increase from the planned 2.5%, which was in the budget.

Alderman Dan Steiner said the city has lagged behind other municipalities for years when it comes to pay and loses valuable staff members.

"With this increase, we'll still be below the market average. Other municipalities simply pay higher," he said. "It affects taxpayers if we don't have someone there to answer a phone or pick up their garbage."

Bruno said she felt conflicted about the pay increase.

"I know we need to increase our staff salaries, but that being said, I don't think the taxpayer should have to pay for it," she said. "I think the 6% is too aggressive. I think we find the money and then be aggressive about the pay increase."

An amendment adding $119,000 from the undesignated general fund balance to the budget for a total of $319,000 also passed. The $319,000 is the same amount that was moved over last year.

"This doesn't solve anything in the big picture, but it puts us in a better financial place this year," Pollnow said.

He said the city needs a debt service plan.

"The department heads did a great job with their budgets," Pollnow said. "The bogey man in the budget is the debt service levy. We borrowed so much in the past that now every penny matters."

Defferding said the budget's tax increase was too high.

"This increase is above the cost of living. The hardworking people of Neenah are just going to have to work harder," he said. "We could have done a lot better, and I think there were still opportunities we could have addressed" to lower the tax levy.

2027 budget highlights

Crossing guards will be removed from five locations, saving the department $20,000. 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.

The mayor's training budget will remain at $4,500. For the coming year, Borchardt added $4,000 to his training budget, saying $500 in 2026 was insufficient. "That was one conference," the mayor said.

Alderman Mark Ellis introduced a budget amendment to return the line item back to $500, which failed. Ellis said the mayor violated procedure and tried to hide it when he took money from other funds to pay for executive coaching sessions earlier this year. Borchardt said he didn't realize he needed approval to move the funds.

Borchardt said he plans to use the 2027 funds to attend different trainings and conferences. He also said he is paying for his 2026 executive coaching sessions.

"I've never seen a training line item get so much attention. I'm in support of any training or coaching the mayor can get," Pollnow said. "He manages 250 people."

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.

An amendment passed removing $682,500 from borrowing to construct a parking lot in Tax Incremental District No. 10.

Town of Neenah taps into reserves to balance budget

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

The Town of Neenah Board approved a balanced budget for 2027.

The town's proposed budget for 2027 is $4,413,314 — a 15.9% decrease from 2026. The mill rate is projected to be 65 cents per thousand, down from $1.03 in 2026, said Town Administrator Ellen Skerke.

The town used its reserve budget to produce the balanced budget, Skerke said. The town is tapping into its reserve balance to pay for the reconstruction of Oakridge Road, she said.

The road project will include the addition of a pedestrian trail, curb and gutter and a roundabout at Oakridge and Tullar Road. At the roundabout, an extension will be added to the north to support future development.

"Oakridge will look similar to what we did on Larson Road," Skerke said.

The town expects to be reimbursed for a portion of the road project funds through the state's Local Roads Improvement Program. Skerke said the funds should arrive in 2028.

The town is also dealing with the financial repercussions of the July 27 tornado and storm debris clean-up, Skerke said.

"With the tornado, we had to contract all the work out. We have filed with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) for our costs and hope to recoup some of the $600,000 we spent," she said.

The town hopes to get 75% reimbursement from FEMA and 12.5% from the state for the tornado-related costs.

Skerke said between the road project and the funds spent on July 27 storm clean-up, the town was forced to keep a tighter budget.

"We're putting on pause some town hall and parks capital projects," she said. "We're putting some parking lot repairs on hold, but we will continue with our chip and sealing repairs on roads."

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Neenah area students honor local veterans

Neenah News

Students across the Neenah area paid tribute in various ways on Veterans Day to those who have served and protected the country.

Students in fifth through eighth grades at New Springs Christian Academy gathered Nov. 11 to honor the men and women who have served the country during a special Veterans Day Chapel titled "Letters of Gratitude."

The program featured student tributes, readings of "Letters Home" and messages of gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans and their families.

During the Armed Forces Medley, veterans who had served in each branch of the military were invited to stand as their branch's song played, giving those gathered an opportunity to recognize and honor their service.

Students were reminded of the freedoms they should never take for granted. The program closed with a message of gratitude shared with all who have served: "Because of You, we are grateful. Thank you for your courage, your sacrifice, and your commitment to our country."

Honoring veterans is an important reminder that the freedoms that are enjoyed today came at a cost. Through this chapel, students recognized the sacrifices made by those who served and remembered that their service has made a lasting difference in the country and in the lives of generations to come.

St. Mary Catholic High School

St. Mary Catholic High School students celebrated Veterans Day in a special way this year.

Paul Mix was a United States Army veteran, a member of the St. Mary Catholic High School Athletic Hall of Fame and a member of the Class of 1961.

His connection to St. Mary's extended well beyond his years as a student. He was part of the history, tradition and spirit that have made this school such a special place for generations.

Mix passed away in December 2025 at the age of 82. Amongst his final wishes, Mix made arrangements to furnish St. Mary High School with a new American flag to fly over Zephyr Fields.

The school's Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 concluded with Mix's grandson and current third generation Zephyr Nicholas Campbell raising the flag his grandfather gifted SMCS.

Members of the Neenah - Menasha Veterans Color Guard joined the ceremony to honor Mix with a 21-gun salute.



Photo from St. Mary Catholic Schools

St. Mary Catholic High School students celebrated the final wishes of an Army veterans and school alum during a Veterans Day ceremony.



Photo from Neenah Joint School District

Schools in Neenah paid tribute to veterans during ceremonies on Veterans Day.

Neenah Joint School District

Schools in the Neenah Joint School District came together Nov. 11 across multiple campuses to honor local heroes for Veterans Day.

The morning began at Neenah High School with a student-led ceremony featuring musical tributes from the band, choir and orchestra alongside the presentation of colors by Neenah American Legion Post 33.

The celebrations continued into the afternoon at the middle school level, where students welcomed visiting veterans and engaged in discussions about service, civic duty and gratitude.

The school district thanked all the veterans and service members who spent their day with students, creating moments of connection and respect that the young people will remember for years to come.

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County committee passes on restarting biodigester

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

Winnebago County is not interested in reviving the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh's biodigester.

The county's Solid Waste Management Board declined to spend $7,900 on an initial assessment of what it would take to bring the university's biodigester back online for the county's use and its potential financial viability at a meeting earlier this month.

In recent months, Solid Waste Development Director Kathy Hutter toured the biodigester, which UW-Oshkosh ran from 2011-2023, to get a basic understanding of how it worked and how the county might benefit if it decided to use it. The four-chamber anaerobic digester processed an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 tons of material each year, including food waste, yard waste, industrial waste and animal bedding.

Hutter said the county could generate funds using the biodigester through tipping fees, commercial and residential material supply agreements and turning the gas generated by the biodigester into electricity, which it could sell.

UW-Oshkosh, which closed the biodigester in 2023, employed three employees but Hutter said that four people were likely needed to run it successfully.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wants landfills to reduce the amount of food waste it accepts by 50% by 2030 and Hutter said operating the biodigester could help with obtaining that goal.

"The biodigester could align us with the DNR strategies for diverting food waste," she said.

Hutter pointed out UW-Oshkosh did not provide her with any financials about how much money it made, or the costs involved.

"Although anecdotally, I don't think it was successful. It was more of an educational project," she said.

If the county wanted to move forward with learning more about operating the biodigester, Hutter said it could contract with Cornerstone/Tetra Tech for an initial assessment at a cost of $7,900. She said the study would take a closer look at the equipment, the financials and operating costs and operating costs.

Supervisor Howard Miller said he was glad the department was doing its due diligence with the biodigester but does not think it's a good choice for the county.

"My initial thought is that this is a lose-lose proposition. It also requires three employees that we don't have and would need to add to the payroll," he said.

Hauling rate hike: The hauling rate for solid waste and recycling materials will be 41% higher in 2027, coming in at $1.8 million.

Hutter said the county will renew its contract with B.E.S.T. Enterprises, LLC, who was the only company to respond to a request for proposal. The proposal is for an initial one-year contract with up to four one-year extensions. The county has worked with B.E.S.T. for the past few years.

The county budgeted $2.9 million for hauling in 2027 so Hutter said the department "should be good."

Hintz signs $252.9 million county budget

Neenah News

Winnebago County Executive Gordon Hintz signed the county's $252.9 million budget Nov. 13.

The County Board of Supervisors approved the 2027 budget on Oct. 27 by a 29-3 vote.

Hintz said the adopted budget reflected his central priorities: protecting core county services, investing in employees who provide those services and maintaining and modernizing the infrastructure needed to serve county residents.

"This budget represents months of hard work and collaboration among county staff, department leaders, the County Board and the residents we serve," he said. "We faced significant fiscal challenges, but we remained focused on protecting essential services and making responsible investments in our county's future. The overwhelming support from the County Board reflects a shared commitment to those priorities."

The budget development process included departmental reviews, County Board workshops, committee deliberations and five public town halls where residents had opportunities to learn about the proposed budget, ask questions and provide feedback.

County board approves applying for grants

By MaryBeth Matzek
Neenah News

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to apply for nearly $2 million in federal grants to fund an initiative to provide supportive services to people experiencing homelessness to help them obtain and maintain stable housing.

The $1,912,719 in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care grant funding for the two-year Supportive Services Only (SSO) project would support the county's Homeless Eviction Loss Prevention, or HELP, program. Some of the funded services include childcare, job training, medical care, mental health and substance abuse counseling and moving expenses as well as case management and staff salaries.

The grant would cover the employees and programs that make the HELP program work.

The project's total proposed budget is $2,394,765, including $482,046 in a cash match consisting of $265,000 from Winnebago County, $162,000 from Wisconsin Partnership and $55,046 from Community Foundation contributions. The county's cash match would be met through existing services and staff time rather new county spending.

The board also approved a $50,000 federal grant application through the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program. The grant, which is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, targets unhoused adults who have a serious mental illness or co-occurring substance use disorder.

The PATH funding supports outreach, clinical screenings, case management and connections to community resources, including mental health treatment, medical care and substance use counseling.



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Monday, November 16 at 10 a.m. OR 2 p.m.
DoubleTree by Hilton Neenah
123 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

State releases annual report cards for school districts



Dr. Steve Harrison
NJSD Superintendent

Each fall, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) releases annual district report cards, offering public schools an opportunity to reflect on academic performance and student growth.

In the Neenah Joint School District, the 2025–26 report card shows an overall score of 70.4, placing us in the "Meets Expectations" category. This is a 2.4-point change from the previous score of 72.8 and rating of "Exceeds Expectations."

While state ratings offer a quick summary, a closer look reveals where our students are thriving, where our efforts are paying off and where we still need to focus.

To fully understand these results, it is helpful to recognize how the state calculates an overall report card rating.

DPI determines a district's overall score using a weighted average across four priority areas: Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes, and On-Track to Graduation.

Under state statutory guidelines, the specific weights assigned to Achievement and Growth fluctuate each year based on a district's percentage of economically disadvantaged students. In communities with lower levels of economic disadvantage, overall achievement carries a significantly higher weight, whereas in districts with higher percentages of economically disadvantaged students, student growth receives greater weight to account for economic factors beyond the school's control.

In Neenah, where the economically disadvantaged population sits at 28.6% (state average is approximately 44%), the overall rating is calculated with Achievement carrying 29.3% of the total score and Growth carrying 20.7%.

Across several key indicators, Neenah students continue to demonstrate solid achievement compared to state benchmarks. The district achieved an On-Track to Graduation score of 88.2, compared to 81.7 statewide, anchored by a 96.0% graduation rate and high participation in advanced high school coursework.

Furthermore, Neenah scored 70.8 in English Language Arts and 75.7 in Mathematics, both comfortably exceeding the K–12 state averages of 64.1 and 65.6, respectively. In early literacy, 58.4% of third-grade students tested at the Meeting or Advanced performance levels, surpassing the state benchmark of 50.6%.

These literacy results are particularly meaningful as we evaluate our strategic instructional direction. The 2025–26 report card outcomes validate the intentional action steps our district has already taken this year in implementing an updated K–5 universal comprehensive literacy curriculum.

Adopting a comprehensive, evidence-based reading curriculum ensures every elementary student receives structured, high-quality foundational instruction. While curriculum implementation is a multi-year journey, seeing the early reading instructional shifts already taking place confirms that our focus on strengthening tier-one classroom instruction is the right path for Neenah learners.

While the state report card offers a helpful high-level summary of standardized test scores and attendance metrics, we view it as just one data source in our continuous school improvement process. Standardized tests taken on a single spring day cannot capture the full spectrum of a student's growth, creativity, character, or readiness for the future.

In Neenah, continuous improvement means looking beyond a single state score. We also rely on other data sources, such as the NJSD Plan for Success, to comprehensively monitor student outcomes in the district.

We remain fully committed to helping every Rocket reach their full potential. We will continue analyzing our report card data, especially in areas like growth and subgroup outcomes, to refine classroom interventions, support our dedicated educators and ensure all students receive the targeted support they need to thrive.

Thank you to our teachers, staff, families and community for your ongoing partnership in supporting academic excellence across the Neenah Joint School District.



Photo from Neenah Joint School District

State qualifiers

The Neenah High School One Act play is headed to State with their show "The Price" by Don Zolidis. Following a sectional performance Nov. 7, the cast and crew advanced to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech and Dramatic Arts Association State Festival for the fifth consecutive year. One Act presents a unique theatrical challenge where students have 40 minutes to assemble a complete set, deliver a full-length play and clear the stage entirely before time expires.

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Photo from Neenah Public Library

Prehistoric exploration

Participants could take part last week in a prehistoric exploration during the Dinovember event at the Neenah Public Library. For those that missed the event, Take and Create kits with a dinosaur craft are available for checkout and patrons can try the new dinosaur scavenger hunt in the Youth Department.

Big Band Reunion welcomes special guest musicians

By George Halas
News contributor

World-class multi-instrumentalist Jose Encarnacion will be the special guest at upcoming shows with the Big Band Reunion.

Encarnacion will join the Big Band Reunion Monday along with Nov. 30 as the group continues to celebrate its 35th year as a band at Cranky Pat's in Neenah. Both shows start at 7:30 p.m., go to 9 p.m. and admission is free.

Encarnacion, currently associate professor of music and director of jazz studies at Lawrence University as well as a long-time member of Salsa Manzana, will "sit in the saxophone section playing first tenor sax as well as flute on a couple of tunes," said BBR co-director Ken Skitch.

"Last time he played with us, he played percussion and we might have some of that, too," Skitch said. "We're very happy to have him as part of our group for a couple of weeks."

Marty Robinson, director of jazz studies and professor of trumpet at UW-Oshkosh and BBR co-director, is putting together a set list that will feature Encarnacion on three or four compositions each night.

Encarnacion is more than multi-talented.

"He's got a wider world view of music through his life experiences than anyone as well as professionalism and deeper knowledge," Skitch said. "There are a lot of good players in the area, but he is a notch above."

"It's more than just his musicianship. He has a generosity of spirit and expresses love genuinely," Skitch added. "He enjoys being with any group and that comes through in his music. "

The BBR officially celebrated its 35th anniversary on Oct. 19 with special guests Janet Planet and Tom Washatka.

"It went really well. It was an excellent and gracious audience," Skitch said. "We feel right at home at Cranky Pat's."

The set list included a number of compositions that paid homage the BBR's history. Skitch's "Hip To The Blues" and Robinson's "4 a.m. Blues" celebrated the present and Brad Curran, who along with Skitch is the only remaining original member of the BBR, was featured on Bobby Shew's "Blue." Mitch Borchardt's arrangement of "Ventilation" represented the "young guys."

The band also played "Muttnik," a Quincy Jones composition that was a play on Russia sending a dog into space on Sputnik and dedicate it to BBR co-founder and longtime leader Bob Levy. "It was always Bob's favorite," Skitch noted.

David Metzger's "Mr. Beautiful Walks His Pet Pig" was dedicated to BBR co-founder Nick Keelan.

In addition to celebrating its strong alliance with Lawrence University, the band played "Night of The August Moon" by long-time Winneconne resident and WAMI Hall of Fame inductee John Harmon, who also wrote the band's theme song, "Say Hey."

The night's offerings included Washatka's arrangement of "It Takes A Lot to Laugh, It Takes a Train to Cry," Fred Sturm's arrangement of "Tonight I'll Be Staying Here With You" and Matt Tumer' s arrangement of "All I Really Wanna Do" from Planet's ground-breaking album, "Just Like A Woman," big band arrangements of Bob Dylan songs that also featured players from the BBR on the recording.

For Planet, who also sang with the BBR at the recent Battle of The Big Bands at Becket's in Oshkosh and has sung with the band several times in the past, the experience is always special for many reasons.

"The first thing that comes to mind is the community of it, the collective effort of these great players, the camaraderie, the love as well as the music," she said. "It's more than the playing; it's carrying and passing the torch. It's celebrating the role that music plays in the world, the forever endeavor of spreading as much joy and love as you can."

Over 600 musicians have played with the BBR over its 35-year history and the band has built a library of over 2,000 songs, enabling it to go through an entire season — late September through Memorial Day — without playing the same composition twice.

"We present a quality product that represents music from the 20's through the present day that includes many styles and genres," Skitch said. "It's also a great experience for the audience. They're close enough so that we can talk to them during the show as well as after. We have a lot of regulars and we're always making new friends."

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Photo from Neenah Public Library

Holiday crafts

The Neenah Public Library on Nov. 14 hosted a wreath ornament decorating session. The next Spirit of the Season: Gnomes will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Participants will be turning tiny terracotta pots into gnomes, perfect for decorating or gifting. Spirit of the Season is a four-week series that runs each Saturday in November. Families, friend groups and individuals of all ages are all welcome to attend. No registration is needed.

Teams compete in speed jigsaw puzzling tournament

Neenah News

Teams competed Saturday in a speed jigsaw puzzling tournament at the Neenah Public Library.

The 43 teams taking part in the tournament took the ultimate puzzle challenge. A new tournament record was achieved, with 38 teams finishing their 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzles in under 150 minutes.

First place was claimed by 2 Young 2 Old 4 Fun, who completed their puzzle in 58 minutes and three seconds.

The next tournament will be Feb. 13.

City parking citations increase

Neenah News

City of Neenah parking citations increased dramatically during the third quarter of 2026 compared to the third quarter of 2025, according to a report shared Nov. 10 with the Neenah Public Services and Safety Committee.



Wagner

For the months of July, August and September of 2026, Neenah Police Captain Amy Wagner said there were 573 total parking citations compared with 210 during the same period in 2025. In 2024, there were 426 citations during the same period.

The decline in 2025 tickets was blamed on technology issues, such as loose computer connections, GPS equipment not functioning reliably and license plate reader system technical problems.

The city replaced the equipment earlier this year.

For 2026, 62.1% of the parking citations were related to overnight parking, followed by permit-only parking violations at 21.1%.

The areas with the highest parking citations include Meadow Lane with 39, Primrose Lane with 33 and E. Doty Avenue and Red Lot B with 30.

The police department had a total of 6,822 incidents during the third quarter, up from 6,453 during the same period in 2025.

The number of traffic stops were 1,191 during the quarter, including 28 OWI arrests.

There were 116 crashes during the quarter, down from 134 in 2025. Non-intersection accidents accounted for 66.4% of accidents, followed by 15.5% at roundabouts and 12.9% at four-way intersections.

Only 18.1% of accidents involved injuries.

During the quarter, there was a total of 108 Group A arrests, with 38 for crimes against another person, 44 for property crimes and 26 for crimes against society.

Ice skating rink opens for the season

Neenah News

Ice skating is back for another season at The Plaza and Globe Coffee.

The rink will be open for the first time this season for opening night from 4 to 9 p.m. today centered around the theme of "Stronger Together: A Celebration of Community." A special skating exhibition featuring local skaters performing to live music by Travis Michael will take place at 7 p.m.

Skaters are invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy to help spread holiday cheer as part of a community toy drive.

Regular hours for the ice rink will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, closed Tuesday and Wednesday, 4 to 8 pm. Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Special hours and events, including for Thanksgiving week, will be posted on The Plaza's Facebook page.

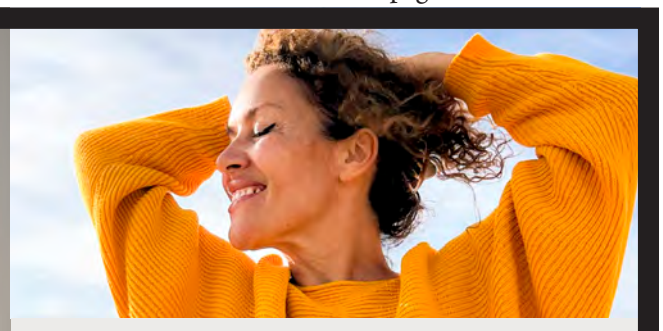
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Holiday music trivia event returns

Neenah News

A music trivia event is returning to Neenah with two shows on Black Friday.

Now in its second year, Finish the Lyrics Trivia Live will be held Nov. 27 at Greene's Pour House. The event will feature two holiday edition shows and a winter donation drive benefitting Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society.

According to organizers, both of last year's Black Friday shows sold out.

During the shows, co-hosts Melissa Chakar and Pamela Barnes will challenge teams to finish the missing lyrics to holiday favorites from country Christmas songs to music from holiday classic movies.

Teams of up to six can play. Tickets are $20 per person.

The afternoon show starts at 2 p.m. with doors opening at 1 p.m. The evening show starts at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to bring new hats and mittens for local grade school students. Those who bring donations can enter to win a $50 Revival Boutique gift card.

More information can be found at shorturl.at/5edry.

Local author holding holiday-themed event

Neenah News

All ages are invited to meet local author Amanda Lauer at the Neenah Public Library.

Lauer will discuss and read from her debut children's book, "My First Saint Nicholas Book: Celebrating St. Nick's Feast Day and Christmas Story" at 10:15 a.m. Nov. 28. A book signing will follow her presentation.

Both "My First Saint Nicholas Book: Celebrating St. Nick's Feast Day and Christmas Story" and "A Very Chapel Falls Christmas" will be available for purchase.

Lauer is an author with more than 12 books for teens and adults. In Neenah, she is known for her Christmas book "A Very Chapel Falls Christmas," which showcases many of the city's landmarks while capturing the true spirit of Christmas in Neenah.

This is a free event held at the Neenah Public Library. No registration is necessary.

Recovery survey

from Page 1

of the city's paper newsletter and the survey will be promoted via social media, Borchardt said.

"We could have done some things differently, which is why we're sending out this survey and holding a meeting," he said.

The city will also survey employees and city council members to gather their feedback from the tornado response and recovery. All three surveys will have different questions depending on the audience.

The open town hall regarding the city's response to the July tornado has been set for 6 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 7 in Pickard Auditorium at Neenah Middle School. The meeting will be live streamed.

Borchardt said it was important to have the meeting live streamed so people who could not attend could still watch and send in their questions. Borchardt said they had been looking at different options for holding the meeting.

He said the goal was to set the date of the town hall before sending out the survey.

After the meeting is held, the mayor said it would be posted on the city's YouTube channel so people who missed it live could watch it.



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Local journalism

from Page 1

page from Ripon.

Dan doesn't recall the details of putting together that first issue but remembers having enough stories and photographs to get it out the door.

More importantly, it gave the team a sense of what they would need to produce every week.

They had some advantages they hadn't enjoyed when starting the Herald, such as sharing Winnebago County reporting between the two newspapers. Dan reached out to former Post-Crescent colleagues and other freelance writers who might contribute. He even found a couple interested in writing a monthly column about local beer trends.

And Steve Clark stepped in to handle sports coverage. That was a luxury, Dan said, they hadn't had during the Herald's earliest years.

The response from Neenah readers was encouraging.

"The public reception was immediately positive, and we were certain it was going to be able to offer more local news than Neenah had seen in decades," Dan recalled.

Of course, not everyone knew what to make of this new newspaper. Dan said there was some initial skepticism. Some people weren't sure who these journalists were or where the newspaper had come from. Building relationships and earning trust were part of the job. But Dan believed Neenah News had something important to offer: consistent, objective reporting about the community.

And he knew firsthand what happened when that kind of coverage disappeared. During his years at The Post-Crescent, Dan had been part of a newsroom that covered Neenah and other Fox Valley communities extensively. There were reporters assigned to local government, schools, sports and community news.

Over the decades, many newspapers sharply reduced their staff and their local coverage. Some community publications disappeared altogether. Dan had watched it happen.

"Being able to restore some of the consistent news/feature/sports coverage that communities had been losing over recent decades was a satisfying feeling," he said.

Someone attends the city council meeting and reports what happened. Someone covers a high school game, photographs a community event or tells the story of a neighbor doing something extraordinary.

Those stories may never make national headlines. But they're the stories that tell us what's happening where we live. And someone has to do the work. Dan knows that better than most.

When he first met Karen in 2017, she was looking for an editor to help her start the Oshkosh Herald. The two spent hours talking at a cafe in Neenah about the kind of newspaper she envisioned.

Dan eventually said yes. He started Dec. 1, 2017. Six weeks later, the Herald's first 12-page issue went to press.

There was no large newsroom. Dan was both editor and reporter, and he had to learn newspaper design software while helping Karen build a publication from the ground up.

Nearly four years later, he was doing it again. This time, the newspaper was for Neenah.

Dan retired in 2025, after nearly eight years with the Herald and more than four decades in journalism. But the two newspapers he helped launch are still showing up in mailboxes every week.

And that brings me back to why I'm telling you his story.

Neenah News is now part of Winnebago Media Group, the nonprofit organization that also publishes the Oshkosh Herald and Winneconne News. The organization is seeking 5,000 people willing to contribute $50 a year through its Founding 5,000 membership campaign. Those contributions, combined with advertising revenue, are intended to help sustain all three newspapers.

Fifty dollars a year. That's $4.17 a month.

You don't have to become a member to receive Neenah News. The newspaper will still arrive in your mailbox.

But becoming a member helps pay for the reporting, editing, photography, printing and delivery that make that possible.

I asked Dan what he'd tell Neenah readers about why their $50 matters.

He said financial support would directly help maintain and increase the level and quality of coverage, making membership a worthwhile investment in the future of community storytelling.

I keep thinking about the fact that Dan had already spent decades covering Neenah when Karen asked him to help start the newspaper.

He knew what the community once had. He knew what it had lost. And he helped bring some of it back.

Now it's our turn 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.



New-look Neenah roster ready to challenge again in FVA

Neenah News

Girls Hoops PREVIEW

The Neenah High School girls basketball team boasted two of the top players in the Fox Valley Association last season in Rowan Klesmit and Ellie Buss.

Those two players have both departed the program through graduation – and both are playing at the collegiate level this season – but the talent cupboards remain full for longtime head coach Andy Braunel and the new-look Rockets seem ready to make another run in the always tough Fox Valley Association.

"Obviously that is a lot of points, shots and leadership that graduated," commented Braunel. "No one player will take all of that on and replace that. It will be something we all collectively need to do together."

The Rockets return a handful of players that averaged at least 5.7 points per game last season and will have a wealth of players with varsity experience taking the court this season.

Junior Sydney Michalkiewicz is the top returning scorer for Neenah, having averaged 9.6 points per game last season while finishing third on the team with 48 3-pointers. She shot 36 percent from behind the arc a year ago.

Sophomore Farrah Danforth gave the Rockets a post presence last season and averaged nine points and a team-best 5.4 rebounds per game a year ago and will likely shoulder a bigger role this season.

Neenah also returns senior Celia Gentile, a four-year varsity player who missed much of last year because of injury. Gentile, who played on the Rockets' 2024 state runner-up team, averaged about seven points per game last season but is also one of the top defensive players in the FVA.



Photo by Jim Koepnick

Senior Carli Baltus will be one of a wealth of experienced players that will be taking to the court this season for Neenah.

Michalkiewicz, Danforth and Gentile were honorable mention all-FVA last season.

Seniors Carli Baltus and Alissa Ebel are entering their third seasons at the varsity level, while junior Izzy Malloy also returns after playing a role in Neenah's regular rotation last season.

The Rockets will also have seniors McKenna Freier and JB Kennedy along with sophomore Marin Stier returning after playing limited minutes on the varsity level a year ago.

Braunel also expects sophomores Lawsyn Michalkiewicz and Sam Zilm to contribute to the squad after playing at the junior varsity level last season.

"All 11 players we have will be important contributors and keys for the team this year," commented Braunel.

Neenah finished tied for third with Hortonville in the FVA a year ago and won five of their final seven regular-season games to earn that spot.

Things are never easy with the talent the conference puts on the floor every season but Braunel believes this group should

See **Girls basketball** on Page 14



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Rockets' revamped lineup ready to make run at state

Neenah News

The past two seasons, the Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha co-op hockey team has reached the brink of returning to the WIAA State Tournament.

But each time the trek has ended one win short of the intended goal.

The Rockets will have some new faces in key roles this season as they look to reach their destination and take the ice inside the Legacy20 Arena at DeForest Yards in early March and skate for state gold.

Hockey PREVIEW

"The 12 seniors this season and a group of talented underclassmen have our coaching staff optimistic for the 2026-27 season," commented head coach Jeff Lindeman. "Coming off a loss to De Pere in the sectional final (last season) is not sitting too well as we prepare to drop the puck on a new season with a new NHM family."

The Rockets lost two-thirds of its top-scoring line from last season with the graduation of Mark Sutton and the departure of Cartyr Simonson to play junior hockey.

The third member of that line and the top returning scorer for the Rockets will be sophomore Vinny Scholl, who finished with 12 goals and 23 assists last season.

Neenah/Hortonville/Menasha also gets back another double-digit goal-scorer in senior Preston Liedke who will likely be counted on for more production this season.

Senior Mason King will likely step into a bigger offensive role this season, while junior Hudson Grater missed much of last season because of injury and will be added to the group of forwards this season. The Rockets will also look for seniors Liam Kelley and Brady Rozmarynowski to bring a physical presence on the ice, while also contributing to the offense.

King and Kelley each finished with five goals last season, while Kelley also picked up 15 assists to finish behind only Scholl and Simonson last season in that category.

The Rockets' defensemen will be led by a pair of veterans in seniors Clay Laabs and Drew Drach. Both players have played big minutes on the blue line the past two seasons and have racked up 16 and 18 points, respectively, a year ago.

Lindeman will also look to sophomore Jackson Korittnig – who played his freshman season at Green Bay Notre Dame – and freshman Brode Adams to see minutes on the ice in a defensive role.

In net, the Rockets will have a new face behind the mask as both goalkeepers who played at the varsity level last season graduated.

Lindeman believes that the competition for time in net will bring the best out of the players competing for the spot.

"We have a great battle brewing between the pipes," commented Lindeman. "That competition between our three goaltenders will push that group to be the best they can be."

The Rockets will open the season at home on Tuesday when they face rival Fond du Lac in a Badgerland Conference match.

Girls hockey

Both Neenah and St. Mary Catholic will be represented on the Fox Cities Stars, a co-op program that finished 15-7 last season and reached the sectional semifinals.

Sophomore Emmaree Drach of Neenah played in all 22 games for the Stars last season and finished the year with a goal and nine assists.

Junior Sidney Mullins and sophomore Halia Burroughs of Neenah and sophomore Scarlett Reichnebacher of St. Mary Catholic also saw limited varsity action last season.

Neenah freshmen Kenzie Conner and Quinnlee Stier are also on this year's roster.

Seven area players earn all-Region recognition from WFCA

Neenah News

Seven area football players garnered spots on the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association all-Region teams it was announced recently.

Fox Valley Association co-champion Neenah had four players garner the recognition, while St. Mary Catholic, co-champions of the Eastern Wisconsin Conference, had a trio of players honored.

Picking up the honors for the Rockets were seniors Connor Stuckel at inside linebacker and Matthias Charles at wide receiver, while juniors Coooper Landrath on the defensive line and Owen Fox at defensive back were also recognized.

For the Zephyrs, senior offensive lineman Brady Detterman and senior defensive back Dominic Osgood picked up the honors along with junior defensive end Brennan Dupont.

Stuckel was named the Linebacker of the Year in the Fox Valley Association and finished the season with 81 tackles and three forced fumbles.

Matthias was named the Receiver of the Year in the FVA and was a unanimous first-team selection after leading the conference with 54 receptions for 659 yards.

Landrath and Fox also earned first-team all-conference honors in the FVA and played key roles on the Rockets' staunch defense. Fox finished third on the team in tackles while also leading the team in pass break-ups, while Landrath anchored the defensive front for the Rockets.

Detterman overcame an injury early in the season to earn unanimous first-team all-conference honors. The senior spearheaded the Zephyrs' line that paved the way for a potent offense.

Osgood had a pair of interception, three fumble recoveries and 41 tackles to earn unanimous first-team honors in the EWC. He returned one of his interceptions for a touchdown.

Dupont was named the Defensive Player of the Year in the EWC and was also a unanimous first-team all-conference selection. He totaled 60 tackles, 25 tackles-for loss and had five sacks on the season.

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Fall sports all-conference awards

Note: All-conference teams for the other fall sports appeared in the Nov. 13 edition.

CROSS COUNTRY

Zilm earns top honors in FVA again

Sophomore Samantha Zilm earned Runner of the Year honors for the second straight season to lead the Neenah representatives on the all-Fox Valley Association teams.

Zilm, who won the conference title for the second straight season and set a conference record with her time, was one of three Rocket runners on the first team, while a total of six members of the Neenah squad earned all-conference recognition.

Joining Zilm on the first team were juniors Izzy Malloy and Elsa Weiland, while senior Maddie Schoonover and sophomores Olivia Landrath and Lizzy LaPlant landed on the second team.

Mike Heidke was named Coach of the Year in the conference.

On the boys side, sophomore Elliott Drake was the lone Neenah runner to earn recognition.

Drake, who qualified for the WIAA State Meet as an individual, was one of 10 runners to garner first-team all-conference honors.

Handful of Zephyr runners honored

Three members of the St. Mary Catholic girls cross country team and two members of the boys squad earned all-Big East Conference honors.

Myla DeLeeuw and Claire Higgins for the girls and Fritz Staner of the boys all garnered second-team honors in the conference.

The girls squad also had Natalie Lee pick up honorable mention recognition, while Brady DeLeeuw earned a spot on the honorable mention list for the boys.

SWIMMING

Hansman named top diver in the FVA

Senior Sydney Hansman was named the Diver of the Year in the Fox Valley Association and one of two members of the Neenah swim team to earn first-team all-conference honors.

Hansman won the FVA title in diving and qualified for the state meet for the third straight season. She was also named the Diver of the Year in the conference as a junior.

Sophomore Elisabeth Hang also earned first-team all-FVA honors, earning her spot in the 500-yard freestyle, while earning second-team honors in the 200-yard freestyle and as a member of the 200-yard medley relay.

Freshman Kirsten Brygger earned second-team honors in the 100-yard breaststroke and as a member of the 200-yard medley relay team, which also included senior Breleigh Maurer and junior Bridget Bloomhuff.

Earning honorable mention honors for the Rockets was junior Meredith Buttron in diving along with the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Hang, Maurer, senior Anna Benthein and junior Ellen Farrell.

Neenah's Hansman places fifth at state meet in diving

Neenah News

Neenah senior Sydney Hansman was hoping to make the podium in her final high school diving competition.

She returned for the WIAA Division 1 State Meet last weekend with the hardware to show she accomplished her goal.



Hansman

Hansman finished fifth in the diving competition on Saturday at the Waukesha South Natatorium to earn a spot on the awards podium. She placed 12th at the state meet last year and was 19th as a sophomore.

It was the best finish for a Neenah diver at the state meet since Abbigale Priestly took fourth in 2021.

Hansman finished with a total of 395.50 points at the state meet, which was nearly 16 points higher than her total last season. She won a close three-diver race to grab the final spot in the top five, edging Arrowhead's Peyton Senn by 3.5 points and Divine Savior Holy Angels' Emma McDowell by 5.4 points.

Keira Quigley of Menomonee Falls/Hamilton won the diving competition with 509.95 points.

Neenah's 200-yard medley relay team also competed at the state meet and finished 22nd in their event.

The team of senior Breleigh Maurer, junior Bridget Bloomhuff, sophomore Elisabeth Hang and freshman Kirsten Brygger posted a time of 1-minute, 53.26 seconds in the race. The foursome was about a half-second behind Sun Prairie West and six-tenths of a second behind Sun Prairie East.

Middleton won its third straight WIAA Division 1 with Menomonee Falls/Hamilton taking second and Appleton North finishing third.

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Girls basketball

from Page 11

once again be in the mix at the top of the standings and capable of competing with the league's best teams – even if others outside the program have a different view.

"Most look at us and see who had graduated over the last three years and assume we can't keep that going. We know a lot of people are overlooking us this year and we have embraced that underdog mentality," commented Braunel. "This group certainly has the mentality to go out and prove people wrong."

St. Mary Catholic

After back-to-back trips to the WIAA State Tournament, the Zephyrs are seemingly just hitting their stride.

With almost the entire roster returning from last year's team that finished 25-4 after falling to Wisconsin Dells in a Division 4 state semifinal, St. Mary Catholic looks primed to make another run at the Resch Center with the hopes of striking gold at the end of the season.

"Winning five straight conference championships and going to state two straight years is helping them know what it takes to win," commented head coach Jeff Chew. "(Our) biggest strength is playing as a team both defensively and on offense."

Headlining the group of returning players will be senior Autumn Crowe, a three-year starter at the varsity level who was the Player of the Year in the Big East North Division last season.

Crowe is a versatile scorer who averaged 21.8 points per game last season, while also leading the team with 8.7 rebounds, 5.3 steals and 2.8 assists per game.

She shot nearly 40 percent from the 3-point line last year and led the team at the free-throw line by making 76 percent of her attempts. Crowe went to the foul line a whopping 170 times a year ago – nearly 100 more attempts than any of her teammates.

Senior Luci Nackers averaged about 12 points per game and was a second-team all-Big East North Division selection last season, while junior point guard Gabby Guerrero returns after earning honorable mention all-league honors while averaging 10.1 points and 2.4 assists.

Seniors Bitsy McCauley and Lucy Norville also are returning starters for the squad, while the top two players off the bench last season – senior Piper Neubauer and junior Brecken Britzke – are also back from last season.

Those seven players accounted for more than 90 percent of the team's points last season.

Seniors Amelia Virlee and Mina Jackson along with junior Paxtyn Trinkner saw limited varsity minutes a year ago, while Chew expects sophomore Martha Peters and freshman Ava Crowe to add to the team's depth this season.



Neenah News

Senior Luci Nackers was the second-leading scorer for the Zephyrs last season and part of a talented and experienced roster for St. Mary Catholic this year.

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF SPRING PRIMARY & SPRING ELECTION
February 16, 2027 and April 6, 2027

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at an election to be held in the City of Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, Tuesday, April 6, 2027, to be elected for the following terms to succeed incumbents whose term will expire April 20, 2027:

Office	Incumbent	Term
Aldermanic District 1	Mark Ellis	3-year, ending April 2030
Aldermanic District 2	Mark Neuman	3-year, ending April 2030
Aldermanic District 3	William (Bill) Pollnow, Jr.	3-year, ending April 2030

The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2026. The final day for filing nomination papers in the office of the City Clerk, 211 Walnut Street, is 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 5, 2027.

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

Aldermanic district maps are available to prospective candidates on the city website at www.ci.neenah.wi.us under Aldermanic Districts or at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall.

The deadline for current office holders (incumbents) to file a Notice of Non-Candidacy is Monday, December 28, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Done in the City of Neenah,
November 20, 2026

Charlotte Nagel, City Clerk

Publish: November 20, 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 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 **Tuesday, November 24, 2026**
4:00 P.M. Hauser Room

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

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

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 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 **Tuesday, November 24, 2026**
Hauser Room – 211 Walnut Street **4:00 P.M.**

Council Formal Hearing **Wednesday, December 2, 2026**
Council Chambers – 211 Walnut Street **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

To advertise in the Neenah News, call 920-486-1616

Public Notice

CITY OF NEENAH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that public hearings will be held by the City of Neenah to consider amending the Official Street Map of the City of Neenah, established in section 26-30 of the municipal Code, as follows:

That the Official Street Map as established by Section 26-30 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Neenah is hereby amended by the following:

The following section of the "Officially Mapped Road" is to be removed:

The area which includes the following: Commencing at the southwest corner of Section 18, Town 19 North, Range 17 East, Town of Vinland, and extending east along the south line of said Section 18, 550 feet, to the Point of Beginning; thence continuing east along the south line of said Section 18, 1,050 feet; thence continuing north 850 feet to a point which is 1,590 feet east of the west line of said Section 18; thence continuing in a southwesterly direction approximately 1,360 feet, to the Point of Beginning, excluding all property west of the west right-of-way line of Interstate 41. Said reservation being in Section 18, Town 19 North, Range 17 East, Town of Vinland, Winnebago County, Wisconsin.

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

Plan Commission Informal Hearing: Tuesday, December 8th, at 4:00 P.M.
Hauser Room

Council Formal Hearing: Wednesday, December 16th, at 6:00 P.M.
Council Chambers

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Common Council will hear all persons, their agents or attorneys, concerning the above proposed amendments to the official street map. Questions pertaining to the proposed Official Street Map amendment should be directed to Brad Schmidt at (920) 886-6125 or via email at bschmidt@neenahwi.gov.

Dated at Neenah, Wisconsin this 20th day of November 2026.

Char Nagel
City Clerk
Neenah, Wisconsin

Publish: November 20th and November 27th, 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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MEET THE ELEPHANTS

Elephants are the largest land animals in the world. But not all elephants are the same. Most scientists divide elephants into two main groups: **African** elephants and **Asian** elephants.

(Some scientists say that the forest and grassland elephants of Africa are so different that there should be three groups of elephants—Asian and two groups of African. What would you call the different African elephants?)

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know there is variation among populations.

African Elephants

African elephants are _____ than Asian elephants. They have large ears shaped a little like the continent of _____. Large ears help keep the elephant _____ on the _____ African plains. African elephants have a sway back and very _____ skin. They also have a rounded head without any big bumps.

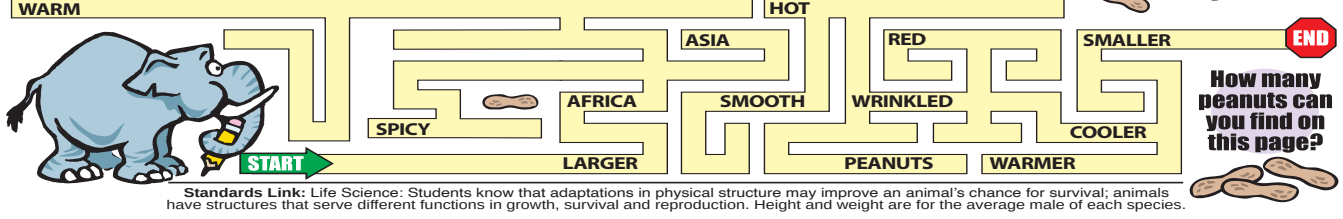
Asian Elephants

Asian elephants live in _____ forest areas and they have _____ ears. They also have rounded backs, smoother skin and a high forehead with two "bumps."

Height: 10 feet (3.05 meters)
Weight: 12,000 lbs (5443 kilograms)

The missing words from the above paragraphs can be found in order along the correct path.

Height: 9 feet (2.75 meters)
Weight: 10,000 lbs (4535 kilograms)



How many peanuts can you find on this page?

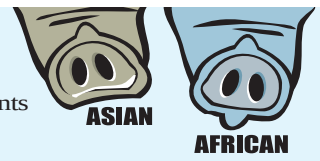
Standards Link: Life Science: Students know that adaptations in physical structure may improve an animal's chance for survival; animals have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction. Height and weight are for the average male of each species.

Trunk Truths

One of these statements is false. Which one? (Answer below)

1. The first elephants appeared about 60 million years ago. One early relative, called Moeritherium (meer-uh-THEER-ee-um), was only about 2 feet (0.6 m) tall and had no trunk.

2. Asian elephants have one small "finger" at the end of their trunks for grasping. African elephants have two "fingers."



3. Elephants trunks contain bones similar to the human spine.

4. There are more than 100,000 muscles in the trunk, making it very flexible, and strong enough to lift whole trees.

ANSWER: #3 is false. There are no bones in an elephant's trunk.

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have different structures to help them survive.

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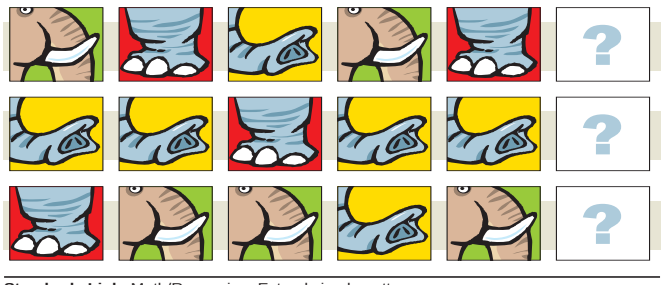
Standards Link: Life Science/Ecology: Students know organisms in an ecosystem can support each other.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Elephant Hides

The skin of an elephant is rough and wrinkled. In fact, the creases in the lower part of their legs can be used to tell elephants apart. Like fingerprints, every elephant has its very own crease pattern.

Which picture comes next in each pattern below?



Standards Link: Math/Reasoning: Extend simple patterns.

Double Double Word Search

ELEPHANTS
SCIENTISTS
TRUNKS
SOCKS
ASIAN
WRINKLED
AFRICA
LARGE
EARS
SKIN
PAGES
COOL
PATTERN
TREES

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

S	W	S	E	G	A	P	I	L	L
L	T	E	K	C	A	S	I	A	N
O	L	N	I	I	K	O	L	R	T
O	E	R	A	N	N	C	L	G	R
C	F	P	U	H	H	K	I	E	E
A	S	R	A	E	P	S	A	C	E
S	T	S	I	T	N	E	I	C	S
N	T	W	R	I	N	K	L	E	D
S	N	R	E	T	T	A	P	E	K

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

Kid Scoop Together: Newspaper Hat

Hat-making fun for two!

1. Drape a page of the newspaper over your friend's head.



2. Wrap tape around your friend's forehead—outside of the paper.



3. Crinkle up the paper hanging below the tape and shape it to form a creative hat brim.



4. Decorate the hat with strips of construction paper, feathers, flowers, small toys or whatever you like!



5. Repeat and have your friend help you make your own hat.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step written directions.

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Write On!

Animal Riddles

I have a long neck and brown spots. I like to eat leaves high in a tree. What am I?

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