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Neenah News

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Photo by Bethanie Gengler

Construction progress on a new recreation trail along Jewelers Park Drive is shown and expected to be completed in May.

Jewelers Park trail will make connections

By Bethanie Gengler
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A new recreational trail is being constructed along Jewelers Park Drive in Neenah, connecting with the Bridgewood Trail and Harrison Trail to create a 2-mile loop.

Neenah Public Works director Gerry Kaiser said the city had considered the area for a recreational trail about 20 years ago because they wanted to try to finish off a trail loop and also connect the businesses along Jewelers Park Drive with the commercial areas north of them on Green Bay Road.

Construction on the Jewelers Park Drive Trail was initiated late last year after a proposal from Jewelers Mutual Group.

"Jewelers Mutual came to us with a concern they had with employees that use public transit to get to work," Kaiser said. "Those employees were walking along Jewelers Park Drive to get to work and that's

not a particularly safe arrangement and they were concerned with the well-being of their employees who had to do that, so they brought the proposal to us for a cost-share on the project."

The \$1.5 million project is being partially funded by Jewelers Mutual Group who contributed \$72,500 to design the trail and \$500,000 for construction.

"Jewelers Mutual has made a commitment to make a sizable contribution to our construction and they paid for the design work on it," Kaiser said.

A representative for Jewelers Mutual praised the coordinated effort to develop the trail.

"Having been part of this community since 1913, we were thrilled to work cooperatively with the city of Neenah and the Bridgewood Resort on this project. The

SEE **Park trail** ON PAGE 8

Principal named for new school

Horace Mann Elementary to merge Wilson, Roosevelt

Neenah News

Wilson Elementary School Principal Ryan Hammerschmidt has been selected as principal of the new Horace Mann Elementary School that will open in fall 2023.

The school will combine students attending Wilson and Roosevelt elementary schools into the current Horace Mann building when sixth-graders move into the new Neenah Middle School. The moves are part of restructuring across the district with the opening of a new high school.



Hammerschmidt

"This is an exciting opportunity to bring staff and students from two different schools together into one school," Hammerschmidt said. "It will be a big change for many people and I'm looking forward to making sure all of our students and families have a smooth transition into a new school."

Hammerschmidt has been at Wilson since 2011 and will continue in his role through the 2022-23 school year. He previously was an elementary school principal in Antigo and dean of students at Antigo High School. He was named the Neenah Joint School District's Administrator of the Year in 2019.

"Ryan is an experienced and talented administrator who is ideal for leading the

SEE **New principal** ON PAGE 2

Neenah, county dog parks add to exercise options

City, Fox Crossing locations add spaces for pet owners

By Cheryl Hentz
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

For decades, dog owners in Winnebago County have only had one off-leash park to take their furry friends.

That was the Best Friends Dog Park, a 9-acre fenced area at the northeast end of Winnebago County Community Park. But population growth and demand created a dire need for an additional park

for some time, and now there is not only a second county dog park but another in Neenah.

Neenah community leaders had been searching for the right property for a city-based park for at least the past 10 years. In late 2019, Mayor Dean Kaufert contacted the Kimberly-Clark Corp. regarding vacant property near the Neenah Police Department. After discussions, K-C agreed in June to donate the approximately 8 acres to the city, provided it be used for public purposes. The deeding and transfer

of the land was completed in November.

"It's been a long, arduous process to get a dog park in the northern Winnebago County area," said Michael Kading, Neenah Parks and recreation director.

Six of the acres will be designated for the dog park – four for larger and two for smaller dogs – with the remaining two acres going to the Community Gardens, which have been on the property since 2008.

Work began on the 2122 Brooks Ave. site in July with turf restoration and the

installation of the necessary fencing and gates to enclose the area and to separate dog areas.

Though the park is unfinished, people have been using it since late summer.

"People can use it with the understanding that when we show up with diggers or other equipment, we have the ability to shut it down and take care of business to get things done," Kading said. "It's a slow-go process. This year we'd like to get the

SEE **Dog parks** ON PAGE 8

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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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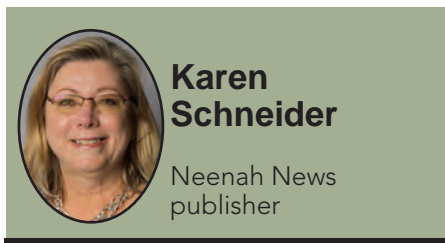
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We're here to cover your community

If we didn't reach you last week, this may be the first time you are hearing about Neenah's newest weekly community newspaper.

Our goal is to bring quality community news to the residents of the Neenah Joint School District replicating the formula we used to introduce the Oshkosh Herald. We are a small but mighty team of people who believe in quality journalism and sharing news about the community.

Four years ago, we started the Herald to provide coverage of local government, schools, sports and business, and create a community news forum where businesses and organizations could get the word out about the awesome things taking place as well as offer businesses an effective platform to advertise their business to customers on a regular basis



Karen Schneider

Neenah News publisher

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 communities local news" according to an Aug. 20 article in Forbes magazine. It goes on to state that "community news has always been the primary driver for newspaper readership."

As a small independent newspaper, 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."

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 freelance contributors to be part of our content team and encourage you to contact us at submit@neenahnewsnow.com if interested in being part of our team or submitting information.

This is what we bring to Neenah. We thank those who subscribed. 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, local newspaper for the community.

New principal

FROM PAGE 1

transition of merging two schools into one," said Superintendent Mary Pfeiffer. "We're thrilled to have someone with Ryan's leadership qualities taking on this role."

Roosevelt Elementary School will close in 2023 and the current Wilson building will host the Alliance Charter Elementary School.

Jackie Munoz-Ellmann will be principal of the new Neenah Middle School that will open for grades 5-8 in the existing high school complex, and Shattuck principal Stephanie Phernetton will be the district's director of pupil services, replacing

Tim Gantz, who is retiring in June.

Munoz-Ellmann, current principal at Horace Mann, will oversee Shattuck and Horace Mann middle schools during the 2022-23 school year to prepare for the transition.

The new middle school will comprise all students from Horace Mann and Shattuck as well as fifth-graders from 10 elementary schools. Grades 5-6 will primarily be situated in the Conant wing and grades 7-8 will be in the Armstrong wing of the existing high school.

Munoz-Ellmann is in her 16th year in the district and seventh as principal at Horace Mann. She began her career as a special education teacher at Shattuck and Horace Mann for six years while completing her administrator's license. She was

named principal at Clayton Elementary in 2012 and moved to Horace Mann three years later. Munoz-Ellmann was the district's Administrator of the Year in 2021.

Phernetton is completing her 12th year as Shattuck principal. She previously was principal at Racine Case High School and an assistant principal in Minnesota's South Washington County and St. Paul school districts.

Correction

FEB. 18, PAGES 10-11: In the Neenah High School honor rolls printed in last week's Neenah News, we inadvertently listed students' grade point averages. We regret the oversight in our intention to recognize those students' achievements.

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Vets share outdoor experiences

Neenah News

Ice fishing excursions are one of the ways that a military veterans service group helps those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces share outdoor experiences in the area and nationwide.

Alex Dvorak, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran from Neenah, organized the trip for The Fallen Outdoors, a 501c3 nonprofit group that provides therapeutic hunting and fishing trips at little to no cost to Gold Star families and veterans as well as active duty members on leave.

“We have 39 out of the 50 states covered including Alaska, all five regions of the U.S. as well,” said Dvorak. “We rely strictly on community support and a lot of what we do comes on our own time and out of our own pockets.”

He said all veterans are welcome to find the group on its Facebook page and noted that last year the organization’s Team Wisconsin served more than 1,000 veterans on trips and adventures.

As far as fishing success, Air Force veteran Andrew Clifford reported that for the most part, “lots of lookers but no takers.”



Photo by Michael Cooney

Master Sgt. Terry Smith (left) of Wauwatosa and Tech. Sgt. Blake Wrather from St. Louis were ice fishing with other veterans on Lake Winnebago last Sunday. Both are from the Air Force Special Warfare Recruiting Squadron.

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass to host exhibit by Fox Valley students

The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass is hosting glass art made by high school students in the Fox Valley area in an exhibit that runs through March 27.

The Fox Valley Area High School Exhibi-

tion opened Thursday with a reception and will showcase art created in the classroom, at home or through the museum’s Glass Experience Days.

Teachers and schools involved in produc-

ing the exhibit include Melissa Sirstin from St. Mary Catholic High School, Emma Santiago and Amy Rieder from Neenah High School, Jane Schmitz from Chilton, Jennifer Kosloski from Valley New School, Lori Rose

from Mishicot, Margaret Nelson from New London, Melanie Balthazor from Xavier, Jessica Zitzelsberger from Appleton North, Jessica Johnson from Wrightstown and Lori Rademann from Berlin.



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Pesticide issues draw focus nationally, locally

By Amber Brockman
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is marking National Pesticide Safety Education Month in February to raise awareness and share best practices for using pesticides.

Pesticides can benefit human health by eliminating diseases due to insect and rodent infestation, but if misused can have negative consequences to human health and the environment, according to Winnebago County Health Department environmental health supervisor Anne Boyce.

“Pesticides are poison and may pose a threat to the person that is applying them and also to animals, plants and insects beyond the intended pest,” Boyce said.

The EPA website lists these tips to follow for all pesticides:

- Store pesticides in their original containers with proper labels.
- Store pesticides out of the reach of children and pets, preferably locked up.
- Use the amount specified on the label. Using more will not be more effective and may harm you, your loved ones and the environment.
- Wash hands with soap and water after using a pesticide. Wash clothes that have been in contact with pesticides immediately and separately from other items.
- Don't let children and pets enter sprayed areas while they are still wet.
- Keep pesticides away from food and dishes.

In lawn and garden applications, pesticide use can harm and even kill pollinators and other insects, Sustainable Neenah Committee member Merrie Schamberger said.

“Our food supply relies on pollinators, most of which are insects,” Schamberger said. “One in every three bites of food would not be available to us without pollinators.”

Many pollinators feed on only one plant, Schamberger said, like the monarch butterfly that only lays its eggs on milkweed as the only food the caterpillars eat.

“If you use a pesticide to kill milkweed, you are killing the only food of the monarch caterpillar,” Schamberger said. “That is why monarch butterflies are endangered. We need to think ‘big picture’ before we break out the weed killer.”

When lawns are treated with pesticides, those chemicals can be ingested by earthworms and other ground-dwelling insects, Schamberger said.

“Birds, in turn, eat those worms and bugs and can be poisoned and die,” Schamberger said. “If pesticides are applied improperly, they can make the person applying them ill as well.”

Improperly used pesticides can also contaminate groundwater and drinking water, Boyce said.

“Long-term use of drinking water that contains pesticides may increase the risk of developing cancer or other serious health problems,” Boyce said. “These pesticides enter the body during improper use via inhaling, absorbing through the skin and accidental ingestion.”

To limit pesticide use, select methods of pest control that are least disruptive to the environment and least hazardous to human health, Boyce said, starting with cultural, mechanical or biological control methods.

Cultural methods include planting dis-

ease-resistant varieties of plants, maintaining proper soil chemistry and rotating plants to disrupt the life cycle of pests.

“Plant native plants that attract beneficial insects that will feed on the insect you find a nuisance,” Schamberger said.

Biological methods use natural enemies such as predators, parasites or pathogens, to feed upon or infect pests, Boyce said.

“Biological controls prevent insect population from reaching damaging levels,” she said.

For mechanical methods, use hand weeding, till the soil weekly, remove larger insects by hand and use a mulch to reduce weeds and trap in moisture, Boyce said.

There are less-toxic alternatives to insecticides and herbicides.

“One could use a dormant oil, neem oil or make a spray with dish soap, chili peppers or vegetable oil,” Schamberger said. “There are many recipes online. Weeds and brush can be pulled by hand; you don't really need a herbicide at all times.”

Schamberger said to always follow pes-

ticide labels before using them, dispose of unused amounts properly and avoid using them when plants are in flower.

“Identify pests and determine how much damage they are doing,” she said. “The University of Wisconsin Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic has resources to help you identify pests and decide if action is needed.”

Most cities have a household hazardous waste Clean Sweep program where residents can drop off containers of unused chemicals, Schamberger said. Registration is open for a spring Winnebago County Clean Sweep event from 2 to 5 p.m. April 1 at 2000 Municipal Drive in Fox Crossing.

Winnebago County Solid Waste operates a seasonal Household Hazardous Material Collection Facility available to Winnebago County residents that will reopen May 4.

More information about hazardous material disposal is at winnebagocountysolidwaste.com and about pesticides at epa.gov/pesticides.

Jake's Network names new director

Jake's Network of Hope, formerly known as Jake's Diapers, has named Scott Sawinski as its new executive director.



Sawinski

Sawinski brings more than 15 years of nonprofit experience in public relations and fundraising. He has most recently served as executive director for the Fox West Chamber of Commerce. He

has a public relations and marketing degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Kaci Kizewski has also been hired as business operations manager. She previously served as community outreach coordinator for Chiropractic Health.

Jake's Network of Hope distributes hygiene products and essential daily living items to people of all ages through several programs, including operation of the Eastern Wisconsin Diaper Bank, National Cloth Network and My Neighbor Wisconsin programs.

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Oshkosh Area Community Pantry (2551 Jackson St, Oshkosh)

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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. - Feb. 23 & March 2
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - **NEW TIME STARTING MARCH 9!**
Sunnyview Expo Center (500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh)

FRIDAYS

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



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Master plan to provide new look for downtown

Planning, design consultant will assist city to form ideas

Neenah News

The city will develop a downtown master plan to better envision the central business and entertainment district's future with the help of a planning and design firm it approved at the most recent City Council meeting.

RDG Planning and Design, based in Des Moines, will lead the work for services related to the preparation of the master plan. Funded by the 2022 Industrial Development Fund in addition to \$5,000 from the Downtown Business Improvement District, the contract work is capped at \$60,000.

The master plan will cover the area bounded by Lake Street to the west, the river and Little Lake Butte des Morts to the north, Oak Street to the east and Winneconne Avenue to the south.

Brad Schmidt, deputy director of community development and assessment, said the city has worked with RDG in the past and its proposal from among the seven submitted provided the most creative plan approach. Senior team members from RDG are committing 80% of the project hours, which Schmidt said was much higher than other proposals.

"Downtown Neenah is vibrant and growing," Schmidt said. "As such, the growth of our downtown has presented many challenges, including providing adequate long-term parking options for our business community, developing Arrowhead Park, traffic circulation in and around downtown, bike and pedestrian safety, and ensuring new development is consistent with the character of downtown Neenah."

He said the plan also will help analyze retail and housing markets, how they compare to similar-sized downtowns, and assist in

creating concepts for several redevelopment sites.

A steering committee will be formed to present achievable and creative ideas.

A recent traffic study that included downtown area concerns will be used in any development plans, according to Schmidt.

Neighborhood Planners, a separate group involved with the South Commercial Street corridor project, also will work with RDG as an onsite consultant.

"In early spring there will be several opportunities for the public to provide input for what they'd like to see downtown Neenah become," Schmidt said, "including an online survey, public workshops, focus group meetings with businesses, and interactive mapping applications."

The process will be concluded by the end of 2022.

Mayor Dean Kaufert urged the inclusion of a pre-pandemic initiative looking into how Arrowhead Park could be better integrated into the downtown area.

In other action, the council:

- Approved a three-year contract with B&B Metals of Newton for collection of scrap metal and municipal cast materials at the city's drop-off center, and a separate three-year pact with Lakeshore Recycling Systems to service the drop-off center for recyclable and refuse disposal.

- Approved a resolution to endorse improving safety at the intersection of State 76 and Larsen Road in anticipation of the new Neenah High School being built west of there and set to open in fall 2023. Kaufert noted that neighboring communities have also passed this resolution as it is considered a dangerous intersection by highway standards. State 76 underwent a seven-month construction upgrade completed by the end of 2020.

- Approved the appointments of Christine Rondeau and Robert Wedge to three-year terms on the Business Improvement District Board through 2024, and Brian Eppley as the Neenah Joint School District representative to the Plan Commission for three years through 2024.

Calendar of events

Ongoing

Dine Out Neenah, at participating restaurants through Monday

SPARK – Stunning Stained Glass exhibit through March 8, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, 165 N. Park Ave.

Today

Starfire, 6 p.m., Winncrest Banquet Hall, 2788 Towne Court

Tuesday, March 1

Scout Night, 5:30 p.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, 165 N. Park Ave.

Friday, March 4

A Knight Out benefit for Neenah Lutheran School, 5 p.m., Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel

Saturday, March 5

Art Activity Day, 10 a.m., Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass.

Make-A-Wish Wisconsin skating, noon, The Plaza at Gateway Park, 229 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Skills training signup deadline nears

New North Inc. along with partners Microsoft and gener8tor Skills Accelerator is offering a free skills training program for under- and unemployed residents of northeast Wisconsin.


The online curriculum focuses on project management skills and no prior experience or degrees are required. Those interested need to apply by Tuesday. The next round of the six-week, self-paced curriculum runs from March 7 through April 15.

New North region employers interested

in engagement with gener8tor Skills Accelerator can contact Rebecca Deschane at rebecca.deschane@thenewnorth.com.

Participants in gener8tor Skills Accelerator will earn several LinkedIn Learning certifications. They will work with a career coach on deliverables, such as a resume and cover letter, creation of a LinkedIn profile, interview practice, and introductions to employers.

Further information is available at gener8torupskilling.com/northeast-wisconsin.



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Preview Days offer students the opportunity to explore whether a college education at one of UW Oshkosh's three vibrant campuses in the region is the right path for success for them.

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For more information on these and upcoming events or to RSVP: Visit connect.thrivent.com/heart-of-the-valley-wealth-advisors/events or reach out to our office.

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Continuing education programs set for spring

The University Wisconsin Oshkosh Office of Continuing Education is offering in-person, hybrid and virtual classes this spring at its Fox Cities, Fond du Lac and Oshkosh campuses designed to develop professional skills, earn required continuing education credits or explore personal enrichment.

Educational travel opportunities include trips to Portugal, New York City and Costa Rica, along with day trips to Milwaukee. A canoe adventure is planned in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota and a tour of southern Italy is set for spring 2023. Contact Suzanne Lawrence at 920-929-1153 or lawrences@uwosh.edu to book early.

There are courses that include chess,

knitting, guitar and painting parties. Free opportunities will teach how to Zoom or use video features. Women's wellness programs kick off Wednesday.

Online certification opportunities are also available. Social media, online teaching, business writing, digital communications, cybersecurity and digital risk management are some of the topics covered.

The Learning in Retirement program is a member-based, self-directed association offering learning opportunities to members. The spring semester costs \$50. Learn more at uwosh.edu/lir.

For more information and to register, visit uwosh.edu/conted, email conted@uwosh.edu or call 920-424-1129.



Public Library photo

Story adventure

The Neenah Public Library's first Wild Child Adventure Storytime session was held last Thursday morning in Memorial Woods where children and instructors bundled up for active outdoor discovery time. Held for 30-40 minutes at various parks in or around Neenah, the next session is set for Monday at Memorial Park's Tullar shelter.

Public library calendar

Go to neenahlibrary.org or call 920-886-6315 for details or registration information.

Feb. 25

Speed Puzzling Tournament, 5:30 p.m. Teams assigned a new 1,000-piece puzzle and have 150 minutes to complete. Prizes awarded to first- and second-place teams. To register, fill out Google form: tinyurl.com/4fbr9d9r.

Feb. 28

"Midnight Library" by Matt Haig book discussion, 10 a.m.

Wild Child Adventure Storytime, 10 a.m., Memorial Park Tullar shelter

What to Do with a Tax Refund? 1:30 and 6 p.m.

March 3

Ukulele Open Jam, 6 p.m. Bring music, play for the group or with fellow ukers. All skill levels.

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

March 4

Fitness Friday: Balance and Strength, 9:15 a.m.

March 7

What to Do with a Tax Refund? 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Adult Afternoon Program: Door County Lighthouses, 2 p.m.

March 9

Investment Club (Zoom) 6:30 p.m.



Photo from Neenah Historical Society



Family legacy

Theda Clark Memorial Hospital opened in 1909, honoring Theda Clark Peters, who died after giving birth in 1903. Through her brother, Bill Clark, the family's estate created and funded what developed into a community hospital for Neenah.



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Bipartisan bill could give local newspapers a break

By Dee J. Hall
WISCONSIN WATCH

In recent years, the news business in Wisconsin has seen a lot of bad news. Dozens of newspapers have closed. Revenues are way down. Staffs are being trimmed. And “vulture” hedge funds are circling, threatening to pick clean the bones of this once robust industry.

But there is at least one piece of good news: A bipartisan bill working its way through the state Legislature would help local news outlets by offering a tax break to small businesses that advertise in newspapers, TV or radio stations or online media in the state.

The Wisconsin Local Media Advertising Tax Credit would offer credits to advertisers with fewer than 100 employees and less than \$10 million in revenue.

The credit would be based on 50% of the cost of advertising in local media, for a maximum of \$5,000.

Sen. Roger Roth, R-Appleton, and Rep. Todd Novak, R-Dodgeville, former editor of the Dodgeville Chronicle, are co-sponsors of Assembly Bill 762.

“Having worked in the newspaper industry for 25 years, I think this proposed credit will make a real dif-

ference,” Novak told fellow lawmakers during a Jan. 19 Assembly Ways and Means Committee hearing. “I believe this advertising incentive creates a win-win scenario for small businesses that want to advertise, customers and workers, and for local media.”

Steve Waldman leads the national Rebuild Local News Coalition, which backs the measure. He said the Wisconsin bill could be a model for other states — and Congress.

“I think its significance is in the leadership and the nature of the coalition. It’s led by Republicans and backed by an amazing collection of groups — both news orgs and business groups (restaurants, banks, chiropractors, small businesses etc.),” wrote Waldman, who also is president and co-founder of Report for America.

Beth Bennett, executive director of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, said the measure’s impact is twofold: helping businesses reach their customers, and supporting local journalism by increasing local advertising dollars. The state estimates the tax credit would save businesses at least \$65.7 million a year in taxes — meaning twice that amount would be spent on ads.

In 2018, about 163,000 small Wisconsin businesses claimed deductions for advertising expenses, according to the bill’s fiscal note. The cost of the tax break could be “significantly higher” than \$65.7 million if many of them claim the tax credit, it said.

Richard Lee, president of the Inter-County Cooperative Association, told lawmakers the bill would provide needed revenue to a newspaper group that saw ad sales drop 20% in two years.

The cooperative owns a weekly newspaper, the Inter-County Leader in Frederic, and five shoppers covering a 5,000-square-mile region. It was founded in 1933 by area farmers hungry for local information. Nearly 90 years later, keeping people informed in northwest-

ern Wisconsin is still a struggle, Lee said.

Many of Lee’s readers get their TV news from Minnesota. And internet access is spotty. Without the ads he runs for available jobs, restaurant specials and grocery sales, Lee said, “Many of the small businesses don’t have a way to let the local residents know what is happening.”

AB 762 deserves to pass, because preserving the public’s right to know hinges on keeping local news outlets — and the local businesses that advertise with them — alive and well.

Dee J. Hall is the managing editor of Wisconsin Watch and secretary of the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council.

Fox Crossing PD hosts donation drive

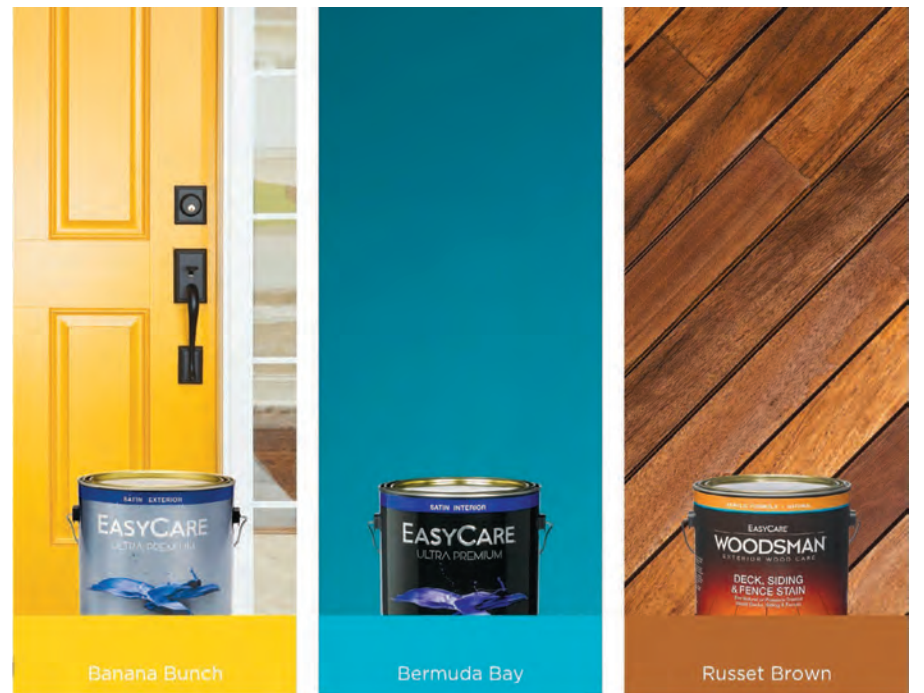
The Fox Crossing Police Department has been partnering with 91.9 FM The Family with a Help for the Homeless hygiene drive that runs through March 6.

The collection bin at the 2000 Municipal Drive police station is accepting donated items from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday

through Friday. Items needed include soaps (laundry, dish, soft, shower gel, shampoo), trash bags, diapers (sizes 3-6 and Pull-Ups) unscented deodorant, Wet Wipes for babies, toilet paper, paper towels, disposable razors and female pads.

Go to 919.thefamily.net for details.

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Dog parks

FROM PAGE 1

concrete pads in at the entrances and leading out to the roadway for ADA accessibility (Americans with Disabilities).

“We had a donor come forward who has provided the dollars necessary for one of the dog-friendly water fountains and some benches as well. In 2023 we plan to put in a pathway system throughout the park so people can walk their dog on a leash or be part of the off-leash experience.”

Kading is working with Friends of the Neenah Dog Park to raise private funds to purchase amenities like more benches, shelters, drinking fountains and waste bag dispensers. Germaine Dolata, who is affiliated with the Friends group and uses the park, said there are 834 people on their Facebook page.

“So, that’s kind of telling as to the interest in the park,” said Dolata, who had been going with her pet to Best Friends Dog Park in Oshkosh. “People who are interested in perhaps sponsoring a memorial bench should contact the Park and Rec department because we don’t have much for benches or any real seating out there yet.”

Beth Oosterhouse also uses the Neenah Dog Park to exercise and play with her 1-year-old dog named Nala.

“We would drive down to Oshkosh and up to Kaukauna, so I’m grateful that we have a park right in the city,” she said.

Kading doesn’t see Neenah’s park in competition with either of the two county parks, or any others in the Fox Cities area.

“For the most part, dog parks are on a come and go as you feel the need basis and use it the way you want to use it within the limited number of rules that we have,” he said.



Photo from Camera Wright

The Neenah dog park off Brooks Avenue opened in July and will add more improvements.

The city had previously budgeted \$60,000 for development of the dog park in its 2019 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). From that amount, \$7,000 was used to acquire the property and the remainder to install perimeter fencing and gates. The Parks and Recreation Department had requested additional funding to complete entryway concrete and install mow guard under the fencing so dogs can’t dig underneath it and to make maintenance easier. The department is requesting additional CIP funding for water line installations and that pathway system development in 2023.

Not included in the CIP budget are additional dog-friendly water fountains, dog bag stations, additional benches, picnic tables and small pavilions. People wishing to donate toward any of these items, or sponsor something in its entirety, can go to the city’s website or to Neenah City Hall. All donations are tax deductible and segregat-

ed into the Neenah Dog Park Trust Fund.

At the northern end of the county is the new Jerry Finch Winnebago County Dog Park, named after the longtime County Board supervisor whose efforts to get a second dog park in the county spanned two decades.

Michelle Kennedy, founder and president of Friends of Winnebago County Dog Park, said the Best Friends Dog Park has been “heavily used – overused some might say. To relieve some of that use, we knew we needed a park in the northern part of Winnebago County.”

Kennedy said it was estimated that until the new dog park opened, the Community Park locations were used more than 100,000 times annually.

Situated in Fox Crossing near the northeast corner of Ehlers and Jacobson roads, the county’s new off-leash park is a nearly 5-acre triangle with an open field and wooded area – all fully fenced. The park



Winnebago County photo

The Jerry Finch Dog Park in Fox Crossing at Ehlers and Jacobson roads unofficially opened in October.

features ample parking, porta-potty, dog waste station, and separate areas for small and large dogs.

Upgrades will continue this spring and include benches, trails, dog agility equipment, a trail through the wooded area and a small enclosure for the porta-potty. The park has been unofficially open since October but a formal ribbon-cutting is planned when improvements are completed. There is no running water at either county dog park.

Each park has its own time schedule and rules. Rules are posted at the park or on their websites.

“Our dog parks are made for both humans and animals to enjoy together,” the county website states. “Treat people, pets and the park with kindness and respect.”

Park trail

FROM PAGE 1

trail now allows safe access to additional residential and commercial areas of the city for Jewelers Mutual employees, guests and the community at large,” said Tyler Krowiorz, director of enterprise communications. “The trail also serves as an important artery that will continue to contribute to the health and vitality of Neenah, with beautiful woods and water views in the center of an urban area.”

The remainder of the trail funding will come from Tax Incremental Financing District No. 7. Kaiser said a gap in funding of about \$26,000 is expected to be covered by donations.

The trail is being developed by Vinton Construction and subcontracted by Pfeifer Brothers Construction.

Kaiser said the milelong recreational trail

will span Jewelers Park Drive between Cecil Street and Harrison Street, connecting with the Bridgewood and Harrison trails.

The Jewelers Park Drive Trail will be 10 feet wide and made of concrete. The trail will cross the Neenah Slough — called Neenah Creek within city limits — in three places. The trail will be constructed over an existing structure at the south crossing of the slough, a boardwalk will span the middle crossing and a prefabricated steel pedestrian bridge will span the north crossing.

Kaiser said the trail will not only benefit Jewelers Mutual Group employees but also residents and visitors of Neenah.

“It’s just a good wellness benefit for the whole neighborhood over there that can access the loop that’s created now,” he said.

Kaiser said the Jewelers Park Drive Trail is scheduled to be completed by mid-May, and he expects the trail to be open to the public by Memorial Day.

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Professor hopes to crack another murder case

By Laurie Schlosser
UW OSHKOSH TODAY

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh associate anthropology professor Jordan Karsten will tackle another cold case – this time trying to get answers for northeast Wisconsin parents who have wondered 30 years about their missing daughter.



Depies

Laurie Depies was last seen Aug. 19, 1992, in a parking lot at her boyfriend's apartment complex in the Town of Menasha, now Fox Crossing. At the time of her disappearance, Depies was 20 years old and worked at Fox River Mall.

"We are going after the Laurie Depies case with the podcast," Karsten said about the anticipated return of "Cold Case: Frozen Tundra" this spring.

The podcast was started last year as Karsten, his anthropology students and podcasting partner Matt Hiskes worked to bring closure in the 1982 disappearance of Starkie Swenson of Neenah.

The second season of "Cold Case: Frozen Tundra" is planned to arrive this sum-

mer.

Karsten and Hiskes plan to publicize the Depies case and bring renewed interest in her disappearance. They hope it will spark a memory that leads to someone to come forward with information to law enforcement.

"If there is any way my students and I can be of help in any search, we are ready to provide whatever assistance we can," Karsten said. "Right now, we are in a research phase, so it is a little hard to say how it will develop."

Karsten and Hiskes received permission from the Wisconsin Department of Criminal Investigation and Depies' family to create the podcast to try and bring attention to the case.

At the time, there were many in the community pointing to Depies' boyfriend as a person of interest in the disappearance.

Then in 2010, convicted murderer Larry Hall, who was identified as an early suspect, confessed to abducting and killing her, according to news reports. No physical evidence was found and Hall has not been charged, though he was known to have attended a Civil War re-enactment in Kaukauna the weekend before Depies' disappearance.



UW Oshkosh photo

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh anthropology professor Jordan Karsten hopes to solve the Laurie Depies missing person case that dates back 30 years.

Last year Karsten and his students worked with authorities on the trail of another cold case that was centered on northeast Wisconsin.

The group spent weeks digging for the remains of Swenson, who was presumed murdered in 1983. Swenson's remains were not found in a summer-long search of an Omro farm field, but hikers in Sep-

tember found human bones at High Cliff State Park, along Lake Winnebago's east shore. Karsten was called to assist in recovery of the bones and helped identify them as human.

DNA analysis proved the remains belonged to Swenson and his surviving family members were relieved to finally obtain closure in his disappearance.

Volunteer needs

Thedacare Medical Center – Neenah: Assistance needed in the Aylward Surgery Center. Volunteers will provide clerical support doing tasks that include preparing patient charts, consent forms and patient wrist bands. Shifts are weekdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Contact brooke.techlin@thedacare.org.

Bicycling enthusiasts: Cycling Without Age is seeking bicyclists to pedal trishaws beginning this spring. Volunteer Fox Cities is partnering with Lutheran Social Service's Make the Ride Happen to provide free trishaw bicycle rides to older adults and those with differing abilities. Visit volunteerfoxcities.org, click on "Pro-

grams" and follow the "Cycling Without Age" link or contact Jan at 920-832-9360 or rsvp@volunteerfoxcities.org.

Fox Cities SCORE: Experienced working or retired marketing professionals needed to be a business mentor to small business owners in the Fox Valley and help them succeed. Mentor training provided. Time commitment is 10 hours per month and flexible. Contact Keith at

keith.keller@scorevolunteer.org or visit www.foxcities.score.org/volunteer.

Fox Valley Memory Project: Volunteers needed to connect older adults to Zoom calls. Hours are 10:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays and 1-2 p.m. Fridays. Contact Harper at harper@foxvalleymemoryproject.org or 920-225-1711 for more information.

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Yineman ready to wrestle down postseason success

By Steve Clark
NEENAH NEWS

It's been two years since NCAA Division III wrestlers have had the opportunity to compete for a national title.

Beau Yineman, for one, is ready to be there for the return of the championship mats.

The Neenah High School alum is the top-ranked 197-pounder in the nation



Yineman

and is looking forward to leading the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh team into the Upper Midwest Regional Meet hosted by UW-Eau Claire this weekend. The top wrestlers from the regional meet advance to the Division III championships at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the following weekend.

“I'm definitely excited,” Yineman said. “It feels good to have an end competition to participate in. I haven't participated in regionals since my freshman year, so I am definitely amped up for it.”

Yineman is 25-2 after racking up his second straight WIAC title earlier this month. He also won a conference title in 2021, when the wrestling season was limited to just league matches and a tournament and he finished 7-0.

In 2020, when Yineman was a redshirt, the regional tournaments were held but the national championships were canceled because of the COVID-19 initial outbreak. The year before, Yineman finished fourth at the regional meet, falling short of qualifying for nationals.



Photo courtesy of UW Oshkosh Sports Information

Former Neenah High standout Beau Yineman is one of the top 197-pounders in the nation and will lead the UW Oshkosh wrestling team at the NCAA Division III regional in Eau Claire this weekend.

“My freshman year I kind of felt the college season. I can tell I have adapted way more since my freshman year,” Yineman said. “I definitely feel the pressure of wanting to qualify (for nationals), but the door is open for me. I have been training really hard this season and I feel very confident.”

Yineman should be in a good position to advance to nationals as only one other 197-pound wrestler ranked in the top 16 in the country – Augsburg's Bentley Schwanebeck-Osterman – will be at this weekend's regional meet, but that doesn't mean it is going to be easy.

The top ranking Yineman carries brings with it a pretty big bull's-eye for oppo-

nents to take aim at. But he also knows his reputation can also be used to his advantage.

“It works for me and against me at the same time,” Yineman said. “Everybody knows who you are and sometimes it will intimidate somebody. Other times, (opponents) will know how I wrestle from watching a lot of film and they can game-plan better against me. I just can't let that get in the way of performing the way I want to.”

Yineman brings an all-around game to the mat but he feels he's at his best on his feet and attacking his opponent.

“I'm pretty confident on my feet and I

feel the most comfortable there. I'm working hard in every position but for the most part that's where I like to be,” Yineman said. “I know I need to move my hands and my feet, I'm not going to be opening the guy up for my attack.”

He also believes his conditioning will be an asset for the next two tournaments.

“I'm usually pushing the pace more and be more conditioned than the other guy and try to tire him out,” Yineman said. “I think about just wrestling hard the full seven minutes. Within that, it's wrestling hard in every position and trying not to give anything up – win every little battle.”

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FVTC graduates

Fox Valley Technical College recently announced its fall 2021 graduating class. Neenah area graduates included:

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 Karissa Chambers, Dental Assistant
 Thomas Dreger, Digital Marketing
 Angela Ebben, Occupational Therapy Assistant
 Sarah Ebel, Nursing - Associate Degree Pathway
 Cole Frink, Mechanical CAD Drafting
 Emma Groell, Nursing - Associate Degree
 Leah Grundman, Agri-Business Agronomy Technician
 Kayla Gunderson, Event Management
 Kaitlyn Haas, Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair Technician
 Taylor Hamer, Human Resources
 Katlyn Harrison, Practical Nursing
 Valeria Hernandez-Olivares, Practical Nursing
 Natalie Kapp, Business Management; Business Operations
 Jack Kirschnik, Web Design

Feng Lee, Marketing
 Jacob Leneau, IT - Information Systems Security Specialist
 Maykazia Lo, Practical Nursing
 Christina Malson, Early Childhood Education; Early Childhood Teacher
 Cassandra McCarry, Assistant Teacher; Early Childhood Teacher
 Enio Perche, Quality Engineering Technology
 Alexander Peters, Automotive Technology
 Mollie Petsche, Web Design
 Jeanna Reiter, Interior Design - Kitchen & Bath Design
 Samantha Schmidt, Interior Design; Interior Design - Kitchen & Bath Design
 Kathryn Vanevenhoven, Nursing - Associate Degree
 Michelle Von Neupert, Accounting; Accounting Assistant
 Amanda Wehmas, Nursing - Associate Degree Pathway
 Samantha Weyenberg, Practical Nursing
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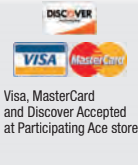


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Prep sports roundup

BOYS SWIMMING

Neenah finishes 17th at Division 1 state meet

The Neenah swimming and diving team competed in the WIAA Division 1 state championships this past weekend, finishing 17th overall.

The Rockets had five individuals and three relays competing in the meet held at Waukesha South High School. Leading the way was the 200-yard medley relay team – Nolan Balensiefen, Drew Gaerthofner, Austin Henderson and Carter Bauman – finishing ninth with a time of 1:36.54.

The 400-yard free relay team (Bauman, Balensiefen, Caleb Youngwerth and Henderson) added a top 10 finish, finishing 10th with a time of 3:11.81. The other relay, the 200-yard free (Balensiefen, Hayden Holinbeck, Jensen Rocke, Youngwerth) finished 20th.

Henderson competed in two events individually, finishing 12th in the 100-yard backstroke (52.14) and 13th in the 100-yard butterfly (51.69) while Bauman also competed in two, finishing 18th in the 50-yard free (21.76) and 22nd in the 100-yard free (49.05).

Gaerthofner was 22nd in the 100-yard breast (1:01.32) while Ryan Foucault and Connor Buss finished 14th and 21st in the diving competition.

WRESTLING

Neenah 2nd at sectionals, advances four to state

Neenah competed in the WIAA Division 1 sectional at Hortonville on Saturday, finishing second while advancing four individuals to the state championships.



Submitted photo

The 200-yard medley relay team of (from left) Nolan Balensiefen, Carter Bauman, Austin Henderson, Drew Gaerthofner posted a ninth-place finish at the state meet to lead the Neenah qualifiers.

The state tournament will be held at the Kohl Center at UW-Madison starting Thursday and will run until Saturday.

Jacob Herm (106) and Bryce Fochs (285) captured sectional titles while Nick Novak (152) and Austin Lewis (145) were runners-up. The top two in each bracket advance to state.

Herm recorded two pins to open up the first two rounds and then picked up a convincing 21-3 tech fall to win the title. Fochs pinned his first opponent before winning 6-4 in the semis, and then shut out Appleton North's Ethan Hansen 4-0 to claim the title.

Lewis opened up the day with two wins – a pin and a 14-2 major decision – before falling in the title match, losing 11-5. He then had to wrestle back for second place. There, he won a close 4-3 decision.

Novak started his bracket with a bye and then a 5-1 win in the semis before being pinned in the title match. He did not have to wrestle back.

Caleb Letson (220), Davin Munoz (195), and Eli Gast (170) all finished in third place for the Rockets while Jayden Sheppard (126) and William Rambert (132) were fourth.

BOYS BASKETBALL

FVA-leading Rockets cruise past Fond du Lac

Top-ranked Neenah improved to 22-1 this season, easily beating Fond du Lac 80-55 on Friday night in a Fox Valley Association contest.

The Rockets had a big night from JJ Paider, scoring 29 points with 11 rebounds, eight assists and three steals. He was a perfect 13-of-13 from the field in the win.

Carter Thomas added 14 points while Jackson Schломann had 10.

Neenah earned the No. 1 seed in the WIAA Division 1 tournament and will host either No. 16 Appleton West or No. 17 Oshkosh West tonight.

Zephyrs knock off first-place Reedsville

St. Mary Catholic defeated the Big East-North's top team Reedsville on Friday, winning 82-76.

The Zephyrs got 25 points and 13 rebounds from Cole Uhlenbrauck in the win and he finished 7-of-11 from 3-point land. Daniel Griffith added 16 points and six assists in the win.

The Zephyrs made 12 3's in the win

while getting to the line 29 times.

St. Mary Catholic earned the No. 3 seed in the WIAA Division 4 tournament and will host No. 6 Crivitz or No. 11 Crandon in the regional opener next Friday night.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Big first half helps Rockets dominate Preble

Neenah outscored Green Bay Preble by 33 points in the first half en route to a 74-27 win in a nonconference game last Friday night.

The Rockets (19-5) got 25 points from Allie Ziebell – going 9-of-13 from the field and 4-of-5 from 3-point land – while Paige Werner added 17 points. Ava Kok chipped in eight points in the win.

The Rockets earned the No. 4 seed in the WIAA Division 1 tournament and will host No. 13 Stevens Point at 7 p.m. tonight.

Zephyrs close out regular season with win

St. Mary Catholic concluded its regular season Thursday by beating Hilbert 61-42 at home.

The Zephyrs (23-1) earned the No. 1 seed in the WIAA Division 4 tournament and will host No. 9 Algoma or No. 8 Manawa tonight.

In the win last Thursday, Lilly Griffith had 17 points to lead the Zephyrs, hitting 5-of-7 threes while Chloe Vogel added 10 points, six rebounds and six assists.

Compiled by Alex Wolf
News contributor



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Photo from Neenah High School

The Neenah High School fishing team placed fifth in the state tournament for the second straight year in the Feb. 19 competition in central Wisconsin.

High school fishing team fifth at state

Neenah High School's fishing team placed fifth at the Wisconsin Interscholastic Fishing Association state tournament last week at Castle Rock Lake and Lake Petenwell near Necedah.

Senior Ryan Nelson shared the award for biggest bluegill at 9.25 inches and pulled in an 8.25-inch perch with a minute remaining in the competition, helping the team surpass Wisconsin Rapids and move into fifth place with 188.25 inches total caught.

Coached by Chris Jones, Kris Lulloff, Jon Gumtow and Bradley Gumtow, team seniors Doug Karker, Ben Weber and Josh Arneson scouted the area with electronics. Junior Coy Rajotte caught three consecutive white bass in the first 10 minutes.

Kyle Schultz caught three perch in the afternoon, while sophomores Wilson Baltus and Reid Vogelsang added perch and a white bass.

Logan Van Zummeren and Connor Kilian monitored tip-ups and jigging while each also caught multiple fish. Freshman Julian Gallmeier landed a 16.25-inch walleye.

It was Neenah's ninth top 10 finish in the 10-year history of the tournament. Appleton North won the state title with North Fond du Lac, Osceola and Waupaca rounding out the top four.

The team meets Thursdays from September to May and competes in other events throughout the year while hosting events for younger students and senior citizens.

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Rockets hold off Voyageurs in hockey sectional

By Dustin Riese
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Neenah/Menasha/Hortonville co-op hockey team raced out to a four-goal lead before holding on to beat the De Pere Voyageurs, 5-4, in a WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal on Tuesday night.

The win leaves the Rockets (20-6) one win away from the state tournament. They will play either Green Bay Notre Dame or Fond du Lac on Friday or Saturday at the Cornerstone Ice Arena. That sectional semifinal was postponed Tuesday night because of bad weather.

Both teams got off to a frantic start and both goalies were tested early with Keegan Handrick coming away with 10 saves in the first period while Neenah's JJ Hanus added six of his own. It didn't take long for the first goal to come and it came in a way many didn't expect.

After Tanner Newton was turned away, Neenah was on the attack using a nice three-versus-two counter to get the puck moving. With Thomas Burns doing most

of the work, it was Gabe Randel finishing things off as his goal just over three minutes in gave the Rockets an early 1-0 lead. Over the next several minutes, it was the Voyageurs turn to turn up the tempo as they began to test Hannus in goal.

Despite getting plenty of quality looks, De Pere came away empty-handed as the Rockets still maintained their 1-0 lead.

Late in the first period, the Voyageurs had a golden opportunity to even things up as they were awarded a power play with just over four minutes to go. That didn't seem to bother the Rockets who not only won the face off on the De Pere end of the ice, but saw John Kriz find Randel wide open far post as he buried home his second goal of the night to double the lead 2-0.

Randel added an assist to his already strong showing with Kriz putting home a loose puck with five seconds to go and giving Neenah a 3-0 lead after one period.

Just past the six-minute mark of the second period, it was time for the Voyageurs

to get back into the game as a counter-attack off a missed shot attempt resulted in a great scoring change. Gavin Steuber and Newton leading the way, Martin Blaha took care of the rest putting De Pere on the board and making things 3-1.

The Rockets answered by scoring twice in a 30-second span to keep De Pere from grabbing the momentum.

Both Aidan Paschke and Kriz found the back of the net, helping the Rockets grab their largest lead of the night 5-1.

The Voyageurs responded a minute later with Garrett Foth finding the back of the net and De Pere kept the comeback attempt alive with Blaha taking the perfect lead pass from Newton and putting it home to pull the Voyageurs within 5-3 after two periods of play.

With 17 minutes standing between them and a sectional final spot, this was the point in the game where both teams were set to leave it all on the ice as this could be their season. The physicality was at an unreal level as both teams were starting to impose

their will. Newton ripped one just high as Neenah continued to lead 5-3.

Shortly after that, Neenah was sent to the penalty box giving De Pere an extra skater.

That proved to be extremely costly as the Rockets defense failed to clear the puck which fell to the stick of Eli Roskom who took care of the rest to make things 5-4 with under 14 minutes to go. Just when it looked like De Pere was about to go on the attack, Neenah grabbed the momentum right back as the Voyageurs were now the ones sent back to the penalty box.

Neenah did what they needed to do with the extra skater, but much like he did all night, freshman Keegan Handrick stood tall keeping the Rockets off the board yet again. With just over 10 minutes to go, De Pere had a golden opportunity to tie things up as Eli Olson raced out for the breakaway only to be turned away by Hanus. De Pere followed that up with several close shots on goal only to see Hanus keep things 5-4.

Neenah alum Schroeder heads to diving regional

Neenah News

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh freshman Bailey Schroeder, a graduate from Neenah High School, will represent the Titans at the NCAA Division III Region 1 diving championships in Grand Rapids, Mich., beginning Friday.



Schroeder

Schroeder qualified for the 1-meter competition at the regional based on scores recorded during the 2021-22 regular season. She will be one of 27 divers from 16 schools in the field. Only one other diver from the WIAC – Sarah Dahlk of UW-Eau Claire – qualified for the championships.

Schroeder finished first in the 1-meter diving events in each of the Titans'

final six meets of the season, including at the WIAC championship last weekend. Schroeder finished first among the 12 divers at the conference meet with a season-best score of 412.75.

She is UW Oshkosh's first WIAC 1-meter diving champion since 2004.

Schroeder will attempt 11 dives at the regional meet, which begins at 6:30 p.m. today at Calvin University's Venema Aquatic Center.

The meet at Grand Rapids is one of four regionals being held around the country, with each regional guaranteed to have at least two divers from the competition advance to the NCAA Division III Swimming & Diving Championships March 16-19 in Indiana. A total of 29 divers will compete at nationals with the rest of the field composed of at-large selections to be announced by Tuesday.

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TheThedaCare photo

The former PARTY at the PAC for students by ThedaCare's Trauma Center, shown here in a previous year, is now being presented as a virtual FOCUS program.

Trauma center program gets virtual FOCUS

The Trauma Center at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah is transitioning its FOCUS program to a virtual presentation for the spring session.

"With any large gathering, we want to ensure the safest environment possible for those attending," said Dr. Ray Georgen, trauma medical director and one of the founders of the program more than 20 years ago. "Due to the latest surge in cases due to the Omicron variant over recent weeks, we feel it is best to offer the program virtually this spring."

The FOCUS program aims to empower students to make safe choices regarding the dangers of risky driving behaviors and their often life-changing outcomes. The program was previously known as the PARTY at the PAC and renamed FOCUS in 2020, evolving as new substances, distractions and technologies have emerged.

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Through the virtual option, students will view the 30-minute program that has been edited to deliver the core of the in-person program. After the viewing, school staff will lead a discussion while ThedaCare will provide an opportunity for curriculum experiences that meet Wisconsin State Education Standards and Requirements.

More information will be announced for fall in-person program plans. For ThedaCare FOCUS Program sponsorship opportunities, contact foundations@thedacare.org.

Ice conditions report

By Jim Nobbe
PAYNE'S POINT HOOK AND SPEAR FISHING CLUB

The ice conditions on Lake Winnebago were considerably good early this week even with the lack of snow. PPHSFC has three truck bridges and two ATV bridges out; they are in the same general areas as last week. Otter Street Fishing Club has its bridges in the same general areas as well.

Friday night, when high winds and snow hit the lake, it resulted in white-out conditions, which caused numer-

ous people on the lake to drive into cracks with their vehicles.

When that type of weather hits the lake, the best thing someone can do is just stay where they are until the weather passes. It is about the only way to guarantee that they will not drive into a crack or an area of bad ice.

Ice is ranging from 17 to 23 inches thick and there is still very little snow on the lake making travel hard with little traction. PPHSFC is planning to keep its bridges out as long as possible until the condition of the ice changes to the point where travel is no longer safe by vehicle. I suspect that will most likely be another two weeks, pending temperatures. Remember, the ice is never 100% safe.



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