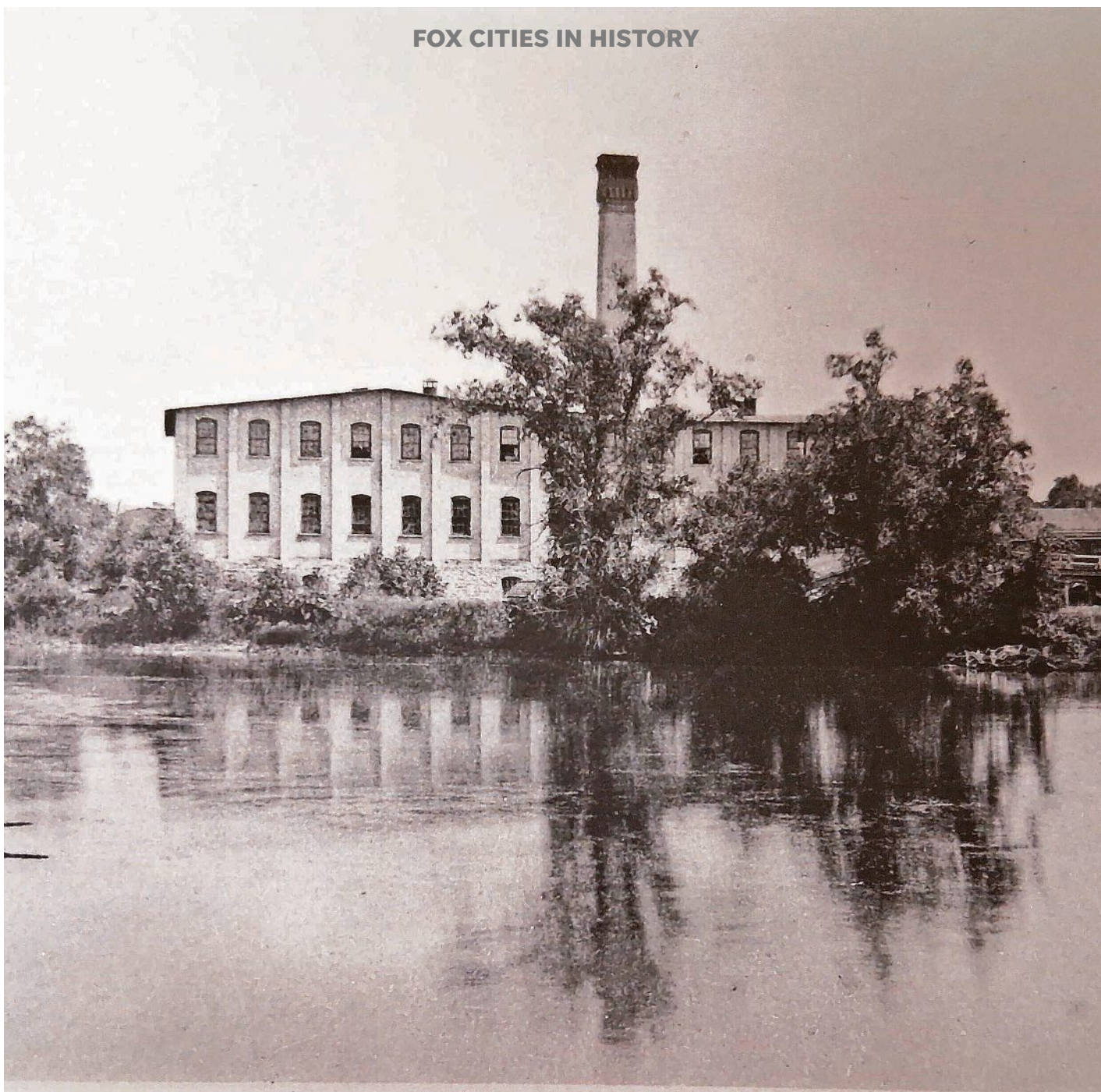


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# THE POST-CRESCENT

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This photograph, circa 1887, shows the original Gilbert & Whiting Paper Mill, built in 1882 by George A. Whiting and the Gilbert brothers, Theodore and William. PROVIDED BY MENASHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Whiting Paper survived fires big and small through its 132-year history

**Mara Wegner**

Appleton Post-Crescent  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

With access to several bodies of water, the Fox Valley area has long supported the paper making industry.

One of the earliest was the Whiting Paper Mill on River Street in Menasha. The business persevered through several fires, big and small, and we took a look through the archives for more history.

The first mention of the mill is a long article, published Oct. 12, 1882, that described the building

in full. The company was established as the Gilbert & Whiting paper mill by George A. Whiting and the Gilbert brothers, Theodore and William.

The article talks about safety in the construction, "Arrangements for the quick fighting of any possible outbreak of fire are complete, each room containing a large standpipe connected with the force pump, so the floors could be flooded immediately. An electric alarm system is also talked of." The offices were to be

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## Neenah Foundry to pay \$200k to settle with state

**Jeff Bollier**

Appleton Post-Crescent  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Neenah Foundry Company will pay a \$200,000 fine to settle state claims it violated air pollution control permits and state and federal regulations.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice on May 6 filed a complaint against the foundry in Winnebago County Circuit Court that alleged 18 violations of its air control permits, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulations and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

Neenah Foundry's current owner, Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company, in a statement to The Post-Crescent said the investigations were related to record-keeping practices and permit interpretations prior to its ownership. Charlotte Pipe's statement noted the matters the state investigated did not involve actual emissions violations or allegations of pollution.

The DOJ on May 11 announced Circuit Court Judge Brian Keberlein approved the settlement order on May 7. The Wisconsin DOJ and DNR worked together to file the complaint against Neenah Foundry and to deliver the settlement.

"Our air pollution control permit system relies on compliance with permit terms in order to effectively protect clean air," said Attorney General Josh Kaul in a news release. "When companies fail to fulfill their obligations under those permits, there must be accountability."

The \$200,000 payment includes the fine, surcharges and court costs. The state alleged 18 violations related to the foundry's failure to maintain and operate air pollution control devices and monitors, inadequate recordkeeping, and failures to report incidents to the DNR.

In the statement, Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company, noted the settlement concluded investigations from 2019 and 2021, prior to the company's acquisition of Neenah Foundry in 2022. Since Charlotte Pipe's acquisition, it said there have been no substantive findings in any federal or state investigations.

"The resolution of these historic

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## Evers, GOP leaders reach \$1.8B deal to lower taxes, more

**Molly Beck and Jessie Opoien**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

BARNEVELD - Democratic Gov. Tony Evers and Republican legislative leaders have struck a \$1.8 billion deal to deliver new funding to schools, lower property taxes and send direct payments to income tax filers across the state.

The bipartisan spending package comes two months after state lawmakers ended their regular session for the year and at a time when the cost of living has become central to Wisconsin

voters' decision-making ahead of the midterm elections, when control of the state Legislature and the governor's office are up for grabs.

"It's a historic day for Wisconsin's kids and our schools, and I'm jazzed we were able to get this done," Evers said in a statement.

The governor touted the bipartisan nature of the deal to reporters during a May 11 visit to the Barneveld School District.

"Once again, we're in a position to actually compromise and have Republicans and Democrats, at least at the leadership level, getting something

done," Evers told reporters.

Lawmakers in the state Capitol are expected to pass the deal this week in a special session.

"Republicans have fought hard to control spending, and now we have a sizable budget surplus," Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, said in a statement. "We're sending it back to help families with the pressure of increasing costs, reward hard work, and to continue investing in schools to help stabilize rising property taxes."

The proposed deal will spend down the state's projected \$2.5 billion surplus that, until now, lawmakers have been

unable to agree on how to spend. An Evers spokeswoman told reporters there will still be funds left in the surplus, and the deal does not tap into the state's rainy day fund of more than \$2 billion.

The legislation will spend around \$850 million on direct payments to income taxpayers, delivering \$300 to individual filers or \$600 to married couples in each rebate. The state Department of Revenue is still working out the details of distributing the rebates, but they will be delivered without taxpayers

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