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INSIDE



Sophomore star

Rockets' Ziebell making her mark early Page 14

Heartfelt ties

Caregiver, Valley VNA resident connected Page 7



Outgoing Mayor Dean Kaufert is looking forward to some travel along with more family time.

Mayor Kaufert looks back on his dream job

Neenah leader credits early upbringing for success

By Carol Patrizi

After eight years as the leader of Neenah, Mayor Dean Kaufert is counting down his days on the job. Kaufert isn't running for re-election and a new mayor will be chosen April 5.

Kaufert believes his background and upbringing brought him to his dream job.

"As a kid I thought it would be cool to be mayor of Neenah, but I didn't think it would be possible," he said. "My family didn't have a political name or backing."

He also recalls a tough time growing up. "Divorce early, dad out of the picture, county assistance, free peanut butter and

SEE **Dream job** ON PAGE 12

Divers stay focused on ice rescue mission

Neenah-Menasha team dedicated to training

By Amber Brockman News contributor

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue's Dive Team took advantage of frozen Lake Winnebago to conduct ice diving training earlier this year.

Assistant Chief Jim Peglow said the team currently has seven certified divers, but they're working on bringing that number back up to 12-15 divers.

"We attrition through guys that retire, and it is a higher stress part of our job," Peglow said. "Guys will get into it and they realize this part of the firefighting job is not for them."

The dive team members are full-time firefighters who volunteers for the posi-

"It's not really a part of our job description right now," Peglow said. "It's a voluntary portion of firefighting, being a diver every one of our members has to be surface-water rescue qualified but not everyone dives."

Peglow said training is done quarterly and covers a variety of water conditions and potential rescue scenarios.

"Getting in the cold water — the understanding that when you're under-ice diving, there's only one way out of that that's the hole you went in and that's the only way you're going to come back out," Peglow said. "So, that's the mindset you're under — understanding and trusting your life to the equipment you're wearing and tethered into."

Another challenge is locating victims, Peglow said, since they have more visibility in fire compared to in the water.

"When I was a diver, I located a victim

and it was - you have blackout conditions, you're swimming and you're feeling with your hands and I found the person, I was face-to-face with them," Peglow said. "The high stress and thinking 'do I really want to do this?' it takes a unique person and mindset to want to do that basically any day they go to work."

Divers are tested annually and must have a minimum of five open water dives and one ice dive every 18 months to maintain their certification, according to the NMFR website.

"We practice to get equipped and ready to dive, our goal is to have a diver in the water within 20 minutes of the time of the call," Peglow said.

To ensure the fastest response during emergencies, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Dive Team partners with

SEE **Rescue divers** ON PAGE 20

City, school candidates set for April

Neenah's mayoral race to choose a successor to retiring Mayor Dean Kaufert was narrowed to two candidates as City Council members Brian Borchardt and Jane Lang advanced after Tuesday's nonpartisan primary to the April 5 general election.

Lang received 1,749 votes and Borchardt 1,405, with the third candidate Kelly Behrmann finishing third with 396 votes out of the 3,556 cast, according to the unofficial results.

Kaufert is retiring from the mayoral position after serving since 2014. He also served on the state Assembly from 1991 to 2015.

Kathie Boyette and Kristen Sandvick emerged from among three City Council primary candidates for District 1 (wards 1-8) and will face each other April 5. Boyette collected 445 votes, Sandvick had 299 and third-place finisher Deb Franckowiak had 211 votes.

Eight candidates for Neenah Joint School District's School Board were narrowed to six who are seeking one of three open seats. Current board vice president Lauri Asbury (2,252 votes), Sarah Moore-Nokes (2,118), Rocky Schafer (1,705), Tara Brzezinski (1,478), Lydia Rhoads (1,436) and Sara Johnson (1,427) advanced to the general election. Len Kachinsky (1,248 votes) and Corinne Meyer (538) were eliminated.



Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue ph

Ice rescue divers take part in a training session recently.

Congratulations **Honor Roll Students**



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124 W. Wisconsin Ave. Suite 090-B Neenah, WI 54956

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

Publisher

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Corrections

It is the policy of the Neenah News to correct all errors of fact. For correction information, call 920-486-1616.

About the newspaper

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Neenah News is owned by Oshkosh Herald LLC, 923 S. Main St. Suite C, Oshkosh, WI, 54902. (920) 508-9000.

Help us bring all of the news to you

Hello Neenah!

We'd like to introduce Neenah's newest weekly community newspaper.

Our goal is to bring quality community news to residents of the Neenah Joint School District similar to how we introduced the Oshkosh Herald. We are a small but mighty team of people who believe in quality journalism and sharing local news.

Four years ago, we started the Herald to provide coverage of local government, schools, sports and business, and create a forum where businesses and organizations could get the word out about the awesome things taking place. It also offers businesses an effective platform to advertise to customers on a regular basis with a readership that supports them.

"The rise in ghost newspapers is caused by either the loss of jobs in the newsroom or the consolidation of newspaper ownership, resulting in less emphasis on a community's local news" according to an Aug. 20 article in Forbes magazine. It





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goes on to state that "community news has always been the primary driver for newspaper readership."

If that resonates with you, you may have been one of many Neenah residents who reached out over the last few years asking when we would expand here. As a small, unaffiliated independent publication, we understand what readers are looking for; as one Neenah resident emailed: "We need school news, city council proceedings, local advertising and all the good things a small paper can do."

Workforce issues have hindered us from actively contacting local businesses but we continue to look for the right

person to represent us as an advertising representative as well as a part-time admin for our office in the lower level of The Marketplace at 124 W. Wisconsin St. If interested in advertising or joining our team, contact us at advertise@ neenahnewsnow.com.

It's a grass-roots effort using community members as freelance contributors to cover topics important to readers. Interested in schools? Local government? Prep sports? We look to contributors to be part of our content team and encourage you to contact submit@neenahnewsnow. com if interested in either contributing or submitting community information.

This is what we bring to Neenah. We thank those who subscribed for this first issue. We thank the businesses who have trusted us to bring their advertising message to you. It will take all of us - subscribers, advertisers and news team - to provide a meaningful newspaper for the community.

Menasha Packaging buying G-P unit NEENAH NEWS also specializes in high-graphic packaging.

Menasha Packaging Co. is acquiring the assets of Color-Box, a corrugated packaging business unit of Georgia-Pacific that specializes in high-graphic products, the companies announced Monday.

Founded in 2000, Color-Box employs 550 people and operates plants in Indiana, Mississippi and California. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed and is expected to close by early summer.

"Menasha Packaging and Color-Box are a great fit, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead," said Mike Riegsecker, president of Menasha Packaging, which

"Color-Box will expand our geographic footprint and provide additional graphics, design and structural packaging options for our customers.

A subsidiary of Menasha Corp., Menasha Packaging is the nation's largest independent, retail-focused packaging and merchandising provider. Based in Neenah, the company employs about 3,800 people at more than 50 facilities in North America.

Based in Atlanta, Georgia-Pacific is a leading integrated packaging supplier of containerboard, corrugated boxes and sheets, and digital print for packaging.

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Volunteer needs

St. Vincent de Paul Neenah/Menasha is seeking friendly cashier volunteers, at least age 18, with some experience, to volunteer in four-hour shifts. Staff members are available for backup.

Training is provided. After 30 days, volunteers receive a 50 percent discount on everything in the store priced \$15 or less. Contact Toni at volunteercoordinator@svdpneenah.com or 920-727-1766,

Fox Cities SCORE is seeking experienced bilingual business professionals to be a business mentor and help minority small business owners and entrepreneurs in the Fox Valley to succeed. Mentor training is provided.

Time commitment is 10 hrs./month. Contact keith.keller@scorevolunteer. org or visit www.foxcities.score.org/vol-

ThedaCare Regional Medical Cen**ter-Neenah** is seeking volunteers to work in the Volunteer Auxiliary Gift Shop. This role provides a welcoming environment to customers, helps with gift selections, and operates the cash register. For more details, contact Brooke at 920-729-2207 or Brooke.Techlin@thedacare.org.

Winnebago Catch-A-Ride needs drivers to help those in need get transportation to their place of employment. Drivers use their own vehicle on a schedule that works for them. To learn more, visit winnebagocatcharide.com.

Soil health practices to be showcased

Luxurious

Comfort

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance has received a \$200,000 grant from the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) to reduce sediment and phosphorus pollution that enters the Winnebago System.

The Rat River Watershed in Winnebago County is the focus of the grant project, which is a partnership of the Watershed Alliance and Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD).

The department will be working with three to four local farms to overcome hurdles of installing cover crops, no-till and low-disturbance manure injection for three years on 200 acres of cropland. The soil health practices will reduce 484 pounds of phosphorus and 72 tons of sediment pollution each year in the Rat River Watershed.

Phosphorus and sediment pollution leads to poor water clarity, degraded habitat and harmful algal blooms. Human activities that contribute to these problems in the Winnebago System include certain practices in agricultural and urban areas and point source discharge from permitted entities such as wastewater treatment

'This grant will enable our staff to target one of the highest pollutant loading watersheds within the county with soil health initiatives," said Chad Casper, director of the Winnebago County

The farmers will receive cost-share and incentive payments in exchange for documenting and sharing their successes, barriers and solutions for conservation farming practices.

Vaccine clinics at different sites

The Winnebago County Health Department is continuing to offer free COVID-19 vaccination clinics at the Fox Crossing Fire Department, 1326 Cold Spring Road, from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays this month.

The clinics are open to anyone 5 years and older, and appointments are not required. Primary series and booster doses of all vaccine types will be offered. Additional doses of Moderna and Pfizer will also be available.

Anyone under age 18 must have a parent or guardian present.

Free assistance is available for transportation options by calling Make the Ride Happen at 920-225-1719 during regular business hours. Visit www.wcvaccine.org or call the Health Department's COVID-19 Hotline at 920-232-3026 between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through

ThedaCare also continues to offer COVID-19 testing in northeast and central Wisconsin. Next week's Neenah clinics are Tuesday and Thursday at the ThedaCare Neenah Testing Site, 169 E. North Water St. Rapid testing is available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with most results within 2 hours. PCR testing is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with most results within 48-72 hours.

ThedaCare adjusts its visitor restrictions

ThedaCare has been adjusting visitor restrictions and safety precautions as communities experienced a sharp rise in the number of people needing inpatient hospital care, followed by a decline in patients admitted, due to the omicron COVID surge.

ThedaCare announced last week it was safely managing its COVID-19 cases and in a position to allow additional visitor options throughout the system.

"As a person is experiencing a medical situation, our caregivers understand the importance of having a loved one nearby," said Dr. Michael Hooker, ThedaCare vice president and chief medical officer of Acute Care. "We are grateful to be a in a place where we can once again safely allow for additional visitors in our care spaces."

Screeners will continue to be present

at all hospitals, checking patients, visitors and team members upon entrance. Masks will be required by team members, patients and visitors in any public setting on the campuses.

Restrictions include:

- · No visitors for COVID-positive patients, except limited, approved, pre-arranged visitation for end of life.
- For Family Birth Care, visitors will be limited to one essential person throughout the entire stay.
- Non-COVID patients may have one visitor at a time during normal visiting hours.
- One parent/guardian is allowed to accompany a minor, or a patient with a med-
- Adult patients who need care may enter with their children if child care cannot be arranged.

Twelve5's Rebel Hard Coffee launches promotion

Neenah-based Twelve5 Beverage Co. is promoting its Rebel Hard Coffee with a contest where consumers can seek to win one of three First Drink Prize packages spanning three holidays.

During each prize period, consumers will have a chance to win a \$1,000 gift card that can be used for enjoying a weekend retreat for Valentine's Day, throwing a St. Patrick's Day party or hosting an Easter Brunch. Sweepstakes details are at rebelhardcoffee.com.

Twelve5's Rebel Hard Coffee is produced by the founders of the hard coffee

Twelve5 Beverage was founded in 2018 and launched its Rebel Hard Coffee in August 2020.









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Future Neenah celebrates business partnerships

Future Neenah recently recognized individuals and businesses that successfully partnered with the community's quality-of-life organization in 2021.

Honorees included:

Corporate Citizen of the Year Award:
Amcor

Amcor supports employee involvement with its Dollars for Doers program that provides donations to nonprofits that its employees volunteer for and matches employee donations to nonprofits such as Future Neenah. Amcor also backs the Shattuck Park concerts and encourages

employee participation through board representation.

Neenah With Pride Award: Red Door Mercantile; Tina and David Palmer

Red Door Mercantile participates in events and activities and is a district destination hosting special events such as Junket of Joy and Holiday Greens Market. They also promote community amenities like the trestle loop and The Plaza with merchandise.

Music Maker Award: Gary Bomber; Bomber Sound Productions

Bomber provides the sound for evening concerts and adapts to rain rescheduling

and COVID reformatting.

Downtown Business of the Year: The Tailored Hide Custom Leather & The Gift Gallery

The Tailored Hide moved into the district in 2016 and embraced the Downtown Unequaled brand. Owner Leeann Wasinger is in her second term as a Busi-

ness Improvement District (BID) board member. They participate in all the downtown community events and activities.

town community events and activities. **Grow With Us Award:** Rhonda Mesko

Mesko was the 2021 Farmers Market season supervisor at Shattuck Park and stepped up to help with additional market duties when it was short staffed.

New North sets work talent promotion

New North Inc. has launched a digital campaign, More You in NEW, designed to attract and retain talent to the area.

The program will focus on a diverse group of New North residents and why they chose to make the region a work and life destination, telling their stories through video testimonials and social-media posts.

The campaign will run through June with a new video rolled out each month of the campaign, and will feature millennials, military veterans, families and diverse populations.

All released videos and related information are available through a dedicated website found through thenewnorth.com.

Two regional leaders join business board

Two area business leaders, Vanessa Wellens of Amcor and Jodi Schoerner of Mas-

ters Gallery Foods, have joined the board of directors of New North Inc., the regional economic development corporation for 18 counties.

"Jodi and Vanessa are two strong additions to the New North board of directors," said New

North president Barb LaMue. "We will benefit greatly from their perspectives in two pillar industries of our region, food production and packaging, along with their backgrounds in finance and human resources."

Wellens

Wellens is Amcor's vice president of human resources and communications, working from the global packaging company's Neenah location. She first joined the then-Bemis Co. in 2003 and later be-



chi

Schoerner

came director of global talent management, human resources director for North America, and vice president of human resource-Bemis North America.

Schoerner is the chief financial officer at Masters Gallery Foods, a position she

has held for the past five years. Founded in 1974, Masters Gallery Foods has grown to service grocery chains, wholesalers, restaurants and distributors nationally with a full line of cheese and cheese-related products from its headquarters in Plymouth. She first joined the company in 2004 as controller.

County opioid epidemic topic of discussion

A conversation on how various local agencies are responding to the opioid epidemic on a systemic level will be the topic of next week's Whitburn Wednesdays Event Series at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Culver Family Welcome Center.

Moderated by Dr. Jennifer Skolaski, Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review Team facilitator and owner of Community & Nonprofit Leadership Consulting, the panel will include perspectives from public health, law enforcement, health care and recovery.

Focus will be placed on the work of the Overdose Fatality Review Team and the importance of having open and honest discussions about opioids to create a more supportive community.

The event in Ballroom A of the Culver Center begins at 5 p.m. Wednesday with social time, followed by the panel discussion at 5:30 p.m. Go to uwosh.edu/whitburn-center/events to register by Sunday.

Uncorked & Uncapped event set for April 1

The Neenah Rotary Club's Uncorked & Uncapped wine, beer and tasting event is set for 7 to 10:30 p.m. April 1 at Bridgewood Resort.

Music by Steve March-Torme and the Murphy Brothers will be featured along

with raffles, gifts and prize drawings.

Tickets are \$75 and available on a limited basis from either Rotary members or at uncorked.ecwid.com. All proceeds benefit community programs and youth activities.



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'Neenah Middle School' chosen for Tullar location

Neenah News

A public input effort to give a name to the new grades 5-8 middle school being formed at the current Tullar Road high school campus resulted in a straightforward choice.

The building will be Neenah Middle School when it begins hosting students in the fall of 2023 after a request for names and voting input from middle school students and the school district community.

The name was approved by the Board of Education earlier this month.

Nearly 200 names were submitted for consideration in late October. A committee narrowed the list to 20 and students at Horace Mann and Shattuck middle schools trimmed the list to five through a schoolwide vote.

"Our community came together with a lot of creative ideas for the name of our new middle school, but in the end, I think people wanted to keep it simple," said Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer. "We are appreciative of all the submissions and look forward to the opening of Neenah Middle School in 2023."

A community vote was held in January and Neenah Middle School received 51.8 percent of the nearly 1,900 votes cast. "Rocket Middle School" finished second with 20.2 percent of the vote, while "Shattuck Academy" received 10.7 percent, "Riverside Middle School" had 9.6 percent and "Memorial Middle School" received 7.7 percent.

The new school was made possible by a

\$115 million community referendum approved in April 2020. A new high school is being constructed in the district south of County II at Clayton Avenue and all fifth-grade students will be moved out of elementary schools into the middle school, resulting in additional space at the elementary level.

Renovations for the new middle school are set to begin at the existing high school May 23 and continue through the next two summers. The administration plans to have the new middle school staffing assignments determined by the end of this school year.

Two school administrative position updates approved

Neenah News

A restructuring of some school administrative positions was approved by the Neenah Joint School District Board of Education at its Feb. 15 meeting.

An assistant district administrator position that will focus on leadership and engagement has been established to oversee all school principals and long-range planning for preK through grade 12. Current director of learning and leadership Chad Buboltz was selected to fill the new role.

A director of student growth and support programs also will be created with the retirement of assistant district administrator Steve Dreger. The position will manage the collection and oversight of all data for presentation to the Board of Education and public.

Though the Leadership and Engagement position will move up a pay grade, Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer indicated the potential that administrative salaries will be similar or lower in 2022-23 due to several retirements.

In other action, the board approved:

- A policy for student fundraising and nondiscrimination guidelines related to transgender and gender-nonconforming students.
- A new educational assistants Lloyd Clark at Taft and Elizabeth Carroll at Hoover and Clayton.
- An end-of-year retirement was approved for Lois Hellweg at Horace Mann and an end-of-year resignation was approved for Weston Hertel at Shattuck.
- The district's seventh Hall of Fame class, which includes Marigen Carpenter, Pat Hawley, Tom Jensen, Susan Karamanaian and George Scherck. The group will be inducted Oct. 1 during homecoming weekend





Storm centennial

A catastrophic ice storm hit Neenah on Feb. 22, 1922, and isolated the community for a week. This photo was taken in front of the former Neenah Library. Go to neenahhistoricalsociety. com for accounts from that time and related photos.



Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5:30pm • Sat 10am-4pm

Sunday & Evenings by Appointment

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ongtime resident, caregiver promise to stay together

By Gina Larsen FOR VALLEY VNA

Erma Peters, 104, holds the distinctive title of Valley VNA's longest resident. She moved into her apartment on Lyon Drive in Neenah more than 24 years ago as one of the first tenants in the newly built independent senior apartment community.

Marcia Siebers, a personal care worker for Valley VNA's In-Home Care division, joined the organization in 2001 and came to know Erma in 2012 when she hurt her arm and needed help to shop for groceries and safely bathe.

Since then, the two women have forged a strong and dedicated friendship.

"We've been together since then," said Siebers, 74, who has partially retired but still fills the role of friend and companion for Peters through Valley VNA. "I made a promise to Erma that I wouldn't retire until she didn't need me anymore, and Valley VNA lets me stay on just for

her."

Peters recently relocated from her independent apartment with In-Home Care services to an assisted living apartment at Valley VNA. Twice a week, Siebers visits her to have lunch, sort through belongings, and answer questions about her mail. Peters especially loves that Siebers knows her taste in food.

"I love McDonald's, and I love shrimp,"

The friendship is not one-sided. Siebers has come to see Peters as a mother figure to her.

"Even my husband says, 'You are in a good mood today. It must be an Erma day.' She is such a sweetheart, and I am so happy to have the chance to stay on with her."

Valley VNA Senior Care is an independent nonprofit organization that provides in-home care for older adults and both independent and assisted living



Marcia Siebers and Erma Peters have formed a loving bond as a caretaker and resident at Valley VNA.

Public library calendar

Monday

Memory Cafe: Heart of Kindness, 1:30 p.m. Shattuck Community Room

Not Quite Cozy Mystery Book Club, 6:30 p.m. Shattuck Community Room. "The Cold Dish" by Craig Johnson

Wednesday

Zoom Edition - Not Quite Cozy Mystery, 6:30 p.m. Virtual discussion of "The Cold Dish" by Craig Johnson

Thursday

Ukulele Open Jam, 6 p.m. Bring music you're working on, play for the group

or with fellow ukers. All skill levels wel-

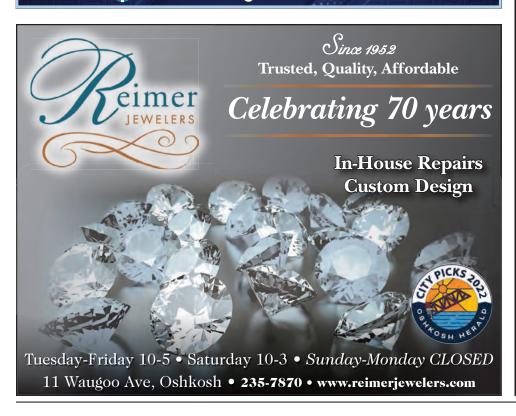
Open Chess Night, 6 p.m. All ages and skill levels. Coaching and beginner help available.

Feb. 25

Speed Puzzling Tournament, 5:30 p.m. Teams are assigned a new 1,000-piece puzzle and have 150 minutes to complete. Prizes awarded to first- and second-place

2To register, fill out Google form: tinyurl.com/4fbr9d9r.





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Arts Council names photo winners

The Neenah Arts Council recently announced winners of its 2022 photography contest. Grand prize went to Atif Qureshi for "Winter Wonderland."

Others awarded:

Novice: first place: Michaela Lavalle; second: Jason Kroll; third: Michaela Lavalle

Flora & Fauna: first place: Scott Francis; second: Scott Francis; third: Sara Mitchell

Community & Family: first place: Jennifer Breining; second: Chris Kuhlow; third: Bonnie Auxier

Landscapes & Cityscapes: first place: Atif Qureshi; second: Chris Kuhlow; third: Chris Kuhlow

All photos are on display in the Neenah Public Library's Shattuck Community Room through this month.

Dine Out restaurant promotion underway

Dine Out Neenah is promoting local restaurants starting today through Feb. 28 with a chance at gift card packages.

Every \$25 spent at restaurants in the 54956 ZIP code – dine in, carry out or delivery meals - earns a contest entry to win a \$100 restaurant gift card pack-

The promotion is from Fox Communities Credit Union and Future Neenah. Restaurant receipts can be submitted online or turned in at the Future Neenah office, 135 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Four \$25 Neenah restaurant gift cards will go to 10 winners who will be selected March 1.

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FREE COVID-19 VACCINATION



Offering Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Vaccines are available to anyone 5 years and older. Parent or guardian must be present if under 18.

MONDAYS

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 7, March 14 Oshkosh Area Community Pantry (2551 Jackson St, Oshkosh)

TUESDAYS

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Feb. 22 only

Oshkosh Public Library (106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh)

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. every Tuesday

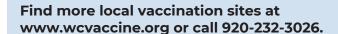
Fox Crossing Fire Department (1326 Cold Spring Rd, Neenah)

WEDNESDAYS

1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday Sunnyview Expo Center (500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh)

FRIDAYS

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.- Feb. 18 & Mar. 4 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Feb. 25 **County Administration Building** (112 Otter Ave, Oshkosh, First Floor, Room #120)





We'll keep ourselves a pint short of pretentious

Welcome to a Neenah News exclusive! Our goal for this beer-centric column is to share news, brewery releases and special events happening in Neenah ... without sounding like beer snobs (there's enough of that online).

You like beer. We like beer. That sounds like the beginning of a beautiful friend-

We're fortunate in Neenah to have high-quality breweries, retail options and taverns/restaurants that appreciate good

You're invited to read this column, get inspired, and then go out and support Neenah beer culture in whatever way you feel comfortable.

As a couple with kids, we don't get out as much as we used to or would like, but there are various ways to support the local beer economy.

In "Wife + Husband = Beer," we'll celebrate different aspects of beer culture and inject some personal insights — trying not to get too geeky about it. Think of this column as your open-minded source for brew-related info with a casual chaser.

Was your Valentine's Day successful (in whatever way that means for you)? Here's a sample of what this couple discussed while sharing an 1840 Brewing Repeat Request Double IPA.

Husband: This beer column thing is a big responsibility.

Wife: Our first deadline is approaching quickly.



H: Do you think we should explain, ya know, our credentials?

W: Credentials? We're not practicing medicine here.

H: Well, we're not just two random beer geeks.

W: We're two ... experienced ... beer-lovers.

H: "Lovers," huh?

W: OK, beer-lovers who served kegs of craft beer at our wedding reception, visited multiple breweries during our honeymoon, camped out for Great Taste tickets, exchange beer with people across the country, and are on a first-name basis with many professional brewers.

H: Yes, THOSE are credentials!

W: Now you sound like a beer geek.

Thanks for reading our first beer column. You'll see this appear in Neenah News monthly.

And remember, the couple who beers together, adheres together.™ Wife: Yeah, that's definitely written by

a beer dork.

Let us know what we should discuss, share your beer-related events, and suggest story ideas you think Neenah readers need to hear about. Email to wife. husband.beer@gmail.com.

Your preferred provider in Neenah

Dr. Melissa Dintelman



"I have been an Audiologist for over 22 years. My favorite part is working with the great variety of patients and getting the opportunity to know each person individually. By focusing on truly listening to what my patients have to say, I can better understand their concerns and what is most important to them as an individual."

-Dr. Dintelman

Check Your hearing

Has it been tough to follow conversations on video chats?

Is it challenging to hear on the phone?

sentence? O Do loved ones complain about your TV volume?

O Do you miss key words in a

O Do others seem to mumble or speak too softly?

Do you frequently say, "Huh?" or "What?"

Have you struggled to understand people speaking with masks on?

If you or a loved one answered "yes" to any of these questions, it could mean a hearing loss. DON'T DELAY. Call us to schedule an evaluation today.



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Local greenhouse gets busy for coming season

By Rob Zimmer

As we reach the tail end of the winter season, Watter's Farms and Greenhouse is busy at work preparing for the big spring rush of gardeners eager to fill its garden beds, borders and containers with colorful annuals.

The work began weeks ago when the first plugs started coming in and planting and potting up began. Already, a visit to Watter's Farms and Greenhouse will whet your appetite for the busy growing season to come.

Hanging baskets are being planted. The first annuals have arrived and the green-houses are filling up fast with the colors of the season.

Owner Brian Hans praises the large selection of unusual and unique annual plants you'll find at Watter's.

"We have an outstanding selection of plants," he said. "Everyone is sure to find something they love." That means lots of wonderful, hard-to-find and sought-after plants to choose from.

As a local, independent garden center, Hans says it is difficult to compete with bigbox and chain stores that are able to order huge volume at a tiny fraction of his cost. His customers prove that, sometimes, these hard-working local independent stores are a better choice.

Julie Wilson, traveling from Saxeville to shop Watter's large selection for the first time, said, "How did I not know this place was here? This place is amazing."

Hans said that customers come from all over the Midwest to check out his selection of not only spring bedding plants, annuals, designer hanging baskets and decorative container accent plants, but his selection of rare and unusual houseplants as well.

You'll enjoy a huge selection of rare and unusual houseplants you won't find pretty much anywhere outside of Minneapolis and Chicago, here in the Fox Valley.

Houseplants are one of the hottest trends right now in home gardening and decor, as evidenced by online sites such as Pinterest and Tiktok, which Hans says help to draw new customers and boost his sales. More and more young people are becoming houseplant and gardening lovers, thanks to word of mouth and social media.

If a break from winter is what you need, visit the warm, lush greenhouses at Watter's Farms, located at 2015 County H, and indulge in the promise of spring and the beauty of indoor plant treasures for your home



Photo by Rob Zimmer

Watter's Farms and Greenhouse is preparing to supply spring garden beds, borders and containers with colorful annuals.

Personal interest drew me in, service interest took hold

By Kristopher Ulrich NEENAH ROTARY CLUB

I started coming as a guest to the Rotary Club of Neenah in the fall of 2014. It was a good opportunity to meet community leaders and make business contacts for sponsorship purposes for the nonprofit I was working for at the time.

I became a club member that following January, but it wasn't until the end of summer when I truly felt like a Rotarian. I was working in the food booth at the Sea-

food Fest fundraiser with half a dozen students who were also volunteering to fill some community service requirements for school. They stepped up to hours of hard work, we

bonded over similar interests, and we shared a fun memory.

The experience was so meaningful that three of those students came back to volunteer with me specifically the next year, and one of them even earned a scholarship from our club when they graduated high school.

The motto for Rotary is service above self. I came to Rotary for business, but I

stayed for service. Over the last seven years I've been able to plant trees all over the city, rebuild a gazebo at Valley VNA, act as a mentor to students, and so much more. The list of service activities goes on and on.

Serving others, in turn, has given me countless opportunities to meet interesting people, learn the inner workings about what's going on in our community, have the chance to actively work toward building the city that we all love working and living in, and grow as a leader.

This column is dedicated to Rotary in Neenah – to the clubs, their events, members and all of the ways they contribute to serving our city. Neenah has two clubs that meet regularly over meals with guest speakers. The Rotary Club of Neenah meets every first, third and fifth Thursday at noon, and the Fox Cities Morning Rotary Club meets every Tuesday morning at 7. Both clubs call the Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel home for meetings.

Whether you're a seasoned businessperson, a young professional, an active retired person, or anything in between, all are welcome to come as a guest and join if you think it's the right fit for you.

Long gone are the stereotyped days of Rotary being the home of stuffy old dudes who sit around smoking cigars, wearing silly hats, and writing big checks. Contemporary Rotarians are a broad spectrum of men and women representing every sector of the community at all levels.

For me, Rotary is fellowship with 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders and problem-solvers who see a world where

people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. What could Rotary be for you?

Membership information and meeting details for both Neenah clubs are online at neenahrotary.org and femre.org.



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Seniors Madison Anderson Jeffrey Arbogash Bruce Argall Joshua Arneson Shaylee Basler Carter Bauman Eaden Bayer Gabrielle Belke Paola Bezares Braiden Blank Eric Blank Aneka Blenker Brady Blocksom Carly Boehlen Carter Borchardt Sydney Borchardt Clay Bottensek Emma Bowman Bryce Braunel John Callahan Jaiden Campbell **Jaeden Carstens** Reed Challoner Darin Clark Carson Clark Lvnnea Clark **Eternity Coenen** Maxwell Copeland Simone de Montigny Kaitlyn Dennis . Diego Ditzler Allyssa Dotson Olivia Dungan Ava Dunsirn George Eastman-Kiesow Mia Eisele Molly Ellmann-Johnson Zachary Evans Morgan Feltz Keenan Fleege Marista Fraley Natalie Frank Adelyn Fredrickson Madison Frink Kira Fritsch Chanse George Sophie Gerken Kelly Gieryn Garrett Grassl Angela Greselin Nicholas Grotenhuis Victor Guerra Hadley Hackinson Easton Hans Lindsey Harris Madison Hart Matthew Hasler Lilian Heidorn Austin Henderson Sophia Henning Brianna Hickey Jadin Hildreth Mason Hobbs Nicholas Hoffman Isabel Hoffman Ethan Hou Andrew Hou Vivieign Howard Marissa Igl Araeah Jackson Ashlvn Iacobs Anna Jamroz Travis Jankowski Eric Johnson Sean Johnson Quinn Joneson Matthew Jung Elizabeth Jungwirth Amara Kaminski Alyson Kandler Maddisen Keeley Kendra Kieler Mia Kinavman Elijah Klawikowski Amber Koller William Kordus Megan Koshollek Payton Kramer Elizabeth Kraus Erik Kraus Ava Krema Kalyan Krueger-Olson Nolan Kubiak

Rachel Kuenzi

Lorelei Kutchek

Adriana Laughrin

Paulina Lefeber

Max Lesperance

Caleb Letson

Nolan Leist

Kyler Lasee

Isaiah Lauer

Eric Lee

Brooklyn Lewis William Liebeskind Grace Look Kaitlyn Lueneburg Kennedi Lulloff Wilson Lyke Rebecca Marsh Shalene Martinez Lilly Mayer Gavin McClowry Annagrace McCurdy Shamus McMahon Averi McMahon Maxwell Megale Lilv Meisel Madelyn Mellenthin Brooke Mericle Aaron Merkley Cade Michalkiewicz **Jack Monson** Nolan Mrotek Kylee Mueller Davin Munoz Isabelle Murphy Marissa Myska Rvan Nelson Dayne Newman Elijah Oitzinger Conner Olsen Taliya Orth Sophia Paape Joseph Paider Abby Paque Morgan Peitersen Natalia Pinchuk Ellison Popp Dayton Potts Sean Price Abbigale Priestley Madelyn Pritzl Nikolo Quinones Lydia Ramadan Destinee Ramos Thompson Ranger Cayden Retzki Elliana Rice Will Riemenapp Logan Roberts Tori Rondeau Joshua Ryan Dakota Sagataw Khaled Saleh McKenna Schabo Nathan Schaffer Caden Scheibel Peyton Schilt Alexa Schlafman Lukas Schmerse Eli Schmidt Marcella Schneider Amelia Schreiner Carson Schultz Bryce Schultz Malina Schulz Jakob Schutte Adrien Schweitzer Lesly Sebora Taylor Seitz Savannah Sharp Alyssa Slattery Joseph Slavinsky Kavla Smithlin Kaymi Soderberg Paige Sokel Erynn Spanbauer Bryce Sprague Abigail Starr Max Stern Meghan Stielow Nathan Stowe Elias Strasman Lauren Sturgell Emma Swanson Eric Syvrud Hunter Tamulion Nathan Tatro Cole Tauscher Henry Teckam Carter Thomas Cayden Turnquist Carter Ulmer Emmalee Van Sambeek Alexis Vanlerberghe Kade Vanschindel Jagger Vicente Abigail Walla Mika Wallene Sofia Weaver Miles Wehner Sally Welsch Paige Werner Frank Whiting Matthew Whitmer

Academic Achievement

for Neenah area schools

Lauren Wilharm Audrey Wilson Abigail Wise Emily Wolf Abigail Wolf Lauren Woller Baokou Xiong Khaiyee Yang Teng Yang Tao Yang Tyler Young Caleb Youngwerth Nicholas Ziminski

Otto Zoesch-Weigel

Isabelle Wilgreen

Juniors Lucas Abing Nathan Adams Cassandra Aho Graham Altekruse Dawson Anderson Nuria Andueza Anto Joshua Armstrong Madeline Arndt Robert Barthell Payton Beaudreau Joshua Bellin Ellie Bingham Alayna Birch Theodore Bjornstad Emerson Bluemke Nicolas Boyer Layton Brandt Natalie Brandt Sylvia Butters Christopher Calcaterra Emma Cartwright Jenna Cerasoli Marco Chakar Veronica Colford Dominic Corrente Marissa Corso Ian Cowell Victoria Czap Beckett Davidson Parker De Deker Gurleen Dhami Maxwell Diekfuss Kaitlyn Dietz Jack Dorner Joseph Dringoli Sylvia Dums Josephine Duvall Marius Eremia James Ertmer Max Farah Josephine Fisher Leah Forget Ryan Foucault Rachel Frank Madison Gafner Elijah Gast Drew Gentile Miva Gilman Gabrielle Hackbarth Jensen Haese Benjamin Hansen Charles Hansen Morgan Harwood Isabelle Haygood Elisa Hein Preston Hella Molly Henry McKenna Herm Nolan Hessenthaler Harlee Hilgers Eion Hinkle Abigail Hoelzel Allyson Hoier Elijah Houston Matthew Hoyman Caleb Jankowski Darius Jones Lindsey Jones Isabella Jones Katelyn Jordan Mackenzie Kaelin Joseph Kaiser Coda Kapp Connor Killian Sage Kirklewski Savanna Knuth Beate Kobineca Quinn Koeper Sophia Kok Ava Kok Mitchell Krueger Iames Kruschke Marina Kummerow Alicia Langlois Jenna Lawatsch Kinsey Lewens

Amara Lisowe

Chloe Loberg

Sierra Luepke

Ella Mainville

Melody Wienandt

Madison Lortscher

Alexandrea Machacek

Neenah High School

Neenah High School has announced its first-semester "A" honor rolls.

Worapol Mangthong Brooke Manteufel Quinn Marnocha Trevor McGinnis Ellie Mertes Karissa Miller Nicholas Miller Natalie Miller Captain Miller Amber Miller Gavin Missall Emily Moderson Gonzalo Montalva Pineda Satchel Moss Maria Mulloy Jake Mulroy David Murphy Emma Muttart Sophia Nedens Nicholas Novak Courtney O'Keefe Cesar Ordonez Alvear **Iacob Ostrom** Kendra Pagel Karolina Perry Emily Pilzak Elaina Plankey Lukas Quinones Coy Rajotte Eduardo Rangel Garett Rathsack Lydia Reeves Elizabeth Risgaard Lucy Rogers Samuel Rohlwing Emma Rollefsor Shelby Roth Jordan Rusch Hannah Sabel Eric Schaufelberger Jackson Schlomann Nicole Schmidt Frederik Schneekloth Samantha Schneider Carson Schroeder Kyle Schultz Connor Schwartz Brenden Selch Selia Shelley Jayden Sheppard Havden Smith Ethan Snider William Sorensen Charlise Sorenson Carly Stamm Shea Sullivan Elliot Swanson Emlyn Swardenski Lauren Tears Keira Tech Stella Teckam Paige Thomaschefsky Dylan Thurber Brooklyn Van Domelen Madeline Van Zeeland McKenna Vande Hei Emma Vetrone Madison Vollmer Christian Vulgamore Ioshua Waite Sophia Walter Eric Wang Kaelyn Weinke Bridger Wenzel Ryan Westphal Hunter Williams Dominic Young Jack Zemlock Iadon Ziebell Molly Ziegert Julie Zimmerman

Sophomores Lauren Aaholm Max Archambo Olivia Archambo Emily Aykens Makenna Baker Wilson Baltus Aiden Barr Korianna Bartman Adelaide Benner Grace Berkholtz Kvra Berrv Alexandra Blattner Owen Blenker Nicholas Bloomhuff Genevieve Bom Emma Bottensek Allie Bradshaw

Gabrielle Brazee

Tess Brazee

Grace Brazee Connor Briones Rhyan Brockman Asher Brotherton Nathaniel Brotherton Derick Brown Evoryn Brummeyer Sophie Buel Zoe Callahan Aidan Carey Gideon Christensen Hayley Clark Nathaniel Cleveland Aidan Colby Lauren Contreras Addison Cook Brady Corso Naomi Cortina Isabella Coulman Ethan Coulthard Izabella Czerniejewski Kaitlyn Daniels Samuel Davies Lvdia Delene Allison Denzin Alfredo Elias Diaz Kaitlin Dibelius Iulianna Dickey Rachel Dietrich Emma Donahue Alexis Dorner Hailie Drawenek Emma Dumbleton Chloe Dwyer Brayden Eckes Evan Eisch Genevieve Ellis Carson Erbrecht-Willard Della Ferguson Abigayle Fischer Kaitlyn Fleege Bret Fredrick Charles Fredrickson Julianne George Hudson Gerdin Tyler Gillig Ava Gramer Diana Groelle Morgan Grosek Owen Grotenhuis Ava Gunderson Elijah Hallman Brianna Halvorson Evan Hans Gabriel Hansen Rowan Hansen Madeline Harris Tyler Heider Annasophia Hein Hilary Heroux Brady Hildreth Paige Hilgers Anabelle Hodges Sarah Hoffman Cheyenne Huettl Noah Huguet Bravden Huiet Aidan Hurlburt Isaac Jacque Madyson Janichek Sawyer Janssen Justin Janssen Kayden Jazdzewski Madison Jensen Amaya Jones Hannah Karker Carly Keesler Luke Keller Leia Kersten Tristan Khang

Ella Kirchman Evan Kirkman Samuel Kleisner Elliot Krueger Alvssa Lamb Mia Lassiter Sienna LaTonzea Harrison Lauer Jaden Leal Willard Lee Marc Lefeber Sonja Leist Madelyn Lewis Addison Liedke Alliyah Lima Lauren Linstedt Shingyeng Lo Haeley Logterman Kylee Mahner Emma Mantel Preston Marnocha Owen Martin

Elizabeth Mayhew Berkley McInnis Avrie McKenna Christopher McLaughlin Gabriela Medina Jack Meixl Claudia Merizon Liam Merkley Ethan Meylink Zander Moore Jennifer Murphy Kathryn Nelson Alexia Nelson Sofia Newsome Claire Nichols Keira Nickel Kess Nickels Aubrey Oitzinger Elizabeth Oldenburg Nora Paape Vespa Pacheco Iensen Popp Katie Poquette Austin Price Amara Pruchnofski Natalie Quella Will Radies Tavian Ramos Carter Randall Henry Ratliff Caleb Reddick Jensen Reffke Ella Reiter Blake Rhodes Jack Romsos Christian Ross Alyssa Ross Zachary Ryan Ellie Sabel Ava Schalow Lily Schmear Macy Schmidt Katelyn Schmidt Elliana Schultz Abigail Searl Finnar Severstad Sophia Sheikh Arianna Sheridan Chloe Sieman **Jesse Skelton** Lucien Slattery Stephen Soderberg Hannah Belle Solon William St Clair Paige Stielow Ella Suprise Connor Swokowski Kyria Taillon Hudson Tamulion Carmen Tanem Logan Tauscher Mykayla Tharp Alexander Thayer Gabriel Theisen Ella Trampe Kayla Uhlenberg Mackenzie Ullrich Marley Van Domelen Karissa VandenLangenberg Isaac Verbruggen Reid Vogelsang Josie Voigt Quinn Wehner Thomas Weis Sadie Wendell Myah Wenzel Kayla White Leo Wilhelm Sierra Wirth Owen Wise Charles Wunderlich Tristin Yun Sean Zeier Keira Zemialkowski Annalise Zenzick

Allie Ziebell Freshmen Wesley Aho Alexander Alatorre Ian Altan Aidan Apa Madilyn Armstrong Shae Bartlett Anastasia Basler Rvlie Bauman Gina Bellin Drew Benthein Morgan Bernhardt Giovanni Bingham Claudia Bjornstad Ryan Blank

Carter Blaylock-Schmitz Lily Bosovic Elizabeth Bowman Kavdence Brewster Kaylee Broker Carter Buch Joseph Buchta Carly Callahan Christian Campbell Evan Cardoza Andrew Carlson Alessandra Chandik Lucas Chapin Jenna Clark Destiny Clohessy Avery Cowell Madeline Delene Ethan Dietz Marie Dums Andrew Dunning Madalyn Engel Carter Epley William Fisher Tyler Fitzgerald Tyler Flaten Mason Flees Sienna Forget Taniya Franzke Zachary Freund Eliza Fritz Drew Gaerthofner Caitlyn Gafner Evelyn Geiger Avery Gentile Jaycie Gerrits Aria Giddings Emily Glasheen Claire Gloudemans Riley Goodson Myla Gostas-Sims Trystan Green Henry Gretebeck Julia Gross Paul Grotenhuis Madelyn Gruber Mason Grycowski Isadora Hagenow Ellie Hammerschmidt Hannah Hartman Shaylee Harttert Carl Hein Aidan Heinrich Fiona Hendrickson Elise Hendrickson Hannah Henry Erin Heyes Kale Hildebrandt Aspen Hilgers James Holubek Mason Hubner Tyler Huss Sue Ellis Jacob Birkley Janichek Elizabeth Johnson Seth Johnson Makenzie Jordan Jadyn Juedes Luke Jung Nicholas Kaiser Taylor Kappell Maggie King Braedy Klawikowski Jack Klundt Grace Koszewa Brooke Kottwitz Ava Kreger Sophia Krema Iulian Kuehn Sabrina Kuenzi Caitlyn Kufahl Ty Laabs Ayden Larson Kaden Lee Brenna Leiton Zachary Liebeskind Aidan Lishner Jalisa Lopez Elizabeth Lorrig Jacob Machacek Aidan Magadanz Sienna Manteufel Nadia Marchionda Anthony Marose Emma Marsh Reese Martin Artemio Martinez Jillian Matheny Abigail Matson Ashiyah McClain Callie McElroy Orla McGannon

Margaret McMahon Alison Medina Violet Megale Ethan Mertes Tate Mickelson Austin Miller Jonathan Miller Annilee Molchany **Jack Morrissey** Sienna Murphy Isabella Murray Jayden Nau Izabela Newsome Cindy Nguyen Wendy Ni Karac Nutile Madison Oeftger Emma Oehlenschlager Mazie Olkowski Sawver Ollanketo Jace Ostermeier Mu Nay Paw Shelby Pelant Ayden Perez-Gonzalez Austin Peterka Nora Pfister Elaina Pilzak Cecilia Pirwitz Johnathan Plier Harmon Posegate Aviv Pradhananga Brandon Price Ahtziri Quinones Daanya Qureshi Tate Rajotte Olivia Ramaeker Avery Ramos Julia Rangel Kathryn Rasmussen Jacob Reckner Lily Rhode Easton Rice Isabel Ricketts Janae Rodriguez Grant Romjue Ana Sophia Roub Zane Sano-Giles Caleb Schaefer Preston Schamens Emerson Schlomann Caleb Schloss Izabel Schmidt Ryan Schnabl Isabella Schoonover Raeleigh Schoultz Joseph Schultz Annika Searles Isabella Shell Samuel Shopbell Hannah Slabbert Ella Smedema Nolan Smith Callie Smithlin Arthur Smurawa Norah Spanbauer **Emily Stadler** Kacie Stamm Isabella Stindt Bridget Sullivan Keane Sullivan Helen Suprise Harrison Tanger Skylar Thompson Connor Thurber Jaden Torres Reay Brayden Tyynismaa Mackenzie Uecker Arjana Useini Autumn Utley Cyan Vandermuss Evan Vanevenhoven Carson Verhagen Elsie Voigt Annie Wang Amelia Wasco Miles Weaver Meredith Werner Andrew Werner Lauren Werner Madison Wild Jacob Wockenfus

Joshua Youngwerth

Calvin Zinda

Kaegan McIntosh

Megan Aschenbrenner Isaiah Balassi Nolan Balensiefen Benjamin Basler Kaden Bassetto Augustus Bogner Claudia Bruder Connor Buss Sofia Cardelli Mara Cowen Aliyah Cuminale Jenifer Danish Cecilia Daseke Faith Demerath Zachary Eisenmenger Ahna Ekholm Kayla Ellenbecker Chevalier Emery Alexander Fahrenkrug Brvce Fochs Miles Gahl Esther Gauerke Gavin Godeck Victor Goltz Addison Gross Alyssa Grosskopf Sebastian Heise Trevor Hildebrandt Alethia Hilgers Hayden Holinbeck Nathan Jahner Marie Jobe Douglas Karker Olivia Kaul Ashley Kellogg Bree Keuler Jaxon King Evan Kirchman Bryce Konwinski Evelina Krueger Max Krueger Thomas Kundinger

Joseph McLaughlin Mariya McNees Maximo Medrano Daniel Meixl Camille Moorefield Janae Owens Tater Pacheco Evan Paque Emma Parker

Hans Patel Wyatt Paulson Wyatt Pershing Cameron Pester Connor Radtke Owen Rasmussen Nick Reinke Jensen Rocke Matthew Roh Delaney Russell Benjamin Sajbel Login Sattler Anna Schertz Aidan Schmidt Annika Schumacher Annaliyah Seelow Eli Shopbell Jessie Slaughter Anna Smock Jackson Spilski

Shavne Sullivan

Thomas Swanson

Hannah Techlin

Makenna Typner

Ellison Van Hammond

Vivian Vande Corput

Mariah Ullrich

Benjamin Weber

Kaleb Weyenberg

Henry Werner

Jonah Zenzick

Winston Zickler

Jadon Yun

Nicholas Thao

Brielle Svanda

Juniors

Piper Alberg Ty Anderson

Neenah High School

Neenah High School has announced its first-semester "B" honor rolls.

Isaiah Engelke

Julia Arendt Mitchell Argall Eleanor Austin Antonia Balozi Nathaniel Boss Cecelia Brown Kylie Brown Macy Buksyk Emma Buss Josephine Carroll Samuel Coulthard Zaylee Davidson Emma Dimmer Casey Driscoll Brett Dumke Lily Flottemesch Anna Foucault Ezra Franzke Ethan Fraser Allie Galligan Jasilyn Griesbach Evelyn Gruber Connor Halvorson Blake Hasler Hayden Hintz Sawyer Hopfensperger

Ross Hurlbut

Brenna Johnson

Losai Kashukula

Andrew Kearny

Skylar Kelley

Kayla Kersten

Cal Klesmit

Kvra Kuehne

Morgan Kimball

Anna Sophia Latreille

Lauren Kavanaugh

Nolan Juckem

Joshua Lopez Andrew Martynowski Jonthomas Misevicz Alexandrya Nessler Tessa Pagel Madison Plungy Michael Printz Allison Raber Grace Radke Elizabeth Ramaeker Luis Ramirez Mendoza Mason Romzek Sophia Rundquist Milo Runnerstrom Owen Sickler Justin Sina Ouinn Smith Zoe Stockton Kaiden Talayumptewa Isaiah Turner Braden Vulgamore Stanislas Wacongne Benjamin Wesley Charlie Winters Madison Ziegert

Cullen Iosiah Arboleda Rebecca Arias-Noll Wyatt Armock Amelia Bart Taelyn Bauer Artion Bekteshi Harmony Birney Mikkiya Botker Orren Burroughs Geah Chang-Yang Britany Cook

Gavin Downs

Ava Drach

went to those with a GPA of 3.0-3.49.

Alexzander Fifield Avery Fischer Broc Giesen John Gilmour Jackson Glaeser Graham Grassl Blake Griesbach Benjamin Hagner Miriam Hallman Carmen Hamstra Joshua Hein Ethan Hoelzel Jackson Holinbeck Angela Hultman Connor Huycke Ethan Jacobs Ellie Jankowski Cole Johnson Kyle Joneson Alex Karlin Jonathan Kasten Satori Kaufman Timothy Keberlein Ariel Kissel Makavla Kneeland Scott Koerner Titus Kolell Elliot Krajnik Jaxon Kramer

Kate Krueger

Braden Leibold

Braden Louden

Connor McNulty

Raegan Mellenthin

Domanic Muma

Lizzet Muros

Aidan Nelson

St. Mary Catholic High School

St. Mary Catholic High School has announced its honor roll for the

first semester of the 2021-2022 school year. Highest honors went to

students with a grade point average of 3.75-3.99 with GPAs of 4.0

listed separately. High honors went to a GPA of 3.5-3.74. Honors

Thomas Medina-Reves

Eleanor Moore-Nokes

Samantha Zehner Lainah Zuelzke Freshmen Sergio Aguirre Brianna Ankerson Evan Bachman Logan Balensiefen Jordan Barkovich Keanna Basler Ashley Baumann-Vanprice Ariel Bayer Elijah Bellmore Charles Bellows Evelyn Bleier Savannah Blocksom Katelyn Brandt

Ryla Nickels

Khally Olson

McKinna Peters

Nicholas Raasch

Peter Ranger

Alayna Sauer

Cole Schrage

Ryder Spang

Nathan Schraven

Madison Spiegel

Ella Stachurski

Aubrey Strong

Ethan Van Dyke

Brendan Wallenfang

Nolan Weyenberg

Landen White

Morgan Zarling

Owen Young

Rylie Temby

Alec Thurk

Ann Marie Schumann

Aliza Perry

Matthew Brennan Brooke Broeske Jack Brown Cinnamon Brown Jackson Brown Brynna Butler James Carpenter Ivan Cendejas Dominik Clark Allison Corrente Katelyn Danish Maxim de Montigny Grant Dean Amaree Derke Dustin Dorton-Clohessy Joseph Drawenek Eliza Egonut Blake Fish Claire Fisher Harrison Flint Zoe Franzke Andrew Gmeiner Jordan Godeck Calvin Gressler Cheyenne Angeline Grissom Allison Grube Jarith Haecker Matthew Hang William Hartel Iacob Herm Mason Hernke Hunter Hilgers Abbigail Kandler Lillian Kane Sam Kane Kylie Kempen Marley Koeppel Rebecca Konkle Katia Kutchek Jack Landreman Justin Liriano Rueda Madison Maes

Gabriel Meverden Sidney Montanye Bridget Munson Kali Nelson Derric Odom Ella Olson Nathaniel Peliotes Elliott Pershing Nathan Rank Maxwell Reagan Emma Roberts Charlotte Robinson Jensen Rodriguez Braeden Ross Ty Samp Desirae Sattler Alexander Schuchart Hailey Schultz Andrew Schumacher David Schumann Jacob Schwab Fiona Sickler Natalie Smith **Emily Snider** Edith Soto Brady Spiegel Jaxson Strauch Jaidyn Thao Skyler Van Buren Tanner Van Zummeren Lillian Vande Corput Madalyn Vandenberg Kalvin Vang Vincent VanNuland Brooke Veith Emmalee Verbrick Seth Vickman Ayden Weisbrod Lilyanna Wesley Serena Whitby Lauryn Williams Destiny Woolf Quinn Yang Ava Yoblonski Andrew Zoglman

SENIORS

Isiah Lassiter

Iesse Leibold

Austin Lewis

Mackenzie Lehmann

Highest honors (GPA 4.0) Noah Bublitz Ellie DeWitt Kaitlyn Powers Peyton Schroeder Holly Trebatoski Anna Vanden Acker William Walsh III Nicholas Zimmer Highest honors Noelle Anderson Rose Bayer Emma Bengel Maria Benz Ava Bergstrom Camille Dinka Taylor Gustafson Agiimaa Kerwin Madeline London Megan Roloff Sylvia Walentowski High honors **Brody Adams** Taylor Foord Mackenzie Hayes William Kyles-Werth Kaden Miller

Daniel Ozark

Anna Porter

Caden Akey

Nvla Albrecht

Honors

Ethan Campbell Lilly Griffith Grant Hansen Shaela London Julia Lukasik Joshua Martin Greta Norville Ryan Ortscheid Isaac Pifer Andrew Pope Rebecca Schultz Grecia Vera Wyatt Voelker Jaydin Vosters

JUNIORS

Highest honors (GPA 4.0) Catherine Genke Erika Stencil Adela Thiel Dane Anderson Maria Argueta Olivia Bergstrom Brianna Beyer Shruti Chakrapani Lauren Detterman Laura Krausert Iulia Kubicki Mari Ladish Teagan Miller Hugo Perez-Montavez

Eva Schneider Vanessa Thiede Chloe Vogel High honors Lauren Altfillisch Lainey Becker Matthew Betchner Marvuri Covarrubio Michael Fairweather Bianca Hammond Bryn Korth Jason Kroll Sophia Lehner Janessa Puls Emiliano Romero Marcela Ruzickova Juan Sebastian-de-Erice

Owen Swanstrom

Cole Uhlenbrauck

Pevton Weis

Raffaele Ricciardi

Gabriella Ruback

Honors Michal Cech Dylan Dwyer Daniel Griffith Lilv Hansen Laura Harness Franek Jachymczak Kail Koeper Sahara Lewis Spencer Lynch Grace Meyer Charlie Nackers Owen Ripley Nyles Schneider Allie Strande Samuel Todd

Sophie Lescamela SOPHOMORES

Highest honors (GPA 4.0) Ian Albino Sienna Anderson

Kassadi Calmes Alex Campbell Nicholas DeBraal Haley Gustafson Rhiannon Reichenbacher Highest honors Elena (Ellie) Altfillisch Grant Bergstrom Braeden Brenn Charles Cedergren Daniel DuVernay Lauren Fischer Alexander Groppel Theodore Higgins Audrey Norville Nathaniel Pable Ray Pingel Gwyneth Rabitoy Benjamin Schoeni Alexander Walsh High honors

Erin Bahn

Ionah DeWitt Marina Godoy Urrestarazu Harrison Higgins William Lawniczak Norah Lee Zain Manzoor Isidro Muniz Ashton Post Hunter Schreiber Johnathon Schultz Garrett Weninger Aidan Birling Matthew Brighum Lily Dallman Grace Dominowski Wade Harrmann Mackenzie Jaeckels Fisher MacKenzie

Evelvn McKenna

Mackenzie Barmash-Turner

Nathan Bekkers

Kate Mislinski Ethon Moschea Olivia Noel George Staner Ethan Tines Rheana Underwood Noah Valentine Julia Yepes-Alvaro

Kaylee Marhefke

Olivia McCauley

Olivia McNulty

Evelyn Menchl

Rylan Mendoza

FRESHMEN

Highest honors (GPA 4.0) Giovanni Albino Claire Benz Daniel Harness Elijah Kutnev Katharine Schoeni **Emily Vogel** Brityn Voss Highest honors Kieran Barrientos Ieremiah Berken Eliana Brenn Gabrielle (Gabby) Callan Iakob Duquaine Carson Emenecker Preston Fields Samuel Finch Amelia Herzog John Osland Ava Rankin

Alex Rice

Jaylyn Akey Wesley Auth Harrison Bergstrom Alice Cole Gracie Decker Kate Nackers Dawson Radosevich Jaelyn Reuss-Markley Lauren Ripley Nathaniel Seiske Christian Vindhurst Stella Virlee Gregory Wheeler Honors Joel (Alex) Alvarez Banales Nolie Anderson Nicholas Anderson Isaac Cardenas Felipe Gaztelu Geneva Miller Addison Moder Myles Norville Sean Ortscheid

Zach Trudeau

High honors

Audrey Wanless

The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and the Fox River Scholarship Center congratulate the fall semester honor roll students. As you think about your future education plans, remember the Fox River Scholarship Center to help you find and apply for hundreds of scholarships in Wisconsin.



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Photo from Future Neenah

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Dream job

FROM PAGE 1

cheese from the government," he recalled. "I just knew you gotta survive."

Kaufert said he learned responsibility at a young age. He took his first job as a paperboy at 12. Some of the money he earned went to his mother to help with the family. He also worked in a grocery store, where he noted that in those days, employees carried groceries out to the car.

He said many people that voted for him later remembered those early days and some said Kaufert was the best paperboy they ever had while others remembered his work ethic at the grocery store.

Kaufert did not pursue college because he believed it wasn't an option and called himself a marginal or modest student in high school. But he's always been a people person.

He believes the road that led him to serve as a Neenah alderman and then on the Wisconsin Assembly before becoming the city's mayor in 2014 was unconventional.

In high school, sports excited him but his mentor and teacher George Scherck also got him interested in local government. Scherck was elected Neenah's mayor in 2002.

Eventually his mother married a Neenah police officer. Kaufert believes having a cop as a father put him on a better path. After high school he was a potato chip salesman and then opened his own trophy and award business. During that time he started meeting a lot of people and knew he wanted to give back to the community.

In 1985, he was elected alderman and five years later became part of the state Assembly. Kaufert said his family members were strong union Democrats but he didn't know if he was Republican or Democrat, only that he was fiscally conservative.

State Rep. Esther Walling was the Republican incumbent then and Kaufert took out papers to run as a Republican. Kaufert said at that time he didn't realize a person of the same party normally didn't challenge someone already in office. He knows Walling was not happy with that development



Mayor Dean Kaufert will be stepping down after leading the city of Neenah for the past eight years.

and decided not to run for re-election.

After 24 years in the state Legislature, Kaufert could see the system starting to break down.

"In the '90s there was more problem-solving between parties," he said, adding that he believes the influence of money and outside groups changed that.

As for his future and a possible return to politics, maybe even on the national level, Kaufert said, "Never say never." For now he's going to take some time to travel with his wife and attend more of his grandchildren's sporting events.

UW Extension offers self-care tips

The UW Extension Winnebago County has outlined some ways people can care for themselves and thrive amid the pandemic challenges.

"We are in the midst of a marathon that many of us have been trying to sprint through," the extension site reads.

The organization suggests thinking about:

 Recognizing symptoms of fatigue such as stress, being reactive and short with others, and having the inability to plan effectively. Ask yourself if how you are now is how you want to show up in the world.

- Being mindful to not judge your own or others' capacity. Everyone experiences fatigue in their own way.
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 it is professional, respectful and gives others an opportunity to do the same.
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FEBRUARY 18, 2022 NEENAHNEWSNOW.COM I PAGE 13

Black poet brought her special life to Neenah

By JoEllen Wollangk NEENAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Effie Waller Smith is a most unlikely Neenah historical figure. She was a remarkable Black poet in the early 20th century with a story unlike any other resident and unknown to everyone, except her daughter Ruth, until long after she had died.

In Neenah, Effie has only recently been recognized as a poet who, not only revered her Appalachian home and its landscapes, but "pushed readers to reconsider and perhaps reject hierarchies of race, class, gender and place." She expressed both feminist and environmental awareness and addresses both racism and classism as well.

Effie was born in Pike County, Kentucky in 1879. Both of her parents had been slaves before the Civil War and both had taken the surname of their owners. Her mother, Sibbie, had been purchased along with her by Col. Ratliff. The family was part of a group of slaves being sold near Pikeville, and Ratliff, who did not own any slaves but sympathized with them, went to the sale to try to keep some of the family together.

Effie only occasionally refers to race in her poems. "In a Mountain Graveyard" hints at the struggles of diversity and interracial understanding when she says:

Of the graves, are bits of glass That with white shells mingled lie Smile not, ye who pass them by For the love that placed them there Deemed that they were things most fair.

The placing of bits of glass, shells and stones on graves was part of a mourning ritual for some African-American communities.

The poem "The Sword in its Scabbard" reveres the Union soldiers that fought in the Civil War.

The grass is growing verdant Over the many graves Of heroes, who fought to free The toiling, suff'ring slaves.

But she shows amazing understanding and generosity in "The Lone Grave on the Mountain" where she ends the poem about the grave of a confederate soldier whose family has no idea where he is buried with-

So let us to-day bring flowers, And tenderly strew above The dust of the sleeping soldier These tokens of our love!

In the very early 20th century, Effie's poetry gained followers in her community and was published in the local newspapers. One of her patrons was Mary Elliott Flanery, a woman who had deep interests in politics and in fact became the first woman elected to a Southern State Legislature in 1922 following women being granted the right to vote in 1921. She and other Pikeville residents likely helped finance Effie's first book "Song of the Months."

Effie also gained very early national recognition as one of the examples of successful African Americans in Reverend Pipkins' book "The Negro in Revelation, in History, and in Citizenship," a study of the contributions of African Americans in the United States and the world, published in 1902.



Neenah Historical Society photo
Valler Smith (seated) is shown with

Effie Waller Smith (seated) is shown with adopted daughter Ruth Smith's mother, Polly Mullins Ratliff.

Effie had started with poems being published in local papers, and then published two books through vanity publishers and the support of patrons. She had poems published in popular national magazines including Putnam's Monthly and Harper's Magazine, one of the nation's most prestigious literary journals.

Effie's personal life was not on hold while her poetic star was rising. Effie spent the 16 years following her education teaching and writing poetry in Kentucky and possibly eastern Tennessee. She was known as the singing poet of the Cumberlands and would take her students out early on particularly nice days and spend the rest of the day looking at birds and flowers in the mountains. Her love of the Cumberlands is expressed in her poem "To the Cumberland Mountains."

More to the story

Read the full history of Effie Waller Smith and Ruth Smith at neenahhistoricalsociety.com/ effie-waller-smith.

Effie and her mother moved to Waukesha, Wis., before 1920 after being drawn there by a Methodist splinter group before leaving that church four years later. Effie would return to Kentucky to visit friends and relatives, and would adopt Ruth Smith, an older daughter of an ailing friend, and took her back to Waukesha.

In the early 1950s Effie was struggling to take care of her home and gardens in Waukesha due to age and her glaucoma. She moved to Neenah with Ruth. Although a devoted Methodist, Effie took instruction in the Lutheran faith and joined Trinity Lutheran in 1954. She was a member there for the rest of her life.

Ruth and Effie first lived in an apartment near Washington Park, but the noise of the children bothered Effie, so in 1952 Ruth bought the house at 770 Congress St. Effie passed away in January 1960 and Ruth lived there until her death in 2005.

Ruth taught at Trinity Lutheran School in Neenah for 34 years until she had some health issues and it was recommended that she should not stand for extended periods of time.

I lived across the street from Ruth and Effie and as I was just 12 when Effie died, I only vaguely remember her. I remember a very tiny African American woman who was very religious and was seen to hand clip the grass at the sidewalk with a scissors, something that Ruth also did.



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Smooth, efficient Ziebell gobbling up milestones

By Steve Clark Neenah News

Allie Ziebell is closing in on the all-time scoring mark for the Neenah High School girls basketball program and she's still not quite halfway through her prep career.

The Rockets' ultratalented sophomore scored 28 points in a win over Kimberly on Tuesday night to move within 129 points of current record-holder Kathy Hagerstrom. With two regular-season games left on the schedule and the Rockets' WIAA Tournament run also still ahead, Ziebell could potentially take over the top spot

But even if reaching that record has to wait until the start of next season, there is no doubt the Rockets have a special player in the fold with plenty of games in the red and white left to play.

"She's a special kid, she works hard, she's very coachable. She just understands the game so well," head coach Andy Braunel said. "Never had a kid like this in Neenah. We just haven't."

Ziebell has been an offensive force since stepping on the court last year as a freshman, where she averaged 19.8 points per game and finished the season with 435

This year, Ziebell has been even more impressive. She is averaging a whopping 30 points per game - easily leading the



Allie Ziebell has marched up the career scoring list for the Neenah girls program in just her sophomore year.

talent-rich Fox Valley Association in scoring - and has been held to fewer than 20 points just once all season.

She tallied 41 points in an early-season showdown against top-ranked Hortonville and then matched that mark about a week ago in another win over the Papermakers to surge past the 1,000-point plateau. Ziebell then moved into second place on the program's all-time scoring list in a 27-point effort against Oshkosh

"It's really cool (to reach milestones) but it's all just a credit to my team," Ziebell said after the win over the Spartans. "They set great screens to get me open, they get me the ball in situations where we need to, if there is a mismatch. They are really great

Ziebell's scoring as a whole stands out, but her efficiency in putting the ball in the net is simply eye-popping.

Even as the focal point of an opponent's defense, Ziebell is shooting better than 56 percent from the field and 46 percent from 3-point range. She has taken more than 20 shots in a game just three times this season and has shot below 50 percent from the field in only six games.

"Her efficiency, that's a huge part of what she's accomplished," Braunel said. "When a kid puts up that many points, you think she would (have a big ego). That's not Allie. She is humble and doesn't ever look like a ball hog out there."

Ziebell, who is also shooting 87 percent from the free-throw line, did put up similar shooting numbers during her freshman

Yet, she didn't rest on what she had already accomplished and wanted to improve in specific areas entering this year.

"I really wanted to get better off of the dribble because last year I was more of a catch and shoot (player)," said Ziebell, who also ranks second on the Rockets in rebounding while leading the team in assists, steals and blocks. "I wanted to work on midrange and pullups or if someone goes under a screen to be able to step back and hit a 3."

Braunel has seen improvement in other

"She's just growing into the game. Her off-the-ball movement is the biggest thing that has grown a lot. She's bought into that and worked hard on that," Braunel said. "She's also addressed the defensive side. There were times last year when we had to hide her on defense, but now, at times, she will match up against the other team's best

Ziebell, the daughter of UW Oshkosh Hall of Famer Mark Ziebell, has already received multiple scholarship offers from NCAA Division I schools, including all four in-state programs as well as Oklahoma, Texas Tech and Xavier.

More are likely to come as she continues to showcase her abilities and wherever she opts to play after high school, she will almost certainly head there as Neenah's all-time leading scorer. How high she sets the bar for future Rockets to shoot for is in her hands, but it's not something that is on her mind.

"I just want to win. It's all about winning and just playing for my team," Ziebell said. "Whatever happens as far (the scoring) goes, happens."

Girls basketball team racks up season sweep of Kimberly

By Dustin Riese

Down to their final two games of the regular season, the Neenah girls basketball team was hoping to fine-tune a few things as they prepare for the WIAA playoffs. Al-

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ready with a No. 4 seed in regionals and a top four finish in Fox Valley Association play, the Rockets had a trio of challenging matchups to get through before the post-

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game against FVA power Kimberly. Despite a 14-8 overall record including 10-6 in conference, this is a Papermakers team capable of making a deep postseason run.

The first meeting between the two teams was a high-scoring, close game and Tuesday night it wasn't as high scoring but close until the end as Neenah pulled away for a 72-57 win.

With help from Ava Kok and her 19 point night, Allie Ziebell quietly went about her business leading the team with 26 points. Leading 23-21, Neenah went on an impressive run that was sparked by Ziebell, Shelby Roth, Sophie Kok and Amaya Jones. The Rockets closed out the first half on a 15-2 run capped off by a near half-court buzzer beater by Ziebell.

Neenah coach Andy Braunel loved the way his girls responded after trailing early.

"We didn't do a great job when it comes to playing with energy and using spacing early on," he said. "Once we started to get back to playing that way things began to open up for our offense. We have a very unselfish team that started to share the ball much better over the final seven minutes of the first half."

Kimberly stormed back as expected to open the second half. Led by 27 points from Kenzie Drout, the Papermakers opened on an 11-0 run to pull within 38-34. Even with Ziebell and Ava Kok picking up some early buckets, Kimberly remained within one score early on.

"I wouldn't necessarily say our defense was bad, but we didn't do ourselves any favors," Braunel said. "We missed some easy looks that would have helped us counter the run Kimberly was putting together, but instead we started to panic and they took advantage of that. We talked about that at halftime and expected them to come out strong, but even at that they were showing more energy than we expected."

The Rockets managed to withstand that huge run to get back to their offensive ways. With Ava Kok knocking down another three to push the lead back to six, Ziebell went coast to coast off a rebound and converted a tough layup for the andone pushing the lead to nine. Ziebell would go down and hit a three a few sec-

See **Season sweep** on Page 15



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Neenah routs Oshkosh North to keep top ranking

By Dustin Riese HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Playing an 18-game season in the Fox Valley Association is never an easy task and Oshkosh North found that out again last Friday night as the Neenah Rockets cruised to a 65-40 victory.

A strong Spartans team had to face Division 1's top ranked team, which came into Friday with a 20-1 record - as well as an 18-game win streak.

Neenah dominated en route to clinching at least a share of the FVA title. With two games remaining, the Rockets just need to win one more to win it outright.

"We played well tonight, but we really came out strong to start the second half," Neenah head coach Lee Rabas said. "We had a couple of missed opportunities to close out the first half, but we did a great job defensively all game which helped us finish them off in the end."

Neenah showed its strength early on, using a quick 10-0 run to take an early 13-6 lead. The Spartans began to chip away at the lead with Ari Giannopoulos converting on a tough and-one before Xzavion Mitchell, who led North scorers with 14, went back inside to make things 13-11. With J.J. Paider and Giannopoulos exchanging buckets to keep the game at a two-point deficit, the Rockets once again started to impose their will on offense.

Season sweep

FROM PAGE 14

onds later to put the Rockets back up 11. With Drout continuing to do her thing from midrange, Jadyn Dietrich started to get involved as she connected for several

buckets, pulling Kimberly back to 51-47.

Roth and Ava Kok pushed that lead back to eight before Kimberly had another short but successful spurt as Emma Kilpatrick and Drout knocked down a pair of triples to bring the Papermakers to within 55-53. Although she may not get the same attention as Ziebell, Drout stood out with

Led by the speed and skill of Chevalier Emery Jr. to get to the hoop, the Rockets had plenty of shooters left open with Brady Corso making them pay several times. This led to another 10-0 run to push the lead to 25-13 with no signs of letting

Emery Jr. led Neenah with 16 points.

"We have been very good defensively all year long," Rabas said. "It is a matter of who we have guarding their players and just doing a good job in one-on-one situations. They have some talented kids over there who are going to be special, but our older guys came through for us tonight when we needed them."

With North struggling to get anything going, Neenah used that to their advantage with Paider and Jackson Schlomann starting to heat up from distance to build a 33-17 lead. Had it not been for a couple of Reed Seckar buckets toward the end of the half, this one could have been over, but as things stood the Rockets held a 35-22 lead after the first 18 minutes.

Neenah put it away to start the second half, using a 11-0 run to make it 48-24.

Rabas is seeing more of the development of his team as the season progresses.

"Corso is a great shooter for us and is an extremely capable scorer," he said. "Paider continues to get better for us as the season a game-high 28 points.

Jones put the game away for Neenah, connecting on a pair of triples. Add in five more points from Ava Kok and six more from Ziebell and Roth down the stretch and the Rockets were able to withstand the Kimberly surge with a 17-4 run.

"I really like the way we have been playing the last few weeks, but we can't let up now," Braunel said. "A lot of these teams who have beaten us this season are in our regional. Not only that, but they are all talented enough to make the sectional round and will give everyone a battle. We need to take care of business and get ready in practice because things will be a dog fight."



Neenah's Chevalier Emery Jr. threads a pass between North players in the Rockets win last weekend.

has gone on. He is someone who can score on the inside for us, but is also a great ball handler and passer whose sky's the limit.

We are hoping to get some more pieces back, which will make us better down the stretch."

Girls tennis team wins sportsmanship award

Coming off its second WIAA state championship last fall, Neenah High School's girls tennis team was recently awarded the tournament's Rural Mutual Insurance Sportsmanship Award recipient for actions on and off the court.

The girls team earned similar honors during its state championship season in 2015 and 2000.

It marks the 11th time that Neenah has won a state tournament sportsmanship award.



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February 18, 2022

Prep Roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Neenah blows past Oshkosh North team

The Neenah girls basketball team outscored Oshkosh North by 30 in the second half en route to a 69-29 Fox Valley Association win on the road Friday.

The Rockets (16-5, 12-4 FVA) got 27 points, four rebounds and four steals from Allie Ziebell while Ava Kok added 14 points. Ziebell was 10-of-16 from the field and 5-of-10 from deep while Kok added two triples.

Amaya Jones added nine points and seven rebounds in the win.

Zephyrs improve to 22-1 with victory

The St. Mary Catholic girls basketball team improved to 22-1 this season after picking up a 71-54 win over Reedsville on Monday.

The Zephyrs remain in first in the Big East-North with a 17-1 record, one game ahead of Mishicot.

Chloe Vogel led the Zephyrs with 19 points. Jaydin Vosters added 17 points and Lilly Griffith chipped in 11 points.

Kara Kiekhaefer led the Panthers with 16 points and Makayla Junk added 14.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Uhlenbrauck reaches milestone in loss

Cole Uhlenbrauck reached the 1,000-point plateau and moved into 11 th place on the all-time scoring list at St. Mary Catholic as the Zephyrs fell to Man-

itowoc Lutheran 93-89 on Tuesday night.

Uhlenbrauck finished the night with 27 points, including five 3-pointers, on the night in leading St. Mary Catholic in scoring.

Ryan Ortscheid chipped in 20 points and Charlie Nackers added 18 points for the Zephyrs, while Fisher MacKenzie also reached double figures with 11 points.

The Zephyrs led 50-41 at halftime after erupting for 31 points in the second quarter

Zephyrs struggle in first half in loss to Tigers

The St. Mary Catholic boys basketball team gave up 52 points in the first half as they suffered a 91-66 loss to Howards Grove on Friday night.

The Zephyrs (13-9, 10-7 Big East North) remain in third after the loss, sitting behind Howards Grove and Reedsville.

St. Mary Catholic was led by Cole Uhlenbrauck, who had 18 points and eight rebounds while Daniel Griffith and Charlie Nackers added 13 points.

WRESTLING

Rockets finish second in Hortonville regional

The Neenah wrestling team took second in the WIAA Division 1 regional Saturday, which was held at Hortonville High School.

The Rockets advanced 11 to the sectional, which will be held in Hortonville.

Neenah had five winners on Saturday in Jacob Herm (106), Austin Lewis (145), Eli Gast (170), Caleb Letson (220) and Bryce Fochs (285).

Finishing runner-up for the Rockets was Davin Munoz (195) and Nick Novak (152), while Jayden Sheppard (126) and Charlie Alft (138) were third.

Finishing fourth and advancing to sectionals were Preston Hella (113) and William Rambert (132).

BOYS SWIMMING

Neenah team wins crown at home sectional

The Neenah boys swimming and diving team won their WIAA Division 1 sectional Saturday, taking the 12-team sectional with 380 points.

The Rockets won a couple of events and advanced 10 events to the state meet, which will be held on Saturday at the Waukesha South Natatrium. The diving portion of the state meet begins at 9:30 a.m., with the swimming finals slated to start at 2:30 p.m.

The winner of each individual event automatically qualifies for the WIAA state tournament. The rest who advanced to state qualified based off state sectional

times.

Picking up wins for Neenah included the 200-yard medley relay team (Nolan Balensiefen, Drew Gaerthofner, Austin Henderson, Carter Bauman) and Austin Henderson in the 100-yard backstroke (52.24). Henderson also advanced in the 100-yard butterfly after finishing second with a time of 52.19.

Finishing second and third in the diving competition was Ryan Foucault and Connor Buss – both who advanced to state.

Also advancing was Bauman, who was second in the 50-yard free (21.78) and 100-yard free (47.95).

The 200-yard free relay team (Balensiefen, Hayden Holinbeck, Jensen Rocke, Caleb Youngwerth) finished third while the 400-yard free relay (Bauman, Balensiefen, Youngwerth, Henderson) finished second – both advancing to state.

Gaerthofner advanced in the 100-yard breaststroke after finishing runner-up with a time of 1:01.02.

Compiled by Alex Wolf News contributor

Four selected to Special Olympics USA Games

Neenah High School Special Olympics adviser Chad Oeftger will be the head softball coach for Team Wisconsin at the Special Olympics USA Games that will be held June 5-12 in Orlando.

Additionally, Shattuck Middle School teacher Jenni Oeftger, junior Alicia Langlois and sophomore Anabelle Hodges have been selected as Wisconsin's representatives for Unified Champion Schools. One teacher, one student with disabilities and one student without disabilities were selected to represent the state at the games. They will participate in different activities to learn about inclusion and bring ideas back to their schools, while also serving as ambassadors at competitions.

Chad Oeftger will be representing Wisconsin at the USA Games for the second time, having served as an assistant coach for basketball at the 2018 games in Seattle. Neenah High School is among a small group of Wisconsin high schools with its own Special Olympics program.

Jenni Oeftger has led Shattuck's Unified sports program and also organizes a Young Athletes program during the winter where children with and without disabilities ages 3-10 participate in various athletics activities together.

Shattuck is one of three Neenah schools that has been officially recognized as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School for its inclusion of all students,



Photo from Neenah Joint School Distric

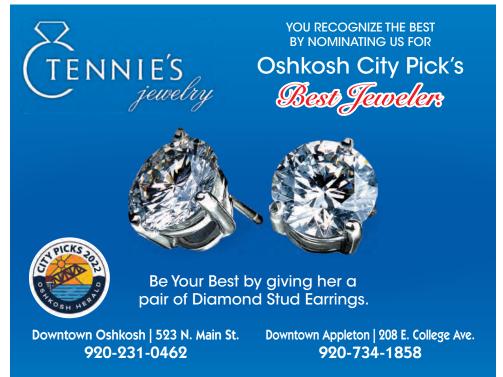
Chad Oeftger (left) will lead the Team Wisconsin softball team at the Special Olympics USA Games in June.

along with Neenah High School and Spring Road Elementary. In 2020, Neenah High School was recognized as one of 36 Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools nationwide on the 2020 ESPN Honor Roll.

According to Special Olympics Wisconsin, Unified Champion Schools promote social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities through sports and other activities.

The softball games will be played at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando. Wisconsin will have a delegation of 96 coaches, athletes and staff participating in the USA Games.





YMCA expands membership options

The YMCA of the Fox Cities is launching Your Y, Your Way, a new membership program with increased options.

Community members can choose from one of four options: Youth (ages 6-17), young adult (ages 18-29), adult (30-plus) and family. There is a \$12 charge to add tennis or additional youth, adult or young adult living in the same household. Seniors (ages 65-plus) receive a \$5 monthly discount.

The new membership options are among the changes made by the YMCA of the Fox Cities in the past year to expand its reach. Last spring, the Y launched the YMCA360 platform, which allows all members to access on-demand and live classes, and in August acquired the former Valley Fitness & Racquet Center in Fox Crossing, renaming it the Ogden Family

YMCA Fitness and Valley Tennis Center.

Adult members also now have 24/7 access to the Heart of the Valley YMCA's wellness center, free weights and track area. There will be no staff available to help members outside of the Y's regular hours.

Youth sports sessions are now free for those with a family membership and group exercise programs are also free for all members. In addition, all new members can go through a Smart Start Session to set fitness goals and learn more about the Y's offerings. Completing the session will allow new members to waive the join-

The Neenah-Menasha YMCA features a fine arts studio, family fun center and functional training center. The Ogden location features tennis and pickleball courts, and Warrior Workout Center.







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Ice conditions report

Payne's Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club

As of Monday, I am finding 17 to 23 inches of ice on the lake in the areas around Payne's Point Hook and Spear Fishing Club and the northern half of the lake.

205 Watson Street Downtown Ripon

There is almost no snow on the lake,

which is making it very susceptible to temperature changes and sunlight.

We are seeing random cracks forming almost daily because of this. Although most of them are freezing up immediately after they crack, you still need to pay close attention to this ice when traveling.

I recommend tire chains on ATVs and UTVs if possible; it will greatly help traction on the lake. We have two truck bridges and one ATV bridge on the main north-south crack at 1.4

miles out. We also have a truck bridge and ATV bridge on the east-west crack that runs from Blackbird Island area to Stockbridge. It is 0.2 miles east of the north-south crack.

Be careful around reefs and points, as the sun is starting to take its toll on the ice in these areas. There is parking available for trucks and trailers on the ice by our clubhouse for Battle on Bago.

Remember the ice is never 100% safe, and support your fishing clubs.

Ice anglers urged to watch for invasives

The state Department of Natural Resources and UW-Extension are asking anglers to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species when ice fishing.

Anglers can reduce transmission by checking for and removing any mud or plant material clinging to their gear, including sleds. Invasive species are non-native plants, animals and diseases that cause ecological, environmental or economic harm.

More information is at dnr.wisconsin. gov/topic/Invasives.



Are you on your way yet? Because we can't wait to meet you!!!

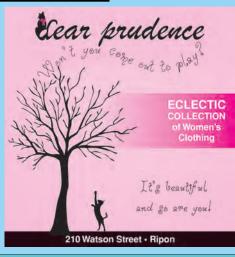






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Sturgeon success

Louis Resch shows the 53-inch sturgeon he caught on the ice off Neenah last weekend. The Oshkosh resident started sturgeon spearing 62 years ago when he was just 12 and said it's still a thrill for him.

There's help with heat this winter

The Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources offers heating assistance options administered through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), as well as legal protections against utility discon-

During the heating season that runs through May 15, these types of assistance are available:

Heating assistance: This is a onetime payment for a portion of heating costs. The amount of the energy assistance benefit varies on the household's size, income and energy costs.

Electric assistance: Electric (nonheating) assistance pays a portion of a household's electrical costs. The payment is not intended to cover the entire cost of the nonheating costs and is paid directly to the household energy supplier.

Crisis assistance: Available through local WHEAP agencies that provide a 24-hour crisis phone number to help with emergencies that occur after business hours. Non-emergency or preventive crisis services are also available and include providing information on how to reduce fuel costs, counseling on budgeting and money management, providing payments to a fuel supplier, and copay agreements.

Furnace assistance: WHEAP emer-

gency heating system assistance can provide services to eligible homeowners if the furnace or boiler stops operating during the heating season. Heating system assistance includes payment for repairs, or in some situations residents may qualify for a total replacement of a nonoperating furnace or boiler.

Eligibility for the programs is based on factors that include household size below the State Median Income. Households must complete a Home Energy Plus application through WHEAP or via energybenefit.wi.gov. Energy Services Inc. is the Winnebago County energy assistance agency.

The Division of Energy Housing and Community Resources contracts with local agencies to provide basic weatherization services to reduce home heating bills, save energy and make homes warmer in the winter and cooler in the

Households selected for potential weatherization services will be contacted by the weatherization agency.

Utility providers cannot disconnect for nonpayment between Nov. 1 and April 15 if that utility (water, gas, electricity) is necessary for heating the dwelling. This rule only applies to residential buildings, not utility coopera-

Altrusa International offers five scholarships

Altrusa International, part of the volunteer community since 1949 with literacy as its focus, is awarding five scholarships totaling \$7,500 this spring to individuals pursuing a degree or advanced training.

Applicants must be a resident of the Altrusa Foundation service area - Neenah,

Oshkosh, Menasha, Omro and Winneconne – and have either high school senior status or be an undergraduate or graduate student planning to attend a university or technical college.

Application forms are at districtseven. altrusa.org and must be completed and postmarked by April 15.

City of Neenah fire permits for 2022 are now available

Neenah city recreational fire permits for this year can be obtained at ci.neenah. wi.us under the Finance page or in-person at the Finance Department at City

With an electronic application filled out, the email confirmation serves as the permit, which costs \$17.

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Rescue divers

FROM PAGE 1

NMFR on water rescue operations and shares access to boats, including airboats used in ice rescues.

Winnebago County Sheriff Lt. Tim Eichman said the waterways are broken into response zones for the various fire departments throughout the county.

"The Neenah-Menasha and Oshkosh Fire departments each staff dive teams separate from the sheriff's office," Eichman said. "As they often have divers on shift and in station, they are often the first on scene to begin rescue operations."

At the same time, Eichman said, divers from the sheriff's office are also notified and begin their response.

"Once the sheriff's office divers are on scene, they will also assist with rescue efforts," Eichman said. "When a water-related call is deemed to no longer be a rescue, recovery operation responsibilities are turned over to sheriff's office personnel."

Peglow said the number of ice-rescue calls varies each year, but the type of incidence they respond to the most is vehicles falling through the ice.

"We've done a couple years where we get called out for surface water, where people are in the water, maybe hanging onto the edge of the ice or literally standing on top of their cars, depending on where they go through," Peglow said. "Then there are years that we have multiple reports of snowmobiles that have gone through or cars that have gone through and there's nobody around, and then we're diving."

Fortunately, Eichman said, the sheriff's office dive team is not activated for ice-related rescues/recoveries each year.

"While the sheriff's office and area fire



Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue photo

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue divers work together during a recent training session.

departments do respond to a number of ice-related calls each year, they often do not rise to the level that necessitates a recovery," Eichman said. "Since 2011, the sheriff's office dive team has responded to eight ice-related rescue/recovery operations."

NMFR's Dive Team was implemented in 2012 after an individual died while sturgeon spearing in February 2011, Peglow said

The friends and family of the individual, Bruce Peterson, committed to raising funds for NMFR to develop the dive team.

"The first year, over \$90,000 was raised," Peglow said. "February 7, 2013, NMFR had equipment and trained 12 firefighters to perform subsurface water rescue both in open water and ice-covered water and were ready to respond for the beginning of the sturgeon spearing season."

Most of the funds to support the team come from annual fundraising efforts, Peglow said, which covers training and equipment needs for the divers.

"They didn't want another family to have to go through what went on, so the family has been instrumental in fundraising for us," Peglow said.

As an ice fisherman himself, Peglow said the biggest advice he would give is to understand that no ice is 100% safe.

"Always be aware of where you are, where you're going and if you're not familiar with the waterway or the ice, contact your local fishing club and get some information," Peglow said.

Eichman said that even with cold conditions, ice conditions can change rapidly.

"Please monitor ice conditions and be aware of your surroundings," Eichman said.

Shining Star Award nominations still open until Feb. 25

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the 2022 Excellence in Education Shining Star Awards.

"The Excellence in Education Shining Star Awards allow our Fox Cities business community to recognize the many outstanding educators in our area, educators who are developing our children as the next generation workforce and the future of our community," said Becky Bartoszek, president and chief executive of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce. "This is an integral part of what we seek to accomplish at the chamber every day."

Nominations are open until Feb. 25 through the chamber's website. Nominators can submit one nominee per category. The awards ceremony is set for April 5

Eligibility includes full-time K-16 educators in good standing in the Fox Cities, including northern Winnebago County, who work with students at least 50%. Award recipients will each receive a \$500 award and the Educator of the Year will receive \$1,000.

There will be one award presented in seven categories: Early Childhood Education, K-12 Education, Inclusive Excellence in Education, Special Education, Student Services, Higher Education, Career and Technical Education, and Educator of the Year.

Award recipients and three finalists for Educator of the Year will be announced before April 5. The Educator of the Year will be named during the ceremony.

